



EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris September 2013



Five titles for the shortlist

The jury for the 2013 American Library in Paris Book Award — **Adam Gopnik, Diane Johnson, and Julian Barnes** — spent the latter half of the summer reading and considering five shortlisted titles from among the 45 submissions for the most distinguished book of the year about France or the French-American encounter.

On July 15, a panel of Library screeners who read all the submissions delivered the five-title shortlist to the jury:

- **The Illusion of Separateness.** Simon van Booy. Harper. *Fiction*
- **Cezanne: A Life.** Alex Danchev. Pantheon. *Biography.*
- **Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam.** Fredrik Logevall. Random House. *History.*
- **The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo.** Tom Reiss. Crown. *Biography.*
- **How the French Invented Love.** Marilyn Yalom. Harper. *Essays.*

The \$5,000 award will be presented to the winning author at a special ceremony in Paris later in the fall. The winning author is also expected to lead a workshop for Library members that week.

In September, please visit the Library for a special exhibit of all 45 award entries, representing a dazzling variety of genres, topics, and voices.

The American Library in Paris Book Award, which is in its first year, is made possible by a generous gift from the Florence Gould Foundation.

The jury for the award is drawn from the Library's Writers Council. The local screening committee for the 2013 award consisted of Irina Boulin-Ghica, Mary Fleming, Leslie de Galbert, Clydette de Groot, Suzanne Justen, Odile Hellier, Grant Rosenberg, and Charles Trueheart.

Renovations at the Library

Many thanks to all Library members (and staff and volunteers) for their patience during the summer as the Library underwent significant renovations — some of them invisible.

What's immediately apparent are dazzling new lighting in the front of the Library, a much brighter path through the stacks on the main floor and mezzanine, new lighting fixtures in the Children's and Young Adult Department (and a new reading section for parents and stroller parking outside), and renovated restrooms, including a wheelchair-accessible WC with a changing table.

Invisible to members, but equally essential investments in our physical plant, are the complete rewiring of the Library's electrical system, and a new roof stretching across the reading room, administrative offices, and parts of our adjacent property (on



FALL OPEN HOUSE

Check out the new surroundings described above... get to know the collections and the spaces... take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Library... meet Celeste Rhoads and the crew in the Children's and Young Adult Department ... share information about bicultural living with AAWE, the longstanding women's group in Paris that publishes the popular *Guide to Education in France* ... join us for a family screening of **Hook** to mark the end of our Summer Reading Club... and, of course, join the Library or renew your membership. It's happening all afternoon **Sunday 22 September**. Check the website for details of this popular Library rentrée event!

INSIDE THE LIBRARY



Anthony Flint, visiting fellow

This fall the Library welcomes its first visiting researcher, Anthony Flint, who will be in residence for nearly a month while conducting research on his forthcoming biography, *The Raven: The Life of Le Corbusier, Maker of the Modern*.

A longtime journalist at the Boston Globe and currently a fellow and director of public affairs at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Flint is also the author of *Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took on New York's Master Builder* and *Transformed the American City* and *This Land: The Battle over Sprawl and the Future of America*.

Flint's time in Paris will be marked by an evening presentation on Le Corbusier on October 1 and a special workshop on composing and editing long form non-fiction, as well as writing for our new media environment.

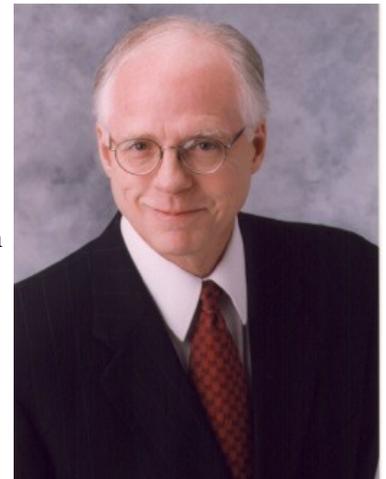
Flint's fellowship is the first in a series of such grants welcoming visiting writers and researchers, thanks to a generous grant from the De Groot Foundation.

John Berry, library association liaison

The American Library in Paris traces its roots from the American Library Association's effort during and after World War I to provide books and magazines to American service personnel in France. Independent since its founding in 1920, the Library nonetheless maintains close ties to the ALA, formally through its non-voting representative on our board of trustees.

For the past two years, that representative has been Winston Tabb, director of the Sheridan Libraries at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. The ALA has just announced his successor: **John W. Berry**, a professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois. He is also chairman of the board of directors of the Ernest Hemingway Foundation in nearby Oak Park. A past president of the professional association, he has published and lectured on 21st century literacy skills, intellectual property, distance learning, library building design and fundraising for libraries.

Meanwhile, **Winston Tabb** has agreed to join the Library's Advisory Council, where he will join another former ALA representative, **Betty Turock**, a former dean at Rutgers University and a past president of the ALA.



Farewell to Kim Lê Minh



After nine years as the reference librarian at the American Library in Paris, **Kim Lê Minh** has accepted a job as international student services coordinator with the IESEG School of Management in Paris. In addition to her duties managing the serials and audio-visual materials of the Library, Kim organized the annual Word for Word performances and helped with the Library's social media efforts. She was a valued member of the staff and an approachable and well-informed librarian to patrons for nearly a decade. She will be missed.

Circulation assistant **Amy Carlin**, who holds a diploma in information studies, will be assuming many of Kim's duties, including answering your questions at the reference desk.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

BOOK GROUPS

Time to sign up!

Since their inception in 2008, our book groups have stimulated and delighted hundreds of members. These four-book “semesters” are led by seasoned Library volunteers. Places are available, while they last, in the following groups — which include a writing seminar and a walking tour. Please see the Library website for book titles, meeting times, and registration details.

Imagination’s hold

How one’s imagination contends with one’s circumstances in iconic stories from the 1850s to the 1950s.

Led by Peter Fellowes

Rebels in love

Rebellious both in thought and in love, around the world.

Led by Annette Pas

Madame de Sévigné and Company

The gateway to the literature and society of *Le Grand Siècle*.

Led by Morgan Evan Thomas

Dark humor in the 20th Century

Irony and satire in the novel.

Led by Stevie Brandon

Getting a grip on China

Exploring the mystery of this modern yet ancient land.

Led by Ann and Don Morrison

Revolutionary Paris

A walking tour of the original American connection.

Led by Mary Jo Padgett

Long-form non-fiction

A writing workshop on long-form narrative writing in the new short-form media environment.

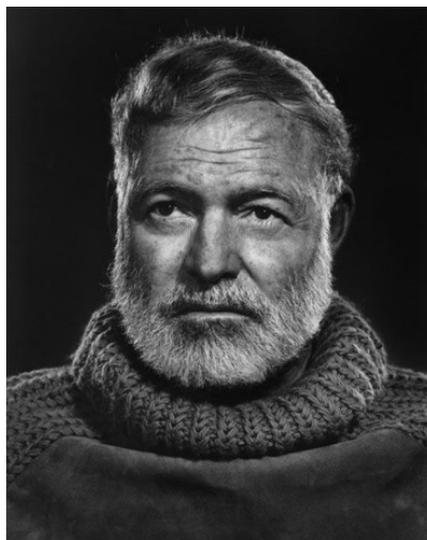
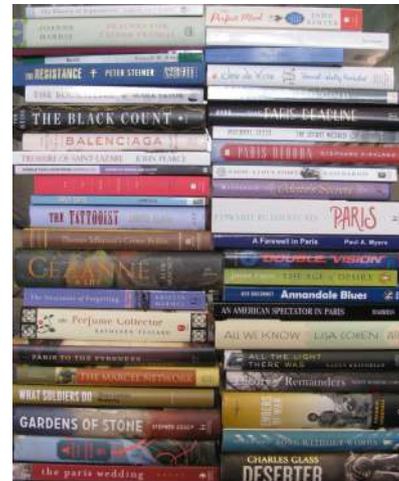
Led by Anthony Flint

ART ON VIEW

45 new books about France

A special exhibit honoring all the submissions to the American Library’s new book award

**Tuesday 17 September-
Sunday 29 September**



Yousuf Karsh

Author portraits from the exhibit at the Mona Bismarck American Center for Art and Culture

**Tuesday 1 October-
Sunday 8 December**

A world festival of writers

Columbia University, through its European Global Center at Reid Hall in Paris, and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France are collaborating on a special weekend Festival des Ecrivains du Monde on September 20-22 in Paris.

The American Library is happy to celebrate this extraordinary event and spread the word to its members, who might wish to hear from writers both well-known and lesser-known, including in the former category **Marie Darrieussecq, Karin Desai, Ma Jian, Deborah Eisenberg, Richard Ford, John Banville, David Grossman, Amin Malouf, Catherine Millet, Walter Mosley, Michael Ondaatje, Salman Rushdie, and Edmund White**. Richard Ford will also be speaking at the Library the week before, on Wednesday 18 September at 19h30.

For more information about the festival schedule, event locations, ticket prices, and the complete list of authors invited, please go to the festival website at www.festivaldesecrivainsdumonde.fr.

DEVELOPMENT

Justice Kennedy was here

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy of the United States Supreme Court spoke to guests of the American Library on July 2 at the George C. Marshall Center. Justice Kennedy, on a private visit to Paris, informally discussed the work of the court and the process of reaching closure on decisions.

In 25 years on the Supreme Court, Kennedy has become a key swing vote and a significant author of major opinions. Just the week before his Library appearance, he wrote the majority opinions on the Voting Rights Act case and on the marriage equality cases, in the first instance voting with court conservatives, in the latter instance voting with court liberals.

Kennedy fielded questions about the controversial Bush v. Gore decision of 2000, whether the court had been politicized, and which qualities are important for a lawyer arguing before the Supreme Court.

This special evening program, made possible in cooperation with the United States Embassy in Paris, is an example of the special events to which donors, gala supporters, and sustaining members of the American Library in Paris are invited.



Another reason to join

As if the Library itself were not enough, members now have another reason to hang around the neighborhood.

Since July, two restaurants have begun to provide discounts to members who show their Library cards. From burgers and milkshakes to pizza and tiramisu, you'll find them at the **Diner Bedford** (12, rue du Champ de Mars), and **Grissini** (22, ave Rapp).

These establishments are the first participants of our local business partnership program, providing Library members a variety of discounts, some up to 30 percent off the menu prices. Be sure to show your Library card to the server *prior* to ordering!

A time to give

It's that time of year again when the American Library in Paris asks its members and supporters to give generously to our Fall Appeal.

Did you know that membership revenues cover only a quarter of the cost of running the Library? We rely on your donations so that we can continue to provide vital services to the Paris community. Please look for the Fall Appeal at the end of October and please give generously. All donations large and small are welcome!

Meanwhile, we have been heartened by the generous contributions to our donation box, located to the left of the circulation desk. It's now back on the wall following our recent renovations.

Feeling appreciative? Please act on the impulse.



NEW LIBRARY TOTES!

A new design and now in five colors. Help us to spread the word as we help you carry your books with these American-made cotton totes. Still just €12. Please inquire at the front desk. Mail orders accepted!

The American Library in the Los Angeles Times

Under the headline 'A bookish haven for Americans in Paris,' the Library was the subject of a feature article in the Los Angeles Times on Sunday 1 September.

We were delighted by the coverage and the exposure, and for a chance to tell the world beyond Paris that, as journalist Craig Turner writes, "the American Library is a living, thriving link to the literary love affair that many Americans have had with the French capital.

"More than that, it is a gathering place for Americans and other English-speaking residents of Paris, a research center, a friendly environment for working writers and an outpost of Americana in the heart of Europe."

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

Volunteer profile: Kati Lewis

Shortly after arriving in Paris three years ago, Kati Lewis heard from friends about getting involved with the Library. Her husband, Alan, encouraged her to become a volunteer, and she thought it over.

Alan and Kati had owned a restaurant, La Bohème, in Carmel, California, and worked very hard for years. Kati had also been involved with non-profit boards and the business associations in her hometown and felt certain that she didn't want to find herself that busy again. But she applied to become a volunteer in 2010 and has been with us ever since. Alan's skills in fixing just about anything have also made him a trusted volunteer.

Kati worked on the circulation desk right from the start, first on Saturday afternoons, then on Friday mornings as well. More recently she took charge of a project to standardize the way membership addresses were being entered into the database. This task later expanded to sending out membership reminder letters.

The best part of working at the Library for Kati is the variety of experiences each day, she says. She knows that she will have different kinds of interaction with many people—establishing bonds with regular patrons and having nice moments with one-time visitors.

—*Pauline Lemasson*
*External relations manager
and volunteer coordinator*



What else do volunteers do?

American Library volunteers also shelve books, read to children, greet visitors, set up the reading room for programs, help on planning teams for special events, repair historic magazines, contribute to the Library's social media, help with monthly book sales, lead book groups, help to usher at fundraising events, participate in teen nights, carry books to shut-ins. Contact Pauline Lemasson to figure out the best way for you to plug into this dynamic community.



SUMMER INTERNS

The Library is always delighted to welcome interns, who do much of the heavy lifting behind the scenes and bring new energy and ideas to our midst.

At left are five summer interns as they prepared to welcome guests of the Library for remarks by US Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy (see article on facing page). L to R: Rose Nolasco (Ecole des Francs-Bourgeois), Pawel Szumarski (University of Gdansk), Johanna Li (New York Univ.), Mateusz Karas (University of Gdansk), Erin Horanzy (Pratt Institute).

TEENS



School of Rock Night with Matt Black

Friday 13 September 19h00-21h30
Ages 12-18

The Library rocks. We'll watch the film *School of Rock*, starring Jack Black, and then another fabulous Mr. Black, musician and teacher Matt Black, will teach you how to play a song from the movie. Amateurs and well-practiced musicians are welcome. There's a piano on the premises. Microphones, drums and amplifiers will be provided, so bring your electric guitar or bass and get ready to rock out!

X-Factor Insiders with Johannes Steinray

4 October from 19h00-21h00
For ages 12-18.

Test your talent and get some inside X-factor pointers for your next school play, musical or concert performance during this event with Paris-based coach and composer Johannes Steinray. During this teens-only workshop, you can try your hand at vocal or piano lessons, songwriting or recording. You'll have a chance to explore many aspects of the music business, including talent development, vocal makeover, audition and performance – with pointers on production and song-writing, composing.

Awesome Awful Art Night

Friday 20 September 19h00-21h00
Ages 12-18

This year we're throwing the bad art out the door – sort of. Come in and try your hand at all sorts of art – painting, collage, watercolors, and others and compete to make the most awesome or awful art possible. You're invited to make a big mess with other teens. We'll have all the supplies you need.

Teen Writing Group

Next meeting: Saturday 12 October from 17h00-18h00
Ages 12-18

Join fellow aspiring writers in a relaxed and creative setting where you can share your ideas, get feedback and work on your technique. Experienced writers and amateurs are all welcome to join these meetings, share their work and get to know other writers in our community.

Master Shot Film Club with Clarence Tokley

First meeting: Saturday 28 September
17h00-18h00
Ages 12-18

Aspiring filmmakers are invited to join the Master Shot Film Club, led by Paris-based filmmaker and writer Clarence Tokley.

This club brings budding filmmakers together to produce high-quality short films and to explore all aspects of filmmaking, including the development and production process, script-writing, camera work, directing, editing and much more!



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

CHILDREN



The Library's Thanksgiving tree - join us on 23

Thankful for Thanksgiving

Saturday 23 November
15h00-16h30
For ages 6+

Thanksgiving is coming! The fourth Thursday of November marks the most "American" of holidays and a chance to remind ourselves of all the great things we have to be thankful for. And, of course, it means there's a fantastic feast full of fall foods.

Join us for Thanksgiving history, crafts and fun as we learn about the traditions of Thanksgiving and how it is celebrated in America. We'll make crafts, play a few seasonal games and you'll get to taste a few traditional Thanksgiving treats during the Library's special holiday event.

Summer Reading Club Finale

Sunday 22 September 18h00-20h00

For kids, teens and grown-ups!

Join us for the Library's Summer Reading Club finale — a special community event. This summer the Library hosted three reading clubs for various ages. We encouraged everyone to read the timeless classic *Peter Pan*.

On 22 September, at the end of the Library's annual fall Open House, we'll be screening Steven Spielberg's homage to this classic tale: *Hook*. During this event everyone who participated in one of our summer reading clubs is invited to come in and collect a prize!

Bookworms

The Book Club for ages 9-12

14 and 21 September 12h00-13h00

Sign-up is required for this activity.

This September our book group will be reading *The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making*.

READING ALOUD FOR THE VERY YOUNG

Wednesday Story Hour

Every Wednesday 10h30-11h30 and 14h30-15h30
For ages 3-5

Bring along your favorite grown-up for one of our interactive Story Hours. Story Hours last one hour and feature songs, stories and finger-plays in English. At the end of each session we make a simple craft project to take home and keep. *No sign-up necessary!*

Mother Goose Lap-sit

5, 19 September, 3, 17 October, 7, 21 November
at 10h30 and 17h00
For ages 1-3

This half hour program features songs, rhymes and stories in English for the very young. *Sign-up is required for this activity.*

Halloween Spooktacular!

Saturday 26 October
All ages All day

Join us for a Halloween celebration with activities throughout the day for kids, teens and adults from 10h30 until late! Costumes are encouraged!



CALENDAR

Monday 16 September

French food roundtable

Chef Daniel Rose from the restaurant Spring highlights a panel of local experts speaking about the state of French food and making tasty meals from fresh ingredients.



Wednesday 18 September

Richard Ford

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and author of *The Sportswriter*, *Independence Day* and *The Lay of the Land*. Ford will speak about his latest novel, *Canada*.



Tuesday 24 September

Portrayer of a nation

A slide presentation and discussion with Robert Wilson, author of the new biography of the pioneering Civil War photographer, *Mathew Brady: Portraits of Nation*.



Wednesday 25 September

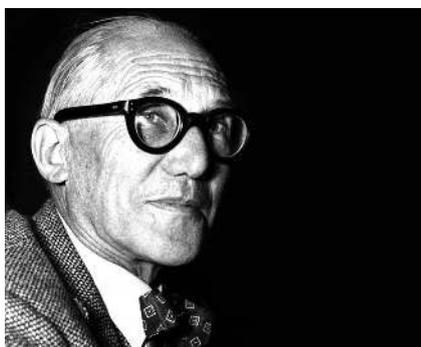
Living 'Frenchily'

Harriet Welty Rochefort and Jamie Cat Callan, the authors respectively of *Joie de Vivre* and *Ooh La La!* will talk about beauty, style, happiness and what we can learn from the French way of life.

Tuesday October 1

Maker of the modern

Visiting fellow Anthony Flint presents *The Raven: The Life of Le Corbusier, Maker of the Modern*, his new biography of the 20th century French architectural genius.



Tuesday 15 October

What is the *rentrée littéraire*?

French literary journalist, editor, biographer (Simenon, Herge, Cartier-Bresson) and blogger Pierre Assouline presents an inside look at this uniquely French phenomenon.

OCTOBER

2 Max Byrd on *The Paris Deadline*

8 Jerry Fielder and Meredith Mullins on Yousuf Karsh's photos.

29 Gerald Shea on his memoir of deafness *Song Without Words*

All events begin at 19h30

NOVEMBER

5 Peter Gumbel on French elitism

6 Stacey Perman on the race to build the world's most legendary watch

13 Susan Ossman on expatriate families

19 Novelist and theologian Greg Garrett

20 Simon Winchester on his new book, *The Men Who United the States*

26 AAWE on education in France

27 Chris Boïcos of Paris Art Studies on the art of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera



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