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The  
American  
Library  
in Paris

# e-Libris

Dispatches from the Library

**9 January 2024**

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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.

Editor: Carolyn Dubol

**Mark your calendars:**  
**Exceptional Closure Sunday 21 January**

The Library will be closed all day on Sunday 21 January.

Books due on this day will now be due on  
Tuesday 23 January, when the Library reopens at 10h00.  
Please contact Member Services with additional questions.

## A Playful Season of Programs Ahead



This winter and spring at the Library, Evenings with an Author, sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg, will celebrate the creative spirit of play.

We're thrilled to be partnering with renowned publishing house **Fitzcarraldo Editions** to bring you evenings with their top writers. Our language games will continue with **translation slams**, **creative workshops** on writing philosophical fiction and page-to-stage opera composition, and **poetry performances**.

Paris itself can be a playground of cultural activities, and we're spotlighting all that the city has to offer: **designer Idris Balogun** speaking on **Paris Fashion Week**; **Opéra Comique** and **Opéra Bastille** directors taking us behind the scenes; and an exclusive screening and Q&A with **American filmmakers** who earned recognition at **Cannes**. We're also celebrating the Franco-American music scene through **concerts** with American artists who take France as their muse. Naturally, we'll consider the history, practice, and cultural impact of the sporting event that will define summer 2024 in Paris: the **Olympics**.

We'll also be hosting some major figures. As part of our ongoing **residency programs**, **Patricia Lockwood**, **Stacy Schiff**, **Adam Shatz**, and **Miss America 2019 Nia Franklin** will be spending time amidst the Library community. We're welcoming back **Book Award 2023 winner Katherine J. Chen** as a speaker and workshop leader. Our Marquee event series will present **Barbara Kingsolver**, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of acclaimed novel *Demon Copperhead*.

Finally, play is meant to be shared amongst friends. We are introducing a new **members-only Music and Mingle series** designed to bring our community closer together through the arts.

Grants from **GRoW @ Annenberg**, the **Florence Gould Foundation**, and **The de Groot Foundation** have made this programming possible, along with support from the **American Center for Art & Culture**.

We look forward to a season of joyful connection as we learn from one another, create together, and inspire each other to play with new perspectives, ideas, and forms of art. In this time of renewal, with an ethos of open exploration, we embrace all that this new cycle may bring. We're excited to see you there.

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## New Year, New Reads

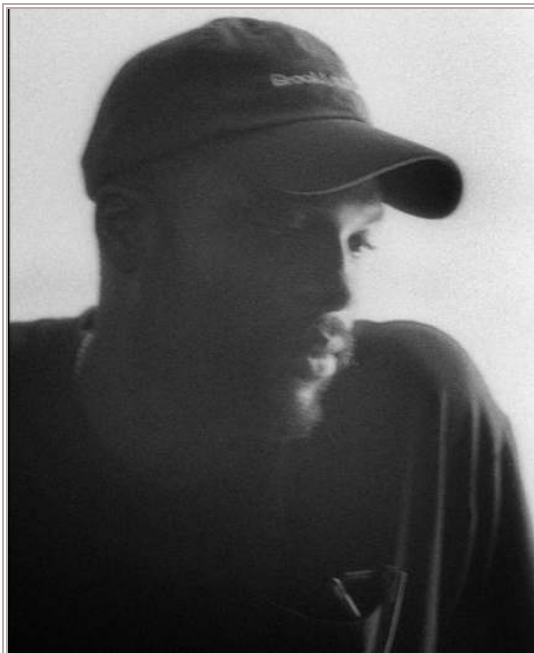
Have you made a New Year's Resolution to read more books, mix up the genres you usually read, or explore new authors?

Whatever your New Year's Reading Resolutions are, we're on hand to help you. With dozens of collections ranging from sci-fi and mysteries to graphic novels, cookbooks, and popular fiction, you're sure to find what you're looking for among 100,000 print books and 1,300 e-books and e-audiobooks.

And if you need some guidance on getting started, browse our carefully curated book displays in the Members' Lounge to see what piques your interest. You can also find reading recommendations based on other titles you enjoyed using online readers' advisory service [NoveList Plus](#), available with your Library membership.



## Fashion Week: An Exclusive Review



On **Monday 22 January at 19h30**, the Library will present a special evening with **Idris Balogun**, founder and Design Director of luxury ready-to-wear brand Winnie New York.

Balogun was born to Nigerian immigrants in New York and raised in London. After training on London's Savile Row and working as Menswear Director at Burberry and Tom Ford, Balogun launched his own label in 2019, naming it after his grandmother. In 2022 Winnie New York won the [LVMH Karl Lagerfeld Prize](#) for its innovative design.

Balogun will show his highly-anticipated fall/winter 2024–2025 collection during Paris Fashion Week this month. The collection was inspired by jazz poet Ted Joans, James Baldwin, Ernest Hemingway, and other twentieth century American writers who found their way to Paris.

Balogun will appear at the Library in conversation with internationally renowned stylist **Julie Ragolia** to review the fall/winter 2024–2025 Paris Fashion Week and assess the contemporary luxury landscape. We'll hear their thoughts on the meaning of clothing, the role of fashion in self-expression, and innovations at the horizons of modern design.

More about Idris Balogun and Winnie New York:

[Vogue.com](#) for images of Winnie New York's collections

[Winnie New York](#) for press featuring the brand

[Harpers' Bazaar France](#) for menswear labels showing during Paris Fashion Week in January 2024, including Winnie New York.

This event is free and open to the public thanks to Evenings with an Author sponsor GroW @ Annenberg, the Florence Gould Foundation, and the American Center for Art & Culture.

Attend In Person or on Zoom

## Book Groups: Winter/Spring 2024

The following Book Groups are accepting new members for the winter/spring 2024 season. Click the links below to see details for each group, including reading lists, meeting dates, requirements to join, and the sign up form.

### NEW GROUP

#### Banned Books

#### by French & American Authors

Wednesdays, 17h30–19h00

Led by Connie Farrell Scuderi

### Prize-Winning American and British Plays

Saturdays, 10h30–12h00

Led by Hilary Kaiser

### NEW GROUP

#### The Art of Reading—Bob Kaufman: West Coast Sounds

Saturdays, 17h00–18h30

Led by Precious Brown

### Explorations at the Limits of our Knowledge

Tuesdays, 17h00–18h30

Led by Maurice Lanman and Laurie Calvet

### Tackling Proust

Thursdays, 17h00–18h30

Led by Morgan Evan Thomas

### NEW GROUP

#### Writer's Book Club:

#### Discussing Our Fictions

Tuesdays 18h00–19h30

Led by Peter Villani

### Queer Womanhood: Fiction and Memoir

Wednesdays, 19h30–20h30

Led by Madison Haussy

## History Tours: Sign up Now for January and February

We've just added February dates for our popular History Tours, and spots still remain in January:

**12, 19, and 26 January**

**2, 9, 16, 23 February**

All Fridays at 11h00.

Tours are free and open to the public.

Join fellow Library members, donors, and history enthusiasts on a deep dive into our fascinating 103 years in Paris!

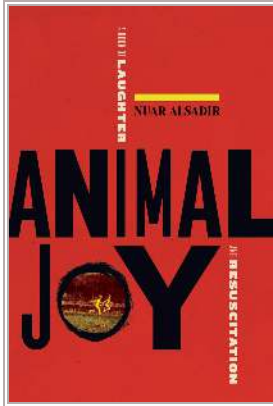


Attend a History Tour

## 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.



### TOMORROW

#### Learning to Laugh with Nuar Alsadir

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom**  
**Wednesday 10 January at 19h30 CET**

Why do humans laugh? What effect does laughter have on the body? What is its role in a social setting? What does it communicate, and why does it matter?

Poet and psychoanalyst Nuar Alsadir uses psychology, philosophy, history, personal experience, and more to answer these questions in her new book *Animal Joy*. A whimsical, wide-reaching meditation upon the power of laughter, populated by figures ranging from Donald Trump to Alsadir's classmates at clown school, the book reveals hidden dimensions to humor, while highlighting the challenges of defining what humor is. More than an expression of amusement, it can be wielded as a political tool, poetic instrument, and therapeutic mechanism.

Book sale and signing after the event.

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



### Critical Conversations Meeting Three: Democratic Innovation across the Globe

**In Person at the Library**  
**Thursday 11 January at 19h00 CET**

Is the Athenian model making a comeback? In this session we will look at how innovations like citizens' assemblies, participatory budgets, and civic technologies are remaking the debate on democracy today—and possibly bringing it closer to its ancient roots.

This program is part of a series and is in-person only.  
 Advance registration and payment required.

[Register to attend in person](#)



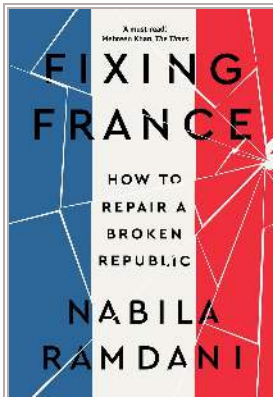
**Music and Mingle:**  
**with Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Baird Dodge**  
**In Person at the Library; Library Members Only**  
**Wednesday 17 January at 19h30 CET**  
 The event will include a cocktail reception.

Finding one's place in Paris can be challenging. This is why we're delighted to announce Music and Mingle, a new Library members-only event series. Those seeking to foster new friendships, build their network, and toast the new year in good company are invited to this special concert by Chicago Symphony Orchestra violinist Baird Dodge.

Dodge will be performing a curated selection of songs from Bach to "Over the Rainbow," developed to challenge the boundaries between classical and popular music. Whether you're seeking to discover our community for the first time or to reunite with old friends, join us in celebrating everyone who makes the American Library in Paris a cultural home.

This program is in-person and for Library members only.  
 Please bring your Library card with you to the event.

[Register to attend in person](#)



**Fixing France: How to Repair a Broken Republic**  
**with Nabila Ramdani**  
**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom**  
**Thursday 18 January at 19h30 CET**

Since the French Revolution, the motto of liberty, equality, and fraternity has served as a foundation for the Republic. In 2024, after a period of mass dissent—from the Yellow Vests protests, to movement against the 2023 *réforme de retraites*, to the mass protests following the fatal police shooting of Nahel M.— does France live up to its founding ideals?

In her new book, *Fixing France*, French journalist, academic, and broadcaster Nabila Ramdani develops a nuanced critique of some of France's modern issues, from racial and religious discrimination, looming executive power, terrorism and extremism, and the rise of the far-right. Ramdani will appear in conversation with broadcast journalist Erin Ogunkeye.

Book sale and signing after the event, thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

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



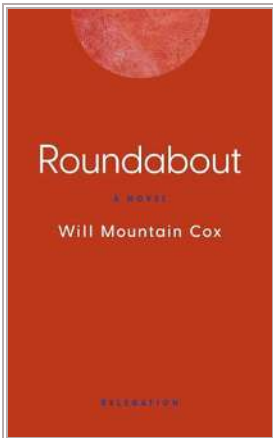
**Fashion Week: An Exclusive Review  
with Idris Balogun of Winnie New York**

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom  
Monday 22 January at 19h30 CET**

The Library is pleased to welcome Idris Balogun, award-winning ready-to-wear designer of luxury label Winnie New York. Balogun, whose latest collection is inspired by American jazz poet Ted Joans, will appear in conversation with internationally renowned stylist Julie Ragolia.

Balogun and Ragolia will discuss Paris Fashion Week and the contemporary luxury landscape. They will explore the meaning of clothing, the role of fashion in self-expression, and innovations on the horizons of modern design.

**RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom**



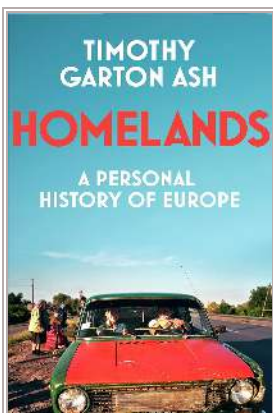
**Paris of the Present with Will Mountain Cox**

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom  
Tuesday 23 January at 19h30 CET**

Tired of romanticized visions of the Paris of the past, Will Mountain Cox set out in his debut novel, *Roundabout*, to write the Paris present: the Notre Dame fire, the November 2015 attacks, gentrification, climate change, and hyper-tourism.

Cox is the founder of the bi-monthly literary magazine *Belleville Park Pages*. Ever-sensitive to the spirit of the age, he will speak at the Library about the Parisian cultural landscape.

**RSVP to attend in person or on Zoom**



**Europe's Past and Future with Timothy Garton Ash**

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom  
Wednesday 24 January at 19h30 CET**

In recent years, populist and authoritarian regimes have gained momentum across Europe, and democratic norms have shown signs of erosion. How can we understand the tectonic shifts that have shaped contemporary Europe? What lessons can Europe learn from its own recent past?

Timothy Garton Ash is a journalist, historian, and author of new book *Homelands, A Personal History of Europe*. He will appear in conversation with historian and writer Thomas Dodma to guide us through recent European history and offer his expert predictions about what comes next.

Book sale and signing after the event, thanks to [Smith&Son](#).

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



**Entre Nous: Art as Social Action  
with Peter Sellars and Yasmine Seale**

**Hybrid Event: In Person at the Library; Live on Zoom  
Thursday 25 January at 19h30 CET**

Theater director Peter Sellars is famous for his avant-garde stagings of classic operas: His version of *Così fan tutte* was set in a diner in Cape Cod, and *The Marriage of Figaro* in a luxury apartment in Trump Tower. He is also known for his stagings of groundbreaking new works, such as the John Adams operas *Nixon in China* and *Doctor Atomic*. This winter, the Opéra Nationale de Paris will present Sellars's production of Bellini's [\*Beatrice di Tenda\*](#) at the Opéra Bastille.

At the Library, Sellars will be joined by writer and translator Yasmine Seale to discuss his latest project and the role of the arts in today's world.

This program is a part of our Entre Nous series, co-produced with Columbia Global Centers | Paris and the Institute for Ideas & Imagination.

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



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

- Serving Stories with Edward Chisholm
- The Future of Consent with Manon Garcia
- Slaves for Peanuts:  
An Evening with Jori Lewis and Robin Allison Davis
- The Middle East Crisis: Journalists Look at What's Ahead
- Entre Nous: Possible Lives with Maria Stepanova
- An Evening with Binkady-Emmanuel Hié and Lyneka Little
- Writing Politics with Giuliano da Empoli and Antonio Monda

**GROW@  
ANNENBERG**

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 events are for Library members only. Teen events are free for members, and 15€ per teen for non-members. Advance registration is required for all events for children and teens.

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### Children's Event Highlights

[Story Hour: Read the Rainbow](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 10 January at 14h30

[Winter Wonderland](#) (all ages) Saturday 13 January at 14h00

[Story Hour: Kings and Queens](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 17 January at 14h30

[Toddler Time](#) (ages 1–3) Thursday 18 January at 11h00

[Music Together with Stacey Pavesi Debre](#) (ages 0–5) Saturday 20 January at 11h00

[Story Hour: That's Ridiculous!](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 24 January at 14h30

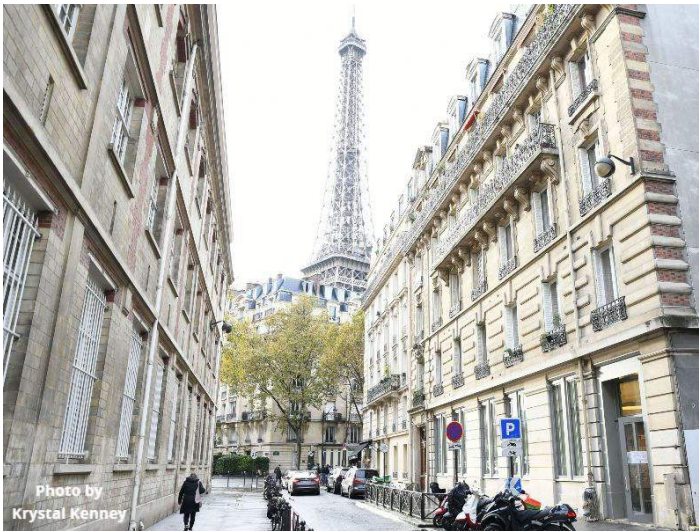
[Saturday Series: DIY Accordion Books](#) (ages 6–12) Saturday 27 January at 11h00

[Story Hour: Flying Machines](#) (ages 3–5) Wednesday 24 January at 14h30

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**Teens' Event Highlights (ages 12–18)****[Journalism A–Z: DIY Zines](#) Saturday 13 January at 16h00****[Teen Night: Library Hide and Seek](#) Friday 19 January at 19h00****[Teen Night: Messy Art Night](#) Friday 26 January at 19h00****[Teen Night: Ping Pong Play Off](#) Friday 9 February at 19h00**

## How Can You Help the 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? [Become a member](#) or [renew](#) your Library membership, make an online [donation](#), become a [volunteer](#), and tell your friends about the Library.



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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The Library as a Cultural Playground

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