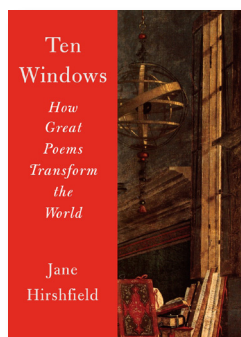




CELEBRATE NATIONAL POETRY MONTH!



**ZYZZYVA, Litquake, and the Mechanics' Institute Present:
A Night of All-Star Poetry**

Wednesday, April 1, 6:00 pm

Robin Ekiss (*The Mansion of Happiness*), **Dean Rader** (*Works & Days*), **Brynn Saito** (*The Palace of Contemplating Departure*), **Matthew Zapruder** (*Sun Bear*), and special guest **Jane Hirshfield** (*Ten Windows: How Great Poems Transform the World and The Beauty*), read their work in a not-to-be-missed celebration kicking off National Poetry Month.

Full listing on page 2

AUTHORS' CARNIVAL

Frank Lloyd Wright on the West Coast

Thursday, April 9, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Join us for an evening with Architectural historian **Mark A. Wilson**, who will cover Frank Lloyd Wright's little known buildings along the West Coast, from Southern California to Seattle, in his new book *Frank Lloyd Wright on the West Coast*.

Members Free; Public \$15



More listings on page 7

BEFORE THE PPIE (1857 - 1909)

The Mechanics' Institute & the Development of San Francisco's "Fair Culture"

Thursday, April 16, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

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

Between 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 MI'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 International Exposition in 1915.

Members Free; Public \$15



Member Spotlight: Theodora Rossi

Executive Director Ralph Lewin talked with Lifetime Member and James Lick Legacy Society member Theodora Rossi on March 23, 2015, discussing books and why the Mechanics' Institute matters to her.

Ralph Lewin: Theodora, thank you so much for talking with me today. How did you first learn about Mechanics' Institute?

Theodora Rossi: I was a nineteen year old English major at UC Berkeley and I found a job at a family owned bookstore around the corner from Mechanics' called Bonanza Bookstore. Most people bought travel and financial advice books at Bonanza – with one exception. Every week a tall guy with gangly arms would walk in and buy an armload of new books – mostly novels. I finally asked him, "Who are you?" He said, "I'm from Mechanics' and if you want to learn more follow me. He took me to Mechanics' and told me that members could request a book

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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



© Whitney Frank



© Michael Lionstar

Wednesday, April 1, 6:00 pm

Celebrate National Poetry Month!

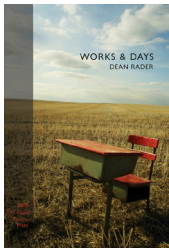
With Robin Ekiss, Dean Rader, Brynn Saito, Matthew Zapruder, and special guest Jane Hirshfield

This is a rare occasion to hear the work of some of the country's finest poets, all gathered for one evening.



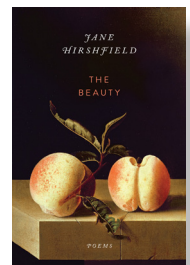
Robin Ekiss is the author of *The Mansion of Happiness*, which won the 2010 Shenandoah/Glasgow Prize. A former Stegner Fellow and recipient of a Rona Jaffe Award for emerging women writers, her poems have appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *APR*, *POETRY*, and elsewhere. She's on the Advisory Board of Litquake, and is a contributing editor to *ZYZZYVA* and *Copper Nickel*.

Matthew Zapruder is the author of four collections of poetry, including *Come On All You Ghosts*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, and *Sun Bear*. *Why Poetry*, a book of prose, is forthcoming from Ecco Press in 2016. An Associate Professor in the St. Mary's College of California MFA program and English Department, he is also Editor at Large at Wave Books.



Dean Rader's debut collection of poems, *Works & Days*, won the 2010 T. S. Eliot Poetry Prize. His most recent book, *Landscape Portrait Figure Form*, was named by the *Barnes & Noble Review* as one of the best poetry books of the year. His work appears in *Best American Poetry*, *American Poetry Review*, *Blackbird*, *Kenyon Review*, *Southern Review*, *Boston Review*, and *ZYZZYVA*. He is editor of *99 Poems for the 99 Percent*, which hit #1 on the SPD Poetry Bestseller List. He is a Professor of English at the University of San Francisco.

Jane Hirshfield is the author of seven previous collections of poetry, two books of essays, and four books collecting and co-translating the work of poets from the past. She has received many prizes and awards including fellowships from the Guggenheim and Rockefeller foundations, the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Book Award, and England's T.S. Eliot Prize. Her work appears in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The Nation*, *The American Poetry Review*, and many others, including seven editions of *Best American Poetry*. She has been featured in Bill Moyers' PBS television specials and her work appears frequently on Garrison Keillor's *Writer's Almanac* and other public radio programs.



Brynn Saito is the author of *The Palace of Departure*, winner of the Benjamin Saltman Poetry Award and finalist for the 2013 Northern California Book Award. She is also co-author of *Bright Power*, *Dark Peace* (Diode Editions). Brynn's work has been anthologized by Helen Vendler and Ishmael Reed; it has also appeared in *Poetry Northwest*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Ninth Letter*, and *Pleiades*. Her second book of poems will be published by Red Hen Press in the Spring of 2016.

Mechanics' Institute Members, ZYZZYVA Subscribers, Litquake Best-sellers FREE; Public \$15

LITQUAKE



Tuesday, April 21, 12:30 pm

Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen (W.W. Norton)

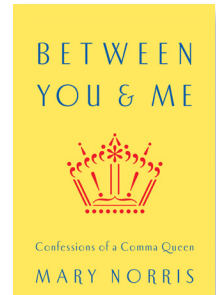
Author Mary Norris in conversation with Constance Hale

In this hilarious biography Norris describes her ascendance into the stratosphere of literary correctness from lowly collator to crowning copy editor of *The New Yorker*.

Let's get one thing straight right from the beginning; I didn't set out to be a comma queen, writer **Mary Norris** declares in the opening sentence of her funny and irreverent look at the intricacies of language. Part memoir and part grammar handbook, *Between You & Me* examines everything from the correct use of the hyphen, to the rise of profanity, to the frustrations of proofreading with a bad batch of pencils. It also does what many teachers and textbooks have failed to do; it connects punctuation directly to literature, and illustrates its importance in the works of Herman Melville, Henry James, and Emily Dickinson.

Mary Norris began working at *The New Yorker* in 1978 and has been a query proofreader at the magazine since 1993. Originally from Cleveland, she now lives in New York. This is her first book.

Constance Hale is a Bay Area journalist and author of *Wired Style: Principles of English Usage in the Digital Age* (1996), *Sin and Syntax: How to Craft Wickedly Effective Prose* (1999), and *Vex, Hex, Smash, Smooch: Let Verbs Power Your Writing* (2013). **Members Free; Public \$15**



CINEMALIT

APRIL: BETWEEN THE WARS

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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

Members Free; Public suggested donation \$10



Friday, April 3

Life and Nothing But (1989)

DIRECTED BY BERTRAND TAVERNIER

Philippe Noiret, Sabine Azéma

A French officer tasked with identifying the dead and a Parisian looking for her missing husband cross paths in 1920.



Friday, April 10

Grand Hotel (1932)

DIRECTED BY EDMUND GOULDING

Greta Garbo, John Barrymore

Romance, larceny and self-pity drive the denizens of a luxurious Berlin hotel in this classic soap opera.



Friday, April 17

The Crowd (1928)

DIRECTED BY KING VIDOR

James Murray,

This silent masterpiece follows an ordinary man, from the optimism of his boyhood in the 1900s to the often harsh reality of adulthood in the 1920s.



Friday, April 24

The 3 Penny Opera (1931)

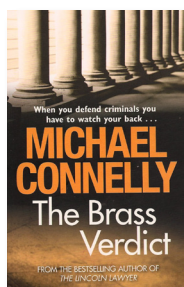
DIRECTED BY G.W. PABST

Rudolf Forster, Lotte Lenya

Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's Weimar-era musical relates the timeless saga of a charismatic criminal in Victorian London.

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 Brass Verdict

by MICHAEL CONNELLY

Wednesday, April 1, 5:30 pm

First Wednesday Mystery Book Group

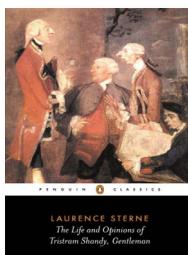
In this fast-moving novel by “the best mystery writer in the world” (GQ), Connelly’s two series heroes meet and grudgingly collaborate: LAPD detective Harry Bosch and LA criminal-defense lawyer Mickey Haller. *The Brass Verdict* is the sequel to narrator Haller’s courtroom-drama debut in *The Lincoln Lawyer* (also a film starring Matthew McConaughey). Amazon Prime Instant Video streams 10 episodes of their new series *Bosch*, starring Titus Welliver, for anyone who wants a vivid visual picture of Connelly’s detective in context. **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome, but registration preferred.**



The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter

Wednesday, April 8 and 22, 5:30 pm

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 began on March 11th; **registration is now closed for this semester** For more information, contact Dr. Calkins at mark@tempsperdu.com or Diane Lai at dlai@milibrary.org.



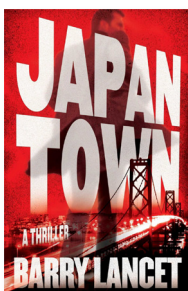
Tristram Shandy

by LAURENCE STERNE

Thursday, April 9, 6:00 pm

Forgotten Classics

No one description will fit this strange, eccentric, and endlessly complex masterpiece. It is a fiction about fiction-writing in which the invented world is as much infused with wit and genius as the theme of inventing it. It is a joyful celebration of the infinite possibilities of the art of fiction, and a wry demonstration of its limitations. (*courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com*) **Members Only. Registration Required.**



Japantown

by BARRY LANCET

Monday, April 13, Noon

Brown Bag Mystery Readers

San Francisco antiques dealer Jim Brodie recently inherited a stake in his father’s Tokyo-based private investigation firm, which means the single father of six-year-old Jenny is living a busy intercontinental life, traveling to Japan to acquire art and artifacts for his store and consulting on Brodie Security’s caseload at home and abroad. One night, an entire family is gunned down in San Francisco’s bustling Japantown neighborhood, and Brodie is called on by the SFPD to decipher the lone clue left at the crime scene: a unique Japanese character printed on a slip of paper drenched in blood. –Dust jacket flap. **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

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.

CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY



Tuesday, April 7, 2014, 12:00—1:00 pm

First Tuesday TED Talk **4th Floor Meeting Room**

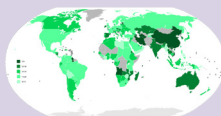
Bring your lunch and curiosity to talk about ideas, stories, and concepts with fellow Mechanics' Institute members and staff. This month we'll watch a video from May

2011 of Shawn Achor talking about the happy secret to better work. An informal discussion will follow the viewing. **Walk-ins Welcome.**

Thursday, April 9, 10:00—11:00 am

Investment Information on the Web **3rd Floor Classroom A**

Attendees will learn how to access free investment information focused on publicly traded companies and mutual funds, and industry surveys, covering company profiles, corporate developments, earnings prospects, stock rating services and screeners, trading statistics and financial reports. Websites that we explore include *Yahoo! Finance*, *MSN Money*, *MarketWatch*, *Google Finance*, *Bloomberg.com*, and *Morningstar*. **Registration Required.**



mikebaird via Wikimedia Commons

Tuesday, April 21, 3:00—6:00 pm

Library Downloads Workshop: eBook, eMagazine, eAudiobook **3rd Floor Classroom A**

The Mechanics' Institute offers thousands of digital titles that you can download to your computer, tablet, or smartphone from anywhere there's an internet connection. Bring your device to this hands-on workshop where you'll set up an

account, have your questions answered, and get started downloading eBooks, eMagazines, and eAudiobooks. **Walk-ins Welcome.**



Thursday, April 23, 10:00—11:00 am

ValueLine Research Center **3rd Floor Classroom A**

Learn to navigate one of the most widely used independent investment information services. The class covers the classic

ValueLine Investment Survey which focuses on the common stocks traded for 1,700 public companies, plus the *Small Cap Survey* that looks at the stock of 1,800 more junior companies. Additional surveys in this service, that covers mutual funds, options and convertible securities as well as special situations services, are also examined in this class.

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.

Not finding what you want?

Request it via Interlibrary loan!

SARAH CRUZ,
LIBRARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Need a book that is not in our collection? Have you tried to access an article online only to be blocked by a pricey paywall? As a member of the Mechanics' Institute, you can borrow almost any book, or get a copy of an article from another library, using our Interlibrary Loan service. Interlibrary Loan, also known as ILL, allows the MI Library to borrow items from other participating libraries including the California State Library, libraries in the University of California system, and hundreds of others across the country.

What does it cost? The service is free, except for postage, plus any fees charged by the lender library. The cost range anywhere from \$3 to \$50 depending on the item and the library's lending policies. Copies vary from \$0.25 per page to \$15 per article.

How long can I check out the item? The average loan period is 3 weeks; possibly longer if a renewal is granted by the lender library.

How can I submit a request? Visit milibrary.org/services/ill or complete an ILL form at the circulation desk. It takes between two to six weeks to fill a request. We will contact you as soon as the item is available for pick-up. Please note that we will not borrow items that can be checked out at a local library (i.e. San Francisco Public Library, etc.)

For more information contact Sarah Cruz at 415.393.0115, or scruz@milibrary.org; or Bobbie Monzon at 415.393.0107, or bmonzon@milibrary.org.

Theodora Rossi

(continued from page 1)

and Mechanics' would by them. This sounded liked nirvana and I joined!

Ralph: Nirvana and Mechanics' – that sounds good. What does that look like?

Theodora: At the time, I was gulping down literary journals. Until I found Mechanics', I would be one of those penniless young people who would go to the bookstore and spend time standing reading the *New York Review of Books* or the *New York Times* pretending that I'd want to buy them. When I became a member of Mechanics', these great newspapers, magazines and journals were all there for me – and if they weren't they'd buy them! Just wonderful.

Ralph: When you tell friends about Mechanics', what do you say?

Theodora: When I first joined I'd walk in the 2nd floor, and I swear, there was nobody but old people. So I told my young friends this was a place to get good books and that Mechanics' is an important institution of San Francisco. I can't imagine if this place went belly-up – no amount of fundraising could resurrect it. Also, I tell my friends about the excellent programs with authors, the classes, and other events that members get for free.

Ralph: Theodora, you've been a member for some years, could you describe one of your favorite moments at Mechanics'?

Theodora: No moments. Every single time I've come in the librarians are so nice. I see Mechanics' as a refuge in San Francisco.

Ralph: What is a book you've read that you would recommend to other members?

(continued next page)

Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER

JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

International Master Elliott Winslow's performance in the Winter Tuesday Night Marathon showed that at 62 years old he still possesses plenty of "chesstosterone". His win over Oleg Shakhnazarov in round eight of the event gave him clear first with a score of 7–1, good for \$750.

Winslow's victories over national masters Tenzing Shaw, Uyanga Byambaa and Josiah Stearman helped pushed his rating back over 2300 on the United States Chess Federation ranking system making him one of the highest rated players in the United States over 60.



Elliott Winslow
© Richard Shorman

The Winter Tuesday Night Marathon set an attendance record for the series, which dates back to the early 1970s, with 121 entries.

Chess for Women

Sundays, April 5, 12, 19, 26
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY EWELENA KRUBNIK
Funded by Vega Capital Group

Tournaments

Saturday, April 11th
10:00 am – 8:00 pm
15th Annual Imre Konig G/45

Tuesday Night Events

April 7, 14, 21, 28
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON
6:30 pm – 10:30 pm
Spring Tuesday Night Marathon

Wednesday Night Blitz

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
6:40 pm – 8:50 pm

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

April 4, 11, 18, 25
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW



Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or chessclub.org.

Theodora Rossi (continued from page 6)

Theodora: It's called *A Narrow Road to the Deep North* by Richard Flanagan. He's Australian and the main character is a surgeon. I'm not a man, and I can't imagine going to war, but still I just ate it up.

Ralph: As you think about the future of Mechanics', what would you like to see more of?

Theodora: I love the idea of emphasizing the West Coast and West Coast thinkers. This is rooted in the history of Mechanics', which formed San Francisco culturally and socially when it was just a rowdy town.

Ralph: You are a life member and a member of the James Lick Legacy Society. Thank you for being a member. Why did you decide to name the Mechanics' Institute as part of your estate planning?

Theodora: I believe that I belong to Mechanics' and Mechanics' belongs to me. As soon as I joined I realized it was such a jewel and I want to make sure it continues. I became a member of the James Lick Legacy Society and named Mechanics' in my will because Bill Newmeyer (Mechanics' Trustee) – he is such a Western gentleman – suggested I join as a way of making sure this place I like so much, keeps going.



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



Proust + Vermeer, a film by Richard Voorhees

Monday, April 20, 6:00 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Join us for the world premiere of the English version of *Proust + Vermeer*, a thirty minute film celebrating the exquisite Dutch painter, cast in the timeless words of Marcel Proust.



Proust adored Vermeer and he wove thoughts about the painter throughout *A la recherche du temps perdu* (*In Search of Lost Time*). Charles Swann is forever struggling to write an essay on Vermeer in *Swann's Way*. The people in his circle are thus quite familiar with Vermeer, and Proust pokes fun at their misconceptions about the mysterious Dutch artist. However, when a sick Bergotte drags himself out of bed to see an exhibit showcasing "The View of Delft," and in particular, to study a little patch of yellow wall in the 17th-century painting, it inspires some of Proust's most iconic and memorable drama. *Proust + Vermeer* is a beautiful meditation on life and art. **Members Free; Public \$15**

Our Story – A Bay Area Heritage Open House

Thursday, May 7, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

3RD FLOOR LIBRARY

His-story, her-story, what about OUR story? Join Mechanics' Institute on May 7th to meet innovators from other local cultural, historical, and genealogical entities at this Open House. Find out about their services and how they are going about collecting, preserving, and disseminating our shared heritage and communal memory. Hear writers, film makers, and aficionados discuss insights into our past through presentation and interaction. If you delight in local culture and family history, or just wish to socialize over food and drink with creative people who are transforming awareness of our history and culture, you will enjoy this special event. **Registration Required. Free.**

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

Woman's Board of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition

DIANE LAI, PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN/ARCHIVIST

New PPIE display on the 2nd Floor Library beginning April 1st!

In 1909, an extraordinary group of California women organized to assist in the campaign to secure the right to hold the Panama-Pacific International Exposition (PPIE) in San Francisco in 1915. With their success, the Woman's Group was formally recognized by the PPIE Board of Directors as the hostesses of the Exposition who would see to the comfort, housing, entertainment, and safety of the PPIE visitors. The California Building in the Exposition grounds was given over to the Woman's Group to decorate, fund and manage throughout the tenure of the fair.

The women not only assisted 136,491 visitors through their Traveler's Aid work, hosted 615 festivities in the California Building which included 160 balls and 240 tea dances, welcomed 45,000 attendees into the Auxiliary Rest and Tea Rooms for relaxation and sustenance, their activities were entirely funded through their own efforts.

This display, on exhibit from April 1st - May 31st in the 2nd Floor Library, will showcase photographs, newspaper clippings, ephemera, and texts from MI's PPIE collection.



57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94104

www.milibrary.org

Important Numbers

Circulation: 415.393.0101

Reference: 415.393.0102

E-mail: reference@milibrary.org

Support the Institute today!

Donate: milibrary.org/give

Join: milibrary.org/join

Renew: 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

(Continued from page 3)

Wednesday, April 29, 6:00 pm

Over There: Journalists and The War Zone

Co-sponsored with Humanities West

This panel discussion examines the role of journalists covering wars from WWI and WWII, through the Vietnam and Iraqi wars, and up to our present time. How has the role of the journalist and journalism changed over the past 100 years and what is the future? What do journalists risk and why? How can the truth be told with the threats of assassination or imprisonment on foreign soil? Is it worth the risk? This event at Mechanics' Institute is a prelude to the symposium, **The Great War: Cultural Reverberations Across Europe**, presented by Humanities West and co-sponsored by Mechanics' Institute, on May 1 and 2 at Marines' Memorial Theater. For info see humanitieswest.org.



Adam Hochschild

(Moderator) is the award winning author of *To End All Wars*, *King Leopold's Ghost*, and many others.



Elizabeth Farnsworth is a

film producer and former chief correspondent of *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*.



Mark Danner is a professor, and renowned author of several books.



Markos Kounalakis is president of the *Washington Monthly* and journalist.

Members of MI and HW FREE; Public \$15

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.

Weekly Tours of The Institute

Every Wednesday @ Noon

Begin on the Library's 3rd Floor.

For more information, please call 415.393.0101.

