



EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris September 2015

A shortlist of five for the 2015 Library Book Award

Five books have been selected for the shortlist of the 2015 American Library in Paris Book Award: a biography of the Marquis de Lafayette; a history of ordinary Americans in Paris in the late 18th and early 19th centuries; a study of the social impact of the 2003 Paris heat wave; a group portrait of Matisse, Picasso, and other modernist artists in Montmartre; and an account of daily life among the Occupied and the Occupiers in Vichy Paris.

The nominated books, selected from 102 entries — a record for the prize — by a Paris-based screening committee, are:

The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered, by Laura Auricchio. (Knopf)

The Other Americans in Paris: Businessmen, Countesses, Wayward Youth 1880-1941, by Nancy L. Green. (University of Chicago Press)

Fatal Isolation: The Devastating Paris Heat Wave of 2003, by Richard C. Keller. (University of Chicago Press).

In Montmartre: Picasso, Matisse, and Modernism in Paris, 1900-1910, by Sue Roe. (Penguin/ Fig Tree Books)

When Paris Went Dark: The City of Light Under German Occupation 1940-1944, by Ronald Rosbottom. (Little, Brown)

Continued on page 5



The children's department is floored!

During August, new bamboo flooring was installed on the ground and upper levels of the Library's Children's and Young Adult Department. The prep work for the project — moving all the books and shelves out and stripping the floors of old green carpet — was done by Boy Scout volunteers and their parents along with some of our own volunteers (see page 5). The cost was borne by hundreds of Library donors just like you. Thank you.

2015-2016 VISITING FELLOWS

Introducing Lan Samantha Chang and Megan Mayhew Bergman

The Library's Visiting Fellow program enters its third year with two month-long residencies by two American writers, Lan Samantha Chang and Megan Mayhew Bergman.

Chang is a poet and novelist who directs the leading American MFA program in creative writing, at the University of Iowa. She will be in residence at the Library in November and will speak in a public program November 17 about F. Scott Fitzgerald's revisions to *The Great Gatsby*. She will also lead a creative writing workshop sequence open exclusively to Library members for a fee. Please see the website in October for details.



Lan Samantha Chang



Megan Mayhew Bergman

Bergman, who will be in Paris in April, has written three works of fiction, taught writing at Bennington College, and will be working on a story collection about notable women such as Romaine Brooks and Dolly Wilde while in Paris. Separately, she will be discussing an issue that engages her in Vermont, where she lives: sustainable farming and environmental issues.

The Library Visiting Fellowship has been sustained since 2013 with generous support from The de Groot Foundation. Past Visiting Fellows are Anthony Flint, Alex Danchev, Ta-Nehisi Coates, and Susan Hiner.

WILLIAM JAY SMITH (1918–2015)

The American Library in Paris has lost a great friend of long standing, the venerated American poet and part-time Parisian William Jay Smith, who died August 18 at the age of 97 in Lenox, Massachusetts.

William Jay Smith was the author of more than fifty books of poetry for adults and children. He served as Poet Laureate of the United States (1968-70), a position then known as the Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress. Smith was an active translator from several languages and in later years wrote two memoirs, one about his childhood as an *Army Brat*, another about *My Friend Tom*, his close friend of long ago, Tennessee Williams.

Of his work, known as much for its formality of structure as for its whimsy of voice, Smith once wrote, quoting his friend and fellow-poet Stanley Kunitz: "I am a lyric poet, alert... 'to the changing weathers of a landscape, the motions of the mind, the complications and surprises of the human comedy.' I believe that poetry should communicate: it is, by its very nature, complex, but its complexity should not prevent its making an immediate impact on the reader. Great poetry must have its own distinctive music; it must resound with the music of the human psyche."

Bill Smith spoke twice recently at the American Library about these memoirs, and indeed made appearances here for as long as he was a part-time Paris resident—that is, since his marriage to a *parisienne*, Sonja



David Bacher

William Jay Smith at the 2010 at the Library Gala Dinner with director Charles Trueheart.

Haussmann in the late 1960s. She survives him.

Well into his nineties, he also made appearances to read his playful verse to delighted children at the Library. Bill was good enough to serve on the Library Writers Council when it was formed in 2009, and he and Sonja were regular guests at Library Gala Dinners.

His friend Diane Johnson, chairman of the Writers Council, praised Smith as "a wonderful man, a distinguished man of letters, whose work is

unmatched for learning, lightness and charm — an inspiration to composers, to children, to anyone who loves poetry. He was also a powerful Francophile, who took great pride in his perfect French and great knowledge of French literature."

William Jay Smith was born in Winnfield, Louisiana. He studied at Washington University, Columbia University, and at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. He won awards from the French Academy, the Swedish Academy, and the Hungarian government. He taught at Columbia, at Williams, and at Hollins, and in recent years divided his time between the 15th arrondissement and the Berkshire mountains. The Library is pleased to offer its members more than 20 of Smith's books.

Charles Trueheart

Bad news, good news, and the *Sunday Times*

We learned recently that W.H. Smith on rue de Rivoli has discontinued importing for sale the Sunday edition of the *New York Times*. The Library has bought the paper from Smith — expensively! — for many years for the enjoyment of members.

We're happy to report that the *International New York Times* has come to the rescue of this Library tradition by providing us with the Sunday newspaper every week after it is delivered by pouch to its Paris headquarters.

All of us at the Library, especially members, are grateful to the *International New York Times* for this act of neighborly largesse.

Feasts for the eyes

You'll notice that the Reference Department has moved to a quieter



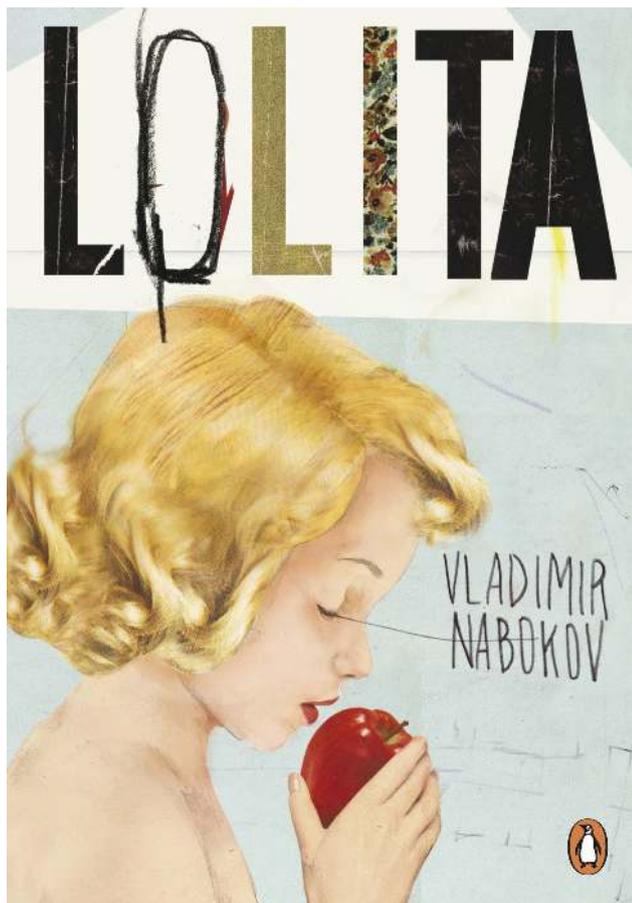
corner of the Library (by the Collections office) and that our Cookbook and Graphic Novel collections are more prominently displayed by the front entrance.

A team of Library volunteers and student interns shifted thousands of books to create this inviting space. We encourage Library visitors to browse both sections. Many new Graphic Novels and Cookbooks have recently been added.

EX LIBRIS

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

SPECIAL EVENTS



Coming soon

LOLITA turns sixty

Members and visitors are invited to enjoy a special reading room exhibit featuring jacket cover art of Vladimir Nabokov's masterpiece as well as facsimiles of publishing correspondence, film posters, and other memorabilia inspired by *Lolita*.

To mark the event, the Société Française Vladimir Nabokov will co-sponsor a Library panel discussion featuring **Maurice Couturier**, the French Nabokov scholar and most recent French translator (2001) of *Lolita*, who will examine the novel's legacy sixty years after its publication in English.

Thursday 24 September 19h30

MEGA BOOK SALE EVERYTHING MUST GO!

The Library's first-weekend-of-the-month book sale is this **Saturday-Sunday 5-6 September**.

Choose from more than a thousand titles, a summer buildup of used and nearly-new books. All but a few treasures are priced at **€1** (pocket books), **€2** (softcover), and **€3** (hardback).

Doors open at 10h00 Saturday and 13h00 Sunday.

Bring a bag to take home your purchases— or buy one from our just-refreshed selection of Library tote bags, all-cotton and American-made. Now in six colors: **black, burgundy, green, red, gray, and natural**. Still only €12.



Open House How-To Sunday 27 September 2015

To add to the fun of the annual Fall Open House, the Library will become a one-stop spot for people to learn all kinds of things. Such as? How to do magic tricks, hold a yoga position, play card games, make a sushi roll, play hopscotch, do Pilates, de-stress by coloring, write a postcard, take great smartphone photos, register to vote for U.S. elections— and, of course, how to join the American Library in Paris and take advantage of all that is on offer.

Library staff will be on hand to greet you all afternoon, along with talented volunteers and representatives of organizations teaching people a new skill. Most of the activities, including tours of the Library, will happen from 14h00 to 17h00.

Light refreshments will be provided all afternoon courtesy of two of our partners, **Starbucks** and **Marks & Spencer**.

Non-members are most welcome. Please come and bring a friend!

A festival of writers

The American Library in Paris is delighted to be a partner and venue in a Paris-wide literary festival on the last weekend of September. The Festival des Écrivains du Monde is under the auspices of Columbia University's Europe Global Center, known familiarly here as Reid Hall, and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. One of the festival headliners, Gary Shteyngart, will speak at the Library on **Friday 25 September**. For more information go to: www.festivaldesecrivainsdumonde.fr.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE

*Festival
des Écrivains
du Monde 2015*

BOOK GROUPS

France meets America and vice versa

Philippe Mélot

NEW GROUP

This group will look at the common history between France and the United States, exploring areas where the history of our two nations meet (mainly the American Revolution, WWI and WWII), through biographies of major players, untold stories and unknown episodes.

When the United States Spoke French: Five Refugees Who Shaped a Nation, François Furstenberg
Tocqueville's Discovery of America, Leo Damrosch

The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris, David McCullough

What Soldiers Do: Sex and the American GI in World War II France, Mary Louise Roberts

Philippe Mélot is a semi-retired lawyer who grew up near Utah Beach in Normandy. He specialized in U.S. political history at Sciences-Po and spoke at the Library in 2011 about a bike trip he took across North America.

Slavery and Racism in the United States

Ed Turner

Continuing from last spring, this group — reading just three books this session — will further explore the legacy of slavery and racism in the United States through the 20th century and right up to the present day.

Between the World and Me, Ta-Nehisi Coates
To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
Go Set a Watchman, Harper Lee

Proust's Gift

Morgan Thomas

NEW GROUP

Proust's reputation keeps growing, but his celebrity status threatens to obscure his literary artistry. This group will work its way patiently through the first volume of his masterpiece, learning to unpack Proust's multi-layered metaphors and navigate his sinuous sentences. We will be rewarded by some of the greatest gifts of beauty, tenderness, humor, and compassion for human suffering that literature has ever bestowed.

Swann's Way/Du côté de chez Swann, Marcel Proust

Monsieur Proust/Monsieur Proust, Céleste Albaret

Where are technology and science taking us?

Maury Lanman and Laurie Calvet

...And do we want to go there? Readings on the state of and prospects for the ongoing technological revolution, and its possible benefits and consequences for the future of humanity. All of these books are meant for general audiences and may be read without in-depth understanding of the underlying science or technology.

NEW GROUP

The Formula: How Algorithms Solve All Our Problems...and Create More, Luke Dormehl.

The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies, Eric Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee.

Evolving Ourselves: How Unnatural Selection and Nonrandom Mutation are Changing Life on Earth, Juan Enriquez and Steve Gullans.

Our Final Invention: Artificial Intelligence and the End of the Human Era, James Barrat.

Laurie Calvet holds a PhD in Applied Physics from Yale University and is currently on the research staff of the French CNRS at the Université Paris-Sud. Maury Lanman is a retired computer systems engineer who worked most recently in telecommunications product development for Alcatel-Lucent in Paris and Milan.

Reading in French

David Jolly

Is French literature dead? Not even close, as we'll see in this group, returning for its third season. These texts will be read in the original French and discussed in English.

Petit Piment, by Alain Mabanckou

Docteur Camiski ou l'esprit du sexe, a play by Fabrice Melquiot and Pauline Sales

La septième fonction du langage, by Laurent Binet

La dernière nuit du raïs, Yasmina Khadra

Writing Wikipedia

A workshop with David Siefkin

Retired U. S. Foreign Service Officer David Siefkin, a Wikipedia editor since 2007, responsible for over 300 articles, many about Paris and its landmarks and history, will be leading a monthly workshop entitled *How to Write and Edit for Wikipedia*. Details on the website's book groups page.

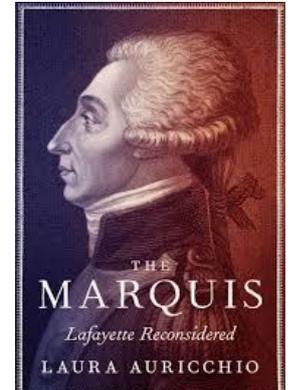
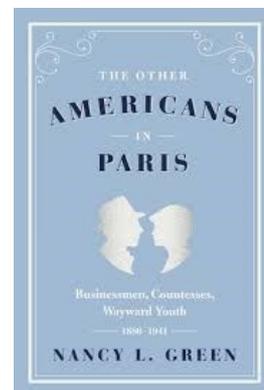
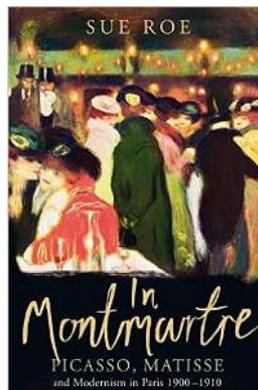
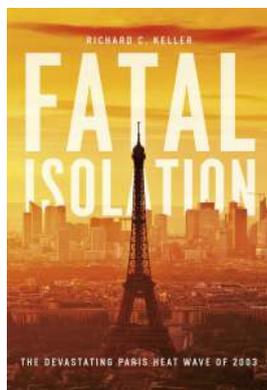
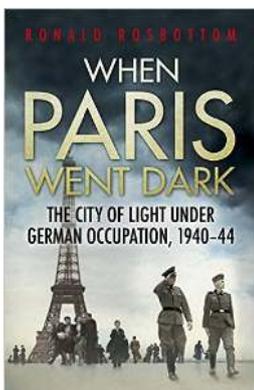
Scouts honor the Library



A team of Paris-area Boy Scouts (Troop 112), helped by their friends and parents, pitched in during the dog days of August to remove (and clean) every book and bookshelf from the Children's Library and to scrape up the old green carpet from the children's and teens' spaces.

This massive gift of dusty, frustrating labor set the stage for the beautiful new bamboo floors that greet new and old members of the Library for the *rentrée*. And the books are back!

The Library is very grateful to all who helped: Basil Garczynski and his father, John Garczynski; Owen Hoy, Ryan Hoy and their mother Kristyn Hoy; Riccardo Colosio and Alessandro Colosio; Ali Quesi; Iradj Ipatchi; Anton Mukhamedov; Luc Blondet; William Baird-Smith; Sarah Youssif; Olivia Tapaninen; Christel Prestidge; Cecily Spiers; Oscar Fabian; and Edward Ricketts, the team organizer, and his parents Suzanne Ricketts and Brian Ricketts.



2015 Book Award

Continued from page one

The annual Library Book Award and \$5,000 cash prize honors the most distinguished book of the year, written in English, about France or the French-American encounter.

The shortlist and the choice of the winning book is in the hands of the award jury, in 2015 consisting of **Laura Furman**, the chair, editor of the O. Henry Prize Stories since 2002; novelist and biographer **Lily Tuck**, winner of the National Book Award in Fiction; and political scientist **Fredrik Logevall**, author of *Embers of War*, winner of the first American Library in Paris Book Award in 2013, who is joining the faculty of Harvard University this fall.

Their choice of the winning book will be announced in November in the presence of the author at a ceremony in Paris.

The Book Award is made possible by a

COMING SOON

Library Award Entries: A special exhibit

More than 100 books were submitted for this year's Book Award, a record in the three-year span of the prize. All of these entries are in our collection and will be displayed in a special annual exhibit at the Library during October. A printed list of the entries is also available at the Library.

Library language learning

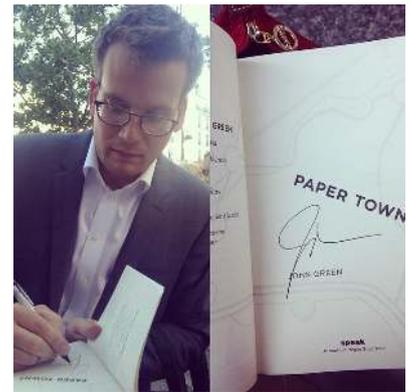
You're invited to try the new language software the Library subscribes to – it's free for members. Choose from more than 60 conversation-based language courses. **Mango** also offers English lessons in 17 languages, including French. As a member, you may access Mango anywhere with an internet connection.

Using the QR code here, or by way of the Library website's catalog portal, click on the E-Sources menu and log in with your Library card number and password. If you need help accessing Mango, please don't hesitate to ask a staff member.



The Library's on Instagram!

We recently added Instagram to our repertoire of social media accounts, giving us another way to share our newest books and suggested reading. It also offers a chance for interns and volunteers to document the fun projects they've been working on at the Library. We've been highlighting some of our Library displays, sharing favorite new books from the Young Adult collections and more. This summer, two interns took a trip to a John Green signing (*right*), where they had him autograph a book for the Library and asked him to do a reading here. We're still waiting for an answer—we'll keep you posted!



Find us on Instagram: [TheAmericanLibraryinParis](#)



Teens help prepare for Halloween!

Library teens, volunteers and interns are already helping with the early stages of Halloween planning at the Library. The Library's annual Halloween Extravaganza is our biggest annual family event, and there are lots of decorations to be made, scripts to write, and awards to be prepared. This summer, many of our teen interns helped to lay the groundwork for the yearly event, which many teens will also take part in.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help with the celebration and preparations. If you'd like to help out, get in touch with our children's and young adults' services manager.

Save the date for the Halloween Extravaganza:

Saturday 31 October

Teen Writers

In 2012 Anne Heltzel, an editor and writer of young adult novels, proposed starting a writing group for teens interested in practicing their craft, sharing their work and meeting other writers in the area.

Anne Heltzel led the group here at the Library and the Teen Writing Group met regularly (once a month, on the Teen Mezzanine), where they tried their hands at short story writing, poetry, realistic fiction, and other types of creative writing.

After Anne left France in 2013 to move back to New York, the group participants decided to continue the group, but with a new structure. Now, the group continues to meet once a month, and is sometimes led by our children's and teen librarian, but more often by a member of the group, and sometimes by guest authors.

Group members may sign up to lead a session and will then decide on a topic and bring in an exercise for everyone to work on. Teen Writing Group meetings always end with members sharing some of their work,



and there are always refreshments (provided by the Library).

The Teen Writing Group continues this fall with meetings once a month on Saturday afternoons: **19 September, 10 October, 21 November and 5 December**. New writers and returning writers are welcome to attend.

"Typewriter B/W...now write the story" by THOR - CC BY 2.0

Books for new readers

Those of you who visited the Children's Library during the summer months may have noticed us working on a project with our "I Can Read" collection for emerging readers. These books were previously grouped together in one large collection.

This summer, our children's and young adult services intern, Kirsty McCulloch Reid, reorganized this collection into four more easily navigable groups. Department manager Celeste Rhoads supervised the project with the help of such resources as Kathleen Horning's *From Cover to Cover*.

The Library now has a unique leveling system — one that can be applied to books from a variety of publishers. Each book is individually evaluated before a level is assigned, although our level may not be the same as the level printed on the book by the publisher.

The "I Can Read" collection now contains offers levels:

Level 1: For the beginning reader

Books in level 1 are ideal for sharing with a child. They contain short, simple sentences and lots of word repetition.

Level 2: Reading with help

Books at this level contain familiar words and concepts, with engaging stories, in short, simple paragraphs with no more than 10 sentences per page.

Level 3: Reading alone

Books at this level feature more complex plots and challenging vocabulary, with multi-syllable and compound words.

Level 4: Reading alone — advanced

Books at this level feature longer paragraphs and advanced vocabulary. They are a bridge to chapter books, with smaller print and more detailed and descriptive text.



A new Library friend: Sir Custard Libragon!

Volunteer Patricia Portillo left us a gift before leaving Paris for her next adventure: a soft and cuddly plush dragon named Sir Custard W. Libragon! Come meet Custard and sit with him during one of our many programs for young children:

Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour

Our weekly interactive Story Hours will continue in fall with two sessions every Wednesday from **10h30-11h30** and 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.

No reservation required!

Ages 1-3: Mother Goose Lap-Sit

The Library's popular Mother Goose Lap-Sit program will resume in September! The program continues this fall with sessions from **10h30-11h00** and from **17h00-17h30** on **10 & 17 September, 1 & 15 October** and **5 & 19 November**.

Sign-up is required for this activity.

Each child must be accompanied by an adult lap!

Kids Knit!

The Library is excited to announce a new afternoon program for kids: Kids Knit with educator Munira Orsmond. Kids ages 6-9 are invited to join us for an hour of knitting and conversation



at the Library one Thursday a month at **17h00**. The club will meet on **24 September, 8 October, 12 November**.

RSVP is required for this club. Send an email to Celeste Rhoads (see below) to reserve a spot. Please include the name and age of the child and your Library membership number.

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



Wednesday 9
September

19h30

'Five-Star Billionaire' A novel by Tash Aw

Friday 25 September 19h30

Shteyngart on Shteyngart ★

The celebrated writer Gary Shteyngart sits down for an interview with Library programs manager Grant Rosenberg at the opening event of Columbia Global Center's Festival des Ecrivains du Monde. Shteyngart's books include the memoir *Little Failure* and the novels *Absurdistan* and *Super Sad True Love Story*. The Russian-born American will discuss his writing as well as the notion of cultural identity and language. For more about the Festival, please visit www.festivaldesecrivainsdumonde.fr

Wednesday 30 September 19h30

The four Mrs. Hemingways

British author Naomi Wood discusses her prize-winning fictionalization of the four women who shared the life of Ernest Hemingway: Hadley Richardson, Pauline Pfeiffer, Martha Gellhorn (*right*), and Mary Welsh. Wood's novel, *Mrs. Hemingway*, was shortlisted for the International Dylan Thomas Prize.



Wednesday 16 September 19h30

Marianne Faithfull speaks ★

The legendary singer and '60s British music icon speaks about her career, her music spanning half a century, and her love of literature.



Tuesday 29 September 19h30

Two French geniuses

Evolutionary biologist Sean B. Carroll speaks about his book *Brave Genius*, which explores the friendship between writer Albert Camus and scientist Jacques Monod, tracing their separate tracks from the French Resistance to Nobel Prizes in their respective fields. The book was on the shortlist for the Library's 2014 Book Award.

Later programs for autumn 2015

Lolita at 60: See page 3 ... **Susan Loomis** on French cooking (6 October)... **David Downie's** latest book, *A Passion for Paris: Romanticism and Romance in the City of Light* (7 October) ... **Chris Boïcos** on Andy Warhol ... **Cara Black** presents her latest mystery, *Murder on the Champ de Mars* (20 October) ... **Clayborne Carson** on Martin Luther King, Jr. (21 October) ... **Sarah Wildman** pieces together her grandfather's pre-WWII love affair (27 October)... **Christopher Dickey** on *Our Man in Charleston: Britain's Secret Agent in the Civil War South* (28 October) ... **Peter Gumbel** on the poverty of French education (3 November) ... **Wendell Stevenson** remembers Tahrir Square (10 November) ... **John Morris** and **Robert Pledge:** Post-D-Day photographic images from *Quelque part en France* (14 October) ... **Elaine Sciolino** explores *The Only Street in Paris: Life on the Rue des Martyrs* (16 December). Sign up to receive **e-Libris** biweekly for news on the program schedule.

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.

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

The American Library in Paris

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americanlibraryinparis.org

