May we pick your brain?

Library patrons will be invited to take an on-line survey in early October. It’s a chance for us to learn more about your habits, your preferences, your suggestions, your critiques, so we can continue to deliver a better Library.

The survey will reach the American Library’s 2,600+ members, and nearly the same number of non-members who receive our biweekly e-Libris, this newsletter’s electronic sibling.

If you’d like to take the survey, sign up for e-Libris now on the website or, better yet, join the Library. There’s much in store this fall, as you can see from the rest of this newsletter.

Thanks in advance for taking the time to complete the survey when it shows up. We’ll be paying close attention to what you say, and report what you tell us. If you prefer a paper version, just ask for one at the front desk.

A collection reunited

All summer long a crack team of librarians, summer interns, and volunteers has been executing a dramatic rearrangement of the Library’s major book collections. The effort was designed to make browsing or finding a book — navigating our physical site, so to speak — much simpler.

For as long as anyone here can remember, for reasons of space and history, to find a biography, or an art book, or a novel, or a mystery, you had to have the help of the card catalog to know on which of two Library floors the item could be found. One biography of Charles de Gaulle might be upstairs, another on the main floor. One Agatha Christie upstairs, another on the main floor.

Thanks to the heroic labors of the summer, all of these books in the Library’s most popular categories are now consolidated in single sequences — the mysteries upstairs, and the art books, biographies, and fiction on the main floor. Members may expect other, less dramatic relocations of other materials in the months ahead as we try to open up more space for more uses.

Continued on page 2

Remembering Mary McCarthy

On the occasion of the centennial of her birth, the American Library in Paris presents a special evening devoted to the life and work of Mary McCarthy (1912-1989), the pre-eminent American woman of letters (essayist, short story writer, novelist, critic, and public intellectual) who spent the last three decades of her life in Paris. The symposium gathers her friends, her colleagues, and her admirers for appraisal and reminiscence.

Laura Furman  Vincent Giroud
Molly Haskell  Diane Johnson
Frances Kiernan  Robert Pounder
Lily Tuck  Margo Viscusi  Sophie Wilson

Tuesday 16 October  19h30
Please check the Library website to learn more about Mary McCarthy and the panelists.
Ed Aguila becomes Assistant Director

Eudalio Aguila has been appointed assistant director of the American Library in Paris.

Aguila joined the Library in 2008 and became circulation manager the following year. As assistant director he will have responsibility for the circulation, collections, and reference departments, and will continue to oversee information technology at the Library.

“The Library is very fortunate to have the professional skills and personal qualities Ed Aguila brings to us,” said Charles Trueheart, the director. “His new title formalizes the growing responsibilities he has assumed and recognizes the difference he is making in enhancing our information resources and customer services.”

Aguila was born in Havana, Cuba, and grew up in Miami. He holds library science degrees from the University of Miami and Florida State University and began his career as a librarian at the New York Public Library. Before and after his move to Paris in 1992, he worked in information technology as a manager and consultant for such companies as Seagram’s, Cushman & Wakefield, Marsh & McLennan, and Bowne.

The position of assistant director has been vacant since the retirement of Adele Witt in 2009.

Room for one more book?

The Library opens its doors to hundreds of used-book buyers the first weekend of every month. It’s a way to give new life to the torrent of books donated to the Library during the year, and to bring in some modest revenues to help us buy new books. Hardbacks €3, softcovers €2 and €1, plus special treasures that can run into the two figures!

Upcoming book sales on Saturday and Sunday: October 6 and 7, November 3 and 4, December 1 and 2, January 5 and 6.

Music at the Library

Thanks to a special gift from longtime Library patrons and supporters Tom and Carol Rose, in June members were treated to a special concert by the celebrated Hoffmann Quartet, featuring pieces by Debussy, Beethoven and Haydn. The Library is exploring ways to bring more music into our space — for example, the jazz quartet playing at the September Open House. Your suggestions for music programs are most welcome.

A three-year hitch

If you know you’ll be in Paris for a while, why not benefit from our special new three-year membership rate in the family and individual categories? By signing up for three years, you’ll benefit from savings of at least ten percent — and even more if Library membership rates go up. For more information, inquire at the circulation desk or visit the website.

A gift of books from Texas

Once again this year members of the Library are the beneficiaries of a gift of fifteen books for young people, winners of the Texas Bluebonnet Award and the Texas Lone Star Reading List. The Marvin Wurzer family of Houston is responsible for this annual contribution to the Library’s youth collection, and we extend them our continuing thanks. Please ask to see these books the next time you visit the Library.

The great consolidation

Continued from page 1

The consolidation was the brainchild of Yan Wan and Matthew Bennett of our circulation team, who worked with their colleague Amy Carlin under the supervision of Simon Gallo and Ed Aguila to carry it out. A league of volunteers helped out too: Patrick Ezongo, Kevin Harold, Ahmed Taofik, Asha Viswesvaran, Wenyi Zhou, as well as summer interns Carlos Bello, Jody Collins, and Kristina Hyriakova. None of it would have been possible without the time, talent, and toolbox of Alan Lewis.

Even with this historic streamlining, it’s always a good idea to start with the catalog (from the comfort of your own home if you wish) to see if a book is available and where it is to be found. Or ask a librarian!
OPEN HOUSE
Explore the Library!
Register to vote!
Join a book club!
Enter a raffle!
Make art with an artist!
Listen to jazz!

SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER
13h00 - 19h00

Bring a friend!
Check the website!

Voyages
Ann Bruce Hénaff
Tuesday 4 September - Sunday 21 October

Meet the artist at Open House on Sunday 23 September

Art on view
Proustian landscapes
Photographs of the place Proust called Combray
by Brita Lomba
Tuesday 23 October - Sunday 9 December

In association with this exhibit, a leading scholar of Proust and author of ‘Murder Chez Proust’
Elyane Dezon-Jones will speak about the author’s fictional Combray on
Tuesday 6 November 19h30
The ‘Kiss’ at the Library

One of the great American art critics of the last half-century, Arthur C. Danto, recalls his life-changing discovery of a painting, and through it, Pop Art, at the American Library in Paris:

“I had become very excited about Pop art in consequence of having seen a painting by Roy Lichtenstein reproduced in ARTnews, at the time the leading art magazine in America. I was living in the south of France, writing the Analytical Philosophy of History, and had driven up to Paris for the Christmas holidays. I was eager to read up on what was happening in the New York art scene, so I went to the American Library to look at the art magazines.

“Lichtenstein’s painting was called The Kiss, and it showed, as if it came from some comic strip like ‘Steve Canyon,’ a pilot kissing a girl. I was astonished. I could not imagine a copy of a comic strip panel being shown at an actual art gallery like Leo Castelli. At first I was revolted, as I believed in the highest ideals of painting. But then I wanted to see the work. My life was essentially changed by that painting, and when I returned to New York, I sought out the galleries where Pop art was on view.”

The above is an extract from an essay by Danto in the autumn issue of The American Scholar, which has recently been added to the Library’s subscription list. Sixty-two years after the fact, the Library still carries ARTnews.

Secret meetings in the stacks

Fans of Alan Furst, whose sophisticated historical novels are often set in wartime Paris, will find in his latest novel, Mission to Paris, two scenes of clandestine meetings between the protagonist and a U.S. diplomat in the stacks (Dewey 330.94) of the American Library — when we were on the rue de Téhéran.
Inheritance

What can be inherited? Material wealth, social status and ethnic or religious identity, as well as personal qualities like revolutionary spirit, blind prejudice, artistic talent... From Aeschylus’s Oresteia, the tale of the fall of the house of Aeschylus, to Faulkner’s decaying Southern families, inheritance has obsessed writers and often been seen as a curse. Perhaps more rarely, but just as powerfully, it is cherished as a gift. These books explore the ways inheritance can affect individual lives.

_Howards End_ E.M. Forster
_Gilead_ Marilynne Robinson
_Renoir, My Father_ Jean Renoir
_Buddenbrooks_ Thomas Mann

_Thursdays at 14h00: September 27, October 18, November 15 and January 10._

_Morgan Thomas_ holds degrees from the University of Minnesota and Princeton University. Since 2008 he has been at work on the first English translations of works by French playwright Jean-Claude Brisville.

Privileged access

We will look at four turn-of-the-century memoirs portraying V. S. Naipaul, Iris Murdoch, Graham Greene, and Kingsley Amis – each of them written from the privileged but hardly impartial perspective of a friend, child or spouse.

_Sir Vidia’s Shadow_ Paul Theroux
_Elegy for Iris_ John Bayley
_Greene on Capri_ Shirley Hazzard
_Experience_ Martin Amis

_Wednesdays at 10h00: September 26, October 24, November 14, and December 12._

_A graduate of Colgate University, the Johns Hopkins University, and the University the Virginia, Peter Fellowes_ was formerly Dean of Faculty and Professor of English at North Park University.

The book is dead! Long live ‘the book’!

We will examine how our traditional print-based culture is evolving; how technology has changed the way we consume and process information; and whether we’re better or worse off as a result of these upheavals.

_The Information: A History, A Theory, A Flood_ James Gleick
_The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains_ Nicolas Carr
_Everything Bad is Good for You: How Today’s Popular Culture is Actually Making Us Smarter_ Steven Johnson

_Steve Jobs_ Walter Isaacson

_Thursdays at 17h00: October 4, October 25, November 29, December 13._

_Ann Morrison_ , a writer and magazine editor, has taught courses about the future of media in both Paris and Beijing. _Donald Morrison_ has taught writing in Paris and Beijing and is the author of The Death of French Culture and How Obama Lost America.

Americans on France

France is the topic of choice for expats and sojourners who write about their experience abroad. What goes into such writing, and what do we get out of it? We will discuss four recent contributions to the list:

_Paris to the Moon_ Adam Gopnik
_Le Divorce_ Diane Johnson
_Bringing Up Bébé_ Pamela Druckerman
_Paris Was Ours_ Pamela Rowlands (editor)

_Tuesdays at 10h30: November 20, December 18, January 22, and February 12._

_Edward C. Knox_ is College Professor Emeritus, Middlebury College. He has written widely on how Americans and the French see and write about each other.

A walking tour: The American Revolution ... in Paris

Americans are taught little about the “French connection” that helped win the American War of Independence. Yet there are statues, buildings, parks, and squares throughout Paris that reflect and confirm this Franco-American partnership and the significant intertwining of the two nations. Group members will discover the Paris traces of John and Abigail Adams, Thomas Jefferson, General Rochambeau, the site of the signing of the Treaty of Paris ending the struggle of American colonists for independence from England — and much more.

_Thursdays 14h00-17h00_ 1. October 18 — From Auteuil to the Champs-Elysees.

2. October 25 — From Concorde to Ile de la Cite. 3. November 8 — Along the Left Bank.

_Mary Jo Padgett_ is a journalist, teacher, public relations consultant, and independent historian who lives most of the year in North Carolina. She will provide comprehensive information on arrangements to those who enroll.
The American Library offers intern placements throughout the year, usually for students majoring in library/information science, providing them an opportunity to gain on-the-job training and experience. We also welcome interns from Erasmus programs, as well as students currently enrolled in a college or university program with a focus in a related discipline.

This summer, the Library welcomed a team of interns who greatly assisted the staff by welcoming patrons, shelving books, conducting research, setting up programs, and shifting and consolidating our book collections. We would like to thank our summer 2012 interns for their time, skills, and assistance: Katie Balmer, Carlos Bello, Vannessa Louchart Bustamante, Jody Collins, Ruwani Fernando, Kristina Hyriakova, Leora Levey, Nalini Sewak, and Thomas Cohen Tamugi. On this page, we invite you to learn more about the experiences of three of them.

In the stacks

The whispers and hushes associated with libraries vanish when one fully encounters the bustling inner workings of the place. I had never appreciated the amount of work needed to operate the American Library, or any other library for that matter, before I started my summer internship here.

For the first part of the summer, I helped select and gather the books and articles on selected topics needed for the agrégation d’anglais, the English teaching certification test for French students. Kim Le Minh, Simon Gallo, and I located and labeled the materials designed to enhance the students’ knowledge of the various fields of this test — this year including Dickens’s A Tale of Two Cities, Hemingway’s The Sun Also Rises, Tom Stoppard’s Arcadia, and Philip Roth’s American Pastoral. We compiled a series of useful articles pertaining to each subject by using the Library’s two main search databases, JSTOR and EBSCO.

The second assignment of the summer was assisting in the integration of book collections on the main and mezzanine levels. I often worked as the beast of burden in this exhausting and time-consuming project, but the finished product will serve as a major convenience for the Library’s members. (See article page one.)

Carlos Bello, Amherst College

Social media

I was delighted to be part of the Library’s team as a social media intern this past summer. The experience was more than I could have expected.

I learned that social media is particularly important when working at a non-profit organization such as the American Library, because it is used differently from a personal social media account. For instance, Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest can be powerful tools to inform and engage people about programs and events. It is also a good way to thank donors for their support.

I learned how the library is run, and how the rest of the departments work hard to offer the best programs and resources to the Library’s members. Interning at the American Library also allowed me to try out video editing, photography and to meet authors through its evening programs. It gave me the freedom to develop new projects as well as being part of the team. It helped me use the knowledge I acquired over the past three years as a college student as well as the skills I developed during my previous internships.

Vannessa Louchart Bustamante, Smith College

In the children’s room

I had the opportunity to study in France for the spring semester this year and wanted to spend time doing volunteer work during the summer before returning home. I was very excited to work with the American Library in Paris as an intern. I was assigned to work with Celeste Rhoads in the children’s and young adult services for my seven-week stay. Part of my responsibilities included labeling and laminating the labels on DVDs to make it easier for people to find movies that work with their DVD players. I helped return books to shelves and keep books in order. I also helped find book quotes for the web site, updated the Twitter and Facebook feeds, ran errands and picked up supplies, and helped with internet searches for activities. In addition, I helped Celeste during Story Hour and assisted children in finding books to read.

Leora Levey, Berry College
Books from Paris to Africa

The American Library regularly donates thousands of books — gifts from our members and discards from our collection — to schools and other institutions as close as the Paris suburbs and as far away as Haiti and southern Africa.

A recent significant shipment of a thousand books went to two schools in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where fledgling libraries provide a key educational resource for hundreds of orphans and other vulnerable children.

One of the schools was Menelik High School, the other the Woodward Ethiopia Community Centre, founded by Library Advisory Council member Lisa Woodward. The latter school — three students are pictured here with their American Library books — takes a holistic approach to girl's empowerment and targets at-risk students and dropouts to improve grades, hygiene, nutritional habits and life skills so that they can stand on their own.

The shipment of the books to Ethiopia was funded by the United States Embassy in Addis Ababa.

Also this summer, a team of students and teachers from the American School of Paris carried American Library-donated books as part of the Kalahari Education Experience to the Maduo Intermediate School in Gapan Village, South Africa.

The books play an essential part in helping South African students improve their skills in English in order to pass their matriculation exams and to augment their new school library. The ASP students, who act as mentors in this education program, gain a unique insight into the lives of those living in a different culture, learn new skills and help to change the lives of their contemporaries in South Africa.

Another batch of Library books went to the Book Bus in Malawi. The Book Bus provides children with books and the inspiration to read them, improving literacy rates at a community level from southern Africa to South America. Its book donations and assisted-reading programs are strengthening the reading culture in schools and equipping a reading population with the materials they

Retreating into the Library’s future...

The staff of the Library held an all-day team retreat in early July to reflect on the year just past and review plans for the year ahead.

The retreat was led by Leslie Burger, director of the Princeton Public Library and a noted consultant to libraries across the United States. Burger has been advising the American Library for the last four years thanks to an anonymous gift known as the Julia Peterson Dede Distinguished Visiting Librarian fund.

During her week in Paris, Burger also met individually with staff members; with trustees Shelley de Rouvray, head of the board's development committee, and Neil Janin, head of its strategic planning committee; and with William Cagle, the retired director of the Lilly Library at Indiana University, who is another adviser to the American Library under the same grant.

Among the topics covered in all these meetings were the future of the periodical archives; meeting growing demands for space and staffing at the Library; exploring new technologies and social media tools; and assessing the Library’s development strategies.

The staff retreat was held at the Mona Bismarck American Center for Art and Culture, our generous friends and neighbors across the river.

The staff of the Library posed for a picture at the end of the day of teambuilding. Can you identify the librarians behind the (completely random) books? Missing from the photo: Simon Gallo, Ed Aguila, Pauline Lemasson.)
Friday night lights

**Soundtracks**  
**Friday 21 September  19h00-21h00**  
**Ages 12+**

Let’s take a look at the hypothetical playlists of some of the coolest literary characters ever. We’ll create mixes for the personal (and fictional) iPods of some of our favorites. In the mood for a CHERUB power mix? Want to brainstorm Dumbledore’s study tunes? An angsty soundtrack for Bella and Edward? Whatever you’re in the mood for, we’ll help you create it. Check out our inspiration, Flavorwire’s Literary Mixtape feature, for an idea of what’s in store. Musical inspiration, snacks and an unlimited selection of books provided - as well as a few surprises!

**Voice your dreams**  
**with Tracy Coutrix and Aliss Terrell**  
**Friday 5 October 19h00-21h00**  
**Ages 12+**

In preparation for imminent interviews and college visits, Tracy Coutrix and Aliss Terrell will give an introductory workshop to fine-tune presentation skills and share tips to shine in various contexts. In a relaxed, entertaining and creative atmosphere, we will learn skills to highlight our best and most unique qualities. Please bring one paragraph (with or without drawings) explaining in detail experiences where you felt happy and proud (ie: something you accomplished, discovered, or enjoyed). We will use these as a base to discuss values, interests and skills.

Both Tracy and Aliss have daughters attending U.S. colleges and are available for individual sessions. Learn more on the Library website.

**Coming Friday 15 November, “Here! Now!,” an evening with screenwriter and script coach Alexis Niki, creator of “My Bitchy Witchy Paris Vacation,” and on Friday 30 November a panel of music-industry professionals will present “So You Wanna Work in Music? “ Check the website for new additions to the Friday night teen lineup.
THE CHILDREN’S LIBRARY

What’s happening Saturday afternoons?

BOOKWORMS
The book club for 9-12 year-olds!

Saturday 8 September
Saturday 15 September
Saturday 22 September
12h00-13h00

Back again this year by popular demand, Bookworms will be reading and discussing A Tale Dark and Grimm, by Adam Gidwitz, a fantastic and horrible story of Hansel and Gretel’s adventures stumbling through some other Grimm tales. Publishers Weekly calls it “an audacious debut that’s wicked smart and wicked funny.” We’ll talk about the original fairy tales and do some creative writing of our own as we explore the story over three consecutive Saturday afternoons. We’ll also get the inside scoop on the upcoming sequel, In a Glass Grimmly, over a Skype session with the author himself!

Please note: The cost is 5€ to pay for your copy of A Tale Dark and Grimm, which is yours to keep.

Space is limited: please sign up!

Piper Reed
A visit from Kimberly Willis Holt
Saturday 29 September 15h00-16h00
Ages 6+

"You can have one year off to write." That’s what Kimberly Willis Holt’s husband told her back in June 1994. She didn’t own a computer so she began to write on yellow legal pads. Since then she’s written seventeen books, including the popular Piper Reed series, and has won many awards and honors, including the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature. Kimberly Willis Holt will be visiting the Children’s Library for a reading and book signing. Join us for an afternoon getting to know this popular American children’s writer.

No sign-up necessary!
Parents welcome!

You’re in luck
Anastasia Primavera visits the Library
6 October 15h00-16h00
Ages 5+

Find Your Luck in the Forest... is about two brothers who have to overcome a series of obstacles on their way to a certain dark mountain, which is in fact their way to growing up and leaving the safety and comfort of home. How will they manage to survive? Will their bravery, cleverness and strength be enough? What about patience, humor, brotherly love...?
The songs, drawings and puppets that accompany Anastasia Primavera’s performances are her own creations.

No sign-up necessary!
Parents welcome!

X marks the spot
Saturday 22 September 15h00-16h00
Ages 6+

Join us for some stories of treasure-hunters (pirates, sea captains and other adventurers) and dig into some real-life discoveries of hidden treasure — including a hunt through the Children’s Library.

No sign-up necessary!
Parents welcome!

Coming Saturday 20 October
Aliens! A play reading for aspiring actors with Amanda Ford.
Check the website for more events

Get involved in the excitement of storytelling!

AGES 1-3
Come to Mother Goose Lap-Sits on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 10h30 and 17h00. No sign-up necessary!

AGES 3-5
Story Hours happen every Wednesday at 10h30 and 14h30. No sign-up necessary!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday 12 September  19h30
Evenings with an Author
Russell Shorto, author of Descartes’ Bones and The Island at the Center of the World, describes his current work in progress: Amsterdam: A Liberal History.

Tuesday 18 September  19h30
Evenings with an Author
Novelist and New Yorker cartoonist Peter Steiner shares his newest murder mystery, The Resistance, set in occupied France.

Saturday 22 September  14h00-16h00
Art at the Library
Ann Bruce Hénaff leads an Adult Art Workshop.

Sunday 23 September  13h00-19h00
Library Open House
Join us for the day, and bring a friend to experience the Library!

Tuesday 25 September  19h30
AAWE, MESSAGE, Gifted in France @ the Library
Peter Gumbel and Francesca Borgonovi present OECD’s Let’s Read Them a Story! The Parent Factor in Education.

Wednesday 26 September  19h30
Evening with Photographs
Peter Turnley, one of the pre-eminent photojournalists of his generation, presents his latest collection of images from around the world, Moments of the Human Condition.

Saturday 6 October
Sunday 7 October
Monthly all-day used book sale at the Library.

Wednesday 10 October  19h30
Evenings with an Author
Anne Korkeakivi introduces An Unexpected Guest.

Tuesday 16 October  19h30
A rare opportunity to celebrate the life and work of Mary McCarthy, author of Memories of a Catholic Girlhood and The Group, at the Mary McCarthy centennial symposium. Panelists include her granddaughter, her literary executor, her biographer, and many others who knew her and admired her work.

Wednesday 24 October  19h30
Talk About Art
Chris Boicos explores the art of Edward Hopper — subject of a major fall exhibition at the Grand Palais.

Saturday 3 November
Sunday 4 November
Monthly all-day used book sale

Tuesday 6 November  19h30
Evenings with an Author
Elyane Dezon-Jones talks about Proust’s Combray.

Wednesday 7 November  19h30
College Night at the Library
Representatives from Aristotle Circle and the Fulbright Commission discuss the challenges and opportunities — and the mechanics — of applying to American universities.

Tuesday 13 November  19h30
International Fine Art Photography Competition
A talk and photo show from the competition’s winner.

Wednesday 14 November  19h30
Evening with Photographs
Michael Connors on the splendor of Cuba.