

The American Library in Paris

LITERATURE | LEARNING | CULTURE | COMMUNITY

e-Libris

5 November 2013

French elitism, watch-making, gun culture and serial migration

Tonight, 5 November, the Library welcomes back veteran foreign correspondent [Peter Gumbel](#) as he discusses elitism in the French education system that produces a tiny number of brilliant young people who go on and run the country. Gumbel's latest book *Elite Academy: Enquête sur la France malade de ses grandes écoles* has provoked widespread debate about what France needs to change in order to maintain its position in Europe and beyond. This event is in collaboration with AAWE, Gifted in France and Message.



Tomorrow night, 6 November, author [Stacy Perman](#) tells us about her book *A Grand Complication*, recounting the race between automobile magnate James Ward Packard and New York financier Henry Graves Jr, to own the most advanced, complicated watch ever made. It's a story of the 20th century - its iconoclasts and their competition and wealth, all in the context of that perennially fascinating craft of watchmaking.

The topic of gun control and rights is a hotly contested debate, particularly in the U.S., where it consistently appears in news media and is deeply rooted in our history and Constitution. As a forum for current affairs, the Library, in collaboration with WICE World Watch, invites Tom McGrath and Alexander Blumrosen on Tuesday, 12 November, for a [conversation](#) that explores the multifaceted and international dimension of gun culture.



Our speaker on Wednesday, 13 November, has written a book that is pertinent to many members of the Library. *In Moving Matters: Paths of Serial Migration*, anthropologist [Susan Ossman](#) explores the lives of people who continually install themselves in various countries only to uproot and move on to other cultures. Read more about her writing on expatriates on our [Library blog](#).

Music at the Library

Teens



Saturday 9 November 17h00-18h30 (ages 12-18)

Master Shot Film Club

Aspiring filmmakers are invited to join the new Master Shot Film Club led by filmmaker and writer Clarence Tokley. This club allows budding filmmakers the opportunity to produce high quality short films.

[Sign-up is required.](#)



Friday 15 November 19h00-21h00 (ages 8-12)

Spelling Hornet

Show off your mad skillz during this slammin' introduction to language and slang with our special guest Miz Milla (a.k.a Ashley Miller Benz). Friday night has never been so cray-cray!

[Sign-up is required.](#)

The Library's collection goes beyond books; it of course includes films and music as well, and our programs should reflect our whole collection. Which is why we are embarking on a new programming endeavor: Music at the Library. On occasional Sunday evenings at 19h00, we will feature musicians or music appreciation events.



On Sunday, 17 November, we welcome [Ken Stringfellow](#), a singer-songwriter best known from The Posies and his years playing with R.E.M. He will play selections from his solo albums on piano and acoustic guitar and discuss his songwriting process.

Two weeks later, on 1 December, author [Malcolm Rowat](#) will lead a masterclass entitled "Richard Strauss: The Man and his Music-Myths and Realities," which will include listening to musical selections. Rowat will explore both biographical aspects while also providing analysis drawing from the German composer's "tone poems" and operas.

Café de Mars joins our Local Business Partnership

The Library recently launched our partnerships with local businesses that have been offering Library members special discounts.



In addition to Bedford Ave Brooklyn [Diner](#) and [Grissini](#), we are very pleased to have [Café de Mars](#) join us as our newest partner. Located on 11 rue Augereau, a quiet street off the bustling rue Saint-Dominique, Café de Mars is an excellent neighborhood bistro with a changing seasonal menu created by a chef from California. They are preparing a family-style Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, 28 November, and are taking [reservations](#) now! Library members are offered one free glass of house wine, selected by the Café staff, or soft drink to accompany your meal.

Present your Library card upon arrival at our local business partners and before you ask for the bill. Visit our website for detailed information on how to become a member and the [full listing](#) of businesses with their discounts. If you have any questions regarding our Local Business Partnership, please contact External Relations Manager [Pauline Lemasson](#).

A Spooktacular Halloween!

This year's Halloween Extravaganza on 26 October was a spooktacular success, with over 1,000 visitors throughout the day! The Library would like to extend our thanks to all the volunteers who helped out, and to the wonderful performers from KidJam's international artist team (Vita, Hanna-Mari and Irene), who performed during our all-ages event and had parents and kids dancing and laughing over some Halloween-inspired songs.



This year we tried out a new event, Fright Night, which replaced the Haunted Library



Saturday 23 November
17h00-18h00 (ages 12-18)

Teen Writing Group

Join fellow aspiring writers in a relaxed and creative setting where you can share your ideas, get feedback and work on your technique.

Experienced writers and amateurs are all welcome to join these meetings.

[Sign-up is required.](#)

Kids



Saturday 9 November 15h00-16h00 (ages 5+)

Tea Time!

Put on your best hat and party attire and join us for a fancy tea party and some fantastic stories. We'll have enough tea and lemonade to go around but you're welcome to bring your own teacup if you have one.

No sign-up necessary! Parents welcome!



Saturday 16 November
15h00-16h00 (ages 5+)

Lily from New York City

Author Jaco (Stacey Wilson-MacMahon) will read her book *Hello, I am Lily from New York City* and a few other stories about New York City and Thanksgiving. Then you're invited to make a

Thanksgiving craft inspired by

tours held over the past two years. Over a hundred guests attended this event. A big thank you goes to the performers who made Fright Night such a scream: Clarence Tokley, scary-storyteller and Master Shot Film Club leader; actresses Hope Newhouse and Charlotte Cheiw, who frightened us with more scary stories; and Irish singer Jean O'Sullivan, who had the audience laughing, singing and shrieking during her performance. And finally, a *merci beaucoup* to Starbucks at 90 rue Saint-Dominique for offering coffee and tasty treats all day long!

Two upcoming workshops

On Saturday, 30 November, a [poetry writing](#) workshop will be led by Ahren Warren, editor of Poetry London. As well, the Library will co-present a panel and [workshop](#) on e-publishing on 11 December at the Mona Bismarck American Center. This event will be moderated by Ellen Hampton and will include a publisher, agent and e-book writers.

Space is limited for these workshops, to reserve a spot, contact Programs Manager [Grant Rosenberg](#).

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 5 November | 19h30

Peter Gumbel - *Evenings with an Author*

Peter Gumbel talks about French elitism in education in his latest *Elite Academy*. Co-presented by AAWE, Gifted in France and Message.

Wednesday 6 November | 19h30

Stacy Perman - *Evenings with an Author*

Stacy Perman tells the story of the race to own the most complicated watch ever built in *A Grand Complication*.

Tuesday 12 November | 19h30

Is gun culture out of control?

A panel discussion with Alexander Blumrosen and Tom McGrath on gun rights and control from a multifaceted perspective. Co-presented with WICE World Watch.

Wednesday 13 November | 19h30

Susan Ossman - *Evenings with an Author*

Susan Ossman explores serial migration in her latest *In Moving Matters*.

All evening events at the Library are free and open to the public.

We are grateful to the Annenberg Foundation for its continuing support of *Evenings with an Author*.

Program dates and speakers are subject to change.

Please check the website for updates, see the [Events and Programs](#) page.

Lily and her friends.

No sign-up necessary! Parents welcome!



Saturday 16 November

17h00-18h30

Gibberish: an acting workshop for ages 8-12

Join Australian children's theater director Amanda Ford for a special afternoon workshop all about speaking in Gibberish. We'll play drama games and act out short scenes in our own made up language.

Sign-up is required.

And always...

Wednesday Story Hour for children ages 3-5

take place at 10h30 and 14h30.

Please [check here](#) for the full schedule.

Mother Goose Lap Sit 10h30 and 17h00 (ages 1-3)

7 November (full)

21 November (10h30 session full)

Rhymes, songs, and stories in English on Thursdays.

All children must be accompanied by an adult lap and [registration is required](#).

Unless otherwise stated, all children and teen programs are free for Library members and 10 euros for non-members.

Find out how to [become a member](#).

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