



AUTHORS' CARNIVAL



Tuesday, April 8, 6:00 pm

The Donner Party: A Tragedy of the Sierra

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 that Charles Fayette 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**

More Authors' Carnival on page 6

CLASSES HIGHLIGHT



Wednesday, April 16, 10:30 - 11:30 am

Internet Search Strategies

In this interactive workshop, you will learn search strategies and tips for making the most out of your web searches including searching for specific document types, searching within a web resource, and more. This workshop will consist of a short lecture and demonstration followed by hands-on exercises. **Registration Required.**

More Classes on page 5

EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT

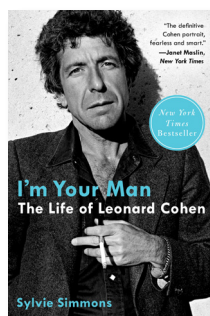
Wednesday, April 30, 7:00 pm

Leonard Cohen Love Fest

Author Program & Special Performance!

FEATURING CONSPIRACY OF BEARDS AND AUTHOR SYLVIE SIMMONS

April is National Poetry Month — This year we will celebrate the poetic inspiration of singer/songwriter Leonard Cohen. Before he began recording music, Cohen was an accomplished novelist and poet in Montreal during the 1950's. Cohen's provocative prose will be celebrated at our Leonard Cohen Love Fest with a performance by **Conspiracy of Beards!**



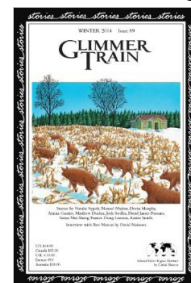
Full listing on page 8

LIBRARY

Introducing the Newest Magazines in our Collection

BOBBIE MONZON,
MANAGING LIBRARIAN

Every year we have what we call "March Magazine Madness" and this means out with the old and in with the new. We start off with a spring cleaning, putting our magazine titles back in order, sending out journals to get bound with covers, and then selling the oldest editions in the collection. Our annual magazine sale runs through the end of March and gives you an opportunity to get some classic issues of *Bon Appétit*, *Rolling Stone*, *Daedalus*, and more. Not only are we spring cleaning but we are also introducing the new magazines we've added to the collection.



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EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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

Tuesday, April 22, 6:00 pm

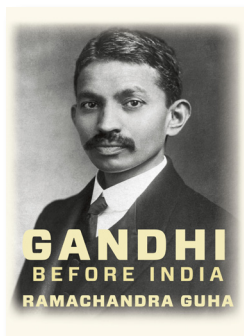
Gandhi Before India (Knopf)

RAMACHANDRA GUHA

Co-sponsored by Asia Society

Here is a revelatory work of biography that takes us from Mohandas Gandhi's birth in 1869 through his upbringing in Gujarat, his two years as a student in London, and his two decades as a lawyer and community organizer in South Africa. Author Ramachandra Guha has uncovered a myriad of previously untapped documents, including private papers of Gandhi's contemporaries and co-workers, contemporary newspapers and court documents, the writings of Gandhi's children, and secret files kept by British Empire functionaries. Using this wealth of material in a brilliantly nuanced narrative, Guha describes the social, political, and personal worlds in which Gandhi began his journey to become the modern era's most important and influential political reformer and leader.

Ramachandra Guha has previously taught at Yale and Stanford universities, the University of Oslo, the Indian Institute of Science, and the London School of Economics. His books include a pioneering environmental history, an award-winning social history of cricket, and the award-winning *India After Gandhi*. He writes regularly on social and political issues for the British and Indian press, including columns in *The Telegraph* and *The Hindustan Times*, and also for *The New York Times*. **Members of MI and AS Free; Public \$15**



Thursday, April 24, 12:30 pm (Café opens at noon for Birders' Brunch)

The Sibley Guide to Birds: Second Edition (Knopf)

DAVID ALLEN SIBLEY

The publication of *The Sibley Guide to Birds* in 2000 quickly established David Allen Sibley as the author and illustrator of the nation's supreme and most comprehensive guide to birds. Used by millions of birders from novices to the most expert, *The Sibley Guide* became the standard by which natural history guides are measured. The highly anticipated second edition builds on this foundation of excellence, offering expanded information on bird families, habit and voice descriptions, updated maps and migrations, 600 new paintings, larger enhanced illustrations, over one hundred rare species, and an elegant book design. Birders are welcome to join a conversation and share their experiences on social media through the hashtag #mysibleymoment.

David Allen Sibley began seriously watching and drawing birds in 1969, at age seven. Since 1980 he has traveled throughout the North American continent studying the natural world, both on his own and as a leader of bird-watching tours. This intensive travel and study culminated in the publication of his comprehensive guide to bird identification, *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, followed by *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior*, *Sibley's Birding Basics*, *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America*, and *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*. He lives in Concord, Massachusetts.

Members Free; Public \$15



OFF-SITE EVENT

Thursday, April 24, 6:00 pm

Diversity and Accomplishment: Celebrating Assyrian Contributions to Baghdad's Golden Age

LECTURE BY NICHOLAS ALJELOO, PHD

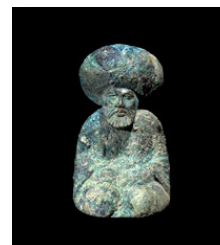
Co-sponsored by Humanities West, Assyrian Foundation of America and the Mechanics' Institute

Location: **Commonwealth Club**, 595 Market, 2nd Floor, SF, commonwealthclub.org or 415.597.6700

From 762 until the Mongol conquest in 1258, Baghdad was the center of Islamic, Christian and Jewish worlds: home to the 'Abbasid Caliphate, a major Christian Patriarchate and the Jewish Exilarchate. It is often forgotten that although Arab Muslims ruled, they were not originally in the majority. At Baghdad's House of Wisdom, Arabic translations of Greek, Mesopotamian, Persian and Indian medicine and philosophy were rare indeed. Most were translated directly into Syriac (a dialect of Aramaic), the language of ethnic Assyrians, whose religious leaders, scientists, physicians and philosophers made invaluable contributions which influenced Baghdad's intellectual institutions and shaped Islamic civilization itself.

This event is a prelude to the Humanities West program **Baghdad in Its Golden Age** (762-1300) to be held on April 25-26 at Marines' Memorial Theatre, SF. For info see humanitieswest.org

Nicholas Al-Jeloo is an Australian-born Assyrian, and is currently an independent researcher and scholar. He also holds a PhD in Syriac Studies, a MA in Eastern Christianity from Leiden University, and a BA in Classical Hebrew from the University of Sydney. **Members of HW, AFA, MI \$8 with registration code 'specialnicholasaljeloo'; Public \$20**



Events continued on page 8

CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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

Members Free; Public suggested donation \$10

REMEMBERING PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN



Friday, April 4

Capote (2005)

DIRECTED BY BENNETT MILLER

Catherine Keener,
Clifton Collins, Jr.

Hoffman won the Best Actor Oscar for his brilliant portrayal of the manipulative, fame-hungry writer in the throes of *In Cold Blood*. **With Special Guest:** JP Allen, actor-writer-director, of *Love and Demons*



Friday, April 11

The Savages (2011)

DIRECTED BY TAMARA JENKINS

Laura Linney, Philip Bosco

Adult siblings must deal with the dilemma of caring for their elderly father in this funny, bruising and profoundly humane film.



Friday, April 18

**Before the Devil Knows
You're Dead** (2007)

DIRECTED BY SIDNEY LUMET

Ethan Hawke, Albert Finney

The easy-as-pie robbery of a family-owned jewelry store goes horribly wrong in this beautifully acted, tautly directed thriller.



Friday, April 25

Doubt (2008)

DIRECTED BY

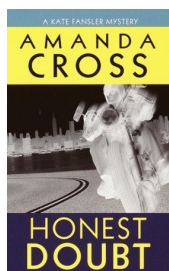
JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY

Meryl Streep, Amy Adams

The battle of wills between a progressive priest and an inflexible nun at a Bronx school ignites Shanley's adaptation of his Pulitzer- and Tony Award-winning play.

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.**



Honest Doubt

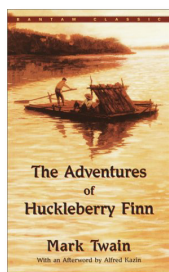
by AMANDA CROSS

Monday, April 14, Noon

Brown Bag Mystery Readers

When woman-hating Clifton College professor Charles Haycock is poisoned with his own heart medication, P.I. Estelle "Woody" Woodhaven is hired to find the killer. She enlists the help of amateur sleuth Kate Fansler, and together they start to pull at the loose ends of the tangled English department. Woody soon suspects they're only scratching the surface of a very large and sinister plot. *(courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com)*

Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.



The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

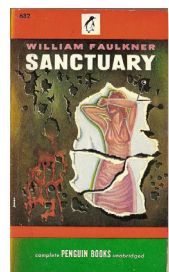
by MARK TWAIN

Tuesday, April 15, Noon

Fiction You Wish You Had Read

A young runaway boards a raft and sets off down the Mississippi, setting in motion a series of memorable adventures that have intrigued readers of all ages for over a century. Huck Finn and his loyal companion, the escaped slave Jim, form one of literature's greatest friendships. *(courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com)*

Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.



Sanctuary

by WILLIAM FAULKNER

Thursday, April 17, 6:00 pm

Forgotten Classics

A powerful novel examining the nature of evil, informed by the works of T.S. Eliot and Freud, mythology, local lore, and hard-boiled detective fiction, *Sanctuary* is the dark, at times brutal, story of the kidnapping of Mississippi debutante Temple Drake, who introduces her own form of venality into the Memphis underworld where she is being held. *(courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com)* **Members Only. Registration required.**



The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter

Wednesday, April 9 and 23, 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 March 12th, 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.

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.

CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY



Tuesday, April 1, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

First Tuesday TED Talk

4th Floor Meeting Room

Topic: Juan Enriquez: The Next Species of Human

Bring your lunch and curiosity to talk about ideas, stories, and concepts with fellow MI members and staff. This month we'll watch a video from 2009 of Juan Enriquez talking about profound changes that genomics will bring in business, technology, and society. **Walk-ins Welcome.**



Thursday, April 3, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Financial Advisory Letters

Invest just over an hour of your time, and walk away with a solid knowledge of the Library's collection of more than

twenty investment letter subscriptions covering stocks, mutual funds, commodities, turnaround situations, technical analysis and market timing.

Registration Required.

Wednesday, April 9, 12:00 or 5:00 pm

Library Downloads Workshop: eBook, eMagazine, eAudiobook



The Institute offers thousands of digital titles that you can download to your computer, tablet, or smart phone from anywhere there's an internet connection. Bring your device to this hands-on workshop where you'll set up an account, have your questions answered, and get started downloading eBooks, eMagazines, and eAudiobooks. **Walk-ins Welcome.**



Thursday, April 17, 5:00 - 6:00 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 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. Attendees will also be shown how reports may be printed or downloaded. **Registration Required.**

Tuesday, April 22, 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Digging Up History

Are you working on a research project? Are you struggling to find sources that enable you to understand the culture and politics of yesteryear? This class will teach you how to find California newspaper articles from the 19th and early 20th century using the Historic *San Francisco Chronicle* database (a database MI subscribes to) and other free resources that will help you locate and read the papers you need to find the facts and flesh out your story. **Registration Required.**



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

All classes are held in the 3rd floor classrooms and require advance registration unless otherwise noted.

New Magazines (continued from page 1)

On the basis of member and staff recommendations we now subscribe to several new titles that include international newspapers and journals, health related subjects, writing, literature, and other popular topics. Come to the 3rd floor and buy a bundle of old magazines and then check out the new titles available in our magazine department. You can also browse our list of magazines online at: search.milibrary.org/search/n

Here's a small sampling of the new titles we've added:

The Guardian Weekly The latest edition to our newspaper collection has an international flair; *The Guardian Weekly* compiles articles from four of the world's top newspapers – *The Guardian* (UK), *Le Monde* (Paris), *The Washington Post* (USA), and *The Observer* (UK). Originally founded after WWI to keep the US informed of world events, *the Guardian Weekly* provides a round-up of comprehensive news, features, commentaries, and analysis of world events, politics, business, and culture.

Glimmer Train Stories Looking to get your story published? *Glimmer Train Stories* is a tri-annual short story journal that publishes reader submissions, offers writing contests, and gives support to emerging writers and those interested in the medium. Published by a team of two sisters, *Glimmer Train Stories* is advertiser free, promoting the work of their writers and presenting eclectic mix of literary stories and fiction.

MORE: For Women of Style & Substance Our newest women's magazine, *MORE*, caters to a mature audience and celebrates smart and sophisticated interests in beauty, travel, and reinvention. The magazine claims to skip the frilly and mundane pieces usually found in other women's journals and puts the *MORE* filter into their articles relating to fashion, career, health, and current events. The magazine offers a positive outlook on aging and addresses issues women face as they reach new perspectives in life.

(continued on page 8)

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

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



Play Reading with Judith Offer

Saturday, April 12, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Judith Offer has been working for a couple of years on a musical libretto about the old growth redwoods and the new growth marijuana in Humboldt County, a phenomenon which is having a large influence on American culture. She has done reading, interviews and trips for this piece, and now has the first version complete. Judith is now at the point where she feels a public reading would be very helpful. If you would like to come and either read a part, or just listen and have an opinion, please join us!

Members Only. Free

How To Create A Business Plan for Your Book

Tuesday, April 29, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

To create a successful book you and your idea must be marketable. Learn to see yourself and your book through the lens used by publishers as you discover what it takes to create a business plan for a successful self-published or traditionally published book - one that sells! In this class you will learn about the 9 Parts of a Book's Business Plan, how to develop "Author Attitude" and how to evaluate yourself and your idea for marketability.



Nina Amir, the Inspiration to Creation Coach and author of *How to Blog a Book* and *The Author Training Manual*, transforms writers into authors. She inspires people from all walks of life to create books that positively impact readers and to develop careers as authors, achieve their goals, and fulfill their potential. Nina is a sought-after nonfiction developmental editor, proposal consultant, and author, book, blog-to-book, blog, and results coach. Some of her clients have gone on to sell 300,000+ copies of their books and to land deals with major publishing houses. She writes four blogs, has self-published 12 books and is the founder of National Nonfiction Writing Month, aka the Write Nonfiction in November Challenge.

Members \$25; Public \$30 Course Fee is not refundable 14 days or less from class date.

Above San Francisco: a Documentary of San Francisco

Co-sponsored by The Gold Rush Foundation

Tuesday, May 6, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Join us for a screening of renowned aerial photographer Robert Cameron's amazing *Above San Francisco*. Narrated by Orson Welles, *Above San Francisco* was the first and still the only major film of a world city from the air. Following on his success of "Above" books (Paris, London, New York, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, etc.), Robert W. Cameron commissioned a Hollywood and San Francisco team in the mid 1960s to create this vision of the City. This is how it looked fifty years ago.

After a three-year run at North Point Theater, Cameron donated the film to the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley. Carefully preserved, this film has now been turned over to the Gold Rush Trail Foundation for limited non-commercial showings. Running time is 47 minutes. A brief reception and introductory remarks make this an extraordinary evening.

Members Free; Public \$15



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

Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

International Master Ganbold Odondoo won the Winter Tuesday Night Marathon this past February. The former member of the Mongolian Olympiad team defeated 10-year-old Expert Hans Niemann in round eight to finish with $6\frac{1}{2}$ points, good for \$650. Hans came close to being the youngest ever winner of the Tuesday Night Marathon series and odds are good he will beat the old record of 14 set by Jay Whitehead sooner rather than later. Last year he doubled his rating!



Hans Niemann in deep concentration.

Expert Steven Gaffagan, who like Odondoo and Niemann entered the eighth round with a $5\frac{1}{2}$ – $1\frac{1}{2}$ score, drew a hard-fought game last night with top seed NM Hayk Manvelyan. This result enabled IM Elliott Winslow and Class A players Ashik Uzzaman and Sergey Ostrovsky to join Gaffagan in a tie for second at 6–2. Uzzaman, who has played very well the last two TNMs, is now 2147, while Ostrovsky picked up 98 rating points and is almost an Expert (1983).

Dramatic as both these players rating gains were, they were not the largest among the 101 participants, a number which set an all time attendance record for the series. Top honors for biggest rating gain went to Perry Rosenstein, who moved up an impressive 179 points (1546 to 1725) with Enkhjin (Cindy) Gomboluudev right behind, advancing 157 points (1275 to 1432). Cindy's mom, Enkhmaa Nyangar, also had a fine result, improving from 1739 to 1825. Young Adam Vichik picked up 127 points and is now rated 1609. Congratulations also go to veterans (age 60+) Mike Anderson and Steven Krasnov, who regained their Expert titles.

Chess for Women

Sunday, April 6, 13, 20, 27

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

Tournaments

Saturday, April 12

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

14th Annual Imre Konig Memorial G/45

Tuesday Night Events

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Spring Tuesday Night Marathon

Wednesday Night Blitz

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

6:30 pm – 8:50 pm

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

April 5, 12, 19, 26

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW



Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or chessclub.org.

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

Important Numbers
Circulation: 415.393.0101
Reference: 415.393.0102
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

New Magazines

(continued from page 5)

Monocle An international lifestyle, travel, and business magazine, *Monocle* addresses a “mobile global audience” and also operates a website, online radio station, and has storefronts and cafes in several major cities. Stylish and fresh with a colorful cover that outlines their core A-E topics (Affairs, Business, Culture, Design, and Edits), *Monocle* is a welcome addition to our collection of lifestyle and culture magazines.



Don't miss these additional new titles:

American Interest

The Baffler

Diabetic Living

Life Extension

Shop Smart: Consumer Reports

EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS (continued from page 3)

Leonard Cohen Love Fest

Author Program & Musical Performance!

Wednesday, April 30, 7:00 pm (Café opens at 6:30 pm)

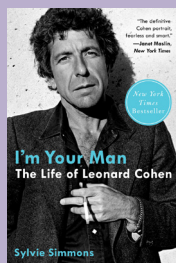
FEATURING **CONSPIRACY OF BEARDS** and **Sylvie Simmons**, author of
I'm Your Man: The Life of Leonard Cohen



San Francisco's **Conspiracy of Beards** is a 30 member male choir that performs dynamic, original, a cappella arrangements of the poetic songs of Leonard Cohen. Transforming Cohen's lyrics and simple melodies into complex 4 and 5-part harmonies, **Conspiracy of Beards** achieves a sound that is both robust

and tender. With influences ranging from jazz and gospel, to barbershop and doo-wop, the unique arrangements that choir members create capture all of the emotion and humor of Leonard Cohen's original music, and inspire audiences to ponder common human experiences like romance, heartbreak, politics, sex, longing, and spirituality.

Leonard Cohen is the legend behind songs such as “Suzanne”, “Bird on the Wire” and “Hallelujah” and groundbreaking literary works such as *Beautiful Losers* and *Book of Mercy*. Cohen's academic training in literature and pursuit of writing before his music career set him apart from his pop contemporaries when it came to setting lyrics to music. His dual careers in music and literature make him an artist to be celebrated.



I'm Your Man: The Life of Leonard Cohen (Ecco) by acclaimed music journalist **Sylvie Simmons**, is based on a wealth of research, including exclusive interviews with Cohen himself. Simmons also spoke to over a hundred key figures—among them Cohen's main muses, the women in his life, close childhood friends, producers and artists who have worked with Cohen such as David Crosby, Philip Glass, Judy Collins, Rufus Wainwright, and Jackson Browne.

Sylvie Simmons is one of the foremost journalists chronicling rock'n'roll. A winner of the ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for her liner notes to Leonard Cohen *Live at the Isle of Wight 1970*, she is the author of the biographies *Serge Gainsbourg: A Fistful of Gitanes* and *Neil Young: Reflections in Broken Glass*, and the short story collection *Too Weird for Ziggy*. She was born and raised in London, England and currently lives in San Francisco.



Photo credit: Alissa Anderson

MI Members and Friends of COB \$10; Public \$20

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.