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The American Library in Paris

ESTABLISHED 1920

e-Libris 2 March 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.



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.



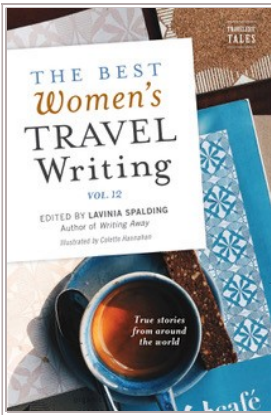
[Evenings with an Author: Nita Wiggins](#)

Tuesday 2 March at 19h30

Join us as Nita Wiggins presents her memoir *Civil Rights Baby: My Story of Race, Sports, and Breaking Barriers in American Journalism*. Follow the story of a determined girl's pursuit of the career she wants, believing that the laws of the land, especially the Civil Rights Act of 1964, will protect her. Her fight for acceptance comes to a dramatic head, leading her to move to France.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.

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



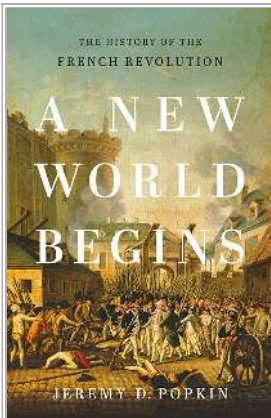
[A Panel on Women's Travel Writing in France and Beyond, moderated by Erin Byrne](#)

Wednesday 3 March at 19h30

Join us for a 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.



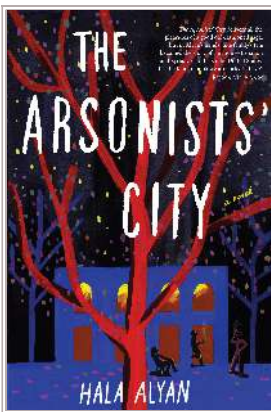
[Writing Workshop with Erin Byrne: *La Fin* \(finishing that piece!\)](#)

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.



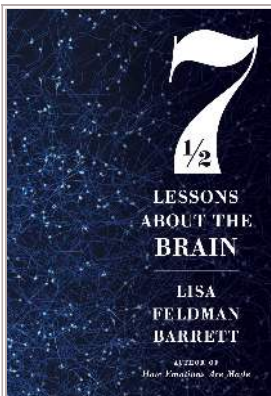
[Evenings with an Author: Hala Alyan](#)

Tuesday 16 March at 19h30

Join us as Hala Alyan presents her latest novel, *The Arsonists' City*. In a Beirut smoldering with the legacy of war, an ongoing flow of refugees, religious tension, and political protest, a family's secrets ignite, imperiling the fragile ties that hold them together. The novel explores how we hold on to the people and places we call home. Hala Alyan is a Palestinian American writer and clinical psychologist. Her poetry collections have won the Arab American Book Award and the Crab Orchard Series, and her debut novel, *Salt Houses*, won the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. Alyan was awarded the fall 2018 Visiting Fellow at the American Library in Paris.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.

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



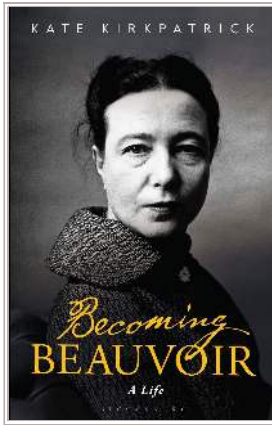
[Evenings with an Author: Lisa Feldman Barrett](#)

Wednesday 17 March at 19h00

Have you ever wondered why you have a brain? Renowned neuroscientist Lisa Feldman Barrett demystifies that big gray blob between your ears in *Seven and a Half Lessons About the Brain*. You'll learn where brains came from, how they're structured (and why it matters), and how your brain works in tandem with other brains to create everything you experience. Along the way you'll also learn to dismiss popular myths such as the "lizard brain" and "nature vs. nurture". Dr. Lisa Feldman Barrett is a University Distinguished Professor at Northeastern University with appointments at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.

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



[Evenings with an Author: Kate Kirkpatrick](#)

Wednesday 24 March at 19h30

Join us for an evening with Dr. Kate Kirkpatrick as she speaks about her new book, *Becoming Beauvoir*. While Simone de Beauvoir was one of the most influential intellectuals of the twentieth century, her life has been widely misrepresented and profoundly misunderstood. Dr. Kirkpatrick draws on previously unpublished diaries and letters to offer unique insight into de Beauvoir's relationships, her philosophy of freedom and love, and her complex struggle to become herself. Dr. Kirkpatrick is Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy at Regent's Park College, Oxford. Her research focuses primarily on French existentialism and phenomenology, the philosophy of religion, and feminist philosophy.

Free and open to the public via Zoom.

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



[Writing Workshop with Laura Cronk: Poetry, Nonfiction, and Open Genre](#)

Thursday 25 March at 19h00

What would you say if you could speak directly to a former apartment, to a powerful leader, to your alarm clock, to time itself? The classic poetic device of apostrophe, or direct address, can be uniquely productive for both poets and prose writers, leading us to discovery and unexpected connection. This workshop, open to writers of any genre, will provide an opportunity to experiment with apostrophe and the idea of the ode. Laura Cronk is the author of two books of poems, *Ghost Hour* and *Having Been an Accomplice* from Persea Books. She is the chair of undergraduate writing at The New School in New York City, where she teaches courses on pedagogy and creative practice.

Free and open to Library members.

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

Artist Recommendations from Lilianne Milgrom: Last week we welcomed author and artist Lilianne Milgrom to *Evenings with an Author*, where she presented her novel *L'Origine: The Secret Life of the World's Most Erotic Masterpiece*. One attendee asked Lilianne if she had recommendations for contemporary artists she thought we might enjoy. The list is posted on the [Library's blog](#).



Past programs are on YouTube, including Janet Skeslien Charles, Samuel Zipp, Lilianne Milgrom, and Fredrik Logevall



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 Programming Highlights

The Library hosts virtual events for all ages. Check out the [online calendar](#) to find out what's coming up, and to register.

[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 Bébé*. 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. In the City of Light, she finds fancy cafés, 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 enjoy a chat about her writing process and the inspiration for her first children's book.



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

[Story Hour: Unusual Animals](#)

(ages 3–5)

Wednesday 10 March at 14h30

This 45 minute, interactive virtual program will include songs, stories, and hand-rhymes all about unusual animals, including *Inky's Amazing Escape: How a Very Smart Octopus Found His Way Home*.

Written by Sy Montgomery and illustrated by Amy Schimler-Safford, the book is based on the true story of an octopus who escaped from an aquarium in New Zealand. Participants will be asked to tell the group the name of their favorite animal during this session.

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

[Read-A-Thon Finale and Literature Quiz](#)

(all ages)

Saturday 13 March at 14h00

The American Library in Paris and Message Paris organize a Read-A-Thon each spring to encourage vacation reading and raise funds for the American Library in Paris. During the finale event on 13 March, join us for trivia and games. Children and teens who participated in the Read-A-Thon will receive a certificate (to print at home).

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

Selected Teen Programming

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

[YA Fantasy Book Club: *Children of Blood and Bone*](#)

(ages 12–adult)

Saturday 13 March at 11h00

Join fantasy fans each month for an animated discussion of great reads, and discover new worlds and novels with like-minded readers. New members are always welcome to join! In March, we'll be reading and discussing *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi. Several copies of the book are available at the Library, and members can also read the title on our e-book platform.

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

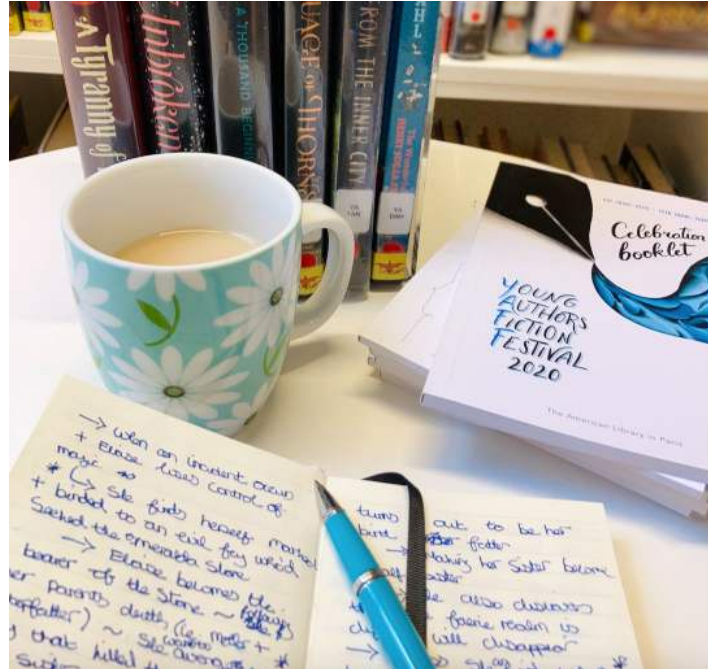
The Art of the Short Story

(ages 12–18)

Friday 19 March at 19h00

Just in time for the [Young Authors Fiction Festival \(YAFF\)](#), log in and work on your own original short story with other young writers. Together we'll look at examples of short stories, from dystopia to fantasy, and from horrific to heartwarming. Each participant will leave with a list of resources for places where they can submit short stories, as well as information about the Library's 2021 Young Authors Fiction Festival.

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



Author Barbara Diggs on Boycotts, Strikes, and Marches

(ages 9–18)

Saturday 20 March at 14h00

Dive into history with Barbara Diggs to explore the pivotal role youth played in movements for change during the Civil Rights Era and the Vietnam War. Aspiring writers, curious readers, and children and teens interested in American History are all encouraged to attend. Diggs will also talk about her research and writing processes. The author's nonfiction titles, including *Boycotts, Strikes, and Marches*; *The Vietnam War*; and *Race Relations: The Struggle for Equality in America* are available in our print collections and on our e-book platform.

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

Press Room

Author Discussion on Libraries

Author and librarian Nancy Pearl, *The Writers Library*; Janet Skeslien, *The Paris Library*; Ray Baker, director of the Miami-Dade Public Library System; and American Library in Paris director Audrey Chapuis offered their thoughts on the issues facing libraries. This was a virtual event hosted by the Miami Book Fair. [close ^](#)



[Director Audrey Chapuis at the 2020 Miami Book Fair](#)

Watch author and librarian Nancy Pearl, author Janet Skeslien Charles, Director of the Miami-Dade Public Library System Ray Baker, and American Library in Paris Director Audrey Chapuis as they discuss current issues facing libraries. Recorded in November 2020 at the Miami Book Fair, the event is now available to watch on C-SPAN.

[Janet Skeslien Charles on her Research for The Paris Library](#)

Author and former Library Programs Manager Janet Skeslien Charles details her research for her latest novel, *The Paris Library*, in an article for *LitHub* posted on 19 February. The book is a fictionalized account of the American Library in Paris during WWII and draws from the Library's real-life history.

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

"Stolen Renoir: The fate of a painting and a family in wartime France," with James McAuley, author of *The House of Fragile Things: Jewish Art Collectors and the Fall of France*

In conversation with Pamela Druckerman and Simon Kuper
Friday April 2 @ 9am Pacific/Noon NY/17:00 London/18:00 Paris

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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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