

The American Library in Paris

A center for literature, learning, culture, and community

Spring book groups How to sign up

The popularity of the Library's book discussion groups continues. This spring we are pleased to offer five groups, each with monthly sessions through May or June. Several groups are continuing from the fall, and are already heavily subscribed, but will be considering additional participants.

Any member of The American Library in Paris may participate, and anyone who wishes to participate may join The American Library. There is no additional fee for the book groups. Here are a few tips to signing up and getting started:

- Send an email to this address: **bookgroups@americanlibraryinparis.org** and indicate — in the subject line, please — which group you wish to join. Please also indicate your Library membership number (the number on your card). The group leader will confirm your participation (up to twelve members per group).
- 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 either in the main reading room or the research center of the Library. The Library is otherwise closed to the public on Mondays. (Please ring the doorbell.) The Library will provide coffee, tea, and water for the book groups, whose members may also wish to bring other refreshments or snacks. Book group members are responsible for cleanup and keeping the Library spotless.

The Library is alerting local English-language bookstores to the reading lists for the groups.

The Ordeal of Consciousness

Hamlet, by William Shakespeare
The Ambassadors (books 1-4),
by Henry James
The Stranger, by Albert Camus
Enduring Love, by Ian McEwan

The world around us is presented to our notice subtly modified by the editorial interference of our consciousness laden, as it is, with presuppositions and biases. It doesn't end there, however. Our retrospective interpretations of circumstances, our attribution of motives to others or to ourselves, are subject to an iterative process of revision if they are important to us. It's a hard thing to understand the people around us, even harder to understand ourselves; it is difficult to discern a design in the circumstances of our life — yet we are compelled to try. With thanks to Dorothea Krook for the title of this book group, we will examine the ordeal of consciousness as memorably portrayed in four works.

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.), Mr. Fellowes 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.

**10h00 to 11h30 Mondays:
9 February, 9 March, 6 April, 11 May**

Irish Literature

The Secret Scripture, by Sebastian Barry
The Gathering, by Anne Enright
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man,
by James Joyce
Mothers and Sons, by Colm Tóibín

This group is intended as a venue to share views on the works of some of Ireland's literary voices.

Jamileh Talebizadeh is a practicing psychoanalyst in Paris and responsible for the Creative Writing Workshop for patients at a therapeutical centre. She is 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.

**10h00 to 11h30 Mondays: 16 February,
16 March, 20 April, 18 May**

History Lessons: The American Dream

Beloved, by Toni Morrison
Revolutionary Road,
by Richard Yates
American Pastoral, by Philip Roth
Interpreter of Maladies,
by Jhumpa Lahiri

History Lessons: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness?

Four American writers interpret different aspects of the American dream.

Mary Fleming has lived in Paris since 1981 where she has worked as a freelance journalist and consultant, and as the French representative for The German Marshall Fund of the United States. For the last ten years she has been writing fiction.

16h00 to 17h30 Mondays: 19 January, 16 February, 16 March, 20 April

Strangers in a Strange Land

Middlesex, by Jeffrey Eugenides
Journey Without Maps, by Graham Greene
The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears, by Dinaw Mengestu
The White Tiger, by Aravind Adiga

Fascinated by identity, belonging, and the quest for a true home?
Read what others have to say about being a stranger in a strange land.

Kate Berenson has been reading avidly ever since she figured out what those little black marks meant, late in the first grade. Recently uprooted, Lisa Redburn loves books that take her into other people's worlds. Both were participants in the group this fall and are strangers delighted to be in a strange land.

12h30 to 14h00 Mondays: 9 March, 6 April, 11 May, 8 June



David Bacher

Memoir

Native Realm, by Czeslaw Milosz
Running with Scissors,
by Augusten Burroughs
Mother Tongue : An American Life in Italy,
by Wallis Wilde-Menozzi
The World of Yesterday, by Stefan Zweig

We look forward to an exciting and rich voyage into the land of lives lived and reflected upon.

Leslie de Galbert, a New Orleans native and Hollins University graduate, earned her degree in clinical psychology from the University of Paris and trained as a psychoanalyst at the Jungian Institute of Paris.

Clydette de Groot holds a doctorate in counseling psychology and spent 27 years in graduate medical education as a director of behavioral sciences in family medicine residency training programs affiliated with the University of Colorado.

10h00 to 11h30 Mondays: 9 February, 9 March, 27 April, 25 May, 22 June

**10, rue du Général Camou
75007 Paris
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www.americanlibraryinparis.org
Open 10h00 to 19h00
Tuesday through Saturday

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

