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11 June 2024

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Editor: Carolyn Dubol

Gala 2024: How Our Community Supports the Library



Last Thursday more than 265 Library friends convened at the Automobile Club de France for a joyous evening in support of the American Library in Paris. Guest of Honor Maureen Dowd entertained us with her anecdotes of US Presidents, and gave an emotional tribute to D-Day. Thanks to the generosity of our community, this was one of our most successful Galas in our 104-year history, raising over 300,000€ for the Library's collections, programs, and services.

The Board of Trustees and the Library team would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Gala guests, including the following table sponsors:



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Visit the [Library's Flickr page](#) to see photos from the 2024 Gala, captured by Krystal Kenney. If you'd like to find out more about becoming a Library donor or Gala sponsor, please contact giving@americanlibraryinparis.org.





2024–2025 Visiting Fellows and Scholars of Note

The Visiting Fellowship and Scholar of Note program, made possible with the generous support of The de Groot Foundation, aims to foster and strengthen the Library's longstanding tradition of Franco-American cultural exchange by providing writers and researchers the opportunity to pursue creative projects in the vibrant city of Paris and become a part of the American Library in Paris community.

This year the Library received a record number of applications for the American Library in Paris Visiting Fellowship. Following careful deliberation, we are delighted to announce our 2024–25 Visiting Fellows:



C Pam Zhang is the author of two best-selling novels, *How Much of These Hills Is Gold* and *Land of Milk and Honey*. She is a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Honoree, a Booker Prize nominee, and the winner of the Academy of Arts and Letters Rosenthal Award, the Asian/Pacific Award for Literature, and the California Book Award. She has been a finalist for awards from PEN America, the National Book Critics Circle, and the Center for Fiction. Zhang's writing appears in *Best American Short Stories*, *the Cut*, *the New Yorker*, and *the New York Times*.

Zhang will come to the Library in spring 2025 to work on a novel about fashion, identity, cultural hegemony, and the line between imagination and appropriation in an increasingly globalized world.



David A. Bell is the Sidney and Ruth Lapidus Professor in the Department of History at Princeton. A specialist in the history of France, he is the author of seven books, including *The Cult of the Nation in France: Inventing Nationalism, 1680-1800*, *The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It*, and most recently, *Men on Horseback: The Power of Charisma in the Age of Revolution*. He has held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Wilson Center, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Cullman Center at the New York Public Library. He has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Science, and, as a Corresponding Fellow, to the British Academy. A former Contributing Editor of the *New Republic*, he is a regular contributor to the *New York Review of Books* and the *Nation*.

At the Library in spring 2025, Bell will be working on a new social and cultural history of the Enlightenment.

In response to the high number of outstanding candidates for the Visiting Fellowship program, the Scholar of Note distinction was created to acknowledge particularly exceptional applicants. The 2024–2025 Scholars of Note are:

Kirstin Chen, the *New York Times* best-selling author of the novels *Counterfeit*, *Bury What We Cannot Take*, and *Soy Sauce for Beginners*. While in Paris she will be working on her next novel, *Tech Wives*, an exploration of the myth of genius tech founders and the women who support them.

Melissa Febos, the best-selling author of four books, including *Girlhood* and *Body Work: The Radical Power of Personal Narrative*. Her fifth book, *The Dry Season*, is forthcoming in 2025. While in Paris, Febos will be working on *The Waiting Room*, a short novel that takes place over a single day in the life of a scholar who has studied philosophies of pain, and also suffers from it.

A. Kendra Greene, a writer, book artist, and the author and illustrator of *The Museum of Whales You Will Never See*. She has received fellowships from Fulbright, MacDowell, and the Library Innovation Lab at Harvard. Tin House will publish a collection of her essays on curiosity, *No Less Strange or Wonderful*, in 2025. At the Library, Greene will be working on a non-fiction, book-length project on Hell, or *l'enfer*.

The Visiting Fellowship and Scholar of Note program is a testament to the Library's dedication to fostering creativity, scholarship, and cultural exchange. We congratulate all award recipients, and will be thrilled to welcome them to the Library in the coming year.

Plan your Summer Travels at the Library



Are you planning an itinerary for your summer getaway, choosing a destination, or simply seeking some armchair travel over the next few months? Then come browse our latest book display in the Members' Lounge, where we're showcasing pocket guides to global destinations, literary musings on travel, and even cookbooks that will transport you around the world.

All books on display in the Members' Lounge may be checked out. Additional travel books, including guides and travel memoirs, may be found on the Lower Level.

Are magazines more your style? Come to the Members' Lounge to peruse our most popular print titles for travelers and world explorers, such as *National Geographic* and *Condé Nast Traveler*. These magazines, and many, many more, are also available digitally via OverDrive and the Libby App.

If you have questions on how to access our e-resources, please ask at the Member Services desk.

Summer Reading Challenge: For Children, Teens...and Adults!

This year, our annual summer reading program includes challenges for adults, to inspire your reading over the next three months. Pick up a list of reading prompts from the Member Services desk and track your progress. Once you've completed at least two challenges, you can bring your completed form back to the desk by 7 September 2024 to claim your reading reward.

Children and teens are invited this **Saturday 15 June at 14h00** for the **Summer Reading Challenge Kick-Off Event**. You'll learn about the Library's summer reading program, and meet other bookworms. [Click to RSVP](#).

If you cannot make it to the kick-off event, stop by the Children's and Teens' Services Desk for summer booklists, our 2024 Summer Reading Challenge Sheet, a list of 100 Books to Read Before you Grow Up, and giveaways. And ask us about Story Hours and activities for children and teens all summer long!

Readers of all ages: Share your summer reading selections and travel destinations with us on Instagram, tagging @theamericanlibraryinparis and using the hashtag #ALPSummerReading.



Programs for Adults

Evenings with an Author, sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg

Evenings with an Author and other evening programs are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted. You must RSVP to attend our programs, whether you join us in person or via Zoom.

We thank the following for their support: the Florence Gould Foundation, The de Groot Foundation, and the American Center for Art & Culture.



TONIGHT

Annual General Meeting

In Person at the Library.

Tuesday 11 June at 19h00 CEST

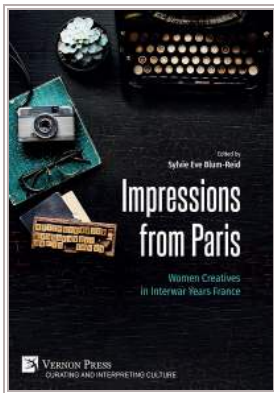
For Library members.

Please show your membership card for admittance.

All members of the American Library in Paris are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the American Library in Paris, Inc., a membership corporation organized under the laws of Delaware and operating in France.

The Library Director, Chairman of the Board, and Board of Trustees will report on activities in 2023.

Open to Library Members. No RSVP required.



Roundtable: Women and Art in Interwar France

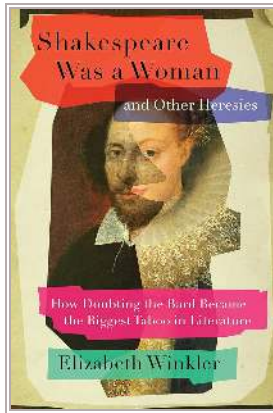
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

Tuesday 11 June at 19h30 CEST

The newly published anthology *Impressions from Paris: Women Creatives in Interwar Years France* studies contributions of women artists and writers who lived in Paris from 1920 through 1940. As scholar Sylvie Blum-Reid writes in her introduction, these women helped to define the cultural and artistic practices of their era, and in doing so, they “left behind traces that still reverberate today.”

The Library welcomes six contributors to this anthology for a roundtable discussion on the enduring legacies of these women.

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



The Shakespeare Industry with Elizabeth Winkler
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 12 June at 19h30 CEST

Shakespeare's biography has mystified academics and armchair fans for centuries. We actually know quite little about his life. What happens when a scholar suggests that, perhaps, those immortal plays weren't all written by one man? That the Bard was an anonymous aristocrat? A spy? Or, even...a woman?

Elizabeth Winkler, author of *Shakespeare Was a Woman and Other Heresies*, explores all sorts of possibilities with humor. But she does much more than suggest alternative narratives to widely-accepted myths; she also delves into why doubters have been castigated and thrown to the literary curb. No matter what side you're on, *Shakespeare Was A Woman and Other Heresies* is more than a detective book for fans of Shakespeare's plays and sonnets—it's a fascinating and truly entertaining analysis of literary and cultural history.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



On Reading with Joanna Biggs and Lauren Oyler
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 18 June at 19h30 CEST

In *A Life of One's Own: None Women Writers Begin Again*, author Joanna Biggs's divorce catalyzes a fascination with women across history whose artistic innovations emerged out of conflict with gender expectations. Considering the likes of Mary Wollstonecraft, Virginia Woolf, and Zora Neale Huston, Biggs discovers the strength and resolution that emerge when one is faced with the task of reconfiguring one's life.

Biggs will appear in conversation with critic and novelist Lauren Oyler, who similarly engages with literary history in her project of shaping and critiquing the literary present. They will discuss the constraints and liberties of writing as women in the contemporary world, creative heritage, and their sense of responsibility toward the future.



[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)

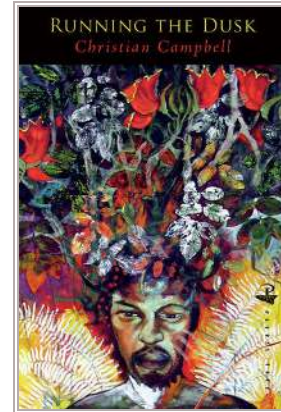


Art and Diaspora:
Christian Campbell and Cornelius Tulloch in Conversation
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 19 June at 19h30 CEST

Join us for a multidisciplinary discussion featuring artist Cornelius Tulloch and 2023–24 Visiting Fellow and poet Christian Campbell. Tulloch will present his exhibition "Elements of Being," which debuted at the 2024 Venice Biennale. This innovative piece blends evocative soundscape compositions, recordings from the Florida Everglades, and dance interpretation to advocate for environmental equality. Tulloch's work is frequently inspired by his Miami upbringing and Jamaican and African-American heritage.

Bahamian and Trinidadian artist Campbell has written both poetic and critical works on diaspora. His collection *Running the Dusk* was described by writer Lisa Allen-Agostini as a "post-postcolonial combination of Caribbean musical forms and richly layered blank verse" whose form seeks "a new expression." Inspired by dance and song, Campbell interrogates the multiplicity and mythology of the Caribbean, inheritance, and the formation of identity. He is currently completing a Visiting Fellowship at the Library.

The Visiting Fellowship is supported by The de Groot Foundation.



RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom

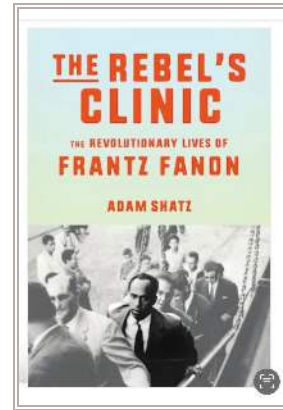


In Focus: An Evening with Claire Denis and Adam Shatz
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 25 June at 19h30 CEST

Claire Denis, visionary filmmaker, is known for her evocative and thought-provoking films that explore complex themes of human experience, identity, and social dynamics. Her work has received critical acclaim for its narrative depth and visual artistry, making her one of the most influential directors in contemporary cinema. Her *Beau Travail* (1999), named one of the greatest films of all time by the British Film Institute, was inspired by Herman Melville's novella *Billy Budd*. *Stars at Noon* (2022) was awarded the Grand Prix at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival. *Both Sides of the Blade* (2022) won Denis the Best Director award at the 2022 Berlin International Film Festival.

Denis will appear in conversation with Visiting Fellow Adam Shatz to explore the intersections of culture, politics, and the arts.

The Visiting Fellowship is supported by The de Groot Foundation.



RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom

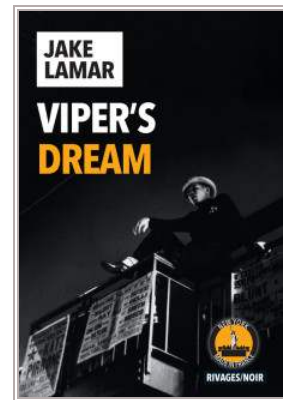


Improvisations: Adam Shatz and Jake Lamar on Jazz
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 26 June at 19h30 CEST

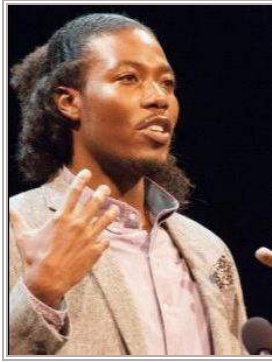
Throughout the 20th century, Paris became a favored destination for Black American musicians, offering an alternative to the racial discrimination faced at home and a more welcoming environment to experiment artistically. Spring 2024 Visiting Fellow Adam Shatz is a New York-based author and critic currently researching the legacy of Black American jazz musicians in Paris. During his residency at the Library, he is investigating the cultural and aesthetic exchanges that Paris made possible, and which helped to transform the work of expatriate musical artists.

Shatz will appear in conversation with Paris-based author Jake Lamar, whose recent novel, *Viper's Dream*, explores the jazz world of mid-century Harlem. Together, Shatz and Lamar will consider the creative dialogue between New York and Paris, their shared heritage of artistic innovation, and the social and political force of jazz from the early twentieth century to today.

The Visiting Fellowship is supported by The de Groot Foundation.



RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



**[The Haitian Revolution Revisited with Christian Campbell](#)
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Thursday 27 June at 19h30 CEST**

American Library in Paris Visiting Fellow Christian Campbell is an acclaimed poet and author of poetry collection *Running the Dusk*. In these poems he moves between Caribbean past, present, and future, asking, “what are the tongues for these times?”

During his Visiting Fellowship at the Library, Campbell is working on a new project that reimagines and dramatizes the life and practice of the Haitian artist Louis Rigaud, who painted fifteen portraits of 19th century Haitian leaders, including Toussaint Louverture. Join Campbell for a preview of this work-in-progress.

The Visiting Fellowship is supported by The de Groot Foundation.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



Find recordings of past programs on our [YouTube](#) channel:

- The Forgotten Soldiers of D-Day with Linda Hervieux and Raymond Kemp
- Warming Up with Madeleine Orr
- The Art of Biography with Stacy Schiff and Elaine Sciolino
- The Examined Life with Scott Hershovitz and Sarah Bakewell
- Annie Ernaux & Photography: An Evening with Lou Stoppard and Lauren Collins
- Lunar Horizons: To the Moon with NASA Experts Christine Shupla and Ryan Zeigler

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Evenings with an Author are free and open to the public (with a 10€ suggested donation) thanks to support from GRoW @ Annenberg, our members, and those who attend programs.



Children's and Teens' News



Watch for summer reading recommendations from Children's and Teens' Services librarians and interns!

Children's Event Highlights

Open to Library members. Advance registration required.

[Story Hour: Fairy Tales and Fables](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 12 June at 14h30

[Summer Reading Challenge Kick-Off Event](#) (ages 0–18) Saturday 15 June at 14h00

[Story Hour: True Stories](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 19 June at 14h30

[Toddler Time](#) (ages 1–3) Thursday 20 June at 11h00

[Electric Circuits: a Workshop](#) (ages 8–12) Saturday 22 June at 11h00

[Poetry Party](#) (ages 0–12) Saturday 22 June at 14h00

[Saturday Series: Summer Crosswords](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 29 June at 11h00

There will be no Story Hour on Wednesday 26 June.

Event Highlights for Teens

Ages 12–18. Free for members. 15€ for non-members. Advance registration required.

[Summer Reading Challenge Kick-Off Event](#) (ages 0–18) Saturday 15 June at 14h00

[Teen Night: Soundtracks \(ages 12–18\)](#) Friday 21 June at 19h00

[Writing Dystopian Fiction with Amy Plum](#) (ages –18) Saturday 6 July at 14h00

[Create a Zine: Interview, Write, Draw](#) (ages 12–18) Saturday 13 July at 14h00

How Can You Help the Library?



As an independent, non-profit institution, we rely on the support and generosity of our community. How can you help the American Library in Paris throughout the year? [Become a member](#) or [renew](#) your Library membership, make an online [donation](#), become a [volunteer](#), and tell your friends about the Library.



The American Library in Paris is an independent, non-profit institution that receives no regular government funding. Your generosity is essential in keeping the Library vibrant and creative.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



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