

Featured in this edition. Gearing up to Giving Tuesday, Percival Everett at the Library, *The Gifts of Reading* at Daunt Books, and more.

16 September 2025

Support the Library this Giving Season



Today we launch our **Fall Appeal**—your chance to help keep the Library thriving. As the **home of the thoughtful and curious**, the Library welcomes families and readers of all ages, students and lifelong learners, locals and internationals alike.

Your gift makes the difference. It helps open our doors wider, bring new books to our shelves, and ensure Paris continues to have a place where curiosity is nourished, learning is shared, and everyone belongs.

Yes, I'll support the Library

Your gift can be made in euros or US dollars, by cash, check, or credit card. U.S. taxpayers may also donate appreciated stock or through a Donor-Advised Fund. [Learn more here.](#)

Join us for Giving Tuesday

On 2 December, the Library will host a new and special in-person celebration for donors and supporters. Think behind-the-scenes access, delightful conversations, and the chance to connect with fellow book lovers who make our mission possible. Mark your calendar and look out for more details in the weeks ahead.



Percival Everett at the Library with *La Grande Librairie*



Assistant Director Abigail Altman with Percival Everett

The Library welcomed award-winning author Percival Everett for the filming of [La Grande Librairie](#), France's premier prime-time literary program. With the Florence Gould Reading Room as a backdrop, Everett spoke with host Augustin Trapenard about the world of Mark Twain and his latest novel *James*, a reimagining of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* that earned the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the 2024 National Book Award. The visit was a homecoming as both Everett and his wife, writer Danzy Senna, were members of the Library when living in Paris.

Tune in on 1 October at 21h05 on [France 5](#) to watch the interview and to catch glimpses of treasures from our collection, including rare editions of Twain's works and an 1880 issue of *Harper's Weekly*.



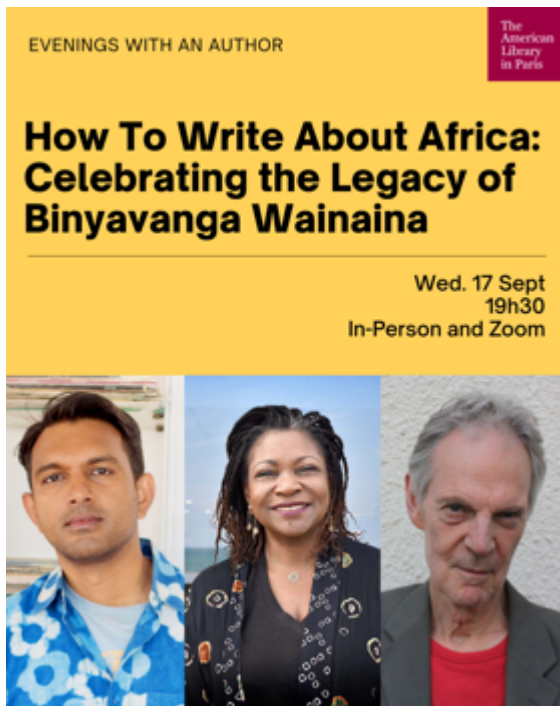
Adult Programs



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.



[How To Write About Africa: Celebrating the Legacy of Binyavanga Wainaina](#)

Hybrid: In-Person or Live on Zoom
Wednesday 17 September at 19h30 CEST

Binyavanga Wainaina (1971–2019) was a pioneering voice in African literature, a memoirist and essayist remembered as one of the most vital chroniclers of contemporary African life. This panel brings together **Achal Prabhala**, editor of the collection, novelist **Hemley Boum**, and critic **Jeremy Harding** for a wide-ranging conversation on Wainaina's art, activism, and global legacy.

RSVP for In-Person and Zoom



[The Poetry of Becoming](#)

Hybrid: In-Person or Live on Zoom
Tuesday 23 September at 19h30 CEST

Celebrate the debut collections of poets **Oluwaseun Olayiwola** and **Sasha Debevec-McKenney** in a reading and craft conversation moderated by **Emma Gomis**. Debevec-McKenney's [Joy Is My Middle Name](#) captures the messy, intimate journey from one decade of life to the next, while Olayiwola's [Strange Beach](#) reimagines the body and the self as shifting landscapes of desire, memory, and change.

RSVP for In-Person and Zoom



[Lessons in Looking with Lilly Dancyger](#)

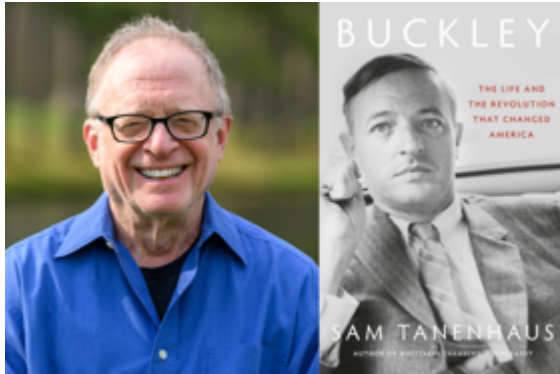
In-Person
Wednesday 24 September at 19h30 CEST

Join American Library in Paris [Scholar of Note](#) **Lilly Dancyger** for a craft talk on how visual art can deepen and expand a writer's practice. From the way portraiture reveals character to how sketching can inspire more playful drafting, this interactive lecture will explore the parallels between painting and prose. The Scholar of Note distinction, generously supported by [The de Groot](#)

WAYS of SEEING

[Foundation](#), is part of our Visiting Fellowship program.

RSVP for In-Person



[Sam Tanenhaus on William F. Buckley, Jr.](#)

Hybrid: In-Person or Live on Zoom
Tuesday 30 September at 19h30 CEST

Join biographer **Sam Tanenhaus** for a lecture on *Buckley*, his sweeping new portrait of William F. Buckley, Jr., the writer, commentator, and provocateur who helped launch the modern conservative movement. Tanenhaus traces Buckley's influence from the Cold War to the culture wars, revealing both his public legacy and the private contradictions behind the persona.

RSVP for In-Person and Zoom

Sanctuary: Our Story in *The Gifts of Reading*



On 4 September, Daunt Books in London hosted the launch of *The Gifts of Reading for the Next Generation*, a new anthology inspired by William Boyd's bestselling essay. Among its contributors is our Chief of Staff, Maisie Fieschi, who read from her essay *Sanctuary* at the event. In her piece, she reflects on the American Library in Paris as a place of refuge and resilience:

"The Library is a sanctuary of stories, a place where books are not just preserved but celebrated."

The anthology features contributions from some of today's most celebrated writers, including Colum McCann, William Boyd, Pico Iyer, and Sir Michael Morpurgo, alongside Maisie's essay on the Library's enduring role as a beacon for readers. [The Gifts of Reading for the Next Generation](#) is now available in the Library's collection.

Last Call! Board Game Night at the Library

Thursday 25 September, 19h00-21h00
Free for members | 10€ for non-members

There are still a **few spots** remaining for the Library's first Board Game Night of the season! Join us for an evening filled with strategy, chance, and plenty of fun. Light refreshments will be served as players gather around the table to test their skills and roll the dice. Bring friends along, or come solo and join forces with fellow game enthusiasts.

Click [here](#) to RSVP.



Children's Events Highlights

[Story Hour: Ridiculous Reads](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 17 September at 14h30

[Toddler Time](#) (ages 1–3) Thursday 18 September at 11h00

[Family Concert with Lauren Libaw and Dan Schlosberg](#) (all ages) Saturday 20 September at 14h00

[Story Hour: Big Problems](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 24 September at 14h00

[Fact-Finders Scavenger Hunt](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 27 September at 11h00

Teens' Events Highlights



[Family Concert with Lauren Libaw and Dan Schlosberg](#) (all ages) Saturday 20 September at 14h00

[Teen Night: Escape the Library](#) (ages 12–18) Friday 26 September at 19h00

[Writing Historical Fiction with Amy Plum](#) (ages 12–18) Saturday 27 September at 14h00



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.