



EX LIBRIS

The Newsletter of the American Library in Paris
December 2010

The Library's community

"Community" is one of the four words the Library often uses to telegraph what we offer and stand for, along with "Literature," "Learning," and "Culture." On a basic level "community" means that the Library is a place where people find not just things to read and study, but one another.

In another sense, the Library is very much *in* the community it serves, in ways visible to varying degrees to the membership at large. So it's worth recalling, and marveling, at all the ways this Library nourishes its community, and is in turn nourished by it.

- ▶ The Library is proud to be associated for the third year in a row with the Paris Spelling Bee, organized by Gifted in France, and this year hosted at the American University of Paris; see page 5.
- ▶ The Library every year since 1965 has prepared research dossiers on subjects announced for France's English-language teaching examination, the Capes and the Agrégation, a unique reference archive now nearing 400 topics.
- ▶ The Library enthusiastically collects books from its members destined for the Love in a Box program, which fills and wraps hundreds of boxes for seasonal gifts for disadvantaged children in France and beyond.
- ▶ The Library is the setting two early mornings a week for the English-language classes of Fides, a neighborhood school, drawing children and their families into the Library's other offerings and activities.
- ▶ The Library has institutional membership arrangements with the American School of Paris, the International School of Paris, L'Ermitage, the Lycée International

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Photo Credit: "Hey fellows! Your money brings the book we need when we want it." American Library Association, United War Work Campaign, Week of November 11, 1918 // Sheridan, John E., artist

Ninety years of the Library

The Library was chartered in 1920 under the motto "Out of the darkness of war, the light of books." A new exhibit featuring little-seen images and artifacts from our extraordinary history runs through January.

Lest you forget

Contributions to the Library in response to the fall appeal mailing have been heartening. To those who have remembered us, thank you. To those who have not yet done so, consider this a timely and friendly reminder. The Library needs the extra support of its members and friends to deliver its expanding services to a growing community.

Author! Author!

Coming in January, February, and March: **Tilar Mazzeo** on the Widow Clicquot and Coco Chanel ... **Annie Cohen-Solal** on Leo Castelli ... **William Pfaff** on 'The Irony of Manifest Destiny' ... **Susan Tiberghien** on writer's conferences ... **Philippe Melot** on bicycling through America at 62 ... **Catherine de Bourgoing** on romantic gardens ... **Felix Rohatyn** on a lifetime of 'Dealings' ... **Jane Weissman** on women and justice ... a **Tennessee Williams** film series... **John V. Fleming** on four Cold War books ... **Mary Jo Salter** on 'A Phone Call to the Future' ... **Laura Furman** on her new collection of stories, and more. The **calendar** is on page 6.

HOLIDAY HOURS 2 YOUTH 3 BOOK GROUPS 4

INSIDE THE LIBRARY

William Jay Smith, Laura Furman join Library Writer's Council

Two distinguished American writers have been appointed to the American Library in Paris Writer's Council, an advisory and support group chaired by **Diane Johnson**.

William Jay Smith is the author of thirteen volumes of poetry, including six for children, five works of translation, and two memoirs. He is a former poet laureate of the United States and makes his home in Paris and Cummington, Massachusetts. **Laura Furman** is the author of three collections of stories, two novels, and a memoir. She is editor of the PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories series and teaches at the University of Texas in Austin.

Both authors will be appearing at the Library this spring.

The appointments were made by the Board of Trustees at its October meeting. The other members of the Writer's Council are **Adam Gopnik**, **Julia Barnes**, **Mavis Gallant**, and **Philippe Labro**. Smith and Furman are pictured here at the Library's 2010 gala dinner at the residence of the United States Ambassador to France, Charles Rivkin.

Photos by David Bacher



Lisa Woodward appointed to Library Advisory Council

The board of trustees has announced the appointment of Lisa Woodward to the Advisory Council, chaired by Ambassador James Lowenstein.

Woodward, a graduate of University College, London, is president of the Woodward Charitable Foundation and a trustee of the William Woodward Jr. Nursery School in New York. She founded Woodward Ethiopia, a girls' empowerment program, which she directs in Addis Ababa.



Holiday hours

Please note that the Library will be closed for the two long holiday weekends, that is:

Friday 24-Sunday 26 December

Friday 31 December-Sunday 2 January

The first Saturday book sale of 2011 will take place on *8 January* (followed by 5 February and 5 March.)

Tote a fait!

Here's an unsolicited comment from a recent Library guest who left with one of our book bags:

"Ce sac me ravit quotidiennement, et ce n'est pas une formule. Tout me plaît en lui, sa robustesse, son élégance, sa couleur, et jusqu'à la formule 'Ex libris lux'. Je l'utilise surtout pour transporter mes propres livres, cela tombe bien. Comme je suis content, dans les transports en commun, de les sortir d'un sac de toile portant les mots Ex libris lux plutôt que d'un sac Carrefour, Tati ou la FNAC !"

Now in three colors, the bags are €10 at the Library. Nice stocking stuffers — or stocking substitutes.



A new programs manager

Janet Skeslien Charles joined the Library staff in October as programs manager, succeeding Ann Mah. She oversees the Library's Evenings with Authors programs and book groups. Originally from Montana, Skeslien Charles has lived in Paris since 1999. She is the award-winning author of *Moonlight in Odessa* (Bloomsbury), a novel about an email-order bride, which has been published in a dozen languages.



Ex Libris, the newsletter of the American Library in Paris, is published four times a year, in March, June, September and December.

Current and past issues of the newsletter are available at www.americanlibraryinparis.org

THE YOUTH LIBRARY

Teen Night!

The Teen Zine: Volume 2
*A workshop
on music journalism
for our winter edition*

Ages 12+
Friday 17 December
19h00-21h00
Sign-up required

Teen Night!

Susan Harloe
*Creative Director of
Word for Word
will host a teen workshop
featuring creative wordplay
and theater games.*

Ages 12+
Friday 21 January
19h00-21h00
Sign-up required



Teen Night!

**Signs and Symbols
with Jane Weissman**

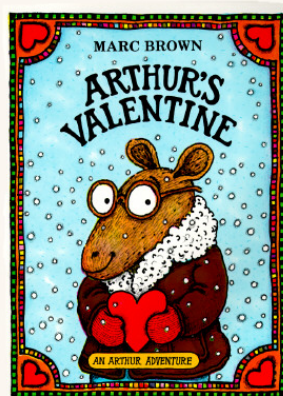
*An art workshop for teens,
where participants, inspired
by symbols found in African
fabrics and painting, create an
original work of art based on
traditional symbols found in
bògòlanfini, or mud cloth,
produced by the Bamana peo-
ple of Mali.*

Ages 12+
Friday 18 February
19h00-21h00
Sign-up required

The Annual Holiday Party at the American Cathedral

*Join us for craft making, carol-
singing, snacks, as well as a visit
from Santa with his bag of books.*

All ages €20 adults €10 children
Saturday 11 December 15h00-17h00
Places remain! Details on the website!



Special Valentine's Day

*Story Time and
Celebration*

Ages 6+
Saturday
12 February
15h00-16h00

Le Bus Bilingue will
host a special Saturday
story time and lesson

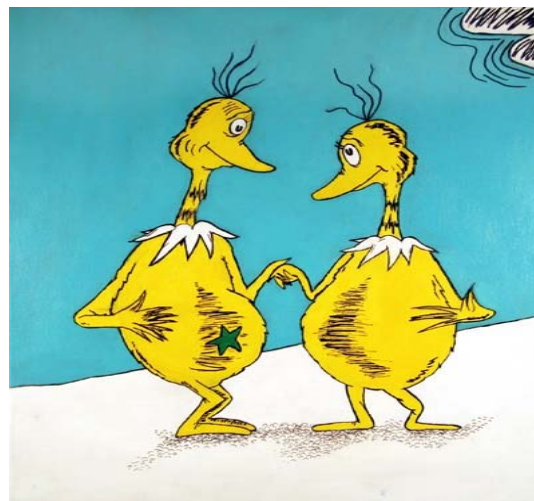
Saturday 8 January
from 15h00-16h00

For more information:
www.busbilingue.com

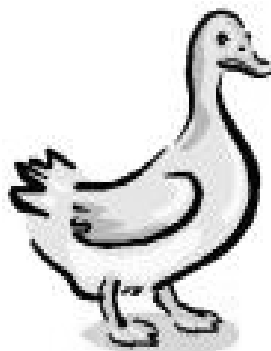
American Children's Theatre

gives a special performance
from their musical version of
The Sneetches by Dr. Seuss.

Ages 4+
Saturday 4 December
15h00-16h00



Reading aloud for the very young



Ages 1-3: Mother Goose Lap Sit on the first
and third Thursday of the month from 10h30-
11h00 Drop in sessions: No sign-up needed.
2 & 16 December.

Ages 3-5: Wednesday Story Hour. 10h30-
11h30 or 14h30-15h30 Drop-in sessions: No
sign-up needed. **1, 8, 15, 22, 29 December.**

BOOK GROUPS FOR WINTER

Signing up

Seven seasons into this “experiment,” the Library offers an opportunity to join one of our book groups, each with four monthly sessions through June, as well as an art appreciation workshop. (Three other book groups — Memoir, Mystery, and Strangers in a Strange Land — continue from the autumn, but are fully subscribed.)

Any member of The American Library in Paris may participate, and anyone who wishes to participate may join The American Library. There is no fee for the groups, which are led by volunteers with special skills and interests.

Here are a few tips to signing up and getting started:

- Please write us at the email address below and indicate — in the subject line — which group you wish to join, as well as your Library membership number. The group leader will confirm your participation (up to twelve members per group) and send further details.

bookgroups@americanlibraryinparis.org

- Library membership is a requirement to participate. If you are not a Library member or your membership has expired, please be prepared to register or renew at the first session (check/cash/credit card, photo ID and proof of residence required).

- Come to the first session prepared to discuss the first book or topic on the list. Arriving 15 minutes early will allow everyone to become acquainted.

- Men are most welcome in the book groups.

- The book groups are organized at the Library’s initiative, but the group leaders — and members — will have broad discretion in how they unfold.

- The book group meetings will take place in the Library. The Library is otherwise closed to the public on Mondays. (Please ring the doorbell.) The Library will provide coffee, tea, and bottled water for the book groups, whose members may also wish to bring other refreshments or snacks. Book group members are responsible for cleanup in the reading room and the kitchen.

- For more information, please contact Janet Skeslien Charles at 01 53 59 12 67 or skesliencharles@americanlibraryinparis.org.

Turning Points

How do changing values in the world around us affect us? What does it mean to be wrong? Can people—and societies— change by themselves, or do they need external pressure? At what cost? With what reward? We will read four books that ponder these questions.

Disgrace by J. M. Coetzee

Imperfect Justice by Stuart E. Eizenstat

Artist of a Floating World by Kazuo Ishiguro

The Black Swan by Nassim Nicholas Taleb

An HEC graduate, **Laurel Zuckerman** worked for 18 years in industry before turning to writing. She is the author of *Sorbonne Confidential* and the editor of *Paris Writers News*.

Mondays: Times to be announced

Going It Alone

In reading four very different works, we will consider detachment as a philosophical stance and a tonal effect that tends to reveal what it hides.

Nausea by Jean-Paul Sartre

A Burnt-Out Case by Graham Greene,

The White Album by Joan Didion

The Diving Bell & the Butterfly by Jean-Dominique Bauby

Mondays at 10h00: February 14, March 14, April 11, May 16

A graduate of Colgate University, the Johns Hopkins University, and the University Virginia, **Peter Fellowes** was formerly Dean of Faculty and Professor of English at North Park University. Today he is Senior Warden of the American Cathedral in Paris and a trustee of The American Library in Paris.

Looking closer

Take a closer look at great works of art in this discussion group. Two slideshow presentations and two museum tours will be offered.

Mondays: Times to be announced

Caroline de Navacelle is a *Conférencière Nationale* (lecturer) of the *Ministère de la Culture* and *Ministère du Tourisme*, a professional qualification she earned partly through her work experience as a docent at the *Art Institute of Chicago* and a guide at the *Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago*. A graduate of the *Sorbonne*, *NYU*, and the *Ecole du Louvre*, she currently lectures at the *Grand Palais* and the *Gobelins* and conducts architecture tours in Paris.

IN THE COMMUNITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

- de Saint-Germain en Laye, (American section), International School of Management, Université Paris-Est Créteil, University of London Institute in Paris and The Bilingual Montessori School of Paris. Our newest and largest institutional member is ISIT – Institute of Intercultural Management and Communication.
- ▶ The Library serves as the Paris library of Parsons Paris School of Art + Design and nearly 100 of its students and faculty.
 - ▶ The Library donates quantities of books and other materials regularly to needy institutions – in three recent cases, the Academie de Créteil, the American University of Bulgaria, and the National Library of Rwanda through the good offices of Bibliothèques Sans Frontières.
 - ▶ The Library has assumed responsibility for the Young Authors Fiction Festival, an English language literary contest drawing submissions from dozens of schools and hundreds of students.
 - ▶ The Library serves as the library for 8 college and university off-campus programs in Paris: Stanford University, Franklin & Marshall College, University of Southern California, American University (Washington), New York University, Schiller University, Trinity College (Hartford), and the University of Kent (Canterbury).
 - ▶ The Library has presented for fifteen years an annual performance by Word for Word, the celebrated San Francisco theatrical troupe, free of charge to enthusiastic audiences.
 - ▶ The Library collaborates with many Paris-based Anglophone organizations to present evening programs and other events, also open to the public. The groups include MESSAGE, AAWE, WICE, Royal Society for the Arts, UNESCO, and several US university alumni groups.

Is there a young author in your house?

The American Library in Paris is proud to be the new organizer of the Young Authors Fiction Festival, this year in collaboration with the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI).

The Fiction Festival aims to strengthen community among English-speakers in the Paris area through the art and craft of storytelling.

The Fiction Festival is open to all students ages 5 to 18 in the greater Paris area who write in English. It offers a wonderful opportunity for educators to encourage creative writing among their students. Many SCBWI-France authors will be on hand to offer tips to young authors at the culminating Festival Celebration at the American Library on **Friday 10 June 2011**.

At the Festival Celebration we honor all participating authors and burgeoning storytellers as well as announce the finalists. Stories from each grade/year will be published in a special edition the Library's *Teen Zine*.

An announcement will be e-mailed to schools and teachers who participated in 2010, as well as others who indicate interest in participating in 2011. If you'd like to receive the electronic announcement, please send an e-mail to yaff2011alp@gmail.com



Art on View

The African Diaspora in New York Community Murals

An exhibition curated by
Jane Weissman

Traditional themes and contemporary expressions: Collaborations between artists and community organizations

**Tuesday 1 February —
Sunday 27 March**

Sign up for the Paris Spelling Bee!

The fourth annual Paris Spelling Bee is set for **Sunday 20 March**.

The bee is a community-wide enrichment event organized by Gifted in France in collaboration with the American Library in Paris. For the first time, the event will be hosted by the American University of Paris.

The spelling bee is open to children in CE2 through 4ème (3rd through 8th grade). Participants will be divided into two groups: Gazelles for CE2-CM2 and Cheetahs for 6ème- 4ème.

Registration closes on **Tuesday 18 January**. Please enroll by visiting the Paris Spelling Bee blog at: parisfrancespellingbee.wordpress.com.

In 2010, 29 finalists from 13 different schools in the Paris region competed in the Paris Spelling Bee. Two upcoming activities are planned for those interested in learning more about the Bee:

▶ **Saturday 15 January**, 15h00-16h00: Spelling Bee activity for children ages 7 and older at the American Library in Paris.

▶ **Saturday 15 January**, 18h00-21h00: Spelling Bee Movie and Pizza Night at the Library. Screening the award-winning documentary *Spellbound*.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 7 December 19h00
Thunderbird Alumni Association@ The Library:
The Art of Storytelling.

Wednesday 8 December 19h30
Evenings with an Expert
Peter Gibian on John Singer Sargent and his Portraits of Expatriate Experience.

Thursday 9 December **Postponed**
Evenings with an Author
David Ignatius on *The Increment*

Wednesday 5 January **Rescheduled**
Evenings with an Author
Tilar J. Mazzeo on two French entrepreneurs - La Veuve Clicquot and Coco Chanel.

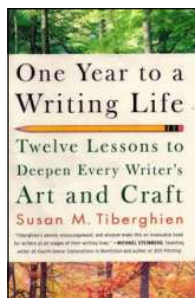
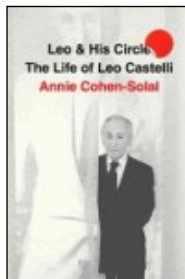
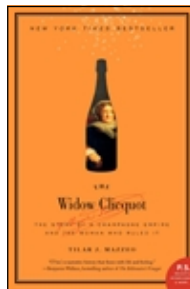
Saturday 8 January 10h00-19h00
Used Book Sale at the Library.

Wednesday 12 January 19h30
Evenings with an Author
Annie Cohen-Solal discusses her latest book, *Leo & His Circle: The Life of Leo Castelli*.

Wednesday 19 January 19h30
Evenings with an Author
Susan Tiberghien, writer and founder of the Geneva Writers' Conference, talks about her book *One Year to a Writing Life*

Tuesday 25 January 19h30
A Coast to Coast ride through America
Philippe Melot, 62, travelled through 13 states and blogged about his experiences for Le Monde.

Wednesday 26 January 19h30
University of Notre Dame Alumni Club France @ The Library: An evening with **William Pfaff**



Saturday 5 February 10h00-19h00
Used Book Sale at the Library.

Tuesday 1 February - Sunday 27 March
Art on View
Images of the African Diaspora in New York City Community Murals

Tuesday 8 February 19h30
Evenings with an Author
Former US ambassador to France **Felix Rohatyn** discusses his new memoir *Dealings: A Political and Financial Life*

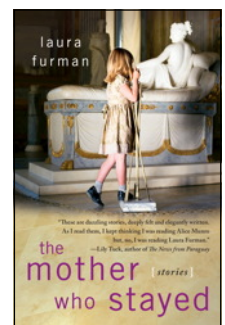
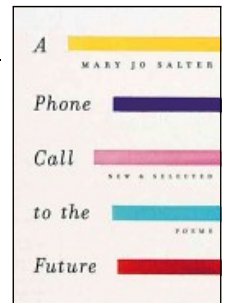
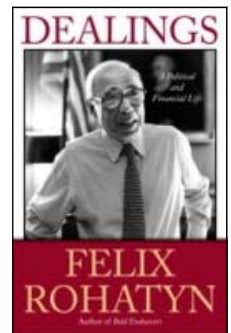
Tuesday 01 March 19h30
RISKING LIFE & LIBERTY: When Women Pursue Justice, an illustrated talk by **Jane Weissman**

Saturday 5 March 10h00-19h00
Used Book Sale at the Library.

Wednesday 09 March 19h30
Evenings with Gardens
Our series continues with author **Catherine de Bourgoing**, who will present an illustrated lecture on romantic gardens.

Wednesday 16 March 19h30
Evenings with an Author
Acclaimed short story writer and editor **Laura Furman** presents her new collection of stories, *The Mother Who Stayed*

Wednesday 23 March 19h30
Evenings with an Author
Essayist and poet **Mary Jo Salter** presents her latest book, *A Phone Call to the Future*.



**10, rue du Général Camou
75007 Paris
01 53 59 12 60**

www.americanlibraryinparis.org
Tuesday- Saturday, 10h00-19h00
Sunday, 13h00-19h00



Métro: Ecole Militaire (line 8) or Alma-Marceau (line 9)

Bus: 42, 63, 69, 80, 82, 87, 92

RER C: Pont de l'Alma

Vélib': 43, av. Rapp station n° 7024