



A READ-IT-YOURSELF EXPERIENCE

Saturday, February 23, 2:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

With Julie Jigour and David Landau

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, will be 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!



Full listing on page 7

eBOOK SOURCES

Wednesday, February

20, 12:00 pm

4th Floor Board

Room

Did you get an eReader over the holidays? Learn to find many sources for free eBooks, including the MI



Library, that you can borrow for a specified time, or keep forever. Learn how to download eBooks from a variety of sites, and how to search and download from the Library's eBook collection.

More class listings on page 4

AFTER SIX: CHESS FOR ADULTS

Wednesdays, February 6, 13, 20, & 27, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Room 407, 4th floor

4 classes; \$40 for MI members, \$50 for non-members

Did you learn how to move the chess pieces as a child? Would you like to learn more? This class is for you! Join a small group of MI members in a relaxed setting to improve your chess skills. In four Wednesday evenings you will dramatically improve your game, learning: Major Openings, Check Mate Patterns, and Endgame Strategies.

For reservations: aftersixchess.eventbrite.com

More chess listings on page 6



MUSICAL EVENT

“Vintage Valentine” Concert with the Berel Alexander Ensemble

Thursday, February 14, 7:30 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

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. Vocalist Berel Alexander (guitar) is joined by singers Katrina Mautner and Gabriela Welch with Otis Harriel (violin), Carla Kaufman (upright bass) and Mike Lee (cello). Known for his heart-felt lyrics and compelling



arrangements, Berel won the 2010 Malibu Unplugged Music Award for his song, “Started with a Handshake” and is an up and coming Bay Area

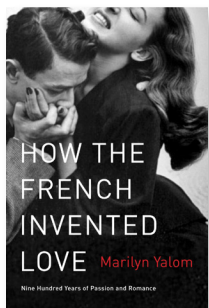
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EVENTS

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**



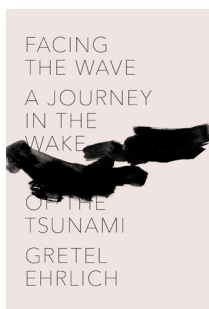
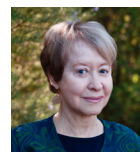
Thursday, February 7, 6:00 pm

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

(HarperPerennial) 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



Friday, February 22, 12:30 pm (café opens at noon)

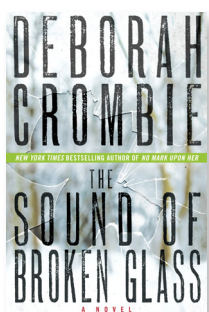
Facing the Wave: A Journey in the Wake of the Tsunami

(Random House) GRETEL EHRLICH

Co-sponsored by Asia Society

A passionate student of Japanese poetry and art for much of her life, Gretel Ehrlich felt compelled to return to the earthquake- and tsunami-devastated Tohoku coast, to bear witness and listen to the survivors. In an eloquent narrative that blends reportage, poetic observation, and deeply felt reflection, she introduces us to fishermen, farmers, teachers, monks, outcasts, and an eighty-four-year-old geisha, who survived the wave to hand down a song that only she still remembered. *Facing the Wave* is a testament to the resilience and humor of people who find strength in a suddenly shattered world.

Members of MI and Asia Society Free; Public \$12



Tuesday, February 25, 12:30 pm (café opens at noon)

The Sound of Broken Glass (William Morrow) DEBORAH CROMBIE

In cooperation with the Mystery Readers' Book Club

Bestselling mystery writer and master storyteller, Deborah Crombie, brings forth an exhilarating new book to the long-running James and Kincaid series. Detective Inspector Gemma James is called in to investigate when a respected barrister is found dead under scandalous circumstances near the Crystal Palace. After another barrister turns up murdered, similarly naked and trussed, Gemma and Detective Sergeant Melody Talbot suspect a serial killer. Meanwhile Gemma's husband, Detective Superintendent Duncan Kincaid, realizes he has a personal connection to one of the suspects. And does a murder from years past have something to do with these two cases? This taut addition is sure to delight long-time readers and intrigue newcomers.

Members Free; Public \$12



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

Tuesday, February 26, 6:00 pm

Lecture: *Asia's Rise and the Future of the U.S. as a Pacific Power*

OFF-SITE LOCATION: Asia Society, 500 Washington St., San Francisco

Asia Society of Northern California and Mechanics' Institute will host Kishore Mahbubani, one of the world's leading public intellectuals, a Foreign Policy "Top Global Thinker" in 2011, and author of the forthcoming book *The Great Convergence: Asia, the West, and the Logic of One World*, for a discussion about how Asia's rise is changing the balance of power in the world. In conversation with Donald Emmerson of Stanford University and guest speakers. **For information and tickets, please call 415.421.8707 or <http://asiasociety.org/northern-california>**



CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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

Members Free; Public suggested donation \$12

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. Come for the movie. Stay for the discussion!

IN THE NAME OF LOVE

Friday, February 1

***Letter from an Unknown Woman* (1948)**

DIRECTED BY MAX OPHULS

Joan Fontaine, Louis Jourdan

A famous writer receives a letter from a woman he's seduced and forgotten in this opulent saga.



Friday, February 15

***Truly Madly Deeply* (1991)**

DIRECTED BY ANTHONY MINGHELLA

Juliet Stevenson, Alan Rickman

A grief-stricken woman is stunned by the return of her late boyfriend in this touching, funny and brilliantly acted fable.



Friday, February 8

***Marriage Italian Style* (1964)**

DIRECTED BY VITTORIO DE SICA

Sophia Loren, Marcello Mastroianni

This romantic drama explores the complicated, long-term relationship between a businessman and his mistress.



Friday, February 22

***A Man and a Woman* (1966)**

DIRECTED BY CLAUDE LELOUCH

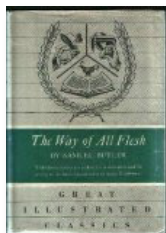
Anouk Aimée, Jean-Louis Trintignant

A young widow and widower fall in love in this sensitive drama that won Academy Awards for Foreign Film and Original Screenplay.



BOOK DISCUSSIONS

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.



Thursday, February 7, 6:00 pm.

Registration required: <http://www.milibrary.org/discussion>

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.



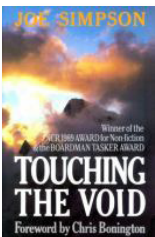
Monday, February 11, Noon

Mystery Readers Book Discussion Group

Dreaming of the Bones

DEBORAH CROMBIE

Scotland Yard partners, Superintendent Duncan Kincaid and Sergeant Gemma James, investigate the suspicious suicide of a local poet in the 5th installment of this series. Complicating the investigation is the fact that it was requested by Kincaid's ex-wife who had left him without explanation more than ten years earlier. Crombie's well-rounded characters and attention to detail enhance the story as the mysterious circumstances are resolved in a climax unforeseen by the reader.



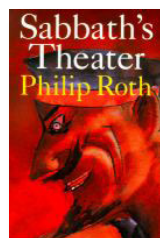
Tuesday, February 12, 6:00 pm

True Adventure

Touching the Void

JOE SIMPSON

This is the gripping tale of the 1985 mountain climbing expedition of two friends, Joe Simpson and Simon Yates, in the Peruvian Andes. Shortly after summiting at 21,000 feet, Joe has a climbing accident when he falls off an ice ledge and breaks his leg. As darkness falls and a snowstorm rages, Yates tries to save his climbing partner by lowering him down the cliff but when the weight of Joe threatens to pull Simon over the edge as well, Yates is forced to cut the rope that tied them together. What follows is the story of how both men survived the next three days.



Tuesday, February 19, Noon

Fiction You Wish You Had Read

Sabbath's Theater

PHILIP ROTH

Multi-award winner Philip Roth won the 1995 National Book Award for *Sabbath's Theater*. The hero (or anti-hero) of this book, Mickey Sabbath, is a cross between the Marquis de Sade and Satan—thoroughly disreputable and larger than life. He is a retired puppeteer who lives a degenerate and amoral life (be forewarned!).

Information & registration: Diane Lai at 415.393.0118 or dlai@milibrary.org. All readings are available at the 2nd floor Circulation desk. All Book Discussions are held in the 4th floor Board Room.



Wednesdays, beginning March 13, 5:30 pm: Open for new participants

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. The **Proust Group** discusses *In Search of Lost Time*, 5:30-6:30 pm; the **World Literature Group** discusses Proustian-inspired works from 6:45-8:00 pm. 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) should be paid by March 27. Please make your payment online at <http://prousta.eventbrite.com/> for the **Proust Group** or at proustb.eventbrite.com for the **World Literature Group**. For more information, contact Mark Calkins at mark@tempsperdu.com or Sharon Miller at smiller@milibrary.org.

CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

Wednesday, February 6, 10:00 am

Health Information 101—Part 2: Pharmaceuticals & Alternative Medicine

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.



Thursday, February 7, 10:00 am

Directory of Publications & Broadcast Media Database

Seeking contacts in the areas of journalism or public relations? This directory of U.S., Canadian and international media outlets is a rich source for radio and television stations, cable companies and print media publishers. Detailed entries provide full contact information, advertising rates, circulation statistics, local programming information, and other essential data. How to export search results to Word or Excel will be demonstrated. Accessible to members



in the MI Library and by remote access.

Tuesday, February 12, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Tech Office Hours

Reserve a half hour with our tech 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 technology-related questions.



Thursday, February 21, 10:00 am

Business Insights: Essentials Database

If you are ready to take control of your investments or just want to know a little more about the companies where your assets are invested, plan to come to this class to learn to use Business Insights: Essentials. This comprehensive database has a wealth of information about domestic and global businesses including company profiles and histories, periodical and newsletter articles, press releases, financial overviews and performance ratings, brand and product information, investment reports, industry overviews, association information, and SWOT analyses. Accessible to members in the MI Library and by remote access.



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

CHESS

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

International Master Daniel Naroditsky has won the Neil Falconer Award for the third year in a row. The seventeen-year-old resident of Foster City wins \$2553.00, equal to his United States Chess Federation rating this past December. This is the highest rating ever attained in the fourteen year history of the Falconer which is awarded annually to the top player under eighteen in Northern California.

The competition this year was particularly tough as Daniel was challenged by fifteen-year-old Yian Liou of Walnut Creek and World under twelve Champion Samuel Sevian of Santa Clara who are both rated over 2450 USCF. All three youngsters played this season on the Mechanics' Institute team in the US Chess League.



Daniel Naroditsky (photo credit Vladimir Naroditsky)

Mr. Falconer, a strong player who won the California Open in 1951, established this award with the aim of promoting excellence among young Northern California players and has succeeded beyond his wildest dreams with two winners (Bhat and Shankland) now holding the Grandmaster title and two more (Zierk and Naroditsky) the International Master title.

Previous Winners:

2000 Vinay Bhat	2007 Nicholas Yap
2001 Vinay Bhat	2008 Sam Shankland
2002 Vinay Bhat	2009 Sam Shankland
2003 Michael Pearson	2010 Steven Zierk
2004 Nicholas Yap	2011 Daniel Naroditsky
2005 Matthew Ho	2012 Daniel Naroditsky
2006 Matthew Ho	

Chess for Women

Sundays, February 3, 10, 17, 24

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

Tournaments

Saturday, February 2

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

12th Annual Henry Gross Memorial G/45

Saturday, February 9

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Children's Quad

Tuesday Night Events

February 5, 12, 19, 26

5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

Lecture by IM John Donaldson

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Winter Tuesday Night Marathon

Wednesday Night Events

February 6, 13, 20, 27

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

After 6: Wednesday Night Chess for Adults

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

February 6, 13, 20, 27

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Wednesday Night Blitz

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

Thursday Night Lessons

February 7, 14, 21, 28

7:00pm – 9:00 pm

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

Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or <http://www.chessclub.org>

Chess, continued

Saturday Morning Chess Class
for Kids

February 2, 9, 16, 23

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT
WINSLOW

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL



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

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

Ladies and gentlemen, step right up! 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, will be 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!



The afternoon is hosted by MI member David Landau, who has recently led writers'



workshops for the Harvard Club of San Francisco.

Members and Guests, Free**Tuesday, March 12, 6:00 pm****Blogging Your Book: A Panel Discussion**4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Today, authors have more options than ever for publishing their work. Do you have a book that you want to write, but haven't been able to finish? Have you been told by an agent or publisher that you need a larger platform before you publish your book? Are you a writer who wants to start a blog, but aren't sure what to write about? Blogging a book starts with page 1, and post by post moves through to publish the complete work. Blogging a book provides a quick and easy way to write a book and build a platform at the same time. Meet panelists Nina Amir, Jarie Bolander, and MI member Greg Marcus to learn about this new approach in publishing.

**Members and Guests, Free**

For reservations to these events, see our website at www.milibrary.org/events or call Taryn Edwards 415.393.0103.

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

Erika Schmidt, Editor

Back by Popular Demand

SHARON MILLER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Members will find a variety of dictionaries and our beloved *Encyclopaedia Britannica* back on the 3rd floor of the Library, easily accessible on shelves facing the computer stations. There is deliberateness about that placement: the tried-and-true meets its digital match.

We are proud to own a set of the final print edition of this venerable encyclopedia. Published in 2010, it is beautifully bound, with gilded edges and a spine too lovely to cover with a call number label. It contains over forty million words on more than a half million topics, and includes color illustrations. Its Propaedia, dedicated to both President Obama and Queen Elizabeth, could be a map of our library as it outlines all of human knowledge. What an inspiration for browsing!

Shelved nearby is the 11th edition, which marks the transition from British to American publication of the continuously updated encyclopedia. Published in 1911, librarians have always rated this edition as the best due to its scholarship and literary style. It is, however over one hundred years old now, missing almost the entirety of information gained in the twentieth century. It is no longer under copyright and can be downloaded free from Project Gutenberg to your eBook reader or home computer.

Project Gutenberg: <http://milibrary.lib.overdrive.com> (Click on "additional eBooks" at the bottom of the left side.)

Estate Planning Basics: Taking the Fear Out of Estate Planning

Tuesday, February 19, Noon – 1:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

A marriage, the birth of a child, the purchase of a home, an inheritance received or a long trip anticipated get people thinking about their estate plans. But, the truth is, the majority of U.S. adults die without even a written will, leaving their loved ones without guidance, and turning crucial personal decisions over to the courts. An up-to-date estate plan puts you in control of the economical and efficient distribution of what you own to those you love. Your plan also allows you to control who manages your finances if you cannot, and to specify the kind of health care you do, or do not, want.

Join us and planned giving expert Phil Murphy over lunch and learn about the power of estate planning and what free estate-planning tools are available to you through your membership at the Mechanics' Institute.



Free follow-up telephone consultation available for attendees.

The class and phone consultations are for educational purposes only. No legal services or financial products will be promoted or offered.

Members Only; Free. Attendance is limited; act now to reserve your space. For reservations, please contact Jim Flack, Executive Director at jflack@milibrary.org or 415.393.0117. Light lunch provided.

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talent. The ensemble recently performed during the 2012 and 2013 Sundance Film Festival, Utah; Yoshi's Jazz Club and the W Hotel, San Francisco; and as the opening act for Buffy St. Marie at the Eureka Theater, Eureka, California.

Come solo or with a sweetheart for a cozy evening of great music—old, new, red hot and blue!

Advance Reservations

Required <http://vintagevalentine.eventbrite.com>:

Members \$15; Public \$20