



MID-SUMMER MUSIC – A GEORGANNE CONLEY COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM



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

Vinaccesi Ensemble

This romantic mid-summer concert with the **Vinaccesi Ensemble** features rarely performed Italian Baroque madrigals, canzonettas, psalm settings, and lute songs, plus graceful gems by musical friends of the Sun King's court.

Full listing on page 2

WRITING THE PERSONAL ESSAY

Saturday, August 23, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

Back by Popular Demand!

Join us for an afternoon's exploration and celebration of the personal essay. We'll discuss what life material lends itself to the form, whether a small, precisely observed moment or a lifelong obsession. We'll look at published examples in the Mechanics' collection, and students will complete in-class exercises leading to their drafting a 1000-word essay of their own.

Continued on page 4



ARE YOU A PROUSTIAN?

New Semester Begins September 10

Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter

Did you know that the **San Francisco Chapter of the Proust Society of America** has been meeting at MI for the last 12 years to discuss Proust's masterpiece, *In Search of Lost Time*? Whether you are an admirer or just curious, now is the time to join! As current 3-year member, Emily Ehm

says, *I was quite nervous about signing up for the Proust class because I am 80 years and everyone in the group seemed younger and smarter... As it turned out, most of the same people are still in the class (20+), I no longer feel old and people have gotten used to me and I love Proust and everything connected with him but also the kind of people who love Proust and the instructor too.*



Full listing on page 5

INSTITUTE NEWS

In Memoriam

TARYN EDWARDS,
MEMBER RELATIONS / MARKETING
SPECIALIST

Dear members, with a heavy heart I announce the deaths of three long-time affiliates of the Mechanics' Institute.

Yvon Soares

Yvon Soares, Mechanics' Institute Membership Secretary 2009-2011, passed away on June 28, 2014, in her home in Alameda.

Yvon joined the staff after being a member and volunteer since 2005. She retired in 2011 after having previously worked for thirty years at C & H Sugar Company. She was loved by everyone for her kind, giving spirit and forthright sense of humor.



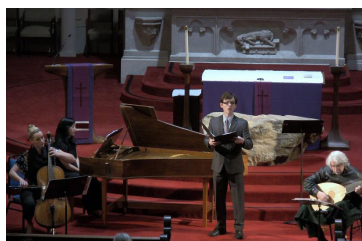
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EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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



Mid-Summer Music – A Georganne Conley Commemorative Program

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

Vinaccessi Ensemble

The Vinaccessi Ensemble focuses on music of the Baroque, especially that of Italy and is named after Italian composer Benedetto Vinaccessi. Performers include:

Nanette McGuinness, soprano

Kindra Scharich, mezzo-soprano

Jonathan Smucker, tenor

Kirk Eichelberger, bass

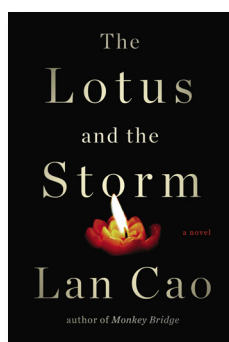
Hallie Pridham, Baroque cello and viola da gamba

Susie Fong, harpsichord

with guest artist **Paul Morton**, the orbo and Baroque guitar



If you missed their concert for the grand opening of the Salon Dore at the Legion of Honor you have another chance to enjoy this romantic and lively repertoire featuring rarely performed French and Italian Baroque madrigals and songs on authentic instruments. Lush, exquisite harmonies and beautifully honed voices are the delight of this prestigious septet. Perfect for a “mid-summer’s night!” French and Italian wines and cuisine will be available in our “garden” café. Décor by Kathleen Blake. **Pre-paid reservations required. Members \$15; Friends of Vinaccessi \$15; Public \$25**



Wednesday, September 10, 6:00 pm

The Lotus and the Storm (Viking Adult)

AUTHOR LAN CAO IN CONVERSATION WITH ANDREW LAM

Co-sponsored by Asia Society

Family mysteries unfold in Lan Cao’s sweeping, lyrical novel about war and its casualties. Alternating between the voice of Mai, a Vietnamese-American woman and her father, Minh, a former commander of the airborne brigade in the South Vietnamese army, *The Lotus and the Storm* follows a family from Saigon during the war to US Vietnamese refugee communities forty years later. This novel offers a rarely heard Vietnamese-American perspective on events that have been central to twentieth-century American history. Working across a broad and astonishing canvas, Lan Cao has delivered a truly epic drama of love, loyalty, and the legacies of war.

Lan Cao was born in Saigon, Vietnam in 1961, the same year that President Ngo Dinh Diem was elected President of the Republic of Vietnam. She came to the United States in 1975 and eventually settled with her family in Virginia. Her first novel, *Monkey Bridge*, came out of her desire for and need to come to terms with the journey of war, immigration and exile.

Andrew Lam is the author of *Perfume Dreams: Reflections on the Vietnamese Diaspora*, which won the 2006 PEN Open Book Award, and *East Eats West: Writing in Two Hemispheres*. His recent book of short stories, *Birds of Paradise Lost*, recently received the 2013 PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award. **Members of MI and AS Free; Public \$15**



Photo of Lan Cao credit: Le Phuong Mai

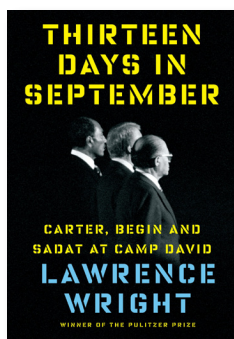
Wednesday, September 17, 12:30 pm (Middle East lunch at Noon)

Thirteen Days in September: Carter, Begin, and Sadat at Camp David (Knopf)

LAWRENCE WRIGHT

The award-winning author of *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* offers an illuminating day-by-day account of the 1978 Camp David conference, when President Jimmy Carter convinced Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to sign a peace treaty. This was the first treaty in the modern Middle East, and it endures to this day. With his hallmark insight into the forces at play in the Middle East and his acclaimed journalistic skill, **Lawrence Wright** delves deeply into the issues and enmities between the two nations, explaining the relevant background to the conflict and to all the major participants.

Lawrence Wright is a staff writer for *The New Yorker*, and the author of the novel, *God's Favorite*, and six previous books of nonfiction, including *In the New World*, *Saints and Sinners*, *Remembering Satan*, *The Looming Tower*, and *Going Clear*. He is also a screenwriter and a playwright. **Members only—Reservations Required - Limited Seating**



Thursday, September 18, 6:00 pm

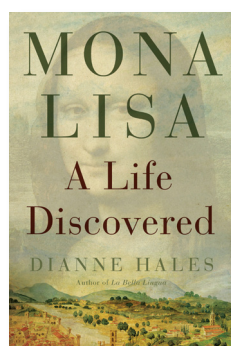
Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered (Simon & Schuster)

DIANNE HALES

Co-sponsored by Humanities West and Leonardo da Vinci Society

When new findings identified Leonardo's model as Lisa Gherardini del Giocondo, award winning author **Dianne Hales** was intrigued and set out to reconstruct Lisa's life, taking a journey throughout Italy to archives and libraries, piazze and palazzi, abandoned chapels, and fairytale castles. Hales's Italian knighthood (granted for her previous book *La Bella Lingua*) gave her unfettered access to archives and experts, including Lisa's last living descendants. The result of her extensive research is a blend of biography, history, and memoir that introduces us to an enigmatic woman who lived during Florence's golden age.

Members of MI, HW and LDVS Free; Public \$15



CINEMALIT

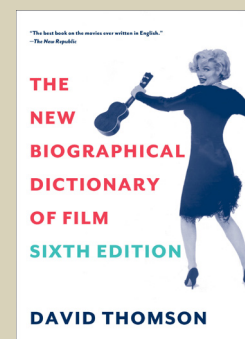
SEPTEMBER PREVIEW CRITIC'S CHOICE



Which movies do film industry professionals like? This September, CinemalIt will dedicate the month to the movies that film critics love, with input from writers David Thomson, Kenneth Turan and Mick LaSalle.

David Thomson's **The New Biographical Dictionary of Film: Sixth Edition** and Kenneth Turan's **Not to be Missed: Fifty-Four Favorites from a Lifetime of Film** offer much to consider. Watch for these cinematic treasures, each introduced by a noted film connoisseur.

CinemalIt starts up again on Friday, September 5.
Watch milibrary.org/events for details!



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.

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

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



(Continued from page 1)

Writing the Personal Essay



The personal essay is as old as Seneca and as relevant as this week's *New Yorker*. Writers as diverse as Joan Didion, George Orwell, and David Foster Wallace have excelled

at the form, proving its elasticity and variety. Essays—from the French verb essayer, "to try"—involve thinking on the page, exploring assumptions and observations as well as describing the world around us. Small class size will allow for concentrated focus on class material and for instructor feedback on all student work. **Members \$75; Public \$95.** For reservations: Taryn Edwards, tedwards@milibrary.org, 415.393.0103. **Enrollment closes one week prior to class date. Course Fee is not refundable 14 days or less from class date.**



Dylan Thomas and America

Tuesday, August 26, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Co-sponsored with the Irish Literary and Historical Society. Join award-winning Welsh poet and academic **Dr. Nerys Williams** as

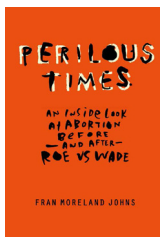
she outlines the life and poetry of Dylan Thomas and discusses his experiences in America and the San Francisco Bay Area. Samples of Thomas reading his own poetry will be the highlight of the evening. **MI & ILHS Members Free; Public \$15**

Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and Ireland's Gothic History

Tuesday, September 2, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Arguably the most famous horror story in the world, Bram Stoker's *Dracula* has been read by millions and, thanks to its adaptation on screen, many more are familiar with the most famous vampire of them all, Count Dracula. What is not so well-known is the story's Irish background and Bram Stoker's own, fascinating perspectives on his country's history. Join **Dr. Ó Donghaile** as he explores Stoker's understanding of Irish history and culture, how they inspired the author's gothic imagination and how these issues can help us to understand more about a novel that remains hugely popular today. **MI & ILHS Members Free; Public \$15**



Perilous Times: a conversation about the future of reproductive rights

Thursday, August 14, 6:00 pm

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, MD** and NARAL Pro-Choice America Board Member-elect **Renee Bracey Sherman**. **Members Free; Public \$15**

Keeping the home fires burning: the music of World War I

Tuesday, August 19, 6:00 pm

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 'conscripted' of the music industry as a propaganda source and the subversive songs composed and sung by ordinary soldiers. **MI & ILHS Members Free; Public \$15**



Abraham Lincoln's Path to Reelection in 1864: Our Greatest Victory

Thursday, September 4, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Co-sponsored with the SF Civil War Roundtable, Abraham Lincoln Institute, and the Abraham Lincoln Association. The fate of the Union and

the emancipation of slaves were at stake in the national election of 1864. When Lincoln took office for the second time he faced the challenge of bringing the war to a successful end, thus saving the nation and opening the door to the adoption of the 13th amendment abolishing slavery. Join us as **Fred J. Martin** presents his new book and illuminates Lincoln's tremendous 1864 victory, his oversight of the national reconstruction, and the political genius that reignited the ideals of freedom, and saved democratic government. **MI Members and Co-sponsors Free; Public \$15**

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

Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter New Semester!

DIANE LAI,
PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN

Now is the perfect time to join the Proust Society of America at the Mechanics' Institute! The new semester, and the beginning of a new 3-year cycle examining Marcel Proust's masterpiece *In Search of Lost Time*, will start on September 10th. Dr. Mark Calkins, Proust expert and SFSU lecturer, leads the discussions of the Proust Group and the World Literature Group on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

The Proust Group, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 5:30 – 6:30 pm, will discuss *Swann's Way*, volume 1 of *In Search of Lost Time*, during this semester.

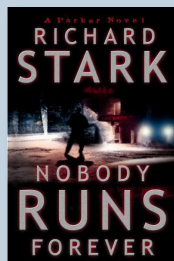
The World Literature Group, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 6:45 – 8:00 pm, will begin the year with Shakespeare's *Anthony and Cleopatra*, and then move onto Lucan's *Civil War*, St. Augustine's *Confessions*, Dante's *Inferno*, Diderot's *Rameau's Nephew*, and Rousseau's *Julie, or the New Heloise*.

The new 12-week semester begins on September 10, and both groups welcome new members. Fees per semester are \$70 for MI members/\$100 for non-members. Registration will be online and through EventBrite. For more information, contact Dr. Calkins at mark@tempsperdu.com or Diane Lai at dlai@milibrary.org.



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.**



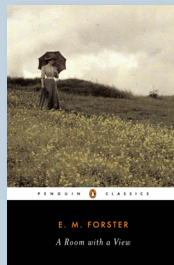
Nobody Runs Forever

by RICHARD STARK

Monday, August 11, 12:00 pm

Brown Bag Mystery Readers

Reconsidering his life's work after he is set up for a murder, master criminal Parker ignores his suspicions in order to accept a potentially lucrative heist job involving a team of incompetent associates, a small-town bank, an alcoholic heiress, and a philandering social climber. (courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**



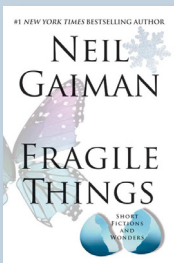
A Room with a View

by E. M. FORSTER

Tuesday, August 19, 12:00 pm

Fiction You Wish You Had Read

A classic tale of British middle-class love, this novel displays Forster's skill in contrasting British sensibilities with those of foreign cultures, as he portrays the love of a British woman for an expatriate living in Italy. (courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**



Fragile Things

by NEIL GAIMAN

Thursday, August 19, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Literature in Brief: Short Stories

A mysterious circus terrifies an audience for one extraordinary performance before disappearing into the night. Two teenage boys crash a party and meet the girls of their dreams—and nightmares. In a Hugo Award-winning story, a great detective must solve a most unsettling royal murder in a strangely altered Victorian England. These marvelous creations showcase the invention and storytelling brilliance—and the terrifyingly dark and entertaining wit—of Neil Gaiman. (courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com) **Members Only. Registration required.**

Information & registration: Diane Lai at 415.393.0118, dlai@milibrary.org, or www.milibrary.org/discussion. 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 (continued from page 1)

Tom H. Spreng

Tom Spreng, stately in his uniform and turn of the century mustache, graciously manned the Institute's Security Desk for over a decade. He passed away in late June. The staff will miss his warm smile that saluted us every evening.

Karen Pearson

Karen Pearson was a long time member and volunteer who assisted with café concession and box office for many of our author events, special programs and CinemaLit for over 10 years. Karen loved to converse with members and was known for her sardonic wit, twinkling blue eyes, and generosity; she will be greatly missed. Karen passed away over the Fourth of July weekend.



Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM



Congratulations to 18-year-old Daniel Naroditsky of Foster City who had the best result of his career in taking second in the Teplice Open held June 14 – 22 in the Czech Republic. Daniel scored 7½ from 9 for a 2701 FIDE performance, behind only Grandmaster Hrant Melkumyan of Armenia. Daniel continues to get stronger and is now rated 2577 FIDE, equal 11th in the US with fellow Grandmaster Larry Christiansen. We expect Daniel to be over 2600 by the end of the summer, and playing on the US Olympiad team in 2016.



2014 Teplice Open winners

(left to right)

Hrant Melkumyan,
Daniel Naroditsky and
Eduard Andreev

The 51st Arthur Stamer Memorial held June 7th and 8th, ended in a three-way tie for first among National Masters Romy Fuentes and Paul Gallegos plus Expert Jerome Sun. The three winners, who each scored 5–1, reached their scores by different routes. Gallegos won his first four games, including wins over Sun in round three and Fuentes in round four, before taking half-point byes the last two rounds. Fuentes beat IM Elliott Winslow in a long hard game in the last round, while Sun won quickly over fellow Expert Uyanga Byambaa.

IM Winslow, Ganesh Viswanath and Arunesh Saras tied for third at 4½–1. The big rating gainers in the 47-player field were Christopher Woojin Yoo, going from 1287 to 1459 (172 points), and Lorraine Eastham from 1038 to 1205 (167 points).

Chess for Women

Sundays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

Tournaments

Saturday, August 2

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

14th Annual Vladimir Pafnutieff Memorial G/45

Saturday, August 16

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

9th Annual Bernardo Smith Memorial

Sunday, August 17

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

9th Annual Bernardo Smith Memorial

Chess continued on page 8

Why we have such long patron barcode numbers

ERIK SANDALL, ELECTRONIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN & WEBMASTER

In July's *This Month at the Mechanics' Institute*, Technical Services Librarian, Matt Montgomery, mentioned the need to type in your patron barcode number in order to gain remote access to most of the Library's online databases. The Library's barcode numbers are 14 digits long, and therefore pretty difficult to memorize. We received questions via the recent Member Survey as to why patron barcode numbers are so long, and I'll provide an explanation here.

Each Library patron and physical item in the collection has a unique barcode associated with it. The Library uses a barcode symbology that is commonly used in libraries and can be decoded with practically any barcode scanner. Using barcodes that are readable by standard scanners allows Library staff to retrieve patron and item records quickly without the need to type in the patron's name or search for the item's title.

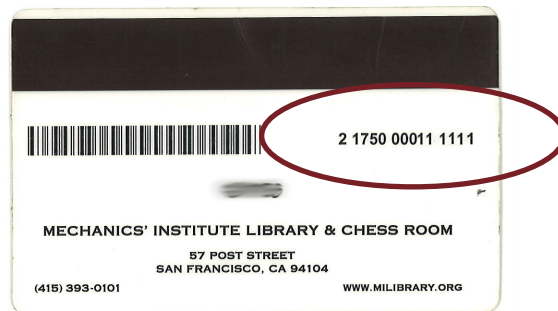
Why can't this be achieved with shorter barcode numbers? A quick explanation of how the barcode numbers are structured will help explain this a little more:

- The first digit indicates a patron barcode or an item barcode (2 or 3, respectively).
- The next four digits identify the library the barcode belongs to (1750 for the Mechanics' Institute Library).
- The next eight digits identify a specific patron or item.

- The final digit is a "check digit" that ensures that the barcode has been correctly decoded – that is, read – by our scanners at the circulation desk.

As I mentioned earlier, most libraries use the same barcode symbology, so it is necessary to have a unique identifier embedded in the code to help prevent our items from mistakenly finding their way onto the shelves of the San Francisco Public Library, for example. Furthermore, when a library has as long a history of service as the Mechanics' Institute, the 8-digit item/patron identifier ensures that there will never be a need to recycle old barcode numbers.

It is essential that every patron and item have a unique barcode number. In the end, the purpose of long barcode numbers is to avoid duplicates – within our library and among other libraries.



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, August 5, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

First Tuesday TED Talk

4th Floor Meeting Room

Topic: Something different...

For this month's TED Talk we're going to try something a bit different. Instead of watching a previously recorded TED Talk, we are going to watch the most recent talk posted to ted.com so we won't know the topic or the speaker until the morning of Tuesday, August 5th. Bring your lunch and curiosity to talk about ideas, stories, and concepts with fellow Mechanics' Institute members and staff. **Walk-ins Welcome.**

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



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



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.



Chess (continued from page 7)

Tuesday Night Events

August 5, 12, 19, 26
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Jay Whitehead Tuesday Night Marathon

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW

Information & reservations:
 415.393.0110 or chessclub.org.

MEET THE AUTHOR OFF-SITE EVENT



Tuesday, September 30, 8:00 pm
 (Off-site event at JCCSF)

ShoPLifter

AUTHOR MICHAEL CHO IN CONVERSATION WITH BOOK DESIGNER CHIP KIDD

Location: Jewish Community Center of San Francisco
 3200 California Street, San Francisco

Co-sponsored by JCCSF, Cartoon Museum, Asia Society, California College of Art, MI



Protagonist Corinna Park is an aspiring writer stuck in an advertising agency writing copy for "tween" perfume; Michael Cho's visually stunning and insightful graphic novel is a contemporary tale of a young woman's search for happiness and self-fulfillment in the big city.

Members \$15; Public \$25. Members and co-sponsors - USE the promo code SHOPLIFTER to get the discount. Tickets on sale after August 11th at jccsf.org

