

The American Library in Paris

LITERATURE | LEARNING | CULTURE | COMMUNITY

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18 February 2014

The 2014 Jury for the Book Award

The jury for the 2014 [American Library in Paris Book Award](#) has been selected and will consist of writers Alice Kaplan, Sebastian Faulks, and Pierre Assouline. The award, now in its second year, recognizes the most distinguished book of the year in English about France or the French-American encounter. Fredrik Logevall won the first award last November, and a \$5,000 prize, for his book *Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam*.



Kaplan, who will chair the 2014 jury, is the author of *French Lessons: A Memoir*, *The Collaborator*, *The Interpreter*, and *Dreaming in French*. Faulks, the 2012 American Library gala speaker, is the author of many novels, including the French trilogy - *The Girl at the Lion d'Or*, *Birdsong*, and *Charlotte Gray*. Assouline is a prominent French literary critic, blogger, biographer, and editor. His most recent book is *Sigmaringen*. The jury for the book award is drawn from the Library's [Writers Council](#). The newest members of the council, Assouline and Logevall, were appointed to the council last month.



The deadline for book nominations is 1 June 2014. A five-title shortlist of books chosen by a Library screening committee in Paris will be announced in July. A Library exhibit of all the submissions will take place in September and the winner of the 2014 award will be announced at a ceremony in Paris in late fall.

The American Library in Paris Book Award is supported by a generous gift from the Florence Gould Foundation.

The Lodge legacy, African-Americans in the wild west, and family history

[Tonight](#), Emily Lodge will share the history of the women who helped shape the destinies of one of America's most illustrious families, best known for its two 20th century statesmen: the



Teens



[Creating heroes: a comic workshop with the Mona Bismarck American Center](#)
Friday 7 March 19h00-21h00
(ages 12-18)

Join us for a private tour of the [Superheroes: The Art of Alex Ross](#) exhibition at the Mona Bismarck American Center. Looking at the realistic portraits of superheroes, participants will discuss the notion of heroes here and now, before learning how to create their own comics, featuring their own superheroes. [Sign-up is required.](#)



[Writing from the Heart: The Game - with Jane Mobbille](#)
Friday 14 March 19h00-21h00
(ages 12-18)

Join life coach and memoir writer Jane Mobbille where you'll throw the dice, spin some (tall) tales, and write your own

Henry Cabot Lodge, *grand-père* and *grand-fils*. In a slide presentation and discussion of her book *The Lodge Women, Their Men and Their Times*, Lodge will pull back the curtain to her own ancestors and their relationships with the other luminaries of the 20th century.



Join Curator Naida Culshaw on Wednesday **19 February** for a slide presentation exploring the rich and diverse stories of the African-American western experience from her research for the exhibit *Reimagining Blacks in the American West*, on view at the Library through 16 March. Come and learn about the exploits of fur trapper and voyageur James Beckwourth, the larger-than-life story of U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves, and the history behind "Exodusters" movement and the families who called Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma home. Check out photos of the exhibit on the [Library's Flickr albums](#).



Do Americans really know their own history? Author Diane Johnson was told by a French friend that they did not, and she decided to rise to the challenge. Next Wednesday **26 February**, the chair of the Library's Writers Council and author of acclaimed books like *Le Divorce* will speak about her latest work, the memoir *Flyover Lives*, which recounts her upbringing in the American Midwest and her own family's genealogy.



Word for Word returns for 19th year

[Word for Word returns](#) to the American Library in Paris for the 19th year to present *In Friendship* by Zona Gale, a century-old comedy of American small-town mores and manners. Little remembered today, Zona Gale (1874 – 1938) was the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1921. A prominent feminist and political progressive, she was also an early member of the N.A.A.C.P.



[Word for Word](#), based in San Francisco and co-founded by Susan Harloe, presents original productions of American short stories in which every word of a story is performed by the actors on stage. Tobias Wolff, a writer whose work has been performed twice in Paris by Word for Word, says "Their brilliant inventiveness in performance, choreography, and staging has created new art form, and a deeply affecting experience."

Don't miss these two performances in Paris on 27 and 28 March, which take place at the Theatre Adyar, one block from the Library. The Thursday 27 March performance is sponsored by the Fondation Jeanine Manuel and Friday 28 March is sponsored by the Library. A suggested donation of 20€ (10€ for students) at the door sustain the work of the American Library in Paris and Word for Word. An informal reception with cast and crew of *In Friendship* follows the 28 March performance at the Library.

Reservations will open on 25 February, and seating is on first-come-first-served basis. There is no reserved seating. To make a reservation, send an [email](#) to: rsvp@americanlibraryinparis.org.

tales, and write your own answer key. Categories include: Santa Claus, Mean Girls & Bullies, Father Knows Best, Secret Lies, Geek, Sis & Bro, Cat in the Hat, etc.

[Sign-up is required.](#)



Master Shot Film Club

Saturday 15 March 17h00-18h30 (ages 12-18)

Aspiring filmmakers are invited to join the 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.](#)

Kids

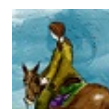


A Day at the Beach

Saturday 22 February 15h00-16h00 (ages 5+)

Tired of the cold and gray of the city? Join us for an afternoon full of fun, sun, sand and games. Imaginations required!

No sign-up necessary! Parents welcome!



BOOKWORMS Book Club

Saturday 1 March 12h00-13h00 (ages 9-12)

Back by popular demand... BOOKWORMS! The book club for 9-12-year-olds! In March.

Calling all young writers in Paris: YAFF deadline on 1 April

Young authors all over the greater Paris area are sharpening their pencils and collecting story nuggets in their writing journals in preparation for the [2014 Young Authors Fiction Festival](#) (YAFF), co-sponsored by Time Traveler Tours and the American Library in Paris.



The deadline for YAFF submissions is 1 April (no fooling!), which means that many young Paris-based authors will have already moved beyond free writing. They may have committed to an idea already that they are now drafting into a story, from beginning to middle to end. Or perhaps they have finished their first story draft and are ready to type it out on the computer, thus moving into the revising and editing stages.

Join Sarah Towle, co-director of YAFF, for the [final writing workshop](#) for writers ages 8-14 on Saturday 22 March and get tips on how to edit and prepare your story for submission. Space is limited and reservations can be made to Children's and Young Adults' Services Manager Celeste Rhoads at rhoads@americanlibraryinparis.org.

Also, check out this [blog post](#) written by Sarah Towle for parents on how to help your young writers in writing an original and creative story.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 18 February | 19h30

Emily Lodge - Evenings with an Author

Emily Lodge tells the stories of her family history through its women in her book *The Lodge Women, Their Men, and Their Times*.

Wednesday 19 February | 19h30

Naida Culshaw - Evenings with a Curator

Naida Culshaw will explore the diverse stories in the exhibit she curated, "Reimagining Blacks in the American West."

Wednesday 26 February | 19h30

Diane Johnson - Evenings with an Author

Diane Johnson talks about growing up in the town of Moline, IL, in her memoir *Flyover Lives*.

Saturday 1 March | 10h00-19h00

Sunday 2 March | 13h00-19h00

Used Book Sale

Join us for the Library's Used Book Sale which takes place on the first weekend of each month during Library opening hours.

Tuesday 4 March | 10h30

our book group will be reading and discussing the 2014 Newbery honor book *One Came Home* by Amy Timberlake.

[Sign-up is required.](#)



Fairy Tale Tea Party

Saturday 1 March 15h00-16h00 (ages 5+)

Our afternoon tea party will star some classic fairy tales and a few contemporary ones with a twist. Come and enjoy tea, lemonade and cookies. Fancy attire is encouraged - princesses, knights and dragons are welcome!

No sign-up necessary! Parents welcome!



A Reading with Mo Willems

Saturday 8 March 15h00-16h00 (ages 5+)

Join popular American author and illustrator Mo Willems for a reading of some of his fantastic books for children. This event will be held at the American Cathedral parish hall. Free for Library members, please bring library cards to show at the door. *No sign-up necessary! Parents welcome!*

Note: Mo Willems will not be signing books at this event, but will do so at an evening event for adults on [18 March](#) at the Library.

And always...

Wednesday Story Hour for children ages 3-5

Story Hour takes place at 10h30 and 14h30 every

Tuesday 4 March | 19h30

New ID: African American Women Artists

Kathryn Watt, chief curator from the National Museum of Women in the Arts, explores the principles that shape recent art by women of African descent, notably Sonya Clark, Ellen Gallagher, Loïs Mailou Jones, Faith Ringgold, Amy Sherald, Mickalene Thomas, and Kara Walker.

Wednesday 5 March | 19h30

Amily Gaige - Evenings with an Author

Amily Gaige will discuss her latest book *Schroder*, about a first-generation East German immigrant.

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

10h30 and 14h30 every
Wednesday.

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

No sign-up necessary!

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

20 February

6, 20 March

Rhymes, songs, and stories in
English two Thursdays a
month.

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.**

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member](#).

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