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...
EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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 ascendency of its beloved monarch Queen Liliuokalani, 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 $10

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 portraits of combatants and commanders including Roosevelt, Churchill, Yamamoto, MacArthur, Halsey, and Nimitz. Members Free; Public $12

Thursday, January 26, 6:00 pm
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 Tienci Martin-Liao, and Xiaobo’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

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/coastume drama unfolds at the height of the French Revolution.

Friday, January 13
Anastasia (1956)
DIRECTED BY ANATOLIE 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 hacendado owner navigates between Huerta’s government and Zapata’s rebels in this certified classic of Mexican cinema.

Information & registration: 415.393.0100, rsvp@milibrary.org, or http://www.milibrary.org/events.
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 reader 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 Mongolian, Spain, Bulgaria, Egypt, and Russia. Also included in this issue is a translated work from 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.

Tuesday, January 17, Noon; no registration required
Fiction You Wish You Had Read

Palace Walk
NAF MAHFOUZ

Monday, January 9, Noon; no registration required
Brown Bag Mystery Readers’ Book Group

The Tattoo Murder Case
AKIMET SUKAGI

Tuesday, January 17, Noon; no registration required

Hulbert Financial Digest

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 or mark@tempsperdu.com.
Everywhere Man, North American Review

Confrontation tour. Jim Nelson’s work has been published in a tech mystery story and audio tour about San Francisco's author Jim Nelson has penned experienced while riding one up Nob Hill. Member you’re now invited to learn about a modern mystery story. Whether you’ve boarded the San Francisco cable cars a and the Bonanza Kings. c. Ralston, William Sharon, George Hearst, Adolph Sutro, Comstock Lode, silver madness, the stock exchange, and the 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 Everywher 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 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 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://mnemosynemag.com.

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

February 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/bookfes 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 Mansiysk, 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.

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 Navoditsky

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

Chess for Women

Sundays, January 8, 15, 22, 29
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Taught by Ewelina Krubnak
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 pbye@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

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

This Month at the Mechanics'
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