

THIS MONTH AT THE



Mechanics' Institute

www.milibrary.org

VOL.5, NO.2 FEBRUARY 2015

EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT



©Sammy Abesamis llc.kr/p/ed122H

Thursday, February 19, 6:00 pm

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

Cosponsored by Market Street Railway and SPUR

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 a unique fleet of traveling museums.

Full listing on page 2

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE TOUR @ NIGHT



Monday, February 23, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

3RD FLOOR LIBRARY

Have you been unable to take the Wednesday Tour at Noon because it's at an inconvenient time? The Institute is offering the tour at night!

Full listing on page 5

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL HIGHLIGHT

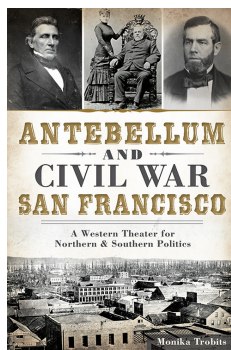
Thursday, February 12, 6:00 pm

Antebellum and Civil War San Francisco: A Western Theater for Northern & Southern Politics

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Abraham Lincoln would have turned 206 this year. Join local author, walking tour docent, and Mechanics' Institute member **Monika Trobits** on Lincoln's birthday for an illustrated presentation featuring readings from her book recently published by The History Press. She will include a bit of trivia about San Francisco and California during the antebellum and Civil War eras. Signed books will be available for sale.

Full listing on page 5



IN REVIEW

Panorama: Tales from San Francisco's 1915 Pan-Pacific International Exposition

TARYN EDWARDS, MEMBER
RELATIONS & MARKETING
SPECIALIST

How many times have you rolled your eyes and sighed when someone starts telling you about his great grandfather? When you ask Lee Bruno about his, he is surprisingly circumspect – perhaps too much so.

Lee Bruno's gorgeous volume ***Panorama: Tales from San Francisco's 1915 Pan-Pacific International***



Exposition is a testament to “the City that knows how”, the Exposition, and the remarkable vision of Reuben Brooks Hale, the author's great grandfather.

(continued on page 5)

Inside

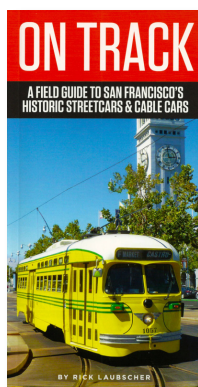
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EVENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

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

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.



Thursday, February 19, 6:00 pm

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

AUTHOR RICK LAUBSCHER IN CONVERSATION WITH RATNA AMIN, TRANSPORTATION POLICY DIRECTOR, SPUR (SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING AND URBAN RENEWAL ASSOCIATION)

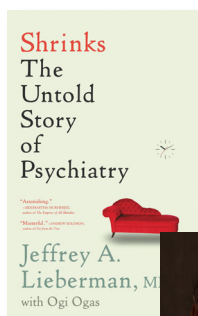
Cosponsored by Market Street Railway and SPUR

Part travel guide, part civic and engineering history, *On Track: A Field Guide to San Francisco's Streetcars and Cable Cars* provides the remarkable stories behind each vehicle and examines the impact the fleet has on San Francisco's infrastructure and demographics.

Detailed illustrations and specs accompany the description of each vehicle. *On Track* also shows riders how to get the most enjoyment out of this unique transportation system from avoiding long lines and choosing the best seats, to suggestions for several ride-and-walk tours that cover the City's great sites.

Rick Laubscher is a fourth-generation San Franciscan who fell in love with streetcars as a child, when his mother took him downtown on an "iron monster" through the Twin Peaks to see the circus. He worked as a broadcast reporter in San Francisco, then as a corporate executive, where he began his advocacy for vintage streetcar service. He now operates his own strategic communications consultancy, Messagesmith, and serves as president of the nonprofit Market Street Railway. **Members of MI, MSR and SPUR Free; Public \$15**

MARCH PREVIEW



© Eve Vagg of NY State Psychiatric Institute

Thursday, March 19, 6:00 pm

Shrinks: The Untold Story of Psychiatry (Little, Brown and Company)

JEFFREY A. LIEBERMAN, MD

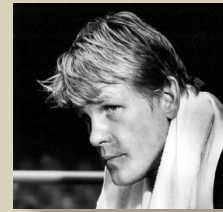
Psychiatry has come a long way since the days of chaining "lunatics" in cold cells and parading them as freakish marvels before a gaping public. But, as **Jeffrey Lieberman, MD**, reveals in his extraordinary and eye-opening book, the path to legitimacy for "the black sheep of medicine" has been anything but smooth. In *Shrinks*, Dr. Lieberman traces the field from its birth as a mystic pseudo-science through its adolescence as a cult of "shrinks" to its late blooming maturity - beginning after World War II - as a science-driven profession that saves lives. With fascinating case studies and portraits of the luminaries of the field - from Sigmund Freud to Eric Kandel - *Shrinks* is a gripping and illuminating read, and an urgent call-to-arms to dispel the stigma of mental illnesses by treating them as diseases rather than unfortunate states of mind.

Members Free; Public \$15

CINEMALIT

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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



NICK NOLTE: ROUGH CUT



Friday, February 6
North Dallas Forty (1979)
DIRECTED BY TED KOTCHEFF
Mac Davis,
Charles Durning

This biting, inside-the-huddle exposé of the exploitation of NFL players remains one of the greatest sports movies ever made.

Special guest: writer, director and actor J. P. Allen (*Love and Demons*)



Friday, February 13
Afterglow (1997)
DIRECTED BY ALAN RUDOLPH
Julie Christie,
Jonny Lee Miller

Nolte and Christie are simply wonderful in this poignant, grown-up fable of two unhappily married couples whose paths cross.



Friday, February 20
Who'll Stop the Rain (1978)
DIRECTED BY KAREL REISZ
Tuesday Weld,
Michael Moriarty

A cynical Vietnam vet is conned by a fellow ex-Marine into smuggling heroin in a crackling, downbeat thriller.

Special guests: film critics Richard Von Busack (*Metro Silicon Valley*) and Kelly Vance (*East Bay Express*)



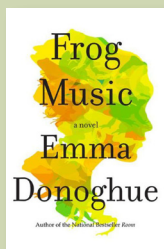
Friday, February 27
48 Hrs. (1982)
DIRECTED BY WALTER HILL
Eddie Murphy,
James Remar

A no-nonsense San Francisco cop pairs up with a wisecracking con man to catch a psychotic killer in this smart, exciting buddy movie.

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.

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.**



Frog Music

by EMMA DONOGHUE

Monday, February 9, Noon

Brown Bag Mystery Readers' Book Group

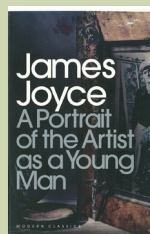
Summer of 1876: San Francisco is in the fierce grip of a record-breaking heatwave and a smallpox epidemic. Through the window of a railroad saloon, a young woman called Jenny Bonnet is shot dead. The survivor, her friend Blanche Beunon, is a French burlesque dancer. Over the next three days, she will risk everything to bring Jenny's murderer to justice—if he doesn't track her down first. (annotation courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**



Wednesday, February 11 and 25, 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 or Diane Lai at dlai@milibrary.org. **See page 6 for information about the new semester beginning on March 11th.**



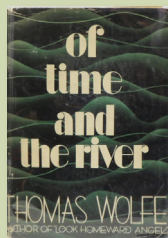
A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

by JAMES JOYCE

Tuesday, February 17, Noon

Fiction You Wish You Had Read

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man is a semi-autobiographical novel by James Joyce, first serialized in *The Egoist* from 1914 to 1915 and published in book form in 1916. It depicts the formative years in the life of Stephen Dedalus, a fictional alter ego of Joyce and a pointed allusion to the consummate craftsman of Greek mythology, Daedalus. (annotation courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**



Of Time and the River: a legend of man's hunger in his youth

by THOMAS WOLFE

Tuesday, February 19, 6:00 pm

Forgotten Classics

The book chronicles the maturing of Wolfe's autobiographical character, Eugene Gant, in his desperate search for fulfillment, making his way from small-town North Carolina to the wider world of Harvard, New York City, and Europe. In his boldly passionate novel, Wolfe examines the passing of time and the nature of the creative process, as Gant slowly but ecstatically embraces the urban life, recognizing it as a necessary ordeal for his birth as a writer. (annotation 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.

Panorama

(continued from page 1)

Hale was a far sighted entrepreneur, president of the Merchants' Association, who planted the idea of hosting a grand Exposition – timed with the opening of the Panama Canal – in the minds of San Francisco's civic leaders in 1904. Unfortunately, the earthquake and fire of 1906 naturally put plans on hold. As the city and residents struggled in the aftermath of the disaster, Hale pushed his idea – presenting it at a “reconstruction dinner” held at the Saint Francis Hotel on July 25, 1906 for the San Francisco Merchants' Association. In a speech, “calculated to rally each and every businessman in the audience and challenge their collective entrepreneurial can-do spirit” Hale noted that, “San Franciscans have the reputation of being big men, working out big problems, in a big way.”

The City would prove Hale correct. The resulting Exposition, which opened February 20, 1915 and lasted for ten months, would be hugely successful – “the largest public gathering in the United States to date” and proof that San Francisco was not only reborn, but a center of culture and inspiration.

Bruno's book is not designed to be a “history of the Fair” but rather a compendium of Fair experiences. In thirty-four pithy essays, *Panorama* shares the stories of the visionaries, builders, innovators, performers, artists, and visitors of the Exposition. The essays, coupled with the lush images of scenery, people, and ephemera enable the reader to glean a holistic understanding of the Exposition and an appreciation of how it transformed San Francisco into the amazing place it is today. PPIE was more than a fair – it was a beautiful and rollicking dream, a glimpse of the future and an extraordinary time of optimism, wonder, and camaraderie. Lee Bruno's book conveys those sentiments and more. I hope you enjoy it and I'm sure you will agree that Reuben Brooks Hale would be proud of *Panorama*.

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

Readings, workshops, and camaraderie

in celebration of our members' creative achievements



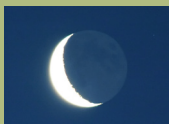
Antebellum and Civil War San Francisco: A Western Theater for Northern & Southern Politics

Thursday, February 12, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

In the late 1840s, a pueblo on the shores of the Pacific burst into the instant city of San Francisco, fueled by a worldwide migration in search of golden dreams. By 1850, its population had skyrocketed to 30,000 mainly tent-dwelling residents. The city became a magnet for theatrical entertainment, while tensions between transplanted Northerners and Southerners increased, leading to San Franciscans taking their part in the conflict; some extended the Underground Railroad to their city, while others joined the Confederate-aiding Knights of the Golden Circle. Amidst the daily dramas, duels, political rivalries and heated disagreements over statehood and the coming war, San Francisco emerged as the Queen City of the West, located in the most representative of all the mid-19th century U.S. states.

Join author and MI member **Monika Trobits** for an illuminating discussion about *Antebellum and Civil War San Francisco*. **Members Free; Public \$15**



Mechanics' Institute Tour @ Night

Monday, February 23, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

3RD FLOOR LIBRARY

The Mechanics' Institute of San Francisco was founded in 1854 with four books and a mission to start an organization to serve the education, information, and social needs of the city's mechanics, artisans, and industrialists. Within a few years the Institute was offering classes in such subjects as mechanical drawing and industrial design; had started a chess club; and had acquired a magnificent library that slaked San Francisco's voracious appetite for technical and pleasurable reading material.

Today the Mechanics' Institute continues as a membership organization boasting a general-interest library, active cultural event calendar, and world renowned chess club.

If you are a new, long-time, or prospective member the Tour of the Institute will orient you to our building, include an overview of our history and mission, and outline our current services and the benefits of membership. Tours typically take 45 to 60 minutes. **A wine and cheese reception will follow the tour. Free.**

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

CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY

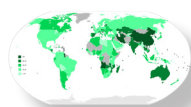
TED Talks

Tuesday, February 3, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

First Tuesday TED Talk

4th Floor Meeting Room

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 **Alessandra Orofino** talking about fixing our cities using a mix of tech and old-fashioned human connection. An informal discussion will follow the viewing. **Walk-ins Welcome.**



Thursday, February 12, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Investment Information on the Web

3rd Floor Classroom A

Attendees will learn how to access free and authoritative investment information focused on publicly traded companies, covering stocks, mutual funds, and industry surveys. We'll explore company profiles, corporate developments and earnings prospects, valuation, stock rating services and screeners, trading statistics and financial reports. Websites that are surveyed include *Yahoo! Finance*, *MSN Money*, *Marketwatch*, *Google Finance*, *Bloomberg.com*, *SmartMoney*, and *Morningstar*. Also presented is a brief overview of two web-based Library subscriptions - *ValueLine Resource Center* and *Standard & Poor's NetAdvantage*. **Registration Required.**



Wednesday, February 18, 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Outlook Basics

3rd Floor Classroom A

This class teaches the fundamentals of Microsoft Outlook. Learn how to add contacts to the address book, schedule appointments in the calendar, compose and send messages, and work with email attachments. If you have a laptop running Outlook, feel free to bring it to class. Library laptops will be available on a first-come-first-served basis. **Registration Required.**



Thursday, February 26, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Morningstar Investment Research Center

3rd Floor Classroom A

Morningstar is the premier source of unbiased information for thousands of mutual funds, and a respected source of information on stocks. Learn the three different ways of utilizing *Morningstar Investment Research Center*: how to search for mutual fund or stock reports by name or ticker symbol; how to generate a list of investments that meet particular criteria using the Screeners feature; and, how to analyze your securities portfolio, look for strengths and weaknesses, and risk factors. Class attendees will also be shown how *Morningstar Investment Research Center* reports may be printed or downloaded. **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.

The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter NEW SEMESTER!

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, beginning March 11th, 5:30 pm

Under the leadership of SFSU lecturer, Dr. Mark Calkins, Mechanics' Institute offers two bi-weekly discussion groups, on a semester basis. This semester **The Proust Group**, 5:30-6:30 pm, will read and discuss Proust's *In Search of Lost Time, Vol.2 – In the Shadow of Young Girls in Flower* (Modern Library translation); **The World Literature Group**, 6:45-8:00 pm, plans to read and discuss Boccaccio's *Decameron*, Gombrowicz's *Pornographia*, de Pisan's *The Book of the City of Ladies* and Ariosto's *Orland Furioso*. The new semester begins on March 11th, and both groups welcome new members.

Fees for the new semester (per group) are \$70 for MI members/\$100 for non-members; payable when you register online. For more information, contact Dr. Calkins at mark@tempsperdu.com. **Online registration required** at milibrary.org/events.



Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

Seventeen-year-old Yian Liou of Alamo is the winner of the 2015 Neil Falconer Award for the highest rated player in Northern California under the age of 18 on the December 2014 United States Chess Federation rating list. Yian, who earned his International Master title this past summer, is rated 2502 and earns that amount in cash.

This was Yian's last year of eligibility. The second and third players this year, International Master Kesav Viswanadha (2413) and Fide Master Cameron Wheeler (2381), are both eligible in 2016 in what promises to be a hard fought competition.

Previous Winners

- 2000 Vinay Bhat
- 2001 Vinay Bhat
- 2002 Vinay Bhat
- 2003 Michael Pearson
- 2004 Nicolas Yap
- 2005 Matthew Ho
- 2006 Matthew Ho
- 2007 Nicolas Yap
- 2008 Sam Shankland
- 2009 Sam Shankland
- 2010 Steven Zierk
- 2011 Daniel Naroditsky
- 2012 Daniel Naroditsky
- 2013 Daniel Naroditsky
- 2014 Yian Liou
- 2015 Yian Liou



Yian Liou

© Michael Aigner

Bhat, Shankland and Naroditsky have all earned their Grandmaster title since receiving the Falconer. Shankland is currently among the top 100 rated players in the world and Naroditsky is number seven under 21.

Chess for Women

Sunday, February 1, 8, 15, 22

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

Tournaments

Saturday, February 7

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

15th Annual Henry Gross Memorial G/45

Tuesday Night Events

February 3, 10, 17, 24

5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

LECTURE BY IM JOHN DONALDSON

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Winter Tuesday Night Marathon

Wednesday Night Blitz

February 4, 11, 18, 25

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

February 7, 14, 21, 28

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW

Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or chessclub.org.





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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

PPIE 100 Opening Event - Community Day at the Palace of Fine Arts

Saturday, February 21, 12:00 – 5:00 pm

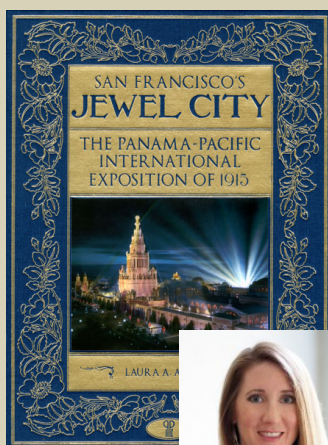
Location: Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon Street, San Francisco, CA

On February 20, 1915, the gates were thrown open to the Panama Pacific International Exposition, the official opening celebration of the newly completed Panama Canal. Hailed by some as the most wondrous world fair of all time, the PPIE boasted 635 acres of palaces, gardens, exhibitions, art and music, amusements, livestock shows, feats of daring, and innovations that heralded the future. Historic figures from all walks of life visited the fair, along with more than 19 million others during its nine month run. The PPIE also proclaimed San Francisco's miraculous rebirth after the 1906 earthquake and marked California's emergence as an international powerhouse and player on the Pacific Rim.

On February 21, 2015, a day-long community event will honor the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Pacific International Exposition and will kick-off a year of Centennial events. A variety of educational activities for families and adults are planned, along with viewing of exhibitions and entertainment. The PPIE introduced the Ukulele to the United States, causing it to become the rage of its day. Lead by a Ukulele Band of local players, the community will be invited to bring their Ukes and play along at the Ukeathon. For the complete schedule of events visit ppie100.org.



MARCH PREVIEW



Thursday, March 12, 6:00 pm

San Francisco's Jewel City: The Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915 (Heyday)

LAURA A. ACKLEY

This lavishly illustrated volume is as much a triumph as the fair itself. *San Francisco's Jewel City* takes readers on an in-depth tour of the PPIE, revealing the dramas of constructing the fair and the displays of culture and industry that awaited within the exposition walls: electrical home appliances, rides in a homemade airplane, a world tour of twenty-one international pavilions, luminous radium crystals, and, of course, a model of the world-changing Panama Canal. Join us for an evening with Historian

Laura A. Ackley as she discusses her compelling

book that is unparalleled in its breadth of scope and richness of detail, providing social and political context for the fair and offering insight into its legacy today.

San Francisco's Jewel City was co-published with the California Historical Society, and is part of the Centennial Celebration of the Panama Pacific International Exposition. For more information, please visit ppie100.org.

Weekly Tours of The Institute

Every Wednesday @ Noon

Begin on the Library's 3rd Floor.

For more information, please call 415.393.0101.

