

THIS MONTH AT THE

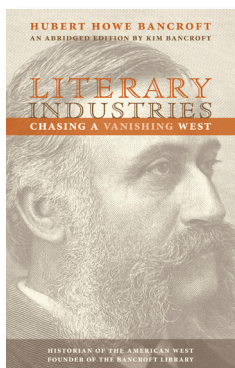


Mechanics' Institute

www.milibrary.org

VOL. 4, NO. 5 MAY 2014

EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT



Thursday, May 8, 6:00 pm

Literary Industries: Chasing a Vanishing West (Heyday)

HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

Performance and Book Event with Kim Bancroft

Literary Industries is the inspiration for Kim Bancroft's theatrical portrayal of the lives and relationship of H.H. Bancroft and his wife Matilda. Hubert Howe Bancroft (1832–1918) rose to define the early history of California and the West. Creating a “history factory,” he assembled a vast library of over 60,000 books, maps, letters, and documents that would become the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley.

Full listing on page 2

SPRING MEMBERS' MEETING



Thursday, May 22, 2014

5:30 pm Reception; 6:00 pm Meeting

4th Floor Meeting Room

Join us for our bi-annual Mechanics' Institute community gathering to meet fellow members, staff and trustees. Hear from the staff about new plans and programs, technology updates, and our efforts to improve your experience as members. **Members and Guests Free.**

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL HIGHLIGHT

Above San Francisco: a documentary of San Francisco

Tuesday, May 6, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Co-sponsored by The Gold Rush Foundation

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, renowned aerial photographer Robert W. Cameron commissioned a Hollywood and San Francisco team in the mid 1960s to create this vision of the City. Running time is 47 minutes. A brief reception and introductory remarks make this an extraordinary evening.

Members Free; Public \$15



More Authors' Carnival on page 5

CHESS NEWS

San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship

NICK DE FIRMIAN,

GRANDMASTER-IN-RESIDENCE

Nearly three hundred school children descended on Golden Gate Park on March 22nd to take part in the 2014 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship. This was the largest scholastic chess tournament ever in San Francisco. Many of the children were playing their first ever organized chess tournament and experienced the novelty of friendly competition. The event was the high point of the year for the Mechanics' Institute's Youth Outreach Chess Program, which teaches chess in twenty schools and



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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

Thursday, May 8, 6:00 pm

Literary Industries: Chasing a Vanishing West (Heyday)

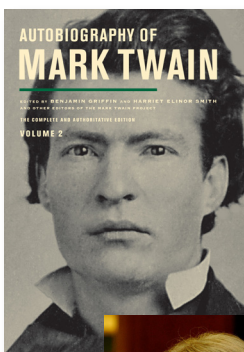
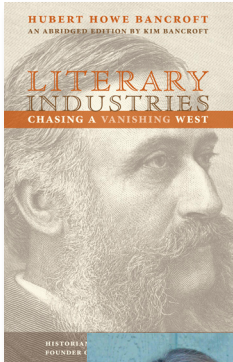
BY HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT

Performance and Book Event with Kim Bancroft

Kim Bancroft portrays her Great-Great-Grandmother Matilda Bancroft in this performance based on the book *Literary Industries: Chasing a Vanishing West* by Hubert Howe Bancroft. This new publication is an abridged edition by Kim Bancroft with foreword by Kevin Starr. In his 800 page autobiography, *Literary Industries*, H.H. Bancroft described his wife Matilda as his intellectual companion as well as a devoted editor, interviewer, collector and journal writer. In fact, Matilda was helpful in her husband's many enterprises

In this Chautauqua-like presentation, **Kim Bancroft** arrives in Victorian attire as Matilda and discusses her husband's work as a businessman, collector, and historian. "Mrs. Bancroft" will provide H.H.'s story from her perspective as his wife and colleague behind the scenes in addition to being the mother of their large family and manager of the estate. Kim Bancroft's performance was gleaned from Matilda's personal journals and the many letters interchanged with her husband which are now preserved at the Bancroft Library. Afterwards, the audience is invited to ask Mrs. Bancroft any questions about her life and experiences!

Members Free; Public \$15



Thursday, May 15, 6:00 pm

Autobiography of Mark Twain, Volume 2 (University of California Press)

BY MARK TWAIN; HARRIET ELINOR SMITH, EDITOR

Mark Twain wanted to write a completely candid autobiography, and he believed that it would not be possible to hide any "shirkings of the truth." He realized that he could not reveal his most private thoughts in a work that would be published during his lifetime. Only from the grave could he speak freely without fear of being judged, and "mangle and mutilate" people without wounding their feelings.

Harriet Elinor Smith, editor of the *Autobiography of Mark Twain*, will discuss Mark Twain's numerous observations about the difficulty of speaking the truth and the strategies he adopted to remove his inhibitions, illustrating her talk with passages he suppressed during his lifetime. In conclusion, she will answer the question of whether he did in fact speak his "whole, frank mind." Volume 1 which was published in 2010 – was an instant best-seller with rave reviews – and hailed as the capstone of Twain's career. The eagerly - awaited Volume 2 delves deeper into Mark Twain's life, uncovering the many roles he played in his private and public worlds highlighted with his characteristic blend of humor and ire.

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

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!

MAY: COMEDY TONIGHT!



Friday, May 2

Groundhog Day (1993)

DIRECTED BY HAROLD RAMIS

Bill Murray, Andie McDowell

With Special Guest:

Jeffrey Anderson, *Examiner* film critic

A smug TV weatherman is condemned to relive the same day over and over again.



Friday, May 9

Road to Morocco (1942)

DIRECTED BY DAVID BUTLER

Bing Crosby, Bob Hope

Carefree castaways land in an Arabian Nights city where they vie for the luscious Princess Shalmar.



Friday, May 16

Stir Crazy (1980)

DIRECTED BY SIDNEY POITIER

Gene Wilder, Richard Pryor

A pair of schlemiels wind up in prison in this profanity-laced romp.



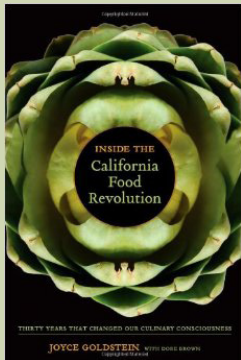
Friday, May 30

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (1998)

DIRECTED BY FRANK OZ

Steve Martin, Michael Caine

Rival con men compete to swindle an American heiress on the French Riviera.



JUNE PREVIEW • MEET THE AUTHOR

Wednesday, June 25, 6:00 pm

Inside the California Food Revolution: Thirty Years That Changed Our Culinary Consciousness (University of California Press)

BY JOYCE GOLDSTEIN

Watch milibrary.com/events for details!

Events continued on page 8

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

CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY



Tuesday, May 6, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

First Tuesday TED Talk

4th Floor Meeting Room

David Byrne: How architecture helped music evolve

Bring your lunch and curiosity to talk about ideas, stories, and concepts with fellow Mechanics' Institute members and staff. This month we'll watch a video from 2010 of David Byrne talking about how architecture helped music to evolve. An informal discussion will follow the viewing.

Walk-ins Welcome.

Thursday, May 8, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Hoover's Database

Looking for timely business information, developing a list of key contacts for sales or as a potential employer, researching competitive intelligence, or grasping industry developments? Be sure to include Hoover's in your research efforts. Class attendees will discover the resourcefulness of Hoover's in handling these topics. Learn how to access information on just one company or, alternatively, how to generate a list of companies that meet user-specified filter criteria, based on some combination of location, industry, size, financials and performance.

Registration Required.



Thursday, May 15, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Basic PowerPoint

In this beginner's class, we will learn how to navigate PowerPoint's menus. Then, we will create a basic presentation with text, images,

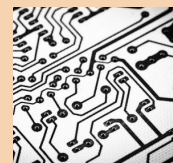
and charts, and do some simple customizations to the presentation's look and feel. Also, we'll cover how to use PowerPoint during a presentation, as well as print the presentation slides or save them in PDF and other formats. Laptops with PowerPoint will be available, but if you have a laptop running PowerPoint 2007, feel free to bring it to the class. **Registration Required.**

Tuesday, May 20, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Tech Office Hours

4th Floor Meeting Room

Do you have technology-related questions such as: connectivity problems with a tablet, privacy concerns about your Facebook account, managing your library account, or any other questions or concerns about technology? Reserve a half hour appointment to work with one of our technology experts. No question is too small or insignificant. Walk-ins are welcome, but registration is recommended to ensure a spot. To register, contact Erik Sandall with your available time frame and a brief description of your question or problem by emailing esandall@milibrary.org or by calling 415.393.0111. **Registration Required.**



Thursday, May 22, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Value Line Resource Center Database

Learn to navigate one of the most widely used independent investment information services. The class covers the classic Value Line Investment Survey which focuses on the common stocks traded for 1,700 public companies, plus the Small Cap Survey that looks at the stock of 1,800 more junior companies. Additional surveys in this service, that covers mutual funds, options and convertible securities as well as special situations services, are also examined in this class. **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.

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

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



Open Mic Night

Thursday, June 5, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Do you enjoy keeping current on what is being written locally? Join us for a spirited reading of new work by MI members including excerpts from short stories, novels, poetry, criticism, memoir, and plays. **Members and Public Free.**



Understanding Online Communities for Authors

Saturday, June 14, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM B

For writers who want to find readers, fans and buyers for their work, online communities are a goldmine. Whether you write fiction or non-fiction, you can get feedback on finished or in-progress stories, find reviewers for your books, and experiment with new direct sales methods. This course examines the most popular sites, explains how they work and presents case studies of authors who have used them successfully.



Anne Hill has helped CEOs, entrepreneurs, and award-winning and bestselling authors with online marketing since 1994. She is co-leader of the Bay Area Blogger Society, hosts "Author Platforms Decoded" on YouTube, writes for *the Huffington Post*, and teaches and speaks widely. Anne can be reached at CreativeContentCoaching.com

Members \$15; Public \$20

Busting Your Corporate Idol: How to Reconnect With Values & Regain Control Of Your Life

Tuesday, June 24, Noon – 1:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Join MI member **Dr. Greg Marcus** for a discussion about his book *Busting Your Corporate Idol*. For a time, Dr. Greg was working 90 hours a week, which had a negative impact on his health and family relationships. Then, he cut his working hours by a third in less than a year without changing jobs, while at the same time accelerated his career. The secret? He rejected his corporate idolatry, and started putting people first.



Busting Your Corporate Idol offers a step by step way to work fewer hours, spend more time with family, while at the same time accelerating your career. Along the way, you'll learn

- how to say "no" to the boss
- who to trust in the workplace
- how to stay true to yourself amidst chaos and pressure
- one thing you can start right away to bring more balance to your life and make you more effective at work
- the personal and business costs of chronic overwork



Dr. Greg Marcus is a recovering workaholic who founded the Idolbuster Coaching Institute to help the chronically overworked find life balance. Dr. Greg worked for 10 years as marketer in Silicon Valley, and has a doctorate from MIT in molecular biology.

Members Free; Public \$15

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

Scholastic Chess Championship (continued from page 1)

youth centers in San Francisco. The students learn chess all year long and relished playing in a big event where they could show their abilities.

A wonderful result was achieved by Jade Greer in the Middle School division (grades 6-8). Jade and her mother Diana are frequent visitors to the MI, both in the library and at the Sunday women's chess class taught by Ewelina Krubnik.



Middle school players in deep thought

Jade was one of the few girls in the 32 - player middle school sections, and many of the boys dismissed her as not serious. She quickly gained respect as she defeated her first opponent, followed by the second, and then third in a row! That set up the championship game with Zachary Agenbroad, where Jade finally lost, but scored the 3rd place trophy.

Along with the two hundred and fifty player championship tournament inside the hall, there was a special event in the

sunny courtyard outside. Forty opponents simultaneously took on US Junior Champion and GM Daniel Naroditsky, who grew up learning chess at the MI. Despite the odds, only one opponent managed to avoid defeat and scored a draw. The top finishers won trophies and all participants received commemorative medals and t-shirts.

First place Elementary School Team - Marshall Elementary (closely followed by Glen Park Elementary)

First place Middle School Team - Francisco Middle School

First place High School Team - George Washington High (closely followed by Lowell High)



Jade Greer (3rd place) & Zachary Agenbroad (1st place) middle school winners

Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

Chess for Women

Sunday, May 4, 11, 18, 25
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Funded by a gift in memory of
R. Martin Wiskemann

Tournaments

Saturday, May 3
10:00 am - 8:00 pm
14th Annual Charles Powell
Memorial G/45

Sunday, May 4
1:00 pm-5:00 pm
7th Ray Schutt Memorial Blitz

Tuesday Night Events

May 6 & 27
5:15 pm - 6:15 pm

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

6:30 pm - 10:30 pm
Spring and Summer Tuesday Night
Marathons

After Six Chess Class for Adults

**Wednesday, April 30 &
Tuesday, May 6, 13, 20**
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Wednesday Night Blitz

May 7, 14, 21, 28
6:30 pm - 8:50 pm

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

May 3, 10, 17, 24
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

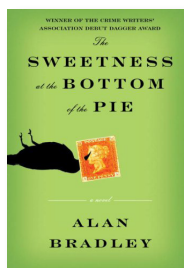
TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL
MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW

Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or chessclub.org.



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.**



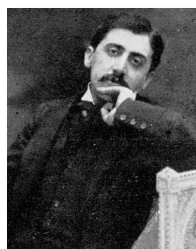
The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie

by C. Alan Bradley

Monday, May 12, Noon

Brown Bag Mystery Readers

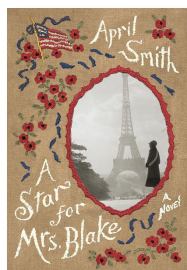
Eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce is an aspiring chemist with a passion for poison. It is the summer of 1950 and a series of inexplicable events has struck Buckshaw, the decaying English mansion that Flavia's family calls home ... For Flavia, who is both appalled and delighted, life begins in earnest when murder comes to Buckshaw. (courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**



The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter

Wednesday, May 14 and 28, 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.



A Star for Mrs. Blake

by April Smith

Tuesday, May 20, Noon

Fiction You Wish You Had Read

Meeting for the first time for a shared pilgrimage to France to visit the graves of their World War I soldier sons, an Irish maid, a chicken farmer's wife, a Boston socialite, a former tennis star, and a librarian meet a brutally scarred journalist before confronting a shocking secret. Their pilgrimage will change their lives in unforeseeable and indelible ways. **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.

In Memoriam **Neil E. Falconer** **1923 – 2014**



JIM FLACK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Neil E. Falconer, Mechanics' Institute's longest serving trustee, died April 5th at the age of 91.

Neil joined the Institute in 1945 and served as a Trustee from 1973 to 2012. In these 39 years he was president of the Board twice, in 1988 and again 1993-95.

He was a champion of our chess program and established the Falconer Award which annually recognizes the outstanding Northern California chess player under the age of 18 with a cash award equal to his chess rating.

Neil's family suggests memorial donations to Mechanics' Institute.

SF Gate obituary for Neil:
tinyurl.com/nxp9wbu or contact Jim Flack for more information at 415.393.0117 or jflack@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

13TH ANNUAL BLOOMSDAY CELEBRATION—TWO SHOWS !!

Monday, June 16, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm
(Café opens 30 minute before each show)

The Voices of James Joyce: Muses, Music, Dramatic Readings, and More



Photo credit: Berenice Abbot

Sojourn through the streets of Dublin with Leopold Bloom and other characters featured in James Joyce's quintessential novel *Ulysses* and other works. The evening includes dramatic readings, Irish music, song, and dance. Performances by well known Bay Area actors, singers and musicians including Bruce Bierman, Renee Gibbons, John Ilyin, Esther Mulligan, Melanie O'Reilly, Josiah Polhemus, and Laura Sheppard with fiddler Anne Goess and others.

This year offers some sparkling new selections and additions. Stage direction and set design by Kathleen Blake. Our special Bloomsday Menu will be available!

Members \$15; Public \$25. Advance Reservations Required.
Information & registration: 415.393.0100 or milibrary.org/events.

Help for 57 Post

Do you know anyone who would be interested in leasing one of the storefronts at Mechanics'? 61 and 65 Post Street are both vacant at this time and we have engaged Karen Hoke at Colliers International Brokerage to find retail tenant(s). If you know someone looking for store space, please call Jim Flack, Executive Director, at 415.393.0117 or Karen Hoke at 415.788.7815. 61 Post – formerly a shoe store with 2,611 sq ft ground floor retail space plus basement and mezzanine asking \$25,000 per month. 65 Post – formerly a bank with 3,014 sq ft ground floor retail space plus basement and mezzanine asking \$20,000 per month.



61 Post – ground floor view from mezzanine