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*e-Libris 2 May 2023*

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Editor: Carolyn Dubol

## Upcoming Holiday Closure

**The Library will be closed on Thursday 18 May 2023 for Jeudi de l'Ascension (Ascension).** We will reopen on Friday 19 May at 10h00.

**The Library is always closed on Mondays**, including on the French national holidays on  
Monday 8 May 2023 — Fête de la Victoire 1945 (WWII Victory Day)  
Monday 29 May 2023 — Lundi de Pentecôte (Whit Monday)

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## History Tours in July

We've just added July 2023 dates for our History Tours.

Sign up for a free Tour on **July 7, 21, or 28** and take a dive into the Library's archives to discover our rich 103-year history.

Please don't wait to sign up—spots will fill up very quickly!

Click below to register, and to find out more.



[History Tour Signup](#)

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## *Breaking the Waves at the Opéra Comique*



On 9 May, **Missy Mazzoli**, composer, and **Royce Vavrek**, librettist, will come to the Library to discuss their highly-anticipated staging of *Breaking the Waves* at the [Opéra Comique](#).

To honor the occasion, 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 below.

## Breaking the Waves Tickets

### 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

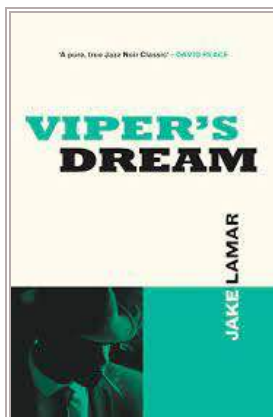
[Writing to the Moon with Fatoumata Kébé](#)

**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 *La lune est un roman*, astronomer Fatoumata Kebe tells us the story of the moon, and of the humans looking at, studying, writing about, rhapsodizing, and loving it.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



#### TOMORROW

[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, Royce Vavrek, Sydney Mancasola, and Nicolas Chesneau](#)**

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom  
Tuesday 9 May at 19h30 CEST**

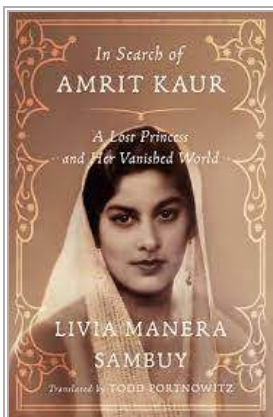
**Cocktail reception to follow.**

We are delighted to welcome Missy Mazzoli, composer, and Royce Vavrek, librettist, alongside singer Sydney Mancasola and pianist Nicolas Chesneau 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, to 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**

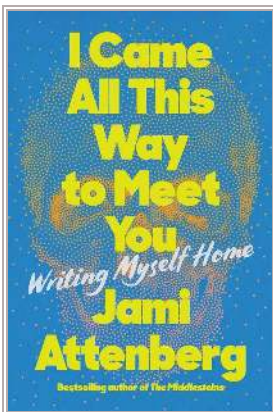
**Thursday 11 May at 19h00 CEST**

**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



### **Jami Attenberg and Lauren Collins on Writing Through Life**

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

**Tuesday 16 May at 19h30 CEST**

Celebrated novelist Jami Attenberg's new memoir, *I Came All This Way to Meet You*, details a life on the road, and the many ways one can create a home. The book celebrates the rejection of a conventional life in favor of spontaneity and creativity. Throughout it all, we learn, Attenberg found solace in writing: in lieu of a static existence, she sought stability in the practice of her craft. Attenberg, in conversation with author Lauren Collins, will discuss the many roads taken to arrive back at herself.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



**The Humanities in Crisis? with Merve Emre**  
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom**  
**Wednesday 17 May at 19h30 CEST**

In anticipation of her forthcoming monograph, *Post-Discipline: Literature, Professionalism, and the Crisis of the Humanities*, join Merve Emre for a discussion about two curious phenomena. On the one hand, we the Academy faces a veritable crisis: Against a backdrop of program closures, decreasing student enrollments, and budget cuts, the study of English and history at the collegiate level in America has fallen by a third over the last decade. On the other hand? Professional schools in medicine, law, and business have emerged as new sites for literary study and teaching, drawing productive links between reading literature and in-the-world practice. How did this happen? And what will happen next?

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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

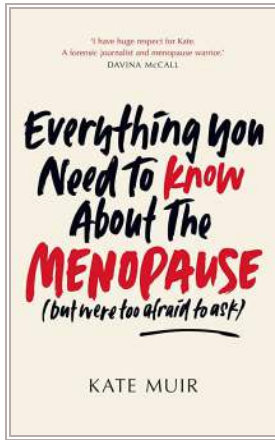


**Cécile Wajsbrot, Tess Lewis, and Anne Weber**  
**on the Task of Translation**  
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom**  
**Tuesday 23 May at 19h30 CEST**

In Cecile Wajsbrot's *Nevermore*, a translator haunted by her past moves to a town with its own dark history, to begin a translation of Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*. Confronting the violent scars of World War II in Woolf's writing and in Dresden, her new home, our narrator experiences a fusion of the space of the novel with the space around her. As a translator, she is trained to navigate different worlds. Yet with this project, she risks losing herself entirely in this new realm where time, space, and language—much like waves at sea—overlap. Wajsbrot will speak with translators Anne Weber and Tess Miller about the task of the translator, finding the language to recreate destroyed epochs, and the fragile boundaries between literature and life.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



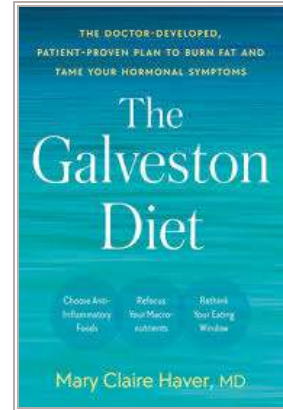
**Breaking the Silence on Menopause with Dr. Mary Claire Haver and Kate Muir**

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom  
Wednesday 24 May at 19h30 CEST**

Menopause occurs in every menstruating body. Yet few know what to expect when they begin experiencing it, and even fewer understand the science behind the process. Lack of research and cultural taboos around discussions of menstruation have contributed to a general cultural ignorance surrounding the subject, which translates into ill-preparedness and inadequate treatment when it happens.

**Dr. Mary Claire Haver, MD**, has devoted her life to developing nutrition strategies aimed at combating the adverse effects of menopause-induced hormonal changes. **Kate Muir** has written books and produced documentaries on the subject. Together, the two women will discuss the reality of menopause, the stigmas associated with talking about it, and the importance of breaking the silence.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.



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



**Environmental Economics with Bianca Getzel, Marlowe Hood, Rigo Melgar-Melgar, and Timothée Parrique**

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom  
Thursday 25 May at 19h00 CEST**

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

Whether de-growth or green growth, the circular economy or the end of the capitalist economy as we know it, environmental economics, the study of how we use and manage finite resources, help us understand negative externalities, public goods, and market failures.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



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

- George Monbiot, Sébastien Treyer, and Emma Heiling on Feeding the World
- Changing our Approach to Change with Adam Phillips
- Nina Gelbart on the Forgotten Women of the Enlightenment
- Voices of Migration with Violaine Schwartz and Christine Gutman



**GROW**<sup>®</sup>  
**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.



Mary Wessels, pictured above, has been volunteering in the Children's and Teens' Services Department since 2015. For the past 5 years, she has assisted with our weekly Wednesday Story Hours. Mary will be relocating back to the US this spring, and she'll join us for a final [Story Hour on 3 May](#). We thank Mary for her many years of volunteer service, and we wish her well on her next adventures!

### Children's Event Highlights

[Story Hour: Our Community](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 3 May at 11h00

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

[Game Day](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 6 May at 11h00



[Blackout Poetry](#) (ages 8–12) Sunday 7 May at 14h00  
[Story Hour: Birthdays](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 17 May at 14h30  
[Silly Songs with Matt Black](#) (all ages) Saturday 13 May at 11h00  
[Humans vs. Zombies](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 20 May at 11h00  
[Story Hour: Share a Smile](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 24 May at 14h30

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

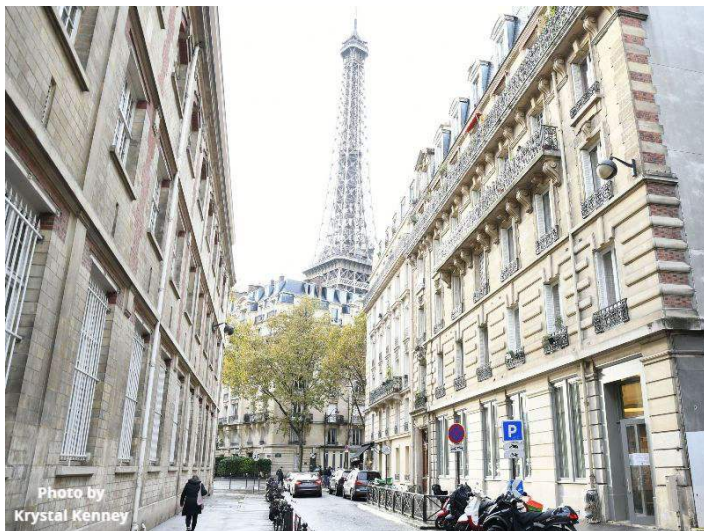
[Wordle Spades](#) Saturday 13 May at 14h00  
[The Vocabulary of U.S. College Admissions with College Goals](#) Sunday 14 May at 14h00  
[Teen Night: Movies Based on Books](#) Friday 19 May at 19h00  
[BookTok Trivia](#) Sunday 28 May at 14h00  
[The 11th Annual Literary Reaping](#) Saturday 17 June from 19h00–21h00

**We're accepting applications for the 2023–2024 Teen Clubs, now through 31 July**  
 Very limited spaces are available, and late applications will not be considered.  
 Be sure to submit by 31 July!

[Teen Writing Group](#)  
[Master Shot Film Club](#)  
[Teen Advisory Group](#)  
[Youth Leadership Program](#)

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## 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.

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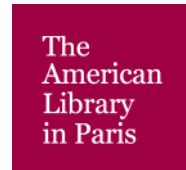
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