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The American Library in Paris

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In this message:

- [Book Award 2021: Coups de Cœur Announced](#)
- [The Return of Overdue Fines](#)
- [Programs for Adults](#)
- [Critical Conversations](#)
- [Kids' and Teens' News and Events](#)
- [Donate to the Library](#)

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2021 Book Award *Coups de Cœur* Announced



Five exceptional new books about France have been selected as “*coups de cœur*” of the 2021 American Library in Paris Book Award season. The *coups de cœur* were selected from the eighty-three submissions by the award’s screening committee as having special merit and are available for checkout at the Library. These titles include *Today Sardines are Not for Sale* by Paula Schwartz; *French like Moi* by Scott Dominic Carpenter; *Göring’s Man in Paris* by Jonathan Petropoulos, *Minerva’s French Sisters* by Nina Rattner Gelbart, and *The Paris Library*, by Janet Skeslien Charles.

The winner of the 2021 Book Award will be selected by an independent jury from five shortlisted titles, and the winner will be announced in January 2022. The finalists include a novel about a Surrealist artist (*Leonora in the Morning Light* by Michaela Carter), an epistolary elegy (*Letters to Camondo* by Edmund de Waal), a biography of an underrecognized figure (*Black Spartacus* by Sudhir Hazareesingh), a dreamlike story of a racehorse in Paris (*Perestroika in Paris* by Jane Smiley), and a multigenerational micro-history (*An Infinite History* by Emma Rothschild).

The Book Award is generously sponsored by the Florence Gould Foundation. For information about becoming a patron of the Book Award ceremony or questions about the prize: Visit our [Book Award page](#) or email bookaward@americanlibraryinparis.org.

News: Overdue Fines Reinstated

All good things must come to and end. As of 5 October, we have resumed charging overdue fines. Materials returned after their due date will be charged a 0,20€ fee per item per Library working day. For details on loan periods and how to renew your books, please [visit our website](#).

Any items that were due back during the confinement, and that have been marked as "lost" and billed to your account, are still eligible for Fine Forgiveness. When you return the long-overdue items, all associated fines and fees will be waived, no questions asked. Items must be returned in order to qualify for Fine Forgiveness. If a book is truly lost, please contact info@americanlibraryinparis.org for more information.

Programs for Adults



[A New Era of US Policy: Afghanistan, AUKUS, and the Trade War with China](#)

Virtual on Zoom, with the option to watch live at the Library

Wednesday 13 October at 19h30

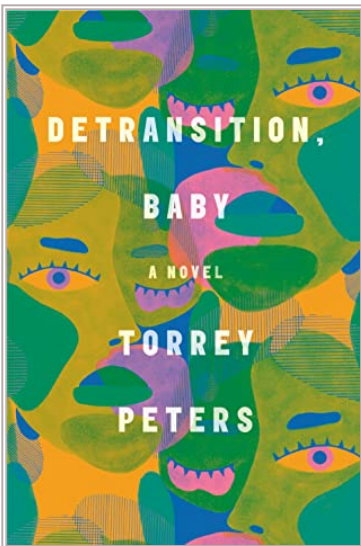
Does the retreat from Afghanistan mark the end of the American era, or else the start of a new one? Join us for an in-person and online discussion about President Biden's attempt to reset America's place in a new decade of global collaboration, with a particular focus on Biden's exit from Afghanistan and recent alliance with Great Britain and Australia. **Robin Wright** (the *New Yorker*), **Steven Erlanger** (the *New York Times*) and **Serge Schmemmann** (the *International Herald Tribune*), drawing on their collective knowledge and long international careers, will tune in virtually from the US for a moderated discussion.

The event will take place online (panelists will be tuning in from the US), and the Library will project the conversation onto a screen in the Reading Room for a live viewing experience.

Registration required. Free and open to the public.

[Online Event Registration](#)

[In-Person Event Registration](#)



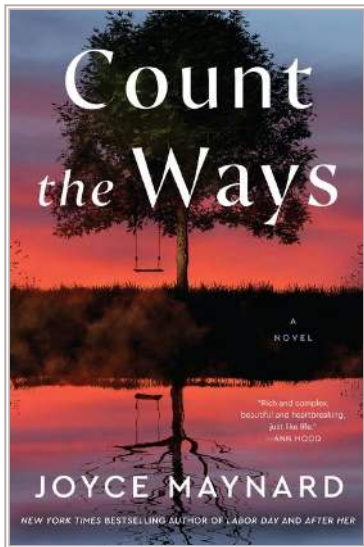
[A Fierce Exploration of Gender, Motherhood, and Desire](#) **Virtual on Zoom**

Tuesday 19 October at 19h30

Torrey Peters' electrifying and provocative debut, *Detransition, Baby*, follows three women—transgender and cisgender—whose lives collide after an unexpected pregnancy forces them to confront their deepest desires around gender, motherhood, and sex. Equipped with original, witty, and visceral prose, Peters explores love, the evolving shape of the modern family, as well as the trans experience in all of its complex messiness. Described as a “deeply searching novel that resists easy answers,” *Detransition, Baby* enters the canon of trans culture with aplomb.

Torrey Peters is also the author of the novellas *Infect Your Friends and Loved Ones* and *The Masker*. She has an MFA from the University of Iowa and a Masters in Comparative Literature from Dartmouth. She rides a pink motorcycle and splits her time between Brooklyn and an off-grid cabin in Vermont. For the past few years, Peters has been part of a trans literary movement based on trans people sharing their work amongst each other without barriers.

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



Two Veteran Writers on Parenthood, Love, and Forgiveness: Joyce Maynard & Joyce Carol Oates
Virtual on Zoom

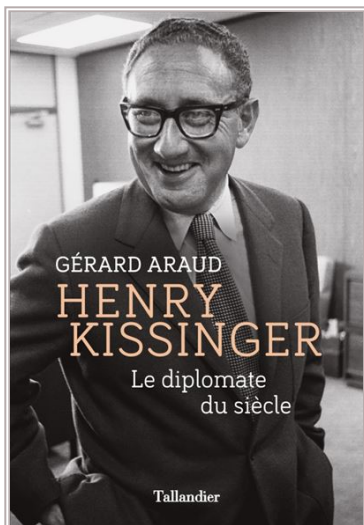
Wednesday 20 October at 19h30

In her most ambitious novel to date, Joyce Maynard returns to the themes at the heart of her most acclaimed work: family, marriage, parenthood, as well as divorce and its costly aftermath. A story of holding on and learning to let go, *Count the Ways* is an achingly beautiful, poignant, and deeply compassionate novel of home, love, and forgiveness.

Joyce Maynard is a reporter, columnist, performer, and author of eighteen books, including her *New York Times*-bestselling novel, *Labor Day*, as well as *To Die For*, *Under the Influence* and the memoirs *At Home in the World* and *The Best of Us*. She is fellow of the MacDowell Colony and Yaddo.

Joyce Carol Oates published her first book in 1963, and has since published 58 novels, a number of plays and novellas, and many volumes of short stories, poetry, and non-fiction. She has won many awards for her writing, including the National Book Award, two O. Henry Awards, the National Humanities Medal, and the Jerusalem Prize. Oates is the Roger S. Berlind '52 Professor Emerita in the Humanities at Princeton University, where she has taught for over thirty years.

Registration required. Free and open to the public.



Was Henry Kissinger the Diplomat of the Century?
In Person at the Library

Tuesday 26 October at 19h30

Join us in person to discuss *Henry Kissinger: Le diplomate du siècle* with diplomat and author Gérard Araud and journalist Elaine Sciolino.

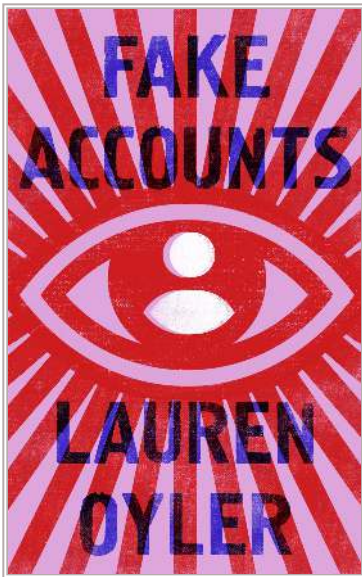
A refugee from Nazi Germany, Henry Kissinger was equipped with luminous intelligence, an industrious ethic, and a playful character, allowing him to navigate all situations, from the streets of the Bronx to the Quad of Harvard to the corridors of the White House. First as National Security Advisor and then as Secretary of State to President Nixon, Kissinger played a central role in world history. Though he left office more than forty years ago, he still exerts influence as many great contemporary leaders—Putin, Xi Jinping, Modi, Macron—look to his legacy for guidance.

Gérard Araud is a French diplomat who served as Ambassador of France to the United States from 2014 to 2019. He previously held many positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Notably, he was Director for Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament, Ambassador of France to Israel, Director General for Political

Affairs and Security, as well as Representative of France to the United Nations in New York.

Elaine Sciolino is a contributing writer and former Paris bureau chief for the *New York Times*. Her latest book, *The Seine: The River That Made Paris*, was a *Los Angeles Times* bestseller and a Barnes & Noble nonfiction book-of-the-month selection. Sciolino was decorated chevalier of the Legion of Honor in 2010 for her “special contribution” to the friendship between France and the United States.

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



[Capturing the Spirit of a Generation with Lauren Oyler](#)
Virtual on Zoom

Wednesday 27 October at 19h30

A "sharp, brilliant interrogation of the way we live now," *Fake Accounts*, Lauren Oyler's debut novel, follows a woman who discovers her boyfriend is an anonymous internet conspiracy theorist. Capturing the "neurotic spirit of a generation," the way social media has reconfigured the way we relate to the world, this dense, funny and fierce work takes place in New York and Berlin, with a brief detour to Washington, D.C.




Oyler's essays on books and culture have appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times Magazine*, the *New York Times Book Review*, the *London Review of Books*, *Harper's*, the *Guardian*, *New York Magazine's The Cut*, *Bookforum*, the *Baffler*, the *New Republic*, and elsewhere. From 2015 to 2017, Oyler was an editor at *Broadly*, the women's site at *Vice*.

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



GROW@
ANNENBERG

Evenings with an Author and other weeknight programs at the Library are free and open to the public (with a 10€ suggested donation) thanks to support from GRoW @ Annenberg, our members, and those who attend programs.

-  Past programs are on YouTube, including events with Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah & Kierstan Kaushal-Carter; Jenny Zhang & Roberto Rodriguez-Estrada; Yaa Gyasi & Eula Biss; Laila Lalami & Elizabeth Martin-Shukrun; and Tommy Orange & Robert Warrior
-  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.

Critical Conversations Returns

We are thrilled to announce the second season of Critical Conversations, an expert-led discussion series that will allow Library members to delve deeper into pressing topics.

The program returns in person this October with the urgent issue of the **environmental crisis**. The conversations will be led by Jennifer Wenzel, a scholar of postcolonial studies and environmental and energy humanities. Wenzel is associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature and of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia University. Her new book, *The Disposition of Nature: Environmental Crisis and World Literature*, was shortlisted for the 2020 Book Prize awarded by the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present. Her current research examines the fossil-fueled imagination in literature, visual culture, and public life.



Critical Conversations participants will attend a **series of three in-person sessions**, with short readings distributed in advance. Wenzel will begin each meeting with brief opening remarks, before guiding a group discussion. The series will be held at the Library. The group's size will be capped at twenty participants to encourage meaningful participation.

Meeting dates:

Thursday 28 October

Wednesday 10 November

Thursday 18 November

All meetings will begin at 19h00 and run for 90 minutes.

[Critical Conversations: Sign Up](#)

For more information, please visit the [Critical Conversations page](#) on our website, or contact Alice McCrum, Programs Manager: mccrum@americanlibraryinparis.org

Kids and Teens



Celeste shares exciting news about this year's Halloween Extravaganza!

Let's Talk about Bilingualism

Virtual on Zoom

(For parents and educators)

Thursday 7 October at 19h00

Join us for a virtual event in collaboration with the Association of American Women in Europe (AAWE). We'll discuss key information from the 9th edition of the *AAWE Guide to Education in France*. Then, the Library's Children's and Teens' Services Manager, Celeste Rhoads, will interview neuroscientist Anjali Morard about bilingualism and the brain, and ways to support bilingual children.

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





Zombie Fashion Show for Teens In Person at the Library

(Ages 12–adult)
Friday 29 October

The American Library in Paris will turn into a hot spot for the undead the evening of Friday 29 October. The event will feature zombie trivia, a screening of an original film by the Library's Master Shot Film Club, a reading by Amy Plum (who will share a zombie battle scene from her novel *Die for Me*), and a Zombie catwalk show (a.k.a. a costume contest for the best of the undead). The audience will select the most rotten of the zombies after contestants crawl the catwalk.

To attend as part of the audience, [register here](#).

To enter as a zombie fashion show contestant, fill out [this form](#) by 15 October.

To decorate the Library on 8 October, teens can [register here](#).

Youth Leadership Program Application Deadline: Friday 8 October (ages 14–18)

If you would like to build your confidence in front of a group, learn to effectively present your ideas to an audience, and practice good listening skills, this program is for you! The YLP is led by teen participants, with the guidance and support of Toastmasters.

[Applications](#) are due Friday 8 October at 22h00. For Library members.

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.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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