

EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris

December 2018

De Gaulle Biography Wins 2018 Book Award

The jury's choice for the 2018 American Library in Paris Book Award is *A Certain Idea of France: The Life of Charles de Gaulle*, by Julian Jackson, "a magnificent biography of the strangest and most significant figure to mark French history in the twentieth century," according to the jury's citation.

Jackson, a British scholar of 20th-century France, accepted the award at a gala reception in Paris on 8 November, where he spoke extemporaneously about his explorations into a life so thoroughly examined that "there are no new facts."

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Henry T. Wooster, Charles Trueheart, Julian Jackson, Audrey Chapuis, Pierre Assouline

SPRING VISITING FELLOW



In March, **Molly Antopol** will take up a residency at the Library as our thirteenth Visiting Fellow. Antopol's 2014 debut story collection, *The UnAmericans* (W.W. Norton), won the New York Public Library's Young Lions Fiction Award and a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Award, among other prizes.

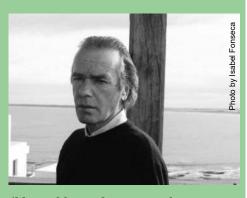
During her time in Paris, Antopol will work on her novel in progress, *The After Party*, which will also be published by Norton. This new novel explores issues of surveillance and privacy, making it deeply resonant in the current landscape.

Teach more on page 2

GALA 2019

Martin Amis announced as keynote speaker

Renowned novelist, essayist, and cultural commentator Martin Amis will be honored on 6 June 2019 at the Library's spring Gala, one of our most significant fundraising initiatives of the year. Invitations



will be mailed in April but tables and seats may be reserved in advance. Contact Advancement Coordinator Morgan Wurzburger for more information: wurzburger@americanlibraryinparis.org.

Our growing community needs you

Across every area, Library activity is booming, from membership (4,400 members from over 60 countries) to the number of books and periodicals checked out (130,000 and counting this year). Our patrons are reading more than ever, in every format. And it's not just demand for materials that is uppeople want to engage even more with fellow readers.

You can help us keep up with demand by contributing to our fall fundraising appeal. Since its inception in 1920, the Library has been sustained by people like you who believe in our mission: to promote literature, learning, culture, and community. As a reminder, the Library is a completely independent non-profit and receives no government funding, and membership fees cover only a fourth of our operating costs. Our programs, including book groups, conversation circles, children's and teens' activities, and the Young Author Fiction Festival are supported by our dedicated community.

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WHO'S WHO AT THE LIBRARY

STAFF NEWS

Now in charge of programming



Catherine Olien joined the Library staff as the new Programs Coordinator this fall. Originally from Illinois, she recently completed a PhD in Art History at Northwestern University and is the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships, including a Fulbright Research Grant in Berlin and, most recently, a Kress Institutional Fellowship at the Institut national d'histoire de l'art here in Paris. She first joined the Library team as a volunteer. In fact, now three quarters of our permanent staff started as volunteers or interns!

As Programs Coordinator, Catherine will oversee the *Evenings with Author* speaker series, the Visiting Fellowship, and various writing workshops. In addition to being a

scholar of ancient Mediterranean art and archaeology, she is a runner and a proponent of animal rescue and welfare.

Special visit from a former director

The Library had the pleasure of a surprise visit from **Robert** and **Mary Grattan** in October. Bob was Director of the American Library from 1986 to 1993, as some longtime readers of *Ex Libris* might remember. Under Bob's leadership, the Library computerized its catalogue, increased its hours of operation, constructed the Research Center (now the children's department and Teen Mezzanine), and in 1990 launched the *Evenings with Authors* speaker series.

Mary wrote the early issues of our newsletter *ALP Notes* (now *Ex Libris*) when it was revived in the mid-1980s and authored a history of the Library that was published in the 1993 edition of *Dictionary of Literary Biography*.

Our annual Gala dinners were also introduced during Bob's tenure, and the Grattans regaled us with stories of the 70th anniversary event with special guests Helmut Newton and Bernadette Chirac. They were pleased to learn that neighborhood members they remember from their tenure still drop by. *Plus ça change...*

Visiting Fellowship

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The Library is now accepting applications for Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 fellows. The fellowship offers writers and researchers working on French or French-American topics an opportunity to pursue a creative project in Paris for a month or longer while participating actively in the life of the American Library. Applicants should be working on a book project, fiction or non-fiction, or a feature-length documentary film, that contributes to cross-cultural discourse.

Please see the Library website for further details. This application cycle will close on 15 February 2019.

FELLOW MOLLY ANTOPOL ON HER FORTHCOMING NOVEL

The After Party is set in Rome, Paris, and Washington, DC in the summer of 1953—the height of the Cold War. The book explores the relationship some of Hollywood's top writers and producers had to Europe as they descended on Paris and Rome to escape Joseph McCarthy's blacklist. Many of them were Eastern European Jews, fleeing the US and heading back to Europe less than a decade after World War II had made them refugees.

In France and Italy, they lived and worked under assumed names, made films for a fraction of their salaries back home, and quickly altered the character of the international film industry. The US State Department routinely confiscated blacklistees' passports so they were unable to leave Europe, separating families, ending marriages, and pushing many toward financial ruin. For the CIA, these artists proved a ripe source of information regarding communist activity both in the US and abroad.

From the Bibliothèque Nationale to the American Library



Laurence Engel in the Florence Gould Reading Room

Laurence Engel, the Head of France's national library, spoke on the future of libraries as part of a panel presentation on global internet access hosted by the Partnership for Public Access. The audience heard about different approaches to closing the digital divide with the aim of connecting the half of the world that remains offline due to lack of resources. The event was sponsored by the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the Internet Society, Facebook France, and Gigabit Libraries Network as part of the 13th Annual Internet Governance Forum held at UNESCO in November.

LIBRARY NEWS

EXTRA EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Read The New York Times online

The online version of *The New York Times* will soon be available onsite at the Library. Read the day's headlines, or dive into a historical issue from your own laptop, tablet, smartphone, or on one of the Library's four public PCs. Access is via our catalogue's e-sources page. Ask for help if you've never logged into your account, or if you're visiting on a Day or Week Pass.

As a bonus, Library members can enjoy 72 hours of offsite access to the complete site. Follow the instructions on the e-sources webpage to set up your own profile at nyt.com, then click "redeem" to activate offsite access.

Spring Book Groups

The Library offers a wide range of book groups that examine topics from science and technology to contemporary French fiction.

Our book groups for Spring 2019 are starting to take shape. Please look out for an *e-Libris* announcement that will include more specifics on themes and meeting dates.

We also invite you to email programs@americanlibraryinp aris.org and check our website regularly for more information about our book groups.

From blue to red: news sources at the Library LET THE LIBRARY KEEP YOU INFORMED

In today's chaotic information landscape, access to a variety of trusted news sources from across the political spectrum is vital. Our team of librarians built our periodical collection, with over 90 current titles, by researching each resource and taking a careful look at bias using Media Bias/Fact Check, a website that indexes and ranks sources according to the quality of factual reporting and political leaning.

Members can enjoy the following news magazines in our periodical lounge: American Prospect (left), Atlantic Monthly (left center), Economist (center), Guardian Weekly (left), Harper's Magazine (left center), Mother Jones (left), Ms. (left), Nation (left), National Review (right), New Republic (left), New York Magazine (left), New Yorker (left), Spectator (right center), Time International (left center), Utne Reader (left), The Week (left center), Weekly Standard (right), and newspapers New York Times (left center), Financial Times (left).

For most of our titles, back issues are held for one year, and may be checked out of the Library. Circulation statistics show periodical consumption in the Library is up 35%. The verdict is in: readers are hungry for news.



Richard Russo speaks to a packed house during an *Evening with an Author* event this fall

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The regular support of members and friends of the Library is essential to its health and vitality. Thanks to gifts, grants, and other generous contributions, the Library is celebrating almost 100 years of service in Paris. Please help us continue to thrive and grow as a place for books, ideas, and people who love them.

The American Library in Paris is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and an *organisme d'intérêt général* for French tax purposes. All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law and will be acknowledged with a tax receipt.

For more information about how to support the Library please contact Morgan Wurzburger at wurzburger@americanlibraryinparis.org.

Holiday Hours

The Library will close for the holidays at 19h00 on **Sunday 23 December 2018** and will reopen at 10h00 on **Wednesday 2 January 2019.** Ask for an extended loan period if you're travelling with books.

Ex Libris

The newsletter of the American Library in Paris is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. Back issues available online.

BOOK AWARD AND MORE

Continued from page 1

6th Annual Book Award

Jackson, 64, is on the faculty of the University of London and is the author of previous works on France in the 1930s and during the Nazi Occupation.

He sketched de Gaulle as a figure "with the physical presence of an elephant and the slipperiness of an eel." Jackson also spoke of de Gaulle's "almost nihilistic lucidity," born of a "tension between restraint and hubris, reason and sentiment, classicism and romanticism, calculation and provocation, cunning and showmanship ... a pessimism of the intellect and an optimism of the will."

The other shortlisted books for 2018 were Caesar's Footprints: A Cultural Excursion to Ancient France: Journeys Through Roman Gaul, by Bijan Omrani; The Great Nadar: The Man Behind the Camera, by Adam Begley; Never Anyone But You, a novel by Rupert Thomson; and Proust's Duchess: How Three Celebrated Women Captured the Imagination of Fin-de-Siècle Paris, by Caroline Weber. All 76 books submitted for the prize this year are in the Library's circulating collection.

A Certain Idea of France, published by Allen Lane in the United Kingdom and Harvard University Press in the United States (as De Gaulle), "provides an intimate portrait of an unusual man, a profound reflection on the history of France, and a gripping, stylish narrative at the same time," declared the jury in its citation. With this work, "Julian Jackson confirms his already important place in the great Anglo-American tradition of French historiography."

The annual Library Book Award, now in its sixth year, carries a prize of \$5,000. The winning author joins the Library's Writers Council, from which annual juries are drawn

The 2018 jury members were Pierre Assouline, the French critic and biographer; Diane Johnson, the American novelist and essayist, who chairs the Writers Council; and David Bellos, the jury chair, who teaches at Princeton and whose book on *Les Misérables, The Novel of the Century*, won the award last year. The prize honors the most distinguished book of the year, in English, about France, and is supported by gifts from the Florence Gould Foundation.

The ceremony, one of the highlights of Paris's fall literary calendar, has been held every year in the restored 18th-century rooms of the Hôtel de Talleyrand, on Place de la Concorde, now known as the George C. Marshall Center and managed by the United States Embassy. One hundred guests were greeted by the US deputy chief of mission, Henry T. Wooster, who

saluted the role of the Library in the expatriate community in Paris. Before the prize was announced, the audience also heard from Library Director Audrey Chapuis and former Director Charles Trueheart, who now administers the Book Award.

In her remarks, Chapuis spoke about the place of the Book Award at the core of the Library's historic and contemporary mission: "The Library has never been simply about housing books on our shelves, as beloved as those volumes are. We believe in the conversations that books engender, the ability that a book has to collapse space and time between its author and its reader. At the American Library those exchanges happen on the page and outside it."

The guest list for the annual ceremony is drawn from all those who support the Library throughout the year, including through donations and participation in the annual gala dinner in the spring. Guests received signed copies of the 900-page winning biography in thanks for their continued support of the Library and the Book Award.

Submissions for the seventh annual American Library Book Award are now open to books published since 1 July 2018 or to be published before 1 July 2019. A full description of criteria and submission procedures can be found on the Library website.

Book Award Patrons

Judith Aubry • Mary Duncan • Jeanne and Peter Fellowes • Charles and Clydette de Groot • Diane Johnson and John Murray • Suzanne Justen• Usha Viswanthan

The American Library in Paris Book Award is made possible by a generous gift from the Florence Gould Foundation.

PRESS ROOM

Library news outside our walls

French literary and culture magazine *Transfuge* featured an interview with Book Award winner Julian Jackson 18 November "De Gaulle admirait James Joyce, William Faulkner, et J.M.G. Le Clézio".

Visiting Fellows **Hala Alyan** and **Ta-Nehisi Coates** win the 2018 Dayton Literary Peace Prize

"'Good' Refugees, 'Bad' Refugees: A Conversation in Paris with **Viet Thanh Nguyen**" Christine Buckley interviews Viet Thanh Nguyen 24 September 2018 *Los Angeles Review of Books*

The December issue of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France's *La Revue des livres pour enfants* will feature pieces written by **Abigail Altman** and **Celeste Rhoads.**

Florence Dutheil's online radio program highlighted **children's programs** at the Library on *Enfantillages* (Fréquence Protestant).

British publisher Pan Macmillan sent a team to the Library to film a YouTube book trailer for the fifth installment in their fantasy series *Invisible Library* by Genevieve Cogman.

YouTube personality "Jordan the Lion" dropped by to film books from **Marlene Dietrich** and **Olivia de Havilland** in our Special Collection for his vlog about forgotten Los Angeles history.

Vishali Sreepada was inspired to leave a review of the Library on Google Businesses: "Very good collection with e-books options and many more...**friendly staff** and well organised and maintained."

LIBRARY PHOTOS

2018 BOOK AWARD CEREMONY Photographs by Krystal Kenney







From left to right, Peter and Jeanne Fellowes; Nancy Willard Magaud and Jacqueline Cessou; Jade Vu Henry and Fabrice Henry.









From left to right (top), Abigail Altman, Claire Polders, and Daniel Presley; 2018 Book Award Winner Julian Jackson; Suzanne Justen, Mary Duncan, and Patrica Trocmé; (bottom) Luis Roth and Pamela Druckerman; Robert Keane, Forrest Alogna, and Heather Keane.







From left to right; Frances Plough Seder; U.S. Embassy Paris Deputy Chief of Mission Henry T. Wooster; Audrey Chapuis and Julian Jackson.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

What I Love About Story Hour

It's a Wednesday morning and the Library has only been open for a few minutes before we hear the unmistakable sound of little feet making their way past the quiet stacks to the Children's department. Parents and caregivers follow behind, laden down with coats and books to return, ready to share a special hour of stories and songs during our weekly story time.

I had been volunteering in the Library for just over a year when I started to help with Story Hour and was thrilled to be able to support the Children's and Teen's team with one of the busiest, and sometimes noisiest, weekly events. Children come to listen to stories in English, learn songs and rhymes, and make a craft to take home with them all based around a different theme each week. Lots of the children regularly attend and we get to know them and their interests; from foxes and firefighters to superheroes and singing. For me, it has been a great opportunity to make the most of the experience I have from working as a primary school teacher for over ten years, and use those skills to benefit the Library.

Volunteering at the Library has enabled me to find a community in Paris that I can be a part of. It has given me the chance to undertake work experience while I find my feet in my new home, learn new skills, and make some wonderful friends.

So if you happen to be in the Library on a Wednesday morning and hear the sound of little voices singing their ABCs, it's just us

enjoying yet another fantastic Story Hour.

—Lucy McCloskey , Children's and Teens' Services Volunteer

Books Make the Best Gifts

Whether you're shopping for a birthday present, or a gift for the holidays, we know it can be difficult to choose books for the young readers in your lives. Our Children's and Teens' Services librarians are often asked for recommendations for gift books, so here, we're offering a few suggestions. Of course, a Library membership is a great choice for those looking to give a gift that will last!

These recent publications would make lovely presents for children ages o-5: *I Got a Chicken for My Birthday* by Laura Gehl is a great choice for children who enjoy funny books, *A Big Mooncake for Little Star* by Grace Lin is a sure hit for kids who like to snuggle, and ask for more books at bedtime, *Hello Hello!* by Brenden Wenzel is a deceptively simple book that will delight animal fans of any age, *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson will resonate with young children who straddle two cultures (or more!), and *Drawn Together* would make an especially poignant gift from grandparents to grandchildren living far away.

For older children, *The Language of Spells* by Garret Weyr would make a great gift for fantasy fans, *Rebound* by Kwame Alexander is one for fans of poetry, *The House in Poplar Wood* is sure to please fantasy fans who enjoy some mystery thrown in, while *Itch! Everything You Didn't Want to Know about What Makes You Scratch* is a healthy mix of fun and gross for the reader who wants answers. We also recommend *I'm Just No Good at Rhyming and Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups* (because the title says it all).



Regular events

Ages 1-3: Toddler Time

The Library's popular Toddler Time will take place on 6 & 20 December, 10 & 24 January, and 7 & 21 February with sessions at 10h30 and 17h00.

Sign-up is required for this 30-minute 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 with **programs each**Wednesday from 10h30-11h30 in the children's room and again from 14h30-15h30 in the Library's lower level reading room. 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 6–10: Saturday Series

Our weekly Saturday afternoon activities at continue with events for children most Saturdays at 15h00.

Highlights include **Silly Songs with Matt Black** on Saturday 19 January and our **DIY Valentines** workshop on Saturday 9 February.

No reservation required. Please see the Library website for details and the full calendar!

Ages 9–12: Sunday Workshops

Our monthly writing workshops with Assistant Children's and Teens' Services Librarian Kirsty cover different topics each session, from crafting a short story to spelling and grammar workshops. Check the calendar for upcoming topics.

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

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

Creative writing practice

We know that many of our teen members enjoy creative writing, and the Library's Teen Writing Group is one of our most popular programs. We've scheduled several events where teens ages 12-18 can explore different aspects of creating stories with the guidance of published authors.

Worldbuilding 101 with Amy Plum Friday 14 December from 19h00-21h00

When you write a book, you create a world, whether it resembles today's world or something completely fantastical. And no world is believable unless it has a framework that holds it together. In this workshop, we will study examples of fictional worlds and their rules, the characters that populate them, their settings, and what makes them believable.

The Long Game of Short Work: Getting Your Writing Published with Claire Polders

Friday 15 February from 19h00-21h00

Overnight success is a myth. The road to a published novel or memoir often begins with the publication of short prose. Not only to capture an agent's attention and assemble a body of work, but also to practice and benefit from feedback. We'll talk about literary magazines and the submission process, dealing with rejection, promoting your work online, and finding your place in the writers' community.

The Art of the Novel with Donna Cooner and Katherine Longshore Friday 1 March from 19h00-21h00

Join two novelists for a creative writing workshop dedicated to helping you improve your craft. Donna is the author of over twenty picture books, and has written realistic fiction for teens. Katherine is a writer of historical fiction novels for teens. The two will join forces and share tips with teen writers during this two-hour evening workshop.

Registration is required for each workshop.

Teen Approved

The Library's Teen Advisory Group, now in its second year, is composed of readers who enjoy a wide range of literature—from fantasy to nonfiction, from historical fiction to sci-fi. The group, made up of ten teens who sent in applications over the summer and were selected by our Children's & Teens' Services Manager, read from new books we've received, and then offer their recommendations. Each teen presents a summary of the book, then the fields questions from the rest of the group. At the end of each meeting, the group votes on the books they think should be added to the collection, and our Children's and Teens' Services Manager makes a final decision.

The group recently read and recommended these titles, which are now available at the Library: *The Radius of Us* by Marie F. Marquardt (for fans of realistic fiction), *Down and Across* by Arvin Ahmadi (for fans of John Green), *Bad Girls with Perfect Faces* by Lynn Weingarten (for fans of *Gossip Girl* and *Pretty Little Liars*), *Americanized: Rebel without a Green Card* by Sara Saedi (a memoir, for readers who enjoy true stories), *Mirage* by Somaiya Daud and *Easy Prey* by Catherine Lo (for fans of contemporary mysteries).

More gifts for book lovers

We know a lot of book lovers, and that it can be tough to chose the right gift book for a voracious reader. Here are recommendations from our Children's and Teen's Services Department for new books that would make excellent gifts (these books are also available at the Library for borrowing): Piglettes (a witty read for the Francophile), Pride (Pride and Prejudice revised for fans of contemporary romance), Skinful of Shadows (for the fantasy fan who's read everything) Darius the Great is Not Okay (for the third-culture kid in your life), **Dread Nation** (for fans of action and zombies), A **Heart in a Body in a World** (for teens who like to talk about current events), Neanderthal Opens the Door to the Universe (for teens who need a laugh), The Stars Beneath Our Feet (for tweens and teens who love or used to love LEGOs), A Lite too Bright (for travelers), and Orphan Monster Spy (for mystery fans).



Unless otherwise stated, all programs are free for Library members and €10 for non-members. Children and teens 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 programs for ages 0-18: celeste@americanlibraryinparis.org.

WINTER CALENDAR

Wednesday 5 December 19h30 Mapping Arab Paris

Coline Houssais speaks about Paris, City of Lights, as a capital of Arab culture. Far from being a recent phenomenon based on post-war worker migration from former French colonies, the relationship between Paris

and intellectuals from North Africa and the Middle East is grounded in a history dating back to the late medieval period. In turn a beacon of enlightenment, a safe haven, and the symbol of colonial oppression, the streets of Paris carry the memory of this peculiar heritage.



Tuesday 18 December 19h30 Daytripping from Paris

Annabel Simms's talk, "How to briefly escape from Paris to France," will outline her criteria for selecting daytrips in her original guidebook, An Hour From Paris, and its recent sequel, Half An Hour From Paris. She will explain why the Île-



de-France is one of the most accessible and rewarding regions in the country, still little-explored by many Parisians, let alone foreign visitors. Finally, she will try to assess the future development of the Île-de-France, now that it is being rebranded as *Le Grand Paris*.

Wednesday 16 January 19h30 Secret stories of the 7th



Author **Emilio Williams** returns to the American Library in Paris to share additional forgotten and surprising stories of the 7th arrondissement. This time, he will focus on Americans who lived in the area and their contribution to literature and

the arts. We will discover, among many colorful American expats, a future Protestant First Daughter schooled at a local Catholic convent, visionary artists of the *Belle Époque*, indomitable heiresses, the party animals of the Lost Generation, the woman who taught America how to make a real French omelet and the ultimate muse of the French New Wave. Williams will offer recommendations for unexpected walks around the area, as well a further reading suggestions from the Library's collection.

Interested in speaking at the Library? Please contact programs@americanlibraryinparis.org with your proposal.

Wednesday 12 December 19h30

Documentary screening: Braille Music

Filmmaker **Michael House** will introduce his latest documentary *Braille Music*, a film shot over three years which features an all-blind cast. The film follows six professional musicians who come



together in a London recording studio to create a musical tribute to Louis Braille. *Braille Music* examines Louis Braille's musical life and how Braille's reading and writing system continues to be used, nearly 200 years after its invention, by blind musicians and composers today. An audiovisual description will accompany the film, making it suitable for people with visual impairments.

Tuesday 8 January 19h30 Decorating a Room of One's Own



Getting lost in the setting of a good book can be half the pleasure of reading, and *Decorating a Room of One's Own* brings literary backdrops to the foreground in a wryly affectionate satire of interior design reporting. English professor and humorist, **Susan Harlan**, spoofs decorating culture by reimagining its subject as famous fictional homes and

"interviews" the residents who reveal their true tastes: Lady Macbeth's favorite room in the castle, or the design inspiration behind Jay Gatsby's McMansion of unfulfilled dreams. Featuring 30 entries of notable dwellings, sidebars such as "Setting Up an Ideal Governess's Room," and charming illustrations throughout, *Decorating a Room of One's Own* is a unique and surprising treat that bring fresh life to the classics.

ALSO UPCOMING: Xiaolu Guo discusses crafting her new memoir, *Nine Continents* • Alan Govenar on his biography, *Anne Morgan: Photography, Philanthropy & Advocacy* • Ana Hosne speaks about the European mapping of and explorations in Tibet between the 3th and 18th centuries) • Ann Mah in conversation with Christian Holthausen and more...

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

