



# EX LIBRIS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS WINTER 2019

## Ringing in 100 years

As we ring in 2020 and a new decade begins, the Library will kick off its centennial year. The Library's official birthday falls on 20 May, and special events in honor of its century of service will take place throughout the calendar year.

Festivities will begin on 3 February with "The Library After Dark" (see page 3) and culminate with the Centennial Gala on 28 May at the Automobile Club. A feature on our guest speaker will be in the spring edition of *Ex Libris*, and invitations will be mailed in March. Other writers who will help us celebrate include Centennial Writer-in-Residence Geraldine Brooks (see page 8) and spring Visiting Fellow Mark Braude.

You can help us mark our centennial by attending these special events, by sharing a testimonial—in any format—about what the Library means to you, and by giving to Project 100, our centennial campaign that will raise funds for the American Library of the future.



The  
American  
Library  
in Paris



## Story Time guest star: the Librarian of Congress

In honor of the Library's centennial year, Dr. Carla Hayden, the 14<sup>th</sup> Librarian of Congress, will be visiting the Library on Saturday 21 March. She will give a reading for young members during a special Saturday Story Time event.

Hayden, the first woman and first African-American to lead the Library of Congress, was nominated to the position by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate in 2016. Prior to this appointment, Hayden served as the CEO of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, and throughout her career she has played an important role in the field of Librarianship, most notably as a past president of the American Library Association.

## 2019 American Library in Paris Book Award Weitzmann on 'Hate' and hope

Marc Weitzmann's passionately argued polemic *Hate: The Rising Tide of Anti-Semitism in France (and What it Means for Us)* has won the 2019 American Library in Paris Book Award. Weitzmann, an author, editor, and radio personality in Paris, is the first French winner of the Book Award, which goes to the most distinguished title of the year, written in English, about France and the French.

In its citation, the 2019 jury said "Marc Weitzmann blends memoir, scholarship and reportage to create a powerful nonfiction study of anti-Semitism in France today. In prose that's by turns expansive and taut, he reframes a story we thought we knew, and offers glimmers of clarity into what's happening in France and beyond. Improbably, by doing so, he offers something like hope."

*Continued on page 4*



## New book groups for a new decade

The Library is pleased to offer two new book groups in 2020. Ten other groups are continuing their meetings and have limited openings. Please see our website to see a full list of groups and their details.

Participation in our book groups is limited to Library members, and sign-up requests (on a first come, first served basis) should be made via the online form on our website.

### Libraries: Past, Present, and Future

15 OPENINGS

Led by Jade Vu Henry on Wednesdays 12h30–14h00

- 5 February : *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean  
 4 March: *BiblioTech: Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google* by John G. Palfrey  
 1 April: *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life* by Eric Klinenberg  
 6 May: *The Library Beyond the Book* by Jeffrey T. Schnapp and Matthew Battles

### Prize-Winning American Plays

15 OPENINGS

Led by Hilary Kaiser on Saturdays 10h30–12h30

- 11 January: *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller  
 22 February: *Angels in America* by Tony Kushner  
 21 March: *True West* by Sam Shepard  
 25 April: *Clybourne Park* by Bruce Norris  
 16 May: *The Flick* by Annie Baker

### French and American Encounters

10 OPENINGS

Led by Sharon Golec on Thursdays 17h00–19h00

- 30 January: *Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Restless Genius* by Leo Damrosch  
 27 February: *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation* by Joseph J. Ellis  
 26 March: *The Giant of the French Revolution: Danton, A Life* by David Lawday  
 14 May: *When the United States Spoke French: Five Refugees Who Shaped a Nation* by François Furstenberg

## EX LIBRIS

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



Photo credit: Krystal Kenney

## Writing her next chapter

After seven years of dedicated service to the Library, Pauline Lemasson, our Strategic Partnerships Manager, is moving on. Pauline brought enormous spirit and grace to the job and to the community as a whole. Her contributions during her time here were innumerable. She spearheaded the Sponsored Membership program which has, to date, raised approximately 5,500 euros to provide Library services and resources to forty-four new members from underserved communities. She worked closely with Anglophone institutions and organizations throughout Paris to spread the word about the Library's services, events, and community.

In one of her most important roles, Pauline was in charge of the Library's extensive volunteer program, collaborating with a volunteer coordinator. She also had a hand in the Young Authors Fiction Festival, the annual Fall Open House, and our cultural programs. "In many ways, Pauline is irreplaceable. She leads with such empathy and naturally creates community," says Library Director Audrey Chapuis.

We are happy to know that Pauline will forever be a valued member of the Library community, and we warmly wish her the best of luck in her next chapter.



## It's in the bag!

Spread some holiday cheer this winter by offering a Library membership gift certificate, wrapped in one of our sturdy, all-cotton tote bags.

Or, make an equally thoughtful gift—to yourself and the Library—with a tax-deductible donation to our Fall Appeal.





## 'Tis the season to support the library

Show your friends and family that you support the Library by wearing a special-edition pin featuring our new centennial logo. As an independent, non-profit organization that receives no government funding, the Library is sustained by people like you who believe in the power of libraries. You still have time to contribute to the Fall Appeal and receive your commemorative pin. Contact [giving@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:giving@americanlibraryinparis.org).

Spring 2019 Visiting Fellow Molly Antopol



VISITING FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

## Hello, Fellow

The Library is now accepting applications for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 fellows. The fellowship offers writers and researchers working on cross-cultural 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 project that contributes to international discourse, be it fiction, non-fiction, or a feature-length documentary film.

Please see the Library website for further details. This application cycle will close on 15 February 2020.

## Stay up late on 3 February

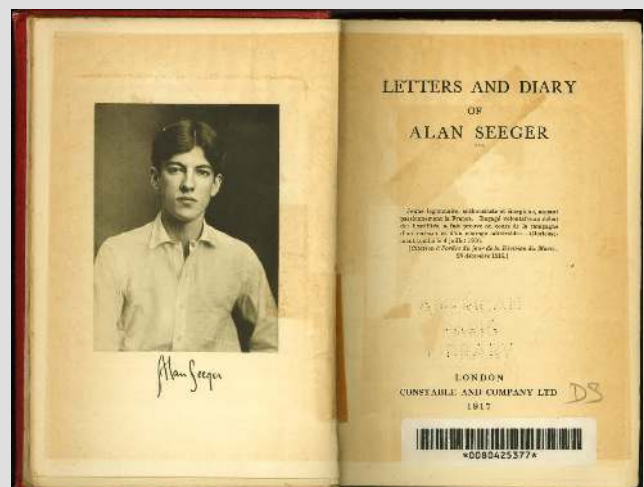
Music, handcrafted cocktails, new Library souvenirs, and readings from surprise authors: come experience the Library in a different light as we stay open until midnight on 3 February for our event, "The Library After Dark" event. Tickets for this adult-only evening will go on sale in January and additional information will be included in January editions of e-Libris. All proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Library.

## What goes around comes around

A posthumously published copy of Alan Seeger's letters and diary was donated to our original Paris location in 1920 by Seeger's father Charles, the first president of our Board of Trustees. Alan Seeger, a major American poet of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, served in the French Foreign Legion during the Great War and is today honored by a statue in Paris's place des États-Unis. His father was the major donor to the initial fundraising drive to establish and incorporate the American Library in Paris after the War.

The unique volume of Alan Seeger's letters and journals pictured below made its way to the English-language Library in Angers, or ELLIA, where it stayed until this summer, when director Phoebe Marshall-Raimbeau donated it back to us. An independent, nonprofit lending library, ELLIA started as one of our provincial branches in Nantes in the 1950s. It closed briefly in the 1980s, but was energetically reestablished in 1993 with a move to its current location in Angers. Until 2002, when our two libraries officially separated, their books were ordered, catalogued, and prepared by librarians in Paris.

We are honored that this storied tome's latest home is in our Special Collection.



## Winter holiday closure

The Library will close from Monday 23 December 2019 through Wednesday 1 January 2020 inclusive.

Ask for an extended loan period if you're traveling with books. Or, travel light with eBooks and e-magazines!

## Continued from page 1

All three members of the Book Award jury—Pamela Druckerman, Alice Kaplan (chair), and Thomas Chatterton Williams—were on hand to read their citation before the winning author at the prize ceremony on 7 November. More than one hundred Library members and guests attended the evening reception at the George C. Marshall Center on place de la Concorde. They were greeted by Library Director Audrey Chapuis, who thanked the United States Embassy for providing the glittering setting for the award ceremony again this year.

The Library's Book Award, underwritten by a gift from the Florence Gould Foundation, is now in its eighth year. The winning author receives a \$5,000 cash prize and a leather-bound edition of the honored book. Weitzmann's publisher, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, provided copies of *Hate* for all attendees.

In remarks that followed the presentation, Weitzmann described the unusual and unexpected circumstances that led him to write the book in English, his first such effort after eight previous books in French. *Hate* had its genesis five years ago in long-form articles he wrote for an American website, *The Tablet*, about anti-Semitic incidents in France. Fortuitously, no less than Philip Roth read the articles and "took the liberty," as Weitzman put it, of urging an American publisher to give him a book contract. The Charlie Hebdo massacre on 7 January 2015, followed later that year by the 13 November attacks, dramatically changed the direction and scope of the original project.

The jury chose *Hate: The Rising Tide of Anti-Semitism in France (and What it Means for Us)* from a shortlist of finalists that included two other non-fiction works—*A Bite-Sized History of France*, by Stéphane Hénaut and Jeni Mitchell, and *Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely*, by Andrew S. Curran—and three works

of fiction: *The Flight Portfolio*, by Julie Orringer, *Little*, by Edward Carey, and *Voices: The Final Hours of Joan of Arc*, by David Elliott.

At the ceremony, Charles Trueheart, the prize administrator, revealed another list of outstanding books about France. The screening committee, which selects the finalists, had also chosen five *coups de coeur*—titles meriting special recognition from among the eighty-five entries this year. The *coups de coeur* are Mark Braude's *The Invisible Emperor: Napoleon on Elba from Exile to Escape*; Peter Caddick-Adams's *Sand and Steel: The D-Day Invasion and the Liberation of France*; Christopher L. Miller's *Impostors: Literary Hoaxes and Cultural Authenticity*; Whitney Scharer's *The Age of Light: A Novel*; and Christopher Tilghman's *Thomas and Beal in the Midi*. All the submitted titles, including finalists and *coups de coeur*, are in the Library's circulating collection.

Watch for the upcoming advertisements about the 2019 prize in *The New York Review of Books* and the *London Review of Books*. Submissions for the 2020 American Library in Paris Book Award are now open for books published between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020. See our website for details.

## Book Award patrons

Judith Aubry • Mary Duncan • Jeanne and Peter Fellowes • Diane Johnson and John Murray • Suzanne Justen

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

The Library's Assistant Director Abigail Altman spoke to MLS students about working at a specialized library during their *semaine professionnelle* at **ENSSIB Lyon** on 13 November.

The 2019 American Library in Paris Book Award ceremony was covered by Barbara Gerber for **Bonjour Paris** on 22 November.

An article about the Library, featuring an interview with Director Audrey Chapuis, appeared on 4 December on the website of **RFI (Radio France Internationale)**.

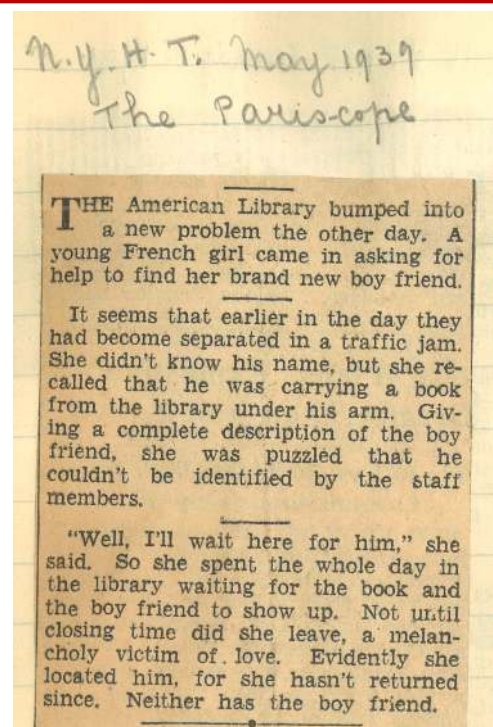
**LOST: ONE BOYFRIEND.** We recently came across this clipping (right) of a May 1939 entry from the New York Herald Tribune's "Pariscope" column. The article speaks for itself, though we hope she found who she was looking for.



YouTube



Connect with us!







## An award-winning evening

A full photo gallery from the 7 November Book Award ceremony can be viewed on the Library's online Flickr account. Here's a preview.

*Top to bottom, left to right:* Book Award winner Marc Weitzmann and Book Award jurors Alice Kaplan, Pamela Druckerman, and Thomas Chatterton Williams; Jacqueline Cessou and Celeste Rhoads; Ed and Mary Lee Turner; Patrick Chapuis, Anne Swardson, and Charlie Trueheart; Francie Seder and Clydette de Groot; Pamela Combastet with Ann and Don Morrison; Williams and Mary Duncan; the Library staff lets loose; Heather Keane. All photos by Krystal Kenney.



## What are kids reading right now?

If you look at circulation statistics at the Library (books checked in *and* out), you'll be heartened to see that kids read a lot. Eternally popular titles include the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling, and, for young children, Caldecott winners and classics such as *Where the Wild Things Are* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (both available at the Library in multiple formats). For those looking for new books to explore, our children's librarians always have suggestions to suit your specific tastes, but you can check out some of these popular titles to see what everyone is talking about at the moment:

### For pre-schoolers:

Anything starring **Peppa Pig** created by Neville Astley

***Please, Baby, Please*** by Spike Lee and Tonya Lewis Lee, illustrated by Kadir Nelson.

### For young children:

***Sofia Valdez, Future Prez*** by Andrea Beaty, illustrated by David Roberts

***Last Stop on Market Street*** by Matt de la Peña, illustrated by Christian Robinson

***I Want My Hat Back*** by Jon Klassen

### For emerging readers:

The **Elephant & Piggie** series by Mo Willems

The **Princess in Black** series by Shannon Hale and Dean Hale, illustrated by LeUyen Pham

The **Mercy Watson** series by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Chris Van Dusen

### Children's novels and Graphic Novels:

***Best Friends*** by Shannon Hale, artwork by LeUyen Pham

***Keeper of the Lost Cities*** by Shannon Messenger

***Dog Man*** by Dav Pilkey

***Guts*** by Raina Telgemeier

## How TALL can you build?

On a Saturday in late November, we held an event where we looked at books about skyscrapers, then asked children to create their own structures with LEGO bricks. Kids were also tasked with thinking about what robot they would want to see in the future and what that would look like, and we were impressed by their teamwork, creativity, and attention to detail. As you can see in the photo on the right, there were a variety of inventions and structures. One robot, the "PeaceBot" is built to calm disputes.

Join one of our many Saturday Series activities for children ages 6+ and get creative with us!



## Upcoming Highlights

### Brain Day with Gifted in France

11 January at 15h00  
Ages 6–12

Join the *Gifted in France* team for a workshop dedicated to the care and keeping of your amazing brain.

### Winter Wonderland

18 January at 14h00  
All ages!

Kick off the new year, and meet fellow Library members during our annual winter and New Year's celebration, featuring winter crafts and games for all ages, followed by a visit from Frosty the Snowman and other wonderful guests! Each child will go home with a special winter treat courtesy of the Library.

Light refreshments will be provided.

**Sign-up required through our website**

### An Afternoon of Stories: with Sylvie Mombo

Saturday 1 February at 15h00  
Ages 6–12

During this special event, Sylvie will share two stories with us, then talk about her process of hunting down great stories and preparing them to share.

### Story Structures: A Writing Workshop

Sunday 9 February at 14h00  
Ages 9–12

In time for the Young Authors Fiction Festival, we'll look at how to build a story and the important things every great story needs. If you have already started a story you can bring it along — but a first draft is not required to take part in this workshop.

**Sign-up required through our website**



## Echoes of inspiration

Join us for an afternoon with actress, storyteller, and writer Echo Brown on Saturday 22 February. Brown is a visionary storyteller from Cleveland, Ohio who strives to inspire and provoke. Her first solo show, “Black Virgins Are Not for Hipsters,” was named one of the top ten shows of 2015 by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and ran for two years to sold-out crowds both nationally and internationally. Written, produced, and performed by Brown, the show’s runaway success led to speaking invitations at Facebook, Google, Dropbox, and TEDx Talks.

Brown’s search for creative expression continues with her first book, *Black Girl Unlimited: The Remarkable Story of a Teenage Wizard*, which is Brown’s attempt to come to terms with her difficult and traumatic childhood and to make meaning out of incomprehensible experiences. Heavily autobiographical yet infused with magical realism, *Black Girl Unlimited* fearlessly explores the intersections of poverty, sexual violence, depression, racism, and sexism—all through the arc of a transcendent coming-of-age story. Brown is currently based in Paris and is writing a second book about her time at Dartmouth College and working on another one-woman show about Josephine Baker.

During this event, Brown will talk about her debut YA novel, answer questions about her writing process, inspiration, and upcoming work, and read her work aloud. Light refreshments will be provided, and a book sale and signing will conclude the program. Teens, older children, and adults are all welcome to attend this event, which will take place in the Library’s Lower Level Reading Room from 17h00 to 18h30 on Saturday 22 February 2020.



New!

### Fantasy Book Club

At the request of our teen members, we’re adding a new book club to our roster of events for ages 12 to 18: a fantasy book club focused on young adult literature. We’ll begin with three meetings focusing on sub-genres of fantasy literature, and participants are encouraged to attend monthly, so as to be able to better contribute to discussions. Spoiler Alert: If the group is discussing the first book in a series, be prepared to hear a few spoilers during meetings, as many group members will likely wish to discuss the entire series. **Don’t forget to sign up in advance on our website!**



Saturday 25 January, 17h00–18h30: **Folk and Faeries**  
Participants should read the following books before the meeting:

*The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black  
*An Enchantment of Ravens* by Margaret Rogerson

Saturday 29 February, 17h00–18h30: **Fractured Fairy Tales**  
Participants should read the following books before the meeting:

*Forest of a Thousand Lanterns* by Julie C. Dao  
*Stepsister* by Jennifer Donnelly

Saturday 28 March, 17h00–18h30: **Fantasy in the Modern World**  
Participants should read the following books before the meeting:

*The Story of Owen* by E.K. Johnston  
*Shadowshaper* by Daniel Jose Older  
*The Raven Boys* by Maggie Stiefvater

### Tell us what you want!

Complete this brief survey, cut it out, and turn it in to the Children’s and Teens’ Services Desk for a prize (a YA novel of your choice, from a selection). Open to current Library members ages 12 to 18.

Why did you originally join the Library?

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What was the last teen event you attended?

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How do you find your next great reads?

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What would you like to see more of at the Library? Dream big, or small!

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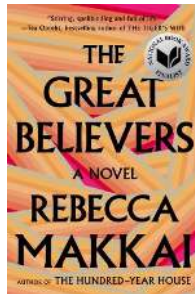
Unless otherwise stated, all programs are free for Library members and €10 for non-members. Children and teens attending Library programs must have their own membership card or be covered by a family membership. Please contact the Children’s and Teens’ services department for more information about our programs for ages 0–18: [celeste@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:celeste@americanlibraryinparis.org).

**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. Evening events begin promptly at 19h30, and **doors open at 19h00**.

Wednesday 11 December 19h30

### Remembering AIDS in the 80s

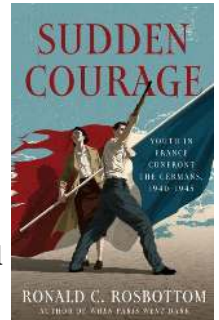
Rebecca Makkai will be in conversation with Daniel Levin Becker about her novel *The Great Believers*. This compelling and powerful story about the AIDS era was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.



Tuesday 17 March 19h30

### Sudden Courage during the French Resistance

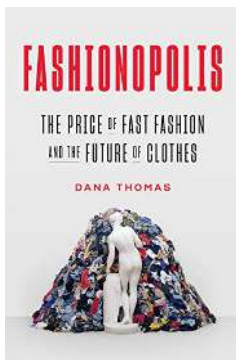
Ronald C. Rosbottom, author of the acclaimed *When Paris Went Dark*, longlisted for the National Book Award, returns to World War II to tell the incredible story of the youngest members of the French Resistance—many mere teenagers—who waged a hidden war against Nazi occupiers and their collaborators across France.



Tuesday 14 January 19h30

### The real price of fast fashion

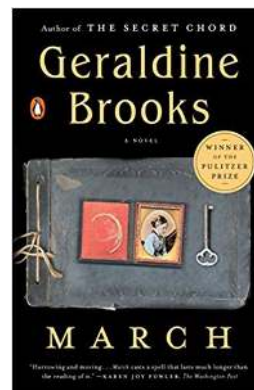
In *Fashionopolis: The Price of Fast Fashion and the Future of Clothes*, journalist Dana Thomas surveys the environmental and human cost of a globalized, profit-hungry supply chain and investigates how the clothing industry has become environmentally and ethically unsustainable.



Tuesday 24 March 19h30

### Centennial Writer-in-Residence Geraldine Brooks

Australian-born author and journalist Geraldine Brooks was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2006 for her novel *March*. In her latest novel, *The Secret Chord*, Brooks takes on one of biblical history's richest and most enigmatic figures, King David. Peeling away myth to bring David to life in ancient Israel, Brooks traces the arc of his journey from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot dwindling into his remorseful and diminished dotage.



Wednesday 15 January 19h30

### The river that made Paris

Journalist and writer Elaine Sciolino melds history and mythology in her new book *The Seine: The River That Made Paris*, a love letter to Paris and the magical river at its heart. Revelatory and brilliantly researched, *The Seine* reminds us why this river enchants us and why the likes of Monet and Hemingway have made it their own.



Photo credit: Elaine Sciolino

Tuesday 11 February 19h30

### Energy— What is it good for?

Energy expert Dr. Michael E. Webber will talk about how societies throughout history have managed energy sources and his book *Power Trip: The Story of Energy*. Webber argues that we are at a crossroads with our growing demand and accumulating environmental impact from energy.



### ALSO UPCOMING

**Craig Carlson** on bringing “Breakfast In America” to Paris • A panel on the **Bookstagram** phenomenon and digital literary communities • **David Chaffetz** in conversation with **Celestine Bohlen** • **Jean Beaman** presents *Citizen Outsider: Children of North African Immigrants in France* • Art historian **S. Hollis Clayson** on art and lighting in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Paris • Writing workshops with Geraldine Brooks, Mimi Zollars Sapparrart, and Gail Folkins

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

