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# The American Library in Paris

ESTABLISHED 1920

**e-Libris 15 February 2022**

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In the event that this *e-Libris* is cut short by your email service, please click the link at the bottom of the email to see the newsletter in its entirety.



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## Visiting Fellowship Accepting Applications Now through 1 April

We are happy to announce that we are accepting applications for our Visiting Fellowship program for fall 2022 and spring 2023. The application deadline is 1 April 2022.

The Fellowship offers writers and researchers an opportunity to pursue a creative project while actively participating in the intellectual life of the American Library. Applicants should be working on a book project, fiction or non-fiction, or a feature-length documentary film, that contributes to cross-cultural discourse.

We invite you to share this opportunity with writers in your community. International applicants are encouraged, and you do not need to be American to apply. Please visit our [Fellowship webpage](#) for more information.

The American Library in Paris's Visiting Fellowship is made possible through the generous support of The de Groot Foundation.

The  
American  
Library  
in Paris

## Visiting Fellowship

Writers submit by April 1

APPLY NOW



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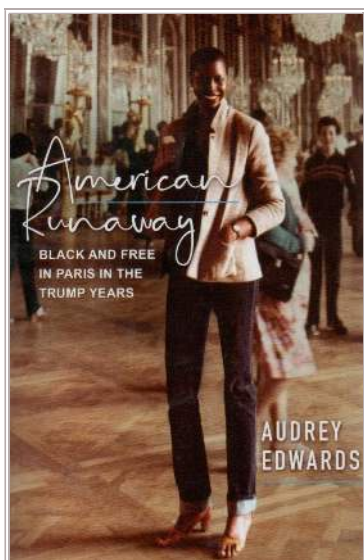
## February Programs for Adults

*Evenings with an Author* events are sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg

Due to the inherent uncertainties of these pandemic times, upcoming programs may be canceled, rescheduled, or may take place virtually. Once you have RSVPed to an event, you will be informed of any changes via email. You must RSVP to attend our *Evenings with an Author* programs, either in person or via Zoom.

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The Library's **Black History Month 2022** programming has been curated in partnership with Patrick Banks of [The Californien Agency](#), a consultancy and strategic adviser to artists and creative enterprises. The Library would especially like to thank [Little Africa Paris](#), our media partner for this series.



### TONIGHT

**Black and Free in Paris**

**with Audrey Edwards**

**In Person at the Library/Streamed Live on Zoom**

**Tuesday 15 February at 19h30 CET**

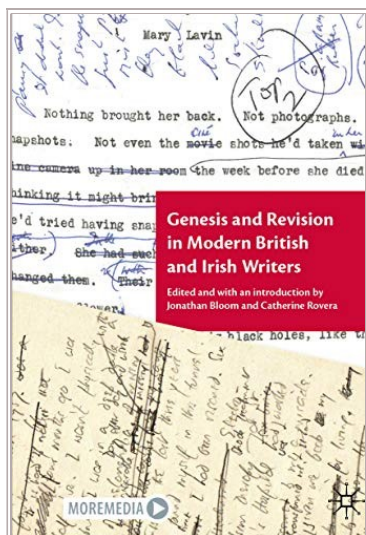
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Following the 2016 US presidential election, and inspired by a long history of Black Americans who left the US for France, journalist Audrey Edwards chose to move to Paris both to protest the Trump presidency and to protect her own well-being as a Black woman. Her new book, *American Runaway: Black and Free in Paris in the Trump Years*, chronicles the life she made for herself abroad. A witty, captivating, and moving work, Edwards puts her sharp voice and dry humor to work in recounting fabulous soirées, kooky characters, complicated friendships, and messy cultural exchanges. Ultimately, she offers a story of self-liberation. Edwards will be in conversation with researcher and granddaughter of Richard Wright, **Ellen Hervé-Wright**.

Copies of *American Runaway* will be for sale after the event, thanks to [Little Africa Paris](#).

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

RSVP to attend at the Library or on Zoom



**TOMORROW**

## **The Creative Process Revealed with Jonathan Bloom**

**In Person at the Library**

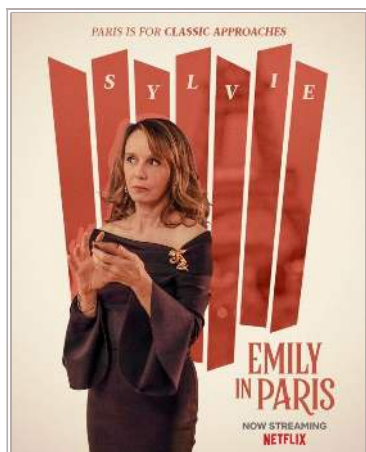
**Wednesday 16 February at 19h30 CET**

How does a text become a text? What separates revision from writing? How have artists historically revised, and what tools do we have at our disposal to study this? Join Jonathan Bloom, University of Paris-Dauphine Senior Lecturer and editor of recent essay collection *Genesis and Revision in Modern British and Irish Writers*, for a discussion on paper, manuscripts, and the creative process. Looking behind the scenes at the craft of writing, Bloom will bring us into the minds of Woolf, Joyce, Yeats, and more.

Copies of *Genesis and Revision* will be for sale after the event for just 20€ (retail price 70€–100€) thanks to [Bill & Rosa's Book Room](#).

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

**RSVP to attend at the Library**



## **How to Play La Parisienne with Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu**

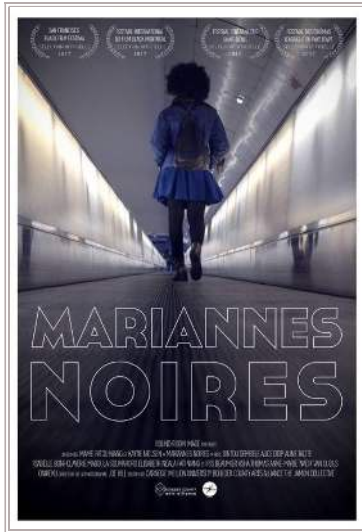
**In Person at the Library/Streamed Live on Zoom**

**Tuesday 22 February at 19h30 CET**

It is impossible to live as an expat in Paris without, at least once, confronting the cultural phenomenon that is the Netflix series *Emily in Paris*. In this spirit we are delighted to welcome Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu, who plays the *parisienne* (Sylvie) on the show, in conversation with *New York Times* journalist **Elaine Sciolino**. In an exciting evening for expats and French viewers alike, Leroy-Beaulieu and Sciolino will discuss femininity, age, style, as well as mean (and nice) Parisians. Join us as they cover the trajectory of Leroy-Beaulieu's career, the cultural aftershocks of *Emily in Paris*, and her experience adopting the mantle of the infamous *parisienne*.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

**RSVP to attend at the Library or on Zoom**



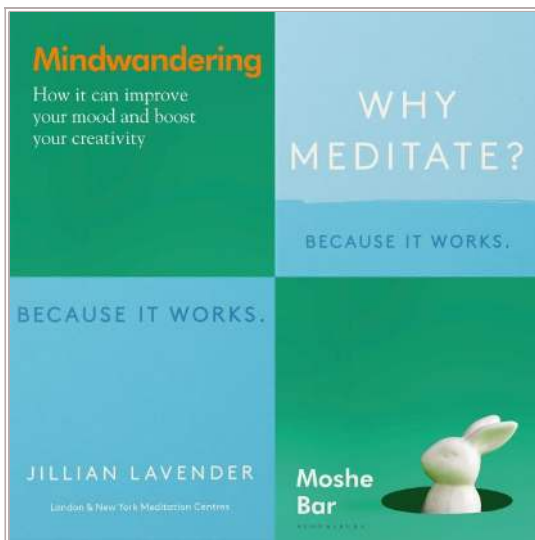
## **Mariannes Noires with Mame-Fatou Niang**

**In Person at the Library/Streamed Live on Zoom  
Wednesday 23 February at 19h30 CET**

The question of French identity has puzzled writers and politicians since the nation's inception. In the modern age, the idea of a uniform French people has become less and less viable. At the forefront of this debate is filmmaker and writer Mame-Fatou Niang, whose 2015 documentary, *Mariannes Noires*, sheds light on French women who are not fully described by universalism. Looking to seven French-born women of African and Caribbean descent, the documentary asks if an essence of Frenchness can be extracted from their varied experiences. Niang leads viewers through a rich cultural landscape, allowing Black French women to voice their own experiences and perspectives on the enigma of French identity.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

**RSVP to attend at the Library or on Zoom**



## **Meditation and the Wandering Mind with Jillian Lavender and Moshe Bar**

**Streamed Live on Zoom  
Tuesday 1 March at 19h30 CET**

The challenges of the past two years have pushed many to seek new methods for managing anxiety and achieving focus. Learning to observe the wanderings of one's mind is a difficult task, and one which often feels shrouded in mystery. Yet, as Jillian Lavender argues in her new book, it is not an impossible one, and can even be easy with the right instruction. The aim of *Why Meditate? Because it Works* is to demystify meditation, and provide beginners with a practical and clear guide to its benefits. Lavender will be in conversation with cognitive neuroscientist Moshe Bar, who has written on the technique of "mind wandering."

This program is presented in partnership with the [Abdul Hameed Shoman Public Library](#) and the [US Embassy](#) in Amman, Jordan.

Free and open to the public.  
Registration required.

**RSVP to attend on Zoom**







**Architecture for the Future**  
**with Mollie Claypool and Jack Self**  
**Streamed Live on Zoom**  
**Wednesday 2 March at 19h30 CET**

As we look to the future, how might architecture and design help to bring about a brighter one? Mollie Claypool is an architectural theorist, designer, educator, and practitioner. She asks how we might employ automation to create more equitable frameworks for design production. Jack Self is an architect, curator, and writer who works in domestic design and housing, the history of communitarian life, alternative modes of finance and ownership, and new environmental standards. Together, they will discuss the tools available within the field that can support society-wide change.

Free and open to the public.  
 Registration required.

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)

-  Past programs are on YouTube, including We Are Bridges with Cassandra Lane & Malika Harding; Hood Feminism with Mikki Kendall & Kierstan Kaushal-Carter; Precarity & Inequality with Albenaz Azmanova & Lucas Chancel; Les Noirs Américains with Pap Ndiaye & Jake Lamar; and Wake with Dr. Rebecca Hall.
-  Listen to our podcast, Evenings with an Author, available wherever you get your podcasts.
-  Visit our Facebook page for information about upcoming events and Evenings with an Author sponsored by GROW @ Annenberg.



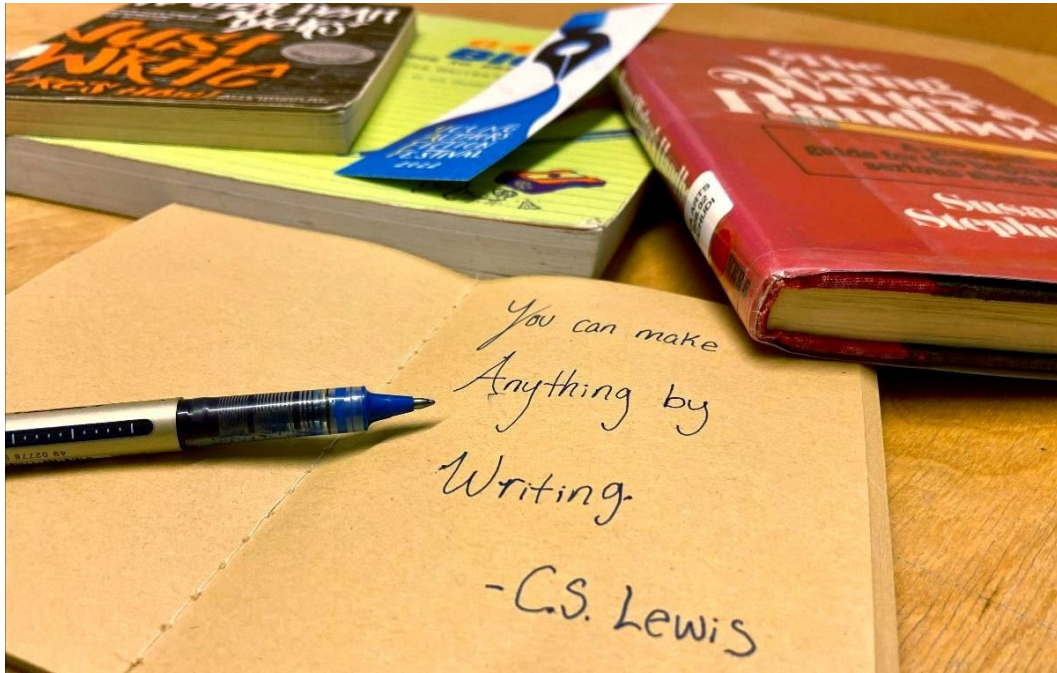
**GROW@**  
**ANNENBERG**

Evenings with an Author and other weeknight programs at the Library are free and open to the public (with a 10€ suggested donation) thanks to support from GROW @ Annenberg, our members, and those who attend programs.

## Kids' and Teens' News: YAFF is Back!

Events for children and teens continue in person, in small groups, or as hybrid events. Registration is required to attend any program, and you must be a Library member to attend children's events. To find out what's coming up next, be sure to check our [calendar](#), and register early!





It's that time of year again! The [Young Authors Fiction Festival 2022](#) (YAFF) is open for short story submissions now through **1 April 2022 at 22h00**.

YAFF, the Library's short story writing contest, is free to enter and is open to all young authors, from Kindergarten/Grande Section to 12th Grade/Terminale, who write in English and live in the greater Paris area. Prizes are awarded by grade level.

Check out the [YAFF page](#) on our website for details on submitting and FAQs. Completed stories must adhere to the guidelines and be sent via the online form on the Library's website. Submit your story before the deadline, and join the Library's next generation of writers and authors!

The Library offers many resources for creative writing, including books, creative games, and writing workshops.

Children ages 8–12 are invited to attend our [Beginning Your Short Story workshop](#) on Saturday 27 February at 14h00. You must RSVP to attend.

See our [website calendar](#) for all upcoming programs.

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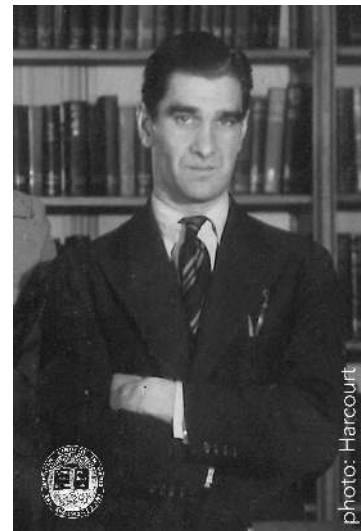
## Library Lore: From the Archives

Paris was liberated by the Allies on 25 August 1944. However, the destruction and privations of wartime continued to plague France for some time afterwards. Mayanne Wright, a longtime Library volunteer who works with Assistant Director Abigail Altman in the Library's archives, has recently uncovered reports written by Library staff that shed light on this period.

The reports comment on the precarious health of Library employees, who continued to suffer the effects of malnutrition experienced during the war years.

Staff member Boris Netchaev (right, circa 1940) had been shot in the lung by the Gestapo in 1943 for not raising his hands quickly enough when being arrested. He was imprisoned and later released, but his wound had still not healed by late 1945.

Head Librarian Elizabeth C. Madden, who worked at the Library from 1930–1933, and then again right after WWII, from 1945–1946, described conditions in December 1945:



*“December [1945] was a somewhat quieter month than November, due partly to the holiday season. This was not surprising, as there is always a drop in registration and circulation during the month of December. On the other hand, the heavy pressure of desk work was concentrated in the hours during which we had electricity. For this month a regular schedule of three and four hours at a time without electricity was inaugurated. We managed to buy two small kerosene lamps (larger hurricane lamps have been ordered from the Army Foreign Liquidation Commission, but they have not yet been received) which made it possible to charge out books. Most of the other work of the Library, however, was at a standstill during the hours of darkness. As a result, when we had the light again, the work (slipping returned books, shelving, cataloguing, etc.) had piled up to an alarming degree. The light shortage, however, did not seem to discourage our readers, for they continued to come to the Library in considerable numbers. Some struggled heroically to read or study by the none-too-bright light from the windows; others clustered about the desks, returning their books, then groping about the stacks to find others. These conditions proved a considerable strain on the staff, but they carried on nobly and good-humoredly.”*

“Report of the American Library in Paris for December 1945,”  
written by Head Librarian Elizabeth C. Madden.  
The American Library in Paris Archives: Box 5, File C3a.1

Library members have access to **primary sources** about the reconstruction of France after World War II on the JSTOR database. Log on through the [Library's online catalog](#). Selected sources include:

Kyte, George W. “War Damage and Problems of Reconstruction in France, 1940-1945.” *Pacific Historical Review*, vol. 15, no. 4, University of California Press, 1946, pp. 417–26, <https://doi.org/10.2307/3635778>.

Bell, J. F. “Problems of Economic Reconstruction in France.” *Economic Geography*, vol. 22, no. 1, [Clark University, Wiley], 1946, pp. 54–66, <https://doi.org/10.2307/141763>.



photo: Ed Meyer, USIS. 1945.

Readers in the biography section, 1945.  
9, rue de Téhéran, 8ème, the Library's home from 1936–1952.  
The American Library in Paris Archives, File 3-1.

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## How Can You Help the American Library?





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, become a volunteer, and tell your friends about the Library.

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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**

[www.americanlibraryinparis.org](http://www.americanlibraryinparis.org)



The American Library in Paris  
10 rue du Général Camou  
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