

THIS MONTH AT THE

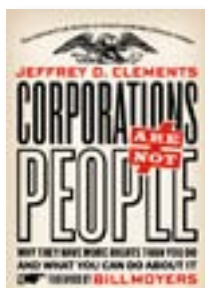


Mechanics' Institute

www.milibrary.org

VOL. 2, NO. 3 MARCH 2012

EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT



Friday, March 2, 12:30 pm

Corporations Are Not People: Why They Have More Rights Than You Do and What You Can Do About It

(Berrett-Koehler) JEFFREY D. CLEMENTS

Cosponsored by City Lights Bookstore, Free Speech for People, Equal Justice Society, and Rainforest Action Network

Public advocate and attorney Jeff Clements discusses the three-decade rise of corporate power over democracy. He describes how some of the largest corporations in the world organized to take over our government and Constitution, culminating in 2010 with the 5-4 Supreme Court decision, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, which ruled that since corporations are "persons," their contributions are a form of speech. This book outlines how we can work together to ensure that people, not corporations, govern in America. Clements offers solutions—including a constitutional amendment to reverse *Citizens United*—and promotes a grassroots drive to implement them.

Full listings on page 2

CHESS HIGHLIGHT



Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
After Six: Chess for Adults

This class is only for MI members who have not played chess recently.

For questions or reservations please contact Taryn Edwards, 415.393.0103 or tedwards@milibrary.org.
Cost: \$30 for four sessions.

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

JEREMY SNELL, ELECTRONIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN

April is National Poetry Month and a perfect time to explore your poetic side. Challenge yourself to write verse throughout the month. The Mechanics' Institute has set up a simple blog for you to post your poems: poetry.milibrary.org. Random poems will also be featured on www.milibrary.org and, with your permission, in a future edition of this newsletter. If you're interested, contact me at jsnell@milibrary.org or 415.393.0111. I'll get you set up so you'll be prepared to wax poetic starting in April.

For further information about National Poetry Month, visit www.poets.org/npm/.

CHESS

Nick deFirmian: Mechanics' Institute's New Grandmaster- in-Residence

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

The Mechanics' Chess Club welcomes Nick deFirmian as its Grandmaster-in-Residence. This will be a return home for the native Californian and UC Berkeley graduate. Grandmaster deFirmian has a long association with the Mechanics', dating back to his days as an undergraduate, and served as a member of the organizing committee for the M.I.'s "Pan-Pacific" International Chess Tournaments in 1987 and 1991.

The past three decades Nick deFirmian has excelled in many areas of the chess world. A world-class player for many years, Grandmaster deFirmian is a

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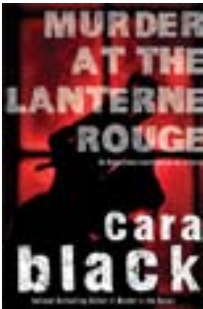
EVENTS

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



Thursday, March 15, 6:00 pm
Old Buildings, New Design: Architectural Transformations
(Princeton Architectural Press) CHARLES BLOSZIES

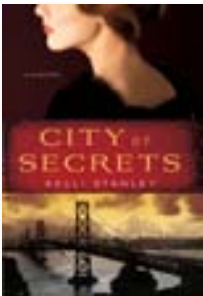
Co-sponsored by William Stout Architectural Books & Publishing
Striking, stunning, shocking! This may be the response to the dramatic breed of architectural hybridism and design that can be seen around the world. According to architect Charles Bloszies, the quest for sustainability will increasingly concentrate development in cities, resulting in architecture that will be a fusion of new and old forms. Furthermore, policy incentives have encouraged major additions to existing buildings. He will explore this trend with case studies and examples of buildings as near as his office at 1 Kearny Street and the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco; and as far as Paris, Madrid, and China. **Members of MI & WSBP Free; Public \$12**



Thursday, March 22, 6:00 pm—March Mystery Night Double Bill

Murder at the Lanterne Rouge (Soho Crime)
CARA BLACK
Templars, secret medieval guilds, Chinatown sweatshops, and botched affairs of the heart are revealed in this next Aimée Leduc mystery set in Arts et Metier quarter of Paris. Aimee's partner Rene has a new girlfriend, who suspiciously disappears from her own birthday party. What connection does Meizi's disappearance have to the body found shrink-wrapped in a nearby alley? And why have the French Secret Service gotten involved?

CARA BLACK's international best-selling Aimée Leduc Investigations have been nominated three times for the prestigious Anthony award and translated into six languages.



City of Secrets (Minotaur Books)
KELLI STANLEY
City of Secrets is the beautiful follow up to Stanley's first in the series, *City of Dragons*, which received rave reviews. Once again taking the reader to San Francisco in the early 1940s, it is a sprawling, visceral world of race wars and class wars, of hats and neon night clubs, Harry James and Chesterfields, and the world of a private investigator made more of steel than silk. **Members Free; Public \$12**

San Francisco resident **KELLI STANLEY** is the also the author of the Roman noir series that begins with the Bruce Alexander Award winner *Nox Dormiendae*.



Information & reservations: 415.393.0100, rsvp@milibrary.org, or <http://www.milibrary.org/events>.

CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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

PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST



Friday, March 2
Moulin Rouge (1952)
DIRECTED BY JOHN HUSTON
José Ferrer,
Zsa Zsa Gabor

A colorful and flamboyant portrait of painter Henri Toulouse-Lautrec in 1890s Montmartre, complete with music, dancing and *l'amour*.



Friday, March 23
Cross Creek (1983)
DIRECTED BY MARTIN RITT
Mary Steenburgen,
Rip Torn

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings moves to backwoods Florida in the 1920s to grow oranges and write novels.



Friday, March 9
Song of Summer (1968)
introduced by film critic
Dennis Harvey
DIRECTED BY KEN RUSSELL
Max Adrian,
Christopher Gable

This acclaimed BBC drama about composer Frederick Delius and the assistant who aided him late in life brilliantly depicts the creative process.



Friday, March 30
Impromptu (1991)
DIRECTED BY JAMES LAPINE
Judy Davis, Hugh Grant

Intellectual and physical sparks fly when George Sand, Chopin, Liszt and Delacroix convene in the country for a holiday.



Friday, March 16
Ballets Russes (2005)
Special Guests Dan Geller
and Dayna Goldfine
DIRECTED BY DAN GELLER
AND DAYNA GOLDFINE

This marvelously entertaining documentary resurrects the revolutionary dance troupe through wondrous archival footage and feisty interviews.

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!

CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

Tuesday and Wednesday, March 6 & 7, 10:00 am
Computer Basics for Paper-and-Pencil People
The two-session class introduces non-users to the operation of a personal computer, including navigation and basic software. Following each class session members will have an opportunity to receive one-on-one assistance on a Library computer.

Wednesday, March 7, 3:00 pm
Consumer Information Online
The focus of this class will be learning which websites can help educate you on the difference between an iPad and an Android, what features to look for when buying a new smart phone, or how to compare specifications on single serve coffee makers. The sites we'll be researching include online resources that can help you save money.

Thursday, March 8, 10:00 am
ValueLine Research Center
The web-based format of this popular print newsletter. covers more than 5,000 publicly traded companies, and is accessible from your home or office, or in the Library.

Microsoft Excel
We have three levels of instruction to meet your needs. Sign up for one or more of these workshops:

Tuesday, March 13, 10:00 am
Basics
Whether you are seeking to learn spreadsheet skills or trying to upgrade to a new version of Excel, this class will provide you with the basic tools to start using Excel 2007 immediately. Learn about creating a basic spreadsheet, customizing its appearance, and using basic formulas. If you have a laptop running Excel 2007, feel free to bring it to class. *Library laptops will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.*

Wednesday, March 14, 10:00 am
Formulas
Not sure what Excel formulas you're missing out on? Come to this demonstration of different formulas and see what they can do. If you have a nifty formula not mentioned, be prepared to show it off to the class! Excel 2007 basic proficiency expected.

Continued on next page

Information & registration: 415.393.0102 or reference@milibrary.org. Advance registration is required. Note start time for each class.

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

Readings, workshops, and camaraderie in celebration of our members' creative achievements.


Thursday, March 8, 6:00 pm
Nuts and Bolts of Manuscript Editing:
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM
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 is the right time 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. Members only.

Monday, April 16, 12:00 noon
Poetry and Parlor Games: a Surreal Experience
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM
Join librarians Taryn Edwards, Jeremy Snell, and a host of member poets as we explore surrealist poetry writing

techniques and play the parlor game, Exquisite Cadaver. This will be a fun way to bond with other members, your subconscious, and exercise your poetic spirit! Bring your lunch, sense of humor, spontaneity and be ready for a unique experience! The poems collectively produced from this session will be posted on our website. Members and guests only.

RSVP to Taryn Edwards: tedwards@milibrary.org, 415.393.0103.



Thursday, March 15, 10:00 am
Charts and Analysis
Need to make a line chart? Want to quickly compile and view data using pivot tables? Wish you could ask Excel "What if..."? Come learn how in this hour long class. If you have a laptop running Excel 2007, feel free to bring it to class. *Library laptops will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.*

Monday, March 19, 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. *Library laptops will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.*

Thursday, March 22, 10:00 am
Directory of Communication and Broadcast Media
You will discover the rich content in this directory of U.S., Canadian and international media outlets. Detailed entries provide full contact information, Web site URLs, listings of key personnel, owner information, advertising rates, circulation statistics, local programming information and other essential data. Learn how to access this information through multiple access points.

Thursday, March 22, 3:00 pm
Basic Powerpoint
Come learn about creating basic presentations, embedding images and video, crafting charts, and more. If you have a laptop running Powerpoint 2007, feel free to bring it to class. *Library laptops will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.*

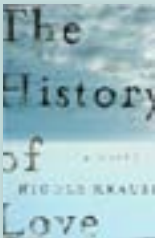
BOOK DISCUSSIONS



Thursday, March 1, 6:00 pm; registration required
Forgotten Classics Bonus Book
The Pickwick Papers
CHARLES DICKENS
First known as *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*, this was the first Dickens novel to bear his name. Noted for its memorable characters and descriptions of early nineteenth-century England, it is a fine example of his humor.



Monday, March 12, Noon; no registration required
Brown Bag Mystery Readers' Book Group
Spade & Archer
JOE GORES
Three-time Edgar winner Gores has been a PI in San Francisco for two decades, and has crafted a worthy prequel to *The Maltese Falcon*. Does it work?



Tuesday, March 20, noon; no registration required
Fiction You Wish You Had Read
The History of Love
NICOLE KRAUSS
This contemporary novel of secrets, revelations, and a literary riddle also features a book-within-a-book narrative.



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.

Introducing Consumer Reports Online

BOBBIE MONZON, SERIALS AND REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

We are happy to announce a new addition to our online database collection— [ConsumerReports.org](#). Offering the same unbiased, expert opinions as the popular print version of the title, the online edition of *Consumer Reports* has everything you’ve come to expect and much more. You can pull up detailed information on specific products, read up on long term reliability, and find out how other users rate the product. You can compare individual items against each other and you even have the option to shop online!



In addition, the online version continues the Consumers’ Union’s motto of “empowering consumers to protect themselves.” The organization prides itself on consumer advocacy and aims to educate and help readers make smart buying decisions by providing analysis from independent experts, mystery shoppers, and from user surveys. *Consumer Reports* accepts no outside advertising, free samples, or sponsorships and is an independent not-for-profit consumer organization.

You will find safety information and recall notices right on the [ConsumerReport.org](#) home page along with the latest consumer news. You can watch videos on how to properly secure a child’s car seat or view the new vehicles that appeared at the latest auto show. You’ll see examples of how to test headphones and you can follow along and learn the features to look for in a tablet computer.

With over 5,000 products tested (and counting), each category has detailed sections including an overview of the subject, a buying guide, ratings on individual items, and recommendations for purchase. You can also do price comparisons of various retailers and follow their link to shop online.

We hope you take the time to explore this new addition to our online collection. The print edition of *Consumer Reports* is the gold standard for product information and the website makes it easy to access all the valuable information and resources we have come to expect from this trusted publication. Come visit the Library and log into [ConsumerReports.org](#) today!



March Magazine Madness!

It’s that time of year again—spring cleaning of our magazines! We are introducing over a dozen new titles to the collection and will also have the annual sale of older issues to kick off the month.

Beginning March 1st, bundles of magazines will be available for purchase on the 3rd floor. Feel free to dig through the assorted collection of titles and buy as many as you can carry. Each bundle is for sale at \$2 or \$3 (+ tax) and there are no limits to the number you can take home.*

After picking up a few bundles, why not browse our current magazine collection and find the new (and old) titles we now have available for checkout. There are recent

additions in food and cooking, literature, history, hobbies, and more. Come to the 3rd floor, see the new titles, buy the old, and rediscover what’s available in our always-diverse magazine collection.

Some new magazine titles as of February 2012:
American History
Dines’ Interim Warning Bulletin (financial newsletter)
Family Tree Magazine
Healthy Cooking
Kirkus Reviews
Men’s Journal
Nutrition Action Health Letter (health newsletter)
World Literature Today

*Due to the number of magazines available and the popularity of some titles, we will not hold any bundles for future purchase. Sales are limited to those in tied bundles; no loose or individual issues will be sold.

Chess

(continued from p. 1)



three-time US Champion and an eight-time member of the US Olympiad team. He served as the Captain of the U.S. team at the 2002 Chess Olympiad, held in Bled, Slovenia.

The author of several books on the game, including three editions of the well-received *Modern Chess Openings*, deFirmian has also written for such leading chess publications as *New in Chess*, *Chess Life*, and *Inside Chess*.

He is well-known for his role in helping prepare openings for the IBM computer Deep Blue that defeated World Champion Garry Kasparov in a historic battle in 1997. This was the first time a computer had beaten a reigning human World Champion in a match.

The past decade Grandmaster deFirmian has concentrated his energy on teaching chess to children in New York City. This teaching included working with Public School 130 in Chinatown and Horace Mann, a private school, which won the 3rd- and 5th-grade national championships. He has also coached kids in such events as the World Youth Championships and taught at summer chess camps throughout the country. Grandmaster deFirmian will focus his energy on the Mechanics’ Chess Club’s Scholastic Outreach program. He will also be the lead instructor at an expanded number of chess camps held at the Mechanics’, and will start a Thursday evening group class for enthusiastic amateur players.

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Taught by M.I. Grandmaster-in-Residence Nick deFirmian and Anthony Corrales

Chess for Women

Sundays, March 4, 11, 18, 25
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

FUNDED BY A GIFT IN MEMORY OF R. MARTIN WISKEMANN

Tuesday Night Events

March 13, 20, 27
5:15 pm - 6:25 pm
Lecture by John Donaldson
6:30 pm - 10:30 pm
Spring Tuesday Night Marathon

Thursday Night Lessons

March 15, 22 and 29
7:00pm - 9:00 pm
Taught by M.I. Grandmaster-in-Residence Nick deFirmian

Tournaments

Saturday, March 10th
10:00 am - 8:00 pm
12th A.J. Fink Amateur

Sunday, March 11th
10:00 am - 8:00 pm
12th A.J. Fink Amateur

Sunday, March 17th
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Children’s Quad

Saturday, March 24th
10:00 am - 8:00 pm
12th Annual Max Wilkerson Memorial G/45



NICK DEFIRMIAN

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



57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94104
www.milibrary.org

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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

Voices from The San Francisco Writers' Grotto

Four provocative writers from "The Grotto," San Francisco's most well-known writing collective, will talk about their influences, writing styles, and publishing process on **Thursday, March 29, at 6:00 pm**. They will read from their recent works, offering their distinct voices in the genre of memoir, novel, and journalistic essay.

This program is part of a series presented by the Mechanics' Institute to promote collaboration and exchange with the Bay Area's unique literary venues and organizations.

Members of MI & SFWG Free; Public \$12

About The Grotto:

Since 1994, **The San Francisco Writers' Grotto** has been the haven and workplace for an active community of published writers. Today, this collective of over thirty-five authors, journalists, fiction writers, filmmakers communally share work space at 490 Second Street. It also has a Fellowship program providing work space for those on the verge of publication, and **The Grotto School: A Preparatory Academy for Writers** which offers a curriculum of writing classes taught by Grotto members and local professionals.



HEATHER
DONOHUE



PETER ORNER



CAROLINE PAUL



ETHAN WATTERS



JANIS COOKE
NEWMAN

COSPONSORED EVENTS

March 3 - April 7, 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. Please go to www.irishamericancrossroads.org for a full schedule, including events for children. Crossroads



is also producing an oral history archive of the Bay Area Irish community, representative of all generations of heritage.

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.

Thursday, March 8, 6:00 pm

Turing's Cathedral: The Origins of the Digital Universe

(Knopf Doubleday) GEORGE DYSON

Hosted by and held at the

Commonwealth Club of California

595 Market Street, 2nd Floor

415.597.6705

commonwealthclub.org



Want to learn where the digital universe as we know it was born? Dyson sheds new light on the group of scientists and their government-funded lab at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton that started it all. **Members of MI & CCC \$8.00; use code MIGD.**

All foreign language films

have been pulled from the general DVD collection and are now shelved immediately following the English language films, next to the IT office on the 2nd floor. We have color coded the assorted dialects and are proud to present our members with over twenty different languages. In addition to the more well known French, Spanish, and German films available we have other languages as varied as Polish, Swahili, Farsi, and Tzotzil, among others.

The next time you feel like transporting yourself to another place and lingo via film, look no further. Visit our new Foreign Language DVD section on the 2nd floor today!