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WELCOME
To the Library community,

This Annual Report serves as a testament to the many ways that you engage with the American Library in Paris. Through the second year of the COVID-19 crisis, your active participation buoyed the institution and inspired us to continue innovating amidst a variety of challenges.

In 2021, we resumed much of our most popular programming face-to-face while maintaining virtual components permitting a global audience to take part. Most notably, we welcomed patrons into our expanded Children’s and Teens’ Library for the first time in person. The expansion was the fruit of our Project 100 Centennial Campaign, spearheaded by the Library’s Board of Trustees, who unanimously contributed to the campaign. In addition, thanks to other major gifts from generous donors to that initiative, we implemented critical new software and added 5,000 books to the collection.

Over 7,500 people attended over 300 programs for children, teens, and adults, including Evenings with an Author, sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg. We also had the opportunity to expand our programming through partnerships with Columbia Global Centers and the Institute for Ideas and Imagination with the Entre Nous series as well as with the Embassy of the United States of America in France and Festival America for Lettres d’Amerique.

Highlights of 2021 also included our Annual Gala with honoree Zadie Smith, in which nearly 200 guests gathered to commemorate the Library’s centennial face-to-face after a year of more virtual celebrations. In addition, the Young Authors Fiction Festival had a banner year, with close to 900 writers submitting pieces to our twenty-one-year-old creative writing contest, buoyed by the participation of seventy schools throughout the greater Paris region. We also increased our organizational partnerships by over 20% in 2021, welcoming new members from a range of institutions, including Sorbonne Université and Notre Dame International High School.

Throughout the vicissitudes of the pandemic, the Library staff and Board of Trustees had a single guiding light—service to you. With our eyes on the future, and with your support and engagement, whatever new challenges 2022 may bring, the Library will continue to enrich your lives as readers, thinkers, and informed citizens.

Audrey Chapuis
Director

Forrest Alogna
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
The 2021 Gala celebration took place on 23 September. After 2020’s virtual Centennial Gala, we returned to the familiar format of an in-person dinner with nearly 200 Library supporters. Honoree Zadie Smith, in conversation with journalist Rachel Donadio, spoke about the writing life, the perils of social media, and the pull toward home.

Guests were led in a limerick contest by Declan McCavana, and Trustee Laura Wenke recognized the passionate support of volunteer Mayanne Wright, Advisory Council member Jacqueline Cessou, and actor Denis O’Hare, for his work on the *At Home with the Library* program. The event, held for the first time at the Pré Catalan in the Bois de Boulogne, was a resounding success, raising 195,000€ for the Library’s innovative services, cultural programming, and important resources.

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**CORPORATE SPONSORS**

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Photo © Krystal Kenney
My writing has always been about trying to insist on the value of the kind of life I knew and grew up in, because it was often the life of millions of people around the world.

—Zadie Smith at the 2021 Gala
THE 2021 GALA

Usha Viswanathan, Advisory Council Member; Steven Bawol

Neil Janin, 2021 Trustee; Anne Swardson; William Torchiana, President of the Library’s USA Foundation Board of Directors

Pascal Colange; Jacqueline Cessou, Advisory Council Member

Ed Turner; Mary Lee Turner, former Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Aurélie Coop, Library member and volunteer

Forrest Alogna, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Zadie Smith, 2021 Gala honoree

Nathalie Cousin, Finance Manager; Maria del Carmen Richter Kelly

Luis Roth, Former Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Henley Johnson; Verena Thornton

Photos © Krystal Kenney
THE 2021 GALA

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Laura Wenke, Trustee
Director Audrey Chapuis with Fred Weissler

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William R. Kelly, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Andrew Plump, Secretary of the Board of Trustees
Gabrielle McFarland, Development Coordinator; Carolyn Dubol, Communications Manager

Marie-Anne Ginoux; Julien Horn, Trustee
Sandrine Poisson Alogna; Lucy Alogna
Bertrand Cardi and guests
Sudhir Hazareesingh accepted the 2021 prize for *Black Spartacus: The Epic Life of Toussaint Louverture* at a hybrid Library ceremony on 20 January 2022. Hazareesingh logged on from his native Mauritius to accept the prize and speak about the book. He lives most of the year in Britain, where he is a lecturer and fellow in politics at Balliol College, Oxford University. He is the author of *The Legend of Napoleon* and *How the French Think*, among other works.

The 2021 Jury

Lauren Collins (chair), staff writer at the *New Yorker*

Julian Jackson, historian and winner of the 2018 Book Award

Dinaw Mengestu, novelist and writer of nonfiction

Maggie Paxson, anthropologist and winner of the 2020 Book Award
The extraordinary career of the Haitian revolutionary Toussaint Louverture merits passionate consideration. Born enslaved, emancipated in adulthood, and thrust into leadership in a fractured society, Louverture prepared Haiti to become the world’s first Black republic. With *Black Spartacus: The Epic Life of Toussaint Louverture*, Sudhir Hazareesingh has written a biography worthy of his subject’s enterprise, energy, political acumen, and dramatic instincts. It is both an enthralling portrait and a forcefully-argued case for Louverture’s seminal contribution to Black empowerment and to the realization of the professed ideals of the Enlightenment.

—The Book Award jury on *Black Spartacus*

The creation of the American Library in Paris Book Award was made possible in 2013 by gifts from the Florence Gould Foundation. The literary award and a $5,000 cash prize go to the author of the most distinguished book of the year, written originally in English, whose subject matter is France or the French. A committee of screeners selects the shortlist, from which the jury chooses the winning book.

At the ceremony Director Audrey Chapuis announced that the Florence Gould Foundation had granted the Library a $500,000 endowment, a sizable gift that will allow the Award to flourish for years to come.

Charles Trueheart, The Book Award Administrator, former Library Director, and founder of the Book Award, shared the news that he would be stepping down from that role. Beyond being the prize’s shepherd for the last nine years, Mr. Trueheart has been an inspiring and motivating force for the many people involved in the Award process, including dedicated screeners, volunteers, staff members, and jury members.

A special thank you to the Book Award’s Screening Committee: Charles Trueheart, Administrator; Abigail Altman; Michael Duffy; Jeanne Fellowes; Clydette de Groot; Brian Manning; Ann Morrison; Don Morrison; and Usha Viswanathan.

**The 2021 Shortlist**

*Black Spartacus*
by Sudhir Hazareesingh

*An Infinite History*
by Emma Rothschild

*Leonora in the Morning Light*
by Michaela Carter

*Letters to Camondo*
by Edmund de Waal

*Perestroika in Paris*
by Jane Smiley

**Coups de Cœur**

Books of special merit from among the contenders:

*French Like Moi*
by Scott Dominic Carpenter

*Göring’s Man in Paris*
by Jonathan Petropoulos

*Minerva’s French Sisters*
by Nina Rattner Gelbart

*The Paris Library*
by Janet Skeslien Charles

*Today Sardines Are Not for Sale*
by Paula Schwartz

**Book Award Sponsors and Patrons**

The Florence Gould Foundation

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Suzanne Justen

Usha Viswanathan

Allen Lane, an imprint of Penguin
The Visiting Fellowship Program, established in 2013, awards a $5,000 stipend to a writer or a scholar, allowing them to deepen their research during a month-long stay in Paris. During this time, Visiting Fellows speak to Library audiences, conduct workshops, consult with Library staff about its collections, and engage in the life of the Library community.

**Dina Nayeri** (Fall 2021 Fellow) is the author of *The Ungrateful Refugee*. Her essay of the same name was one of the most widely shared 2017 Long Reads in the *Guardian*. A winner of many prestigious prizes and fellowships, Nayeri’s stories and essays have been published by the *New York Times*, the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Guardian*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New Yorker*, *Granta*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and many others. Her debut novel, *A Teaspoon of Earth and Sea* was translated into fourteen languages. Her second novel, *Refuge*, was a *New York Times* Editor’s Choice. She holds a BA from Princeton, an MBA from Harvard, and an MFA from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. She is currently a lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of St Andrews in Scotland.

**Ian Williams** completed his 2021 Visiting Fellowship in spring 2022. His latest book is *Word Problems*, a poetry collection that considers the ethical and political issues of our time as math and grammar problems. His novel *Reproduction* won the 2019 Scotiabank Giller Prize. His poetry collection *Personals* was shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize and the Robert Kroetsch Poetry Book Award. His short story collection *Not Anyone’s Anything* won the Danuta Gleed Literary Award for the best first collection of short fiction in Canada. His first book, *You Know Who You Are*, was a finalist for the ReLit Poetry Prize. He is a trustee for the Griffin Poetry Prize. Williams holds a PhD in English from the University of Toronto and is currently a professor of poetry at the University of British Columbia. He was the 2014–2015 Canadian Writer-in-Residence for the University of Calgary’s Distinguished Writers Program.
In fall 2021, we were delighted to host the second season of Critical Conversations, an expert-led discussion series that allows Library members to delve deeper into pressing topics.

Over the course of three meetings in October and November, a group of Library members met with Jennifer Wenzel, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature and of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia University, to discuss the urgent climate crisis.

Jennifer Wenzel is a scholar of postcolonial studies and environmental and energy humanities. Her recent book The Disposition of Nature: Environmental Crisis and World Literature (2020), was shortlisted for the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present 2020 Book Prize.

The Critical Conversations series was born of the Library’s belief that open debate is vital to a healthy democracy. The series seeks to foster a sense of community while also promoting civic discourse.

"Can we imagine that we are doing something to save the earth through writing and reading literature?"

—Jennifer Wenzel

Jennifer Wenzel. Photo courtesy of the author
In September 2021, the American Library in Paris presented the virtual programming series *Lettres d’Amérique*, live-interpreted for French and English-speaking audiences. The program was co-sponsored by Festival America and the US Embassy in France, in partnership with *Transfuge* magazine.

*Lettres* presented major new voices in American literature and explored issues at the heart of contemporary America: race, immigration, citizenship, historical trauma, addiction, and gun violence. There was ferocity and humor from Tommy Orange and Jenny Zhang; there was violence and memoir from Laila Lalami; and there were dark portraits of American society from Yaa Gyasi and Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah.

In its mission to showcase the brightest American literary talents to a French audience, *Lettres d’Amérique* served as a robust preview of Festival America’s twentieth anniversary celebration in September 2022.

“In everything about our culture prizes judgment, analysis, and knee-jerk reactions over active listening and openness.”

—Jenny Odell, presenting *How to Do Nothing* on 19 May 2021

### Entre Nous

In fall 2021, the American Library in Paris, Columbia Global Centers | Paris, and Columbia University’s Institute for Ideas and Imagination launched *Entre Nous*. At the intersection of art and academia, France and the United States, this ongoing conversation series features academics, authors, journalists, filmmakers, and visual artists. Guest speakers join virtually and in-person to explore the world we live in today through conversation.

### 2021 Book Groups

**The Art of Writing: The Beat Hotel**  
led by Precious Brown

**Modern Ideas in Human Culture**  
led by Maurice Lanman and Laurie Calvet

**Mysteries Book Group**  
led by Maureen Paget and Marcia Lèbre

**French and American Encounters**  
led by Sharon Golec

**Prize-Winning American and British Plays**  
led by Hilary Kaiser

**Memoirs Book Group**  
led by Leslie de Galbert and Clydette de Groot

**Contemporary French Fiction**  
led by Helen Stanton

**This is America**  
led by Ed Turner and Marjorie Bernstein

**Strangers in a Strange Land**  
led by Mary Harries Magnusson and Gulseren Kozak-Isik
In 2021 the Library’s Evenings with an Author sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg welcomed over 4,000 participants both virtually and in person, from around the world. We heard from authors such as Tobias Wolff, Joyce Maynard, Joyce Carol Oates, Torrey Peters, and Yaa Gyasi, as well as journalists such as Lauren Collins, Steve Erlanger, and Kati Marton.

We explored a wide range of topics, including the art of Francis Bacon, Afghanistan, the legacy of Angela Merkel, and the Arabian Nights. And authors discussed memory, family, feminism, love, race, resistance, testimony, and writing. We also posed urgent questions—about the refugee crisis, environmental collapse, the social landscape of Paris, and the future of Europe—and heard from experts in cinema, architecture, television, translation, fiction, nonfiction, art history, and journalism. We concluded 2021 with a look to the future: Ian Goldin, author of Rescue: From Global Crisis to a Better World, argued for a change in the status quo, and Eduardo Berti, author of the novel An Ideal Presence, discussed what it means to be present in the post-pandemic world.
2021 Evenings with an Author sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg

JANUARY

Deyan Sudjic on *The Language of Cities*

**A panel on technology and ethics with Christine Finn, Nicholas Graham, and Mike Cassidy**

Rachel Mesch discussed *Before Trans: Three Gender Stories from Nineteenth-Century France*

Richard Layard on *Can We Be Happier?*

Fiona Sze-Lorrain presented *Rain in Plural*

FEBRUARY

Stephen Clarke talked about *The Spy Who Inspired Me*

Suzanne Nossel spoke to Michelle Kuo about *cancel culture, censorship, and democratic debate*

Paul Richter introduced the *The Ambassadors: America’s Diplomats on the Front Lines*

Fredrik Logevall with Charles Trueheart on *JFK: Coming of Age in the American Century*

Lilianne Milgrom discussed *L’Origine: The Secret Life of the World’s Most Erotic Masterpiece*

Samuel Zipp on *The Idealist* and Wendell Willkie

**Janet Skeslien Charles in conversation with Naida Culshaw about *The Paris Library***

MARCH

Nita Wiggins on *Civil Rights Baby: My Story*

A panel on travel writing in France and beyond, led by Erin Byrne

Jeremy Popkin on *A New World Begins and the French Revolution*

Hala Alyan presented *The Arsonists’ City*

Lisa Feldman Barrett on *Seven and a Half Lessons About the Brain*

Kate Kirkpatrick discussed *Becoming Beauvoir*

Lisa See spoke to Pauline Wong-Lemasson on *The Island of Sea Women*

Dylan Fisher on *The Loneliest Band in France*

APRIL

Cara Black shared *Three Hours in Paris*

Paul Starobin on *A Most Wicked Conspiracy: The Last Great Swindle of the Gilded Age*

Rachel Donadio interviewed Amanda Dennis about *Her Here*

Mark Braude with Lucy Sante on *Maybe The People Would Be the Times*

Sanaë Lemoine presented *The Margot Affair*

John Monroe discussed *Metropolitan Fetish*

Lauren Collins talked with Amanda Frost about *You Are Not American*

Lauren Elkin in conversation with Kristin Harmel about *The Book of Lost Names*

MAY

Rowan Williams with Greg Garrett on authentic dialogue, literature, and life

Jeffrey Jackson on *Paper Bullets: Two Artists Who Risked Their Lives to Defy the Nazis*

Jess McHugh and Peter Sokolowski discussed *Americanon: An Unexpected U.S. History in Thirteen Bestselling Books*

Nathalie Handal presented *Life in a Country Album*

Jenny Odell spoke about *How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy*

Ian Leslie on *Conflicted: How Productive Disagreements Lead to Better Outcomes*

Tobias Wolff and Mark Braude reflected on the literature of Ernest Hemingway
2021 Evenings with an Author sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg

SUMMER

Viet Thanh Nguyen presented The Committed
David O. Stewart and Walter Stahr on George Washington: The Political Rise of America’s Founding Father
Alec Lobrano spoke about My Place at the Table
Annalyn Swan, Mark Swanson, and Elaine Sciolino discussed the art of Francis Bacon
An evening with Paula Deitz from The Hudson Review
Carissa Véliz on Privacy is Power
Tom Hodgkinson on How to Be Idle
Arthur Magida and Judy Batalion shared tales of resistance

SEPTEMBER

Tommy Orange discussed There There
Laila Lalami presented Conditional Citizens
Jenny Zhang talked about My Baby First Birthday
Yaa Gyasi and Eula Biss spoke about Transcendent Kingdom
Andrew Revkin, Kate Raworth, and Roman Krznaric on the climate crisis
Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah on Friday Black
Dina Nayeri and Matteo Pericoli on truth in art and literature

OCTOBER

Alice Barbe and Dina Nayeri on migration and the power of stories
A discussion on American foreign policy with Robin Wright, Serge Schmemann and Steven Erlanger
Torrey Peters presented Detransition, Baby
Joyce Carol Oates and Joyce Maynard on writing and creating
Elaine Sciolino and Gérard Araud discussed Henry Kissinger: Le diplomate du siècle
Lauren Oyler on Fake Accounts

NOVEMBER

Dina Nayeri on Who Gets Believed
Alice McCrum on prize-winning literature
Eula Biss interviewed Nathalie Léger about Suite for Barbara Loden
A panel on La parisienne : Les femmes qui font Paris, led by Lindsey Tramuta
Anto Neosoul and Robert O’Meally celebrated soul and jazz music
Lauren Elkin in conversation with Lauren Collins about No. 91/92: A Diary of a Year on the Bus
Eduardo Berti discussed An Ideal Presence with translator Daniel Levin-Becker
Kati Marton in conversation with Thomas Chatterton Williams about the legacy of Angela Merkel

DECEMBER

Yasmine Seale on The Annotated Arabian Nights
Ian Goldin shared Rescue: From Global Crisis to a Better World
Olivier Sibony and Laurence Lehmann Ortega discussed Noise: A Flaw in Human Judgment
A panel about the future of Europe and US relations
INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Over fifty lycées, collèges, universities, embassies, and organizations in France benefit from discounted institutional Library memberships tailored to the needs of each institution. We offer Library orientations to our institutional members, led by a professional Librarian. Orientation topics include research skills, proper source citation, and Library history. For our younger institutional members, our Children’s and Teens’ Services team presents Story Hours and introductions to the Library.

21% increase in partnerships since 2020

AAWE (American Association of Women in Europe)
ACCENT (University of Southern California)
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American Embassy in Paris
American School of Paris
American University of Paris
Australian Embassy
Bilingual Montessori School
The British Council
La Bourse Weicker
British Embassy
Lycée/Collège Camille Sée
Columbia Institute for Ideas and Imagination
Columbia University
Council of Europe Development Bank
Coventry University in Paris
Eclosia School
École Alsaciene
École Hattemer
École Jeannine Manuel
L’École Koenig American Conservatory and Kindergarten
École Massillon
EIB Grenelle
EIB Lamartine
EIB Monceau
ICS Paris
IESA (art & culture, école des métiers de la culture et du marché de l’art)
Iféa (Institut Français d’Éducation pour l’Avenir)
INSEEC U. (School of Business and Economics)
Institut de la Tour
Institut Supérieur de Gestion
ISM (International School of Management)
International School of Paris
Istituto Marangoni School of Fashion
Kingsworth International School
Lennèn Bilingual School
Lycée International American Section
Marymount International School
New York University
Notre Dame International High School
OECD and ALORA
Paris College of Art
Paris School of Architecture
Paris School of Business
Roaming Schoolhouse
Schiller International University
Sorbonne Université, Le département des Langues de la faculté des Sciences et Ingénierie
Stanford University
University of Kent
University of London in Paris

Assistant Director Abigail Altman sharing the Library’s history with visiting high school students
Children’s & Teens’ Services

The Children’s and Teens’ Services department is one of the Library’s busiest corners, having hosted over 200 programs for ages 0–18 in 2021. The recently expanded Children’s Library and Teen Mezzanine, courtesy of our Project 100 giving campaign, contain over 20,000 print volumes for young readers, and the department’s two MLIS-certified librarians offer reading recommendations, curated book lists, research help, and programs.

Collection development is a priority to ensure the department satisfies the needs of young readers. Consideration is given to a number of factors including literary acclaim, popularity, professional recommendations, honors and awards, local reading initiatives, genre, circulation statistics, and demand from community institutions.

Programs for children range from arts-integrated activities to scavenger hunts to traditional Story Hours. Programs for teens vary from writing and film-making clubs, to outdoor games, college information sessions, research skills sessions, and opportunities to meet authors and illustrators.

In 2021 we returned to live, in-person programming for children and teens post-confinement, with occasional hybrid and outdoor events during transitional periods. The department is supported by interns and a team of thirty volunteers from around the world.
The American Library in Paris is proud to be the organizer of the Young Authors Fiction Festival. YAFF is free of charge and open to all students ages 5–18 in the greater Paris area who write in English.

In 2021 YAFF received 888 entries, from seventy schools and English programs. We thank the 123 judges who volunteered their time and enthusiasm, from reading the stories to selecting the winners, as well as the YAFF 2021 Committee, who took care of administrative tasks. The Committee was made up of volunteers Molly Belhiteche, Brooke Burns, Martha Simmons, and Katherine Youngblood, as well as Library staff members, Children’s and Teens’ Services Manager Celeste Rhoads, and Children’s and Teens’ Librarian Kirsty McCulloch Reid, who coordinated the festival.

YAFF culminated with two celebration events, with over two hundred people attending on Zoom. Celebration booklets were published by the Library, and each finalist was awarded a certificate and a personalized bookmark.

The Library thanks Louise Damiano, who designed the bookmarks as well as the certificates and booklet covers, and The British Council who sponsored YAFF 2021.
CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

Clever Old Ladies and Big Bad Wolves, with Sylvie Mombo
An Interview with Noah Gringi and Lexie Bean
Animals in Danger
Once Upon a Time: A Writing Workshop
Valentine’s Card Making
Story Hour: Valentine’s Day
Story Hour: Penguins
Story Hour: All Kinds of Families
Editing and Revising Workshop
Stars of Kids Lit: Black History Month
Story Hour: Dragons
Pamela Druckerman: Paris by Phone
Story Hour: Unusual Animals
2021 Read-a-Thon
Story Hour: American Landmarks
Story Hour: Friendship
Editing and Revising Workshop
Boycotts, Strikes & Marches: Talking about Youth in Revolt w/ Barbara Diggs
Story Hour: American Landmarks
Vikings
Story Hour: Buildings & Construction
Spring Crafts and Poems
Story Hour: Facing Our Fears
Story Hour: Community
Earth Day is Everyday
Story Hour: Magical Tales
Bookworms: Echo
Story Hour: Caterpillars and Butterflies
Story Hour: Snails and Slugs
Author and Illustrator Interview: Oliver Gee & Lina Nordin Gee
Story Hour: Silly Stories
Story Hour: Rainbows
Toddler Time in the Park
Sherlock in the Library
Story Hour: Time and Space
Story Hour: Spring
Story Hour: Classics
A Conversation with Elana K. Arnold: Writing, Gender, & Power
The 2021 Young Authors Fiction Festival Celebration
Story Hour: Pirates
Summer Reading Challenge
Story Hour: Head to Toe Leaf Printing
Story Hour: Fairy Tales
History of Paris Scavenger Hunt
Story Hour: Airplanes
Word Wizardry
Story Hour: Summertime
Red, White & Blue Day: Celebrating the 4th & 14th of July
The Weirdest Things Animals Do
Story Hour: Oceans
Summer Crafternoon
Story Hour: Sailing
Twist Your Own Fairy Tale
Story Hour: Opposites
Bookmarking Workshop
Story Hour in the Park: Monster Mayhem
Summer Sing-Along
Story Hour: School Days
Library Skills Scavenger Hunt
Story Hour: We Love the Library Autumn Artifacts
Story Hour: New Releases
Creating Short Stories
Math Club
Story Hour: Diggers & Dump Trucks
Story Hour: Summer Turns to Fall
Story Hour: Fairy Tales & Fables
Looking at Art
Fall Scavenger Hunt
Story Hour: Pumpkins
Creating Scary Characters
Ghosts of the Library
Story Hour: Surprises & Secrets
Halloween Costume Party
DIY Halloween Decoration
Story Hour: Witches
Halloween Mask Making
Halloween Maze
Trick-or-Treating
Story Hour: You Are Unique
Hibernate, Migrate, Adapt
Story Hour: Summer Turns to Autumn
Rad Robotics
Fact vs. Fiction
Story Hour: Dinosaurs Galore
Thanksgiving Treats & Trivia
The Perfect Thank You Letter
Story Hour: Thanksgiving
Focus on Julie Flett
Story Hour: Ocean Tales
An Afternoon with Roger the Liger
Story Hour: Bad Manners
Storyboarding
Bookmarking
Story Hour: Friends
Sneaky Plants and Animals
Natural Disasters
Story Hour: Snowy Days
TEENS’ PROGRAMS

Fantasy Book Club: Red Hood
Teen Night: Ethics in AI
Teen Advisory Group
Youth Leadership Program
Teen Writing Group
Master Shot Film Club
Teen Night: Junk Kouture
Teen Night: The Art of the Short Story
Barbara Diggs on Boycotts, Strikes, and Marches
College Goals: Understanding the American University
Application Process
Blackout Poetry
M.T. Anderson on Graphic Novels
Fantasy Book Club: Shadow and Bone
Teen Night: Capture the Flag
Elana K. Arnold on Writing
Young Authors Fiction Festival Celebration
The 9th Annual Literary Reaping
Fantasy Book Club: The Guilded Ones
Fantasy Book Club: The Folk of the Air series
Fantasy Book Club: The Fifth Season
Teen Night: All the Best Word Games
Research Skills Scavenger Hunt
Dhonielle Clayton on Writing
Teen Night: Halloween Decorating Party
Halloween Extravaganza Zombie Fashion Show
Teen Night: Bad Art Night
Graphic Novel Book Club: Heartstopper
Teen Night: Hot Drink Mix-Off

Author Lexie Bean at the Library. Bean spoke virtually on 16 January 2021.
TOP 10 CIRCULATING TITLES

**Children**

1. *Mary Ann Saves the Day* by Raina Telgemeier
2. *Claudia & Mean Jeanine* by Raina Telgemeier
3. *Boy-Crazy Stacey* by Gail Galligan
5. *The Truth About Stacey* by Raina Telgemeier
7. *My Daddy (Peppa Pig)* created by Neville Astley
8. *Peppa Pig and the Library Visit* created by Neville Astley
9. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Third Wheel* by Jeff Kinney
10. *The Princess in Black* by Shannon and Dean Hale. Illustrated by LeUyen Pham

**Teens**

1. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins
2. *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
3. *Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins
4. *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
5. *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo
6. *The Cruel Prince* by Holly Black
7. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky
8. *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo
9. *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan
10. *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo

Story Hour on the Champ de Mars. Photo © Gema Salamanca

Halloween 2021 © Krystal Kenney
The American Library in Paris

e-Libris Newsletter

32 issues

9,149 subscribers

292,768 emails delivered
“It was an amazing moment, thank you!”
@songe.livresque

“These are lovely!”
@puppy_love_in_someplace

Instagram followers 34%
Statement of 2021 income and expenses

Sources: Audited annual financial statements of the American Library in Paris, Inc. These statements, as well as those from the American Library in Paris USA Foundation*, are available upon request.

*The American Library in Paris USA Foundation (an incorporated organization separate from ALP, Inc.) oversees and manages a collection of endowed and designated funds; its total investment assets amounted to $5.6M at YE21.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payroll <em>(1)</em></td>
<td>658,051€</td>
<td>698,174€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building, Tax</td>
<td>155,922€</td>
<td>205,362€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>219,442€</td>
<td>223,433€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional fees</td>
<td>71,961€</td>
<td>61,377€</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books and periodicals</td>
<td>123,183€</td>
<td>110,202€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>47,739€</td>
<td>86,902€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Rental &amp; maintenance</td>
<td>65,093€</td>
<td>91,160€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other <em>(2)</em></td>
<td>42,042€</td>
<td>9,193€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,383,433€</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,485,803€</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees <em>(3)</em></td>
<td>331,139€</td>
<td>290,548€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating income</td>
<td>62,438€</td>
<td>63,133€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>284,724€</td>
<td>287,408€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALP USA Foundation operating gift</td>
<td>8,748€</td>
<td>0€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gala</td>
<td>204,983€</td>
<td>182,741€</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other donations</td>
<td>788,302€</td>
<td>477,119€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income <em>(3)</em></td>
<td>4,118€</td>
<td>42,272€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,684,452€</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,343,221€</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*(1) Including payroll tax. *(2) Accounting impact of foreign exchange translation. *(3) COVID impacted membership revenue in 2020, but that trend was obscured in the financial statements due to deferred revenue from 2019.
# Collection Data

## Print and Digital Holdings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books for Adults</td>
<td>76,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books for Children and Teens</td>
<td>17,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Holdings</td>
<td>4,058*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Checkouts</td>
<td>170,189</td>
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<tr>
<td>Periodical Subscriptions</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titles in Periodical Archives</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Periodical Subscriptions</td>
<td>3,879</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Digital Databases</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-Books</td>
<td>28,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Source Logins</td>
<td>15,557</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Multimedia, circulating periodicals, and other items

---

**The American Library in Paris**
“Working as a librarian at the American Library in Paris has allowed me to be of service and help people in need, something I always strive to do in my life. During the pandemic the Library organized curbside lending so our members could reserve and pick up books. Unfortunately, not all our members could come to the Library for health reasons. To make sure they still had access to the collection, I started delivering books on my bicycle to a handful of house-bound Library members living in Paris. This became one of my most rewarding professional experiences so far.

When many of us felt fearful and helpless during COVID, being able to bring books to someone and seeing how these books could change a person’s life reminded me of the importance and power of libraries and how librarianship is truly a noble calling. I honestly feel proud to be a librarian!”

—Bojan Kupirović, Collections Librarian

### MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Active members</td>
<td>3,758</td>
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<tr>
<td>e-Libris subscribers</td>
<td>9,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation participants</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book group participants</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public adult program attendance</td>
<td>4,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s and Teens’ program attendance</td>
<td>3,128</td>
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### LIBRARY OPERATIONS

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Days open</td>
<td>291</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library visits</td>
<td>67,378</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average daily visits</td>
<td>232</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library transactions</td>
<td>269,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average daily transactions</td>
<td>928</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student orientation sessions</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book group sessions</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams proctored</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening programs</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s &amp; Teens’ programs</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fundraising

Half of the Library’s annual revenue is a result of the generous support from a global community of donors. In 2021 over 300 individuals and organizations gave a financial gift to the Library, including 121 people who donated for the very first time.

A special thank you to the Florence Gould Foundation. Their significant contribution in 2021 will allow the Book Award to continue for years to come.

For more information about supporting the Library, please contact giving@americanlibrarinparis.org.
DONORS

**Over 20,000€**

Regina and Gregory Annenberg Weingarten, GRoW @ Annenberg
Anonymous
Clydette and Charles de Groot
Steven and Barbara Gerber
The Florence Gould Foundation
Heather and Robert Keane Family Foundation
William and Maria Kelly
Edward and Mary Lee Turner

**10,000€ to 20,000€**

Forrest Alogna
and Sandrine Poisson Alogna
Bertrand and Naïma Cardi
Michael Duffy
Neil and Nancy Janin
Rob and Sherry Johnson
Ishtar Méjanès

**2,500€ to 10,000€**

Charmaine Donnelly
Peter and Jeanne Fellowes
Franco-American Benevolent Society, Inc.
Julien and Anne Mény-Horn
J. Paul and Mimi Horne
Dan and Laura Huehn
Suzanne Justen
The Honorable James G. Lowenstein
Kathleen de Montlebert
Don and Ann Morrison
Thomas Perrot and Randi Goring
Andrew Plump and Elaine Sciolino
Luis Roth and Jennifer Dalrymple
Cedric and Michal Sellin
Sara Somers
George Stansfield and Elaine Foo
The Honorable Craig Stapleton and Debbie Stapleton
Charlie Trueheart and Anne Swardson
Sarah Vaughan
Usha Viswanathan
Laura Wenke and Alexander Marquardt

**500€ to 2,500€**

John Abbott
Stephen and Sandy Abramson
Edith Astruc
Alain Aubry and Judith Aubry
John and Alice Berry
Dominique and Connie Borde
Rose M. Burke and John Newman
David Chaffetz and Marguerite Yates
Carol Chameau
Stephanie Cooper-Slockyj
Pierre Cournot
Scott and Kay Cupp
Bertrand de Fouchier
and Lise Hartman de Fouchier
René de Monseignat
Priscilla de Moustier
Yuri Loskutov and Mary Duncan
Elizabeth English
Adrien and Julia Fainsilber
Falling Leaves Foundation Inc.
Isabelle Fauquez
Laurence Flannery
Colleen Forbes
Laurie Gill
Douglas and Andrea Glucroft
Gordon Golding and Audrey Rohan
Whitney Gore
Robert and Mary Grattan
Robert and Susan Greig
Elizabeth and Abraham Oger-Gross
Bridget and Mark Habib
Wei Min Hao
Douglas and Marie-Claude Hawes
Steve and Corinne Horton
James Houghton and Connie Coburn
Dallas Hudgens
Alexandra Hughes and Neal Fiertag
Tina M. Isaac
David and Amy Jaffe
Deborah Jenner
Alice Kaplan
Heather and Robert Keane
Margaret Keith
Paul Kepp
James Lieber
Ian Link
Mary Jean Lowe and Jim Bitterman
John MacArthur and Renee Khatami
DONORS

500€ to 2,500€, continued

Ashley Maddox
Georges Magaud
and Nancy Willard Magaud
École Jeannine Manuel
Betsy Marks-Smith
Marymount Int'l School, Paris
Gil and Sandra Mercier
Jessica Montluc
Diane Johnson
Jonathan Gage and Janet Patys
Jean and Virginia Perrette

S. Prentiss Bailey Fund
and Mr. Robert Edgar
Susan Rappaport
Patricia Roush
Benoit Rousseau
Ann Salsbury
Harold W. Schneikert
John and Frances Seder
Nicole Siezien
Judith Symonds
Winston and Marilyn Tabb

Adam and Marnie Tihany
Nicolas and Diane Ver Hulst
Nadine and Jean-Patrick Voisin
Robert Wagner and
Carol Elizabeth Wagner
James Walker and Patti Connolly
Frederic Weissler
Sally Williams-Allen and Willis
S. DeLaCour, Jr.
Catherine Woodman

Up to 500€

James Acko
Christine Adams
Ed Aguila
Kyle Ahrold
Bisser Alexandrov
Amy Alpine
Ann Alric
Abigail Altman and Antoine Canonne
Jorge and Marlene Alva
Hans and Catherine Anderegg
Patrick Ashbrook
Jack and Mary Aslanian
Richard and Nancy Asthalter
Peter Barnet
Mary Barone
Hallie Beacham
Margaret Beal
Murray and Laura Belman
Marjorie Bernstein
Carly Bisek
Philippe and Dominique Bona
Michael Boyd
Didier and Mary Brodbeck
Linda C.
Andrea Cafarelle
Patricia Carpin
Michael Cassidy
Judy Cassou
Anita Cesbron
Jacqueline Cessou
Fran Chambers
Jean-Marc Chappat
Audrey and Patrick Chapuis
Roopa Chauhan
Sheila Malovany-Chevallier

Léa Soler-Clavel
Alison Clayson
Chris Coleon
Pamela and Jean-Paul Combastet
Paula Cooper
Roger and Vivian Cruise
Elizabeth Currie
Cecilia Cygnar
Jane Dean
Olivier and Lydia Delaunay
Marti Demetrior
Elsie Dia
American Friends of the Musee d'Orsay
Julian Dowski
Pamela Druckerman and Simon Kuper
Drema Drudge
Nancy Ing Ducas
John Durant
Bessandra Elder
Dorothy Erlandson
Marianne Faure
Cynthia Fields
Mary Fleming and David Morrison
Jodi Fondell
Daniele Frigon
Irène Fumanal
Jane Gabin
Alice Gay
Marilyn Gellner
Barbara Genevaz
Robert and Joyce Glaser
Anonymous
Nancy Green
American Women’s Group in Paris
Laura Hahn
Nicholas Hall

Ellen Hampton
Lynne Hanley
Ida Van Haren
Heather Hartley
Christopher and Shana Henze
Anita Herrick
Therese Hogan
Nora Hostetler
Lee and Berna Huebner
Everett Hutt
Jon Robert Johnson
Rémi Journé
Hilary Kaiser
Nick Kaiser
William Kane
Helene Kegreisz
Catherine Keller
Russell and Lynn Kelley
Jody Kennedy
Carol Amouyel Kent
Sharon Korman
Sybil Kretzmer
Veronica Kugler
Karen Kupinse
Marjorie Lallemant
Jim Lande
Maurice Lanman
Marcia Lebre
Leslie Lemons
Eleanor Levieux
Ruth Levy
Josephine Lowrey
Patricia Lydon
Cynthia Magness
James Malone
Patrick and Valentina Marcotte
DONORS

Up to 500€, continued

Georgia Marketos
Clare Mattok
Marilee McClintock
Janet McDonald
Janet McEvoy
Kathleen McGreavy
John Monroe
Marie Armande de Sparre Monsaingeon
Elizabeth Moore
Elizabeth Wintersteen-Moussier
Paul Myers
Lilian Nassif
Kurt Navratal
Lorna Newman
Elizabeth Neylon
Romie Nguyen
Carolyn Norgate
Josh O’Donovan
Tamrah O’Neil
Donna Osborne
Karen Oudin
Roberta Vellve-Padden
Mary Jo Padgett
Maureen Paget
Terry Parker
Dana Paxson
Robert Paxton and Sarah Plimpton
Barbara Pelter
Jeanne Pfander
George and Bonnie Pinkham
Robert Pope
Merlyn and Gail Pugh
Shyama Ramani
Daniele Raugi
Brian and Heidi Van Reet
Billy Reid
Anne-Sophie Renauld
Lucienne Renauld
Robert Reul
Amelie de La Rochefoucauld
Joanne Romand
Katherine Rooks
Thomas and Carol Rose
Ed Rothberg
Penelope Rowlands
Vanessa Sah
Jean-François and Sara Sautin
Maureen Schaefer
Mary Scherr
Marcel Schneyder

Terry Schooley
Connie Scuderi
Terry Seligman
Jean-Pierre Séréni
Evelyn Shaevel
F. Sheppard Shanley
Gerald and Claire Shea
Pam and Jerry Shutlesworth
Susan Small
Damon B. and Patricia Smith
Diana Smith
Ina Smith
Sara Snyder
Megan Staley
Thomas Steele
Craig and Michelle Steinberg
Wendy and Alain Stern
Sharon Stevens
Elizabeth Stribling and Guy Robinson
Robert and Kathleen Sunderbruch
Judy Swanson
Mark Tardi
James Taylor
Nicholas and Deyi Tcherdakoff
Glynis Thomas
Nancy Thomas
Debra Thomas
Kate Wallis Thweatt
Antonio Torralba
Lily Tuck
Betty Turock and Gus Friedrich
Joanna Valentine
Bernadette Vasseux
Susan Vehon
Jeff Doniger and Anne Vitek
Suzy Wahba
Paul Weick
Deborah Weiss
Mary Wessels
Lynnette Widder
Lawrence Wilkinson
John and Ilse Willems
Cynthia Wilson
Adele Witt
Marcel and Vicky Wormser
Rebecca Wurzburger
Morgan and Karen Wurzburger
Alison Young
David and Jan Young
Katherine Zachary
Agnieszka Zalewska
The Abbey Bookshop
Abrams Books
Agence Littéraire Eliane Benisti
Allen Lane
American Children’s Theatre
Carina Beckerman
Bibliothèque Historique de la Ville de Paris
Biteback Publishing
Blackstone Publishing
Bloomsbury Publishing
Cambridge University Press
Canongate Books
Alison Chace
Cornell University Press
Costco France
Luisa Dandolo
Drawn & Quarterly
Folio
John Fredenberger
Gallimard
Alice Gay
Hachette
Hamish Hamilton
HarperCollins
Harvard University Press
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Jaime/Stella
Stephen Johnson
La Nouvelle Agence
Susan Landry
Little French Girl Press
Louisiana State University Press
Macmillan Publishers
Sara MacVane
Neil McCabe
McFarland & Company
McGill-Queen’s University Press
MESSAGE Paris
New York Review of Books
Peregrine Olander
Orca Book Publishers
Oxford University Press
pAf
Andrew Patterson
Pegasus Books
Penguin Books
Penguin Random House
Amy Plum
Princeton University Press
Queenie in Powerland
Renaissance Editions
Serving House Books
Shakespeare and Company
She Writes Press
Simon & Schuster
Smith and Son
Stanford University Press
Sweet Escape
Travelers’ Tales
Charles Trueheart
Unbound
University of Minnesota Press
University of Nebraska Press
University of Queensland Press
University of Virginia Press
University of Wisconsin Press
Judy Vaswani
Tim Wahl
Yuko Yaguchi
Yale University Press

Actor Denis O’Hare (r) with Kate des Places of Marymount International School, at the 2021 Gala.
Photo © Krystal Kenney
MEMBER SERVICES, PROGRAMS, AND ADMINISTRATION

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

**Breanna Melville** (Jan–Aug)
**Luis Aldrete Castillo** (Aug–Dec)

Emma Jo Black
Andrew Burklow
Fija Callaghan
Luis Aldrete Castillo
Naomi Cazal
Estelle Cordier
Catharine Dahm
Marianne Faure
Aina Güell
Isobel Green
Pat Hallam
Lauren Janette
Ariadne Koutitsa
Adele Kudish
Victorine Lamothe
Elisabeth Loncle
Ann Madden
Sarah Mané
Breanna Melville
Joseph Mofidi
Ambalika Mukherjee
Margot Nightingale
Sharon Nossiter
Olga Ospina
Ann Paulsrud
Angela Perea
Kristin Peterson
Mohamed Rizki
Alper Saman
Menaka Shanmuganantha
Isabella Sible
McKenna Smith
Isabel Stark
Danielle Typinski
Judy Vaswani
Lucille Vila
Mike Walters
Kate Woodman
Mayanne Wright
Julie Zaneski

CHILDREN’S AND TEENS’

Carly Bisek
Tess Brewer
Elodie Chagrot
Audrey Chang
Pauline Charruyer
Eloise de Coupinay
Kai Davis
Jessica Ellison
Paula Fellbaum
Kathy Glading
Nicole Guilon
Hadia Hakim
Shubham Jain
Laura Jeffries
Fleur de Jong
Jessica Jade Karagouzian
Catherine Kealey
Heather Keller
Louis Kerdelhue
Suchita Khisty
Allison Kruge
Sam Kuria
Marcia Lebre
Camille Le Bihan
Charlotte Le Bihan
Rebecca Lim
Solal Michol
Hannah Minor
Caroline Moreau
Hamsapriya Murali
Beatrice Pare
Cratia Elena Robu
Samy Sedrati
Emmanuelle Sellin
Martha Simmons
Irene Su
Clarence Tokley
Mary Wessels
Jan Winkelhuijzen

Volunteering at the Library was a wonderful experience—especially during these strange and difficult times. It was a pleasure to meet other volunteers, work with staff, and get to know the Library better!

—Breanna Melville, Volunteer Coordinator 2020–2021
VOLUNTEERS

YOUNG AUTHORS FICTION FESTIVAL

Devin K. Barricklow
Jenny Bateman
Michelle Beary
Molly Belhiteche
Matthew Bennett
Sophie Benson
Gina Bernacchi
Carly Bisek
Emily Bonn
Catherine Bouheret
Lisa Bova
Courtney Bowers
Elizabeth Brahy
Heather Bryant
Emily Buck
Rose Burke
Brooke Burns
Luis Castillo
Katy Chappaz
Tendayi O. Chirawu
Charlotte Clough
Cheryl Corneil
Heather Couthaud
Rachelle Cribbs
T. R. Croke
Louise Damiano
George de Menibus
Nicky Devaney
Barbara Diggs
Rebecca Dinari
Jennifer Donnelly
Kate Donovan
Gwen Ducros
Angelique Dufour
Joanna Elmy
Katie Evans-Linsell
Derek Ferguson
Elizabeth Perry
Jessica Freundel
Sandra Gabbiellini
Julie Gauld
Kate Gavino
Maria Gibbons
Laurie Gill
Kathy Glading
David Gonçalves
Marval Grabner
Kelly-Christina Grant
Rebecca Gulkas
Bridget Habib
Taylor Harding
Eric Hengesbaugh
Claire Heuillard
Anastasia Huggins
Sonyia Jackson
Ann Jacobs
Maevé Jennings
Heather Keller
Michael Kirby
Courtney Kolar
Bojan Kupirović
Lauriane Labourel
Chandra Laizeau
Julie LaPaglia
Marcia Lèbre
Pauline Lemasson
Wen Lewden
Rebecca Lim
Jessica Lynch
Ann Madden
Ellen Madden
Linda Mak
Bill Marvin
Jennie Mayfield
Lucy McCloskey
Gabrielle McFarland
Laura McWilliams
Rachel Minton
Jane Mobile
Bob Mohl
Isabel Montalvan
Debra Mourad
Heidi Mueller
Anthony Murisco
Nat Nealeigh
Margot Nightingale
Erin Nordiqust
Michelle Nott

Rachel Obertin
Juliette Odalant
Alexandra Patterson
Caroline Peck
Kim Petyt
Patricia Portillo
Eva Prokopova
Elliot Rambach
Colleen Ross
Joe Sutliff Sanders
Samantha Schultz
Samy Sedrati
Dan Sekarski
Ellyn Sheehy
Haruna Shimizu
Jay Simmons
Martha Simmons
Jan Smith

Janine Smith
Scott Smith
Marlee Swallow
Clarence Tokley
Meredith Tolan
Gillian Turnham
Karen Wang
Jane Warren
Mary Wessels
Ann Whitley
Jan Williams
Mina Witteman
Catherine Woodman
Serena Woosley
Jun Yen
Katherine Youngblood
Erin Zhurkin
Fiona Zublin

Volunteer Mayanne Wright (l)
with staff member Orlene McMahon
Photo © Krystal Kenney
“Libraries should be humanized. They should radiate a sort of inner warmth.”

—Harry Goldberg, Former Library Director, 1975

The Library’s 100th anniversary in 2020 instigated a deep dive into our history, a project that continued in earnest in 2021. Staff and volunteers combed through the institutional archives, identifying individuals in photographs and piecing together compelling details from our century of service.

The 2021 publication of the bestselling novel The Paris Library, with its characters based on real-life American Library in Paris staff during WWII, inspired us to continue author Janet Skeslien Charles’s research. We unearthed more personal and professional information concerning the hundreds of staff members, trustees, and volunteers who preceded those listed in the pages of this 2021 Annual Report. As we learn more about the individuals associated with the Library over the years, we understand better how they adapted and fulfilled our vision and mission, while nurturing and supporting our storied institution through the decades.

A particularly devoted staff member was librarian Harry Goldberg, who ran the Library in the 1960s and 1970s. Goldberg’s granddaughter Blandine Marcé, an archivist herself, reached out to us while researching her family history. Harry Goldberg’s files were in a section of our archives that hadn’t been sorted or indexed, and as she sifted through his papers, Marcé learned more about her grandfather. The following story recounts her discoveries and interpretations of her grandfather’s tenure at the Library.

We remain mindful that the Library’s activities in 2021 are now officially part of our archival record, and that the Library of today and the future has a direct link to the Library of the past. If you have personal stories and memories of the Library that belong in our archives, or if you are interested in supporting our archive preservation efforts, please contact info@americanlibraryinparis.org.
Discovering my Grandfather in the Library’s Archives

by Blandine Marcé

My grandmother, Colette, died when I was around one year old. She is described by everyone that knew her as the sweetest woman they have ever met, beautiful inside and out. She died fairly young, in her sixties, and it was devastating for my grandfather, Harry Goldberg, for she really was the love of his life.

Harry met Colette at the Cité Universitaire in Paris in the early 1950s. I’m guessing he went there to study French, or perhaps as an American exchange student, for at the time, my grandmother was teaching French to foreign students.

By 1955 Harry had earned an MS degree in Library Science from Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia. He married Colette in 1956 in Philadelphia, and by 1957 they had moved to Paris and he was appointed Chief Librarian of the American Library in Paris. They had two children: my uncle Michel, the eldest, and my mother, Anne.

After Colette passed, Harry was never the same. He was loving, I’m sure of it, but he wasn’t a cheerful person. He always appeared to me as a broken man, solitary, and quiet. Something, or someone, was missing.

He was very intelligent, this I could see. He loved to record every classic film and animal documentary he could. He was also an artist: His passion was creating mosaics, and he was very good at it. I remember him, in my younger years, as someone who didn’t talk much, typed on his typewriter, created mosaics, and ate with us—but never meat! He was a resolved vegetarian, and occasional pescatarian. Eventually, he was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, and my mother took care of him until he passed, when I was fourteen.

I love doing genealogy research. I knew a lot about the French side of my family, but not about Harry’s history. After he died, I tried to reconnect the pieces of Harry’s life as best I could, but I still didn’t have a lot of information on Harry himself. Because of my background as an historian and in archival research, oral sources weren’t enough for me. I wanted documents, proof, something concrete.

In searching my mother’s papers, I was able to trace back a lot of Harry’s youth and studies, including his time in the US army during WWII. His knowledge of languages was useful there; according to my mother, Harry knew eight languages by the end of his life, including English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Russian. I even found a wonderful picture of him and his brother and sisters when they were children.

While research helped me to reconnect with my extended American family and find wonderful pictures of Harry as a child, I was very frustrated to not know anything about his time as the Director of the American Library in Paris. When I searched online, I found only mentions of him, but nothing extensive. I wanted to know more about his time there. So I emailed the American Library.

I received an enthusiastic response from Abigail Altman, Assistant Director of the American Library and manager of their institutional archives: “Your grandfather is a legend at the American Library, and one of my professional heroes,” she wrote. I was surprised that this quiet man I had known for the last fourteen years of his life was still held in such high regard.

When I received Abigail’s message, my archivist sense tingled. I had two months before beginning a new job, and I suggested that I come and take a look at Harry Goldberg’s archives, and maybe even give a hand in classifying them. Abigail agreed, and I found myself at the Library in the summer of 2020, searching boxes of photographs, documents, and especially, letters. It was in his letters that I discovered a Harry that I had never met.

First of all, Harry was funny.
His letters are full of humor and wit. As he writes in a note to his good friend and Library Trustee Helen Walters, on 29 December 1977: “I managed to extricate your package from the customs after an expedition richer in adventures than Stanley Livingstone’s. An experience that beats sitting in the dentist’s chair, discarding library books or hitting yourself on the head with a hammer.”

In the archives I discovered that Harry’s main project was the development of the Library’s “Student Branches,” affiliated with French universities outside of Paris, a project on which he worked relentlessly. Harry pushed hard for his branches, writing “The branches represent an indispensable element as ‘antenne’ of the Library in the provinces” in a letter addressed to John L. Hedges, in 1980. Between 1964 and 1976, five extensions of the American Library in Paris were created in French universities in Nantes, Grenoble, Toulouse, Montpellier and Nancy.

“[My] ‘system’ rests on a conception of the dignity of every person working in the Library, [...] an awareness of the appreciation felt for the contribution that each makes to the common effort.”

As passionate as Harry was about his ambitions for the Library and its branches, I learned through his letters that he was equally concerned about his staff. “The library has a tremendous workload for the small staff it has,” he wrote in 1968, “and depends very much on the good will of the staff to get things done in a cooperative spirit.”

His management style was based on respect, recognition, and communication to resolve conflicts: “If there were any suggestions for changes or improvements, simply a casual observation or suggestion sufficed. If the detail seemed more important, I usually discussed it with the person and often succeeded in convincing him. If not, when the matter concerned nothing more than a clerical routine handled by the employee himself, it has always been my policy to let the matter ride, rather than marshaling all the strength of my authority.”

His humanism, he believed, did not diminish his authority. On the contrary, it earned him respect: “When a lot of people were revolting against ‘authority’ in Paris last May [1968], our staff rallied around its Library and Librarian in a way we will always be proud of.”

“For many years, my name and that of the Library were closely identified. [...] I shall always feel attached to this Library as something very special in the rather humdrum world of libraries.”

When I first started my research, one of my primary motivations was to understand why almost nowhere, not even in many of the American Library’s own documents, was Harry Goldberg mentioned as a Director of the Library. I knew that he had been the Library’s Director, but most Library records either designate him as a Head Librarian, Associate Librarian or Director of the Branches. I found the answer to this mystery in the archives.

Harry was hired as “Head Librarian” in 1957. I found a 1959 memo where he wrote that he was “Librarian, or Director, since in the US either of these titles may designate the chief administrative officer of a library.” In short, it seems as though these titles were used interchangeably at the time.

By the early 1970s, Harry had gone years without taking a vacation. He asked for a deputy librarian who could permanently take on some of his administrative functions, including fundraising. Clifford deRoode was chosen, and Harry went on an unpaid leave of absence for several months.

Upon Harry’s return to the Library, administrative roles and titles had shifted. The title of Director was given to Clifford deRoode, and Harry was designated Head Librarian. From this point on, Harry took care of book selection and the management of the staff, and the Director took care of fundraising, public relations and some administrative...
functions.

To say there were tensions between Harry and deRoode is an understatement. But despite the rivalries that emerged, Harry did not seem to be an arrogant man. In a letter of October 19th, 1975, he declares, ‘This sort of “quarrel” has no interest or meaning for me. I am not here to build up my ego or to put myself against anybody. I want only to do all that I can for the good of the Library.’ Harry’s dedication to the Library remained strong, and he stayed on for the remainder of his career, retiring after twenty-five years in 1981.

While researching the archives, I found photographs with Harry’s mosaics visible on the wall in the Library’s offices. I recognized, in every letter, the darker ink of his typewriter. While holding his correspondence, I had the feeling of being closer to him than I had ever been.

I’ve learned about my family, as Harry mentioned my grandmother, my mother Anne and my uncle Michel in his letters. I had the feeling of finally meeting my grandfather, for the respected leader that he was at the American Library, a vivid personality, brilliantly intelligent, passionate and admired for his work. Helen Walters wrote to Harry in 1977: “Your contributions to the Library have been incalculable.”

I even found a picture of me in the archives, taken in March 1998 during a Peter Pan event in the Library, long after my grandfather retired in 1981. I don’t remember coming to the Library as a child, but finding this picture was as if the Library told me I already belonged there.

I will do my best to not let his memory fade. We need people to look up to, and Harry Goldberg’s passion and compassionate leadership could be something to inspire others.

Thanks

I have met wonderful people at the American Library in Paris. This library is very friendly and has a great collection of books, two things I love.

I really want to thank Simon Gallo, former Collections Librarian at the American Library, for meeting with me and answering some of my questions. He knew my grandfather very well. Thanks to Abigail Altman for her enthusiasm. My gratitude goes to every single person I’ve met in the Library for their kindness, the good moments I’ve shared with them and for supporting my research. I really felt welcome here.

About the author

Blandine Marcé is a Document Controller for a company working in nuclear energy. She has a degree in History and the History of Art, and two master’s degrees in Collection Management and Documentation. In addition to her interests in cultural heritage, she is deeply passionate about social justice, ecology and working towards a better, cleaner world.

For a longer version of this article, including footnotes, photographs and a bibliography, visit the blog on the Library’s website: americanlibraryinparis.org/blog

The Library in the News

JANUARY


Library Director Audrey Chapuis is a guest on FrancoFiles, the podcast of the Embassy of France in the US.

The 2020 Book Award Ceremony is featured on the France Today website.

FEBRUARY

Janet Skeslien Charles writes about her research for her novel The Paris Library on LitHub.com.

MARCH

Children’s and Teens’ Services Librarian Kirsty McCulloch Reid discusses the Young Authors Fiction Festival on the Right to Write Paris Podcast.

Chapuis shares the Library’s founding history and how it is reflected in our present values in the journal IdeAs. Idées d’Amériques from L’Institut des Amériques.

HEC Paris featured an article by Chapuis on the nexus of business and librarianship.

MAY

Chapuis shares special items from our archives on Kirsten Dirksen’s YouTube channel.

Special Appearances

Programs Manager Alice McCrum was interviewed twice in November 2021 on the France24 television channel.

During her first appearance, she discussed the 2021 Prix Goncourt winner Mohamed Mbougar Sarr.

Later in the month, she spoke about novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah winning the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature.
“No one can teach you how to look into your soul, your memories and feelings, and that is the most important thing a writer must learn how to do.”

—Viet Thanh Nguyen during his virtual Library program on 2 June 2021