



# EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris September 2016



## We're open! After a summer renovation, a transformed Library

The Library reopened its doors at the end of August after a three-month period of renovation.

As finishing touches ensued, the first visitors were able to see for themselves what all the work has been about: a new windowed street façade, a relocated entryway, a dramatic commons stretching across the front, a handsome principal reading room lined with wooden bookcases, new stairs to a new mezzanine floor above, a broad stairway to a second reading room on the lower level, new study carrels and work spaces on all three levels, and an elevator connecting them.

The transformed Library is the fruition of three years of planning, and the result of leadership gifts from Ed and Mary Lee Turner and from the Florence Gould Foundation, along with generous commitment from a dozen other key supporters of the Library.

The Library will welcome newcomers and the whole Library family at a special Open House, with guided tours of the new premises by the architect and the director, on the afternoon of **Sunday 25 September**.

Details appear elsewhere in the newsletter, as do photographs of the renovation as it reaches completion. (For a complete gallery

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## Fall Visiting Fellows

The Library will welcome fall Visiting Fellows Anna Leahy and Doug Dechow in the early days of October. The friendly, erudite husband-wife duo will focus their month in Paris on a project about flight, and particularly the history of Concorde.

The couple are on the faculty of Chapman University in California. Leahy, a poet, is director of undergraduate research and creative activity and associate director of the MFA in creative writing. Dechow (pronounced *Decko*) is Chapman's sciences, digital

humanities, and English librarian. They are also proud flight geeks, passionate about airplanes and space. They will speak on **Wednesday 26 October** about their new book, *Generation Space*, an exploration of historic aircraft.

Please see the website for their other events during their stay.



## The 2016 Library Book Award shortlist

Six books were selected in July as finalists for the 2016 American Library in Paris Book Award, a \$5,000 prize recognizing the most distinguished English-language book of the year about France.

The shortlisted books are:

***A Country Road, A Tree***, by Jo Baker. (Knopf)

***At the Existentialist Café: Freedom, Being, and Apricot Cocktails***, by Sarah Bakewell. (Other Press)

***The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed***, by Julie Barlow and Jean-Benoît Nadeau. (St. Martin's Press)

***Paris at War: 1939-1944***, by David Drake (Harvard University Press)

***The Burdens of Brotherhood: Jews and Muslims from North Africa to France***, by Ethan B. Katz. (Harvard University Press)

***The Other Paris***, by Luc Sante. (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

The Book Award, now in its fourth year, will be presented to the winning author at a ceremony in Paris in November.

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## BOOK AWARD

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The choice of the winning book is being made by this year's jury for the award, consisting of **Laura Auricchio**, the chair, whose biography of Lafayette, *The Marquis*, won last year's prize; British novelist **Robert Harris**, whose *An Officer and a Spy*, about the Dreyfus affair, won the 2014 award; and **Robert O. Paxton**, the historian and leading American scholar of the Nazi Occupation of France.

The American Library in Paris Book Award is supported by generous funding from the Florence Gould Foundation.

The Library received 59 eligible submissions this year. Book-length prose works originally written in English, including but not limited to fiction, history, biography, travel, politics, food, and art, are eligible for the award. The 2016 award was restricted to books originally published between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016. Submissions are already open for the 2017 Book Award for books published since 1 July 2016.

All the submissions are in the circulating collection of the American Library. Please see the website for a full list of the 2016 entries.

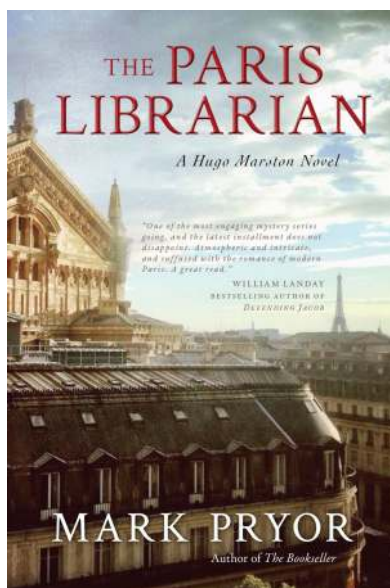
## EX LIBRIS

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.

## A detective at the Library

No, not Hercule Poirot. Hugo Marston.

Mark Pryor's sixth Hugo Marston mystery tale, *The Paris Librarian*, is just out. It's set in and around our very own American Library in Paris and features a sensitive personal archive dating from the Occupation, a director at work on a secret project, and a suspicious death. Our man Marston, security chief at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, starts to investigate. The cast of characters may strike you as (ahem) eerily familiar.



Pryor, a Briton who lives in Austin, Texas, visited the Library recently for a tour of all our hidden nooks and crannies, potential material for his story.

We're happy these murky corners were immortalized in the book, because the summer renovation (among other things) transformed the dark basement atelier into a shiny new restroom; the mezzanine computer server room was eliminated to expand shelving; and the master ring of keys to all the private places is no longer hanging in reach of all suspects ... we mean, staff.

*The Paris Librarian*, from Seventh Street Books, follows *The Bookseller*, *The Crypt Thief*, and three other Marston mysteries. This fall's *Mysteries in Paris* book group (see page 5) will be discussing this book at its October session.

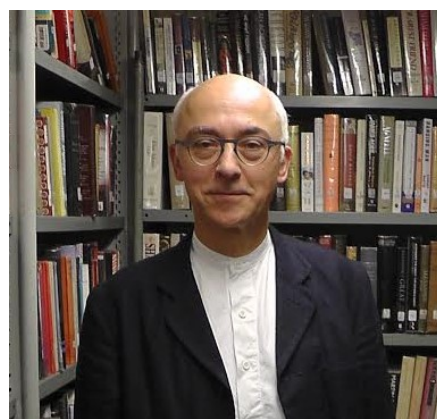
## Alex Danchev (1955-2016)

The Library was saddened to learn of the death in August of author and former Library Visiting Fellow Alex Danchev. He was 60.

Danchev was the Library's second Visiting Fellow. He spent a month here in the fall of 2014, and was an enthusiastic presence in the reading room during his days of work on a biography of René Magritte.

Danchev was a captivating lecturer. He first spoke here in 2013 about his book *Cézanne: A Life* (shortlisted for the 2013 Library Book award). He spoke as a Visiting Fellow about his Magritte work and participated in a panel discussion on terrorism, one of his academic specialties.

Danchev taught international relations at University of St Andrews in Scotland. A retired military officer and a political scientist, his passion for writing biographies of grand artists—the life's work of some historians and



chroniclers—was for him a hobby of sorts. He was also the author of a collection of essays, *On Art and War and Terror*; a new translation of Paul Cézanne's letters; and most recently, *On Good and Evil and the Grey Zone*, essays about art, war and morality.

We extend our condolences to his wife, Dee, and mourn the loss of this brilliant, multi-disciplinary scholar.



# RE-OPEN HOUSE!

**Sunday 25 September 13h00-19h00**

An afternoon of fun and discovery... guided tours of the new spaces with the director and the architect ... hands-on tutorials about our digital resources ... a Story Hour and family scavenger hunt ... U.S. election registration ... and more! Please come and bring friends to introduce them to the all-new American Library.



**NEW SPACES AT THE LIBRARY:** Above left (and on page one), new views into the refurbished main reading room; above center, one of the new study corners on the refitted mezzanine; above right, reading in the new members' lounge with a view of rue du Général Camou.

## RENOVATION

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of renovation photos, please visit the Library homepage and click on the Flickr icon at the lower right.)

The work was carried out under the oversight of the renovation's principal architect, Lia Kiladis, and the Library's assistant director, Ed Aguila, who served as project manager.

During May and June, the Library continued to present evening programs for adults, as well as children and teen activities, all at offsite locations including the American Church, the Mona Bismarck Center, Reid Hall, the American Cathedral, and the Champ de Mars.

Essential completion of the project was delayed slightly in part because of constraints on access to the site posed unexpectedly by the "fan zone" created on the Champ de

Mars nearby to stage mass screenings of the Euro soccer championship and then the Tour de France.

In the coming months the sidewalk running the length of the Library's façade will be expanded and beautified, with motorcycle parking relocated, thanks to the cooperation of the *mairie du 7ème arrondissement* and the *department de la voirie de la ville de Paris*. During the course of the renovation, the Library also benefited from the patience and support of the residents of 10, rue du Général Camou as well as the adjacent building on rue de Montessuy where part of the Library footprint lies.

Kiladis was assisted by consulting architects Dorothee Kopp and Christine Beinemeier. Fourteen French companies and suppliers carried out the work during the late spring and summer months; their crews included, besides French, Albanians, Germans, Iraqis, Kosovars, Malians, Moldovans, Poles, Portuguese, Romanians, Slovaks, Tunisians, and Turks.

# Where is that book?

This summer's renovation afforded us the opportunity to rearrange sections of our collection in a more logical, coherent way. We hope you agree that books are easier to find now that we've done away with the labyrinthine shelving of the past.

Non-fiction is still shelved in Dewey Decimal order, with the exception of a few stand-alone subjects such as biographies, travel guides, and cookbooks. Non-fiction works from our old reference department have been integrated into the main circulating collection.

### Main Floor

The front of the Library houses new books, cookbooks, audiobooks on CD, and periodicals. A few magazines will soon be displayed and stored in their subject areas. For example, *Fine Cooking* and *Bon Appétit* will be shelved with cookbooks.

Art books, including sports & recreation (700s) are entirely shelved in the enclosed main floor reading room. Fiction, biographies, and travel guides & travelogues are still located on the main floor below the mezzanine, and there will be a new subsection in fiction dedicated to short story anthologies.

### Mezzanine

Graphic novels and science fiction have joined mysteries on the mezzanine. The non-fiction collection upstairs encompasses generalia (000s), philosophy & psychology (100s), religion (200s), social sciences (300s), languages & linguistics (400s), natural sciences (500s), and applied sciences (600s).

### Lower Level

The lower level is dedicated to our extensive literature & literary criticism (800s) and history (900s) collections. Keep in mind that novels (and some short story collections), and biographies, memoirs, and collected letters of literary and historical figures may be on the main floor in fiction and biography, respectively.

### Children's Library, Teen Mezzanine, Parents' Shelf

The Children's Library and Teen Mezzanine at the back of the Library still house our collections for ages 1-18. The area outside of the Children's Library now has shelves for display and a small area for parents and chaperones of children attending programs. Many of our parenting books have been relocated here to make for easier browsing.

### Periodical Archives, Special Collections, ALP archives

Most of our periodical archives are located on the Lower Level, in the conference room, and in the director's office. The Library's small special collection, including institutional archives and photographs, is now in the new collection & reference office at the front of the Library. Please request items and a staff member will make them available to consult.

## Bye-bye book drop

Like the entire Paris municipal library system, and on the advice of local law enforcement, the American Library has sealed its after-hours book drop for security considerations. Library members are requested to return their books during operating hours, at one of the new kiosks. If you aren't able to return items by the due date, please renew them online, by email, or by phoning the Library. If you're traveling, you can also request an extended due date at the time of check-out. Please inquire at the Member Services desk.

# One card per member

All members will receive new membership cards, and they will be essential to access the Library premises and to check out books.

Patrons with family memberships will be issued cards for each member of the family. Stop by the Member Services desk during your first visit to the newly renovated Library to pick up your new card. New and easy-to-use self-service checkout kiosks will be available in the front of the Library and outside the Children's Library.

Ask a staff member or a volunteer for a one-minute tutorial to learn how to return and borrow books easily and quickly using the kiosks.

## Monthly payments

When you join the Library or renew your membership, you may now opt to make monthly payments by direct withdrawals from your bank. A monthly charge of €1 will be applied for the service. Please inquire at Member Services.

## Reservations recommended

Public computers may now be found on the Main Floor and on the newly-renovated Lower Level. Printers, scanners, and photocopiers are also available for public use.

Time limits — 90 minutes maximum per day — will apply to computer sessions to ensure that all patrons may benefit from these resources.

Computers may soon be reserved in advance through an online booking system. Please ask a staff member at the Member Services desk about making a reservation.

The Main Floor conference room and two new study rooms on the Lower Level may also be reserved.

## FALL BOOK GROUPS

### French-American Encounter

Philippe Mélot

After exploring the U.S. Supreme Court, this group returns to its original subject from a year ago, the relationship between France and the United States through the countries' histories.

**The Paris Years of Thomas Jefferson**, William Howard Adams

**The Marquis**: *Lafayette Reconsidered*, Laura Auricchio

**Allies at War**: *Churchill v Roosevelt v De Gaulle*, Simon Berthon

**Americans in Paris**: *Life and Death under Nazi Occupation*, Charles Glass

### Rock 'n' Roll Memoirs

John Gridley

A number of rock n' roll musicians have written memoirs in recent years that happen to also be examples of great prose style and master storytelling: the lives of rock stars we know to varying degrees, human stories about the 20th century in all its glory. Beyond—or in some cases far from—the clichés of rock excess, these memoirs reveal their writers' passions, creative process, and history and what it is to be at the forefront of popular culture.

**Things the Grandchildren Should Know**, Mark Oliver Everett

**Rat Girl**, Kristin Hersh

**Life**, Keith Richards

**Chronicles: Volume One**, Bob Dylan [or a different book chosen by the group].

*John Gridley, who last year led a book group reading about Internet startups that became behemoths, grew up in Cleveland, has been a rock music fan since childhood, and plays bass guitar in a loud, internationally-despised garage band.*

### New Literature in French

Marjorie Lallemand

Is French literature dead, as some foreign commentators would have it? Not even close, as this group, returning for yet another season, will discover. How better to engage with this culture than by through its latest novels? These books will be read in the original French and discussed in English.

**Gaspard ne répond plus**, Anne-Marie Revol

The remaining three books will be decided by the group.

### How the Digital Age Is Changing Human Society

Maurice Lanman and Laurie Calvet

This semester our science/technology book group will focus on the societal implications of digital technology, ranging from the evolution of our collective memory from written to digital media to the impact on our social interactions, on our consumption, and finally on crime.

**The Internet of Us**: *Knowing More and Understanding Less in the Age of Big Data*, Michael P Lynch

**Alone Together**: *Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other*, Sherry Turkle

**What's Mine Is Yours**: *The Rise of Collaborative Consumption*, Rachel Botsman and Roo Rogers

**Future Crimes**: *Inside the Digital Underground and the Battle for Our Connected World*, Marc Goodman

### Democracy, Government, and Alternatives

Ed Turner

After exploring slavery and racism in the United States, this group now turns to political systems and government throughout history, beginning with Cicero.

**Dictator**, Robert Harris

**The Genius Of America**: *How the Constitution Saved America and Why It Can Again*, Eric Lane and Michael Oreskes

**Against Elections**: *The Case for Democracy*, David Van Reybrouck

The fourth book selection will be decided later.

### Mysteries of Paris

Janet Hulstrand

The four mystery novels set in Paris that this group will read and discuss reveal much about the pleasures, complexities, and nuances of life in the French capital, as well as its history, and darker underside. All the books are by authors who know the Library well.

**Murder on the Champ de Mars**, Cara Black

**The Paris Librarian**, Mark Pryor

**Paris, City of Night**, David Downie

**Ghosts of St. Michel**, Jake Lamar

*Janet Hulstrand writes frequently for Bonjour Paris, France Revisited, France Today, and for her blog, Writing from the Heart, Reading for the Road. She created and has taught "Paris: A Literary Adventure," for City University of New York study abroad programs.*

Volunteer-led book groups are open exclusively to Library members at no extra charge. Space is limited to 16 participants. For session schedules and signups, please go to the website or write Grant Rosenberg: rosenberg@americanlibraryinparis.org



# FALL EVENTS, ALL FOR TEENS

Welcome back! We have a packed schedule of events for **ages 12-18**, with writing and film clubs, Friday night Teen Nights, and a new public speaking program.

The 2016-2017 season begins **Friday 9 September** with a Friday Teen Night: Locked in the Library! Find your way through the newly renovated American Library in Paris by completing challenges in different rooms and solving mysteries set up just for you! You'll get to explore all of the new Library spaces and to discover hidden treasures during this first event of the season.

The Library's popular teen clubs will resume just after the *rentrée*. The Master Shot Film Club will meet on **Saturday 10 September** and the Teen Writing Group

will meet on **Saturday 17 September**. Returning club members and new writers and filmmakers are all welcome to join, but we recommend signing up early, as these clubs are filling up fast!

The Library is partnering with Toastmasters 75 Club this fall to bring you a public speaking program for teens **ages 14-17**. The Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program is designed to help sharpen public speaking and communication skills. Check our website for details about meeting dates and how to apply. Applications are due by Monday 12 September at midnight; the first meeting takes place **Friday 7 October**. Just 15 participants will be selected for this first program.

## In search of Halloween helpers!

We're already gearing up for the Library's annual Halloween Extravaganza, this year on **Saturday 29 October**. As we prepare for the big day, we're looking for teen volunteers to act in our Haunted Library on Saturday evening. Haunted Library volunteers must be available on **Saturday 22 October** from 19h00-21h00 for a rehearsal and the following Saturday from 17h00-20h00. If you're interested helping us make a success of our Halloween festivities, contact Celeste Rhoads, children and teens librarian, at [rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org)



Come visit the newly refurbished kids spaces!

## First readers?

Do you want to get your hands on new books before anyone else? Do you have what it takes to read and review books for the Library? We're looking for teens to read and review new books for the Library's blog.

You can earn community service hours and you'll have first pick of a selection of new books and advance reading copies each month. If you're interested in helping out, let us know!



## Teen art on view!

Check out the artwork on display on the Teen Mezzanine through the beginning of November. The paintings and graffiti-inspired pieces were created by local Franco-American teen and artist Samuel Leter. We hope this exhibition will launch a new tradition of sharing artwork by local teens.

## Gearing up for Halloween!

Every year our Halloween Extravaganza becomes more popular — and more crowded.

This year, we're hosting four separate events throughout the day on **Saturday 29**

**October**: a party for ages 0-3, an event for ages 4-7 and another for ages 7+, with the Haunted Library in the evening for ages 8+.

This year tickets must be purchased in advance (5€ per person for members, 15€ per

person for non-members). Members may purchase tickets at the children's and teens' services desk beginning on Saturday 1 October at 10h00. If tickets remain, they will be available for non-members beginning on 15 October. Limited space is available, so we recommend joining the Library and purchasing your tickets early!

Please see the website for the full schedule!

## Thank-O-Rama

Start thinking of your thank-yous, because at 15h00 on **Saturday 19 November** we're going to hold a Thank-O-Rama with games, crafts and contests inspired by the art of saying thank you and the latest (and final) Elephant and Piggie book by Mo Willems: *The Thank You Book*.

How many people are you thankful for? Can you name them all? Join us for some fun and gratitude just in time for Thanksgiving!



## Regular events for young children

### Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour

Our weekly interactive Story Hours resume on 7 **September** with two sessions in the Children's Library 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: Toddler Time

The Library's popular Toddler Time (formerly Mother Goose Lap-Sit) continues for our youngest members this fall with Thursday sessions from **10h30-11h00** and from **17h00-17h30** on **8 & 22 September, 6 & 20 October** and **3 & 17 November**.

*Sign-up is required for this activity.*



## Book groups: A packet of fun

Do you know young readers you want to gather for a book group? Check out one of our new book group packets, which include five copies of each popular or classic title, along with discussion questions, activity ideas and recipes!

Book group packets can be checked out at the children's and teens' services desk during opening hours. Packets for ages 8-12 are available for: *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman, *Matilda* by Roald Dahl, *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson and *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. Packets for younger readers (ages 6-8) will be available in the coming weeks!

*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 13 September 19h30

### Jane Smiley's 'Golden Age'

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Thousand Acres* will open our event season with a talk about her latest novel, *Golden Age*, the final book in the trilogy that began with *Some Luck* and *Early Warning*, about the Langdon family spanning generations.



Wednesday 21 September 19h30

### The history of exhaustion

Anna Katharina Schaffner, a German scholar who teaches at the University of Kent, presents her intriguing new book, *Exhaustion: A History*, which explores exhaustion and burnout from antiquity through the present day in politics, culture, and the arts.



Tuesday 27 September 19h30

### 'The Other Paris': A guide to the city's true, fuller history

Luc Sante presents his raved-about book (shortlisted for the Library's book award) that explores the grittier aspects of the French capital, just as much a part of its reality as the *haute couture* and *gastronomie* clichés. The Belgium-born Sante, author of *The Other New York*, details the city's rabble-rousers, criminals, and life on its mean streets. The *Guardian* praised it as an "extraordinary and sometimes appalling submersion in *nostalgie de la boue*."



Wednesday 28 September 19h30

### 'Mona Lisa is Missing'

This fun, globe-trotting look at the famed 1911 theft of the Mona Lisa from the Louvre is not a whodunit—we know that—but a *how-and-why*-dunit. Director Joe Medeiros uses a light touch to illustrate the art world of the era and how the Louvre functioned, as well as what it meant for the most famous museum in the world to lose the most famous painting in the world. Medeiros and his wife and producer Justine Medeiros will be present for a discussion, as well as some of the figures who are interviewed in the film.

Tuesday 4 October 19h30

### Remembering Fontainebleau

Thad Carhart, author of *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank*, recounts his childhood as an American boy growing up in Fontainebleau in the 1950s and life in post-war France as he explores the historic town and chateau.

Wednesday 12 October 19h30

### Maya Angelou: The documentary

In conjunction with *Les Editions Noir et Blanc* and their soirée at Théâtre de l'Odéon dedicated to the work of the late American poet, the Library will screen a documentary co-directed by Emmy-award winning filmmaker Rita Coburn-Whack, who will be present for a Q&A afterwards.



## Also this autumn...

Visiting Fellows **Anna Leahy** and **Doug Dechow** on the history of flight, looking at the Spruce Goose, the Concorde and the Space Shuttle ... **Skip Moskey** on Larz and Isabel Anderson's impossibly wealthy Golden Age... *The New Yorker's* **Lauren Collins** presents her memoir of learning the local language, *When in French* ... **Marta Zaraska** on civilization's enduring love of meat ... **Caroline Brothers** presents her new novel, *The Memory Stones* ... **Lauren Elkin** goes for a long walk in *Flâneuse: The (Feminine) Art of Walking in Cities* ... Yales's **Alice Kaplan** returns to the Library to discuss her latest book, a portrait of a novel, Albert Camus's *L'Étranger*.

The American Library in Paris

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

