

THIS MONTH AT THE

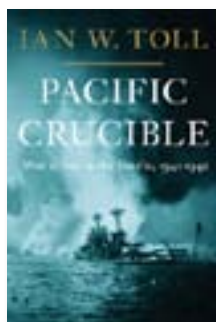


Mechanics' Institute

www.milibrary.org

VOL. 2, NO. 1 JANUARY 2012

EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS



To ring in the New Year, the Events Department takes us to the Pacific Theater, with Julia Flynn Siler's sweeping, turbulent history of Hawaii, Mechanics' Institute member Ian Toll's epic recounting of Pearl Harbor and the Pacific War, and editor Perry Link's new collection of writing by Nobel Prize Winner Liu Xiaobo. Meanwhile, the CinemaLit Film Series presents showings of revolutionary classics directed by Anthony Mann, Anatole Litvak, and Fernando de Fuentes, followed by scintillating discussions.

Full listing on page 2

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL HIGHLIGHT



Congratulations are in order to MI members Bill Buford; Jane and James Friesen; Malay Jalundhwala; Anna Sylvester; and Monika

Trobits for completing NaNoWriMo—writing over 50,000 words of their novels in a month! Keep up the good work, folks—we are proud of you!

More listings on page 6

LIBRARY CLASSES HIGHLIGHT

Wednesdays, beginning January 18, 5:15 pm

Introduction to Self-Publishing

Back by popular demand: this seven-session tour of the self-publishing process, taught by author and indie-publisher Carol Verburg, will guide you from the pros and cons, through the nuts and bolts, to an informed decision on whether and how to publish your book. If you have a manuscript—or a great idea—that is ready to become a book, or you're simply curious about the revolution that's swept away bookstores while launching thousands of new authors...this is the class for you.

Fees for this class: \$75 members/\$95 non-members, payable at the second class. Class sessions are **alternate** Wednesdays, from January 18 through April 18. To register, call Sharon Miller at 415.393.0113 or email smiller@milibrary.org.

Full listings on page 2

CHESS NEWS

The 2012 Falconer Award

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

Daniel Naroditsky of Foster City is the 2012 Falconer Award Winner and receives a cash prize equal to his current United States Chess Federation rating, 2546. This is the second year in a row that the sixteen-year-old International Master has won the award named after its benefactor, long-time Institute Trustee Neil Falconer, who first played at the Mechanics' in 1939.

Mr. Falconer's aim in establishing this award, given to the highest rated Northern California player under eighteen the preceding year, was to promote excellence in chess among youth. This goal he has realized in full. Earlier this year two-time Falconer Award winner Sam Shankland finished third in the United States Championship. He also defeated former

(continued on page 7)

Inside

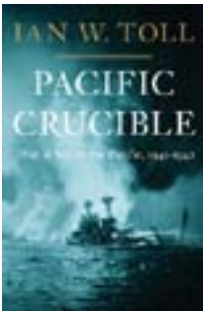
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EVENTS



Thursday, January 12, 6:00 pm
Lost Kingdom: Hawaii's Last Queen, the Sugar Kings, and the America's First Imperial Adventure (Atlantic Monthly Press)

JULIA FLYNN SILER
With a special Hawaiian ceremonial dance and chant performed by Constance Hale
Chronicling one of the most breathtaking land grabs of the Gilded Age, Julia Flynn Siler offers a riveting account of Hawaii's history from its tribal beginnings, to the discovery of the archipelago by Captain Cook, to the ascendancy of its beloved monarch Queen Lili-uokalani, to the battle for control of this island paradise in 1893. The momentous clash between a vulnerable people and capitalism comes with a cast of characters that include rascals and missionaries, Polynesian royalty and the "sugar kings," the white planters whose tightening grip on the islands led to America's first experiment in imperialism beyond the continental United States. **Members Free; Public \$12**



Tuesday, January 17, 6:00 pm
Pacific Crucible: War at Sea in the Pacific, (1941-1942) (W.W. Norton)

IAN W. TOLL
Co-sponsored by Asia Society, SF
On December 7, 1941, an armada of Japanese warplanes appeared suddenly over Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and devastated the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Six months later, in a sea fight north of the tiny atoll of Midway, four Japanese aircraft carriers were sent into the abyss. Pacific Crucible spotlights recent scholarship that has revised our understanding of the conflict including the planning, the strategy, the sacrifices and heroics—on both sides. Relying predominantly on eyewitness accounts and primary sources, Toll's dramatic narrative is a page-turning history that does justice to the breadth and depth of a tremendous subject, while providing intimate portrayals of combatants and commanders including Roosevelt, Churchill, Yamamoto, MacArthur, Halsey, and Nimitz. **Members Free; Public \$12**



Thursday, January 26, 6:00 pm
No Enemies, No Hatred: Selected Essays and Poems (Belknap/Harvard University Press) LIU XIAOBO; PERRY LINK, EDITOR

Co-sponsored by the Center for the Art of Translation & Asia Society, SF
Liu Xiaobo, winner of the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize and one of China's most revered intellectuals, continues to write and speak out against tyranny and in support of freedom, while serving an eleven year prison term. This new collection brings together an expert team including cultural historian Perry Link, translator Tienchi Martin-Liao, and Xiaoba's wife Liu Xia, a poet and artist currently under house arrest. It includes poems written in jail, critical essays, his Charter 08 in self defense against criminal charges, and his award-winning 2003 speech for liberal democracy. The book opens with a foreword by Vaclav Havel. **Members of MI, CAT & AS FREE; Public \$12**



CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

Fridays: Cafe opens 5:30 pm; Program begins 6:00 pm.
Members Free; Public \$10

NEW YEAR'S REVOLUTIONS TWO

For eleven years Mechanics' Institute's CinemaLit has offered a monthly mini-film festival/salon, showcasing directors, stars, film genres, and classics. Each film is introduced by film critic and CinemaLit curator Michael Fox, or by guests who include local film writers, critics and aficionados. Come for the movie. Stay for the discussion and fresh popcorn!



Friday, January 6
Reign of Terror (1949)

DIRECTED BY ANTHONY MANN
Robert Cummings, Arlene Dahl
Stunningly shot in black-and-white by noir maestro John Alton, this crackling spy thriller/costume drama unfolds at the height of the French Revolution.



Friday, January 13
Anastasia (1956)

DIRECTED BY ANATOLE LITVAK
Ingrid Bergman, Yul Brynner
Scintillating lead performances propel this tale of a general passing off an amnesiac impostor as the czar's daughter to the surviving Romanovs.



Friday, January 20
El Compadre Mendoza (1934)

DIRECTED BY FERNANDO DE FUENTES
Alfredo del Diestro, Carmen Guerrero
A pragmatic hacienda owner navigates between Huerta's government and Zapata's rebels in this certified classic of Mexican cinema.



CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

Thursday, January 5, 10:00 am
Value Line Research Center

Time is counting down! The Library's print format for this service will cease shortly. In this seminar, new and experienced investors will learn to use the online version, accessible from computers or your laptop in the Library, or from home or office. This enhanced web-based service covers more than 5,000 publicly traded companies, includes the classic Standard and the Small & Mid-Cap editions, plus a Mutual Fund, Daily Options, and Convertibles Survey, and a Special Situations service.



Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, January 10, 11, 12; Noon and 3:00 pm; No registration required
Learn to Use Your eBook Reader

Want to make more of your Kindle, iPad, Nook, or other eReader device? Learn to download free eBooks from the Library. Our half-hour workshops will cover different devices on specific days; drop in to see a demonstration and ask questions.

Tuesday, January 10: Kindle
Wednesday, January 11: Nook, Kobo, or Sony eReader
Thursday, January 12: iPad, iPhone, or Android devices

Tuesday & Wednesday, January 17 & 18, 10:00 am
Computer Basics for Paper and Pencil People

It is never too late to learn to use a computer, and this class makes it easy for you! The two-session class introduces non-users to the basic hardware and operation of the personal computer, including navigation and basic software. How to use the mouse, and understanding computer vocabulary are two topics covered in the class. Following each class session members will have an opportunity to receive one-on-one assistance on a Library computer.



Information & registration: 415.393.0102 or reference@milibrary.org. Advance registration is required. Note start time for each class. All classes meet in the 3rd floor Library classroom.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, January 24, 25, 26, Noon; no registration required
Online Catalog Tips and Tricks

While many of us long for the familiar card catalog, the online library catalog is here to stay. If you find that our Library catalog is difficult to use, or your searches don't find what you are looking for, drop in to a lunchtime sessions with a Library cataloger. In addition to learning how to search the Library collection, you will also learn to place holds and create lists, and keep a list of books you have checked out. This class is open to all skill levels, whether you're new to using an online catalog, or you want to learn more about its advanced features. Bring your questions!

Thursday, January 26, 10:00 am
Do-It-Yourself Investing

Invest just over an hour of your time, and walk away with a solid knowledge of the Library's collection of more than twenty investment letter subscriptions covering stocks, mutual funds, commodities, turnaround situations, technical analysis and market timing. Discover the particular strength(s) of each newsletter. Titles with similar content are compared. Learn about *Hulbert Financial Digest*, a monthly publication which tracks the performance of the investment letters themselves, based on the newsletters' security recommendations over time.



Wednesdays, beginning January 18, 5:15 pm
Introduction to Self-Publishing

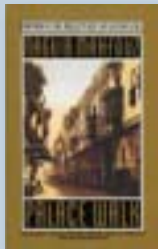
Back by popular demand: this seven-session tour of the self-publishing process, taught by author and indie-publisher Carol Verburg, will guide you from the pros and cons, through the nuts and bolts, to an informed decision on whether and how to publish your book. If you have a manuscript—or a great idea—that is ready to become a book, or you're simply curious about the revolution that's swept away bookstores while launching thousands of new authors...this is the class for you.

Fees for this class: \$75 members/\$95 non-members, payable at the second class. Class sessions are **alternate** Wednesdays, from January 18 through April 18. To register, call Sharon Miller at 415.393.0113 or email smiller@milibrary.org.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS



Monday, January 9, Noon; no registration required
Brown Bag Mystery Readers' Book Group
The Tattoo Murder Case
AKIMITSU TAKAGI



Tuesday, January 17, Noon; no registration required
Fiction You Wish You Had Read
Palace Walk
NAJIB MAHFOUZ



The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter
operates two bi-weekly groups, **Proust: In Search of Lost Time;** and the **World Literature Group**, which continues reading pre- and post- Proustian novels. **Enrollment for both groups has closed for this semester but will open to new members in March 2012.** For more information contact Mark Calkins at mark@tempsperdu.com.

Information & registration: 415.393.0113 or Sharon Miller smiller@milibrary.org. All readings are available at the 2nd floor service desk. All Book Discussions are held in the 4th floor Board Room.

Two Lines: World Writing in Translation

BOBBIE MONZON, SERIALS/REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

In an effort to expand the Library's collection of translated works, we are happy to introduce *Two Lines: World Writing in Translation* to our literary stacks. *Two Lines* is an annual anthology of international writing published by the Center for the Art of Translation here in San Francisco. Each issue follows a theme and contains poetry, prose, literature, and writing giving readers a glimpse of well known and emerging writers from around the world. Every individual piece of writing is printed bilingually; on one page you will read the writing in its native language and on the facing page you will see the translation. Turn the page and the work continues. (Space permitting, some of the longer pieces only include a portion of the original work but will include additional pages of the English translation.)

If a reader is bilingual this format offers a fascinating look at the art of translation. More than just word for word replicating, translating a piece of written art requires the translator to get inside the mind of the writer to try and express the sentiments the author laid down on paper without altering the story, the pace, or the meaning behind the words. It's no easy task and it's no wonder this new addition to our collection only comes out on a yearly basis.



The most recent *Two Lines* anthology, 2011's *Counterfeits*, delves into the realm of international noir. Fifteen different languages are represented including selections from Mongolia, Spain, Bulgaria, Egypt, and Russia. Also included in this issue is a translated work from Steven T. Murray, the award-winning translator of the popular Stieg Larsson books. Each piece of writing in *Counterfeits* is preceded by a short introduction from the translator describing his inspiration for the work, his background in translation, or some interesting tidbit about the author. You can find this edition of *Two Lines* on the 2nd floor with the call number 808.8 C855.

Additional reading:

The Library also has the *Two Lines* 2010 anthology titled *Some Kind of Beautiful Signal*. This issue is a bit more lighthearted, and includes an excerpt from Lydia Davis' new translation of Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*.
2nd floor, 808 S693

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

Readings, workshops, and camaraderie for, by, and in support of our members who are writers.



January 19, 2011, 6:00 - 8:00pm
City of White Gold: A Conversation with the Director

Meet MI member and film director Geordie Lynch and learn about the intricate details of producing a historical documentary in the City—from creating the script, securing the expert speakers, getting funding, marketing, shooting the trailer, and more. Film students, film lovers, and San Francisco history and culture lovers will appreciate this “behind the camera” look at the documentary making process. Lynch is thick in the production of *City of White Gold: San Francisco in the Gilded Age*, a documentary that tells the fascinating stories of Gilded Age San Francisco: the Comstock Lode, silver madness, the stock exchange, and the epic struggles of San Francisco entrepreneurs William C. Ralston, William Sharon, George Hearst, Adolph Sutro, and the Bonanza Kings.



February 9, 2011, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Everywhere Man: An Audio Mystery

Whether you’ve boarded the San Francisco cable cars a hundred times or brushed them off as mere tourist traps, you’re now invited to learn about a modern mystery story experienced while riding one up Nob Hill. Member author Jim Nelson has penned *Everywhere Man*, a high-tech mystery story and audio tour about San Francisco’s cable cars. Readers and tour participants will learn about a stranger haunting millions of tourist photographs that are taken around San Francisco and posted on the Internet, a man whose image quietly frustrates the fabric of the city’s digital history. Portions of the audio tour will be presented and the author will discuss the process of writing a book designed to be synchronized with a self-guided audio tour. Jim Nelson’s work has been published in *Confrontation*, *North American Review*, *Instant City*, and other fine literary venues. *Everywhere Man* was published in October 2011.



February 23, 6:00 pm
Mnemosyne Slumber Party

Mnemosyne, a free online journal created by MI member Andy Haskins, features art, fiction and nonfiction pieces about science, dreams, memory and the mind. Come to the launch party for the *Sleep & Dreams* issue, where you can meet the authors and artists, hear live readings, and have a chance to win prints, T-shirts, and tote bags featuring the art of *Mnemosyne*. More details about this event are forthcoming. For more information about *Mnemosyne* see <http://mnemomag.com>.



For more information about these events or to make a reservation contact Taryn Edwards tedwards@milibrary.org or 415.393.0103.

Feb 23 - Feb 28, 2012
BookFest 2012
Cosponsored with JCCSF
3200 California Street (x Presidio)
www.jccsf.org/bookfest

The Mechanics’ Institute is pleased to cosponsor BookFest 2012 at the San Francisco Jewish Community Center. This year, BookFest is bigger and better than ever, giving you more chances to rub elbows with today’s hottest, most hilarious and revered authors, artists and entertainers. Enjoy six days of literary events, including a multimedia pop opera, an art exhibit, film screenings and performance art, in addition to BookFest Sunday. This full day of contemporary literary voices will begin with Keynote speaker **Nicole Krauss**. Noted writers include **Yoram Kaniuk**, **Joyce Carol Oates**, **Philip Levine**, **Sam Tanenhaus**, **Dara Horn**, and others.

For tickets, please visit www.jccsf.org/arts or call the box office at 415.292.1233.



Chess

(Continued from page 1)



world number two player Peter Leko, in the first round of a qualification event for the World Championship held in Khanty Mansiyk, Russia. Sam’s successes the previous year led to him being awarded the Grandmaster title while Daniel received that of International Master.

Besides being a rising star in the chess firmament, young Daniel is also an accomplished author. His first, book, *Mastering Positional Chess*, was published by the Dutch firm New in Chess in 2010. He has a new book on the endgame, due out in the middle of 2012.

Both Daniel and Sam worked their way through the ranks at the Mechanics’ Chess Club before emerging on the national and international scene. In the case of Daniel, he has been playing at the Mechanics’ since early 2004 and has been an important member of the Mechanics’ entry in the US Chess League since 2006.



Former World Junior Champion Vladimir Kramnik and a young Daniel Naroditsky

Previous Falconer winners:

- 2000 Vinay Bhat
- 2001 Vinay Bhat
- 2002 Vinay Bhat
- 2003 Michael Pearson
- 2004 Nicholas Yap
- 2005 Matthew Ho
- 2006 Matthew Ho
- 2007 Nicholas Yap
- 2008 Sam Shankland
- 2009 Sam Shankland
- 2010 Steven Zierk
- 2011 Daniel Naroditsky



L-R Trustee Vince McCambridge, Trustee Neil Falconer, Trustee Michael Hilliard, Daniel Naroditsky, Trustee Richard Laiderman and Executive Director James Flack

Information & registration: 415.393.0110, chessroom@milibrary.org, or <http://www.chessclub.org>.

Chess for Women

Sundays, January 8, 15, 22, 29
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Taught by **Ewelina Krubnik**

FUNDED BY A GIFT IN MEMORY OF
R. MARTIN WISKEMANN

Tuesday Night Events

Tuesdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
5:15 pm - 6:25 pm
Lectures by **IM John Donaldson**
6:30 pm - 10:30 pm
Winter Tuesday Night Marathons

Tournaments

Wednesdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25
6:30 pm - 9 pm
Wednesday Night Blitz
Contact Jules Jelinek at j3ce@comcast.net for more information

Saturday, January 7
10:00 am - 8:00 pm
The 12th Annual Bob Burger Open G/45

Saturday, January 21
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Children’s Quad



57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94104

www.milibrary.org

Important Numbers

Circulation: 415.393.0101

Reference: 415.393.0102

Reservation hotline: 415.393.0100

E-mail: reference@milibrary.org

Library Hours

Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 9 pm

Friday: 9 am - 6 pm

Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday: 1 pm - 5 pm

Erika Schmidt, Editor

TOURS AND EXHIBITS



**After the Gold Rush:
A 150-Year Photographic
History of San Francisco's
Mechanics' Institute**
are on display in the halls
of the 4th and 5th floors.

**Lithograph prints of
Covarrubias' murals
Pageant of the Pacific**
are on display in the halls
of the 7th floor.

**Weekly Tours
Of The Institute
Every Wednesday
@ Noon**
Begin on the Library's
3rd Floor. For more
information, please call
415.393.0103.

Thanks to suggestions...

from Mechanics' members, the Library has added to our Large Print book collection (shelved behind the "A" fiction on the second floor) and purchased a reading magnifier for both reading rooms. The "Ruby" operates at 5, 7.5, and 10 magnification, and can be held in your hand or pushed across material on a table-top. To borrow, for in-library use only, ask at the service desk on the 2nd or 3rd floor.

Library staff welcomes your suggestions for collections or services.

Sharon Miller,
Library Director