

THIS MONTH AT THE

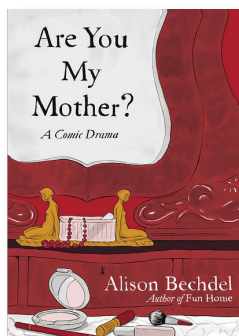


# Mechanics' Institute

www.milibrary.org

VOL. 3, NO. 6 JUNE 2013

## GRAPHIC NOVEL DISCUSSION GROUP



**Tuesdays, July 9 and 23, 5:30 pm**

**Tuesdays, August 6 and 20, 5:30 pm**

Interested in graphic novels? In July and August, librarian Jeremy Snell will be leading a discussion of four graphic novels that explore a wide range of subjects. Whether you're an avid comic reader or just interested in exploring the genre, please consider joining us for any of these discussions.

Graphic novel title listings on page 4

## BLOOMSDAY CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHT



**Sunday, June 16**

**5:00 pm refreshments and music;**

**6:00 pm performance**

Dublin native Renee Gibbons and an ensemble of actors and singers portray the iconic, colorful and often bawdy characters from James Joyce's *Ulysses*, in this rollicking literary celebration. Reserve your tickets NOW!

Full listing on page 2

## MECHANICS' COMMUNITY THEATRE

### Performance of Member Written Plays

**Thursday, May 30, 6:00 pm**

4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR MEETING ROOM

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. Come celebrate our playwrights' skills, our actors' talents, and enjoy good, down-to-the-bones theater (without the baggage of production). **Members and guests free.**

More Authors' Carnival listings on page 7



## TECHNOLOGY

### Download Popular Magazines in Digital Format

JEREMY SNELL, WEB LIBRARIAN

**M**echanics' Institute now offers free access to nineteen popular magazines in digital format through a partnership with Record Books Digital and Zinio Digital Magazines.

These eMagazines can be read on an iPhone, iPad, or Android device using the free Zinio app. They can also be read on a computer using any up-to-date internet browser like Internet Explorer 9, Google Chrome, or Mozilla Firefox.

The titles are always available, have no checkout limit, and you can keep them for as long as you like with no fines.

Our titles include *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *Interweave Knits*, *PC Magazine Digital Edition*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, and *Vegetarian Times*.

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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**

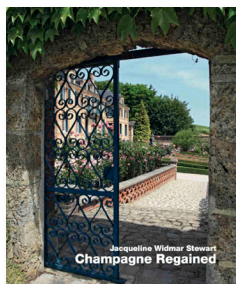


## 12th Annual Bloomsday Celebration

### Voices of James Joyce: Readings from *Ulysses* and Beyond

**Sunday, June 16, 6:00 pm (café opens at 5:00 pm)**

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. Performances are by well known Bay Area actors and singers Bruce Bierman, Renee Gibbons, John Ilyin, Oonaugh Kavanagh, Esther Mulligan, Melanie O'Reilly, Josiah Polhemus and Laura Sheppard, with fiddler Anne Goess. This year offers some exciting new selections and additions to our cast. Stage direction and set design are by Kathleen Blake. Our special **Bloom's Menu** will be available! **Members \$15; Public \$25. Advance Reservations Required.**



## *Champagne Regained* by JACQUELINE WIDMAR STEWART

**Wednesday, June 26, 6:00 pm**

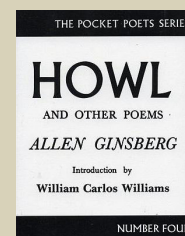
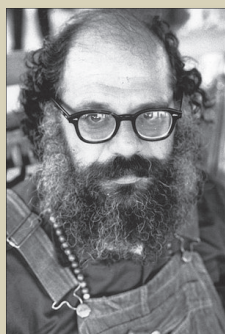
The rise, fall, and recent resurrection of France's Champagne region is examined in this intriguing history of the region. Within the last millennium France's Champagne region has ascended two stunning pinnacles of fame and fortune with a long, deep gorge between them. Widmer-Stewart traces the history and culture of its highly varied past to its remarkable present. More than 100 color photographs provide a visual perspective, especially to events and occurrences tied with specific locales. The author also looks at two regional parks in today's Champagne region and the important role they play in the look, feel and function of the area. Wine tasting included, featuring Terra Sávia Family Winery. **Members Free; Public \$12**



## BEAT REUNION: A CELEBRATORY NIGHT OF PANELS, PERFORMANCES, AND A BEAT CAFÉ

**Friday, July 12, 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

The Mechanics' Institute joins with the Contemporary Jewish Museum (CJM), City Lights Booksellers and other local arts organizations to celebrate the life and legacy of Allen Ginsberg and his lasting relationship with the Bay Area. Presented in conjunction with the CJM exhibition ***Beat Memories: The Photographs of Allen Ginsberg*** (May 23–September 8, 2013). See complete listing of venues and events at [ginsbergfestival.com](http://ginsbergfestival.com). **Members of Mechanics' Institute and co-sponsors FREE; Public \$15**



(Continued on page 8)

**Information & reservations:** 415.393.0100 or [www.milibrary.org/events](http://www.milibrary.org/events).

# CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

## ON THE ROAD

**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. Come for the movie. Stay for the discussion! **Information and registration:** 415.393.0100 or [www.milibrary.org/events](http://www.milibrary.org/events).



**Friday, June 7**

***Paper Moon* (1973)**

DIRECTED BY PETER BOGDANOVICH

Ryan O'Neal, Tatum O'Neal

A traveling 1930s con man reluctantly takes on a child sidekick in this irresistibly charming tale featuring the youngest Academy Award winner in history.



**Friday, June 14**

***Two for the Road* (1967)**

DIRECTED BY STANLEY DONEN

Audrey Hepburn, Albert Finney

A married couple remembers happier times visiting various French locales in this marvelously acted, beautifully scored (by Henry Mancini) and brilliantly structured film.



**Friday, June 21**

***Harry and Tonto* (1974)**

DIRECTED BY PAUL MAZURSKY

Art Carney, Ellen Burstyn

This poignant, understated comedy follows an unsentimental widower on a cross-country trip with his cat.



**Friday, June 28**

***The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (1994)**

DIRECTED BY STEPHAN ELLIOTT

Terence Stamp, Hugo Weaving

Outrageousness carries the day when a pair of Aussie drag queens and a transsexual set off in the titular bus to perform their Abba-infused show at a remote resort.

## Meet Mary Downs, Our New Meeting Room Manager

INTERVIEWED BY PAMELA TROY,  
EVENTS ASSISTANT

**W**hen author Andrew Lam came to the Mechanics' Institute to discuss his new collection of short stories about Vietnamese immigrants in the Bay Area, attendees could indulge in delicious Vietnamese snacks like spiced peanuts and Lychee nuts. During the May 1<sup>st</sup> event with William Dalrymple and his book on the first Afghan war, chai tea was offered along with the usual wine and juices. Mechanics' Institute's new Meeting Room Manager, Mary Downs, likes to add a little extra imagination to make each MI event even more unique. "I want to make sure that the refreshments are interesting and satisfying," says Mary.

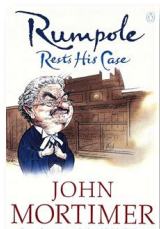
Mary's background in the culinary arts includes working at Greens Restaurant as head dinner cook. Her boundless energy and enthusiasm are reflected by her hobbies—which include bee-keeping and home-brewing.

In addition to her responsibilities with the Events Department, she will be organizing the Meeting Room and assisting on production preparations for Members' Meetings, special programs and other Institute functions. We welcome her to the Mechanics' Institute staff!



# 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.



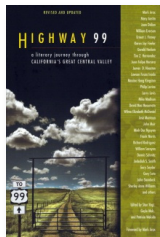
## ***Rumpole Rests His Case***

by JOHN MORTIMER

**Monday, June 10, Noon**

### **Brown Bag Mystery Readers**

Mortimer presents his fans with a collection of seven stories, in this book, starring the somewhat bedraggled yet beloved character Horace Rumpole. Rumpole is a criminal defense attorney in London's Old Bailey whose mostly non-violent clients are never-the-less usually considered to have hopeless cases. The barrister's cigar-chewing, wine-swilling demeanor masks a keen legal mind and even sharper tongue which is no match for his colleagues at the court but is not tolerated by She-Who-Must-Be-Obeyed, his wife Hilda!



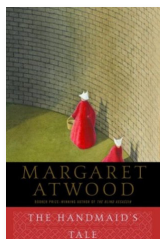
## ***Highway 99: A Literary Journey Through California's Great Central Valley* (2007 ed.)**

edited by STAN YOGI, GAYLE MAK AND PATRICIA WAKIDA

**Thursday, June 13, 4:00 pm**

### **California Dreamers**

This anthology is a varied collection of short pieces by contemporary or recent writers celebrating the fertile agricultural region of the Central Valley of California, including some (Muir, Saroyan, Didion, Rodriguez, et al.) whose books could be read later in toto. Because of its scope and size, the book could be used as a reference for future readings; the 2007 edition contains thirty-three additional writings not included in the earlier edition.



## ***The Handmaid's Tale***

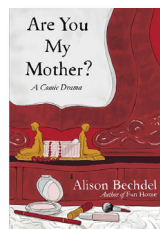
by MARGARET ATWOOD

**Tuesday, June 18, Noon**

### **Fiction You Wish You Had Read**

In this fable about the near future, Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead (formerly known as the United States). She lives in a dystopian theocracy where women no longer have control over their own bodies—they are not allowed to read, hold a job, have a name or own money. They are assigned to a class of women—either chaste wives, housekeeping Marthas or reproductive Handmaids. And, what makes this even worse, Offred can still remember when she was married to a man she loved, played with her daughter and had a productive job!

## GRAPHIC NOVEL DISCUSSION GROUP



## ***Are You My Mother? A Comic Drama***

by ALISON BECHDEL

**Tuesday, July 9, 5:30 pm**

### **Wilson**

by DANIEL CLOWES

**Tuesday, July 23, 5:30 pm**

### **Palestine**

by JOE SACCO

**Tuesday, August 6, 5:30 pm**

### **Saga: Volume One**

by BRIAN K. VAUGHAN

**Tuesday, August 20, 5:30 pm**

**Information & registration:** Diane Lai at 415.393.0118, [dlai@milibrary.org](mailto:dlai@milibrary.org), or [www.milibrary.org/discussion](http://www.milibrary.org/discussion). A copy of each book is available at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Circulation desk. All Book Discussions are held in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor Board Room.





**Wednesdays, June 12 and 26, 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 in September.** For more information contact Dr. Calkins at [mark@tempsperdu.com](mailto:mark@tempsperdu.com) or Sharon Miller at [smiller@milibrary.org](mailto:smiller@milibrary.org).

## CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

### Purchasing Prescription Drugs Online

**Wednesday, June 5, 10:00 am**

If you are intrigued with the idea of purchasing your prescription drugs online because you feel it will be more convenient and less expensive, come to this class before you place your order!

We will discuss how to evaluate drug and pharmacy websites and review the warning signs that a drug site may not be legitimate. In addition, you will become acquainted with the books, periodicals, and online databases that you can find at the library to help you research or read about the drugs that have been prescribed by your doctor.



**STANDARD  
& POOR'S  
NetAdvantage**

### S&P NetAdvantage

**Thursday, June 13, 10:00 am**

Get up-to-date and reliable answers to your tough business and investment questions and identify investment opportunities. Learn to find company and industry information on publicly-traded U.S. corporations together with S&P's independent research, analysis and opinions. This valuable database is available to members from home or office computers, and in the Library.

### Tech Office Hours

**Wednesday, June 19, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**

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.

### Evernote

**Monday, June 24, 2:00 pm**

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!



**Information and Registration:** 415.393.0102, or go to our website at [www.milibrary.org/class](http://www.milibrary.org/class) and click on the class title. Classes are open to Mechanics' Institute members and guests, and are free.

## CHESS

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

The weekend of May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup> was a busy one at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club. Saturday, the 13<sup>th</sup> Charles Powell Memorial was won by National Master Michael Aigner of Davis in impressive fashion. The five round event attracted forty-nine players from all corners of the Bay Area.

Sunday saw sixty-three players, including two Grandmasters and six International Masters, compete in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Ray Schutt Memorial Blitz. Six-time U.S. Champion Walter Browne, MI-Grandmaster-in-Residence Nick de Firmian, and defending champion



Yian Liu

International Master Daniel Naroditsky were the top seeds for the tournament, but none proved to be the winner. Top honors went instead to sixteen-year-old FIDE Master Yian Liou of Walnut Creek who scored 9-1 to finish just ahead of de Firmian and Naroditsky. The field had a strong international flavor

as players from as far away as Italy, Scotland and the Netherlands competed.

The Mechanics' Saturday morning instructor for the Chess for Kids class showed that those who teach can play. International Master Elliott Winslow won the Spring Tuesday Night Marathon with a score of 7 from 8 to take home the \$500 first prize. The ninety-three-player field set an attendance record for the Tuesday Night Marathon series which has been held since the early 1970s.

## Chess for Women

Sundays, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

## Tournaments

Saturday, June 8

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

Sunday, June 9

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

50<sup>th</sup> Stamer Memorial



Saturday, June 15

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Children's Quad

Saturday, June 22

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

13<sup>th</sup> Annual William Addison Memorial G/45

## Tuesday Night Events

June 4, 11, 18, 25

5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

Lecture by John Donaldson

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Summer Tuesday Night Marathon

## Wednesday Night Events

June 5, 12, 19, 26

6:30 pm – 8:50 pm

Blitz

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Wednesday Night Lessons

(After 6 – Chess for Adults)

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

## Thursday Night Lessons

June 6, 13, 20, 27

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

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

## Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER  
ELLIOTT WINSLOW

Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or

www.chessclub.org. Photo by Michael Aigner.

## Zinio (Continued from page 1)

Setup is easy! Visit our website, [www.milibrary.org/emagazines](http://www.milibrary.org/emagazines) to establish an account. In the near future, we'll be offering monthly workshops to help you get started. In the meantime, if you need assistance, ask any staff member while in the library or contact Jeremy Snell, Web Librarian, via email or call (415) 393-0111.

## AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

Celebrating our members' creative achievements.



## Write Now!

**Tuesday, June 11, Noon (Second Tuesday of each month)**

4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR BOARD ROOM

Writing is more fun in a group and the key to good writing is lots of practice. 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.**

**10 Keys to Becoming a Successful Writer**

**Tuesday, June 11, 6:00 pm**

4<sup>TH</sup> 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. Benefits to attending include: More than twenty pages of valuable handouts, free brief feedback on your idea, writing, proposal, or self-published book after the class; free follow-up phone calls; and a no-host dinner at Café de la Presse at Bush and Grant after the talk to continue the conversation. **Members Free; Public \$12**

**Writing and Performing a 10-Minute Play**

**Tuesday, July 16, 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR MEETING ROOM

A Ten Minute Play is over in a flash but can resonate powerfully if well done. Join playwright Helen Noakes in this afternoon workshop. She will teach you the craft's basics then set you free in groups to develop your play. We will write, perform, and critique in a group setting each other's short plays giving positive feedback and gaining writing skills for maximum impact. Gain a glimpse into the process and have fun!

**Members only. Free.**

## INVITATION TO BOOK'TOBERFEST

**Save the date: Friday, September 27, 2013 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

Are you a graphic designer, book designer, editor, agent, web designer, illustrator, photographer, or freelance researcher? Do you offer a service that would benefit the reading and writing public? The Mechanics' Institute is seeking professionals involved in the book arts or who offer writer support services to populate our annual tradeshow at Book'toberfest. Book'toberfest is a fantastic opportunity to alert the Mechanics' Institute community to you, your company and your contribution to literary culture while enjoying local beer and delicious food! **Space is limited so if you would like to be involved, contact Taryn Edwards by Friday, August 2, 2013 at 415.393.0103 or [tedwards@milibrary.org](mailto:tedwards@milibrary.org). This offer is extended to MI members only.**

**Information and registration:** [www.milibrary.org/events](http://www.milibrary.org/events) or Taryn Edwards, 415.393.0103 or [tedwards@milibrary.org](mailto:tedwards@milibrary.org).

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

Erika Schmidt, Editor

## BOOK'TOBERFEST SAVE THE DATE

Friday, September 27

Are you a graphic designer, book designer, editor, agent, web designer, illustrator, photographer, or freelance researcher? The Mechanics' Institute is seeking professionals involved in the book arts or who offer writer support services to populate our annual tradeshow at Book'toberfest. Please see page 7 for more details.



# The Allen Ginsberg Festival

July 11-July 14, 2013 **CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MUSEUM**

**BEAT REUNION:**  
A CELEBRATORY NIGHT OF PANELS, PERFORMANCES,  
AND A BEAT CAFÉ AT MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

Friday, July 12, 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Get hep and make the scene! The **BEAT CAFÉ** opens at **5:30 pm** offering a meeting place for cool cats to imbibe, dig the vibe, and reunite. Featuring poetry and jazz with "Goddess of the Beats" poet ruth weiss.

Delve deeper and get your jets going with two **PANEL DISCUSSIONS**. *The Prophetic Voice: Blake, Whitman and Allen Ginsberg* at **6:30 pm** explores the link between this great Beat poet and his visionary lineage. It is followed by *The Life and Times of Allen Ginsberg* at **7:45 pm** which celebrates Ginsberg's journey through the major social, cultural and political revolutions of his day, and how he launched the Beat Generation and inspired the zeitgeist of the '60's.



Photo courtesy of City Lights Archives

Panels are moderated by Alan Kaufman with Neeli Cherkovski, Jerry Cimino, Brenda Knight, Don Lattin, Regina Marler, Gerald Nicosia, Steve Silberman, Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan. Dramatic readings are by Bruce Bierman, Naomi Newman, Laura Sheppard, and ruth weiss. Includes author book sales and signing.

Co-sponsored by Mechanics' Institute, Contemporary Jewish Museum, Poetry Flash, City Lights Booksellers. Members of Mechanics' Institute and co-sponsors FREE; Public \$15