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**12 December 2023**

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In the event that this *e-Libris* is cut short by your email service, please click the link at the bottom of the email to see the newsletter in its entirety.

Editor: Carolyn Dubol

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## Holiday Closure

The Library closes for its annual holiday break on

**Sunday 24 December** through  
**Monday 1 January**, inclusive.

We reopen on Tuesday 2 January at 10h00.

We offer extended borrowing and custom return dates to accommodate your travel plans.  
Ask at the Member Services Desk!

## New e-Books and e-Audiobooks!



A brand new batch of e-books and e-audiobooks has landed on [OverDrive/Libby](#), just in time for the winter holidays.

While the Library is closed during our annual holiday break, snuggle down with your e-reader and new additions to our digital collection, including Agatha Christie murder mysteries, the most hyped new releases of 2023, and much more.

Wanting to read (or listen to) digital books for the first time?

Speak with our Member Services team for information on how to access our e-audiobook and e-book selections on OverDrive.

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## Audrey Chapuis on *The New Paris* Podcast

Listen to the Library's Executive Director Audrey Chapuis on culture and travel writer Lindsey Tramuta's [The New Paris podcast](#), recorded on 8 December.

In this episode they discuss Audrey's career in libraries and explore the American Library's central role in literary Paris since its founding in 1920.

Lindsey Tramuta, the author of bestsellers *The New Parisienne* and *The New Paris*, has been a frequent speaker at the Library, presenting her own work and appearing in conversation with other featured authors and thinkers.

The podcast is available on [Spotify](#), or wherever you get your podcasts.




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## Last-minute Library-themed Gifts



Are you looking for a holiday gift for a reader in your life?

**Dedicated Donation:** [Make a contribution](#), of any amount, in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. Your gift supports everything you love about the Library: our collection, our programming, and our welcoming spaces.

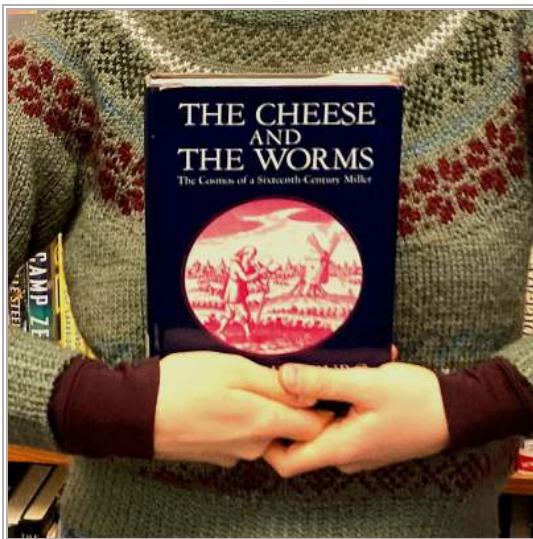
**Membership Gift Certificates:** Ask our Member Services staff how to purchase a Library membership as a gift.

**Tote bags:** Traveling abroad for the holidays and looking for "Parisian" gifts that pack well? Made of organic cotton, responsibly manufactured, and hand screen-printed locally, our tote bags are practical, colorful, and unbreakable! 20€ at the Member Services Desk.

**Books!!!!:** Through our partnerships with independent booksellers in Paris, we're happy to offer the latest works of upcoming Evenings with an Author speakers, for sale now at the Member Services Desk.

On offer now thanks to [Smith&Son](#)? *A Waiter in Paris* by Edward Chisholm, *Enter Ghost* by Isabella Hammad, and *Why Fathers Cry at Night* and *The Door of No Return* by Kwame Alexander.

## Book Display: Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie (1929–2023)



Legendary French historian Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, famous for looking at Ancien Regime history from the perspective of the peasantry, has died at age ninety-four. Focusing on the lives of common people in France, Ladurie challenged history's traditional preoccupation with great leaders, big events, and the upper classes.

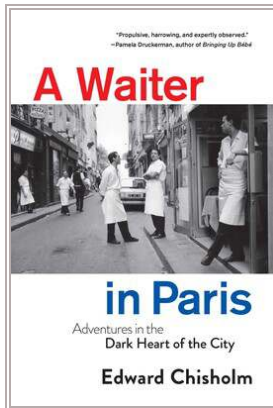
To mark his passing, we've curated a display of Ladurie's histories, as well as key works by other historians that he inspired.

Read the [New York Times's obituary](#) of Ladurie (Library members get [full digital access](#) for free to the online edition) and visit the Members' Lounge to check out the display.

## 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.



**TONIGHT**

**Serving Stories with Edward Chisholm**

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom  
Tuesday 12 December at 19h30 CET**

In his memoir *A Waiter in Paris* (2022), Edward Chisholm vividly captures the precarity of life as a service worker in the City of Light. His thoughtful critiques of contemporary Parisian society simmer beneath the surface of his whirlwind story, which overflows with colorful characters and memorable scenes. The conversation will be moderated by writer, editor, and academic Russell Williams.

Book sale and signing after the event, thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

**RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom**



**TOMORROW**

**Shakespeare in Palestine with Isabella Hammad**

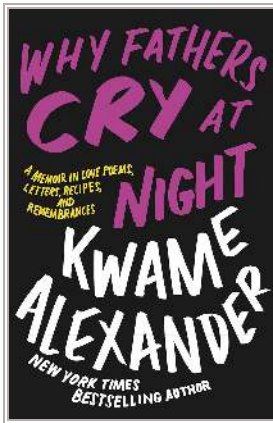
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom  
Wednesday 13 December at 19h30 CET**

In her second novel, *Enter Ghost*, Isabella Hammad tells the story of Sonia, a British-Palestinian actor, who returns to Haifa, Israel, to visit her estranged sister. When Sonia meets a local theater director, she is roped into the staging of *Hamlet* in the historic city of Ramallah, in the West Bank.

As opening night draws near, Sonia, who had drifted from her family and her ancestral home, recognizes the exhilarating possibility of finding a new self in Palestine.

Book sale and signing after the event, thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

**RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom**



**Finding Form, Family, and Fatherhood**  
**with Kwame Alexander and Pamela Druckerman**

**In Person at the Library**

**Wednesday 20 December at 18h00 CET**

Please note the special start time for this event.

Celebrated poet, author, and memoirist Kwame Alexander returns to the Library to discuss his books for children and his recent turn to writing for adults. The conversation will be moderated by journalist Pamela Druckerman.

Readers aged 8+ are invited to attend this event.

Book sale and signing after the event, thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

[RSVP to attend in person](#)



**Critical Conversations Meeting Two:**  
**Athenian Democracy, Collective Intelligence at Work**

**Online: Live on Zoom**

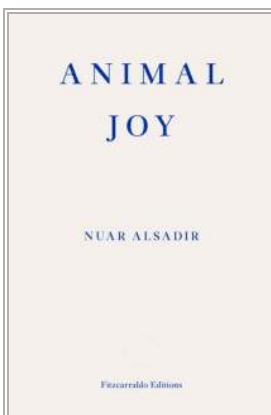
**Thursday 21 December at 19h00 CET**

What would it mean to design a society of participatory, collective problem-solving? One place to look is the often-misunderstood “first democracy” of the Athenians (509–330 BCE). We will explore the core principles that made this system work: filling offices by lottery, “civic tribes,” and a culture of critical thinking and learning by doing. How did the Athenian people create their democracy against the odds? What were its weak points? And what lessons for us today?

Open to members and non-members.

Advance payment and registration is required.

[Register to join Critical Conversations](#)



**Learning to Laugh with Nuar Alsadir**

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

**Wednesday 10 January at 19h30 CET**

Why do humans laugh? Poet and psychoanalyst Nuar Alsadir uses psychology, philosophy, history, personal experience, and more to answer this question in her new book, *Animal Joy*.

Join us to hear the author speak about humanity’s most sacred, ancient art: laughter.

Book sale and signing after the event, thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

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



**Critical Conversations Meeting Three:**  
**Democratic Innovation Across the Globe**

**In Person at the Library**

**Thursday 11 January at 19h00 CET**

Is the Athenian model making a comeback? In this third session of the Library's interactive discussion series, Critical Conversations, we look at how innovations like citizens' assemblies, participatory budgets, and civic technologies are remaking the debate on democracy today—and possibly bringing it closer to its ancient roots.

Open to members and non-members.  
Advance payment and registration is required.

[Register to join Critical Conversations](#)



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

- The Future of Consent with Manon Garcia
- *Slaves for Peanuts* with Jori Lewis and Robin Allison Davis
- The Middle East Crisis: Journalists Look at What's Ahead
- Entre Nous: Possible Lives with Maria Stepanova
- An Evening with Binkady-Emmanuel Hié and Lyneka Little
- Writing Politics with Giuliano da Empoli and Antonio Monda

**GROW@**  
**ANNENBERG**

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

Unless otherwise noted, all Children's events are for Library members only. Teen events are free for Library members, and 15€ per teen for non-members. Advance registration is required for all events for children and teens.



Do you love the YA graphic novel and webcomic series [Heartstopper](#)? So do we! Attend our [Teen Lit Trivia](#) event on Saturday 23 December at 15h00 to meet other fans of YA and test your knowledge. Heartstopper trivia included!

### **Children's Event Highlights**

[Story Hour: Snowy Days](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 13 December at 14h30

[Winter Scavenger Hunt](#) (ages 3–12) Saturday 16 December at 11h00

[Story Hour: Classics and Favorites](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 20 December at 14h30

[Form, Family, & Fatherhood: Kwame Alexander](#) (8+) Wednesday 20 December at 18h00

[Toddler Time](#) (ages 1–3) Thursday 21 December at 11h00

[Saturday Series: Exploring Cut Paper Crafts](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 23 December at 11h00

[Toddler Time](#) (ages 1–3) Thursday 4 January at 11h00

[Folk Song Sing-Along with Emily Bonn](#) (ages 0–12) Saturday 6 January at 11h00

### **Teen Event Highlights**

[The Writers' Room](#) (ages 12–18) Saturday 16 December at 14h00

[Form, Family, & Fatherhood: Kwame Alexander](#) (8+) Wednesday 20 December at 18h00

[Hot Cocoa and Movie Night](#) (ages 12–18) Friday 22 December at 19h00

[Teen Lit Trivia Madness](#) (ages 12–18) Saturday 23 December at 15h00

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## 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.



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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.

The  
American  
Library  
in Paris

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