

THIS MONTH AT THE



Mechanics' Institute

www.milibrary.org

VOL. 3, NO. 5 MAY 2013

CINEMALIT HIGHLIGHT



May Theme:

Paddy Chayefsky: Scenes from American Lives

One of a handful of writers to win three Academy Awards, the brilliant Paddy Chayefsky cut a swath from the Golden Age of live television to the New Hollywood of the '70s, with a memorable foray on the New York stage.

Film listings on page 3

CHESS HIGHLIGHT



7th Ray Schutt Memorial Blitz

Sunday, May 5

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Moves come fast and furious in this "blitz" tournament, where no game can last longer than ten minutes. Come watch!

More chess listings on page 7

CALL FOR ACTORS: AUDITION

Monday, May 20, 6:00 pm

4th Floor Meeting Room

Do you love acting? Then step right up! The Authors' Carnival will be hosting a staged reading of short dramatic material written by our members. We are looking for talented actors (or amateurs) to read the parts with all the requisite emotions. No need to memorize—copies of the selected material will be distributed to the actors. The goal of this endeavor is good, down-to-the-bones theater (without the baggage of production) and to have fun! Join David Landau and Taryn Edwards as we assign parts and prepare for the private rehearsal on **Tuesday, May 28 (6:00 pm)**. The public performance is scheduled for **Thursday, May 30**.

Members' Only.



More Authors' Carnival listings on page 8

NEWS

Class Rooms Grand Opening

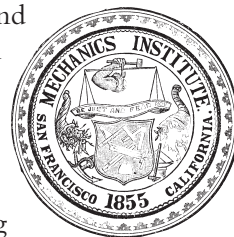
Thursday, May 23

3rd floor Library

Reception at 5:30 pm

Meeting at 6:00 pm

Join us for our Spring Members' Meeting and help us celebrate the grand opening of the Garfield McNamara Class Rooms and the unveiling of Mr. McNamara's portrait. We will be leading tours of the new facility and offer a presentation and explanation of the technological improvements. Learn about the Library's upcoming classes and future plans for the space. As usual, you'll meet the MI staff and Board of Trustees and find out what's ahead for MI.



Members and Guests Only, Free.

To register:

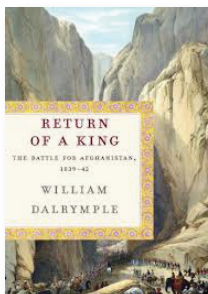
www.milibrary.org/events

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MEET THE AUTHOR

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**



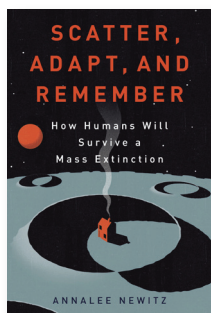
Wednesday, May 1, 6:00 pm

Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan (Knopf)

by WILLIAM DALRYMPLE

Co-sponsored by Asia Society and Asia Foundation

Renowned travel writer, historian, and journalist William Dalrymple gives a definitive analysis of the First Afghan War which began in 1839. The invasion by British and East India Company troops re-established the throne of Shah Shuja ul-Mulk, and was followed by a two year occupation, and subsequent rebellion. This history is told through the lives of people on all sides and using contemporary Afghan accounts of the conflict. Dalrymple's masterful retelling of Britain's greatest imperial disaster is a parable of colonial ambition and cultural collision, folly and hubris, with striking relevance for our times. **Members of MI and co-sponsors FREE; Public \$12**



Thursday, May 16, 6:00 pm

Scatter, Adapt, and Remember: How Humans Will Survive a Mass Extinction

(Doubleday) by ANNALEE NEWITZ

Severe climate change, mass pandemics, megavolcanoes, meteor strikes! Will Homo Sapiens and fellow mammals survive the next planetary disaster? Technology and science writer Annalee Newitz's new book is a brilliantly speculative and hopeful work of popular science that focuses our attention on humanity's long history of dodging the bullet of extinction – and suggests practical ways to keep doing it. From bacteria labs in St. Louis to ancient underground cities in central Turkey, she reveals the keys to long-term survival. Newitz leads us away from apocalyptic thinking, into a future where we live to build a better world and evolve as a species. **Members Free; Public \$12**

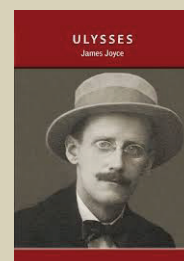


Upcoming: Bloomsday Celebration

Sunday, June 16, 5:30 pm (café opens at 5:00 pm)

Voices of James Joyce: Readings from Ulysses and Beyond

Sojourn through the streets of Dublin with Leopold Bloom and other characters featured in James Joyce's quintessential novel *Ulysses* and other works. The evening includes dramatic readings, Irish music, song and dance. Our special Bloom's Menu will be available! **Members \$15; Public \$25. Reservations Required.**



CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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

Members Free; Public suggested donation \$10

PADDY CHAYEFSKY: SCENES FROM AMERICAN LIVES

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, May 3

***The Americanization of Emily* (1964)**

DIRECTED BY ARTHUR HILLER

James Garner, Julie Andrews

An American Naval officer falls for an Englishwoman on the eve of the Normandy invasion in this splendid blend of romance and cynicism.



Friday, May 10

***The Catered Affair* (1956)**

DIRECTED BY RICHARD BROOKS

Bette Davis, Ernest Borgnine

Gore Vidal adapted Chayefsky's teleplay about a Bronx cabbie's wife determined to give her daughter a fancy wedding over her family's common-sense objections.



Friday, May 17

***The Goddess* (1958)**

DIRECTED BY JOHN CROMWELL

Kim Stanley, Lloyd Bridges

This marvelously acted saga of an ambitious, insecure girl's pursuit of silver-screen stardom was based on the life of Marilyn Monroe.



Friday, May 24

***Marty* (1955)**

DIRECTED BY DELBERT MANN

Ernest Borgnine, Betsy Blair

An unassuming Bronx butcher unexpectedly finds love in this Oscar-winning slice of American naturalism.



Friday, May 31

***The Hospital* (1971)**

DIRECTED BY ARTHUR HILLER

George C. Scott, Diana Rigg

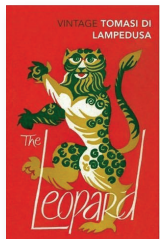
Chayefsky won his third Oscar for this blackly comedic drama about a suicidal doctor in a dysfunctional hospital.

Next month's theme: ***On the Road: Epic and Intimate Journeys of the Restless Spirit***

Information & reservations for Events and CinemaLit: 415.393.0100 or www.milibrary.org/events.

BOOK DISCUSSION 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.



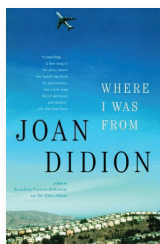
The Leopard

by GIUSEPPE TOMASI DI LAMPEDUSA

Thursday, May 2, 6:00 pm

Forgotten Classics

This 20th century classic, completed in 1957 just prior to Lampedusa's death, remains the top selling novel in Italian history. The author, a Sicilian prince, tells the story of a noble family's decline in times of political, social and economic changes. **Registration required. Free.**



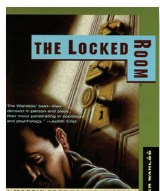
Where I Was From

by JOAN DIDION

Thursday, May 9, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

California Dreamers

Didion scrutinizes herself as a person and as a writer but also includes glimpses of several generations of hardy ancestors/ancestresses who made the California "crossing" from the East. **Registration required. Free.**



The Locked Room

by MAJ SJÖWALL & PER WAHLÖÖ

Monday, May 13, Noon

Brown Bag Mystery Readers

Detective Martin Beck returns in the 7th book in this mystery series set in Stockholm written by husband and wife team, Sjöwall and Wahlöö. Beck is back to work after a medical leave and is assigned to a case involving the discovery of the decomposing body of an elderly man who was found in a room that appears to have been locked from the inside with no weapon in evidence. To complicate matters further, Beck begins to suspect that a second crime, a bank robbery across town where a security guard was shot, is related to the first case. **Members only. Free.**



Losing Battles

by EUDORA WELTY

Tuesday, May 21, Noon

Fiction You Wish You Had Read

A family reunion in small-town Mississippi is the setting for *Losing Battles* by Eudora Welty. The reunion is in celebration of Granny Vaughn's 90th birthday and her grandson's release from prison. While the tale, which is told through conversations between the generations in Southern dialect, is at first a bit difficult to follow it is an effective way to convey the essence of the novel which is the importance of roots and family. Welty is a master at expressing, through her characters, small town humor and ignorance which is commonly found in the rural Southern culture of the time. **Members only. Free.**

Information & registration: Diane Lai at 415.393.0118 or dlai@milibrary.org. A copy of each book is available at the 2nd floor Circulation desk. All Book Discussions are held in the 4th floor Board Room. Register online at www.milibrary.org/discussion.



Wednesdays, May 8 and 22, 5:30 pm

The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter

offers two bi-weekly discussion groups on a semester basis. The Proust Group discusses *In Search of Lost Time*, vol. 4, 5:30 – 6:30 pm. The World Literature Group discusses Proustian-inspired works from 6:45 – 8:00 pm. **Enrollment for both groups has closed for this semester, but will open to new members later this year.** For more information contact Dr. Calkins at mark@tempsperdu.com or Sharon Miller at smiller@milibrary.org.

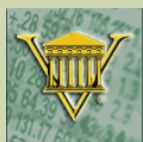
CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

We welcome you all back to the 3rd floor McNamara Classrooms in May! Your patience with the renovation process is very much appreciated. Be sure to come to the official dedication of the McNamara Classrooms on May 23, at the annual Members' Meeting. Classes are open to Mechanics' Institute members and guests, and are free. **Advance registration is required:** call 415.393.0102, or go to our website at www.milibrary.org/class and click on the class title.

Thursday, May 9, 10:00 am

ValueLine Research Center

Learn now to use the online format of the *ValueLine* newsletter, one of the most widely consulted and highly regarded investment information publications. Learn to find objective research, insightful analysis, commentary, and proven price projections and recommendations. The online version covers more than five thousand publicly traded companies, and is accessible from your home or office, as well as from Library computers.



Tuesday, May 14, 10:00 am

Travel Planning 101

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 book collection, language lesson audio CDs, online resources and travel websites. This class can help you become a savvy and well-prepared traveler.



Wednesday, May 15, 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 computer or technology-related questions.

Tech Office Hours will be repeated on Wednesday, June 19.



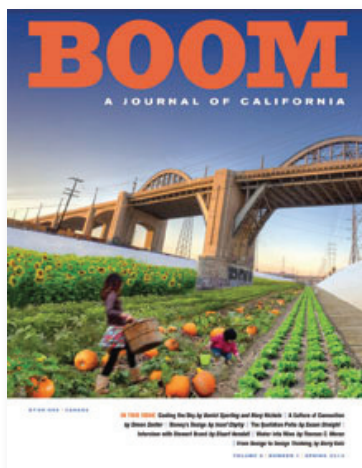
Wednesday, May 22, 10:00 am

Newspapers Online: ProQuest Electronic Database

Are you looking for a San Francisco obituary from 1901? Interested in news related to the drop in NYC crime during the 1990's? Come to our Newspapers Online class and see how easy it is to find articles, editorials, and more from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *New York Times*, *The Guardian* UK and over one thousand other domestic and international newspapers using ProQuest. Learn the basics of how to search, pinpoint specific dates of your research, and enjoy instant access to obituaries to help you find ancestors, relatives, and prominent figures from our recent past.

New Magazines at the Library

BOBBIE MONZON, SERIALS AND REFERENCE LIBRARIAN



If you've been up to the 3rd floor recently you may have noticed our circulating magazines have moved up from the 2nd fl. balcony to the shelves behind the 3rd floor circulation area. You can now easily find a two-year-old recipe from *Cook's Illustrated* or research *Bookforum* reviews from 2010. Members can borrow up to five magazines at a time from either the hanging files or the older magazine shelves but if you are overwhelmed by the rows and rows of titles at your disposal you can also browse through our magazine collection on our website. We are always adding new magazines to our collection as we come across interesting titles. Here's a small sampling of magazine titles we've added in the past year:

Lucky Peach

Published by McSweeney's here in San Francisco, *Lucky Peach* is a quarterly journal of delicious food and clever writing. Each issue focuses on a single theme be it chefs and cooks, "Chinatown" eats, or food before and after the Apocalypse. Articles and sections in each issue explore the featured theme cover to cover via photography, art, and, of course, recipes.

Orion

Orion is bi-monthly magazine focusing on nature, the environment, and culture. Each advertising free issue aims to address ongoing environmental and societal issues and has featured such noted authors as Michael Pollan, Wendell Berry, Sandra Steingraber, and Barry Lopez among others.

Shambhala Sun

Another bimonthly title of a similar vein, *Shambhala Sun* offers a nonsectarian

view of "Buddhism, Culture, Meditation, and Life." Presented within its pages are teachings from the Buddhist and other contemplative traditions and encourages applying the principles of mindfulness and awareness to everyday life. The magazine aims to engage readers through these teachings and practices with the hope of bringing spirituality to all the important issues we all face in life: livelihood, family, relationships, social issues, and the arts.

Boom: A Journal of California

Published quarterly, *Boom: A Journal of California* is a thoughtful, provocative, and insightful magazine that brings energy and focus regarding topics relevant to the social, cultural, and political issues of our times primarily here in California but also including the world beyond our borders. *Boom* includes scholarly articles, personal essays, interviews, photography, art, and short informal pieces that will capture your attention.

San Jose Mercury News, Sunday Edition

Back by popular demand, the Sunday *San Jose Mercury News* is the latest edition to our newspaper collection. This Pulitzer Prize winning paper covers national and regional news and has extensive reporting regarding technology in Silicon Valley. The *Mercury News* is also the parent company to the *Oakland Tribune*, *Contra Costa Times*, *Marin Independent Journal*, *San Mateo County Times*, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, and many other local newspapers and is the primary source of content for those daily papers. You can find the most recent three months of the Sunday edition of the *San Jose Mercury News* with the newspaper collection on the 3rd floor.

CHESS

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

Daniel Naroditsky moved one step closer to becoming a Grandmaster by tying for first in the Philadelphia Open in late March. The seventeen-year-old Foster City youth, who has played at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club his entire career, needs only one more similar result to receive the highest title F.I.D.E. (Fédération internationale des échecs), the governing body of chess, awards short of World Champion.

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will host a very special event on Sunday, May 5th. While the layman may think of chess as a slow game that can take hours to finish, it doesn't have to be—and the 7th Annual Ray Schutt Memorial is a case in point. More than forty players will compete in a tournament in which no game can last longer than ten minutes. This blitz—or speed—chess, played with digital clocks that measure seconds, is a crowd pleaser as the action is fast and furious. Spectators are most welcome.



Grandmaster Jesse Kraai in action in the 2011 Ray Schutt Memorial Blitz

The Mechanics' Youth Outreach Program under the direction of Grandmaster-in-Residence Nick de Firmian will be hosting three chess camps this summer for beginners in June and intermediate and advanced players in July. Go to www.chessclub.org for more information.

Chess for Women

Sundays, May 5, 12, 19, 26

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

Tournaments

Saturday, May 4

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

13th Annual Charles Powell Memorial G/45

Sunday, May 5

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

7th Ray Schutt Memorial Blitz

Saturday, May 11

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Children's Quad

Tuesday Night Events

May 7, 28

5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

Lecture by John Donaldson

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Spring and Summer Tuesday Night Marathon

Wednesday Night Blitz

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

6:30 pm – 8:50 pm

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

Thursday Night Lessons

May 2, 9, 30

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

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

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

May 4, 11, 18, 25

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER
ELLIOTT WINSLOW

Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or <http://www.chessclub.org>. Photo by Richard Shorman.

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

Important Numbers

Circulation: 415.393.0101

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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

Erika Schmidt, Editor

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

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

Tuesday, May 7, Noon

Write Now!

4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

Writing is more fun in a group, and the key to good writing is lots of practice. Come explore a couple of writing prompts at this low key scribble session. Whatever your genre, you'll have fun putting pen to paper with others who want to gain flexibility and spontaneity in their prose or poetry. Bring your lunch and favorite writing utensil. **Members only. Free.**



Thursday, May 30, 6:00 pm

Performance of a Member Written Play

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Save the date! Come to our first staged reading of member written plays by member actors. We will be performing *A Play for Saramago* by Kathy Gilbert, *Garden Apartment* by Ann Ludwig, and *Headhunters* by George Knuepfel. **Members and guests. Free.**



Tuesday, June 11, 6:00 pm

10 Keys to Becoming a Successful Writer

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Agent, author, and consultant Michael Larsen will show you the ten steps to take to transform your writing and your career. You will learn how to use your passion and devotion to the trinities of content, communication, and sustainability to become a successful writer faster and more easily than ever. **Members Free; Public \$12**



Information and registration: www.milibrary.org/events or Taryn Edwards, 415.393.0103 or tedwards@milibrary.org.