



EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris March 2017

An evening with Stacy Schiff: The 2017 American Library Gala

Dubbed by *Vanity Fair* as “the hottest biographer on the block,” Stacy Schiff is the author of *Véra (Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov)*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize; *Saint-Exupéry: A Biography*, about the French aviator and writer; *A Great Improvisation*, about Benjamin Franklin’s Paris years; *Cleopatra: A Life*, and most recently *The Witches: Salem, 1692*, about colonial America’s frenzy of suspicion, superstition, and intolerance.

The Gala Dinner where she will speak takes place on **Tuesday 23 May**. Invitations to the event, with cocktails and dinner at the Automobile Club de France on Place de la Concorde, will be mailed in the coming weeks. However, reservations for this traditionally sold-out fundraiser for the American Library are being accepted now. Please visit the website for details and early RSVP information.



Photo Elena Siebert



Photo Mel Solomon

WORD FOR WORD

Presents its 2017 Paris performances of
‘ALL AUNT HAGAR’S CHILDREN’

By Edward P. Jones

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

MONDAY 27 MARCH 20h00

TUESDAY 28 MARCH 20h00

This popular Library-sponsored event takes place this year at the American School of Paris, 41, rue Pasteur in Saint-Cloud. *The American School is providing free bus service to and from both performances from the 7th arrondissement.* Donation at the door €20 (students €10).

Reservations (for transportation and performance) **are required.** See the website for details.

A jury for the Book Award

The fifth year of the American Library’s prize for the most distinguished book of the year about France is under way. As the deadline for 2017 submissions approaches, the jury for the \$5,000 award has been selected: **Adam Gopnik** of *The New Yorker*, author of *Paris to the Moon* and other books; **Bruno Racine**, novelist, memoirist, and until recently president of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France; and this year’s Gala honoree, biographer **Stacy Schiff** (see above). The prize will be presented in Paris in November.



Bruno Racine



Adam Gopnik

Library staff appointments and news

The American Library in Paris is pleased to announce new staff appointments and responsibilities.

As of February 1, 2017, **Ed Aguila** became deputy director of the Library, the senior staff librarian with overall responsibility for operations, including administration, finance, facilities, technology, and security. Aguila joined the Library team in 2008 after a career managing information technology for large business enterprises, and subsequently became circulation manager and then assistant director. Born in Cuba and raised in Miami, he has a master's in library science from Florida State University.

Abigail Altman is the new assistant director of the Library in charge of collections and reference, including the selection and acquisition of books, periodicals, and virtual offerings such as EBSCO, JSTOR, Zinio, and OverDrive. She also now oversees the children's and teen services department headed by Celeste Rhoads. Altman came to the Library in 2014 from Ermitage International School in Maisons-Laffitte. She was previously part owner of an English-language bookstore in Paris, The Red Wheelbarrow, and worked nearly a decade ago as the American Library's programs manager. She has a BA from Tufts University and a library science degree from Robert Gordon University.



Ed Aguila



Abigail Altman



Bojan Kupirović



Audrey Chapuis

All photos Krystal Kenney

Hélène Wiesenfeld, administrative and financial manager of the Library since December 2006, has announced plans to retire this summer. Working largely behind the scenes, Hélène has been a valued player in the life of the Library, and has brought intelligence, discipline, sensitivity, and good humor to her hard work. Her colleagues past and present wish her the best in her new endeavors.



Hélène Wiesenfeld

Audrey Chapuis was appointed assistant director of the Library in charge of institutional advancement, a new position drawing together the Library's programs, fundraising, volunteers, communications, membership, and outreach. Development manager **Krista Faurie**, external affairs manager **Pauline Lemasson**, and programs manager **Grant Rosenberg** report to Chapuis. A native of Texas, she is a former library department manager at Northwestern University School of Law with a master's in library science from the University of Illinois.

Bojan Kupirović, who joined the Library last year after a prior Erasmus internship here, will become assistant collections librarian at the Library, reporting to Altman. He holds master's degrees in library science and cultural anthropology from the University of Zagreb.

Celeste Rhoads, the children's and teen services manager, will be on leave from the Library from March through July. Assistant children's librarian **Kirsty McCulloch Reid** will assume her responsibilities on an acting basis during the interim, assisted by **Elizabeth Ferry**, who is a visiting librarian from New Jersey, as well as key department volunteers.

This spring **Lauriane Labourel** is joining us for an internship concentrating on programming and cultural outreach. She's completing a master's degree in management of cultural organizations at Audencia Business School. This internship has been generously supported by the Paris chapter of the Colonial Dames of America, which seeks to advance the cultural exchange between France and the United States.

Charles Trueheart, *Director*

EX LIBRIS

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

The Library, totally

A new supply of handy, colorful American Library in Paris tote bags has arrived. These all-cotton and American-made totes now come in six colors: **black**, **navy**, **burgundy**, **green**, **gray**, and **natural**. Only €15.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SPRING 2017 VISITING FELLOW

A writer ‘always in motion’

The American Library in Paris soon will welcome its latest Visiting Fellow, Jacqueline Woodson, winner of the 2014 National Book Award for her memoir *Brown Girl Dreaming*, which received the Coretta Scott King Award and a Newbery Honor. Her novel *Another Brooklyn* was a National Book Award finalist and included in the *New York Times* Top 100 Notable Books in 2016.

Woodson was recently named the Young People’s Poet Laureate by the Poetry Foundation, whose president, Robert Polito, cited her “adventurousness and generosity” and her “elegant, daring, and restlessly innovative” writing. “So many writers settle on a style and a repertoire of gestures and subjects, but Woodson, like her characters, is always in motion and always discovering something fresh,” he said.

Woodson is the author of more than two dozen award-winning books for young adults, middle readers and children, including *The Other Side*, *Each Kindness*, *Coming on Home Soon*, *Feathers*, *Show Way*, *After Tupac and D Foster*, and *Miracle’s Boys*, adapted into a miniseries directed by Spike Lee.

The American Library’s Visiting Fellowship program is made possible by continuing support from The de Groot Foundation. It brings authors to the Library for a month of concentration on a writing project and the opportunity to interact with the Library community. In her application for the fellowship, Woodson spoke of wanting to “plant 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?’”

During her month-long residence in April, the Brooklyn-based Woodson will be speaking at an author evening for adults on **Wednesday 19 April** at 19h30. She will also host a reading and question-and-answer session for children and their parents on **Saturday 29 April**.

Past Visiting Fellows at the Library were Anthony Flint, the late Alex Danchev, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Susan Hiner, Lan Samantha Chang, Megan Mayhew Bergman, Anna Leahy and Doug Dechow. More about the Visiting Fellowship can be found on the Library website.



Jacqueline Woodson

Photo Steve Green

“I am still surprised when I walk into a bookstore and see my name on a book ... Sometimes, when I’m sitting at my desk for long hours and nothing’s coming to me, I remember my fifth grade teacher, the way her eyes lit up when she said ‘This is really good.’ The way, I — the skinny girl in the back of the classroom who was always getting into trouble for talking or missed homework assignments — sat up a little straighter, folded my hands on the desk, smiled and began to believe in me.”



Wednesday 29 March 19h30

Spring wine-tasting workshop: La Loire

Joshua Adler’s upcoming wine-tasting at the Library is a return to the Loire Valley, the theme of his very first workshop in January 2014. Participants will sample six red varietals to broaden their understanding of these grapes, including natural and biodynamic wines.

Cost: 35€ per person, which includes wine, bread, cheese and charcuterie.

For reservations, please email Grant Rosenberg at rosenberg@americanlibraryinparis.org.

The difference the Library makes

Jan Smith

Volunteer Coordinator

How did you come to volunteer at the Library? I have always enjoyed reading and valued the benefits that libraries offer to the community. I live very close by, so it was natural for me to join within my first month of living in Paris three years ago. Then I came to understand the volunteer opportunities. I became involved with YAFF (Young Author Fiction Festival) and the annual Paris Spelling Bee. I started to work more closely with Pauline Lemasson, the staff member in charge of volunteers, assisting her with recruiting. My involvement eventually led the Library to ask me to become Volunteer Coordinator.

What were you doing before you came to Paris? I was an assistant vice president of purchasing for a major mutual funds company in Denver. I missed the daily challenges that role provided me. The Library helped to fill that feeling of contribution.

What do you most enjoy about volunteering at the Library? The sense of community and teamwork. Working with other expats has helped me adapt to Parisian life in ways that I could not have achieved had it not been for the American Library. The evening programs are exceptionally interesting and enriching.

What do you most enjoy doing in Paris? Exploring the city on foot daily and discovering seemingly hidden treasures around each corner I turn. Living in Paris provides the ideal “base camp” for long weekend excursions throughout Europe. My husband and I have been to 29 countries since we moved to Europe.

What are you reading? I prefer to read a book before it is made into a motion picture or television series. With this in mind, I recently finished reading *The Night Manager* by John Le Carré. I also enjoy classics, and have started to read *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde.



Photo Krystal Kenney

What are your favorite haunts in Paris? Aside from the Library? I would say that any place that serves a good meal and a great glass of wine, which is why I need to maintain my step count each day. I also enjoy taking in museums and picnicking in the various parks throughout the city.



Photo Krystal Kenney

Heather Bryant

How did you come to volunteer at the Library? I was looking for a place to be productive outside of myself and my apartment.

What were you doing before you came to Paris? My husband and I lived outside of Philadelphia. I was a research associate at a nonprofit called Cultural Data Project (now Data Arts).

What do you most enjoy about volunteering at the Library? I've enjoyed getting to know the staff.

What do you most enjoy doing in Paris? I LOVE the *marchés aux*

puces around Paris, particularly the *Foire de Chatou*. On the weekends, we may check out a market or one of the wonderful art museums. Contemporary art has become a fascination for us since we moved to Paris.

What book are you reading? I've been rereading the Federalist Papers, which are relevant at any time. I'm also in a marvelous book group that focuses on Scandinavian fiction. We just read *A Serious Game* by Söderberg and it was a delight.

What are your favorite haunts in Paris? We preferred drinking beer before moving to Paris. We even home brewed. Whenever we feel like having some craft beer, we go to Brewberry just off of rue Mouffetard.

The American Library enjoys the volunteer service of more than a hundred of its members. They shelve books, greet visitors, set up and break down programming events, read at story hour, prepare books for circulation, lead book groups and workshops, organize archival materials, and assist a staff of fourteen in making the Library the thriving place it is. For more information about volunteering, members should contact Jan Smith at volunteers@americanlibraryinparis.org.

The renovated Library, four months later

The Library was renovated last summer with maximum flexibility in mind so that each cornerstone of our mission—literature, learning, culture, community—could find a home in our space.

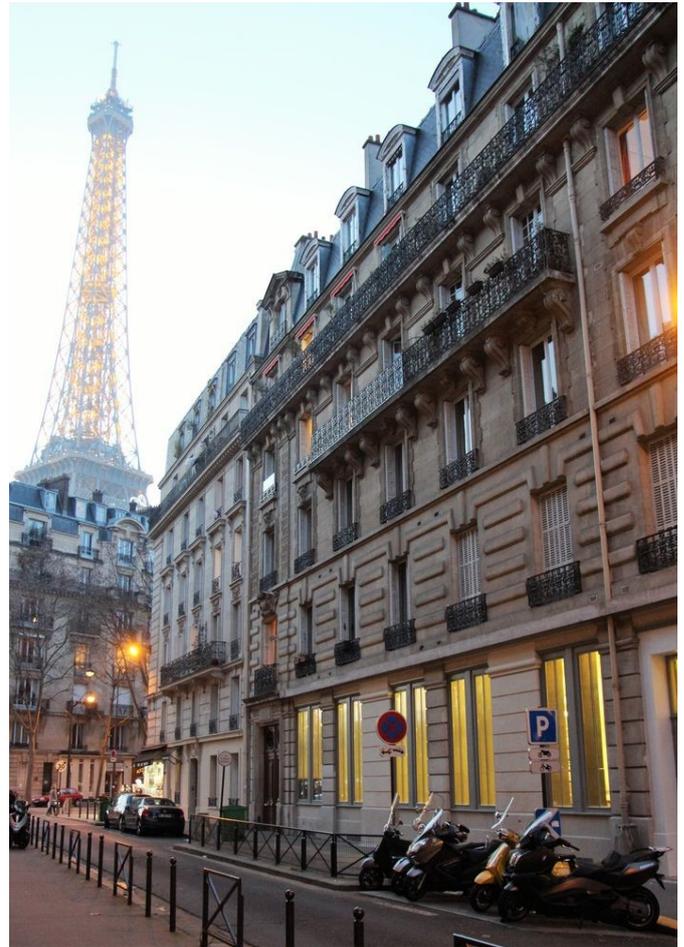
On a practical level this requires the coexistence of activities seemingly at odds: on any given day children sing along at storytime around the corner from scholars researching and contemplating. Patrons read in quiet nooks a floor above a panel of speakers taking questions from an audience. All happening without the intervention of shushing librarians, who, incidentally, prefer to be free of such stereotypes.

Since we reopened four months ago we have seen how the space has fulfilled the promise of supporting multiple functions, and beyond that, how members have shaped the Library's purpose through their daily use of the space.

The Florence Gould Reading Room, now soundproof, has become a silent communal study and research space. Cell phones rarely even buzz, since users almost reverentially respect the unwritten edict of quiet. Side by side young students, often wearing headphones, work next to members consulting art books spread out on wide reading tables. No one makes a sound.

When the clock strikes 7 o'clock at closing time researchers file out and the room transforms into a dynamic event space, where film screenings, readings, and discussions take place. The next morning no traces remain of the boisterous programs of the night before. On the lower level, a new second reading room, also lined with books, now doubles as a large space for meetings and programs or, with its moving wall closed, two smaller areas for classroom teaching, meetings for our teen clubs, and group study.

The Members' Lounge, the open area at the front of the Library, has become an informal spot for patrons to relax with a cup of coffee from the popular new espresso machine. Patrons naturally gravitate to the lounge when making quick phone calls on rainy days. We also noticed many students sneaking snacks there on study breaks, which has generated an unspoken rule: staff overlook food in that area as long as it's discreet and doesn't infringe on the comfort of other members—ahem, no overripe cheese, please.



It's a nice option to have for members who might not live nearby and stay to study or read the entire day. Also, given the book collection in that area, it only seems fair: our Food and Drink section, which includes cookbooks and wine guides, continues to be one of our most popular collections. Graphic novels and comics also reside near the coffee machine.

Lia Kiladis, the principal architect of the project, and graphic designer Margaret Gray are currently working with staff to create new signage throughout the Library that will help members navigate our three floors and identify collections. Permanent signs will also honor those whose generosity and stewardship made the renovation possible: Edward and Mary Lee Turner and the Florence Gould Foundation, along with a dozen key Library supporters. Other recent donors, to the Second Century and other campaigns, will also be honored.

Soon the city of Paris itself will help us write the last chapter of the renovation when the sidewalk is widened, guardrail extended and scooter parking moved from the front of the Library, making our entrance more secure and inviting.

We hope the space inspires a multitude of uses and continues to change as members make it their own. And we'll continue to welcome your suggestions and respond to your feedback. Case in point: decaf coffee is on its way.

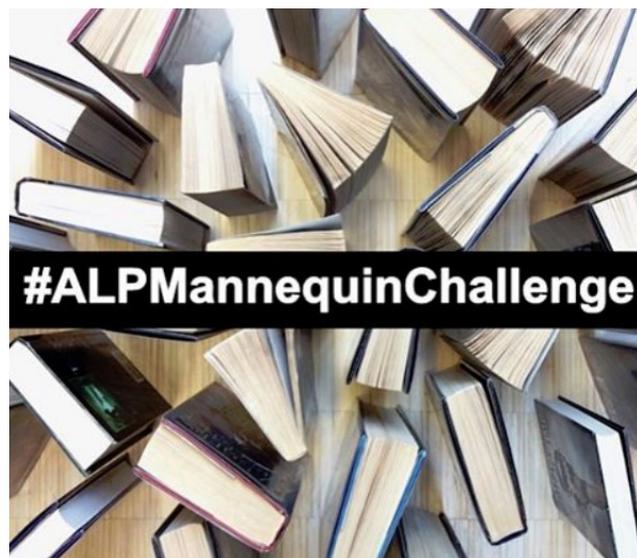
Audrey Chapuis

Freeze!

Saturday 11 March 19h00

The Mannequin Challenge

The Mannequin Challenge is a viral Internet video trend featuring people freezing like mannequins while music plays in the background and a video is filmed. Library staff, teen members of the Library's Master Shot Film Club, and their coach Clarence Tokley decided to organize this event to give members, readers, book lovers, students, staff, and researchers an opportunity to participate in a mannequin challenge and show off their love for libraries and literature! We want you to turn up on **Saturday 11 March** and let us film your best pose! You may choreograph with a group of friends, bring props, wear costumes, or just freeze!



Scan this code with your phone to see our Pinterest board!

For teen writers, the YAFF contest...

Whether you're writing a short story for The American Library in Paris Young Authors Fiction Festival (YAFF) or writing for pleasure, we have books in our collections that are sure to inspire you and help you out with your writing. Scan the QR code to see our Pinterest board with inspiration for writers or come chat with one of our librarians.

Interested in submitting a short story for our Young Authors Fiction Festival? YAFF is open to all students ages 5-18 in the greater Paris area who write in English. The deadline for submissions is **Saturday 1 April** 2017 by 22h00. There is no fee to submit a story for YAFF. A celebration event will be held in June at the Library. To see the full guidelines and find out how to submit, see our website!

Saturday 13 May 19h00

Return of the Teen Author Smash!

Join us on **Saturday 13 May** for our second Teen Author Smash. There will be Q&As, prize giveaways, games, snacks, and book signings! You can win books, bookmarks, and other goodies and you'll get a chance to meet several young adult authors, including co-organizer Amy Plum.

Over a dozen authors will be converging on the Library for this event, which will celebrate the wide range of writing in young adult literature: from first-time authors to those with several books on the shelves; from those who taught themselves to write to those who have graduate degrees in writing; both male and female writers; and including several genres of YA, both traditional and self-published. As our co-organizer Amy Plum says, "the awesomeness will be overwhelming."



This event is open to Library members and non-members alike. For this event the Library suggests a donation of 10€ (5€ for students) to help fund programs. If you plan on buying a book, the donation can be waived (unless you wish to support the Library).

No advance registration is required for this event, however seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

CHILDREN



Feel the love

We loved reading the messages left on our Valentine's Day display outside of the Children's Library. We asked: "What do you love about the Library?" and the answers we received were heart-warming!

Kids and adults shared their love of our libraries and librarians, our activities, the great novels, comics, and picture books, and the American Library itself! We're so glad you all love the Library as much as we do!



Calling aspiring authors!

Are you writing a story for the Library's 2017 Young Authors Fiction Festival? If so, we have all the inspiration you need, from great novels to biographies of famous authors. Our collection also includes writing handbooks, guides to punctuation and grammar, and books of writing prompts. You can see some recommendations on our Pinterest board: <https://fr.pinterest.com/americanlib/inspiration-for-writers/>

If you're hoping for more guidance on your story, you can sign up for a workshop on **Saturday 25 March** with volunteer Laura Hershey. Check the Library's calendar of events for details and send an email to kidsandteens@americanlibraryinparis.org to reserve a spot!



Events for young children

Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour

Our weekly interactive Story Hours continue 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 that children can take home and keep.

While children's and teen services manager Celeste Rhoads is away, our assistant children's librarian, Kirsty McCulloch Reid (right), will take the lead during Story Hour and share stories and songs with the help of a team of volunteers and interns.

No reservation required!

Ages 1-3: Toddler Time Lap-Sit

The Library's popular Toddler Time program continues with sessions from **10h30-11h00** and from **17h00-17h30** this spring on **16 March, 6 & 20 April** and **4 & 18 May**.

Sign-up is required for this activity. Please register online using the link at the bottom of each individual event page.

Each child must be accompanied by an adult lap!



Photo Krystal Kenney

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 or day pass. Please contact us for more information about children's programs: kidsandteens@americanlibraryinparis.org.



Photo John Stanmeyer

Tuesday 14 March 19h30

Europe's refugee crisis

Journalist James Traub, who writes for *Foreign Policy* and *The New York Times* magazine, discusses the refugee crisis in Europe triggered by an influx of people fleeing Syria, Iraq and other war zones. He has been reporting most recently in Germany and examining those individuals seeking asylum and refugee status along with the response of European governments to the unprecedented challenge.

Wednesday 8 March 19h30

Spanning generations

Anne Korkeakivi, author of *An Unexpected Guest*, returns to the Library to present her new novel, *Shining Sea*. As it is International Women's Day, she will broadly discuss women in literature and life, and open up the discussion with attendees. Her novel recounts the lives of a family after its patriarch dies, beginning in the early 1960s and crossing years and continents.

Tuesday 21 March 19h30

Behind the Scenes: Two decades of Word for Word

Join the cast and director of the latest Word for Word production (see page one) in a discussion about the twenty-two years of this unique theatre experience, performing every single word of a distinguished American short story. How do they choose the works? How do these performances differ from more conventional productions? The performers, crew, and creative director will also give us a taste of their upcoming *All Aunt Hagar's Children* by Edward P. Jones. Performances are on 27 and 28 March at the American School of Paris (See the Library website to make reservations).



Photo Planton

Wednesday 22 March 19h30

Epstein on Snowden

Author Edward Jay Epstein presents his controversial new book, *How America Lost Its Secrets: Edward Snowden, the Man and the Theft*, which challenges the mainstream image of Snowden and takes a searching look at the vulnerabilities of our supposedly secure information systems. Fifty years ago Epstein wrote *Inquest*, one of the most damning early accounts of the work of the Warren Commission's report on the Kennedy assassination.

Upcoming programs...

Will Englund on the Russian revolution, a century ago and today (May) ... **Penny Noyce** speaking about women in science (April) ... a screening of the documentary *City of Dreams*, about Detroit's rise and fall ... a French presidential election rundown in the lead-up to the vote ... Visiting Fellow **Jacqueline Woodson** (April)... **Tatiana de Rosnay** on her biography of Daphne du Maurier ... **Lan Duong** and a panel of Vietnamese-American women writers on writing from a personal perspective ... **Susan Suleiman** on Irène Némirovsky (June) ... **Viet Thanh Nguyen** discusses his new book of stories *The Refugees* and the success of his Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Sympathizer* (June) ... and more.

Evenings with Authors and other weeknight programs at the American 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.

The American Library in Paris

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www.americanlibraryinparis.org

