

THIS MONTH AT THE

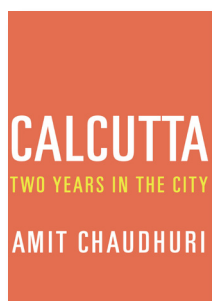


# Mechanics' Institute

www.milibrary.org

VOL. 3, NO. 10 OCTOBER 2013

## AUTHORS, LECTURES, & MORE HIGHLIGHT



**Tuesday, October 1, 6:00 pm**

***Calcutta: Two Years in the City* (Knopf)**

BY AMIT CHAUDHURI

In his first non-fiction book, Chaudhuri masterfully merges the genres of memoir, reportage and history as a way to describe the transformations of this ancient city and modern India.

**Members Free; Public \$15**

Continued on page 2

## LIBRARY NEWS

### A New Design for Our Website

JEREMY SNELL,  
WEB LIBRARIAN

**O**n September 30, the Mechanics' Institute will launch the next generation of its website at milibrary.org. We unveiled the current version of our website 3 years ago, so many of you may wonder why we're changing to a new design so soon. The redesigned site provides numerous improvements that will make it easier to use and give us more avenues for expanding our services online in the future.

**Going mobile.** More than 10% of our visitors are using their phone or tablet to browse our website, and this percentage continues to grow a little every month. Our relaunched site will provide a more streamlined experience for those on mobile devices that will make our site easier to read, browse, and use.

(continued on page 7)

## CHESS

**Wednesday Night Lessons (After 6 – Chess for Adults)**

**October 2, 9, 16, 23, 6:00 – 7:30 pm**

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Did you learn how to move the chess pieces as a child? Would you like to learn more? This class is for you! Join a small group of MI members in a relaxed setting to improve your chess skills. In four Wednesday evenings you will dramatically improve your game, learning: Major Openings, Check Mate Patterns, and Endgame Strategies.

Full listing on page 6

## AUTHORS' CARNIVAL HIGHLIGHT



**Thursday, October 17, 6:00 pm**

**Blogging for Authors: Building a Platform,  
Establishing Your Brand, and Reaping the Benefits**

4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

As an author, you're in a uniquely valuable position to realize the potential that's in your own work. In this presentation you'll see how you can use your knowledge to become a trusted authority, build an online asset, and use your content to attract an endless flow of engaged readers just looking for what you have to offer. **Members Free; Public \$12**

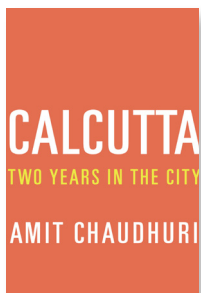
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# AUTHORS, LECTURES, & MORE

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

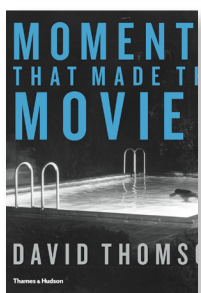


## **Calcutta: Two Years in the City (Knopf)**

**Tuesday, October 1, 6:00 pm** Co-sponsored by Asia Society, Northern California

BY AMIT CHAUDHURI

In his first non-fiction book, Chaudhuri masterfully merges the genres of memoir, reportage and history as a way to describe the transformations of this ancient city and modern India. Amit guides us through not only the historical and political trajectory and turmoil of this city, but also the various streets, teashops, music stores and more. His personal narrations and stories offer an intimate, richly sensual portrait of the city. **Members Free; Public \$15**



## **Moments that Made the Movies (Thames and Hudson)**

**Wednesday, October 9, 6:00 pm**

BY DAVID THOMSON

Renowned cinema writer and critic David Thomson asserts that as little as fifteen frames can make a significant contribution and shift the direction of a film. Thomson allows readers to experience (or re-experience) these singular movie moments with beautifully reproduced imagery as he examines 70 uniquely revealing scenes. Examples include *Bonnie and Clyde*, *Doddsworth*, *The Lady Eve* and other cinema treasures. Come hear the "master" talk about these films.

**Members Free; Public \$15**



Robert Burton, MD



Jonathon Keats



Tania Lombrozo



Jane McGonigal, PhD

## **LITQUAKE PANEL**

### **Get Real: Perception and the Nature of Reality**

**Tuesday, October 15, 6:30 pm (3rd Floor Library)**

MODERATED BY RANSOM STEPHENS

Is there an absolute reality? Some reality independent of perception? If so, how do we access it? If not, how do we know that what's out there is really out there? We've assembled a neurologist, an artist, an alternate reality game designer, a psychologist, and a physicist to answer these questions and yours! Participants include **Robert Burton, MD, Jonathon Keats, Tania Lombrozo and Jane McGonigal.**

**Robert Burton, MD.**, is former Neurology chief at Mt. Zion-UCSF, novelist (*Doc-in-A-Box*, *Cellmates*), and author of the recent *A Skeptic's Guide to the Mind*. [rburton.com](http://rburton.com).

Writer and artist **Jonathon Keats** is the author of six books including *Forged: Why Fakes are the Great Art of Our Age* (Oxford University Press).

**Tania Lombrozo** is an Associate Professor of Psychology at UC Berkeley; she also blogs for NPR's *13.7* and sometimes pretends to be a philosopher. [cognition.berkeley.edu](http://cognition.berkeley.edu).

**Jane McGonigal, PhD**, is a world-renowned game designer and author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Reality is Broken*. [janemcgonigal.com](http://janemcgonigal.com)

**Ransom Stephens, PhD**, is a science writer, physicist, and technologist. His new novel, *The Sensory Deception*, puts you in the realities of endangered animals. [ransomstephens.com](http://ransomstephens.com)

**MI Members and Litquake "Bestsellers" Free; Public \$15**

***Finding the Dragon Lady: The Mystery of Vietnam's Madame Nhu* (Public Affairs)**

**Thursday, October 24, 6:00 pm** Cosponsored by Asia Society, Northern California

AUTHOR MONIQUE BRINSON DEMERY IN CONVERSATION WITH ANDREW LAM



Madame Nhu, the young and glamorous first lady of the Republic of South Vietnam, played a pivotal role in one of the darkest events of American history: the U.S. government's fateful decision to support the 1963 military coup that toppled South Vietnam's ruling government. Nicknamed "the Dragon Lady," she remains one of the most memorable, most demonized, and most mysterious figures of the entire Vietnam War period. Author Monique Brinson Demery weaves an account of her own journey of discovery with the extraordinary story of Madame Nhu's life, illuminating the complicated woman at the heart of a generation-defining conflict, and explaining what became of her in its aftermath. **Members of MI & AS Free; Public \$15**



## CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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

For thirteen 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.

## HAUNTED HOLLYWOOD



**Friday, October 4**  
***The Raven* (1963)**

DIRECTED BY ROGER CORMAN  
Boris Karloff, Vincent Price,  
Peter Lorre

Three elderly wizards engage in a war of wits and magic in Roger Corman's irreverent spoof of the famous Poe poem.



**Friday, October 11**  
***The Time Machine* (1960)**

DIRECTED BY GEORGE PAL  
Rod Taylor, Yvette Mimieux

A time traveler journeys to the distant future in this lively adaptation of the H.G. Wells novel.



**Friday, October 18**  
***Don't Look Now* (1973)**

DIRECTED BY NICOLAS ROEG  
Julie Christie,  
Donald Sutherland

Atmospheric cinematography, fine acting and an intelligent screenplay combine in this chilling and effective ghost story set in Venice.



**Friday, October 25**  
***The Bride of Frankenstein* (1935)**

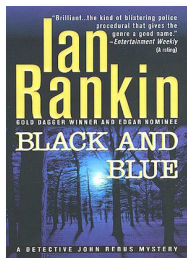
DIRECTED BY JAMES WHALE  
Boris Karloff, Elsa Lanchester

The classic Universal Studios sequel to the 1931 *Frankenstein* includes some of the most memorable and iconic moments in fantastic cinema.

**Information & registration:** 415.393.0100 or [milibrary.org/events](http://milibrary.org/events). All events are held in the 4th floor Meeting Room and require advance registration unless otherwise noted.

# 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.



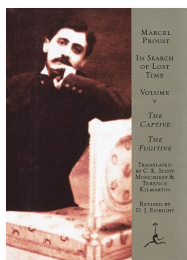
**Monday, October 7, Noon**

**Brown Bag Mystery Readers**

***Black and Blue***

BY IAN RANKIN

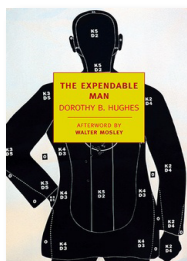
"Bible John" terrorized Glasgow in the sixties and seventies, murdering three women he met in a local ballroom—and he was never caught. Now a copycat is at work. Written with Ian Rankin's signature wit, style and intricacy, *Black and Blue* is a novel of uncommon and unforgettable intrigue. (courtesy of IngramContent.com) **Free. Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**



**Wednesday, October 9 & 23, 5:30 pm**

**The 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 meets from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. From 6:45 – 8:00 pm, the World Literature Group discusses Proustian-inspired works. The new semester began on September 11th, and **these groups are now closed to additional registrations.** For more information, contact Dr. Calkins at [mark@tempsperdu.com](mailto:mark@tempsperdu.com) or Diane Lai at [dlai@milibrary.org](mailto:dlai@milibrary.org). **Registration is closed.**



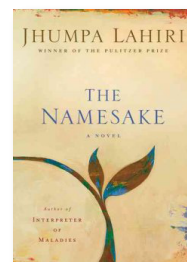
**Thursday, October 10, 4:00 – 5:30 pm**

**California Dreamers**

***The Expendable Man***

BY DOROTHY B. HUGHES

The central figure of this noir suspense novel is a young black physician whose life becomes increasingly insecure and nightmarish because of his possible involvement in the death of a white girl he picks up while driving from Los Angeles to visit his family in Phoenix. Although he has improbably helpful relatives and friends, he is frequently reminded that he could easily become an "expendable man" (in Arizona if not in California) because of racial prejudice and presumed guilt. Not a trace of the "love" culture of the 1960s here. **Free. Members Only. Registration Required.**



**Tuesday, October 15, Noon**

**Fiction You Wish You Had Read**

***The Namesake***

BY JHUMPA LAHIRI

*The Namesake* takes the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans. On the heels of an arranged wedding, Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli settle in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Ashoke does his best to adapt while his wife pines for home. When their son, Gogol, is born, the task of naming him betrays their hope of respecting old ways in a new world. With empathy and penetrating insight, Lahiri explores the expectations bestowed on us by our parents and the means by which we come to define who we are. (courtesy of IngramContent.com) **Free. Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

**Information & registration:** Diane Lai at 415.393.0118 or [dlai@milibrary.org](mailto:dlai@milibrary.org). All books are available at the 2nd floor Circulation desk. All book discussions are held in the 4th floor Board Room. Register online at [milibrary.org/discussion](http://milibrary.org/discussion).



# CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY



**Tuesday, October 1, 12:00 - 1:00 pm**

**1st Tuesday TED Talk**

**Topic: Cloning**

**4th Floor Meeting Room**

With Halloween just a few weeks away, this month we'll be discussing some creepy science: cloning. To get us in the mindset, we'll begin by watching a short talk Stewart Brand gave earlier this year, *The Dawn of De-Extinction: Are You Ready?* Brand explores the technology of bringing extinct species back to life while also exploring the ethics behind such actions. How do you feel about cloning? What sort of lines should be drawn? We'll explore these topics and more in an informal discussion following the video. **Walk-ins Welcome.**



**Wednesday, October 2, 12:00 pm or 5:00 pm**

**eMagazine Workshop**

The Mechanics' Institute offers 19 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 and you'll leave with your account set up and magazines ready to read! **Walk-ins Welcome.**

**Wednesday, October 2, 12:30 pm or 5:30 pm**

**eBook Workshop**

In this short workshop, you'll learn to download free, popular eBooks from the library to your Kindle, iOS or Android device, and other eReaders. This ¾ hour workshop will provide hands-on experience checking out eBooks and answer your questions. **Walk-ins Welcome.**



**Thursday, October 3, 10:00 - 11:00 am**

**Getting Your Affairs in Order**

**4th Floor Meeting Room**

Regardless of your age or physical condition, now is the time to get your affairs in order! Gather your health, finance and legal documents and other important papers into one place, make a complete record of personal and professional contacts, and ensure that medical directives have been executed. We will discuss the resources available at the library and online to assist you in organizing your personal files. You will receive organizational tools that will help you create an efficient and comprehensive system for storing your information. **Registration Required. Members Only.**

**Wednesday, October 9, 12:00 pm or 5:00 pm**

**eAudiobook Workshop**

Members have access to over 3,000 audiobook titles that can be checked out, downloaded, and accessed on smartphones, tablets, and many MP3 players. During this half-hour session, you'll set up your eAudiobook account, check out a title, and get all your questions answered. **Walk-ins Welcome.**



**Thursday, October 10, 10:00 - 11:30 am**

**Standard & Poor's NetAdvantage**

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. **Registration Required. Members Only.**

**Wednesday, October 16, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Tech Office Hours**

**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. **Registration Required. Members Only.**

**Tuesday, October 22, 10:00 - 11:30 am**

**Get to Know Microsoft Word: Document Creation**

Learn to use Microsoft Word 2007, the word processing program you will use to create, edit and save documents for personal or professional use. Whether you are new to word processing, or familiar with other software, this step-by-step instruction will teach you the basics and provide hands-on practice. Laptops will be available in the classroom. **Registration Required. Members Only.**



**Thursday, October 24, 10:00 - 11:30 am**

**Learn to Use the Library's Financial Newsletters**

In just over an hour become familiar with the Library's collection of more than twenty investment letter subscriptions covering stocks, mutual funds, commodities, turnaround situations, technical analysis and market timing. In addition, 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. **Registration Required. Members Only.**

**Information and registration:** 415.393.0102 or [milibrary.org/class](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Class Rooms and require advance registration unless otherwise noted.

# Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

**T**he Mechanics' Institute entry in the United States Chess League got off to an excellent start by winning its first match against the Los Angeles Vibe by a score of 3 to 1.

## San Francisco Mechanics' Los Angeles Vibe

### Board 1

GM Vinay Bhat  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  IM Andranik Matikozian

### Board 2

GM Daniel Naroditsky 1-0 IM Zhanibek Amanov

### Board 3

FM Yian Liou  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  FM Luke Harmon-Velotti

### Board 4

Siddarth Banik 1-0 Nicky Korba

The US Chess League regular season lasts two and a half months with games played weekly on the Internet at [www.chess.com](http://www.chess.com). The public has a choice between watching the matches at the Mechanics' Institute (spectators are always welcome) or viewing them online live with commentary at Chess.com.



Siddarth Bannik (Left) and Vinay Bhat (Right)

## Tournaments

**Saturday, October 5**

**10:00 am - 8:00 pm**

13th Annual J.J. Dolan Memorial G/45

**Saturday, October 19**

**10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Children's Quad

## Chess for Women

**Sundays, October 6, 13, 20, 27**

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

FUNDED BY A GIFT IN MEMORY OF R. MARTIN WISKEMANN

## Tuesday Night Events

**October 1, 22, 29**

**5:15 pm - 6:15 pm**

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

**6:30 pm - 10:30 pm**

Fall Tuesday Night Marathon

## Wednesday Night Blitz

**October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

**6:30 pm - 8:50 pm**

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

## Wednesday Night Lessons (After 6 - Chess for Adults)

**October 2, 9, 16, 23**

**6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

## Thursday Night Lessons

**October 24, 30**

**7:00 pm - 9:00 pm**

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

## Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

**October 5, 12, 19, 26**

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT  
WINSLOW

**Information & reservations:** 415.393.0110 or [chessclub.org](http://chessclub.org). Photos by Michael Aigner.

## Website (continued from page 1)

**ADA compliance.** We have also brought our site up to be more in line with ADA guidelines for websites and will continue to make small modifications in the weeks to come. Some of the changes are easily apparent such as high contrast between the background and text color, and an increase in font size throughout the site. Other changes now make the site easier to navigate for those using screen readers and other assistive technologies.

**Making the web more usable.** A lot of information in our previous design required multiple clicks to reach or wasn't categorized intuitively. We've had to help many of you find the purchase suggestion form, instructions for remote printing, or information on particular events. With the revamped menu system and organization, it should be much simpler to access the information and services you are looking for.

**New Features.** Info guides will soon be appearing on the website. These guides to library materials and websites are curated by librarians to give you a jumping off point for your information needs. If there's a particular topic you think should be addressed, let a librarian know! We'll consider it for a guide as we continue to add to this section.

In the months to come, we will be looking for volunteers to participate in usability tests to continue to refine and add to our website. Stay tuned for a call for volunteers in future issues of this newsletter and online. In the meantime, if you have any feedback, please contact me at [jsnell@milibrary.org](mailto:jsnell@milibrary.org) or 415.393.0111.

## AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

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



### Write Now!

**Tuesday, October 8, Noon (second Tuesday of the month)**

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.**



### Tua and the Elephant with Randal

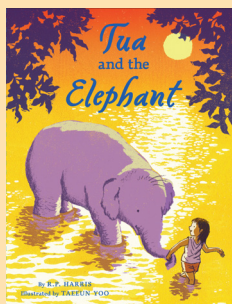
**Harris and Tamra Tuller**

**Thursday, October 10, 6:00 pm**

4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

Join MI member author Randal Harris and his editor Tamra Tuller (Chronicle Books) as he presents and reads from *Tua and the Elephant* and shares his writing and publishing experience.

*Tua* has been reviewed by the *New York Times*. It also is a *Texas Bluebonnet Award Nominee* for 2013-2014. If you are interested in children's publishing this event will provide a unique insight into the process. If you are working on a similar project this is a great opportunity to learn from Randal's experiences. **Members Free; Public \$12**



### Blogging for Authors: Building a Platform, Establishing Your Brand, and Reaping the Benefits

**Thursday, October 17, 6:00 pm**

4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

As an author, you're in a uniquely valuable position to realize the potential that's in your own work. In this presentation you'll see how you can use your knowledge to become a trusted authority, build an online asset, and use your content to attract an endless flow of engaged readers just looking for what you have to offer. This presentation will show you the latest innovations writers are using to build a sustainable business, how opportunities can start chasing you, and just how many ways there are to profit from your expertise.

**Members Free; Public \$12**



**THE BOOK DESIGNER**  
practical advice to help build better books

(continued on page 8)

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



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 E-mail: [reference@milibrary.org](mailto: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

Sarah Cruz, Editor

## LITQUAKE OFF-SITE EVENT (continued from page 2)

*Songs of Willow Frost* (Ballantine Books)

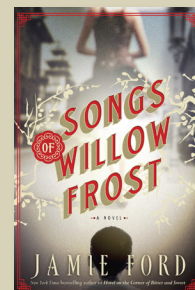
Wednesday, October 16, 7:00 pm

**OFF-SITE EVENT** Co-sponsored by Mechanics' Institute and Asia Society, Northern California

BY JAMIE FORD



All twelve-year-old William Eng knows about his mother, Lieu Song, is that five years ago she was carried half-conscious out of their home and taken away in a taxi. After seeing an actress in a movie who he's convinced is Lieu Song, he sets out to find her. Set in depression era Seattle, Jamie Ford's story weaves an engrossing family mystery into the history of Hollywood and the almost forgotten realities of racial discrimination.



**Location:** Glass Door Gallery, 245 Columbus Avenue #B, SF

**Admission:** \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door

**Reservations and information:** 415.500.2271 or

[www.litquake.org/calendar-of-events/songs-of-willow-frost-an-evening-with-jamie-ford](http://www.litquake.org/calendar-of-events/songs-of-willow-frost-an-evening-with-jamie-ford)

## ARTISTS' SOIREE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
 2ND FLOOR LIBRARY

Come to our first public art show displaying the work of over twenty MI member artists. Enjoy discussing art while browsing our local talent and getting a jump start on your holiday shopping. Art will be available for purchase and the artists on hand to discuss their techniques and philosophy.

If you are interested in showing your work please contact **Taryn Edwards 415.393.0103** or [tedwards@milibrary.org](mailto:tedwards@milibrary.org) for more information. The deadline to participate is October 7. This offer is extended to MI members only.

**Members and Guests Free; Public \$5.**

Here's a glimpse of some of the art you'll see



*The Persian Boy*  
 Andrew Ogus



*Leonardo's Vitruvian Man Reconsidered*  
 Don Anderson



*The Invention of Television*  
 Dean Volker



*The Somnambulist*  
 Barbara Chestnut