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The American Library in Paris

ESTABLISHED 1920

e-Libris 13 June 2023

In this issue

- [A Gala Thank You](#)
- [2023–2024 Visiting Fellows and Scholars of Note](#)
- [Library Notebooks Are Here!](#)
- [Programs for Adults](#)
- [Children's and Teens' News](#)
- [How Can You Help the Library?](#)

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Editor: Carolyn Dubol

A Gala Thank You

On 1 June more than 230 friends gathered at the Automobile Club de France to celebrate honoree Andrew Sean Greer and to support the American Library in Paris.



Pulitzer Prize-winner Greer shared his hilarious observations on being a "United Statesian" abroad; Visiting Fellow Kate Kirkpatrick described the special atmosphere of an American library; and Rachid Santaki brought us all back to our school days with a French *dictée*. We invite you to view the [photo gallery](#) of the event, with photos by Krystal Kenney.

We're especially grateful for the exceptional generosity of our Gala table sponsors: Forrest Alogna and Sandrine Poisson; Bertrand and Naïma Cardi; Lise Hartman de Fouchier; Clydetta and Charles de Groot; Domaine des Cœuriots; Jeanne and Peter Fellowes; Steven and Barbara Gerber; Jade Vu Henry and Fabrice Henry; Julien Horn and Anne Mény-Horn; Rob and Sherry Johnson; Heather and Robert Keane; William and Maria Kelly; Ashley Maddox; Ishtar Méjanès; Luis Roth and Jennifer Dalrymple; Edward and Mary Lee Turner; and Laura Wenke and Alexander Marquardt.

A warm thank you to all the speakers, ticket buyers, sponsors, donors, and the publishers Abacus Books and Little, Brown and Company for making the event possible.

A grand *merci* to the Board of Trustees for their time and passionate support, and to the Library staff and volunteers who worked so hard to make the Gala a success.



Everything you love about the Library, from our collections and programming to our professional staff and our welcoming spaces, is possible thanks to fundraising events like the Gala.

If you'd like to learn more about giving opportunities, please email giving@americanlibraryinparis.org.

Meet the 2023–2024 American Library in Paris Visiting Fellows and Scholars of Note

Following a competitive application cycle, we are delighted to welcome five brilliant thinkers to the Library in the coming year. The projects they will develop during their time in Paris showcase both excellence and variety.

Our warmest congratulations to 2023–2024 Visiting Fellows [Adam Shatz](#) and [Christian Campbell](#). Visiting Fellows receive a \$5000 stipend. While in Paris they present programs and workshops at the Library, meet the community, and work on a creative project.



Adam Shatz is the US editor of the *London Review of Books* and a contributor to the *New York Review of Books*, the *New York Times Magazine*, the *New Yorker*, and other publications. He is the author of *Writers and Missionaries: Essays on the Radical Imagination* and *The Rebel's Clinic: The Revolutionary Lives of Frantz Fanon*. A Visiting Professor at Bard College, Shatz is the host of a podcast, *Myself with Others*.

During his Fellowship, and as part of a study-in-progress of avant-garde jazz and Black creative music from the second half of the 20th century to the present, Shatz will be investigating the cultural and aesthetic exchanges that Paris made possible, and which helped to transform the work of expatriate jazz musicians.



Christian Campbell is the author of the acclaimed poetry collection *Running the Dusk*. He studied at Balliol College, Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, and his work has been featured and reviewed in the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, *Small Axe*, the *Financial Times*, and elsewhere. He is currently a Practitioner Fellow at the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America at Brown University.

At the Library, Campbell will work on a new book that reimagines the life and work of the Haitian painter Louis Rigaud, who painted fifteen portraits of 19th century Haitian leaders, including Toussaint L'Ouverture. Campbell hopes to show what the archive often cannot: the humanity and interior lives of those who lived through and drove the Haitian Revolution.

In response to the high number of outstanding candidates for the Visiting Fellowship program, the Selection Committee created the Scholar of Note distinction in 2022 to acknowledge particularly exceptional applicants. Our 2023–2024 Scholars of Note are [Vanessa Onwuemezi](#), [Lauren Oyler](#), and [Tess Lewis](#).



The recipients of the 2023—2024 Visiting Fellowship and Scholars of Note distinction join an impressive roster of intellectuals and authors who have been awarded the Visiting Fellowship in previous years, from Mark Braude to Ta-Nehisi Coates. Both initiatives are made possible through the generous support of The de Groot Foundation.

Library Notebooks Are Here!

We commissioned Parisian artist Marine Belkebir (@marinebelkebir on Instagram) to make a beautiful new illustration for the Library. We then worked with Papier Tigre, the wonderful *papeterie* in the 3ème arrondissement, to create A5 notebooks printed right here in Paris on 100% recycled paper.

We have four different colorways to choose from, and a choice of lined or unlined paper, for all your travel journaling, note-taking, and writing needs.

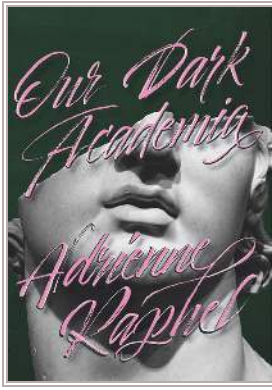
Notebooks are 20€ at the Member Services Desk, and proceeds support the Library's programs and collection. Quantities are limited! In-person sales only.



Programs for Adults

Evenings with an Author, sponsored by 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.

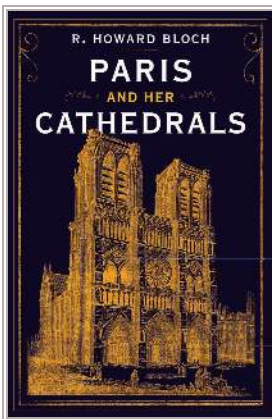
**TONIGHT****An Evening of Poetry****with Adrienne Raphel and Megan Fernandes****Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom****Tuesday 13 June at 19h30 CEST**

Join 2022–2023 Visiting Fellow Adrienne Raphel and poet Megan Fernandes for a special evening dedicated to poetry. Celebrated as two of the most exciting poets of their generation, both Raphel and Fernandes experiment across form, language, and sound to generate fragmented, fleeting images of the current moment, diagnosing cultural maladies of contemporary society and playing with poetry as a means of reconciliation.

The Visiting Fellowship is generously sponsored by The de Groot Foundation.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

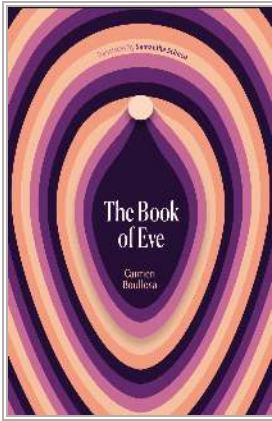
[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)

**TOMORROW****The Cathedrals of France with R. Howard Bloch****Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom****Wednesday 14 June at 19h30 CEST**

Saint-Denis, Chartres, Sainte-Chapelle, Reims, Amiens, and Notre-Dame: in *Paris and her Cathedrals*, art historian R. Howard Bloch approaches each of these celebrated sites with renewed curiosity, historical rigor, and aesthetic enthusiasm. From thrilling intrigues to luxurious architecture and sacred relics, Bloch reanimates the past of the cathedrals, revealing their centrality to French life and identity across epochs. Join Bloch in conversation with architecture expert Barry Bergdoll as they walk us through the vaulted arches and stone passages of France's most iconic structures, showing glimpses along the way into ways of life lost to time.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



The International Library Part II: Translating Traditions

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Center for Fiction (Brooklyn);

Live on Zoom; Streamed Live at the Library

Thursday 15 June at 19h30 CEST

A striking example of translation and its many layers—of language, of myth, of tradition—Samantha Schnee’s new English translation of Mexican author Carmen Boullosa’s *The Book of Eve* (*El libro de Eva*) twists, challenges, and ultimately revises a classic tale for a contemporary moment. As Eve, fueled by “fiery disobedience,” tells her own version of the *Book of Genesis*, she brazenly rejects the stories that have oppressed women across millennia. No, she was not created from Adam’s rib; no, she was not expelled from the Garden of Eden for nibbling a forbidden apple; and no, humanity was not deluged by a great flood. In person at the Center for Fiction (Brooklyn, NY) and over Zoom, join Schnee and Boullosa for a conversation about translation twice (and sometimes thrice) over.

Free and open to the public. Registration required to attend in Brooklyn, on Zoom, or to watch the livestream at the Library.

RSVP to attend in person in Brooklyn or online

RSVP to watch the livestream at the Library



Critical Conversations Meeting Eight: Solitude

In Person at the Library

Thursday 15 June at 19h00 CEST

Please note the start time for this event.

Humans always had what we might refer to as the “contemplative gap”: time when the lack of distraction, and the lack of technology, brought us regularly, however reluctantly, in touch with our own inner thinking and feeling selves. Now, with global media and online interaction only a click away, are we eradicating solitude? Has seeking solitude become an act of social dissent? What becomes of the human being when solitude—as opposed to aloneness—is entirely absent? This month, Critical Conversations considers different forms of solitude and ask ourselves how important they are. What might we be missing without them?

Registration required.

RSVP to attend in person



Ann Mah's *Jacqueline in Paris*: Book Launch Event

Hybrid Event: In Person at **Reid Hall; Live on Zoom**

Saturday 17 June at 19h00 CEST

Please note the location and start time of this event.

In August 1949, Jacqueline Bouvier arrives in postwar Paris to begin her junior year abroad as a Smith College student. Jacqueline is immediately catapulted into an intoxicating new world of champagne and châteaux, art and avant-garde theater, cafés and jazz clubs, and the ghosts of WWII and the Occupation. Ann Mah's new novel imagines the intellectual and aesthetic awakening of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, illuminating how France would prove to be her one true love.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

This event is hosted by Columbia Global Centers | Paris, Smith College Paris, and the Smith College Club of France with the partnership of the U.S. Embassy Community Liaison Office (CLO), the Association of American Women in Europe (AAWE), INSPIRELLE, and the American Library in Paris.

RSVP to attend in person at Reid Hall or on Zoom



Annual General Meeting

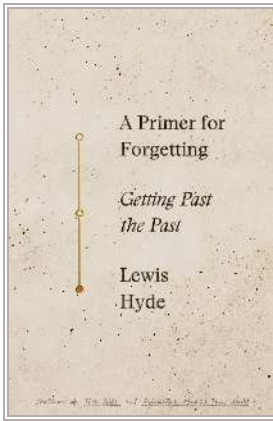
In Person at the Library

Tuesday 20 June at 19h30 CEST

All members of the American Library in Paris are invited to the Annual General Meeting of the American Library in Paris, Inc., a membership corporation organized under the laws of Delaware and operating in France. The Library Director, Chairman of the Board, and Board of Trustees will report on activities in 2022.

This event will take place in person, and is only for Library members. Members will be asked to show their Library cards to enter.

No registration required.



[The Case for Forgetting with Lewis Hyde](#)

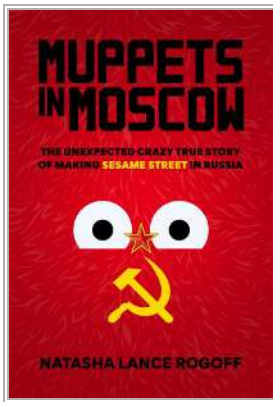
Online Event: Live on Zoom

Tuesday 20 June at 19h30 CEST

From smartphones with unlimited storage to apps promising to improve your cognitive skills, memory is of central importance to our society. Author Lewis Hyde asks: Has memory been over-valued? Under what conditions might it be preferable to forget? Considering philosophy, art, and mythology, Hyde proposes a radical manifesto for creativity: True innovation is achieved through forgetting.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend on Zoom](#)



[Natasha Lance Rogoff on Post-Soviet Sesame Street](#)

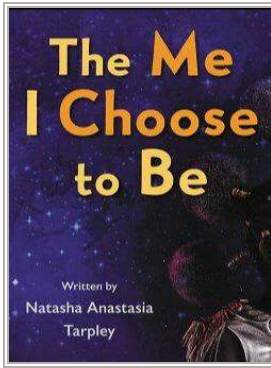
Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

Wednesday 21 June at 19h30 CEST

Early 1990s Russia: The Soviet Empire has collapsed, and a new social order is being built from the ground up. Faced with corrupt government officials, bumbling diplomats, traumatized citizens, and rapidly globalizing capitalism, a fractured nation holds onto a last hope for the salvation of their children: muppets. Join Natasha Lance Rogoff to discuss *Muppets in Moscow*, the “unexpected crazy true story” of her time as lead producer on Russia’s *Sesame Street*. From government raids to assassinations to clashes over puppet design, step into the world of *Ulitsa Sezam*.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



[The Me I Choose to Be with Natasha Tarpley](#)

In Person at the Library

(ages 3–adult)

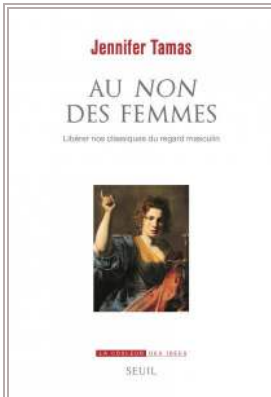
Saturday 24 June at 14h00 CEST

Please note the start time for this event.

Meet children's author Natasha Tarpley, the author of the best-selling picture book *I Love My Hair!* as well as other acclaimed titles for children and adults. During this special afternoon event for children and their families, Tarpley will read two of her picture books and lead participants in an activity based on her award-winning work *The Me I Choose To Be*.

For Library members. Registration required.

RSVP to attend in person



[The Women Who Refused with Jennifer Tamas](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

Tuesday 27 June at 19h30 CEST

The *Ancien Régime* called upon women to demonstrate "reserve" and to "feign resistance" through seduction. It might be easy to conclude that the heroines of classical literature have nothing to teach us about the capacity to say "no." In *Au NON des femmes*, Jennifer Tamas demonstrates how the women of the *Grand Siècle* resisted, disobeyed, and fought against a patriarchal society. Offering a new way of reading classical texts, Tamas liberates the women of literature from the masculine gaze which has falsely rendered them submissive.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom



[Crafting a Project with Adrienne Raphel](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

Wednesday 28 June at 19h30 CEST

From uncovering hidden histories of crossword puzzle mania to playing with the poetics of Internet jargon, Visiting Fellow Adrienne Raphel's work reveals the extraordinary lurking beneath the surface of the ordinary. Join Raphel in discussing the evolution of her latest project, from initial ideas to the always-nebulous notion of a finished product.

The Visiting Fellowship is generously sponsored by The de Groot Foundation.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



[Legislating for the Future](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom

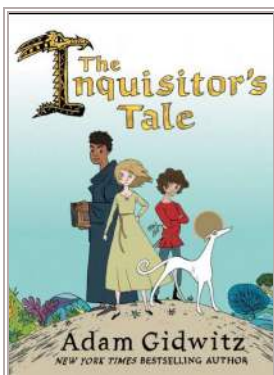
Thursday 29 June at 19h30 CEST

How do we legislate the climate crisis? How do we act with urgency, when the decisions we make today will have consequences long after those crafting these laws are gone? Do rivers and trees have legal rights? What about the children of the future? Join Tim Crosland, Rémi Parmentier, and Linda Sheehan to discuss.

An Ecologues event, presented in partnership with News Decoder and the Climate Academy.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



[The Inquisitor's Tale with Adam Gidwitz](#)

In Person at the Library

(ages 6–adult)

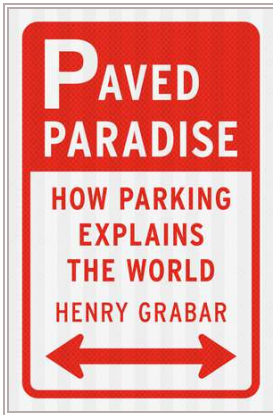
Saturday 1 July at 14h00 CEST

Please note the start time for this event.

Adam Gidwitz joins us to talk about his award-winning novel *The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog*. Learn how he combined his research on thirteenth-century France with his own original stories. After the presentation, we'll host a Q&A and book signing. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

For Library members. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend in person](#)



[The Problem of Parking with Henry Grabar](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Wednesday 5 July at 19h30 CEST

An invisible evil holds American cities and suburbs in a death grip. Tying bureaucrats in administrative knots; grinding development plans to a halt; regularly ruining the average commuter's morning; no problem is more American than the problem of parking. In *Paved Paradise*, journalist Henry Grabar provides an astonishing, fascinating ride through the history of parking across the American landscape, from New York to Disney World. As the US faces a worsening housing crisis, and as green space disappears from urban centers, he asks: how has storing cars taken priority over human life? Join him at the Library to learn how the vast American expanse has been taken captive by concrete.

Free and open to the public. Registration required.

[RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom](#)



[Critical Conversations Meeting Nine: Freedom and Civility](#)

Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom
Thursday 6 July at 19h00 CEST

Please note the start time for this event.

Latent capitalism is marked by its persistent promises of liberation through consumption, and the digital lifestyle is the *ne plus ultra* of commodified freedom. In this, our last seminar, we will look at freedom through a number of philosophical lenses. As individuals, what makes us free? What does freedom mean for a society, and can freedom flourish in the digital age?

Registration required.

[RSVP to attend in person](#)



Find recordings of past programs on our [YouTube](#) channel:

- Entre Nous: The Times of our Lives with Kate Briggs and Yasmine Seale
- Ben Miller on the Bad Gays of History
- Felwine Sarr on Africa's Struggle for its Art, with Rachel Donadio
- Environmental Economics with Bianca Getzel, Marlowe Hood, and Juan Pablo Arellano

- Breaking the Silence on Menopause with Dr. Mary Claire Haver and Kate Muir
- The Task of Translation with Cécile Wajsbrot, Tess Lewis, and Anne Weber



Evenings with an Author 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.



Children's and Teens' News

Unless otherwise noted, all Children's and Teens' events are for Library members, and advanced registration is required.



Recommended Reads: YA Books Set in Paris

Children's Event Highlights

[Story Hour: Beach Party](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 14 June at 14h30

[Toddler Time](#) (ages 1–3) Thursday 15 June at 11h00

[Young Authors Fiction Festival Celebration for Grades K–5](#) Friday 16 June at 18h00

[Constellation Exploration](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 17 June at 11h00

[Story Hour: French Figures](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 21 June at 14h30

[The Me I Choose to Be with Natasha Tarpley](#) (ages 3–adult) Saturday 24 June at 14h00

[The Inquisitor's Tale with Adam Gidwitz](#) (ages 6–adult) Saturday 1 July at 14h00

Teen Event Highlights (ages 12–18)

[Young Authors Fiction Festival Celebration for Grades 6–12](#) Friday 16 June at 19h30

[The 11th Annual Literary Reaping](#) (ages 12–18) Saturday 17 June at 19h00

[Teen Night: Creating Comics](#) (ages 12–18) Friday 23 June at 19h00

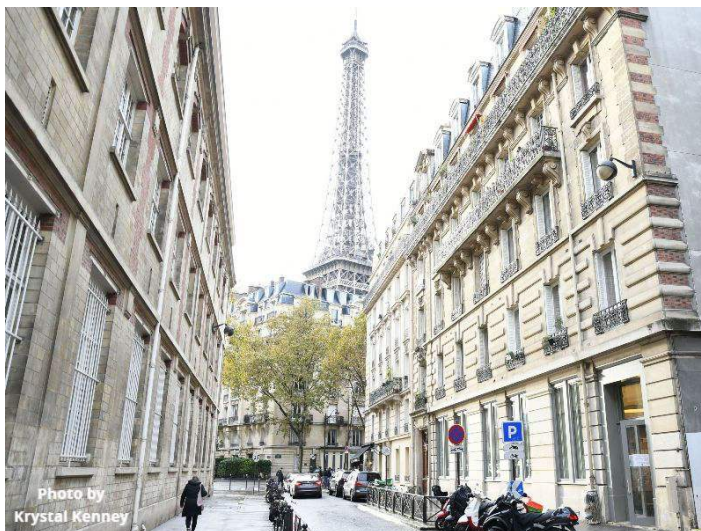
[Winning at College, with Richard Montauk](#) (ages 14–adult) Sunday 25 June at 14h00

[Ping-Pong Play-Off](#) (ages 12–18) Friday 30 June at 19h00

[The Inquisitor's Tale with Adam Gidwitz](#) (ages 6–adult) Saturday 1 July at 14h00

[YA Fantasy Book Club](#) (ages 12–adult) Saturday 22 July at 12h30

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.

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