



# EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris March 2016

## Transforming the Library *A major renovation with new lower level spaces*

The American Library in Paris will undergo a major physical transformation during the spring and summer months of 2016. The Library renovation will be apparent throughout most of the Library's footprint, including:

- a new façade and window treatment, and a repositioned entrance with enhanced digital and physical security;
- a reconfigured "commons" in the front of the Library, with both lounges and study areas;
- a soundproofed and completely refurbished principal reading room, adaptable to evening programming;

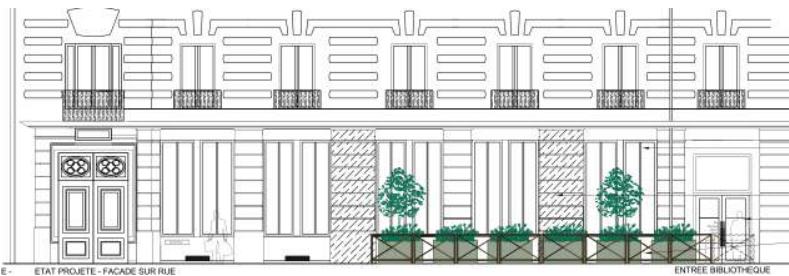
- a dramatic open stairway and elevator to the lower level, which will become a second reading room and program space of more than 100 square meters, and will include small study rooms adjacent to reconfigured library stacks.

This issue of *Ex Libris* offers a sneak preview of some of the plans prepared by Lia Kiladis, the principal architect, and her team. It also addresses questions about the closure of the Library from mid-May to mid-August.

The design of the renovated Library is the fruit of several years of study and conversation, including a member survey, focus groups, staff and trustee retreats, as well as architectural and structural analysis.

It is grounded in a fundamental reality of all libraries today: There is growing demand for space that can serve a variety of needs, including quiet study, research, conversation, and education. Technological advances make it possible to offer a bounty

Continued on page 4



## John Irving at the 2016 Gala Dinner

John Irving, one of America's best-loved and best-selling novelists, will be the guest of honor and principal speaker at the 2016 American Library Gala Dinner, this year on **Tuesday 17 May 2016** at the Automobile Club de France.

Irving's fifteen novels include *The World According to Garp*, *The Cider House Rules*, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, *A Widow for One Year*, and *In One Person*. His latest book, *Avenue of Mysteries*, was published in the United States last fall and will appear in French translation in May from Éditions du Seuil.

Five of his novels have been turned into feature films, and Irving's own screen adaptation of *The Cider House Rules* won him an Academy Award. His work has been published in more than thirty languages, and he is especially popular among French readers.

The Gala Dinner is the Library's main fundraising event of the year, drawing more than 200 members and supporters to an evening celebration of writers and libraries. The setting for the dinner this year, as in recent years, is the Automobile Club's vast high-ceilinged library in an 18th-century building on place de la Concorde.

Invitations to the Gala Dinner will be mailed to members and recent donors in March, but anyone may reserve places now by contacting Krista Faurie, the development manager and gala coordinator, at [gala@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:gala@americanlibraryinparis.org).

Given the popularity of the guest of honor, the attraction of the event every year, and the limited number of places, early reservations are recommended. About half of the places at the dinner are already sold.

Recent Gala honorees include

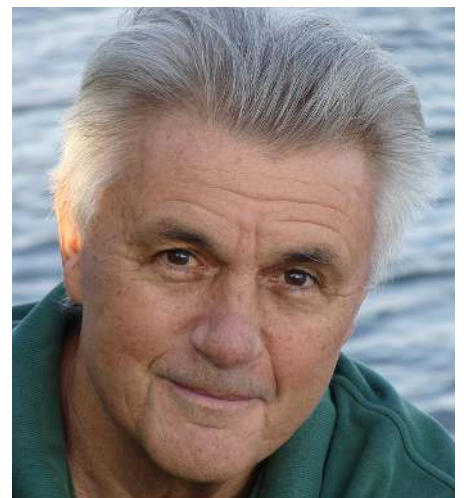


Photo by Everett Irving

Joyce Carol Oates, Sebastian Faulks, Christopher Buckley, Laurent de Brunhoff, Michael Chabon and Ayelet Waldman, Antony Beevor, Scott Turow, and Adam Gopnik.

# Bestsellers at your fingertips

In April, following many suggestions from members and trends in the publishing and library world in general, the American Library in Paris will significantly expand its electronic book collection with the launch of OverDrive Digital Library.

OverDrive, easily the most popular platform for e-books in U.S. public libraries, partners with over 5,000 publishers from whose offerings the American Library will build its collection.

Library members will be able to browse titles in a

user-friendly interface, read books online, or download titles from the intuitive OverDrive app, which is compatible with a wide variety of electronic devices. OverDrive also hosts tens of thousands of books in the public domain through its partnership with Project Gutenberg.

Once the service is live next month, Library staff will offer training on how to access and read eBooks on your preferred device. In the meantime, we welcome members' suggestions for fiction and non-fiction e-book titles as we compile our digital bookshelf.

## Jury named for 2016 Book Award

Three distinguished writers, two of them past winners of the American Library in Paris Book Award, have agreed to serve as the jury for the 2016 Award.

They are **Laura Auricchio**, whose biography, *The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered*, won the 2015 Library prize; **Robert Harris**, whose novel about the Dreyfus affair, *An Officer and a Spy*, won the

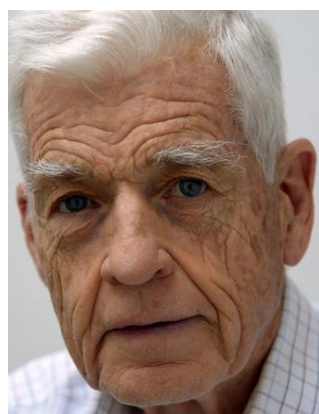
2014 award; and **Robert O. Paxton**, the American historian renowned for his groundbreaking work on France during the Nazi occupation.

Auricchio is an art historian today serving as a dean at the New School in New York. Harris is the bestselling British author of contemporary and historical fiction, including *The Ghost*, *Enigma*, *Fatherland*, *Imperium*, and *Dictator*. Paxton, a

professor emeritus at Columbia University, is the author of *Vichy France: Old Guard and New Order, 1940-1944*, *Vichy France and the Jews*, and *The Anatomy of Fascism*.

The jury, chaired by Auricchio, will consider a shortlist of five or six books selected by a Paris screening committee during the late spring. The \$5,000 prize, supported by a gift from the Florence Gould Foundation, will be presented to the author of the winning book – the best of the year, in English, about France – at a ceremony in Paris in November.

Submissions for the 2016 Book Award are arriving daily. The strict deadline for entering is 1 May 2016 and only books with publication dates between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016 are eligible. Details and frequently-asked questions may be found on the Library website.



The 2016 award jury, left to right: Laura Auricchio, Robert Harris, and Robert O. Paxton

## EX LIBRIS

The newsletter of The American Library in Paris is published four times a year, in March, June, September, and December. Please let us know if you would like it delivered by post every quarter.



## Hvala Bojan!

Library patrons may have noticed a new face at the reference desk since November. Bojan Kupirović, a master's degree student in information sciences and cultural anthropology at the University of Zagreb, is here on an Erasmus scholarship that will continue into the spring. He has become an integral part of the team and has helped every department, whether lending a hand at the front desk, answering reference questions, or processing new books. After his internship he plans to complete and defend his thesis in Croatia and perhaps return to Paris.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### WORD FOR WORD PRESENTS

#### **Emma Donoghue: “Night Vision”**

Directed by Becca Wolff

#### **Colm Tóibín: “Silence”**

Directed by Jim Cave

**Tuesday 3 May 2016 20h00**

**Wednesday 4 May 2016 20h00**

Word for Word returns to Paris to perform two short stories on stage, the original text delivered word for word. The San Francisco performing arts company’s mission is to “tell great stories with elegant theatricality, staging performances of classic and contemporary fiction.”

The Paris performances have been a popular spring attraction for Library members and their friends for more than two decades.



Sheila Balter as Lady Gregory in "Silence" by Colm Tóibín  
Photo by Julie Schuchard

Performances take place at Théâtre Adyar, steps from the American Library across avenue Rapp from at the end of rue du Général Camou. Donations at the door: 10€ (5€ students). Reservations are strongly recommended. Beginning in April, send requests to [rsvp@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:rsvp@americanlibraryinparis.org).

An informal reception to meet the cast and crew of Word for Word will take place in the Library reading room after the Tuesday performance.

## Megan Mayhew Bergman, spring 2016 Visiting Fellow

The Library welcomes its latest Visiting Fellow, Megan Mayhew Bergman, during the month of April.

Bergman hails from rural Vermont, where she writes novels and short stories and teaches creative writing at Bennington College. Her first story collection, *Birds of a Lesser Paradise*, was published in 2012; another collection, *Almost Famous Women*, just out, and her first novel, *Rebel, Rebel*, is forthcoming from Scribner.

She'll be speaking at the Library Wednesday 13 April about the evolution of artistic support for women during the Modernist era. Mayhew Bergman focus on Natalie Barney, and how a chance encounter with Oscar Wilde inspired Barney's mother to pursue a non-traditional, art-filled life, setting Natalie on a course toward life as an expatriate in Paris.

While in Paris, Bergman will be working on a novel based on the real-life human zoos which were established around the world at the turn of the century, and a series of essays about the collision of strangeness and beauty in the natural world. Drawing on her engagement with sustainable farming in Vermont, she will also lead a three-session writing seminar and a discussion about farming and the environment.

The American Library in Paris Visiting Fellowship is made possible through the continuing support of The de Groot Foundation.



Writer and teacher Megan Mayhew Bergman, the American Library's sixth Visiting Fellow.

## Last used book sale for the duration

The Library's preparations for a major renovation means we will be discontinuing the monthly book sales and not accepting book donations. See page 5 or the website for details. In the meantime, come to the last book sale:

**Saturday 5 March 10h00-19h00    Sunday 6 March 13h00-19h00**



# NEW PLANS FOR THE LIBRARY RENOVATION



## The Library reimaged and reconfigured

Continued from page 1

of literature and reference material to our members online and, without compromising the quality and utility of our circulating collection, to adjust the size and scope of our physical holdings accordingly.

The project would not be happening without the generosity and commitment of Mary Lee and Ed Turner, and of the Florence Gould Foundation and its president, John R. Young. Their outstanding leadership, together with several significant gifts from others, will allow the Library to undertake this €2 million-plus project without a broad fundraising campaign.

We ask the rest of our members to play their part in supporting the Library, and this venture, by renewing their memberships and maintaining or increasing their annual giving during the transitional period. If you'd like to participate directly in helping to finance this renovation, with naming opportunities and sponsorship listing, please contact me directly.

While the Library will be closed to the public for three months, our growing body of online resources — the virtual library — will continue to be available. We'll also continue our adult and children's programming on a reduced schedule at some attractive off-site locations (see facing page). The Library Gala Dinner goes on, of course, this year with John Irving, on Tuesday 17 May.

Everyone who uses the Library will begin to notice preparations for the renovation project during the spring, when areas of the collection will be restricted while we tag every item to make the collection compatible with exciting new Library technology.

Most of our books will then be boxed and stored elsewhere for three months. Book donations and book sales will be discontinued during that time as we will not have the space to handle that inflow and outflow. More details are on the facing page.

All of us at the Library are thrilled about the transformation ahead and energized by the extraordinary opportunities for programs and services that the renovated spaces will offer. We look to your continuing commitment to the Library as we begin a new chapter in our remarkable story.

Charles Trueheart  
*Director*

### More on the renovations: An exhibit and the AGM

Well before the *rentrée*, Library members will have a chance to learn more about the renovation.

On **Tuesday 5 April** we will open an exhibit in the reading room with architectural renderings of the new spaces and other information about the plans for the Library renovation.

And on **Tuesday 14 June** at 19h30, at the Annual General Meeting of the Library, principal architect Lia Kiladis and Library staff and trustees will discuss the work under way. As the Library will be closed, the annual meeting will take place at another location.

## DURING THE THREE-MONTH CLOSURE

The Library will be open to the public until **Saturday 14 May**, and will re-open to the public on **Tuesday 23 August**. In addition to information provided on these pages, answers to questions about Library operations during the period of closure are available on the website or at the front desk of the Library.

## The virtual Library 24/7

In addition to new e-books from OverDrive (see page 2), Library members will have uninterrupted access to our entire range of online resources during the renovation period. The physical collection may not be accessible for several months, but our e-resources can be consulted 24/7 through our catalog.

Read a bestseller on **OverDrive**, browse new magazines on **Zinio**, learn a new language with **Mango**, research journal articles on **JSTOR** and **EBSCO**, read a business e-book on **Ebrary**, or consult the **WorldBook** encyclopedia.

From our online catalog, go to the Search menu and choose E-Sources. You will be prompted to log into your account using your membership card number.

## Donations & book sales

The Library's final Used Book Sale before the renovation will be held on **Saturday and Sunday 5-6 March** during regular Library hours. The sale promises to be a large one, as we clear the last of your donations from the basement.

Following the March sale, the Library will not accept any further used book donations. During the months of March and April we will be busy preparing the collection for tagging and off-site storage and will not have the space or the staff to manage the inflow.

The Library has prepared a list of Paris-based organizations that accept used books in English and in other languages. The list is available at the front desk and on our website under the "Support Us" tab.

## Offsite evening programs

Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Isabel Wilkerson** discusses *The Warmth of Other Suns*, about the great black migration from the South to northern cities during the last century (Tuesday 10 May)... **Chris Boïcos** on the art of Paul Klee, timed to the Musée d'Orsay exhibit (Tuesday 24 May)... Journalist **Joshua Hammer** on his book *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* (Wednesday 1 June) ... A celebration of **Bloomsday**, on the eve of Bloomsday (Wednesday 15 June) ... and a memorial symposium and reading of classic **poetry from World War I**, including the Library's own Alan Seeger's "I Have a Rendezvous with Death" (date to be announced).

All these events take place in cooperation with Columbia University's European Global Center at Reid Hall, 4, rue de Chevreuse, in Montparnasse. All events begin at 19h30, with a 10€ donation at the door.

## Offsite kids programming too

See pages 6 and 7!

## A new periodicals home

In March the Library will transfer a selection of rarely-consulted historical periodicals from our basement archive to CTLes (*Centre Technique du Livre de l'Enseignement Supérieur*), which operates a state-of-the-art library repository under the French Ministry of Education. Their facilities near Marne-la-Vallée accommodate more than 75 kilometers of shelf space (over 3 million volumes) under ideal conditions for conservation of materials.

By depositing some of our archives with CTLes, the Library is making its holdings available to an even wider network of researchers and scholars than before. As an added benefit, many periodicals, not just our own, may be requested by Library members through CTLes's rapid interlibrary loan service. Contact a Reference Librarian for more details, or browse the CTLes online catalog .

## Quick checkout with RFID

In April the Library will be changing the way books are identified, switching from traditional barcodes to RFID (radio frequency identification) technology.

Using RFID dramatically speeds processing and checkout time, so members will have their books in hand even faster, and staff will have more time to dedicate to helping patrons. It will also improve the security of collections through better tracking and inventory.

The conversion process will take approximately two weeks, during which time every book in the collection will be physically tagged. All collections will remain open, and daily signage will alert patrons about which sections are being processed.



## SPOTTED ON THE TEEN MEZZANINE

The Library's Teen Writing Group for ages 12-18 has been lucky enough to welcome several authors as guest hosts, among them Jay Asher, Amy Plum and Tioka Tokedira.

In January, journalist and author Ta-Nehisi Coates joined the list by hosting a meeting of the Teen Writing Group. Ta-Nehisi, who is currently writing a new Black Panther for Marvel Comics, walked group members through the creation of the comic, from beginning talks about the project through the writing itself and what it's like to work with an illustrator.

Many members of the club have had the chance to meet authors who have visited as guest hosts, but as the club welcomes many new members throughout the year, some have never met a professional writer in person.

For Joon Hur, one club member, meeting an author in person was a highlight of being in the club. Other members said that Ta-Nehisi had turned them into comic fans with his talk. While she hasn't read many comics herself, one club member said she's excited to explore some after talking with Ta-Nehisi: "It was the best introduction possible." said Eugénie Boury.



Special guest author Ta-Nehisi Coates (top left) and members of the Teen Writing Group in January.

The Library's Teen Writing Group has been popular since its inception in 2012, when editor and YA author Anne Heltzel offered to begin the group. When the club is not hosted by a celebrity guest, group members share the responsibility of bringing in prompts and exercises to work on. We anticipate that this group will remain a staple on our roster of teen programming.

For more information about the club, and meeting dates, see the Library's calendar of events.



## YOUNG AUTHORS FICTION FESTIVAL

Keep up the writing for YAFF! The deadline for submission is 1 April 2016!

Contact [yaff@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:yaff@americanlibraryinparis.org) with questions about the Festival.

## Rock the Library

The Library has a full schedule of events coming up, beginning with our first Teen Night after the school holidays: **Rock U. with Matt Black**. We'll watch the movie *Rock of Ages*, and then teacher and musician Matt Black will teach participants how to play a song from the soundtrack ("I Love Rock and Roll" by Joan Jett and the Blackhearts). That's **Friday 18 March**.

For the past three years one event that generates a lot of excitement each spring is our **Literary Reaping**—a tournament with hands-on games and physical challenges—all based on the best young adult literature, new and old. The 4th annual Literary Reaping will be held on **Friday 13 May**, just before the Library closes for renovations.

During renovations, the Teen Writing Group and Master Shot Film Club will continue to meet off-site and we will hold a film screening for the Master Shot Film Club and guests in June. Watch the online calendar for details and locations.





## Read on! Join the Read-a-Thon!

Every year at this time many Parisians head off for ski holidays. We hope they've packed a big bag of books. This year, for the second time, The American Library in Paris and Message Paris have paired up to encourage reading over the holidays while raising funds to help buy new books for the Children's Library and to raise funds for the literacy charity Room to Read. There are a lot of businesses in the community that want to support reading too, so they've donated prizes for those children and teens who read the most during the Read-a-Thon. Thanks to: Oh My Princess!, Free Persephone, Thanksgiving, WHSmith, Shakespeare and Co., and The American Children's Theatre!

## Summer reading

On **Saturday 11 June**, children and teens are invited to celebrate the beginning of our summer reading program. We'll explain how the summer reading program works and we'll have lots of fun activities to get you started on your summer reading adventure. All attendees will be given a summer reading club packet and a bag or books (yours to keep!) to get you started on your summer reading.

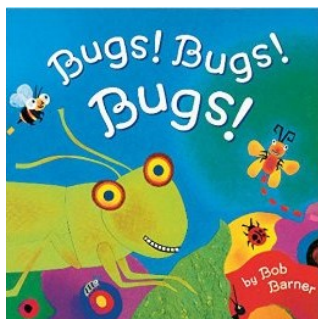
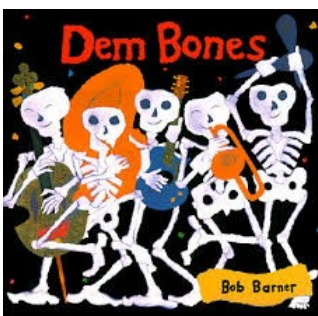
This event will be held off-site at the American Church in Paris—in the church's upstairs library, from 15h00-16h30. Refreshments will be provided!

## Children's books on stage

Our children's and teen services team is excited about a few special events in the department: one for adults and one for children.

On **Saturday 9 April** at 19h30 three panelists will take the stage to discuss contemporary treasures of children's literature, and how to best seek them out. The panel will feature: **Marc Aronson**, an American writer and editor best known for his nonfiction books for children and teens; **Anne Chassagnol**, a researcher in children's literature and a professor at University of Paris VIII, and **Tioka Tokedira**, author and head of SCBWI France. Our children's and teens' services manager **Celeste Rhoads** will moderate the panel and discussion.

On **Tuesday 12 April** from 17h00-18h00, award-winning author and illustrator **Bob Barner** will host a special afternoon event in the Children's Library, reading some of his most popular books and offering tips for aspiring artists. Bob has written and illustrated over 25 books for children, and he has won several awards, including the Parents' Choice Award and The Teachers' Choice Award. Arrive early to be sure to grab a seat!



## Regular events for young children

### Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour

Our weekly interactive Story Hours continue with two sessions in the Children's Library every Wednesday from **10h30-11h30** and from **14h30-15h30 through 11 May**. While the Library is closed for renovations we will hold Story Hours on the Champs de Mars. From 18 May—22 June we will meet at the park at 14h30 (weather permitting) for our outdoor Story Hour.

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 for our youngest members continues this Spring with sessions from **10h30-11h00** and from **17h00-17h30** on **3 & 17 March** and **7 & 21 April**.

**Sign-up is required for this activity.**

*Each child must be accompanied by an adult lap!*

*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 8 March 19h30

### Editing Ploughshares

Ladette Randolph, editor-in-chief of the esteemed literary journal *Ploughshares*, speaks about the process of putting together this well-known periodical based at Emerson College. As *Ploughshares* enters its 45th year of publication, Randolph will explore its history, its mission, and how the journal has responded to the challenges and opportunities of new technologies.



Wednesday 9 March 19h30

### The fashion show heard 'round the world

In *The Battle of Versailles: The Night American Fashion Stumbled into the Spotlight and Made History*, *Washington Post* fashion critic Robin Givhan chronicles the events of 28 November 1973, when American fashion designers faced off against French designers in the august halls of the palace to raise money to restore the edifice.

Wednesday 16 March 19h30

### Stalin's Englishman

Andrew Lownie, first and foremost a literary agent, presents his own book, *Stalin's Englishman: The Lives of Guy Burgess*, an investigation into the life of the Cambridge Five spy ring member who passed secrets on to Moscow. It's a fascinating story that rivals the best spy fiction.

Tuesday 22 March 19h30

### When French became English

Anthony Lacoudre, the author of *L'in-croyable Histoire des Mots Français en Anglais*, explores the historical context that permitted a contingent of more than 25,000 French words to penetrate the English language over 900 years.



Wednesday 23 March 19h30

### Dispatches from the Syria war zone

Seasoned international correspondent Janine di Giovanni, *Newsweek's* Middle East bureau chief, discusses her book, *The Morning They Came for Us: Dispatches from Syria*, which looks at how the devastating war has affected ordinary people in the country.

### Upcoming programs

Library visiting Fellow Megan Mayhew Bergman on women in the arts (13 April), a Wikipedia writing workshop (16 April), Paula Harrington on Mark Twain (19 April), former Los Angeles attorney Gil Garcetti on photography and midlife career change. (20 April). See page 5 for off-site events in May and June.

**Evenings with Authors and other weeknight programs at the Library are free and open to the thanks to support from the Annenberg Foundation, our members, and those who attend programs. Attendance at programs is open to the public and a donation at the door 10€ (5€ students) is welcomed.**

Tuesday 29 March 19h30

### James Emanuel: A poetic life

In conjunction with Library's exhibition *Black Man Abroad: The Poetic Life of James A. Emanuel*, Jake Lamar and other guests will gather for an evening of James Emanuel poetry reading.

Tuesday 30 March 19h30

### Nabokov's America

Robert Roper presents his exploration of Vladimir Nabokov's American years as he motored around the United States, and how his peregrinations informed the writing of his masterpiece, *Lolita*.



## The American Library in Paris

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

