

THIS MONTH AT THE



# Mechanics'

Institute

[www.milibrary.org](http://www.milibrary.org)

VOL. 2, NO. 4 APRIL 2012

## EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT



**Wednesday, April 18, 6:00 pm**

**1906 Earthquake Day**

***History's Anteroom: Photography in San Francisco, 1906-1909*** (William Stout Publishers)

RODGER C. BIRT, WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS BY  
MARVIN R. NATHAN

The 1906 earthquake and fire left its mark on the city, devastating and exposing its buildings and landscape like no other catastrophe. San Francisco's vulnerability and resilience are seen in its reconstruction and revival as portrayed in this photographic history.

Full listing on page 2

## WRITING SEMINAR



**Saturday, March 31, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Effective Book Proposals: a Writing Seminar**

Discover how to shape your non-fiction book idea into a proposal that is irresistible to literary agents and book publishers. Actual proposals from published books will be discussed. Fee of \$75 for members/\$95 for non-members includes a copy of his book, *The Essential Guide to Getting Your Book Published*. Payment is due the day of the class in cash or by check, payable to the Mechanics' Institute. For more information contact Taryn Edwards 415.393.0103, [tedwards@milibrary.org](mailto:tedwards@milibrary.org)

## AUTHORS' CARNIVAL HIGHLIGHT

**Thursday, April 26, 6:00 pm**

**Flash Fiction Spectacular! Told in a Flash: Sudden & Micro Fiction**

Hold on to your seats and join us for an exciting evening of flash, micro, sudden, and short-short fiction! Veteran flash fictionist and MI member Lizette Wanzer chairs a panel of local flash fiction authors including Meg Pokrass, Jenny Bitner, Sarah Karlinsky, and MI member Paula Hendricks. To RSVP contact Taryn Edwards 415.393.0103, [tedwards@milibrary.org](mailto:tedwards@milibrary.org)



## National Poetry Month

TARYN EDWARDS, MEMBER  
RELATIONS AND MARKETING  
SPECIALIST

**A**pril is National Poetry Month and the Institute has a variety of activities going on to help you explore your poetic side! Our webmaster Jeremy Snell has challenged you to write verse throughout the month. He has set up a simple blog for you to post your poems: [poetry.milibrary.org](http://poetry.milibrary.org). Random poems will be featured on [www.milibrary.org](http://www.milibrary.org) and, with your permission, in a future edition of this newsletter. If you're interested contact Jeremy at [jsnell@milibrary.org](mailto:jsnell@milibrary.org) or 415.393.0111. He'll get you set up so you can wax poetic! In addition, the Events department is hosting the **5th Annual World Poetry Night in the Oral Tradition** on April 5; and the Authors' Carnival will be playing a round or two of **Exquisite Cadaver** on April 16th. For further information about National Poetry Month, visit [www.poets.org/npm](http://www.poets.org/npm).

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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, April 5, 7:00 pm (café opens at 6:30 pm)**

**Celebrate National Poetry Month**

**5nd Annual World Poetry Night in the Oral Tradition**

Maurice Wren and his ensemble of “poetry troubadours” including Bill Denham, Kay Crista, Carol Fitzgerald and Doug von Koss, present an evening of verse by poets from around the world through the ages. These spontaneous and heartfelt recitations—all from memory—provide a feast for the senses. Enjoy poetry as diverse as Rumi, Langston Hughes, William Shakespeare, Mahmoud Darwish, Emily Dickenson, Yehuda Amichai, Rainer Maria Rilke, Rita Dove, Pablo Neruda, E.E. Cummings, Dylan Thomas, Guillaume Apollinaire, Chu Chen Po, and more. Stage direction and set design by Kathleen Blake.

Bring your own favorite poems to read and poetry books to share. Create a poem postcard to mail to a friend or a “twitter” Haiku to send that night.

**Members \$10; Public \$12**



**Wednesday, April 18, 6:00 pm - 1906 Earthquake Day**

**History's Anteroom: Photography in San Francisco, 1906-1909**

(William Stout Publishers)

RODGER C. BIRT, WITH PHOTOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS BY MARVIN R. NATHAN

**Co-sponsored by William Stout Architectural Books & Publishing**

History's Anteroom is a collection of vintage photographs made in San Francisco, California, during the years 1906-1909. In April 1906 the San Francisco Bay Area fell victim to a powerful earthquake, and in October 1909 the city hosted a “regional rebirth” with a celebration named the Portola Festival. The photographs and illustrations reproduced here - some only rarely shown or seen now for the first time - have been given a close reading and placed within the specific historical context by the authors. The result is a journey back into the early history of the twentieth century and its first great urban catastrophe.

**Members of MI and WSABP Free; Public \$12**



## MAY PREVIEW

**Wednesday, May 2**

**A Dickens Day Celebration**

In honor of Charles Dickens's 200th Birthday Anniversary Year.

**See back page for details!**



# CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

**Fridays: Cafe 5:30 pm; Program 6:00 pm.**

**Members Free; Public Suggested Donation \$10**

## HEART OF THE POET



**Friday, April 6**

**Dead Poets Society** (1989)

DIRECTED BY PETER WEIR

Robin Williams, Robert Sean Leonard

In the late '50s, a prep-school English teacher inspires his pliable students to defy convention.



**Friday, April 13**

**Il Postino (The Postman)** (1994)

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL RADFORD

Massimo Troisi, Philippe Noiret

Chilean poet and communist Pablo Neruda, exiled to a small Italian island, bonds with his poorly educated mailman in this touching and profoundly humane film.



**Friday, April 20**

**Bright Star** (2009)

DIRECTED BY JANE CAMPION

Abbie Cornish, Ben Whishaw

The poignant relationship of the thoroughly modern Fanny Brawne and John Keats spawns memorable verses and copious tears.



**Friday, April 27**

**Shakespeare in Love** (1998)

DIRECTED BY JOHN MADDEN

Joseph Fiennes, Gwyneth Paltrow

This witty flight of fancy, winner of seven Oscars, imagines the young, lovestruck bard writing Romeo and Juliet.

## Northern California Book Awards

**Sunday, April 22, 1:00 pm**

**Cosponsored Event**

Don't miss the 31st Annual Northern California Book Awards, one of the most important literary events in San Francisco. It takes place on Sunday, April 22, at the Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin Street. The ceremony begins at 1:00 pm and features readings by this year's award-winning authors and remarks by the Fred Cody Award recipient. A reception and book follows from 2:30 - 4:00 pm.

The award honors the work of northern California authors and translators in Fiction, Poetry, Nonfiction (General and Creative), Children's Literature, and Translations; and recognizes exceptional service to the community by literary leaders through the Fred Cody Lifetime Achievement Award and Special Recognition Awards.

The event is presented and sponsored by Northern California Book Reviewers, Poetry Flash, Center for the Art of Translation, Red Room (redroom.com), PEN West, Mechanics' Institute, San Francisco Public Library, and Friends of the **San Francisco Public Library.**

[www.poetryflash.org](http://www.poetryflash.org)

# CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

**Thursday, April 5, 10:00 am**

**Safe Practices for Your Online Life**

If you've ever had your email hacked or online accounts compromised, you are familiar with the harm and annoyance a security breach can cause. Users of email, online shopping sites, or social media will learn good habits to protect account security and personal identity.



**Thursday, April 12, 10:00 am**

**Standard & Poor's NetAdvantage**

Get up-to-date and reliable answers to your tough business and investment questions and identify investment opportunities. Learn to find company and industry information on publicly-traded U.S. corporations together with S&P's independent research, analysis and opinions. This valuable database is available to members from home or office, as well as on Library computers.



**Wednesday, April 18, 10:00 am**

**Better Ideas for Book Group Leaders**

Is it time to infuse your book group with new suggestions? Are you having trouble finding reliable information about favorite authors? Whether you are looking for a good book to follow The Great Gatsby, or something similar to P.D. James, we can show you excellent sources for new titles to read. Learn to use the newly redesigned Books in Print database, and Contemporary Authors, a long-time librarian favorite for digging deeper into author biographical information.



**Tuesday & Wednesday, April 24 & 25, 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. You will learn to use a mouse and a new vocabulary



of computer terms. Following each class session member will have an opportunity to receive one-on-one assistance on a Library computer.

**Thursday, April 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 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 their security recommendations over time.

**Web-based Tutorial**

**Estate Planning Basics**

The Mechanics Institute has acquired a series of 10-minute video briefings on wills, living trusts, probate, trustees, charitable trusts, gift annuities, advance health care directives and other powerful estate planning tools. Viewed individually, they help clarify these complex subjects; viewed together, they're like a private estate planning seminar, but without the time commitment. Free to you as a benefit of your Mechanics' membership, you can start watching them right now by visiting our website: <http://www.milibrary.org/donate/planned>. For more information or assistance with viewing, contact Taryn Edwards 415.393.0103, [tedwards@milibrary.org](mailto:tedwards@milibrary.org).



# BOOK DISCUSSIONS



**Monday, April 9, Noon; no registration required**  
**Brown Bag Mystery Readers' Book Group**

**City of Dragons**

KELLI STANLEY

Meet Miranda Corbie, in 1940 San Francisco, a female PI who seeks justice at any cost. See our city through the eyes of local writer, and start yourself on a new mystery series. Author Stanley, won the 2008 Bruce Alexander Award for best historical mystery Nox Dormienda (A Long Night for Sleeping): An Arcturus Mystery.

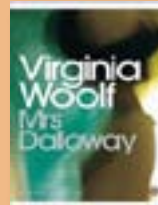


**Tuesday, April 17, Noon; no registration required**  
**Fiction You Wish You Had Read**

**The Beast in the Jungle**

HENRY JAMES

Critics have termed the best novel from prolific author Henry James. Written in 1903 the universal themes of love, loneliness, fate, and death resonate with readers today. Our discussion will include a reading of the poem Portrait of a Lady by T.S. Eliot.



**Thursday, May 3, 6:00 pm; no registration required**  
**Forgotten Classics**

**Mrs. Dalloway**

VIRGINIA WOOLF

Join discussion leader Charles Fracchia in a lively discussion as we follow the events in the single day of an upper-class Englishwoman. Virginia Woolf's impact on English literature is still being weighed. Known for her unique perspective on sexuality, feminism, life and death, madness and sanity, to name a few topics - this is not a simple story.



**The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter**

Operates two bi-weekly discussion 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 September. For more information, contact Mark Calkins at [mark@tempsperdu.com](mailto:mark@tempsperdu.com).

**Information & registration:** 415.393.0113 or Sharon Miller [smiller@milibrary.org](mailto:smiller@milibrary.org)  
All readings are available at the 2nd floor Circulation desk.  
All Book Discussions are held in the 4th floor Board Room.

**Information & registration:** 415.393.0102 or [reference@milibrary.org](mailto: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.

**Monday, April 16, 12:00 noon**

**Poetry and Parlor Games - a Surreal Experience**

Join 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.

**Tuesday, May 8, 10:00am - 12:30pm**  
**Field Trip to Heyday!**

Join us on a tour of Heyday, an independent, non-profit publisher in Berkeley. Since 1974, Heyday has promoted widespread awareness and celebration of California's many cultures, landscapes, and boundary-breaking ideas through their well-crafted

books. Meet executive director Malcolm Margolin and his skilled staff as they discuss their individual responsibilities, Heyday's history and mission, and how this publisher has flourished for over thirty years to become one of the most coveted presses in the state. Examine their recent publications and follow one from proposal to finished work. Tour starts promptly at 10:00 am. Reservations required.

RSVP to Taryn Edwards 415.393.0103  
[tedwards@milibrary.org](mailto:tedwards@milibrary.org)





# New Video Tutorials on Estate Planning

JIM FLACK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**M**echanics' Institute is fortunate to have access to Phil Murphy's series of Video Tutorials on Estate Planning Fundamentals. These 10 minutes educational tutorials are available to Mechanics' Members through our website's Donate Page - go to the Estate Planning Help on the left side <http://www.milibrary.org/donate/planned>.

Here you will find a series of 10 minute, self paced tutorials that discuss and explain in refreshingly straight forward language the basic fundamentals of why you might want a will or a living trust, the pros and cons of probate, how taxes factor in to your estate planning, and discussion of some of the more advanced estate planning devices such as charitable trusts and gift annuities.

I have taken several courses from other sources in much of this material and I can tell you that Phil Murphy's approach is superior; he puts it in such a comprehensible form that I feel I understand it much better having viewed his tutorials.

Check out these educational offerings from Mechanics'. It is the easiest and most convenient way to learn about, and understand, estate planning, both the simple fundamentals and the more complex concepts. If you are like me, you will enjoy being able to return to these web-based tutorial again and again, as reference source.

If you should decide to include the Mechanics' Institute in your estate plans you will become a member of the **James Lick Legacy Society**. James Lick is the fellow whose likeness graces our lobby. Upon his death in 1876, he bequeathed the Mechanics' Institute \$10,000 - a sum that enabled the Institute to purchase much needed mechanical and trade materials. Today, bequests of this nature enable the Institute to continue its historic role of keeping pace with its members' changing interests and needs. As you weigh your estate planning options, considering being a part of the Institute's past and how you could play a critical role in safeguarding its future. For more information, please contact me, at 415.393.0117 or [jflack@milibrary.org](mailto:jflack@milibrary.org).



## Special Project: Adair Drawings

Occasionally Mechanics' has specific, unique projects that need funding. The Adair drawings are five stunning 2 x 3 foot drawings which won an award in the Mechanics' Institute's 31st Exposition (1899). We plan to frame and hang them in the public areas of 57 Post Street, much as we did with the Miguel Covarrubias prints on the 7th floor. The cost of framing them is \$2,400. If this project interests you please contact me, at 415.393.0117 or [jflack@milibrary.org](mailto:jflack@milibrary.org).

# COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS @ MECHANICS'

SEAD SEHOVIC, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

## E-Commerce

Beginning Monday, March 12, members will be able to pay their Library fines online using a Visa or Master credit card. Log in to your Library account at [www.milibrary.org](http://www.milibrary.org), and choose to view your fines, and then select Pay Fines Online.



## Re-Quest: Computer Reservations

In the beginning of April, we will launch a computer reservation system that will allow Library users to reserve a time on the public computers. Current print release computers will have a dual function and on them you will be able to make a reservation for a computer as well as to release your print jobs.

## Faster Internet

Beginning Sunday, April 1, Library users will notice an increase in internet connection speed as well as internet access in the 4th floor Meeting Room. Library users connecting to MI internet access points with their laptops will be authenticated and redirected to our internet policy page before gaining access to the internet.

# CHESS

**I**nternational Master Elliott Winslow won the Winter Tuesday Night Marathon with the outstanding score of 7-1 to finish ahead of 66 other competitors. National Master Russell Wong was second at 6.5, just ahead of 14-year-old Daniel Liu who has been



playing only three years. The youngster from Palo Alto is one of the top-rated players in the country for his age and is just a few points from earning the coveted Master title that is awarded to less than one percent of all United States Chess Federation members.

The 59-year-old Winslow, who only recently returned to competitive chess after a 15-year break, enjoys a reputation as a first rate games players. Besides holding the second highest title in chess (after Grandmaster) and being a competent professional poker player, Elliott is ranked as one of the best backgammon players in the world.

## Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

**April 7, 14, 21, 28**  
**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
Taught by M.I. Grandmaster-in-Residence Nick deFirmian and Anthony Corrales

## Chess for Women

**Sundays, April 1, 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

**April 3, 10, 17, 24**  
**5:15 pm - 6:25 pm**  
Lecture by IM John Donaldson

**6:30 pm - 10:30 pm**  
Spring Tuesday Night Marathon

## Thursday Night Lessons

**April 5, 12, 19, 26**  
**7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**  
Taught by M.I. Grandmaster-in-Residence Nick deFirmian

## Tournaments

**Saturday, April 14**  
**10:00 am - 8:00 pm**  
12th Annual Imre Konig Memorial G/45

**Sunday, April 21**  
**10:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
Children's Quad

**Saturday, April 21**  
**10:00 am - 8:00 pm**  
12th Annual Walter Lovegrove Senior Open

**Sunday, April 22**  
**10:00 am - 8:00 pm**  
12th Annual Walter Lovegrove Senior Open



Information & registration: 415.393.0110, [chessroom@milibrary.org](mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org), or <http://www.chessclub.org>.



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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

# A Dickens Day Celebration

Wednesday, May 2, 2012 from Noon – 8:30 pm

In Honor of Charles Dickens's 200th Birthday Anniversary Year

Co-sponsored by The Dickens Project, University of California, Santa Cruz

*An Important Notice of (perhaps) the one and only all-day Dickens Day Celebration in San Francisco, hence, one that should not be missed on all account. Thus, a brief description of what will occur by way of discourse and disquisition, literary enrichment, theatrical engagement, delectable fare, and of course, sheer fun.*



## Afternoon Program - 4th floor, Meeting Room

### Discovering Dickens' London

NOON - 6:00 pm

Six Jolly Fellowship Porters Pub  
(hearty tavern fare & libations available)

12:30 - 1:30 pm

John Jordan, Arriving in Dickens's London

1:30 - 2:30 pm

Murray Baumgarten, Reading Dickens Writing London

2:30 - 3:30 pm

Peter Orner, Dickens and Melville: A Tale of Two Scriveners

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Tea Readings with Charles Dickens (Robert Young) A Dramatic Reading by the Author!

"5-Minute Dickens" with audience participation - bring your favorite selection to share!

English Tea Service available!



## New Database!

BOBBIE MONZON, SERIALS AND  
REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

Joining our recent upgrade to [ConsumerReports.org](http://ConsumerReports.org), we have added Bay Area Consumers' Checkbook to our stable of online databases. The CHECKBOOK evaluates the quality and prices of local service companies and assigns recommendation ratings. Read reviews, comments from other consumers, find local auto repair shops, advice on choosing the right insurance provider, or even the most affordable veterinarian for your dog. The print version of Bay Area Consumers' Checkbook is still available on the 3rd floor but now you can also go to [www.milibrary.org/research](http://www.milibrary.org/research) to find ratings online.



## Evening Program - 2nd floor, Library

### A Writer's Life: Author, Celebrity, Social Reformer, Intrepid Traveler, Amateur Actor, & Family Man and Dickens in the Digital Age

6:00 pm

Doors Open - Victorian Guests & Surprises

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Keynote Address: Jane Smiley, author of *Charles Dickens* (2002)

Panel discussion, moderated by John Jordan with Murray Baumgarten, Edwin Eigner, Jane Smiley, Peter Orner, Jon Michael Varese

From Page to Stage – A Dramatic Reading by actor Paul Whitworth



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Members Free; Public \$15

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