



The
American
Library
in Paris

e-Libris

Dispatches from the Library

13 May 2025

Featured in this edition of e-Libris: 105 years of the American Library in Paris, spring season calendar coming to a close, end-of-year research toolkit for students, and more.

Dear Reader,

On 20 May, the American Library in Paris celebrates 105 years of continuous service. Founded in the aftermath of World War I, the Library has endured through a century of upheaval and renewal thanks to the people who sustain it: readers, members, donors, staff, and volunteers. Your presence and support make this institution what it is. Thank you for being part of its story.

Anniversaries invite us to look back—but also ahead. *Vision 2027* is our commitment to ensuring the Library remains as vital in the future as it has been over the past century. It sets out a clear path: to make our collections and programs more accessible, to support learning across generations, and to champion writers, readers, and thinkers in Paris and beyond. A spring gift, in any amount, helps us move this work forward.

With the final events of our spring season approaching, I'm struck by the range of voices and ideas that have passed through our doors in recent weeks. This month brings more: historian Jeremy Eichler on the echoes of war in music, a conversation about American artists in postwar Paris with Debra Bricker Balken and Éric de Chassey, and a journey through trade and empire with David Chaffetz. I look forward to welcoming many of you as we round out the spring calendar.

Thank you, as always, for being part of the Library's next chapter.

With gratitude,

Audrey Chapuis

Executive Director, The American Library in Paris

105 Years of the American Library in Paris



Rooted in a wartime effort to bring books to American soldiers, the American Library in Paris has spent over a century opening minds, building bridges, and welcoming all.

Since its establishment in 1920, the Library has been a meeting place for internationals and locals alike seeking to broaden their horizons and nurture their imagination. Today, it stands as the largest English-language lending library on the European continent, home to over 100,000 print volumes.

Broaden Your Horizons



What's on

Discover our History



Join our History Tours

Support the Future of the Library by Making a Gift this Spring

As we mark 105 years of shared stories, your generosity helps us open our doors wider—welcoming more readers, offering more programs, and preserving a century-old tradition of intellectual and cultural exchange. This work is guided by [Vision 2027](#), our three-year plan built around four key pillars: Illuminate, Champion, Empower, and Ignite. With your help, we can bring that vision to life.

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.

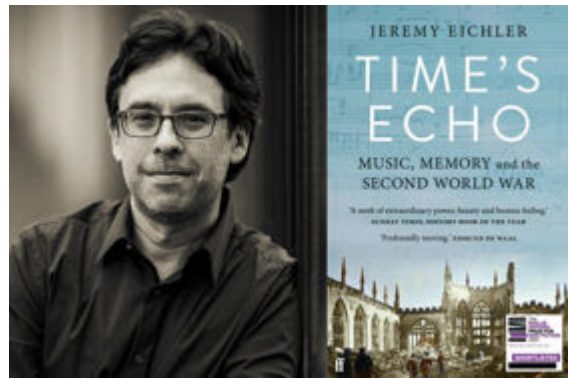


[Ways of Seeing with Meredith Whittaker, President of Signal](#)

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

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](#)

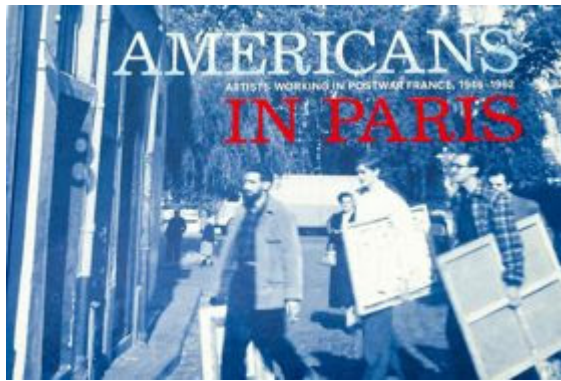


[Jeremy Eichler on Music, Memory, and the Second World War](#)

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

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](#)

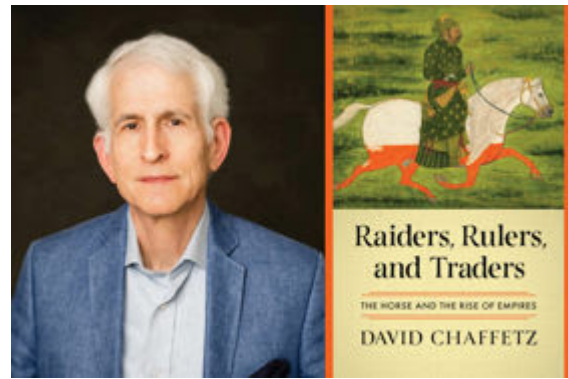


[Americans in Paris with Debra Bricker Balken and Éric de Chassey](#)

Hybrid: In-Person or Live on Zoom
Tuesday 3 June at 19h30 CEST

Curator **Debra Bricker Balken** and art historian **Éric de Chassey** discuss the key artists featured in the exhibit *Americans in Paris*, examining how the city influenced a pivotal moment in American art between 1946 and 1962.

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



[David Chaffetz on Raiders, Rulers, and Traders](#)

Hybrid: In-Person or Live on Zoom
Wednesday 11 June at 19h30 CEST

In *Raiders, Rulers, and Traders*, scholar **David Chaffetz** delves into how horses were not just a means of transportation, but a transformative force that enabled empires to rise, trade routes to form, and cultures to connect from Iran and Afghanistan to China, India, and Russia.

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

Board Games Collection: Piece Out a Puzzle



Did you know that our growing board game collection also includes puzzles?

From iconic American landmarks to literature-inspired illustrations, we invite you to borrow one of our puzzles to take home and complete.

Watch for new arrivals this spring, and [let us know](#) if there's a game or puzzle you'd love to see on our shelves.

Tackle Final Projects With Trusted Sources

The end of the school year is approaching, which means final papers and projects are just around the corner. If you're looking for reliable information, the [Library's research databases](#) are a great place to start.

Students can explore trusted research tools including **JSTOR/Artstor** for academic journals and millions of high-quality images, **EBSCO** for peer-reviewed articles and reference materials, **Ebook Central** for scholarly ebooks across disciplines, and **World Book Online** for encyclopedia entries and multimedia resources. Together, these platforms support projects at every stage—from quick fact-checking to in-depth academic research.

Need help getting started? Drop by the Library to speak with a staff member.



Holiday Closures in May

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

Children's Events Highlights

Toddler Time (ages 1–3)

[Thursday 15 May](#) at 11h00

[Thursday 22 May](#) at 11h00

Story Hour (ages 3–5)

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

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

Ages 6–12

[Saturday Series: Translation Exploration](#) Saturday May 24 at 11h00

[Saturday Series: Your Summer Travel Journal](#) Saturday 7 June at 11h00

[Make It Last: A Mending Workshop with Ella Springer](#) Saturday 28 June at 11h00

Ages 8–12

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

Teen's Events Highlights



Ages 8–12

[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 23 May at 19h00

[Teen Night: Writing from Life with Charlene Allen](#) Friday 6 June at 19h00

[Finding the Best-Fit University for You \(with Ashley Miller Benz\)](#) Saturday 14 June at 16h00

[Teen Night: The 13th Annual Literary Reaping](#) Friday 27 June at 19h00



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



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.