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The American Library in Paris

ESTABLISHED 1920

e-Libris 2 February 2021

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In the event that this *e-Libris* is cut short by your email service, please click the link at the bottom of the email to see the newsletter in its entirety.



Covid-19 Update:

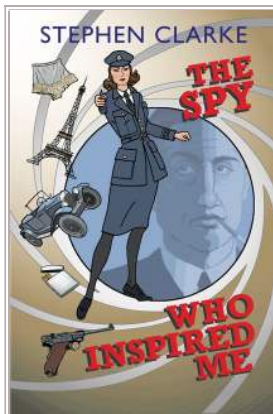
The new governmental anti-Covid measures closing large stores and shopping centers in France do not affect the Library. We remain open as follows for browsing, checkout, returns, and limited study space:

Tue–Fri: 10h–18h | Sat: 9h30–18h | Sun: 12h–18h | Mon: Closed

All programs continue virtually.

Programs for Adults

All programs, including book groups, workshops, and *Evenings with an Author* sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg, will continue virtually for the present time.



[Evenings with an Author: Stephen Clarke](#)

Tuesday 2 February at 19h30

Join us as local favorite Stephen Clarke presents his latest novel, *The Spy Who Inspired Me*. It is April 1944, just before D-Day. A young woman spy, Margaux Lynd, has to go undercover into occupied France to find missing agents in the Resistance. Unfortunately she is lumbered with a male sidekick, a suave naval officer called Ian Lemming. He thinks occupied France is dirty and dangerous and wants to go back to his office in the Admiralty, but she has to drag him along while teaching him all the tricks of real wartime spy craft.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.

[RSVP required](#) to receive meeting details and password.



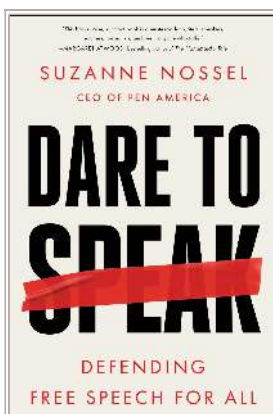
[Evenings with an Author: Susan Herrmann Loomis](#)

Wednesday 3 February at 19h30

Attend a virtual talk with chef and author Susan Herrmann Loomis as she introduces her new book, *Plat du Jour*. The spirit of the *plat du jour*, the dish of the day, is all about simplicity, seasonal ingredients, and joyful time at the table. It's also about the history of France, and there are historical tidbits sprinkled throughout the book which illuminate and anchor the recipes. Whether it's boeuf bourguignon, poule au pot, or a simple salade niçoise, the French classics in *Plat du Jour* are made for the home cook.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.

[RSVP required](#) to receive meeting details and password.



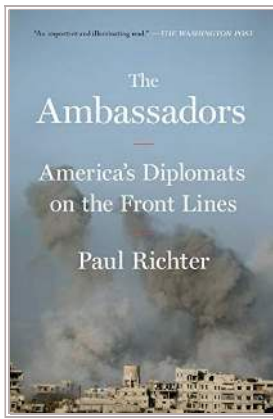
[Evenings with an Author: Suzanne Nossel in conversation with Michelle Kuo](#)

Tuesday 9 February at 19h30

Online trolls and fascist chat groups. Controversies over campus lectures. Cancel culture versus censorship. The daily hazards and debates surrounding free speech dominate headlines and fuel social media storms. In *Dare To Speak*, Suzanne Nossel, a leading voice in support of free expression, delivers a vital, necessary guide to maintaining democratic debate that is open, free-wheeling, but at the same time respectful of the rich diversity of backgrounds and opinions in a changing country. Michelle Kuo is a writer and associate professor of History, Law, and Society at the American University of Paris.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.

[RSVP required](#) to receive meeting details and password.



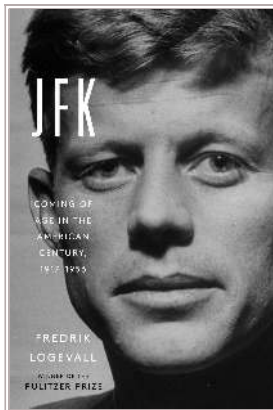
[Evenings with an Author: Paul Richter](#)

Wednesday 10 February at 19h30

Join us for an evening with Paul Richter as he introduces his new book, *The Ambassadors*, the story of a small circle of career U.S. Ambassadors who served as Washington's top troubleshooters in the greater Middle East in the tumultuous decade and a half after the 9/11 attacks. Thrust into war and upheaval, these diplomats took on far more than most envoys, organizing new governments, brokering political deals between warring blocs, and overseeing military operations. They served as another line of national defense, often at the risk of their own lives.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.

[RSVP required](#) to receive meeting details and password.



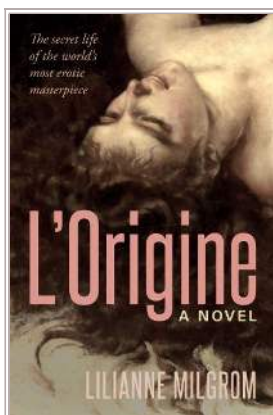
[Evenings with an Author: Fredrik Logevall in conversation with Charles Trueheart](#)

Tuesday 16 February at 19h30

Please join us for an evening of conversation with Dr. Fredrik Logevall about his latest book, *JFK: Coming of Age in the American Century, 1917-1956*, with an interview moderated by former Library Director Charles Trueheart. Fredrik Logevall is the Laurence D. Belfer Professor of International Affairs and professor of history at Harvard University. A specialist of U.S. foreign relations history and modern international history, he is the author or editor of nine books, including *Embers of War*, which won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for History, the Francis Parkman Prize, and the 2013 American Library in Paris Book Award.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.

[RSVP required](#) to receive meeting details and password.



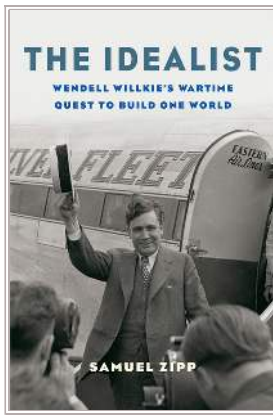
[Evenings with an Author: Lilianne Milgrom](#)

Wednesday 17 February at 19h30

In her new novel, *L'Origine: The Secret Life of the World's most Erotic Masterpiece*, Lilianne Milgrom brings a fresh perspective to Gustave Courbet's infamous and contentious portrait of a woman's exposed torso and sex entitled *L'Origine du monde*, a painting that has drawn millions of visitors to the Musée d'Orsay. The book traces the extraordinary, clandestine odyssey of this iconic nineteenth-century painting that continues to scandalize all who set eyes upon it.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.

[RSVP required](#) to receive meeting details and password.



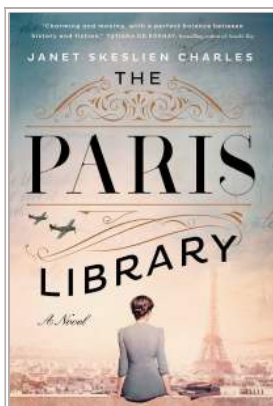
[Evenings with an Author: Samuel Zipp](#)

Tuesday 23 February at 19h30

Dr. Samuel Zipp introduces *The Idealist: Wendell Willkie's Wartime Quest to Build One World*. This book dramatically details the 1942 plane journey undertaken by businessman-turned-maverick-internationalist Wendell Willkie to rally U.S. allies to the war effort. Willkie's tour of a planet shrunk by aviation and war inspired him to challenge Americans to fight a rising tide of nationalism at home. Samuel Zipp is a cultural and intellectual historian at Brown University and is also the author of *Manhattan Projects: The Rise and Fall of Urban Renewal in Cold War New York*.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.

[RSVP required](#) to receive meeting details and password.



[Evenings with an Author: Janet Skeslien Charles in conversation with Naida Culshaw](#)

Wednesday 24 February at 19h30


Join us for an interview with Janet Skeslien Charles, author of *The Paris Library*. Based on the true World War II story of the heroic librarians at the American Library in Paris, this novel tells an unforgettable story of romance, friendship, family, and the power of literature to bring us together. *The Paris Library* shows that extraordinary heroism can sometimes be found in the quietest of places.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.


[RSVP required](#) to receive meeting details and password.

If you would like to know more about Janet Skeslien Charles and her experiences writing *The Paris Library*, visit the [Library's blog](#) to read her interview with Programs Manager Catherine Olien.



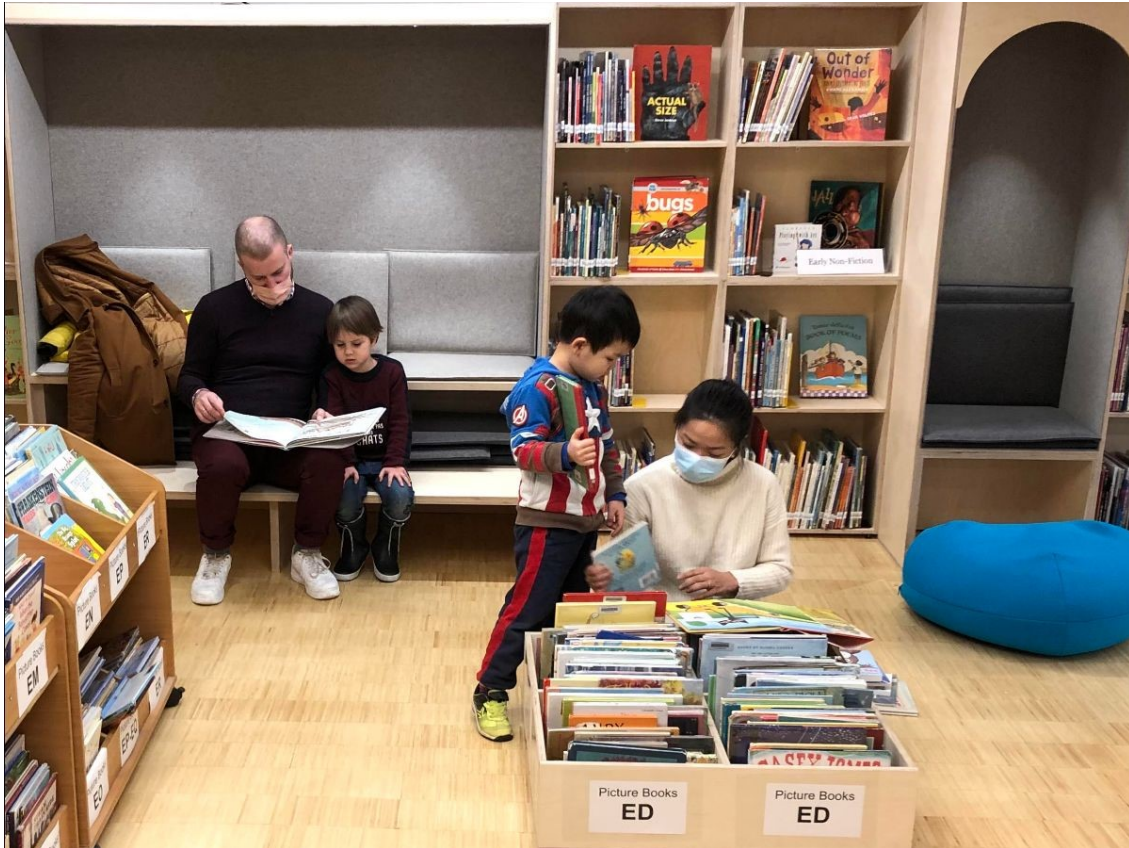
 Past programs are on YouTube, including V. E. Schwab, Fiona Sze-Lorrain, Richard Layard, and the 2020 American Library in Paris Book Award Ceremony

 Listen to our podcast, Evenings with an Author, available wherever you get your podcasts.

 Visit our Facebook page for information about upcoming virtual events and Evenings with an Author sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg.

Kids and Teens

Children's News



The Children's Library expansion is open! Young members and their families are invited to stop in and visit the new spaces, which are now open for browsing and short visits. Our Children's and Teens' Services librarians and volunteers will be happy to answer your questions as you navigate our enlarged Children's Library, which now contains 20,000 volumes for ages 0–18.

Children's Book Awards: The American Library Association (ALA) announced the winners of the 2021 [Youth Media Awards](#), including the Newbery Medal, Caldecott Medal, and Coretta Scott King Awards, via a virtual broadcast on 26 January. *We Are Water Protectors* by Michaela Goade and Carole Lindstrom won the Caldecott Medal for 2021, *When You Trap a Tiger* by Tae Keller won the Newbery Medal, and *Before the Ever After* by Jacqueline Woodson won the Coretta Scott King Author Award. These titles, along with the other award winners, are in our print collection, with several available on our [eBook platforms](#).



Children's Programming

Visit the [website calendar](#) for all upcoming children's programming.

[Virtual Valentines: DIY Cards](#)

(ages 6–12)

Saturday 6 February at 14h00

Enjoy a reading of the delightfully silly Valentine 's Day story *A Crankenstein Valentine* by Samantha Berger and Dan Santat, then make your own creative Valentine cards for friends and family. We'll craft scratch-off cards together, and you'll be surprised at how easy and fun they are to create. Participants are encouraged to gather supplies in advance of the workshop.

For Library members. [RSVP required.](#)

Story Hour: Valentine's Day

(ages 3–5)

Wednesday 10 February at 14h30

This Story Hour will feature stories for Valentine's Day, including *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch* by Eileen Spinelli and *My Heart* by Corinna Luyken. Participants are encouraged to bring along paper and colored pencils or markers to make their own valentines.

For Library members. [RSVP required.](#)

Read-a-Thon

(all ages)

Saturday 13 February–Sunday 28 February

Join the American Library in Paris and Message Paris for a Read-A-Thon to encourage reading and raise funds for the Library. Children and teens will complete reading challenges and collect pledges based on the number of challenges they complete. As an independent non profit, the Library depends on donations of all sizes and values the support of readers of all ages.

For Library members and members of Message Paris. [RSVP required.](#)

You and Your Kids: Internet Safety Tips with Elizabeth Milovidov

Saturday 20 February at 11h00

We're hosting this special event for parents and caregivers with digital safety advocate Elizabeth Milovidov. You'll learn how to keep up-to-date and cope appropriately with new technologies and devices. Special attention will be given to screen addiction and internet safety.

For Library members. [RSVP required.](#)

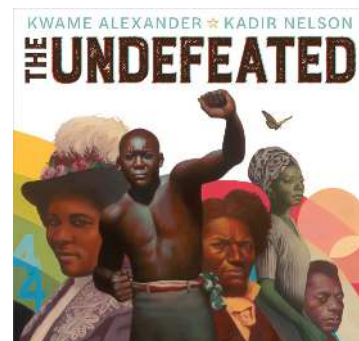
Stars of Children's Literature: Black History Month

(ages 6–12)

Saturday 27 February at 14h00

Let's celebrate Black History Month by learning more about literary and artistic figures from the 20th and 21st centuries, including Jacqueline Woodson, Kwame Alexander, Jason Reynolds, Kadir Nelson, and others. Show off your knowledge of children's literature in our fun trivia quiz covering Newbery Medal winners, Coretta Scott King Award winners, classic children's books, past Library visitors, and more.

For Library members. [RSVP required.](#)



Teen News

Awards for YA Literature Announced: At the [2021 Youth Media Awards](#) on 26 January, the Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature was awarded to *Everything Sad is Untrue* by Daniel Nayeri. The Morris YA Debut Award went to *If These Wings Could Fly* by Kyrie McCaulie. (Past Morris winner *The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas, remains one of the most-borrowed books in the Library's collection.) These and many other award-winning titles and best-sellers are also available in our collection and on our [eBook platforms](#). We recommend Angie Thomas's latest, *Concrete Rose*.



Teen Programming

Visit the [website calendar](#) for all upcoming teen programs.

Youth Leadership Program (FULL)

(ages 14–18)

Friday 5 February at 19h00

Participants between the ages of 14–18 were selected for this public speaking program based on applications sent in June. Youth Leadership Program (YLP) is led by the teen participants themselves with the guidance and support of Toastmasters. The program continues virtually in February.

For Library members. By application—FULL.

Teen Writing Group (FULL)

(ages 12–18)

Saturday 6 February at 17h00

Young writers ages 12–18 share their work and get to know other writers in our community. Authors who have been guest hosts for the Teen Writing Group include Clementine Beauvais, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Amy Plum, and Hilary Reyl. The club will meet virtually in February. Applications for 2021-2022 will open in March.

For Library members. By application—FULL.

Master Shot Film Club

(ages 12–18)

Saturday 13 February at 17h00

Led by Paris-based filmmaker and writer Clarence Tokley, this club provides a space for teens to explore all aspects of filmmaking, including the development and production process, script writing, camera work, directing, editing, and much more. In February this group will meet virtually and complete projects specifically designed for working from a distance.

Open to Library members and non-members, [by application](#).

Fantasy Book Club: *Girl, Serpent, Thorn*

(ages 12–adult)

Saturday 20 February at 14h00

This month, we'll be reading and discussing *Girl, Serpent, Thorn* by Melissa Bashardoust (available at the Library in print or as an e-Book).

New members are always welcome to join this book club.

For Library members. [RSVP required](#).



Press Room

- Amanda Gorman, the Library's Summer 2020 Writer-in-Residence and the 2017 National Youth Poet Laureate, made history on 20 January 2021 when she recited her powerful poem "The Hill We Climb" at the American presidential inauguration. You can watch her performance on [YouTube](#).
- *FrancoFiles*, the podcast of the Embassy of France in the U.S., interviewed Library Director Audrey Chapuis for its latest episode of 26 January 2021, "After the darkness of war, the light of books—The American Library in Paris". Audrey discusses the Library's rich history, our centennial, and our vibrant community. [Listen and read the transcript](#) on the *FrancoFiles* website. Also available wherever you get your podcasts.
- *France Today* published an [article](#) on 26 January 2021 about the 2020 American Library in Paris Book Award Ceremony. Written by Barabara Gerber, the piece features the winning title *The*

Plateau, by Maggie Paxson.

Pandemonium U



Upcoming virtual events by the Library's partner Pandemonium U:

[George Blake, the Happy Traitor](#), with Simon Kuper, author of a new biography of Blake.
Friday February 5 @ 9am Pacific/Noon NY/17:00 London/18:00 Paris

["Coco Chanel: The woman who dressed the world," with Rhonda Garelick](#). In conversation with Pamela Druckerman.
Friday February 12 @ 9am Pacific/Noon NY/17:00 London/18:00 Paris

Renew your Membership and Consider a Gift

As an independent, non-profit institution, we rely on the support and generosity of our community. How can you help the American Library in Paris throughout the year? Renew your Library membership, make a donation online, and tell your friends about the Library.

RENEW

DONATE

The American Library in Paris is an independent, non-profit institution that receives no regular government funding. Your generosity is essential in keeping the Library vibrant and creative.

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