



The  
American  
Library  
in Paris

# e-Libris

Dispatches from the Library

**29 April 2025**

**Featured in this edition of e-Libris:** Final call for 2025 Gala tickets, Michael Pollan at the Library, May closures, new digital arrivals to travel light, and more.

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Dear Reader,

The countdown is on: ticket sales for the [2025 Gala](#) close on May 2. If you have not yet reserved your place, we hope you will join us for an unforgettable evening in celebration of all that the Library stands for: a century-strong tradition of free inquiry, cultural exchange, and community rooted in curiosity.

We are especially proud to honor Erik Larson as our 2025 Gala Honoree. Known for bringing history to life through works such as *The Devil in the White City* and *The Demon of Unrest*, Larson reminds us of the enduring power of storytelling. New this year, Patron Tickets include special perks and the opportunity to connect with the author, while allowing guests to make a greater contribution to the Library.

As we turn the page to May, our [calendar](#) is brimming with inspiring events. From bestselling author Michael Pollan on the powerful potential of psychedelic substances to Signal's President Meredith Whittaker on the rise of surveillance and AI, there is no shortage of thought-provoking conversations ahead.

Finally, for those planning to travel this May, the Library's newest [digital arrivals](#) are ready to accompany you. From e-books to audiobooks, our growing collection ensures that wherever your journey takes you, a world of ideas is just a click away.

With gratitude,

**Audrey Chapuis**  
Executive Director, The American Library in Paris

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THE AMERICAN LIBRARY  
IN PARIS GALA

**Gala 2025: Ticket Sale Ends on May 2**

Join us for an evening of celebration and support of something lasting: a century-strong institution where ideas are exchanged freely, where readers of all ages find inspiration, and where community is built through curiosity.



## Choose your Gala experience

- **Individual Tickets** include the cocktail reception, seated dinner, and program featuring keynote speaker Erik Larson.
- **Patron Tickets**, a new addition this year, offer exclusive access to a private reception and meet-and-greet with Larson, rooftop cocktail access, and preferential seating.

For those wishing to make an even greater impact, **Gala Table Sponsorship** offers all of the above plus premier benefits, including prime group seating, special recognition, and membership in the Library's Ex Libris Lux Society.

[Purchase your tickets today](#)



4 JUNE 2025  
HONORING  
AUTHOR  
**ERIK  
LARSON**

Sumter.

This year, the Library is proud to welcome award-winning author **Erik Larson** as the 2025 Annual Gala Honoree. His critically acclaimed book, *The Devil in the White City*, remained on the *New York Times* bestseller list for a total of six years, and most recent bestseller, *The Demon of Unrest*, offers a gripping account of the chaotic months between Abraham Lincoln's election and the shelling of Fort

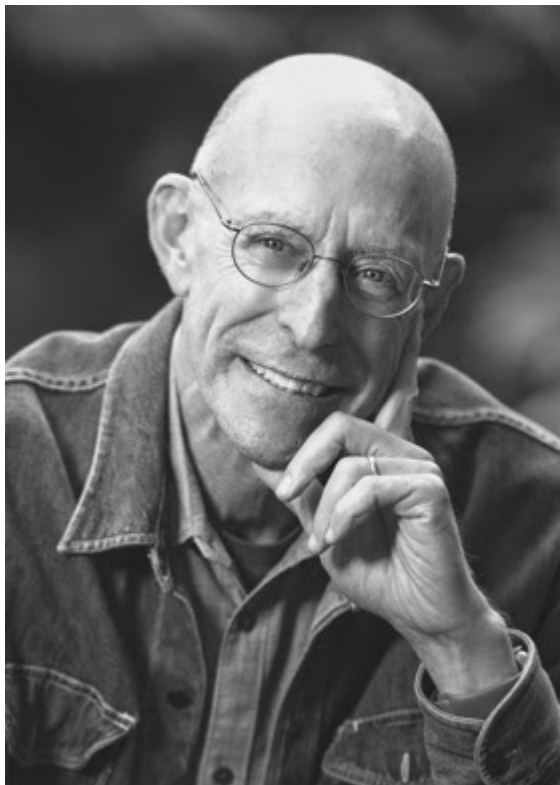
# Adult Programs



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.

Our cultural programming is made possible by GROW @ Annenberg, as well as The de Groot Foundation, the Florence Gould Foundation, and the enduring legacy of the American Center for Art & Culture.

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## [Ways of Seeing with Michael Pollan](#)

**In-Person Only | Ticketed event: €5**  
Tuesday 6 May at 19h30 CEST

Join us for a deep dive into **Michael Pollan's *How to Change Your Mind***, a #1 *New York Times* Bestseller that blends memoir, science, and history to examine the powerful potential of psychedelic substances.

In conversation with Curator of Cultural Programs, **Rachel Donadio**, Pollan will explore how these drugs are revolutionizing mental health treatment and reshaping our understanding of consciousness. We'll also discuss Pollan's broader body of work, which spans topics from food to nature, offering insight into his unique perspective on the intersection of science, society, and the human experience.

Made possible with the support of [Résidence Tallard](#), a program by Kadist dedicated to hosting individuals from around the world who are recognized for their innovative ideas and impactful contributions to society.

**KADIST** | **Résidence Tallard**

[Book your tickets](#)



## [Joan Didion and the Myths of Hollywood with Alissa Wilkinson and Joanna Scutts](#)

Hybrid: In-Person or Live on Zoom  
Wednesday 13 May at 19h30 CEST

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*New York Times* film critic **Alissa Wilkinson** explores Joan Didion's complex relationship with Hollywood, from her early fascination with Western myths to her time

as a screenwriter at the twilight of the studio era.

RSVP for In-Person or Zoom



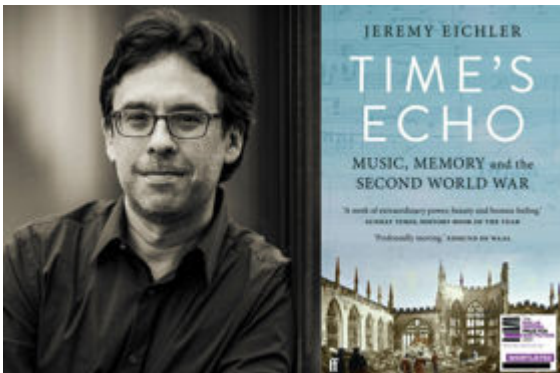
### [Ways of Seeing with Meredith Whittaker, President of Signal](#)

Hybrid: In-Person or Live on Zoom  
Wednesday 20 May at 19h30 CEST

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As surveillance technologies become ever more pervasive, how can we protect our privacy and resist corporate and state control? Join **Meredith Whittaker**, President of Signal and a leading voice on tech ethics, for a crucial conversation on the rise of surveillance, the power of AI, and what we can do to fight back.

RSVP for Zoom



### [Jeremy Eichler on Music, Memory, and the Second World War](#)

Hybrid: In-Person or Live on Zoom  
Wednesday 27 May at 19h30 CEST

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In *Time's Echo: The Second World War, the Holocaust, and the Music of Remembrance*, award-winning critic and historian **Jeremy Eichler** explores music as a vessel for memory, revealing how composers inscribed the legacies of war and loss into their scores.

RSVP for In-Person or Zoom

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## New Arrivals: Pack Light, Read Anywhere





Heading out of Paris for the upcoming long weekends? Travel light and bring our digital library with you!

Brand new titles like *Audition* by Katie Kitamura, *Great Big Beautiful Lie* by Emily Henry, *Nobody's Fool* by Harlan Coben and many more have just joined our growing collection of digital titles to read and listen to, wherever you are in the world.

Are you new to Libby? It's easy to get started:

1. Download Libby on the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).
2. Follow the prompts to find the American Library in Paris and sign in with your library card.
3. Search, browse, and borrow our collection of e-books, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines.

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## Holiday Closures in May

**Thursday 1 May** – Fête du Travail (Labor Day)

**Thursday 8 May** – Fête de la Victoire 1945 (WWII Victory Day)

**Thursday 29 May** – Jeudi de l'Ascension (Ascension)

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## Ready to Join the Library's Teen Clubs?



Want to be part of something exciting at the Library next year? Applications for Teen Clubs are open through 31 July 2025 at 22h00. Applicants will be notified in early August.

Find out more and apply online:

[Teen Writing Group](#)

[Teen Advisory Group](#)

[Master Shot Film Club with Clarence Tokley](#)

[Youth Leadership Program in partnership with Toastmasters](#)

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## Children's Events Highlights



Ages 0–5

[Music Together with Stacey Pavesi Debré](#) Saturday 10 May at 14h00

Story Hour (ages 3–5)

[Good Enough to Eat](#) Wednesday 30 April at 14h30

[Clever Creatures](#) Wednesday 7 May at 14h30

[Numbers All Around](#) Wednesday 21 May at 14h30

[Day of Dragons](#) Wednesday 28 May at 14h30

Saturday Series (ages 6–12)

[Watch It Grow](#) Saturday 3 May at 11h00

Ages 8–12

[Secret Society of Readers Book Club: Biographies](#) Sunday 4 May at 14h00

[The View from the Stage](#) Saturday 17 May at 11h00

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## Teen Events Highlights

Ages 8–12

[Teen Night: Capture the Flag](#). Friday 2 May at 19h00

[Collaborative Collage](#) Saturday 17 May at 16h00

[Free Write: A Creative Writing Session](#) Saturday 31 May at 14h00

[Teen Night: Adventure Quest Role Play](#) Friday 24 May at 19h00

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

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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.