

THIS MONTH AT THE



Mechanics'

Institute

www.milibrary.org

VOL. 3, NO. 1 JANUARY 2013

MUSIC @ MECHANICS'



Thursday, January 24, 7:30 pm (café opens at 7:00 pm)
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 teams up with Grammy winner, renowned multi-instrumentalist and composer Paul McCandless. A perfect way to warm up a Winter night! Don't miss it!

Full listing on page 2

INSTITUTE NEWS

Lick Memorial

TARYN EDWARDS, LIBRARIAN

Upon entering our beautiful building one immediately encounters the bronze bust of James Lick. Lick, a wealthy land owner and carpenter, was a longtime friend of the Institute. When he died in 1876, he bequeathed the Institute \$10,000—a gift that so impressed our Board of Directors that they commissioned the bust to hang in our lobby as a memorial and testament to Lick's generosity and commitment to the mechanics of this city.

The bust was designed by local sculptor Francis Marion Wells and cast by Louis De Rome and Neil Whyte of the Globe Brass and Bell Foundry. This was not the first time, however, that Wells had sculpted Lick's likeness. In 1890 when the James Lick Trust was considering the erection of what is now known as the Pioneer Monument (located across from City Hall), Wells submitted a design consisting of a group of statues, commemorating different

(continued on page 8)

A LOST PAGE FROM HISTORY

Wednesday, January 30, 6:00 pm
Professor Risley and the Imperial Japanese Troupe

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Meet member author Fred Schodt who will discuss his odyssey in archives and libraries on four continents researching the little known Japanese circus troupe who entertained San Francisco with its exotic acrobatics in 1866. Schodt will also present his book *Professor Risley and the Imperial Japanese Troupe: How an American Acrobat Introduced Circus to Japan—and Japan to the West*. If you are interested in Japanese culture you will love this! If you are writing a work of history you will appreciate his research insights. If you love San Francisco history this will surprise you!

Full listing on page 8

VALUELINE RESEARCH CENTER



Thursday, January 10, 10:00 am
Valueline Research Center

Learn how to utilize the web-based Valueline service, one of the most widely consulted and highly regarded investment information publications covering stocks and mutual funds. Find extensive research, insightful analysis, commentary, and proven price projections and recommendations. Valueline covers more than 5,000 publicly traded companies, and is accessible from your home or office, and in the Library. **Registration Required.**

More classes on page 6

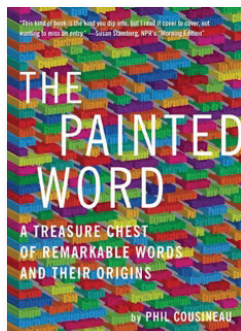
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EVENTS

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, 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 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)

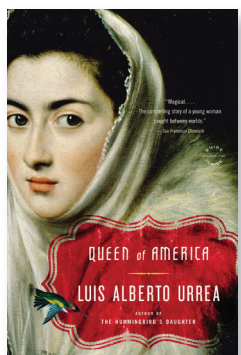
Music @ Mechanics' — A Mid-Winter Concert Series

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



Monday, January 28, 12:30 pm

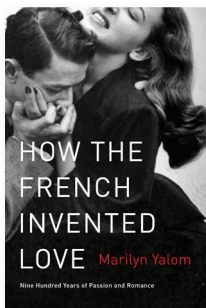
Queen of America: A Novel (Little, Brown and Company)

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**



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



Thursday, February 7, 6:00 pm

How the French Invented Love: Nine Hundred Years of Passion and Romance

(Harper Perennial)

MARILYN YALOM

In her latest book, Marilyn Yalom reveals not only how the French invented love but also how they kept it vibrant from the Middle Ages to the present day. From the rituals of courtly love in the twelfth century, to the cinema of Rohmer, Godard, and Truffaut in the twentieth, this lively history illuminates how the French have been the most influential purveyors of love for over nine hundred years. Marilyn Yalom distills her readings of French literary works, memoirs of famous and infamous couples, and the memories of her own experiences in France to illuminate the central tenets of France's gospel of love.

Members Free; Public \$12



Thursday, February 14, 7:30 pm (café opens at 7:00 pm)

Music@ Mechanics' – A Mid-Winter Concert Series

"Vintage Valentine" with the Berel Alexander Ensemble

This romantic café-concert for Valentine's Day features a medley of pulse-catching original songs with a folk/pop beat, steamy ballads, a hint of jazz, and the soul and nostalgia of the '60's. Watch for further details.

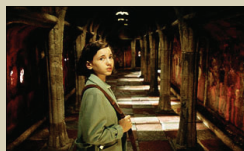
CINEMALIT

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.

2013 JANUARY: NEW YEAR'S REVOLUTIONS REDUX 3



Friday, January 4

***Pan's Labyrinth* (2006)**

DIRECTED BY GUILLERMO DEL TORO



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 JAMES MCKEIGUE

Natalie Portman, Hugo Weaving

Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, CHESS CLUB DIRECTOR

Mechanics' Institute US Chess League team members Samuel Sevia and Cameron Wheeler had terrific results in the 2012 World Youth Championships held in Maribor, Slovenia, this past November. The teammates finished 1-2 in the Boys under 12 division with scores of 9-2. They join a select group of Bay Area youth who have played for the Mechanics' team and medaled at the World Youth.



US Medalists in Maribor - Samuel Sevia, Cameron Sevia, Wheeler and Kayden Troff. (Photo Credit Rob Wheeler)

The Honor Roll of champions includes:

Steven Zierk (2010 Boys Under 18 - first)

Sam Shankland (2008 Boys Under 18 - tied for first)

Daniel Naroditsky (2007 Boys Under 12 - first)

Vinay Bhat (1995 Boys Under 12 - tied for second, 1996 Boys Under 12 - third and 1998 Boys Under 14 - tied for third)

No other area of the country, including New York, has a comparable record of achievement.

Mechanics' Institute Grandmaster-in-Residence Nick de Firmian coached the U.S. kids. The American delegation, the largest ever to attend a sporting event in Slovenia, was welcomed by U.S. Ambassador Mr. Joseph Mussomeli.



Cameron Wheeler and Nick de Firmian analyzing (Photo Credit Rob Wheeler)

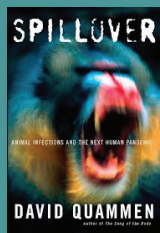


Samuel Sevia (Photo Credit Armen Sevia)

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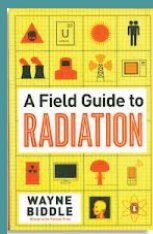
FEATURED COLLECTION: SCARY SCIENCE

TARYN EDWARDS, MEMBER RELATIONS AND MARKETING SPECIALIST



***Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic* by David Quammen. 614.43 Q16, Balcony 2B**

The emergence of strange new diseases such as Ebola, SARS, AIDS, and the horse killing called Hendra is a frightening problem that seems to be getting worse. In this era of frequent and speedy travel, the pathogens that cause these diseases can quickly spread worldwide and they share one characteristic: they originate in wild animals and pass to humans by a process called *spillover*. In *Spillover* the author takes the reader along on an astonishing quest to learn how, where from, and why these diseases emerge, and asks the terrifying question: What might the next big one be? Don't read this one before bed or taking an exotic trip.



***A Field Guide to Radiation* by Wayne Biddle. 539.2 B58, Balcony 2B**

Nuclear energy, X-rays, radon, cell phones — radiation is part of modern life yet the sources and the ramifications of our exposure to it remain mysterious. Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Wayne Biddle explores the history, meaning and health implications of radiation in short essays that may have you crying, moving to the wilderness, or calling your congressperson!

Chess cont.

Expert **Todd Rumph** won the **Fall Tuesday Night Marathon** with a score of 7.5–1.5, but fell just short of his long-held goal of becoming a USCF Master, ending the event one point short at 2199. **International Master Elliott Winslow** and **National Master Romulo Fuentes** shared second place in the 70-player field, with 7–2 scores.

Two of the participants in the **Fall Tuesday Night Marathon** did not finish in the prize money but both will unquestionably be heard from in the future. Newly-turned seven-year-olds **Callaghan McCarty-Snead** and **Chinguun Bayaraa** have both raised their ratings over 400 points the last few months — improvement that can take adults years to accomplish.

Experts **Allan Beilin** and **Tanuj Vasudeva** tied for first in the **12th Guthrie McClain Memorial G/45**, held December 8th, with 4.5 from 5. Top seed **IM Ricardo DeGuzman** was knocked out in round 3 by 15-year-old **Hemang Jangle**, who in turn was beaten by Beilin. Jangle, **Adam Morton** and **Lauren Goodkind** shared third in the 49-player event, with 4–1 scores. The next Mechanics' G/45 event, the **13th Bob Burger Open**, will be held January 12th.

The next session of the Mechanics' **C.C. Thursday Evening Class with Former U.S. Champion Nick de Firmian** starts January 10, and runs 8 consecutive weeks, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

This class, limited to a maximum of 8 students, is aimed at players below 2000, and is a perfect fit for the Tuesday Night regular who has been stuck for a long time at the same rating. **Three-time U.S. Champion de Firmian** will offer hands-on instruction, including an in-depth analysis of the students' games.

The cost for the eight classes is \$240 for Mechanics' Institute members and \$270 for non-members.

Chess for Women

Sundays, January 6, 13, 20, 27
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY BY EWELINA KRUBNIK
FUNDED BY A GIFT IN MEMORY OF R. MARTIN WISKEMANN

Tournaments

Saturday, January 12
10:00 am – 8:00 pm

13TH ANNUAL BOB BURGER G/45

Saturday, January 19
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

CHILDREN'S QUAD

Tuesday Night Events

January 8, 15, 22, 29

5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Winter Tuesday Night Marathon

Wednesday Night Blitz

January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

6:30 pm – 8:50 pm

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

Saturdays, January 5, 12, 19, 26
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW

Thursday Night Lessons

January 10, 17, 24, 31
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

TAUGHT BY M.I. GRANDMASTER-IN-RESIDENCE NICK DE FIRMIAN

CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

"Office Hours" with our technology team

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

Reserve a half hour with our technology experts 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. **Registration Required.**

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.

Valueline Research Center

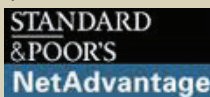
Thursday, January 10, 10:00 am

Learn how to utilize the web-based Valueline service, one of the most widely consulted and highly regarded investment information publications covering stocks and mutual funds. Find extensive research, insightful analysis, commentary, and proven price projections and recommendations. Valueline covers more than 5,000 publicly traded companies, and is accessible from your home or office, and in the Library. **Registration Required.**

Standard & Poor's NetAdvantage

Thursday, January 17, 10:00 am

Get current and reliable answers to your tough business and investment questions and identify investment opportunities. Find company and industry information on publicly-traded U.S. corporations utilizing S&P's independent research and analysis. Accessible to members in the MI Library and by remote access. **Registration Required.**



Health Information 101—Part 1: Medical Resources at the Library & Online

Wednesday, January 23, 10:00 am

Good health is crucial to our quality of life and consumers require that accurate, reliable medical information is easily accessible. This class will familiarize you with the print and online resources available for your health research at the library. In addition, we will investigate some of the most reliable medical websites and discuss how to evaluate reputable medical and health websites. **Registration Required.**

Travel Planning 101

Thursday, January 31, 10:00 am

Whether you are planning the trip of a lifetime or a long weekend with friends, the MI Library has all the resources you need to create your next trip. Let us introduce you to our vast travel book collection, language lesson audio CDs, online resources, and travel websites. From passports to flights to ground travel, and everything in-between, if you are looking for ways to start planning your trip, or have specific travel questions, this class can help you become a savvy and well-prepared traveler. **Registration Required.**

Health Information 101—Part 2: Pharmaceuticals & Alternative Medicine

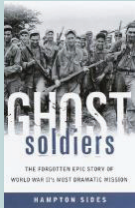
Wednesday, February 6, 10:00 am

In Part 2 of the Health Information 101 series, we will review the resources in the library and online related to pharmaceuticals (drugs) and alternative medicine and therapies. Included will be a discussion about purchasing prescriptions online, evaluating drug and alternative medicine websites and a demonstration of how to use pertinent research databases at the library. **Registration Required.**

Classes are open to Mechanics' Institute members and guests, and are free. During the renovation of the 3rd floor classroom, classes will be held on the 4th floor in either the Meeting Room or the Board Room. Advance registration is required due to limited space: call 415.393.0102 or go to our website and click on the class title. <http://www.milibrary.org/class>.

BOOK GROUPS

Our member-only Book Groups select, read, and discuss books of a particular type or genre. Members lead the discussions, new members are always welcome, and registration is not required (unless otherwise specified). Please note that Book Groups are not author events and the authors will not be present during the discussions.



Tuesday, January 8, 6:00 pm; drops-ins welcome

True Adventure

Ghost Soldiers: the Forgotten Epic Story of World War II's Most Dramatic Mission

HAMPTON SIDES

Ghost Soldiers is the account of a daring rescue of over 500 American prisoners of war held in a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines in 1945. Hampton Sides masterfully tells the story of the U.S. troops who must venture behind enemy lines to save the sick, starving and tortured POW's before a threatened massacre takes place.



Monday, January 14, Noon; drop-ins welcome

Brown Bag Mystery Readers'

Red, Green or Murder

STEVEN HAVILL

In the 16th episode of the Posadas County Mystery series, retired Sheriff Bill Gastner is working as a livestock inspector when he is drawn into a search for a missing ranch hand. The current Sheriff consults him about the death of an old gun dealer, and these partners in crime head off to solve another thriller in cattle country. Havill never fails to satisfy his readers with an interesting premise and a well-written and entertaining story.



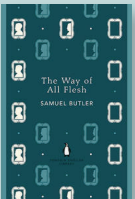
Tuesday, January 15, Noon; drop-ins welcome

Fiction You Wish You Had Read

Out Stealing Horses

PER PETTERSON

Trond, a widower, has recently moved into a cabin by a lake where he plans to retire. A chance encounter with a neighbor awakens memories from his fifteenth summer when he lived in a remote cabin with his father. A tragedy that took place in a friend's family affected Trond in ways that he could not understand at fifteen. Trond is still haunted by the incidents that happened in his life more than fifty years ago. This is a beautifully written and unforgettable novel. The novel has been translated from Petterson's original Norwegian text.



Thursday, February 7, 6:00 pm; Registration required

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. Join fellow MI members for a rigorous discussion under the leadership of Charles Fracchia. Free for members only; registration required. <http://www.milibrary.org/discussion>. For more information call Sharon Miller at 415.393.0113.

Information & registration: 415.393.0113 or Diane Lai dlai@milibrary.org

All readings are available at the 2nd floor Circulation desk. All Book Discussions are held in the 4th floor Board Room.

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

Important Numbers
Circulation: 415.393.0101
Reference: 415.393.0102
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

Taryn Edwards, Interim Editor

Lick Memorial cont.

periods in California's history and a pillar upon which was a bust of James Lick.

Though Wells did not win that commission, his loss was our gain—using the same model we secured our bust for only \$250. Such a deal! A copy of the bust without the surrounding tablet and wording was also given to the Academy of Sciences.

Originally bolted to the wall in 1896, the bust survived the earthquake and fire of 1906 and when our new building was finished it resumed its old place on the lobby wall.



AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

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

Wednesday, January 30, 6:00 pm

***A Lost History, and a Lost Page from San Francisco's History*
*Professor Risley and the Imperial Japanese Troupe: How an American Acrobat Introduced Circus to Japan—and Japan to the West.***

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*. (Stone Bridge Press)

Members' Free; Public \$12

If you are interested in Japanese culture you will love this!
If you are writing a work of history you will appreciate his research insights.
If you love San Francisco history this will surprise you!

Saturday, February 23, 2:00 pm

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

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Within this tent are the fantastic and freakish human curiosities brought to you by Maximilian's Museum of *Nature's Mistakes*. Yes, it's true. Mary and Jack Rowley have sold their younger daughter to the show that's come to town. 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 Julie Jigour. And you, the members of Julie's audience, are invited to read the parts. Take a big part or a small one. Read for a page or a scene. Or just come to listen. This is an opportunity for MI members to test, hone, or revive acting skills and be part of the creative process!

Members and Guests, Free

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