



EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT



Above: John Muir's Diary

Wednesday, February 15, 6:00 pm

Beyond Words: 200 Years of Illustrated Diaries

(Heyday Books) SUSAN SNYDER

It was hidden away, tucked securely between mattress and box spring—a round-edged red leather bound book with a tarnished clasp—a diary that held all your secrets, desires, dreams, love notes, heartbreaks, poems, scribbles, sketches, complaints and daily inspirations, your most precious and private possession! Explore and enjoy the inner worlds of famous and unknown diarists when Susan Snyder presents *Beyond Words: 200 Years of Illustrated Diaries*.

Full listing on page 2

BOOK DISCUSSIONS HIGHLIGHT



Thursday, March 1, 6:00 pm

Forgotten Classics

SERIES BONUS

The Pickwick Papers

CHARLES DICKENS

This selection follows a preview program of Dickens' 200th anniversary—see back page for program details and contact information.

More listings on page 5

CLASSES HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, February 7, 10:00 am

Get to Know Word 2007: Document Creation

Learn to use Microsoft Word 2007, the word processing program you will use to create, edit and save documents of all kinds for personal or professional use.

Tuesday, February 21, 10 am

Photo Editing

Transferring images from a digital camera to a computer, and then using Microsoft Office Picture Manager software to edit them, will be demonstrated.

Full listing on page 4

LIBRARY NEWS

Coming to the Library in February

SHARON MILLER,
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

In order to provide a more equitable use of the Library's computers our IT department is rolling out a computer reservation and time management system in mid-February, and the library will be making laptop computers available for members' in-library use. An additional benefit for members will be wireless access on the 4th floor for the use of personal laptops in the meeting room/cafe. Watch for announcements as these enhancements are rolled out.

BOBBIE MONZON, SERIALS/
REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

It's back! Get ready for the Annual Magazine Sale coming in March!

We'll have bundles of your favorite magazine titles ready to purchase. Watch our website and the March newsletter for more details.

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EVENTS

Attend these intimate and up close author programs and engage directly with local, national, and internationally known writers talking about their newly released books.



Wednesday, February 1, 6:00 pm
Hedy's Folly: The Life and Breakthrough Inventions of Hedy Lamarr, the Most Beautiful Woman in the World (Doubleday) RICHARD RHODES

Co-sponsored by the Museum of Performance & Design

What do Hedy Lamarr, avant-garde composer George Antheil, and your cell phone have in common? Pulitzer-prize winning author Richard Rhodes explains in this biography of a brainy sex symbol. Lamarr was an ambitious Jewish Austrian actress unhappily married to a Nazi arms dealer. She fled to Hollywood at the start of WWII, bringing star-making good looks, a head full of weapons information, and a gift for technical innovation. An introduction to composer George Antheil at a dinner party culminated in a US patent for a jam-proof guidance system for torpedoes, the technology that led to modern cell phones and GPS. *Hedy's Folly* is a riveting book about unlikely amateur inventors collaborating to change the world. **Members of MI & MPD Free; Public \$12**



Wednesday, February 15, 6:00 pm
Beyond Words: 200 Years of Illustrated Diaries (Heyday Books) SUSAN SNYDER

This Oprah Book Pick is a collection of excerpts from fifty illustrated diaries spanning two hundred years of adventure and contemplation. Gleaned from Snyder's explorations of the Bancroft Library as head of public services, they range from the records of eighteenth-century Spanish explorer Pedro Font to those of David Brower first encountering the wilderness to the Beat poet revelations. These unfolding stories reveal as much about the time in which they were written as they do the diarists' particular inner worlds. Whether filled with chicken-scratch sketches or gilded illuminations, these diaries have become objets d'art that expand our understanding of the uniquely compelling experiences of their creators. **Members Free; Public \$12**



Wednesday, February 22, 12:30 pm
American Avatar: The United States in the Global Imagination (Potomac Books) BARRY A. SANDERS

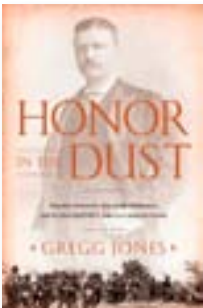
According to Sanders, an international business lawyer and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the attitudes a person expresses about the United States consist of two components: the person's memory bank of images and a bias that influences which images are recalled to express an opinion. Sanders analyzes anti-U.S. and pro-U.S. biases, explaining which criticisms should be heeded when communicating national objectives to friends and foes. He also offers a strategy for public diplomacy to help the United States navigate a world in which it must work collaboratively with other nations. He concludes that more than ever, national security will be impacted by foreign views.



Tuesday, February 28, 6:00 pm
Honor in the Dust: Theodore Roosevelt, War in the Philippines, and the Rise and Fall of America's Imperial Dream (Penguin) GREGG JONES

Co-sponsored by Asia Society

This absorbing and relevant narrative brings to life a pivotal moment in U.S. history, when America's drive for an overseas empire clashed with the brutal realities of a foreign occupation. On the eve of a new century, an up-and-coming Theodore Roosevelt set out to transform the U.S. into a major world power. In response to the outrage over Spain's war against Cuban freedom fighters, Vice President Roosevelt enlarged the naval fleet, called for volunteers, and lobbied President William McKinley to throw out the last European army in Southeast Asia. Journalist Gregg Jones captures an era of American optimism as the nation expanded its influence abroad. **Members of MI & AS Free; Public \$12**



CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX
Fridays: Café opens 5:30 pm; Program begins 6:00 pm.
Members Free; Public \$10

HOLLYWOOD DAMES: BEAUTY AND BRAINS

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!



February 3
Ecstasy (1933)
DIRECTED BY GUSTAV MACHATY
Hedy Lamarr, Aribert Mog



February 17
Leave Her to Heaven (1945)
DIRECTED BY JOHN STAHL
Gene Tierney, Cornel Wilde



February 10
Intermezzo (1939)
DIRECTED BY GREGORY RATOFF
Ingrid Bergman, Leslie Howard



February 24
The Barefoot Contessa (1954)
DIRECTED BY JOSEPH MANKIEWICZ
Ava Gardner, Humphrey Bogart

CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

Tuesday, February 7, 10:00 am

Get to Know Word 2007: Document Creation

Learn to use Microsoft Word 2007, the word processing program you will use to create, edit and save documents of all kinds for personal or professional use. Whether you are new to word processing, or familiar with other software, this step-by-step instruction will teach you the basics and provide hands-on practice. *Laptops will be available in the classroom.*

Tuesday, February 7, 3:00 pm

Filing taxes in the 21st Century

Are you dreading *Tax-giving Day* this year? Tired of struggling to locate the correct forms, that midnight dash to the post office, and worrying about your refund? Relax; this class will help you get your taxes filed on time and your refund on its way! We will explore in depth the IRS and the California Franchise Tax Board websites and learn about tax-related reference materials available in the library. You will learn to access forms and instructions, calculate withholding, track refunds, find changes in the tax code that may affect you, and learn how to e-file. The sooner you file the sooner you can get to the only tolerable part of tax season: **planning how to spend your refund!**



Thursday, February 9, 10:00 am

Business & Company Information

This database covers thousands of companies with a wide range of business information. Learn to access up-to-date news and reports, industry profiles, financial information, rankings, market share, brands and associations, journals and trade publications. This great resource to consult for any business inquiry is available from your home or office as well as the Library's computers.

Tuesday, February 15, 10:00 am

Magazines in Print and Online

Are you curious about solar power? Do you want to find out which diet plans actually work? Are you unsure about how to find an article you know was published ten years ago? Come to the class and learn ways to search InfoTrac! InfoTrac periodical database has over a thousand magazines online covering current events, popular culture, arts, sciences, sports, hobbies, health, business

and more. You will also get to know the Library's print magazine collection, and learn ways to search for specific articles.

Tuesday, February 21, 10:00 am

Photo Editing

Transferring images from a digital camera to a computer, and then using Microsoft Office Picture Manager software to edit them, will be demonstrated. Members will learn to compress, re-size, sharpen, rotate, change contrast, remove red-eye, and use various photo-saving formats. Bring your questions!

Thursday, February 23, 10:00 am

Investment Information on the Web

Learn to access content from diverse authoritative websites covering market updates, top news stories with superb editorial commentary and analyst opinions, economic and industry news, company profiles, corporate developments, trading statistics and charts (technical analysis), investment ideas and strategies, financial reports, personal finance tools, investment tutorials, insider trading, and more. Noteworthy sites include MSN MoneyCentral, Yahoo! Finance, MarketWatch, Google Finance, Bloomberg.com, Morningstar.com, and SmartMoney.

Alternate Wednesdays, beginning January 18, 5:15pm

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 has 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, or for more information, contact Sharon Miller at 415.393.0113 or smiller@milibrary.org.

Classes are open to Mechanics' Institute members and guests, and are free, except where noted above. Advance registration is required for most classes, due to limited space: call 415.393.0102 or email reference@milibrary.org. All classes are held in the Library classroom on the 3rd floor.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS



Thursday, February 2, 6:00 pm; registration required (see below)

Forgotten Classics

Journey to the End of the Night

LOUIS-FERDINAND CELINE

This was Celine's first novel, published in 1932. Inspired by his work as a doctor with the poor near Paris, it was rejected at first by publishers who deemed it too controversial, but it immediately became an international bestseller. Known for his squalid settings, unrestricted language, acidic satire, and misanthropic narrators, he published his novels under a pseudonym in order to continue his medical practice without fanfare.



Monday, February 13, Noon; no registration required

Brown Bag Mystery Readers' Book Group

The Man Who Liked Slow Tomatoes

K.C. CONSTANTINE

Meet Mario Balzic, Police Chief of a small Pennsylvania coal mining town. This popular series by a pseudonymous author is an excellent representation of local color and story lines. Who would have thought selling tomatoes out of season could lead to murder?



Tuesday, February 21, Noon; no registration required

Fiction You Wish You Had Read

The Wide Sargasso Sea

JEAN RHYs

Rhys' highly personal fictional style pulls her own heritage into this prequel to Jane Eyre. The imagined life of the first Mrs. Rochester, the madwoman in the attic, is told in alternate voices of Mr. and Mrs. Rochester. Listed as one of Time Magazine's all-time 100 novels, it was the inspiration for a recent Stevie Nicks song as well as movie, opera, and television productions.



The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter

Under the leadership of Dr. Mark Calkins, Mechanics Institute offers two bi-weekly discussion groups on a semester basis. New group members will be admitted to the groups for the semester beginning on March 14. The **Proust Group** discusses *In Search of Lost Time*, 5:30 - 6:30 pm; the **World Literature Group** discusses Proustian-inspired works from 6:45 - 8:00pm. Both groups meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month in the 4th floor Board Room. Fees for the new semester, (\$65 for MI members/\$95 for non-MI members) will be collected in March. For more information, contact him: mark@tempsperdu.com or smiller@milibrary.org

Information & registration: 415.393.0113 or Sharon Miller smiller@milibrary.org

All readings are available at the 2nd floor Circulation desk.

All Book Discussions are held in the 4th floor Board Room.

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

Events featuring or in support of our members' creative endeavors. All members are invited to attend.



February 9, 6:00 pm - 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 a mere tourist trap, 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. The book and tour's premise is to resolve the identity of a stranger that appears in millions of tourists' photographs. 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. **Members Free; Public \$12**

February 23, 6:00 pm
A 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 forthcoming *Sleep & Dreams* issue and meet the authors and artists—many of whom are Mechanics' members—hear live readings, and have a chance to win prints, t-shirts, and tote bags featuring the art of *Mnemosyne*. For more information about *Mnemosyne* see: <http://mnemomag.com>. **Members Free; Public \$12**

March 8, 6:00pm
Nuts and Bolts of Manuscript Editing: A Conversation with Two Editors
Meet fellow MI members and freelance editors David Carr and Jay Schaefer in this intimate seminar on the services editors can offer to writers in all stages of the writing process. Learn what an editor does beyond correcting grammar; when the right time is to call in an editor; and how an editor can help you get going on your manuscript by understanding the differences between writing fiction and nonfiction, effectively using tools such as outlining and mind-mapping, finding the right voice, defining your audience, and overcoming the challenges of the first chapter. Reservations required; this event is restricted to members only. **Members Free.**



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



COSPONSORED EVENTS



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

Bibliophiles rejoice! The Mechanics' Institute is pleased to cosponsor Bookfest 2012 with the San Francisco Jewish Community Center! Enjoy six days of literary events, including a multimedia pop opera, an art exhibit, film screenings and performance art. And don't miss BookFest Sunday, a full day of contemporary literary voices, kicked off with Keynote **Nicole Krauss**. Noted writers include Joyce Carol Oates, Yoram Kaniuk, Philip Levine, Cynthia Ozick, Harold Bloom, Sam Tanenhaus, Adam Levin, Dara Horn, and others.

For tickets, please visit www.jccsf.org/bookfest or call the box office at 415.292.1233. Use the special code: BOOKFESTPARTNER to get JCCSF member rates for BookFest on Sunday.

(Continued on back page)

Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON,
DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM



Chess News

Fremont teenager Hayk Manvelyan made it two for two by winning the Fall Tuesday Night Marathon this past December after taking the Dan Litowsky TNM in October. Hayk, who along with his father Hovik, are regulars in Mechanics' Chess Club tournaments, had a breakthrough this past fall not only achieving his master's title (2200 rating) but going all the way to 2280. This makes the seventeen-year-old Hayk one of the top fifty juniors in the country under twenty-one.



Thanks in part to the efforts of Peter Sherwood, Mechanics' Tuesday Night Marathon players can review their games and those of future opponents by going to the MI Chess Club website at www.chessclub.org and clicking on Games Archives. There they will find games played in the Tuesday Night Marathon going back to 1998 in a variety of formats with an online game player for 2010 and 2011.

Chess for Women

Sundays, February
5, 12, 19, 26
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

FUNDED BY A GIFT IN MEMORY
OF R. MARTIN WISKEMANN

Tuesday Night Events

Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21
5:15 pm - 6:25 pm
Lectures by IM John Donaldson
6:30 pm - 10:30 pm
Winter Tuesday Night Marathons

Tournaments

Wednesdays, February
8, 15, 22, 29
6:30 pm - 9 pm
Wednesday Night Blitz
Contact Jules Jelinek at j3ce@comcast.net for more information.

Saturday, February 4
10:00 am - 8:00 pm
The 12th Annual Henry Gross Memorial G/45

Saturday, February 11
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Children's Quad

Charles Dickens' 200th Birthday Anniversary Film & English Tea—Preview Program

Tuesday, February 7, 3:00 pm (Café opens at 2:30 pm)

Nicholas Nickleby (2002) (132 min.)

DIRECTED BY DOUGLAS MCGRATH
Charlie Hunnam, Christopher Plummer

Come see this sumptuous 2002 version of the great comic novel, *Nicholas Nickleby*, Dickens' celebration of youth, naivete, the theater, evil schoolmasters, benevolent twins, gentle ladies, disreputable gents...and (of course) a happy ending!

This event previews our **Dickens Day Celebration** to be held in May with the **Dickens Project (UC Santa Cruz)** featuring lectures, dramatic readings, and panel discussion; and a **Forgotten Classics** discussion series bonus, *The Pickwick Papers*, March 1, at 6:00 pm, led by Charles Fracchia.

Reservations for the tea may be made by calling the reservation hotline at 415.393.0100, rsvp@milibrary.org, or <http://www.milibrary.org/events>. Please register for the book club by contacting Sharon Miller at 415.393.0113 or smiller@milibrary.org.



(Cosponsored events continued from page 7)

March 2012

Crossroads Irish American Festival

Mark your calendars! The 9th Annual *Crossroads Irish-American Festival* will feature the 'best and brightest' of Irish-America in San Francisco during the month of March. This year Crossroads will host thirteen events in multiple venues featuring authors, musicians, historians, dancers, poets, and more, including one with MI member Renee Gibbons. Crossroads will also explore the history of the Irish in the west with historian, David Emmons, author of *Beyond The American Pale: The Irish In The West, 1845-1910*. Please go to www.irishamericancrossroads.org for a full schedule, including events for children.



Crossroads Oral History Project

Crossroads is also producing a comprehensive archive of the Bay Area Irish community, representative of all generations of heritage. Irish emigrants from the 1930's–1960's and their Irish-American contemporaries are targeted in phase one. Recording and honoring the experiences of our elders is critical to documenting the lasting importance of this community.

If you or someone you know would like to be part of this project, please contact us at 415.810.3774 or info@irishamericancrossroads.org.



57 Post Street, San Francisco,
CA 94104

www.milibrary.org

Important Numbers

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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