

THIS MONTH AT THE

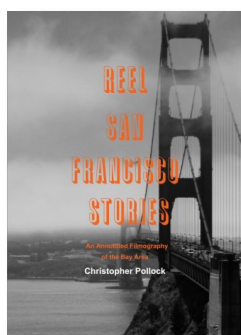


# Mechanics' Institute

www.milibrary.org

VOL. 4, NO. 3 MARCH 2014

## CINEMALIT HIGHLIGHT



**Tuesday, March 4, 6:00 pm**

***Reel San Francisco Stories: An Annotated Filmography of the Bay Area*** (Castor & Pollux)

CHRISTOPHER POLLOCK

Have you ever wondered whether a movie you are watching was filmed in San Francisco or the Bay Area? More than 600 movies, from blockbuster features to lesser-known indies, have been entirely or partially set in the region since 1927, when talkies made their debut. This essential publication will satisfy your curiosity and identify locations.

Full listing on page 3

## MARCH MAGAZINE SALE 3RD FLOOR LIBRARY



LET THE MADNESS BEGIN - MARCH MAGAZINE MADNESS THAT IS! **March 17 - 31** is our once-a-year magazine blow out. Travel the world from your favorite arm chair with titles such as *National Geographic Travel* or *Travel and Leisure*. Perhaps you prefer to try out new adventures in the kitchen with the help of *Cook's Illustrated* or *Vegetarian Times*? Whatever your interests or hobbies there is something here to please.

Full listing on page 5

## AUTHORS' CARNIVAL HIGHLIGHT

**Thursday, March 13, 6:00 pm**

***Irish in San Francisco - From the Heart of the Mission to the Top of Nob Hill***

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

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.



Full listing on page 7

## INSTITUTE

### 2014 San Francisco History Expo

TARYN EDWARDS, MEMBERSHIP  
RELATIONS / MARKETING  
SPECIALIST

The Mechanics' Institute is taking part in the 2014 San Francisco History Expo! Join us at the Old Mint with more than fifty other San Francisco organizations who will create “mini-museums” showcasing the diverse history of San Francisco's communities. In addition, there will be historic films, special programs, an art exhibition, and more.



**Saturday, March 1, 11am to 5pm  
& Sunday, March 2, 11am to 4pm**

The Old Mint  
88 Fifth Street at Mission

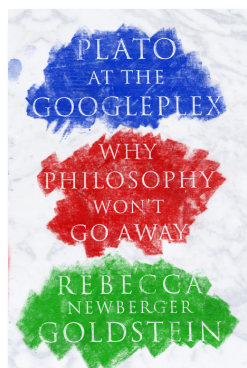
**Admission \$5; Under 12 Free**

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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



**Friday, March 14, 12:30 pm** (Café opens at noon for Greek cuisine)

***Plato at the Googleplex: Why Philosophy Won't Go Away*** (Pantheon Books)

REBECCA NEWBERGER GOLDSTEIN

Acclaimed philosopher and novelist **Rebecca Goldstein** reveals philosophy's hidden but essential role in today's debates by imagining Plato come to life in the twenty-first century. How would Plato handle a host on FOX News who denies that there can be morality without religion? How would he answer a neuroscientist who, about to scan Plato's brain, argues that science has definitively answered the questions of free will and moral agency? And what would Plato make of Google, and the idea that knowledge can be crowd-sourced rather than reasoned out by experts? With scholarly depth and a novelist's imagination and wit, she probes the issues confronting our time, by allowing us to eavesdrop as Plato takes on the modern world.



**Rebecca Newberger Goldstein** received her PhD in philosophy from Princeton University. Her award-winning books include the novels *The Mind-Body Problem*, *Properties of Light*, and *36 Arguments for the Existence of God: A Work of Fiction*, as well as studies of Kurt Gödel and Baruch Spinoza. She has received a MacArthur "Genius" award, has been designated Humanist of the Year and Freethought Heroine, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**Members Free; Public \$15**



**Wednesday, March 26, 7:00 pm &**

**Thursday, March 27, 7:00 pm**

***A Killer Story* – Staged dramatic reading**

DAN HARDER

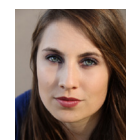
Mystery, mayhem, and cold-blooded murder unfold in this staged dramatic reading of ***A Killer Story***, a play written and directed by **Dan Harder**. This fast-paced entertaining "noir" tale is about a tough, bright private eye who outsmarts everybody, including himself, as he attempts to find a missing neuroscientist on the verge of creating a revolutionary/evolutionary "brain chip". Hired both by the scientist's wife and his business partner, our detective spins a yarn that traps all of them in a "killer story". Suspenseful and thought-provoking, this contemporary crime drama with a twist including Sam Spade references and a femme fatale is sure to thrill and delight.

Starring Bay Area talents **Dixon Phillips**, **Lauren Tannenbaum**, and **Steven Winn**. **Randy Craig** on piano provides a jazzy-evocative score for the show. Enjoy appropriate cocktails in our pre-show cabaret!

**Dan Harder** is a playwright, poet, essayist, novelist, librettist and journalist. Dan has written children's books, features in the *Los Angeles Times* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, commentaries for NPR, books of essays and screenplays, and the libretto for *Zipperz* (a soapOpera with music by Nat Stookey). His work has been extensively published and reviewed and has won numerous awards including the Children's Book Council Award, a Bay Area Playwrights' Foundation Award, and the Arvon International Poetry Contest judged by Ted Hughes and Seamus Heaney.

**Members \$15; Public \$25**

Photo Credit: Madeline H. D. Brown\* and Ryan O'Donnell from *The Marsh*, 2013, premiere



Author Events continued on page 8

# CINEMALIT

**Tuesday, March 4, 6:00 pm**

**Reel San Francisco Stories: An Annotated Filmography of the Bay Area** (Castor & Pollux)

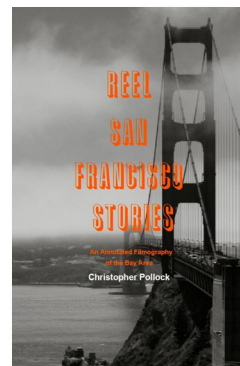
CHRISTOPHER POLLOCK

**Hosted by Michael Fox**

Have you ever wondered whether a movie you are watching was filmed in San Francisco or the Bay Area? More than 600 movies, from blockbuster features to lesser-known indies, have been entirely or partially set in the region since 1927, when talkies made their debut. This essential publication will satisfy your curiosity and identify locations. Beyond location information, this book tells the stories behind the films and the sites used. It also highlights those actors, directors, or technical staff who originated from the Bay Area or called it home.

This event previews CinemalIt's **Mystique of the City** which features a month of films shot in San Francisco.

A native of Connecticut, **Christopher Pollock** began his career with The Architect's Collaborative (TAC) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Later, he relocated to California and worked as a designer with a number of leading firms including Gensler and the office of Orlando Diaz-Azcuy. His other publications are *San Francisco's Golden Gate Park: A Thousand And Seventeen Acres of Stories*, which was published by WestWinds in 2001, and *Golden Gate Park: San Francisco's Urban Oasis in Vintage Postcards* published by Arcadia in 2003.



**Members Free; Public \$15**

## MYSTIQUE OF THE CITY: FILMS SHOT IN SAN FRANCISCO

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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

**Members Free; Public \$10**



**Friday, March 7**

***After the Thin Man* (1936)**

DIRECTED BY W.S. VAN DYKE II

William Powell, Myrna Loy

**Special guest: Jeffrey Anderson,**  
**film critic for the Examiner**

A missing cousin propels the witty and urbane Nick and Nora into a murder investigation in Fog City.



**Friday, March 14**

***Experiment in Terror* (1962)**

DIRECTED BY BLAKE EDWARDS

Lee Remick, Glenn Ford

A bank teller threatened by a sadistic criminal enlists the help of an FBI agent in a classic nail-biter cloaked in S.F. locations.



**Friday, March 21**

***Foul Play* (1978)**

DIRECTED BY COLIN HIGGINS

Goldie Hawn, Chevy Chase

In this comic romp by way of Hitchcock, a shy librarian and a bumbling cop fall in love while trying to prevent an assassination.



**Friday, March 28**

***Tucker: The Man and His Dream***  
**(1988)**

DIRECTED BY FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA

Jeff Bridges, Martin Landau

The true David vs. Goliath story of visionary postwar automobile designer Preston Tucker, beautifully rendered in period accoutrements.

**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.

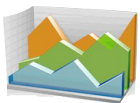
# CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY



**Tuesday, March 4, 12:00 - 1:00 pm**  
**First Tuesday TED Talk**  
**4th Floor Meeting Room**  
**Topic: Malcolm Gladwell: Choice, Happiness and Spaghetti Sauce**

*Tipping Point* author Malcolm Gladwell gets inside the food industry's pursuit of the perfect spaghetti sauce – and makes a larger argument about the nature of choice and happiness. Bring your lunch and participate or just listen.

**Walk-ins Welcome.**



**Thursday, March 6, 10:00 - 11:00 am**  
**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-subsidiary relationships. Additional content covers company rankings, brand name and product information, financial reports and histories. **Registration Required.**

**Thursday, March 13, 12:00 - 1:00 pm**  
**Excel Basics**

Whether you are seeking to learn spreadsheet skills or trying to upgrade to a new version of Excel, this class will provide you with the basic tools to start using Excel immediately. Learn about creating a basic spreadsheet, customizing its appearance, and using basic formulas. If you have a laptop running Excel, feel free to bring it to class. Library laptops will be available on a first-come-first-served basis. **Registration Required.**



**Monday, March 17, 10:30 - 11:30 am**  
**Using the Library Catalog & My Library Account**

Did you know you could pay your library fines online? Or that you could create a "to read" list right from the library catalog? Have you tried searching for a book, DVD, or magazine and just couldn't seem to find what you were looking for, but you know it's in the library? Does the search results screen seem confusing? Come by for a presentation on how to use the library's online public access catalog and your library account online, and bring your questions! **Registration Required.**

**Thursday, March 20, 12:00 - 1:00 pm**  
**Morningstar Investment Research Center**



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 Investment Research Center reports may be printed or downloaded. **Registration Required.**

**Thursday, March 20, 5:00 - 6:00 pm**  
**JSTOR Database**



JSTOR is a trusted growing digital library of more than 2,000 academic journals, nearly 20,000 books, and two million primary source materials (such as pamphlets, manuscripts, oral histories, government documents, and more) across many disciplines. In this class, learn how to get connected and make the most of this resource. There will be plenty of time to try JSTOR on our classroom computers. **Registration Required.**

## TECH OFFICE HOURS

**Wednesday, March 12, 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.

**Registration Required.**



**Information and registration:** 415.393.0102 or **[milibrary.org/events/learn](http://milibrary.org/events/learn)**. Classes are open to Mechanics' Institute members, and are free. All classes are held in the 3rd floor classrooms and require advance registration unless otherwise noted.



# BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

Our members 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**

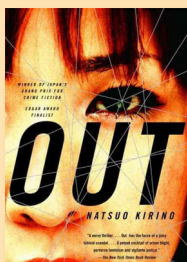
## Out

by NATSUO KIRINO

**Monday, March 10, Noon**

**Brown Bag Mystery Readers**

Kirino's searing novel tells a story of random violence in the staid Tokyo suburbs, as a young mother who works a night shift making boxed lunches brutally strangles her deadbeat husband and then seeks the help of her coworkers to dispose of the body and cover up her crime. **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**



## The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter

**Wednesday, March 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 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](mailto:mark@tempsperdu.com). **Online registration required at [milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings](http://milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings) and scroll to the bottom of the page.**



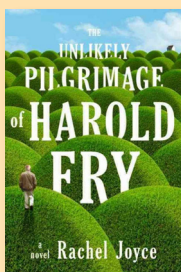
## The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

by RACHEL JOYCE

**Tuesday, March 18, Noon**

**Fiction You Wish You Had Read**

Harold Fry is convinced that he must deliver a letter to an old love in order to save her, meeting various characters along the way and reminiscing about the events of his past and people he has known, as he tries to find peace and acceptance. **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**



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

## LIBRARY

# Let The Madness Begin–March Magazine Madness That is!

DONNA CLARK,  
3RD FLOOR COORDINATOR

**M**arch 17 – 31 is our once-a-year magazine blow out.

Each year we tidy our holdings and you benefit. Travel the world from your favorite arm chair with titles such as *National Geographic Travel* or *Travel and Leisure*. Perhaps you prefer to try out new adventures in the kitchen with the help of *Cook's Illustrated* or *Vegetarian Times*?

Whatever your interests or hobbies there is something here to please. From *Art Magazine* to *ZYZZYVZ: The Last Word*, (which is in many dictionaries) you'll find all this and more on the 3rd floor.

Due to the popularity of some titles, we cannot hold any bundles for future purchase. Since they are all priced to sell at \$2 or \$3 per bundle plus tax, you'll want to take home as many as you can carry.

Sales are limited to tied bundles. No loose or individual issues will be sold.



# Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

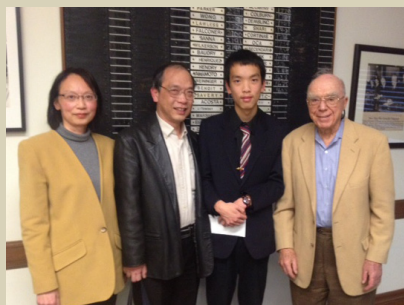


**U**.S. Chess Federation Senior Master Yian Liou received the 2014 Neil Falconer Award on January 21st in a special ceremony in the M.I. Chess Room. This award, given annually since 2000, is awarded to the top-rated junior player in Northern California according to the December USCF rating list with the winner receiving a cash prize equal to their USCF rating—in Yian's case the amount was \$2478. The list of previous winners includes Vinay Bhat, Sam Shankland and Daniel Naroditsky – all of whom have gone on to become Grandmasters.

The 14th Henry Gross Memorial G/45 held on February 1 saw an excellent 60-player turnout for the five-round Swiss. Newcomer James Critelli, recently settled in San Francisco, had an outstanding debut, making a perfect score including a last round victory over International Master Ricardo DeGuzman who was trailing by half a point, having been nicked for a draw in round four by National Master Paul Gallegos!



Chiiwen Liou, Yian Liou and Neil Falconer



Chi-Ju Wu, Chiiwen Liou, Yian Liou and Neil Falconer

## Chess for Women

**Sunday, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

**11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

## Tournaments

**Saturday, March 8 & Sunday, March 9**

**10:00 am – 8:00 pm**

A.J. Fink Memorial

**Saturday, March 22**

**10:00 am – 8:00 pm**

14th Annual Max Wilkerson Memorial G/45

## Tuesday Night Events

**March 18, 25**

**5:15 pm – 6:15 pm**

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

**6:30 pm – 10:30 pm**

Spring Tuesday Night Marathon

## Ewelina Krubnik's After Six Chess Class for Adults

**Wednesday, March 5, 12, 19, 26**

**6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

## Wednesday Night Blitz

**March 5, 12, 19, 26**

**6:30 pm – 8:50 pm**

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

## Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

**March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 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 Savage

# AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

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



## **Irish in San Francisco - From the Heart of the Mission to the Top of Nob Hill**

**Thursday, March 13, 6:00 pm**  
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

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.

**Co-sponsored by the Irish Literary and Historical Society**  
**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**

## **New Mystery Reading & Writing Group**

**Third Tuesday of each month, 7:00 – 8:00 pm**  
3RD FLOOR, CLASSROOM B

Are you a fan (or writer) of mystery/crime fiction? Check out our new Tuesday night mystery group!

First mystery: *The Benson Murder Case* by S.S. Van Dine, book #1 in his legendary Philo Vance series.

Future books to be chosen by the group. Since the group comprises writers as well as readers, our focus isn't "thumbs up / thumbs down" or "How many stars?" so much as "What works and doesn't work about this book?" and "What's the impact of the author's doing X instead of Y?" Questions should be directed to the group leader, Carol Verburg at [verb@sonic.net](mailto:verb@sonic.net). **Members only.**



## **The Donner Party: A Tragedy of the Sierra**

**Tuesday, April 8, 6:00 pm**  
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Just before spring in 1846 an advertisement appeared in the Springfield, Illinois, *Gazette*. "Westward ho," it declared. "Come, boys, you can have as much land as you want without costing you anything."

The notice was paid for by George Donner, leader of what was to become the most famous of all the wagon trains to start for the far west, the ill-fated Donner Party. **Mary-Ellen Jones**, a former archivist at The Bancroft Library, will talk about the papers of Charles Fayette McGlashan which she cataloged. They consist primarily of correspondence and other documents that McGlashan obtained from survivors and used to write his classic book *History of the Donner Party, A Tragedy of the Sierra*, 1879.

**Members Free; Public \$15**



**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 2014 Member Survey

DEB HUNT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

**O**ur goal at the Mechanics' Institute is to serve our members well. In March, you will receive via email a link to our 2014 member survey. It will take about 15 minutes to complete. If you do not have email, we will have paper copies of the survey in the library where members can fill them out.

All survey answers are anonymous **UNLESS** you choose to enter the drawing to win a **\$50 gift certificate to Il Fornaio Restaurant**. We will not connect any information to an individual member.



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[www.milibrary.org](http://www.milibrary.org)

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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

# AUTHORS, LECTURES, & MORE OFF-SITE EVENT

(continued from page 2)

**Saturday, March 29, 6:30 pm**

**Conversation and Reading by Magdalena Kauz, Heinz D. Heisl and Elias Schneitter**

MODERATOR: ALAN KAUFMAN

**Location:** Goethe - Institut, 530 Bush Street, SF

[goethe.de/sanfrancisco](http://goethe.de/sanfrancisco) or 415.263.8760

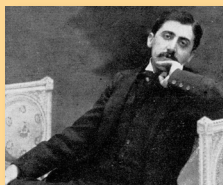
**Presented by Goethe-Institut San Francisco; Co-sponsored by Center for the Art of Translation, Mechanics' Institute, The Beat Museum, Free University of San Francisco**

These Austrian and Swiss authors, poets and activists have emerged as an important bridge between American underground writers and German-language literature. Through their Austrian literary festival, Sprachsalz and Schneitter's publishing house, Edition BAES, they have introduced a significant number of vanguard American authors and poets to the German-speaking public. This includes William Gass, Alan Kaufman, Jack Hirschman, Neeli Cherkovski and ruth weiss. Kaufman will moderate a talk about their literary work and activities, followed by a bi-lingual reading with special guests.

**Suggested Donation: \$5 (tickets available through Goethe - Institut)**



## 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](mailto:mark@tempsperdu.com). **Online registration required at [milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings](http://milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings) and scroll to the bottom of the page.**