



EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris June 2018

2018 GALA DINNER

Celebrating with Salman Rushdie



Photo by Krystal Kenney

Chairman of the board Luis Roth, Salman Rushdie, director Jeff Hawkins, and Rachel Eliza Griffiths

The American Library in Paris welcomed literary luminary Salman Rushdie as its keynote speaker and 2018 Gala honoree on Friday 8 June at the Westin Paris–Vendôme. A record-breaking crowd of close to 280 guests first gathered for champagne and cocktails in the courtyard to meet Mr. Rushdie, who was accompanied by poet and visual artist Rachel Eliza Griffiths. Dinner was served in the glittering Imperial Room, where the audience was riveted by Rushdie’s exploration of classic stories and fables, the so-called “Wonder Tales” of the East in a talk by the same name. He showed his depth of knowledge as a reader and thinker while exposing hidden themes in texts like *The Mahābhārata* and *The Arabian Nights*. With humor, erudition, and slight provocation, he championed literary fiction and human imagination.

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Passing the baton...

A note from outgoing director Jeff Hawkins

For the last year or so, I’ve had the honor to be the director of the American Library in Paris. It is a terrific institution, representing both the old and the new, a great Paris literary tradition, and a promising future of civic and intellectual engagement. Its staff is supremely dedicated, its membership active and growing, its board of trustees and donors invested in the future of the Library. As director, I’ve met world-class authors, participated in thought-provoking conversations, and watched my own small children respond to the Library’s welcoming environment. I’ve enjoyed this time at the Library, and felt privileged to work here. During my tenure, we’ve taken some initiatives—sponsoring memberships for deserving individuals, studying the future of our real estate holdings, beginning the strategic planning for the next decade—that I hope will benefit the Library in the future.

At the end of the summer, I’ll be moving on. After a lifetime working in diplomacy, I continue to feel the pull of the policy world, and I plan to return to that. Starting in the fall, I will teach, write, and comment on current events and international affairs. I won’t be going far, and will remain involved with the Library, most notably as a member of its Advisory Council.

I will be passing the baton to Library deputy director Audrey Chapuis. She will be a great leader for the Library. She’s been a mainstay of the staff, and brings a wealth of expertise to the position. She is a librarian by training and experience, and has served in library management positions in the past. She knows the American Library in Paris and, more importantly, knows where she wants to take it. To be honest, I’ve always thought that Audrey would be the next director of the Library; clearly, the Board thought so too.

I look forward to seeing you at the Library in the future.

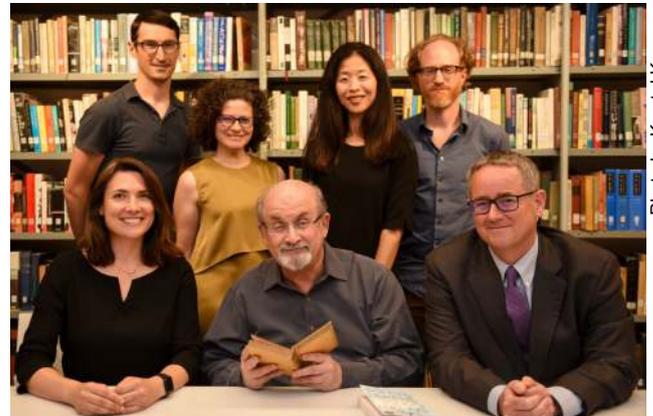


Photo by Krystal Kenney

Rushdie flanked by Audrey Chapuis and Jeff Hawkins. Back row, L-R: Kellen Voss, Abigail Altman, Pauline Lemasson, and Grant Rosenberg

Chapuis on the starting blocks

Deputy director Audrey Chapuis will begin her tenure as director when Jeff Hawkins departs to return to his policy roots this September (*read more from Library chairman Luis Roth on page 2*). Audrey has been an integral part of the Library team for four years, and has been working in libraries for close to twenty, most notably at Widener Library in the Harvard College Library system and the Pritzker Legal Research Center at the Northwestern University School of Law, where she was head of the Access Services department. She received her Master’s in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois in 2006 and her ALB in Extension Studies, *cum laude* (English and American Literature and Language), from Harvard University. She plans to work closely with the Library board, staff, and wider community as the institution moves with momentum towards its centennial in 2020.

LIBRARY TEAM

Library leadership

A message from board chairman Luis Roth

The American Library in Paris is lucky to have dedicated staff members, talented volunteers, and loyal supporters. Overseeing it all, keeping the institution running smoothly and representing the Library to the outside world, is the Library director. I want to thank Jeff Hawkins for filling this demanding post for the past year with energy and passion. After a long and successful career in the U.S. State Department, Jeff jumped into the director's role enthusiastically. He has helped to raise our profile in Paris and has carried on our mission as a library that is engaging, creative, and vibrant. I and the rest of the board of trustees have enjoyed working with Jeff to further the Library's aims, and we are grateful for all he has done. Jeff has accepted an invitation to join the Library's Advisory Council, so we will continue to benefit from his advice and friendship in the years to come. Some of you already know our deputy director, Audrey Chapuis, who has been at the Library for several years and has worked closely with Jeff on all of our major projects during the last year. The Board is pleased to see that we have in Audrey the ideal candidate to step into the director's role at the *rentrée*. Please join me in welcoming Audrey and wishing her (and the Library) much success.

Staff news

Orlene McMahon joined the Library's Member Services team in March. Orlene, who has a Ph.D. in Film Music, is also a lecturer of Film Studies at ENS and the American University of Paris. She has experience working at Cork City libraries in her native Ireland and at AUP's library just next door. In addition Orlene is the Library's Book Award coordinator, working with the Award administrator Charlie Trueheart.



Krista Faurie has moved on to Columbia University Global Centers | Paris at Reid Hall. For six years, first as development assistant, then manager, Krista organized the Library's annual Galas and Book Award ceremonies with aplomb, and coordinated our annual fundraising appeals. Her kind smile, wit, and indefatigable spirit will be missed, but luckily she will remain a part of the city's Anglo-American cultural and educational community in her new position.



New Library trustee elected



Steven Horton

The Library's annual general meeting took place on 12 June, with chairman Luis Roth presiding. He and director Jeff Hawkins summarized the institution's activities over the past year and emphasized its growth in membership. Treasurer Rob Johnson reported on the Library's steady financials, which can be reviewed in the 2017 Annual Report and the audited financial statements of the Library and the USA Foundation— in print form at the Library or electronically on the website. Board updates were also announced: **Luis Roth** will continue as chair with **Forrest Alogna** as vice-chairman and secretary. **Stephanie de La Rochefoucauld** will take on the role of treasurer with **Rob Johnson** assuming the role of assistant treasurer. **Priscilla de Moustier** is stepping down after the completion of her term. New trustee **Steven R. Horton** was elected to the Board during the meeting. He is the owner and principal of Horton Tax Services, which he founded in 2006. He moved to Paris in 1997 originally to work in Ernst & Young's expatriate tax service team. He and his wife have four school-aged children, who regularly use the Library.

Browsing Boulanger's books

A faculty/student research team from Hope College (Holland, MI) was onsite for two weeks in May. Dr. **Natalie Dykstra**, **Sarah Lundy '19** and **Michaela Stock '20** examined the Library's collection of books owned by French composer Nadia Boulanger and dug into our archives to compile a detailed finding aid. In addition to an annotated list of her books, the finding aid includes related reading from our circulating collection, primary and



Hope College research team

secondary resources at other institutions, and references to Boulanger's relationship with the Library discovered in documents in our archives.

You can read more about their archival research on parisstories.org. The blog chronicles their work at the Library, and sets out objectives for the research teams from Hope College we invite to join us in the future.

The Library loves interns

Our Library, like others, is a center for lifelong learning. Each academic year, interns from around the world join our team of staff and volunteers to gain on-the-job skills, fulfill requirements for degree programs, and experience daily life in Paris. In turn, the Library profits from these interns' enthusiasm, energy, and global perspectives.

This spring we welcomed **Wendy Pearson**, from Richard Salter Storrs Library (Longmeadow, MA) and **Mallory Moyer Pearce**, a technical writer starting a university library position this fall. Both are completing an MLS online with East Carolina University. For five weeks, Wendy and Mallory participated in all aspects of Library operations: staffing the front desks, shelving and inventory, proofreading, fielding reference questions, and doing archival research. They shared their thoughtful opinions and questions, their knowledge of US library workflows and IT, and their American-style *joie de vivre*. We thank them for a wonderful partnership that was over much too quickly.

SPECIAL NEWS



Rushdie signing copies of *The Golden House* for Gala attendees

Fall and spring Visiting Fellows

During the month of October, **Hala Alyan** will be the Library's fall 2018 Fellow. Alyan is the author of several poetry books and the novel *Salt Houses*. In Paris, she will be working on her novel in progress, *The Arsonists' City*, about a family that unravels as its members come together to sell their ancestral home in Beirut. Alyan, who lives in New York, is also a licensed psychologist, and during her time at the Library will lead a workshop on writing about trauma.

Our 2019 spring Fellow, **Molly Antopol**, teaches creative writing at Stanford. She is the author of the 2014 short story collection *The UnAmericans*, which won the New York Public Library's Young Lions Fiction Award, a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Award, the French-American Prize and others. Her present project, a novel entitled *Empire*, is set in Rome, Paris, and Washington, D.C. during the height of the Cold War. It explores the relationship Hollywood writers and producers have with Europe, where they fled to escape the blacklist. Antopol has an MFA in fiction from Columbia University and a BA from UC Santa Cruz.



Hala Alyan
Photo courtesy of the author



Molly Antopol
Photo by Debbi Cooper

Celebrating volunteers

The Library fêted its dedicated corps of active volunteers at a reception in the lower level reading room on Thursday 14 June. Certificates were given to volunteers for "Warmest Welcoming Smile" and "Most Likely To Have Read That Book Before You." Deputy director Audrey Chapuis spoke of the invaluable service that the nearly 100 volunteers provide to the Library, from shelving books to setting up for evening programs to helping children with arts, crafts, and reading.



Lucy McClosky, Carolyn Lenke, and volunteer coordinator Morgan Wurzburger

The Library's summer schedule

- ◆ The Library is closed every Sunday (and Monday) in July and August
- ◆ We close at 19h00 on Thursdays in July and August
- ◆ From 17 July to 25 August we are open 13h00-19h00, Tuesday to Saturday
- ◆ Normal hours resume on Tuesday 28 August. Sunday hours resume on 2 September. Thursday *nocturne* hours resume 6 September.

Q&A with a master of letters

Salman Rushdie visited the American Library in Paris to sign 300 copies of his most recent novel *The Golden House*, which were generously donated by Penguin Random House for Gala guests. In the publishing world he is known as one of the 'fastest signers in the business,' though apparently not quite as fast as novelist Amy Tan. He heard a talk by assistant director Abigail Altman about the Library's special collections and viewed rare books, such as items from the institution's founding with original Library War Service bookplates. He spoke with staff and interns in an informal session which was filmed and is available for viewing on the Library's website. Rushdie recounted entertaining anecdotes from his long literary career and answered questions about his writing process, the inspiration for his two novels for younger readers, and the influence of film and music on his work.

BOOK AWARD

The Library received 76 submissions for its sixth annual Book Award. The shortlist of exceptional titles about France or the French will be announced mid-July.

The winning title will be selected by an independent jury, this year consisting of **Diane Johnson**, novelist, essayist, critic, and chairman of the Library's Writers Council; **David Bellos**, Princeton professor, translator, and author of last year's winning book, *The Novel of the Century*; and **Pierre Assouline**, biographer, novelist, critic, and editor of *larepubliquedeslivres.com*.

The Book Award, which carries a \$5,000 prize, is supported by generous funding from the Florence Gould Foundation. The Book Award will be announced and presented to the winning author at a ceremony in Paris in November 2018.

The nominees this year include books for adults, teens, and children, and represent a range of writing from fiction to history (passing through historical fiction, of course), with plenty of biographies, memoirs, and illustrated books for older and younger readers to round out the selection.

All the submissions for the 2018 Book Award are on display in the Members' Lounge, and are available for checkout by members.

GALA DINNER 2018



Mary Lee Turner and Julien Horn



Tom Rose flanked by Charles and Clydette de Groot



Lauren Collins and Olivier Daviaud



Luis Roth with Salman Rushdie meeting Jeff Doniger



Heather Keane, Mike Hussey, and Mojgan Ghanipour



Mark and Wendy Ulfers



Max Turner, Marie-Anne Seve, and Forrest Alogna

GALA DINNER 2018



William and Françoise Torchiana



Michel Navarra, Salman Rushdie, and Rachel Eliza Griffiths



Charles-Henri d'Aragon and Ishtar Méjanès



Jennifer Dalrymple and Rob Johnson



Simone Retter and René de Monseignat



Jade Henry and Brooke Burns

MORE FROM THE GALA



Nearly 280 Library supporters gathered in the Imperial Room at the Westin Paris–Vendôme

Gala gifts were donated by our corporate sponsors

Kiehl's; Random House Publishing Group, Penguin Random House USA; Puyricard; Christine Claes

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Continued from page 1

Guests also heard from Library director Jeff Hawkins, who opened the evening giving thanks to the institution's many supporters and speaking of the idea of home as it relates to the Library: "The American Library in Paris is a home for the traveling mind. It is a place for dialogue on subjects of universal significance and appeal." He continued, "The level of discourse at the Library, as Mr. Rushdie's presence here tonight so amply demonstrates, is particularly high. We work hard to help our members and the public dig into literature, understand America and the world, and make sense of the times we live in. We also build our home in a simpler but emotionally important sense." In her introduction of Rushdie, deputy director and Gala coordinator Audrey Chapuis emphasized Rushdie's advocacy of free speech and support of other writers. The chairman of the board of trustees Luis Roth closed the evening with a rousing paean to libraries, recalling the Library's own long history and the defiant optimism of its founders. He also acknowledged Priscilla de Moustier, who is stepping down from the Library's board after completing her term.

Writers in attendance included Marc-Olivier Bherer, Lauren Collins, Sebastian Faulks, Barbara Gerber, Diane Johnson, Alice Kaplan, Jake Lamar, Frédéric Lemaître, Alexander Lobrano, Emily Lodge, Julia Mickenberg, Dominique Moïsi, Amy Plum, Adam Roberts, and Dana Thomas. Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, Angela Price Aggeler, represented the United States Embassy. At their places guests found gifts generously donated by corporate sponsors, listed on this page.

The Annual Gala dinner is the Library's primary fundraising initiative of the year, generating vital revenue for the Library's continuing growth. The event's official sponsors, listed at right, made the event one of the most fruitful in the Library's history. Many people contributed to the night's success, including every single guest who attended. Library development coordinator Melody Debonnel and strategic partnerships manager Pauline Lemasson were involved in every detail. The Gala team also included assistant children's and teens' services librarian Kirsty McCulloch Reid and the following volunteers: Hilary Hodge, Lauriane Labourel, Laetitia Nail, Kellen Voss, and Morgan Wurzburger.

Rushdie spoke to individual guests at length and became acquainted with the Library's role in the community through its dedicated and diverse supporters. The day before the Gala he visited the Library to sign gift copies of *The Golden House*, learn about the Library's collections, and participate in a filmed Q&A with the staff (read more on page 3). For photos of the event see pages 4-5 and the Library's Flickr gallery, linked from our website's homepage.

The American Library in Paris is grateful to the following sponsors for their generous support of this year's Gala dinner:

Forrest G. Alogna and Sandrine Poisson Alogna

American School of Paris

Charles and Clydette de Groot

Julien Horn and Anne Mény-Horn

Rob and Sherry Johnson

Robert and Heather Keane

William and Maria Kelly

Ishtar Méjanès

René de Monseignat

Don and Ann Morrison

Luis Roth and Jennifer Dalrymple

William D. and Françoise Torchiana

Ed and Mary Lee Turner

Marshall and Deborah Wais

CHILDREN AND TEENS: NEWS & SUMMER PROGRAMS

2018 Young Authors Fiction Festival (YAFF)

The celebration for the **2018 Young Authors Fiction Festival** was held at the Library on Friday 15 June.

This year the Library received over 450 submissions from more than 20 schools, homeschooling programs, and English classes across the greater Paris area, from both native and non-native English writers ages 5 to 18.

Nearly 200 finalists, parents, teachers, and YAFF supporters attended two separate events, one for kindergarten through 5th grade, and another for 6th through 12th, where the YAFF committee announced first through fifth places for each grade. Every finalist was awarded a certificate and a personalized bookmark. The Library published two YAFF Celebration Booklets including the top-ranking stories for each grade. The Celebration Booklets have been added to the Library's collection, and a limited number of copies are still available for purchase.

The 2018 Festival was coordinated by assistant children's and teens' services librarian Kirsty McCulloch Reid with the support of a devoted committee of Library staff and volunteers. In addition, nearly 70 volunteer judges—made up of teachers, writers, and members of the greater Library community—contributed their time and energy. The Library is grateful for their dedication and support.



The winners from 2nd grade

Applications open for teen clubs!

Ages 12-18

We're accepting applications now for the 2018-2019 **Master Shot Film Club**, which will continue to meet one Saturday a month from 17h00-18h30. Led by volunteer host and local filmmaker Clarence Tokley, this club remains highly popular and we anticipate that spots will fill up quickly.

Applications are also open for the 2018-2019 **Teen Advisory Group** and **Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program**, with applications due by 31 July. The Library's popular **Teen Writing Group** is already full for the 2018-2019 season, although we will have writing events scheduled throughout the year for those of you looking for a creative outlet.

To sign up for the Master Shot Film Club, send an email to children's and teens' services manager Celeste Rhoads. To find out more about applying for any of our other popular teen clubs, check our website.

Summer Reading Challenge starts now!

All Ages

Stop by the children's and teens' services desk any time during open hours to pick up your summer reading club packet. Whether you're staying in Paris over the summer break, or heading off to explore the world, you can participate in our Summer Reading Challenge! Children ages 0-12 who sign up will receive playing cards which can be filled once a day when you



read for 30 minutes or more (15 minutes or more for children 3 and under). Once a full card is completed after 7 days of reading, you can stop by the Library to drop your card in our raffle box and pick up a small prize. We'll hold raffles each week through 8 September. Everyone who participates in the Summer Reading Challenge will receive a prize at the end of the summer. You can read anywhere, and in any language, and any books you are interested in. Being read to counts, too! Teens have a special challenge of their own and a selection of books to win throughout the summer. If you're between the ages of 12-18, ask for the Teen Ten Book Challenge packet when you stop by. Happy Reading!

Events

Ages 1–3: Toddler Time

The Library's popular Toddler Time will take place on **20 June** with sessions at **10h30** and **17h00** and on **5 July** with one session at **17h00**. The program will then resume in the fall.

Sign-up is required for this activity. See the Library website for details.

Each child must be accompanied by an adult lap!

Ages 3–5:

Wednesday Story Hour

Our weekly interactive Story Hours continue over the summer with **programs each Wednesday in July and August 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. Please see the Library website for the weekly theme!

Ages 6+:

Saturday Series

Our weekly Saturday activities at 15h00 will continue over the summer with events for children each week on Saturdays (with the exception of 14 July).

No reservation required. Please see the Library website for the weekly theme!

Sunday workshops and other activities will resume in the fall.

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

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 the children's and teens' services department for more information about our children's programs: kidsandteens@americanlibraryinparis.org.

CALENDAR

Tuesday 19 June 19h30

Pamela Druckerman

Author and *International New York Times* opinion columnist Pamela Druckerman returns to the Library to present her latest book *There Are No Grown-ups: A Midlife Coming-of-Age Story*. In it, she explores crossing the threshold from youth to middle age and what it means to truly and finally be an adult.



Photo by Dmitry Kostyukov

Wednesday 20 June 19h30

A French ambassador on his tenure and a look at French-American embassy history

Library director Jeff Hawkins interviews François Bujon de l'Estang, a former French ambassador to the United States (from 1995 to 2002, during Jacques Chirac's first term as president), while historian Séverine Boué, a scholar of French ambassadorships, gives a presentation on their history.



Photo by JC Marmara/Le Figaro

Tuesday 26 June 19h30

A.I. and our future

China, US, Europe, Russia, and Japan are investing billions in A.I., racing to lead and rule. What does A.I. really mean? How will A.I. impact our world and our future? Should we worry? Ivy Plus European Leaders, in partnership with UC Berkeley, UC Davis, HEC, IMD, and Alliance Alumni Associations, is organizing this panel discussion with Stuart Russell, professor at UC Berkeley and author of the seminal book *Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach*, and Gérard Berry, professor at Collège de France.



Photo courtesy of the author

Wednesday 4 July 19h30

Pulitzer Prize winner Viet Thanh Nguyen and refugee writing

For our final event of the season, author Viet Thanh Nguyen, the Library's first Writer-in-Residence, returns to talk about his edited collection of essays *The Displaced: Refugee Writers on Refugee Lives*. Nguyen, himself a refugee, brings together a host of prominent refugee writers to explore and illuminate the refugee experience. Featuring 20 original essays by a collection of writers from around the world, *The Displaced* is an indictment of closing our doors, and a powerful look at what it means to be forced to leave home and find a place of refuge. Nguyen was a 2017 recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. The Library's Writer-in-Residence program is generously sponsored by The de Groot Foundation.

Coming in fall 2018

Richard Russo on his essay collection *The Destiny Thief: Essays on Writing, Writers and Life* (19 September) • **Sebastian Faulks** (25 September) for his novel *Paris Echo* • Visiting Fellow **Hala Alyan** for her novel-in-progress, *The Arsonists' City* (10 October, see page 3) • **Laura Spinney** on her book *Pale Rider*, about the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic (24 October) • **Rebekah Pepler** for *Apéritif: Cocktail Hour the French Way* (24 November) and more...

Sign up to receive **e-Libris** biweekly for news about Library events, and check our website regularly for additions to the program schedule.



L to R: Richard Russo, Sebastian Faulks, Hala Alyan, Laura Spinney, and Rebekah Pepler

Evenings with Authors and other weeknight programs at the Library are free and open to the public (with a €10 suggested donation) thanks to support from GRoW @ Annenberg at the Annenberg Foundation, our members, and those who attend programs.

The American Library in Paris

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