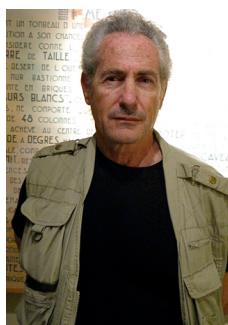




## AUTHORS, LECTURES, & MORE HIGHLIGHT



### *The Roy Stories*

BARRY GIFFORD IN CONVERSATION WITH PETER MARAVELIS, CITY LIGHTS BOOKS AND PUBLISHING

**Wednesday, January 15, 6:00 pm**

For forty years, *The Roy Stories* have been the one continuous unbroken line in the otherwise kaleidoscopic career of one of America's greatest living writers. It chronicles the personal history of Gifford from Chicago to Miami in a Hemingway-style Nick Adams story.

Full listing on page 2

### Writers' Group Mixer



**Thursday, January 9, 6:00 pm**

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Are you interested in joining a writers' group? The Mechanics' Institute hosts several peer writers' support groups and is looking to start a few more. If you want to connect with other writers or are looking for structured feedback on your work, this opportunity might be just the thing to take your writing to the next level.

Full Authors' Carnival listing on page 6

### Writing the Personal Essay

**Saturday, February 8, 2014, 1:00 – 4:00 pm**

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Join us for an afternoon's exploration and celebration of the personal essay. We'll discuss what life material lends itself to the form, whether a small, precisely observed moment or a lifelong obsession.



Full listing on page 8

### LIBRARY NEWS

## Morningstar Investment Research Center

CRAIG JACKSON, COLLECTIONS  
MANAGER LIBRARIAN

**T**his month, the Library begins subscribing to the *Morningstar Investment* service that provides timely and unbiased investment information and analysis covering thousands of securities.

Complete reports for approximately 2,400 mutual funds, 1,400 stocks, and 400 ETFs are available, with guidance on when to buy, sell or hold particular securities. *Quicktake Reports*, which include portfolio, risk, performance, and management information, covers 13,000 funds and 8,000 stocks. Members will have in-house and remote access to *Morningstar Investment Research Center* through the Institute website. This scope has a wide range of features and components.

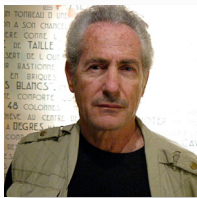
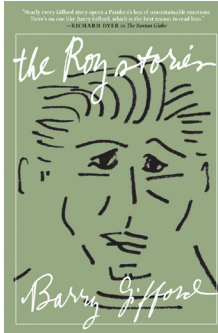
Continued on page 6

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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



**Wednesday, January 15, 6:00 pm**

***The Roy Stories*** (Seven Stories Press)

BARRY GIFFORD

In conversation with Peter Maravelis, Program Director, City Lights Books & Publishing

For forty years, *The Roy Stories* have been the one continuous unbroken line in the otherwise kaleidoscopic career of one of America's greatest living writers. Spanning time and space—the Southern and Midwestern United States from the 1940s through the 1980s—*The Roy Stories* chronicle the personal history of Gifford from Chicago to Miami in a Hemingway-style Nick Adams story. Emotional, exploratory, and brimming with photographic realism, these stories defy the parameters of memoir or autobiography.

Poet, novelist and master of the short story, Barry Gifford, is best known for *Wild at Heart*, *Sailor & Lula: The Complete Novels*, *Sad Stories of the Death of Kings*, *Memories from a Sinking Ship: A Novel* and *Landscape with Traveler*. He has published over forty works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, which have been translated into twenty-eight languages.

**Members Free; Public \$15**



Todd and Faye at  
the Movies



**Wednesday, January 22, 6:00 pm** – Performance and photography from the book!

***The Day of the Locust*** BY NATHANAEL WEST, Limited Edition with original art; designed and published by Andrew Hoyem (Arion Press)

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUCY GRAY

INTRODUCTION BY DAVID THOMSON

Photographer Lucy Gray has re-imagined this American literary classic about the shams of Hollywood and the motion-picture industry with her striking noir-esque photos for this fine art edition by Arion Press. Merging literature, theatre, and visual arts this evening of dramatic readings from *The Day of the Locust* features the six "actors" from her black and white "movie stills".

## CAST:

Lucy Gray - Narrator; Fred Martin - *Californian Who Came to Die*;

Sam Hamm - *Harry Greener*; Sarah Cabrol - *Faye Greener*; Jan Halpern - *Homer Simpson*;

Zachary Thomson - *Earle Shoop*

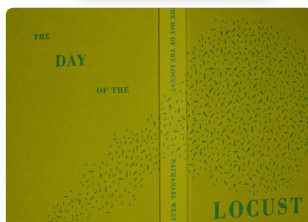


Photo credit: Lucy Gray



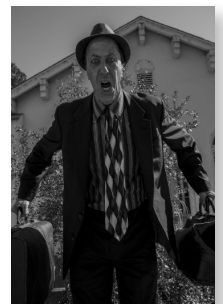
*Californian Who  
Came to Die*



*Faye Greener*



*Harry Meets  
Homer*



*Homer Jumps on  
the Boy*

Thursday, January 30, 6:00 pm

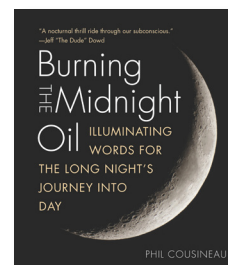
***Burning the Midnight Oil: Illuminating Words for the Long Night's Journey Into Day*** (Cleis Press)

PHIL COUSINEAU

Foreword by Jeff "The Dude" Dowd

Logophile extraordinaire Phil Cousineau, author of *Wordcatcher* and *The Painted Word*, has gathered an eclectic and dynamic collection of soulful poems and prose from great thinkers through the ages. Whether beguiling readers with glorious poetry or ancient tales, Cousineau's insightful anthology will soothe and inspire all who struggle through the dark of the night. The night-writers in this vesperal collection include saints, poets, shamans, artists, astronomers and others such as St. John of the Cross, Annie Dillard, Beethoven, Rabindranath Tagore, Mary Oliver, Jorge Luis Borges, William Blake, Antler, Miles Davis, Li Po, Mahatma Gandhi, Leonardo da Vinci, Sharon Olds, and Edgar Allan Poe to name a few.

Members Free; Public \$15



## CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

**Fridays: Cafe 5:30 pm; Program 6:00 pm.**

**Members Free; Public suggested donation \$10**

### OVER THE TOP: PRE-CODE HOLLYWOOD

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!



**Friday, January 10**

***Hell's Angels*** (1930)

DIRECTED BY HOWARD HUGHES

Ben Lyon, Jean Harlow

Breathtaking aerial combat sequences and Harlow's unabashed breakthrough performance distinguish this World War I spectacle.



**Friday, January 17**

***Female*** (1933)

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL CURTIZ

Ruth Chatterton, George Brent

The no-nonsense CEO of an automobile company gives orders and (ahem) "uses" her employees just like a man.

*Plus* Surprise Short



**Friday, January 24**

***Skyscraper Souls*** (1932)

DIRECTED BY EDGAR SELWYN

Warren William, Maureen O'Sullivan

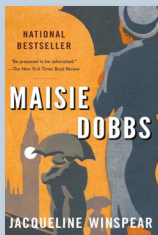
A ruthless financier crushes anyone in his path to maintain control of a 100-story tower and preserve a luxurious lifestyle built on the exploitation of workers and women.

**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 DISCUSSIONS

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**

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## *Maisie Dobbs*

by JACQUELINE WINSPEAR

**Monday, January 13, Noon**

### *Brown Bag Mystery Readers*

Maisie Dobbs isn't just any young housemaid. Through her own natural intelligence—and the patronage of her benevolent employers—she works her way into college at Cambridge. After World War I, Maisie sets up on her own as a private investigator. But her very first assignment, seemingly an ordinary infidelity case, soon reveals a much deeper, darker web of secrets, which will force Maisie to revisit the horrors of the Great War and the love she left behind. **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

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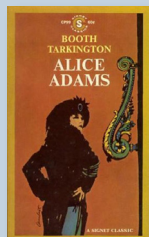


## *The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter*

**Wednesday, January 8 and 22, 5:30 pm**

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 will open in February for the new semester beginning in March 2014.**

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## *Alice Adams*

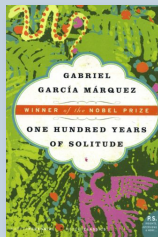
by BOOTH TARKINGTON

**Tuesday, January 21, Noon**

### *Fiction You Wish You Had Read*

A compelling satire, *Alice Adams* details irresistible characteristics of social status in a small Midwestern town. Mr. and Mrs. Adams and their two children are members of the lower middle-class. Their daughter, Alice Adams, wrestles with this economic classification and attempts to make the society folk of the town appreciate her. Booth Tarkington's understanding of class rivalries, social condescension, and financial avarice is evident in this tale where his main point indicates that in every joyless moment hope, though unexpected, is attainable. **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

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## *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

by GABRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ

**Thursday, February 6, 6:00 pm**

### *Forgotten Classics*

The novel tells the story of the rise and fall of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendia family. It is a rich and brilliant chronicle of life and death, and the tragicomedy of humankind. In the noble, ridiculous, beautiful, and tawdry story of the Buendia family, one sees all of humanity, just as in the history, myths, growth, and decay of Macondo, one sees all of Latin America. **Members Only. Registration Required.**

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**Information & registration:** Diane Lai at 415.393.0118, [dlai@milibrary.org](mailto:dlai@milibrary.org), or [milibrary.org/events](http://milibrary.org/events). 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.



# CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

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## First Tuesday TED Talk

Topic: Longevity

Tuesday, January 7, 12:00-1:00 pm

4th Floor Meeting Room

To find the path to long life and health, Dan Buettner and team study the world's "Blue Zones," communities whose elders live with vim and vigor to record-setting ages. In his talk, he shares the nine common diet & lifestyle habits that keep them spry past age 100. Bring your lunch and participate or just listen.

**Walk-ins Welcome.**



## Introduction to Twitter

Wednesday, January 8, 2:30-3:30 pm

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. **Members Only. Registration Required.**



## Tech Office Hours

Tuesday, January 14, 10:00 am-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. To register, contact **Matt Montgomery** with your available time frame and a brief description of your question or problem by emailing [mmontgomery@milibrary.org](mailto:mmontgomery@milibrary.org) or by calling 415.393.0115. Advance registration is appreciated for this free session, although some walk-in opportunities may be available. **Members Only. Registration Required.**

## Morningstar Investment Research Center Databases

Thursday, January 9, 10:00-11:00 am, January 23, 12:00-1:00 pm, or  
February 27 from 10:00 to 11:00 am

Morningstar is the premier source of unbiased information for thousands of mutual funds, and a respected source of information on stocks. This new Library subscription, a companion database to two very popular newsletters, the Morningstar *DividendInvestor* and the Morningstar *FundInvestor*, provides complete reports for some 2,400 funds and 1,400 stocks.

Learn the three different ways of utilizing Morningstar Investment Research Center: how to search for mutual fund or stock reports by name or ticker symbol; how to generate a list of investments that meet particular criteria using the Screeners feature; and, how to analyze your securities portfolio, look for strengths and weaknesses, and risk factors. Class attendees will also be shown how Morningstar reports may be printed or downloaded. **Members Only. Registration Required.**



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**Information and registration:** 415.393.0102 or [milibrary.org/events](http://milibrary.org/events). 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.

## Morningstar (continued from page 1)

Search the *Morningstar Investment Research Center* for specific mutual funds or stocks by name or ticker symbol to retrieve analyst research and reports, a current price quote, chart, analysis, financial statements and key ratios, valuation, a Morningstar Rating when available, information on shareholders and insider trading, as well as SEC filings. The “Stock or Funds Favorites” component provides lists of Morningstar’s top selections, securities with a 5-star Morningstar rating.

The “Screeners” feature covering stocks, mutual funds, or ETFs is an easy and efficient way to sort through thousands of securities to generate short lists of possible investments that meet particular criteria, such as large-cap growth funds with a star rating of 4 or better. Several hundred data points can be selected as screening criteria.

The “Portfolio” component of this service provides access to a suite of planning tools and calculators that help determine what your asset mix should be and help to design an investment portfolio. The “Portfolio X-Ray” feature outlines the strengths and weaknesses in a portfolio of stocks and mutual funds, and indicates potential risk factors and degree of portfolio diversification.

The “Newsletter Module” is a resourceful component of the Morningstar service, with access to popular investment letters such as *DividendInvestor* and *FundInvestor*. Many members will already be familiar with these publications to which the Library currently subscribes in print format. Members now have access to two additional publications, namely *Morningstar StockInvestor* and *ETFInvestor*. Current and archived monthly issues of all four publications in PDF format will be accessible.

The Library currently subscribes to *ValueLine Resource Center* and *Standard & Poor’s NetAdvantage*. The addition of *Morningstar Investment Research Center* to this group creates a well-rounded trio of web-based investment services covering an impressive number of securities.

The Library is offering a one-hour instructional class to members to familiarize themselves with the Morningstar database.

- Thursday, January 9 from 10:00 to 11:00 am
- Thursday, January 23 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm
- Thursday, February 27 from 10:00 to 11:00 am

Space is limited to 15 attendees per class. Members may register to attend these tutorials through the Institute website at [www.milibrary.org/events](http://www.milibrary.org/events).

## AUTHORS’ CARNIVAL



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



### Writers’ Group Mixer Thursday, January 9, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Are you interested in joining a writers’ group or connecting with other MI writers? Come to this networking hour

and learn about the writers’ groups that are currently looking for new members and meet other writers who are interested in forming a group. **Members Only; Free. Registration Required.**

### Finding a Beta Reader

Tuesday, January 21, 4:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Have you written a manuscript? Do you need someone to read it over? Are you interested in helping authors with their raw material? Join us at this informal discussion and networking opportunity.

Freelance editor **David Colin Carr** will discuss the merits of having people read your manuscript before you submit it to a publisher, tell you what to look for in potential readers, what the reader should expect from the writer, and how to manage and get the most out of the relationship.

**Members Only; Free. Registration Required.**



### The Inside Scoop on Book Promotion

Wednesday, February 26,

5:30 - 7:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

So you’ve published a book! Congratulations!

Now what? 21st-century authors know that writing a great book is just the beginning. What separates a best-seller from a bomb is VISIBILITY.

**Laura Sheppard**, Events Director for the MI, will discuss how she books and curates author programs, and what she and other institution heads look for when they choose authors to fill the few coveted spots in their line-up.

**Isabella Michon**, a publicist and former TV producer, will talk about her experience booking authors on media from the *Wall Street Journal* and *Newsweek* to the major TV networks and *NPR*. **Members Free; Public: \$15**



Authors’ Carnival continued on page 8

# Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

International Master Ricardo DeGuzman and Expert Gabriel Bick tied for first in the 42nd Carroll Capps Memorial held at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room. This was the first major success for the 14-year-old Bick who came from Davis for the tournament but it was business as usual for DeGuzman.

The 52-year-old former member of the Philippine national Olympic team has been a dominating presence in the Bay Area since DeGuzman moved here over a decade ago and 2013 was no exception. He won or tied for first in seven different Mechanics' weekend events this past year.



Ricardo DeGuzman

## Chess for Women

**Sundays, January 5, 12, 19, 26**  
**11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann



Coming this February is the return of the Mechanics' **After Six: Chess Class for Adults** 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.

This class meets four Wednesdays–

**February: the 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th**

**Members \$40, Public \$50**

## Tournament

**Saturday, January 11**

**10:00 am – 8:00 pm**

**14th Annual Bob Burger G/45**

## Tuesday Night Events

**January 7, 14, 21, 28**

**5:15 pm – 6:15 pm**

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

**6:30 pm – 10:30 pm**

**Winter Tuesday Night Marathon**

## Wednesday Night Blitz

**January 8, 15, 22, 29**

**6:30 pm – 8:50 pm**

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

## Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

**January 4, 11, 18, 25**

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL  
MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW

**Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or [chessclub.org](http://chessclub.org).** Photo Credit – Michael Aigner

## IN REVIEW

# The Inheritor's Powder: a tale of arsenic murder and new forensic science by Sandra Hempel

TARYN EDWARDS, MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS / MARKETING SPECIALIST



I've been burning to read this book since I first learned about James Marsh, a chemist employed by the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich (outside of London), and his discovery of a test for arsenic. Marsh was an associate of my subject's father and I was hoping the book would give me few leads as to the scientific environment and people at the Royal Arsenal. Unfortunately it didn't, but despite that *The Inheritor's Powder* is a fascinating read!

The book traces the court case of John Bodle – the grandson of wealthy farmer George Bodle who suddenly fell desperately ill on the morning of November 2, 1833. Three days later he died in agony – presumably from arsenic. The resulting investigation riveted the nation and attracted world-wide notoriety for the characters involved.

Arsenic was used in practically everything in the 19th century – in wallpaper, clothing dyes, hat ornaments, candles, candy and even beer and wine as well as rat poison. Accidental and of course, purposeful arsenic poisonings were routine but difficult for authorities to prove. It wasn't until James Marsh discovered a method for testing that provided a visual proof (versus an iffy “garlic smell”) that prosecution of arsenic crimes could proceed with any certainty.

*The Inheritor's Powder* is a gripping read, particularly if you enjoy forensic science and historical whodunits.

### Writing the Personal Essay

**Saturday, February 8, 2014, 1:00 – 4:00 pm**

4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

INSTRUCTOR: LINDSEY CRITTENDEN

The personal essay is as old as Seneca and as relevant as this week's *New Yorker*. Writers as diverse as Joan Didion, George Orwell, and David Foster Wallace have excelled at the form, proving its elasticity and variety. Essays—from the French verb essayer, “to try”—involve thinking on the page, exploring assumptions and observations as well as describing the world around us, from the death of a moth (Virginia Woolf) to a meditation on hating (William Hazlitt).



Join us for an afternoon's exploration and celebration of the personal essay. We'll discuss what life material lends itself to the form, whether a small, precisely observed moment or a lifelong obsession. We'll look at published examples in the Mechanics' collection, and students will complete in-class exercises leading to their drafting a 1000-word essay of their own. Small class size will allow for concentrated focus on class material and for instructor feedback on all student work. **Members \$75; Public \$95 Registration Required. Enrollment closes one week prior to class date. Course Fee is not refundable 14 days or less from class date.**

**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).



MECHANICS' INSTITUTE  
LIBRARY & CHESS ROOM

57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94104  
[www.milibrary.org](http://www.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