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# The American Library in Paris

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**e-Libris 31 August 2021**

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## New Expanded Hours in Effect Today!

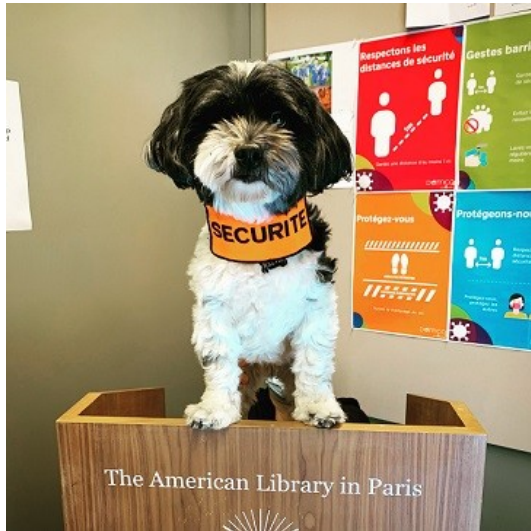
Today, we begin our new fall schedule.

Please note that we are now offering two nocturnes per week; on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, we are open until 21h00. On Thursdays we now close at 19h00.

**Tuesday–Wednesday: 10h00–21h00**  
**Thursday–Friday–Saturday: 10h00–19h00**  
**Sunday: 13h00–19h00**  
**Monday: Closed**

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## The *Pass Sanitaire* at the Library



Also starting today, the Library will require a *Pass Sanitaire* for everyone aged 18+ who wishes to enter the building, including members and volunteers. Melvis the Library Dog, who will occasionally be managing the door, will also accept negative COVID-19 tests from within the last 72 hours, as well as CDC and NHS cards showing fully vaccinated status. For more details, please visit the [COVID-19 information page](#).

Please note that starting on 30 September, all visitors ages 12+ must show a *Pass Sanitaire*.

We thank you for your cooperation.

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## *Lettres d'Amérique*: Tommy Orange on 6 September

Register now for the Library's new event series and discover major new voices in American literature. Launched in cooperation with the US Embassy and Festival America, *Lettres d'Amérique* will explore issues at the heart of contemporary America: race, immigration, citizenship, historical trauma, addiction, and gun violence. The range of this year's speakers is as rich as it is diverse.

All events are virtual and will begin at 19h30 CET / 13h30 EST / 10h30 PST and run for 75 minutes.

**The audience will have the option of watching in either French or English;** all events will be simultaneously translated from English into French.

Learn more about *Lettres* on the [Library's website](#).

### Monday 6 September: Tommy Orange in conversation with Robert Warrior



Tommy Orange's debut novel, *There There*, explores the plight of the urban Native American in a relentlessly paced multigenerational story about violence and recovery, memory and identity, dispossession and belonging. Orange weaves beauty and despair into this complex history of a nation and its people. Born in 1982, Orange grew up in Oakland, California, but his roots are in Oklahoma, where he is an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. Orange is a recent graduate from the MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts. A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, *There There* exploded onto the American literary scene. Orange's next novel, *Wandering Stars*, will be published by Alfred A. Knopf in 2022.

REGISTER: TOMMY ORANGE

**Wednesday 8 September:  
Laila Lalami in conversation with Elizabeth Martin-Shukrun**



In *Conditional Citizens*, Laila Lalami examines immigration, citizenship, and assimilation. Recounting her unlikely journey from Moroccan immigrant to US citizen, Lalami questions the boundary of what it means to be an American from historical, political, and literary perspectives. Lalami was born in Rabat and educated in Morocco, Great Britain, and the US. She is the author of four novels. Her writing has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Guardian*, and the *New York Times*, among others. She lives in Los Angeles, where she is a professor of creative writing at the University of California at Riverside.

**REGISTER: LAILA LALAMI**

**Monday 13 September:  
Jenny Zhang in conversation with Roberto Rodriguez-Estrada**



Jenny Zhang's latest poetry collection, *My Baby First Birthday*, interrogates what it means to be born into and grow up in a world that fetishizes womanhood, upholds the patriarchy, and extols whiteness. All the while implicating her reader, Zhang offers moments of tenderness, radiant beauty, and compassion. Zhang was born in Shanghai and grew up in New York. As an author, poet, and essayist, Zhang has been published in the *New York Times*, *BuzzFeed*, and *Rookie*, among others. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and Stanford University, she has also written for television and TV. She lives in New York City where she is working on a novel and screenplay.

**REGISTER: JENNY ZHANG**



Past programs are on YouTube, including Tales of Resistance with Judy Batalion and Arthur Magida; Tom Hodgkinson; Carissa Véliz; and Paula Deitz.



Listen to our podcast, Evenings with an Author, available wherever you get your podcasts.



Visit our Facebook page for information about upcoming virtual events and Evenings with an Author sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg.

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## Book Groups: Spots Available

If you are interested in joining one of our book groups, the following have available spaces. Spots are filling up quickly, so please sign up soon. For detailed information about all book groups, as well as **instructions on how to register**, please [visit the Library's website](#).

If you don't find the book group of your dreams in the below list, consider starting your own! Programs Manager Alice McCrum will guide you through the process. Please contact her via email: [mccrum@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:mccrum@americanlibraryinparis.org)

### The Art of Writing: Patricia Highsmith

Led by Precious Brown, this new book group invites discussion about the art and writing Highsmith produced during her time in France. Weather permitting, the group might make a day trip to Fontainebleau, where Highsmith resided.



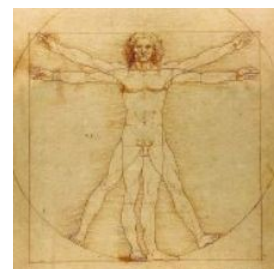
### The Art of Writing: The Beat Hotel

When a handful of Beats arrived in Paris in the fall of 1957, they checked into a bohemian hotel at 9, rue Git-le-Cœur. This book group will consider three of the Beat Generation's leading writers' formative years in Paris, as well as the profound influence the city exerted on their lives and work.



### Modern Ideas in Human Culture

Maurice Lanman and Laurie Calvet's long-standing non-fiction group will focus on how geography and culture impacted our past and skew our views about the future; how differing moral philosophies propose to deal with and live with the impacts of climate change; and will look to evolutionary psychologist Stephen Pinker for a reassuring view of the progress of human society toward global enlightenment.



### Prize-Winning American and British Plays

Reading plays can teach us about characters and their dilemmas, the human condition in general, and problems in a particular society or culture. This book group, run by Hilary Kaiser, will read and discuss award-winning works of theater.



## French and American Encounters

Sharon Golec's book group reads non-fiction works on French and American history, and the many mutual influences our two countries have had on each other. Diving deep into history and culture, the group will explore "tandems," figures whose intense connections of different types (couples, friends, mentors, antagonists) influenced history.



## Strangers in a Strange Land (wait list open)

Mary Harries Magnusson and Deborah Singleton's group focuses on novels whose protagonists are geographically, or else spiritually, far from home.



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## Kids and Teens



A Welcome Back Message from Kirsty and Celeste

## Children's News

We're excited to welcome back young readers for a fall packed with programs—virtual and in-person. Toddler Times, our Bookworms Book Club, afternoon Story Hour, and a selection of Saturday events will be held in person. Capacity for all in-person activities will be limited, so we recommend registering early. We are also offering a selection of virtual events, including an [art workshop with artist, author, and illustrator Stephen T. Johnson](#).

A valid Pass Sanitaire will be required for all adults accompanying children to the Library, and all caregivers should familiarize themselves with our [Children in the Library policy](#) to make the most of their visit.

## Teen Updates

- 1 September is the last day to turn in your 10 Book Challenge review cards and receive prizes, so stop by and tell us all about your summer reads.
- Teens between the ages of 12–18 can apply now for the [2021–2022 Master Shot Film Club](#), which meets once a month on Saturday from 17h00–18h30, with ongoing projects throughout the year.
- Registration is also open for a writing workshop on 24 September, and more Friday night events are planned for October and November.
- Capacity for all clubs and workshops will be limited for our in-person events, so we recommend registering early.
- If you're just looking for a space to hang out or study, you can make yourself comfortable on our expanded [Teen Mezzanine](#).
- Starting on 30 September, a valid Pass Sanitaire is required to visit the Library for all members 12 and up.

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## Renew your Membership and Consider a Gift

As an independent, non-profit institution, we rely on the support and generosity of our community. How can you help the American Library in Paris throughout the year? Renew your Library membership, make a donation online, and tell your friends about the Library.

RENEW

DONATE

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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.

## BECOME A LIBRARY MEMBER

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