LIBRARY PROGRAMMING IN FULL SWING

If you haven’t attended a Library program in the past year you have missed a terrific opportunity to network with fellow members, and learn something at the same time. In the past year the Library staff have orchestrated over seventy book discussions, taught four or five classes every month, and designed over a dozen programs highlighting the creativity of the writers in our midst. In September we produced the second annual Book’toberfest celebration of local publishing and beer, moving to a Friday night and filling the Library’s second floor with interested writers, readers, and beer lovers.

Many programs throughout the year are of interest to members of our seven writers’ groups and indie-publishers, as well as authors working on their own. Sharing with other writers lessons learned in self-publishing, or the research involved in making a film, or creating poetry in a “flash” are all topics that brought in members and guests to one-of-a-kind programs. Librarians worked with professionals from our membership to offer workshops on editing, writing book proposals, and a field trip to a publishing house.

This year we expanded the opportunities for members to talk...
A slender Hogarth edition published by Virginia and Leonard Woolf, with a brown, art deco cover by artist Vanessa Bell; a lavishly illustrated children’s book with pink pages; an especially rare edition of a Random House book (only 1,000 were printed, 800 of which were pulped) that opens with a preface from Bennett Cerf admitting he has no idea what the author is saying. These were just a few of the Gertrude Stein treasures collector Hans Gallas shared with an intimate audience on the evening of October 16th.

“Gertrude liked books to be small enough to put in a pocket,” Gallas observed, holding up a small Plain Edition tome about the size of a modern mass-market paperback. “Can’t you just imagine her popping this into the pocket of one of her vests?”

In an era where books are being downloaded wirelessly onto iPads and Kindles, it’s easy to forget the importance of actual bound books, and the brick and mortar stores that sold them in the early 20th century. Gallas’ talk on literary American expatriates in Paris touched on Stein’s tussles with editors, and her breakthrough with The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas. And of course, no talk on 1920s literary Paris would be complete without mentioning Sylvia Beach’s Shakespeare and Company, the store which served as a haven for writers and, as the first publisher of James Joyce’s Ulysses, “Ground Zero” for the modernist movement.

— Pamela Troy
Events Assistant
about books with each other. In several of our groups participants take turns leading the discussion; two other discussions are more formal. Mysteries of all types have been discussed by a lively and opinionated group who never tire of suggesting new authors. Next spring we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Brown Bag Mystery Readers group.

More structured discussion groups include Forgotten Classics, facilitated by member Charles Fracchia who selects titles from a global list for the quarterly meetings, and the Proust In Remembrance of Lost Time reading group which is in its 11th year and more popular than ever. All of our discussion groups welcome new participants.

The librarians and IT staff are working together to prepare classes to instruct members in the use of our library digital resources and changing technology tools, as well as using library print resources. Consumer-related and financial newsletters are popular topics for classes, along with 30-minute individual appointments with our IT staff. Research tools in several subject areas are under development for members and will be available online and in the Library soon.

New this year was a four-week discussion series studying the Simpson-Bowles and Domenici-Rivlin solutions for reducing the national debt. More than a dozen members committed to the serious reading and discussion required to make this an opportunity for civic discourse, led by two members with expertise in public policy and finance.

Look forward also, on December 1st, to our first children’s story time in recent years. Bundle up and bring the children to enjoy a reading of Caldecott winner The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats. Crafts, cocoa, and cookies will follow the story.

Library programs create a network among our members that increases engagement with what we all love – books! We welcome readers, writers, and lifelong learners to participate in our community. Take time to browse our website for the full listing of the activities available to members.

— Sharon Miller
Library Director
CHESS NEWS

CHESS YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Mechanics’ Institute Chess Club is a place where all lovers of the royal game are welcome, from beginner to Grandmaster. Some come to the 4th floor to meet old friends and play casual games, but others are more ambitious. They want access to the Mechanics’ rated tournament play, lectures, and over 1500 books on chess. Even with these resources, progress for adult beginners has to be tempered with reality – they will improve but they will not become Grandmasters no matter how hard they study. Youngsters do not have these limitations and the recent crop of young talents that has appeared at 57 Post Street is ample proof of this.

20-year-old Sam Shankland of Orinda, third in the 2011 U.S. Championship, has already earned the Grandmaster title, and the player he shared first with in the recent Imre Konig Memorial, 16-year-old Daniel Naroditsky of Foster City, is not only rated number one in his age group in the entire country, but has nearly completed the necessary requirements for the GM title.

Right behind Daniel is Sam Sevian of Santa Clara. While Sam doesn’t have any Grandmaster norms yet he does have two of the three necessary results for the International Master title – not bad for an 11-year-old!

As good as the recent group of juniors is there might be a stronger bunch coming up in the next few years thanks to the expanded M. I.’s Youth Outreach Chess Program. Led by Mechanics’ Institute Grandmaster-in-Residence Nick deFirmian, this program is bringing chess to more and more San Francisco children who are taught the rudiments of the game at their school. Soon they are coming to attend Saturday Classes for Children at the Institute and check out chess books with serious tournament play to follow.

The cycle of learning at the Mechanics’ Institute is stronger than ever.

— John Donaldson
Chess Director

INSTITUTE

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLIDAY GIFT, BOOK & POSTER SALE

Wednesday, December 5, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
4th floor Meeting Room & Cafe

Last minute 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. Café open for refreshments. Free to All.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GATHERING

Thursday, December 13
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm • 2nd floor Library

Join members and friends for 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. Reservations Required: 415.393.0100 or rsvp@milibrary.org
From the summary financial statement below, you can see that the Net Assets, made up primarily of the investment portfolio, increased almost a million dollars during the fiscal year ending August 31, 2012. We started the year with Net Assets of $14.1 million and ended the year with $15.1 million. The most significant difference between 2011 and 2012 was an improvement in the value of our endowment’s investment portfolio.

Each year we have an operating shortfall that is covered by the endowment. By policy, we budget this support at 5% of the investment portfolio, which resulted in $536,000 of support for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2012. Due primarily to increased personnel expenses providing increased member services, we ran an additional operating deficit of $82,000.

For the third year in a row, I am relieved that we made it thought these difficult years with so little financial damage operationally while at the same time improving our balance sheet.

— Jim Flack
Executive Director

### Mechanics’ Institute
Summary Financial Data
For the Years Ended August 31, 2012 and 2011
Summary Statements of Changes in Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues and Support</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member dues</td>
<td>$260,854</td>
<td>250,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library, Events &amp; Chess Room</td>
<td>91,159</td>
<td>83,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>1,083,132</td>
<td>997,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests and donations</td>
<td>355,310</td>
<td>275,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividend and interest income</td>
<td>19,413</td>
<td>11,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net realized gains from sales of investments</td>
<td>171,275</td>
<td>114,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in fair value of investments</td>
<td>1,462,460</td>
<td>1,260,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>4,310</td>
<td>1,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues and Support</strong></td>
<td>3,447,913</td>
<td>2,994,191</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                  |          |          |
| **Expenses**     |          |          |
| Library, Events & Chess Room | 1,272,875 | 1,204,656|
| Building        | 679,695  | 705,845  |
| Management and general | 516,564  | 520,226  |
| Other expenses  | 8,042    | 9,953    |
| **Total Expenses** | 2,477,176 | 2,440,680|

| **Changes in Net Assets** | 970,737 | 553,511 |

### Summary Statements of Financial Position
August 31, 2012 and 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash, accounts receivable and prepaid expenses</td>
<td>$165,375</td>
<td>307,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments at fair value</td>
<td>14,816,636</td>
<td>13,638,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and equipment at cost</td>
<td>568,032</td>
<td>593,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>15,550,043</td>
<td>14,539,847</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Liabilities and Net Assets** |          |          |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | $328,156  | 290,435  |
| Tenant deposits               | 141,322  | 139,584  |
| **Total Liabilities**        | 469,478  | 430,019  |

| **Net Assets** | 15,080,565 | 14,109,828|
| **Total Liabilities and Net Assets** | $15,550,043 | 14,539,847|

Please contact the Executive Director for a complete set of financial statements.
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* includes Matching Corporate Gift
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Zoa Biggertstaff
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Matthew S. Blum
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Bequests of any size are the simplest and most direct way to make a planned gift to the Mechanics’ Institute. We invite you to join the James Lick Legacy Society by including the Mechanics’ Institute in your estate plan.

Contact Executive Director Jim Flack at 415-393-0117 to learn how to become a member of the James Lick Legacy Society and help to ensure the future of the Mechanics’ Institute’s library and chess room.