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The American Library in Paris

ESTABLISHED 1920

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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

Give a Library Gift



What do you give a bibliophile, a francophile, or a logophile this holiday season?

American Library in Paris gifts, of course!

We have:

- A new American Library façade enamel pin, your gift with an in-person donation of 10€ or more
 - Mugs and limited edition tote bags, available for 20€ at the Member Services desk
 - Library gift memberships for your friends and family
 - Shelf dedication plaques, with a 500€ donation.
- Contact giving@americanlibraryinparis.org

Visit the Member Services desk or contact us at info@americanlibraryinparis.org for information on any of our holiday gift ideas.



From the Archives: Bibliothèque Fessart

The Bibliothèque Fessart, a Belleville (19e) branch of the Paris public library system, is celebrating its centennial this month. Founded only two years after the incorporation of the American Library in Paris in 1920, it has a surprising historical connection to our own library.

Jessie Carson, an American librarian, came to the World War I-devastated Aisne region in 1918 to join

Anne Morgan's Comité Américain pour les Régions Dévastées (CARD). While there, she built five American-style public libraries. Carson then brought her expertise to Paris and created the Bibliothèque Fessart, the first French public library in Paris to offer a circulating collection of books on open stacks, a dedicated children's department, and a professional staff.

In 1923, the American Library Association launched their Paris Library School. The school was hosted at the American Library in Paris at 10, rue de l'Élysée, and was partially financed by CARD. The school's initial goal: to train French women to run "modern" public libraries. Some of the the librarians who studied at the Paris Library School went on to staff the Bibliothèque Fessart.

The American Library in Paris's Assistant Director Abigail Altman will participate in a lecture this coming Thursday 17 November about the 1922 founding of the Bibliothèque Fessart:

Thursday 17 November at 19h00
La Mairie du 19e
5-7 Place Armand Carrel
75019 Paris
Free and open to the public, as available seating permits

The Fessart library has prepared [an exposition](#) on its founding history, which will be viewable during opening hours through the end of 2022.



The Paris Library School was located at 10 rue de l'Élysée (8e), above the American Library in Paris. Jessie Carson is seated on the left side of the central table, behind the school's Director Sarah C.N. Bogle. They are surrounded by other faculty and students from the 1923 summer session.

Credit: American Library in Paris institutional archives, photo 7-2 (c) H.C. Ellis

Little Shop of Horrors at the Opéra Comique



This December the Library is partnering with the famed Opéra Comique, founded in Paris in 1714, to offer our community discounted tickets to *Little Shop of Horrors*, the musical comedy featuring a score by Alan Menken and a book and lyrics by Howard Ashman.

The show tells the story of a downtrodden flower shop worker, Seymour, and his sentient (and ravenous) carnivorous plant. The production, based on the 1960 film, began off-Broadway in 1982. Over the decades it has appeared on and off-Broadway, in countless touring, community, and school productions in the US and abroad, and on screen again in a 1986 film featuring Rick Moranis and Steve Martin.

The Opéra Comique is offering a 30% discount to *e-Libris* readers for performances from 18 to 25 December 2022. In order to reserve at this special price, you must purchase your tickets online through this [private link](#).



The musical will be presented in the Opéra Comique's beautiful Belle Époque theater in the 2nd arrondissement. The production will be in French, subtitled in English, and is suitable for those 12 and older.

Thanks and *Bon Voyage* to Pallas-Amenah Morgan



At the end of this month, Front of House Assistant Pallas-Amenah Morgan will graduate from a Master's program in Film and Cinema Studies at University of Kent Paris School of Arts and Culture. She is returning to the US after over a year working with the Library team.

Pallas-Amenah her time at the Library as an intern in the fall of 2021. During her internship she provided event support for children's and teens' programming, including the Halloween Extravaganza and the Young Authors Fiction Festival (YAFF).

She then joined the staff, working with both Member Services and the Children's and Teens' Services Department. Pallas-Amenah developed and led several creative writing and art workshops for teens, and

co-wrote a new script for the Halloween Extravaganza's Haunted Library. She also created engaging social media content for the Library's Instagram account. We thank her for her time, energy, and dedication to the Library and her kind and creative spirit. We wish her a fond farewell and much luck as she embarks on new adventures.

We're Grateful for Volunteer Pat Hallam

In this issue, we celebrate *Evenings with an Author* volunteer Pat Hallam.

Here's what inspired Pat to volunteer at the American Library, in her own words:

"I started volunteering at the Library in 2021 when in-person events resumed after Covid. I worked in libraries my whole career and missed the buzz of meeting patrons and authors, so it was a natural progression to sign up as a Programs Volunteer.

It's a privilege to hear wonderful writers speak about their work, and meeting patrons from all around the world is fascinating. The friendly atmosphere is another bonus!"



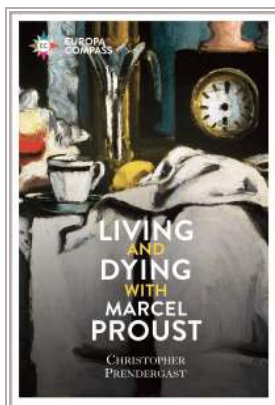
Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Pat and all of our programs volunteers, we're able to present free public events at the Library.

Evenings with an Author is generously supported by GRoW @ Annenberg.

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

Christopher Prendergast: *Living & Dying with Marcel Proust*

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

Tuesday 15 November at 19h30 CET

From recent features at the Musée Carnavalet and the Musée d'art et d'histoire du Judaïsme to uncountable commentaries and historical studies, Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time* remains an object of public fascination and adoration one hundred years after its publication. No one is more qualified to speak on the depths of Proustianism than Christopher Prendergast, general editor of Penguin's English reissues of Proust's *magnum opus*. In new work *Living and Dying with Marcel Proust*, Prendergast maps out the life and mind of Proust, revealing the

genius of the author and the enduring importance of the text.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



TOMORROW

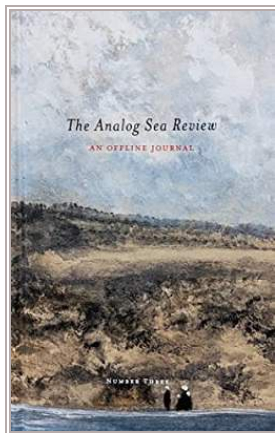
Lauren Bastide on Feminist Futures

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 16 November at 19h30 CET**

What would a truly feminist society look like? In new work *Futur.es*, author Lauren Bastide asks what would happen if feminist principles were pushed beyond gender relations and applied to all aspects of public and private life. The result, she argues, would be a total transformation of our most basic beliefs and practices. From education and prison reform, to love and work, feminist theory could be capable of revolutionizing the modern world and confronting the most pressing issues of the contemporary age. The tools to build the future we want, claims Bastide, are already at our disposal: it is now our responsibility to use them.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



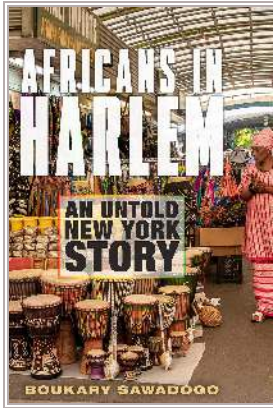
Critical Conversations Series, Meeting One: Overstimulated in a Hyperstimulated World

**In Person at the Library
Thursday 17 November at 19h00 CET**

Join us for this interactive series that allows participants to explore the most compelling issues of our time. Prepare to be intellectually inspired, socially engaged, challenged, and entertained with fellow readers and thinkers as we explore the tensions between digital and offline culture. In partnership with Analog Sea, the offline publisher of printed books. Libations provided by the Library.

Advance registration and payment required.

[Sign up now](#)

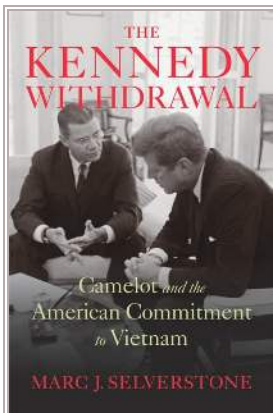


Boukary Sawadogo on
Africans in Harlem: An Untold New York Story
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 22 November at 19h30 CET

Africans are not the face of immigration debates in the United States as has traditionally been the case of other migrant and diasporic groups. Yet, Sub-Saharan African émigrés are growing in many places, doubling their number every ten years since the 1980s to reach two million in 2019. Nowhere is this more vibrant than in the historically Black neighborhood of Harlem in New York City. Join scholar and author Boukary Sawadogo not only to discuss the story of African immigrants in Harlem's most recent renaissance, but also to interrogate the multi-faceted historical connections and exchanges between Africa and Black America through Harlem.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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

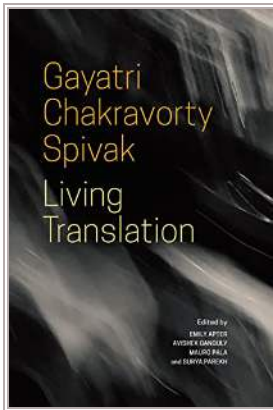


Marc Selverstone in conversation with Charles Trueheart
on *The Kennedy Withdrawal*
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 23 November at 19h30 CET

The Kennedy administration's support for withdrawing from Vietnam, abandoned in the aftermath of President Kennedy's assassination, is an ambiguous and heavily-debated moment in American political history. Did Kennedy himself author this plan? What did he stand to gain politically from such a maneuver, and what was his personal stance on the matter? After careful study of secret White House tapes, historian Marc Selverstone offers a new perspective on the matter in his new work, *The Kennedy Withdrawal*. Selverstone will be in conversation with journalist and former Library Director Charles Trueheart.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



Entre Nous: Thinking Translation
with Gayatri Spivak and Emily Apter
Online and Streamed Live at the Library
Tuesday 29 November at 19h30 CET

What is translatable? How is meaning transferred across languages, and which pockets of signification slip away? *Living Translation*, a collection of Gayatri Spivak's writings, identifies translation as the lynchpin of the comparative humanities. Spivak will converse with philosopher and *Living Translation* editor Emily Apter about thinking, writing, and living in translation.

Spivak and Apter will appear on Zoom, and the conversation will be streamed live at the Library. This event is organized in collaboration with Columbia Global Centers | Paris and the Institute for Ideas and Imagination.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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

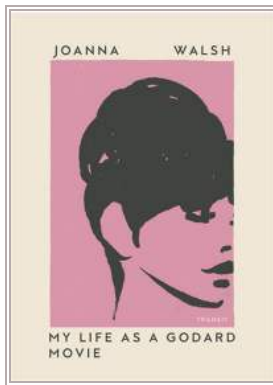


Simon Critchley on Questioning Everything
Online Event: Live on Zoom
Wednesday 30 November at 19h30 CET

The *New York Times*'s philosophy series, The Stone, provides a platform for voices in different fields to speak on timeless philosophical questions. From democracy and ethics to human nature and the meaning of life, The Stone invites authors, artists, politicians, and more to contribute perspectives informed by their crafts. In *Question Everything*, Simon Critchley (the series' moderator) and Peter Catapano (editor) compiled essays published in The Stone which, rather than providing definitive answers, call to attention the value of questioning itself. Critchley will speak about The Stone, the many directions of contemporary philosophy, and the art and importance of questioning in the current day.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)



[Joanna Walsh on My Life as a Godard Movie](#)

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 6 December at 19h30 CET**


"It is rare to find a writer who can take such candid pleasure in beauty—the beauty of faces, figures, clothing, and cities—while also querying its injustices. To watch Godard's films through Joanna Walsh's eyes is to see envy and appreciation, longing and disavowal, walking hand in hand. This book is a gorgeous complex gesture of criticism."


—Merve Emre, writer and critic.

Join Joanna Walsh, author of *Girl Online*, *Break.up* and *Vertigo*, to discuss her new book, *My Life as a Godard Movie*, a meditation on beauty, fashion, desire, politics, youth, art, and Paris, via the 1960s films of Jean-Luc Godard. Walsh will be joined by Summer Brennan.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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

-  Past programs are on YouTube, including Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim on Ecology and Religion; Jeff Deutsch on In Praise of Good Bookstores; H el ene P erivier on The Feminist Economy; and the panel Writing Ukraine.



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Evenings with an Author and other weeknight programs at the Library 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.

Kids' and Teens' News

November is National Native American Heritage Month in the US. It is a time to celebrate the traditions, languages, and stories of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Island communities. We encourage you to explore our collection for children and teens and discover the rich and diverse literature and histories of Native peoples.

Speak with a member of the Children's and Teens' Services team for more suggestions.



Recommended Reads for National Native American Heritage Month

Picture Books:

Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by Kevin Noble Maillard, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal
The People Shall Continue by Simon J. Ortiz
Shi-shi-etko by Nicola I. Campbell, illustrated by Kim LaFave
Stolen Words by Melanie Florence, illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard
The Train by Jodie Callaghan, illustrated by Georgia Lesley
We Are Still Here! by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frané Lessac
We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade
When I Was Eight by Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard
When We Were Alone by David A. Robertson, illustrated by Julie Flett
Wild berries = Pikaci-Minisa, written and illustrated by Julie Flett

Middle Grade:

Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids, edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith
The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich
I Can Make This Promise by Christine Day
The Case of Windy Lake by Michael Hutchinson
Native American Doctor: The Story of Susan LaFlesche Picotte by Jeri Ferris
Race to the Sun by Rebecca Roanhorse
Turtle Island: The Story of North America's First People by Eldon Yellowhorn
Two Roads by Joseph Bruchac

Young Adult:

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
Apple in the Middle by Dawn Quigley
Fighter in Velvet Gloves by Annie Boochever and Roy Peratrovich Jr.
The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales by James Bruchac
Give Me Some Truth by Eric Gansworth
An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline
A Snake Falls to Earth by Darcie Little Badger
Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley

How Can You Help the American 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? Renew your Library membership, make a donation online, become a volunteer, and tell your friends about the Library.

RENEW

DONATE

VOLUNTEER

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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