



The American Library in Paris

LITERATURE | LEARNING | CULTURE | COMMUNITY

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7 November 2017

The Novel of the Century is the 2017 Book Award winner

Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is one of the most popular novels of all time. Biographer David Bellos recounts the fascinating story of the decades-long creation of this masterwork in his just-published book, *The Novel of the Century: The Extraordinary Adventures of Les Misérables*. The screeners and jury of the 2017 American Library in Paris Book Award were unanimous. Bellos's account takes the prize.

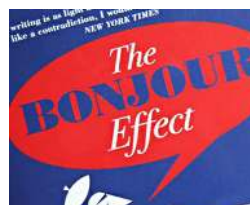


In his remarks, Bellos expressed how Victor Hugo's underlying themes of redemption, love, and struggle against poverty remain every bit as relevant today as they were in the 1860s, perhaps more so.

Bellos accepted the prize in a glittering reception at the George C. Marshall Center on Friday 3 November. A photo gallery of the reception can be found on the [Library's Flickr](#).

French conversation secrets, French war brides, and a French scandal

[Tonight](#), Jean-Benoît Nadeau, co-author with Julie Barlow, of *The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed*, speaks about their book, which was shortlisted for last year's Library Book Award. In the book, they explore various aspects of French life, from administrative red tape to cultural fluency. Even for longtime residents, this promises to



Teens



Thank You Note Writing

Saturday 18 November
12h30-14h00 (ages 12-18)

We'll provide the stationery and supplies for you to drop a note in the mail for someone special in your life to let them know that you're grateful for them. Stop by on Saturday to get tips on letter writing. *No sign-up necessary.*



Master Shot Film Club

Saturday 18 November
17h00-18h30 (ages 12-18)

Aspiring filmmakers are invited to join the Master Shot Film Club led by filmmaker and writer Clarence Tokley. The purpose of this club is to have the opportunity to make high-quality short films.

[Sign-up is required.](#)

cultural fluency. Even for longtime residents this promises to be an interesting presentation.



Tomorrow night, as Veteran's Day approaches, Hilary Kaiser returns to speak at the Library about French war brides, based on her extensive writing about the topic in several books. This is a subject of great interest to the American and French public, and will be a fascinating evening about a shared history.

On Tuesday 14 November, Callan Wink presents his short story collection, *Dog Run Moon*, which was shortlisted for the 2017 Dylan Thomas Prize. His tales recount the lives of people in the American West. *The New York Times* reviewed the book as "[An] excellent first book of stories...one of the great things about *Dog Run Moon* is how resilient and funny [the characters] are...This is Thomas McGuane territory, and also that of writers like Joy Williams."



On Wednesday 15 November, Thomas Sancton presents his book *The Bettencourt Affair: The World's Richest Woman and the Scandal That Rocked Paris*, about the recently deceased L'Oréal heiress and the intrigue around her life and fortune.

Bilingual education presentation

On Monday 20 November at 18h00, the Library will be co-hosting with AAWF an evening with Dr. Fabrice Jaumont. External Relations Manager Pauline Lemasson will moderate the discussion on the importance of bilingual education. His book, *The Bilingual Revolution: The Future of Education is in Two Languages*, is a collection of vignettes and practical advice as told by the parents and educators who founded dual language programs in New York City public schools. Dr. Jaumont will sign copies of the book, available in English and French editions, after the presentation.



This evening program is free and open to the public. To reserve your spot, please fill out this [online RSVP form](#).

A discussion on getting your French driver's license

Join American expat and author Joe Start on Sunday 19 November at 14h00 for a humorous and practical discussion on getting your French driver's license or *permis de conduire*. Joe's personal experience in obtaining his French driver's license resulted in his recently published book *French License*. Explore your options through the comedic lens of Joe's pitfalls. Key takeaways will be links to resources to assist people in a multitude of situations.

This workshop is free for Library members. Non-members may purchase a day pass. To sign up, please email rosenberg@americanlibraryinparis.org.

Library Culture Picks: November



Capture the Flag

Friday 24 November

19h00-21h00 (ages 12-18)

Join us for a game of capture the flag on the Champ de Mars (weather permitting). We'll meet at the Library to divide you into teams and go over the rules of the game, then we'll set out as a group to the Champ de Mars to play.

Sign-up is required.

Kids



Around the World in an Hour!

Saturday 18 November
15h00-16h00 (ages 6-10)

Join us for a voyage around the world! We'll read stories set in cities around the world, and we'll learn fun facts about different countries and cultures.

No sign-up necessary!

Parents welcome!



Thank You Letter Writing

Sunday 19 November

14h00-15h30 (ages 8-12)

Join us for a workshop dedicated to saying "thank you." Learn how to write a proper letter, and then write one for a special person or people in your life. We'll have the stationery!

No sign-up necessary!

LIBRARY CULTURE PICKS. NOVEMBER

Fall is turning quickly into winter in Paris, so we're thankful for some great exhibitions around the city. Most notable is the recent opening of the Musée Yves Saint Laurent spread out over two floors of haute couture, sketches, photos, and most touching, his studio that was the heart of his creations. Be sure to also check out an excellent exhibit on pastels, and another on the Dada movement.



We've selected books to go with these cultural excursions, which you can check out on the [Library blog](#).

Book Drive continues for Doctors Without Borders

The Library has received many book donations in support of Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières), which is opening an information center for underage asylum seekers this fall in Paris. Graphic novels, fiction, short story collections, French or English grammar books, and books in any other genre in English, French, Farsi, or Arabic are welcome. We will continue to accept donations through 25 November.



For more information, please contact info@americanlibraryinparis.org.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 7 November | 19h30

Jean-Benoît Nadeau: *Evenings with an Author*

Jean-Benoît Nadeau, co-author with Julie Barlow, will present their book, *The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed*.

Wednesday 8 November | 19h30

Hilary Kaiser: *Evenings with an Author*

Hilary Kaiser will talk about French war brides based on her extensive writing on this topic.

Tuesday 14 November | 19h30

Callan Wink: *Evenings with an Author*

Callan Wink will present his short story collection *Dog Run Moon*, which was shortlisted for the 2017 Dylan Thomas Prize.

Wednesday 15 November | 19h30

Tom Sancton: *Evenings with an Author*

Tom Sancton will present his book *The Bettencourt Affair: The World's Richest Woman and the Scandal That Rocked Paris*.

Parents welcome!



Thanksgiving Thank-O-Rama

**Saturday 25 November
15h00-16h30 (ages 6-10)**

Join us for a celebration of being thankful with games and crafts inspired by Thanksgiving and the art of saying thank you. We'll also have a Thanksgiving pie-tasting so you can taste some festive treats!

No sign-up necessary!

Parents welcome!

And always...

**Wednesday Story Hour
for children ages 3-5**

NOTE: Story Hour takes place at 10h30 and 14h30 every Wednesday.

Please [check here](#) for the full schedule and details.

No sign-up necessary!

Toddler Time

10h30 and 17h00

(ages 1-3)

Rhymes, songs, and stories in English lasting 30 minutes.

9, 23 November

All children must be

accompanied by an adult lap.

[Sign-up is required.](#)

Unless otherwise stated, all children's and teens' programs are free for Library members and 10 euros for non-members.

Find out how to [become a member](#).

All evening events at the Library are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. We are grateful to GRoW @ Annenberg at the Annenberg Foundation for its continuing support of Evenings with an Author.

Program dates and speakers are subject to change.

Please check the website for updates, see the [Events and Programs](#) page.

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