



# EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris September 2017

## Introducing Jeffrey Hawkins, the new Library director

The new director of the American Library in Paris is Jeffrey Hawkins, a seasoned American diplomat now concluding his assignment as the United States Ambassador to the Central African Republic.

Ambassador Hawkins will begin his new duties in mid-September as he retires after 27 years in the U.S. Foreign Service. He succeeds Charles Trueheart as director.

"During the search process, the board of trustees was impressed by Ambassador Hawkins's broad-ranging intellect, his record of leadership, and his engaging personality," said Luis Roth, chairman of the board of trustees, who headed the director search committee. "We are confident that he is the ideal director to build on Charlie Trueheart's legacy, and to guide the Library in the next stage of development."

Hawkins commented: "I am so excited to be joining the team. I've spent a

career building bridges between America and the world. And that's what the Library is all about, using the written and spoken word to celebrate American culture and the English language in general."

Hawkins, 51, is a former U.S. consul general in Lagos, Nigeria, and served as the U.S. consul in Lille a decade ago. He is fluent in French.

He has also served in Angola, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Côte d'Ivoire, and Washington. In those roles, he has overseen American libraries and cultural centers, been active in public outreach, and raised funds for public causes.

Ambassador Hawkins was born in Lexington, Virginia, and raised in Los Angeles. He has degrees from the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Southern California. He and his wife, a French executive with Total, are the parents of two young children.



### Jeffrey Hawkins

The new Library director will be holding two open meetings, opportunities to meet members of the Library community, during the fall Open House on **Saturday 23 September** at 14h00 and 17h00.

## This fall at the American Library

### Open House

Explore the Library, meet staff and volunteers, tour the facilities, sign up for special events, discover the Library's neighborhood business partners, and join the liveliest place in expatriate Paris.

### Book groups

This fall, members have a fresh selection of themes in new and continuing book groups, including health care, world fiction, the Middle East, the home fronts in World War II, Shakespeare's plays, and challenges to democracy. **See page 4**

### For kids

A world of fun awaits the Library's younger readers, from tots to teens, with regular programs plus the Toastmasters Club, the Young Writer's Literary Club, and plans afoot for Halloween. **See pages 7 and 8**

### Programs

Fractures in the women's movement, the war in Iraq, Queen Victoria, the history of deafness, today's dictionary, India as a superpower, the Bettencourt affair, the French language—they're all on the schedule. **See page 8**

### A new website

Watch for upcoming announcements about our redesigned website, a project months in the making, including new portals to make it easier to join the Library and pay for membership—and make donations—online. The new site will be better adapted to display on all electronic devices, bringing the Library, including videos of select programs, to the tips of your fingers.

### Paris history

The Library is offering a special four-part late-afternoon October lecture series on the history of Paris led by member Russell Kelley. Subscribers to the series, which carries a fee, will receive a copy of Kelley's monograph, *The Making of Paris*. **See page 3**

### New to the Library staff

Nathalie Cousin has joined the staff as financial and administrative manager, succeeding H      Wiesenfeld, who has retired after more than a decade at the Library.

Cousin has recent experience at the Paris office of an NGO that works in southeast Asia, Passerelles Num  riques; at the library of the Lyc  e de S  vres International Section; and at a family-owned hotel business. Earlier in her career she worked at Bank of America and Arthur Andersen. She and her family live in Saint Cloud.



### Checking out

It will take me a while to sort out my feelings about the last ten years of my life as director of this wonderful Library. Although I have held many interesting jobs, none came close to being as challenging and complicated, and ultimately gratifying, as this one. The reason for all three is that the American Library, like any healthy community, is a web of interlocking constituencies, all of them essential to its vitality: its members, its volunteers, its trustees, its staff, its donors, its friends around the world. The Library is a healthy machine and a fragile one at the same time. It needs maintenance on a constant basis. It is not like any other charity. It provides a service—we like to think an essential service, like a utility. But it is a charity in that it depends on the generosity of so many people, gifts of talent, time, and treasure. I am so grateful to all of those constituencies through the years who have supported me in revitalizing this fine institution. They deserve not just my thanks but yours, and your loyalty as well. Great things remain in store for the American Library in Paris, and I'm looking forward to being an ardent cheerleader for many years to come.

*Charles Trueheart*

## Remembering John G. Morris

John G. Morris lived long enough—one hundred years—to have become a legend in his own time. A Paris resident for thirty years, and a speaker at the American Library, to packed houses, multiple times in the past decade, Morris was one of the pioneers of twentieth-century photojournalism.

His finest early hour—and the only time he took pictures himself —was on the beaches of D-Day, working with Robert Capa to capture the landings and aftermath. But it was as a photo editor that John made his name: the person who commissions photographers to do the job, and then selects, crops, and shepherds the images into (as it was then) print.

He was responsible for some of the most stirring and iconic images of the Vietnam War, and for mentoring several generations of fine news photographers. John held senior editorial positions at Magnum, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *National Geographic*, *The Washington Post*, and the *New York Times* during a prolific and energetic career.

In his Paris years he devoted much of his energy to supporting the Democratic Party, and his home in the Marais became a kind of political clubhouse for Democrats Abroad.

John Morris died in Paris on 28 July. A memorial service in his honor will be held at the American Cathedral in Paris later this autumn.



Photo by Meredith Mullins

**John Morris at the Library in 2015**



## From the battlefield to the Library

During October, Visiting Fellow James Verini will be part of the Library family. A journalist who has been writing about the Middle East (most recently a comprehensive article for the *New York Times Magazine* about the battle for Mosul), he will give an evening program on 10 October about his reporting, as well as a workshop for Library members about working as a freelance journalist.

While in Paris, Verini will be working on a project about the rise of nationalism and extremism across Europe. His has written previous pieces for *National Geographic*, *The New Yorker*, and other publications, with a particular focus on colonialism and its legacy, as well as the rise of terrorist groups like Boko Haram.

His writing about Mosul and the fight against ISIS will become a new book, tentatively entitled *They Will Have to Die Now*.

The Visiting Fellowship at the American Library is made possible by The de Groot Foundation. The Library's spring Visiting Fellow will be novelist Vanessa Manko.

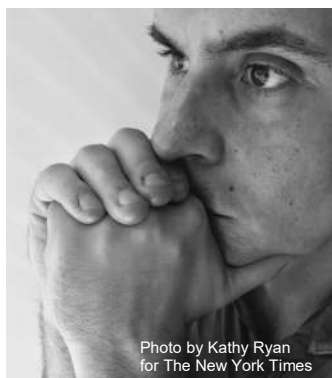


Photo by Kathy Ryan for The New York Times

**James Verini**

## The Making of Paris: A history workshop

Russell Kelley, author of *The Making of Paris*, gives a four-session multimedia program on the evolution of the urban landscape of the French capital over its 2,000-year history. Each **Thursday in October**, from 18h00 to 20h00, Kelley will explore a different period, focusing on the streets, buildings and monuments that can still be seen today:

**5 October:** The Gallo-Roman Period through the Middle Ages (52 BC–1515)



**Russell Kelley**

**12 October:** Francis I through the Bourbons (1515–1791)

**19 October:** The Revolution and Napoleon I through Napoleon III (1789–1870)

**26 October:** The Third Republic through today (1870–present)

Those interested in signing up for the series should send an email to programs manager

Grant Rosenberg to reserve a spot. The cost of attending all four sessions is €100, payable at the first session, and includes a copy of *The Making of Paris*.

## 2017 AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS BOOK AWARD

## Six titles, six themes for the shortlist

The finalists for the 2017 American Library in Paris Book Award, recognizing the most distinguished English-language book of the year about France, were announced in July. The books, all available to members in our circulating collection, are:

*Duck Season: Eating, Drinking, and Other Misadventures in Gascony, France's Last Best Place*, by David McAninch (HarperCollins)

*The Inquisitor's Tale; or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog*, by Adam Gidwitz (Dutton)

*Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet and the Painting of the Water Lilies*, by Ross King (Bloomsbury)

*I'm Supposed to Protect You from All This: A Memoir*, by Nadja Spiegelman. (Riverhead)

*The Novel of the Century: The Extraordinary Adventure of Les Misérables*, by David Bellos (Particular Books)

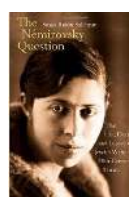
*The Némirovsky Question: The Life, Death, and Legacy of a Jewish Writer in Twentieth-Century France*, by Susan Rubin Suleiman (Yale University Press)

The fifth annual Book Award, which carries a prize of \$5,000, will be presented to the winning author at a ceremony in Paris in November

The choice of the winning book will be made by the award jury, drawn from the Library's Writers Council, this year consisting of Adam Gopnik, Bruno Racine, and Stacy Schiff.

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

The Library received 73 eligible submissions this year. All are in the circulating collection and have been on display.



## TOTE À FAIT

Carry your books, and help spread the word about your favorite library everywhere you go with an American Library tote bag—all-cotton, shoulder-strapped, and American-made. Now in six colors: **black**, **burgundy**, **green**, **gray**, and **natural**. Only €15.

## BOOK GROUPS

### The U.S. healthcare system

Graciela Carrasco

NEW GROUP

This group will focus first on two authors who have written compelling accounts of the American medical system, one from the patient perspective, and one from the provider perspective. It will then tackle a historical account of presidential health policy, which will be quite relevant in light of the ongoing debates around health reform. Finally, the group will read about one American doctor's transformative work on the global health stage.

**The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down**

Anne Fadiman

**Better or Complications** (group choice)

Atul Gawande

**The Heart of Power: Health and Politics in the Oval Office** David Blumenthal

**Mountains Beyond Mountains** Tracy Kidder

### WWII's home fronts in France, Germany, and the US

Philippe Mélot

Far from the battlefields and military feats, what was everyday life in France and in the U.S. during the second world war? On the French side of the Atlantic there was Occupation, Collaboration and Resistance; on the other side, the "Arsenal of Democracy," a whole country turned into a gigantic armament factory, with millions of women (the Rosies) working in factories and shipyards. In Germany, west of the Rhine River, a population fanaticized and kept under brutal dictatorship and "fake news" propaganda.

**Freedom's Forge: How American Business Produced Victory in World War II** Arthur Herman

**No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II** Doris Kearns

Goodwin

**The Unfree French: Life Under the Occupation**

Richard Vinet

**The German War: A Nation Under Arms 1939-1945**

Nicholas Stargardt

### How do I sign up for a book group?

Book groups, all led by volunteers, take place in Library conference rooms and are open only to Library members, subject to available places.

Book groups begin meeting before the end of September. Please see the Library website for meeting dates and times.

To sign up for a book group, send an email to programs manager Grant Rosenberg, noting the preferred group and your Library membership number: [rosenberg@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:rosenberg@americanlibraryinparis.org)

### World voices at the Library

Grant Rosenberg

NEW GROUP

Led by the Library's programs manager, this group will read a selection of books that have been highlights of our evenings with authors series, from authors or protagonists who are not Western—a Libyan, a Guatemalan, a Kuwaiti, and a Liberian speak to us in a memoir, auto-fiction, short story collection, and a novel.

**The Return: Fathers, Sons and the Land In Between** Hisham Matar

**The Polish Boxer / Monastery** Eduardo Halfon

**The Hidden Light of Objects** Mai Al-Nakib

**A Marker to Measure Drift** Alexander Maksik

### Democracy the world over

Ed Turner

This group returns to explore a slightly different angle, looking at democratic movements in countries not known for them.

**The Marriott Cell** Mohamed Fahmy

**Democracy: Stories From the Long Road to Freedom** Condoleezza Rice

**The Retreat of Western Liberalism** Edward Luce

**Age of Anger** Pankaj Mishra

### Middle East readings

Laurie Calvet and Maurice Lanman

NEW GROUP

This group explores writings about the Middle East and the geopolitics and personal stories of those in the region.

**The Middle East: A Brief History of the Last 2,000 Years** Bernard Lewis

**All the Shah's Men** Stephen Kinzer

**A Rage for Order: The Middle East in Turmoil, from Tahrir Square to ISIS** Robert F. Worth

**My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel** Ari Shavit

### Studying Shakespeare plays

Neil Heims

This group continues reading and discussing the Bard's work this fall:

**Hamlet**

**Henry V**

**King Lear**

**The Tempest**





## LIFE AT THE LIBRARY

### Reading memoirs for 9 years

The memoirs book group is the longest-running of the Library's reading groups, and a mainstay of Library life on many Mondays of the year. Members celebrated the end of their ninth season in June with a midday apéro. Left to right: Larry Breen, Betsy Damez, Trish Leary, Clydette de Groot, Carol Rose, Nancy Vermès, Leslie de Galbert, Mali Elis, Irène Bungener, Elizabeth Hansen, and Tom Rose. Not pictured: Sam Myers.



### Study-abroad leaders gather at the Library

The Association of American University Programs in France (APUAF) welcomed over 70 higher-education professionals to its annual conference, this year at the American Library on 19 June. Speakers addressed the topic of "digital natives" and participants discussed the challenges and opportunities of college study in France.



### EX LIBRIS

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



### More reading inspiration

Most patrons make their first stop at the Library the popular New Books section in the Turner Commons just past the entrance.

If you're short on time and looking for ideas on what to read from the rest of the Library's rich collection, take a few more steps to the Members' Lounge, where rotating book displays atop the short stacks are frequently refreshed. Staff and patron recommendations as well as "Culture Picks" are rounded out by event-related and thematic displays.

Current highlights include selections about campus life for the *rentrée* and books about justice and redemption.



### Don't do due dates?

Who among us always returns their library books on time? Even Library staff members accrue overdue fines on occasion. As a courtesy, we've activated the auto-renew feature of our catalog software. Eligible materials will be automatically renewed for a second three-week period, and members will receive an email confirming the new due dates.

Please note that items with active requests from other Library members cannot be renewed, and that their original due date still applies. After six weeks senior members may request a further extension by email or phone.



# What's happening at the Library

Welcome back! We have a full calendar of events for teens, with writing and film clubs, Friday night Teen Nights, our public speaking program, and a new advisory group.

The 2017-2018 season begins Saturday 9 September with our first **Teen Writing Group** meeting, followed by **Teen Nights** on Friday 15 September and 29 September: "Locked in the Library" and "Candy Olympics," respectively.

The Library's popular **Teen Film Club** will resume just after the *rentrée* with a meeting on Saturday 23 September. Returning club members and new filmmakers are all welcome to join, but we recommend signing up early, as our clubs fill up fast.

The Library is partnering with **Toastmasters 75 Club** once again to bring you a public speaking program for teens ages 14-17. Apply by Friday 15 September at midnight.

The first meeting takes place Friday 6 October. Just 10 participants will be selected for this program. More information below.

The Library is offering a new venue for teens to provide feedback and earn community service hours: the **Teen Advisory Group**. This group (open to ages 12-18) will be asked to read widely and offer opinions on new books that we are considering adding to our collection. Your feedback will be valued and you will learn about the behind-the-scenes work of the library and its staff while getting a sneak-peek at some of the newest teen reads. This group will give you experience working with a group of peers and adults and it will look great on college applications!

Meetings will be held one Friday a month from 17h30-18h30. If you are interested in joining the Teen Advisory Group, send an email to our children's and teens' services manager, Celeste Rhoads and



include your name, age, and a paragraph about what you like to read and why you are interested in the joining the group:  
celeste@americanlibraryinparis.org



## Deadline to apply: Friday 15 September at midnight Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program

The Library will be partnering with Toastmasters 75 Paris once again to bring you the Youth Leadership Program (YLP). Our first program, which wrapped up in March, was a great success and the teen participants enjoyed working on their public speaking skills with the help of coaches from Toastmasters and with the support of their peers and Library staff. Find out about how to apply for the 2017-2018 program on our website!

## Were you up to the challenge?

Children, teens—and this year, adults, too—were invited to complete our Summer Reading Challenge. Since late June, readers have been expanding their literary horizons by choosing books from a list of suggested topics and earning clues towards solving the challenge puzzle.

All participants who complete the puzzle will be entered into a grand prize drawing at a party on **Saturday 16 September** at 15h00. Everyone who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge is welcome to attend to collect their prizes for participating, play games, and share what they have been reading over the summer! Many thanks to our sponsors who donated great prizes: *WHSmith Paris*, *Shakespeare & Co.*, *The Big Funk Company*, and *The American Children's Theatre*.

Readers have until 10 September to finish reading, pick up their clues, and submit their answer to the puzzle. Here's a bonus clue, for readers of *Ex Libris: What building has the most stories?*



## CHILDREN

A new program for ages 10-14

### Young Writer's Literary Club

During this monthly workshop, volunteer Laura Hershey will teach participants aged 10-14 the fundamentals of writing and literary analysis in a fun, interactive setting. Each month there will be a different theme, and participants will learn about various elements of the writer's toolkit (using metaphors, similes, alliteration, etc.), proper use of punctuation and paragraphs, and writing styles (e.g. narrative, informative, summary, and opinion/argument writing). The workshop will be a combination of lessons, exercises, games and group discussions.



**First meeting: 23 September at 10h30**

**Registration is required**

Send an email to: [kidsandteens@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:kidsandteens@americanlibraryinparis.org) to join the club. Please include the name, age, and membership number of the participant.



### Halloween is in the air

Every year our Halloween Extravaganza becomes more popular—and more crowded. This year, we're hosting four separate events throughout the day on **Saturday 21 October**: a party for ages 0-3, one event for ages 4-7, and another for ages 7+, and a zombie fashion show in the evening for teens and adults. 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 30 September at 10h00**. If tickets remain, they will be available for non-members beginning on Friday 13 October. Limited space is available, so we recommend joining the Library and purchasing your tickets early! Please see the website for the full schedule.

## 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.

*No reservation required*

**Ages 1-3:**

### Toddler Time

The Library's popular program for ages 1-3 continues this fall with sessions from **10h30-11h00** and from **17h00-17h30** on **14 & 28 September, 5 & 19 October, and 9 & 23 November**.

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

*Each child must be accompanied by an adult lap*

**Ages 0-3:**

**14 October 2017 11h00**

### Toddler Dance Party

Our Toddler Dance Party is for children ages 0-3 and their guardians. During this 30 minutes program we'll dance and move to classic children's songs and some fun, contemporary music appropriate for little ones. Parents and caregivers are expected to dance along!

## Want to get involved?

The children's and teens' services department relies on dedicated and talented volunteers to help with projects such as shelving and organizing, creating social media posts, and preparing craft projects to accompany our Story Hours. A few talented team members have moved away recently, so we are looking for new volunteers to prepare craft activities and displays for the Children's Library and Teen Mezzanine. Fill out a volunteer application online today if you are interested in helping out!

*Unless otherwise stated, all programs are free for Library members and €10 for non-members. Children attending 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: [celeste@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:celeste@americanlibraryinparis.org).*



## CALENDAR



**Sunday 3 September 19h30**

### Nicole Krauss

Kicking off the fall season, author Nicole Krauss sits down with programs manager Grant Rosenberg to discuss her new novel *Forest Dark*, which tells two parallel stories: a retired man questioning his life as it slows down, and a young novelist named Nicole searching for a story.

**Wednesday 20 September 19h30**

### A dictionary for the 21<sup>st</sup> century Internet

Peter Sokolowski, the lexicographer and editor of Merriam-Webster's website, gives a talk entitled *Dictionary as Data: What the Online Dictionary Tells Us About English*. Millions of users looking up a word in the dictionary tell us a surprising story about the English language. This web traffic indicates the changing business of dictionaries—and what's expected of a dictionary in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



**Tuesday 10 October 19h30**

### The battle for Iraq's fate

The Library's fall Visiting Fellow, journalist James Verini, will speak about his reporting from Iraq and in particular the battle for the city of Mosul, which he covered in a comprehensive, well-reported piece for the *New York Times Magazine*.

### Other upcoming programs...

**Linda Lappin** explores creative writing with *The Soul of Place: A Creative Writing Workbook: Ideas and Exercises for Conjuring the Genius Loci* (17 October) ... **Callan Wink** on his short story collection *Dog Run Moon* (26 October) ... **Jean-Benoît Nadeau** presents his book written with Julie Barlow, *The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed* (7 November) ... **Hilary Kaiser**, on *French War Brides* (8 November) ... **Tom Sancton** on *The Bettencourt Affair* (14 November) ... Watch **e-Libris** for more.

**Wednesday 13 September 19h30**

### The politics of women's rights and family values

Marjorie Spruill presents her new book, *Divided We Stand: The Battle Over Women's Rights and Family Values That Polarized American Politics*, which details two distinct women's movements—one liberal, the other conservative—during the National Women's Conference of 1977. Spruill reveals how the battle between feminists and their conservative challengers divided the nation and affected the course of modern American history.

**Tuesday 26 September 19h30**

### On Queen Victoria

Journalist and author Julia Baird presents her biography *Victoria The Queen: An Intimate Biography of the Woman Who Ruled an Empire*. Says *Esquire*, "In Baird's deft portrayal, Victoria lives, breathes, and struts before us in all her complexity."

**Wednesday 4 October 19h30**

### The history of deafness

Gerald Shea, author of the memoir *Song Without Words*, returns to the Library to present his new exploration of deafness throughout history. This fascinating book, entitled *The Language of Light: A History of Silent Voices*, looks at deafness both in the U.S. and Europe.

**Wednesday 11 October 19h30**

### India now, reinvented

In *Superfast Primetime Ultimate Nation: The Relentless Invention of Modern India*, journalist Adam Roberts of *The Economist* explores how modern India is faring as a rising superpower—economically, politically, religiously, and culturally.

**Wednesday 18 October 19h30**

### 'The Great Nadar'

The illustrious 19th-century French photographer and caricaturist is given the biographical treatment by Adam Begley. In *The Great Nadar: The Man Behind The Camera*, Begley looks at Nadar's legacy and role in shaping our perceptions of France's past—as well as helping us understand this intriguing, pioneering man.



## The American Library in Paris

10, rue du Général Camou 75007 Paris France 01 53 59 12 60

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

