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# The American Library in Paris

ESTABLISHED 1920

*e-Libris* 18 April 2023

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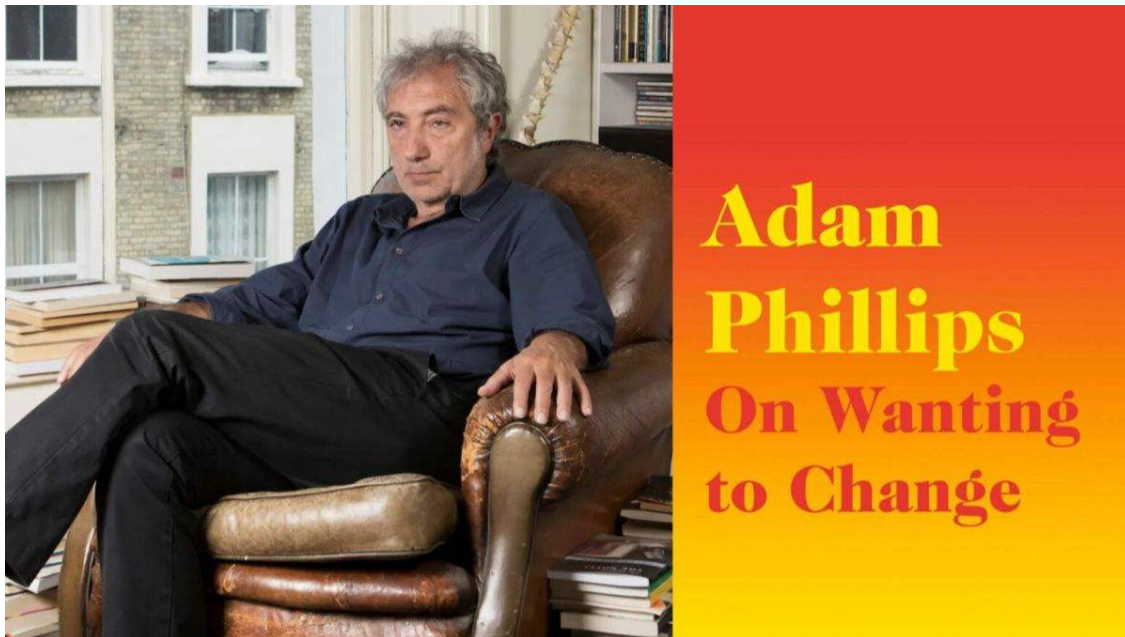
In the event that this *e-Libris* is cut short by your email service, please click the link at the bottom of the email to see the newsletter in its entirety.



Editor: Carolyn Dubol

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## Spring Awakening with Adam Phillips



The trees are blooming, the sun is shining, and tables and chairs are popping up outside bistros along the Paris sidewalks. Everyone can agree that change is in the air. Yet what is really meant by “change”?

Join the **UK’s foremost literary psychoanalyst, Adam Phillips, on Wednesday, 26 April** for a discussion about how we understand change, why we want it, and how to bring it about. Phillips is an expert on change and the many mythologies surrounding it. He argues that the method of psychoanalysis—conversation—could change the way we approach love, social responsibility, and political engagement.

Adam Phillips is the author of *On Wanting to Change*, *On Getting Better*, and over twenty other books, and is the General Editor for the Penguin Modern Classics Freud translations.

**Want to learn more before the event?** Read a recent [article](#) by Phillips in the *London Review of Books* about giving up, his [interview](#) in the *Paris Review*, or Oliver Eagleton’s [review](#) of *On Wanting to Change* in the *Guardian*.

This *Evening with an Author* event is free and open to the public thanks to support from GRoW @ Annenberg. Registration required.

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

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## ***Breaking the Waves with the Opéra Comique***



We are delighted to welcome **Missy Mazzoli**, composer, and **Royce Vavrek**, librettist, to the Library on 9 May at 19h30, to discuss their highly-anticipated staging of *Breaking the Waves* at the [Opéra Comique](#).

Based on Lars Von Trier's award-winning 1996 film, Mazzoli and Vavrek's fresh take on the trials of a devout young woman from a strict Calvinist enclave in Northern Scotland was awarded the International Opera Award for Best World Premiere in 2017. Join them at the Library or on Zoom as they discuss the immense task of adapting age-old problems, from faith and morality to love and community, for the contemporary operatic stage.

Registration is required. This event is hybrid; you may attend either in person or live on Zoom. In-person seating is limited. **A cocktail reception will follow the conversation.**

This event is presented in partnership with the Opéra Comique, with the support of The Florence Gould Foundation, the American Center for Art and Culture, and GRoW @ Annenberg.

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

The Opéra Comique is offering the Library community a generous 40% discount for tickets to *Breaking the Waves*.

*Breaking the Waves*  
28–31 May 2023  
Opéra Comique, Place Boieldieu, 75002 Paris

**To take advantage of this special offer, click [HERE](#).**

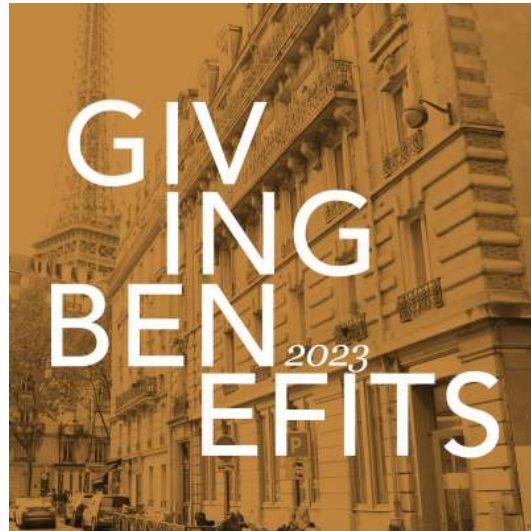
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## The Benefits of Supporting the Library

In 2022, the Library announced a new program that offers special benefits to donors. By the end of that year, over 350 Library supporters had been invited to join one of our giving societies.

Nearly fifty percent of the Library's expenses are covered by donations, and this new benefits program allows us to thank you, our supporters, for your essential role in ensuring the health and vitality of the Library.

If you are not yet a donor and would like to join our community of supporters, please make a gift today during our spring fundraising drive.



### Make a gift

#### **The Library's Giving Societies:**

**Friends of the Library** (50€–249€) — Access to donor-only programs

**Folio Society** (250€–1 999€) — Invitation to the annual Book Award ceremony, as well as invitations to donor-only programs

**Gutenberg Society** (2 000€–9 999€) — Opportunity to sponsor a Dinner with an Author, as well as benefits listed above

**Ex Libris Lux Society** (10 000€ and above) — Annual dinner with Ex Libris Lux donors and Library leadership, an exclusive *cocktail dînatoire* with the Gala honoree, and all benefits listed above

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## Last Chance for Gala Tickets



© Krystal Kenney

There are only two weeks remaining to purchase your tickets for the annual Gala dinner on **1 June** at the Automobile Club de France on the place de la Concorde. This year's celebration will feature honoree **Andrew Sean Greer**, the recipient of the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

This event is the Library's most important fundraiser of the year, and your support directly contributes to the Library's collection, services, and programs. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate with fellow American Library in Paris supporters.

## Gala Tickets

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## Word for Word: Limited Seats Remaining



The beautiful Belle Époque [Théâtre du Ranelagh, 5 rue des Vignes, 75016 Paris](#)

A limited number of tickets are still available for the Word for Word performance of George Saunders' short story, *Home*.

In the play, Mikey, a war veteran, returns home seeking understanding and compassion, but finds a home that is increasingly cruel and absurd. Saunders' subtle yet absurdist humor brings a unique slant to otherwise dark topics. The performance is directed by Word for Word core company member Sheila Balter.

**Home by George Saunders**  
**Tuesday 16 May at 19h30**  
[Théâtre du Ranelagh, 5 rue des Vignes, 75016 Paris](#)

Tickets for HOME

## Celebrating Earth Month on OverDrive



Have you logged into OverDrive recently? Your Library membership gives you access to thousands of e-magazines, e-books, and e-audiobooks, right through the Library's [website](#).

April is National Gardening Month and Earth Month, and to celebrate, Collections and Reference

Librarian (and amateur gardener) Bojan Kupirović has created a curated list of gardening magazines. From fruit to roots, arugula to petunias, we hope this collection will inspire you to develop your green thumb.

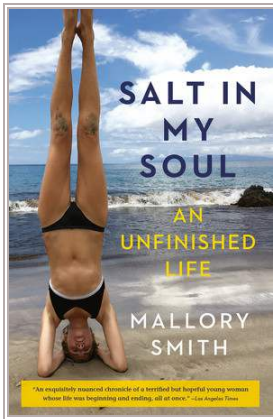
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## Programs for Adults

*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.

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### TONIGHT

#### [Memoir As Medicine with Diane Shader Smith](#)

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom  
Tuesday 18 April at 19h30 CEST**

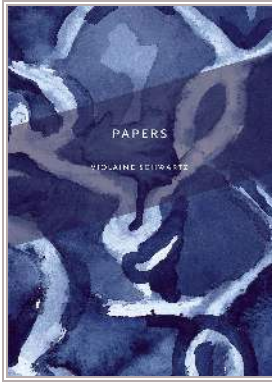
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At the age of twenty-five, Diane Shader Smith's daughter Mallory passed away following a lifelong struggle with cystic fibrosis. A passionate advocate for the cystic fibrosis community and an eloquent writer, Mallory recorded her intimate experiences for the final ten years of her life with the intent to have them published posthumously, thus rendering invisible illness visible. The result is *Salt in My Soul*, a celebration of an inspiring young life, a meditation upon health, and a document of sickness in the twenty-first century. Shader Smith will speak at the Library about medicine, memoir, and the power of storytelling.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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

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## **TOMORROW**

### **Voices of Migration**

**with Violaine Schwartz and Christine Gutman**

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom  
Wednesday 19 April at 19h30 CEST**

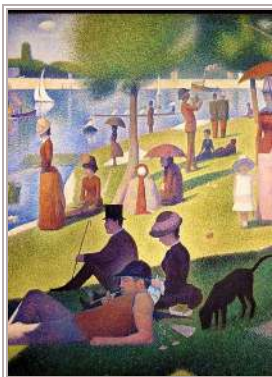
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In *Papers*, author Violaine Schwartz gathers the numerous and varied experiences of those seeking asylum in France. Having survived arduous and often life-threatening journeys from their home countries, the subjects of this collection arrived in France only to learn that their odyssey had not yet ended. This is the story of the second half of their travels: through impenetrable bureaucratic systems, senseless administrative demands, and time itself as their wait for official government recognition draws on. *Papers* is a damning portrait of the conditions of contemporary immigration.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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

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### **Critical Conversations Meeting Six: Leisure**

**In Person at the Library**

**Thursday 20 April at 19h00 CEST**

**Please note the special start time for this event.**

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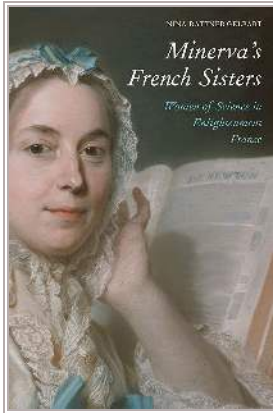
The terms free time and leisure are often used interchangeably. But are they the same? In this seminar, we will ask what defines leisure today: is it something greater than entertainment and relaxation? Do digital tools bring us more or less leisure? Do we feel that we have sufficient leisure in our lives? If not, what stands in the way, and what does the pursuit of true leisure teach us?

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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

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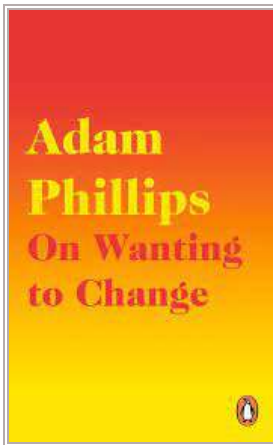


**[Nina Gelbart on the Forgotten Women of the Enlightenment](#)**  
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom**  
**Tuesday 25 April at 19h30 CEST**

The most frequently-cited version of the Enlightenment is that of a group of brilliant men whose contributions to science and the humanities defined the contours of the centuries to come, in France and beyond. Historian Nina Gelbart proposes that we expand this vision of the eighteenth century. In *Minerva's French Sisters*, Gelbart reveals the forgotten stories of six women whose contributions to science rival their most famous male peers. Join her to discuss new approaches to old narratives and the hidden women of the Enlightenment.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



**[Changing our Approach to Change with Adam Phillips](#)**  
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom**  
**Wednesday 26 April at 19h30 CEST**

Can people truly change? When one is unhappy or unwell, is it possible to get better? Adam Phillips, the UK's foremost literary psychoanalyst, thinks that these may not be the right questions to ask. Rather, we should consider what we mean by the terms 'change' and 'get better', and how transformation and self-betterment have been mythologized. Join Phillips to discuss changing our understanding of change and getting better at talking about getting better.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



**[Ecologues Meeting Four: The Food Question](#)**  
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom**  
**Thursday 27 April at 19h00 CEST**

**Please note the special start time for this event.**

While half of the world's habitable land is used to produce our food, fertilizers, sewage, and pesticides contaminate large swathes of the rest. How to feed the world, we might ask, without destroying the planet? **Journalist George Monbiot** and **[IDDRI](#) Executive Director Sébastien Treyer** discuss.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



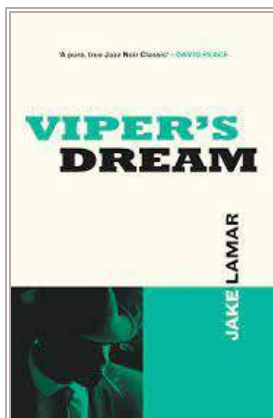
### [Writing to the Moon with Fatoumata Kébé](#)

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom**  
**Tuesday 2 May at 19h30 CEST**

The moon has been the subject of human fascination since the dawn of recorded history. Celebrated in epic poetry and sacred texts, spanning ancient mythology and modern physics, it has been the object of awe, worship, investigation, and analysis across every era of civilization. In *Letters to the Moon*, astronomer Fatoumata Kebe celebrates the capacity of science to explain myth, and of myth to poeticize science.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



### [High Hopes and Harlem's Hidden Histories with Jake Lamar](#)

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom**  
**Wednesday 3 May at 19h30 CEST**

Join author Jake Lamar, in conversation with professor Marcus Bruce, to discuss Lamar's celebrated noir novel, *Viper's Dream*. A rich and atmospheric portrait of mid-century Manhattan's dark underbelly, the novel tells the story of an aspiring jazz musician's descent into the Harlem drug trade. In *Viper's Dream*, Lamar redefines the crime genre, infusing it with tension and depth. The author navigates murder, betrayal, romance, and jazz with skill, masterfully crafting a book both politically charged and poetically written.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



**[The Road to the Opéra Comique  
with Missy Mazzoli and Royce Vavrek](#)**

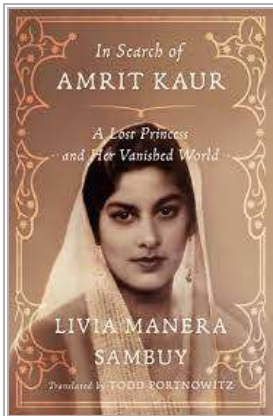
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom  
Tuesday 9 May at 19h30 CEST  
Cocktail reception to follow.**

We are delighted to welcome Missy Mazzoli, composer, and Royce Vavrek, librettist, to discuss their highly-anticipated staging of *Breaking the Waves* at the Opéra Comique. Based on Lars Von Trier's award-winning 1996 film, Mazzoli and Vavrek's fresh take on the trials of a devout young woman from a strict Calvinist enclave in Northern Scotland was awarded the International Opera Award for Best World Premiere in 2017. Join them at the Library as they discuss the immense task of adapting age-old problems, from faith and morality to love and community, for the contemporary operatic stage.

This program is presented in partnership with the Opéra Comique, with support from the Florence Gould Foundation and the American Center for Art and Culture.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



**[A Hidden Figure of Wartime Paris with Livia Manera Sambuy](#)**  
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom  
Wednesday 10 May at 19h30 CEST**

When journalist Livia Manera Sambuy discovered a striking portrait of princess Amrit Kaur in a Mumbai museum, she had no idea who the luminous figure was, much less the journey that lay ahead of her in excavating Kaur's history. Fascination with Kaur led to a search across the globe for information on her past, which in turn uncovered Kaur's participation in the resistance effort against the Nazis, her commitment to the fight for women's rights, a complicated family life, and a tragic death following imprisonment in a concentration camp. Equal parts moving and riveting, Sambuy's tale of Kaur's inspiring life and living legacy is infused with remarkable, improbable stories of figures across history and the reminder that every individual is part of a cause bigger than themselves.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



**Critical Conversations Meeting Seven: Art in Dark Times**

**In Person at the Library**

**Thursday 11 May at 19h00 CEST**

**Please note the special start time for this event.**

In the seventh meeting of our expert-led discussion series, we will explore the purpose of art during dark times—ecological and political crises, war, genocide. Before the Romantic revolution, music and art helped to organize society and structure meaning. In contrast, is art today only about pleasure? Or might the arts and letters play an integral role in nourishing civil society and democracy? What is the role of the writer and artist under authoritarianism, under tyranny? Even if they eschew conventional activism, can artists nonetheless help maintain not only healthy minds but healthy societies too?


Registration required.

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

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



- *Entre Nous: Data’s Human History* with Chris Wiggins and Matthew Jones
- *Feminism Today* with Kate Kirkpatrick and Manon Garcia
- *Returning to East Berlin* with Jenny Erpenbeck and Claire Messud
- *Reimagining Race* with Mohsin Hamid
- *Ecologues: The Energy Question* with Emi Bertoli, Tom Burke, Golnoosh Mir Moghtadaei, and Andreas Rüdinger



**GROW@ANNENBERG**

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.

**Children's and Teens' News**

Unless otherwise noted, all events are for Library members, and advanced registration is required.



(left to right) Celeste, Jason, Laurine (Library volunteer), and Elizabeth (Library volunteer)

### **New fiction, new call numbers!**

Did you know that Children's and Teens' Services receives shipments of new books each month? Our Children's and Teens' Services Manager Celeste Rhoads is constantly on the lookout for the best new titles to add to our collections. Since our expansion of the Children's Library and Teen Mezzanine in 2020, hundreds of additional novels for children and teens have been added to our collection.

Since our fiction offerings for young readers have grown significantly, Assistant Children's and Teens' Services Librarian Jason Hazard is spearheading an effort to update call numbers, so that books are easier for members to find and easier for our volunteers to shelve. Library volunteers Elizabeth, Fransje, Kathy, Heather, and Zoe are supporting the project with technical processing (adding bookplates, barcodes, RFID tags, and labels).

As always, the Children's and Teens' Services team is happy to assist if you need help locating a book.

### **Annual Read-a-Thon begins soon!**

Each year the American Library in Paris and Message Paris co-organize a Read-a-Thon to encourage vacation reading, and to raise funds for the Library.

Over a one-week period, from 24 April through 30 April, participants are encouraged to read as much as possible and collect donations based on the number of minutes that they read. All participants who turn in a completed Read-a-Thon pack and a donation from at least one sponsor will be entered into a prize drawing at the final celebration on the Library's 103rd birthday on 20 May. Prizes, which have been donated by local businesses, will be awarded for top readers in each of the following categories: ages 0–3, ages 4–8, ages 9–12, and ages 12–18.

The Read-a-Thon is open to children and teens who are members of Message Paris or the Library.

[Click](#) to find out more!

### Children's Event Highlights

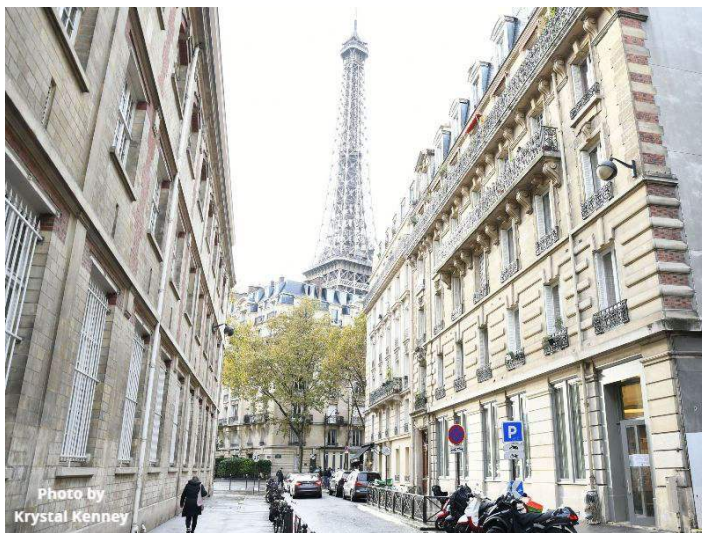
- [Upcycled Crafts](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 22 April at 11h00
- [Bookworms Book Club: The Crossover](#) (ages 9–12) Saturday 29 April at 11h00
- [Game Day](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 6 May at 11h00
- [Blackout Poetry](#) (ages 8–12) Sunday 7 May at 14h00
- [Silly Songs with Matt Black](#) (all ages) Saturday 13 May at 11h00
- [Story Hour: Birthdays](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 17 May at 14h30
- [Humans vs. Zombies](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 20 May at 11h00

### Teen event highlights (ages 12–18)

- [Capture the Flag](#)—Friday 21 April at 19h00
- [Wordle Spades](#)—Saturday 13 May at 14h00
- [The Vocabulary of U.S. College Admissions with College Goals](#)—Sunday 14 May at 14h00
- [Teen Night: Movies Based on Books](#)—Friday 19 May at 19h00
- [BookTok Trivia](#)—Sunday 28 May at 14h00

SAVE THE DATE: [The 11th Annual Literary Reaping](#)—Saturday 17 June at 19h00

## 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

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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.

[BECOME A LIBRARY MEMBER](#)

[www.americanlibraryinparis.org](http://www.americanlibraryinparis.org)



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