

# EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris Summer 2014

## THE GALA

More than 200 American Library supporters gathered at the Automobile Club de France for the annual Gala Dinner on May 26. The guest of honor, British historian Antony Beevor, told stories of his sleuthing in the Soviet archives. Children's author and animator Mo Willems loosened up the crowd with anecdotes about reading. Two dozen authors mingled with Library members and their guests. Cocktails and coffee were served on a terrace overlooking Place de la Concorde. The Library realized significant support – ten percent of its annual budget – through the generosity of those who attended. Read more on pages 5 and 6.



## #ParisBookMob

The Library called a book lovers' flash mob for the afternoon of 16 April and nearly 100 people turned up under the Eiffel Tower to freeze for five minutes with books in hand.

Scores of tourists and onlookers gawked at these quasi-statues, tried to distract them, took pictures. Master Shot Film Club leader Clarence Tokley and children's and teen services manager Celeste Rhoads organized members of the club teens to record the event. The short video can be found on the Library website.

## Your online account

The Library's new Polaris system now makes it possible to manage your account remotely with direct electronic payments. By going to the "My Account" page (with your membership number), you may now pay late fees, establish credit for photocopying, and (soon) renew your membership from anywhere. In the fall, you will also be able to make donations to the Library directly through the website and Polaris.

Questions? Ask a Library volunteer or staff member, or call 01 53 59 12 60.

## The summer library

The Library will shift to reduced hours during the slowest period of the summer, allowing the staff to conduct routine inventory of the collection.

Tuesday 15 July to Saturday 16 August

13h00-19h00 Tuesday through Friday

10h00-16h00 Saturday

Closed Sundays through August.

Regular weekday hours resume Tuesday 19 August.

First weekend used-book sales continue through the summer on Saturday 5 July and Sunday 6 July, and on Saturday 2 August 2 only.



To mark the beginning of the World War I Centennial, the American Library in Paris is pleased to present

## America in 1914

an exhibit of images and artifacts drawn largely from the Library's archives of American books and periodicals.

The exhibit is open during operating hours through Sunday 31 August.

## Library appointments

Abigail Altman will be joining the American Library as reference manager in August.

For the last five years, she has been the librarian at Hermitage International School in Maisons-Laffitte. Altman previously worked as programs manager at The American Library in Paris and as a bookseller at The Red Wheelbarrow Bookstore in the Marais.

She is a graduate of Tufts University with an advanced library science degree. In her new position, she will help the Library re-envision its research and collections approaches and assist Simon Gallo, the collections manager, closely in the management of what the Library offers its customers.



Krista Faurie, development assistant at the Library since 2012, will succeed Samantha Gardner as development manager, also in August.

Faurie's responsibilities include managing the Library's fundraising records and operations, organizing the spring and fall appeals, and leading major events such as the annual gala dinner and the autumn book award ceremony.



Her prior career was in the financial services industry in the United States, as a registered sales assistant at such brokerage firms as Prudential Securities, Wachovia, UBS, and Morgan Keegan. She moved to France in 2011 with her husband and their two children.

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

## News from the Board

At the annual meeting of the Library on June 10, four members of the board of trustees were re-elected and one new member was elected.

Re-elected to three-year terms were Alain Aubry, Peter Fellowes, Nicolas ver Hulst, and Neil Janin.

The new member of the board is George Stansfield, the AXA Group General Counsel with global responsibility for legal, compliance, and human resources matters. A

lifelong attorney with AXA, Stansfield practiced law in New York as a corporate attorney in the legal department of AXA Equitable. He is a graduate of Trinity College and Georgetown Law School. He and his wife, Elaine Foo, moved to Paris in 1996.



At an organizational meeting of the 2014-15 board the next day, the officers of the board were all re-elected — Mary Lee Turner as Chairman, Luis Roth as Vice-Chairman and Secretary, Rob Johnson as Treasurer, and Joshua Kaplan as Assistant Secretary. The Library board's executive committee is composed of the chairman, vice chairman and treasurer, plus Clydette de Groot, Jo Foks, and Nadine Voisin.

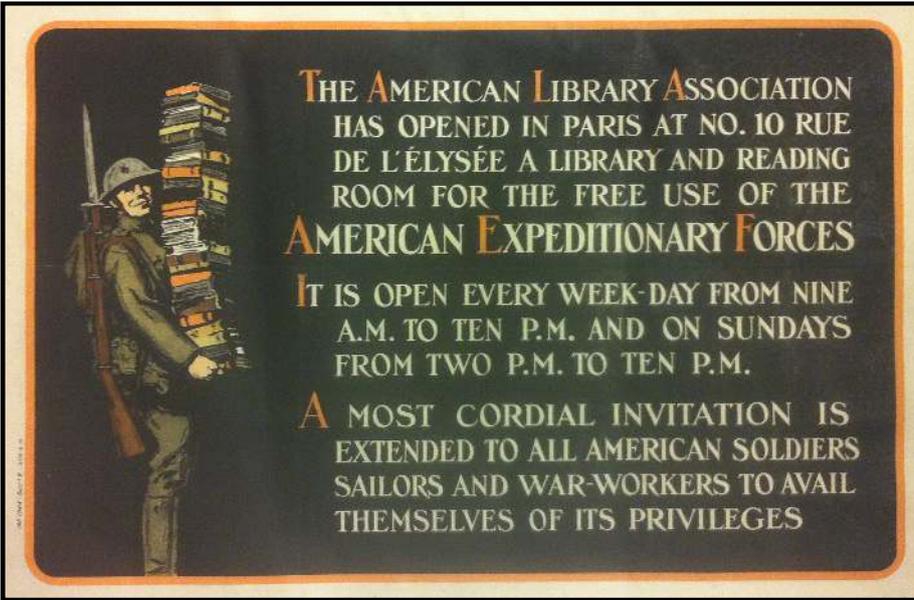
John Berry, Professor of Library and Information Science at Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois, and the newly-designated representative of The American Library Association on the American Library's Board of Trustees, made his first appearance at the Library and spoke at the meeting about trends in American libraries.

The annual general meeting every year is also the occasion for the publication of the previous year's annual report, as well as of the audited financial statements of both the American Library in Paris, Inc. and the American Library in Paris USA Foundation. Like this newsletter, all of these documents are available in pdf form on the Library website.

### A piece of *patrimoine*

During his recent speaking engagement at the Library, Paris author and book collector John Baxter presented the American Library with a gift of an original poster he had found for sale. It announces the opening of the Library's doors, probably in 1919, at the Library's original location, but before the Library was incorporated in 1920.

The poster is framed and viewable in the front of the Library near the conference room. Thank you, John Baxter.



## Book Award: 2014 entries double 2013's

Nearly 100 books were submitted for the 2014 American Library in Paris Book Award, more than double the number in 2013, the award's first year.

Books qualify for the prize if they were published since last July 1 and before June 30, 2014; were written and published originally in English; and have as their theme or subject matter France or the longstanding relationship between France and the United States.

Remarkably, there is no shortage of such books. This year's crop of entries include more than 30 works of fiction and more than 60 of nonfiction — memoirs, histories, biographies, books about food and art, film and travel, and the good life in France.

In both fiction and nonfiction, the two world wars — and especially the Occupation of France — and the inter-war years figure prominently. Among the biographies are books on Colette, François Mitterrand, Simone Signoret, Albert Camus, Charles de Gaulle, Josephine Baker, and many members of the Bonaparte family.

The list of all the entries is available on the website and in paper form at the Library.

All 95 official submissions will be celebrated in a special Library exhibit in September as well as an evening reception with all the authors who happen to be in Paris on the evening of Tuesday 9 September.

In the meantime, a shortlist of five books will be announced in mid-July and presented to the jury, composed this year of Alice Kaplan, the chair, Sebastian Faulks, and Pierre Assouline. All three are members of the Library's Writers Council.

They will make their selection of the award-winning book in the autumn, and the honored author will be the Library's guest at a reception and speech to be scheduled in November. The book award carries a \$5,000 prize and is made possible through a generous gift from the Florence Gould Foundation and continuing support from The de Groot Foundation.

Last year's shortlist, drawn from 45 entries, consisted of *The Illusion of Separateness*, by Simon van Booy

(fiction); *Cezanne: A Life*, by Alex Danchev (biography); *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam*, by Fredrik Logevall (history); *The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo*, by Tom Reiss (biography); and *How the French Invented Love*, by Marilyn Yalom (essays).

The award went to *Embers of War*.

The Paris screeners for the book award for 2014 are Irina Boulin-Ghica, Jacqueline Cessou, Jeannie Fellowes, Mary Fleming, Leslie de Galbert, Clydette de Groot, Odile Hellier, Saara Marchadour, Brian Manning, and Charles Trueheart.



**Saara Marchadour, the volunteer manager of the Library book award, prepares for an early screeners' meeting in the conference room. The entries swelled this year to nearly 100 books.**

# GALA



## Remarks from our Gala speakers

Referring to his and his family's year-long stay in the French capital, children's author **Mo Willems** told Gala Dinner guests: "We love the American Library. We joined the first day we moved to Paris [...] for me, a library is a building filled with words. Words everywhere. I love being in a place filled with words and words and words. But the most important word you will ever find in a library is of course on the outside, and that's the word *Open*."

The guest of honor, World War II historian **Antony Beevor**, spoke about the vital importance of reading history. He declared: "What was the point of writing about Hitler and Stalin and their generals unless you also perceived the individual—not just statistical—consequences of their decisions. Unless you saw how they shaped the lives and deaths of millions of people. It was, as I say, a very salutary lesson."



## Notes from an evening

The 2014 Gala Dinner unfolded this year for the first time at the Automobile Club de France, where the major physical attractions were a terrace overlooking Place de la Concorde through the tasteful scrim and scaffolding of *ravalement*, and balmy weather before and after sunset to enjoy it.

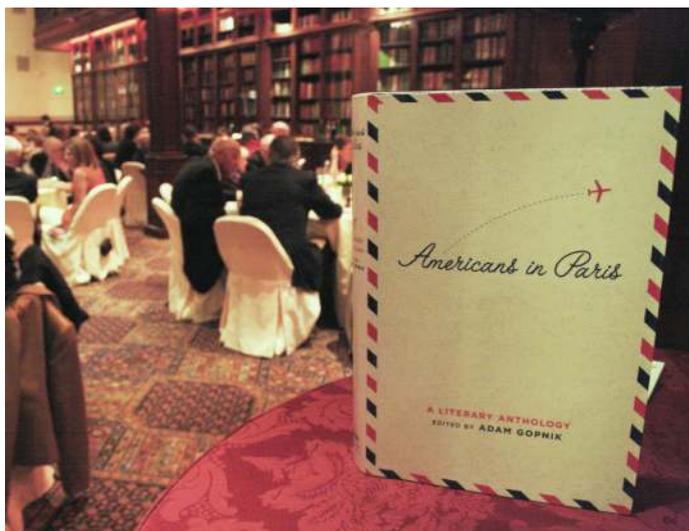
The dinner itself took place at 20 tables in the grand library of the club, a two-story space lined appropriately with bookshelves, and with a stage and top-notch sound system.

The Library was fortunate to welcome two dozen authors and other distinguished guests in addition to the principal speaker, **Antony Beevor**, and the opening act, **Mo Willems**.

Among them were Beevor's wife, the historian and biographer **Artemis Cooper**; **Diane Johnson**, the novelist and essayist who chairs the Library's Writers Council; Ambassador **James Lowenstein**, chairman of the Library's Advisory Council; **Pamela Druckerman**, author of *Bringing Up Bébé*, and *Financial Times* columnist **Simon Kuper**; young-adult novelist **Amy Plum**; French authors and members of the conseil d'état **Marc Lambron** and **Sophie-Caroline de Margerie**; French-American actor **Jean-Marc Barr**; U. S. *chargé d'affaires* **Mark Taplin**; historians **Joan DeJean** and **Nancy Green**; documentary filmmaker **Clarence Tokley**; author-journalists **Dana Thomas**, **Donald Morrison**, and **Don** and **Petie Kladstrup**; and photo-journalism legend **John Godfrey Morris**.

Many individuals and institutions support the Gala Dinner every year by sponsoring tables — a chance to entertain friends and introduce them to the American Library — and by making in-kind donations to enhance the experience of the event for all who attend.

This year the sponsors were **Peter and Jeannie Fellowes**, **Charles and Clydette de Groot**, **Rob and Sherry Johnson**, **Ishtar Méjanès**, **Alain and Shelley de Rouvray**, **Edward and Mary Lee Turner**, and **Marshall and Deborah Wais**, **The Annenberg Foundation**, **American School of**



**Paris**, and **Sullivan & Cromwell LLP**.

Thanks to a special gift from **Walter Pozen** and **The Library of America**, which publishes the U.S. version of the *Pléiade*, all the guests at the gala went home with a handsome edition of the work of Mark Twain, Henry James, or James Baldwin, or a collection of American writings on Paris edited for the Library of America by Adam Gopnik. There were also copies of Antony Beevor's monumental work on D-Day, in French translation, courtesy of the publisher **Calmann-Levy**. The guests were able to carry their books home in a bag provided by **Marks & Spencer** which also contained a selection of their teas, biscuits, and jams.

**Krista Faurie** of the Library staff was in charge of the 2014 Gala, assisted by the Board of Trustees development committee, by her colleagues **Pauline Lemasson**, **Celeste Rhoads**, **Hélène Wiesenfeld**, and **Grant Rosenberg**, and by volunteers **Laetitia Nail**, **Kristen Delancey**, and **Colleen Olson**.

## Pictures at a Gala

**FACING PAGE** Upper left, author Mo Willems and children's and teen services manager Celeste Rhoads; upper right, guest of honor Antony Beevor delivering his remarks; below left, Library volunteers at the gala take a bow; below right, guests finding their seats at the dinner.

**THIS PAGE** Upper right, the Library of America collection *Americans in Paris*, among the books given to gala dinner guests, and at left, left to right, Antony Beevor, author Artemis Cooper, Library board of trustees chairman Mary Lee Turner, and Library director Charles Trueheart.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** Jelena Nikodinoska

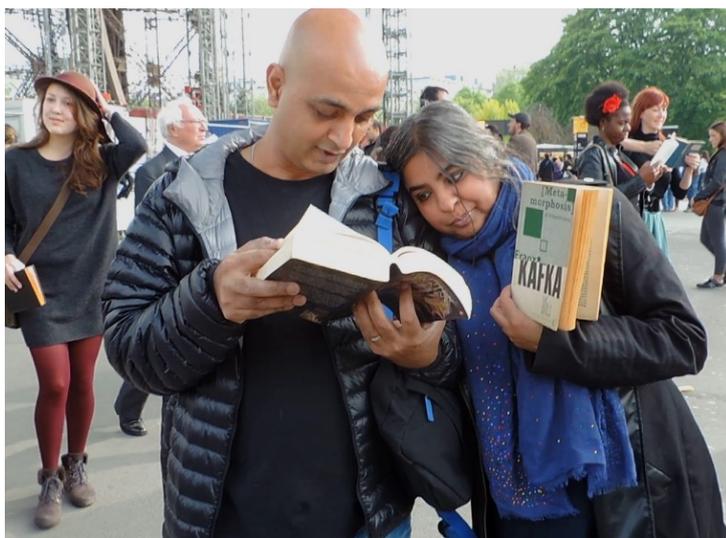


## SPECIAL EVENTS



## More scenes from #ParisBookMob

We're definitely thinking of organizing another flash mob. View the video on the Library website and show your support on twitter (@amerlibparis and #parisbookmob) if you'd like to participate in a future Paris Book Mob.



## YAFF

The 2014 Young Authors Fiction Festival culminated with a celebration at the Library on Friday 6 June. More than 240 people attended the celebration event, including the finalists, their parents, and their teachers. Each finalist was awarded a certificate and many received a bookmark with judges' comments. YAFF celebration booklets with the stories of all the 1st to 5th place winners were and remain available for €10.



This year we had over 340 entries from more than 25 schools in and around Paris. The Library thanks the forty-four judges who participated this year, as well as the small but active YAFF 2014 committee, which included Elizabeth Fay, Eric Hengesbaugh, Pauline Lemasson, Olympia MacKendree, Robin Motheral, Celeste Rhoads, Sarah Towle, and Sarah Woolley.

The American Library is proud to be the organizer of the Young Authors Fiction Festival and is open to all students ages 5 to 18 in the greater Paris area who write in English. Watch for news of the 2015 edition in the fall.

## CHILDREN AND TEENS

### Reading aloud for the very young

**Ages 1-3: The Library's Mother Goose Lap-Sits** feature songs, rhymes and stories for the very young. Lap-sits will be held on 19 June (two sessions from either **10h30-11h00** or from **17h00-17h30**) and 3 and 17 July (one session 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 throughout the month of June. In July and August there will be one Story Hour session each **Wednesday at 14h30.**

*No reservation required!*

### Rock 'N' Read Saturday

**Saturday 21 June  
15h00-16h00**

**Ages 5+**

Put on your rock 'n' roll attire and join us for some stories about music and musicians and some fun music trivia too. Couldn't make it to the kick-off party on the 7th? Stop by the Children's and Young Adults' Services desk to pick up your summer reading club card and get started!



### For teens: Short Film Night

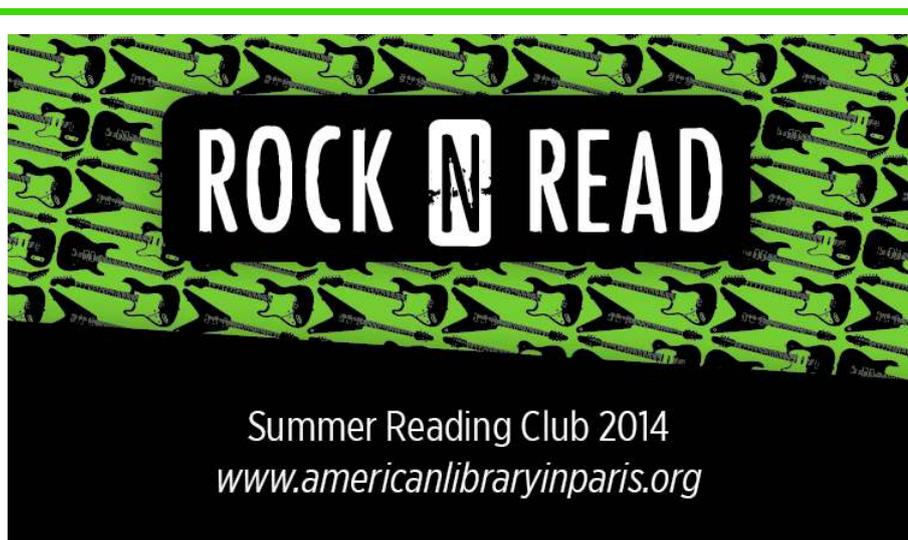
**Saturday 21 June**

**19h00-21h00**

**Ages 12-18**

Library teens and their friends are invited to a screening of the films created by members of the Library's Master Shot Film Club.

Led by Paris-based filmmaker and writer Clarence Tokley, the members of the film club have been creating short films throughout the year. We'll be holding a screening of the films on Saturday evening 21 June and we'll provide plenty of popcorn and snacks.



### Summer reading rocks!

**Keep track of all of the reading you do over the school break and collect prizes while you're at it!**

Couldn't make it to the Summer Reading Club Kick-Off Party? There's still time to join the program! Stop by the Children's and Young Adults' Services desk anytime after 7 June to pick up your summer reading club card and begin.

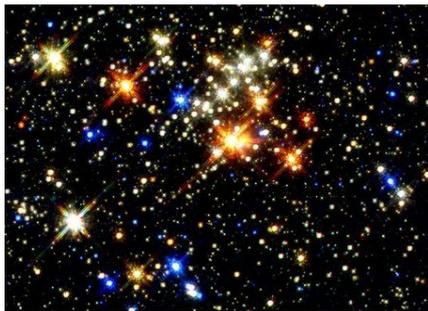
**How the club works (for kids ages 1-12):** Pick up a summer reading club card at the library, then check off one of the boxes on the card for each day that you read 30 minutes or more. When all of the boxes are checked off, drop the card off in the Children's Library to enter to win one of our fabulous prizes, then pick up a new card and begin again. We'll be selecting one winner every Saturday from 7 June through 13 September. Everyone will receive a prize at our summer reading club finale on Saturday 13 September.

Children who are not yet reading can count time they spend reading with a parent or older siblings.

Teens are invited to join the teens-only version of the summer reading club: **Summer is a Mix Tape (for ages 12-18).**

*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 and teen programs: rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org.*

## CALENDAR



Tuesday 17 June 19h30

### Starstruck

An exploration of the famous images from the cult NASA webpage APOD (Astronomy Picture of the Day), led by co-founder **Robert Nemiroff**. Come see and hear about some of the most spectacular and recent images our universe.



Wednesday 25 June 19h30 \*

### The Ritz at war

Tilar Mazzeo explores the fate of the Hôtel Ritz during the German occupation of Paris, when it was both a headquarters for Nazi officers and home to exclusive patrons. Mazzeo reveals the palace intrigue of this iconic symbol, caught in the tug of wartime.



Wednesday 18 June 19h30 \*

### Julia Child rules!

The latest in **Karen Karbo's** *Kick Ass Women* series. Prior subjects: Audrey Hepburn, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Coco Chanel.

Thursday 19 June 19h30 \*

### Edmund White remembers

The memoirs of the author of *A Boy's Own Story* continue with *Inside a Pearl*, about his years living in 1980's Paris.

Wednesday 2 July 19h30  
**The politics of cancer**

Anthropologist Lochlann Jain explores the culture, business, and industry surrounding cancer and its treatment, the focus of her book, *Malignant: How Cancer Becomes Us*.

Wednesday 9 July 19h30  
**'Portrait of a Novel'**

Literary critic Michael Gorra looks at how Henry James' *Portrait of a Lady* came to be written, exploring, in detective story fashion, the psychological forces at work as he created one of the most memorable protagonists in literature.

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. **Starred events** indicate that donations are requested at the door — €10 is the recommended contribution, €5 for students.

## A Paris Home Companion

**Garrison Keillor**, creator and host of American radio's beloved *Prairie Home Companion* program and author of *Lake Wobegon Days* and other books of contemporary American folklore, will be taking the broadcast to Paris for the first time this September.

The shows will take place at the American Church (65, quai d'Orsay in the 7<sup>ème</sup>) on Friday 5 September at 20h00 and Saturday 6 September at 16h00. **The American Library in Paris** is pleased to present Garrison Keillor in a special evening program just before, *tentatively* on Wednesday 3 September at the usual evening program time, 19h30. Please note that the Library event remains to be confirmed, and more information will be available in *e-Libris* and on our website in August. It is likely reservations will be required and a donation to the Library will be expected.

For the sessions at the American Church, reservations are encouraged and doors will open 30 minutes before the two shows, the seating is open, and donations will benefit the American Church. More information at [www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org).



## The American Library in Paris

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[americanlibraryinparis.org](http://americanlibraryinparis.org)

