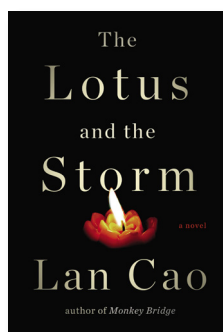




MEET THE AUTHOR HIGHLIGHT



Wednesday, September 10, 6:00 pm

The Lotus and the Storm (Viking Adult)

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 U.S. Vietnamese refugee communities forty years later.

Continued on page 2

CLASSES HIGHLIGHT



Wednesday, October 1, 12:00 pm

Taking the Fear Out of Estate Planning
4th Floor Meeting Room

It is the hard reality that the majority of the adults in the U.S. die without a written will, leaving their loved ones without guidance, and turning crucial personal decisions over to the courts. In addition to the basics of Estate Planning, this seminar by Planned Giving Specialist, **Phil Murphy**, will also focus on how wealth inequality in the U.S., as documented by economist Thomas Piketty and others, affects both estate planning and the future of good causes. **Members Only; Free. Attendance is limited. Registration required.**

Full listing on page 4

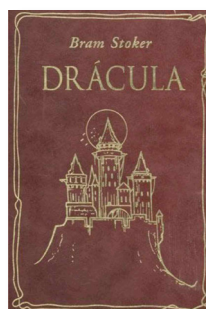
AUTHORS' CARNIVAL HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, September 2, 6:00 pm

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

Continued on page 7



LIBRARY

Donations of Library Materials

DEB HUNT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

BOBBIE MONZON, MANAGING LIBRARIAN

On an almost daily basis, Institute members and their friends donate materials to the Library. This generosity has helped supplement our collection and contributed to our sales cart and annual Holiday Book Sale.

But please keep in mind, donations should be in "like new" condition. Think of it as if you were giving the item to someone as a gift. Oftentimes we open our book drop or have members come to the service desks with bags of books that are water damaged or have a hint of mold.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept these for our collection nor for our book sales. We also do not accept audio cassettes or VHS videotapes.

(continued on page 7)

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MEET THE AUTHOR

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

Wednesday, September 10, 6:00 pm

The Lotus and the Storm (Viking Adult) LAN CAO IN CONVERSATION WITH ANDREW LAM

Co-sponsored by Asia Society

The Lotus and the Storm 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**

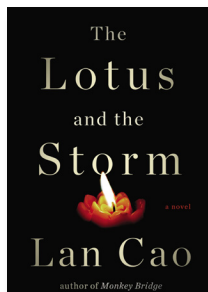


Photo credit:
Le Phuong Mai

Wednesday, September 17, 12:30 pm (Middle East Lunch at NOON)

13 Days in September (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 one novel, *God's Favorite*, and six previous books of nonfiction, including *In the New World*; *Saints and Sinners*; *Remembering Satan*; *The Looming Tower*, which was the recipient of many honors; and *Going Clear*. He is also a screenwriter and a playwright.

Members and guests only—Reservations Required - Limited Seating; Free.

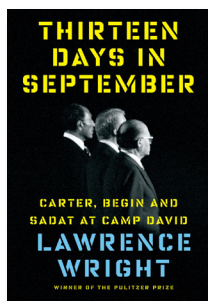


Photo credit:
Kenny Braun

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

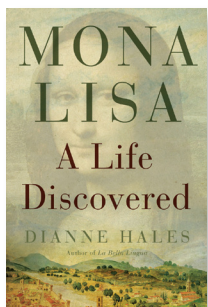


Photo credit:
Julia Ann Hales

CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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

Members Free; Public Suggested Donation \$10

For fourteen 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!

CRITIC'S CHOICE: CLASSIC AND QUIRKY AMERICANA



Friday, September 5

Melvin and Howard (1980)

DIRECTED BY JONATHAN DEMME

Paul Le Mat, Mary Steenburgen

Introduction: Michael Fox, KQED.org/Arts

The wry, wistful and possibly true story of a likable loser who claimed to be Howard Hughes' heir, and his ambitious wife, gets to the heart of the American dream.



Friday, September 12

M (1951)

DIRECTED BY JOSEPH LOSEY

David Wayne, Howard Da Silva

Special guest: *The New Republic* film critic **David Thomson**, author of *A Biographical Dictionary of Film*

A child-killer is pursued by the police in this taut film noir that relocates Fritz Lang's dark yarn from Berlin to Los Angeles.



Friday, September 19

Bedside (1934)

DIRECTED BY ROBERT FLOREY

Warren William, Jean Muir

Special guest: *S.F. Chronicle* film critic **Mick LaSalle**, author of *Dangerous Men: Pre-Code Hollywood and the Birth of the Modern Man*

A charming cad passes himself off as a Park Avenue surgeon in this breakneck-paced Pre-Code saga rife with drugs, sex and medical malpractice.

MEET THE AUTHOR OFF-SITE EVENT

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



Shoplifter (Pantheon)
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 Toronto based illustrator and cartoonist **Michael Cho** and world renown Knopf book designer **Chip Kidd** talk about the art of illustration and storytelling in graphic novels.

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. Protagonist Corinna Park, an aspiring young writer, works in an advertising agency writing copy for "tween" perfume. Caught in the superficial trappings of her job, she longs to pursue her passion—but, how?!

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



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, September 2, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

First Tuesday TED Talk

4th Floor Meeting Room

Topic: Jared Diamond: How societies can grow old better

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 March 2013 of Jared Diamond talking about how societies can grow old better. An informal discussion will follow the viewing. **Walk-ins Welcome.**



Thursday, September 11, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Navigating the New Value Line Database

Value Line has redesigned its platform, moving to a more dynamic, digitally-based product with many new features **and new content** to assist in making investment decisions. Learn how the

new design makes greater usage of lists for site navigation, and indicates more clearly the factors that users are most interested in. Value Line continues to provide its proprietary content which includes ranks for timeliness, safety, and financial strength, plus feature articles and analysts' commentaries. Attendees will familiarize themselves with the revamped stock screener that takes user-selected parameters to generate a focused list of companies that fit the desired criteria. Long-time users of Value Line will be shown how they can still access the traditional single-page company reports. **Registration required.**

Wednesday, September 17, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Library Downloads Workshop: eBooks, eMagazines, eAudiobooks

The Mechanics' Institute offers thousands of digital titles that you can download to your computer, tablet, or smartphone from any where 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.**



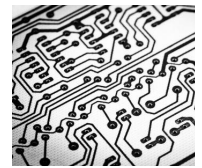
Wednesday, September 24,

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. **To register, contact Erik Sandall with available time frames and a brief description of your question or problem by emailing esandall@milibrary.org or by calling 415.393.0111. Registration Required.**



Thursday, September 25, 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Gale Business Insights: Essentials

Learn to research and analyze

companies to obtain competitor intelligence and access in-depth industry profiles using this database. Discover how to develop focused lists of companies by industry or location. Access relevant articles published in scholarly journals, investigate investment opportunities, and find parent-subsidiary relationships. Additional content covers company rankings, brand name and product information, financial reports and histories. **Registration required.**

Wednesday, October 1, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Taking the Fear Out of Estate Planning

4th Floor Meeting Room

An up-to-date estate plan puts you in control of the economical and efficient distribution of what you own to those you love. Your plan also allows you to control who manages your finances if you cannot, and to specify the kind of health care you do, or do not, want. Planned giving expert **Phil Murphy** will teach you about the power of estate planning and what free estate-planning tools are available to you through your membership at the Mechanics' Institute. **Attendance is limited. To register, please contact Ralph Lewin, Executive Director, (after 9/2/14) at rl Lewin@milibrary.org or 415.393.0117. Light lunch provided. 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.

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.**

September 8, 12:00 pm

The Gods of Guilt

by MICHAEL CONNELLY

Brown Bag Mystery Readers' Book Group

Mickey Haller gets the text, "Call me ASAP - 187," and the penal code for murder immediately gets his attention. When Mickey learns that the victim was his own former client, a prostitute he thought he had rescued and put on the straight and narrow path, he knows he is on the hook for this one. He soon finds out that she was back in LA and back in the life. Far from saving her, Mickey may have been the one who put her in danger. (courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**



September 16, 12:00 pm

When the Emperor Was Divine

by JULIE OTSUKA

Fiction You Wish You Had Read

On a sunny day in Berkeley, California, in 1942, a woman sees a sign in a post office window, returns to her home, and matter-of-factly begins to pack her family's possessions. Like thousands of other Japanese Americans they have been reclassified, virtually overnight, as enemy aliens and are about to be uprooted from their home and sent to a dusty internment camp in the Utah desert. (courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**



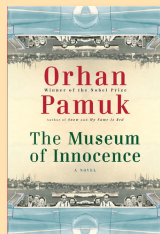
September 18, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

The Museum of Innocence

by ORHAN PAMUK

Forgotten Classics

It is 1975, a perfect spring in Istanbul. Kemal and Sibel, children of two prominent families, are about to become engaged. But when Kemal encounters Fusun, a beautiful shopgirl and a distant relation, a rift begins to open between Kemal and the world of the westernized Istanbul bourgeoisie. In his pursuit of Fusun over the next eight years, Kemal becomes a compulsive collector of objects that chronicle his lovelorn progress amassing a museum that is both a map of a society and of his heart. (courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com) **Members Only. Registration required.**



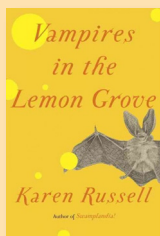
Tuesday, September 16, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Vampires in the Lemon Grove

by KAREN RUSSELL

Literature in Brief – Short Stories

From the author of the novel *Swamplandia!* ... comes a magical and uniquely daring collection of stories. Within these pages, a community of girls held captive in a Japanese silk factory slowly transmute into human silkworms and plot revolution; a group of boys stumble upon a mutilated scarecrow that bears an uncanny resemblance to a missing classmate that they used to torment; and in the marvelous title story, two vampires in a sun-drenched lemon grove try to slake their thirst for blood and come to terms with their immortal relationship. (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



The Mechanics' Institute will once again be fielding a team in the United States Chess League this fall. The ten-player roster, which will include 10-year-old Expert Hans Niemann and several Grandmasters, will play four at a time as individuals against other teams.

The 2015 Mechanics' team is Grandmaster Daniel Naroditsky, Grandmaster Vinay Bhat, Grandmaster Jesse Kraai, International Master David Pruess, International Master Yian Liou, Fide Master Andy Lee, National Master Vignesh Panchanathan, National Master Cameron Wheeler, National Master Siddarth Banik and Expert Hans Niemann.



Daniel Naroditsky receiving his prize for taking second place at Montcada, Spain, this past summer.

Daniel Naroditsky, who was Hans' age when he joined the MI team back in 2006, is now a Grandmaster at 18 and playing first board for the M.I.

Chess for Women

Sundays, September 7, 14, 21, 28
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

Tournaments

Saturday, September 20
10:00 am – 8:00 pm
14th Annual Howard Donnelly Memorial G/45

Sunday, September 21
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Neil Falconer Memorial Blitz

Tuesday Night Events

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Jay Whitehead Tuesday Night Marathon

Wednesday Night Blitz

September 3, 10, 17, 24
6:30 pm – 8:50 pm

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

Ewelina Krubnik's After Six Chess Class for Adults

Did you learn how to move the chess pieces as a child? Would you like to learn more? This class is for you! Join a small group of MI members in a relaxed setting to improve your chess skills. In four Wednesday evenings you will dramatically improve your game, learning: Major Openings, Check Mate Patterns, and Endgame Strategies.

This class meets four Wednesdays:
September 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

The admission fee for this event covers all four classes.
Members \$40, Public \$50

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

September 6, 13, 20, 27
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW

Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or chessclub.org.

Donations (continued from page 1)

While we appreciate donations, we have an updated policy that outlines the types of materials we will take and those that are unacceptable. You can view the new policy online at milibrary.org/policies/donations or a printed version can be obtained at the Circulation Desks on the 2nd and 3rd floors.

Much staff time is needed to inventory donations, search our current collection to see if we already own an item, and then either process it into our collection, label it for sale, donate it, or recycle it.

If in doubt about whether your donation would be welcome, feel free to call the library at 415.393.0101.



Example of a water-damaged donation.

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

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



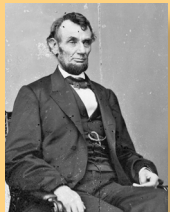
(Continued from page 1)

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

Tuesday, September 2, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Set in London and Transylvania, *Dracula* tells the tale of a gallant fight to protect England from invasion by a foreign monster who is intent on taking control of the country by transforming its people into his slaves. 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 and ILHS Members Free; Public \$15**



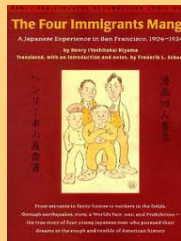
Abraham Lincoln's Path to Reelection in 1864: Our Greatest Victory

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**



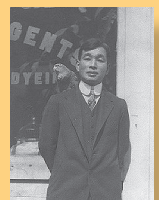
The Four Immigrants Manga: A Japanese Experience in San Francisco, 1904-1924

Wednesday, October 8, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Henry Yoshitaka Kiyama arrived in San Francisco from Japan in 1904, at the age of 19. He studied fine art at the city's Art Institute, but in 1931 wound up publishing what is arguably America's first graphic novel, perhaps even its first "comic book." Frederik L. Schodt's translation of this work was published in 1999, under the title of *The Four Immigrants Manga: A Japanese Experience in San Francisco, 1904-1924*. In 2000, it was a finalist in the USA Pen/West translation award.

Join Mechanics' member **Fred Schott** for an updated talk on this remarkable book, which is attracting more and more attention among both scholars and comic book fans. **Members Free; Public \$15**



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



Graciously sponsored by

U.C. Berkeley Extension
 San Francisco Writers' Grotto
 Zyzzyva
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 Fourteen Hills
 Squaw Valley Writers' Conference
 Ambush Review
 Poetry Flash
 Northern California Book Awards
 Arroyo Literary Review
 San Francisco Writers' Conference
 Stone Bridge Press
 Napa Valley Writers' Conference
 San Francisco Public Press
 Cameron Books

BOOK'TOBERFEST:

A BOOK INDUSTRY TRADE SHOW & CRAFT BEER TASTING

Friday, September 26, 5:00 – 8:00 pm

3RD FLOOR LIBRARY

Come hoist a stein with fellow book lovers and our Mechanics' Institute members who are involved in the publishing industry. Meet the staff from local book publishers and literary journals, and many indie-publishers who are eager to share their knowledge. Network with editors, writing coaches and teachers, conference organizers, book shepherds, and more at this trade show reminiscent of our historic industrial fairs (this time with beer).

If you are a reader, writer, or beer connoisseur, you'll love the creative vibe, selection of locally crafted beer, and plethora of new books coming out by local writers and small publishers.

Members Free; Public \$15



(From right to left) Wiley 2013 • Marin Poetry Center 2013 • Arroyo Literary Review 2013 • Bar Scene of 2012



PROUST SOCIETY - NEW SEMESTER

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the Month beginning September 10th

The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter

Under the leadership of Dr. Mark Calkins, MI offers two bi-weekly discussion groups, on a semester basis. This semester, the **Proust Group**, which meets from 5:30 - 6:30pm, will read and discuss volume 1 (*Swann's Way*) of Proust's masterpiece *In Search of Lost Time*. The **World Literature Group**, which meets from 6:45 - 8:00 pm, will begin the year with Shakespeare's *Anthony & 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 semester begins on September 10th, and both groups welcome new members. Fees for the new semester are \$70 for MI members/\$100 for non-members, per group; payable when you register online. For more information, contact Dr. Calkins at mark@tempsperdu.com. Online registration required at milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings (and scroll down).

This semester will begin the three-year cycle required to complete an entire reading and discussion of *In Search of Lost Time*. Here is what a few of the members of this group have to say about it:

The experience of having met twice a month, eleven months of the year, for three years – with Mark Calkins as leader and with a group of dedicated Proustians – has been important and enriching for me. – Alicia Rivera

I have truly enjoyed being a part of this exciting and thought-provoking class, and I highly recommend it to anyone seeking to immerse themselves in the Proustian experience. – Marti Mia

Lucky you who will have the satisfaction of reading Proust for the first time! And even luckier to do it with the guidance of Mark Calkins. – Jeannie Sack



MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
 LIBRARY & CHESS ROOM

57 Post Street, San Francisco,
 CA 94104

www.milibrary.org

Important Numbers

Circulation: 415.393.0101

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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