



AUTHORS, LECTURES, & MORE HIGHLIGHTS



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. **Members Free; Public \$12**

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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, mannerisms 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 & Historical 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' Institute of Rochester, New York and explains how their experience was typical of the growing influence of women in the budding Arts and Crafts Movement. **No Registration Required. Members Only. Free**



More Authors' Carnival events on page 7

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 College, headed the Learning Commons library at the Exploratorium, and has been the principal of her own consulting firm, Information Edge. In addition, she is the current president of the international Special Libraries Association and the



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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

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 Aragón. 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



Volunteer Judith Kahn

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.



Hannah Arendt



The Art of Spiegelman

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.



Barbara Stanwyck

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 SACCO

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.



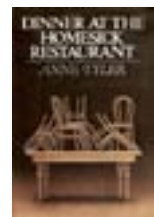
Some Danger Involved

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

A child born of a forbidden love gets a sci-fi twist in this new comic series from *New York Times* bestselling writer Brian K. Vaughan and artist Fiona Staples.

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 milibrary.org/discussion.

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CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

TED Talk

Tuesday, August 6, 12:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Topic: Music and Emotion

Join us for our monthly First Tuesday TED Talk. This month we'll watch a talk that Michael Tilson Thomas, SFO Music



Director, gave in 2012 on music and emotion. Why do we connect so easily to organized sound and silence? What happens when you remove emotion from music? We'll explore these topics and more in an informal discussion after the short viewing.

Bring your lunch and participate or simply listen; either way you'll walk away with insight into our musical heritage and more resources to further explore the topic.

eMagazine Workshop

Wednesday, August 7, 12:00 pm or 5:00 pm

The Mechanics' Institute offers nineteen popular magazine titles in full cover-to-cover digital format that can be read on your computer, iPad, iPhone, Android device, and more. Come to this half-hour, hands-on workshop to learn how to access and read our digital magazines. **Walk-ins Welcome.**



eBook Workshop

Wednesday, August 7, 12:30 pm or 5:30 pm

Want to make more use of your membership and iPad, iPhone, or Android device? Learn to download free eBooks from the library. This half-hour workshop will provide hands-on experience checking out eBooks and answer your questions. **Walk-ins Welcome.**



ValueLine Research Center

Thursday, August 8, 10:00 am

Learn how to navigate the online format of the ValueLine database, one of the most widely consulted and highly regarded investment information publications. Find objective research, insightful analysis, commentary, and proven price projections and recommendations. The web-based format covers more than 5,000 publicly traded companies. It is accessible remotely from your home or office, or from your laptop or public computers in the MI Library.



Tech Office Hours

Friday, August 9, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

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. Contact Jeremy Snell at 415.393.0111 or jsnell@milibrary.org for more information or to set up an appointment.



Gale Directory of Publications & Broadcast Media

Thursday, August 22, 10:00 am

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. Attendees will learn how to export search results. This database is accessible to members in the MI Library and by remote access.

Information and Registration: 415.393.0102, or go to our website at milibrary.org/class and click on the class title. Classes are open to Mechanics' Institute members and guests, and are free. All Classes are held in the 3rd floor Class Rooms and require advance registration unless otherwise noted.

CHESS

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

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 Velotti-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**



Daniel Naroditsky

Chess for Women

Sundays, August 4, 11, 18, 25
11:00 pm – 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

Tournaments

Saturday, August 3
10:00 am – 8:00 pm
13th Annual Vladimir Pafnutieff 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
8th 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 – 8:50 pm
Wednesday Night Blitz
DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

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

Thursday Night Lessons

August 8, 15, 22, 29
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
TAUGHT BY M.I. GRANDMASTER-IN-RESIDENCE
NICK DE FIRMIAN (continued on page 7)

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

Chess

(continued from page 6)

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW



Deborah Hunt

(continued from page 1)

former president (two times) of the Bay Area Library and Information Network (BayNet). Her resume lists twenty-three professional presentations, eleven published papers, five professional awards, and ten teaching and training assignments. Deb is also the co-author of *The Librarian's Skillbook: 51 Essential Career Skills for Information Professionals*, being released in August. She has a Masters of Library Science degree from UC Berkeley and has lived in the East Bay for decades.

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.

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

Celebrating our members' creative achievements.



Artists Wanted



The Mechanics' Institute is looking for artists who have portable art to display at our first public art show (scheduled for November 5). If you are interested please contact Taryn Edwards at 415.393.0103 or tedwards@milibrary.org. **This offer is extended to Mechanics' Institute members only.**

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.**



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



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

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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

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.

September 3

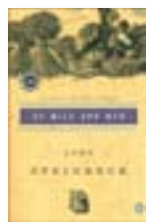
First Tuesday

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.

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 for 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