



The American Library in Paris

LITERATURE | LEARNING | CULTURE | COMMUNITY

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21 November 2018

African-American soldiers in France, Stephen Clarke on the French Revolution, mapping Arab Paris, and food talks for all appetites

[Tonight](#), Curtis Young will discuss his project "When the Blues People Sang America to France," highlighting the epic role played by African-American soldiers during the Great War. This is not a story we learn from American history books. Nor is this a story we find in French text books. As an "oral history" it was diffused in African-American communities across the U.S. Black Americans knew there was a country and a people who welcomed them as fellow members of the human community in stark contrast to how these soldiers were greeted when they returned home.

On [Tuesday 27 November](#), Stephen Clarke will be discussing his latest book, [The French Revolution & What Went Wrong](#). Like all his history books, it debunks the received view of events, combining serious research with a humorous tone. The book was inspired by a suspicion that *Liberté, Égalité et Fraternité* did not appear magically as soon as the Bastille was stormed. Using national archives, contemporaneous autobiographies, speeches, and newspaper articles, he tries to present a more balanced picture.

On [Wednesday 28 November](#), Rebekah Bonpler will be in

Teens



Word Wars

Friday 23 November

19h00-21h00 (ages 12-18)

Work in teams and individually to conquer some of the best and toughest word games. Get to know other teens in the English-speaking community while you work together. Light snacks and prizes will be provided by the Library.

[Sign-up is required](#)



Love in a Box Wrapping Party

Saturday 24 November

17h00-18h30 (ages 12-18)

Love in a Box is a Paris wide charity project that provides gifts for children for the holiday season. Empty shoeboxes are wrapped with a set of practical and fun items inside. For this

On [Wednesday 20 November](#), Neberan Feppier will be in conversation with Lindsey Tramuta about her new book, [Apéritif: Cocktail Hour the French Way](#). For the French, the fleeting interlude between a long workday and the evening meal to come is not meant to be hectic or crazed. Instead, that time is a much needed chance to pause, take a breath, and reset with light drinks and snacks. Whether it's a quick affair before dashing out the door to a favorite Parisian bistro or a lead-up to a more lavish party, *Apéritif: Cocktail Hour the French Way* is about kicking off the night, rousing the appetite, and doing so with the carefree spirit of connection and conviviality.

On [Tuesday 4 December](#), Susan Loomis promises to take you on a voyage from the Gauls to the present, as the French grill their way through history, picking up tips and hints from the Romans and the Vikings. The recipes in [French Grill: 125 Refined and Rustic Recipes](#) are a blend of traditional French grill specialties and her own creations. She will speak to us about tradition, flavor, and technique, as well as provide tips to achieve the best results. Finally, she will reveal how you can translate any recipe in the book to your home kitchen, even if the grill is put away for the season.

On [Wednesday 5 December](#), Coline Houssais will discuss how Paris, City of Lights, is also one of the capitals of Arab culture. Far from being a recent phenomenon based on post-war worker migration from former French colonies, the relationship between Paris intellectuals from North Africa and the Middle East dates back to the late medieval period. In turn a beacon of enlightenment, a safe haven, and a symbol of colonial oppression, the streets of Paris carry the memory of this peculiar heritage. Going back and forth between past and present, arts and politics, micro-history and international politics, this talk will take you through on virtual walk through a Paris that you have never seen before.

and fun items inside. For this wrapping party, the Library will provide materials and gifts, and you can contribute by helping to wrap.

[Sign-up is required](#)

Young Writers Literary Club

Saturday 8 December

10h30-12h00 (ages 11-15)

These workshops will be a combination of lessons, exercises, games and group discussion.

This club is full.

Master Shot Film Club

Saturday 15 December

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 is full.

Kids

Literature and culture on the Library blog

Culture Picks by Mike Duffy

Pen Pals Club

Saturday 24 November

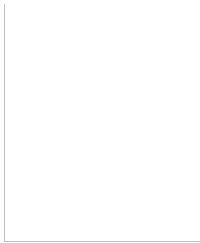
12h00-13h30 (ages 9-12)

Join us for a a new program dedicated to the art of letter writing.

This club is full.

This month's [Culture Picks](#) give us an excellent sense of

the pivotal role Picasso played as Paris embraced the Modern Art movement. Mike shares with us his impressions of three in-depth exhibitions: one, [Picasso Masterpieces](#)! explores some of the prominent exhibitions, articles, and publications that accompanied his artwork which forged their reputation as masterpieces over the years; the second, [Cubism](#), is centered on Parisian artists in the decade when Cubism was created, developed, and overtaken by World War I and the period thereafter; finally, [Picasso. Blue and Rose](#) focuses on six critical years in Picasso's artistic development before he launched the Cubism movement with Georges Braque.



Modern takes on Greek Mythology by Olga Ospina

Greek myths remain relevant as we continue to relate to the themes that make these stories universal. In [this blog](#) Olga recapitulates the most recent books on this subject. There is a beautiful literary essay about the Odyssey and some recent takes on Greek mythology that have a feminist approach.



These modern takes give power and agency to mythical ancient women for the first time. Female characters like Circe, Clytemnestra, Medea, and the prisoners of the Trojan war are given their own voices allowing us to hear another side of the story and illuminating details that would otherwise have gone unnoticed.



Science Explorers Club
Saturday 24 November
15h00-16h30 (ages 6-10)
Join us for an afternoon of fact, fiction and fun as we explore science and math through great stories!
No sign-up required.



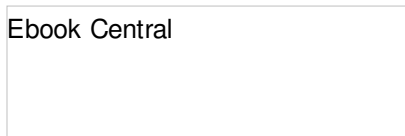
LEGO Creations
Friday 30 November
17h00-18h30 (ages 8-12)
Inspired by the projects detailed in Building Amazing Creations: Sean Kenney's Art with LEGO Bricks, participants will be given challenges to complete. Try your hand at some LEGO constructions after learning about some amazing creations.
[Sign-up is required](#)

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Spotlight on ProQuest Business

Every member of the Library has free access to the various [electronic databases](#) to which the Library is subscribed. These resources can be accessed from the Library, your home, or wherever you are in the world. Borrow novels, read e-magazines, learn foreign languages, and access the latest scientific research. One of them, ProQuest Ebook Central, is an academic database offering more than 21,000 ebooks with topics ranging from marketing and leadership to economics, finance, and business. It is an essential source of information for students, researchers, and people specializing in business, management, and related fields. For more information on how to use our digital resources, come see us at the Member Services Desk.

Ebook Central



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 lasting 30 minutes.
Thursday 22 November
All children must be accompanied by an adult lap.
[Sign-up is required.](#)

Applications for visiting fellowship

are now open

The Library is now accepting applications for Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 fellows.

The fellowship offers writers and researchers an opportunity to pursue a creative project in Paris for a month or longer while participating actively in the life of the American Library. Applicants should be working on a book project, fiction or non-fiction, or a feature-length documentary film, that contributes to cross-cultural discourse.

Particular attention will be paid to an applicant's ability to offer the Library community a variety of opportunities for exploring a topic. In addition to the stipend, the Library will connect the fellow to resources and individuals in Paris that could be helpful to his or her project. The fellowship is open to all nationalities, though the proposed project must be in English.

Please [see the Library website](#) for further details. This application cycle will close on 1 February 2019.

Unless otherwise stated, all children's and teens' programs are free for Library members and 10 euros for non-members.

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

Music exploration at the Library

The Library is hosting a special children's event on Saturday 22 December when children and teens will present the instruments they play, and share a few songs. Join us in discovering the range of talents at the Library and to learn a little bit about some lesser-known instruments, and a few you will recognize.

If your child or teen is interested in speaking for a few minutes about their experience with music, and is willing to talk about their instrument and play a short song, please get in touch with Children's and Teens' Services Manager Celeste: celeste@americanlibraryinparis.org

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 21 November | 19h30

Evenings with an author

Curtis Young, *When the Blues People Sang America to France*

Tuesday 27 November | 19h30

Evenings with an author

Stephen Clarke, *The French Revolution & What Went Wrong*

Wednesday 28 November | 19h30

Evenings with an author

Rebekah Pepplar, *Aperitif: Cocktail hour the French way*

Tuesday 4 December | 19h30

Evenings with an author

Susan Loomis, *French Grill: 125 refined and rustic recipes*

Wednesday 5 December | 19h30

Evenings with an author

Coline Houssais, *Mapping Arab Paris: An Oriental History of the City of Lights*

All evening events at the Library are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. We are grateful to GRoW @ Annenberg at the Annenberg Foundation for its continuing support of Evenings with an Author.

Program dates and speakers are subject to change.

Please check the [Events and Programs](#) page for updates

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