

[View this email in your browser](#)



2 April 2024

- [Book Award Winner Katherine J. Chen Returns](#)
- [Archipel\(s\) at the Opéra Comique](#)
- [May History Tours](#)
- [Reverberations Review](#)
- [Les Années Folles Photos](#)
- [Programs for Adults](#)
- [Children's and Teens' News](#)
- [How Can You Help the Library?](#)

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

Book Award Winner Katherine J. Chen Returns



Katherine J. Chen won the 2023 American Library in Paris Book Award last November for her fictional retelling of the life of Joan of Arc, *Joan: A Novel*. The book combines meticulous research with imaginative storytelling, bringing her main character to life and offering a nuanced exploration of faith, power, and gender dynamics in medieval France.

Chen returns to the Library on 9 April for an Evenings with an Author conversation with medieval scholar Patricia Dailey, an Associate Professor at Columbia University and currently a Faculty Visitor at the Institute for Ideas & Imagination in Paris. The talk is free and open to the public.

Chen will also be leading a two-part writing workshop on 11 and 13 April. This seminar-like discussion is for those interested in fiction and creative nonfiction, and participants are encouraged, but not required, to submit an excerpt of a current writing project when registering. 40€ for members and 60€ for nonmembers.

Click below to RSVP for the 9 April talk or register for the writing workshop.

The American Library in Paris Book Award is supported by the Florence Gould Foundation. Evenings with an Author is sponsored by GROW @ Annenberg.

Heroines and Historical Fiction with Katherine J. Chen, Tuesday 9 April at 19h30 CEST

Spring 2024 Workshop: Crafting Histories With Katherine J. Chen

***Archipel(s)* at the Opéra Comique**



On Wednesday 17 April at 19h30, we welcome the creative team of the Opéra Comique's new production, *Archipel(s)*, to the Florence Gould Reading Room.

Librettist Adrien Borne, choreographer Ewan Jones, and stage director James Bonas will discuss the process of creating this brand-new show for and with the Opéra Comique's youth theater troupe, La Maîtrise Populaire de L'Opéra Comique.

The Opera Comique is kindly offering discounted tickets to *Archipel(s)* to the Library community. Use the link below to see the show on Sunday 28 April, Friday 3 May, and Sunday 5 May for 15€–30€.

[Purchase Discounted Tickets to Archipel\(s\) at the Opéra Comique](#)

May History Tours



The Library's birthday is 20 May, when we'll be celebrating 104 years of service in Paris. We can't think of a better way to honor our history than to learn more about it!

We've just released May dates for our expert-led History Tour, and we still have spots available in April. This free one-hour talk takes you through our WWI origin story, the *Années Folles* and the Lost Generation of American writers who perused our stacks, WWII and the brave librarians who kept the Library open during the Occupation, and much more.

Click below and join us this spring for a deep dive into Library history.

[Sign up for a History Tour](#)

Reverberations Review



Above, Composer-in-Residence Nia Imani Franklin and Cultural Fellows Royce Vavrek and Missy Mazzoli in conversation in the Florence Gould Reading Room. Below right, Franklin performs at the Library. Below left, writer Patricia Lockwood in conversation.

Last week we marked the culmination Reverberations, our first-ever music festival celebrating innovations in the musical arts, and the musicality inherent in literature.

This month-long series of conversations, performances, and workshops included a concert by Composer-in-Residence Nia Imani Franklin, incorporating opera, spirituals, jazz, and original pieces. Our first Cultural Fellows, composer Missy Mazzoli and librettist Royce Vavrek, presented their past operatic collaborations, and we learned about their upcoming production at the Metropolitan Opera. In a roundtable discussion, Franklin, Vavrek, and Mazzoli considered their roles as change makers in opera, and shared the importance of advocacy and engagement in the contemporary arts.





As we brought song into the Florence Gould Reading Room, we also discussed the musical aspects of poetry and prose. Selby Schwartz presented her debut novel, *After Sappho*, which twists the device of the Greek Chorus by giving voice to a collective female "we." Poet and prose fiction writer Vanessa Onwumezi shared her thoughts on style, rhythm, and musicality in her writing. Patricia Lockwood, the spring 2024 Writer-in-Residence, led a workshop exploring the sounds and voices of short-form writing, from social media, to poetry, to "three line novels."

Our innovative Reverberations programming was made possible in partnership with the Opéra Comique and with the generous support of Festival Napa Valley, the Florence Gould Foundation, and Writer-in-Residence program sponsor The de Groot Foundation.

If you missed any Reverberations events or would like to rewatch a concert or conversation, please visit our [YouTube channel](#) for recordings of our programs.

Les Années Folles Photos



On 21 March the Library community celebrated *Les Années Folles* at a 1920s themed party at the iconic La Coupole dance hall. Over 160 guests were introduced to more than a dozen writers and historians who specialize in the era's literary history, as well as artists and writers in Paris for the Library's March music festival, Reverberations. The party also included a live jazz quartet, food and drinks, and dance lessons on the period's most popular steps.

Photos of the evening, taken by photographer Augusta Sagnelli, can be viewed on the Library's [Flickr](#)

[page.](#)

The Library is grateful to the following sponsors for supporting the event: Jacqueline Kay Cessou and Pascal Collange; Jade Vu Henry and Fabrice Henry; Dan and Laura Huehn; Lise Hartman de Fouchier and Bertrand de Fouchier; Kathryn Portle; John and Alice Berry; Ann and Don Morrison; and Laura Wenke.

Special thanks to the following corporate sponsors:



LandMark Design France. Purchases. Renovations. Interior decoration. Sales.

Domaine des
Cœuriots

VÉZELAY. GRAND VIN DE BOURGOGNE

Le Domaine de Cœuriots. A small, organic winery nestled in 10 hectares of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes, hand harvested and carefully crafted into AOC Vézelay and Bourgogne appellations.



Rogan & Associates Financial Planners. A full-service financial planning advisory firm focused on individuals and families, based in the US.

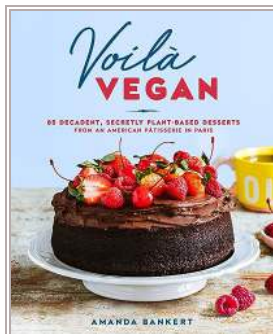
The evening was made possible by the support and generosity of the Library's Advisory Council, as well as Library staff and volunteers who worked to make this event a success.

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: IN PERSON FULL. ZOOM STILL AVAILABLE.

[Plant-Based Paris: The Future of Vegan Cuisine with Amanda Bankert and David Lebovitz](#)

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

In 2015, Amanda Bankert opened Boneshaker Donuts and Coffee in Paris. Her donuts, like the rest of her baking, are entirely vegan: Bankert draws from her judicious sweet tooth and her Le Cordon Bleu training to create mouthwatering, plant-based desserts without sacrificing an ounce of quality. Her new cookbook, *Voilà Vegan*, experiments with a blend of French and American techniques.

Bankert will appear at the Library in conversation with internationally acclaimed food writer David Lebovitz.

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

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)



TOMORROW

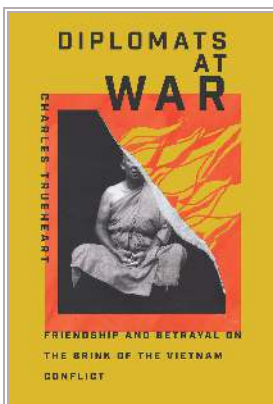
[Brown Diaspora: An Evening with Moon Charania](#)
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 3 April at 19h30 CEST

Moon Charania is a writer and scholar whose work explores race, gender, and diasporic studies. In her new book, *Archive of Tongues: An Intimate History of Brownness*, Charania uses her own mother's story as a prism to refract the broader experiences of brown women around the world. The book invites us to reconsider the foundational assumptions of feminist, queer, and postcolonial studies. The author will appear in conversation with Sandeep Bakshi, a lecturer in postcolonial and queer literatures.

This conversation is part of the International Library, an event series launched in collaboration with the [Center for Fiction](#) in Brooklyn and the [Center for the Art of Translation](#) in San Francisco.

Book sale and signing after the event.

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



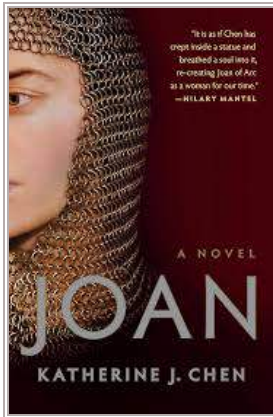
[Charles Trueheart presents Diplomats at War](#)
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Thursday 4 April at 19h30 CEST

The Library is delighted to welcome former American Library in Paris Director, and current Trustee, Charles Trueheart, who will present his new memoir, *Diplomats at War*.

Charles Trueheart's godfather, Frederick "Fritz" Nolting, was US ambassador to South Vietnam from 1961 to 1963. His father, William Trueheart, was Nolting's second-in-command. The author draws from personal memory, family records, and his decades of experience as a political reporter to chart the breakdown of his father and Nolting's friendship, alongside the story of the US's involvement in Vietnam.

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

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



Heroines and Historical Fiction with Katherine J. Chen
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 9 April at 19h30 CEST

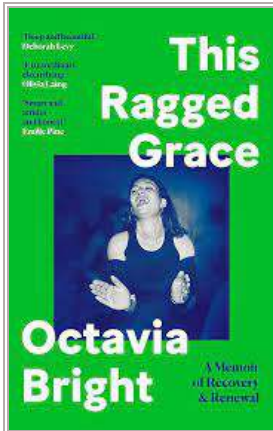
Katherine J. Chen, winner of the 2023 American Library in Paris Book Award, returns to the Library to discuss her account of the life of Joan of Arc, *Joan: Novel*. Chen delves into the complexities of Joan's character, presenting her not just as a martyr and saint, but as a flesh-and-blood young woman with fears, ambitions, and a formidable sense of purpose. Combining meticulous research with imaginative storytelling, *Joan* offers a nuanced exploration of faith, power, and gender dynamics in medieval France.

The author will appear in conversation with Patricia Dailey, a medieval scholar who focuses on histories of gender and sexuality.

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

The American Library in Paris Book Award is generously supported by the Florence Gould Foundation.

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



Recovery and Renewal with Octavia Bright
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 10 April at 19h30 CEST

In her memoir *This Ragged Grace*, writer and broadcaster Octavia Bright explores two events from her life that coincided in the same period: her recovery from addiction and her father's descent into dementia. Her work challenges conventional narratives around grief, putting forward a more nuanced understanding that embraces its messy, nonlinear process.

In this program, Bright will reflect upon her approach to writing memoir, her multi-faceted perspectives on grief and sobriety, and the roles that literature, philosophy, and art have played in her recovery.

Bright is the co-host of the popular podcast [Literary Friction](#).

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

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



**Crafting Histories with Katherine J. Chen:
A Two-part Writing Workshop**

In Person at the Library

Thursday 11 April at 19h00 CEST (Session 1)

Saturday 13 April at 15h00 CEST (Session 2)

Join Book Award Winner Katherine J. Chen for a two-part workshop and conversation with on the craft of writing. This workshop is open to participants who are interested in having either their fiction or creative nonfiction read and discussed in a supportive environment; it is a space to ask questions, to circulate ideas, and to have an open, seminar-like discussion. Katherine will also share her own research and writing process.

Only 15 spots available
Library member rate: 40€
Non-member rate: 60€

If you choose, you may submit a manuscript when registering. (20 pages max).

[Register to attend in person](#)



Music and Mingle: The Bow and the Brush with Dan Flanagan

In Person at the Library; Reserved for Library members.

Tuesday 16 April at 19h30 CEST

Library members seeking to foster new friendships, build their networks, and celebrate the arrival of spring in good company are invited to an evening of solo violin performance accompanied by projections of visual art.

Violinist Dan Flanagan will play his own compositions as well as those by eighteen other New Music composers. All of the pieces are inspired by important artworks by Pissarro, Rfaëlli, Guillaumin, and Pinchon, as well as works by living visual artists including Paul Gibson, Nikki Vismara, and Elaine Prat.

[Register to attend in person](#)



The Opéra Comique presents Archipel(s)

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

Wednesday 17 April at 19h30 CEST

Join us in welcoming the Opéra Comique back to the Library and discover their new show *Archipel(s)*. Commissioned by their youth theater troupe La Maîtrise Populaire de L'Opéra Comique, this production combines singing, acting, and dance. The story, inspired by a series of workshops conducted with the Maîtrise's pupils, is an exploration of coming-of-age and how young people follow, or choose to break, society's rules.

Writing Workshop with Book Award Winner Katherine J. Chen
Librettist Adrien Borne, choreographer Ewan Jones, and stage director James Bonas will offer a behind-the-scenes perspective on the show's creation and share their thoughts on opera's place in the future.

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



[Play and Creativity: A Workshop with Lillian Davies and Chloe Briggs](#)

In Person at the Library

Thursday 18 April at 19h00 CEST

Please note the special start time for this workshop.

Writer Lillian Davies and artist Chloe Briggs's collaboration began with a conversation while observing their children at play in the Parc de Belleville in Paris. Their resulting book, *Playgrounds*, is set up like a workbook and uses images and text to explore how public spaces can activate creativity and create a sense of community and connection. The authors also show how play—the freedom to imagine the world differently—is essential to our artistic endeavors.

Guided by the authors, workshop participants will complete creative exercises inspired by *Playgrounds*. The event will wrap up with participants sharing their creations to foster a sense of camaraderie and mutual inspiration.

Open to all ages. Book sale and signing after the event.

[RSVP to attend in person](#)



[US Presidential Elections: Journalists Look at What's Ahead](#)

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

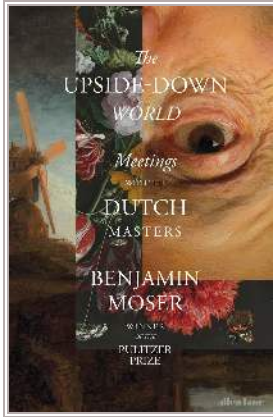
Tuesday 23 April at 19h00 CEST

Please note the special start time for this event.

The upcoming US presidential race has provoked anxiety, not only among American voters but also around the world. The results will have profound domestic and international implications on many fronts: immigration, the war in Ukraine, the Middle East, NATO, Russia, the Supreme Court.

Join us for a ninety-minute media panel moderated by Vivienne Walt, in partnership with the Overseas Press Club of America, to discuss how the campaign is going, what to look for in the months ahead, and to answer your questions.

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



Looking to Art At Home and Abroad with Benjamin Moser
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 24 April at 19h30 CEST
 Cocktail reception to follow.

In 2002, at the age of twenty-five, Benjamin Moser moved from New York to the Netherlands. In search of anchors to his new home, he began paying visits to Dutch art museums, where he developed a fascination with the 17th century paintings produced by the “Dutch Masters” such as Rembrandt and Vermeer. In his new book, *The Upside-Down World: Meetings with the Dutch Masters*, Moser delves into the details of the lives of the artists, drawing from scant historical records to generate imaginative biographies of these beloved painters.

Moser will appear in conversation with journalist and author Pamela Druckerman.

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

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



Lunar Horizons: To the Moon with NASA Experts
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Thursday 25 April at 19h30 CEST

NASA's upcoming crewed mission to the Moon, Artemis III, is currently scheduled for 2026, marking humanity's first return to the lunar surface in over 50 years, and the first-ever visit to the lunar South Pole. The astronauts' objectives will include conducting scientific research and performing a series of moonwalks.

Scientists Ryan Zeigler, Lunar Sample Curator at NASA, and Christine Shupla, responsible for scientific engagement at the non-profit Lunar Planetary Institute, will discuss the latest and greatest advancements in lunar research. They will share ideas on science education and literacy, and how we can make learning about lunar science accessible to all.

This event is presented in partnership with Ephémérides, the organization founded by French astrophysicist Fatoumata Kébé.

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



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



- The Female Khoros with Selby Wynn Schwartz
- Roundtable: The State of the Arts with Missy Mazzoli, Royce Vavrek, and Nia Franklin
- Strange Dreams: An Evening of Music with Cultural Fellows Missy Mazzoli and Royce Vavrek
- Safe Haven: A Performance by Composer-in-Residence Nia Franklin
- Magazine Launch: *Journal*
- Journeys in Sound and Sight with Dimitris Lyacos and Vanessa Onwuemezi
- Lessons from Language with Brian Dillon

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



The submission period for the Young Authors Fiction Festival closed on 1 April. Over 1,000 short stories were sent in by children and teens from all over France, with the participation of over sixty-five schools. What's next for the contest entries?

The short stories will soon arrive in the hands of over 140 volunteer judges. Each entry will be read and evaluated by at least three separate judges before the finalists are chosen.

YAFF culminates in a Celebration Event at the American Library in Paris on Friday 14 June 2024. All participants, their parents and teachers, and YAFF judges are invited to attend the ceremony, where the top five stories in each grade level will be announced.

Each finalists' story will be published in the YAFF Celebration Booklet, which will be available for purchase from the Library during the Celebration Event and will join our permanent circulating collection.

More information about the Celebration Event and the Celebration Booklets will be released closer to the date.

Best of luck to all who participated!

Children's Event Highlights

Open to Library members. Advance registration required.

[Story Hour: What Do Artists Do?](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 3 April at 14h30

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

[Music Together with Stacey Pavesi Debré](#) (ages 0–5) Saturday 6 April at 11h00

[Story Hour: Maps and Geography](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 10 April at 14h30

[Saturday Series: Create a Comic](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 13 April at 11h00

[Alphabet Art in the City](#) (ages 3–12) Saturday 13 April at 16h00

[Story Hour: Making Friends](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 17 April at 14h30

[Toddler Time](#) (ages 1–3) Thursday 18 April at 11h00

[Saturday Series: Upcycled Art](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 20 April at 11h00

[Saturday Series: Basket Weaving](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 27 April at 11h00

Event Highlights for Teens

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

[Focus on Paris: Creating Zines](#) (ages 12–18) Saturday 6 April at 16h00

[Teen Night: Capture the Flag](#) (ages 12–18) Friday 12 April at 19h00

[Teen Night: Candlestick in the Library](#) (ages 12–18) Friday 19 April at 19h00

[Writing A College Admission Essay](#) (ages 14–18) Saturday 27 April at 14h00

[Great Value Programs, Degrees, & Experiences](#) (ages 14–adult) Sunday 28 April at 14h00

[Teen Night: 12th Annual Literary Reaping](#) (ages 12–18) Friday 24 May at 19h00

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.



The American Library in Paris
10 rue du Général Camou
Paris, France 75007
FR

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).