The 2014 Gala: Antony Beevor

Antony Beevor, the eminent historian of World War II, will be the honoree and principal speaker at the 2014 American Library in Paris Gala Dinner. The dinner will take place in the historic library of the Automobile Club de France on Place de la Concorde on the evening of Monday 26 May 2014. Beevor’s most recent book is The Second World War, a no. 1 bestseller in Britain translated into more than 20 languages. His other notable works include D-Day: The Battle for Normandy, winner of the Prix Henri Malherbe in France; Stalingrad; Berlin – The Downfall 1945; Crete – The Battle and the Resistance; and Paris After the Liberation: 1944-1949, written with his wife, writer and historian Artemis Cooper.

Beevor is also renowned as the author of the standard English-language history of the Spanish Civil War, The Battle for Spain. In addition to ten works of nonfiction, Beevor has written and published four novels.

Antony Beevor and Artemis Cooper were made Chevaliers de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government in 1997.

The annual dinner gathers more than 200 enthusiastic supporters of the American Library in Paris, including French and American authors, for an evening of celebrating books and libraries and the chance to hear from distinguished literary figures.

Immediate past honorees at the annual gala, the Library’s principal fundraiser of the year, were: Joyce Carol Oates, Sebastian Faulks, Scott Turow, Christopher Buckley, Laurent de Brunhoff, Adam Gopnik, and Antonia Fraser.

Invitations to the gala will be mailed to the Library’s members and friends at the end of March, but all are welcome. To reserve places at the dinner in advance of the invitation, or to learn about becoming a sponsor of the Library gala dinner, please contact Krista Faurie at gala@americanlibraryinparis.org.
At the April used book sale:
Return of the tattered pages

Lovers of used books who once haunted Hilda Cabanel-Evans’s Tea and Tattered Pages bookstore and tea room on rue Mayet (6ème) were saddened by the news of her death in June, 2012, and the subsequent closing of the store.

The American Library in Paris had a special connection to the store — as one of its major suppliers. On the first Saturday of every month, bright and early, the diminutive Ms. Cabanel-Evans would turn up to scour the latest offerings from our popular book sale, and order a cab a few hours later to carry several hundred euros worth of books back to her store for resale.

Library patrons now have a chance at many of the same old books, back at rock-bottom prices. At the invitation of the family, our collections manager Simon Gallo and his friend and chauffeur, Arthur Marchet, cleaned out the store, carrying eight carloads of books, perhaps 5,000 of them, back to the Library.

At the April and May book sales come and help us unload these well-traveled books again, helping the Library with your purchases. Everything must go! Thank you, Hilda! With a few exceptions for unusual treasures, all books are €3, €2, and €1 each.

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

The appeal of spring

During March and April the Library is appealing again to its friends and members for financial support. Last year, donations accounted for much more than our membership revenues.

If you haven’t made a donation to the Library recently, please respond to the appeal and join hundreds of others who make a difference every year. If you’re a regular contributor, thank you in advance for your commitment and for any increase in the gift you can make today.

Mavis Gallant
1922–2014

Readers around the world mourned the passing of Mavis Gallant February 18. A prodigious writer of short stories, more than a hundred of them published in The New Yorker, Gallant “found her literary voice as an expatriate in Paris,” noted the New York Times in its obituary. She was born in Montreal to an American mother and British father.

“She created a writing life that consciously excluded the ties of marriage and children,” noted Helen T. Verongos in the Times. “And yet despite this seeming unsettledness — or perhaps because of it — her stories convey a deep-rooted sense of place, inviting the reader into a Paris walk-up or a sheet-shrouded marble hall in Montreal. These were not just settings for Ms. Gallant (pronounced gull-AHNT). Canada, France and even the United States drove her meditations on regional identity, nationalism and its extremes, and the defining and restricting powers of a mother tongue.”

In her last years, Gallant served on the Writers Council of the American Library in Paris. Its chairman, Diane Johnson, said the council “mourns the loss of our loved and admired colleague Mavis Gallant, whose magical and magisterial writing will live indefinitely; her human presence cannot be replaced.”

Gallant last appeared at a Library function in 2008, at the annual gala dinner featuring Adam Gopnik. They are pictured here together in conversation.
Word for Word presents:

**IN FRIENDSHIP**

By Zona Gale
Directed by Joel Mullennix

Word for Word returns to the American Library for the 19th year to present *In Friendship* by Zona Gale, a century-old comedy of American small-town mores and manners. Little remembered today, Zona Gale (1874 –1938) was the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, in 1921.

Word for Word, based in San Francisco and co-founded by Susan Harloe, presents original productions of American short stories in which every word of a story is performed by actors on stage. Tobias Wolff, a writer whose work has been performed twice in Paris by Word for Word, says “Their brilliant inventiveness in performance, choreography, and staging has created a new art form, and a deeply affecting experience.”

Don’t miss these two performances in Paris, which take place at the Theatre Adyar, one block from the Library. Donations at the door (20€ individuals / 10€ students) sustain the work of the American Library in Paris and Word for Word.

An informal reception with cast and crew of *In Friendship* follows the Friday performance at the Library. Reservations are recommended — write to: rsvp@americanlibraryinparis.org

1. Thursday 27 March 2014  20h00
2. Friday 28 March 2014  20h00

‘PORTRAIT OF A LADY’

1. A discussion of Henry James’s masterpiece with Diane Johnson and Laura Furman of the American Library Writers Council.  **Tuesday 8 April 2014  19h30**


**Mo Willems**

— Author of #1 *New York Times* bestsellers.
— Former writer and animator for PBS’s *Sesame Street*, where he garnered 6 Emmy Awards for his writing during nine seasons.
— Creator of two animated series, *Nickelodeon’s The Off-Beats* and *Cartoon Network’s Sheep in the Big City*.
— Creator of the Elephant and Piggie books, winners of the Theodor Suess Geisel medals and honors for five years.
— Author, for older audiences, of an illustrated memoir of his trip around the world, *You Can Never Find a Rickshaw When it Monsoons*, and *Don’t Pigeonhole Me!*, a collection of 20 years of sketchbooks.

Mo Willems will be the special guest of the American Library in Paris *twice* during March, the first time in a reading for children (no book-signing) and their families at the American Cathedral in Paris:

1. **Saturday 8 March 2014  15h00**
   The Cathedral is located at 23, avenue George V (8ème). Please bring your Library membership card for access, or be prepared to pay the Library day fee (€10).

2. **Tuesday 18 March 2014  19h30**
   Willems’s second appearance, a presentation and book signing for adults, will take place at the Library.
Wine and Words
Tasting workshops
Thursday 3 April  19h30
Friday 4 April  19h30

Joshua Adler, former wine manager at Spring and founder of the Paris Wine Company, is back by popular demand after his fully-subscribed first Library wine workshop. Now, two opportunities to taste and discuss wines made by the new generation of Burgundy vintners, with an emphasis on natural wines. Each night is limited to 16 people. Cost: €35 per person. Reservations are required. To sign up, send an email to: rosenberg@americanlibraryinparis.org.

Sunday 16 March 19h00
In concert at the Library

In the latest entry in our Sunday series, celebrated classical musicians Lilla Anderson and Julien Fourrier, on piano and violin respectively, will play selections by Shubert, Vitali, Faure, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, Kreisler, and Vecsey.

Saturday 8 March 14h00-15h00
Buffalo Soldiers

Captain Paul Matthews will lead a mini-workshop about the history and achievements of the African-American military experience from the Revolutionary War to the present, with special emphasis on the Buffalo Soldiers.

BOOKS AND US
Photographs by Henri Zerdoun
An American Library exhibit
Tuesday 18 March to Sunday 11 May 2014
Repairing and unrepairing books

By William R. Cagle

Captain Louis H. Cohn, owner of The House of Books, a New York bookshop specializing in modern first editions, once loaned Ernest Hemingway a first edition of one of Hemingway’s own novels. When it came back Cohn commented to his wife, “look what he has done, he’s written notes all over it and spoiled a lovely first edition.”

Of course, Cohn was all smiles. What Hemingway had done was to transform an ordinary first edition into a unique and much more valuable book, an “association copy” to be treasured by any collector.

The rare book collection in the American Library in Paris is rich in association copies. There’s Marlene Dietrich’s own annotated copy of her The Blue Angel, a presentation copy of Willa Cather’s O Pioneers!, a copy of Allen Ginsberg’s Howl and Other Poems inscribed to the French poet Alain Bosquet, or, of direct connection to the history of the American Library, a copy of Alan Seeger’s Poems inscribed to the library’s World War II heroine, Clara Longworth, countess de Chambrun, or books with the bookplate from the Library’s founding in 1920.

Ownership of such treasures brings with it a responsibility of stewardship. Books are fragile items, subject to damage from normal use and sometimes from misguided repairs made by well-meaning amateurs. Generally, a worn-out copy of a book is discarded and replaced, but when it has meaning beyond the text, we have a responsibility to care for it.

Thanks to a recent gift from the estate of Jane Holtz Kay, historian and writer, whose daughter Jacqueline Cessou and her family are Library members, the American Library is able to survey our holdings of rare and otherwise special books and to identify those in need of preservation treatment either to correct existing problems or, equally important, to provide protective housing to prevent future wear and tear.

For example, the copy of Ginsberg’s Howl will have the rusting staple removed and replaced with linen thread. Then the book, really a small pamphlet, will be housed in an acid-free envelope with a protective sleeve so it will not suffer damage when it or other books near it are moved about on the shelves.

More challenging are the cases of Willa Cather’s O Pioneers! (Boston, 1913) and Alan Seeger’s Poems (New York, 1916), each of which was “repaired” some time in the past with transparent adhesive tape over the original binding. These books require the careful removal of the tape and the cleaning and restoration of the bindings and housing in acid-free conservation boxes. The goal is to return each book, as much as is possible, to its original condition.

Of course, not all of the library’s conservation needs involve extensive repairs to individual items. The periodicals collection is a case in point. Magazines do not like to stand up, and if they are stored flat it is difficult to get issues out of the bottom of the pile. To resolve this, we are in the process of putting manageable numbers of magazines in protective boxes, made in-house, such as those you see in the conference room.

To handle the hands-on conservation work we have turned to Gladys Sroussi, of Livres en vie in Versailles, a highly skilled professional. She has in hand an initial group of ten books covering a range of the problems to be addressed. This pilot project will help us evaluate the nature of the work yet to be done.

William R. Cagle is a Distinguished Visiting Librarian at the American Library in Paris, advising the board and staff on our collections. He served as director of the Lilly Library at Indiana University from 1975 to 1997.

The American Library in Paris welcomes earmarked donations to support the Distinguished Visiting Librarian fund, bringing library and informations sciences expertise to our midst, as well as gifts destined for book conservation.
Creating heroes
A comic workshop in partnership with Mona Bismarck American Center

Friday 7 March 19h00-21h00

Join us for a private tour of the Superheroes exhibition at the Mona Bismarck American Center, just across the Seine from the Library. The tour is followed by a hands-on comic creation workshop. Looking at the realistic portraits of Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman by Alex Ross, participants will discuss the notion of heroes here and now, before learning how to create their own comics, featuring their own superheroes. **Teens are reminded to sign up with Celeste and to bring their Library cards or payment (€10) for day fee to this offsite event at 34, quai de New York 75016.**

Writing from the heart: the game
With Jane Mobille

Friday 14 March 19h00-21h00

Join us for a Teen Night with life coach and memoir writer Jane Mobille. You’ll throw the dice, spin some (tall) tales, and write your own answer key. Categories include: Santa Claus, Mean Girls & Bullies, Father Knows Best, Happy Birthday to You, Secret Lies, Geek, Sis & Bro, Cat in the Hat, I Can’t stop..., Rachel or Phoebe – Joey or Ross?

Jane Mobille is a certified life and career coach with extensive experience coaching teens and young adults. Jane uses the tools of coaching to inspire freedom and confidence in young writers as they learn to put their authenticity or “heart” on paper. Editor of the quarterly AAWE News magazine in Paris, Jane is completing a book that is both a self-development guide and collection of her own “learning” memoirs. She holds degrees from Duke University, University of Maryland and Thunderbird.

Clubs for Teens (12-18)

Teen Writing Group

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. Participants are asked to bring in a sample of their writing to share with the group.

Winter/spring dates, all Saturdays:
22 March, 5 April, 3 May, 24 May, 28 June
17h00-18h30

Master Shot Film Club
With Clarence Tokley

Aspiring filmmakers are invited to join the Master Shot Film Club at the Library. Led by Paris-based filmmaker and writer Clarence Tokley, the purpose of this club is to allow budding filmmakers the opportunity to produce high quality short films. The Master Shot Film Club provides a space for teens to explore all aspects of filmmaking, including the development and production process, scriptwriting, camera work, directing, editing and much more, not to mention that you’ll get to know other young filmmakers in the community!

Winter/spring dates, all Saturdays:
15 March, 12 April, 10 May, 21 June
17h00-18h30

Young Authors Fiction Festival
Deadline for submissions!
Tuesday 1 April - No fooling!
More information: alpyaff@gmail.com

A friendly reminder from Celeste Rhoads, head of children’s and teen services: Sign-up is required for all Teen Nights and clubs. Please send an email to Celeste to reserve a spot: rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org
CHILDREN

SELECTED EVENTS AGE 5+

A Reading with Mo Willems
Saturday 8 March  15h00-16h00
Off-site! More information on page 3

St. Patrick’s Day celebration!
Saturday 15 March  15h00-16h00
Put on something green and join us for a celebration of all things Irish!

Outlaws!
Saturday 22 March  15h00-16h00
Join us for some stories about outlaws, bandits and other troublemakers!

Nonsense
Saturday 29 March  15h00-16h00
Listen to some weird and wacky stories then enjoy some fantastically ridiculous games!

Poetry Party
Saturday 5 April  15h00-16h00
Join us for an afternoon of children’s poetry in celebration of Poetry Month (celebrated in April in the U.S.)

Library Adventure
Saturday 17 May  15h00-16h00
Bring in a camera (or your parent’s phone) for a special treasure hunt in the Library! We’ll place you in teams and set you up with a list of mysteries to solve and facts to discover throughout the stacks.

Oh La, Cupcakes!
Saturday 24 May  15h00-16h00
You’ll be able to decorate your own cupcakes (with help from us, of course!) after we read some sweet stories about bakers and cupcake-makers.

Back by popular demand…

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

In March, Bookworms will be reading and discussing the 2014 Newbery-honored One Came Home by Amy Timberlake.

Saturday 1 March
Saturday March 12h00-13h00
"Historical fiction and mystery combine to make this a compelling adventure." -Booklist

How Bookworms works:
First, sign up for Bookworms and we’ll reserve a copy of One Came Home, to be given to each participant during the first session (the cost is €5 and the book is yours to keep). We will begin the book together during the first session and do some fun related activities. When we meet for the second session, everyone should be at about the same point in the story so that we can talk about it as a group.

Sign-up is required, and space is limited. Write Celeste at rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org.

Reading aloud for the very young

Ages 1-3: Mother Goose Lap-Sit, featuring songs, rhymes and stories for the very young. Lap-sits will be held on 6 and 20 March, 3 and 17 April, 8 May. There are two sessions on each of the above dates: from either 10h30-11h00 or from 17h00-17h30. Sign-up is required, and each child must be accompanied by an adult lap!

Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour
Stop by for our weekly interactive Story Hour each Wednesday from 10h30-11h30 and 14h30-15h30. No reservation required!

Unless otherwise stated, all programs are free for library members and €10 for non-members. Children attending Library programs must have their own membership card or be covered by a family membership. Please contact Celeste Rhoads for more information about our children’s programs: rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org.
Wednesday 5 March 19h30
Amity Gaige: An abductor confesses
A tale of a first-generation American born in East Germany who kidnaps his daughter during a custody fight with his wife, Schroder, Gaige’s third novel, was hailed by the Los Angeles Times as “a fascinating psychological portrait of love, longing and self-loathing.”

Tuesday 11 March 19h30
Handwriting workshop
In collaboration with S.P.R.I.N.T., this workshop explores handwriting readiness, pencil grasp, handwriting posture, multi-sensory handwriting instruction and teaching strategies applicable for students with various learning styles.

Sunday 23 March 19h30
Jesus the Zealot
The noted Iranian-American scholar of religions Reza Aslan discusses his latest book, Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth. Note day of week.

Tuesday 18 March 19h30
Mo Willems on Mo Willems
Author and illustrator Mo Willems pulls back the curtain on his work in a program and book-signing for adults. Details on page 3.

Thursday-Friday 27-28 March 20h00
Word for Word: In Friendship
Two performances of Zona Gale’s fiction at the Théâtre Adyar. Reservations recommended. See page 3 and the website for details.

Tuesday 8 April 19h30
Reading ‘Portrait of a Lady’

May and June
Chris Boicicos on Robert Mapplethorpe ...
Joan DeJean on the invention of Paris ...
James Dyke on a lifetime of collecting art ...
Karen Karbo on Julia Child ... ‘Diner en Blanc’: a documentary screening ... Tilar Mazzeo on the war years of the Ritz Hotel ...
Edmund White’s Paris memoir ... Lochlann Jain on the business and culture of cancer.

Wednesday 30 April 19h30
‘Paris at the End of the World’
John Baxter’s latest book is about the City of Light in the darkness of World War I. He relates how Paris continued its urgent activity day and night, adapting for the war while thriving still as a cultural capital.