

# EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris Summer 2015



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## The marriage of two minds

Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman entertained more than 230 guests at the 2015 American Library in Paris Gala Dinner with a lively routine about the literary life of two accomplished writers and their four children under one roof in Berkeley, California.

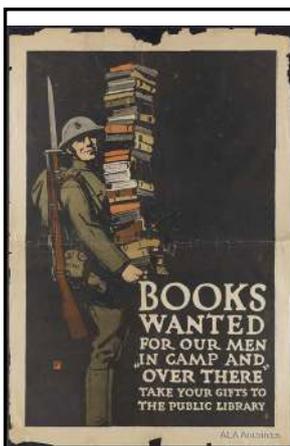
Their duet, or duel, climaxed a two-day visit by the two novelists that included a sponsors' reception at the Sonia Rykiel boutique in Saint-Germain-des-Prés, a Chabon-Waldman visit to the American Library to sign books for the Gala Dinner guests, greetings at the cocktail reception from the U. S. Ambassador to France, and a repast of *caille*, *pavé de bar*, and *macaron glacé* in the inspiring two-story library of the Automobile Club de France on place de la Concorde.

"This is just like the Grand Hotel Budapest," remarked Waldman as she saw the dining room for the first time.

The Gala Dinner is the American Library's biggest fundraiser of the year, and the 2015 edition was the best-attended in years, including a record number of table sponsors. (See page 5.)

Writers were, as always, numerous in attendance. They included, in addition to the guests of honor, **Diane Johnson**, chairman of the Library's Writers Council, **Alice Kaplan**, chairman of the 2014 jury for the Library Book Award, as well as novelist and memoirist **Michael Mewshaw**, author **Pamela Druckerman**, novelist **Mary Fleming**, photojournalist **John Godfrey Morris**, biographer **Sophie-Caroline de Margerie**, teen author **Amy Plum**, filmmaker **Whit Stillman**, fashion journalist **Dana Thomas**, and Shakespeare and Co. proprietor **Sylvia Whitman**.

Continued on page 6



The Library celebrated 95 years of service in Paris on May 20, 2015. Read more on page 3.

## SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY

- Thursday evening hours end **18 June** and resume in September.
- Beginning Wednesday **15 July** until Tuesday **18 August**, the Library is open on a reduced schedule: from 13h to 19h weekdays and 10h to 16h Saturdays.
- The Library is closed **Sundays** throughout July and August.
- Care to take a **few books on vacation**? The Library is happy to extend due dates. Please call

### For your borrowing pleasure

We're simplifying our lending rules to simplify your Library experience. New Fiction (including Mysteries) will now circulate for three weeks instead of two, so all the items you check out during your visit to the Library will be due back on the same day.

We are aware that the waiting list for New Fiction can become lengthy, especially for bestsellers. We will make an effort to purchase extra copies of popular books to reduce your wait.

You may reserve books that are checked out and monitor your list of requests by logging onto your Library account through our online catalogue. Ask a staff member to show you how during your next visit. As always, you may renew all Library materials once (for an additional three weeks) if no one is on the waiting list – online, by email, by phone, or in person.

## New trustees

At the Annual General Meeting of the American Library in Paris, Inc., on June 9, three incumbent trustees, **Peter Fellowes**, **Jo Foks**, and **Priscilla de Moustier**, were re-elected to three year terms. Two new trustees, **Forrest Alogna** and **Thomas Perrot**, were elected to their first terms on the board. **Shelley de Rouvray**, a former vice-chairman of the board, has stepped down as a trustee.



Forrest Alogna

Alogna is a partner at Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier, the Paris law firm, where he specializes in cross-border transactions. He publishes and speaks regularly regarding corporate law matters. He and his wife, Sandrine, have two school-aged children and have been members of the Library since 2012.



Thomas Perrot

Perrot is a partner in Linklaters LLP's Paris office who specializes in tax structuring of corporate transactions. He is married to Randi Goring, currently serving as president of Message Paris, and they have two children. They also have been members of the Library since 2012.

At the organizational meeting of the board the next day, all of the officers were re-elected: **Mary Lee Turner** as chairman, **Luis Roth** as vice-chairman and secretary, **Rob Johnson** as treasurer, and **Joshua Kaplan** as assistant secretary. Continuing to serve on the executive committee of the board along with the chairman, vice-chairman, and treasurer, will be **Jo Foks**, **Susan Kayat**, and **Nadine Voisin**.

## 2015: Year 3 of the Library Book Award

In the third cycle of the American Library in Paris Book Award, more than 100 entries were received, exceeding 2014's 94 submissions for the annual prize, which honors the most distinguished book of the year, written in English, about France or the French-



Laura Furman

American encounter. The 102 works, submitted by authors and publishers, have been under review by a Paris screening committee since January. Its selection of a shortlist of five titles in mid-July will be presented then to the award jury, this year consisting of **Laura Furman**, the chair, editor of the O. Henry Prize Stories since 2002; novelist and biographer **Lily Tuck**, recipient of the 2004 National Book Award for fiction; and **Fredrik Logevall**, professor of international relations at Cornell University and author of *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam*, the winner of the first American Library in Paris Book Award.



Lily Tuck

The jury's choice of a winning book will be announced in November in the presence of the author at a ceremony in Paris. The \$5,000 prize is underwritten by a generous gift from the Florence Gould Foundation.



Fredrik Logevall

All the books on the list of entries, which is available for downloading from the Library website, are in the circulating collection and on display at the Library this summer. In September, the books will constitute a special exhibit in the reading room coinciding with an event in October to celebrate Paris-based authors.

## EX LIBRIS

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

### An intern in the archives

*I have been doing an internship at the American Library since the beginning of May to complete my master's degree in Library and Information Science at the Université de Montréal. My main duty has been to plunge into the archives of the American Library in connection with the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Library.*

— Jean-Michel Lapointe

To hold in my hands and browse through the correspondence, photographs, and endless piles of newspaper clippings and reports about the Library's history is, I have to say, a thrill in itself. The majority of these artifacts have never been shown to the general public. Going through the Library's archives got me thinking about a way to enable online access to some rare and unique items of the collection.

So what are we going to feature in this coming timeline? A letter from Henry Miller requesting books on Zen Buddhism from the Library, bookplates of the Library War Service dating from the First World War, poet/soldier Alan Seeger's famous poem "I Have a Rendezvous With Death" digitized from the first edition of his work, Alan's nephew Pete Seeger singing this same poem during a celebration held at the Library in 1995, issues of the original *Ex Libris* publication dating back from 1923 – and much more.

The American minds behind this institution were visionary ones. They wanted the Library to be haven not only for American expats, residents and tourists, but also to people of all cultures and nations of the globe. Promoting a cosmopolitan and internationalist conception of what a library can and should be, they instituted in the late 1920s free book loans to every reader willing to read in English across Europe, and beyond.

The American Library's books have circulated widely. I even found one striking letter from a Swiss literary scholar thanking the Library from the remote island of Madagascar, where finding recent American novels was probably as unusual as coming face to face with a grizzly bear.



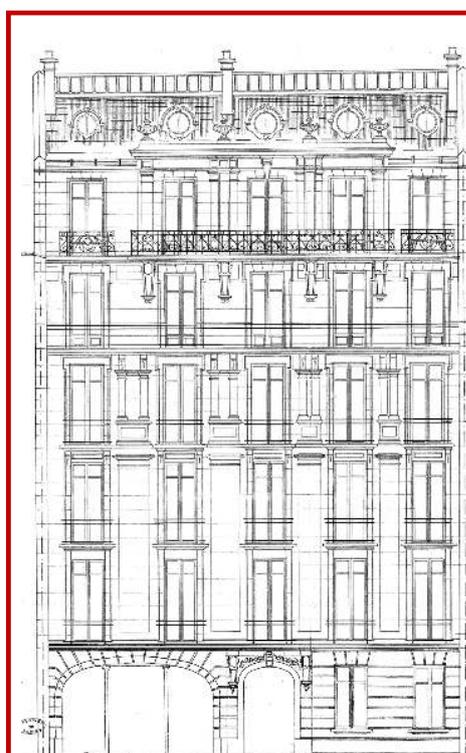
The Library at 9, rue de Téhéran (1936-1953). The building has been torn down.

## The Library turns 95

On 20 May 2015, the American Library in Paris tweeted the news of its 95<sup>th</sup> birthday to another generation of readers and supporters. Visitors to the Library that day enjoyed a slice of birthday cake and visitors to the Library's social media learned 95 fun facts about the Library.

The 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary is really the kickoff to five years of celebration and stock-taking leading to the centennial and the beginning of the Library's second century of service. This summer the Library will offer visitors a special anniversary exhibit and digital timeline featuring scenes from our remarkable history.

The Library is grateful to the H. W. Wilson Foundation for a special grant to support celebrations of this Library milestone.



### Help us find the Library

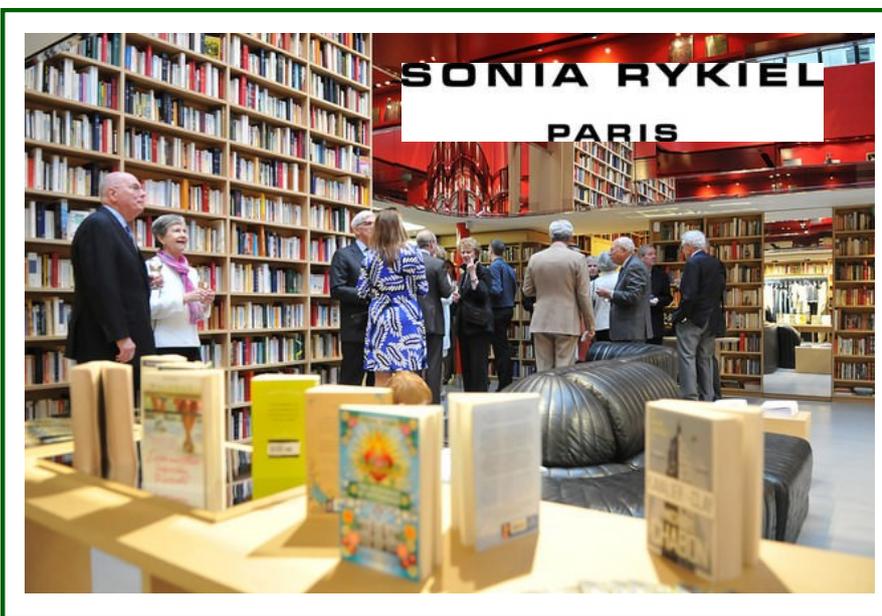
As noted in the previous issue of *Ex Libris*, the Library is seeking images of the exterior or interior of our premises at 129, avenue des Champs-Élysées between 1953 and 1964. Although our archives are replete with images of the two prior locations and the current one, we have no visual record of the Champs-Élysées location. Library apprentice Lucy Lavabre was able to locate an architectural rendering of the building in question. The building stands today, with a Lancel nameplate, just east of the Publicis Drugstore. Images of the Library's occupancy are still sought and appreciated.

# GALA



## SCENES FROM THE 2015 GALA:

Counterclockwise from top left: Catherine Coste and U.S. Ambassador Jane Hartley; Lee Huebner, Emily Lodge, and Berna Huebner; Stephanie Andrieux and Barbara Diggs; the cocktail dinatoire at Sonia Rykiel; Charles Trueheart and Ayelet Waldman; Mary Lee Turner and Cissie Barnett; Alexandra Hughes and John Murray. Photographs by Krystal Kenney



## GALA



Above, Don Morrison and Jacqueline Kay Cessou. Below, Rob and Sherry Johnson, Jacques and Carol Bossonney



## GALA SPONSORS 2015

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF PARIS  
JACQUELINE KAY CESSOU  
PETER AND JEANNIE FELLOWES  
CHARLES AND CLYDETTE DE GROOT  
GROW ANNEBERG  
ROB AND SHERRY JOHNSON  
ISHTAR MÉJANÈS  
LUIS ROTH AND JENNIFER DALRYMPLE  
ALAIN AND SHELLEY DE ROUVRAY  
SULLIVAN & CROMWELL LLP  
EDWARD AND MARY LEE TURNER  
MARSHALL AND DEBORAH WAIS

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## GALA 2015

Continued from page 1

The gala guests heard also during the evening from board of trustees chairman **Mary Lee Turner** and Library director **Charles Trueheart**, both of whom noted the Library's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 20, 2015, and the centennial on its horizon, as did Ambassador **Jane D. Hartley** in her brief remarks at the cocktail reception. The U.S. Ambassador to the OECD, **Daniel Yohannes**, was also in attendance, as was retired ambassador **James Lowenstein**, chairman of the Library's Advisory Council.

On the eve of the Gala Dinner, Sonia Rykiel invited the Library to hold a cocktail in honor of Chabon and Waldman at the flagship boutique on boulevard Saint Germain. The unusual partnership, facilitated by Library trustee **René de Monseignat**, was inspired by the boutique's current theme and

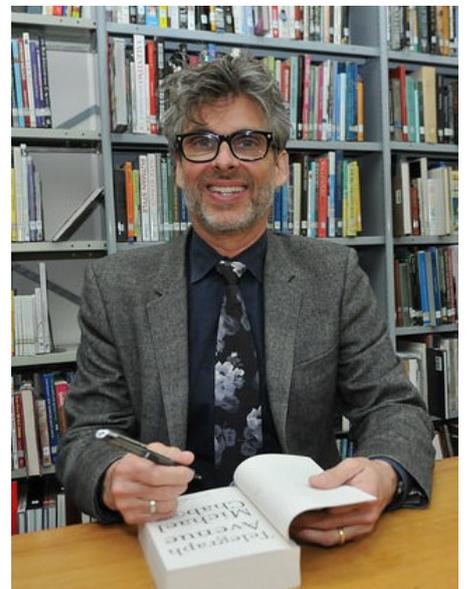
decoration – lined floor to ceiling in bookcases fully “curated” with 48,000 books.

The sponsors of the dinatoire were **Charles and Clydette de Groot**, and the guests at Sonia Rykiel were the next evening's table sponsors and other leaders whose annual support is the backbone of the gala evening. They were joined by Sonia Rykiel CEO **Éric Langon** and his colleagues, **Charlotte Castelli** and **Julie de Libran**.

“My first ever library-related fashion show,” commented Winston Tabb, the director of the library system at the Johns Hopkins University and a member of the Library's Advisory Council.

A full picture gallery from the Gala Dinner and the Monday reception, featuring the work of photographer **Krystal Kenney**, is available on the Library's Flickr page.

The Library is grateful to the following staff and volunteers for their participation in the 2015 Gala Dinner: **Krista Faurie, Jean-Michel Lapointe, Pauline**



Michael Chabon signing at the Library

**Lemasson, Laetitia Nail, Kirsty McCulloch Reid, Celeste Rhoads, Grant Rosenberg, Jan Smith, and Caterina Stamou.**

## LIBRARY EVENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Amy Plum and Kate Ormand

# TEEN AUTHOR SMASH

We think it's safe to say that the Library's first-ever Teen Author Smash was a great success! Our staff, volunteers and the 24 authors who participated certainly had a great time, and the guests in attendance all went home with signed books and gifts from the authors. About 100 people were packed into our Reading Room for the event on 24 April. A great big thanks goes out to **Amy Plum**, who helped coordinate this event.



Authors greeting their fans. (Photos by Kate Ormand)



## YAFF: The winners

The 2015 Young Authors Fiction Festival culminated with a celebration on Friday 5 June with over 220 people in attendance, in two shifts, including the young author finalists, parents, and teachers.

Each finalist was awarded a certificate and many also received a bookmark with comments from the judges about their stories. YAFF celebration booklets included the stories of all the 1st to 5th place winners.

This year the Library received 400 entries, our biggest intake in many years, from more than 25 schools, homeschooling programs and writing classes located in and around Paris.

The Library thanks the 44 judges who participated this year, as well as the small but active YAFF 2015 committee who took care of all of the details along the way.

## HOW TO BEE!

Twenty-one finalists from fourth to sixth grades (CM1-6ème) competed in the seventh annual Paris Spelling Bee at the American Library in Paris on Sunday 15 March 2015.

In the 24<sup>th</sup> round, fourth-grader **Riti Adrija Nalukurti** took the top prize by spelling *composition* correctly, after successfully spelling *ruckus* and *triathlon*.

The second prize went to 10-year-old **Alec Le Helloco**, who spelled words such as *unduly* and *referee* before missing on the word *cyst*.

Before judges moved off-list, Riti spelled words like *voortrekker*, *subterfuge*, *insidious*, *illusion*, *altruism* and *didactic*, while Alec successfully fielded such words as *perestroika*, *ridiculous*, *alderman*, *laboratory* and *patriarch*.

Riti and Alec are both from EIB Victor Hugo School.



Riti Adrija Nalukurti and Alec Le Helloco

Tying in third place were fifth graders **Emma Mieszala** from Lycée International Saint-Germain-en-Laye,

## CHILDREN AND TEENS

### How to support programs for children and teens

Every year, parents stop into the Children's Library to ask if there is anything we need from the U.S.

Sometimes these parents are taking their families stateside on an annual trip to visit family and friends back home, and sometimes they're simply heading over for vacation, but their offers of supplies are all very generous — especially considering the amount of programming the Library does for children and teens.

If you would like to support our programming in a small but meaningful way, there are a few items we are always grateful to receive:

- Washable non-toxic markers
- Glue sticks, craft glue, and glitter glue
- Stickers (especially those related to book characters!)
- Children's scissors (right or left-handed)
- Felt
- Googly eyes



Photo by Carissa Rogers

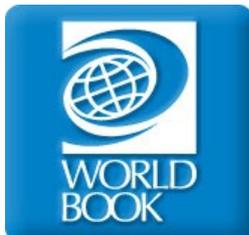
### More online resources!

Members of The American Library in Paris are excited about our new online research tool for kids and teens: World Book Online.

The Library subscribed to the online encyclopedia last November and hosted a popular workshop on research basics to launch the resource.

World Book Online is a general reference website developed especially for younger library patrons. The site offers simple navigation, thousands of easy-to-read articles, multimedia, a biography center, and lots of games, interactive tools, and activities to help young library users discover accurate information quickly and develop online skills. We are now trying out the e-books available through World Book Online, so check them out and let us know what you think!

To try out any of our e-resources, Library members can log in through the online catalog (click on E-Sources from the menu on the left or under the drop-down search menu). You should have your Library card ready to log on.



### Summer programs for the very young

#### Ages 1-3: Mother Goose Lap-Sit

The children's librarian and team of volunteers are trying out a new time in order to accommodate a larger group of young readers and eliminate the waiting list for the Library's popular Mother Goose Lap-Sit program on Thursdays. The program continues in June with sessions from **9h15-9h45** and from **17h00-17h30** on **18 June**. There will be no Mother Goose Lap-Sit sessions in July and August, but sessions will resume again on **3 September!**

**Sign-up is required for this activity.** Each child must be accompanied by an adult lap!

#### Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour



Our weekly interactive Story Hours will continue in July and August with one session each Wednesday from **14h30-15h30**. Like all of our children's programs, Story Hours are entirely in English. They feature reading, singing and hand rhymes and we always wrap up with a simple craft project. On **8, 15, 22, and 29 July** children's and young adults' services intern **Kirsty McCulloch Reid** (pictured above) will be leading our Story Hours for children ages 3-5. Come in and enjoy her charming Scottish accent during our fun summer Story Hours!

*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.*

## CALENDAR

Tuesday 16 June 19h30 ★

### Hats and hatboxes à la mode

Library Visiting Fellow Susan Hiner of Vassar College discusses her research into French fashion accessories in the 19<sup>th</sup> century — specifically hats and the tools both of their production — headforms— and their dissemination— hatboxes— in nineteenth-century France. Her exploration considers these objects' powers



of animation and verisimilitude and the mythology surrounding the modiste. This talk is part of a wider book project entitled *Behind the Seams: Women, Work and Fashion in Nineteenth-Century France*.

Tuesday 23 June 19h30

### Authors in conversation: Turning life into fiction

Jessica Levine, author of *The Geometry of Love*, who has been leading a monthly writing workshop at the Library, and Sonya Chung, author of *Long for This World*, will talk about the relationship of life and fiction.

How does it happen that, using autobiographical material as a starting point, a novelist can end up by creating characters and stories opposite to her lived experience?



Wednesday 1 July 19h30

### World War II's ghost army

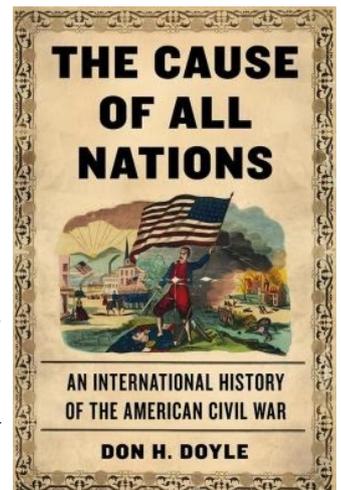
Author and filmmaker Rick Beyer speaks about his book and documentary *Ghost Army*, recounting the fascinating true story of how the Allies in World War II created a phony military division, replete with inflatable tanks, as a counter-intelligence maneuver to deceive German forces.



Wednesday 8 July 19h30

### The Civil War's global impact

*The Cause of All Nations* looks at how the American conflict evolved from regional interests into a worldwide struggle for the democratic gains born in the French and American revolutions — notably the abolition of slavery. Don Doyle of the University of South Carolina tells the story of the Civil War as it was viewed in Paris, London, Rome, and elsewhere abroad, and how American politicians maneuvered for international support as they conducted the war.



## Coming in autumn 2015 ...

Novelist **Tash Aw** presents *Five-Star Billionaire* ... a colloquium co-sponsored by the Société Française **Vladimir Nabokov** for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Lolita* ... **Naomi Wood** on *Mrs. Hemingway* ... **David Downie**'s latest, *A Passion for Paris: Romanticism and Romance in the City of Light* ... John Morris and Robert Pledge: *Quelque Part en France*'s post-D-Day images... **Clayborne Carson** on Martin Luther King, Jr. ... **Christopher Dickey** on *Our Man in Charleston: Britain's Secret Agent in the Civil War South* ... **Ta-Nehisi Coates**, former Library Visiting Fellow, presents his latest book, *Between The World And Me* ... **Elaine Sciolino** explores *The Only Street in Paris: Life on the Rue des Martyrs*.

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.

Events with a suggested donation of 10€ (5€ students) are noted with a red star.

## The American Library in Paris

10, rue du Général Camou 75007 Paris France 01 53 59 12 60

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

