

[View this email in your browser](#)



The American Library in Paris

ESTABLISHED 1920

e-Libris 19 October 2021

In this message:

- [No study spaces on Saturday 30 October](#)
- [Critical Conversations](#)
- [Programs for Adults](#)
- [Kids' and Teens' News and Events](#)
- [Saul Steinberg, the Pompidou Center, and the Library](#)
- [Do You Know How to Use the Kiosks Correctly?](#)
- [Donate to the Library](#)

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.



No Study Spaces on Saturday 30 October

The Library's annual **Halloween Extravaganza's main event** will be held on Saturday 30 October. There will be **no study space or work space** available that day, and access to all the Library's collections will be limited.

To register for one of our Halloween Extravaganza events, including trick-or-treating in the neighborhood, see our [web calendar](#). To find out more about all our exciting Halloween activities, keep reading.

Sign up now for Critical Conversations

The Library's expert-led discussion series returns, in person, on **28 October** to delve into the urgent issue of the **environmental crisis from a unique, literary perspective**. The conversations will be led by Jennifer Wenzel, a scholar of postcolonial studies and environmental and energy humanities.

Participation in Critical Conversations is exclusively for Library members. The series will be held in person at the Library. All meetings will begin at 19h00 and run for 90 minutes.

[Critical Conversations: Sign Up](#)

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

Meeting 1: Groundwork **Thursday 28 October at 19h00**

What is happening to the earth, the sky, and the oceans? How do we know, and what can we do? How can writers and artists help us to think about these crises? Selected readings from Amitav Ghosh's *The Great Derangement* and Jennifer Wenzel's *The Disposition of Nature*.

Meeting 2: Running out of Gas; How to Read for Oil **Wednesday 10 November at 19h00**

For the second session, we'll read three short stories about running out of gas, the end of oil, the end of the world, and how the world of fossil fuels may have other futures in mind: "The Petrol Pump" by Italo Calvino; "Poison" by Henrietta Rose-Innes; and China Mieville's "Covehithe."

Meeting 3: The New Normal? What Futures Do We Want? **Thursday 18 November at 19h00**

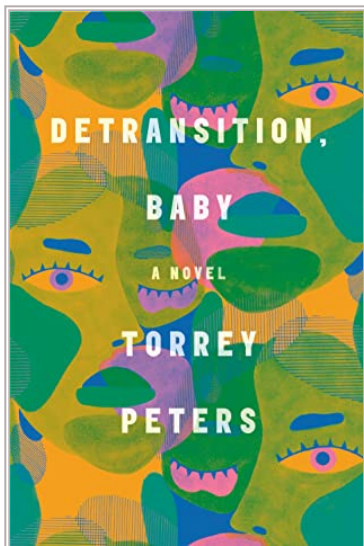
Finally, we'll discover non-fiction essays that contemplate what the climate crisis and the coronavirus pandemic mean for our daily lives, for the places and people we love, and for our beliefs about what makes a good or ethical life. Zadie Smith's "Elegy for a Country's Seasons" and "Pandemic as Portal"; Stephanie LeMenager's "Notes on a Civics for the Sixth Extinction"; and Jennifer Wenzel's "Along the Fold" will conclude the third and final session.

Jennifer 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.



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

Programs for Adults



A Fierce Exploration of Gender, Motherhood, and Desire

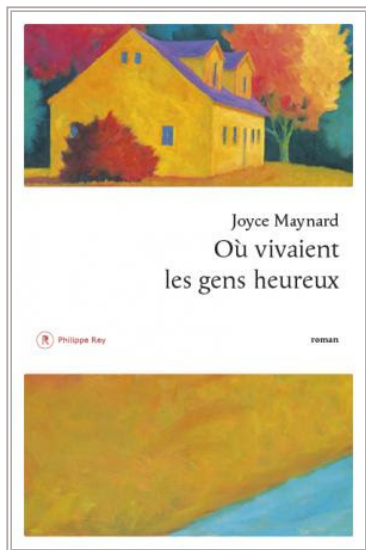
TONIGHT on Zoom

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 Master's 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.

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



[Two Veteran Writers on Parenthood, Love, and Forgiveness: Joyce Maynard & Joyce Carol Oates](#)

Virtual on Zoom

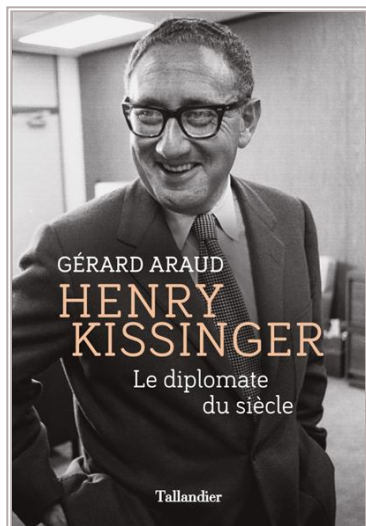
Wednesday 20 October at 19h30

Join acclaimed writers Joyce Carol Oates and Joyce Maynard—in public conversation for the first time—to mark the publication of their latest books in French: Maynard's *Où vivaient les gens heureux* (*Count the Ways*) and *Petit oiseau du ciel* (*Little Bird of Heaven*), by Éditions Philippe Rey. They will discuss the evolution of literary trends and politics over the years and what it means to be a woman writer today.

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 a fellow of MacDowell and Yaddo.

Joyce Carol Oates published her first book in 1963, and has since published fifty-eight novels, a number of plays and novellas, and volumes of short stories, poetry, and non-fiction. She has won many awards, 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.

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



[Was Henry Kissinger the Diplomat of the Century?](#)

Hybrid Event*: In Person at the Library/Live on Zoom

Tuesday 26 October at 19h30

Join us in-person and on Zoom to discuss *Henry Kissinger: The Diplomat of the Century* with diplomat 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 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.

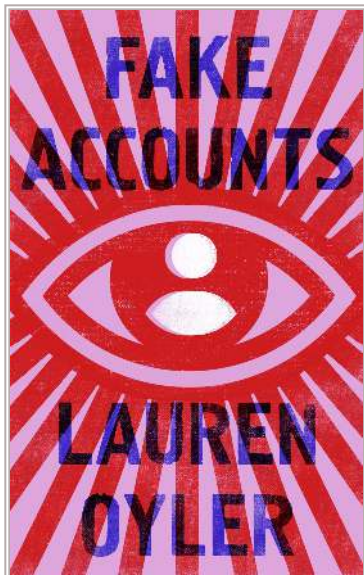
Elaine Sciolino is a contributing writer and former Paris bureau chief for the *New York Times*. Her latest book, *The Seine: The River That Made Paris*, was a *Los Angeles Times* bestseller and a Barnes & Noble nonfiction book-of-the-month selection. Sciolino was decorated chevalier of the Legion of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

*Araud and Sciolino will be in conversation at the Library, and the event will be streamed live on Zoom. Both in-person and online attendees will be able to pose questions to the authors.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

RSVP to attend on Zoom

RSVP to attend in person



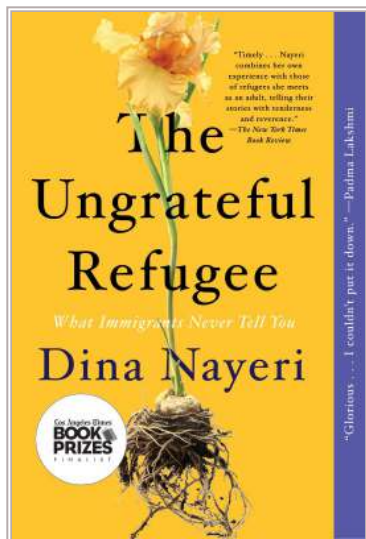
[Capturing the Spirit of a Generation with Lauren Oyler](#)
Virtual on Zoom

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, DC.

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*.

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



[Who Gets Believed? With Dina Nayeri](#)

Virtual on Zoom

Tuesday 2 November at 19h30

Join author Dina Nayeri for a discussion about her upcoming book, *Who Gets Believed: Reflections on Stories and Truth*. Several questions follow: How does truth shift to accommodate insiders of class, faith, and culture? How does an idea become true, or a person credible? What does it mean to believe? Ultimately, Nayeri's latest project is a deep literary investigation into how lying and belief are embedded into various cultures.

Nayeri is the Library's current Visiting Fellow; the Fellowship is generously sponsored by The de Groot Foundation. She is the author of *The Ungrateful Refugee*, winner of the 2020 Geschwister-Scholl-Preis, finalist for the 2021 Elle Grand Prix des Lectrices, the 2019 Kirkus Prize, the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, and winner of the 2020 Clara Johnson Award. The recipient of many fellowships, Nayeri's stories and essays have been published by the *New York Times*, the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Guardian*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New Yorker*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

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



[On Recognition and Womanhood with Eula Biss and Nathalie Léger](#)

Hybrid Event*: In Person at the Library/Live on Zoom

Tuesday 9 November at 19h30

Join us for an in-person and online discussion about recognition and womanhood with writers Eula Biss and Nathalie Léger. "What is it that a woman recognizes when she recognizes herself in another woman? This is the question that hovers in the margins of all three books in Léger's exquisite trilogy," Biss wrote in the *New Yorker*.

Nathalie Léger is the author of several short experimental novels based on her research work as a curator, as well as a volume of illustrated, aphoristic flash-fiction, published under a pseudonym. The director of the Institut Mémoires de l'édition contemporaine (IMEC), which gathers archives and studies related to French publishing houses, she lives and works in Paris and in Caen.

Eula Biss is the author of four books, holds an MFA in nonfiction writing from the University of Iowa, and has been teaching at Northwestern University for fifteen years. Her work has been translated into more than ten languages and has been recognized by a Guggenheim Fellowship, among other prizes. Her essays and poems have appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Guardian*, *Harper's*, and the *New York Times Magazine*.

*Biss and Léger will be in conversation on Zoom, and the Library will project the conversation onto a screen in the Reading Room

for a live viewing experience. Both in-person and online attendees will be able to pose questions to the authors.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.




[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)

[RSVP to attend in person](#)



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 about Bilingualism and the Brain; a New Era of US Foreign Policy; and conversations between 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.

Kids and Teens



The merry witches of rue du Général Camou
tell you about the upcoming Halloween Extravaganza!



© Krystal Kenney

**Halloween is
Happening all month
at the Library!**
(Ages 0–18)

Stop by to enjoy the games and crafts available in the Children's Library and on the Teen Mezzanine. You can also sign up for one of our many Halloween Extravaganza events, including trick-or-treating in the 7th arrondissement on Saturday 30 October. See the [web calendar](#) for details and to register.

**Zombie Fashion Show for
Teens: Back by Popular
Demand!**
In Person at the Library
(Ages 12–adult)
Friday 29 October at 19h00

There's still time to register for the Zombie Fashion Show as a contestant or a spectator. For those who would like to walk the catwalk as a zombie, we've extended the [sign-up deadline](#) to **Wednesday 20 October**. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Literary Zombie Masterpiece, Most Creative Zombie Attire, and Undead Zombie Champion.



© Krystal Kenney

Audience members are invited to dress up and participate in a separate costume contest during the event. The evening will also feature a short film by the Library's Master Shot Film Club, a reading by author [Amy Plum](#) from her novel *Die for Me*, and zombie trivia!

Visit our [web calendar](#) to see all our October events for teens.

Zombie Fashion Show: Audience Registration

Zombie Fashion Show: Contestant Registration

Having the Time of our *LIFE*

The Library is honored that our July 1955 copy of LIFE magazine was requested by the Pompidou Center, to be part of the exhibit "[Saul Steinberg—Entre les lignes.](#)" The show runs until 28 February 2022, and features many of Steinberg's *New Yorker* magazine illustrations, which can also be viewed ([by appointment](#)) in the Library's periodical archive in our new mezzanine Atelier.



Illustration by Saul Steinberg in the *New Yorker*, 27 March 1954, p. 33.
In the Library's periodical archives.

Do you know how to use the kiosks correctly?

A quick tutorial, in rhyme.

Use the Library's kiosks to return all your books—
Have you mastered this yet? If not, take a look:

Put your items in slowly, one at a time—
If they're not returned properly, you might get a fine.

Wait for a checkmark, make sure that it's green—
Try to be patient, it's just a machine.

Put your book on the cart, then process the next—
But be very careful if you see a red X.

Don't use the cart if the title's in red—
Come to the desk, hand it over instead.

The book might be on hold for a Library member—
Or, maybe it was due back late last September?

If you just walk away, your account isn't updated—
Then with overdue notices you'll be inundated!

So, when using the kiosks, please pay attention—
And we're here to help—that goes without mention!

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.

[BECOME A LIBRARY MEMBER](#)

www.americanlibraryinparis.org

The
American
Library
in Paris



The American Library in Paris
10 rue du Général Camou
Paris, France 75007
FR

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).