



# The American Library in Paris

LITERATURE | LEARNING | CULTURE | COMMUNITY

e-Libris

24 January 2017

## A missing mother, Paris's rebel quarter, an American spy, and French country cooking

[Tonight](#), join author and journalist John de St. Jorre as he speaks about the disappearance of his mother and how he eventually found her 35 years later in his memoir *Darling Baby Mine: A Son's Extraordinary Search for His Mother*. It is an exploration not just of a son's relationship to his absent mother but also how mental illness has been treated in the West.

[Tomorrow night](#), author John Baxter returns to the Library to talk about his book *Saint-Germain-des-Prés: Paris's Rebel Quarter*, the first in a series about great Parisian neighborhoods. In it, Baxter explores the famed Left Bank quarter and the lives, history, and culture that has passed through it and continues to this day. As a Paris walking guide, the book is filled with anecdotes, both historical and current, that will delight first-time visitors and those who know the quarter well.



On [Wednesday 1 February](#), Kati Marton speaks about her book *True Believer: Stalin's Last American Spy*, which explores the life of Noel Field, a sensitive, self-radicalized American and idealist who betrayed his country by spying for Stalin in the 1930s and 40s. Marton's vivid and gripping recounting of his story reveals how prison nor torture could shake his faith in communism. *The New York Times* describes the book as both relevant and fascinating.



On [Wednesday 8 February](#), Mimi Thorisson, author of the the award-winning blog Manger, talks about her second cookbook *French Country Cooking*, which recounts her family's move to an abandoned château in Médoc, where she meets the farmers and artisans who populate the village. Thorisson has created a cookbook to cover, featuring recipes



## Teens



### Throwback Thursday!

**Thursday 26 January  
17h00-19h00 (ages 12-18)**

Take a break from school and let loose! Drop by the Teen Mezzanine for a retro snack and some old school games. *No sign-up necessary!*



### Master Shot Film Club

**Saturday 4 February  
17h00-18h30 (ages 12-18)**

Aspiring filmmakers are invited to join the Master Shot Film Club led by filmmaker and writer Clarence Tokley. The purpose of this club is to have the opportunity to make high quality short films.

[Sign-up is required.](#)



Thomsson has created a cookbook to savor, featuring recipes inspired by her village in the vineyards including white asparagus soufflé, wine harvest pot au feu, and salted butter chocolate cake.



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## Marlene Dietrich's Marginalia

Megan Mayhew Bergman, the Library's Visiting Fellow last spring, recently wrote an article in *The New Yorker* about the Library's collection of books donated from Marlene Dietrich's personal library. In the [article](#), Bergman describes Dietrich's final years in Paris and how the books in her collection were filled with writings in the margins, often short and revealing comments or words.

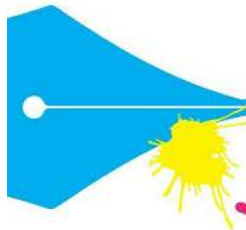


The Library has a small Special Collection which includes materials donated by Olivia de Havilland, Sylvia Beach, Janet Flanner, James Emanuel, and many others. These books are not in circulation, however can be requested for onsite consultation.

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## Calling young authors for YAFF 2017

The Library is proud to again organize this year's Young Authors Fiction Festival. YAFF is a city-wide creative writing initiative that aims to strengthen community among English-speakers through the art 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 2017 at 22h00. Be sure to check our [website](#) for guidelines and the online submission form. For other questions, contact us at [yaff@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:yaff@americanlibraryinparis.org). Happy writing!

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## A cookbook by any other name...

A Library members might have noticed that our extensive cookbook collection is getting relabeled with tags reading "Food," and that we are now referring to this section as "Food and Drink." This is part of the renovation plan to make items in our collection easier to find and browse.

In keeping with this goal, we moved our graphic novel collection to the ground floor, into the members' lounge by the coffee machine. You'll quickly recognize the books in

this section thanks to their new tags stating "Graphic."

As always, don't hesitate to ask staff or volunteers for help locating what you need. Enjoy the browsing and reading.

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## Upcoming Events

Tuesday 24 January | 19h30

### Teen Writing Group

**Saturday 18 February**  
**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.

**This club is full.**

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## Kids



### Caldecott Party

**Saturday 28 January**  
**15h00-16h00 (ages 6+)**

Join us as we read a selection of 2017 Caldecott honor books and the medal winner! We'll also announce the winner of the Library's second Mock Caldecott award.

*No sign-up necessary!*

*Parents welcome!*



### Magic Beasts

**Saturday 4 February**  
**15h00-16h30 (ages 6+)**

Join us for a magical afternoon all about dragons, griffins,

unicorns, fairies, Medusas, and more. We'll read great stories about your favorite monsters and then create some of our own.

*No sign-up necessary!*

*Parents welcome!*



## John de St. Jorre - *Evenings with an Author*

John de St. Jorre will speak about his memoir *Darling Baby Mine: A Son's Extraordinary Search for his Mother*.

Wednesday 25 January | 19h30

## John Baxter - *Evenings with an Author*

John Baxter returns to the Library to talk about his latest book, *Saint-Germain-des-Prés: Paris's Rebel Quarter*.

Wednesday 1 February | 19h30

## Kati Marton - *Evenings with an Author*

Kati Marton will speak about Noel Field who spied for Stalin in the 1930s and 40s in her book *True Believer: Stalin's Last American Spy*.

Wednesday 8 February | 18h00

## Mimi Thorisson - *Evenings with an Author*

Mimi Thorisson returns to the Library with a new cookbook, *French Country Cooking*, which tells how her family moves into an abandoned château in the Médoc and the food from that region.

Tuesday 14 February | 19h30

## Jeffrey Goldberg - *Evenings with a Journalist*

Jeffrey Goldberg, editor-in-chief of *The Atlantic*, will give a talk entitled "From the Obama Doctrine to the Trump Doctrine: What Role Will America Play in the World?"

Wednesday 22 February | 19h30

## Sarah Kaminsky - *Evenings with an Author*

Sarah Kaminsky presents her book *A Forger's Life*, the gripping tale of her father who forged documents for Jews during the Nazi Occupation, as well as refugees from many lands over 30 years, to give them safe passage out of danger.

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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.

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## Writing a Short Story

Saturday 21 January

14h00-15h30 (ages 8-12)

Join us for a workshop dedicated to writing a good story, just in time for YAFF. Bring along a story or an idea that you'd like to work on, or we can work on one during the workshop.

[Sign-up is required.](#)

## And always...

### Wednesday Story Hour for children ages 3-5

**NOTE:** Story Hour takes place at 10h30 and 14h30 every Wednesday.

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

No sign-up necessary!

### Toddler Time

10h30 and 17h00

(ages 1-3)

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

**2, 16 February**

All children must be accompanied by an adult lap.

[Sign-up 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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