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The American Library in Paris

ESTABLISHED 1920

e-Libris 24 May 2022

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Editor: Carolyn Dubol

Celebrating 102 Years of Service

On 19 May, the eve of the Library's 102nd birthday, the Library community gathered at the Automobile Club de France. We spent the evening celebrating Library supporters and staff, Franco-American luminaries, and, of course, literature!

Thanks to US Ambassador Denise Campbell Bauer, Damon Austin for the American Library Association, Visiting Fellow Ian Williams, and the incomparable Ann Patchett for their lively and heartfelt remarks.

We're especially grateful for the generosity of our Gala table sponsors: Forrest Alogna and Sandrine Poisson; Rob and Sherry Johnson; Heather and Robert Keane; William and Maria Kelly; Ishtar Méjanès; Edward and Mary Lee Turner; Marshall and Deborah Wais; and Laura Wenke and Alexander Marquardt.

A warm thank you to all the speakers, ticket buyers, sponsors and donors, and HarperCollins Publishers for making the event possible. And a *grand merci* to the Board of Trustees for their time and passionate support, and to the Library staff and volunteers who worked so hard on the Gala. Your support directly contributes to our mission and allows us to present over 300 events for readers of all ages, circulate 170,000 books, and serve a community of close to 5,000 members from 60 countries each year.



Job Opening

The Library is currently seeking a full-time

Assistant Children's and Teens' Services Librarian (CDI)

Start date: Tuesday 2 August 2022

Weekly hours: 36 hours

To apply, please carefully read the [job description](#), then fill out the [application form](#). Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, and only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an in-person interview. Please remember that valid European working papers are a requirement.

Familiar Faces Join the Staff

We're excited to announce that Pallas-Amenah Morgan, Luis Aldrete Castillo, and Daphné Renard-Martin have joined the Library staff.



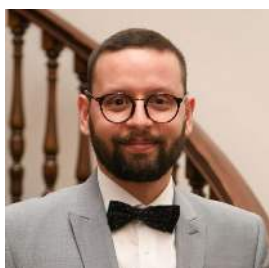
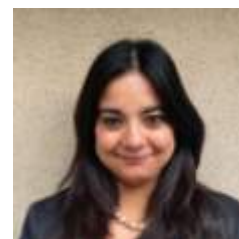
Pallas-Amenah Morgan has been an intern for several months in Children's and Teens' Services, and was recently hired as the Library's new Front of House Assistant. She will be working in Member Services on weekdays and will continue to support Children's and Teens' Services on Saturdays. Originally from Washington, D.C., Pallas-Amenah is a pianist, artist, and writer who is currently studying for a Master's Degree in screenwriting.

Luis Aldrete Castillo is a longtime shelving volunteer and the Library's Volunteer Coordinator, helping to find, retain, train, and schedule its volunteers. This month he officially joined the staff as a Member Services Weekend Assistant. Originally from Mexico, where he studied English, Luis enjoys writing, reading, dogs, and rock climbing. He has worked in several bookstores and libraries in Mexico City and Paris.



Daphné Renard-Martin is a French library sciences student. She joined us as an intern in February 2022, working in Member Services and helping to create an upcoming programming series called *On the Road*, in partnership with the US Embassy and the Hauts-de-France region. She has now joined the staff to continue developing *On the Road*. She is currently completing her thesis for her Licence professionnelle Métiers du livre : Bibliothèque. She sees libraries as places driven by curiosity and welcoming to all communities and all forms of art.

Diya Katyal recently began a six-month internship in Children's and Teens' Services. She is pursuing an MBA in Cultural Management. She also has experience in advertising, communications, cultural programming, and as a freelance writer. She is originally from Calcutta, India, and enjoys bookstores and true crime podcasts.



Congratulations to Member Services and Collections Librarian **David Moura Gonçalves**, who has been promoted to Member Services Manager. David has been working at the Library for nearly five years, and began his Library career as a volunteer. He is a graphic novel aficionado, an avid home cook, and he plays the Portuguese bagpipes.

Finally, we're saying a reluctant goodbye to **Orlene McMahon**, who after four years as a Member Services Assistant and Book Award Coordinator, is leaving the Library. She will be focusing on her teaching as a lecturer in Film Studies. Orlene will continue volunteering at the Library and attending Toddler Time with her son, Flynn.



Joshua Cohen wins the Pulitzer Prize

Congratulations to Joshua Cohen, winner of the 2022 Pulitzer for fiction for *The Netanyahus*. The prize was announced on 9 May 2022.

Cohen appeared at the Library in January 2022 in conversation with Daniel Medin, during an *Evenings with an Author* sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg event.

The recording is available to watch on the Library's YouTube channel.

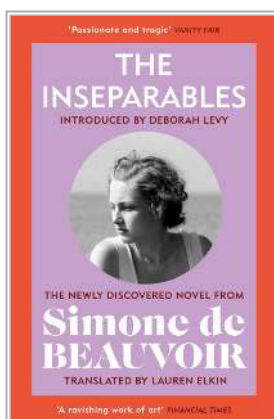


The Netanyahus with Joshua Cohen and Daniel Medin.
Filmed Live at the Library on 19 January 2022.

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

[The Inseparables](#)

[with Lauren Elkin and Deborah Levy](#)

Hybrid Event: Streamed in person at the Library; Live online

Tuesday 24 May at 20h00 CEST

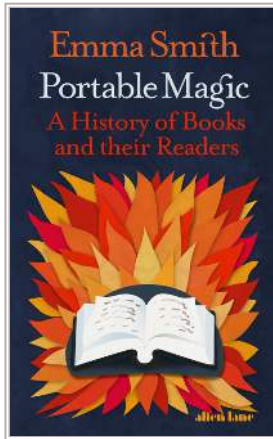
Please note the special start time for this event.

Written in 1954 but unpublished until after her death, Simone de Beauvoir's *The Inseparables* is an intimate portrait, based on life, of female friendship on the cusp of womanhood. Lauren Elkin, who translated the book into English in 2021, writes in her introductory note, "So is it any good?" people have asked me when I've told them I'm translating a 'lost' novel by Simone de Beauvoir...And I am relieved to say: yes. It is more than good. It is poignant, chilling and eviscerating.' Elkin, author of *Flâneuse* and *No. 91/92: Notes on a Parisian Commute* will be in conversation with novelist and essayist Deborah Levy, who has contributed an introduction to the UK edition.

This event will be broadcast live from the London Review Bookshop, and will be screened live at the American Library in Paris. It is free to attend the screening at the Library. Tickets to watch online are available for £5.

RSVP to watch the livestream in person at the American Library in Paris

RSVP to attend online



Portable Magic
with Emma Smith

Hybrid Event: In Person at The London Library; Live online
Thursday 26 May at 20h30 CEST

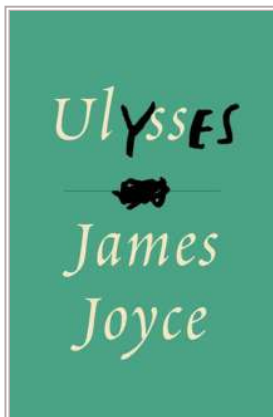
Please note the special start time for this event.

All books are, as Stephen King put it, ‘a uniquely portable magic.’ In her fascinating new history of bibliophilia, writer and renowned Shakespeare scholar Emma Smith tells us why. *Portable Magic* unfurls an exciting and iconoclastic new story of the book in human hands, exploring when, why, and how it acquired its particular hold over us. Gathering a millennium’s worth of pivotal encounters with volumes big and small, Smith reveals that, as much as their contents, it is books’ physical form—their ‘bookhood’—that lends them their distinctive and sometimes dangerous magic. In partnership with The London Library, Smith speaks to American Library Programs Manager Alice McCrum about the ways in which our relationship with the written word is more reciprocal—and more turbulent—than we tend to imagine.

This event will be broadcast live from the London Library, on St. James's Square in London, UK. Tickets to watch online are available for £3–£5. Tickets to watch live in London are available for £6–£12.50.

RSVP to attend in person in London

RSVP to attend online



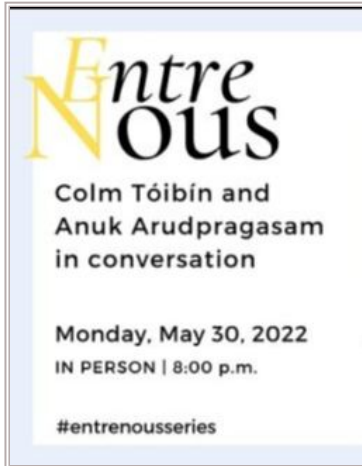
Literature After Ulysses
with Colm Tóibín

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Friday 27 May 19h30 CEST

It has been one hundred years since Stephen Dedalus handed Buck Mulligan his key to the Sandycove Martello tower, catalyzing the series of events across 16 June that compose James Joyce’s magnum opus *Ulysses*. In celebration of this momentous anniversary and in anticipation of Bloomsday, novelist and Joyce scholar Colm Tóibín will be speaking at the Library about the history, publication, and legacy of the famous text. What did the work do to literature, and how has literature reacted? What is its role in the contemporary literary landscape? Join Tóibín for this promising discussion on the book to which, in

the words of T.S. Eliot, “we are all indebted, and from which none of us can escape.”

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



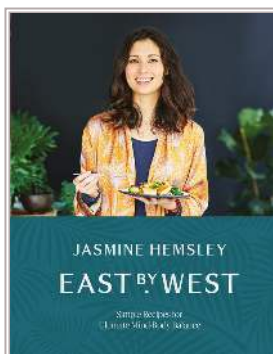
**[Speech and Silence](#)
[with Colm Tóibín and Anuk Arudpragasam](#)**

**In Person at Reid Hall, Columbia Global Centers | Paris
Monday 30 May 19h30 CEST**

In novelist Anuk Arudpragasam’s most recent release, *A Passage North*, a young Sri Lankan man travels to the country’s former civil war battleground for a funeral. This odyssey north spurs a meditation on place, trauma, and time. Author Colm Tóibín’s newest work, *The Magician*, describes Thomas Mann as he flees Germany and watches the devastation of the war from afar. Both authors are concerned with the place of the individual faced with catastrophic historical events. Both express ideas of home irretrievably lost, and are unafraid to describe in detail the violence which distort worlds. Join them as they discuss migration, memory, speech, and style, considering the capacity of writing to contend with the past.

This program is presented in partnership with [Columbia Global Centers | Paris](#) and Columbia University’s [Institute for Ideas and Imagination](#) as part of the *Entre Nous* series.

[RSVP to attend in person](#)

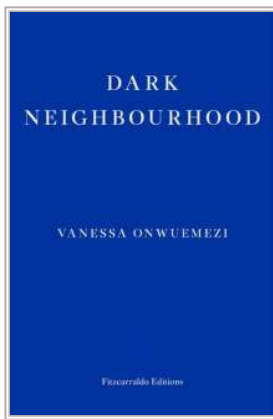


**[Ayurveda and Mind Body Balance](#)
[with Jasmine Hemsley](#)**

**Online Event: Live on Zoom
Wednesday 1 June at 19h30 CEST**

Chef Jasmine Hemsley introduces the cookbook *East by West*, which propels the ancient Ayurvedic relationship between eating and wellbeing into the modern age. A 5,000-year-old holistic healing system, Ayurveda promotes the use of nutrition, mindful rituals, and cleanses to nourish and energize the body and mind. Hemsley will discuss the history of Ayurveda, how the practice has changed her relation to food and the earth, and the many uses of Ayurveda in the busy present day.

[RSVP to attend online](#)

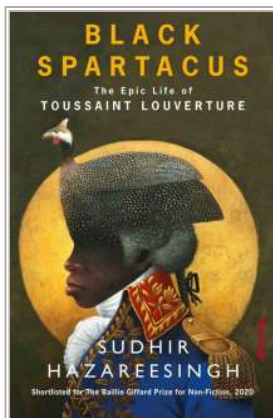


[Dark Neighborhood](#)
with Vanessa Onwuemezi and Daniel Medin

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 8 June at 19h30 CEST

In *Dark Neighborhood*, writer Vanessa Onwuemezi's debut story collection, ambiguity reigns. Populated by undefined figures lurking in strange places, Onwuemezi's stories feel liminal and haunting, and push the limits of linear narrative. From the awkward banality of the immediately post-apocalyptic, to solitary and introspective scenes of death, to eery glimpses into Americana, the lyrical and imaginative voice guides readers into the vast landscape of the unknowable. Onwuemezi will be speaking with editor and professor Daniel Medin on form, translation, language, and new directions in contemporary fiction.

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



[Black Spartacus with Sudhir Hazareesingh](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 14 June at 19h30 CEST

The mythology of Haitian revolutionary Toussaint Louverture has been revised and reformulated to fit many different narratives over the past two hundred years. However, no undertaking to date has boasted the depth of research of historian and Oxford professor of politics Sudhir Hazareesingh's *Black Spartacus*, **winner of the 2021 American Library in Paris Book Award**. Looking at Louverture before, during, and after the Haitian Revolution, Hazareesingh presents both a captivating political history and a portrait of a remarkable life. Less biography than epic, *Black Spartacus* is a triumphant work on "the first black superhero of the modern age."

The Book Award is generously sponsored by the Florence Gould Foundation.

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



[Le fagot de ma mémoire](#)
with Souleymane Bachir Diagne

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 15 June at 19h30 CEST

The American Library is thrilled to invite celebrated philosopher and author Souleymane Bachir Diagne's to discuss his recent work, *Le fagot de ma mémoire*, as well as his extensive writings in philosophy and African literature. In *Le fagot de ma mémoire*, Diagne traces his adolescence in Senegal, his studies in Paris at the Ecole Normale Supérieure and the Sorbonne, and his teaching at universities in Dakar, Chicago, and New

York, considering the many figures and diverse lines of thought which have influenced his remarkable path. Diagne will be speaking on his life and thought, as well as on the situation of the present-day francophone world.

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



**Fiction, Fantasy, and Books to Inspire Hope
with Samira Ahmed**

Ages 12–adult

In Person at the Library




Friday 17 June at 19h00 CEST

Please note the special start time for this event.

Samira Ahmed is the New York Times–bestselling and award-winning author of the young adult novels *Love, Hate & Other Filters*; *Internment*; *Mad, Bad & Dangerous to Know*; and the new *Hollow Fires* (published May 2022), as well as the *Amira & Hamza* middle grade fantasy series. She is the first South Asian Muslim writer of the popular Marvel Comics superhero Ms. Marvel. Her short stories and poetry have appeared in publications and anthologies including the *New York Times*, *Who Will Speak for America*, *Take the Mic*, *Color Outside the Lines*, *Vampires Never Get Old*, and *A Universe of Wishes*.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

RSVP to attend in person

-  Past programs are on YouTube, including Patrick Hastings on James Joyce's *Ulysses*; Robert McCrum on Shakespearean; and George Packer and Thomas Chatterton Williams on *Last Best Hope*.
-  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!



2022 Read-a-thon: 1,815€ raised!

The 2022 Read-a-thon, co-sponsored by Message Paris, has come to a close. Thank you to the young readers who tracked the minutes they read for one week and found sponsorship. You raised 1,815€ for the Library!

We would also like to thank the local businesses who donated prizes to the children and teens who participated in the Read-a-thon: [American Children's Theatre](#), [Breakfast in America](#), [The Red Wheelbarrow Bookstore](#), [Shakespeare and Company](#), and [Smith&Son Paris](#) (formerly WHSmith Paris).



Young Authors Fiction Festival Celebration Events

Friday 10 June 2022

18h00 – Kindergarten/Grande Section–5th Grade/CM2

19h30 – 6th Grade/6eme–12th Grade/Terminale

Congratulations to the 685 young writers who submitted their original short stories to this year's Young Authors Fiction Festival!

We will be holding two Celebration Events on Friday 10 June, where we will announce this year's first through fifth place winners for each grade level. Finalists have been notified, and participants have received an invitation to the event for their age group.

The winning stories will be published in two Celebration Books, which will join the Library's permanent collection. Copies will be available for purchase during the events.

The Library encourages all participating authors, their families, teachers, and friends to attend the Celebration Events. You must RSVP to attend.

RSVP

The Library and the YAFF Committee would like to thank [The British Council](#), [Marymount International School](#), and [Union School](#) for supporting YAFF 2022.

If you have any questions about YAFF, the Celebration Events, or the Celebration Books, please email yaff@americanlibraryinparis.org.

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

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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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