



# EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris March 2014

## The 2014 jury for the Library Book Award

The jury for the 2014 American Library in Paris Book Award has been chosen and will consist of writers Alice Kaplan, Sebastian Faulks, and Pierre Assouline.

The Library award, now in its second year, recognizes the most distinguished English-language book of the year about France or the French-American encounter.

The American Library in Paris Book Award was launched with a generous gift from the Florence Gould Foundation. Fredrik Logevall won the first award last November, and a \$5,000 prize, for *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam*.

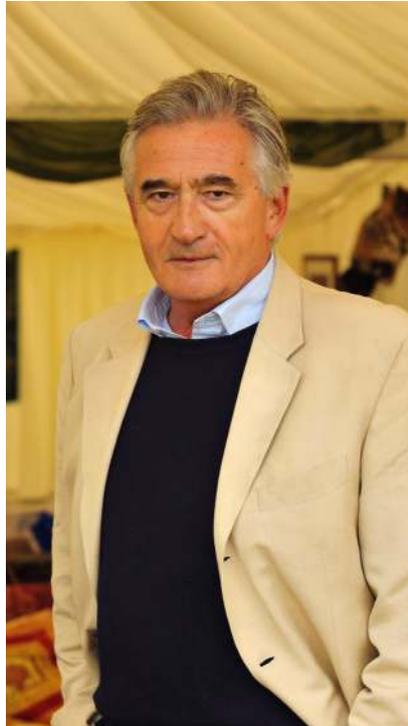
Kaplan, who will chair the 2014 jury, is the author of *French Lessons: A Memoir*, *The Collaborator*, *The Interpreter*, and *Dreaming in French*. She is chairman of the French department at Yale.

Faulks, who was the 2012 Library gala speaker, is the author of many novels, including the France trilogy, *The Girl at the Lion d'Or*, *Birdsong*, and *Charlotte Gray*, as well as biographies and essays.

Assouline is a prominent French literary critic, blogger, editor, and biographer. His latest book is a novel, *Sigmaringen*, imagining a Vichy government in exile in Germany.

A five-title shortlist of books chosen by a Library screening committee will be announced in July. A Library exhibit of the submissions will open in September. The 2014 award will be announced and presented at a ceremony in late fall.

The jury for the book award is drawn from the ranks of the Library's Writers Council. The newest members of the council, Assouline and Logevall, were appointed to the council last month.



Antony Beevor



Alice Kaplan



Sebastian Faulks



Pierre Assouline

## 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](mailto:gala@americanlibraryinparis.org).

### 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-ANT*). 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.



photo by David Bacher

### 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.



### 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 (6<sup>ème</sup>) 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 car-loads* 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.

**Saturday– Sunday 5-6 April 2014**  
**Saturday-Sunday 3-4 May 2014**

# 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](mailto: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**
2. An evening with Michael Gorra of Smith College, author of the acclaimed new study of the book, *Portrait of a Novel* **Wednesday 9 July 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*.
- Winner of a Caldecott honor for his first children's book, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* And another for *Knuffle Bunny: a Cautionary Tale*. And another for *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity*.
- Creator of the *Elephant and Piggie* books, winners of the Theodor Seuss 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 (8<sup>ème</sup>). 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.

## SPECIAL EVENTS



### 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.

### 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](mailto: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.



## 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.



Gladys Sroussi at work in her atelier in Versailles, *Livres en Vie*

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 information sciences expertise to our midst, as well as gifts destined for book conservation.*



Scotch tape and bruised edges on Alan Seeger's *Letters and Diary*, restored and 'unrepaired' for the American Library.

## 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.**



Alex Ross - JLA: The Original Seven, 2000 - TM & ©DC Comics All rights reserved.

## Writing from the heart: the game

With Jane Mobbille

Friday 14 March 19h00-21h00

Join us for a Teen Night with life coach and memoir writer Jane Mobbille. 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 Mobbille** 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 AAWNE 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

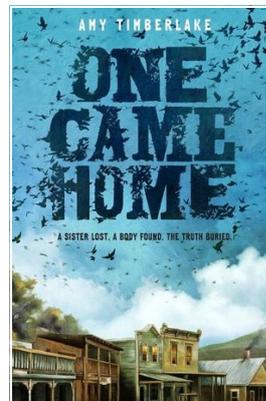


Back by popular demand...

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org).

## CALENDAR

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.

Wednesday 9 April 19h30

### David Lebovitz: My Paris Kitchen

The popular food blogger tells stories and shares recipes from his ten years (and counting) in Paris. From well-known classics revisited to new fare, his book explores how Parisians eat today.

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 29 April 19h30

### Digital parenting

Elizabeth Milodov and Jenny Wallier discuss how parents can keep up with the digital world inhabited by our children.

Tuesday 8 April 19h30

### Reading 'Portrait of a Lady'

A discussion of the Henry James masterpiece. Details on page 3.

## May and June

**Chris Boïcos** on Robert Mapplethorpe ...

**Joan DeJean** on the invention of Paris ...

**James Dyke** on a lifetime of collecting art ...

**Karen Karbo** on Julia Child ... **'Dîner 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.

Evenings with Authors and other weeknight programs at the Library are free and open to the public (except as noted) thanks to support from the Annenberg Foundation, our members, and those who attend programs.

The American Library in Paris

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