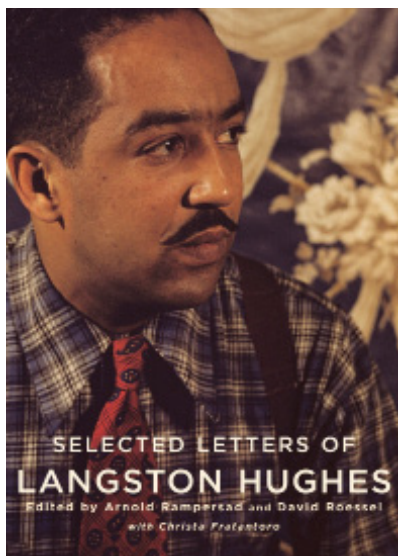




## Selected Letters of Langston Hughes

Arnold Rampersad in conversation with Elaine Elinson



**Thursday, July 9 | 6pm**

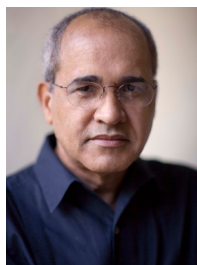
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

**The life and times** of this iconic American writer is explored by Professor Arnold Rampersad, Senior Associate Dean for the Humanities at Stanford University, and activist Elaine Elinson, author of *Wherever There is a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California*.

This first comprehensive selection of correspondents by 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' journey in all its aspects: personal, political, practical, and—above

all—literary. Correspondences include Carl Van Vechten, Blanche Knopf, Zora Neale Hurston, Arna Bontemps, Vachel Lindsay, Ezra Pound, Richard Wright, Kurt Weill, Carl Sandburg, James Baldwin, Martin Luther King, Jr., and many others.

**Members Free | Public \$15**



**Arnold Rampersad** is a recipient of many fellowships including the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has written for *The New Republic*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and *The Washington Post*.

**Elaine Elinson** is an author and activist, whose articles have been published in *the Los Angeles Daily Journal* and other publications. She served as the communications director of the ACLU of Northern California and editor of the ACLU News for more than two decades.



(More programs on page 2)

## The Panama Canal Exhibit, June 1–July 31 Open to the Public!



**Named one** of the seven modern wonders of the world by the American Society of Engineers, the Panama Canal connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. This engineering marvel provides a shortcut of 8,000 miles for vessels travelling between oceans and eliminates the need to travel around the treacherous Cape Horn.

Canal excavation began in 1881 by the French who eventually abandoned the work in 1894 due to construction problems and

(continued on page 8)

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# Programs at the Mechanics'

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



**Friday, July 10\* | 2pm** MEET IN THE 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## **San Francisco Architecture Walking Tour with special emphasis on Willis Polk** Tour

Take a tour of San Francisco's most famous downtown buildings with knowledgeable and friendly city historian Rick Evans! On the tour you'll learn about famous architects that influenced the re-building of San Francisco after the 1906 Earthquake and the impact they had during the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Special emphasis will spotlight the work of Willis Polk who was one of the most influential architects and urban planners in the city.

### **\*Additional Tour Dates**

Saturday, July 18 – 10am, Friday, July 24 – 2pm, Friday, July 31 – 2pm, Saturday, August 1 – 10am

### **Tour Specifics**

Duration: 2 hours

Distance: 5 blocks in the Financial District (all flat surfaces with a few short staircases)

**Members & Public \$40 | Reservations required, space is limited. Please contact Taryn Edwards, 415.393.0103, tedwards@milibrary.org or register directly through our website milibrary.org/events.**

**Tuesday, July 14 | 12:30pm** (Café open at Noon for lunch) 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## **Bastille Day Celebration** A French Café Concert with Trio Gadjo

Musique et Cuisine! Kick off Bastille Day with a delicious noon time "repas" and the marvelous music of Trio Gadjo featuring Isabelle Fontaine and Jeff Magidson on guitars with Sam Rocha on bass. Hear the songs of Piaf, Montant, Trenet plus Louis Armstrong and Muddy Waters as they perform their vivacious blend of French Gypsy Jazz inspired by the Le Jazz Hot of the 20's and 30's in Paris, the delights of French cabaret, and the "oldies but goodies" of the great American songbook. Jeff and Isabelle are members of the band The Hot Club of San Francisco, a favorite Bay Area ensemble. Come celebrate "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite!"

**Includes plat du jour. Members \$15 | Public \$25**



**Tuesday, July 15 | 3pm** OFF SITE EVENT

## **Museum Tour of Odd Fellows Lodge Hall** Tour

Ever wonder what an Odd Fellow is? Founded in 1849 to "relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan" the Independent Order of Odd Fellows today works to "improve the character of mankind" by employing the creed of Friendship, Love and Truth, in daily life and in the spread of good works. Join Mechanics' Institute Librarian Taryn Edwards and long time Odd Fellow and Historian Pete Sellars on a tour of the Odd Fellows Hall and museum exhibit. It is a wonderful opportunity to see a rare side of San Francisco history and how Odd Fellowship has evolved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Meet at Odd Fellows' Lodge Hall, 26-7<sup>th</sup> Street at Market, San Francisco, 94103**

Questions? Contact Taryn Edwards, 415.393.0103 or tedwards@milibrary.org.

**Members Only. Free | Reservations Required.**



Can't wait to learn more? Try *The History of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in the City of San Francisco* (Located on 3A, 366.3 S46)

Thursday, July 30 | 6pm 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

**The Rainman's Third Cure: An Irregular Education** Author presentation: Peter Coyote

Inspired by Bob Dylan's lyrics, Peter Coyote's new biography comes to grip with the competing forces of his life. This biography is the tale of a young man's journey from the privileged halls of power, to Greenwich Village jazz bars, to jail, to the White House, government service, and international success on stage and screen. Coyote provides intimate portraits of mentors that shaped him—a violent, intimidating father; a bebop bass player; a Mafia consiglieri; and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gary Snyder, who introduces him to Zen practice. Through Zen, Coyote discovers another "door" that offers answers to his personal, spiritual and material conflicts and a path to a life well lived.

Members Free | Public \$15

Get started on Coyote's earlier memoir, *Sleeping where I fall: a chronicle* (Located on 2A, 92 C881)

## PETER COYOTE THE RAINMAN'S THIRD CURE

An Irregular Education



Monday, August 3 | 6 – 7pm 3RD FLOOR LIBRARY

**Mechanics' Institute Tour @ Night** Tour & Reception

Can't make the Wednesday Noon Tour? Try the one at Night! 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. Today the Mechanics' Institute continues as a membership organization boasting a fantastic 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.

Visit [milibrary.org](http://milibrary.org) and click on the **Events** tab to see what's coming up next and to make reservations.

## CinemaLit Summer 2015: Musicals and Amusements



Friday, July 10 | 6pm

**Carnival in Flanders** (1935)

DIRECTED BY JACQUES FEYDER

Francoise Rosay, Jean Murat

The wily women of a small Flemish village circa 1616 welcome a Spanish duke and his troops in this delicious French-language romantic farce. BELGIAN WAFFLES AND PASTRIES!

Friday, August 7 | 6pm

**Top Hat** (1935)

DIRECTED BY MARK SANDRICH

Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers

A star-crossed (and deliriously talented) couple falls in love from London to Venice, aided and abetted by Irving Berlin's songs. DANCING!



Friday, July 24 | 6pm

**Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory** (1971)

DIRECTED BY MEL STUART

Gene Wilder, Jack Albertson

A delightfully imaginative musical adaptation of Roald Dahl's tale of a reclusive chocolatier who guides five young winners on a tour of his fantastic operation. CHOCOLATE TASTING!

Friday, August 21 | 6pm

**The Illusionist** (2006)

DIRECTED BY NEIL BURGER

Edward Norton, Paul Giamatti

In this deeply satisfying sleight-of-hand, a magician in turn-of-the-century Vienna schemes to save an old flame from her all-powerful fiancé. MAGIC!



Members Free | Public Suggested Donation \$10

# 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, July 1 | 6pm

### *Mr. Churchill's Secretary: A Maggie Hope Mystery*

BY SUSAN ELIA MACNEAL

London, 1940. Winston Churchill has just been sworn in, war rages across the Channel, and the threat of a Blitz looms. Maggie Hope graduated at the top of her college class and possesses all the skills of the finest minds in British intelligence, but her gender qualifies her only to be the newest typist at No. 10 Downing Street. Her indefatigable spirit and remarkable gifts for code-breaking, though, rival those of even the highest men in government, and Maggie finds that working for the prime minister affords her a level of clearance (and opportunities) she could never have imagined. Ensnared in a web of spies, murder, and intrigue, Maggie must work fast to balance her duty to King and Country with her chances for survival. And when she unravels a mystery that points toward her own family's hidden secrets, she'll discover that her quick wits are all that stand between an assassin's murderous plan and Churchill himself. **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

## The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter

Wednesday, July 8 and 22 | 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 – 8 pm, the World Literature Group discusses Proustian-inspired works. The new semester began on March 11<sup>th</sup>; registration is now closed for this semester. 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).



## Brown Bag Mystery Readers

Monday, July 13 | Noon

### *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* BY EDGAR ALLEN POE

*The Murders in the Rue Morgue* is thought to be the first modern detective story, published by Edgar Allan Poe in 1841. In this classic tale the detective demonstrates the ineptitude of the police, the value of reason, and how it's the seemingly least important details that often matter most. A landmark in the history of detective fiction. (annotation courtesy of [ipage.ingramcontent.com](http://ipage.ingramcontent.com)) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

## Good Reads Book Group – New Group!

Tuesday, July 21 | Noon

### *On Such A Full Sea* BY CHANG-RAE LEE

B-Mor is a rigorously ordered labor settlement founded in what used to be Baltimore by refugees from impossibly polluted New China. They grow stringently regulated food for the elite, who live in gated charter villages, surrounded by open counties, in which civilization has collapsed under the assaults of a pandemic and an ever-harsher climate. In a third-person plural narrative voice that perfectly embodies the brutal and wistful communities he portrays, Lee tells the mythic story of young, small, yet mighty Fan, a breath-held diver preternaturally at home among the farmed fish she tends to. When her boyfriend inexplicably disappears, Fan escapes from B-Mor to search for him, embarking on a daring, often surreal quest in a violent, blighted world. (annotation courtesy of [ipage.ingramcontent.com](http://ipage.ingramcontent.com)) **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**



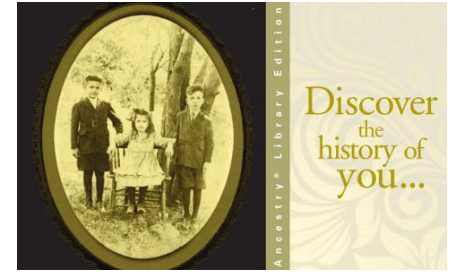
# Classes

## Ancestry Library Edition – Back by Popular Demand!

Thursday, July 16 | 5:30 – 6:30pm

3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Want to research your family history? Now's your chance with our new subscription to the Ancestry database which provides access to billions of records in census data, vital records, directories, photos, and more. The class will provide tips on searching and how to decipher the records, and plenty of time for hands-on practice. **Members Only. Registration Required.**



## Litquake Classes

The Mechanics' Institute is pleased to continue co-presenting writing classes with Litquake, the West Coast's largest nonprofit literary festival, right here in the building! Litquake, a tenant on the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 self-publishing.



### 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, 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.

For more information and to register, visit [Litquake.org](http://Litquake.org) and use the code **MI** for discount!

## Michael Savage Retires



**After thirty – one years**, Building Manager Michael Savage is calling it quits. Michael started working at the Institute when he was 25 years old as a Library Assistant. He very quickly rose through the ranks to become the Building Manager and Human Resources Specialist for the Institute. In addition to cycling around the Sacramento area he plans to spend time with family, paint a few pictures, and enjoy good food and wine. We will certainly miss his ironic sense of humor and genial disposition!



Library Manager Bobbie Monzon meanwhile has been training under Michael so she can assume his august position. Bobbie has worked for the Mechanics' Institute for five years and she looks forward to carrying the keys, working with tenants, and shepherding the Institute through its exterior facelift.



Construction of 57 Post, circa 1910

## Building To Receive Facelift

**July 15 marks** the 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 57 Post's grand opening in 1910. Designed by renowned architect Albert Pissis, our building is an historic landmark and a striking example of the Beaux Arts style. As the *San Francisco Chronicle* described it, the directors and managers were "*gratified over the profuse congratulations showered upon them and the Institute by the friends and patrons who formed a continuous stream in and out of the Library all day, expressing delight that the Library had come back into its own.*" The visitors' delight must have been entirely founded on the glories of the space as the books were not yet in their permanent places – the custom steel book stacks and shelves had not yet arrived from the East. The return of the Mechanics' Institute to the downtown marked the relocation of the last of the important and popular institutions of San Francisco since the 1906 disaster.

While the building has aged gracefully, the exterior is now in need of a new roof and painting. The project will begin June 22 and will include scaffolding and mesh sheeting on the Post Street side of the building. All Institute activities and programs will continue uninterrupted and building access will remain the same. We expect the work to last four months and will keep the membership apprised of its progress. This work will insure that our landmark building will be around well into the future for members to use and enjoy. Thank you for your understanding and continued support of the Mechanics' Institute.

If you are interested in learning more or finding out how you can help support the building effort, please contact Ralph Lewin at [rl Lewin@milibrary.org](mailto:rl Lewin@milibrary.org).

## Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

**Nelson Sowell** was the convincing winner of the 15th Charles Powell Memorial held May 2nd at the Mechanic's Institute Chess Club. The 64 year-old resident of Oakland started the event seeded fifth but won all of his games to take first place.

Mechanics' member Grandmaster **Daniel Naroditsky** of Foster City tied for second place in the 826 player Chicago Open held over Memorial Day weekend.



And, Tony Lama, our MI weekend guard, turned 80 in early June. He has worked at the Mechanics' since 1990 and is a very good player (Expert rating) despite only learning the game in his thirties.

Photo credit: Richard Shorman



Nelson Sowell

Photo credit: Richard Shorman

## Chess for Women

SUNDAYS, JULY 5, 12, 19, 26

11AM – 1PM

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

## Tournaments

SATURDAY, JULY 11

10AM – 7PM

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Charles Bagby Memorial G/45

SUNDAY, JULY 12

1PM – 5PM

Tony Lama 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Blitz Tournament

## Tuesday Night Events

JULY 7, 14

5:15 PM – 6:15 PM

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

6:30 PM – 10:30 PM

Summer Tuesday Night Marathon

## Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

JULY 11, 18, 25

11AM – 1PM

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW

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

## Kids' Chess Camp at MI

**Our annual school year** end chess camp was held at the MI chess room June 8-12. This brought kids from around the city into our building to see the world famous club. These were some of the more motivated players from our scholastic program, and the camp allows them to learn some advanced topics. Fifteen to twenty kids would come each day, immersing themselves in the complexities of the game. Yet they had great fun – the chess room was often filled with laughter. One young girl (Elinor) was shy and reserved to begin with, but made new chess friends throughout the week and felt at home by the end.

Teachers Elliott Winslow and Emilia Krubnik taught chess tactics, including forks, pins and skewers. Difficult puzzles of checkmate in 3 moves were solved, and each day the kids would try the challenge game against the instructor (who would play all simultaneously). By the end of the camp the kids were managing to score points!

Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> also brought our annual visit from the Salvation Army. Thirty-two children came from the Tenderloin Salvation Army building for an afternoon of chess. Some had learned chess in previous visits and were versed in the fundamentals. Half of the kids were complete beginners, but enthusiastically learned the rules and started play. We again donated sets and vinyl chess boards so the kids can play at their Tenderloin location.

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will hold its advanced chess camp **July 20 to 24** from 10 am to 4 pm daily. The lead instructors are Grandmasters Nick de Firmian and John Fedorowicz plus International Master Elliott Winslow. Go to [chessclub.org/children/camp.php](http://chessclub.org/children/camp.php), or write [chessroom@milibrary.org](mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org) or call 415.393.0110 for more information.





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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

Taryn Edwards and  
 Sarah Cruz, Editor



## 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 Poletti 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.**

## The Panama Canal Exhibit (continued from page 1)

a devastating number of fatalities of workers due to malaria and yellow fever. In 1904, the United States purchased the rights to the land from the Panamanian government, the equipment and excavations from the French, and continued construction of the Panama Canal. The Canal was completed and opened to international traffic on August 15, 1914.

The 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco was a celebration of the opening of the Panama Canal and the expanded trade that helped the Port of San Francisco to prosper.

**Located on the 2nd Floor Library. Free to all.**

## Weekly Tours of The Institute

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

