The Queen’s Vow: A Novel of Isabella of Castile
by C.W. Gortner
Thursday, August 1, 6:00 pm
In his vividly imagined novel, C.W. Gortner reveals the
dangerous youth and dramatic early reign of the woman
no one believed would be queen. Young Isabella treads
a perilous path, torn between loyalties, until at age seven-
teen she suddenly finds herself heiress of Castile, the largest
kingdom in Spain. Members Free; Public $12
(Continued on page 2)

Wilde in the City
August 22, 6:00 pm
4th FLOOR MEETING ROOM
Oscar Wilde visited San Francisco in 1882 making a
sensation everywhere with his unusual clothes, man-
nerisms and sense of humor. Come hear more about
this incredible encounter with the famous playwright
and professional aesthete from Wilde expert Deaglan
O’Donghaile. Cosponsored with the Irish Literary & Histori-
cal Society of San Francisco. Members of MI and ILHS free;
Public $12

More Authors’ Carnival events on page 7

Women Artists of the Arts and Crafts Movement
Thursday, August 15, Noon
4th FLOOR MEETING ROOM
Do you love the imagery of the Arts and Crafts Movement?
Join visiting scholar Jennifer Cook as she explores the stories
of three professional women enrolled at the Mechanics’ Insti-
tute of Rochester, New York and explains how their experi-
ence was typical of the growing influence of women in the
budding Arts and Crafts Movement. No Registration Required.
Members Only. Free

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NEWS

New Library Director,
Deborah Hunt
JIM FLACK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
July 15 was the first day on the job for Deborah Hunt, the 17th Library
Director of the Mechanics' Institute. Deb will have Sharon Miller’s counsel
for two weeks as we transition between Head Librarians.

Deb comes to us with twenty-six years’ experience as a librarian, teacher, and
consultant to the library industry. She has managed the
Library Technology certificate and A.S. degree programs at
Diablo Valley Col-
lege, headed the
Learning Com-
mons library at the
Exploratorium, and has been the prin-
cipal of her own consulting firm, In-
formation Edge. In addition, she is the
current president of the international
Special Libraries Association and the
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

The Queen’s Vow: A Novel of Isabella of Castile, by C.W. GORTNER
Thursday, August 1, 6:00 pm
In his vividly imagined novel, C.W. Gortner reveals the dangerous youth and dramatic early reign of the woman no one believed would be queen. Young Isabella treads a perilous path, torn between loyalties, until at age seventeen she suddenly finds herself heiress of Castile, the largest kingdom in Spain. Plunged into a deadly conflict to secure her crown, she is determined to wed the one man whom she has vowed to love yet is forbidden to her—Fernando, prince of Aragon. As they unite their two realms, Isabella and Fernando face an impoverished Spain beset by enemies. From the glorious palaces of Segovia to the battlefields of Granada and intrigue-laden gardens of Seville, The Queen’s Vow sweeps us into the tumultuous forging of a nation and brings to life Isabella’s world of faith, bloodshed, romance, and betrayal.

Enjoy tapas, Spanish wine and music in the café to celebrate our season finale.

Members Free; Public $12

C. W. GORTNER, half Spanish by birth, holds an MFA in writing, with an emphasis on historical studies, from the New College of California and has taught university courses on women of power in the Renaissance. He is the author of The Last Queen and Confessions of Catherine de Medici, as well as The Tudor Secret, a mystery novel set in Elizabethan England. Gortner was raised in Malaga, Spain, and now lives in San Francisco.

Information & reservations: 415.393.0100 or milibrary.org/events. All events are held in the 4th Floor Meeting Room and require advance registration unless otherwise noted.

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

We take a moment at the end of our Events and Cinemalit season to thank the volunteers for their time, energy, dedication, and participation. You make our programs run smoothly as you manage the box office, greet and engage our audiences, graciously serve refreshments, or assist our staff. You are an active, vital part of our cultural family here at the Mechanics Institute.

Cheers to YOU!

—Laura Sheppard, Director of Events, Pamela Troy, Events Assistant/Cinemalit Coordinator, Mary Downs, Meeting Room Manager, Michael Fox, Cinemalit Film Series Curator

CINEMALIT

SAN FRANCISCO JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Mechanics’ Institute’s Cinemalit Film Series will be taking a break in August, but Mechanics’ Institute will be a Community and Outreach Partner of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival for two films. One is Hannah Arendt, a film about the German Jewish philosopher and wartime heroine, which will screen Sunday, July 28th at 2:05 pm, at the Castro Theatre. The other is Steven Pressman’s The Art of Spiegelman, a documentary about the artist and writer who created the Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel, Maus. The Art of Spiegelman will be shown on Sunday, August 4th, at Noon, at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, as well as at other Bay Area venues.

Cinemalit also recommends the following films screening at the Castro Theater:

Monday, July 29th, The Last Sentence, a film based on the life of a Swedish journalist who tried to warn people about the threat of Fascism in the 1930s;

Tuesday, July 30th, The Strange Case of Wilhelm Reich, about the controversial psychoanalyst featuring the wonderful actor Klaus Maria Brandauer;

Wednesday, July 31st, Amy Winehouse: The Day She Came to Dingle, a combo documentary/concert movie of the late, great British singer;

and at The Jewish Community Center of San Francisco:

Saturday, August 3rd, In the Shadow, a film noir set in 1953 Prague about a police detective fighting anti-semitism and corruption.

The box office opens July 25th for Jewish Film Forum members, and on July 28th for the general public. For ticket information, please contact the box office at 415.621.0523 or visit the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival online at www.sfjff.org.

FALL PREVIEW

Upcoming themes for Cinemalit will include “Rare Gems,” a month of film rarities and rediscoveries; “Haunted Hollywood,” a salute to the supernatural in film that ranges from the spooky to the comic; and “Dark Star,” a tribute to Barbara Stanwyck. Watch for an author program with Cinemalit’s good friend, the internationally known film critic and writer David Thomson, who’ll be here to discuss his book, Moments that Made the Movies, on Wednesday, October 9th. Look for details at 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.

Palestine
by JOE SACCOC
Tuesday, August 6, 5:30 pm
Graphic Novel Discussion Group
Recounting several months of research performed by Sacco in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the early 1990s, Palestine has become a foundation of a new genre of graphic journalism.

Some Danger Involved
by WILL THOMAS
Monday, August 12, Noon
Brown Bag Mystery Readers
This debut novel by Will Thomas follows detective Cyrus Barker and his assistant, Thomas Llewelyn, as they solve the murder of a rabbinical student in Victorian London’s Jewish ghetto. Well-researched, with authentic period details, the novel is reminiscent of a Sherlock Holmes novel in both setting and the engaging relationship between the sleuths.

Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant
by ANNE TYLER
Tuesday, August 20, Noon
Fiction You Wish You Had Read
Considered by Tyler to be her best work, Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the Pen/Faulkner Award in 1983. The novel chronicles the lives of the flawed and quirky Tull family from the perspectives of each of the family members who, although they lived through the same events, do not seem to remember events happening in the same way.

Saga: Volume One
by BRIAN K. VAUGHAN
Tuesday, August 20, 5:30 pm
Graphic Novel Discussion Group

Information & registration: Diane Liu at 415.393.0118 or dlui@milib.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 milibrary.org/discussion.

(Continued on page 8)
Mechanics’ member Daniel Naroditsky won the 2013 US Junior Closed held June 14-22 at the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis. The seventeen-year-old Foster City youth scored 6½ from 9 to earn not only the title but also a spot in the 2014 US Championship as well as the 2013 World Junior Championship.

Tying for second with 6 points in the ten-player event was fellow Mechanics’ US Chess League teammate Samuel Sevian of Santa Clara, along with Luke Velotti-Harmon of Boise. Victor Shen of New Jersey was fourth with 5½ points, followed by another MI member, Yian Liou of Alamo, and World Under 14-Champion Kayden Troff on 4½. Yian played an important role in determining the top spots, as he beat Sevian and Velotii-Harmon.

Not only were three of the top five finishers in 2013 Mechanics’ members, but three of the five winners dating back to 2009 were as well.

Recent US Junior Closed Winners (MI members in red)
- 2009 Ray Robson
- 2010 Sam Shankland
- 2011 Gregory Young
- 2012 Marc Arnold
- 2013 Daniel Naroditsky

Chess for Women
Sundays, August 4, 11, 18, 25
11:00 pm – 1:00 pm
TAUGHT BY EWELENA KRUBNIK
Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or chessclub.org. Photo courtesy of Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis.

Tournaments
Saturday, August 3
10:00 am – 8:00 pm
13th Annual Vladimir Pahutieff Memorial G/45

Saturday, August 10
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Children’s Quad

Saturday, August 17 – Sunday, August 18
10:00 am – 8:00 pm
9th Annual Bernardo Smith Memorial

Tuesday Night Events
August 6, 13, 20, 27
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm
Lecture by John Donaldson

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm
Neil Falconer Tuesday Night Marathon

Wednesday Night Events
August 7, 14, 21, 28
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Wednesday Night Blitz

August 7, 14, 21, 28
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Wednesday Night Lessons (After 6 – Chess for Adults)

Thursday Night Lessons
August 8, 15, 22, 29
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
TAUGHT BY M.I. GRANDMASTER-IN-RESIDENCE

Information and registration: www.milibrary.org/events, or Taryn Edwards at 415.393.0103 or tedwards@milibrary.org. This offer is extended to Mechanics’ Institute members only.

I think of her a “star” in the library world and I’m sure this statement will embarrass her, but for layman such as myself, it is the predominant impression one comes away with after reading her resume and from talking with librarians who know her or have heard her speak at conferences and seminars. And yet after interviewing her, I’m sure you will find her very approachable, available, and respectful of the traditions and work here at Mechanics’ that precede her.

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

Write Now!
Tuesday, August 13, Noon (Second Tuesday of each month)
4th 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.
September 3
First Tuesday
TED Talk
Bring your lunch and curiosity to the First Tuesday TED Talk to discuss the topic of Internet Censorship with fellow Mechanics’ Institute members and staff. In September we will watch TED Fellow and journalist Evgeny Morozov puncture what he calls “iPod liberalism”—the assumption that tech innovation always promotes freedom and democracy—with chilling examples of ways the Internet helps oppressive regimes stifle dissent. An informal discussion will follow the twelve minute long video.

SEPTEMBER PREVIEW

PROUST SOCIETY OF AMERICA: SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER

Under the leadership of Dr. Mark Calkins, Mechanics’ Institute offers the opportunity for new members to join ongoing discussion groups now starting their 11th year. The Proust Society of America begins a new year on Wednesday, September 11, with two bi-weekly discussion groups on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Please join us at the start of a new semester of the Proust Group, which meets from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm, and begins with Volume 5, In Search of Lost Time: The Captive & The Fugitive, to be followed by Volume 6. The World Literature Group, meeting from 6:45 pm – 8:00 pm, will begin the year with a series of Russian novels.

Fees per semester are $65 for MI members/$95 for non-members. Registration will be online and through EventBrite. For more information contact Dr. Calkins at mark@tempsperdu.com or Diane Lai at dlai@milibrary.org.

CALIFORNIA DREAMERS BOOK GROUP

Join us for the California Dreamers book discussion group in September. The books under discussion (see below) represent the dreams of their authors, protagonists or characters that are centered on a real or imagined “California” ideal. The book group will meet for four sessions only—September through December. Long-time Mechanics’ Institute member and author, Charles Sullivan, will facilitate the discussion group. Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm. For more information, contact Diane Lai at 415.393.0118 or dlai@milibrary.org.

Of Mice and Men
by JOHN STEINBECK
Thursday, September 12

Hunger of Memory:
The Education of Richard Rodriguez
by RICHARD RODRIGUEZ
Thursday, November 14

The Expendable Man
by DOROTHY B. HUGHES
Thursday, October 10

The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America
by GEORGE PACKER
Thursday, December 1