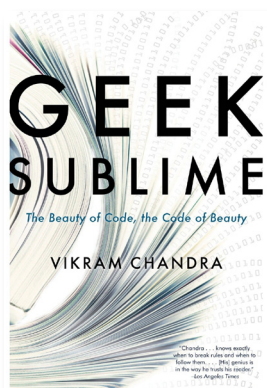




## MEET THE AUTHOR HIGHLIGHT



Wednesday, January 28, 6:00 pm

**Geek Sublime: The Beauty of Code, The Code of Beauty**

(Graywolf) VIKRAM CHANDRA

Co-sponsored by Asia Society of Northern California

**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?

Full listing on page 3

## WRITERS' MIXER

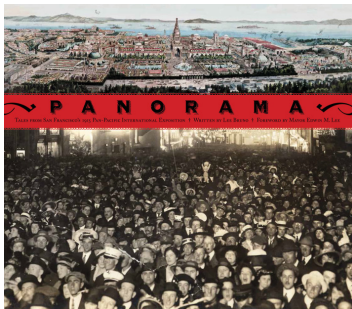
Thursday, January 15, 6:00 pm

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.**



## PANAMA PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION CENTENNIAL (PPIE)



Thursday, January 22, 6:00 pm

**Panorama: Tales From San Francisco's 1915**

**Panama Pacific International Exposition**

**Lee Bruno (Author Program)**

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Join us and MI member author **Lee Bruno** for our first PPIE Centennial event. Mr. 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!

PPIE details on page 8

## INSTITUTE

160 years and  
stronger than ever!

TARYN EDWARDS,  
MEMBER RELATIONS AND  
MARKETING SPECIALIST

**D**ear Members,  
On December 4 at the bi-annual Members' Meeting, I gave a talk on the founding of our Mechanics' Institute and the strange but wonderful times that provided the impetus for its birth. The decision to found our Institute was formally made on December 11, 1854 when two scores of men in the building trades met in the tax collector's office to thrash out a plan to create a Mechanics' Institute similar to ones that existed in the Eastern United States, Australia and Great Britain. From the beginning, the directors knew what sort of institution they wanted:



Continued on page 6

## Inside

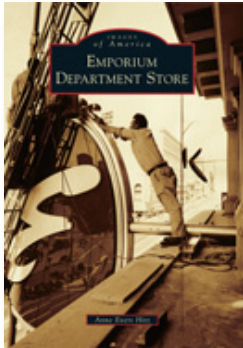
Meet the Author	2
CinemaLit	3
Classes at the Library	4
Book Discussion Groups	5
Chess	6,7
PPIE	8

# 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

## 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.

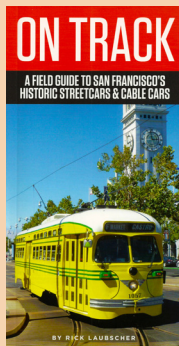


**Anne Evers Hitz** is a fifth-generation San Franciscan, and a great-great granddaughter of one of the Emporium's founders, F. W. Dohrmann. She fondly remembers the old store, the "grand dame" of Market Street. Anne has had her own communications consulting firm in San Francisco for over 20 years. She 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**



## FEBRUARY PREVIEW

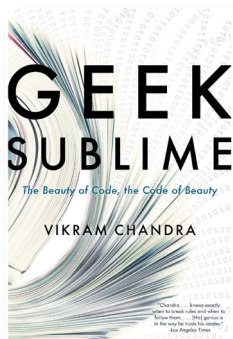


**Thursday, February 19, 6:00 pm**

***On Track: A Field Guide to San Francisco's Streetcars and Cable Cars*** (Heyday)

RICK LAUBSCHER, PRESIDENT OF THE NONPROFIT, MARKET STREET RAILWAY

San Francisco just wouldn't be the same without its colorful streetcars and cable cars. These vintage forms of public transit are not only practical ways to explore the City—they are unique fleet of traveling museums. Part travel guide, part civic and engineering history, this book provides remarkable stories behind each vehicle as well as the impact the system has on urban design.



Wednesday, January 28, 6:00 pm

**Geek Sublime: The Beauty of Code, The Code of Beauty** (Graywolf)

VIKRAM CHANDRA

Co-sponsored by Asia Society of Northern California

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.



© Melanie Abrams 2012

**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 of MI and AS-NC Free; Public \$15

## CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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

Members Free; Public \$10

## CRIME & PUNISHMENT THE FILMS OF CLAUDE CHABROL



Friday, January 9

**La Femme Infidèle** (1969)

DIRECTED BY CLAUDE CHABROL  
Stéphane Audran,  
Michel Bouquet

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

**Special guest:** Dr. Kevin Elstob, President of the Sacramento French Film Festival



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.



Friday, January 16

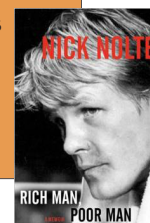
**This Man Must Die** (1969)

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.

### February Preview

Watch for details about next month's series dedicated to the films of Nick Nolte, which is inspired by his new book, *Rich Man, Poor Man: A Memoir*



**Information & registration:** 415.393.0100 or [milibrary.org/events](http://milibrary.org/events). All events are held in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor Meeting Room and require advance registration unless otherwise noted.



# CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY



**Tuesday, January 6, 12:00 — 1:00pm**

**First Tuesday TED Talk**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Meeting Room**

**Kimberley Motley:**  
*How I defend the rule of law*

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 October 2014 of Kimberley Motley, an American litigator practicing in Afghanistan, talking about how she defends the rule of law. An informal discussion will follow the viewing. **Walk-ins Welcome.**



**Friday, January 9, 3:00 — 6:00 pm**

**eBook Workshop — Axis 360**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom B**

Through a new partnership with Axis 360, the Mechanics' Institute offers thousands of digital titles - including fiction bestsellers - that can now be downloaded to your computer, tablet, or smartphone from anywhere there is an internet connection. Bring your device to this drop-in workshop for 1-on-1 help where you will set up an account, have your questions answered, and get started downloading eBooks from Axis 360. **Walk-ins Welcome.**

**Thursday, January 15, 10:00 — 11:00 am**

**Financial Advisory Letters**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom A**

Invest just over an hour of your time, and walk away with a solid knowledge of the Library's collection of more than twenty investment letter subscriptions covering stocks, mutual funds, commodities, turnaround situations, technical analysis and market timing. **Registration Required.**



**Tuesday, January 20, 12:00 — 1:00 pm**

**How to use the Internet Archive**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom A**

The Internet Archive is a non-profit digital library that provides free public access to collections of digitized materials, including websites, music, moving images, and nearly three million public - domain books. It is a great resource for history researchers! Learn to find all kinds of digitized material: documents, journals, city directories and more! **Registration Required.**



**Wednesday, January 21, 5:00 — 6:00 pm**

**Excel Basics**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom A**

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.**



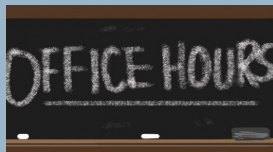
**Thursday, January 29, 12:00 — 1:00 pm**

**Business Insights: Essentials**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom A**

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.**

## TECH OFFICE HOURS:

Reserve a time to meet with our librarians with your technology-related questions



**Wednesday, January 7, 10:00 am — 4:00 pm**

**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Meeting Room**

Do you have technology-related questions such as: privacy concerns about using the Web, connectivity problems with a tablet, managing your library account online, or any other technology-related questions or concerns?

Reserve a half hour appointment to work with one of our technology experts. Walk-ins are welcome, but registration is recommended to ensure a spot. No question is too small or insignificant. **Reservation Recommended.**

**Information and registration:** 415.393.0102 or [milibrary.org/events/learn](http://milibrary.org/events/learn). All classes are held in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor classrooms and require advance registration unless otherwise noted.

# 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.**



## *The Bones of Paris*

by LAURIE R. KING

**Monday, January 12, Noon**

**Brown Bag Mystery Readers' Book Group**

Paris, France: September 1929. Private investigator Harris Stuyvesant, on the hunt for a missing twenty-two year old woman from Boston, must descend into the darkest depths of perversion to find a killer hiding in the Theatre du Grand-Guignol in Montmartre. *(annotation courtesy of ipage.*

*ingramcontent.com)* **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

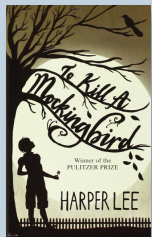


**Wednesday, January 14 and 28, 5:30 pm**

**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. These groups are now **closed**

**to additional registrations.** For more information, contact Dr. Calkins at [mark@tempsperdu.com](mailto:mark@tempsperdu.com) or Diane Lai at [dlai@milibrary.org](mailto:dlai@milibrary.org). **Registration will open in February for the new semester beginning in March 2015.**



## *To Kill a Mockingbird*

by HARPER LEE

**Tuesday, January 20, Noon**

**Fiction You Wish You Had Read**

The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it, *To Kill A Mockingbird* became both an instant bestseller and a critical success when it was first published in 1960. It went on to win

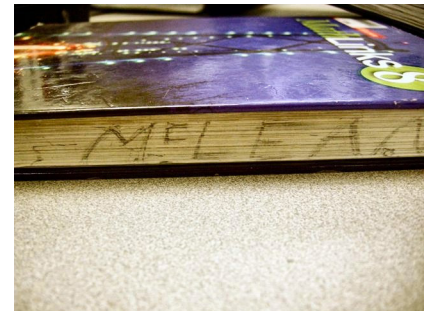
the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and was later made into an Academy Award-winning film, also a classic. *(annotation courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com)* **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

**Information & registration:** Diane Lai at 415.393.0118, [dlai@milibrary.org](mailto:dlai@milibrary.org), or [milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings](http://milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings). A copy of each book is available at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Circulation desk. All Book Discussions are held in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor Board Room.

## LIBRARY

# Respecting Library Materials

DEB HUNT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR



I am saddened when I see Mechanics' Library print materials that have been treated poorly, written in or had text highlighted. As MI members, we are all responsible to take care of our library resources so they will be available to all of us in the future.

This is not a new challenge, as MI President Andrew Hallidie noted in his Annual Address in 1869: *...many of the juvenile works have been found written in and defaced... One thing that has changed is our children's collection has not been defaced.*

If for any reason, library materials you have checked out become damaged or lost, please refer to our Lost or Damaged Materials policy ([milibrary.org/policies/replacement](http://milibrary.org/policies/replacement)) or speak to one of our Library staff.

Please treat our library materials with respect by handling them gently, such that they are not mutilated, defaced, or damaged.

## 160 years (continued from page 1)

- A library with open stacks so all the books were accessible to the members.
- A game room where members could spread out their chess and checker boards.
- Classes that would stretch the mind and teach new skills.
- To be an organization that welcomed everyone regardless of race or gender
- and to cost as little as possible.

160 years later, I think our founders would be proud at what we've accomplished.

Our Mechanics' Institute is one of the few surviving in the world that still operates on its original model of providing opportunities for educational advancement. It is one of the oldest libraries in the West, and more importantly, one of the first truly "public" institutions of the San Francisco Bay Area. Today it is a thriving community enriched by its cultural events, amazing library, and vigorous chess program. It has our members, who support it, to thank.

What will MI be like in the coming decades? With vision, strong leadership, and your championship – only better! In honor of our 160<sup>th</sup> year, I challenge you to do three things:

- **show the Institute to three of your friends** – referrals are how we get most of our new members.
- **Give what you can to support our operations** – your membership dues cover only 9% of our operating costs, meaning that it costs us \$1000 per member per year to put on this show.
- And above all, that you **be just and fear not!**

If you missed the lecture *Passion, Pride, and Principle: the birth of the Mechanics' Institute 1851-1856*, it will be available soon on our website. More lectures on MI's early history are planned! Please keep your eye on our website and newsletter for further details.

## Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

**T**he Mechanics' Institute entry in the United States Chess League won its match in the first round of the playoffs defeating the Connecticut Dreadnoughts, but lost in the quarterfinals to the Dallas Destiny. This was the tenth season for the Mechanics' in the USCL which is played on four boards over the Internet.

The M.I. has qualified for the playoffs eight times and was led this season by 18-year-old Grandmaster Daniel Naroditsky of Foster City who scored 5 out of 8 for a performance rating of 2722.



Daniel Naroditsky  
© St. Louis Chess Club and Scholastic Center

## Chess for Women

**Sundays, January 4, 11, 18, 25**  
**11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

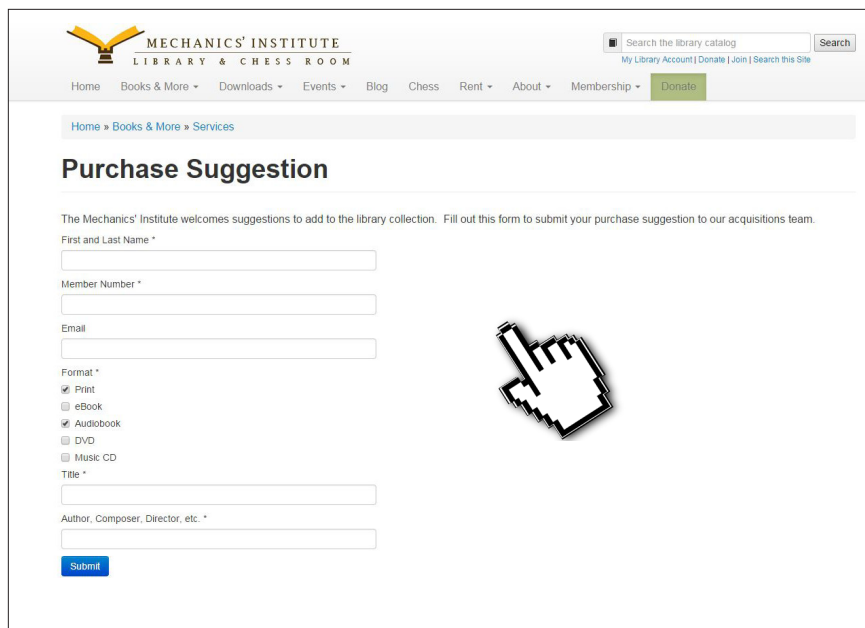
## Tournaments

**Saturday, January 10**  
**10:00 am – 8:00 pm**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Bob Bugar G/45**

Chess Activities continued on page 7

# How to Make a Library Purchase Suggestion

CRAIG JACKSON, COLLECTION MANAGER LIBRARIAN



The screenshot shows the website for the Mechanics' Institute Library & Chess Room. The navigation bar includes links for Home, Books & More, Downloads, Events, Blog, Chess, Rent, About, Membership, and Donate. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a 'Purchase Suggestion' form with the following fields: First and Last Name, Member Number, Email, Format (with radio buttons for Print, eBook, Audiobook, DVD, and Music CD), Title, and Author, Composer, Director, etc. A blue 'Submit' button is at the bottom of the form. A hand cursor icon is positioned over the form fields.

Members frequently ask how they can submit a purchase request for the Library to consider. Perhaps you heard about or read a book review of a particularly interesting book, checked the Library catalog, only to find that the book was not in the Library collection. Member purchase requests alleviate this situation

**To make a request**, complete and submit the “Purchase Suggestion” request form from the Library’s homepage: [milibrary.org](http://milibrary.org). Hover over the menu link “Books and More” located on the top left-hand corner of the screen. From the drop down menu click the text link “Purchase Suggestion”, located second from the bottom of drop down list. Complete the fields of the form with your name, member number, email address, item format, author and title of suggested work. Then click “SUBMIT”.

The request should be ready for checkout two or three weeks after request is submitted. Note that purchase requests can be made for books as well as e-books, audio books, DVDs, or music CDs.

The Library receives well over fifty purchase requests each month from members. Most titles are acquired and added to the circulating collections, after MI librarians evaluate the requested item. It is safe to assume that the item will be ordered. We will otherwise reply to you by email.

Member purchase suggestions fill gaps in the Library collections and they provide us with feedback regarding member interests. The MI Library is always appreciative of the purchase suggestions made by our members.

## Chess Activities

(continued from page 6)

### Tuesday Night Events

January 6, 13, 20, 27

5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Winter Tuesday Night Marathon

### Wednesday Night Blitz

January 7, 14, 21, 28

6:30 pm – 8:50 pm

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

### Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW



**Information & reservations:**  
415.393.0110 or [chessclub.org](http://chessclub.org).





57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94104  
[www.milibrary.org](http://www.milibrary.org)

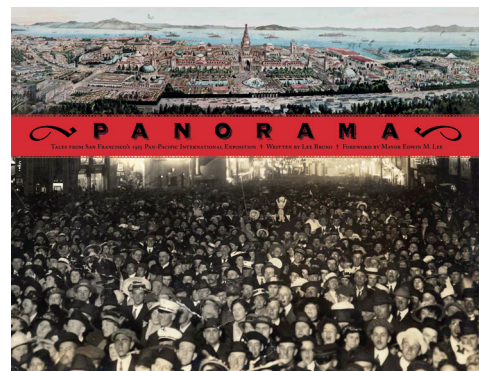
Important Numbers  
 Circulation: 415.393.0101  
 Reference: 415.393.0102  
 E-mail: [reference@milibrary.org](mailto:reference@milibrary.org)

Support the Institute today!  
 Donate: [milibrary.org/give](http://milibrary.org/give)  
 Join: [milibrary.org/join](http://milibrary.org/join)  
 Renew: [milibrary.org/renew](http://milibrary.org/renew)

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

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 the PPIE ephemera from our collection and other sources including books, programs, postcards and memorabilia.



## NEW DISPLAY ON 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

DIANE LAI, PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN

### Reuben Hale Family Collection of Memorabilia from the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition (PPIE)

As the inaugural exhibit in the new Archival Display Cabinet, to be installed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the library in early January, Mechanics' Institute will present the family heirlooms of one of the members of the PPIE executive committee, Reuben B. Hale. The Reuben Hale Family Collection includes photos, medals, pins, certificates, and books related to the 1915 PPIE. Mr. Hale, a retail tycoon and president of the SF Merchant's Association in the early 1900's, was considered to be the originator of the grand idea to host an international exposition in San Francisco. He served as a Vice President on the PPIE executive committee and as a member of the Commission Extraordinary which visited governments in Europe in 1912 to solicit their participation in the PPIE.

Mr. Hale was also the great - grandfather of MI member and author Lee Bruno who will be speaking about his new book ***Panorama: Tales from San Francisco's 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition*** at MI on Thursday, January 22 at 6:00 pm in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Meeting Room.

MI had a close association with the planning of the PPIE. Not only did MI host many profitable expositions in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but a long-standing MI Board of Trustees' president, Rudolph J. Taussig, was also the Secretary on the PPIE 1915 executive committee.

The new Archival Display Cabinet was made possible by gifts in honor of MI members Garfield McNamara and Carl E. Christensen.

## Weekly Tours of The Institute

Every Wednesday @ Noon  
 Begin on the Library's 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.  
 For more information, please  
 call 415.393.0101.

