

THIS MONTH AT THE

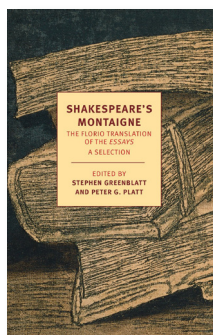


Mechanics' Institute

www.milibrary.org

VOL. 4 NO. 7 JULY 2014

EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT



Thursday, July 10, 6:00 pm

Shakespeare's Montaigne: The Florio Translation of the Essays, A Selection

(NYRB) MICHEL DE MONTAIGNE

With editor **Peter G. Platt**

The influence of Renaissance essayist Michel de Montaigne on Shakespeare is verified and celebrated in this new book, *Shakespeare's Montaigne*. Here scholars **Peter G. Platt** and **Stephen Greenblatt** explore John Florio's masterful translation of Montaigne and the themes and philosophical views that are relevant in the works of The Bard!

Full listing on page 2

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS HIGHLIGHT



The Progress of Love BY ALICE MUNRO

Tuesday, July 15, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Discover the unique joys of short form literature! Members are welcome to join the Library's new book discussion group, **Literature in Brief: Short Stories**. Where better to begin than with an acknowledged master of the short story, 2013 Nobel Prize winner Alice Munro.

Full listing on page 4

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, July 22, 6:00 pm

Mechanics' Institute Tour @ Night

MEET ON THE 3RD FLOOR

Have you been unable to take the regular Wednesday Tour at Noon because it's at an inconvenient time? The Institute is now offering the same tour at Night!

Full listing on page 6



INSTITUTE NEWS

Introducing Ralph Lewin

JIM FLACK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EMERITUS

As those of you who attended the May Members' Meeting learned, the Board of Trustees just hired Ralph Lewin to be Mechanics' Institute's Executive Director when Jim Flack retires.

Ralph was introduced by Richard Laiderman, President of the Board. For the past six years, Ralph was President and CEO of Cal Humanities, an independent non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Richard Laiderman praised Ralph's experience and his passion for the values that are at the core of Mechanics'.



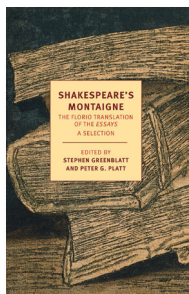
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EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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, July 10, 6:00 pm

Shakespeare's Montaigne: The Florio Translation of the Essays, A Selection

(NYRB) MICHEL DE MONTAIGNE

Program with Peter G. Platt

There is no doubt that Shakespeare read Montaigne—and the translation he read was that of John Florio, a fascinating polymath, man-about-town, and a dazzlingly inventive writer. In this new book, renowned Renaissance scholars Stephen Greenblatt and Peter G. Platt discuss and annotate Florio's seminal work and reveal the resemblances and tensions between Montaigne's and Shakespeare's visions of the world, and the life and times of the extraordinary Florio. Altogether, this book provides a remarkable view of three great writers who ushered in the modern world.



Peter G. Platt is a professor and chair of English at Barnard College. He is the author of *Shakespeare and the Culture of Paradox* and *Reason Diminished: Shakespeare and the Marvelous*, and the editor of *Wonders, Marvels, and Monsters in Early Modern Culture*.
Members Free; Public \$15



Montaigne (1533-1592)



Shakespeare (1564-1616)



Florio (1553 – 1625)



Mid-Summer Music – A Georganne Conley Commemorative Program

Monday, July 14, 7:00 pm (Café opens at 6:30 pm)

Bastille Day Celebration with Le Jazz Hot

Come celebrate "*liberté, égalité, fraternité*" with a cabaret concert with **Le Jazz Hot** of the SF Hot Club—one of the Bay Area's most beloved ensembles featuring band leader Paul Mehling (solo guitar) with David Chiorini (string bass), Isabelle Fontaine (rhythm guitar and vocals), and Evan Price (violin). Le Jazz Hot continues the tradition of French Gypsy Jazz created by the great guitarist Jean "Django" Reinhardt who was of Romani heritage and started Paris's world famous Hot Club de France in the 1920's. Dress up or down, but be ready to dance (even in your seat) because this exuberant music has an infectious beat. We'll also have some wonderful French wines and cuisine! *Vive la France!*

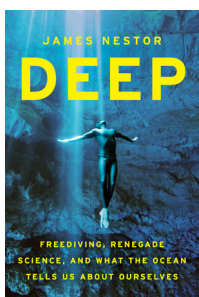
Advanced Reservations Required: Members \$15; Public \$25 Tickets available through EventBrite at milibrary.org/events or in the Events Office, Room 406 or call 415.393.0116.

Wednesday, July 23, 6:00 pm

Deep: Freediving, Renegade Science, and What the Ocean Tells Us About Ourselves

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) JAMES NESTOR

Journalist **James Nestor** travels from the shores of Japan to meet a tribe of women who have honed their bodies into deep-diving machines, to an island off the coast of Africa where renegade scientists are cracking the "click" communication shared by cetaceans. He free-dives with dolphins, whales, and man-eating sharks, and rides to - 2,500 feet on a handmade three-man submarine. The journey ends at the sea floor, a crushing - 28,000 feet below, where life on Earth may have one day begun. Along the way, they uncover the secrets and science of the ocean, our planet, and human evolution.



James Nestor has written for *Outside*, *Men's Journal*, *Dwell*, *the New York Times*, *Salon*, *the San Francisco Chronicle*, and other publications. He is also the author of *Half-Safe: A Story of Love, Obsession, and History's Most Insane Around-the-world Adventure*. **Members Free; Public \$15**

Wednesday, July 30, 6:00 pm

Go GREEN with Matcha Tea

ERIC GOWER

Co-sponsored by Asia Society

Join chef and tea connoisseur **Eric Gower** for a talk and demonstration about matcha from its the ancient cultivation to the development of the Japanese tea ceremony, to matcha's contemporary comeback as a coffee alternative noted for its legendary health benefits! An artisanal coldbrew matcha tasting and dessert pairing will be offered.



Eric Gower is an author, ghostwriter, editor, tea entrepreneur, cooking instructor, and private chef. He writes a popular column for *the San Francisco Chronicle* called *The Breakaway Cook*, maintains a popular blog of the same name, is founder of an artisanal green tea company called Breakaway Matcha, and is the author of four cookbooks: *The Breakaway Vegetarian Cook*, *The Breakaway Cook*, *The Breakaway Japanese Kitchen*, and *Eric's Kitchen*. **Members of MI & AS Free; Public \$15**



Events continued on page 8

CINEMALIT

SUMMER RECOMMENDATIONS

CinemaLit is on a summer sabbatical until September 5th. We suggest these exceptional film events and screenings:

Brian Knappenberger's documentary *The Internet's Own Boy*, about Aaron Swartz and the limits on public information, opens **Friday, July 4th** at the Roxie

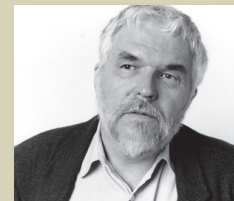
Brakhage, Brakhage, Brakhage! at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts **July 6th, 10th and 13th** revives the pioneering experimental filmmaker's poetic works

Manhattan and *Klute* screen **Tuesday, July 15th** at the Castro as part of the Tribute to Gordon Willis 1931 - 2014

San Francisco Jewish Film Festival July 24th - August 10th in San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, Palo Alto and San Rafael

Martin Scorsese Presents Masterpieces of Polish Cinema through **August 21st** at Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley

Kenji Mizoguchi: A Cinema of Totality through **August 29th** at Pacific Film Archive



Filmmaker Stan Brakhage

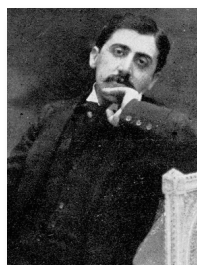


Director Kenji Mizoguchi

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.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

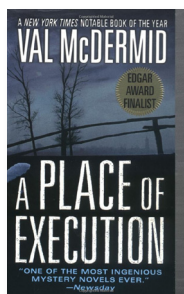
Our member-only Book Groups select, read, and discuss books of a particular type or genre. Members lead the discussions, new members are always welcome, and registration is not required (unless otherwise specified). **Please note that Book Groups are not author events and the authors will not be present during the discussions.**



The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter

Wednesday, July 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. **This semester ends on July 23rd; a new semester will begin mid - September.** For more information, contact Dr. Calkins at mark@tempsperdu.com or Diane Lai at dlai@milibrary.org.



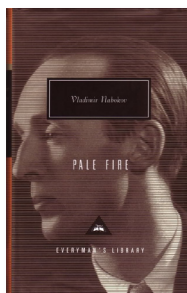
A Place of Execution

by VAL McDERMID

Monday, July 14, 12:00 pm

Brown Bag Mystery Readers

When a 13-year-old girl vanishes from her insular village in 1963, a newly promoted inspector must face a murder with no body and an investigation filled with dead ends. Decades later, the inspector finds new information that threatens the very foundations of his existence. *A Place of Execution* is the winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, Dilys Award and Anthony Award, and an Edgar Award Nominee for Best Novel. (courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**



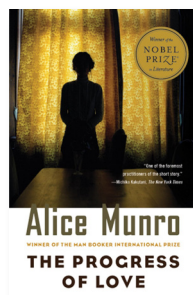
Pale Fire

by VLADIMIR NABOKOV

Tuesday, July 15, 12:00 pm

Fiction You Wish You Had Read

In *Pale Fire* Nabokov offers a cornucopia of deceptive pleasures: a 999-line poem by the reclusive genius John Shade; an adoring foreword and commentary by Shade's self-styled Boswell, Dr. Charles Kinbote; a darkly comic novel of suspense, literary idolatry and one-upmanship, and political intrigue. (courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**



The Progress of Love

by ALICE MUNRO

Tuesday, July 15, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Literature in Brief: Short Stories

A divorced woman returns to her childhood home where she confronts the memory of her parents' confounding yet deep bond. The accidental near-drowning of a child exposes the fragility of the trust between children and parents. A young man, remembering a terrifying childhood incident, wrestles with the responsibility he has always felt for his younger brother. In these and other stories, Alice Munro proves once again a sensitive and compassionate chronicler of our times. (courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com) **Members Only. Registration required.**

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

Chess for Women

Sunday, July 6, 13, 20, 27

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin
Wiskemann

Tournaments

Saturday, July 12

10:00 am - 8:00 pm

14th Annual Charles Bagby Memorial G/45

Tuesday Night Events

July 1, 8, 15

5:15 pm - 6:15 pm

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

6:30 pm - 10:30 pm

Summer Tuesday Night Marathon

Wednesday Night Blitz

Starts back up September 3rd

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

July 5, 12, 19, 26

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT
WINSLOW



Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or
chessclub.org.

Accessing the Mechanics' Institute's Online Databases from Home

MATT MONTGOMERY,
TECHNICAL SERVICES LIBRARIAN

The Mechanics' Institute currently subscribes to 22 online databases on subjects ranging from the arts, business, consumer information, finance, health, investing, literature, magazines, news, and newspapers. Most of these databases are accessible from home.

To access a database remotely, go to the Institute's website milibrary.org, and from the Books & More tab's drop down menu select Databases. You can also access the Databases page directly at: milibrary.org/research/databases. This page lists all of our databases alphabetically with a brief summary of the contents of each database, and any special instructions needed for remote access. Click the title of the database you wish to access, and you will be taken to a login screen. Generally, most databases require your name and your Mechanics' Institute barcode (it's the number beginning 21750). When entering your barcode do not include spaces between the numbers.

In the case of S&P's Net Advantage, the user name is Mechanics1 (it's case sensitive) and the password is your barcode. Currently, the Bay Area Consumer's Checkbook is the only online database not accessible remotely.

Here's a current list of the databases the Mechanics' Institute subscribes to:

- Bay Area Consumers' Checkbook (not accessible remotely)
- Business Index ASAP
- Business Insights: Essentials
- Consumer Reports
- Contemporary Authors
- Directory of Open Access Journals

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Ralph Lewin (continued from page 1)

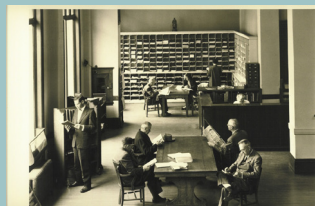
September 2, 2014 will be Ralph's first official day on the job after he and his family take a travel break between his employment for the last 22 years with Cal Humanities and starting at Mechanics'. Ralph will devote several days between travels to meet with staff this summer.

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

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



Tuesday, July 22, 6:00 pm
Mechanics' Institute Tour @ Night
MEET ON THE 3RD FLOOR



The **Mechanics' Institute of San Francisco** was founded in 1854 with four books and a mission to start an organization to serve the education, information and social needs of the city's mechanics, artisans, and industrialists. Within a few years the Institute was offering classes in such subjects as mechanical drawing, industrial design, electrical science, and applied mathematics, had started a chess club and had acquired a magnificent library that slaked San Francisco's voracious appetite for technical and pleasurable reading material.

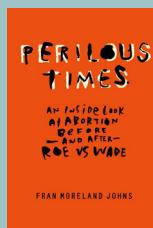
If you are a new, long-time, or prospective member, the Tour of the Institute will orient you to our building, include an overview of our history and mission, and outline our current services and the benefits of membership. Tours typically take 45 to 60 minutes.
No reservations required. Free.

Thursday, August 14, 6:00 pm
Perilous Times: a conversation about the future of reproductive rights

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Join us for a panel discussion on the complex issue of reproductive justice in the United States today. MI member author **Fran Moreland Johns** will talk about her book *Perilous*

Times: An inside look at abortion before – and after – Roe vs. Wade, and review the future of reproductive justice with **Stephanie Long**, a representative of NARAL Pro-Choice America, and reproductive justice advocate **Renee Bracey Sherman**.
Members Free; Public \$15



Tuesday, August 19, 6:00 pm
Keeping the home fires burning: the music of World War I

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Co-sponsored with the Irish Literary and Historical Society.

Join **Dr. Myles Dungan**, Irish writer and radio broadcaster, as he discusses and plays some of the classic songs of the Great War (including American).

Learn about the 'conscription' of the music industry as a propaganda source and the subversive songs composed and sung by ordinary soldiers.

MI & ILHS Members Free; Public \$15



Tuesday, August 26, 6:00 pm
Dylan Thomas and America

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Co-sponsored with the Irish Literary and Historical Society.

Join award-winning Welsh poet and academic **Dr. Nerys Williams** as she outlines the life and poetry of Dylan Thomas and discusses his experiences in America and the San Francisco Bay Area. Samples of Thomas reading his own poetry will be the highlight of the evening.

MI & ILHS Members Free; Public \$15



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

Why doesn't the Library buy more 'best selling' titles in e-book format?

CRAIG JACKSON, COLLECTIONS MANAGER LIBRARIAN

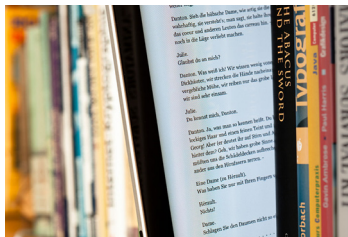
Many members have been asking us this very question. We want to be able to offer to members a good assortment of e-books, particularly current fiction bestsellers. However, many publishers' policies limit what we can select and purchase. Basically, not all publishers will sell e-books to libraries.

Publisher restrictions are usually in place because of publisher licensing agreements. Publishers and authors set the terms of use for all copyrighted materials, often so that content cannot be pirated, and we agree to these terms when we acquire e-books. The Library uses a third party vendor, OverDrive, to purchase e-books. Digital content such as e-books is clearly treated differently (than books in print format) by publishers and the companies that manage digital content licensing.

It is important to remember that e-book content is leased to the Library, not actually purchased. Sometimes the Library holds the print copy of a book (purchased) but not the same title in e-book format (leased). E-books are leased to the Library utilizing a one copy/one user model, as we try to anticipate which titles will be popular with members. The price that the Library pays for e-books is usually higher than the price charged to individual consumers.

You can understand how our purchasing power is limited in the e-book market. Certain titles are not available for us to purchase and there are limited funds allocated for the purchase of e-books. The conflict in values between libraries and many publishers, where we wish that the selection of e-books for purchase was less limited while some publishers do restrict their availability, continues to evolve.

We are hopeful that the licensing agreements of many publishers will eventually become less restrictive. More titles in e-book format from a wider range of publishers would then be available for members to check out. Ideally, the Library would like to be able to lend out all the current best sellers ranked in *The New York Times* lists of combined print and e-book fiction and nonfiction. In the meantime, the Library offers a good if limited selection of fiction and non-fiction e-books, accessible from the Institute's website. They can be downloaded to your computer, to an e-book reader, or to a mobile device anytime!



By Maximilian Schönherr, via Wikimedia Commons

CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

The Mechanics' Institute staff will be taking a hiatus from teaching classes and workshops during the months of July and August.

Look for a new 'Classes' brochure for September in the brochure racks in the middle of August.

We will continue to offer a wide range of classes in the Fall, and always welcome your suggestions for new classes.



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

First Tuesday TED Talk

4th Floor Meeting Room

Topic: Elizabeth Gilbert: Success, failure and the drive to keep creating

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 of Elizabeth Gilbert's 2014 talk about why success can be as disorienting as failure, and how to carry on regardless of outcomes.

Walk-ins Welcome.

Information and registration:

415.393.0102 or

milibrary.org/events/learn.



MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
LIBRARY & GUEST ROOM

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

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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

EVENTS AUGUST PREVIEW

Mid-Summer Music – A Georganne Conley Commemorative Program with the Vinaccesi Ensemble

Friday, August 1, 7:00 pm (Café opens at 6:30 pm)

A romantic mid-summer concert with the **Vinaccesi Ensemble** featuring French and Italian Baroque Madrigals and Songs on authentic instruments. Lush, exquisite harmonies and beautifully honed voices are the delight of this prestigious sextet. Watch milibrary.org/events for details. **Members \$15; Public \$25**

Information & registration: 415.393.0100 or milibrary.org/events.



MI's Databases

(continued from page 5)

- Encyclopedia of Business Information Sources
- Estate Planning
- Gale Directory of Publications and Broadcast Media
- Gale General Reference Center
- Historical San Francisco Chronicle
- Hoover's
- JSTOR
- Law and Legal Information Directory
- Morningstar Investment Research Center
- Oxford English Dictionary
- ProQuest Newspapers
- Reference USA
- Scholarships, Fellowships & Loans
- Standard & Poor's NetAdvantage
- Tradeshows Worldwide
- ValueLine Resource Center



INVITATION TO EXHIBIT @ BOOK'TOBERFEST

Friday, September 26, 5:00 – 7:30 pm

Have you written a book lately? Are you a graphic designer, book designer, editor, agent, web designer, illustrator, photographer or freelance researcher? Do you offer a service that would benefit the reading and writing public?

The Mechanics' Institute is seeking member authors, professionals involved in the book arts or folks who offer writer support services to populate our annual tradeshow at Book'toberfest. Book'toberfest is a fantastic opportunity to alert the MI community to you, your company and your contribution to literary culture while enjoying local beer and delicious food!

Space is limited so if you would like to be involved contact Taryn Edwards by Friday, August 8, 2014 at 415.393.0103 or tedwards@milibrary.org.

This offer is extended to MI members only.

