



# The American Library in Paris

LITERATURE | LEARNING | CULTURE | COMMUNITY

e-Libris

1 March 2016

## Spring news from Ex Libris: A major renovation and more

The March issue of the American Library's quarterly newsletter is just out with exciting news of a major renovation about to transform our physical premises.

We shared the news with our membership a few weeks ago, and *Ex Libris* offers a few more glimpses of the dramatic improvements to come. You'll also find details of the Library's latest digital offerings – bestsellers via Library-provided e-books – and listings of spring and summer [activities and services](#) during the three months' closure. Plus John Irving at the gala dinner!

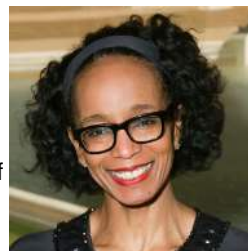
*Ex Libris*, serving the Library community for nearly 100 years, is full of other news and information for adults, teens, and children fortunate enough to enjoy what the Library offers. Pick up a copy at the Library, ask to join our mailing list, or [download a copy](#) here. Enjoy the reading.

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## Authors abound at the Library

On [Tuesday 8 March](#) at 19h30, Ladette Randolph, editor-in-chief of the famed literary journal *Ploughshares*, speaks about the process of putting together this well-known periodical as it enters its 45th year of publication.

On [Wednesday 9 March](#) at 19h30, Robin Givhan, *Washington Post* fashion critic and author of *The Battle of Versailles: The Night American Fashion Stumbled into the Spotlight and Made History*, chronicles the events of 28 November 1973 when American and French designers faced off in the august halls of the palace to raise money to restore the edifice.



On [Wednesday 16 March](#) at 19h30, Andrew Lownie, first and foremost a literary agent, presents his book *Stalin's Englishman: The Lives of Guy Burgess* about an investigation into the life of a Cambridge Five spy ring member who for years passed secrets on to Moscow. Lownie convincingly tells the fascinating story of how Burgess was the leader of the



## Teens



### Teen Writing Group

**Saturday 12 March (full)  
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.

[Sign-up is required.](#)



### Rock U. with Matt Black: Rock of Ages

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

Join us for another evening of rock in the Library. We'll watch the movie *Rock of Ages*, starring Tom Cruise and Julianne Hough. Afterwards, teacher and musician Matt Black will teach you how to play a song from the movie! Bring an instrument if you play one.

the fascinating story of how Burgess was the leader of the group and held everything together.



On [Tuesday 22 March](#) at 19h30, Anthony Lacoudre, the author of *L'incroyable Histoire des Mots Français en Anglais*, explores the historical context that gave 25,000 French words to the English language over 900 years. Lacoudre will review this extremely rich vocabulary, from the very first French words integrated into English in the 12th and 13th centuries. Definitely an evening for the wordsmith.



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## Going, going, gone!

As noted above, the Library will be embarking on a major renovation this spring and summer. Therefore, as of Sunday 28 February 2015, we will be unable to accept your used book donations. The Library team will be busy preparing the collection for tagging and storage in advance of the renovation. There will be no space or staff to manage the inflow of used book donations.



A list of Paris-based organizations that can accept used books is available on our [website](#). Our final used book sale before the renovation will be held this Saturday and Sunday during our regular hours.

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## Is your passport up-to-date?

The Library just received a delivery of over 100 new travel guides to nearly that many destinations. Current guidebooks from Rick Steves, Eyewitness, Lonely Planet, Bradt, Michelin, and others are now on the [shelves](#), and ready to accompany you on your next adventure.



Before you depart, why not use [Mango Languages](#) to pick up a few phrases and conversation starters? Mango offers introductory courses in over 70 languages. Log on through our online catalogue, under Search and [E-Sources](#).

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## New books on our shelves

The arrival of new books at the Library is always highly anticipated. Our recent additions in both fiction and non-fiction center on the expatriate experience: *The Expatriates* by Janice Y.K. Lee about American expatriates in Hong Kong; *In Other Words* by Jhumpa Lahiri, her first work of non-fiction written and translated from Italian; and *The Road to Little Dribbling* by Bill Bryson where he revisits his adopted Britain.



We've also received new memoirs by folk singer Carly Simon and doctor-turned-patient Paul Kalanithi. Check our [Library blog](#) for more on our new books.

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[Sign-up is required.](#)



### Master Shot Film Club

**Saturday 19 March**

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

Aspiring filmmakers are invited to join the Master Shot Film Club led by filmmaker and writer Clarence Tokley.

[Sign-up is required.](#)

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## Kids



### Translation Exploration

**Saturday 5 March**

**15h00-16h00 (ages 5+)**

Join us for an afternoon where we will read some favorite children's picture books that were originally created in languages other than English, then we'll talk a bit about where each of the books was created.

*No sign-up necessary!*

*Parents welcome!*



### Brain Art, Brain Games

**Saturday 19 March**

**12h00-13h30 (ages 5+)**

Join neuroscientist Seta Kazandjian, Ph.D. for a workshop where you'll find out about the brain and how it works. Then you'll have a chance to get creative and create some art inspired by all you've learned about your brain.

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## Keep up the writing for YAFF!

The deadline for the [Young Authors Fiction Festival](#) is fast approaching! We hope that young writers all over Paris have started working on their original stories.



The Library is proud to be the organizer of YAFF, a city-wide writing initiative that aims to strengthen community among English-speakers in the Paris area through the art and craft of storytelling. YAFF is free of charge and open to all students ages 5-18 in the greater Paris area who write in English. The deadline for submission is 1 April 2016.

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## Upcoming Events

**Saturday 5 March | 10h00-19h00**

**Sunday 6 March | 13h00-19h00**

### **Used Book Sale**

Come and support our last used book sale before our renovation begins! Arrive early for the best selection of books of all subjects and genres.

**Tuesday 8 March | 19h30**

### **Ladette Randolph - Evenings with an editor**

Ladette Randolph, editor-in-chief of literary journal *Ploughshares* will discuss the famed publication and its heritage.

**Wednesday 9 March | 19h30**

### **Robin Givhan - Evenings with an author**

Robin Givhan, fashion critic, will discuss her book *The Battle of Versailles: The Night American Fashion Stumbled into the Spotlight and Made History*.

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Anthony Lacoudre dives into the history of French words in the English language in his book *L'incroyable Histoire des Mots Français en Anglais*.

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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.

[Sign-up is required.](#)



### **Crazy Inventions: a writing workshop**

**Sunday 20 March**

**14h00-15h30 (ages 8-12)**

We're celebrating Einstein's birthday with a short story workshop dedicated to inventors and inventions! Join assistant children's and young adults' librarian Kirsty McCulloch Reid for a workshop where you'll pretend you're a scientist or inventor and then write a story about your latest creation!

[Sign-up is required.](#)

## 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)**

**3, 17 March**

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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