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Cover illustration: Façade of the American Library in Paris, 1952–1964 at 129, avenue des Champs-Élysées. This illustration appeared on Library letterhead in the 1950s. In reintroducing this image in 2022, we updated the street number to reflect 10, rue du Général Camou, the Library’s home since 1964.

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In Memoriam

Browsing art books in the Florence Gould Reading Room. Photo © Julien LB
W E L C O M E

Executive Director Audrey Chapuis. Photo © Krystal Kenney
Dear members of the American Library in Paris,

In these pages you’ll discover the broad range of activities that the Library and its growing community undertook in 2022, a year marked by the excitement of reconnecting in person as well as the launch of new partnerships and initiatives.

Membership at the Library reached a significant milestone, surpassing 5,000 members in December with the addition of 2,500 new patrons from one hundred countries (p. 33). Throughout 2022 those members actively engaged with the Library and its robust resources. Statistics on book borrowing and electronic resource use (p. 32) reflect a continued love of print materials and the embrace of digital offerings.

The Library’s cultural programs brought readers of all ages who joined us for author talks, book groups, writing workshops, and much more (p. 17). We also connected with new audiences outside our walls, in Paris and beyond, through cultural outreach initiatives such as On the Road (p. 14), and partnership programs (p. 17).

As part of a rich ecosystem of fellow international institutions in Paris, we are proud to foster partnerships with over fifty-five organizations, including universities, nonprofits, embassies, and other cultural organizations that enrich our conversations and allow us to expand the scope and depth of our offerings.

The generous support of our donors, grant-makers, and volunteers also played a pivotal role in our success throughout 2022. We were grateful to welcome 160 new donors to the Library. And our dedicated donors expanded their support in significant ways. The programs and activities that their contributions enable are also outlined in the pages of this report.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Library team, we thank each and every one of you for the ways that you uphold the institution in its second century of service.

Sincerely,

Audrey Chapuis
Executive Director

Forrest Alogna
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
On 19 May, the eve of the Library’s 102nd birthday, the Library community gathered at the Automobile Club de France. We spent the evening celebrating Library supporters and staff, Franco-American luminaries, and, of course, literature!

We heard from US Ambassador to France and Monaco Denise Campbell Bauer, Damon Austin for the American Library Association, Visiting Fellow Ian Williams, and the incomparable author and bookseller Ann Patchett, our 2022 Gala honoree.

Our Gala attendees and sponsors directly contribute to our mission. Their generosity allows us to present over 300 events for readers of all ages, circulate 170,000 books, and serve a community of close to 5,000 members from 100 countries.

2022 GALA SPONSORS

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Chairman of the Board of Trustees Forrest Alogna
Photo © Krystal Kenney
A book says, ‘There is a safe place inside of you where stories exist, where you exist. A place where you can imagine a world in which things are ok...’

— Ann Patchett at the 2022 Gala
THE 2022 GALA

Executive Director Audrey Chapuis

Gala Honoree Ann Patchett

Maria Richter Kelly and Laura Wenke

Bill Kelly and Jake Lamar

Lia Kiladis and Neil Janin

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The Honorable James G. Lowenstein, Audrey Chapuis, Steven Bauer, Ambassador Denise Bauer

Photos © Krystal Kenney
THE 2022 GALA

Craig Wheatley and Henley Johnson
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Colombia Barrosse
Marshall Wais
Shelly Bakayoko
Ambassador Denise Bauer
Visiting Fellow Ian Williams
Historian **Graham Robb** accepted the 2022 prize for *France: An Adventure History* at the tenth annual American Library in Paris Book Award Ceremony. The book is an original, surprising, and fun survey of French history, from the Roman occupation in the first century, BCE, all the way through to modern times. Robb includes new historical research and his own personal discoveries from three decades of exploring France, often by bicycle.

Robb is also the author of *The Discovery of France*, *Parisians*, and other works about France, the British Isles, and their history and peoples. He was born in Manchester, attended Exeter College, Oxford, and currently lives in the UK.

The winner was announced before an audience of Library supporters on 3 November at the George C. Marshall Center in the Hôtel de Talleyrand on the Place de la Concorde.
The American Library’s $5,000 literary prize, which celebrated its tenth year in 2022, is given to a title originally published in English that best realizes new and intellectually significant ideas about France, the French people, or encounters with French culture.

A screening committee chaired by Rachel Donadio, the award administrator, selected the shortlist from fifty-nine submissions. The jury chose the winning book. Thank you to our screeners: Abigail Altman, Michael Duffy, Jeanne Fellowes, Adele Kudish, Brian Manning, Ann Morrison, Don Morrison, Elliot Rambach, and Usha Viswanathan.

A special thank you to the U.S. Embassy, France and Counselor for Cultural Affairs Michael Turner for hosting the evening. Thanks also to Picador, an imprint of Pan Macmillan, for donating copies of the winning title.

The Library is grateful to the prize’s generous Patrons: Mary Duncan, Jeanne Fellowes, Clydette de Groot, Suzanne G. Justen, and Usha Viswanathan.

The Book Award is supported by a grant from the Florence Gould Foundation, which will sustain the Book Award for many years to come.

The 2022 Shortlist

The Caretakers: A Novel by Amanda Bestor-Siegal

City of Incurable Women by Maud Casey

France: An Adventure History by Graham Robb

The French Mind: 400 Years of Romance, Revolution and Renewal by Peter Watson

In the Forest of No Joy: The Congo-Océan Railroad and the Tragedy of French Colonialism by J.P. Daughton

Coups de Cœur: Books of special merit from among the contenders

Half-Blown Rose by Leesa Cross-Smith

Hostages of Empire by Sarah Ann Frank

The Man Who Invented Motion Pictures by Paul Fischer

Soundscapes of Liberation by Celeste Day Moore

Sprinting Through No Man’s Land by Adin Dobkin

A Waiter in Paris by Edward Chisholm
ON THE ROAD

Illustration by artist Marine Belkebir
On 27 June 2022, we launched the Library’s ten-month On the Road outreach tour. Over the course of the tour, a dedicated team of twenty-two Library staff members and volunteers embarked on eleven transformative trips, accompanied by fourteen journalists and writers and partnering with over sixteen host institutions.

Our mission was to bring the full spectrum of the Library’s offerings to new audiences in diverse locations while strengthening Franco-American ties. From children’s Story Hour to author conferences on women’s rights, from expert talks on climate change to writing workshops for teens, we sought to share the Library’s treasures far and wide. And we had the privilege of introducing more than 1,250 participants to the Library and its resources.

Along the way, the American Library team was fortunate to discover the cultural riches of France as well. Among many unforgettable moments, a few highlights: In Amiens Métropole, we held in our hands the travel journals of Jules Verne. In the ville de Sarcelles, we danced to the extraordinary voice of Samira Brahnia. And in Évry-Courcouronnes, we discovered La Fabrik’, a hotbed of entrepreneurial innovation.

This project was made possible by On the Road’s sponsor, the U.S. Embassy & Consulates in France, along with the support of the Hauts-de-France and Île-de-France regions and the patronage of Rachid Santaki.

Special thanks to the cities and mayoral offices of Saint-Omer, Le Blanc-Mesnil, Savigny-Le-Temple, Évry-Courcouronnes, Lille, Amiens, Airion, Chauny, Sarcelles, and Douai; and our partner institutions: Bibliothèque d'agglomération du Pays de Saint-Omer, Médiathèque Edouard Glissant, Médiathèque des Cités Unies, Collège des Pyramides, Lycée international de Montebello, Bibliothèque Louis Aragon, Lycée agricole de l’Oise, Maison de quartier des Vignes Blanches, Musée national de l’histoire de l’immigration, Lycée privé Robert Schuman, La Fabrik’, Lycée Biotech Douai—Campus Wagonville.

Thanks for the time and invaluable expertise of the journalists, writers, and specialists who went on the road with us: Juan Pablo Arellano, Samira Brahnia, Charlotte Force, Yanique Francis, Faïza Guène, Jess McHugh, Jacqueline Ngo Mpii, Amy Plum, Andrew Saidy, Rachid Santaki (Project Sponsor), Madeleine Schwartz, Cole Stangler, Clarence Tokley, Nita Wiggins, Naîma Yahi, David Zivovitz. We also thank the Library staff, interns, and volunteers who made On the Road possible: Abigail Altman, Emilie Biggs, Nathalie Cousin, Carolyn Dubol, Veronica Ferrie, Maisie Fieschi, Claire Hargreaves, Jason Hazard, Bojan Kupirović, Alice McCrum, Kirsty Mc Culloch Reid, Pallais-Amenah Morgan, Daphné Renard-Martin, Celeste Rhoads, Erin Roughan, Alfonso Sjogreen, Mayanne Wright, and Morgan Wurzburger.
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.

VISITING FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS OF NOTE

The Fellowship is made possible thanks to the generous support of The de Groot Foundation.

Kate Kirkpatrick, a philosopher based at Regent’s Park College, Oxford, is the author of several books and articles on French philosophy and the internationally acclaimed biography of Simone de Beauvoir, Becoming Beauvoir: A Life. Kirkpatrick visited the Library in April 2023 to work on her current book, The Second Sex: A Philosophical Commentary.

Adrienne Raphel, writer, teacher, and poet, is the author of Thinking Inside the Box: Adventures with Crosswords and the Puzzling People Who Can’t Live Without Them. Her writing appears in the New York Times, the New Yorker, the Paris Review, and Poetry. While at the Library in June 2023, Raphel will work on her current book, Department Story.

Due to the exceptional quality of the applications to the 2022–2023 Fellowship, the selection committee chose three additional writers for a new distinction: Scholar of Note. The 2022–2023 Scholars of Note were:

Kate Kirkpatrick, a philosopher based at Regent’s Park College, Oxford, is the author of several books and articles on French philosophy and the internationally acclaimed biography of Simone de Beauvoir, Becoming Beauvoir: A Life. Kirkpatrick visited the Library in April 2023 to work on her current book, The Second Sex: A Philosophical Commentary.

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Ladee Hubbard, the author of the novels The Talented Ribkins and The Rib King, and the short story collection The Last Suspicious Holdout.

Mark Mayer, the author of the novel Aerialists. His stories have been published in American Short Fiction, Kenyon Review, Guernica, and the Iowa Review.

Jen Silverman, a screenwriter, playwright, and the author of the novel We Play Ourselves, the story collection The Island Dwellers, and the poetry chapbook Bath. Her work has appeared in Vogue, the Paris Review, Ploughshares, the Sun, Literary Hub, and Yale Review.
Parntering with cultural institutions, magazines, festivals, bookshops, universities, and fellow libraries from around the world allowed us to broaden the reach of our conversations. In 2022 we partnered with mk2 Bibliothèque, the London Review Bookshop, the London Library, Columbia Global Centers | Paris, the Institute for Ideas and Imagination, Little Africa Paris, the Overseas Press Club, the Centre Culturel Irlandais, as well as with Festival America, The American University of Paris, and Shakespeare and Company.

Our Entre Nous series with Columbia Global Centers | Paris and the Institute for Ideas and Imagination (now in its fifth season) enabled us to hear from scholars such as Kaiama L. Glover, Roosevelt Montás, Anuk Arudpragasam, and Christia Mercer. Our Critical Conversations series returned for a fourth season with Analog Sea’s Jonathan Simons. In-person-only by design, participants explored the liberation of offline living.

We also partnered with Festival America in September to host Pulitzer Prize-winner Viet Thanh Nguyen and author Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah at the Library, as well as Jonathan Franzen, Brandon Taylor, and Marcial Gala, among others, on local stages in Vincennes. Another Pulitzer Prize-winner for fiction, Joshua Cohen, spoke with Professor Daniel Medin at the Library in January thanks to our work with the Center for Writers and Translators and the Center for Critical Democracy Studies at The American University of Paris.

We celebrated two major literary anniversaries: on Bloomsday (16 June), we partnered with Shakespeare and Company to honor the centenary of James Joyce’s Ulysses; while for the centenary of T.S. Eliot’s epic poem “The Waste Land,” we sponsored a live reading at the Centre Culturel Irlandais with support from the T.S. Eliot Foundation.

The U.S. Embassy in Jordan and the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Library worked with us on several events in 2022, notably on a lively online discussion about disinformation. We co-hosted conversations at mk2 Bibliothèque, including a very special event with Azar Nafisi, author of Reading Lolita in Tehran. We worked, too, with the London Review Bookshop to produce a discussion of Simone de Beauvoir’s newly-discovered novel The Inseparables, as well as with colleagues at the London Library to explore academic Emma Smith’s Portable Magic.

Partnering with Patrick Banks, The Californien Agency, and Little Africa Paris, the Library marked Black History Month in February through conversations with emerging and established Black writers, journalists, filmmakers, historians, and scholars to seek out not only new ways of thinking about Black history, but new ways of teaching it: in museums, films, creative nonfiction, graphic novels, and, above all, open dialogue.
BOOK GROUPS

12 groups / 64 meetings

The Art of Writing: Mademoiselle Highsmith
led by Precious Brown

Modern Ideas in Human Culture
led by Maury Lanman and Laurie Calvet

The American Library in Paris Book Award
led by Connie Scuderi

The Art of Reading: Norse, Nin & Friends
led by Precious Brown

Prize-Winning American and British Plays
led by Hilary Kaiser

Explorations at the Limits of our Knowledge
led by Maury Lanman and Laurie Calvet

French and American Encounters
led by Sharon Golec

Strangers in a Strange Land
led by Mary Harries Magnusson and Gulseren Kozak-Isik

Mystery Book Group
led by Maureen Paget and Marcia Lèbre

Memoir Book Group
led by Clydette de Groot and Leslie de Galbert

Contemporary French Fiction
led by Helen Stanton

This is America
led by Edward Turner, Marjorie Bernstein-Szafrir, and Pamela Combastet

Lily Thébaut at the On the Road launch event on 27 June 2022.
Photo © Julien LB
In 2022 the Library’s Evenings with an Author series sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg presented over one hundred events with more than 5,400 audience members both in person and online. We welcomed authors Colm Tóibín, Deborah Levy, Joshua Cohen, Lan Samantha Chang, and Viet Thanh Nguyen, scholars Gayatri Spivak, Pap Ndiaye, Stephen Greenblatt, and Maboula Soumahoro, just as we hosted journalists Elizabeth Kolbert, Luke Mogelson, George Packer, and Michael Moss.

We explored many topics, from the climate crisis, the war in Ukraine, and the rise of the Internet, to feminist futures, turbulent presents, and prejudiced pasts. We heard from filmmakers, economists, translators, anthropologists, philosophers of science and philosophers of mind, historians, poets, psychologists, visual artists, and marine biologists.

“Blackness is a way to take seriously the concept of universalism and to expand it beyond the boundaries of Europe.”

— Historian Pap Ndiaye, now the French Minister of Education and Youth appeared at the Library on 1 February 2022

Writers (left to right) Lindsey Tramuta, Rokhaya Diallo, and Grace Ly speak about diversity, representation, the mythology of the parisiennes, and the lived experience of women in France on 12 October 2022.
**JANUARY**

Creating and inventing with Ayşegül Savaş (on White on White)
Marc Petitjean on Back to Japan: The Life and Art of Master Kimono Painter Kunihiko Moriguchi
Claire Messud and Christopher Beha in conversation about Messud’s new novel, A Dream Life
Joshua Cohen and Daniel Medin in conversation about Cohen’s new novel, The Netanyahus
Elizabeth Kolbert on Under a White Sky
Robert Zaretsky on his new biography, The Subversive Simone Weil
Rebecca Hall on Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts

**FEBRUARY**

Pap Ndiaye and Jake Lamar in conversation about Ndiaye’s career as head of the Musée de l’histoire d’immigration
Albena Azmanova and Lucas Chancel on Azmanova’s Capitalism on Edge
Maboula Soumahoro and Kaiama L. Glover on Black is the Journey, Africana the Name
Mikki Kendall and Kierstan Kaushal-Carter on Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women that a Movement Forgot
Cassandra Lane on her book of creative nonfiction, We Are Bridges
Screening of Myth of a Colorblind France, followed by a discussion with the director and co-writer, Alan Govenar
Jonathan Bloom on Genesis and Revision in Modern British and Irish Writers
Elaine Sciolino and Philippe Leroy-Beaulieu on Emily in Paris
Mame-Fatou Niang on Mariannes Noires

**MARCH**

Moshe Bar, author of Mindwandering, and Jillian Lavender, author of Why Meditate?
Architecture for the future with Jack Self and Mollie Claypool
Education of hand and heart with Satish Kumar
D.N. Rodowick and Samantha Rose Hill discuss Hannah Arendt
Maggie Paxson on The Plateau
Maaza Mengiste on her best-selling novel, The Shadow King Reading for the Planet with Jennifer Wenzel
Alison Gopnik, Peter Godfrey-Smith, and Annie Murphy Paul discuss consciousness and the mind
Megan Mayhew Bergman on How Strange A Season
Alan Riding and Diane Johnson on Lorna Mott Comes Home

**APRIL**

James Shapiro and Stephen Greenblatt in conversation about William Shakespeare
Matthieu Aikins on The Naked Don’t Fear the Water
Julia Frey and Beverly Held in conversation about Nolet’s new biography of Édouard Vuillard
Helen Lewis and Christia Mercer discuss feminism over the years
How Forests Think with Eduardo Kohn
A panel of journalists (Vivienne Walt, Victor Mallet, Sarah Paillou, and Nadia Pantel) discuss the outcome of the French election.
Julia Cagé (Le Prix de la démocratie) on the relationship between democracy, politics, and the media sector
Roosevelt Montás and Andrew Delbanco discuss Montás’s book, Saving Socrates

**MAY**

Last Best Hope with George Packer and Thomas Chatterton Williams
Robin Wright, Serge Schmemann, and Steven Erlanger on the war in Ukraine
Robert McCrum on Shakespearean: On Life & Language in Times of Disruption
Patrick Hastings on The Guide to James Joyce’s Ulysses
Racialization and disorientation with Ian Williams
The Inseparables with Lauren Elkin and Deborah Levy
Portable Magic with Emma Smith
Literature after Ulysses with Colm Tóibín
Speech and silence with Colm Tóibín and Anuk Arudpragasam
JUNE
Vanessa Onwuemezi and Daniel Medin on Dark Neighbourhood
Alice McCrum, Adam Biles, Lex Paulson on James Joyce, Ulysses, and Bloomsday
Souleymane Bachir Diagne on Le Fagot de ma mémoire
Ruby Warrington on Sober Curious
Jessica Nordell on The End of Bias
Alexander Capdeville and Lan Samantha Chang on The Family Chao
Estelle-Sarah Bulle and Julia Grawemeyer on Where Dogs Bark With Their Tails
Jasmine Hemsley on East by West

JULY
David Chalmers on Reality+
Rahim Danto Barry on Portes d’Afrique
Lara Marlowe on Love in a Time of War

SEPTEMBER
Daniel Levin Becker on What’s Good: Notes on Rap and Language
Amor Towles on Lincoln Highway
Anne Weber in conversation with translator Tess Lewis about Epic Annette
Rob Nixon on environmental justice, Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor
Andrew Curran on Who’s Black and Why? A Hidden Chapter from the Eighteenth-Century Invention of Race
Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah (Friday Black) and Viet Thanh Nguyen (The Committed) on the contemporary scene of American literature
Politique de la littérature with Jonathan Franzen, Karl Marlantes, and Viet Thanh Nguyen
L’Empire des sens with Marcial Gala, Brandon Taylor, and Bryan Washington
An evening with Joyce Maynard
Peter Conradi and Vivienne Walt on Who Lost Russia? How the World Entered a New Cold War

OCTOBER
Deborah Levy and Colombe Schneck discuss swimming and writing
An evening with Deborah Levy at the Library
Journalists Matthieu Aikins and Luke Mogelson discuss writing long-form and covering war zones
Peter Sokolowski on French and English over the years
Lindsey Tramuta, Grace Ly, and Rohkaya Diallo in conversation about contemporary French stereotypes
Michael Moss on Hooked: Salt, Sugar, Fat
Olesya Khromeychuk, Sonya Bilocerkowycz, Irena Karpa, Artem Chapeye, Lyuba Yakimchuk on Writing Ukraine
Stephen Clarke on Regis Envy, or why the French would secretly love a monarchy
Hélène Périsier on L’Economie féministe
Jeff Deutsch on In Praise of Good Bookstores

NOVEMBER
Justin Smith and Jonathan Simons on The Internet Is Not What You Think It Is: A History, a Philosophy, a Warning
Lynnette Widder, João Pina, and Mila Turajlić on three archives in conversation
Scholars Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim on religion and ecology
Christopher Prendergast on Living and Dying with Marcel Proust
Lauren Bastide and Madeleine Schwartz on Futur.es
Boukary Sawadogo on Africans in Harlem: An Untold New York Story
The Kennedy Withdrawal by Marc Selverstone in conversation with Charles Trueheart
Gayatri Spivak and Emily Apter in conversation about Living Translation
Simon Critchley on Question Everything

DECEMBER
Azar Nafisi and Caroline Fourest on Reading Lolita in Tehran
A Celebration of T.S. Eliot’s “The Waste Land”
Joanna Walsh and Summer Brennan on My Life as a Godard Movie
INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Over fifty lycées, collèges, universities, embassies, and organizations in France benefit from discounted Library memberships tailored to the needs of each institution. We offer Library orientations to our partner 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.

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ACCENT (University of Southern California)
American Church in Paris
American Embassy in Paris
American School of Paris
American University of Paris
AIA (Association internationale des anciens de l’OECE et de l’OCDE)
Australian Embassy
Bilingual International School of Paris
Bilingual Montessori School
La Bourse Weicker
The British Council
British Embassy
Lycée/Collège Camille Sée
Collège de Paris
Columbia Institute for Ideas and Imagination
Columbia University
Council of Europe
Development Bank
Ecosia School
École Hattemer
École Jeannine Manuel
École Massillon
EIB Grenelle
EIB Lamartine
Eurécole
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Paris College of Art

Librarian Bojan Kupirović leading an orientation for university students.

42 onsite orientations and school visits reaching 672 students from primary school through university

Pari-Grandir
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
L’Université Paris-Est Créteil, Département d’Anglais
The Children’s and Teens’ Services department continues to be one of the Library’s busiest corners, having hosted 2,635 attendees ages 0–18, at 212 programs. Popular programming for children included Toddler Times (ages 1–3), weekly Story Hours (ages 3–5), Saturday Series (ages 6–10), Sunday workshops (ages 9–12), the annual Halloween Extravaganza, and the Young Authors Fiction Festival. Members ages 12–18 joined us for Teen Nights, writing workshops, a public speaking program, the Teen Writing Group, the Teen Advisory Council, college essay writing workshops, the Master Shot Film Club, book clubs, and readings with published authors including Samira Ahmed, Jamika Ajalon, and Kwame Alexander.

Young readers can choose from over 20,000 print volumes, plus magazines, audiobooks, and a growing collection of digital resources.

Picture books, the I Can Read collections for emerging readers, juvenile fiction, and graphic novels and manga remain especially popular.

Two full-time certified librarians offered reading recommendations, curated book lists, and research help to children, teens, parents, and educators.

The department is supported by interns and a team of volunteers from around the world.
The Young Authors Fiction Festival (YAFF) is the Library’s annual short story writing contest for students ages 5–18. The festival is free to enter and open to young writers who live in the greater Paris area and write in English. In 2022 the Library received 685 original short story submissions, which were reviewed by over 100 judges participating from around the world. The volunteer judging team included educators, published authors, librarians, parents, community members, and Library staff.

Finalists were honored at the annual YAFF Celebration event and winning stories in each grade category were published in a booklet that is added to the Library’s permanent collection.

Thanks to the British Council, Marymount International School, and Union School for sponsoring YAFF 2022.
**CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS**

**Toddler Time**
Twice monthly

**Story Hours**
Magical Tales
Seasons Change
The Questioneers
Winged Wonders
Fairy Tales and Fables
Valentines
Classics & Favorites
True Stories
Diggers & Dump Trucks
Spring Days
St. Patrick’s Day
Grammar Rules
Yummy Stories
Opposites
Surprises Galore
We Love Our Earth!
Pet Pals
Story Hour in The Park
Magical Friends
Wonderful Weather
Manners Matter
Worry Free
Here Come the Aliens
Animal Problems
Use Your Voice
Terrific and Terrifying Tigers
Rad Reptiles
Animals of the Safari
Daring and Dastardly Dragons
Scottish Tales
Back to School
We Love the Library
Shapes
Pirates Ahoy
Giggles Galore
Monster Mayhem
Pretty Pumpkins
Witches in the Air
Halloween Surprises
Wheels Go Round

Look Up, Look Around
Bears All Around
Thanksgiving
Friends Near and Far
Ships Ahoy!
Meals Together
Firefighters
Skeleton Inside You
Winter Weather Clothes
Blast Off!

**Saturday Series**
Art and Collage
Make Your Own Snow
Valentine’s Day Cards
Game Time
Make Your Own Comic
Creating Characters
Treasure Map-Making
Exploring the Equinox
A City of Art
Paper Flowers Crafts
Talk Like Shakespeare
Plot Twists
Make Your Own Mini Book
Riddle Me This
Storm Science
Summer Crafts
Red, White, and Blue
Mythology Madness
Impressionists
Friendship Bracelets
Lego Creations
Autumn Crafts
Baby Gym
Creating Scary Stories
D.I.Y. Decorations
Ghost Stories
Spooky Creations
Game Day
Pajama Party
This is Not a Box

**Sunday Workshops**
Beginning Your Short Story
Editing and Revising
Poetry
Roald Dahl Book Club
Research Basics: Learning Research Skills
Paris Explorers
Library Explorers
Escape the Library

**Author Events**
The Worries Book Group with Jon Sheibani
Race Relations with Barbara Diggs
The Power of Music with Joan Koenig
Storytelling with Sylvie Mombo
Poetry with Scott Hobbs Bourne
How to Tell a Story with Charlotte Sebag-Montefiore
The Story Box with Anjali Morard
*Grace the Giraffe in Paris* with Oliver Gee and Lina Nordin Gee
*Once a Pawn, a Knight... Learn to Play Chess* with author Cate Shainker
Silly Songs with Matt Black

**Bookworms Book Groups**
*Echo*
The Last Cuentista

**Seasonal Programs and Special Events**
Winter Wonderland
Spring Eggstravaganza
Read-a-Thon Finale Party
YAFI Celebration
Summer Reading Kick-Off
Summer Singalong
Summer Reading Wrap Party
Summer Turns to Fall
Pumpkin Party
Halloween Tales
Halloween Extravaganza
Thanksgiving Pie Tasting
TEEN PROGRAMS

Clubs
Master Shot Film Club
The Teen Advisory Group
The Teen Writing Group
Youth Leadership Program

YA Author Showcases
Samira Ahmed on Fiction, Fantasy, and Books to Inspire Hope
Jamika Ajalon: 90s Underground London, Black Queer Artists, and Surveillance
Kwame Alexander on The Crossover

Teen Nights
Rock U’ Trivia Night with Matt Black
Photography with Angelica Brewster
Poetry Slam
10th Annual Literary Reaping
The Art of Performance
Cupcake Decorating
Capture the Flag
Writing from Your Heart with Jane Mobile: Throwback to the 70s Werewolves and Sardines
Paper Cutting with Shalinee Laval
Monster Machines with David Zikovitz
Write Your Own Scary Story
Halloween Decorating Party
Creepy Campfire Tales
Flash Fiction with Jane Mobile
Scary Movie Night
Stuck in the Middle with Noah Weisz
Library Explorers Scavenger Hunt
Save Yourself from Trolls

Workshops
Paper Circuits Coding Workshop
Completing Your Short Story
Research is Key
Body Autonomy Workshop: Consent, Movement, Emotions through Body Language
Understanding the American University Application Process
Written in Ink with Jion Shebani
Scrap Poetry
Collaborative Collage
History of Paris Scavenger Hunt

Book Clubs
YA Fantasy Book Club: Legendborn
YA Fantasy Book Club: The Lightning Thief
YA Fantasy Book Club: Throne of Glass

Seasonal Programs
The Haunted Library
Top 10 Circulating Titles

Children
1. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley’s Journal by Jeff Kinney
2. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever by Jeff Kinney
3. Matilda by Roald Dahl
4. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone by J.K. Rowling
5. Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid by Jeff Kinney
6. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Getaway by Jeff Kinney
7. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul by Jeff Kinney
8. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School by Jeff Kinney
9. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth by Jeff Kinney
10. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Deep End by Jeff Kinney

Teens
1. The Cruel Prince by Holly Black
2. They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera
3. The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
4. Shadow and Bone by Leigh Bardugo
5. The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky
6. Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo
7. Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins
8. The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
9. Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz
10. The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Award-winning poet, educator, and best-selling author Kwame Alexander was interviewed by Children’s and Teens’ Services Manager Celeste Rhoads at the Library on 17 March 2022.
Curated Book Displays

- Joan Didion
- E.O. Wilson
- Valentine’s Day
- “The Something’s Something”
- War in Ukraine
- Ann Patchett
- Making Sense of the World
- Books with Utensils in the Title
- French Election 2022
- Les Pionnières
- Novels about Novels
- Book Award 2022 Submissions
- Gay Pride 2022
- Novels Translated from French
- Summer Heatwave
- Roe vs. Wade
- Paris Summer Staycation
- David McCullough
- Booker Prize Past Winners
- Jean-Jacques Sempé
- Back to School
- Salman Rushdie and Other Persecuted Writers
- Barbara Ehrenreich
- Queen Elizabeth II
- Banned Books Week 2022
- Novels about Libraries
- Hilary Mantel
- Fall 2022 Events
- Halloween: Scary Books to Movies
- Books that Play with Time
- Best Recent Politics Books
- Still Life (art movement)
- Les Choses Exhibition at the Louvre
- Prix Goncourt Previous Winners
- Staff Picks
- Analog Sea
- Cozy Autumnal Books
- FIFA World Cup 2022
- Historical Pageturners
- Winter Weather
- Last-Minute Reads
- Mystery Books
- Black History Month
- Killer Thrillers
- Teens with Dreams
- Inspiration for Writers
- New Fiction Books
- The 10th Annual Literary Reaping

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**e-Libris Newsletter**

- 11,533 subscribers
- 26% increase in subscribers
- 240,827 emails delivered

**Instagram**

- 2,100 new followers in 2022
- 18% increase over 2021
Emily in Paris actor Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu (right) in conversation with journalist Elaine Sciolino on 23 February 2022. Photo © Krystal Kenney

Jeff Deutsch (right) presents his book In Praise of Good Bookstores on 26 October 2022.
American Library in Paris Inc.’s 2022 Income Breakdown

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 (USAF), 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 4.6 M$ at YE22.
Statement of 2022 Income and Expenses

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<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership Fees</td>
<td>290,548€</td>
<td>395,384€</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Income</td>
<td>63,133€</td>
<td>106,781€</td>
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<td>Rental Income</td>
<td>287,408€</td>
<td>292,862€</td>
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<td>ALP USA Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Gift</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gala</td>
<td>182,741€</td>
<td>176,460€</td>
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<td>Other Donations (1)</td>
<td>477,119€</td>
<td>739,499€</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income (2)</td>
<td>42,272€</td>
<td>78,682€</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,343,221€</td>
<td>1,929,668€</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>2021</th>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll (3)</td>
<td>698,174€</td>
<td>767,429€</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building, Tax</td>
<td>205,362€</td>
<td>185,615€</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>223,443€</td>
<td>172,109€</td>
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<td>Professional Fees</td>
<td>61,377€</td>
<td>129,230€</td>
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<td>Books and Periodicals</td>
<td>110,202€</td>
<td>117,716€</td>
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<td>Development</td>
<td>86,902€</td>
<td>123,878€</td>
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<td>Office Expenses</td>
<td>91,160€</td>
<td>88,422€</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (4)</td>
<td>9,193€</td>
<td>27,425€</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total (4)</td>
<td>1,485,803€</td>
<td>1,611,824€</td>
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</table>

(1) Including funds from the U.S. Embassy for On the Road in 2022
(2) Mostly accounting impact of foreign exchange translation
(3) Including payroll tax and payroll benefits
(4) 61% of total expenditures were allocated to program-based services
The average exchange rate for 2022 was 1.0539 US$ for 1€ (2021: 1.1835 US$ for 1€)

2,503 new members
36% increase in membership revenue
160 new donors
401 tote bags sold
### COLLECTION DATA

#### PRINT AND DIGITAL HOLDINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Books for Adults</strong></td>
<td>76,950</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Books for Children and Teens</strong></td>
<td>19,150</td>
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<td><strong>Other Holdings</strong></td>
<td>3,466*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Checkouts</strong></td>
<td>167,158</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Periodical Subscriptions</strong></td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Titles in Periodical Archives</strong></td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Online Periodical Subscriptions</strong></td>
<td>4,547</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>E-Books</strong></td>
<td>29,402</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>E-Source Logins</strong></td>
<td>14,176</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Multimedia, circulating periodicals, and other items
MEMBERSHIP

Active members: 4,756
Nationalities represented: 100

LIBRARY OPERATIONS

Days open in 2022: 290
Days open per week: 6

Library visits: 81,354
Average daily visits: 281

Library transactions: 262,133
Average daily transactions: 904

Day passes sold: 664
Week passes sold: 36

Top Circulating Titles

Books
- A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles
- The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
- Beautiful World, Where Are You by Sally Rooney
- Hamnet by Maggie O’Farrell
- The Paris Library: A Novel by Janet Skeslien Charles

E-books
- Anxious People by Fredrik Backman
- Atomic Habits by James Clear
- Apples Never Fall by Liane Moriarty
- The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller
- Bewilderment by Richard Powers

Magazines
- The New Yorker
- Good Housekeeping
- The Economist
- New Scientist
- House Beautiful
- The Writer
- Harvard Business Review
- Better Homes and Gardens
- Bon Appétit
- TLS, The Times Literary Supplement

Digital Magazines
- The Economist
- The New Yorker
- The New York Review of Books
- Paris Match
- Bon Appétit
- Cook’s Illustrated
- HELLO!
- Us Weekly
- Woman’s Weekly
- Gourmet Traveller
In 2022 the Library launched a new benefit program for donors who made a gift of 50€ or more. Benefits include an invitation to our annual Book Award Ceremony in November, as well as access to special events such as author talks with Diane Johnson (March) and Stephen Clarke (October). By the end of 2022, the number of Library donors had grown to nearly 400 individuals and organizations (an increase of twenty-two percent over the previous year). One hundred and sixty supporters made their very first gift to the Library in 2022.

For more information about supporting the Library, please contact giving@americanlibraryinparis.org.
Ex Libris Lux Society (10,000€ or more)
Forrest Alogna and Sandrine Poisson Alogna
Gregory Annenberg Weingarten, GRoW @ Annenberg
The Florence Gould Foundation
Steven and Barbara Gerber
Whitney Gore
Clydette and Charles de Groot
Jade Vu Henry and Fabrice Henry
Steve and Corinne Horton
Suzanne G. Justen
Heather and Robert Keane Family Foundation
William Kelly and Maria Richter Kelly
Ishtar Méjanès
William and Françoise Torchiana
Edward and Mary Lee Turner
Sarah Vaughan
Marshall and Deborah Wais
Anonymous

Gutenberg Society (2,000€ – 9,999€)
David Chaffetz and Marguerite Yates
Barbara Diggs
Michael Duffy
Mary Duncan and Yuri Loskutov
Peter and Jeanne Fellowes
Bertrand de Fouchier and Lise Hartman de Fouchier
Franco-American Benevolent Society, Inc
Julien Horn and Anne Mény-Horn
J. Paul and Mimi Horne
James Houghton and Connie Coburn
Dan and Laura Huehn
Rob and Sherry Johnson
Jill Le Grand
The Honorable James G. Lowenstein
Kathleen de Montlebert
Ann and Don Morrison
Elizabeth and Abraham Oger-Gross
Andrew Plump and Elaine Sciolino
Thomas and Carol Rose
Luis Roth and Jennifer Dalrymple
Cedric and Michal Sellin
Sara Somers
George Stansfield and Elaine Foo
The Honorable Craig Stapleton and Debbie Stapleton
Winston and Marilyn Tabb
Nancy Thomas
Charles Trueheart and Anne Swardson
Usha Viswanathan
Laura Wenke and Alexander Marquardt
Anonymous

Folio Society (250€ – 1,999€)
John Abbott
Stephen and Sandy Abramson
Hans and Catherine Anderegg
Edith B. Astruc
Alain and Judith Aubry
Damon Austin
Marjorie Bernstein
John and Alice Berry
Jim Bittermann and Mary Jean Lowe
Connie and Dominique Borde
Claudette Boudreaux
Janine Brimmel
Didier and Mary Brodbeck
Anissa Calatayud Stocks
Jacqueline Cessou
Christine Gempf Love Foundation
Chris Coleon
Pamela and Jean-Paul Combastet
Patti Connolly and James Walker
Pierre Cournot
Scott and Kay Cupp
Annabelle Curran
Gilles and Sophie-Caroline de Margerie
Priscilla de Moustier
Olivier and Lydia Deulaunay
Charles Dilley and Anne Marie Reijninen
Jeff Doniger and Anne Vitel
April Eberhardt
École Jeannine Manuel
Christopher Edgar
Elizabeth English
Adrien and Julia Fainsilber
Laurence Flannery
Mary Fleming and David Morrison
John Fredenberger and
Christina Papanikolas
Jonathan Gage and Janet Patys
Laurie Gill
Douglas and Anda Glucroft
Elizabeth Glynn
Gordon Golding and Audrey Rohan
Robert and Mary Grattan
Robert and Susan Greig
Ellen Hampton
Elizabeth Hansen
Wei Min Hao
Sharri Harmel
Marie-Claude Hawes
Anna Hayes
Christopher and Shana Henze
Nathalie Hobbs
Dallas Hudgens
Lee and Berna Huebner
Alexandra Hughes and Neal Fiertag
DONORS

Folio Society (250€ – 1,999€) cont.

Tina M. Isaac
David and Amy Jaffe
Neil and Nancy Janin
Deborah Jenner
Alice Kaplan
Margaret Keith
Russell and Lynn Kelley
Paul Kepp
Pauline Lemasson
Leslie Lemons
Carol Levy
James Lieber
John MacArthur and Renée Khatami
Ashley Maddox
Georges Magaud
and Nancy Willard Maguad
Marilee McClintock
Bruce McCoy and Gretel Furner
Thomas McNally
Memoir Book Group
Gil and Sandra Mercier
Molly Minton
Robert Murphy
Diane Murray
Genevieve and Oliver Murray
Caroline Nairac
Patricia Nebenzahl
Karen Newman and Thomas Brooks
Elizabeth Neylon
Tamrah O’Neil
Paris Wine Company
Jean and Virginia Perrette
Virginie-Alvine Perrette
Judith Pillsbury and William Waterfield
George and Bonnie Pinkham
Kathryn Portle
Peter Quint
Deborah Randall
Benoît Rousseau
George Rowan
Thomas and Georgina Russo
Timothy Safford
Ann Salsbury
S. Prentiss Bailey Fund and
Mr. Robert Edgar
Guy and Jeanine Saperstein
Harold W. Schneikert
Terry Seligman
Nicole Siezien
Damon B. and Patricia Smith
Megan Staley
Teresa Stamatis
Susan Steinhauser
Nicholas and Deyi Tcherdakov
Kate Wallis Thweatt
Betty Turock and Gus Friedrich
Union School
Susan Vehon
Robert Vellve-Padden
Suzy Wahba
Frederic Weissler
Christine Wilkinson-Galinet
John and Isle Willems
Sally Williams-Allen and
Willis S. DeLaCour, Jr.
Eugene Wiskowski
Adene Witt
Catherine Woodman
Vicky and Marcel Wormser
Rebecca Wurzburger
Zachary D. Wyman
Jeri Yoshida

Friends of the Library (50€ – 249€)

Ed Aguila
Kyle Ahrold
Jorge and Marlene Alva
Vicky Armstrong
Ana Arraut
Patrick Ashbrook
Marie Louise Ballon
Mary Barone
Matthew Benz
Katherine Biard
Dominique and Philippe Bona
Mark Braude
Robert Bruce
Carole Bumpus
Erica Bureau
Audrey Carter
Jean-Marc Chappat
Cheryl Ching
Linda Chiu
Paula Cooper
Roger and Vivian Cruise
Jane Dean
Debra Dout
Judith Edington
Bessandra Elder
Dorothy Erlandson
Sylvie Esnault
Dominique Esnault
Marianne Faure
Cynthia Fields
Sylvia and Zachary Fleetwood
Alice Gay
Barbara Genevaz
Robert and Joyce Glaser
Maggie Grainger
Casper Harratt
Mary Haywood
Bernard Henry
Grace Hobby
Jerald Hobby
Therese Hogan
Janet Hulstrand
Everett Hutt
Hilary Kaiser
Helene Kegreisz
Catherine Keller
Robert Kolar
Marjorie Lallemant
Maurice Lanman
Damien and Katherine Lucas
Jon and Leslie Maksik
Kathleen Marshall
Valérie Mascetti
Clare Mattok
Friends of the Library (50€ – 249€) cont.

Carla Mauri
Janet McEvoy
Kathleen McGreevey
Stephen Moskey
Lilian Nassif
Lorna Newman
Eugenie Oen
Ray Oen
Donna Osborne
Olga Ospina
Claire Ozorio
Mary Jo Padgett
Maureen Paget
Robert Paxton and Sarah Plimpton
Barbara Pelter
Kim Penny
Rosemary Pinto

Jeff Poole
Robert Pope
Suganya Rajan
Anne-Sophie Renaud
Lucienne Renaud
Yolanda Robins
Patricia Roush
Martha Ruddy
Lily Rustandi
Brigita and Viestarts Rutenbergs
Jean-François and Sara Sautin
Hannah Scaife
Marcel Schnieder
Terry Schooley
Connie Scuderi
John and Frances Seder
Evelyn Shaevel

F. Sheppard Shanley
Jonathan Simons
Robert and Kathleen Sunderbruch
James Taylor
Imelda The
Glynis Thomas
Deborah Thomas
John K. Thompson
Winship Tower
Lily Tuck
Brian and Heidi Van Reet
Larry and Maureen Weeks
Deborah Weiss
Elizabeth Wintersteen-Moussier
Alison Young
David and Jan Young

Former staff member Orlene McMahon volunteering at the 2022 Book Award Ceremony. Photo © Krystal Kenney
The American Library in Paris

Grant-Makers

THE AMERICAN CENTER FOR ART AND CULTURE announced in late 2022 that proceeds from the sale of its hôtel particulier will be donated to the Library to expand cultural activities and exchanges. The gift is contingent upon completion of the sale of property and regulatory processes. It will have immense anticipated benefits for the Library and the Parisian cultural landscape.

THE FLORENCE GOULD FOUNDATION has sustained the Book Award since its inauguration in 2013. In 2021 we announced that the Foundation had gifted the Library with $500,000 to sustain the Book Award for many years to come.

Additionally, at the announcement of the American Center for Art and Culture’s historic pledge, The Florence Gould Foundation extended a $250,000 grant to the American Library for the transition period leading up to the donation of the proceeds of the sale of the American Center’s property to the American Library. Pilot programs funded by this grant will provide a taste of future programming.

THE DE GROOT FOUNDATION supports the Library’s Visiting Fellowship and Scholars of Note; and the Writers-in-Residence program.

GROW @ ANNENBERG underwrites the Library’s Evenings with an Author series. Their generous support means that most of our author talks, panels, and discussions are free and open to the public.

U.S. EMBASSY IN FRANCE generously sponsored the Library’s year-long On the Road outreach program. Launched in June 2022, we visited sixteen host institutions across Hauts-de-France and Île-de-France.

The SPONSORED MEMBERSHIP program is generously sustained by an anonymous donor. Their 2022 gift allows us to offer Library memberships to refugees and their families from Ukraine and elsewhere.
IN-KIND DONORS

The Abbey Bookshop
American Children's Theatre
Edgar and Irene Blanc
Michael Brady
Christy Devinat
Jeremy Durack
Maureen Emerson
Tatiana Grytsiak
Ellen Hampton

Spencer Kehe
Jodi Klein
Nick Marks
MESSAGE Paris
Sharon Nossiter
Peregrine Olander
Karl Orend
Queenie in Powerland
Elizabeth Revelo

Loren Ringer
Garrett Rittenberg
Yolanda Robins
Silke Rochelouis
Cate Shainker
Shakespeare and Company
Carrie Solomon
Dana Thomas
Sophie Torralba

VOLUNTEERS

MEMBER SERVICES, PROGRAMS, AND ADMINISTRATION

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
Luis Aldrete Castillo

Collection and Archives
Eve Bennett
Marianne Faure
Simone Gallo
Olga Ospina
Mayanne Wright

Welcome Desk
Inedia Camamte
Josie Hirsch
Olga Kull
Mary Jean Lowe
Valerie Mascitti
Daniela Rodriguez
Judy Vaswani
Kate Woodman

Programs
Elizabeth Bredin
Maisie Fieschi
Barbara Gerber
Juana Gomez
Ellie Griffith
Pat Halam

Children's and Teens'
Zoe Adams
Lucy Alogna
Molly Belsitchke
Lina Benosman
Carly Bisek
Alix Boury

Soumaya Housni
Grace Hunter
Stacy Keith-Reibell
Emily Little
Anna MacGabhann
Tara Raye Myer Loeve
Margot Nightingale
Michelle O'Brien
Mitra Olfat
Lenisa Patterson
Emma Schumann
Atoosa Vakili
Judy Vaswani
Ekaterina Vasyova
Kate Woodman
Mayanne Wright

Shelving
Joan Choi
Fabricio Cravo Gomes
Laura Echols
Sorrel Fenelon
Elene Ferrario
Sarah Alison Forbes
Lauren Jeanette
Adele Kudish
Emily Little
Ann Madden
Jackie Mathews
Zoya Mirza
Joseph Moufidi
Hayam Naamane
Ann Paulsrud
Adalghiza Raesh
Lauren Widner
### VOLUNTEERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tess Brewer</th>
<th>Hadia Hakim</th>
<th>Hannah Minor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brooke Burns</td>
<td>Audrey Hayford</td>
<td>Caroline Moreau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audrey Chang</td>
<td>Zara Reid Hodson</td>
<td>Brenda Morgan</td>
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<td>Pauline Charruyer</td>
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### YOUNG AUTHORS FICTION FESTIVAL

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Fiona Zublin

Kate Woodman volunteering at Evenings with an Author on 8 September 2022. Photo © Julien LB.
The Library has long been an intellectual home for writers, journalists, thinkers, and artists. However, a recent plunge into the archives unearthed an incredible discovery: a real-life spy recruited from our ranks.

Part of the Library’s rich heritage is our collection of photographs of the institution from the past century. From Library War Service images of American soldiers relaxing in camp libraries to students reading shoulder to shoulder in the Dillon Wing in the 1970s, our photo archives are an invaluable resource for Library staff and researchers alike.

In order to better understand how the Library was equipped, stocked, and staffed since our founding in 1920, we’ve undertaken the task of dating photos of our five locations based on descriptions of the facilities printed in past annual reports and articles in the press.

More intriguing by far are the photographs in our archive that show anonymous staff members at their desks or in the stacks. Our work on identifying our predecessors has been aided by digitized archives, such as press and promotional photos at the American Library Association, passport photos from the National Archives, and even newspaper, yearbook, and obituary photos online. Cross-referencing staff member names from old memos and payroll documents against these headshots has allowed us to identify a certain number. Once names have been matched to faces, we continue to hunt through the archives to piece together the stories of staff members who have been with us through the decades.

One of these enigmatic staff members, and one of the most exciting detective stories thus far, concerns young Freddie Hawkins.

Freddie first caught our eye in the haunting staff portrait taken by Harcourt Studios at the Library in April 1940, just two months before the German occupation of Paris. Of the nine Library employees present for the portrait (Fig. 1), Freddie (rear, far left) was the last person we were able to identify, after several years of research. He’s labeled as Frederic Hawkins on the verso of one print, in Directrice Dorothy Reeder’s distinctive spidery handwriting (front right). However, no Frédéric, Frederick, Fred, Freddy, or Freddie appears in staff reports from the pre-war period. He’s visibly younger than...
most of his colleagues, and he’s the only one grinning. Why was he included in this solemn portrait but left out of internal documents? What role did he play at the Library?

The first lead was unearthed in a file of 1940s press clippings in our archives: a reference to a "young lad" named Freddie. He was volunteering in the Library’s WWII “Soldiers Service.” This program, which sent reading material to French and English soldiers, was put into place by Directrice Reeder just three days after war was declared on 3 September 1939. The service ended when Paris was occupied ten months later, by which time 100,000 books and magazines had been distributed to soldiers, free, upon request.

In our archived transcript of a February 1940 Paris-Mondial “Life in Paris” radio broadcast, Directrice Reeder is interviewed by journalist Marion Dix about the Soldiers Service. She introduces “Freddie Hawkins, one of our volunteer workers” as “our champion package wrapper.” The transcript explains that he’s preparing a parcel containing the magazines *Match*, *LIFE*, the *New Yorker*, and the *Readers’ Digest* with a mystery novel and a collection of French short stories. Freddie proudly states he can wrap up the package in “one minute, thirty seconds.”

His parcel-packing prowess is confirmed by a Paris-Midi newspaper article published earlier that month that we located in the Bibliothèque Nationale’s digital collection (Fig. 2). Freddie isn’t identified by name, but a photograph of a young man in a suit preparing a delivery is captioned “Un paquet : une minute trente secondes.” A print in our archive by famed photographer Rogi André (Fig. 3) shows the same young man in the attic space donated to the Soldiers Service program. The mansard windows are painted over for blackout regulations and two baskets on the floor of his workspace overflow with kraft- and string-wrapped parcels of reading material. The man’s profile, haircut, and clothing are a match: these must both be photographs of Freddie.

These and other historic documents give us a vivid picture of how the Library prepared for the Occupation, but for many members of the wartime staff, scant personal information is available in our archives. The desire to learn more about our heroic predecessors pushed us to dig further. We’d already compiled detailed files for the eight other staff members who sat for the 1940 portrait (Fig. 1), sharing finds and leads with authors and scholars also interested in their individual stories. However, Freddie’s common name and a dearth of biographical data in our archive meant that he remained elusive. So, we rolled up our sleeves and continued to hunt.

Noting that Freddie’s full first name was spelled à la française and lacking a final “K” on the photo caption and guessing he was born just after the close of the Great War, we focused our search on French sources. In the Paris archive’s digitized *actes de naissances* we located a Frédéric Hawkins born on 24 June 1921 in Paris’s 14th arrondissement (Fig. 4). His father, Roderick Hawkins, is identified as a 33-year-old journalist, and, as his name rang distinctly non-French, we began to investigate a possible anglophone connection.

We learned that Roderick was the given name of Eric Hawkins, an Englishman who had been living in Paris since his teens and who was married to a Frenchwoman. Hawkins was the managing editor of the Paris *Herald* since 1924. He shepherded the last newspaper printed in Paris before the Occupation onto newsstands on 11 June 1940, describing this

Fig. 2: “Amica America: 12,000 Livres ont déjà été envoyés à nos soldats par la Bibliothèque américaine de Paris” Paris-Midi 16 February 1940 (via Gallica)
feat in his memoir, *Hawkins of the Paris* Herald. A quick search of the Library’s catalog revealed that this book has been part of our circulating collection since its publication sixty years ago. We weren’t surprised to find the title in the stacks, but we were amazed to discover details of Freddie’s wartime experience in its pages.

In the chapter, “Closing the Paper in June 1940,” Hawkins describes putting his 18-year-old son Freddie on a train to the family’s property in southwestern France, five days before the Germans arrived in Paris: “He had reached military age and I wanted him out of the French mess, with the idea he should eventually go to England.” Hawkins recounts that once in Bordeaux, “Freddie, completely bilingual, simply talked himself aboard [a ship to England]. It was to be many months before I would see him again.”

When Hawkins finally made it safely to London in late 1941, he looked for Freddie at the *New York Times* office, where Freddie had been working as a copy boy. Rather than finding him at the newspaper, Hawkins discovers that Freddie, now 20 and engaged to be married, is undergoing “hush-hush training” in espionage at Winchester, “obviously because of his complete and unaccented command of the French language.” Hawkins is shocked by this development, as were we. A spy in the stacks! Grinning Freddie, our champion packer, headed back to France undercover!

Armed with this new knowledge, we changed our research tactics and discovered that Freddie’s Special Operations Executive (SOE) record is housed at the National Archives in the UK. Much to our dismay, the file, entitled “Frederic Georges HAWKINS aka Francois HORNE” was closed to the public until January 2023. Since the file was only to remain sealed for an additional eight months, we made a special request to the National Archives, which was granted, and soon received six digitized pages about Freddie’s short-lived career as a British spy (Fig. 5). The SOE file confirms that Freddie worked as a volunteer at the Library, validating our hunch about his identity.

According to Eric Hawkins, Freddie “made several one-man boat incursions to France and elsewhere.” After reading his SOE file, however, we were surprised Freddie was sent on even a single mission. Freddie might have had skills and potential, but he was apparently a lousy spy.

Freddie is described as “keen,” “alert,” “intelligent,” “fit,” and “plucky,” but also as “undisciplined” and “impulsive.” He can swim, ride, and drive both a car and a motorcycle. He’s a good pistol shot, and even better with both explosives and a tommy gun. “With further training and experience [he] should prove a very useful man.” However, Freddie’s insufficient maturity
and lack of life experience require him to be “restrained.” He’s labeled as “impetuous,” “sacrificing accuracy for speed,” and is merely “fair” at writing reports, signaling, and Morse. “The only drawback up to now is that he is so young and undisciplined.” Unfortunately, his age ultimately prevented him from becoming an agent, and he was returned to his unit after making only three drops.

We like to think that Freddie’s exuberant youthful energy served him well as a volunteer at the Library. It’s certainly visible on his face in the 1940 staff portrait (Fig. 1). We still haven’t uncovered what Freddie did after the war, although we do know he passed away in Orléans on Christmas Day in 2009. The search for our spy in the stacks continues.

If you’re interested in supporting further research, presentations, or publications regarding the Library’s history, or funding the digitization and preservation of our institutional archive, please contact Executive Director Audrey Chapuis.
On 12 September 2022, Deputy Librarian of Congress Mark Sweeney (right) visited the Library and perused the archives with Director Chapuis.
IN MEMORIAM

Remembering
Joshua Adler

Josh Adler, founder of Paris Wine Company, passed away on 25 February 2022 at the age of forty-two, after battling pancreatic cancer. Josh was actively involved in the Library community, selecting the wines served at our evening programs and leading presentations, wine-tasting events, and the popular book group Words About Wine. He was a Library member with his wife, Catherine Haas Adler, and their two sons, Max and Paul.

Remembering
Medora M. Kaltenbach

Medora Kaltenbach passed away on 18 September 2021 at the age of 88. She lived in Southern Shores, on North Carolina’s Outer Banks and spent several months of every year in Paris. She volunteered at the American Library for a decade. She often came in to shelve on Mondays when the Library was closed to the public, revelling in the quiet calm. Her sense of humor and unrivaled dedication to the Library will be sorely missed.

The Honorable James G. Lowenstein was honored for his longtime service to the Library at the 2022 Gala dinner. A beloved member of the Library community and Chairman Emeritus of the Advisory Council, Ambassador Lowenstein passed away at the age of ninety-five on 3 January 2023. Photo © Krystal Kenney
We need our bookstores, our beautiful libraries. We need the place where we can come together and talk about books; or we can sit quietly with books. A place where someone we trust will hand us the book we have been looking for our entire life: the exact book we never knew was missing...the beautiful story that makes our life whole.

— Ann Patchett at the 2022 Gala