The Mechanics’ Institute and Litquake Join Forces

The Mechanics’ Institute is pleased to announce that it will be co-presenting writing classes with Litquake, the West Coast’s largest nonprofit literary festival, right here in the building! Litquake, a tenant on the 6th floor, has offered MI members a 20% discount on these classes, which range in topic from the finer points of the writing craft to the more nuts-and-bolts aspects of genre writing and even self-publishing. See page 6 for a listing of classes.

For more information, visit Litquake.org and click on Overview, then Master Class Mixers or Lit Craft Workshops. When purchasing any class just use the code “MI” for the discount.

Dulais Rhys: Downton Abbey: the Music and the Era Lecture

Wednesday, June 3 | 6–7:30pm
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

The growing popularity of Downton Abbey, with its 27 Emmy nominations and multiple Golden Globe awards to date has led to the series being parodied by The Simpsons (Simpton Abbey) and by a fast-food chain (Downton Arby’s) … the ultimate praise?

To avid followers of the Edwardian era on both sides of the Atlantic, Downton Abbey has become a not-to-be-missed television event. Since its inception in 2010, public fascination with the portrayal of life and love in an historic, but fictional, English country house has snowballed, especially after PBS acquired the first series for broadcasting in 2011 as part of its ‘Masterpiece’ series.

Join Dulais Rhys for a look at the music of Downton Abbey within the context of the Edwardian period (early 20th century) including references via slideshow and audio examples of the era’s arts, social developments, technical innovations, historical events and retrospective perceptions. The popular music of the period, as well as television period drama theme tunes, will also be discussed – audience participation is heartily encouraged!

Members Free | Public $15

After the event, check out MI Librarian Taryn’s book selection Lady Almina and the real Downton Abbey: the lost legacy of Highclere Castle by The Countess of Carnarvon. The Library also has Downton Abbey DVD seasons 1-5!

(More programs on page 2)
Programs at the Mechanics’

Our programs bring you in conversation with Bay Area and world renowned writers and thinkers.

Wednesday, June 10 | 12:30pm 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Audrey Cooper, Editor in Chief, *San Francisco Chronicle* In conversation with Ralph Lewin

Join the Chronicle’s editor in chief Audrey Cooper and MI executive director Ralph Lewin as they discuss the future of news and Cooper’s journey to becoming the first woman to fill the role of editor in chief in the Chronicle’s 150 year history. At 37, Cooper is the youngest woman ever named as the top editor of a major US newspaper-based company.

Members Free | Public $15

After the program, be sure to check out *The watchdog that didn’t bark* by Dean Starkman (070.44 S795) and *Out of print: newspapers, journalism and the business of news in the digital age* by George Brock (070.4 B864) in the 3rd floor Library

Tuesday, June 16 | 7pm (The Circ Bar opens at 6pm) 2ND FLOOR LIBRARY

14th Annual Bloomsday Celebration: Re-Joyce in the Stacks Muses, Music and Dramatic Readings from James Joyce’s *Ulysses*, Directed by Bruce Bierman

Sojourn though the streets of Dublin with Leopold Bloom and other characters featured in James Joyce’s quintessential novel *Ulysses* and other works. The evening includes dramatic readings and song performed by Bruce Bierman, John Ilyin, Esther Mulligan, Melanie O’Reilly, Josiah Polhemus, and Laura Sheppard. Fiddler Anne Goess is joined by flutist Jason Pollack and guitarist Will Wheeler, who offer lively accompaniment with a selection of traditional and well known Irish music.

This year’s Bloomsday Celebration will be held in Mechanics’ Institute’s glorious 2nd floor Library and performed “in the round”. The Circ Bar will have a special Bloomsday Menu available! Dress your Bloomsday Best!!

Co-sponsored by Irish Consulate, Irish Literary & Historical Society, and the Irish-American Crossroads Festival

Members of MI, IC, ILHS, & IACF $15 | Public $25. Advance Reservations Required. Purchase tickets online through EventBrite or in person at the Events Office or call 415.393.0116.

Need a little more Bloomsday in your life? Try *Yes I said yes I will yes: a celebration of James Joyce, Ulysses, and 100 years of Bloomsday* (Located on 2A, 823 J89yt)

Thursday, June 25 | 6pm 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Donald MacDonald, *Democratic Architecture* Author Presentation

As the housing marketing remains in jeopardy and class disparities grow larger, our nation needs thought-out, well-planned solutions to this predicament. In this latest edition, Donald MacDonald offers viable and affordable solutions to our country’s tough urban problems and raises questions not just about housing policy, but about larger political and ethical issues. With more than 100 photographs, MacDonald’s dynamic illustrations animate his innovative ideas for housing and ownership in his book, *Democratic Architecture: Practical Solutions to Today’s Housing Crises* (Watson-Guptill).

Members Free | Public $15

See Donald MacDonald’s previous works on history and design: *The Bay Bridge and Golden Gate Bridge* (Located on 2B, 624.2 M135)
Thursday, July 9 | 6pm  4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Selected Letters of Langston Hughes  Arnold Rampersad in conversation with Elaine Elinson

This first comprehensive selection of correspondence by the iconic and beloved Langston Hughes expresses his many struggles as well as his memorable achievements. Arranged by decade and linked by expert commentary, the volume guides us through Hughes’s journey in all its aspects: personal, political, practical, and—above all—literary. The life and times of this great American writer is explored by Professor Rampersad, Senior Associate Dean for the Humanities at Stanford University, and activist Elaine Elinson, author of Wherever There’s a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California.

Members Free | Public $15

Can’t wait for the program? Read Langston Hughes’ previously published letters, Remember me to Harlem: the letters of Langston Hughes and Carl Van Vechten, 1925-1964 (Located on 2B, 92 H893)

Tuesday, July 14 | 12:30pm (Café opens at Noon)  4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Bastille Day Celebration  SAVE THE DATE! A French Café Concert with Duo Gadjo: Isabelle Fontaine and Jeff Magidson—Jazz with a French Twist! Musique et Cuisine!

Members $15 | Public $25

Visit milibrary.org and click on the Events tab to see what’s coming up next and to make reservations.

Watch for Summer CinemaLit: Musicals and Amusements!

CinemaLit resumes in July. In the meantime...

MICHAEL FOX recommends these summer film festivals and films:

SF DocFest  June 4–18
Frameline LGBT Film Festival  June 18–28
SF Jewish Film Festival  July 23–August 9

Testament of Youth  (opening June 12)
Adapted from Vera Brittain’s memoir of World War I

Mr. Holmes  (opening July 17)
Adapted from Mitch Cullin’s A Slight Trick of the Mind

PAM TROY suggests the following films from our collection:

If you want to laugh...
The Dinner Game
A snobbish Parisian’s attempted prank on a working class civil servant backfires spectacularly.

If you want to be afraid...
I Walked with a Zombie
Jacques Tourneur directed this dreamlike little confection, the great-granddaddy of all zombie films.

If you want to cry...
A Night to Remember
This movie about the Titanic is not as big-budget, but it’s much more heartfelt and true-to-life than the blockbuster Cameron film.

And if you want to just feel good...
The Parrots of Telegraph Hill
A documentary about San Francisco’s flock of wild urban Conyers and the man who loves and studies them.
Ancestry.com Library Edition: Now Available at MI Library

We are excited to announce our newest database offered to MI members: Ancestry Library Edition. Content is international, though there are some differences from individual subscriptions to Ancestry.com:

- You cannot build online trees
- The Ancestry Library Edition cannot be accessed remotely (at home). You must visit the library.
- It has unparalleled coverage of the United States and the United Kingdom, including census, vital, church, court, and immigration records, as well as record collections from Canada, Europe, Australia and other areas of the world.
- There are some U.S. content exclusions. These are titles that are offered by other library vendors that we do not subscribe to, but may be found at SFPL and other libraries. For example: some county histories (these are offered by ProQuest in HeritageQuest), Cengage titles (Filby's Ship & Passenger List and Biography & Genealogy Master Index [BGMI]), and some newspaper content such as the ProQuest Obituary database.
- Community features are not available, such as sending messages to other members, posting on message boards, buying DNA products, and so on. Most of the message boards are read only.

Please come into the Library and try out this new database. The May 26 class is full, but we will offer more classes in the fall.

Book Discussion Groups

Our members-only Book Groups select, read, and discuss books of a particular type or genre. Members lead the discussions and new members are always welcome. Please note that Book Groups are not author events and the authors will not be present during the discussions.

First Wednesday Mystery Book Group
Wednesday, June 3 | 5:30pm
Pronto by Elmore Leonard

Known for his roller-coaster plots, colorful settings, and diverse shady characters, Leonard opens this international caper in South Miami Beach. An aging bookie leaves his topless-dancer girlfriend for early retirement when he learns he’s about to be the scapegoat in a sting. As he becomes a fugitive in Italy, dodging both the law and the Mafia, the righteous Kentucky-born, cowboy-hatted U.S. Marshal Raylan Givens goes after him. Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome but Registration Preferred.

The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter
Wednesday, June 10 and 24 | 5:30pm

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 – 8pm, 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.

Brown Bag Mystery Readers
Monday, June 8 | Noon
The Family Way by Rhys Bowen

Molly Murphy—now Molly Sullivan—is a year into her marriage, expecting her first child, and confined to the life of a housewife. She’s restless and irritable in the enforced idleness of pregnancy and the heat of a New York summer in 1905. So when a trip to the post office brings a letter addressed to her old detective agency asking her to locate a missing Irish serving maid, Molly figures it couldn’t hurt to at least ask around, despite her promise to Daniel to give up her old career as a detective. (page.ingramcontent.com) Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.
First Tuesday TED Talk: How to fight desertification and reverse climate change
Tuesday, June 2 | 12—1pm
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 February 2013 of Allan Savory talking about how to fight desertification and reverse climate change. Walk-ins Welcome.

JSTOR Database
Thursday, June 4 | 12—1pm
3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A
JSTOR is a trusted growing digital library of more than 2,000 academic journals, nearly 20,000 books, and two million primary source materials (such as pamphlets, manuscripts, oral histories, government documents, and more) across many disciplines. In this class, learn how to get connected and make the most of this resource. There will be plenty of time to try JSTOR on our classroom computers. Registration Required.

Financial Newsletters
Thursday, June 11 | 12—1pm
3RD 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. Discover particular strengths of each newsletter. Titles with similar content are compared. Learn about Hulbert’s Financial Digest, a monthly publication which tracks the performance of the investment letters themselves, based on their security recommendations over time. Registration Required.

Library Downloads Workshop: eBooks, eMagazines, eAudiobooks
Thursday, June 18 | 3—6pm
3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A
The Mechanics’ Institute offers hundreds 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.

Business Insights: Essentials
Thursday, June 25 | 12—1pm
3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A
Learn to research and analyze companies to obtain competitor intelligence and access in-depth industry profiles using the Business Insights 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.

Information and registration: 415.393.0101 or milibrary.org/events/learn. All classes are held in the 3rd floor classrooms and require advance registration unless otherwise noted. Members only.
Litquake Classes (continued from page 1)

Master Class Mixers

Sunday, June 28  The Condensed World of Flash Fiction with Michelle Richmond  Hard as it might be to imagine, literature can exist in 300-800 word chunks. New York Times bestselling author Michelle Richmond will talk about the art of flash fiction, and the shortcuts to writing a terrific work of mini-lit.

Lit Craft Workshops

Saturday, May 30  Travel Writing 101 with Laura Deutsch  Learn the secrets of the coveted art of travel writing from veteran Laura Deutsch, who has written for Best Women’s Travel Writing, the Los Angeles Times and SF Chronicle, and led workshops from Tassajara to Tuscany.

Saturday, June 6  Exploring Your Identity: A Writing Workshop with Anita Amirrezvani and Persis Karim  This unique workshop uses the lens of identity as a source of inspiration for non-fiction, poetry, or fiction. Anita Amirrezvani, is the author of the novel Equal of the Sun; Persis Karim is co-editor of Tremors: New Fiction by Iranian American Writers.

Saturday, June 20  A Writer’s Life with Ellen Sussman  New York Times bestselling author Ellen Sussman will share wisdom on shaping a writer’s life for yourself: fitting writing into your life, tricks of the trade (unit system, writing meditations, separating research and editing from the first draft process) as well as the business of writing.

Saturday, June 27  The Craft of Romance: Creating a Winning Storyline in a Modern Romance Novel with Jennifer Ryan  Thinking of trying your hand at the hot-hot-hot romance market? Jennifer Ryan, author of the New York Times and USA Today bestselling Montana Men series, will tell you how to craft a romance novel storyline that’s sure to hook readers and leave them panting for more.

Saturday, July 11  The Editing Process: Sometimes Painful, Always Important with David Colin Carr  How can a writer become a better self-editor? How can you know if you’re being too self-critical? Not critical enough? When is it a good idea to call for outside help? Editor and writing coach David Colin Carr will talk, answer questions and do consultations.

Path to Publishing Boot Camp: A three-part series
(can be taken individually as well)

I. Sunday, July 12  Fifty Shades of Publishing: All the Ways You Can Publish a Winning Book with April Eberhardt  Author advocate April Eberhardt presents the different paths to publication, including traditional publishing, self-publishing, and a new “third way” called partnership publishing, and discusses the advantages and disadvantages of each.

II. Saturday, July 18  Ebook Design Workshop with Kerry Tremain  How can you best structure your ebook’s editorial content to engage readers? Working with participant’s projects, acclaimed designer Tremain will present solutions, review new design tools, discuss when to seek outside help, and evaluate your ebook’s design.

III. Saturday, July 25  Marketing, Author Platform, and Distribution for your Self-Pubbed Book with Brooke Warner  Most authors don’t understand how to harness key components when it comes to actually selling their self-pubbed book. Publisher Brooke Warner’s workshop gives the answers from A to Z.

Register at Litquake.org and use the code MI for discount!
Grandmaster Daniel Naroditsky was the convincing winner of the 9th Annual Ray Schutt Memorial Blitz held May 3rd. The 19-year-old from Foster City scored 10 ½ out of a possible 12 points to finish a point ahead of the 51-player field. National Masters Andrew Boekhoff and James Critelli shared second place in a field which included three Grandmasters and four International Masters.

The Mechanics’ Institute was well-represented in the 2015 World Team Chess Championship held April 18-29th in Tsakhkadzor, Armenia. Grandmasters Sam Shankland and Daniel Naroditsky, who grew up playing chess at the Mechanics’, acquitted themselves quite well. Sam scored 4 out of 9 on top board playing against the best players in the world. Daniel, making his debut on the U.S. national team, scored four out of seven including a win against Jakovenko of Russia.

Congratulations to National Masters Russell Wong and Tenzing Shaw who shared first place in the 106-player Spring Tuesday Night Marathon. The next TNM starts May 26th.

Chess for Women

SUNDAYS, JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28
11AM - 1PM
TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK
Funded by Vega Capital Group

Tournaments

SATURDAY, JUNE 6
10AM - 8PM
52nd Annual Arthur Stamer Memorial

SUNDAY, JUNE 7
10AM - 8PM
52nd Annual Arthur Stamer Memorial

SATURDAY, JUNE 20
10AM - 8PM
15th Annual Charles Powell Memorial G/45

Tuesday Night Events

JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
5:15 PM - 6:15 PM
LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON
6:30 PM - 10:30 PM
Summer Tuesday Night Marathons

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27
11AM - 1PM
TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW

Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or chessclub.org.
The Grand Design: PPIE and the City Within A City Panel Discussion

Thursday, July 23 | 6pm  4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Save the date for this lively discussion moderated by Laura A. Ackley, author of San Francisco's Jewel City: The Pan Pacific Exposition of 1915. Panelists include author Gray Brechin, Kerry Laitala, Therese Paletti and Christopher VerPlanck.

Architectural historians, writers, and artists will discuss the collaboration of Edward Bennett and the Exposition’s architectural committee whose vision of the Block Plan manifested the design of the PPIE. Innovation, fantasy and technology were utilized to create this “city within a city” modeling great architecture, urban design, and leaps of the imagination. Admission is free to all.

FATHER’S DAY GIFT MEMBERSHIPS 20% OFF

Don’t get Dad another tie – get him something he can use! A gift membership to the Mechanics’ Institute. Your gift recipient will enjoy all the benefits of a Mechanics’ Institute membership including free admission to most of our activities: speaker appearances, book clubs, CinemaLit films, activities, chess classes, and more. Your gift will sustain our continued effort to support our members’ intellectual growth and creative achievements!

To order please contact Margot Sheffner, Membership Office Manager on the 5th floor, Suite 504, by phone at 415.393.0105, or via email at membership@milibrary.org.

Offer open only to current MI members and applicable to new memberships only. Offer good from May 11th through July 31st, 2015.

Weekly Tours of The Institute

Every Wednesday @ Noon
Begin on the Library’s 3rd Floor.
For more information, please call 415.393.0101.