

# The American Library in Paris

LITERATURE | LEARNING | CULTURE | COMMUNITY

e-Libris

27 May 2015

## A record-setting Gala Dinner

The literary couple Ayelet Waldman and Michael Chabon regaled the 2015 Library Gala Dinner last night with tales of their marriage and writerly collaboration. They spoke of their competition, their encouragement, their habits of writing before a record-setting audience of 230 guests in the sumptuous library of the Automobile Club de France.



A full report on the gala follows in the June edition of *Ex Libris*, the Library's quarterly newsletter, along with a selection of photos and excerpts from the dialogue between the guests of honor. The event was filmed and will be available soon. A select gallery of photographs of the evening by Krystal Kenney is available for viewing [now](#) on the Library Flickr.

The Library is grateful for the presence of Chabon and Waldman and for the overwhelming support for the Gala Dinner, the Library's biggest fundraiser of the year and a reliably memorable literary evening every spring. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm.

## A friendship with Gore Vidal, prequel to Peter Pan and Updike biography

Early June programs at the Library include Michael Mewshaw on [Wednesday 3 June](#). He will share his reminiscence of a long friendship with iconoclastic writer Gore Vidal in his memoir, *Sympathy for the Devil: Four Decades of Friendship With Gore Vidal*. On [Sunday 7 June](#) at 19h00, join us for a family-friendly event with celebrated humorist Dave Barry and thriller writer Ridley Pearson as they talk about the series they have co-written, *Peter and the Starcatchers*.

On [Wednesday 10 June](#), writer Adam Begley will discuss his highly-praised mammoth biography of the late American novelist John Updike, entitled *Updike*. The *Guardian* described the biography as exemplary and that any fan of Updike's work



## Teens



### Rock U with Matt Black: It Might Get Loud

**Friday 29 May**

**19h00-21h30 (ages 12-18)**

Join us for an evening of acoustic rock. We'll watch the movie *It Might Get Loud*, and then teacher and musician Matt Black will work with participants on the techniques of crafting a live band performance.

[Sign-up is required.](#)



### Teen Writing Group

**Saturday 6 June**

**17h00-18h30 (ages 12-18)**

Join fellow aspiring writers in a relaxed and creative setting where you can share your

ideas, get feedback, and work on your technique. Participants are asked to bring in a sample of their writing to share with the group.

[Sign up is required.](#)

would find it rewarding. This event promises to be a literary feast for fans of the prose master, as well as a chance for new readers to discover Updike's work and fascinating life.



[Sign-up is required.](#)



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## Library Fellow Susan Hiner

The Library's fourth Visiting Fellow, Susan Hiner, will be with us for the month of June. Hiner is a professor of French and Francophone Studies at Vassar College. Her research and teaching interests include women and material culture in nineteenth-century France, fashion studies, and the intersection of literature, visual culture, and social history.



She will speak at the Library on [Tuesday 16 June](#) on the subject of her 2010 book *Accessories to Modernity: Fashion and the Feminine in Nineteenth-Century France*. Her discussion will include fashion history through the prism of the arts and how it affected the bourgeois idealization of womanhood in that era. Her book looks at how style was portrayed in works by Zola, Flaubert, and Balzac and how that reflected society at large.

### Master Shot Film Club Screening

**Saturday 20 June  
19h00-21h00 (ages 12-18)**

For this last meeting of the 2014-2105 school year we'll be screening all of the works that Master Shot Film Club members have created. Club members and their friends are welcome to attend.

[Sign-up is required.](#)

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## Kids

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## Summer Reading Program

Keep track of all of the reading you do over the school break and collect brand new books while you're at it!

On Saturday 20 June at 15h00, everyone is invited to celebrate the beginning of our summer reading program. We'll explain how the summer reading program works and have lots of fun activities to get you started on your summer reading adventure. Come play a few games, and collect a book prize to kick off your summer reading!



If you can't make it to the kick-off party, stop by the Children's and Young Adults' Services desk to sign up for the summer reading program anytime after 20 June. Check [here](#) for more information.



### Toddler Talk with Keri Hicks

**Thursday 28 May  
10h30-11h30**

Parenting a 2 or 3-year-old can be funny, amazing and, sometimes, down-right frustrating. Join our discussion with behavioral therapist Keri Hicks to get tips for surviving your toddler. Bring your questions and children are welcome!

[Sign-up is required.](#)

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## 2015 YAFF is a record-breaker

The 2015 Young Authors Fiction Festival was one of the largest in recent years, with 400 entries submitted from more than 20 schools and writing programs in and around Paris. We are very heartened by this enthusiastic response from young authors expressing themselves through the art and craft of storytelling.



The Library is proud to be the organizer of the Young Authors Fiction Festival, a city-wide writing initiative that aims to strengthen community among English-speakers through the art of creative storytelling. The Fiction Festival is open to all students ages



### BOOKWORMS (ages 9-12) Flora and Ulysses

**Saturday 30 May  
12h00-13h00 (1st session)**

**Saturday 6 June  
12h00-13h00 (2nd session)**

We'll be reading and

5 to 18 in the greater Paris area who write in English.

We encourage all young authors to join us for the Festival Celebration on Friday 5 June at 18h30 as we hand out the top honors. Booklets with all the winning stories will be available with a 10€ donation. Please see [here](#) for more information.

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## Upcoming Events

Thursday 28 May | 10h30

### Toddler Talk with Keri Hicks

Join our discussion with behavioral therapist Keri Hicks to get tips for surviving your toddler. Children are welcome!

Wednesday 3 June | 19h30

### Michael Mewshaw - *Evenings with an author*

Michael Mewshaw discusses his long friendship with iconoclastic Gore Vidal in his new book *Sympathy for the Devil: Four Decades of Friendship with Gore Vidal*.

Saturday 6 June | 10h00 - 19h00

Sunday 7 June | 13h00 - 19h00

### Used Book Sale

Library used book sales typically occur during the first weekend of every month. April's used book sale will be held on the second weekend of the month due to Easter holidays.

Sunday 7 June | 19h00

### Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson - *Evenings with an author*

Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson talk about their collaboration in creating *Peter and the Starcatcher*, the prequel to Peter Pan.

Tuesday 9 June | 19h30

### Annual General Meeting

Members are invited to this meeting to hear reports about the state of the Library from the year just past.

Wednesday 10 June | 19h30

### Adam Begley - *Evenings with an author*

Adam Begley comes to the Library to discuss his biography about John Updike, entitled *Updike*.

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**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.

discussing the 2014 Newbery Medal winner *Flora and Ulysses*, a story of a cynical, (and comics-obsessed) girl who meets a squirrel – a squirrel with superpowers.

[Sign-up is required.](#)



### Gina Ginger's Birthday Party: With Kids & Us

Saturday 30 May

17h00-17h30 (ages 3-7)

Join the team from Kids & Us for an afternoon storytime about one of their original characters: Gina Ginger. Gina wants to throw a birthday party, but none of her friends can make it. Find out what happens during this interactive storytime.

No sign-up necessary!

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 9h15 and 17h00 (ages 1-3)

4 and 18 June

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

*All children must be accompanied by an adult lap and registration is required.*

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**Unless otherwise stated, all children's and teen's programs are free for Library members and 10 euros for**

non-members.

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

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