

**In this edition.** Our Spring Garden Party in Montmartre, announcing the Library's Spring 2026 Cultural Fellow Elizabeth Gilbert, and more.

3 February 2026



## The Library's Spring Garden Party

Step into Auguste Renoir's Belle Époque and join us on Saturday 18 April for the Library's Spring Garden Party at the Musée de Montmartre—an unforgettable evening of live jazz, wine and canapés, and private access to the museum and its legendary gardens.

We will be joined by our special guest Francesca Wade, who will discuss Gertrude Stein, the Impressionists, and the artistic communities of Montmartre. Wade's *Gertrude Stein: An Afterlife* was named one of *The Washington Post's* Best Ten Books of 2025 and shortlisted for the American Library in Paris 2025 Book Award.

**Saturday 18 April 2026 at 18h00** | Musée de Montmartre

**Dress Code:** Seasonal brights and whimsical florals—hats welcome!

**Tickets:** €150 per person

This event is held in partnership with the [American Friends of Musée de Montmartre](#).

Join us in Montmartre

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Announcing the Library's Spring 2026  
Cultural Fellow, Elizabeth Gilbert



We're delighted to announce our [Spring 2026 Cultural Fellow](#), **Elizabeth Gilbert**. From her early career as a journalist to the global phenomenon of *Eat, Pray, Love* and her influential reflections on creativity in *Big Magic*, Gilbert has shaped how millions of readers think about living authentically.

On **Wednesday 4 March**, join us for an intimate evening with Gilbert at the Library as she offers a candid look at a career defined by curiosity, risk, and hard-won wisdom. In this wide-ranging conversation, Gilbert will discuss her new memoir, *All the Way to the River*, alongside the themes that run through her work—love and obsession, freedom and responsibility, devotion and self-reinvention.

***Keep an eye on your inbox!***

An email will be sent on **Thursday, 5 February at 12h00** with the link to purchase tickets.

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## An Evening with Alison Bechdel

Tuesday 10 March at 19h00 | Théâtre de la Concorde

We are thrilled to host [Alison Bechdel in collaboration with the Théâtre de la Concorde](#) on the 20th anniversary of her cult classic *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*. An iconic figure in lesbian culture and the creator of “the Bechdel test,” Bechdel will reflect on graphic storytelling in a fractured America and trace the evolution of her work, from *Dykes to Watch Out For* to her latest graphic novel, *Spent*.

**This event is currently sold out—[stay tuned](#) for a potential final ticket drop closer to the event.**




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## Applications for the de Groot Visiting Fellowship are now open

 The application cycle for the 2026–27 de Groot Visiting Fellowship is open from **1 February through 1 March**. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about the program and the application process.



**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.



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.

## Adult Programs



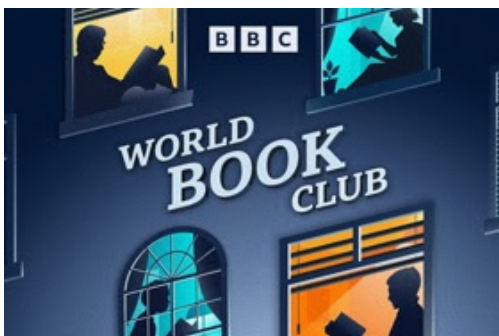
### [Behind the Scenes of the Notre-Dame Restoration with Hank Silver](#)

Hybrid: In-person and on Zoom  
Tuesday 3 February at 19h30 CET

Join carpenter **Hank Silver** for an inside look at the remarkable reconstruction of Notre-Dame's iconic roof. From hewing oak logs in Normandy to assembling the intricate medieval-style roof trusses in Paris, Silver will guide us through the craftsmanship, engineering, and devotion behind this historic restoration. Silver is a 2025–26 Director's Grant recipient at the American Library in Paris as he works on a memoir on his experience in the historic restoration of the cathedral.

***Limited in-person spots left!***

**RSVP for In-Person and Zoom**

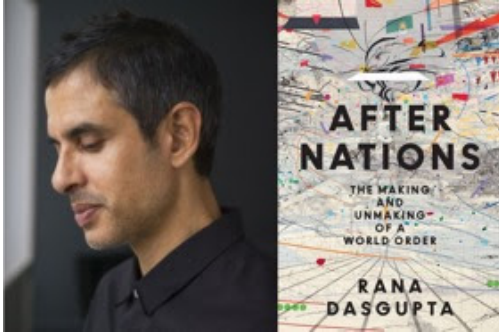


### [BBC World Book Club Live Recording with Laurent Binet](#)

In-person  
Thursday 12 February at 18h30 CET  
*This event is organized by the BBC World Service*

Join us for a special live recording of the **BBC World Book Club** at the Library, featuring celebrated French novelist **Laurent Binet**. World Book Club is presented by **Harriett Gilbert**, who will lead the discussion and put questions to Laurent sent in by listeners from around the world, alongside questions from you—our audience in the room.

RSVP for In-Person



## [After Nations with Rana Dasgupta and Martin Gelin](#)

Hybrid: In-person and on Zoom  
Tuesday 24 February at 19h30 CET

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As liberal democracies falter and new global powers rise, prizewinning writer **Rana Dasgupta** and author and journalist **Martin Gelin** join us to discuss *After Nations: The Making and Unmaking of a World Order*, Dasgupta's sweeping history of how the modern nation-state was formed—and why it may now be failing.

RSVP for In-Person and Zoom

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## Preserving Our History—Online and Open to All

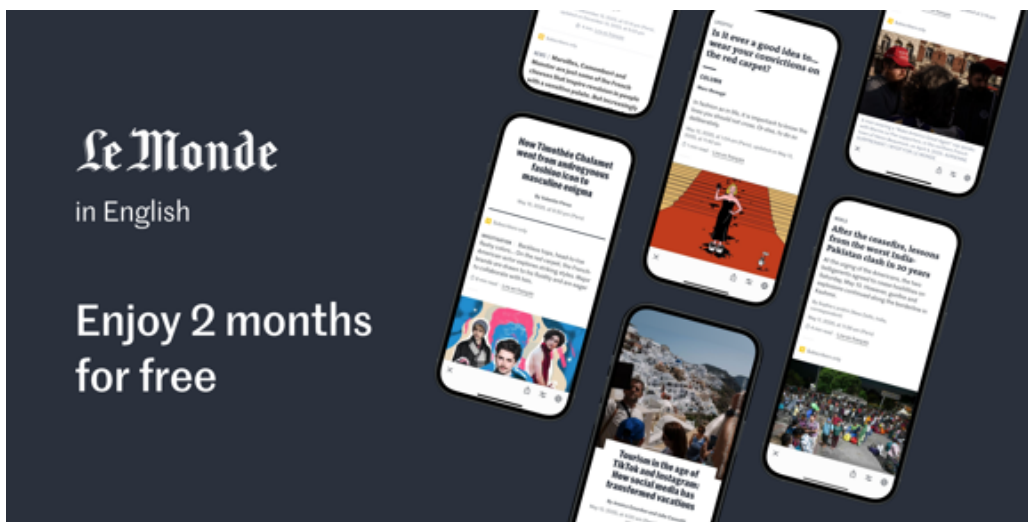


We are thrilled to announce that the Library has adopted the [JSTOR Digital Stewardship Services](#) to manage, preserve, and share our archives online. In joining JSTOR Stewardship, our goal is to make historically significant materials publicly accessible to everyone, everywhere—beginning with a curated set of black-and-white photographs documenting the Library's evolution over the past century. This project will safeguard key records from the Library's history, including photographs, newsletters, and institutional documents.

Read the full press release [here](#) and stay tuned for updates.

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**Partner offer** Unlimited access to *Le Monde* in English



In partnership with *Le Monde* in English, the Library is delighted to offer our community [two months of complimentary access](#). Get *Le Monde*'s trusted, in-depth reporting with a uniquely French take on today's biggest global stories

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## And the winner is... *Fireworks!*

The Caldecott Medal is one of the most prestigious awards for children's literature. In January, the Children's Library organised its own Mock Caldecott vote and our youngest readers chose *Fireworks* by Mathew Burgess and Catia Chen as their favorite picture book of 2025.

Special mentions went to *Monday Mabel* by Jashar Awan, *Our Lake* by Angie Kang, *Popo the Xolo* by Paloma Angelina Lopez and illustrated by Abraham Matias, and *Where Are You, Brontë?* by Tomie de Paola. Find these and more awe-inspiring titles on our shelves!

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## Children's Events Highlights



- [Story Hour: Surprise!](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 4 February at 14h30  
[DIY Valentines](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 7 February at 11h00  
[Story Hour: Be My Valentine](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 11 February at 14h30  
[60 Minutes to Create Stories](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 14 February at 11h00  
[Story Hour: Magnificent Mammals](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 8 February at 14h30  
[Saturday Series: Fact or Fiction](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 21 February at 11h00

## Teens' Events Highlights

- [Teen Night: Escape the Library](#) (ages 12–18) Friday 6 February at 19h00  
[Winter Weaving: A Workshop with Sara Wynn of Atelier Red](#) (ages 12–18) Saturday 7 February at 14h00  
[Teen Night: Cookie Bake Off](#) (ages 12–18) Friday 20 February at 19h00  
[Starting Your Short Story](#) (ages 12–18) Saturday 21 February at 16h00



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.

American  
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in Paris  
Est. 1920

