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The American Library in Paris

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e-Libris 16 February 2021

In this message:

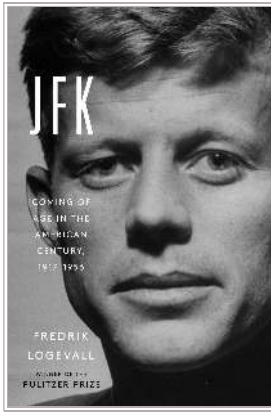
- [Programs for adults](#)
- [Kids' news and events](#)
- [Teens' news and programming](#)
- [The Paris Library](#)
- [Pandemonium U programs](#)
- [Donate to the Library](#)

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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.



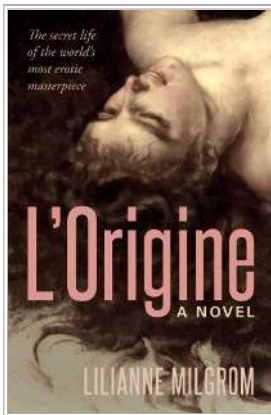
[Evenings with an Author: Fredrik Logevall in conversation with Charles Trueheart](#)

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*, 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 US 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.



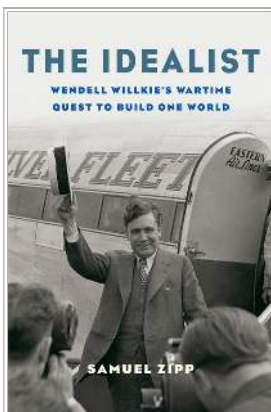
[Evenings with an Author: Lilianne Milgrom](#)

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.



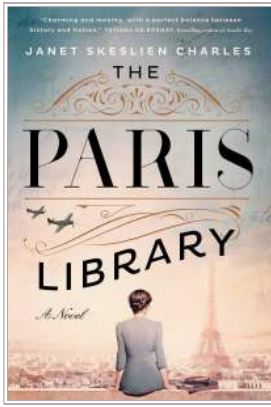
[Evenings with an Author: Samuel Zipp](#)

Tuesday 23 February at 19h30

Dr. Samuel Zipp introduces *The Idealist: Wendell Willkie's Wartime Quest to Build One World*. The 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.



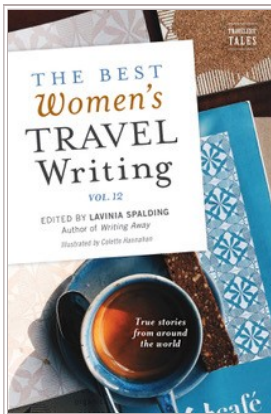
[Evenings with an Author: Nita Wiggins](#)

Tuesday 2 March at 19h30

Join us as Nita Wiggins presents her book *Civil Rights Baby: My Story of Race, Sports, and Breaking Barriers in American Journalism*. This work is about a determined girl's pursuit of the career she wants, while believing that the laws of the land, especially the Civil Rights Act of 1964, will protect her. Decades of competing in a male-dominated field brutalize her on many levels. Her fight for acceptance comes to a dramatic head one day, leading her to move to France.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.

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



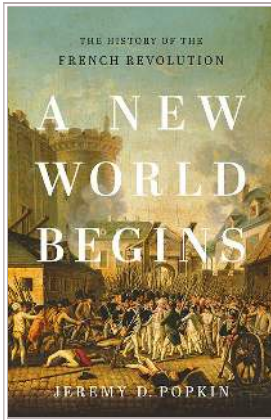
[A Panel on Women's Travel Writing in France and Beyond, moderated by Erin Byrne](#)

Wednesday 3 March at 19h30

Join us for a special virtual reading and conversation celebrating *The Best Women's Travel Writing, Volume 12: True Stories from Around the World*, the newest collection in the award-winning series that invites you to travel along with intrepid female nomads as they wander the globe. The program will feature New Orleans-based editor Lavinia Spalding and contributing writers Christina Ammon, Erin Byrne, Marcia DeSanctis, and Colette Hannahan.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.

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



[Evenings with an Author: Jeremy Popkin](#)

Tuesday 9 March at 19h30

Dr. Jeremy D. Popkin presents his latest book, *A New World Begins: The History of the French Revolution*. The French Revolution was the “big bang” out of which all modern political and social conflicts emerged. Popkin puts readers in the thick of the debates and the turmoil that led to the overthrow of the centuries-old French monarchy and the establishment of the world’s first modern democratic republic. Popkin’s dramatic narrative includes both the familiar leaders of the movement—Mirabeau, Danton, and Robespierre—and the women and enslaved Blacks who demanded rights for themselves.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.

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



[Writing Workshop with Erin Byrne: *La Fin* \(finishing that piece!\)](#)

Thursday 11 March at 19h00

Library members are invited to join us for this special writing workshop with author Erin Byrne. Do you have a piece of work, whether an essay, short story, book, or film, that you have left hanging, and may not even know why? It’s time to see it through to the end! In this workshop we will sharpen our writerly intuition to ascertain the reasons we have been unable to finish this work. Are we truly “stuck” with some kind of block? Does this piece of work simply need more time to percolate? Is the ending evading us? In each case, we will kick ourselves into gear, pick up the threads, and work to a natural and satisfying ending.

Free and open to Library Members.

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

Departing Programs Manager Catherine Olien shares reflections on her time at the American Library in Paris

Thank you to everyone in the community (including staff, supporters, Library members and volunteers, Visiting Fellows, Writers-in-Residence, workshop leaders, *Evenings with an Author* speakers, and all event participants) for the opportunity to work alongside you, discover and support your projects, and share in your passion for literature over the course of the past two and a half years. You have added a great deal of vibrancy and intellectual depth to my life.




I thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent learning and growing together, united by our shared interest in writing, reading, books, and culture. The opportunity to enter your homes while hosting virtual events during these past ten months has been something I have treasured—thank you for your trust and commitment to our programming.

Thanks to our expanded online reach, I can continue to tune in—as an audience member—to our public programs from Washington, D.C., where I have accepted a new position as Associate Director of the Center for Humanities Research at George Mason University. I look forward to continuing to support public engagement with the humanities in a new context. Even as I begin a new chapter, I remain grateful to you, and to this very special institution, which provides so

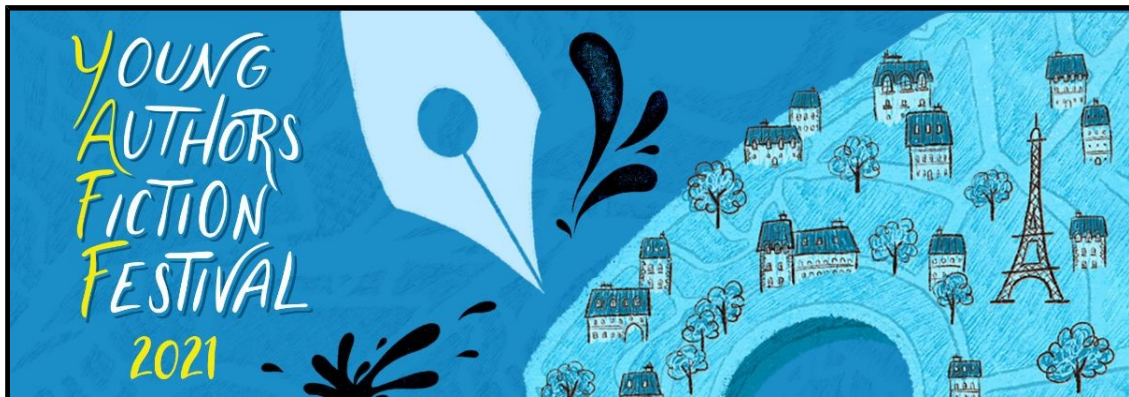


many of us with a welcoming space to gather, flourish, and call home.

—Catherine Olien

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-  Past programs are on YouTube, including Paul Richter, Suzanne Nossel, Susan Herrmann Loomis, Stephen Clarke, and V. E. Schwab.
 -  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.
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Kids and Teens



The [Young Authors Fiction Festival 2021](#) is now open for submissions. All young writers between the ages of 5–18 who write in English and live in the greater Paris area are invited to submit their original stories through the Library's website. The submission deadline is 1 April at 22h, and YAFF is free to enter.

Children ages 6–12 who would like help revising their stories are invited to register for [a virtual workshop](#) on Friday 26 March, where Children's and Teens' Services Librarian and YAFF Coordinator Kirsty will provide tips and tricks for writers.

Young readers and authors looking for inspiration can browse our short story collections for children and teens.

Children's Programming Highlights

Be sure to take a look at our [website calendar](#) for the full schedule of events for children, which will take place virtually in February and March.

[You and Your Kids: Internet Safety Tips with Elizabeth Milovidov](#)

Saturday 20 February at 11h00

To foster discussion and provide support for our community, we're hosting this special event for parents 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 addictions and internet safety.

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

Story Hour: All Kinds of Families

(ages 3–5)

Wednesday 24 February at 14h30

This 45-minute interactive virtual program, hosted by Children's and Teens' Services Librarian Kirsty and Volunteer Mary Wessels, features songs, stories, and hand rhymes in English. For this 24 February Story Hour, we'll be reading stories about families, including *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* by Kevin Noble Maillard, with illustrations by Juana Martinez-Neal. In preparation for our Story Hour, participants are encouraged to talk with their families about their favorite family traditions and family recipes.

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

Paris by Phone: A reading with Pamela Druckerman

(ages 5–adult)

Saturday 6 March at 11h00

Enjoy a reading of the new picture book *Paris by Phone* by Pamela Druckerman, the #1 bestselling author of *Bringing Up Béb e*. When Josephine Harris decides that Paris is where she really belongs, all it takes is a quick call on her magical phone to whisk her away. The City of Light has fancy caf es, baguettes under every arm, the Eiffel Tower, and a fabulous new family who can't wait to show her around. Join us as Pamela reads *Paris by Phone* from her own home in the City of Light, and then stick around for a chat about her writing process and the inspiration for her first children's book.

Free and open to the public. [RSVP required.](#)



Selected Teen Programming

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

Paris Read-A-Thon

(all ages)

13 February–28 February

The American Library in Paris and Message Paris invite kids and teens of all ages to participate in the Read-A-Thon, to encourage vacation reading and raise funds for the American Library in Paris. Readers will complete challenges and collect donations based on the number of challenges they finish. Every child and teen who participates will receive a certificate, their name inscribed in a new book in our collection, and a chance to win prizes from sponsors.

Free and open to the public. [Registration required.](#)

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.

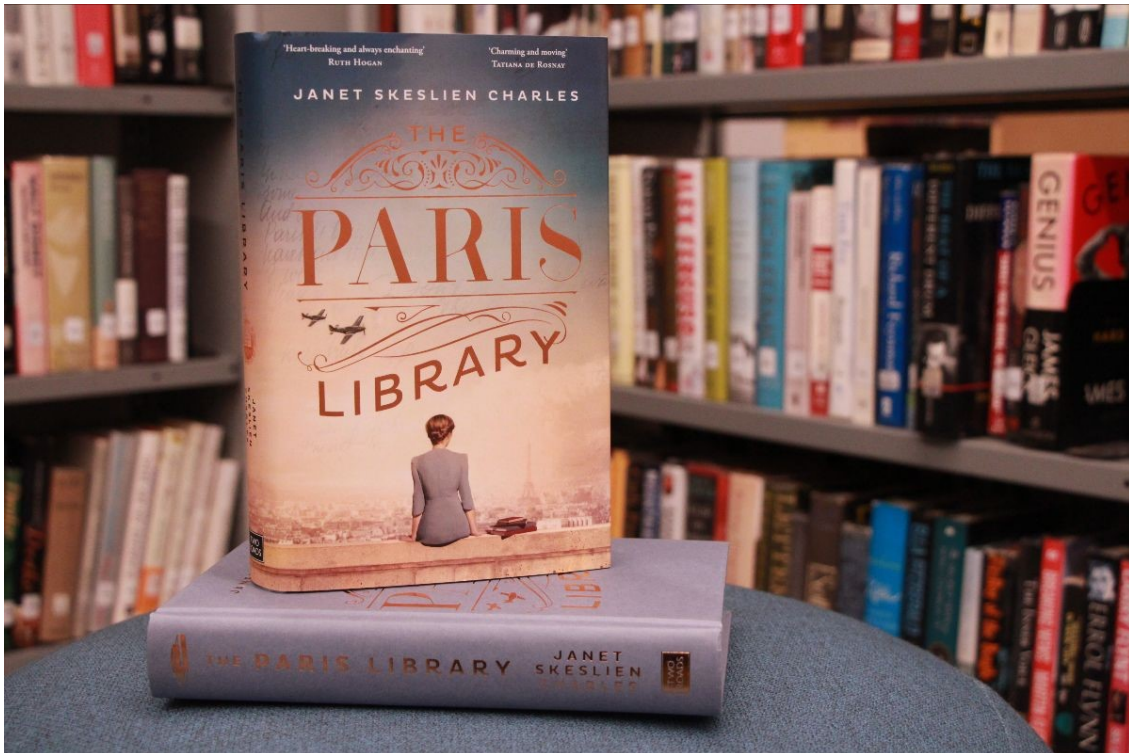
For Library members. [RSVP required.](#)





Great Graphic Novels for Teens: The list of [Great Graphic Novels for Teens 2021](#) was announced this month by YALSA, a division of the American Library Association (ALA). We have all 126 titles available in our collection. Children's and Teens' Services Manager Celeste Rhoads was part of the ALA committee that selected these titles, and she is always happy to chat about graphic novels with Library members and visitors. You'll find our Young Adult Graphic Novels in the expanded section of our Teen Mezzanine, which is now open for browsing, with limited seating.

Congratulations to Janet Skeslien Charles on the US and UK publication of *The Paris Library*



Published by Atria Books (US) and Two Roads (UK) in early February, *The Paris Library* has been named the "#1 Great Read" for February by the [Indie Next List](#), an Amazon Best Book of February 2021, and a Most Anticipated Book of the Year by *Library Journal* and *Goodreads*.

Janet's second novel is a work of historical fiction partially set during World War II and is based on the heroic true stories of librarians and staff at the American Library in Paris. The author first began exploring the lives of Dorothy Reeder, Boris Netchaev, and Clara de Chambrun while working as the Programs Manager at the Library. Janet delivers a moving portrait of love, loss, and resistance, and we are so proud

that she chose to share our history with her readers and fans.

If you would like to learn more about the real-life characters behind *The Paris Library*, we invite you to ask our Member Services staff for a book club kit and a set of postcards, kindly sent to us by Simon & Schuster. You'll discover in-depth information that will enrich your reading of *The Paris Library*.

If you can't make it to the Library, visit Janet's website to [view the postcards](#) and [download the book club kit](#).

Join us on Wednesday 24 February for a virtual [Evenings with an Author event with Janet Skeslien Charles](#).

Pandemonium U



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

["How the Le Pen family built and rules the postwar French far right," with political scientist Catherine Fieschi.](#)

In conversation with Simon Kuper

Friday March 19 @ 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.

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DONATE

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government funding. Your generosity is essential in keeping the Library vibrant and creative.

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www.americanlibraryinparis.org



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