



EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris
June 2013

A gala evening with Joyce Carol Oates



Members and friends of the American Library from Paris and beyond gathered for the 2013 Gala Dinner and the chance to hear from one of America's leading authors, Joyce Carol Oates, the guest of honor.

Known for her versatility and productivity, Oates is the author of scores of novels that defy categorization, though tend to dwell in the darker shadows of the human soul. She is regularly cited as a likely American choice for the Nobel Prize in Literature. She spoke at the dinner about inspiration – what inspires the work of authors.

"Inspiration is an elusive term", she said. "We all want to be 'inspired' if the consequence is something original and worthwhile; we would even consent to be 'haunted' – 'obsessed' – if the consequence was significant... Most serious and productive artists are 'haunted' by their material. This is the galvanizing force of their creativity, their motivation. It is not and cannot be a fully conscious or volitional 'haunting' – it is something that *happens to us*, as if from without."

The gathering of 215 people at the Four Seasons Hotel George V was a contemporary record for this annual fundraiser and literary evening.

In introducing Oates, the Library director, Charles Trueheart, quoted a passage from her latest novel, *The Accursed*, a tale of evil spirits besetting the town of Princeton, New Jersey, more than a century ago. A mysterious Englishman arrives in Princeton in the midst of its crisis and is described as Arthur Conan Doyle's former roommate, whose persona as a real detective the author Conan Doyle has appropriated to create the fictional Sherlock Holmes.



The mysterious Englishman of Oates's invention has this to say about writing: "To invent outlandish fables, precise as clockwork -- yet, it's hoped, not predictable; ... to temper elaborate work as if it were but child's play -- this would seem to me a challenging adventure. For I think the writer of fiction is the *supreme detective*, delving not only into intricacies of fact but into those of motive as well, like a psychologist; exploring the individual, and illuminating the spe-

Another summer of renovation

The Library is under renovation again as it continues to renew its facilities in response to growing demand and evolving habits of our members.

Some of the Library's infrastructure has gone unimproved since the property's purchase and conversion to a library in 1964.

A resurfacing and leak-proofing of the terrace roof on the courtyard side of the premises is complete. Electricians and painters will be working on scaffolding during June, July and August, replacing antiquated wiring and installing new lighting in much of the Library, from the front of the building to the children's department.

The other part of the summer work will be the creation of new restrooms, including a separate toilet that is both wheelchair-accessible and changing-table-equipped. New space outside the children's area will be created for family interaction and stroller parking!

During the summer months these *travaux* may tax the patience of our members, and certain zones in the Library will be closed to use by members. We thank them in advance for their understanding.

Summer hours

Beginning July 2

Tuesday-Friday 13h00-19h00

Saturday 10h00-16h00

Sundays closed

Regular weekday hours resume August 20. Sunday openings resume September 1. Next used-book sale September 7-8.

LIBRARY NEWS

Three new trustees elected

Three new trustees have joined the board of the American Library in Paris, Inc.: **Rob Johnson**, a venture capitalist and business professor; **Susan Kayat**, a nonprofit volunteer and former Disney executive; and **Joshua Kaplan**, a lawyer at Credit Agricole, were elected to three-year terms on the Library's governing body.

During the first meeting of the new board on June 12, three officers were re-elected to their positions: **Mary Lee Turner** as chairman, **Luis Roth** as vice chairman and secretary, and **Etienne Gorse** as treasurer. Kaplan was elected assistant secretary of the board.

Trustee **Jean-Louis de Montesquiou** did not stand for re-election, and the chairman accepted the resignation of **Aymar de Lencquesaing** from the board. She thanked them both for their service and expressed hope for their continued engagement with the Library.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Library the evening before, Turner and **Charles Trueheart**, the director, reviewed the state of the Library and plans for the future, including the extensive repairs and renovations under way. **Ed Aguila**, the assistant director, presented the state-of-the-art online catalog and "discovery tool" from Polaris that went live at the Library at the end of May.

The 2012 Annual Report of the Library, published for the annual meeting, offers a snapshot of Library governance, finances, statistics, programs, donors, volunteers and interns. It is available at the Library and on the Library's website, as are audited 2012 financial statements of the Library and the Library's USA Foundation.

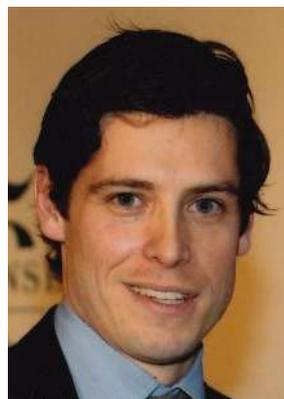
In other news related to the Library's governance, during the first week of June the Library hosted a meeting of the USA Foundation board of directors, presided by **Marshall Wais**, and a meeting of the Advisory Council, chaired by Ambassador **James Lowenstein**.



Rob Johnson



Susan Kayat



Joshua Kaplan

The Library's new discovery channel

The American Library's card catalog, which was computerized in the late 1990s, has moved to the next generation — a new online interface called a "discovery tool."

On the Library's new discovery channel, a catalog search will allow for exploring the collection in entirely new ways. You'll be able to see book covers, read *New York Times* book reviews, scan tables of contents and first pages, and more.

As a Library member, when you log onto My Account, you will be able to manage the items on your account, such as placing requests and viewing late fees, as well as choosing to keep your reading history and create custom searches, title lists and notification methods.

Watch for more innovations in September, including self-check-out of books and renewing or paying late fees online.

The Polaris system is made available to our members thanks to a start-up gift from Robert Deutsch and a sustaining gift from Nancy and Neil Janin.

Please explore the new catalog and let us know by phone or email if you're having problems, or ask at the circulation desk for a handy printed guide to the new system.

Ex Libris

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

To receive *Ex Libris* by post, or to receive *e-Libris* biweekly by email, please visit the website or contact the Library

Thank you, Serena Williams!

Here's a choice excerpt from **Serena Williams**, *La Parisienne*, a brief profile of the tennis champion in *Le Figaro* of 21 May: "For several years she lived in the heart of the city, which allowed her to learn French, to get around by Velib' and to shop for fresh produce in the markets. One of her favorite spots — *endroits fétiches* — is the American Library in Paris, between avenue Rapp and avenue de la Bourdonnais (VII^e). But she doesn't live in Paris anymore ..."

Thanks, Serena Williams, for the plug, and please stop by on your next visit to say hello!

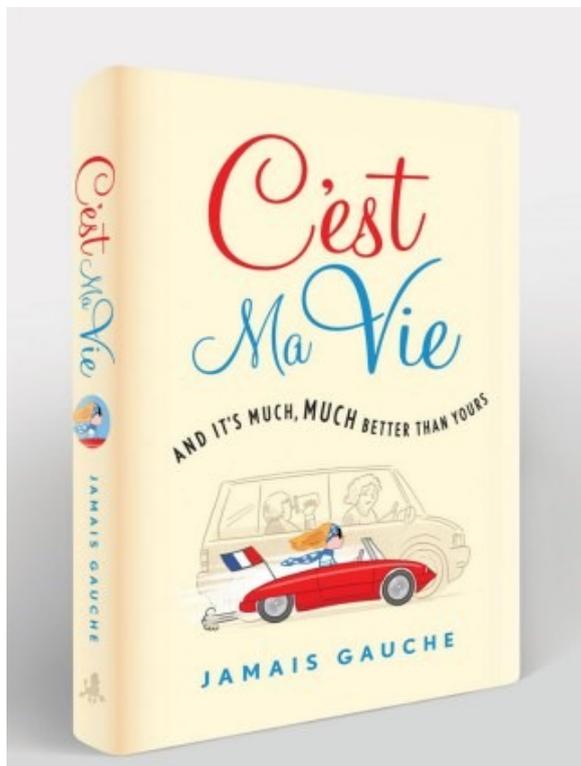
THE BOOK PRIZE

As the June 1 deadline approached for submissions to the first American Library in Paris Book Award, a trickle turned into a torrent. As we had guessed, the compulsion to write, the optimism to publish, and the appetite to read books about France all remain very healthy.

Completed submissions of such books published in the last year, originally written in English, totaled 45. Among the qualifying submissions at right are novels, biographies, essays, histories, memoirs, picture books, reference books, young adult books, and more. Many are self-published; two have already won a Pulitzer Prize this year.

Visitors to the Library at la rentrée will have a chance to view a special exhibit of all of these worthy books. By then the Book Award screening committee will have chosen, and the Library will have announced, the shortlist presented the jury for the 2013 prize: Julian Barnes, Adam Gopnik, and Diane Johnson.

The winning book will be announced at a prize ceremony on **Wednesday 16 October**. The award is made possible by a gift from the Florence Gould Foundation.



Critic James Wolcott, in this month's *Vanity Fair*, catches the books-about-France wave with a tongue-in-cheek column that cites several of the entries here. And is illustrated by the made-up-book (by "Jamais Gauche") with a rather amusing cover

Submissions for **The American Library in Paris Book Award:** John Baxter *The Perfect Meal: In Search of the Lost Tastes of France* • Adam Biles *Grey Cats* • Louise Black *The Tattooist* • Marcelline Block *World Film Locations: Marseilles* • Mary Blume *The Master of Us All: Balenciaga, His Workrooms, His World* • F. T. Bradley *Double Vision* • Bruce Buschi *Cult of Nostalgia* • Max Byrd *The Paris Deadline* • Scott Dominic Carpenter *Theory of Reminders* • Lisa Cohen *All We Know: Three Lives* • Fred Coleman *The Marcel Network* • Thomas J. Craughwell *Thomas Jefferson's Crème Brûlée* • Alex Danchev *Cezanne: A Life* • David Downie *Paris to the Pyrénées: A Skeptic Pilgrim Walks the Way of Saint James* • Guy Ducornet *Annandale Blues* • Jennie Fields *Age of Desire* • Rosemary Flannery *Angels of Paris: An Architectural Tour Through the History of Paris* • Therese Anne Fowler *Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald* • Charles Glass *Deserter: The Last Untold Story of the Second World War* • Stephen Grady and Michael Wright *Gardens of Stone: My Boyhood in the French Resistance* • Kristin Harmel *The Sweetness of Forgetting* • Joanne Harris *Peaches for Father Francis* • Joseph Harriss *An American Spectator in Paris* • Felipe Adan Lerma *Slumming in Paris* • Ronald Kenyon *Monville: Forgotten Luminary of the French Enlightenment* • Stéphane Kirkland *Paris Reborn: Napoleon III, Baron Haussmann and the Quest to Build a Modern City* • Nancy Kricorian *All The Light There Was* • Fredrik Logevall *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam* • Maryann MacDonald *Odette's Secrets* • Kati Marton *Paris: A Love Story* • Rebecca Miller *Jacob's Folly* • Paul A. Myers *A Farewell in Paris* • John Pearce *Treasure of Saint-Lazare* • Kimberley Petyt *The Paris Wedding* • Tom Reiss *The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo* • Mary Louise Roberts *What Soldiers Do: Sex and the American GI in World War II France* • Edward Rutherford *Paris: The Novel* • Michael Seese *The Secret World of Gustav Eiffel* • Gerald Shea *Song Without Words: Discovering My Deafness Halfway through Life* • Terry Stanfill *Realms of Gold: Rival to Romance* • Peter Steiner *The Resistance: A Thriller* • Kathleen Tessaro *The Perfume Collector* • Simon Van Booy *The Illusion of Separateness* • Harriet Welty Rochefort *Joie de Vivre: Secrets of Wining, Dining and Romancing Like the French* • Marilyn Yalom *How The French Invented Love: Nine Hundred Years of Passion and Romance*

THE 2013 GALA DINNER

‘Exploring the individual, illuminating the species’

Continued from page one

cies.”

Board of trustees chairman Mary Lee Turner reminded the June 6 gathering of the historic resonances of the date in French-American history — not only the 69th anniversary of the allied landings in Normandy, but the 95th anniversary of the historic battle of Belleau Wood.

As she noted, the Library was founded in part as a memorial to a young American volunteer and poet, Alan Seeger, known for his posthumously published wartime poem, “I Have a Rendezvous with Death.” He was killed in the war after writing the poem, and his father, Charles Seeger, was a founding member of the Library’s board.

“June 6 reminds us of all the special links between America and France, and the special role that the American Library plays as an intellectual crossroads in Paris,” Turner said.

Oates was joined by numerous fellow-authors, including novelist and essayist Diane Johnson, who chairs the Library’s Writers Council; William Jay Smith, the former United States poet laureate; Alice Kaplan, author of *Dreaming in French*;

Upper right: Joyce Carol Oates speaks with Winston Tabb and Diane Johnson (backs to camera); to her right, Bibliothèque Nationale president Bruno Racine. Right: table hopping during the gala. Below: Oates works on her remarks in the empty dining room before dinner. Black-and-white photos by Luis Salazar.



Russell Shorto, author of *Descartes’ Bones*; Pamela Druckerman, author of *Bringing Up Bébé*; Alan Riding, author of *And the Music Played On*; poet Henri Cole; and novelists Antoinette Pas, Percival Everett and Danzy Senna.

Librarians in attendance included Bruno Racine, president of the Bibliothèque Nationale, Winston Tabb, dean of libraries and museums at the Johns Hopkins University, and Betty Turock, professor emerita of library and information science at Rutgers University and former president of the American Library Association.

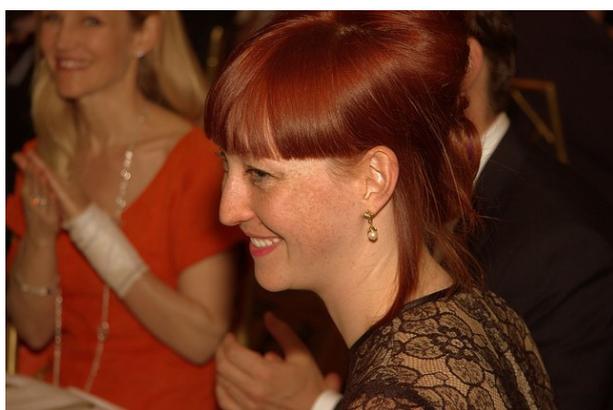
Table sponsors included Mary Lee and Edward Turner and the two most recent Library board chairmen, William Torchiana and Charmaine Donnelly; the Annenberg Foundation; the American School of Paris; and trustees René de Monseignat and Shelley de Rouvray.

The Library’s gala dinner also benefited from generous in-kind gifts from Air France, Hotel Montalembert, Editions Philippe-Rey, Harper Collins, *The International Herald Tribune*, Chanel, Boucheron, and Eyeshot.

A brief video about the Gala Dinner is under preparation and will be posted to the Library website shortly.



SCENES AT THE GALA



Clockwise from top left: Joyce Carol Oates and Mary Lee Turner greet guests; Charles Dilley enjoys the speeches; Celeste Rhoads, children's and youth services manager; (l-r) Paule Brossolet, Sophie-Caroline de Margerie, and Bernard Brossolet; Library director Charles Trueheart; Diane Johnson, chairman of the Writer's Council; Dominique Borde (l) with William Torchiana; novelist Percival Everett.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Indispensables: The volunteers and interns

The Library without volunteers and interns would be a pale shadow of its vigorous, active self. We try as often as we can to pay tribute to some 130 volunteers and interns who do just about everything at the Library: welcoming patrons, shelving books, conducting research, setting up programs, reading to children, picking up used books, and conserving books and periodicals. This summer they're helping us manage the shifting of collections and other heavy lifting involved in the renovations.

One way we say thank you is with an annual cocktail at the Library in June — this year for an exclusive premiere viewing of a new short film about the gala dinner June 6.

Volunteers come from all walks and stages of life to be part of the Library. Library *internships* are typically for students majoring in library/information science, providing an opportunity to gain on-the-job library training and experience. Although the majority of our interns come with a library science background, 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 welcomes a team of interns assisting us in a variety of projects and tasks: Erin Horanzy (Pratt Institute), Mateusz Karas (Erasmus), Johanna Li (New York University), and Pawel Szumarski (Erasmus). We also welcome a small team of teen interns: Tenzin Namdol Bondopethsawg, Leonardo Jeanteur, and Rose Nolasco.

For more information about volunteering, or to schedule an interview, please contact Pauline Lemason, external affairs manager, at 01 53 59 12 65 or under Contact us on the website.



Elizabeth Fay

Yesssss! Young authors rock

Congratulations to all the winners and honorable mentions of the Young Authors Fiction Festival. The excitement during the event was visible. More than 350 submissions from 33 schools and other study groups participated in the 2013 contest. The Festival is organized by the Library in collaboration with the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and Time Traveler Tours.



Krista Faurie

Toasting four years of reading together

The Library's longest-running book group recently completed its fourth year together reading memoirs and coming together to discuss them on Mondays, when the Library is quiet. The loyal group remains virtually unchanged. Leslie de Galbert, who co-moderates the group with Clydette de Groot, said at a recent *pot* to celebrate the milestone that being involved in this Library book group has enriched her life "immensely."

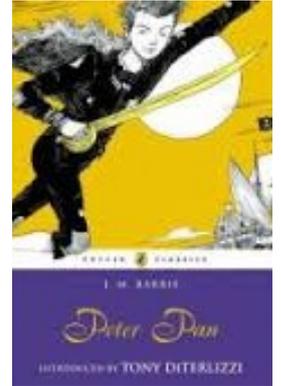
Watch for the September *Ex Libris* for more chances to enrich *your* life in a Library book group.

CHILDREN AND TEENS

Get hooked on Summer Reading Clubs

This year the Library is hosting three separate summer reading clubs for children, teens and adults. Check the Library's website or stop by anytime after **Saturday 22 June** to sign up for the reading club and start collecting prizes.

We're encouraging everyone to read the wonderful, timeless adventure story, *Peter Pan*. During our community celebration and Summer Reading Club Finale on **Sunday 22 September** we'll be screening Steven Spielberg's homage to this classic tale: *Hook*.



Summer art workshops

Tuesday 16, Wednesday 17, Thursday 18 July 16h00-18h00

Join intern and artist Rebecca O'Neil for a series of art workshops. We'll go over a few basic concepts that artists use to build works of art, and you'll have time to try them yourself! All supplies provided; wear old clothes that can get messy. Come for one session or come for all three!

Tuesday: Lines, Patterns, & Shading

Wednesday: Watercolor

Thursday: Still Life

Summertime fun for the very youngest readers

Ages 1-3: Mother Goose Lap-Sits, featuring songs, rhymes and stories for the very young. *Sign-up is required, and each child must be accompanied by an adult lap!*

Thursdays 11 and 25 July, 1 and 29 August at 17h00

Ages 3 - 5 : Story Hour Stop by for our weekly interactive Story Hour. In July and August there will be one Story Hour session **every Wednesday at 14h30**. *No sign-up required.*

On 21 August we will resume double Story Hour sessions on Wednesdays and double Lap-sit sessions on Thursdays.



Now that it's summer break, sneak in some books that aren't on your school reading list.

The 2013 Teen Summer Reading Program is open to everyone ages 12 - 18.

www.americanlibraryinparis.org



Whether you're stuck at home this summer or traveling the world, adventure awaits you in a book!

www.americanlibraryinparis.org

SUMMER CALENDAR



TUESDAY 25 JUNE
Lan Samantha Chang on the art of writing and the teaching of writing. She is the director of the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.

WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE
David Downie, author of *Paris, Paris*, presents his new spiritual adventure memoir, *Paris to the Pyrénées: A Skeptic Pilgrim Walks the Way of Saint James*



WEDNESDAY 10 JULY
A screening of the new documentary *The Birth of the Blue Angel*, the story of Marlene Dietrich and her role in Josef von Sternberg's masterpiece. With commentary by the filmmakers.



WEDNESDAY 17 JULY
A conversation with **Ta-Nehisi Coates**, *New York Times* guest columnist, *The Atlantic* editor and author of *The Beautiful Struggle: A Father, Two Sons, and an Unlikely Road to Manhood*.

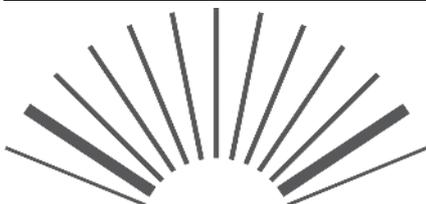
Coming this fall: A panel on French gastronomy, novelist **Richard Ford**, the Civil War photographs of **Matthew Brady**, living Frenchily with **Harriet Welty Rochefort** and **Jamie Cat Callan**, **Pierre Assouline** explains the French literary renee, novelist **Max Byrd**, an exhibition of portraits by **Yousuf Karsh**, and more. Look for the September *Ex Libris*.



ART ON VIEW

NEW WORLD

Photographs by
Jeremy Massa
9 July-
15 September



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