



# EX LIBRIS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS

FALL 2019

## The Library welcomes the Fall

In September, Paris revives from the summer heat, reanimated with the prospects of fall. In a matter of mere days, the city is transformed: tourist lines thin as streets fill back up with busy commuters, shops reopen their shuttered windows, and the American Library in Paris welcomes back thousands of readers. A new exciting season at the Library awaits, and we are happy to help you adjust, post-*vacances*. Just because we're no longer swinging on a hammock with a page-turner doesn't mean we have to relinquish our reading habits.

In fact, autumn is a perfect time to expand your reading interests. Get inspired by *Les Curiosités*, out-of-the-ordinary book displays curated by Library staff (more on page 2), or consult NoveList, a digital readers' advisory service available to members. Whatever your reading proclivities—print or digital, short- or long-form—you'll find content that will educate and entertain. The Library also offers ways for you to connect with other readers, writers, and thinkers: attend one of our thought-provoking **Evenings with an Author, book groups,** or **writing workshops** for all ages. We look forward to seeing you in the stacks and reading rooms this fall.

—Audrey Chapuis, Library Director



Painting of the Library, above, by member John Desjardins. Ask our staff about sharing your own testimonial with our community.

### Chairman Q&A

Forrest Alogna was recently named the Chairman of the Board of the American Library in Paris. Forrest is a partner at Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier, a Paris law firm, where he specializes in cross-border transactions. He has lived in Paris since 2006, but previously visited Paris as a undergraduate when he took a semester off college to study cuisine at Le Cordon Bleu.



#### What childhood memories do you have of libraries?

I spent a disproportionate amount of time in libraries. I remember being excited to go to, and to be at, the library. I can remember walking out with such big piles of books I could barely carry them all. There was some limit on the number of books you could check out at once and I can remember knowing it. I had very varied tastes. My library card was like this precious key.

*Continued on page 2*

### Book Award shortlist

On 16 July 2019, six titles were announced as finalists for the 2019 American Library in Paris Book Award: a novel set in Occupied France, a culinary primer on French history, an intellectual biography of Diderot, a poetic reimagining of the life of Joan of Arc, a polemic on anti-Semitism in France, and a fictional account of Mme. Tussaud's early years. Turn to page two to discover the six shortlisted titles and authors.

The winning title will be chosen by this year's independent jury: Alice Kaplan, Thomas Chatterton Williams, and Pamela Druckerman. The Book Award laureate will be announced in the presence of the winning author and Library supporters at an invitation-only ceremony in Paris on 7 November 2019.

The Book Award, which carries a \$5,000 prize, is supported by generous funding from the Florence Gould Foundation.

A Paris-based screening committee selected the six finalists for the 2019 prize from the eighty-two titles of various genres and topics submitted by authors, publishers, and others for consideration.

*Continued on page 2*

Chairman Q&A, continued from front page

### What first brought you to the American Library?

My children.

### How do you and your family use the Library?

At this point in my life, the *Evenings with an Author* are a big draw for me. The kids are quite interested in YAFF (the Young Authors Fiction Festival). The Library also helps to inspire our reading, if there is an author who is coming and we want to read up on his or her work before.

### What Library event are you most excited for this fall?

There are so many good ones I can't choose a favorite!

### What are you reading now?

Right now I am reading— or listening to, to be honest— Mick Herron's *Joe Country*, Rick Atkinson's *The British Are Coming* and Stefan Zweig's *The World of Yesterday*. I recently finished *Les Misérables*, which took me a long time! I am also reading *The Whale Rider*, by Witi Ihimaera to my 13 year-old daughter and Walter Isaacson's *The Innovators* to my 11 year-old son.

## Introducing *Les Curiosités*

A cabinet of curiosities, a collection of curios, “curiouser and curiouser” as Alice exclaimed in Wonderland, an eclectic assembly intended to pique your curiosity...

This imagery and wordplay inspired the Library staff to baptize our rotating book displays as *Les Curiosités*. These curated selections are on view in the Members' Lounge, alongside books by upcoming Library speakers, our monthly Culture Picks, and the more solemn homages to authors recently deceased.

Staff members are encouraged to mix and match genres from our extensive collection to build a list of titles on an unconventional or surprising topic. Currently displayed are books by left-handed authors, the Library's best books on Rock and Roll, titles beginning with the phrase “What If,” and, in celebration of Banned Books Week, titles that are regularly challenged.

Library members are encouraged to borrow the books on display and to email us the theme and book list of a curious collection they'd like to see showcased.



Book Award shortlist, continued from front page

This is the seventh year of the American Library in Paris Book Award, which recognizes the most distinguished books of the year, written and published in English, about France. All the submissions for the 2019 Book Award are in the Library's circulating collection and are available for checkout by members.

The six titles on the 2019 American Library in Paris Book Award shortlist are:

**A Bite-Sized History of France:** Gastronomic Tales of Revolution, War, and Enlightenment.

By Stéphane Hénaut and Jeni Mitchell. *The New Press*.

**Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely.** By Andrew S. Curran. *Other Press*.

**The Flight Portfolio:** A Novel. By Julie Orringer. *Alfred A. Knopf*.

**Hate:** The Rising Tide of Anti-Semitism in France (and What it Means for Us).

By Marc Weitzmann. *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*.

**Little.** By Edward Carey. *Riverhead Books US / Gallic Books UK*.

**Voices:** The Final Hours of Joan of Arc. By David Elliott. *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*.

If you are interested in becoming a patron of the Book Award ceremony, or have questions about the prize, please write the Book Award administrator, former Library director Charles Trueheart, at [bookaward@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:bookaward@americanlibraryinparis.org).

Did you know that the Book Award ceremony is the Library's largest donor appreciation event? If you have not made a donation in the past year and you would like to receive an invitation to the ceremony, please consider supporting the Library during our Fall Appeal and contact [giving@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:giving@americanlibraryinparis.org).

## PRESS ROOM

### Library news outside our walls

Thank you, journalist Christopher Dickey, for mentioning the Library's periodical archives in your June 19<sup>th</sup> piece in *The Daily Beast*.

Library member Julia Molet wrote to us by email to declare, "**I just regret one thing— that I did not discover the library before.**"

On **Trip Advisor** in May, reviewer Artsysnippets called the Library "**friendly, immense, work-friendly**" adding, "I strongly recommend this amazing library for anyone of any age who just wants to get lost in the world of words."

**Vulture.com**'s "Best and Biggest Books to Read this Fall" features works by three of our former Visiting Fellows, plus a member of our 2019 Book Award jury.

Connect with us:



### From our archives

We laughed out loud when we stumbled across the newspaper clipping pictured at left. Were we really the only library in all of France that permitted indoor smoking in the 1960s?

The journalist is perhaps not to be trusted, as both our name and "new" address are incorrect. However, the list of famous Library members is, to our knowledge, accurate.

### MILESTONES

### E-resources

We're pleased to report that a growing number of Library members use our online resources each season.

From *The New York Times* to *Vogue* to *National Geographic For Kids*, from a database of academic journals (JSTOR) to a grade-school encyclopedia (WorldBook) to conversational language-learning (Mango Languages), let us connect you!

## Summer writing workshop recap

We hosted six summer writing workshops in 2019, some of which focused on publishing, and others that gave emerging writers tools and habits to develop their craft.

**Molly Antopol** (Spring 2019 Visiting Fellow) taught "Finding Your Form: Exploring Storytelling through Fiction and Memoir." With her workshop "Magic Lanterns to Selfies: Using Historic and Personal Photos to Jumpstart Your Writing," **Rhae Lynn Barnes** (Summer 2019 Visiting Fellow) provided a crash course in using images to generate narrative.

Pausing in Paris on a dreamy and ambitious summer travel schedule, **Leslie-Ann Murray** brought us "Finish that Story: A Generative Writing Workshop for Getting Unstuck," a session that was met with rave reviews.

New Library member and Children's and Teens' Services volunteer **Carly Bisek** (pictured right, top), wrote, "...one of the best workshops I've ever attended. Leslie-Ann was a fantastic instructor, warm, thoughtful and welcoming. She created a space that was creative, curious and encouraging. I only regret that we had just two hours! I made more progress in my creative writing in those two hours than I have in probably two years."

Thank you to all of our instructors and participants!



Top: Workshop participants in deep concentration  
Bottom: Leslie-Ann Murray (center) with her participants

Book Groups begin twice a year (in September/October and again in January/February) and meet once a month at the Library. There is no additional fee for our book groups, but you must be a member of the American Library in Paris to participate. Space is limited. To sign up for a group, or to propose leading a group of your own, please send an email to [programs@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:programs@americanlibraryinparis.org).

All the titles discussed in our book groups are part of the Library's circulating collection. Below is a selection of book groups meeting this fall; additional groups are listed on our website.

### Finding Time for Proust

Led by Morgan Thomas

There's no better way to tackle Marcel Proust's masterpiece, *In Search of Lost Time*, than in the company of fellow enthusiasts reading with all deliberate speed and probing its multiple layers and meanings together. As we continue reading *Volume III: The Guermantes Way* there is room for a limited number of new members who already have some experience of reading Proust. Please inquire if you are interested. Reading is in French or English. Discussions are in English. Meetings will be on 17 September, 22 October, 10 December, 7 January, and 4 February.

### Americans in Paris, Famous and Not-so-Famous

Led by Sharon Golec

26 September: *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France and the Birth of America* by Stacy Schiff

24 October: *Envoy to the Terror: Gouverneur Morris and the French Revolution* by Melanie Randolph Miller

21 November: *The Other Americans in Paris: Businessmen, Countesses, Wayward Youth 1880–1941* by Nancy L. Green

19 December: *Paris Noir: African Americans in the City of Light* by Tyler Stovall

### Words about Wine

Led by Joshua Adler

Join Paris Wine Company founder Joshua Adler for a reading group about wine. Each month, we'll read and discuss a general interest book about a different aspect of the wine world. Participants are encouraged to bring a bottle to share that's inspired by the readings.

17 October: *The Dirty Guide to Wine* by Alice Feiring with Pascaline Lepeltier

14 November: *Au Revoir to All That* by Michael Steinberger

12 December: *The Widow Clicquot* by Tilar J. Mazzeo

30 January: *Judgement of Paris* by George M. Taber

### This is America: Rampages against Democracy

Led by Ed Turner

Examine America today through diverse books, including a memoir, a novel, and a critique of America through an international lens.

26 September: *The Death of Democracy* by Benjamin Carter Hett

24 October: *Ill Winds: Saving Democracy from Russian Rage, Chinese Ambition, and American Complacency* by Larry Diamond

21 November: *Fascism: A Warning* by Madeline Albright

### Celebrating works by the Library's Evenings with an Author speakers

Led by Catherine Olien

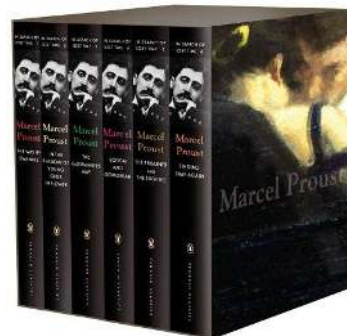
This group will provide the opportunity for an in-depth, participatory analysis and discussion of works by our EWA guests in advance of their appearance at the Library. Covering a wide range of topics and genres, we hope to foster a community of readers who will also attend EWA events and come prepared with questions for our speakers.

26 September: *Late in the Day* by Tessa Hadley

24 October: *The Falconer* by Dana Czapnik

28 November: *Self-Portrait in Black and White: Unlearning Race* by Thomas Chatterton Williams

19 December: TBD



## Sponsored memberships update

The Sponsored Membership Program was established in 2018 to help individuals and families with official refugee status in France and other underserved populations gain access to the Library's collection of 100,000 books and magazines, digital resources, study spaces, research assistance, and programs for children, teens, and adults. To help identify prospective recipients of subsidized memberships, the Library partners with four organizations: Association Pierre Claver, AAW Community-wide Refugee Task Force, Wintegreat, and YESAkademia.

In the Program's first year, 4,500€ was raised from Library members and donors to fund 21 new members of the Library. Sponsored members receive all the benefits of Library membership and many have enjoyed our programs for children and adults, borrowed books to study for English language exams, and participated in our English conversation groups. If you would like to support the Sponsored Membership Program, please check our website or contact Strategic Partnerships Manager Pauline Lemasson at [lemasson@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:lemasson@americanlibraryinparis.org).



## Meet Library volunteer coordinator Danielle Typinski

The Volunteer Coordinator is an essential role at the Library whose duties include maintaining communication between the Library staff and our more than sixty volunteers, scheduling interviews and trainings, and overseeing the volunteer calendar.

The position is managed by a volunteer, Danielle Typinski, and for the past year she has been an invaluable member of the Library community. Danielle moved to Paris when her husband accepted a position with the American Battle Monuments Commission. As ex-foreign service, she's learned to use her local libraries as a starting point when moving to a new city. "We've traveled a lot and libraries have always been my go-to for finding my immediate community. I haunted the city library in Luxembourg, volunteered several hours a week at the Arlington County library in Virginia, and spent lots of time in the regional library in Pretoria, South Africa." After moving to Paris, it didn't take Danielle long to start volunteering at the American Library. Within a few months, the Library recognized her commitment by appointing her our Volunteer Coordinator.

There are many reasons why Danielle loves volunteering at the Library, which she freely shared with us: "Getting to know the amazing individual stories of each volunteer and employee, working with volunteers and the public who love reading and books just as much as I do, helping in a small way to make the Library a success as an important and essential community for the city of Paris, learning about new authors, seeing new books coming in, discovering long-published authors for the first time, helping others discover new favorites, making a positive difference, no matter how seemingly minor, and having a community that I know and that know me, making Paris feel more like home than any other foreign place I've lived." To read the full interview with Danielle, visit our website.



## Library volunteers contribute a total of 10,000 hours every year!

Volunteers are the heart of the American Library in Paris. Volunteers donate their time and talents and provide valuable assistance to our staff and patrons of the Library all year round. Our volunteers range in age from young adults to seniors. Volunteer assignments are available weekdays, evenings, and weekends and we ask for a minimum commitment of one weekly shift for four months. It's a great way to meet new people and put your talents to excellent and appreciated use.

### Spotlight on summer interns

This summer, the Library was reinforced by a wonderful group of interns with various backgrounds who helped improve the level of library service, and who gained valuable experience through the process.

**Brianna Gibson**, a BA student of English and Theater at Maryville College (TN), supported the Advancement team with evening programs, marketing, and external relations. Brianna also proved to be a valuable assistant in organizing the 2019 Gala fundraising dinner with author Martin Amis.

**Clémentine Laurent** is an MA student of librarianship at École Nationale Supérieure des Sciences de l'Information et des Bibliothèques. She completed a year abroad with Erasmus in Cambridge (UK) from September 2017 to June 2018. In the Library, she sharpened her librarianship skills by working with the Collections department on various projects organizing books and periodicals.

**Rico Washington** (pictured right, top) is an MA student of North American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin and at the time of his internship at the Library, was finishing his Erasmus program at Université Paris Nanterre. The Library benefited from his passion for archives and he worked closely with Collections department, digging through our more intriguing historical documents and helping connect all the pieces into a broader story of the Library.

**Charlotte Gross** (pictured right, bottom) is a second year BA student of English Language and Literature at University College London. She provided professional and quality service at the Member Services and Welcome desks where her help filling vacant volunteer shifts was especially crucial during the summer vacation season.

The Library is grateful to these four students and wishes them all the best in their future adventures. Thank you for all your help, your great attitudes, and for giving us the opportunity to learn and teach at the same time.



## An update from the Children's Library

During the relatively quiet summer, Assistant Children's and Teens' Services librarian Kirsty McCulloch Reid completed a full inventory of the Children's Library with the help of our volunteers who remained in Paris throughout the summer months. The count in the Children's Library and Teen Mezzanine comes to 19,204 items for ages 0-18 as well as a small collection for caregivers.

Our Story Hours, Toddler Times and Saturday Series continued throughout the summer, each with a single weekly afternoon session. The Children's and Teens' Services staff used the quiet morning hours to plan programs for fall. On the schedule, we've got new book groups for children, author visits, clubs, and more. Events for children and teens are now highlighted in seasonal brochures covering three months for each group (ages 0-12 and ages 12-18), and are also listed online.

Many of you are wondering if you and your children will be able to dress up and join us for trick-or-treating and our Halloween festivities. The answer is yes! This year, we'll be holding our Halloween Extravaganza on Saturday 26 October, with ticketed events all day. Tickets go on sale for Library members on Tuesday 1 October, and we anticipate that we will sell out well in advance of the event.

### Spotlight on Children's & Teens' Services volunteers

The bustling Children's and Teens' Services Department is the Library's liveliest corner. In addition to providing young readers with access to a collection of over 19,000 items for ages 0-18 and the professional guidance of our Children's and Teens' Services Manager (Celeste) and our Assistant Children's and Teens' Librarian (Kirsty), the department has an active and committed group of over 20 interns and volunteers! Our longest-standing volunteer, Marcia Lèbre, has been volunteering in the department for ten years. She reads with our librarians during Saturday programs, and helps put the Children's Library back in order after each busy Saturday afternoon.

Volunteers help with everything from proposing, creating, and putting up displays (Lucy McCloskey, pictured above), to scheduling content for our social media, preparing models of craft activities, and putting stickers and book plates in new books (Kawan Desai, pictured at left). They set up refreshments for events, and—the biggest task of all—put books back on the shelves, to ensure they're easily findable. Over half of all check-ins, and check-outs in 2018 were from the Children's Library and Teen Mezzanine, so that's a lot of books to keep in order!



### Library love in haiku

The following haikus were created by children between the ages of 6 and 10 after our "How to Haiku" program on Saturday 7 September 2019.

Seventy-two bus  
Cherry trees near the big Seine  
Cross bridge: Library.  
— By Sophie and Antonio Torralba

Leaves are falling down  
Trying to read the fun books  
With the wind blowing  
— By Lina Al-Widyan

Winter wolves and snow  
Outside, but I am inside  
Cozy with a book  
— By Gwenna and Laura

Halloween season  
Paper pumpkins come to life  
In the Library  
— By Sophie and Antonio Torralba

A blanket of snow  
The Library stops the frost  
Quietly, words grow.  
— By Lily Thebaut

Today is rainy  
I go to the Library.  
I'm gonna read books.  
— By Simone Faure

Leaves swirling around  
Library trick-or-treating  
Leaves falling from trees  
— By Gwenna and Laura

Yellow orange leaves  
The leaves change to orange leaves  
Oh! I love autumn!  
— By Samuel Chou

## EX LIBRIS

The newsletter of the American Library in Paris is published quarterly. Back issues available online.

## Teens in the Library

Teen events are in full swing this September, with clubs meeting most Saturdays, and with Teen Nights and Saturday workshops for ages 12-18 open for registration. Along with our usual roster of events for English-speaking teens, the Children's and Teens' Services staff is reviving The Haunted Library as part of our annual Halloween Extravaganza. We will be holding a casting call (for ages 12 to adult) for anyone who would like to take part in the evening. When selecting our cast for The Haunted Library, priority will be given to Library members.

We kicked off our fall season with an evening with novelist Elizabeth Acevedo who spoke to an audience of teens and adults at the Library on Monday 16 September. Elizabeth is the author of *With the Fire on High* and *The Poet X*, which won the 2018 National Book Award for Young People's Literature, the Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Fiction, the CILIP Carnegie Medal, and the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award. Elizabeth captivated the enthusiastic crowd of fans while discussing her work, her inspiration, and the long job of editing a completed first draft. She closed the event with a book signing (at right).



## From the Teen Mezzanine to Instagram



If you follow the Library on Instagram, you might be wondering who takes all the photos for our feed. Along with our Children's and Teens' Services Librarians, many of our volunteers regularly take photos to post, and we accept teen interns throughout the year to help create content, too.

Summer Library intern Rupert Smith took the three photos pictured at left during his three-week internship in August, along with many more that we'll post to Instagram over the coming months.



Volunteer Pauline Charruyer, a master book-statue builder, created the book heart below, which is available as a postcard at the Library.

Along with news about events, we regularly post recommendations for new books. Let us know if there's something you'd like to see online!



## Haiku: for bookworms

Building off our workshop for children titled "How to Haiku" the Teen Writing Group started off the season with some haiku poems of their own. The group read haiku by Richard Wright from the book *Haiku: This Other World*, then worked for fifteen minutes to come up with their own.

The smell of seaweed  
My hair tumbles with the waves  
My book left to dry  
— Angèle Latreille

Shuttered metal box  
Sealed against the melting world  
Locked inside, I read  
— Jonathan Gurr-Lavan

The crisp autumn air  
Makes the trees sway gently  
And turns my pages  
— Edy McLaughlin

I really like books  
But to my biggest regret  
The end always comes  
— Shelley Bakayoko

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.

## FALL CALENDAR

Monday 16 September 19h30

### Elizabeth Acevedo and *The Poet X*

Award-winning and bestselling author Elizabeth Acevedo presents her second novel *With the Fire on High*, and answers questions about her writing and process and her debut book, *The Poet X*, which won the 2018 National Book Award for Young People's Literature.



Tuesday 17 September 19h30

### Tessa Hadley on fiction and intimate relationships

Acclaimed author Tessa Hadley will talk about her latest novel, *Late in the Day*, which explores the tangled webs at the center of our most intimate relationships to expose how grievances rise from the past, and how love and sorrow give way to anger and bitterness. Tessa is the award-winning author of six highly praised novels and three collections of stories.

Wednesday 18 September 19h30

### Ladee Hubbard on a family with superpowers

Ladee Hubbard will be discussing her novel, *The Talented Ribkins*, which tells the story of an African-American family from Florida, each member born with a unique talent. These gifts are of dubious practical value and often assume the form of idiosyncratic compulsions.



*Evenings with an Author* 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, our members, and those who attend programs. Please note that doors for evening events open at 19h00, which begin promptly at 19h30.

Thursday 19 September 19h30

### Technology and China

The Library is pleased to partner with the MIT Club de France to feature a special presentation with François Quentin on technology and China. François, former President of Huawei France and member of its International Advisory Council, will answer questions regarding the topic. **This event will be in French.**

Tuesday 24 September 19h30

### Dana Czapnik on coming of age in a man's world

Dana Czapnik will talk about her highly acclaimed debut novel, *The Falconer*, set in 1990s New York. The book follows the story of a street-smart teenager who is often the only girl on the public basketball courts. Dana has captured the voice of a modern literary heroine.



Wednesday 25 September 19h30

### Anissa Bouziane on healing and post-9/11 life

Anissa Bouziane's book *Dune Song* witnesses the collapse of the World Trade Center and how one woman struggles to move beyond the pain and confusion by leaving her New York life and returning to Morocco. On the desiccated landscape, thousands of miles from Ground Zero, the Dune sings of death, love, and forgiveness.

Monday 30 September 19h30

### Richard Ford in conversation with Livia Manera

Join us for a conversation between Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Ford and literary journalist Livia Manera as they discuss his work. Richard is a novelist, short story writer, essayist, and journalist, and his work has won many prizes, including the Pulitzer Prize, the Prix Femina, and the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction.

Authors, publishers, publicists, and literary agents should direct *Evenings with an Author* speaking inquiries and proposals to [programs@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:programs@americanlibraryinparis.org)

## COMING IN WINTER 2019

**Heather Nathans** on Jewish identity on the American stage • **Cara Black** presents her latest mystery novel in the popular Aimée Leduc series • Photographer **Beowulf Sheehan** • **Thomas Chatterton Williams** in conversation with **Lauren Collins** • **George Packer** speaks about his book, *Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century* • **Dana Thomas** on sustainable fashion

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