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The American Library in Paris

ESTABLISHED 1920

e-Libris 20 September 2022

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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

Reading Banned Books



Banned Books Week, organized by the American Library Association (ALA), takes place every year in September. The initiative's purpose? To shine a light on books that have been banned, as well as to celebrate the freedom to read.

The American Library in Paris's collections policies are guided by the [ALA's Library Bill of Rights](#), which states that "Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval." To highlight the Library's commitment to fighting the censorship of books and ideas, Member Services Assistant Claire Hargreaves and Collections Intern Elizabeth Revelo invite you to browse their display of banned books in the Members' Lounge.

Visit the Library's [blog](#) to read Claire's post about Banned Books Week 2022.

Halloween Extravaganza, Saturday 29 October



The Library is already preparing for the 2022 Halloween Extravaganza on **Saturday 29 October 2022**.

On **Saturday 1 October**, we open ticket sales to **Library members only, in person** in the Children's and Teens' Library.

You may purchase tickets for **one** of the following events:

[The Halloween Hullabaloo \(ages 0–6\): 11h00](#)

[Horrific Halloween \(ages 6+\): 15h00](#)

[The Haunted Library \(ages 8+\): 18h30](#)

Important information:

- Member tickets are 10€ per person.
- Library members may purchase up to two tickets for non-member guests, at the non-member price of 20€ each.
- If tickets remain on **15 October**, they will be available for **purchase by non-members**, at 20€ each.
- Our Children's and Teens' Services team will be happy to help you pick the best event for your family.

TRICK-OR-TREATING IN THE 7ÈME ON SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER

All day during the Halloween Extravaganza on 29 October, the Library invites ghouls and goblins of all ages to follow a Trick-or-Treating route and visit participating businesses in the 7th arrondissement. Pick up your **Trick-or-Treating maps** at the Library on the day of the event. **They are free for Library members and 10€ per family for non-members.** You do not need to pre-register to Trick-or-Treat.

Candy Donations: The Library happily accepts donations of individually-wrapped, store-bought candy for Trick-or-Treating. If you would like to help out, please drop off your donation at the Children's and Teens' Services Desk. If you have any questions, please email celeste@americanlibraryinparis.org

On the Road Tote Bags

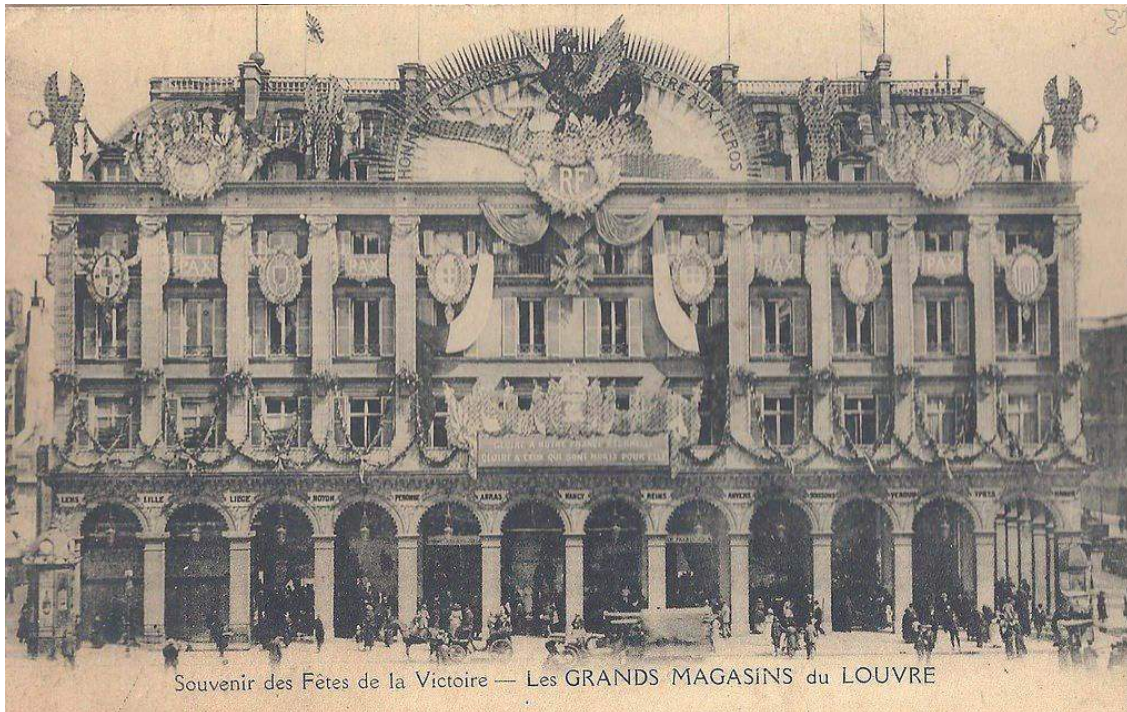
The Library's On the Road tote bags are now available!

This vibrant design, by Parisian artist [Marine Belkebir](#), was created for the Library's On the Road outreach program. It's a limited edition and is available for purchase at the Member Services desk for 20€. All tote bag proceeds support the Library.

[On the Road](#) is generously sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in France.



Library Lore: Les Grands Magasins du Louvre



Do you know what links the Fondation Cartier and the American Library in Paris? If you guessed Les Grands Magasins du Louvre, you're absolutely correct.

The building on place du Palais-Royal that housed the Grands Magasins du Louvre department store from 1855 to 1974 (and later the now-shuttered Louvre des Antiquaires) is currently under renovation, and is slated to reopen in late-2024 as the Fondation Cartier's new exhibit space.



Until around 1918, the department store's warehouse was located at 10, rue du Général Camou, the Library's home since 1964.

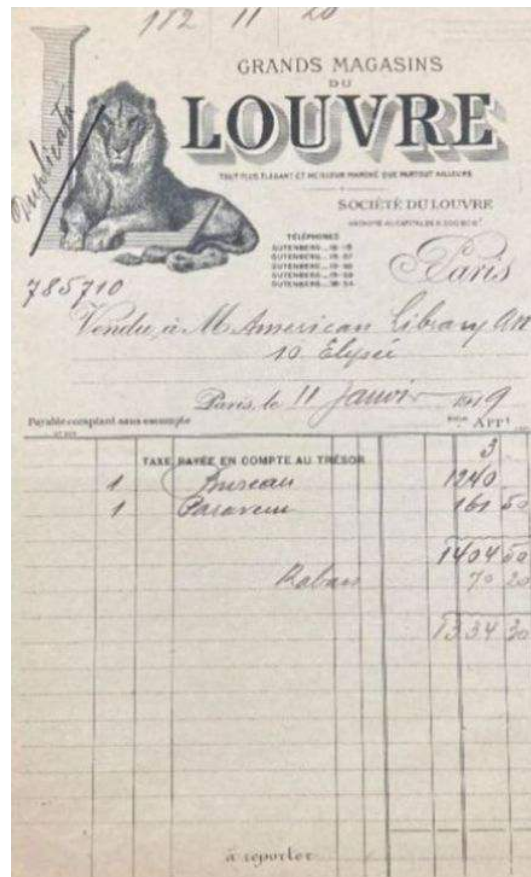


Do you recognize the view?

Traces of this past life still exist in the Library. Perhaps you've noticed the steel beams reinforcing the lower level ceiling? Or remarked that the carpeting in the Lit Crit section on the lower level is uneven? (We think it's covering iron rails for carts that carried coal to the boiler room over a century ago.) One thing we've never found, however, is any trace of the dormitory for unmarried male employees, who were also housed in the building.

This Grands Magasins du Louvre receipt from 1919, preserved in the Library of Congress's archives, shows the purchase of office furniture by the American Library Association for 10, rue de L'Élysée, the Library's first address. After WWI, the American Library Association continued serving readers in Paris, eventually donating its collection and location to the newly incorporated American Library in Paris in 1920.

—Abigail Altman, Assistant Director



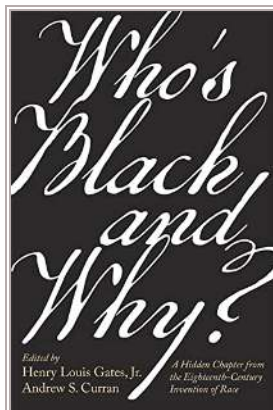
Programs for Adults

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.

Interested in helping the Library while you enjoy our evening events?

If you're available on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings, we invite you to [apply online](#) to become a Programs volunteer.



TONIGHT

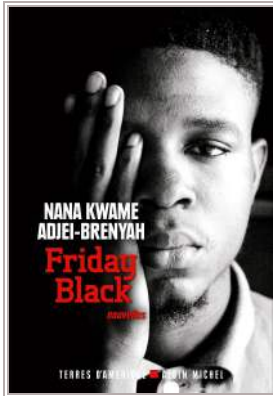
[Andrew Curran on *Who's Black and Why?*](#)

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 20 September at 19h30 CEST**

In 1739 the Bordeaux Royal Academy of Sciences held an essay competition on the scientific cause of 'blackness.' They received sixteen submissions. In 2022 editors Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Andrew S. Curran published these never-before-seen documents alongside a study of the birth of 'scientific racism.' Curran will be speaking at the Library on this curious 18th century competition, the history of race and racism, the relationship between science and the Enlightenment, and how these ideas relate to present day concepts of race.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



TOMORROW

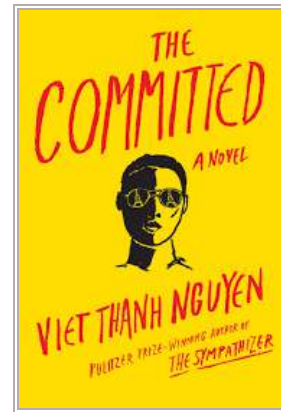
Festival America: Invisibles et Très Visibles with Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah and Viet Thanh Nguyen

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 21 September at 19h30 CEST**

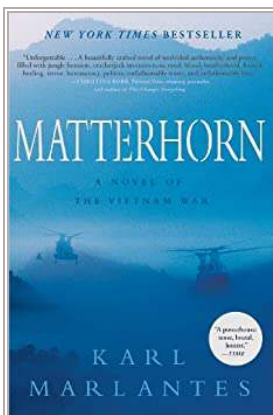
In partnership with Festival America, the Library welcomes authors Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah and Viet Thanh Nguyen for a discussion on visibility and invisibility in literature. Invisible as minorities, visible as stereotypes, and highly visible as threats, Asian Americans, like Black Americans, like First Nations Americans, constantly slip in and out of sight, rarely seen for who they are. How can literature disrupt this slippage? How can writing authentically illuminate the overlooked corners of society?

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

This event is held in partnership with Festival America.



RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



Festival America: Politique de la Littérature with Jonathan Franzen, Karl Marlantes and Viet Thanh Nguyen

**In Person at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Vincennes
Saturday 24 September at 18h15 CEST**

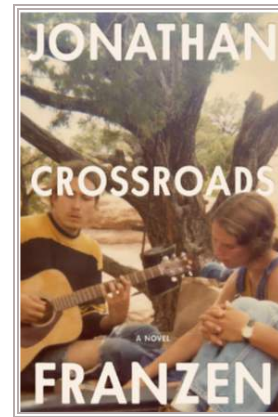
Note the special start time and location for this event.

In partnership with Festival America, we invite you to join Jonathan Franzen, Karl Marlantes, and Viet Thanh Nguyen in Vincennes for a panel on politics in literature. Writing a novel can be an eminently political gesture, whether one is denouncing infamy, reporting on unjust living conditions, or recounting a fight for justice. Like John Dos Passos, John Steinbeck, or Toni Morrison, writers of this camp do not intend to write to entertain, but rather to help open our eyes to the world as it is.

The authors and interviewer Alice McCrum, the Library's Programs Manager, will appear **in person** at the [Centre Georges Pompidou at 142 rue de Fontenay 94300 Vincennes](#).

This event requires the **advance purchase of a one- or two-day Pass** through the Festival America website.

Presented in partnership with Festival America.



[Purchase Festival America Pass](#)



[Festival America: L'Empire des sens with Marcial Gala, Brandon Taylor, and Bryan Washington](#)
In Person at the Maison des Associations in Vincennes
Sunday 25 September at 15h45 CEST

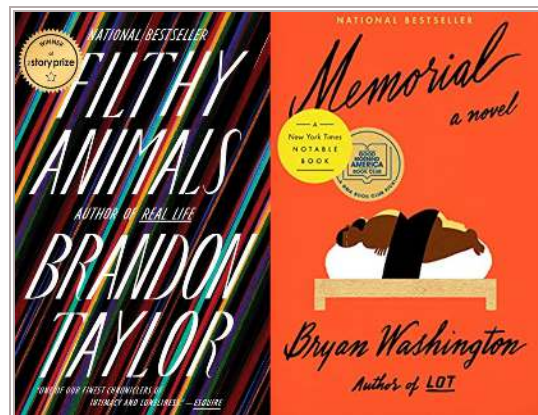
Note the special start time and location for this event.

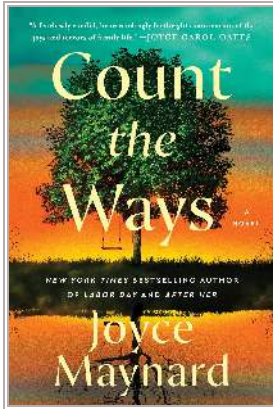
Join Festival America and the American Library in Paris for a conversation with writers Marcial Gala, Brandon Taylor, and Bryan Washington in Vincennes as they discuss desire and the body in literature. From the famous denial of the senses performed by Descartes (in order to doubt his own identity) to the modern day, the relationship between sensation, embodiment, and writing has been at the center of literature and philosophy. How does writing give flesh to sensation? What is the bodily experience of writing?

The authors and interviewer Alice McCrum, the Library's Programs Manager, will appear **in person** at the [Maison des Associations at 41 rue Raymond du Temple, 94300 Vincennes](#)

This event requires the **advance purchase of a one- or two-day Pass** through the Festival America website.

Presented in partnership with Festival America.



[Purchase Festival America Pass](#)

[An Evening with Joyce Maynard](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 27 September at 19h30 CEST

Joyce Maynard is a renowned American author celebrated for her cool voice, clear gaze, and stylistic breadth. Over the course of her prolific career, she has authored eighteen books and has worked as a print and radio journalist, a syndicated columnist, a performer with The Moth, and a contributor to *Vogue*, the *New York Times Magazine*, and others. Her most recent novel is *Count the Ways*, published in 2021. She will speak to her writing process, the trajectory of her work, and a life dedicated to the written word.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



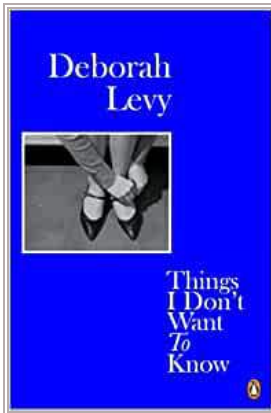
[Who Lost Russia? with Peter Conradi](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 28 September at 19h30 CEST

In 2017 author and journalist Peter Conradi released *Who Lost Russia? How the World Entered a New Cold War*. The book offered expert analysis of Western policies toward Russia following the fall of the USSR and drew a straight line from the political and economic isolation of Russia to Putin's rise and determination to rebuild the Soviet empire. In 2022, with the invasion of Ukraine, Conradi saw his prediction confirmed. In an updated edition of the book, the author examines the war in the context of Russia's post-Soviet history and Putin's authoritarian regime, considering the consequences for Europe and the world.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



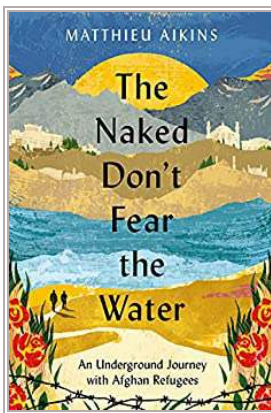
[An Evening with Deborah Levy](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 4 October at 19h30 CEST

Acclaimed novelist, playwright, and poet Deborah Levy will speak at the Library on her distinctive style and extensive career. Celebrated for her turbulent, dream-infused prose and philosophical agility, Levy is a master of language and a cataloguer of its failures, exploring the limits of what can be articulated. Join her as she details her experience writing in the “storm of life.”

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



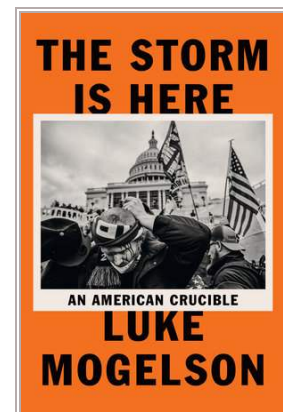
[Matthieu Aikins and Luke Mogelson on Wartime Journalism](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 5 October at 19h30 CEST

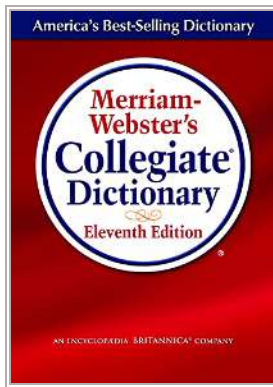
What is the role of a war correspondent? What challenges await the reporter in the war zone, and how are they mitigated? What ethical obligations does one have when covering war? Faced with constant danger, violent regimes, mass displacement, and fatality, what can journalism do? Join journalists Matthieu Aikins and Luke Mogelson as they discuss their experiences on the ground in war zones.

From Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq, to recent reporting in Ukraine, Aikins and Mogelson have witnessed countless scenes of destruction, terror, and tragedy. At risk to their own lives, they have documented the civilian experience and amplified disempowered voices. They will share what they have seen, and why war reporting matters.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.



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



[Peter Sokolowski on French and English Dictionaries](#)

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 11 October at 19h30 CEST**

Lexicographer and French-language editor at Merriam-Webster Peter Sokolowski will be speaking on the hidden champion of language-learning and the world's most baseline tool for communication: the dictionary. How does one decide the meaning of a word? Why do etymologies matter? What is the role of the dictionary in the twenty-first century, and what is its future? Join us on a deep dive into the wonderful world of words.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

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



[Lindsey Tramuta, Rokhaya Diallo, and Grace Ly on French Stereotypes](#)

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 12 October at 19h30 CEST**

France, with its wine country, chateaux, and lavender fields, has resided in the public imagination for centuries. The image of Paris has undergone a series of transformations: at varying points an artistic refuge, City of Love, symbol of the aristocratic world, and center of revolution, the capital's historical identity is rich and many-sided.

Yet what lurks behind the city, the country, and its people when one looks beyond images of baguettes, cheese, and berets? How have stereotypes evolved with social media, immigration, and a changing political landscape over the twenty-first century? What do they share with the reality of contemporary France? Join Lindsey Tramuta, Rokhaya Diallo, and Grace Ly to discuss the fictions and fantasies of modern French life.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.



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



Past programs are on YouTube, including Rob Nixon on Slow Violence and Climate Justice; Anne Weber and Tess Lewis on Epic Annette; Amor Towles on The Lincoln Highway; and Daniel Levin Becker on What's Good: Notes on Rap



Listen to our podcast, Evenings with an Author, available wherever you get your podcasts.



Visit our Facebook page for information about upcoming events and Evenings with an Author sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg.



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.

Kids' and Teens' News



Find out what's new for children and teens!

Event Highlights for Children ages 0–12

Registration is required for all programs, and participants must be Library members to attend programs for children. To find out what's coming up next, check our [children's events calendar](#) and register early!

Caregivers should familiarize themselves with our [Children in the Library](#) policy.

- [Story Hour: Summer Turns to Fall](#) (ages 3–5) on Wednesday 21 September at 14h30
- [Toddler Time](#) (ages 1–3) on Thursday 22 September at 11h00
- [Silly Songs with Matt Black](#) (all ages) on Saturday 24 September at 11h00
- [Bookworms Book Club: The Last Cuentista](#) (ages 9–12) on Saturday 24 September at 14h00
- [Story Hour: Giggles Galore](#) (ages 3–5) on Wednesday 28 September at 14h30

- [Creating Scary Stories: A Workshop](#) (ages 8–12) on Saturday 1 October at 11h00

Program Highlights for Teens ages 12–18

All events require advance registration. See the web calendar for the full schedule, and to sign up. Visit our website to see our full [teen events calendar](#).

If you're just looking for a space to hang out, teen members can make themselves comfortable on our expanded [Teen Mezzanine](#), browse the hundreds of titles in our Young Adult collections, or study in the Atelier.

- [Teen Night: Save Yourself from Trolls](#) on Friday 23 September at 19h00
- [Teen Night: Photography with Angelica Brewis](#) on Friday 30 September at 19h00
- [Teen Night: Monster Machines with Davis Zikovitz](#) on Friday 7 October at 19h00
- [Write Your Own Scary Story](#) on Saturday 8 October at 14h00
- [Teen Night: Halloween Decorating Party](#) on Friday 14 October 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

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



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