



EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS 2013 PREVIEW



Thursday, January 10, 6:00 pm

The Painted Word: A Treasure Chest of Remarkable Words and Their Origins

(Viva Editions)

PHIL COUSINEAU

Author Phil Cousineau takes us on a tour into the obscure territory of word origins with great erudition and endearing curiosity. Whether old-fangled or brand new, all the words included in *The Painted Word* reveal the deep history and mystery of words and language.

Members Free; Public \$12

Full listing on page 2

WINTER STORY TIME



Saturday, December 1, 10:00 am

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Bundle up and bring the children in your life to Mechanics' Institute to enjoy a reading of *The Snowy Day* by Caldecott winner Ezra Jack Keats. Even if your children have never experienced snow, this story of a boy's adventure in his neighborhood, made unfamiliar by the change in season, has resonated with children since

1962. Join us on Saturday morning for our own wintertime adventure! Crafts, cocoa, and cookies will follow the story.

Members Only; Free

MEMBERS' MEETING AND AUTHOR PROGRAM



Thursday, December 6

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM & CAFE

5:30 pm Reception; 6:00 pm Meeting;

6:45 pm Program with Randy Alfred

Join us for our bi-annual Members' Meeting and hear from the staff about new plans, technology updates, and our efforts to improve your experience as members. Bring your comments and questions. The meeting will be followed by speaker Randy Alfred, presenting his new book *Mad Science: Einstein's Fridge, Dewar's Flask, Mach's Speed, and 362 Other Inventions and Discoveries That Made Our World*. **Members and Guests Free.**

Full listing on page 2

LIBRARY NEWS

Our Books Are on the Move—to the Left, and to the Right

SHARON MILLER,
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The questions come every day: *why are those shelves empty? Where are the reference books on medicine? Why are you moving the new books on the second floor?*

There is a method to what may look like our madness. As libraries do, some parts of our terrific collection grow at a faster rate than others, and some books are sitting unused for long periods of time. We librarians note patterns of use in our collection and are shifting books to make it easier for you to find the books you seek.

We also want to entice you to pick up books you might not be aware of.

(continued on page 5)

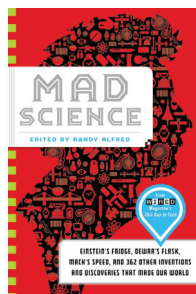
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EVENTS

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

- Laura Sheppard, Events Director



Thursday, December 6, 6:45 pm

(This event preceded by Members Meeting & Reception starting at 5:30 pm)

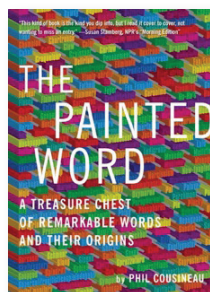
Mad Science: Einstein's Fridge, Dewar's Flask, Mach's Speed, and 362 Other Inventions and Discoveries That Made Our World (Little, Brown and Company)

EDITED BY RANDY ALFRED

On January 30, Rubik applied for a patent on his cube (1975). On the next day, 17 years earlier, the first U.S. Satellite passed through the Van Allen radiation belt. On March 17, the airplane "black box" made its maiden voyage (1953). And what about today? Every day of the year has a rich scientific and technological heritage just waiting to be uncovered, and *Wired's* top-flight science-trivia book *Mad Science* collects them chronologically, from New Year's Day to year's end, showing just how entertaining, wonderful, bizarre, and relevant science can be. **Members & Guests Free; Public \$12**



JANUARY PREVIEW



Thursday, January 10, 6:00 pm

The Painted Word: A Treasure Chest of Remarkable Words and Their Origins

(Viva Editions)

PHIL COUSINEAU

Author Phil Cousineau takes us on a tour into the obscure territory of word origins with great erudition and endearing curiosity. The words themselves range from commonplace—like biscuit, a twice-baked cake for Roman soldiers—to loanwords including "chaparral," from the Basque shepherds who came to the American West; words from myths, such as "hector;" metamorphosis words, like "silly," which evolved from "holy" to "goofy" in a mere thousand years; and words well worthy of revival, such as "carrytale," a wandering storyteller. Whether old-fangled or brand new, all the words included in *The Painted Word* reveal the deep history and mystery of words and language.

Members Free; Public \$12



Thursday, January 24, 7:30 pm (café opens at 7:00 pm)

Music @ Mechanics' - A Mid-Winter Concert Series

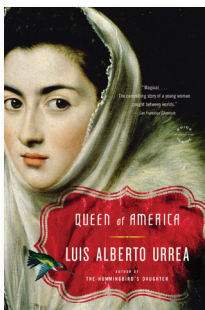
PAUL MCCANDLESS & ANTONIO CALOGERO DUO

Paul McCandless, Soprano Saxophone, Oboe & Bass Clarinet; Antonio Calogero, Steel String & Classical Guitar

This innovative world music/jazz duo features original works performed by two of the most gifted contemporary instrumentalists. Italian guitar master Antonio Calogero, hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* as an "evocative sound painter" teams up with Grammy Winner Paul McCandless, renowned multi-instrumentalist and composer from the legendary group Oregon and the original Paul Winter Consort. This exceptional duo performs music that embodies the excitement of jazz improvisation, classical lyricism, and the spirit of the Mediterranean and beyond. A perfect way to warm up a Winter night! Don't miss it!

Members \$15; Public \$20

NEXT: Watch for upcoming Valentine's Day Concert!



(date and time to be announced)

Queen of America: A Novel (Little, Brown and Company)

LUIS ALBERTO URREA

The remarkable heroine of the beloved bestseller, *The Hummingbird's Daughter*, returns in this epic tale of love, loss, and miracles. Based on the life of Urrea's great-aunt Teresita, known in Mexico for her healing powers and proclaimed as the "Saint of Cabora", the story draws from historical accounts and Urrea's own family records. After the bloody Tomóchic rebellion against Mexican dictator Porfirio Diaz, Teresita flees with her father to Arizona. But their plans are derailed when she is claimed by her followers as the spiritual leader of the Mexican Revolution. Pursued by pilgrims and assassins, Teresita embarks on an odyssey through turn-of-the-century America, where she meets immigrants and tycoons, European royalty, beauty queens, and Cuban poets—and a man who will take her heart.

Members Free; Public \$12



CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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

Members Free; Public, suggested donation \$10

For twelve 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.

2012 SEASON FINALE RESTLESS INTELLIGENCE: THE FILMS OF ROBERT DOWNEY JR.



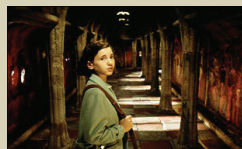
Friday, December 7

Chaplin (1992)

DIRECTED BY RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH
Geraldine Chaplin, Anthony Hopkins

Downey's phenomenal performance drives this epic biopic of the brilliant actor, writer, director and composer.

2013 JANUARY PREVIEW: NEW YEAR'S REVOLUTION REDUX 3



Friday, January 4

Pan's Labyrinth (2006)

DIRECTED BY GUILLERMO DEL TORO
Ivana Baquero, Sergi Lopez



Friday, January 11

The Year of Living Dangerously
(1983)

DIRECTED BY PETER WEIR
Mel Gibson, Linda Hunt,
Sigourney Weaver



Friday, January 18

V for Vendetta (2006)

DIRECTED BY THE JAMES MEEIGUE
Natalie Portman, Hugo Weaving

CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

Our class listing is small this month due to expected closure in mid-December of the Library classroom for renovation. The classroom redesign includes new lights, new furniture, sound abatement from outside sources, and technology upgrades. The schematic will be posted at the December 6 *Members' Meeting* for you to view. We will resume a full schedule of classes as soon as possible in the new year.

Tuesday, December 4, 10:00 am

How to Purchase "Tech Toys"

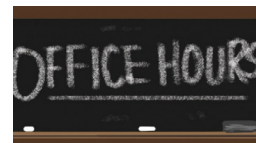
What are the questions you should be asking as you prepare to purchase a new gadget for yourself or as a holiday gift for another? Learn to analyze the information available from reputable websites and CNET reviews to find and compare laptops, smart phones, digital cameras, and tablets. This class is free, open to Mechanics' members, and will be held in the 3rd floor Library classroom. Advance registration is required: call 415.393.0102 or register online at <http://www.milibrary.org/class>



Wednesday, January 9, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

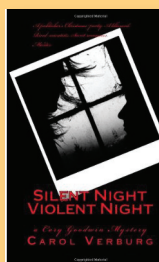
Office Hours with our Tech Team

Reserve a half hour with our technology staff to work on questions regarding your email, eBook readers, making the best use of the Library online catalog features, safely managing your social media accounts, or other computer or technology-related questions. If your holiday gifts included a new "tech toy" bring it in for operating tips from the experts.



All consultations will be held in the 4th floor Board Room. To register, contact Jeremy Snell with your available time frame and a brief description of your question or problem by emailing jsnell@milibrary.org or by calling 415.393.0111. Advance registration is appreciated for this free session, although some walk-in opportunities may be available.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS



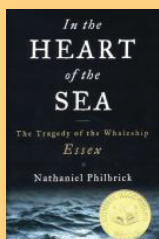
Monday, December 10, Noon

Brown Bag Mystery Readers' Book Group

Silent Night, Violent Night

BY CAROL VERBURG

Cory Goodwin is a journalist visiting a former college friend and role model, Lilah Easton, during the Christmas holidays. When a blizzard strands all of the guests overnight at the Easton's house during a swanky party, mayhem ensues, a murder is committed and Cory's journalistic skills take over to trap the killer. Carol Verburg is an award-winning playwright, theater director and leader of the MI Library's indie publishing workshop.



Tuesday, December 11, 6:00 pm

True Adventure

In the Heart of the Sea: the Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex

BY NATHANIEL PHILBRICK

An engrossing story that was the real-life inspiration for the literary classic, *Moby Dick*. *In the Heart of the Sea: the Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex* recounts how the *Essex*, a ship that set sail from Nantucket on a routine whale hunt to the South Pacific, is rammed and sunk by a huge sperm whale. While the 20-man crew survives the sinking of their ship, the 90 days that they are adrift in three small boats pits them against Mother Nature, hunger, thirst, disease, and each other.

Continued on page 6

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

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

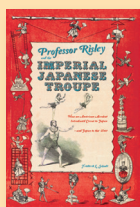


Monday, December 3, 5:30 pm

NaNoWriMo – Wrap It Up with Novelist Max Byrd

4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

You've done it—written a novel in a month! Come celebrate with other NaNoWriMo winners and best-selling novelist and Squaw Valley Writers' Conference instructor Max Byrd who will share his insights into his historical fiction writing process, present his latest book, and rap about writing! **Members and Guests, Free**



Wednesday, January 30, 6:00 pm

Professor Risley and the Imperial Japanese Troupe: A Lost History, and a Lost Page from San Francisco's History, with Frederik L. Schodt

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

On New Year's Eve, 1866, Risley's Imperial Japanese Troupe arrived in San Francisco. Their acrobatics soon became the toast of the town and helped trigger the West's craze for Japanese popular culture. Meet member author Fred Schodt who will discuss his research odyssey in archives and libraries on four continents and present the lost history of this Japanese sensation outlined in his book *Professor Risley and the Imperial Japanese Troupe: How an American Acrobat Introduced Circus to Japan and Japan to the West*. **Members Free; Public \$12**

Saturday February 23, 2:00 pm

Maximillian's Museum of Nature's Mistakes: A Read-It-Yourself Experience with Julie Jigour and David Landau

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Ladies and gentlemen, step right up! Within this tent are the fantastic and freakish human curiosities brought to you by *Maximillian's Museum of Nature's Mistakes*. Yes, it's true. Mary and Jack Rowley of this town have sold their younger daughter to the show. And their older daughter is pretty concerned. Maybe there's more grotesquerie outside the tent than in. Wouldn't you like to find out? **Perhaps you'd even like to join the show.** On Saturday, February 23, the Mechanics' Institute will hold a reading of *Nature's Mistakes*, a drama-in-progress by local playwright Julianne Jigour. And you, the members of Julie's audience, will be invited to read the parts. Read for a page or a scene. Or just come to listen. **Members and Guests, Free.**

To register, see our website: www.milibrary.org/events or contact Taryn Edwards 415.393.0103 or tedwards@milibrary.org.

Books On the Move

(continued from page 1)

Our new displays feature a wide variety of topics, and the “staff-picks” shelf on the second floor is enjoying a very high borrowing rate. We don't want our books to sit neatly on shelves; we want you to handle them, borrow them, read them, and recommend them to others.

On the second floor the “new fiction” books have been moved closer to the circulation desk, a high traffic area that makes these books more visible to everyone who comes in. Our “large print” collection has been moved from nearly hidden shelves to a front row seat vacated by the previous new fiction display. The “short story” collection has been moved to make room for an entirely new genre that we are calling “multi-generation literature”: everything from the *Harry Potter* series to *Hunger Games* and more. This is an expanding area of publishing that is enjoyed by teenagers and “young at heart” readers alike.

The most noticeable change on the 3rd floor of the library is the removal of the large reference collection. These books have been moved adjacent to the circulating materials in the same call number range. Those vacated shelves now house copies of unbound magazines and journals that used to be difficult to find on the balcony below. More work is scheduled for the 3rd floor shelves.

New signs to point the way to all aspects of the Library's book collection are in the works. As always, library staff members welcome your inquiries and will show you where to find the books you seek.

Staff Picks: Graphic Novels

JEREMY SNELL, WEB SERVICES LIBRARIAN

When was the last time you read a comic or graphic novel? If you think that all of them are about caped superheroes or humorous talking animals, think again. At the Library we do have graphic novels about such characters, but we also have titles that delve into Alzheimer's, the political unrest in the Middle East, calculus, existentialism, and countless other topics. Whether you're looking to expand your knowledge or be entertained, check out the *Graphic Novels* section the next time you're on the second floor.

Tangles: a story about Alzheimer's, my mother, and me

by Sarah Leavitt, 741.5 L489 (*Graphic Novels*)



In this heart wrenching memoir, Sarah Leavitt recounts her experience of having a parent with Alzheimer's. The graphic format does well to convey the fear, confusion, and anger both her and her mother go through during the early signs, the diagnosis, the tests and the slow cognitive decline. Mixed into

the sadness are anecdotes of her mother's life. The result is a beautiful story of life, love, and the struggle of dealing with a disease that changes us.

How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less

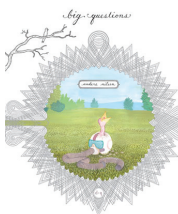
by Sarah Glidden, 956.94 G559 (*Graphic Novels*)

This charming travel memoir follows the American author as she travels through Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Masada, and other historical sites on a government-sponsored trip. These trips and an attempted excursion to the West Bank challenge preconceived notions that Sarah has about Israel and provide much of the reflective material for the novel.



Big Questions, or, Asomatognosia: whose hand is it anyway

What begins simply as birds chatting about food and philosophy eventually turns into a sprawling opus on power, fate, sensemaking, and death. Written over the past decade, this book also offers a chance to watch an artist's skill grow as the frames continue. *Big Questions* is BIG (literally and figuratively) but well worth the investment.



BOOK DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED

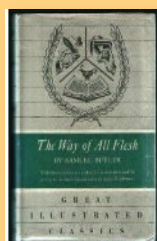


Tuesday, December 18, Noon

Fiction You Wish You Had Read

Potpourri of Favorites

Join us for our 4th annual *Potpourri of Favorites*. Bring in a book you have enjoyed, and convince the rest of the group that they will "wish they had read" it, too. You will enjoy hearing others talk about books they enjoyed and learn about some authors that may be new to you. You could find yourself departing with a list of good books for winter reading!



Thursday, February 7, 6:00 pm

Forgotten Classics

The Way of All Flesh

SAMUEL BUTLER

Butler stipulated that his scathing autobiographical novel not be published while anyone in his family was still living. With both wit and bitterness, this classic portrayal of Victorian family life targets both the Christian church and patriarchal families.

Information & registration: Visit our website <http://www.milibrary.org/events> or contact Diane Lai 415.393.0118, dlai@milibrary.org. All books are available at the 2nd floor Circulation desk. All book discussions are held in the 4th floor Board Room.

Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

Naroditsky and Shankland share top honors in 3rd Imre Konig Memorial

Youth triumphed at the 3rd Imre Konig Memorial Rapid (game in 30 minutes + 15 seconds a move), held September 22 and 23 at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club.

The two youngest participants, 20-year-old Grandmaster Sam Shankland and 16-year-old International Master Daniel Naroditsky, scored 4 points from 6 games to divide \$3500 in prize money.

This was yet another recent success for Shankland, who recently crossed the 2600-FIDE rating barrier - entry level for the world elite, but he had to play catch-up after losing to Naroditsky in round one with White.

This event was honored by the participation of six-time US Champion Walter Browne. Walter doesn't play much these days, but he showed he still possesses a deep understanding of the game, and, if not for some unfortunate time pressure episodes, could have easily finished much higher in the standings.

Thanks go to FIDE Master Tibor Weinberger for sponsoring this event (as well as the first two Konig Memorials), Senior Master Arun Sharma and International Master Elliott Winslow for relaying moves and Richard Shorman for taking great photos of the event, which can be found at chessdryad.com.



(front l-r) Vinay Bhat, Sam Shankland and Daniel Naroditsky
(back l-r) Walter Browne, Nick deFirmian, Jesse Kraai and Emil Anka
Photo credit to Richard Shorman

Standings: 1-2. IM Naroditsky and GM Shankland 4/6; 3-4. GMs deFirmian and Kraai 3½; 5. GM Anka 3; 6. GM Bhat 2; 7. GM Browne 1.

Chess for Women

Sundays, December 2, 9, 16, 23

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Taught by Ewalina Krubnik

FUNDED BY A GIFT IN MEMORY OF MARTIN WISKEMANN

Tuesday Night Events

December 4, 11

5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

Lecture by IM John Donaldson

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Fall Tuesday Night Marathons

Wednesday Night Blitz

December 5, 12, 19

6:30 pm – 8:50 pm

Directed by Jules Jelinek

Thursday Night Lessons

December 6, 13

7:00pm – 9:00 pm

Taught by MI Grandmaster-in-Residence Nick de Firmian

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Taught by International Master Elliott Winslow

Tournaments

Saturday, December 8

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Childrens' Quad

Saturday, December 8

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

12th Annual Guthrie McClain Memorial G/45

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Thursday, December 13, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

2ND FLOOR LIBRARY

Join members and friends for some holiday cheer and lively conversation while relaxing to musical interludes. Enjoy gourmet cheeses and hors d'oeuvres, delectable desserts and tempting libations!

Featuring the Audrey Moira Shimkas Trio with Art Khu, keyboard and Tony Malfatti, sax

Catered by Ray Blair & Cheese Plus

Admission \$10

Open to Members & Guests

Advance Reservations Required

Visit our website

www.milibrary.org/events/holiday2012

or call

415.393.0100



BOOK SALE

Wednesday, December 5

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM & CAFE

Last minute holiday shoppers—come and select the perfect gifts for friends, family, colleagues or significant others! A delightful and diverse selection of hard-covers, paperbacks, book art, posters, and MORE will be available for purchase.

Café open for refreshments.
Free to all.

*Your purchases benefit
Library programs and the
Events Department*

SINCE
1854

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
LIBRARY & CHESS ROOM

57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94104

www.milibrary.org

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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

Taryn Edwards, Interim Editor