

THIS MONTH AT THE



Mechanics'

Institute

www.milibrary.org

VOL. 3, NO. 11 NOVEMBER 2013

EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT



SUBTLE CHANNELS - An OuLiPo Laboratory: Present, Past, and Future

Thursday, November 7, 6:00 pm

Paris Oulipo president Paul Fournel and fellow member Hervé Le Tellier are joined by San Francisco Oulipian Daniel Levin Becker, and Seattle poet Doug Nufer, who will read or

otherwise perform their own oulipian texts as well as highlights from the workshop's first half century.

Full listing on page 2

Seamus Heaney: the Berkeley Days (1970-1971): A poetry reading to commemorate Seamus Heaney and his days at UC Berkeley



Tuesday, November 19, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Join us to remember Irish poet and Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney (1939-2013) and listen to readings and reflections of scholars and poets who knew him during his time spent in residence at the University of California at Berkeley.

More Authors' Carnival Events on page 7

PICTURING THE NEWS

Picturing the News: A Look at the San Francisco Examiner Photographic Negative Collection

Monday, December 2, 4:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Pictorial Processing Archivist Lori Hines will present a slideshow and talk on trends in journalism, culture, and history she observed while sorting, re-housing, and describing the collection of 3.6 million negatives from ca. 1930-2000.



Full listing on page 7

INSTITUTE

Fall Closures

TARYN EDWARDS, MEMBERSHIP
RELATIONS / MARKETING
SPECIALIST

It's hard to believe summer is gone! The Institute wishes you to be aware of changes to our hours around the November holidays.

Veterans Day, November 11

Library and Chess Room Closed
Building hours 8:00 am - 6:00pm

Day Before Thanksgiving November 27

Library and Chess Room open
9am - 5pm
Building hours 8:00 am - 6:00pm

Thanksgiving November 28

Library and Chess Room Closed
Building Closed

Day After Thanksgiving November 29

Library and Chess Room Closed
Building hours 8:00 am - 6:00pm

Inside

Events & Special Programs	2
CinemaLit	3
Classes	4
Book Discussions	5
Chess	6
Authors' Carnival	7

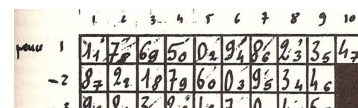
EVENTS

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

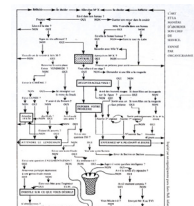
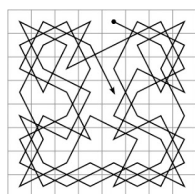
Thursday, November 7, 6:00 pm

SUBTLE CHANNELS - An Oulipo Laboratory: Present, Past, and Future

Co-produced by City Lights, Mechanics' Institute and San Francisco Art Institute
Paris Oulipo president **Paul Fournel** and fellow member **Hervé Le Tellier** are joined by San Francisco Oulipian **Daniel Levin Becker**, author of *Many Subtle Channels* (Harvard University Press), and Seattle poet **Doug Nufer**, who will read or otherwise perform their own oulipian texts as well as highlights from the workshop's first half century. This event is day two of a three day long **Oulipo Laboratory**. For more info and festival schedule visit: subtlechannels.tumblr.com.



Since the early 1960s, the Ouvroir de Littérature Potentielle — Workshop of Potential Literature, or Oulipo — has been borrowing mathematical and scientific theories to develop new structures for literary creation. In its explorations, the workshop has both rejuvenated age-old forms, such as the sonnet, sestina, and lipogram, and created new delights like the subway poem, the N+7 technique, and the first choose-your-own-adventure fiction in history. This evening, Hervé Le Tellier will also deliver a reading from his new book *Electro W*, published by Other Press. Opening statements by Peter Maravelis of City Lights Booksellers. **Members and Co-sponsors Free; Public \$12**



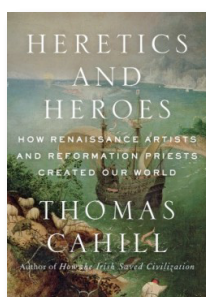
Thursday, November 14, 6:00 pm*

Heretics and Heroes: How Renaissance Artists and Reformation Priests Created our World (Nan A. Talese/ Doubleday)

THOMAS CAHILL

Thomas Cahill's intimate and lucid approach to history brings the Renaissance and Reformation alive in the sixth volume in his *Hinges of History* series. The catastrophic pandemic now known as The Black Death decimated Europe in the fourteenth century and shook western society to its foundations. It also touched off an era of rapid innovation and change that lasted over two hundred years. From the late 14th to the early 17th centuries, religious pieties were overthrown, continents discovered, and sublime art created. With humor and insight, Cahill examines the fundamental, often breathtaking changes in European thought that paved the way to the modern world. *Café opens at 5:30 pm: Enjoy 16th Century Renaissance lute music performed by Dan Winheld and Italian cuisine before the program.

Members Free; Public \$15



Monday, November 18, 6:00 pm

Empress Dowager Cixi: The Concubine Who Launched Modern China (Alfred A. Knopf)

Co-sponsored by Asia Society

JUNG CHANG

In this groundbreaking account, Jung Chang describes how Empress Dowager Cixi fought against monumental obstacles to bring China into the modern world. From the successful palace coup she launched in 1861, to her death in 1908, she ruled over a massive empire, confronting crises like the Taiping and Boxer rebellions and war with France and Japan. She also brought in reforms against foot-binding and cruel punishments and introduced industries, electricity, the telegraph, and other modern amenities to what had been a medieval empire. Packed with romance, drama, and history, this biography of Dowager Empress Cixi, the most important woman in Chinese history, is a true page-turner.

Members of MI and 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. Come for the movie. Stay for the discussion!

BARBARA STANWYCK: DARK STAR



Friday, November 1

***Stella Dallas* (1937)**

DIRECTED BY KING VIDOR

Barbara Stanwyck, John Boles

Stanwyck was nominated for a best actress Oscar for her bravura performance in this heartbreaking melodrama about class, mother love, and sacrifice.



Friday, November 8

***The File on Thelma Jordan* (1949)**

DIRECTED BY ROBERT SIODMAK

Barbara Stanwyck, Wendell Corey

In this beautifully shot classic of California noir, a mysterious woman ensnares a smitten district attorney in a tangled web of theft, murder and deceit



Friday, November 15

***Clash by Night* (1952)**

DIRECTED BY FRITZ LANG

Barbara Stanwyck, Paul Douglas,
Marilyn Monroe

Playwright Clifford Odets wrote the screenplay about a dangerous passion between a discontented, working-class wife and her husband's best friend.



Friday, November 22

***Forty Guns* (1957)**

Special Guest: Film Critic Kelly Vance

DIRECTED BY SAMUEL FULLER

Barbara Stanwyck, Barry Sullivan

Stanwyck plays a tough, unscrupulous landowner who tests an ex-gunslinger's vow of non-violence.

With Special Guest Film Critic Kelly Vance.

SEASON FINALE



Friday, December 6

***Remember the Night* (1940)**

DIRECTED BY MITCHELL LEISEN

Barbara Stanwyck, Fred MacMurray

A kind district attorney offers a holiday refuge to a shoplifter in this comic and tenderhearted fable.

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

CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

Tuesday, November 5, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

1st Tuesday TED Talk

Topic: Gaming

4th Floor Meeting Room

We're bringing gameplay into more aspects of our lives, spending countless hours – and real money – exploring virtual worlds for imaginary treasures. Why? As Tom Chatfield shows, games are perfectly tuned to dole out rewards that engage the brain and keep us questing for more. We'll explore these topics and more in an informal discussion following the video. Bring your lunch and participate or just listen. **Walk-ins Welcome.**



Thursday, November 7, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Gale Business Insights: Essentials

Learn to research and analyze companies to obtain competitor intelligence and access in-depth industry profiles using this database. Discover how to develop focused lists of companies by industry or location. Access relevant articles published in scholarly journals, investigate investment opportunities, and find parent-subsidary relationships. Additional content covers company rankings, brand name and product information, financial reports and histories.

Registration Required. Members Only.

Wednesday, November 13, 12:00 pm or 5:00 pm

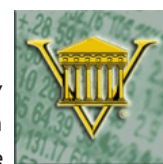
eAudiobook Workshop

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, November 14, 10:00 - 11:00 am

ValueLine Resource Center

Learn to navigate one of the most widely used independent investment information services. This class covers the classic *ValueLine Investment Survey* which focuses on the common stocks traded for 1,700 public companies, plus the *Small Cap Survey* that looks at the stock of 1,800 more junior companies. Additional surveys examined in this class include mutual funds, options & convertible securities as well as special situations services. **Registration Required. Members Only.**



Thursday, November 14, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Shop Smarter for the Holidays

As you prepare for the holiday shopping season, come to our Shop Smarter class and acquire the tools and tips to find the best deals and protect yourself when shopping online and in stores. Learn from MI Library's wealth of up-to-date and comprehensive consumer information to become a savvy shopper this shopping season and beyond.

Registration Required. Members Only.



Wednesday, November 20, 2:30 - 3:30 pm

Introduction to Twitter

Twitter can be a valuable tool to keep up with news and current events, as well as to communicate with others. In this class, each student will set up a Twitter profile, learn the interface on twitter.com, and start sending out tweets. In order to set up a new Twitter account, please have a working email account prior to attending this class. **Registration Required. Members Only.**

BACK-TO-BACK WORKSHOPS: Attend one or both workshops to learn how to access and download eMagazines and eBooks from the library.

Wednesday, November 6, 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, November 6, 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 3/4-hour workshop will provide hands-on experience checking out eBooks and answer your questions. **Walk-ins Welcome.**



Information and registration: 415.393.0102 or milibrary.org/events, select the Classes tab 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.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

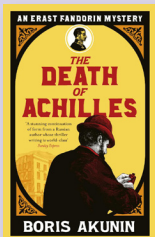
Our member-only Book Groups select, read, and discuss books of a particular type or genre. Members lead the discussions, new members are always welcome, and registration is not required (unless otherwise specified). Please note that Book Groups are not author events and the authors will not be present during the discussions.

Monday, November 4, Noon

Brown Bag Mystery Readers

The Death of Achilles

BY BORIS AKUNIN



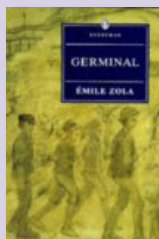
In 1882, after six years of foreign travel and adventure, renowned diplomat and detective Erast Fandorin returns to Moscow in the heart of Mother Russia. His Moscow homecoming is anything but peaceful. In the hotel where he and his loyal if impertinent manservant Masa are staying, Fandorin's old war-hero friend General Michel Sobolev ("Achilles" to the crowd) has been found dead, felled in his armchair by an apparent heart attack. But Fandorin suspects an unnatural cause. (courtesy of IngramContent.com) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

Thursday, November 7, 6:00 pm

Forgotten Classics

Germinal

BY EMILE ZOLA



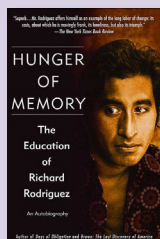
This has been called the first great proletariat novel in its harsh and realistic portrayal of a nineteenth century coal miners' strike. We follow the life of Etienne, introduced in Zola's earlier novel *L'Assommoir*, who gets a new start in his life as a manual laborer, only to lead a revolt. **Registration Required. Members Only.**

Thursday, November 14, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

California Dreamers

Hunger for Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez

BY RICHARD RODRIGUEZ



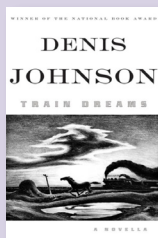
Rodriguez (born in 1944) writes this first installment of his autobiography as a story of education triumphant. The son of Mexican immigrants living in Sacramento, he starts school knowing barely 50 words of English, and makes his way to graduate studies at Princeton through some combination of natural talent and well-intentioned programs such as "affirmative action." From there he could easily go on to comfortable academic career, but his dream of success and his sense of personal integrity lead him in a different direction. **Registration Required. Members Only.**

Tuesday, November 19, Noon

Fiction You Wish You Had Read

Train Dreams

BY DENIS JOHNSON



Denis Johnson's *Train Dreams* is an epic in miniature, one of his most evocative and poignant fictions. It is the story of Robert Grainier, a day laborer in the American West at the start of the twentieth century—an ordinary man in extraordinary times. Buffeted by the loss of his family, Grainer struggles to make sense of this strange new world. As his story unfolds, we witness both his shocking personal defeats and the radical changes that transform America in his lifetime. (courtesy of IngramContent.com) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

Information & registration: Diane Lai at 415.393.0118 or 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/events, select the Book Group Meetings tab and click on the name of the Book Group.

Chess

News

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON,
DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

National Master Hayk Manvelyan recently won back to back Tuesday Night Marathons, something seldom seen in the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room. The 19-year-old from Fremont scored a Bobby Fischer-like 16 points from 17 games to run away with the two events and take \$1000 in prize money. This result brings Hayk's rating to 2360, only 40 points from the U.S. Chess Federation's Senior Master title, the highest award the U.S.C.F. bestows.

The Tuesday Night Marathon has been a mainstay of the Chess Room since its inception over 40 years ago. The once a week schedule, with games going to 10:30 pm at the very latest, is well-suited to those who like to challenge themselves but can't afford to devote their entire weekends. The 80 or so players that compete in each Marathon range in playing strength from International Master to near beginner with all welcome.



Hayk Manvelyan

Chess for Women

Sundays, November 3, 10, 17, 24
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

FUNDED BY A GIFT IN MEMORY OF R. MARTIN
WISKEMANN



Tournaments

Saturday, November 2
10:00 am – 8:00 pm
40th Carroll Capps Memorial

Sunday, November 3
10:00 am – 8:00 pm
40th Carroll Capps Memorial

Saturday, November 9
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Children's Quad

Saturday, November 16
10:00 am – 8:00 pm
12th Annual Saint Amant Memorial G/45

Tuesday Night Events

November 5, 12, 19, 26
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON
6:30 pm – 10:30 pm
Fall Tuesday Night Marathon

Wednesday Night Blitz

November 6, 13, 20, 27
6:30 pm – 8:50 pm

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

Thursday Night Lessons

November 7, 14, 21 7:00pm – 9:00 pm

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

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT
WINSLOW

Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or chessclub.org. Photo by Arun Sharma.

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

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



Write Now!

Tuesday, November 12, 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.**



Seamus Heaney: the Berkeley Years A poetry reading to commemorate Seamus Heaney and his days at UC Berkeley Co-sponsored by the Irish Literary and Historical Society of San Francisco

Tuesday, November 19, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Join us to remember Irish poet and Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney (1939-2013) and listen to readings and reflections of scholars and poets who knew him during his residence at the University of California at Berkeley (1970 - 71 and periods in the 1990s) and those influenced by him in later years. Presentations by UC Berkeley Professors Robert Tracy and Robert Hass. Bring your favorite Heaney poem and share it with the audience. **MI and ILHS Members Free; Public \$15**

Picturing the News: A Look at the *San Francisco Examiner* Photographic Negative Collection

Monday, December 2, 4:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Seven years ago the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley received a gift from the Fang Family of the *San Francisco Examiner* photographic archive, a rich collection of photographs documenting twentieth century San Francisco and more. Pictorial Processing Archivist Lori Hines will present a slideshow and talk on trends in journalism, culture, and history she observed while sorting, re-housing, and describing the collection of 3.6 million negatives from ca. 1930-2000. Images include San Francisco landmarks, World War II home front, celebrities, bohemian life, disasters and vice. Please note: Some images shown might be considered offensive.

Members Free; Public \$15





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

Important Numbers

Circulation: 415.393.0101

Reference: 415.393.0102

Reservation hotline: 415.393.0100

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

Sarah Cruz, Editor

BI-ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

Thursday, December 5

5:30 pm Reception;

6:00 pm Meeting

4TH FLOOR MEETING
ROOM

Join us for our bi-annual Members' Meeting and hear from the staff about new plans, technology updates, and our efforts to improve your experience as members. Bring your comments and questions. **Members and Guests Free.**



HOLIDAY GIFT BOOK & POSTER SALE

Wednesday, December 4

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

4th Floor Meeting Room

Holiday shoppers—come and select the perfect gifts for friends, family, colleagues or significant others! A delightful and diverse selection of hard-covers, paperbacks, book art, posters, and **MORE** will be available for purchase.

The café open for refreshments. Free to all.

Your purchases benefit Library programs and the Events Department.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY GATHERING SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, December 12

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

2nd Floor Library

Join members and friends for some holiday cheer and lively conversation while relaxing to musical interludes. Enjoy gourmet cheeses and hors d'oeuvres, delectable desserts and tempting libations!

Admission \$10 – Open to Members & Guests

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Call 415.393.0100 or online milibrary.org/events

