



EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris
Summer 2012

New leadership for the Library board of trustees

The Library has a new chairman of the board of trustees. Mary Lee Turner, a former non-profit executive and vice president of communications at IBM, was elected on June 13 to succeed William Torchiana at the helm of the Library's governing body.

Luis Roth was elected vice-chairman and secretary. Shelley de Rouvray and Etienne Gorse continue as vice chairman and treasurer, respectively.

The changing of the guard, occasioned by term limits for board service, also included the election of three new trustees and the re-election of two existing trustees to second terms.

The new members of the board, elected at the annual meeting on June 12, are Joseph Foks, Clydette de Groot, and Priscilla de Moustier. Re-elected were Gorse and de Rouvray.

In addition to Torchiana, those trustees leaving the board — and thanked for their service at the annual meeting — are David Chaffetz, Lynn Kelley, and Celestine Bohlen. Torchiana, managing partner of Sullivan

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David Bacher

Sebastian Faulks at the gala

As a British teenager studying in France for a year, Sebastian Faulks used to frequent the American Library in Paris, sampling the great novels. Four decades later, as the celebrated author of novels set in France through the war years, Faulks returned as the Library's guest of honor and speaker for the 2012 Gala Dinner.

"The American Library changed my life," Faulks declared as he began his address to nearly 200 guests. He went on to explore through personal recollections of his own novel-writing how fact is put to the uses of fiction. He emphasized the role of pure invention in the creation of his stories — as well as the crucial work of historical research — and lampooned persistent popular assumptions that fiction is essentially veiled biography or autobiography.

The author of *Birdsong*, *The Girl at the Lion d'Or*, and *Charlotte Grey*

concluded his remarks with a moving reading of the last lines of a great American novel, F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.

Nearly 200 guests greeted Faulks warmly in the course of the annual soiree at the Four Seasons Hotel George V. The Library's major fundraising event of the year also drew a number of other authors who have spoken at the Library recently.

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SUMMER HOURS

Please note our reduced operating hours during June and July:

- From July 31 through August 18, we will be open from 13h00 to 19h00 Tuesday through Friday and 10h00 to 16h00 Saturday.
- Throughout July and August, we will not be open on Sundays.

During much of the summer about half of the main reading room of the Library will be closed for temporary book storage as we consolidate our dispersed fiction, biography, mystery, and art collections in single locations. There are no monthly book sales in July and August.

INSIDE THE LIBRARY

Farewell to the Village Voice

The community of English-speaking Parisians who love books is in mourning for a death foretold — the closing of Village Voice Bookshop after thirty years as a literary destination in St. Germain des Prés.

Odile Hellier, the proprietor, informed the store's many friends and patrons in early May that she would be forced to close the business on July 30, 2012. She cited the market forces that are felling independent bookstores in the United States and around the world — competition from on-line book retailers and a growing appetite for e-books. She noted also the specific circumstances of the Village Voice's Paris neighborhood: In 1982, that quarter was known as the *triangle d'or de l'édition*, bustling with bookshops and bibliophiles. Today the rue Princesse is dominated by pseudo-English pubs and St. Germain des Prés is better known for fashion emporia and overpriced cafés than for books and writers.

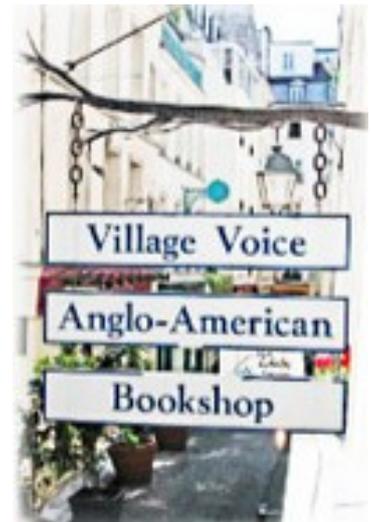
On Saturday 16 June the many friends and supporters of Odile Hellier and the Village Voice came together at the bookshop for an evening wake and a chance to hear stories about famous and less famous writers who have read from their work at one or more of the hundreds of literary evenings she orchestrated over the years.

The silver lining is that Village Voice Bookshop and the remarkable woman who invented and nurtured it will have a living memorial in the form of a documentary film. New York filmmaker Pola Rapaport, whose work

has often treated France, embraced the opportunity to capture the extraordinary spirit of this institution. She will have access to hundreds of recordings of literary evenings at the Village Voice over the decades, and will be interviewing many of the authors and editors and readers who admired her contributions to the intellectual and cultural life of Paris.

The American Library in Paris and the Village Voice have been mutual admirers and supporters for years, sharing the same passion for the written word, and the same enthusiasm for welcoming writers and introducing them to readers. Village Voice was prominent in the rotation of English-language Paris bookstores — along with Shakespeare and Co., Librairie Galignani, W. H. Smith, and Abbey Bookshop — that provide books for autographing and purchase at Library author events. We know that Odile Hellier, even without a bookshop, will continue to bless Paris with her intelligence and enthusiasm.

Charles Trueheart



New to the Library staff

Pauline Wong Lemasson is the Library's new external affairs manager, responsible for institutional partnerships, community relations, volunteers, and communications. She succeeds Naida Kendrick Culshaw, who will be leaving Paris for new adventures. Lemasson is the former executive director of the Chinese American Museum in Los Angeles. Born in Guam and raised in Los Angeles, Lemasson holds a B.A. from Texas A&M University and an M.A. and PhD from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Margot Boyer-Dry has joined the Library staff as programs manager, succeeding Janet Skeslien Charles, who has returned to writing full-time. Boyer-Dry is a 2011 graduate of Wesleyan University in Connecticut and



Pauline Lemasson, Margot Boyer-Dry, Krista Faurie

taught English in two suburban Paris schools last fall. At Wesleyan she organized the university's largest lecture series and other campus intercultural and interfaith conferences. She has also worked as a social media consultant for nonprofit and for-profit companies. She speaks French, Spanish, and Arabic.

Krista Faurie is the new development assistant at the Library. Her prior career was in the financial services industry in the United States, as a registered sales assistant at such brokerage firms as Prudential Securities, Wachovia, UBS, and Morgan Keegan. She has been a community coordinator for a U.S. presidential campaign and a founding member of an interfaith dialogue group. Faurie moved to France in 2011 with her husband and their two children.

Ex Libris

The newsletter of the American Library in Paris
is published four times a year,
in March, June, September and December.

GOVERNANCE

Changing of the board at the Library

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& Cromwell LLP's Paris office, has been elected to the board of directors of the Library's USA Foundation and will continue to be active in seeking major donors for the Library as chairman of its Second Century campaign.

At the annual meeting, the Library also welcomed Winston Tabb, the representative of the American Library Association on the Library board. Tabb heads the libraries and museums of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.



Luis Roth

After year-end reports on the Library from the director, Charles Trueheart, and the treasurer, Etienne Gorse, Distinguished Visiting Librarian William Cagle made a brief presentation on the Library's rare books and special collections.

To make his point, Cagle selected a handful of treasures from the Library's rare books and archives, several of them in deteriorating condition and many rarely if ever consulted. He

challenged the Library to invest in their conservation where appropriate. In other cases, he proposed finding homes for the books in other institutions that have the interest and resources to do so, freeing up space in the Library basement for more pressing uses.

The new chairman of the board moved to Paris in 2007 after many years in Hong Kong, where she was executive director of the Asia Society's Hong Kong Center. Her prior career included 30 years with IBM in marketing, communications, planning, finance and service, and also as a public governor of the Pacific Stock and Options Exchange in San Francisco.



Mary Lee Turner

Roth, who like Turner joined the board in 2009, is a partner in the Paris office of Linklaters LLP.

The trustees also appointed a non-voting assistant secretary of the board, Laura McNeill, an American law-

Profiles of the three newly-elected trustees

Following are capsule biographies of the three new trustees elected to the Library board on June 13:

JOSEPH FOKS retired recently as vice president for human resources at Colgate-Palmolive in Paris, where he worked for twenty years. His earlier corporate responsibilities included human resources positions at Medtronic Europe, Graco Europe, Great Universal Stores, and Pennwalt Europe. He holds degrees from the University of Paris and Ecole des Etudes Internationales. Jo and Maureen Foks have three grown children.



CLYDETTE de GROOT is a clinical psychologist and organizational consultant. She spent most of her career as a clinical professor of family medicine and psychiatry and as director of behavioral sciences education at the University of Colorado. She has consulted to nonprofit and for-profit organizations in the United States and Britain. She holds a doctorate in psychology and has done postdoctoral work in neuropsychology and organizational learning. She and her husband, Charles de Groot, live most of the year in Paris and are active in the literary community; they co-chair the De Groot Founda-

tion, which supports innovation, education, and cultural programs. She has served on numerous boards in Colorado and France, and for five years has co-lead an American Library book group reading memoirs. (*Clydette de Groot is pictured on page 4, lower right.*)

PRISCILLA de MOUSTIER is chairman of the board of Oxus Holding, a micro-financing institution operating mainly in Central Asia and Africa. She is on the board of ACTED, a French NGO working worldwide to help the most vulnerable populations. Her other main professional interest is in the field of family business: As a board member of Wendel-Participations, a large family holding, she monitors the Wendel Family Business Centre at INSEAD. De Moustier is also vice-president of the French chapter of the Family Business Network. She holds degrees from the University of Paris and INSEAD, and has worked for the Creusot-Loire group and McKinsey and Co. Widowed with three grown children, she is an avid reader with a special interest in American, English and Russian literature.



AT THE GALA

Continued from page one

The authors included Alice Kaplan, Cullen Murphy, James Barr, Pamela Druckerman, Donald Morrison, Constance Borde, Sophie-Caroline de Margerie, and Russell Shorto (who will speak in September). Two members of the Library's Writer's Council, Diane Johnson, its chairman, and former U.S. Poet Laureate William Jay Smith, were also among the guests.

US Ambassador Charles Rivkin and his wife, Susan Tolson, were on hand again this year. Other special guests included the Ambassador of Ireland, Paul Kavanagh, and the president of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Bruno Racine.

The gala program also included remarks by Charles Trueheart, director of the Library, and William D. Torchiana, outgoing chairman of the board of trustees. The director recognized Torchiana's exemplary service as chairman since 2007. "Many can share the credit for revitalizing the American Library in recent years, but none of that could have happened without William's leadership," Trueheart said.

The guests paused between courses to view – and to greet enthusiastically – a seven-minute film about the American Library produced last year and directed by Virginie-Alvine Perrette, a Paris filmmaker. (The film is viewable on Youtube.)

The gala dinner has become an annual rendezvous for people who love the American Library, are passionate about books and reading, and like to express their enthusiasm through generous financial support. Recent gala speakers have included Christopher Buckley, Scott Turow, Adam Gopnik, Antonia Fraser, and Laurent de Brunhoff.

At the end of the dinner, Trueheart announced two pieces of good news for the Library.

Thanks to a generous gift from the Florence Gould Foundation, the Library will establish an annual literary prize honoring a distinguished new book about France or the French-American encounter.

The prize will be administered by the Library and judged by members of the Library's Writer's Council. Trueheart expressed the Library's gratitude to John and Mary Young of

the Florence Gould Foundation for their generosity and renewed commitment to the Library.

The second surprise announcement was that of the name of next year's gala dinner speaker – Joyce Carol Oates.



Sebastian Faulks listens to his introduction.



GALA SPONSORS

The American Library in Paris is grateful to the following sponsors for their generous support of the 2012 gala dinner:

GRoW Annenberg, Total, Charmaine Donnelly and Gerard Pfauwadel, Shelley and Alain de Rouvray, Neil Janin, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, and American School of Paris. Special thanks also for gifts in kind from Chanel, Vintage, Flammarion, and International Herald Tribune.

What would we do without interns?

The Library extends a warm welcome to our summer interns: **Nalini Sewak**, Manipal Institute of Technology, India; **Jody Collins**, Smith College, Massachusetts; **Carlos Bello**, Amherst College, Massachusetts; **Katie Balmer**, Lady Manners, Bakewell, England; **Vannessa Louchart Bustamante**, Smith College, Massachusetts; **Thomas Cohen Tanugi**, Ecole Active Bilingue Etoile, Paris; **Ruwani Fernando**, University of York, England; **Leora Levey**, Berry College, Georgia; **Kristina Hyriakova**, University of Presov, Slovakia (ERASMUS).

SCENES FROM THE GALA



Clockwise from upper left: Dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel George V; Shelley de Rouvray, Library trustee and chair of the 2012 Gala; in the receiving line, (l to r) Sebastian Faulks, William Torchiana, and Charles Trueheart greet author Pamela Druckerman and journalist Simon Kuper; Fabienne Flanagan (l) and Clydette de Groot; Ambassador Charles Rivkin and Susan Tolson; (l to r) Betty Turock, Gus Friedrich, and Joy Turock; and Jean-Luc Allavena, president of the French-American Foundation (l) with Ambassador James Lowenstein. *Photos by David Bacher.*



VOLUNTEERS and INTERNS

The Library could not operate without the help of scores of volunteers who work closely with staff to manage key services and programs. Here we highlight our evening program volunteers.

Behind the scenes at an evening program

Several nights a week, and sixty nights a year, the Library's reading room undergoes a miraculous transformation. Tables vanish, chairs shift, and readers disappear. In their places, a lectern materializes, a projection screen descends, and a whole new crowd of people filters in to hear the latest speaker.

Who is behind this radical remake? Meet the Dream Team.

Or perhaps you already have. They've signed you in, they've served you wine or juice, and they've found you a chair when it looked like the last one was gone.

At a recent event this spring, Louise Weintraub, a Library member since her retirement eight years ago, kicked off the evening's activity with long-time volunteer Marianne Faure. Together they deconstructed the reading room, hoisting tables into the stacks to clear room for the program.

Library interns Paco Sanchez and Giulio Segato (shown pouring in the photo above) joined them, perhaps hoping to match the women's lifting prowess. Tables uprooted, they took to moving chairs, arranging rows meticulously by chair color and type, re-adjusting the space between rows for optimal comfort. (Perhaps you can see why they're called the Dream Team). Chairs in place, the group moved to the kitchen to uncork wine bottles, pop corn, and catch up before the event.

News from the kitchen has ranged from Giulio's doctoral thesis to Paco's farm in Spain and Marianne's water conservation efforts. It's not uncommon to find volunteers laughing to-



"Like probably every volunteer, I get a lot more out of it than I put into it. It leads to new friendships, contacts, and experiences, and definitely broadens your perspective."

-Marianne Faure

gether as they test the snacks destined for the reading room.

Much in the way that audiences embrace the *amuse-gueules* at the Library, edibles are a running theme for volunteers. Giulio admits that snacks are a "HUGE incentive" for his volunteerism; Louise, a snack avoider, admits that the Library's spread can dampen her resolve. Marianne appreciates the evening *goûter* for its social applications; she explained, "refreshments are available and *free* to boot... and the refreshment table is a natural place to meet

other people from the audience."

Giulio, resident bartender, and Marianne usually preside over the aperitif table. Across the room, Paco greets newcomers as they filter in from the rue de Général Camou. The greeter job allows Paco to practice speaking English and use his perennial smile.

When the audience is seated, the Dream Team settles in for the program. They agree that the talks, in addition to the snacks, make this a pretty sweet gig. Marianne divulges, "I love being able to meet the speakers. How else could you expect to come into contact with, much less have the opportunity of speaking to, people like David Sedaris, Leslie Caron, Olivia de Havilland, Stéphane Hessel, Tatiana de Rosay..."

VIP access to the hot-author-du-jour is a perk of volunteering, but the volunteers also value "being part of a team, talking to interesting people from all over and discovering how small the world really is." With these things in mind, volunteers become ambassadors of the Library, at once streamlining our programs and nourishing our community.

Thank you, Dream Team!

Margot Boyer-Dry

In case you were wondering...

The volunteers cited here comprise only a small part of our evening crew. Several other wonderful volunteers help us each week. And you might want to be one of them.

The Dream Team always takes new members. If you'd like to help with evening events — or do any other kind of volunteering, please contact Pauline Lemasson at lemasson@americanlibraryinparis.org.

TEENS AND CHILDREN

A friendly reminder from Celeste Rhoads, youth librarian: Sign-up is required for all Teen Nights and Lap Sits. Please send an email to Celeste to reserve a spot: rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org

SUMMER SLEUTHS

The summer reading club for kids and teens

Through 15 September
Ages 5+

The theme for this year's Summer Reading Club is Summer Sleuths, but that doesn't mean you can only read mystery books - all of your summer reading will be rewarded at our party in September.

To get in the spirit of our mystery theme, come in this summer and solve our riddles and find hidden clues posted throughout the Children's Library to win prizes. More importantly, keep track of all of the reading you do over the holidays using the Library's handy booklet, which you may pick up in the Children's Library starting now. Then, throughout the summer, fill it in with the title and author of the books you've read.

For each title, you'll get a sticker in the booklet and all participants will receive prizes for their summer reading during our party on 15 September.

Note to parents: Reading aloud with your child counts too! Even if your child is not yet reading alone, you can still record the reading you do together and earn points.

Lap-sits and Story Hours

Stop by for our weekly interactive Story Hour each Wednesday from 10h30-11h30 and 14h30-15h30. No sign-up required.

In June and July, Story Hours for 3-5 year-olds will continue as usual with two sessions each Wednesday at 10h30 and at 14h30. On 1, 8, 15, and 22 August the Library will hold one session each Wednesday at 14h30.

Upcoming Mother Goose Lap-sit dates are 21 June, 5 & 19 July (at 10h30 & at 17h00). In August we will hold one 17h00 session on the 9 & 23. Each child must be accompanied by an adult lap, and registration is required for this activity.

More fun events in June and July

Gifts of the Nile

23 June from 15h00-16h00
Ages 6+

Travel to ancient Egypt during this afternoon all about mummies, pyramids, the mysterious King Tut and some ancient gods and goddesses. We'll learn some hieroglyphics and then we'll wrap up the afternoon with a fun project to take home and keep.

No sign-up required!



Join the Library's Teen Advisory Group

Saturday 30 June 16h30-17h30
on the Teen Mezzanine
Ages 12+

Want to have more input in the Library community? TAG team members are responsible for:

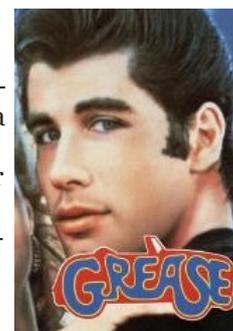
- Suggesting activities for teen nights
- Suggesting books for book groups
- Recommending books, CDs and magazines for the YA collection
- Maintaining a bulletin board on the teen mezzanine.

Teens ages 12-18 are invited to join us for the next Teen Advisory Group (TAG) meeting. Come in and discuss what you want/need/have to have at the library and get to know other community members your age.

Pizza — and Grease!

Friday 6 July
from 19h00-21h00
Ages 12+

Join us for a screening of the American cult classic, *Grease*, followed by a discussion of slang then and now. We'll also learn a few dance moves for those feeling inspired. Registration is required for this event as space is limited. And besides, we need to know how much pizza to order!



COMING EVENTS

The last evening events before the summer break:

Wednesday 20 June 19h30

Living Digital Series

Philippe Colombet of Google France talks about the digitization of books.



Tuesday 26 June 19h30

Paris Writers Workshop @ The Library

Christopher Tilghman and **Caroline Preston** will present their respective works, *Right-Hand Shore* and *The Scrapbook of Frankie Pratt*.

Wednesday 27 June 19h30

Evenings with an Author

Gerry Dryansky on *Coquilles, Calva, & Creme*, a book full of evenings with Coco Chanel and Yves Saint Laurent, historic wine auctions and banquets.

Coming in autumn

Russell Shorto discusses his work in progress on Amsterdam... **Francesca Bogonovi** and **Peter Gumbel** on *Let's read them a story: The Parent Factor in Education* ... Award-winning photographer **Peter Turnley** presents *Moments of the Human Condition* ... A panel discussion on all things Parisian with **Marjorie Williams** and **Harriet Welty Rochefort** ... **Anne Korkeakivi** introduces *An Unexpected Guest* ... **Peter Brooks** reimagines Napoleon ... **Paula Deitz** speaks *Of Gardens* ... A documentary film on Carl Sandburg ... College night with **Aristotle Circle** and the **Fulbright Commission** ... **Elyane Dezon-Jones** on Marcel Proust ... and more!

All the world's a stage

Photographs by Sabine Jaccard

At the American Library through August

A talk with the photographer:
19h30 Thursday 21 June



The French-Swiss photographer has worked in various locales, notably in Arles and Madagascar, and has exhibited in cultural centers, cathedrals, and galleries in France and abroad. This exhibit samples Sabine Jaccard's three series, "Shadow Theatre," "Water Theatre," and "The World's a Stage." Above, "Brooklyn Bridge."

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www.americanlibraryinparis.org

Tuesday-Saturday, 10h00-19h00
Sunday, 13h00-19h00



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