

# The American Library in Paris

Literature • Learning • Culture • Community

## Spring book groups!

### *How to sign up*

The Library's monthly book discussion groups are now in their fifth season. This spring we're offering six new groups, each with five or six monthly sessions through June. Two groups, Memoir and Strangers in a Strange Land, are also continuing but are fully subscribed, and cannot add additional members at this time.

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 book groups. 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).

**bookgroups@americanlibraryinparis.org**

- Please come to the first session prepared to discuss the first book on the list. Arriving 15 minutes early will allow everyone to become acquainted.
- Men are most welcome in these 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.
- The Library is alerting local English-language bookstores to the reading lists for the groups.
- For more information, contact Ann Mah at mah@americanlibraryinparis.org.

### Food and France

**Long Ago in France: The Years in Dijon**, M.F.K. Fisher

**The Perfectionist**, Rudolph Chelminski  
**From Here You Can't See Paris: Seasons in a French Village and its Restaurant**, Michael S. Sanders

**Between Meals: An Appetite for Paris**, A.J. Liebling

Love to eat? So do these writers. Discover the pleasures of French gastronomy through four different food memoirs.

*William Cagle spent 35 years at Indiana University and has co-authored two books on gastronomic literature, A Matter of Taste and American Books on Food and Drink. He is currently a Distinguished Visiting Librarian at the American Library in Paris. Terry Cagle has a background in art history and is a former managing editor of the Indiana University Press. They have lived in Paris since 2005.*

**11h00 to 12h30 Mondays: 8 February, 8 March, 5 April, 10 May**

### Mysteries

**The Way Through the Woods**, Colin Dexter

**A is for Alibi** and **U is for Undertow**, Sue Grafton  
**Deadheads**, Reginald Hill

**A Great Deliverance**, Elizabeth George

Can mysteries be taken seriously? Explore the works of four authors from both sides of the Atlantic who have created characters so charismatic that they have become famous the world over.

In **The Way Through the Woods**, brilliant, flawed Inspector Morse must put his erudition into use solving a genuine whodunit where the killer leave literary clues. In **A is for Alibi** and **U is for Undertow**, featuring private detective Kinsey Millhone, Grafton attempts to cover the alphabet. Is she keeping momentum? Hill's **Deadheads** features Dalziel and Pascoe in what could be their most puzzling case. **A Great Deliverance** introduces George's aristocratic Inspector Lynley and his working class sidekick Barbara Havers.

*Led by mystery lovers Maureen Paget and Anne Raynaud.*

**10h30 to 12h00 Mondays: 8 February, 8 March, 5 April, 17 May**

## To Answer the Sphinx

**Oedipus Tyrannus**, by Sophocles  
**Confessions (books 1-9)**, by Augustine  
**A Confession** and **The Death of Ivan Ilyich**, by Leo Tolstoy  
**Everyman**, by Philip Roth; **Endpoint** (selections) by John Updike

The realization that we are born to die poses a riddle to the human soul. What meaning can withstand the prospect of certain suffering and death? We will inquire into responses to this question from Sophocles' fifth century BC tragedy *Oedipus* to Philip Roth's *Everyman*.

**Peter Fellowes**, recently retired as the president of the European division of *Fellowes, Inc.*, serves today as vice chair of the company. A graduate of *Colgate University (B.A.)*, *The Johns Hopkins University (M.A.)*, and the *University of Virginia (Ph.D.)*, he was formerly Dean of Faculty and Professor of English at *North Park University*. He is senior warden of the *American Cathedral in Paris* and a trustee of *The American Library in Paris*.

**10h00 to 11h30 Mondays: 15 February, 15 March, 12 April, 17 May**

## Childhood and Memory

**To the Lighthouse**, Virginia Woolf  
**The Fields of Glory (Les Champs d'honneur)**, Jean Rouaud  
**Austerlitz**, W.G. Sebald  
**The Sea**, John Banville

Ever since Proust began publishing his masterpiece, writers of fiction have been experimenting with forms that interweave child and adult perspectives on the world. Not just memories of childhood, but memory as a faculty which can liberate us to re-compose a non-linear narrative of our lives, finding new meaning and perhaps consolation in the process.

**Morgan Thomas** holds degrees from the University of Minnesota and Princeton University. Since 2008, he has been making the first English translations of works by the contemporary French playwright *Jean-Claude Brisville*.

**14h00 to 15h30 Mondays: 8 February, 8 March, 12 April, 10 May**

## Lyric Dialogues of Love

**William Shakespeare**, Sonnets CXVI, CXLIV, CXLII, LXXIII, XXX, LV, CXXX, XVIII

**John Donne**, "Lovers Infiniteness," "Song," "The Anniversary," "A Valediction: Forbidden Mourning," "The Extasie," "The Blossom," "The Primrose"; **Andrew Marvell**, "To His Coy Mistress."

**Percy Bysshe Shelley**, "Epipsychidion" (first 200 lines), "Prometheus Unbound" (II, v 48-110), "To Jane: The Invitation," "To Jane: The Recollection"; **Friedrich Holderlin**, "If From a Distance" (copies to be provided).

**Contemporary poet:** To be decided.

Explore the renaissance of the heart through the reading of love lyrics. Whether it is a first encounter or re-encounter with these poems, you'll be sure to emerge with a keener and more emboldened sense of desire.

**Jennifer Horan** teaches at the *Université René Descartes (Paris V)* and obtained her doctorate in *Comparative Literature* from the *University of the City of New York* and the *Université Paris IV-Sorbonne*.

Students partaking in exchange programs in Paris may be able to take this discussion group for credit.

**10h30 to 12h00 Mondays: 15 February, 15 March, 12 April, 10 May**

## James Joyce's *Ulysses*

**Ulysses**, by James Joyce (edited by Hans Walter Gabler, Vintage 1986, 1993; or edited by Jeri Johnson, Oxford University Press, 1993).

Embark on a reader's odyssey, unraveling this famously complex modernist novel. Each session will discuss 2-3 episodes; continuing from the fall, the group's first session will discuss "Aeolus" and "The Lestrygonians." Presented by *Pari(s) de James Joyce-MEMORIENT-LA HUPPE*.

**Jamileh Talebizadeh** is a practicing psychoanalyst and responsible for a writing workshop at a therapeutic center. An author and translator of poetry, nursery rhymes, and psychoanalytical articles into English, French, and Persian, she holds a doctorate in American literature and has taught English at *La Sorbonne*.

**11h00 to 12h30 Mondays: 11 January, 8 February, 8 March, 12 April, 10 May, 14 June**

10, rue du Général Camou  
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[www.americanlibraryinparis.org](http://www.americanlibraryinparis.org)  
Open 10h00 to 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

