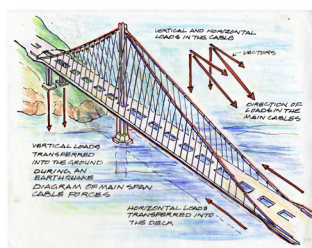




MEET THE AUTHOR HIGHLIGHT



Thursday, February 6, 6:00 pm

Bay Bridge: History and Design of a New Icon
(Chronicle Books)

DONALD MACDONALD

The Bay Bridge's latest architect, Donald MacDonald, created this illuminating book to celebrate the opening of the much awaited Eastern Span.

With lucid text and charming illustrations by this internationally acclaimed architect, this commemorative document reveals the design decisions that have shaped the evolution of the bridge over the last century.

Full listing on page 2

Finding a Place to Park



Tuesday, February 11, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Do you know where your car is right now? Join us for a spirited panel discussion with historian Michael Tolle, City Planner Joshua Switsky, and SFSU Professor Jason Henderson on the state of parking in San Francisco.

Full listing on page 7

The Inside Scoop on Book Promotion

Wednesday, February 26, 5:30 pm

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. Don't just Tweet and hope! Find out from two top Bay Area book-promotion experts **HOW the pros do it.**



Full listing on page 7

INSTITUTE

Jim Flack's Retirement

JIM FLACK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RICHARD LAIDERMAN, PRESIDENT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

After 15 years as Executive Director I've decided at the age of 70 to retire. I joined the Mechanics' Institute 43 years ago in 1971 and I thought then, as I do now, that Mechanics' is an exceptionally wonderful and unique organization.

I'll miss the excitement and energy of work.

I have thoroughly enjoyed it all and I take some pride in having encouraged an environment in which our energetic staff, with robust support from the membership, has dramatically improved the offerings and operations of Mechanics'.

I'll be around, enjoying my membership, and I look forward to seeing you at 57 Post.

- Jim Flack, Executive Director

(continued on page 8)



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Authors' Carnival	8

MEET THE AUTHOR

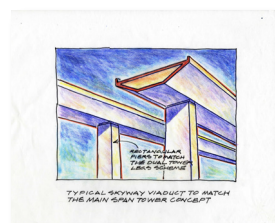
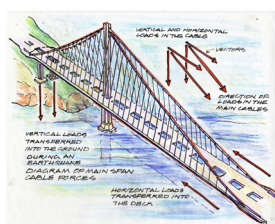
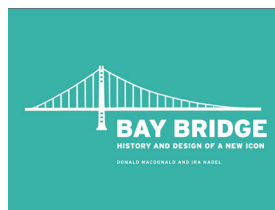
Attend these intimate and up close author programs and engage directly with local, national, and internationally known writers talking about their newly released books. - LAURA SHEPPARD, EVENTS DIRECTOR

Thursday, February 6, 6:00 pm

Bay Bridge: History and Design of a New Icon (Chronicle Books)

DONALD MACDONALD

The Bay Bridge's latest architect, Donald MacDonald, created this illuminating book to celebrate the opening of the much awaited Eastern Span. With lucid text and charming illustrations by this internationally acclaimed architect, this commemorative document reveals the design decisions that have shaped the evolution of the bridge over the last century—from the history of the original bridge, through the planning of the new span, to the construction of its stunning signature 525-foot-high white tower. In the same elegant format as *Golden Gate Bridge* and *Alcatraz*, this souvenir sized volume will be appreciated by San Francisco devotees as well as architecture historians and fans.



Donald MacDonald is co-author with Ira Nadel of *Golden Gate Bridge, History and Design of an Icon* and *Alcatraz: History and Design of a Landmark*. He was the first architect to work on the Golden Gate Bridge since its completion by the original consulting architects. He redesigned the toll booths, bike rail and the guidelines for the bridge's retrofit. Donald MacDonald Architects was awarded the San Francisco - Oakland Bay Bridge East Span design and has designed bridges and both commercial and residential buildings in cities across the country and internationally.

Members Free; Public \$15



Wednesday, February 12, 6:00 pm

The Contest of the Century: The New Era of Competition with China – and How America Can Win (Alfred A. Knopf)

GEOFF DYER

Co-sponsored by Asia Society

Geoff Dyer, former Financial Times Beijing bureau chief gives us a balanced and far-seeing analysis of the emerging competition that will dominate 21st century geopolitics. China's plan to globalize the yuan and their recent claim to airspace over the East China Sea has signaled a power push. Dyer paints vivid pictures of the places that are defining this new era of competition, from China's James Bond-style underground submarine base, through Vietnam and Malaysia and Brazil, to the cafés in Burma where activists plotted campaigns against Chinese influence. He argues that if Washington can adjust to a world in which it is no longer dominant but is still immensely powerful, it can retain its ability to set the global agenda in the face of China's challenge.

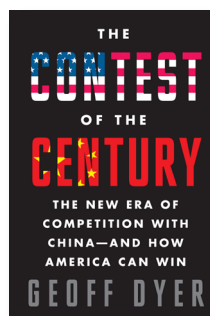


Photo Credit: Michael Lionstar

Geoff Dyer is a journalist for the *Financial Times* and has been a correspondent in China, the U.S. and Brazil. He is the recipient of a Fulbright award and of several journalism awards, including one Society of Publishers in Asia award for a series of 2010 opinion pieces about China's role in the world. **Members of MI and AS Free; Public \$15**



Thursday, February 27, 6:00 pm

Kinder than Solitude (Random House)

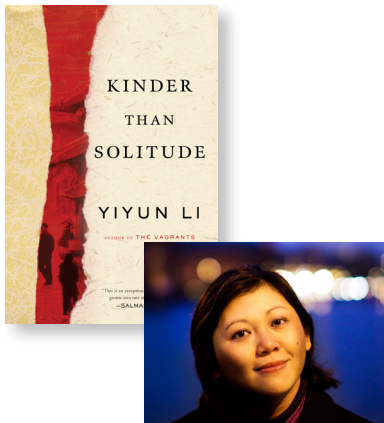
YIYUN LI

Co-presented by Asia Society and Litquake

When Boyang, Ruyu and Moran were young, they would share two bicycles among the three of them while exploring Beijing. Then they are involved in a mysterious accident, and their friendships splinter. Now grown up, all three are trying to come to terms with their actions and self doubt. Moran and Ruyu live in the United States, Boyang is a successful businessman in China, yet all three are haunted by what really happened when they were young. Award-winning author Yiyun Li paints a heartbreaking picture of innocence lost—where friendship blurs with love, and unfinished conversations and misunderstandings result in tragedy.

Yiyun Li is the author of a 2010 short story collection, *Gold Boy, Emerald Girl*. Her debut collection, *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*, won the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, PEN/Hemingway Award, Guardian First Book Award, and California Book Award for First Fiction. Her book, *The Vagrants* won the 2010 California Book Award for Fiction. Her stories and essays have been published in *The New Yorker*, *Best American Short Stories*, and elsewhere. She lives in Oakland and teaches at University of California, Davis.

Members of MI, AS and Litquake Free; Public \$15



LITQUAKE

 **Asia**
Society
Northern California Center

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.

CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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

Members Free; Public \$10

VILLAINS WE LOVE

Friday, February 7

Caged (1950)

DIRECTED BY JOHN CROMWELL

Eleanor Parker,
Agnes Moorehead



A naive 19-year-old runs afoul of hardened criminals and sadistic guards in this stark, gripping drama set in a women's prison. *Special guest:* Matthew Kennedy, author of the just-published *Roadshow! The Fall of Film Musicals in the 1960s*.

Friday, February 14

No Way to Treat a Lady (1968)

DIRECTED BY JACK SMIGHT

Rod Steiger, Lee Remick



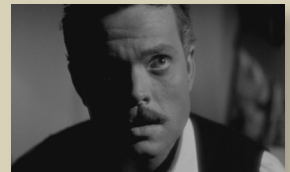
Our Valentine's Day gift is a succulent blend of romantic comedy and murder.

Friday, February 21

The Stranger (1946)

DIRECTED BY ORSON WELLES

Orson Welles,
Edward G. Robinson



A Federal agent searches for the Nazi war criminal hiding in a quiet Connecticut town.

Friday, February 28

Ripley's Game (2003)

DIRECTED BY LILIANA CAVANI

John Malkovich, Dougray Scott



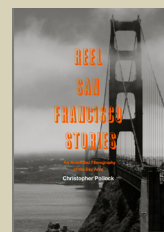
Patricia Highsmith's charming sociopath plots a devious revenge in this thriller set in Italy.

MARCH PREVIEW

Reel SF: The Cinematic Mystique of The City –
Films shot in San Francisco

With special guest Christopher Pollock, author of *Reel San Francisco: An Annotated Filmography of the Bay Area*.

Watch website for details!



CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY



Tuesday, February 4, 12:00 - 1:00 pm
First Tuesday TED Talk
4th Floor Meeting Room
Topic: The Surprising Need for Strangeness

In our digital world, social relations have become mediated by data. Without even realizing it, we're barricading ourselves against strangeness – people and ideas that don't fit the patterns of who we already know, what we already like and where we've already been. Bring your lunch and participate or just listen. **Walk-ins Welcome.**



Thursday, February 6, 12:00 - 1:00 pm
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. **Members Only. Registration Required.**

Thursday, February 13, 2:30 - 3:30 pm
Twitter Tips & Tricks



So, you've got your Twitter account all set up, and you've begun to follow other users and send out a few tweets. What's next? In this class we will look at sending direct messages, managing lists, mobile notifications and third-party applications. **Members Only. Registration Required.**

Thursday, February 20, 12:00 - 1:00 pm
Identity Theft



Of the more than 1.8 million consumer complaints filed with the Federal Trade Commission in 2011, 15% involved identity theft, making it the top individual category. Victims of identity theft not only risk losing money but also may face difficulty getting credit or loans. In this class, we'll discuss ways to avoid identity theft and protect yourself. **Members Only. Registration Required.**

Thursday, February 27, 10:00 - 11:00 am
Morningstar Investment Research Center Database

Morningstar is the premier source of unbiased information for thousands of mutual funds, and a respected source of information on 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.**



DIGITAL DOWNLOADS:

Attend one or all three workshops to learn how to access and download eMagazines, eBooks and eAudiobooks from the library.



Wednesday, February 5,
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 ½-hour, hands-on workshop and you'll leave with your account setup and magazines ready to read! **Walk-ins Welcome.**

Wednesday, February 5,
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.**



Wednesday, February 12,
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 ½-hour session, you'll set up your eAudiobook account, check out a title, and get all your questions answered. **Walk-ins Welcome.**

Information and registration: 415.393.0102 or milibrary.org/events/learn. 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**



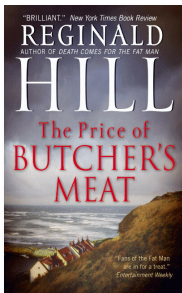
One Hundred Years of Solitude

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.**



The Price of Butcher's Meat (or the UK version: *A Cure for All Diseases* – the same book)

by REGINALD HILL

Monday, February 10, Noon

Brown Bag Mystery Readers

A bomb couldn't kill Detective Superintendent Andy Dalziel, but his convalescence at the Avalon Clinic in the quaint seaside resort of Sandytown just might. After a macabre murder calls Chief Inspector Peter Pascoe onto the scene, Fat Andy realizes that Avalon itself is no sanctuary from the lethal secrets of the local elite. **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

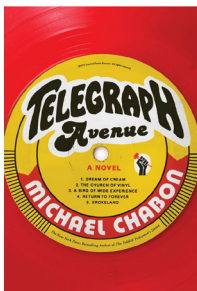


The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter

Wednesday, February 12 and 26, 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 or **Diane Lai** at dlai@milibrary.org.

Registration is now open for the new semester beginning in March 2014 (see page 7).



Telegraph Avenue

by MICHAEL CHABON

Tuesday, February 18, Noon

Fiction You Wish You Had Read

Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Chabon goes to Telegraph Avenue in a big-hearted novel that explores the lives of two Oakland, California families, one black and one white, and the pop culture that surrounds them. **Please note that the author will NOT be present for this discussion! Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

Information & registration: Diane Lai at 415.393.0118, dlai@milibrary.org, or milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings. A copy of each book is available at the 2nd floor Circulation desk. All Book Discussions are held in the 4th floor Board Room.

Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

International Master Lufei Ruan of China, the number two ranked woman in the chess world in 2010, gave a lecture to sixty M.I. Chess Room members on the evening of January 7th.



Photo of Lufei Ruan

Seven Mechanics' junior chess stars ventured to the United Arab Emirates this past December to play in the World Youth Championship in Al Ain. The top finisher was Grandmaster Daniel Naroditsky, who was battling for first in the Under-18 section throughout the event before losing his last round game to finish on 7½/11 for 2550 FIDE rating performance.

All the M.I. representatives in the Under-14 section turned in plus scores, with Colin Chow finishing with 7 points and Siddarth Banik, Vignesh Panchanatham and Kesav Viswanadha at 6-5.

Josiah Stearman started off like a rocket in the Under-10s with 7 from 8. He castled queenside at the finish to remain on 7 points, but this was still a very fine result.

The youngest M.I. representatives, Chinguun Bayaraa and Callaghan McCarty-Snead, competing in the Under-8 category, scored 6 and 5½ points respectively.

Mechanics' Institute Grandmaster-in-Residence Nick deFirmian was selected to serve as one of the American coaches for the second year in a row, and worked with Daniel throughout the event.

The United States had two medalists this year, with Awonder Liang taking home gold in the Under-10s with 10 from 11. David Peng took silver in the same section.

Chess for Women

Sundays February 2, 9, 16, 23

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

Tournaments

Saturday, February 1

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

14th Annual Henry Gross Memorial G/45

Tuesday Night Events

February 4, 11, 18, 25

5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

LECTURE BY IM JOHN DONALDSON

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Winter Tuesday Night Marathon

Wednesday Night Blitz

February 5, 12, 19, 26

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

February 1, 8, 15, 22

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER
ELLIOTT WINSLOW

Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or chessclub.org. Photo Credit: Elliott Winslow

LIBRARY NEWS

Our New Electronic Services Librarian, Erik Sandall

DEBORAH HUNT,
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

December 17 was Erik's first day on the job. He has stepped right into the role of Electronic Services Librarian and is nicely filling the shoes of his predecessor.

Erik comes from both a librarian and IT background, just the right mix we need as his job straddles both areas here at the Mechanics' Institute.



Erik was most recently a Systems Librarian at Innovative Interfaces in Emeryville. Our online catalog, acquisitions and library materials

checkin/check out system run on Innovative software so this is a big plus for us. He will also be co-hosting our First Tuesday TED Talk Discussions and will be available for tech help at our Tech Office Hours events. Please welcome Erik to our staff. You will find him knowledgeable, approachable and helpful.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Finding a Place to Park

Tuesday, February 11, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Do you know where your car is right now? Join us for a spirited panel discussion on the state of parking in San Francisco. Learn about the historic struggle between the urban grid and the automobile and how committed San Francisco is to becoming a "Transit First" city.

Panelists include historian **Michael Tolle**, City Planner **Joshua Switsky**, and SFSU Professor **Jason Henderson**.

Members Free; Public \$15



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. Should you hire a publicist? E-mail Jon Stewart and Oprah? Ask your local librarian and bookstore owner if you can do a book signing? Don't just Tweet and hope! Find out from two top Bay Area book-promotion experts **HOW the pros do lit**.

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**



New Semester – Registration Now Open! The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, March 12th through July 23rd, 5:30 pm

Under the leadership of SFSU lecturer, Dr. Mark Calkins, Mechanics' Institute offers two bi-weekly discussion groups, on a semester basis. This semester Proust Group, 5:30 – 6:30 pm, will read and discuss Proust's *Time Regained: In Search of Lost Time, Vol. VI*; The World Literature Group, 6:45 – 8:00 pm, plans to read and discuss Virgil's *The Aeneid*, Sorokin's *The Ice Trilogy* and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

The new semester begins on March 12th, and both groups welcome new members.

Fees for the new semester (per group) are \$65 for MI members/\$95 for non-members; payable when you register online. For more information, contact Dr. Mark Calkins at

mark@tempsperdu.com. **Online registration required at**
milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings and scroll to the bottom of the page.



57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94104
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Friday: 9 am - 6 pm
Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday: 1 pm - 5 pm

Sarah Cruz, Editor

Jim Flack's Retirement

(continued from page 1)

I would like to thank Jim on behalf of myself, the board and the entire membership for his 15 years of service as Executive Director. He has guided us through market crashes and the digital revolution with a steady hand. Jim's words about the Mechanics' echo how we feel about him. Jim has been an exceptional and unique leader and it has been the Mechanics' good fortune to have had Jim at the helm. We wish him all the best in retirement.

But before he goes, Jim has graciously agreed to stay on to help with the Executive Director search and transition. That process has already begun with the formation of a board search committee. If any members know of terrific candidates, please invite them to send their resumes to edsearch@milibrary.org.

- Richard Laiderman,
President Board of Trustees

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

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



Writing the Personal Essay

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

4TH FLOOR MEETING 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. **MI 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.

MARCH PREVIEW

Irish in San Francisco - from the heart of the Mission to the top of Nob Hill

Tuesday, March 13, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Co-sponsored by the Irish Literary and Historical Society

The stories of the Irish-born and their descendants in the city of San Francisco fill many volumes and span long decades - from the era of the Californios through the rough early days of the Gold Rush to the development and maturity of San Francisco as America's great Western metropolis. The Irish have been a part of it all - cops, criminals, and those who span the in-between, genius engineers, eccentric writers, radical labor activists and stone capitalists, clergy both liberal and conservative, teachers, nuns and social activists. Join us and historian Tony Bucher in celebration of St. Patrick's Day by revisiting some of the fascinating tales of the Irish City.

Tony Bucher is a writer and historian born in San Francisco and descended from Irish immigrants of the 1880s. He writes for the *Irish Herald* newspaper and is President of the Irish Literary & Historical Society of San Francisco.

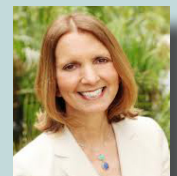
MI and ILHS Members Free; Public \$15

How to Manage Your Author Marketing Platform in 30 Minutes a Day

Thursday, March 27, Noon

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Frances Caballo will share her four-step strategy to curation, posting, socializing, and measuring results. She insists that you can use social media to market your books, find new readers, and build your audience by managing your author platform in just 30 minutes a day. Come find out her secrets at this lunch time lecture. **Members Free; Public \$15**



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