

The American Library in Paris

LITERATURE | LEARNING | CULTURE | COMMUNITY

e-Libris

17 March 2015

Say it, spell it, say it

Twenty-one finalists from the fourth to sixth grades (CM1-6ème) competed in the seventh annual Paris Spelling Bee at the American Library in Paris on Sunday 15 March 2015.

In the 24th round, fourth-grader Riti Adrija Nalukurti took the top prize by spelling *composition* correctly, after successfully spelling *ruckus* and *triathlon*. The second prize went to 10-year-old Alec Le Helloco who spelled words such as *unduly* and *referee* before missing the word *cyst*. Riti and Alec are both from EIB Victor Hugo School. Each winner received a trophy and a complimentary annual family membership to the Library.



Tying in third place were fifth graders Emma Mieszala from Lycée International St Germain en Laye, Wazeen Karkachi from École Élémentaire Louis Pasteur, and Alex Ravel from École Jeannine Manuel.

The Paris Spelling Bee is a community enrichment event organized and sponsored by Gifted in France in collaboration with the American Library in Paris, which hosted the event on Sunday. The pronouncers were Library director Charles Trueheart and Anne Swardson, editor-at-large at Bloomberg News. The Library thanks the amazing 2015 Paris Spelling Bee team, under the leadership of Helen Sahin Connelly, who helped to make the Spelling Bee a smashing success. For more information about the Paris Spelling Bee, please check [their blog](#).

The young show us the power of reading

On Saturday 7 March, kids and their parents celebrated the finale of our first ever Read-a-Thon (organized with the help of Message Paris and Courtney Kolar of the Message Primary School Kids group). From 7-14 February, children asked friends, family, and neighbors to sponsor them for the Read-a-Thon by pledging a certain amount per minute read. Over the



Teens



Making Comics: a workshop with Jason Rodriguez
Friday 20 March

19h00-21h00 (ages 12-18)

Comic book writer and editor Jason Rodriguez will cover the whole process of making a comic book - from an idea to a story and even to the printing, folding, and stapling – so that you know how to make your own.

[Sign-up is required.](#)



Writing from Your Heart: Why we LOL! with Jane Mobbille
Friday 3 April

19h00-21h00 (ages 12-18)

Join life coach and memoir

writer Jane Mobbille as we chuckle, giggle, guffaw, howl, snort and explore why laughter is the closest distance between two people. This workshop will be about writing

tion by pledging a certain amount per minute read. Over the winter holidays, these children kept logs of their reading, totaled up their minutes and collected their pledges.



Over 20 young readers turned in their Read-a-Thon pledge sheets and their pledges, and these youngest Library members read a total of 12,703 minutes and raised nearly 1000€ for the Library. These funds will now go on to support more programs at the Library. Thank you, young readers!

Authors at the Library in March

Comic books and graphic novels have become an important force in serious literary culture and storytelling. Two comic book writers, Jason Rodriguez (*Colonial Comics, Once Upon a Time Machine*) and Laurent Seksik (*The Last Days of Stefan Zweig, Modigliani*), join us [tonight at the Library](#) in a panel discussion about their work and the power of visual storytelling and the exploration of history.



Mai Al-Nakib, a Brown University graduate who teaches literature at Kuwait University and whose short story collection *The Hidden Light of Objects* won the 2014 Edinburgh International Book Festival's First Book Award in Scotland, will speak at the Library on [Wednesday 25 March](#). Her stories explore different cultures particularly those of the Middle East, beyond — and sometimes addressing — the headlines of war and discord. This is an opportunity to meet a unique writer with a unique pedigree.



An author with twelve novels in his native Spanish, Eduardo Halfon has finally released two of them in English, *The Polish Boxer* and *Monastery*. These books, with a simple prose style and confident voice, explore a character's struggle with cultural, national, religious and sexual identity. The Guatemalan-born, Nebraska-residing Halfon, whose character shares his name, will discuss where fiction and non-fiction merge at the Library on [Tuesday 31 March](#).



Seminar on African-American writers

There are still some spots left for Jake Lamar's literary discussion on [Saturday 21 March](#) at 14h00. Lamar will talk about four books written by four major African American authors: James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, Chester Himes and Richard Wright. Each of these authors published a landmark first book in the 1940s and 50s. Lamar will lead a discussion about the protagonists as literary and social creations in each of these books. Space is limited; please RSVP to lemasson@americanlibraryinparis.org to reserve a spot.



As always, these seminars are free for Library members and guests with a day pass.

workshop will be about writing from our own experiences.

[Sign-up is required.](#)



Master Shot Film Club

Saturday 4 April

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



BOOKWORMS (ages 9-12)

Esperanza Rising

Saturday 21 March

12h00-13h00 (1st session)

Saturday 28 March

12h00-13h00 (2nd session)

In March, we will be reading and discussing *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan. Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances.

[Sign-up is required.](#)



Wacky, Weird Fairy Tales

Saturday 21 March

15h00-16h00 (ages 5+)

Malcolm X in the stacks

It's been 50 years since Malcolm X was assassinated on 21 February 1965. On this occasion, France Ô created a documentary entitled *Malcolm X, aux noms de l'identité noire*, which aired on 25 February 2015. The lower level of the Library was chosen as the setting for a scene in the documentary. The sequence depicts Malcolm X (played by Greg Frite) in a library during his years in prison in the late 1940s. That scene is featured around minute 26 in the documentary. For more information about the documentary, and for a link to watch it, check out our [Library blog](#).



YAFF deadline is 1 April

The deadline for the Young Authors Fiction Festival (YAFF) is fast approaching on 1 April 2015, absolutely no fooling! The YAFF is a city-wide writing initiative that aims to strengthen community among English-speakers in the Paris area through the art and craft of storytelling. The YAFF is free of charge and open to all students ages 5-18 in the greater Paris area who write in English. When you are ready to submit a story, be sure to fill out our [online submissions form](#) by that due date. For writing tips and tricks, read our [Library blog](#).

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 17 March | 19h30

Jason Rodriguez and Laurent Seksik - *Graphic novel panel discussion*

Two comic book writers Jason Rodriguez and Laurent Seksik will discuss their work and the power of visual storytelling.

Wednesday 25 March | 19h30

Mai Al-Nakib - *Evenings with an Author*

Mai Al-Nakib will discuss her award-winning collection of short stories in *The Hidden Light of Objects*.

Tuesday 31 March | 19h30

Eduardo Halfon - *Evenings with an Author*

Eduardo Halfon will talk about two of his recently translated books *The Polish Boxer* and *Monastery*, exploring cultural identity.

Wednesday 1 April | 19h30

Annie Cohen-Solal - *Evenings with an Author*

Annie Cohen-Solal will speak about her latest book *Mark Rothko: Toward the Light in*

You know the story of the three little pigs, Little Red Riding Hood and Cinderella, but you've probably never heard the crazy, original and wacky versions of these stories that we'll read on Saturday.

No sign-up is required!

Parents welcome!



Are You Afraid of Monsters: A visit with author Rosemary Selkirk

Saturday 21 March

17h00-18h00 (ages 3+)

Attention book lovers! Come meet Dr Rosemary Selkirk and listen to a special reading and Q&A of her book *Are You Afraid of Monsters?*

No sign-up is required!

Parents welcome!

And always...

Wednesday Story Hour for children ages 3-5

Story Hour takes place at 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)

19 March (10h30 full)

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's and teen's programs are free for Library members and 10 euros for

the Chapel.

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

non-members.

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

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