



## A Tent City No More: a discussion of the 1854 map drawn by R.P. Bridgens with Jimmie Schein from *Schein & Schein Antique Maps & Prints*



**Wednesday, September 9 | 6pm**  
2ND FLOOR LIBRARY

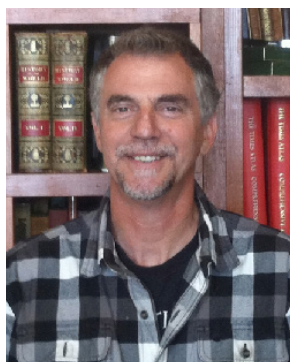
**Prior to the 1906** earthquake and fire the Mechanics' Institute acquired a large map drawn from the 1853 Survey of San Francisco by noted draftsman Richard P. Bridgens. This excessively rare map is among the earliest printed maps of the city of San Francisco and is notable for its grand dimensions and wonderful vignettes of the city's landmarks and architecture.

The Institute's map has recently been relocated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Library. Come celebrate the map's relocation and learn about the early city, its businesses, and other maps from the era in this exciting lecture with local map purveyor and expert Jimmie Schein.

**Members Free | Public \$15**

After the event, check out MI Librarian Taryn's book selection *Gold Rush Port : the maritime archaeology of San Francisco's Waterfront* by James P. Delgado. (Located on 2A, 979.461 D35)

**Jimmie Schein** is proprietor of **Schein & Schein**, a dealer in antique maps, prints and rare books, located in the heart of San Francisco's North Beach District. Schein and Schein covers the world, stocking a wide range of material dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century but specializes in San Francisco, California and wine country material from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. For more information visit their establishment at 1435 Grant Avenue, SF or go to [www.scheinandschein.com](http://www.scheinandschein.com).



(More programs on page 2)

## New Exhibit: Documents from the 1915 Panama- Pacific International Exposition August 4 – September 30

**The Mechanics' Institute's** involvement with the Panama-Pacific International Exposition (PPIE) through the engagement of Rudolph J. Taussig, former MI Board of Trustees President, as the PPIE Board of Director's Secretary and Chairman of the Division of Exploitation, and Joseph Cummings, long-time Mechanics' Institute Secretary, as the Executive Secretary to PPIE President Charles C. Moore, resulted in an extensive array of PPIE-related programs, pamphlets, souvenir booklets and other paper-based ephemera in our collection.

This exhibit will showcase these PPIE items, illustrating the magnitude of the propaganda produced to publicize the Exposition, and giving you a glimpse into the life of 1915 San Francisco. **Located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Library.**  
**Free | Open to the Public.**

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# Programs at the Mechanics'

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



**Thursday, September 10 | 6pm** 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

**The House of Twenty Thousand Books** Author Sasha Abramsky in conversation with writer David Biale

This is the story of Chimen Abramsky, an extraordinary polymath and bibliophile who amassed a vast collection of socialist literature and Jewish history. Journalist **Sasha Abramsky** re-creates a lost world, bringing to life the people, the books, and the ideas that filled his grandparents' house, from salons that included Eric Hobsbawm and Isaiah Berlin to the books that populated every corner including *The Communist Manifesto* with Marx's handwritten notes, William Morris's manuscripts and woodcuts, an early sixteenth-century Bomberg Bible, and a first edition of Descartes's *Meditations*. *The House of Twenty Thousand Books* is a wondrous journey through our times, from the vanished worlds of Eastern Europe, through world wars, to the cacophonous politics of modernity.



**Members Free | Public \$15**

Check out Abramsky's most recent book *The American Way of Poverty: How the Other Half Still Lives*, which was listed by *The New York Times* as among the one hundred notable books of 2013! (Located on 3A, 362.5 A161)

**Saturday, September 12 | 1-3pm** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

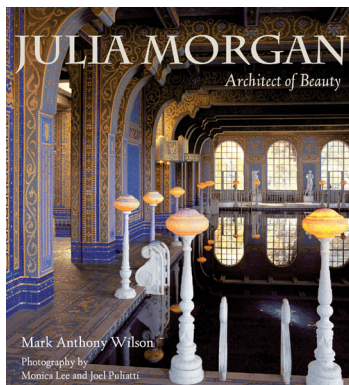
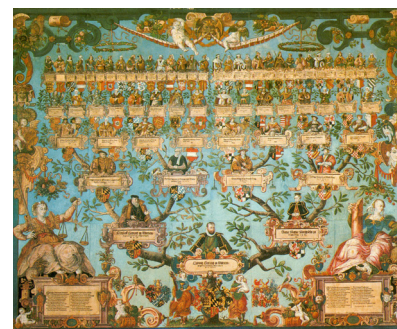
**An Introduction to Genealogy** Class with Instructor Linda Harms Okazaki from the California Genealogical Society

This two-hour class focuses on basic research methods and terminology. The class covers common (and uncommon) family history records and the resources available, online and in libraries, repositories, and archives. Don't think you have to be a beginner to benefit from the class!

If you have any questions please contact Taryn Edwards, 415.393.0103; tedwards@milibrary.org

**Reservations Required. MI & CGS Members \$30 | Public \$40**

Try William Dollarhide's *Getting started in genealogy online* (Located on 2A, 929.1 D665).



**Kick-Ass Ladies of San Francisco: Program #1**

**Thursday, September 17 | 6pm** 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

**Julia Morgan: Architect of Beauty** (Knopf) with architectural historian Mark Wilson

Julia Morgan blazed a trail for women in a profession that had never allowed them to participate fully, until she came along. America's first truly independent, licensed woman architect, Morgan designed and built over 700 structures, more than any other major American architect, including Frank Lloyd Wright. Now in paperback, the first comprehensive book in twenty years on this architectural pioneer sheds new light on both the work and life of the greatest female architect of the twentieth century. Author Mark Wilson explores the nature-based, environmentally sensitive design philosophy that guided a large portion of Morgan's work—the First Bay Tradition.



**Members Free | Public \$15**

Find Wilson's *Julia Morgan: Architect of Beauty*, as well as *Julia Morgan, Architect* by Sara Holmes Boutelle in the Library on Balcony 2A. ( 720.92 M84b & 720.92 M84w ).





**Friday, September 18 | 2:45 – 4pm** OFF SITE EVENT

**Tour of the James R. Browning Courthouse**

**Meet at the Browning Courthouse: 95 Seventh Street (corner of Mission and Seventh Street)**

Do you love “old” San Francisco architecture? Join librarian Taryn Edwards on this fascinating tour of the James R. Browning Courthouse that houses the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. This National Historic Landmark survived the 1906 earthquake and fire and is deemed one of the nation’s most beautiful public buildings.

Tour begins promptly at 3pm. Please arrive early since the Courthouse is a limited-entry federal building. Everyone must go through a metal detector; no knives are allowed. Cameras are welcome. Please wear comfortable shoes. The building is fully handicapped accessible but, if you may need assistance in the building please inform Taryn Edwards prior to the tour. Call 415.393.0103 or email [tedwards@milibrary.org](mailto:tedwards@milibrary.org).

**Advance Reservations Required | Free**

Taryn recommends *The Architecture of the École des Beaux-Arts* edited by Arthur Drexler (Balcony 2A, 720.92 M84b & 720.92 M84w ).

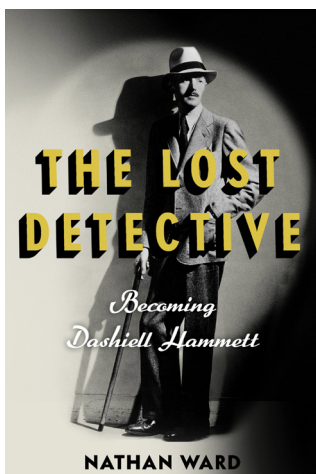
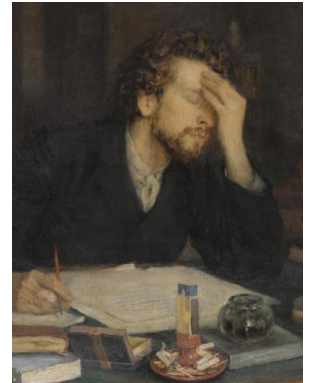
**Friday, September 25 | 6pm** 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

**Write! Evolve! Write!** Discussion

To write well, one must live and grow. Join the writing community of the Mechanics’ Institute at this spirited event. Eight MI authors will present their new work and discuss the growth experienced along their writer’s journey. Learn valuable lessons about editing, choosing a book cover image, how to complete a draft while having a life, and how to really read a poem. If you are interested in the independent/self publishing process or just want to learn from others’ experience, this is the event for you!

**Reservations Required | Free to all.**

Prep yourself for the discussion! check out *The complete handbook of novel writing : everything you need to know about creating & selling your work* (Located on 2A, 808.3 C737 2010).



**Wednesday, September 30 | 6pm** 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

**The Lost Detective: Becoming Dashiell Hammett** Author Nathan Ward in conversation with Private Investigator David B. Fechheimer and Hammett Tour Guide Don Herron; Moderated by ZYZZYVA Managing Editor Oscar Villalon; Co-sponsored by ZYZZYVA

While Hammett’s life on center stage has been well-documented, the question of how he got there has not. That largely overlooked phase is the subject of Nathan Ward’s new book. Hammett’s childhood, his life in San Francisco, and especially his experience as a detective deeply informed his writing and his characters, from the nameless Continental Op, hero of his stories and early novels, to Sam Spade and Nick Charles. The success of his many stories in the pulp magazine *Black Mask* following his departure from the Pinkertons led him to novels; he would write five between 1929 and 1934, two of them, *The Maltese Falcon* and *The Thin Man*, now American classics. Though he inspired generations of writers, from Chandler to Connelly and all in between, after *The Thin Man* he never finished another book, a painful silence for his devoted readers; and his popular image has long been shaped by the remembrance of Lillian Hellman, who knew him after his literary reputation had been made.

**MI Members & ZYZZYVA Subscribers Free | Public \$15**

After the program sign-up for The Hammett Tour of San Francisco led by Don Herron:  
[www.donherron.com/the-tour/current-walks/](http://www.donherron.com/the-tour/current-walks/)



*Kick-Ass Ladies of San Francisco: Program #2*

**Friday, October 2 | Noon-1pm** 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

**Poet Ina Coolbrith's Petticoat Rule as Librarian** A lecture with historian and author Aleta George

Ina Coolbrith's passion was poetry. Though she was crowned California's first poet laureate during the Panama-Pacific International Exposition she earned a living as a librarian - first at the Oakland Public Library and then at the Bohemian Club and San Francisco's Mercantile Library (which merged with the Mechanics' Institute in 1906). Join us to hear how Ina mentored local luminaries such as Jack London and Isadora Duncan, and how she fought gender discrimination in the workplace.

**Members Free | Public \$15**

Read Aleta George's book in the Library first! *Ina Coolbrith: The Bittersweet Song of California's First Poet Laureate* (Located on the New Book Table on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 92 C7744)



# Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM



**The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club** will once again be fielding an entry in the United States Chess League which starts this fall. This will be the Mechanics' 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive season in the Internet-based competition and the team will again be emphasizing youth with half of its ten player roster less than twenty one years of age.

Grandmaster Daniel Naroditsky, ranked number ten in the world among junior players, will lead the team but will have plenty of support. Among those backing him up is Cameron Wheeler of Cupertino who recently won the U.S. Cadet Championship which was open to the best players in the United States under 16 years of age. This was but the latest national success by a Mechanics' Chess Club member as Naroditsky, Sam Shankland and Gregory Young have all won the U.S. Junior Closed in the past decade.

Cameron Wheeler  
Photo credit: Rob Wheeler

## Chess for Women

SUNDAYS, SEPTEMBER 13, 20, 27

11AM - 1PM

\* NO CLASS SEPTEMBER 6

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

## Tournaments

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

10AM - 7PM

15<sup>th</sup> Annual Howard Donnelly

Memorial G/45

## Tuesday Night Events

SEPTEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

5:15PM - 6:15PM

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

6:30PM - 10:30PM

Leighton Allen Tuesday Night  
Marathon

## Wednesday Night Blitz

SEPTEMBER 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

6:30PM - 9PM

## Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

SEPTEMBER 5, 12, 19, 26

11AM - 1PM

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER  
ELLIOTT WINSLOW

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

# Classes



## First Tuesday TED Talk

**Topic: Where Does Creativity Hide?**

**Tuesday, , September 1 | 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 2008 of Amy Tan talking about the creative process.

**Walk-ins Welcome.**



## ValueLine Resource Center

**Thursday, September 17 | 12–1pm**

3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Attendees will explore Value Line's redesigned platform, learn about their ranking system, how to access feature articles and analysts' commentaries, create a customized company report, and generate lists through stock screener, as well as access traditional company reports.

**Registration Required.**



## Morningstar Investment Research Center

**Thursday, September 10 | 10–11am**

3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Morningstar provides investment research, analysis and recommendations for thousands of mutual funds and stocks. Attendees will learn how to search for reports by name or ticker symbol, generate a list of investments, design an investment portfolio or analyze an existing one, and get assistance in selecting a few solid funds for the longer term. **Registration Required.**



## Blogging 101

**Tuesday, September 22 | 5:30–6:30pm**

3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

This class will provide an overview of blogging and some of the different blogging platforms available. We will review three of the most prominent platforms—Tumblr, Blogger, and Wordpress—and discuss the pros and cons of each. Please note: Participants will not set up blogs in this class (see WordPress class in October).

**Registration Required.**



## Ancestry Library Edition

**Wednesday, September 16 | 5:30–6:30pm**

3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A & B

Want to research your family history? The Ancestry database 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. **Registration Required.**

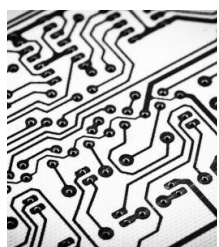


## Excel Basics

**Wednesday, September 23 | 5–6pm**

3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

This class will provide you with the basic tools to start using Excel immediately. Learn about creating a basic spreadsheet, customizing its appearance, and using basic formulas. **Registration Required.**



## Tech Office Hours — One-on-one consultations

**Thursday, September 17 | 10am–4pm**

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Reserve a half hour appointment to work on questions regarding your email, eBook readers, making the best use of the Library online catalog features, safely managing your social media accounts, or other computer or technology-related questions. Advance registration is appreciated, although some walk-in opportunities may be available. **To register,** contact Erik Sandall with your available time frame and a brief description of your question by emailing [esandall@milibrary.org](mailto:esandall@milibrary.org) or by calling 415.393.0111.



## LinkedIn 101

**Thursday, September 24 | 5:30–6:30pm**

3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

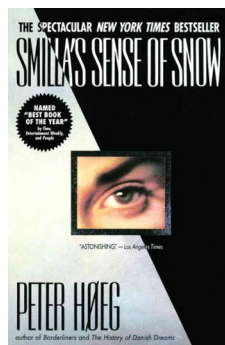
LinkedIn is one of the most commonly used professional networks. Learn the basics of setting up a profile, finding contacts and work opportunities, and using the site's resources to gain vocational inspiration and job hunting tips. **Registration Required.**

Call 415.393.0101 or visit [milibrary.org/events/learn](http://milibrary.org/events/learn) for details or for more information. Members only.



# 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, September 2 | 6pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

**Smilla's Sense of Snow** BY PETER HØEG

Smilla Jaspersen is convinced she has uncovered a shattering crime. In the Copenhagen snow, her neighbor, a six-year-old boy, fell to his death from the top of his apartment building. While the boy's body is still warm, the police pronounce his death an accident. But Smilla knows he didn't fall from the roof on his own. For her dead neighbor, and for herself, she must embark on a harrowing journey of lies, revelation and violence that will take her back to the world of ice and snow from which she comes, where an explosive secret waits beneath the ice.

**Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

## The Proust Society of America: San Francisco Chapter

Wednesday, September 9 and 23 | 5:30pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

Under the leadership of Dr. Mark Calkins, Mechanics' Institute offers a bi-weekly discussion group, on a semester basis. **The Proust Group** discusses Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*, vol.3 (*The Guermentes Way*), from 5:30–6:30pm. The new semester will begin on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. **Registration is required. Fee: \$70/members; \$100/nonmembers.** For registration & payment, go to [www.milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings](http://www.milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings) for the semester beginning in September. For more information, contact Diane Lai at [dlai@milibrary.org](mailto:dlai@milibrary.org) or Dr. Calkins at [mark@tempsperdu.com](mailto:mark@tempsperdu.com).



## World Literature Book Group

Wednesday, September 9 and 23 | 6:45pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

**Daisy Miller, The Beast in the Jungle, The Aspern Papers, and The Figure in the Carpet** BY HENRY JAMES

James, an American writer who spent most of his career in Britain, is considered one of the key figures in 19<sup>th</sup> century literary realism. The World Literature Book Group will explore his shorter works in September. The eponymous novel *Daisy Miller* portrays the star-crossed courtship of the title character by the sophisticated Winterbourne, a romance which is marred by rumors of Daisy's scandalous romantic behavior on the continent. *The Beast in the Jungle* unfolds the peculiar destiny of John Marcher, a man whose sense of foreboding shades every act he takes – and refuses to take. Set in Venice, *The Aspern Papers* is a novella concerning a hoard of letters Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote to Mary Shelley's stepsister, and depicts the struggle of a publisher to gain control of the fictionalized papers. The narrator of *The Figure in the Carpet* meets his favorite author and becomes obsessed with discovering the secret meaning embedded in the author's works. **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

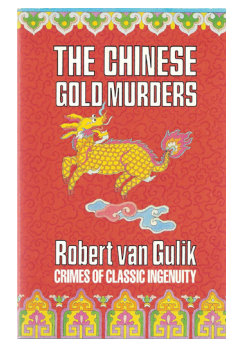
## Brown Bag Mystery Readers

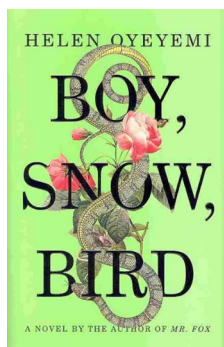
Monday, September 14 | Noon 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

**The Chinese Gold Murders** BY ROBERT VAN GULIK

In this, the second book in Robert van Gulik's classic mystery series of ancient China, Judge Dee must look into the murder of his predecessor. His job is complicated by the simultaneous disappearance of his chief clerk and the new bride of a wealthy local shipowner. Meanwhile, a tiger is terrorizing the district, the ghost of the murdered magistrate stalks the tribunal, a prostitute has a secret message for Dee, and the body of a murdered monk is discovered to be in the wrong grave. In the end, the judge, with his deft powers of deduction, uncovers the one cause for all of these seemingly unrelated events. (annotation courtesy of [ipage.ingramcontent.com](http://ipage.ingramcontent.com))

**Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**





### Good Reads Book Group

**Tuesday, September 15 | Noon** 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

**Boy, Snow, Bird** BY HELEN OYEYEMI

From the prizewinning author of *Mr. Fox*, the Snow White fairy tale brilliantly recast as a story of family secrets, race, beauty, and vanity. In the winter of 1953, Boy Novak arrives by chance in a small town in Massachusetts, looking, she believes, for beauty - the opposite of the life she's left behind in New York. She marries a local widower and becomes stepmother to his winsome daughter, Snow Whitman. A wicked stepmother is a creature Boy never imagined she'd become, but elements of the familiar tale of aesthetic obsession begin to play themselves out when the birth of Boy's daughter, Bird, who is dark-skinned, exposes the Whitmans as light-skinned African Americans passing for white. Among them, Boy, Snow, and Bird confront the tyranny of the mirror to ask how much power surfaces really hold. *(annotation courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com)* **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

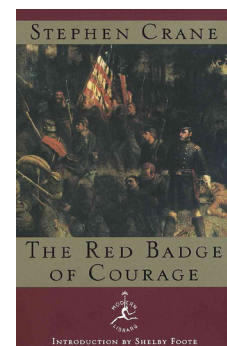
### Forgotten Classics

**Thursday, September 17 | 6pm** 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

**The Red Badge of Courage** BY STEPHEN CRANE

Henry Fleming, a private in the Union Army, runs away from the field of war. Afterwards, the shame he feels at this act of cowardice ignites his desire to receive an injury in combat - a "red badge of courage" - that will redeem him. Stephen Crane's novel about a young soldier's experiences during the American Civil War is well known for its understated naturalism and its realistic depiction of battle. *(annotation courtesy of ipage.ingramcontent.com)*

**Members Only. Registration Required.**

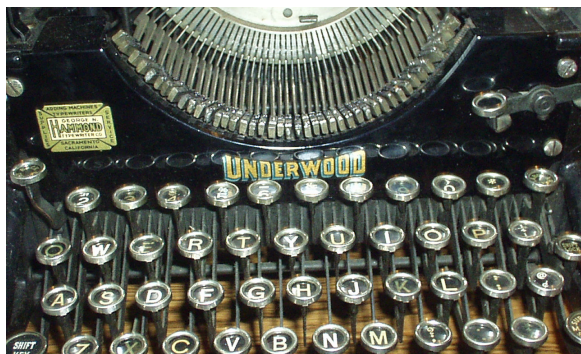


**Information & registration:** Heather Terrell at 415.393.0102, [hterrell@milibrary.org](mailto:hterrell@milibrary.org), or [milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings](http://milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings).

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.

## New Group for Mystery Writers

**Are you writing** a mystery novel? The Mechanics' Institute is hosting a new writers' working group centered on the production of mysteries. The purpose of this group is to give its members an audience for reading their work aloud. The group will meet weekly, from **6 pm to 8 pm on Wednesdays, beginning October 14, 2015**. Every member will read every week, and get responses from the other members. This format will allow writers with a completed manuscript of a crime novel, or a first draft already underway, to edit their manuscripts in less than a year. If interested, write to [RickHomanFiction@gmail.com](mailto:RickHomanFiction@gmail.com).



## Announcing a New Book Group: World Literature

**Members of the** long-standing World Literature book group, formerly led by Dr. Mark Calkins, will be independently continuing the group beginning this Fall – and new members are invited to join in the discussion! The group has been reading together for several years, and they welcome new members who enjoy close reading and sharing critique and insights. If you're interested in gaining a deeper understanding of both classical and modern literary works, especially those which may have the reputation of being *challenging*, this book group may become your new favorite! This is a free group open to all Mechanics' Institute members, and individuals are encouraged to moderate discussions. The group will focus on the works of Henry James in September. They will meet on September 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss *Daisy Miller* and *The Beast in the Jungle*, and on September 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss *The Aspern Papers* and *The Figure in the Carpet*. For more information, contact Steve Posin at [steve\\_posin@yahoo.com](mailto:steve_posin@yahoo.com) or Heather Terrell at [hterrell@milibrary.org](mailto:hterrell@milibrary.org).



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Library Hours  
 Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 9 pm  
 Friday: 9 am - 6 pm  
 Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm  
 Sunday: 1 pm - 5 pm

Sarah Cruz, Editor



## In Memory

### Longtime Mechanics' Member

Dennis Halac passed away a few weeks ago. Mr. Halac was an historian and a long time docent at Mission Dolores. In recent years he enjoyed reviewing several non-fiction books written by other members of the Mechanics' Institute. He was well liked by the staff for his wry sense of humor, eclectic reading habits and marvelous way with words. We will miss him.

# CinemaLit

## Movies and the Power of Words

**Fridays | Program 6pm (Cafe 5:30pm)** CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

**Members Free | Public Suggested Donation \$10**

**Friday, September 4 | 6pm**

***Quills* (2000)**

DIRECTED BY PHILIP KAUFMAN

Geoffrey Rush, Kate Winslet

Locked in an asylum, the defiant and devious Marquis de Sade continues to write and provoke.



**Friday, September 11 | 6pm**

***Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle* (1994)**

DIRECTED BY ALAN RUDOLPH

Jennifer Jason Leigh, Campbell Scott

Dorothy Parker and her fellow literary wits at the Algonquin Round Table quaff cocktails, trade one-liners and grapple with the curse of intellectual superiority.



**Friday, September 18 | 6pm**

***Regarding Susan Sontag* (2014)**

**SPECIAL GUEST: NANCY KATES**

DIRECTED BY NANCY KATES

This intimate, artful documentary explores the public and private life of the influential public intellectual.



# Upcoming Programs

## Save the Date

*Stage Lights: Program #1*

Monday, October 5 | 12:30pm (café opens at Noon)

***Joy Ride: Show People and Their Shows* (W.W. Norton)**

Author John Lahr in conversation with ACT Artistic Director Carey Perloff

**Members Free | Public \$15**

Tuesday, October 6 | 6 - 7pm 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

**Pacific Peace, Pacific War: Treasure Island and the Golden Gate International Exposition**

A lecture with Anne Schnobelen, Vice President of the Treasure Island Museum Association

**MI Members & Treasure Island Museum Association Free | Public \$15**