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The American Library in Paris

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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.




The Book Award: Rachel Donadio Takes the Helm

After nine years of remarkable stewardship, Charles Trueheart stepped down as the American Library in Paris Book Award Administrator in early 2022. To fill the role, the Library sought a candidate who shared Mr. Trueheart's exceptional intellect, passion for literature, love of France, and understanding of the Library's mission. We also hoped for a leader with unique perspectives and a vision for the future of the Book Award.

We couldn't be happier to announce that accomplished journalist and longtime friend of the Library Rachel Donadio has accepted the position of Book Award Administrator. She is already hard at work planning for the 2022 cycle in tandem with Book Award Coordinator Elliot Rambach and the screening committee. A warm and enthusiastic welcome to Ms. Donadio from the Library team.

The Book Award is supported by a generous grant from the Florence Gould Foundation.



Rachel Donadio is a Paris-based writer and journalist, a contributing writer for the *Atlantic* and a former European Culture correspondent and Rome Bureau Chief of the *New York Times*, where she began her career as a writer and editor at the *New York Times Book Review*. She regularly publishes textured feature stories and profiles at the intersection of culture and politics, as well as literary reportage and criticism. She has reported from more than two dozen countries and interviewed heads of state and major cultural figures, including four Nobel Laureates in literature. Her work appears in publications ranging from the *New York Review of Books* to *Vogue*. She has been a visiting Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton and was a juror for the 2021 American Library in Paris Book Award.



Join us TONIGHT for a very special *Evenings with an Author* with **Maggie Paxson**, winner of the 2020 American Library in Paris Book Award.

Tuesday 15 March at 19h30 CET
Cocktail reception to follow the event
[RSVP](#) to attend in person or on Zoom

E-books from Gala Speaker Ann Patchett



Celebrated writer Ann Patchett will be the Library's [2022 Gala](#) honoree on 19 May. The Gala is the Library's most important fundraiser of the year. To prepare for this exciting event, we invite you to check out Patchett's *œuvre* of twelve books on [OverDrive](#), [the Library's e-book platform](#). If you need help with OverDrive or OverDrive's [Libby app](#) for e-readers, we're happy to assist.

To receive an invitation to the Gala, please email Morgan Wurzburger: wurzburger@americanlibraryinparis.org

For tickets to the Gala or to make a donation, click below:

[2022 Gala Tickets](#)

Critical Conversations:
Human Mobility and National Borders in a Post-Covid World
with Ettore Recchi

We invite you to join the third season of *Critical Conversations*, an expert-led discussion series that allows Library members to delve deeper into pressing topics. The program returns in person this April 2022 with the urgent issue of **Human Mobility and National Borders**.

The conversations will be led by **Ettore Recchi**, a professor at Sciences Po Paris, where he is the Director of the MA and PhD programs in Sociology. He is also Visiting Fellow of the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the EUI (Florence) and of the Institut Convergences Migrations (Paris). Recchi has published over 120 papers, book chapters, edited volumes, and monographs. His latest book is *Everyday Europe: Social Transnationalism in an Unsettled Continent* (Policy Press, 2019), a co-authored work on European integration ‘from below.’ He has directed several national and international projects on free movement, transnationalism, migration, and mobilities.



Critical Conversations participants will attend a series of three in-person sessions, with short readings distributed in advance. Recchi will begin each meeting with brief opening remarks, before guiding a group discussion.

Meeting 1: Thursday 14 April — Does modernity equal mobility?

Meeting 2: Thursday 28 April — Free movement in the EU: A success story?

Meeting 3: Thursday 5 May — A world without borders: Is it possible

All meetings begin at **19h00** and run for 90 minutes. This series takes place in person at the Library and is limited to [Library members](#). The group's size will be capped at twenty participants to encourage meaningful participation.

Advance payment and registration is required:

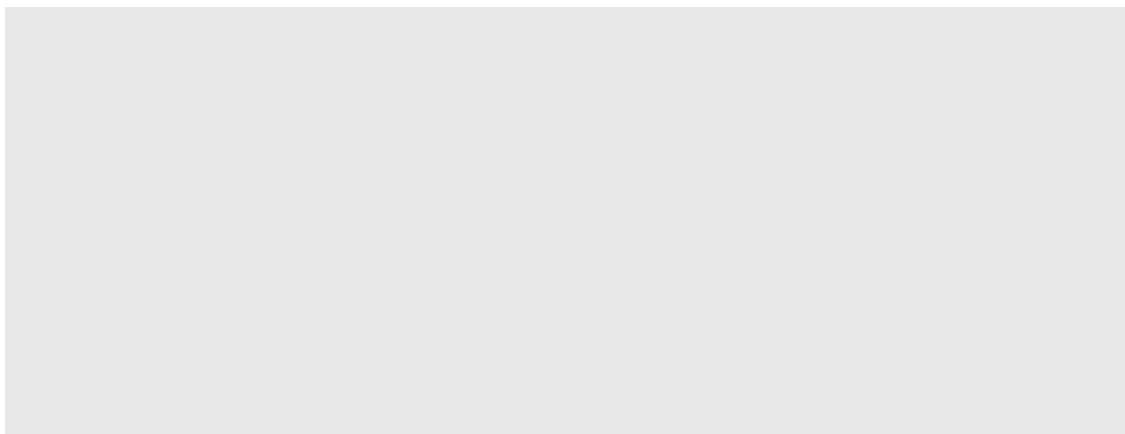
Regular rate: 50€ per participant

Discounted rate: 25€ (exclusively for student/senior/unemployed/disabled memberships)

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

Sign Up

Last Call for Visiting Fellowship Applications



The application deadline for the Library's Visiting Fellowship Program is fast approaching. To be considered for fall 2022 or spring 2023, writers and documentary filmmakers must submit by 1 April 2022.

We invite you to share this opportunity with eligible people in your community. Please visit our [Visiting Fellowship webpage](#) for more information.

The American Library in Paris's Visiting Fellowship is made possible through the generous support of **The de Groot Foundation**.

Visiting Fellowship

Submit by
April 1

APPLY NOW

The
American
Library
in Paris

Diane Johnson on 30 March

The incomparable **Diane Johnson** returns to the Library for the first donor appreciation event of 2022. Johnson will be in conversation with journalist **Alan Riding** and will discuss her latest book, *Lorna Mott Comes Home*.

[Diane Johnson, in conversation with Alan Riding](#)

Wednesday 30 March at 19h30 CET

Hybrid Event: In person at the Library; Live on Zoom

All remaining seats are reserved for Library donors. A cocktail reception will follow the event.

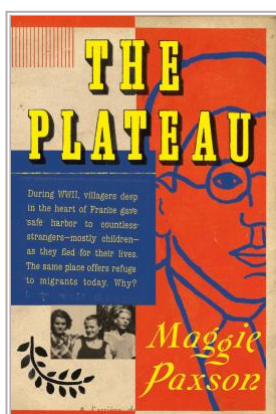
Please contact Morgan Wurzburger if you would like to attend: wurzburger@americanlibraryinparis.org



Programs for Adults

Evenings with an Author, sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg

Evenings with an Author are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. You must RSVP to attend our programs, either in person or via Zoom.



TONIGHT

[How To Be Good
with Maggie Paxson](#)

**Hybrid Event: In person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 15 March at 19h30 CET**

Winner of the 2020 American Library in Paris Book Award, Maggie Paxson's *The Plateau* is motivated by a simple question: "how to be good?" To find an answer, Paxson, a trained anthropologist, traveled to the Plateau Vivarais-Lignon in southern France. During World War II, the area was known for taking in hundreds of strangers (children and adults)

fleeing Nazi persecution. Today, the region houses asylum-seekers awaiting the outcomes of their cases. From following the thread of her own distant relative who was murdered by Nazis for sheltering children, to speaking with present-day refugees, Paxson's pilgrimage adopts as its stakes the state of her own soul. Rather than a clinical study of the human, the result is a moving story of humanity.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



TOMORROW
[The War Epic Revisited](#)
[with Maaza Mengiste](#)

Online Event

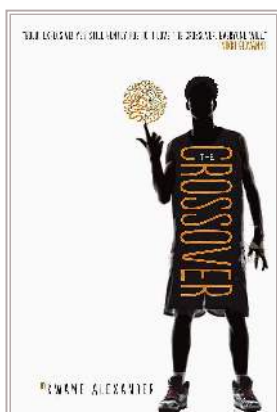
Wednesday 16 March at 20h00 CET

Please note the special start time of this event.

The Shadow King, novelist and essayist Maaza Mengiste's newest release, takes place in 1935 Ethiopia as Mussolini prepares to invade. An account of an orphaned woman who transforms into a warrior, this novel defies the conventions of the war narrative. There is no sense of triumph, but rather deep and unending horror. Violence is not glorified, but is described in damning and measured detail. Perhaps most importantly, women are not merely spoils of war or mourners, but fighters. Mengiste brings the forgotten figures of wartime to life with contained and rhythmic prose, working (as the title suggests) in the shadow of a historical event which devastated a nation.

This program is presented in partnership with the [Abdul Hameed Shoman Public Library](#) and the [US Embassy](#) in Amman, Jordan.

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)



[Kwame Alexander on *The Crossover*](#)

In person at the Library

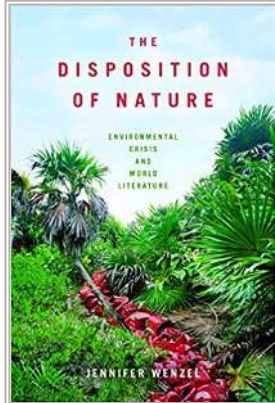
Thursday 17 March at 19h00 CET

Please note the special start time of this event.

Kwame Alexander returns to the Library to discuss his writing and the new Disney+ TV series based on his Newbery Medal-winning novel in verse, *The Crossover*. Alexander is a poet, educator, publisher, and *New York Times*-bestselling author of thirty-six books, including *Swing*, *Becoming Muhammad Ali* (co-authored with James Patterson), *Rebound* (which was shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal), and the Newbery Honor-winning picture book *The Undeclared*, illustrated by Kadir Nelson. A regular contributor to NPR's *Morning Edition*, Kwame is the recipient of numerous additional honors, including The Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award, The Coretta Scott King Author Honor, three NAACP Image Award Nominations, and the 2017 inaugural Pat Conroy Legacy Award. He is the writer and executive producer of *The Crossover* TV series on Disney+. The

fall of 2022 will see the release of volume one of a new trilogy, *The Door of No Return*.

[RSVP to attend in person](#)

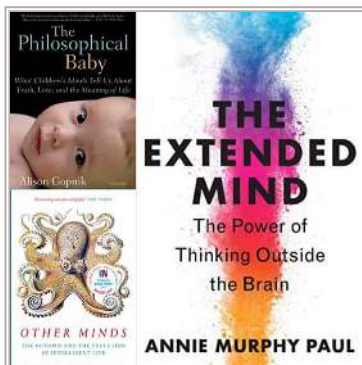


**[Reading for the Planet](#)
[with Jennifer Wenzel](#)**

**Hybrid Event: In person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 22 March at 19h30 CET**

What is the relationship between narrative and climate? How can this inform climate action? In her most recent work, *The Disposition of Nature: Environmental Crisis and World Literature*, scholar Jennifer Wenzel demonstrates to readers how their relation to Earth is informed by their consumption of media depicting it. She argues for new ways of imagining the world and our place in it.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)

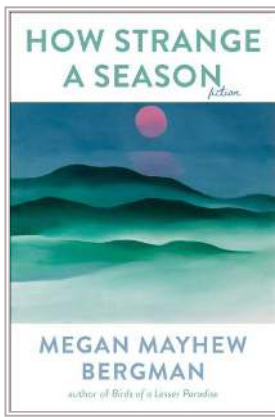


**[Meeting of Minds](#)
[with Alison Gopnik, Peter Godfrey-Smith,](#)
[and Annie Murphy Paul](#)**

**Online Event
Wednesday 23 March at 19h30 CET**

In a truly cerebral event, the Library will host three esteemed philosophers of the mind. Alison Gopnik, specialist in cognitive psychology, theories of language, and learning, will share her expertise in child development and the consciousness of children. Peter Godfrey-Smith, who conducts research in theories of consciousness in relation to underwater creatures, will bring us into the brains and neurologically-complex tentacles of octopuses. Annie Murphy Paul will discuss her research in the “extra-neural,” making a case for thinking beyond the brain. Combining philosophical thought with cutting-edge research, the three speakers will confront questions both timeless and urgent for the modern, digital age.

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)






**[The Weight of Inheritance](#)
[with Megan Mayhew Bergman](#)**

Online Event

Tuesday 29 March at 19h30 CET

Author, journalist, and 2016 Visiting Fellow Megan Mayhew Bergman's new collection of stories describes women who are losing control. From failed marriages and ailing parents to their own aging bodies, these are women caught between a past which has escaped them and a future whose direction is unclear. Bergman guides the reader through a series of landscapes: a glass house bequeathed by a beloved grandmother, a sustainability ranch invaded by hedge funders, an ancient southern estate, and others. The narrative thread linking each story is that of inheritance, both material and psychological. Is inheritance a gift or a burden? What will these women suffer because of what has been left to them? Can one ever be liberated from the past?

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)

-  Past programs are on YouTube, including *Arendt Revisited* with Samantha Rose Hill & D.N. Rodowick; *Education of Hand and Heart* with Satish Kumar; *On Meditation & Mind Wandering* with Jillian Lavender & Moshe Bar; and *Architecture for the Future* with Mollie Claypool & Jack Self.
-  Listen to our podcast, *Evenings with an Author*, available wherever you get your podcasts.
-  Visit our Facebook page for information about upcoming events and *Evenings with an Author* sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg.



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.

Kids' and Teens' News

Registration is required to attend any program, and attendees must be Library members. To find out what's coming up next, check our [calendar](#) and register early!

A Noteworthy Morning at the Library

This past Saturday 11 March, our youngest Library members were given a special treat when **Joan Koenig**, Founder and Executive Director of the L'École Koenig Preschool & Music School, led children and their parents and caregivers in a set of musically minded activities. Koenig demonstrated the importance of integrating music into our daily lives, which has been proven to have profoundly positive effects on children's psychological development.

[Read more](#) about Joan Koenig's tips and about her new book, *The Musical Child: Using the Power of Music to Raise Children Who Are Happy, Healthy, and Whole*.



10th Annual Literary Reaping: Friday 25 March at 19h00

Teen members—Join us on Friday 25 March for an evening of trivia, challenges, and surprises during the 10th Annual Literary Reaping.

What is a Literary Reaping, you might ask? Teams will compete to answer trivia questions and participate in challenges based on young adult literature—both classic and contemporary. Amy Plum, Clarence Tokley, and Pauline Charruyer will be the 'Gamemakers' for the evening. View the [full list of books](#) used to create the trivia and challenges. You must [register](#) to attend.

Library Lore: The Sylvia Beach Collection

The original Shakespeare and Company, at 12 rue de l'Odéon, was founded by American Sylvia Beach in 1919. Much more than a bookstore, this space was essential to Paris's expatriate literary scene in the 1920's and 1930's. Beach was the first to publish James Joyce's *Ulysses* in 1922, and she championed the work of Hemingway and many other writers.

The store remained open during the economic troubles of the 1930's and even after the fall of Paris to the Germans in 1940. However, by 1941, Beach was forced to close the store, and was even interned for a time at Vittel.

Beach never reopened her bookstore. However, her collection of books was kept safe during the war, and in 1951, she donated a number of them to the American Library in Paris.

In the minutes of the American Library's Board of Trustees meeting on 29 May 1951, an announcement was made of the gift:

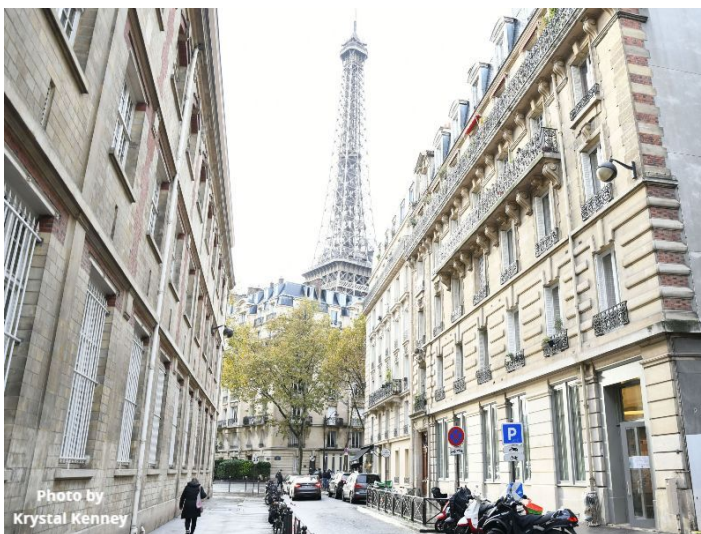
"The [...] gift was presented by Miss Sylvia Beach and consists of between four and five thousand volumes making up the collection of Shakespeare and Company, which played an important part in the literary life of Paris during the 1920's and 1930's."

Some of the books that made up Beach's original gift still reside in the Library's special collection. As with any item in our archives, you can [make an appointment](#) to view these treasures from Paris's literary past. Archival appointments are free for Library members and 20€ per day for non-members.



Right: *Huntsman, What Quarry?* by Edna St. Vincent Millay, in the Library's Sylvia Beach Special Collection.

How Can You Help the American Library?



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, become a volunteer, and tell your friends about the Library.

RENEW

DONATE

VOLUNTEER

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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www.americanlibraryinparis.org

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