



The
American
Library
in Paris

e-Libris

Dispatches from the Library

20 December 2024

A Year Worth Celebrating—Thanks to You



Maureen Dowd at the American Paris in Library's 2024 Gala. Photo credit Krystal Kenney

In 2024, you—our readers, members, and supporters—enriched the Library as a hub of learning, conversation, and community. Together, we welcomed the Librarian of Congress, spoke with Pulitzer Prize-winners, held our first multidisciplinary festival, hosted a roaring 1920s party, introduced board games to the collection, and shared countless other unforgettable chapters.

The capstone was the launch of [Vision 2027](#), our strategic plan illuminating the Library's path ahead. Centered on four key streams of action—Illuminate, Champion, Empower, and Ignite—the plan focuses on strengthening connections with both local and global communities, fostering engagement, and expanding access to Library services.

Thank you for being part of our vibrant community. As an independent nonprofit, we rely on your support to keep the Library's mission alive. As the year draws to a close, please consider making a year-end gift to help us continue fostering this shared space of discovery and connection.

[Donate](#)

Jumpstart 2025 with Leading Literary Voices

As we turn the page to 2025, we're thrilled to welcome a year of fresh perspectives and dynamic programming. Make a resolution to connect, discover, and learn with the Library—start by registering for our January events today!



Rachel Kushner on *Creation Lake*

Hybrid: In-Person at the Library or Live on Zoom

Wednesday, 8 January at 19h30 CEST

Novelist **Rachel Kushner** discusses her electrifying new book about an American woman infiltrating a French anarchist collective.

[RSVP for In-Person or Zoom](#)



Meghan O'Rourke on *The Invisible Kingdom*

Hybrid: In-Person at the Library or Live on Zoom

Tuesday, 14 January at 19h30 CEST

Writer and poet **Meghan O'Rourke** discusses her recent book on chronic illness and autoimmune diseases, in conversation with French journalist and author **Clémentine Goldszal**.

[RSVP for In-Person or Zoom](#)



Claire Messud on *This Strange Eventful Story*

Hybrid: In-Person at the Library or Live on Zoom

Wednesday, 15 January at 19h30 CEST

Novelist **Claire Messud** discusses her sweeping, intimate family saga of love, loss, and exile traversing Algeria, France, the US, and beyond, in conversation with **Dan Gunn**.

[RSVP for In-Person or Zoom](#)



Crafting Personal Narratives With **Melissa Febos**

Hybrid: In-Person at the Library or Live on Zoom

Wednesday, 22 January at 19h30 CEST

Unlock the radical power of personal narrative with **Melissa Febos** in this transformative memoir-writing seminar.

RSVP for In-Person



Maylis de Kerangal on *Canoes* and *Eastbound*

Hybrid: In-Person at the Library or Live on Zoom
Wednesday, 29 January at 19h30 CEST

Award-winning French author **Maylis de Kerangal** discusses her latest works, *Canoes* and *Eastbound*. In conversation with **Donatien Grau** of the Musée du Louvre.

RSVP for In-Person or Zoom

New E-Books and Audiobooks in the Collection

Make the most of this winter break by exploring the latest e-books and audiobooks on **Libby** and **OverDrive**. With books for all ages and the option to borrow up to three at once, your next great read is just a click away.

The Library's Year in Review



Nafkote Tamirat, Vanessa Onwuemezi, and Dimitris Lyacos. Photo credit Alfonso Sjogreen

Here's more on what made 2024 such a special year:

In 2024, the Library continued to grow as a hub for learning, connection, and cultural exchange. Programs like **Reverberations**, our first multidisciplinary festival, and the theme of The Art of Play in the spring encouraged members to explore creativity and new ideas in unexpected ways.

The [Visiting Fellowship program](#), generously supported by The De Groot Foundation, welcomed six incredible Fellows, Writers-in-Residence, and Scholars-of-Note—including Stacy Schiff, Adam Shatz, Patricia Lockwood, Christian Campbell, Vanessa Onwuezezi, and Tess Lewis—who brought unforgettable conversations to the Library.

In the spring, the [Annual Gala Dinner](#) brought together Library supporters for an unforgettable evening with Guest of Honor Maureen Dowd. Our history tours became one of the Library's most popular offerings, drawing in participants eager to explore the Library's storied past. This year also saw the launch of our first Board Game collection.

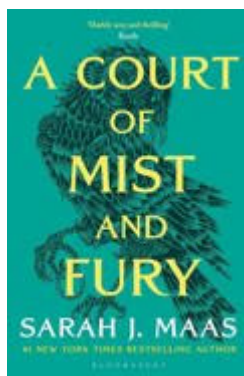
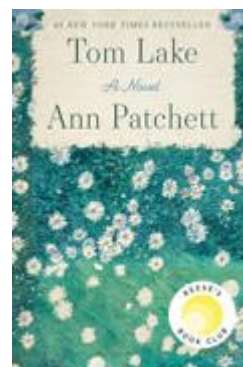
This fall, we celebrated the [2024 American Library in Paris Book Award](#), honoring Adam Shatz for his outstanding work, *The Rebel's Clinic*. The evening included a special address from the Librarian of Congress, underscoring the vital role of libraries in building community.

The Library's Most-Borrowed Titles in 2024

Looking for reading inspiration over the holidays? These were the most-borrowed titles of 2024:

Top Titles for Adults

- [Tom Lake](#) by Ann Patchett
- [Lessons in Chemistry](#) by Bonnie Garmus
- [Demon Copperhead](#) by Barbara Kingsolver
- [The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store](#) by James McBride
- [Yellowface](#) by R.F. Kuang



Top Titles for Teens and Children

- [A Court of Mist and Fury](#) by Sarah J. Maas
- [Dog Man: Grime and Punishment](#) by Dav Pilkey
- [Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal](#) by Jeff Kinney

The Library's Most-Watched Programs on YouTube

Thousands joined us online for our Evenings with an Author sponsored by GRoW@Annenberg. Here are the most-watched videos from 2024:

- [Dickens in Appalachia with Barbara Kingsolver](#)
- [How Hitler Came to Power](#)
- [Journeys in Sound](#)
- [The Shakespeare Industry with Elizabeth Winkler](#)
- [How Did Trump Win?](#)



Reminder: Holiday Closure

Monday 23 December through
Wednesday 1 January, inclusive.

We reopen on Thursday 2 January 2025 at 10h00.

Ask at the Member Services Desk about extended borrowing and custom return dates to accommodate your travel plans.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary year. We look forward to seeing you in 2025. In the meantime, restore, renew, and read.



Staff and Trustees of the American Library in Paris. Photo credit Alfonso Sjogreen

Warmest wishes for a happy holiday season from all of us at the American Library in Paris!



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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