



EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris September 2014

AUTHORS IN RESIDENCE AT THE LIBRARY

The American Library's new Visiting Fellowship program will bring three distinguished and very different writer-scholars to Paris, and into the life of the Library community, in the year ahead.

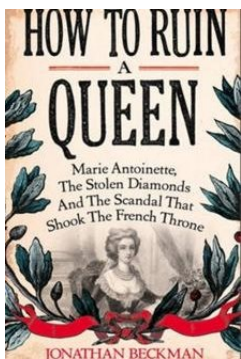
In November, biographer **Alex Danchev** will be in residence working on his forthcoming book about the surrealist artist René Magritte, whose Paris years he will discuss in an evening program on November 19. Danchev spoke at the Library last year about his biography of Paul Cézanne, which was shortlisted for the 2013 American Library Book Award.

Danchev is by academic training a political scientist — he teaches international relations at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland — and while here has agreed to lead

topical conversations on international security and conflict and the geopolitical landscape.

In January, essayist and journalist **Ta-Nehisi Coates** will be a Library Visiting Fellow. His cover story in *The Atlantic Monthly*, "The Case for Reparations," created a *polémique* in the United States when it was published in May. Coates will be speaking at the Library about that, as well as his soon-to-be published book that reflects on his stay in Paris in the summer of 2013. His fellowship time will be devoted to his current project, a novel set in Paris, that explores these themes further still, in fictional form.

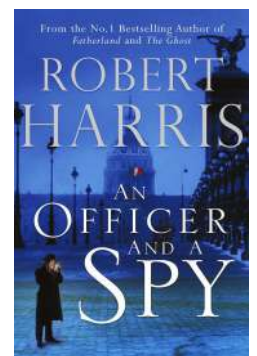
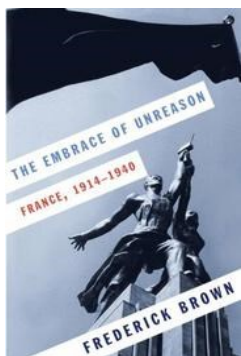
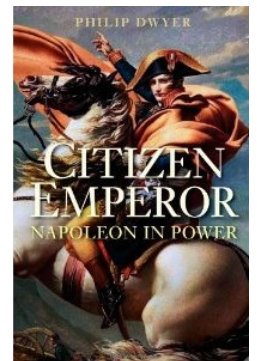
In June, **Susan Hiner**, a professor of French and Francophone studies at Vassar College Continued on page 2



The Book Award: Six finalists

Six books whose themes and settings span the course of French history from the Ancien Regime to May 1968 have been nominated as finalists for the 2014 American Library in Paris Book Award. They are:

- **How to Ruin a Queen: Marie Antoinette, the Stolen Diamonds and the Scandal That Shook the French Throne**, by Jonathan Beckman. John Murray. *History*.
- **The Embrace of Unreason: France 1914-1940**, by Frederick Brown. Knopf. *History*.
- **Brave Genius: A Scientist, a Philosopher, and Their Daring Adventures from the French Resistance to the Nobel Prize**, by Sean B. Carroll. Crown. *Biography*.
- **Citizen Emperor: Napoleon in Power 1799-1815**, by Philip Dwyer. Bloomsbury/UK. *Biography*
- **An Officer and a Spy**, by Robert Harris. Hutchinson. *Fiction*.
- **Lovers at the Chameleon Club, Paris 1932**, by Francine Prose. HarperCollins US. *Fiction*.

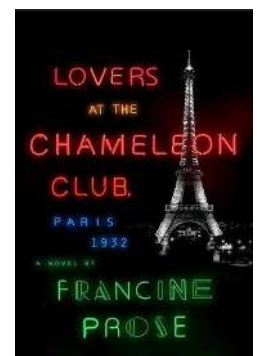
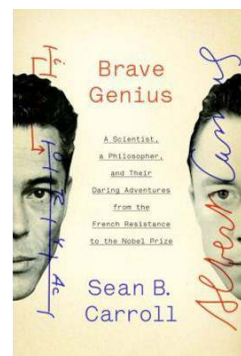


The award, now in its second year, recognizes the most distinguished English-language book of the year about France or the French-American encounter.

The winning book will be chosen from the shortlist by the 2014 jury members, **Alice Kaplan**, **Sebastian Faulks**, and **Pierre Assouline**, all members of the Library's Writer's Council. The award and \$5,000 cash prize will be presented to the winning book's author at a ceremony in Paris in November.

The American Library in Paris Book Award is supported by a generous grant from the Florence Gould Foundation, and the award ceremony by an additional gift from The de Groot Foundation.

Library director Charles Trueheart, prize coordinator Saara Marchandour, and other members of the screening committee will discuss the Library Book Award at a reception on **Tuesday 9 September** opening a September Library exhibit celebrating all 94 books submitted for the 2014 award.



Library Visiting Fellows

Continued from page 1

who specializes in the history of fashion, will be completing work on her next book, *Behind the Seams: Women, Work, and Fashion in Nineteenth-Century France*. She will work with the Library's many students and researchers in that field in workshop and other settings.

The Visiting Fellowship is made possible through a gift from The de Groot Foundation. It offers writers and researchers an opportunity to pursue a creative project in Paris for a month or longer while participating actively in the life of the Library. It seeks to attract promising authors embarked on projects with French or French-American themes.

The first Fellow, Anthony Flint, was at the Library in the fall of 2013. His book on Le Corbusier, *Modern Man*, will be published by Amazon Books in November.



Alex Danchev



Ta-Nehisi Coates



Susan Hiner

You can always use one more book...

The Library's popular book sales return **Saturday 6 September** and **Sunday 7 September**, the first chance of the rentrée to get a crack at books, movies, and other items that the Library or its members have discarded. Some are nearly new, and most items are priced at 1€, 2€, or 3€. Proceeds from book sales are used for the purchase of new books. Upcoming weekend book sales on **October 4-5**, **November 8-9**, and **December 6-7**.

Book bags now come in seven colors!

The Library has just received a fresh shipment of its popular all-cotton, American-made tote bags, bringing to seven — while supplies last — the number of colors to choose among. They're a good way to take home books from the weekend sales or books you check out from the Library. They're still 12€.

Carry an American Library in Paris book bag and there's no telling what kinds of conversations you may strike up.

EX LIBRIS

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

Library people

Two authors have been appointed by the Board of Trustees to the Library Writers Council: **Antony Beevor**, the bestselling historian of World War II and guest of honor at last spring's gala dinner, and **Robert O. Paxton**, the Columbia University scholar celebrated for his early research on the French experience under Nazi occupation.

Liz Fay is leaving the Library this month after one year at the circulation desk (and behind the scenes working on inventory and other essential tasks) to follow her husband on his new assignment in Houston.

Eric Hengesbaugh, who has been working at the Library since the spring, has succeeded **Samy Langerwert** as circulation assistant as he continues to study at Sciences Po. Samy is pursuing new opportunities in Berlin.

Lucy Lavabre, a student in library science at Institut Catholique, joins the Library as an *apprentie* in the reference department, assisting our newly-arrived reference manager, **Abigail Altman**, during the coming year.

Saara Marchadour, a Library volunteer, continues for a second year as the coordinator of the American Library in Paris Book Award.

EXHIBITS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Library Open House

Sunday 21 September all afternoon

Join us for "Learn How to Do 20 Things at the Library," the theme of this year's Fall Open House. Organizations and volunteers will be here teaching people a new skill as they get to know the American Library. Bring your family and friends! Non-members are welcome!



13h00-16h30:
Learn how to...
 Knit/sew
 Do calligraphy
 Do a counted cross-stitch
 Juggle
 Register for U.S. elections

Speak some Spanish
 Do yoga
 Get e-published
 Name that tool
 Make a sushi roll
 Improve your CV
 Draw with shapes

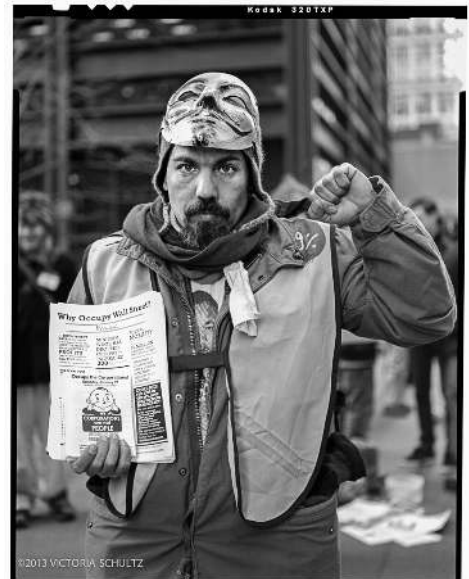
Make a lanyard keychain
 Do better internet research
 Write a poem
 Putt
 Do origami
 Get your face painted
 Join the American Library!

17h00: Charles Trueheart leads a Director's tour of the Library, followed by a reception featuring the cooking of **Carrie Solomon**, author of *Une Américaine à Paris*.



Portraits from the **OCCUPY** movement by Victoria Schultz

**7 October 2014-
 4 January 2015**



Wine-tasting workshop

All about the wines of
 Eastern France

With Joshua Adler
Wednesday 22 October 19h30

After sold-out Library workshops last season, Joshua Adler returns to focus on five wines from the Jura, Savoie and Alsace regions.

Cost: 35€ for wine and food. RSVP is required. Contact Grant Rosenberg at rosenberg@americanlibraryinparis.org

ATTENTION PARENTS

Toddler talk

Teaching safe boundaries
 without saying NO

With Keri Hicks

Thursday 16 October 10h30-11h30

Do you feel like all you ever say to your toddler is NO? There are so many things that toddlers can't do, that they have to learn, that they get into inappropriately, but saying NO all the time stops being effective.

Join us to learn new ways to set safe boundaries and talk to your child so he or she will really listen.

RSVP is required. Contact Celeste Rhoads at rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org

Viva libraries!

Two Library staff members took a trip to Las Vegas in late June for the 2014 American Library Association (ALA) annual conference.

During their five days in Nevada, Pauline Lemasson, external affairs manager, and Celeste Rhoads, children's and teen services manager, met with library workers from the United States and overseas, as well as with the many authors and illustrators in attendance. They were among more than 13,000 conventioners at the conference and trade show, themed "Transforming Our Libraries, Ourselves" this year.

Celeste spent much of a day at a conference session titled "21st Century Teens: Literacy in a Digital World," where author Erin Jade Lange presented her thoughts on the connections between social media and bullying, and where authors David Levithan, Marie Lu, and Graham Salisbury spoke on the topic of diversity in literature.

One of the highlights of the conference for Celeste was meeting the many authors of children's and teens' books in attendance and getting a sneak peek at their upcoming works. She also scored a lot of signed copies of books that will be used as prizes for the Library's summer reading clubs for kids and teens (if you haven't yet signed up, there's still time to participate!). Celeste is currently working towards a masters' degree specializing in digital libraries and so she was particularly excited to have a chance to talk with other library professionals about the future of library services for children and teens.

Pauline attended the standing-room-only opening session called "Future of the Libraries," moderated by outgoing ALA president Barbara Stripling. There was an emphasis for librarians to make not only data-based decisions, but to be more humanistic and trust their instincts. It was inspiring to hear that libraries should pick a physical space on-site to "fail fast and cheap." The future of libraries is not just about going after the next shiny gadget or technology, but how libraries need to be aware of the latest trends and to better anticipate the needs of users.

Both Celeste and Pauline went to the evening general session and enjoyed the Vegas-style presentation from the city's former mayor, Oscar Goodman, who appeared with two costumed showgirls and an oversized martini. Goodman encouraged attendees to enjoy the conference, but to also "go see a show," quoting the famous line "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas!"

The exhibit hall was a huge highlight of the conference,



External relations manager Pauline Lemasson (left) and children's and teen services manager Celeste Rhoads, badged and ready for the American Library Association convention in Las Vegas.

complete with a roaming Elvis impersonator, and incredibly long, rock-concert-style waiting lines to get books and galleys signed by popular authors like Judy Blume, Kate DiCamillo, Mo Willems, and Lois Lowry (whose line nearly exited the convention center). There were special sessions with Jane Fonda, Stan Lee of Marvel Comics, and Lois Lowry and actor Jeff Bridges, who stars in the film adaptation of Lowry's *The Giver*.

Pauline and Celeste enjoyed the opportunity to meet with other library professionals and explore techniques to better serve library patrons of all ages. Upon arrival at the conference, each of them was given a badge that proclaimed in bold letters that they work in Paris, France. Those badges made Pauline and Celeste popular conference attendees to seek out for a chat, but our staffers themselves enjoyed the chance to hear from fellow-librarians about the interesting things they're doing at their home libraries. American libraries offer a wide variety of services and programming not often seen in France.

Pauline and Celeste returned to Paris inspired. Based on what they learned in Vegas, they are developing a new training system for the many volunteers who give their time and talents to the Library, and they have already begun to brainstorm ways to implement some of their new ideas at the Library.



BOOK GROUPS

The Fall 2014 season: Startups, whistleblowers, sports, the latest French fiction, and the workings of the human brain. Isn't it time you joined a book group?

Amazon, Facebook, Apple, Twitter: Four Startup Stories

John Gridley

A behind-the-scenes look at entrepreneurship in our digital economy: the good, the bad and the ugly.

The Everything Store — Brad Stone

The Facebook Effect — David Kirkpatrick

Steve Jobs — Walter Isaacson

Hatching Twitter — Nick Bilton

Sports in Society: A Story of Fun and Power

Rosarita Cuccoli

What is the role of sports in society? How does media coverage affect our appreciation of it? And what does the role of sports play in a nation's sense of self and cultural conversation? This group explores these issues in fiction and non-fiction, as well as what it means to be a fan. The group will meet on Saturdays.

The Ball: Discovering the Object of the Game — John Fox

Fever Pitch: A Fan's Life — Nick Hornby

Seven Deadly Sins: The Pursuit of Lance

Armstrong — David Walsh

Invictus: Nelson Mandela and the Game that

Made A Nation — John Carlin

The Dreyfus Affair and Whistleblowers

Ed Turner

Exploring the motivations, impacts of disclosures and leaks of sensitive documents by whistleblowers, whether as patriots or traitors, this group will start with the Dreyfus Affair and its leaker Colonel Georges Picquart, then move to Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers and conclude with a look at the leaked NSA files. The books range from histories and historical novels to memoirs and journalism.

Why the Dreyfus Affair Matters — Louis Begley

An Officer and a Spy — Robert Harris

Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon

Papers (excerpts) — Daniel Ellsberg

No Place to Hide — Glenn Greenwald

The American Library in Paris offers current members of the Library a chance to participate in book groups at no extra charge.

Groups are led by volunteers. They meet monthly at the Library, usually in the conference room. Groups are limited to 14 persons; registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. If your membership is not up to date, please renew it before registering on the Library website or in person.

Ahead of the Translators: New Literature in French

David Jolly

Is French literature dead, as some foreign commentators would have it? Not even close, as we'll see in this group, returning for its second season. How better to engage with this culture than by through its latest novels? These books will be read in the original French but discussed in English one Saturday morning a month.

Ce sont des choses qui arrivent — a novel by Pauline Dreyfus

Réparer les vivants — a novel by Maylis de Kerangal

Orlando ou l'Impatience — a play by Olivier Py

Le Bonheur national brut — a novel by François Roux

Brain Teasers

Ann and Don Morrison

The two books in this mini-group will explain the brain and recent brain science in ways that will be both surprising and encouraging. Both of these books deal with the brain's amazing plasticity.

The Brain that Changes Itself — Norman Doidge

My Stroke of Insight — Jill Bolte Taylor

This group may continue after the two sessions; if so, information will posted on the website.

Note: Three other Library book groups — “Memoirs,” “Mysteries,” and “Strangers in a Strange Land” — are fully subscribed.

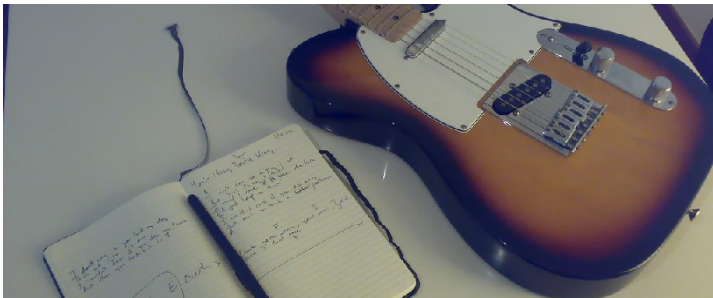
FRIDAY NIGHT IS FOR TEENS

Writing with powerWith **Mandy Hager****Next Meeting:****Friday 5 September 19h00-21h00**

Calling all teen writers! Join author Mandy Hager for a writing workshop dedicated to writing with power and creating a powerful emotional experience. We will take a look at theme (what is it you really want to say?), voice (emotion and attitude), and specific detail (bringing it to life). Using examples from Mandy's new novel, *Singing Home the Whale*, we will look at how to build a powerful emotional experience for the reader, and practice this through practical writing exercises.

What's behind those rock and pop lyrics?With **Matt Black****Friday 19 September 19h00-21h00**

Kick off a new season of Rock U. Teen Nights with an evening of music in the Library starring teacher and musician Matt Black. We'll explore the literary world of lyrics in pop and rock music, test your knowledge of some of rock's great lyricists, and try our hands at some lyrics of our own.



"Songwriting time" by Adrian F - CC BY 2.0

Fright Night**Friday 17 October 19h00-21h00**

Join us for an evening of chills as we watch several scary short films (some created by the Master Shot Film Club).

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

**Finding Your Voice:
Writing a college application essay**With **Cathy Altman Nocquet**

Just in time for fall applications, come in for some essay help and interview tips with writer and tutor Cathy Altman Nocquet.

Saturday 20 September 16h30-18h00**CLUBS****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 and share their work.

Next Meetings:**Saturdays 6 and 27 September
17h00-18h30****Master Shot Film Club
With Clarence Tokley**

The Library's teen film club is a place to explore all aspects of filmmaking under the guidance of local actor and filmmaker Clarence Tokley.

Next Meeting:**Saturday 13 September 17h00-18h30**

SELECTED EVENTS FOR AGE 5+

Name that face!

Saturday 6 September 15h00-16h00

Explore the Library and meet other bookworms during an afternoon treasure hunt where you'll have to find several famous characters hidden in the Library.



"the tea party" by bokeh burger - CC BY-ND 2.0

Mad Hatter's Tea

**Saturday 20 September
15h00-16h00**

Put on your maddest hat and join us for a reading of a picture-book version of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, a few passages from the original story and some tea, cookies, and surprises!

Medieval Madness

Saturday 27 September 15h00-16h00

Get out your swords, your knights attire and your princess and prince gear and join us for an afternoon of fact, fiction and fantasy featuring stories about medieval times.

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 4 and 18 September, 9 and 23 October, 6 and 20 November. 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.

BOOKWORMS

Ages 9-12

Saturdays 13, 20 & 27 September 12h00-13h00

In September, our book group will be reading *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein.

Sign-up is required for this activity.

Coming in October... Halloween Scavenger Hunt



"Halloween Pumpkins" by lobo235 - CC BY 2.0

Saturday 18 October 15h00-16h30
Ages 5+

Join us for a fun and festive scavenger hunt featuring tricks, treats and surprises for the whole family. This event is planned to take place outdoors (weather permitting) and is intended for children and their parents or teens. Check the Library's calendar of events in October for more details.

THE HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA

Saturday 25 October (all day)

Join us for our annual celebration featuring crafts, storytelling, trick-or-treating and more! This year there will be several Halloween events throughout the month of October for children and teens in addition to the Halloween Extraganza on 25 October. Check the Library's calendar of events at the beginning of October for the full schedule.

... and November

Giving Thanks

Ages 5+

Saturday 22 November from 15h00-16h30

Find out about the traditions surrounding Thanksgiving & enjoy seasonal arts & crafts & typical foods during our annual celebration.

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 for more information about children's programs: rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org

CALENDAR

Tuesday 9 September 19h30

Choosing a prizewinner *

A celebration of all 94 books submitted for the 2014 Library Book Award and a discussion of the award process featuring Library director Charles Trueheart, prize coordinator Saara Marchadour, and members of the screening group.

Tuesday 16 September 19h30

'Welcome To the Feast'

This 52-minute documentary explores the lives of several expatriate artists—writers, musicians, filmmakers, actors and dancers—who came to Paris with the myths in mind. Do they endure? A discussion with some of those profiled, including novelist Alexander Maksik and the documentary's creator, John McNulty, will follow.

Wednesday 24 September 19h30

Jake Lamar's art *

Local writer Jake Lamar (*Bourgeois Blues*, *The Last Integrationist*) returns to the American Library to speak about his new novel, *Posthumous*, published in French, about an art historian exploring a Dutch painter's life.



Wednesday 10 September 19h30

Whit Stillman and the new 'Cosmopolitans' *

The director and screenwriter who brought us *Metropolitan*, *Barcelona*, *Last Days of Disco*, and *Damsels in Distress* comes to the Library to screen his new television pilot featuring young expatriates in Paris, *The Cosmopolitans*, and discuss his writing career.

Wednesday 1 October 19h30

The talented Miss Highsmith

Author and playwright Joan Schenkar talks about her 2009 book *The Talented Miss Highsmith*, peeling back the layers of this fascinating 20th-century fiction writer (*The Talented Mr. Ripley* and other books). In ways evocative and entertaining Schenkar will also touch on Dolly Wilde, Oscar's infamous niece—the subject of one of her previous books.



Tuesday 7 October 19h30

Living digitally

Internet Safety Advocate Elisabeth Milovidov returns to talk about digital literacy and education and how we can all raise responsible digital citizens, in this event co-sponsored with AAWE. Also speaking is Fiona Ellis from the Marymount International School in Paris.

Wednesday 8 October 19h30

The forgotten Americans in Paris *

Nancy Green presents her groundbreaking new study of early American expatriates, *The Other Americans in Paris: Businessmen, Countesses, Wayward Youth 1880-1941*.

Tuesday 21 October 19h30

The Occupy Movement

Victoria Schultz, the photographer who took the pictures in our *Portraits From the Occupy Movement* exhibit, discusses the protests of 2011-2012 that she documented.

Wednesday 29 October 19h30

Emmanuel Carrère: *Limonov* *

On the occasion of his award-winning book's translation into English, celebrated French writer Emmanuel Carrère speaks (in English) about Edward Limonov, the man at the center of this marvel of a book: a portrait of postwar Russia through a personal odyssey that is more improbable than fiction.

Tuesday 28 October 19h30

A French kitchen *

Mimi Thorisson, food writer and Médoc resident, talks about her first cookbook focusing on rustic French life, which she embraced after leaving the bustle of Paris. Her husband Oddur, who took the photos for the book, will take part as well.

Evenings with Authors and other weeknight programs at the Library are free and open to the public. Selected events marked with a red asterisk * carry a suggested donation of 10€ per person (students 5€).

The American Library in Paris

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americanlibraryinparis.org

