

THIS MONTH AT THE



# Mechanics' Institute

www.milibrary.org

VOL. 5, NO. 3 MARCH 2015

## MEET THE AUTHOR HIGHLIGHT



Thursday, March 26, 6:00 pm

**March Mystery Night: Ladies of Noir**

With Cara Black and Katie Gilmartin

Walk on the wild side! Follow at the heels of a high-powered Parisian Private Investigator Aimee Leduc in Cara Black's *Murder on the Champ De Mars*. Then, track the steps of novice sleuth, Josie O'Connor through the backstreets of North Beach in Katie Gilmartin's *Blackmail, My Love*.

Illustration: Black Pearl struts down Broadway by Katie Gilmartin

Find out more on page 2

## LIBRARY NEWS

### March Magazine Madness!

BOBBIE MONZON,  
MANAGING LIBRARIAN

Our annual magazine sale returns March 16<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the library.

Come early for the best selection and browse through the bundles of older magazine titles including *ArtForum*, *Bon Appétit*, *Family Handyman*, and more!

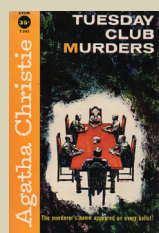


© r. nial bradshaw  
flic.kr/p/qwDL4S

Quantities are limited and priced to sell so come prepared to buy as many as you can carry. Sales are limited to tied bundles - loose or individual issues will not be sold.

★ Due to the popularity of some titles, we cannot hold any bundles for future purchase.

## NEW BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS!



Wednesday, March 4, 5:30-6:30 pm

**First Wednesday Mystery Book Group**  
*The Tuesday Club Murders*

by AGATHA CHRISTIE

Wednesday, March 11 and 25, 5:30 pm

**New Semester! — The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter**



Full listing on page 5 & 7

## AUTHORS' CARNIVAL HIGHLIGHT

Thursday, March 5, 6:00 pm

**The Beatles and Their Songs: a musical revolution**

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

February 7, 1964 was the day the Beatles' American invasion began. When their plane touched down at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport, five thousand fans, mostly young girls, were crowded onto the airport's arrivals station, waving placards and banners to welcome the group and screaming their hearts out. The Beatles' popularity hasn't diminished.

Come celebrate the Beatles' contribution to 20<sup>th</sup> century popular music with musicologist Dulais Rhys in this exciting lecture/slide show/sing-a-long event. Quiet screaming and banner waving encouraged!



More Authors' Carnival events on page 7

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# MEET THE AUTHOR

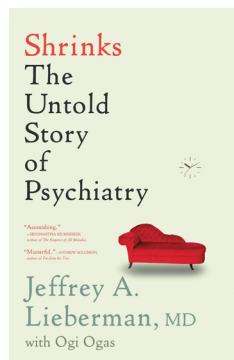
Attend these intimate and up close author programs and engage directly with local, national, and internationally known writers talking about their newly released books. - LAURA SHEPPARD, EVENTS DIRECTOR

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

***Shrinks: The Untold Story of Psychiatry*** (Little, Brown and Co.) JEFFREY A. LIEBERMAN, MD

The fascinating story of psychiatry's origins, demise, and redemption, by the former President of the American Psychiatric Association, and member of the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine.

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**



© Eve Vagg of NY State Psychiatric Institute

**Thursday, March 26, 6:00 pm**

**March Mystery Night: Ladies of Noir**

**With Cara Black and Katie Gilmartin**

***Murder on the Champ De Mars*** (Soho Press) CARA BLACK

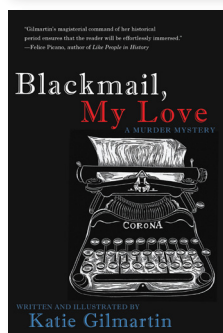
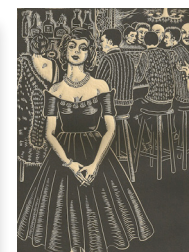
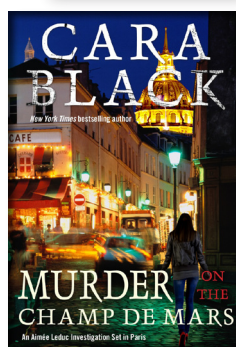
Set in the seventh arrondissement, the quartier of the Parisian elite, *Murder on the Champ de Mars* takes readers from the highest seats of power in the Ministries and embassies through the city's private gardens and the homes of France's oldest aristocratic families. Aimée discovers more connections than she thought possible between the clandestine "Gypsy" world and the moneyed ancien régime, ultimately leading her to the truth behind her father's death . . . and it's a truth that is going to turn her world upside down. **Cara Black** resides in Noe Valley and is a San Francisco Library Laureate, Macavity and three-time Anthony Award nominee for her series, Aimée Leduc Investigations, set in Paris.

***Blackmail, My Love: A Murder Mystery*** (Cleis Press) KATIE GILMARTIN

First-time novelist and illustrator **Katie Gilmartin** breaks into Noir fiction with *Blackmail, My Love: A Murder Mystery*. Set in Beat era San Francisco in legendary locations such as the Black Cat Cafe, the Fillmore, North Beach, and the Tenderloin, protagonist Josie O'Conner seeks to locate her gay brother Jimmy, a private detective investigating a blackmail ring within the local bars and taverns. In her debut novel, Gilmartin reveals the city's mid-century queer underground as she leads us into a world of corruption and murder. **Katie Gilmartin** received a Ph.D. in cultural studies from Yale, with an emphasis in queer history. After teaching the history of sexuality and queer studies for a decade at the University of California, Santa Cruz, the University of California, Berkeley, and The New College, she became a printmaker. Gilmartin lives in San Francisco.

**Members Free; Public \$15**

*Illustrations: Lucille Small (top left); Miss Double Strand Small (top right) by Katie Gilmartin*



© Laura Skayhan



# CINEMALIT

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

## MARCH MYSTERIES

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX



**Friday, March 6**  
***Farewell My Lovely*** (1975)  
DIRECTED BY DICK RICHARDS  
Robert Mitchum, Charlotte Rampling

A world-weary Philip Marlowe looks for an ex-con's missing gal pal in 1941 L.A.



**Friday, March 13**  
***The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes***  
(1970)  
DIRECTED BY BILLY WILDER  
Robert Stephens, Colin Blakely

A character study more than a whodunit, this underrated film boasts great acting, photography and score.



**Friday, March 20**  
***Night Moves*** (1975)  
DIRECTED BY ARTHUR PENN  
Gene Hackman, Jennifer Warren

**Special guest:** Matthew Kennedy, author of *Roadshow!*  
*The Fall of Film Musicals in the 1960s.*  
A low-rent L.A. detective tracks a missing teenager to the Florida Keys.



**Friday, March 27**  
***Body Heat*** (1981)  
DIRECTED BY LAWRENCE KASDAN  
Kathleen Turner, William Hurt

A sexy socialite persuades a dim-bulb lawyer to murder her husband in this steamy, sweaty thriller.

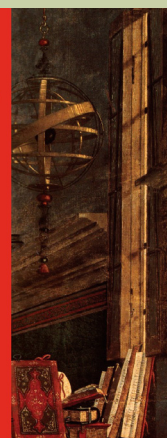
## APRIL PREVIEW

## NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Ten  
Windows

*How  
Great  
Poems  
Transform  
the  
World*

Jane  
Hirshfield



© Michael Lionstar

**Wednesday, April 1, 6:00 pm**  
**ZYZZYVA, Litquake, and the Mechanics' Institute**  
**Present: A Night of All-Star Poetry**

Join  
MATTHEW ZAPRUDER  
BRYNN SAITO  
DEAN RADER  
ROBIN EKISS  
& SPECIAL GUEST JANE HIRSHFIELD

...as they read their work in a not-to-be-missed celebration kicking off National Poetry Month. This is a rare occasion to hear the work of some of the country's finest poets, all gathered for one evening.

**Members and co-sponsors Free; Public \$15**

Watch for details on our website!



LITQUAKE



**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

## TED Talks

**Tuesday, March 3, 12:00—1:00 pm**

### First Tuesday TED Talk

#### 4<sup>th</sup> 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 December 2014 of Jeremy Howard talking about the wonderful and terrifying implications of computers that can learn. An informal discussion will follow the viewing.

**Members only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

**Thursday, March 12, 10:00—11:00 am**

### Morningstar Investment Research Center

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Members only. Registration Required.**

**Tuesday, March 17, 3:00—6:00 pm**

### eBook Help—Axis 360

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom A

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.

**Members only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

**Thursday, March 26, 10:00—11:00 am**

### Standard & Poor's NetAdvantage : Stock Reports, Industry Surveys, and More!

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom A

Discover comprehensive business and investment information offered by this resource, such as industry surveys, stock reports, corporation records, mutual fund reports and market commentary. Includes search and screening tools to facilitate research, job searches, and competitive intelligence.

**Members only. Registration Required.**



STANDARD  
& POOR'S

## TECH OFFICE HOURS:

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

**Wednesday, March 11, 10:00—4:00 pm**

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

Reserve a half hour appointment with our technology experts to work one-on-one on questions regarding your email, eBook readers, making the best use of the Library's online features, safely managing your social media accounts, or any other computer- or technology-related questions.

**To register**, contact Matt Montgomery with available time frames and a brief description of your question or problem by emailing [mmontgomery@milibrary.org](mailto:mmontgomery@milibrary.org) or by calling 415.393.0115. Walk-ins are welcome, but registration is recommended to ensure a spot. **Members only. Reservation Recommended.**

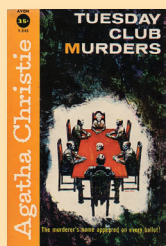


**Information and registration:** 415.393.0102 or [milibrary.org/events/learn](http://milibrary.org/events/learn). All classes are held in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor classrooms and require advance registration unless otherwise noted.

# 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.**

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## ***The Tuesday Club Murders* (also published as *The Thirteen Problems*)**

by AGATHA CHRISTIE

**Wednesday, March 4, 5:30-6:30 pm**

### **First Wednesday Mystery Book Group**

This “appetizer plate” of linked stories marks the second appearance of amateur detective Miss Marple, following her debut in *Murder at the Vicarage*. In these bite-size mysteries from the late 1920s, Christie’s famous spinster sleuth doesn’t look or talk much like her various TV portrayals, although she shares their gift for cutting straight to the heart of a crime. Some of these stories have been dramatized for TV (*The Blue Geranium*); others will be new even to most Christie fans. Together, they offer a tantalizing early taste of the Mistress of Crime’s flair for a juicy plot. **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome but Registration Preferred.**

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## ***The 13<sup>th</sup> Juror***

by JOHN LESCROART

**Monday, March 9, Noon**

### **Brown Bag Mystery Readers**

The pressure is on for Dismas Hardy when an abused woman is accused of killing her husband and child in cold blood. Only Dismas believes she’s innocent. However, faith alone won’t be enough to save her unless Dismas takes one terrifying risk to keep her alive. (annotation courtesy of [ipage.ingramcontent.com](http://ipage.ingramcontent.com)) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

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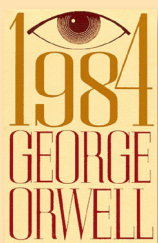


**Wednesday, March 11 and 25, 5:30 pm**

### **The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter – New Semester**

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.2 (*In the Shadow of Young Girls in Flower*), from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. From 6:45 – 8:00 pm, the **World Literature Group** discusses Proustian-inspired works. The new semester begins on March 11th; registration is required and fees are \$70 for MI members and \$100 for non-members. 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 and payment required for semester beginning on March 11<sup>th</sup>.**

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## ***1984***

by GEORGE ORWELL

**Tuesday, March 17, Noon**

### **Fiction You Wish You Had Read**

1984 has come and gone, but George Orwell’s prophetic, nightmare vision in 1949 of the world we were becoming is timelier than ever. *1984* is still the great modern classic “negative Utopia” - a startling original and haunting novel that creates an imaginary world that is completely convincing from the first sentence to the last four words. (annotation courtesy of [ipage.ingramcontent.com](http://ipage.ingramcontent.com)) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

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**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.

# Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

**T**he Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis will hold arguably the strongest ever United States Chess Championship this April. The twelve player field includes two participants, Hikaru Nakamura and Wesley So, who are currently rated in the top ten in the world.

Also competing are two members of the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club. 23-year-old Sam Shankland of Orinda, who graduated from Brandeis University last year, is currently ranked number 85 in the world while fellow Grandmaster Daniel Naroditsky of Foster City, is the number six ranked player under 21. The two played quite often at the Mechanics' in their formative years and still come by the Chess Club regularly to give lectures on their recent tournament games. We wish them the very best success in this important competition.



Sam Shankland and Daniel Naroditsky competing in the 2014 U.S. Championship. © Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis

## Chess for Women

**Sunday, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

**11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Funded by a gift in memory of R. Martin Wiskemann

## Tournaments

**Saturday, March 7**

**10:00 am – 8:00 pm**

A.J. Fink Memorial

**Sunday, March 8**

**10:00 am – 8:00 pm**

A.J. Fink Memorial

**Saturday, March 21**

**10:00 am – 8:00 pm**

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Max Wilkerson Memorial G/45

## Tuesday Night Events

**March 17, 24, 31**

**5:15 pm – 6:15 pm**

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

**6:30 pm – 10:30 pm**

Spring Tuesday Night Marathon

## Ewelina Krubnik's After Six Chess Class for Adults

**Wednesday, March 4, 11, 18, 25**

**6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

## Wednesday Night Blitz

**March 4, 11, 18, 25**

**6:30 pm – 8:50 pm**

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

## Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

**March 7, 14, 21, 28**

**11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW



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

# Spring into a book discussion group!

DIANE LAI, PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN

**S**tart anew this season and join an MI book discussion group! Whether you are a newbie or book group enthusiast, this is the perfect time to get acquainted with fellow MI members, AND with a good book!

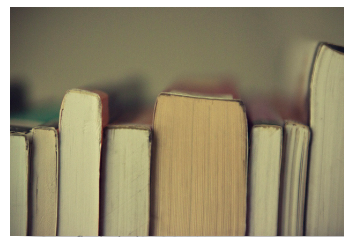
## NEW!

**Beginning March 4<sup>th</sup>; 5:30-6:30 pm**  
**First Wednesday Mystery Book Group**  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room

Do you love a good mystery? Do you enjoy comparing notes and discovering new authors with other mystery fans? Whether you prefer the chill of suspense or the thrill of the chase, the **First Wednesday Mystery Group** is a chance to revisit old favorites and find new ones. We'll sample genres from cozy to courtroom drama to cliffhanger, and settings from the British Golden Age to contemporary California. To start us off, mystery writer and group leader CJ Verburg has picked four outstanding mystery/crime novels with ties to TV or film. Once we get rolling, the group members can choose selections.

**Members only; Free.**

To register, call 415.393.0102 or visit [milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings](http://milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings).



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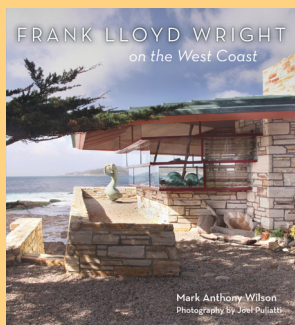
## NEW SEMESTER!

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, beginning March 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm**  
**The Proust Society of America:**  
**San Francisco Chapter**

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, plan to read and discuss Boccaccio's *Decameron*, Gombrowicz's *Pornographia*, de Pisan's *The Book of the City of Ladies* and Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*. **The new semester begins on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:mark@tempsperdu.com). **Online registration required at [milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings](http://milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings).**

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



**Frank Lloyd Wright on the West Coast**  
**Thursday, April 9, 6:00 pm**  
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Between 1909 and 1959, Frank Lloyd Wright designed a total of 36 structures on 28 sites along the West Coast, from Southern California to Seattle. Other than the Marin County Civic Center and the Hollyhock House in Los Angeles, most of these buildings are not known to the general public. Architectural historian **Mark A. Wilson** covers these little known buildings and more in his new book *Frank Lloyd Wright on the West Coast*.

Besides 200 new color photos and dozens of never-before seen archival images, *Frank Lloyd Wright on the West Coast*, has the untold stories of Wright's "other women", his strong-minded female clients who got Wright to make significant changes to his designs for their homes. Join us for Mr. Wilson's anecdote-filled lecture on Wright's West Coast oeuvre and his tumultuous life, illustrated with never-before-seen archival images. Questions will be encouraged and there will be an opportunity to buy signed copies of his book at a special price.

**Members Free; Public \$15**



**Information and registration:** [milibrary.org/events](http://milibrary.org/events), or Taryn Edwards at 415.393.0103, or [tedwards@milibrary.org](mailto:tedwards@milibrary.org).





## PPIE 100 Citywide Celebration at Mechanics' Institute

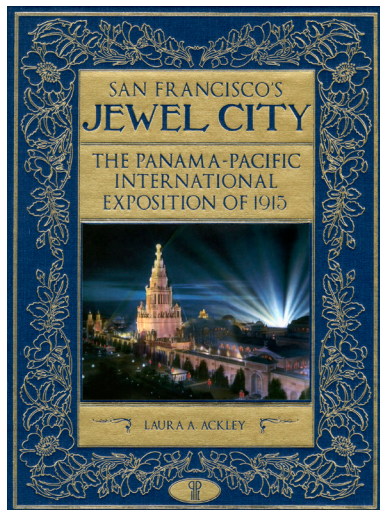
Thursday, March 12, 6:00 pm

*San Francisco's Jewel City:*

*The Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915* (Heyday)

LAURA A. ACKLEY

**A fascinating chronicle of the 1915 World's Fair**



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. Along the way, we meet famous (and infamous) visitors, such as Theodore Roosevelt, Helen Keller, Thomas Edison, and Buffalo Bill Cody. 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](http://ppie100.org).

\*Don't miss your chance to see MI's inaugural exhibit displaying the family heirlooms of one of the members of the PPIE executive committee, **Reuben B. Hale**, which includes photos, medals, books related to the 1915 PPIE, & more! **The collection is on display until March 31<sup>st</sup> and is located in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Library. Admission is free.**

### Before the PPIE – The Mechanics' Institute and the Development of San Francisco's "Fair Culture" (1857 – 1909)

Thursday, April 16, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

A lecture and slideshow with MI librarian/historian **Taryn Edwards**



Between the years of 1857 and 1899 the Mechanics' Institute hosted thirty-one Industrial Expositions that displayed and promoted the products of local entrepreneurs and inventors. These Expositions bolstered California's infant economy, encouraged the demand for local goods, and whetted the public's appetite for elaborate, multi-attraction fairs. Given the Mechanics' Institute's vast experience with putting on such spectacles they were involved as consultants on larger state-wide fairs including the California Midwinter Fair of 1894, the Golden Jubilee Mining Fair of 1898, the Portola Exposition of 1909, and the Panama Pacific Exposition in 1915. **Members Free; Public \$15**



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Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm  
Sunday: 1 pm - 5 pm

Sarah Cruz, Editor