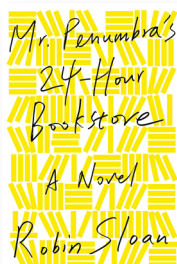




ANNUAL MARCH MYSTERY NIGHT



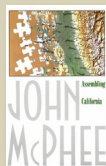
Thursday, March 7, 6:00 pm

This is a double bill with Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and journalist **Matt Richtel**, author of *The Cloud*; and ex-Twitter executive and first time novelist **Robin Sloan**, author of *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore*. Both books, set in San Francisco, portray the real and the fantastical to explore old and new world values, and the technologies that could create techno-terror or techno-nirvana.



Details on page 2

NEW BOOK GROUP



Thursday, March 14, 4:00 pm

California Dreamers

Book Group

Assembling California

JOHN MCPHEE

The first title in a new book group led by Charles Sullivan, *Assembling California* gives readers McPhee's personal vision of a "California Dream."
Members only.

Full listing on page 4

FACE TIME WITH AN EDITOR

Monday, March 11, 2:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Join David Colin Carr, editor of fiction and non-fiction, for a public "editorial consultation." For help with writing style, we'll look at up to five pages (limited slots available. Writing must be submitted in advance. You must be comfortable with your work being commented on publicly). Consultations will be audio recorded for possible posting on David's blog so others can learn about the editing process. (You can remain anonymous.) For more information about David please see www.davidcolincarr.com/. For information, reservations or to submit a piece of writing, contact Taryn Edwards.

Reservations Required. Fee: \$10 to observe; \$25 for writing consultation.



More listings on page 8

NEWS

Reporting Changes in Consumer Access

BOBBIE MONZON,
MANAGING LIBRARIAN

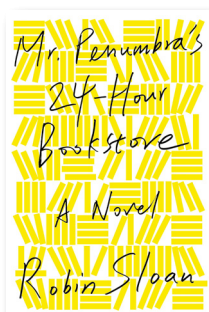
We are happy to announce that remote access is now available for one of our more popular online databases—*Consumer Reports*. You can log on from home using your library card and find the same unbiased, expert opinions you've come to expect from the print version of the *Consumer Reports* magazine. Analyze detailed information on specific products, read up on long term reliability, and find out how other users rate the models you are researching. You can compare individual items to each other and you even have the option to shop online!

Find the online *Consumer Reports* by selecting the Research tab on the left side of our Library webpage, then click on the link for *Consumer Reports*. Happy shopping!

Inside

Events & Special Programs	2
Book Discussions	4
Classes	6
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EVENTS

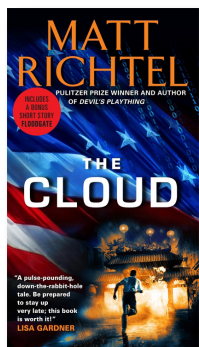


Attend these intimate and up close author programs and engage directly with local, national, and internationally known writers talking about their newly released books. **Laura Sheppard, Events Director**

Thursday, March 7, 6:00 pm — March Mystery Night

Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux) **Robin Sloan**

After losing his job designing logos for a high tech bagel company, Clay Jannon finds a gig working the night shift at Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore. Located in a "euphemistic part of town," in a surreal but still recognizable San Francisco, this long-lived indie bookstore has three stories of books, but no floors, and regular customers who never buy anything. High and low tech merge, as Clay unravels the mystery of the store and the visitations of its strange patrons as both ancient and new ways of accessing knowledge are revealed.



The Cloud (Harper) **Matt Richtel**

Investigative journalist Nat Idle is almost killed when an apparently intoxicated man knocks him onto the subway tracks late one night. Aided by a beautiful stranger, he soon discovers that the "incident" was no accident. His quest for the truth uncovers unexplained deaths, a neurological epidemic, and the connection to the Cloud, a new technology that could be affecting the brains of Bay Area children. In this brave new world, the conflict between a powerful omnipresent technology and the validity of rationality and identity are brought to a head. **Members Free; Public \$12**



Thursday, March 21, 6:00 pm

Birds of Paradise Lost (Red Hen Press)

Author Andrew Lam in conversation with Aimee Phan; Cosponsored by Asia Society

The thirteen stories in *Birds of Paradise Lost* shimmer with humor and pathos as they chronicle the anguish, joy and bravery of America's newest Americans, those who fled Vietnam and remade themselves in the San Francisco Bay Area. The past memories of war and its aftermath—murder, arrest, re-education camps, escape, shipwreck, and atrocity—is ever present in these wise and compassionate stories. Andrew Lam intricately renders the false starts and revelations in the struggle for integration, and in so doing, the human heart. **Members of Mechanics' Institute and Asia Society Free; Public \$12**

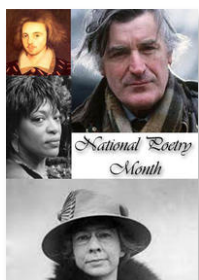


Thursday, April 4, 7:00 pm (café opens at 6:30 pm)

Celebrate National Poetry Month

6th Annual World Poetry Night in the Oral Tradition

Once again, **Maurice Wren** and his ensemble of "poetry troubadours" including **Doug Von Koss, Maya Specter, Barry Specter**, and others, 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 the inspired words of Amiri Baraka, Matsuo Basho, Emily Dickinson, Seamus Heaney, Czeslaw Milosz, Anais Nin, Octavio Paz, Chu Chen Po, Rumi, William Shakespeare, Alice Walker, Walt Whitman, and more. Stage direction and set design are by Kathleen Blake.



Bring a favorite haiku to recite or write your own. Remember, the traditional Japanese haiku are three lines of 5, 7, 5 or a total of 17 syllables! **Members \$10; Public \$15**

Continued on p. 8

CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

Fridays: Cafe 5:30 pm; Program 6:00 pm
Members Free; Public suggested donation \$10

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING!

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!



Friday, March 1

Russian Ark (2002)

DIRECTED BY ALEKSANDR SOKUROV
Sergei Dontsov, Maria Kuznetsova

This mind-bending journey through three centuries of Russian history was shot in a single take (with 2,000 extras) at the Hermitage.



Friday, March 8

Burnt By the Sun (1994)

DIRECTED BY NIKITA MIKHALKOV
Nikita Mikhalkov, Ingeborga Dapkunaite

An aging hero of the Revolution is confronted with Stalinism in this moving drama set in 1936.



Friday, March 15

The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming (1966)

DIRECTED BY NORMAN JEWISON
Alan Arkin, Theodore Bikel

When a Russian sub runs aground off the New England coast during the Cold War, hysterical hysteria ensues.



Friday, March 22

Commissar (1967)

DIRECTED BY ALEKSANDR ASKOLDOV
Nonna Mordyukova, Rolan Bykov

During the civil war of 1922, a pregnant Red Army soldier is placed with a beleaguered Jewish family in this gutsy, humane, and powerful film.



Friday, March 29

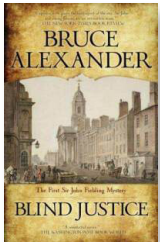
The Twelve Chairs (1970)

DIRECTED BY MEL BROOKS
Ron Moody, Frank Langella

An impoverished nobleman struggles to find family jewels hidden in twelve chairs in this adaptation of a famous Russian comedy.

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.



Monday, March 11, Noon

Brown Bag Mystery Readers Book Group

Blind Justice

BRUCE ALEXANDER

The first installment of this mystery series features Sir John Fielding, a blind yet brilliant magistrate in London's Bow Street Court in the 18th century. Fielding is assisted in his investigation of the death of Lord Richard Goodhope by his thirteen-year-old errand boy, Jeremy, whom he rescued from a life of penury on the streets. Although Goodhope was discovered behind locked doors with a shot to the head and the gun at his feet, there is reason to believe that he was murdered. Their enquiries reveal that the victim was a man with many enemies due to the dissolute life that he led.

Alexander entertains the readers with his clever plotting, colorful characters, and energetic storytelling. The author has a winning combination of likable characters and well-conceived stories to begin his very popular Sir John Fielding mystery series.



Tuesday, March 12, 6:00 pm

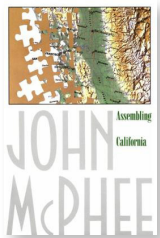
True Adventure Book Group

The Last Season

ERIC BLEHM

In 1996, veteran National Park Service Ranger Randy Morgenson set off on a routine three-day patrol and was never heard from again. *The Last Season* traces Blehm's investigation into the mystery surrounding Morgenson's disappearance and the circumstances that led up to his gradual disillusionment with the National Park Service and his twenty-eight-year career as a ranger.

While the story about Morgenson is compelling, the descriptions of the back country Sierra Nevada, the search and rescue missions conducted out in the wilderness, and the life of a back country ranger are also riveting parts of the book.



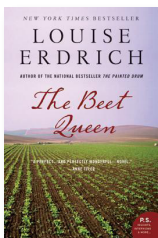
Thursday, March 14, 4:00 pm

California Dreamers Book Group; led by Charles Sullivan

Assembling California

JOHN MCPHEE

This book explores the geological history of the state and region, explaining how it came to be, with features such as gold, earthquakes, tectonic plates, etc. "For an extremely large percentage of the history of the world, there was no California" (p.5)—you can't get much older than that. McPhee may be off-target for some of us, but if we could all imagine a world without (or before) California, then we can see how all the various California dreams fill in later. **Members only. Registration required for four-meeting session (March–June); to register online, go to www.milibrary.org/discussion or call 415.393.0102.**



Tuesday, March 19, Noon
Fiction You Wish You Had Read Book Group
The Beet Queen

LOUISE ERDRICH

An orphaned brother and sister, Mary and Karl, arrive in a small Midwestern town in 1932 to live with their aunt and uncle. On their way from the train station to the butcher shop owned by their aunt and uncle, an event occurs which separates Mary and Karl—sending Karl back to the train and a life of wandering, and spurring Mary into a life in the small town of Argus, North Dakota.

This novel addresses themes of parenting, abandonment, jealousy, love and aggression. While the story may not always be pleasant or easy to read, the readers' effort will be repaid with complex but believable characters who Erdrich portrays beautifully.



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://proust.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.

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.

STAFF PICKS

HEATHER TERRELL, LIBRARY ASSISTANT

Looking for good book recommendations from people you know and trust? Then visit the Staff Picks display on the 2nd floor! It has been getting rave reviews since the Mechanics' Institute Library staff began presenting some of their favorite titles for members to check out.

Fiction titles are changed every few weeks, and there is a new non-fiction theme each month. Past non-fiction subjects have included science and technology, Bay Area art, comics and graphic novels, and habits and hobbies. Keep your eyes peeled for some upcoming themes: literature in translation, U. S. history, and much, much more.

CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

Wednesday, March 13, Noon

Petting Zoo: Learn All About the Newest Devices

Attend this 30-minute demonstration to learn how to check out, download, and read an eBook on your computer, eBook reader, or iPhone/Android phone.



Thursday, March 14, 10:00 am

Learn to Use the Library's Financial Newsletters

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 strengths of each newsletter. Titles with similar content are compared. Learn about *Hulbert's Financial Digest*, a monthly publication which tracks the performance of the investment letters themselves, based on their security recommendations over time.

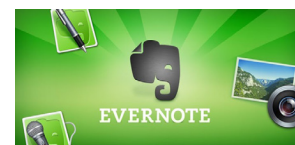


Wednesday, March 18, 2:00 pm

Evernote: A Web-Based Notebook, Clipping Saver, and Web Content Organizer

Do you use the web for research—hobby or profession—and worry about losing it? Do you find yourself wishing you didn't have to print every web page or article in order to save it?

It is comforting to know there is a system, backed up in the cloud, easily accessible from any computer that will allow you to better manage all the pieces you are collecting. That system is Evernote—an easy to use and powerful app that will help you remember and find e-content, whether it's a note you write to yourself, a portion of a web page that you'd like to save or an email you've received that you want to retain. With Evernote, using any web-connected device, one can capture, browse, share, search and edit notes, web content, pdfs, or other forms of documents. Learn how to set up a free web-based Evernote account and get organized! Bring your laptop or iPad, or use one of ours.



Friday, April 5, 3:00 pm

Managing a Successful Book Group

Whether you wish to start a new group, or are seeking to rescue an existing group from the doldrums, this class will provide ideas and resources for group managers. Learn to find great books for group reading and questions that go beyond "Did you like the book?" Discover some tips for dealing with personality quirks in the group. See what the library collection has to offer and add excellent web resources to your toolkit.



Information & registration: Classes are open to Mechanics' Institute members and guests, and are free. During the renovation of the 3rd floor classroom all classes will be held on the 4th floor. Advance registration is required: call 415-393-0102, or go to our website <http://www.milibrary.org/class> and click on the class title.

March Magazine Madness Returns!

BOBBIE MONZON, MANAGING LIBRARIAN

It's spring cleaning time, and we are organizing and updating our loose magazine collection, which is now fully housed on the 3rd floor! Come by in March and we will have bundles of older magazine titles for sale. Browse through the piles, and buy as many as you can carry. There are no limits to your purchases, so hurry in before the best selections sell out.

CHESS



INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

The Mechanics' Institute had the honor of hosting a session of the U.S. Chess School this past January. The five day camp, which ran from 9 am to 6 pm, attracted a dozen of the best young players (ages 10-14) from all over the country. This group included several Bay Area stars, including Cameron Wheeler, who recently took second place in the World under twelve Championship in Slovenia; and fellow Mechanics' U.S. Chess League team member Kesav Viswanadha.

The players had the benefit of learning from the camp's organizer and chief instructor Greg Shahade, as well as from Grandmasters Jesse Kraai and Sam Shankland. The latter was coming full circle, as not so many years ago he was the one receiving instruction at the Mechanics', and not the other way around. Now Sam is rated in the top ten players in the United States and recently made his debut on the U.S. National team in Brazil.



U.S. Chess School in Action

Chess for Women

Sundays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

Tournaments

Saturday, March 9 & Sunday, March 10
10:00 am – 8:00 pm

A.J. Fink Memorial

Saturday, March 16
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Children's Quad

Saturday, March 23
10:00 am – 8:00 pm

13th Annual Max Wilkerson Memorial G/45

Tuesday Night Events

March 19, 26

5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

Lecture by John Donaldson

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Spring Tuesday Night Marathon

Wednesday Night Blitz

March 6, 13, 20, 27

6:30 pm – 8:50 pm

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

Thursday Night Lessons

March 21, 28

7:00pm – 9:00 pm

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

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER
ELLIOTT WINSLOW

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

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E-mail: reference@milibrary.org

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Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 9 pm
Friday: 9 am - 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday: 1 pm - 5 pm

Erika Schmidt, Editor

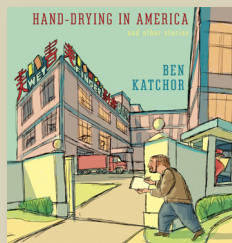
Continued from p. 2

UPCOMING IN APRIL!

Thursday, April 11, 6:30 pm

Hand-Drying in America: And Other Stories

(Pantheon) BEN KATCHOR



From one of the most original and imaginative American cartoonists at work today comes a collection of graphic narratives on the subjects of urban planning, product design, and architecture—a surrealist handbook for the rebuilding of society in the twenty-first century. Watch website for details!



AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

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



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 and learn about this new approach in publishing. **Members Free; Public \$12**



Wednesday, April 17, 6:00 pm

Artists' Gathering

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Are you an artist? If art is your passion (all forms of art apply: visual or performing), Mechanics' Institute staff wishes to know who you are and what you do. Bring your business cards, polish your "elevator speech," meet other members with artistic flair, and



expand your network. Artists of all disciplines are invited. Please have a thirty-second "elevator speech" ready and bring at least thirty business cards. **Members only.**

Friday, April 19, Noon

Compared to What? A Discussion and Preview of an Upcoming Play

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Join us and member playwright Judith Offer for a discussion and sneak preview of her play *Compared to What?* Learn what it's like to research, write, cast, and produce a play locally. Select members of the cast will also perform a scene. This will be a great opportunity to see art and history created. *Compared to What?*, set in Oakland in 1926, examines the lives and working conditions of the Pullman Railway Car Porters. It premiered in July 2011 by the Mira Theatre Guild at the Bay Terrace Theater in Vallejo and is scheduled to run in Oakland at the First Christian Church (29th and Fairmount, just off Broadway) May 10–25, 2013. **Members and Guests Free.**



For reservations or information about these events, see our website at www.milibrary.org/events or contact Taryn Edwards, 415.393.0103 or tedwards@milibrary.org.