**EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT**

**Wednesday, January 14, 6:00 pm**
*Emporium Department Store (Arcadia)*
ANNE EVERS HITZ

If you enjoyed the BBC Masterpiece series *Mr Selfridge*, about American entrepreneur Harry Selfridge and the creation of London’s first department store, or if you enjoyed the recent discussion of Walter Benjamin’s social theories from *The Arcades* about commodity capitalism – have we got a program for you! Author and freelance writer Anne Evers Hitz has gathered together images from libraries and private collections to tell the story of this major shopping destination on San Francisco’s Market Street.

Details and photos on page 2.

**BI-ANNUAL MEMBERS’ MEETING**

**Thursday, December 4**
5:30 pm Reception; 6:00 pm Meeting

Join us for our bi-annual Members’ Meeting!
Meet our new Executive Director Ralph Lewin and celebrate the Institute’s 160th year with a special lecture on MI’s founding and first five years by Librarian Taryn Edwards.
Members’ and Guests Free.

**WRITERS’ MIXER**

**Thursday, January 15, 6:00 pm**
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Are you interested in joining a writers’ group or connecting with other MI writers? Come to this networking hour and learn about the writers’ groups that are currently looking for new members and meet other writers that are interested in forming a group. **Members’ only; Free.**

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**LIBRARY**

**Reference USA: Company and Consumer Data**

CRAIG JACKSON,
COLLECTIONS MANAGER LIBRARIAN

Are you trying to find a school, dry cleaner, or other service within a 10 mile radius of your home? Do you need to create a marketing plan? Are you curious about the demographic details of your new neighborhood? Have you lost your Aunt Amy’s address?

For answers to these questions look no further than Reference USA, a database subscribed to by the Library and available to you remotely at home.

(continued on page 6)
JANUARY 2015 PREVIEW

On the Street Where You Live - A San Francisco Series
As the Mid-Market area goes through vast transformation with the construction of MUNI’s Central Corridor and Central Subway, and a new intermingling of arts, theatre, and technology companies moving in or moving back—the revitalization of this major intersection will have an important impact on the City. This series looks back at the icons of Market Street and opens discussion about urban design and commerce for the future.

Wednesday, January 14, 6:00 pm
Emporium Department Store (Arcadia) ANNE EVERS HITZ
The Emporium—“California’s Largest, America’s Grandest Store”—was a major shopping destination on San Francisco’s Market Street for a century, from 1896 to 1996. Patrons could find anything at the Emporium, from jewelry to stoves, and it was a meeting place for friends to enjoy tea while listening to the Emporium Orchestra. Founded in 1897 as the Emporium and Golden Rule Bazaar, the store flourished until the disastrous 1906 earthquake. Once it re-opened in 1908, it dominated shopping downtown until mid-century. Today it is the site of the Westfield Mall.

Anne Evers Hitz is a fifth-generation San Franciscan, and a great-great granddaughter of one of the Emporium’s founders, F. W. Dohrmann. She fondly remembers the old store, the “grand dame” of Market Street. Anne has had her own communications consulting firm in San Francisco for over 20 years. She also worked as publicity director for the University of California Press and as editorial assistant at publishers Oxford University Press and Farrar, Straus & Giroux in New York. Members Free; Public $15

Upcoming:
On Track: A Field Guide to San Francisco’s Streetcars and Cable Cars (Heyday) RICK LAUBSCHER, PRESIDENT OF THE MARKET STREET RAILWAY

Wednesday, January 28, 6:00 pm
Geek Sublime: The Beauty of Code, The Code of Beauty (Graywolf) VIKRAM CHANDRA
Vikram Chandra has been a computer programmer for almost as long as he has been a novelist. In his first work of nonfiction, he searches for the connections between the worlds of art and technology. Coders are obsessed with elegance and style, just as writers are, but do the words mean the same thing to both? Can we ascribe beauty to the craft of writing code?

Exploring such varied topics as logic gates and literary modernism, the machismo of tech geeks, the omnipresence of an “Indian Mafia” in Silicon Valley, and the writings of the eleventh-century Kashmiri thinker Abhinavagupta, Geek Sublime is both an idiosyncratic history of coding and a fascinating meditation on the writer’s art. Part literary essay, part technology story, and part memoir, it is an engrossing, original, and heady book of sweeping ideas.

Vikram Chandra is the author of three highly acclaimed works of fiction, including Sacred Games, which won the 2006 Hutch Crossword Award, Red Earth and Pouring Rain, and Love and Longing in Bombay: Stories. Chandra is a Senior Lecturer of Creative Writing in the English Department at the University of California, Berkeley. Members Free; Public $15
Your support makes for a meaningful holiday gift

You may know the feeling — finding a home in the Mechanics’ Institute, in the conversations, the quiet, the books, the chess room. In today’s society, such places can be hard to find and are worth our support.

Donate today. Please deepen your commitment this year with a gift that will celebrate all that Mechanics’ stands for and ensures that it will be here for future generations.

Your gift allows us to purchase the books that spark your imagination, to introduce children to the playful and sometimes profound world of chess, and to bring together people for conversations of depth and beauty.

Give the gift of membership. Consider a membership as a gift for a friend or loved one this holiday.

To donate visit: milibrary.org/give

Or:
To donate or purchase a gift membership contact Margot Sheffner at 415.393.0105 or membership@milibrary.org

We are truly grateful and honored by your generosity.

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CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

Fridays: Cafe 5:30 pm; Program 6:00 pm.
Members Free; Public $10

JANUARY 2015 PREVIEW
CRIME & PUNISHMENT  THE FILMS OF CLAUDE CHABROL

Friday, January 9
La Femme Infidèle  (1969)
Special guest: Dr. Kevin Elstob, President of the Sacramento French Film Festival
DIRECTED BY CLAUDE CHABROL
Stephane Audran, Michel Bouquet

This tense thriller examines the fine print in the marriage contract when a man suspects his wife of cheating.

Friday, January 16
This Man Must Die  (1969)
DIRECTED BY CLAUDE CHABROL
Jean Yanne, Caroline Cellier

The father of a boy killed by a hit-and-run driver seeks revenge in this damning portrait of bourgeois domesticity.

Friday, January 23
La Cérémonie  (1995)
DIRECTED BY CLAUDE CHABROL
Isabel Huppert, Sandrine Bonnaire

Working-class gals hone a grudge against a wealthy family in Chabrol’s transposition of Ruth Rendell’s Judgment in Stone to rural Brittany.

Watch for details about February’s month dedicated to the films of Nick Nolte!

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.
Tuesday, December 2, 12:00 - 1:00 pm  
First Tuesday TED Talk  
4th Floor Meeting Room  
Topic: Andrew Connolly - What’s the Next Window into Our Universe?  
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 2014 of Andrew Connolly talking about the large amounts of data being collected about our universe. An informal discussion will follow the viewing.  
Walk-ins Welcome.

Thursday, December 11, 5:00 - 6:00 pm  
Excel Basics  
Whether you are seeking to learn spreadsheet skills or trying to upgrade to a new version of Excel, this class will provide you with the basic tools to start using Excel immediately. Learn about creating a basic spreadsheet, customizing its appearance, and using basic formulas. If you have a laptop running Excel, feel free to bring it to class. Library laptops will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.  
Registration Required.

Thursday, December 4, 5:30 - 6:30 pm  
Value Line Investment Survey: New Platform, New Content  
Value Line’s redesigned platform is a 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 to generate a focused list of companies. Long-time users of Value Line will be shown how they can still access the traditional single-page company reports.  
Registration Required.

Tuesday, December 9, 12:00 - 1:00 pm or 5:00 - 6:00 pm  
Email Drop-In Help  
Do you have questions about using email, such as: sending email attachments, printing your emails, managing your email contacts, or any other email-related question? Come to one of our drop-in sessions for one-on-one help with all of your email-related questions. We can answer questions about most email providers, including Gmail, Yahoo, and Hotmail. One-on-one help is limited to 10 minutes per session for each member.  
Walk-ins Welcome.
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.

Monday, December 8, Noon
Claire DeWitt & the Bohemian Highway
by SARA GRAN
Brown Bag Mystery Readers
When Claire DeWitt’s ex-boyfriend Paul Casablancas, a musician, is found dead in his Mission District house, Claire is on the case. Paul’s wife and the police are sure Paul was killed for his valuable collection of vintage guitars. But Claire, the best detective in the world, has other ideas. Even as her other cases offer hints to Paul’s fate—a missing girl in the grim East Village of the 1980s and an epidemic of missing miniature horses in Marin County—Claire knows: the truth is never where you expect it, and love is the greatest mystery of all. {courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com} Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.

Wednesday, December 10 & 17, 5:30 pm
The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter
Under the leadership of Dr. Mark Calkins, Mechanics’ Institute offers two bi-weekly discussion groups, on a semester basis. The Proust Group discusses Proust’s In Search of Lost Time, vol. 1 (Swann’s Way), from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. From 6:45 – 8:00 pm, the World Literature Group discusses Proustian-inspired works, beginning the semester with Shakespeare’s Anthony & Cleopatra. The new semester began on September 10th, 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.

This Is How You Lose Her
BY JUNOT DÍAZ
This Is How You Lose Her
LITERATURE IN BRIEF – SHORT STORIES
A Pulitzer Prize winner turns his prodigious talent to the haunting, impossible power of love. Hilarious and devastating, raucous and tender, these stories lay bare the infinite longing and inevitable weaknesses of our all-too-human hearts. {courtesy of amazon.com} Members Only. Registration required.

Tuesday, December 16, Noon
Potpourri of Favorites
Fiction You Wish You Had Read
Our annual Potpourri of Favorites meeting is our members’ chance to share their favorite fiction titles from the previous year. Bring one or two of your favorite fiction books and be prepared to give a short synopsis of what makes the book a favorite of yours!

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.
Members of the Mechanics’ Institute U.S. Chess League shined in the 2014 World Youth Championships, held September 18th to 30th in Durban, South Africa. Rayan Taghizadeh of Palo Alto won the bronze medal in the Boys under 12 category, while Vignesh Panchanatham of Cupertino just finished out of the medals, tying for fourth in the Boys under 14. A third member of the Mechanics’ team, 11-year-old Hans Niemann of Orinda, scored a very respectable 6 points from 11 games in the Boys under 12. Mechanics’ Institute Grandmaster-in-Residence Nick de Firmian served as one of the US national team coaches, a position he has held for many years.

Tuesday Night Events
December 2, 9, 16
5:15 pm - 6:15 pm
lecture by John Donaldson
6:30 pm – 10:30 pm
Fall Tuesday Night Marathon

Wednesday Night Blitz
December 3, 10, 17
6:30 pm – 8:50 pm
Directed by Jules Jelinek

Tournaments
Saturday, December 6
10:00 am – 8:00 pm
14th Annual Guthrie McClain Memorial G/45

Saturday Morning Chess
Class for Kids
December 6, 13, 20, 27
10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Taught by International Master Elliott Winslow

Chess for Women
Sundays, December 7, 14, 21, 28
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Taught by Ewelina Krubnik
Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

Reference USA (continued from page 1)

Reference USA is a business and residential directory that indexes data pulled from over 5,000 public sources: telephone directories, annual reports, SEC filings, and federal, state, and municipal government sources.

It contains listings for over 20 million companies includes data such as contact information, key executive names, business size, sales volume, expenditures, franchise and brand information, liens, judgments, bankruptcies, and credit rating. Reference USA also contains information on over 222 million consumers culling data from “white page directories”, public utilities, the U.S. census, and other government sources. No unlisted phone numbers or addresses are included however.

Upon performing a search, Reference USA allows one to manipulate the data to best serve your needs; providing you with the ability to create tailored lists and spreadsheets that you can open in Excel or drop into an Access file.

All in all, Reference USA is a brilliant marketing tool and reference resource for the small business person, consumer, or curious individual. Ask a librarian for a tutorial or call the Library to find out when a class will next be offered - 415.393.0102.
The Library has a new easy access computer workstation, 3H, next to the classrooms on the 3rd floor. This easy access workstation allows for magnifying text on the screen and also for switching between the QWERTY and Simplified Dvorak keyboard systems.

Instructions are located at the workstation. The features which differ from the other member public computers, include:
- large, easy-to-read keyboard
- keyboard shortcut that allows changes between the US standard QWERTY and the Dvorak keyboards
- larger default text size on the Firefox web browser
- visible passwords when members enter their 14 digit barcode
- primarily white, non-distracting screen background
- desktop shortcut to the Windows 7 magnifying tool

Just as with our other public computer workstations, if all the other ones are in use, the current user will be logged out when s/he reaches the end of the session. If there are any other computers free, the member can log back on.

AUTHORS’ CARNIVAL
Readings, workshops, and camaraderie in celebration of our members’ creative achievements

In celebration of the Panama Pacific International Exposition (PPIE) Centennial in 2015, the Mechanics’ Institute will be hosting a yearlong series of author events, lectures, expert panels, walking tours and exhibits of our PPIE ephemera from our collection and other sources including books, programs, postcards and memorabilia.

Panorama: Tales From San Francisco’s 1915 Pan-Pacific International Exposition by Lee Bruno (Author Program)
Thursday, January 22, 6:00 pm
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM
Join us and MI member author Lee Bruno in our first PPIE Centennial event. Lee Bruno will present his new book Panorama - a collection of essays on the Exposition’s key players, celebrities and guests. Expect marvelous visuals and riveting stories! Members & Public Free.

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

Thursday, December 11
5:30 - 7:00 pm
2nd Floor Library

Join members and friends for some holiday cheer and lively conversation while relaxing to musical interludes. Enjoy gourmet cheeses and hors d’oeuvres, delectable desserts and tempting libations!

Admission $10 – Open to Members & Guests
ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
Call 415.393.0100 or online milibrary.org/events

ANNUAL BOOK SALE

Wednesday, December 3
11:00 - 4:00 pm
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Holiday shoppers—come and select the perfect gifts for friends, family, colleagues or significant others! A delightful and diverse selection of hard-covers, paperbacks, book art, posters, and MORE will be available for purchase.
The café will be open for refreshments.

Free to all.