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28 November 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

Today is Giving Tuesday

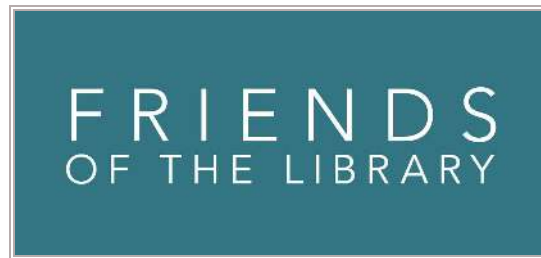
Giving Tuesday is an annual, global day of "radical generosity." On this day we are encouraged to give what we can of our time, talents, and resources to create systemic change and support organizations doing important work around the world.

If you believe in the work that we do here at the Library, we invite you to include us in your end-of-year giving plans. Not only will you be helping to ensure the future of this nearly 104-year-old institution, but you'll be supporting the development of new and expanded initiatives informed by our [mission](#).

Yes, I want to support the Library

Another reason to join our vibrant community of donors?

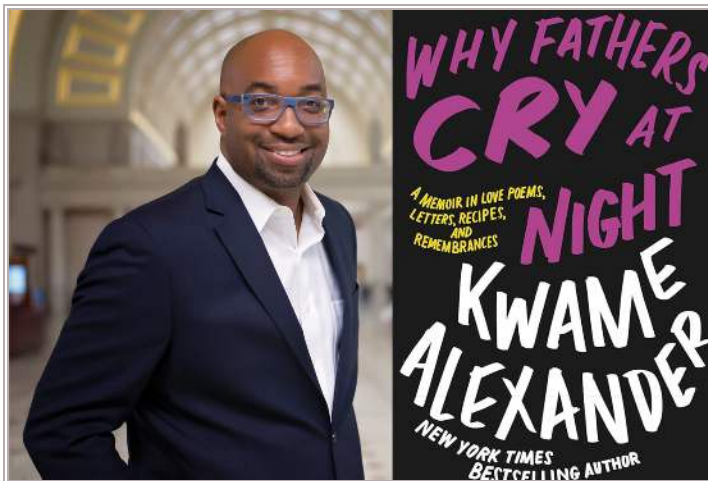
[The Friends of the Library](#) program. By donating 50€ or more, you'll receive distinct benefits designed to match your commitment, including invitations to donor-only events.



Every contribution, no matter the size, permits the Library to serve you and adapt to the evolving needs of the community. There are many ways to lend your support. Besides making an annual gift, we also invite you to [create](#) or [renew](#) your membership, attend our [evening programs](#), or become a [volunteer](#).

Kwame Alexander Returns

Celebrated poet, author, and memoirist Kwame Alexander returns to the Library on **Wednesday 20 December at 18h00** to discuss his books for children and his recent turn to writing for adults. The conversation will be moderated by journalist Pamela Druckerman.



In 2023 Alexander released his first book for adults, *Why Fathers Cry at Night*.

The memoir unfolds through a medley of poems, recipes, letters, and other personal fragments, kaleidoscopically detailing Alexander's relationships with his daughters and with his own parents.

Other works by Alexander include *The Crossover*, a novel written entirely in verse, which won the prestigious Newbery Medal; *The Undefeated*, a picture book that commemorates the resilience of Black Americans throughout history; and *The Door of No Return*, the first of a three-part series following a 19th-century Ghanaian boy as he encounters the transatlantic slave trade.

Readers aged 8+ are invited to attend this evening celebrating boundary-pushing poetry and literature.

A book sale and signing will take place after the talk, thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

[RSVP to attend in person](#)

History Tours: Sign up Now for January

Our ever-popular History Tours continue into 2024, and we've just added our January dates to the calendar.

Join a Tour on the following Fridays at 11h00:

1 and 8 December

12, 19, and 26 January

Tours are free and open to the public. Join us on a deep dive into the Library's fascinating 103-year history!



Attend a History Tour

Tote Bags Back in Stock



Just in time for holiday shopping, we've restocked our popular new tote bag design. They come in a delightful array of bright and neutral colors.

The graphic was created by Parisian illustrator [Marine Belkebir](#). The bags are made of organic, responsibly-sourced 100% cotton and are hand screen-printed in France.

Support the Library and wear a piece of art on your shoulder!

20€ at the Member Services Desk.

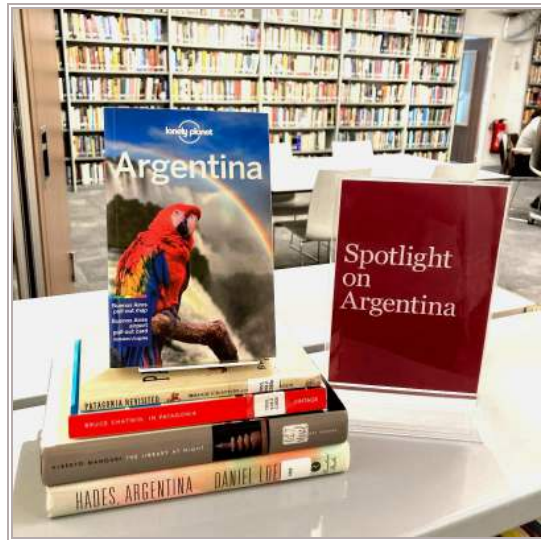
Travel Display: Spotlight on Argentina

Are you a fan of armchair travel? Or are you organizing a trip and need some guidance and inspiration?

Members Services staff member Claire Hargreaves, the mastermind behind our book displays in the Members' Lounge, has added a new display in the Travel section on the Lower Level.

The inaugural selection spotlights Argentina through travel guides, travelogues, and even novels.

Check out this curated, regularly updated display and let Claire inspire your next adventure!



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

[An Evening with Binkady-Emmanuel Hié](#)

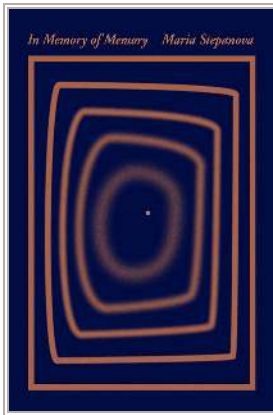
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 28 November at 19h30 CET**

In 2020, following the BLM movement and during the global pandemic, Binkady-Emmanuel Hié, along with five dancers of the Paris Opera where he had been working as a fundraiser, co-wrote a manifesto titled “De la question raciale à l’Opéra de Paris,” which called for effective anti-discrimination policies at the Opera.

Since then, Hié launched the NORME agency, which provides consulting services on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) practices and management services. Hié will take a look at the past, present, and future of equity in the arts, in conversation with Après Josephine’s Lyneka Little.

This event is in partnership with [Après Josephine](#).

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



TOMORROW

[Possible Lives with Maria Stepanova](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 29 November at 19h30 CET

With the death of her aunt, poet and writer Maria Stepanova is left to sift through an apartment full of faded photographs, old postcards, letters, diaries, and heaps of souvenirs: a withered repository of a century of life in Russia. In her family history *In Memory of Memory*, Stepanova uses these mementos to tell the story of how a seemingly ordinary Jewish family managed to survive the myriad persecutions and repressions of the last century.

In Memory of Memory will serve as the point of departure for a broader conversation between Stepanova and professor Daniel Medin about writing autobiographically, drawing on the author's readings of Charlotte Salomon, Fleur Jaeggy, Gertrude Stein, and others.

This event is co-sponsored by Columbia Global Centers | Paris and the Institute for Ideas & Imagination as part of our *Entre Nous* series, and is produced in collaboration with AUP's Center for Writers and Translators.

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

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



[Behind the Lens with Frederick Wiseman](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Thursday 30 November at 19h30 CET
A reception will follow.

Frederick Wiseman has directed and produced more than forty films over the course of his illustrious career. His films offer profound insights into American institutions, reveling in the human stories that make up our social systems.

The titles of his films introduce their subjects with deceptive simplicity: they include *High School* (1968), *Welfare* (1975), *Public Housing* (1997), *Ex Libris: The New York Public Library* (2017), and *City Hall* (2020). In his latest film, *Menus-Plaisirs—Les Troisgros* (2023), Wiseman brings his penetrating gaze to a three-star Michelin restaurant in rural France.

Join us at the Library to hear this cinematic giant reflect upon his work and method, in conversation with writer and critic Carlos Valladares.

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



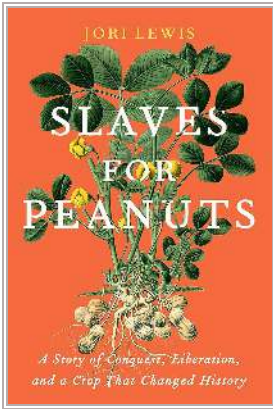
Covering Crisis: Journalism in the Middle East
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 5 December at 19h30 CET

Oct 7th reignited the long-standing conflict between Israel and Palestine. Journalists have been on the ground reporting, attempting to capture the realities, complexities, and human toll of this ongoing crisis, often risking their lives in the process.

Join us for a panel discussion on the role of journalism during war.

This event is presented in partnership with the Overseas Press Club.

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



Slaves for Peanuts
with Jori Lewis and Robin Allison Davis
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 6 December at 19h30 CET

In her book *Slaves for Peanuts: A Story of Conquest, Liberation, and a Crop That Changed History* (2022), Jori Lewis exposes the pernicious connections between the demand for peanut oil in Europe and the persistence of slavery in Africa. Lewis shows how France continued to rely on slave labor in West Africa for the production of peanuts, even long after slavery had been officially abolished in French territories. Her work animates the complex lives of historical people, weaving them together through studies of agriculture and trade. The result is, in the words of renowned scholar Imani Perry, “a revelation” that “promises to transform our understanding of slavery and colonialism.”

The author will appear in conversation with Emmy Award-winning television journalist Robin Allison Davis.

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

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



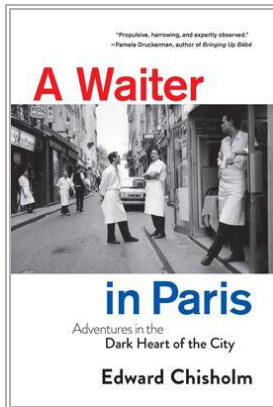
[The Future of Consent with Manon Garcia](#)

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Thursday 7 December at 19h30 CET**

Manon Garcia is a leading voice in conversations about consent, autonomy, and feminist philosophy. In her latest book, *La Conversation des Sexes* (*The Joy of Consent* in its English translation), Garcia delves into the philosophical traditions that gave rise to “consent” as a legal framework. What does it mean to “consent” to sex? How can consent serve as a guiding principle for personal and intimate relations?

Garcia offers a nuanced revision of consent-based ethics, imagining new paths forward for feminism. As scholar Nancy Bauer writes: “This book is no less than a blueprint for a new feminist revolution.”

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



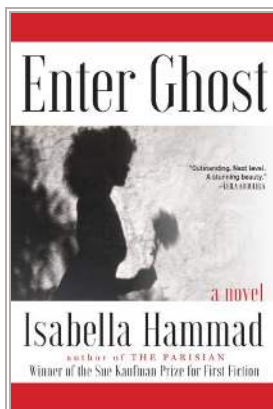
[Serving Stories with Edward Chisholm](#)

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Tuesday 12 December at 19h30 CET**

In his memoir *A Waiter in Paris* (2022), Edward Chisholm vividly captures the precarity of life as a service worker in the City of Light. His thoughtful critiques of contemporary Parisian society simmer beneath the surface of his whirlwind story, which overflows with colorful characters and memorable scenes. The conversation will be moderated by writer, editor, and academic Russell Williams.

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

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



[Shakespeare in Palestine with Isabella Hammad](#)

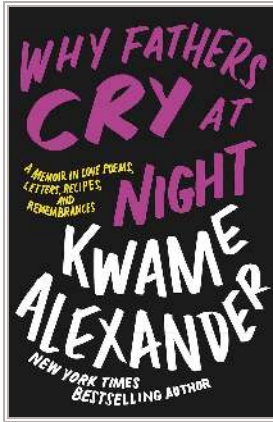
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 13 December at 19h30 CET**

In her second novel, *Enter Ghost*, Isabella Hammad tells the story of Sonia, a British-Palestinian actor, who returns to Haifa, Israel, to visit her estranged sister. When Sonia meets a local theater director, she is roped into the staging of *Hamlet* in the historic city of Ramallah, in the West Bank.

As opening night draws near, Sonia, who had drifted from her family and her ancestral home, recognizes the exhilarating possibility of finding a new self in Palestine.

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

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



[Finding Form, Family, and Fatherhood with Kwame Alexander and Pamela Druckerman](#)

In Person at the Library

Wednesday 20 December at 18h00 CET

Please note the special start time for this event.

Celebrated poet, author, and memoirist Kwame Alexander returns to the Library to discuss his books for children and his recent turn to writing for adults. The conversation will be moderated by journalist Pamela Druckerman.

Readers aged 8+ are invited to attend this event.

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

[RSVP to attend in person](#)



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

- Scamming the American Dream with Kirstin Chen and Grace Ly
- Le Conversazioni: An Evening with Pascal Bruckner and Antonio Monda
- How to Criticize with Scholar of Note Lauren Oyler
- From Cliques to Politics with Simon Kuper and Ian Leslie



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

Unless otherwise noted, all Children's events are for Library members only. Teen events are free for Library members, and 15€ per teen for non-members. Advance registration is required for all events for children and teens.

Children's Event Highlights

Story Hour: Brave Women (ages 3–5) Wednesday 29 November at 14h30

Saturday Series: Pop-Up Creations (ages 6–12) Saturday 2 December at 11h00

Story Hour: How Rude! (ages 3–5) Wednesday 6 December at 14h30

Toddler Time (ages 1–3) Thursday 7 December at 11h00

Story Hour: Snowy Days (ages 3–5) Wednesday 13 December at 14h30

Winter Scavenger Hunt (ages 3–12) Saturday 16 December at 11h00

Form, Family, & Fatherhood: Kwame Alexander (8+) Wednesday 20 December at 18h00

Teen Event Highlights

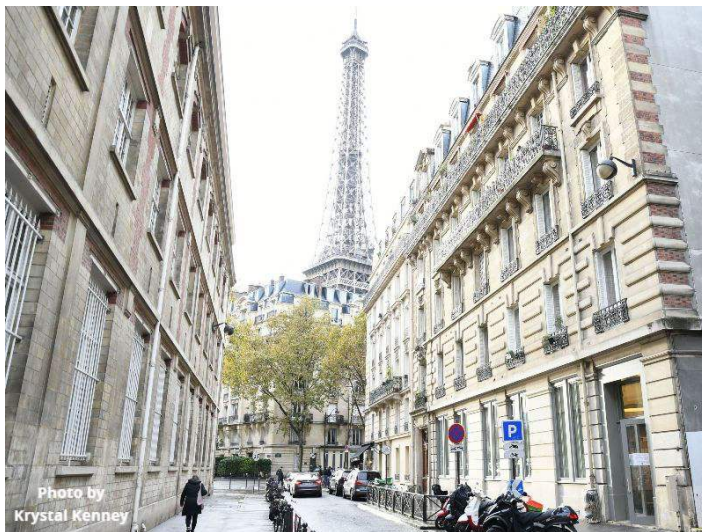
Teen Night: Music Trivia Madness with Rock U. (ages 12–18) Friday 1 December at 19h00

The Writers' Room (ages 12–18) Saturday 16 December at 14h00

Form, Family, & Fatherhood: Kwame Alexander (8+) Wednesday 20 December at 18h00

Hot Cocoa and Movie Night (ages 12–18) Friday 22 December 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.



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