



EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris December 2016



Photo Elena Siebert

2017 GALA DINNER

Stacy Schiff

Prize-winning biographer Stacy Schiff, author of books on Cleopatra, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the witches of Salem, Massachusetts, and Benjamin Franklin's Paris years, will be the guest of honor at the 2017 American Library Gala Dinner.

All are invited to the Library's principal annual fundraising event, next year on **Tuesday 23 May** at the Automobile Club de France. Invitations will be mailed in early April, but reservations may be made any time by contacting Krista Faurie at the Library.

2016 LIBRARY BOOK AWARD

Immigrant neighbors: The path to antagonism

The Burdens of Brotherhood: Jews and Muslims from North Africa to France, by historian Ethan B. Katz, is the winner of the fourth annual American Library in Paris Book Award.

The annual prize honors the most distinguished book of the year about France or the French, and carries a cash award of \$5,000. It was presented to Katz at a ceremony on 3 November at the George C. Marshall Center in Paris attended by nearly 100 friends and supporters of the Library.

The award jury's citation, read by Library Writers Council chairman Diane Johnson in presenting the award, said in part: "*The Burdens of Brotherhood* tells an important and timely story of how the sense of identity of Jews and Muslims of North African origin living in France became more fixed and hostile to each other between the Six Day War in 1967 and the early twenty-first century -- a development that, Katz insists, was in no way inevitable or predetermined."

The choice of the winning book was made by the award jury, drawn from the Writers Council, this year consisting of Laura Auricchio, the chair, whose biography *The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered*, won last year's prize; British novelist Robert Harris, Continued on page 5



Photo Marty Umans

2017 SPRING VISITING FELLOW

Jacqueline Woodson

The renowned author of books of fiction for children, young adults, and adults will be in residence at the Library as its Visiting Fellow from 8 April 8 to 7 May. She will appear at an evening adult program and lead activities in the children's and teen department while "planting myself inside a culture that is part of a long history of African-Americans in Paris to investigate the question: 'What does it mean to be a mixed-race, queer and economically-privileged family abroad?'"



Photo Krystal Kenney

Ethan B. Katz, receiving the 2016 Book Award at the Marshall Center, holds aloft part of the prize, a custom-bound edition of *The Burdens of Brotherhood*. Library director Charles Trueheart is at right.

How can I support the Library?

Good question! This is the fall appeal season, when we ask our supporters to continue to ensure the health and vitality of the Library. Here we'd like to highlight just one way this institution is making a difference in people's lives: the virtual American Library in Paris.

What follows is an unsolicited testimonial from an author and member of the Library, Christopher Dickey, foreign editor of *The Daily Beast* whose most recent book is *Our Man in Charleston: Britain's Secret Agent in the Civil War South*:

I would have run up some massive bills writing my last two books and might still be searching for materials if I had not been a member of the American Library in Paris. Serious research depends on serious publications, and many of those scholarly papers and journals are available online only through paid digital databases like JSTOR and EBSCO.



Fortunately, through the library I have direct access to all of them. Whether I am in France, the United States, or any other corner of the world, I can download the documents I need for use whenever I need them. I love the library as an institution, but in purely practical terms, in my case at least, membership pays for itself many times over.

Thanks, Christopher Dickey. We hope this inspires many readers of *Ex Libris* to make a donation now to keep the American Library strong.

Charles Trueheart, *Director*

FOR BOOK LOVERS

At this time of year, keep in mind also that nothing makes a better gift to a reader of books than a membership privileges at the Library.

Gift certificates are available at the Member Services desk, as are handsome American-made all-cotton American Library tote bags to carry your clever gift idea to the lucky recipient.

Happy holidays from everyone at the American Library in Paris!



Holiday hours

The American Library will close for the holidays at 19h00 on **Friday 23 December 2016** and will reopen at 10h00 on **Tuesday 3 January 2017**.

EX LIBRIS

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



Photo Jerome Da Graça

New York's top librarian in Paris

Anthony Marx, president of the New York Public Library, spoke at a symposium in Paris in October as part of the Tandem Paris-New York programs across a range of disciplines.

"New York and Paris are both global capital cities that are eager to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to learn. Libraries are central to that. We face the issue of how you insure the preservation of a legacy but also share it, making sure the next generations know about it and are inspired by it," Marx said before his address at the Bibliotheque de l'Hotel de Ville.

Also on the program were Pierre-Alain Tilliette, conservateur of the Hotel de Ville library, who recalled the creation of an American library in Paris in the mid-19th century, a collection destroyed during the Commune in 1871, and Charles Trueheart, director of the American Library, who spoke of the nearly 100 years of the current institution.

While in Paris, Marx was the guest of honor at a small Library dinner organized by Forrest Alogna, a member of the Library's board of trustees.

‘The Dean of Black Paris’

James A. Emanuel, the distinguished African-American poet, lived and wrote in Paris from the 1980s until his death in 2013. He spoke at the Library and was a figure and mentor in the expatriate literary scene — “the Dean of Black Paris,” according to one oft-quoted review. In Paris Emanuel developed his “jazz haiku” style. His memoir, *The Force and the Reckoning*, was published in 2001.

Part of Emanuel’s poetry collection was bequeathed to the American Library, including books inscribed by Gwendolyn

Brooks, Nikki Giovanni, Bob Kaufman, and Don Lee. In November, PhD candidate Tyechia Lynn Thompson of Howard University’s English Department examined and catalogued all 67 items, mostly signed copies of first edition books, and prepared a finding aid that will allow future library researchers a clear overview of the collection’s scope and contents.

The collection and finding aid are now shelved in the Collections and Reference office. The Library is grateful to Tyechia Thompson for her time and expertise.



Photo S. Pagan



Additions to the Library team

The Library welcomes two additions to the Member Services team.

Kati Lewis has been a familiar face as a front-desk volunteer since 2010, when she and her husband, Alan Lewis, arrived in France. Together they owned and operated a French restaurant called La Bohème in Carmel, California, for 30 years.

Bojan Kupirović was an Erasmus intern at the Library from November 2015 to May 2016, when he returned to Croatia to complete and defend his master’s thesis in ethnology and cultural anthropology at the University of Zagreb.

Kati and Bojan join Alexandra Vangsnes and Valentin Lewandowski as the Library’s “first responders.”

IN MEMORIAM

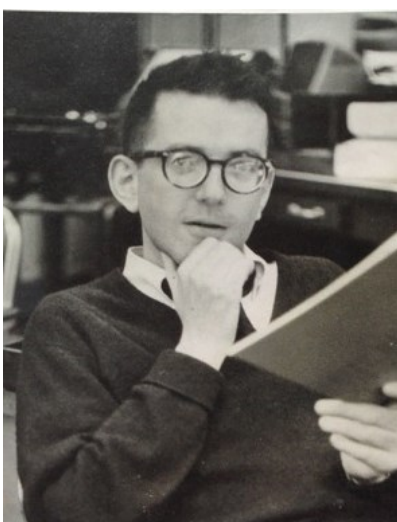
Elizabeth Rohatyn

Elizabeth Rohatyn, who served as an honorary trustee of the American Library during the late 1990s, died on 9 October in New York at the age of 86. She and her husband, former US ambassador to France Felix Rohatyn, were robust benefactors of the Library during and after his diplomatic assignment in Paris (1997-2000).

Elizabeth Rohatyn had previously served as board chair of the New York Public Library and was active in the world of charities in New York for decades. While in France she founded FRAME, the French Regional and American Museum Exchange, a consortium of outstanding museums in major cities of both countries.



Photo Sara Krulwich NYT



Thomas Benét

Thomas Benét, a longtime Library supporter who served as a reporter, editor, and chief editorial writer for the San Francisco *Chronicle*, died on 7 September. He was 89.

Benét’s interest in the American Library was inherited from his father, the celebrated American writer Stephen Vincent Benet, who lived in Paris in the 1920s (where Thomas was born) and wrote his masterpiece, “John Brown’s Body,” a narrative poem about the Civil War, in the Library when it was at 10, rue de l’Elysée, its first location.

His son Tom Benét told a visitor from the Library last year that the contributions he made regularly were thanks to continuing royalty payments not from that Pulitzer-Prize winning work but from a Hollywood remake of another Stephen Vincent Benet story — inspired by the Roman legend of the Rape of the Sabine Women — that became “Seven Brides for Seven Sisters.”

His published obituary notice invited contributions in his memory to just two institutions, the American Library being one of them.

BOOK GROUPS FOR WINTER/SPRING

Rock n' Roll Memoirs

John Gridley

These books are by rock stars we know to varying degrees, but also are human stories about the 20th century in all its glory. Beyond--or in some cases--far from--the clichés of excess, these memoirs reveal their writers' passions, creative process, and history and what it is to be at the forefront of the culture.

Chronicles, Volume 1 - Bob Dylan

Born to Run - Bruce Springsteen

Life - Keith Richards

Just Kids - Patti Smith

Trump's America

Maurice Lanman and Laurie Calvet

This group will read books to better understand the underlying problems in the US that helped to elect Donald Trump president, and that underlie some fundamental problems with the traditional liberal east and coast views of the world. The first book will be *Hillbilly Elegy*, and the others will be decided later.

Reading Shakespeare

Neil Heims

This group will explore Shakespeare plays, from lesser-read works to the Bard's most famous. *Measure for Measure*, *Henry IV, Part I*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Winter's Tale*.

America and Vichy

Philippe Mélot

This group will explore the role played by certain Americans in Vichy France, 1940-44.

Vichy France: Old Guard and New Order - Robert Paxton

Doctor to The Resistance: The heroic true story of an American surgeon and his family in Occupied Paris - Hal Vaughan

FDR's 12 Apostles: The Spies Who Paved The Way For the Invasion of North Africa— Hal Vaughan

An American Heroine in the French

Resistance: The Diary and Memoir of Virginia d'Albert-Lake (World War II: The Global, Human, and Ethical Dimension - Virginia d'Albert-Lake

Scandinavian Literature

Bengt Magnusson

This book group will focus on discovering that "Nordic literature" is so much more than crime-writing. We meet around four novels published in the 1900's, one from each of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

Stolen Spring - Hans Scherfig

The Year of the Hare - Arto Paasilinna

Dina's Book - Herbjorg Wassmo

Serious Game - by Hjalmar Soderberg

Knowing the Government

Heather Bryant

What is American policy? This question is at the center of thought post-election. This group will look at government's framework, as well as its trade, immigration, and foreign policies. After these readings, members will come away with a better understanding of the United States. The fourth book will be decided later.

The Federalist Papers - Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison

A Nation by Design: Immigration Policy in the Fashioning of America - Aristide Zolberg

Remaking U.S. Trade Policy - Nitsan de Chorev

The Spread of Populism

Ed Turner

This group pivots from racism in America to the growing populist movements being seen around the globe. The first book will be *All The King's Men*. The rest will be decided when the group begins.

France via American Eyes

Janet Hulstrand

This group will read two memoirs and two novels by American authors, in which observation and description of Franco-American cultural ways and cultural differences play an important role.

French Spirits - Jeffrey Greene

French by Heart - Rebecca Ramsey

Playground for Misunderstanding - Ellen Hampton

Le Divorce - Diane Johnson

Book groups are open only to Library members, subject to available places. For more information on dates and times, please see the website, which includes meeting times and additional details about each group.

A flight to Paris for a fellowship

Anna Leahy and Douglas Dechow spent a productive, even eclectic month as Visiting Fellows of the Library during October.

The couple, who are on the faculty of Chapman University in California, led a poetry workshop (Leahy), an evening presentation about Chapman's War Letters Archive (Dechow), and a program about their ongoing research into the history of flight (Leahy and Dechow).

In addition to their presentations, the fall Fellows conducted research on the Aérospatiale-BAC Concorde. Their initial work led them—through Library contacts—to a broader investigation of the history of French aviation and touring sites of French aviation, including meeting with the group of French aviators restoring a Caudron-Simoun (the type of aircraft Saint-Exupéry crashed in the Sahara desert) and the vintage aircraft collection at La Ferté-Alais.

A second line of research for the pair centered on Dechow's great uncle, Harry Dale Park, who was killed over Normandy in August 1944. The small town of Périgny, which Dechow and Leahy were able to visit, contains a memorial to the crew of that B-17.

Charles and Clydette de Groot, whose foundation endows the Visiting Fellowship, hosted them at a private reception

The Library's next Visiting Fellow will be Jacqueline Woodson, an author best known for her books for young people. The March issue of *Ex Libris* will have more details about her visit. Meanwhile, the Library is entertaining applications for resident fellowships in 2017-18. More information is on the website.



Photo Krystal Kenney

BOOK AWARD

Continued from page 1

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 in France.

The jury continued in its citation: "The book's highly original and fresh earlier chapters explore a common Maghrebi culture in which Jews and Muslims had good neighborly relations, and in which their identities were set not only by religion but also by profession, education, tastes in food and music, and many other characteristics. Katz's powerful analysis about how identities are shaped will surely prove to be influential far beyond the subject of Jews and Muslims in France."

Katz, 37, is an associate professor of history at the University of Cincinnati. *The Burdens of*

Brotherhood, published in 2015 by Harvard University Press, was also the winner of the 2015 National Jewish Book Award given by the Jewish Book Council and of the 2016 David H. Pinkney Prize for the best book in French history awarded by the Society for French Historical Studies.

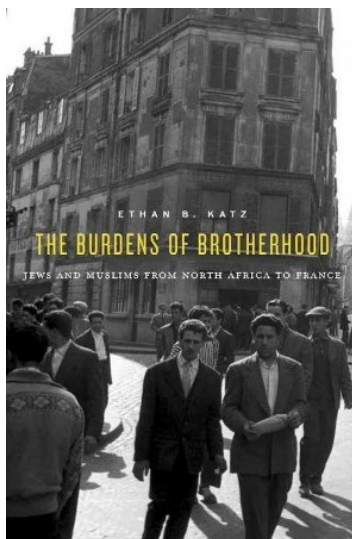
Katz's next book is provisionally entitled *Freeing the Empire: The Jewish Uprising That Helped the Allies Win the War*, about an uprising in Algiers from 1940 to 1943 that proved vital to the success of Operation Torch.

As the winner of the Book Award, Katz becomes a member of the Library Writers Council.

The annual award is supported by a grant from the Florence Gould Foundation, and the ceremony benefited from the patronage of Judith Aubry, Mary Duncan, Jeannie and Peter Fellowes, Charles and Clydette de Groot, Diane Johnson and John Murray, Suzanne Justen, Susan Mallory Kayat, and Priscilla de Moustier.

The other five shortlisted books were *A Country Road, A Tree*, by Jo Baker; *At the Existentialist Café: Freedom, Being, and Apricot Cocktails*, by Sarah Bakewell; *The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed*, by Julie Barlow and Jean-Benoît Nadeau; *Paris at War: 1939-1944*, by David Drake; and *The Other Paris*, by Luc Sante.

These titles were among sixty submissions for the award, all of which are in the Library's circulation collection. For a full list of entries, and more information about the Book Award, please consult the website.



Save the date!

Teen Author Smash

Saturday 13 May 2017

Save the date for our biggest teen event of the year, where you'll be able to meet and chat with lots of young adult authors: Amy Plum, Tom Polluck, Tera Lynn Childs and more!

New books galore!

Come visit us on the Teen Mezzanine! We've got too many new books to fit on our shelves!

For those of you looking for some practice writing, or looking to share your thoughts on great reads, 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 reviewing some new teen reads, let us know! Send an email to rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org (subject line: first readers).

Twisted Tales

In November, the Library's teen members (and friends) were treated to a visit from local young adult author **Amy Plum**, who led aspiring writers in the creation of their own "twisted" versions of classic fairy tales. Dynamic and engaging authors like Amy often visit to host events for teens, so check the calendar for upcoming workshops and events!



Writing from the heart: The Game

with Jane Mobbille

Friday 9 December 19h00-21h00

Join us for a Teen Night with life coach and memoir writer Jane Mobbille!

Come throw the dice, spin some (tall) tales, and write your own answer key. Categories include: Santa Claus, Mean Girls & Bullies, Father Knows Best, Happy Birthday to You, Secret Lies, Geeks, Sis & Bro, Cat in the Hat, I can't stop... Rachel or Phoebe – Joey or Ross?

Reservations are required. To reserve a spot, please email Celeste Rhoads at: rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org



Teen fan art: A new exhibit

We've got a new exhibition on the Teen Mezzanine. You may have noticed the latest art on display in the teen section of the Library. The latest pieces were created by teen Library member Julia Connelly.

Julia's main inspiration for drawing comes from characters in books. A book doesn't end when she gets to the last page. She interprets and extends the story through drawing. Well-developed and believable characters are what she thinks make any story exceptional. Fictional characters allow you to identify with them and look at the world through their perspectives.

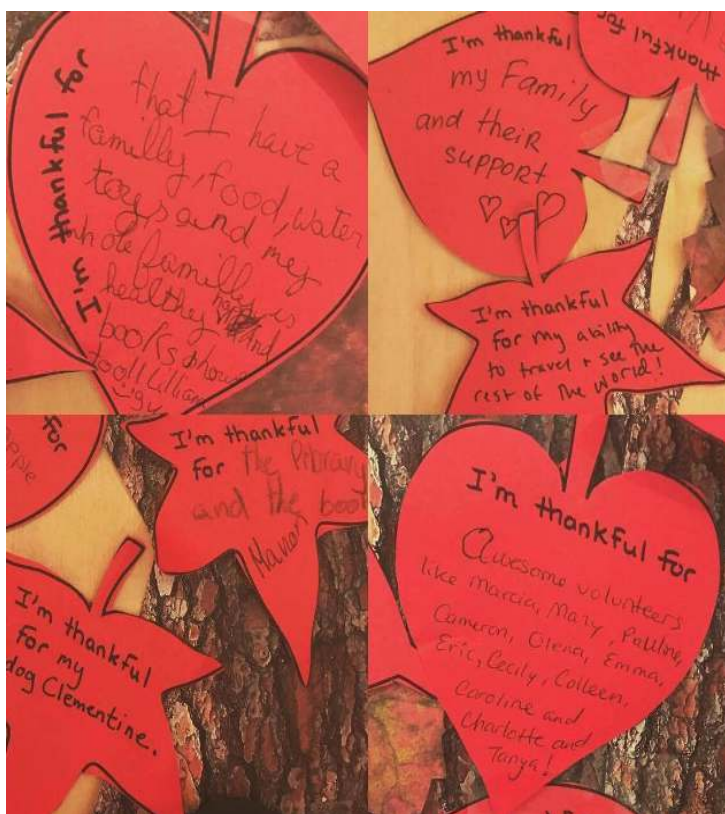
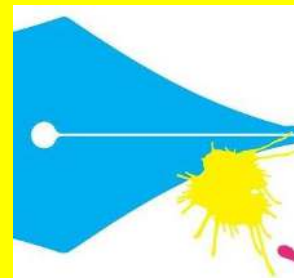
There are a few books, such as the Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan, the Graceling Realm series by Kristin Cashore, and *The Raven Cycle*, by Maggie Stiefvater, that have motivated her to draw for several years because their characters became important to her. Having a very visual imagination, the best way for Julia to visualize these characters is through drawing.

Come check out her artwork—on display now through January! If you create artwork (or photography!) and are interested in displaying your work—let us know!

Calling young authors! Fiction Festival 2017

The Library is proud to be the organizer again this year of the Young Authors Fiction Festival. YAFF is a city-wide writing initiative that aims to strengthen community among English-speakers through storytelling. YAFF is free of charge and open to all students ages 5-18 in the greater Paris area who write in English.

The deadline for submissions is **1 April 2017**. Check our website for details. For other questions, contact YAFF at yaff@americanlibraryinparis.org.



We're grateful for all the books...

More important even than the food, Thanksgiving, the American holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday of each November, is all about giving thanks and showing gratitude.

Each year we ask our members, staff and volunteers to share some of the things they're grateful for by adding to our gratitude tree. Some years offer surprises (Legos, turtles, and more), but each year we're happy to see the number of children and adults who are grateful for the Library and "all the books"!

Unless otherwise stated, all programs are free to 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: rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org.

Events for young children

Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour

Our weekly interactive Story Hours continue with two sessions each 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. Bring along your favorite grown-up and join us one Wednesday!

No reservation required!



Ages 1-3: Toddler Time!

The Library's popular Toddler Time program continues this winter with sessions from **10h30-11h00** and from **17h00-17h30** on **1 & 15 December, 5 & 19 January** and **2 & 16 February**.

Sign-up is required for this activity.

Each child must be accompanied by an adult lap and reservation is required for this event.

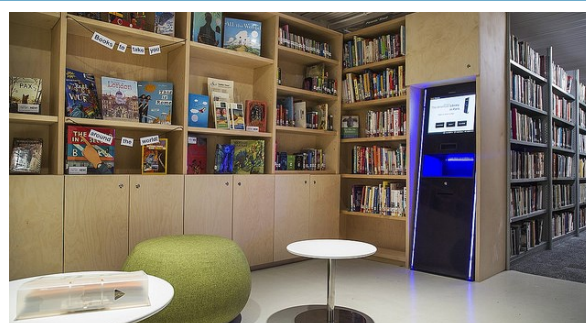


Photo Danjelle Voirin

Have you tried the new self-checkout kiosk?

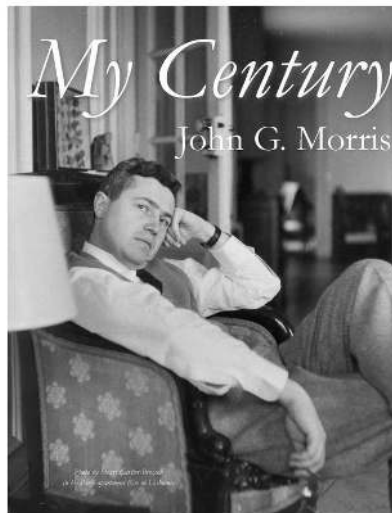
CALENDAR

Tuesday 6 December 19h30

Wharton's experience



Drawing on her background as both a Wharton scholar and a novelist, Jessica Levine explores the relationship between Wharton's own life and her masterpiece, *The Age of Innocence*, with the aim of suggesting ways in which writers can draw on personal experiences in order to create timeless characters and stories.



Wednesday
7 December 19h30

John Morris's century

On the very day of his 100th birthday, longtime Paris resident and pioneer of photojournalism John Godfrey Morris will talk about his life and his career among the giants of his field, in conversation with Library director Charles Trueheart.

Tuesday 13 December 19h30

Mimi Thorisson's kitchen

In *French Country Cooking*, Mimi Thorisson's family moves into an abandoned château in Médoc, where she meets the farmers and artisans who populate the village and creates a cookbook to savor, featuring recipes inspired by those in the village, for dishes like White Asparagus Soufflé, wine harvest Pot au feu, endives with ham, and salted butter chocolate cake.



Wednesday 14 December 19h30

In the footsteps of flâneuses

In *Flâneuse: Women Walk the City in Paris, New York, Tokyo, Venice and London*, Lauren Elkin traces the links between the city and creativity. *Flâneuse* considers what is at stake when a certain kind of light-footed woman encounters the city and changes her life one step at a time. The *Guardian* says Elkin "makes *flânerie* itself appear urgent and contemporary. I defy anyone to read this celebratory study and not feel inspired to take to the streets in one way or another."

Friday 20 January 2017 17h00

Inaugurating Donald Trump

The Library will broadcast the inauguration of the 45th president of the United States in the reading room. It will be shown on the large screen, first come, first seated. Refreshments will follow. The Library will remain open until 20h00.



COMING IN 2017

A panel on writing thrillers John Baxter on Saint Germain des Prés... Sheila Kohler's memoir about her late sister... Anne Korkeakivi with her new novel, *Shining Sea*... Edward Jay Epstein on Edward Snowden.... James Traub explores international relations...a panel on local market produce.

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. We suggest a 10€ donation to support evening programming.

The American Library in Paris

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