

## Frances Dinkelspiel

in conversation with  
Julia Flynn Siler

### Tangled Vines: Greed, Murder, Obsession and an Arsonist in the Vineyards of California

Thursday, October 8 | 6pm wine tasting and reception | 7 pm discussion

2ND FLOOR LIBRARY

Co-sponsored by California Historical Society

Georganne Conley Commemorative Program

On October 12, 2005, a fire broke out in the Wines Central wine warehouse in Vallejo, California. Within hours, the flames had destroyed 4.5 million bottles of California's finest wine worth more than \$250 million, the largest destruction of wine in history. The fire was deliberately set by a passionate oenophile named Mark Anderson, and among the priceless bottles destroyed were 175 bottles of Port and Angelica from one of the oldest vineyards in California, made by Frances Dinkelspiel's great-great grandfather Isaias Hellman in 1875. Mark Anderson was not the first to harm the industry. Dinkelspiel's new book cracks the elegant veneer of California's wine regions to find obsession, greed and violence lying in wait. The author will discuss her research into the bloody past of the California wine trade with Julia Flynn Siler, author of *New York Times* best seller *The House of Mondavi: The Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty*.

**Frances Dinkelspiel** is an award-winning journalist and the author of *Towers of Gold: How One Jewish Immigrant Named Isaias Hellman Created California*. *Towers of Gold* was a *San Francisco Chronicle* bestseller and named a Best Book of the Year by the *Chronicle* and the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association. She is the co-founder of the news site *Berkeleyside* and her articles have appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *People*, *San Francisco Magazine*, and other publications.

**Julia Flynn Siler** is author of *The House of Mondavi: The Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty*, which was a *New York Times* best seller. She is also the author of *Lost Kingdom: Hawaii's Last Queen, the Sugar Kings, and America's First Imperial Adventure*. She is an award-winning journalist and is a contributing writer for *The Wall Street Journal*.

**Reservations required. Members of the Mechanics' Institute & Members of the California Historical Society Free | Public \$15**

Read *Tangled Vines: Greed, Murder, Obsession, and an Arsonist in the Vineyards of California* by Frances Dinkelspiel [coming soon] and *The House of Mondavi: The Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty* by Julia Flynn Siler 338.766 S582

### Coming in November...

#### Mechanics' Institute Tour @ Night

Monday, November 9, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

3RD FLOOR LIBRARY

The Mechanics' Institute of San Francisco was founded in 1854 with four books and a mission to start an organization serving the education, information, and social needs of the city's mechanics, artisans, and industrialists. Within a few years the Institute was offering classes, had started a chess club, and had acquired a magnificent library that slaked San Francisco's voracious appetite for technical and pleasurable reading material. Today the Mechanics' Institute continues as a membership organization boasting a fantastic general interest library, active cultural events calendar, and world-renowned chess club. The tour will orient attendees to the building, includes an overview of our history and mission, and outlines our current services and the benefits of membership. A wine and cheese reception will follow the tour.

**No reservations required. Free**

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# Programs at the Mechanics'



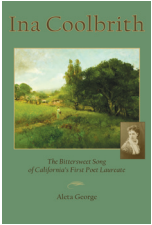
## Ina Coolbrith's "Petticoat Rule"

Friday, October 2 | Noon 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

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 later 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.

**Reservations required. Members Free | Public \$15** | Read *Ina Coolbrith: The Bittersweet Song of California's First Poet Laureate* by Aleta George 92 C7744



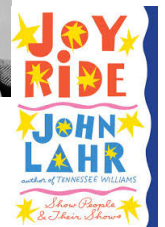
## Joy Ride: Show People and Their Shows

Monday, October 5 | 12:30pm 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Author John Lahr discusses his new book

Over twenty-one years as *The New Yorker's* senior drama critic, John Lahr published approximately one million words on theater and theatricals. The Tony Award-winning author, critic, and life-long theater-goer offers a collection of some of his most popular and engaging *New Yorker* pieces, which puts the great plays on Lahr's watch in the context of the lives of the theatricals who created them. Lahr brings the reader up close and personal with the artists and their processes, the plays and the playwrights, what they seek to express, and how they express it.

**Reservations required. Members Free | Public \$15** | Read *Joy Ride* by John Lahr [coming soon]



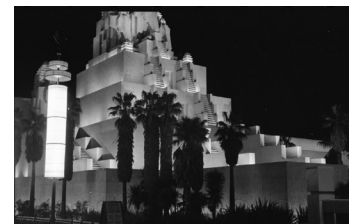
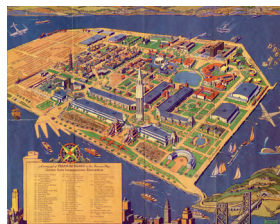
## Pacific Peace, Pacific War: Treasure Island and the Golden Gate International Exposition

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

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

The "Pacific Unity" theme of the 1939-1940 Golden Gate International Exposition – San Francisco's last world's fair and last grand public celebration prior to America's entry into World War II – inspired fantastic flights of the imagination from the fair's designers and wordsmiths. The romantic imagery of travel and cultural exchange between America and the countries of the Pacific was shadowed by America's race with Japan to conquer the Pacific. This presentation will focus on the Fair's Pacific theme in its historical context, and explore its fun and beauty as well as the darker political side.

**Reservations required. Members of Mechanics' Institute & Treasure Island Museum Association Free | Public \$15** | Read *San Francisco's Treasure Island* by Jason Pipes 979.461 P665



## Shamrock Isle: the Irish at the PPIE

Wednesday, October 21 | 6pm 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

A lecture with public historian Elizabeth Creely

Join Elizabeth Creely as she explores the phenomena of Irish Villages at World Fairs, beginning with the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 and ending at the Panama Pacific International Exposition in 1915. In Chicago, the "Irish Industrial Village" presented an image of Ireland rehabilitating itself under British supervision. Twenty-two years later in San Francisco, the last Irish Village at a World's Fair was the Shamrock Isle. Ireland was in turmoil and on the cusp of eventual independence 100 years ago, yet the Shamrock Isle showed an Ireland inhabited by a people untouched by change and frozen in time. Creely will discuss tensions between the changing political and cultural landscape of Ireland and San Francisco in 1915, and the limits of nostalgia.

**Reservations required. Members of Mechanics' Institute & Crossroads Irish Festival Free | Public \$15** | Read *The Irish Americans: a history* by Jay P. Dolan 973.0491 D65



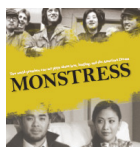
## Remembering the I-Hotel and Monstress: Two Plays from Page to Stage

Thursday, October 22 | 6pm 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Playwright Philip Kan Gotanda in conversation with ACT Artistic Director Carey Perloff

The infamous headline-making eviction of Filipino residents from San Francisco's International Hotel in the 1970s sets the background for Philip Kan Gotanda's stirring *Remember the I-Hotel*, which illuminates the dangers of a love that crosses forbidden territories. Sean San José's retelling of the title story of Lysley Tenorio's *Monstress* moves us from the streets of Manila to the Bay Area, where a B-movie director has been seduced by the opportunity to work with a shady American filmmaker. Playwright Philip Kan Gotanda will discuss his work with Carey Perloff, Artistic Director of the American Conservatory Theater of San Francisco.

**Reservations required. Members Free | Public \$15** | Read *Monstress* by Lysley Tenorio 2nd Floor, Fiction and *No More Cherry Blossoms: Sisters Matsumoto and Other Plays* by Philip Kan Gotanda 812.54 G71 See ACT's production of *Monstress* at the new Strand Theatre September 16 - November 22 <http://www.act-sf.org/>



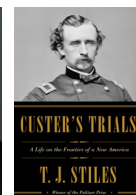
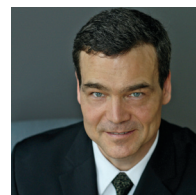
## Custer's Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America

Thursday, October 29 | 6pm 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Author T. J. Stiles in conversation with Mechanics' Institute Executive Director Ralph Lewin

In this magisterial examination of George Armstrong Custer, T. J. Stiles paints a portrait both deeply personal and sweeping in scope, integrating Custer's famous career in the West and the Civil War with forgotten episodes in Washington, on Wall Street, and in the South. Custer's tumultuous marriage to his wife Libbie is examined. Their complicated relationship with Eliza Brown, the black woman who ran their household, is offered as a reflection of the upended race relations after the Civil War. This intriguing biography takes the reader inside Custer's battles and expeditions and casts surprising new light on a near-mythic American figure. Pulitzer Prize-winning author T. J. Stiles will discuss his work with the Mechanics' Institute's Executive Director, Ralph Lewin.

**Reservations required. Members Free | Public \$15** | *Custer's Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America* by T. J. Stiles will be released October 27th. Meanwhile, check the 2nd Floor Balcony 2A for biographies of Custer (92 C987) and read other books by T. J. Stiles, including *The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt* 92 V228s





# LITQUAKE

## Literary Rumblings...

Whether you've been a member of Mechanics' Institute for many years or have just joined, you might not be aware of our long-time involvement with the annual Litquake literary festival. This year, Litquake runs from October 9th through October 17th, and the Institute will be hosting three festival events during the week.

### Diplomacy and Dinner Parties: The Life of An American Ambassador

**Tuesday, October 13th | 6pm** 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Litquake Author Program with Eleni Kounalakis in conversation with Ayelet Waldman



What does it take to represent the United States abroad? How does one navigate the complex customs in the assigned country without offending one's governmental hosts? In the case of Hungarian ambassador Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis, one straps on a gun and goes on a boar hunt. Hear her discuss her new book.



**Eleni Kounalakis** is the author of the newly-released *Madam Ambassador: Three Years of Diplomacy, Dinner Parties, and Democracy in Budapest*. Nominated by President Obama and sworn in by Hillary Clinton, she is a long-time political operative, and a four-time delegate to Democratic National Conventions.

**Ayelet Waldman** is author of several bestselling books including *Love & Treasure*, *Red Hook Road*, and *Bad Mother: A Chronicle of Maternal Crimes, Minor Calamities and Occasional Moments of Grace*. Her personal essays and profiles of such public figures as Hillary Clinton have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

**Reservations Required. Members & Public Free**



### The Art of Science and the Science of Art

**Thursday, October 15th | 6:30pm** 3RD FLOOR LIBRARY

Litquake Panel Curated by Ransom Stephens; Moderated by Megan Prelinger | Panelists: Kenneth Baker, Tina Seelig, Adrien Segal, and Robert Van Buskirk

An artist, a scientist, an art critic, an educator, and a cultural historian will investigate how science and art affect each other, what makes artistic creations and scientific results "good" or "bad", and similarities in the performance of artistic creation and scientific research.

**Kenneth Baker**, the *SF Chronicle's* award winning art critic for thirty years, is the author of *Minimalism: Art of Circumstance*, nominated for the Bay Area Book Reviewers Association nonfiction award, and *The Lightning Field*.

**Tina Seelig** is a neuroscientist, professor at Stanford's School of Engineering, Executive Director of the Stanford Technology Ventures Program, and author of *InsightOut*, *InGenius*, and *What I Wish I Knew When I Was 20*.

**Adrien Segal** is an independent artist based in Oakland. Her data sculpture exists at the intersection of design, art, science, and technology. She is the Wornick Distinguished Visiting Professor at California College of the Arts. [www.adriensegal.com](http://www.adriensegal.com)

**Megan Prelinger** is a cultural historian and is co-founder and information designer of the Prelinger Library in San Francisco. Her most recent book is *Inside the Machine: Art and Invention in the Electronic Age*. [www.meganprelinger.com](http://www.meganprelinger.com) [www.prelingerlibrary.org](http://www.prelingerlibrary.org)

**Ransom Stephens**, author of *The Sensory Deception* and *The God Patent*, is a physicist, technologist, and Raider fan. Watch for *The Left Brain Speaks but the Right Brain Laughs*, coming in December from Viva Editions.

**Robert Van Buskirk**, Chief Scientist and VP of Research at [www.enervue.com](http://www.enervue.com), has worked on Native American water rights, clean energy research in Eritrea, and on clean energy policy for the US Department of Energy.

**Reservations required. Mechanics' Institute & Litquake Members Free | Public \$15**



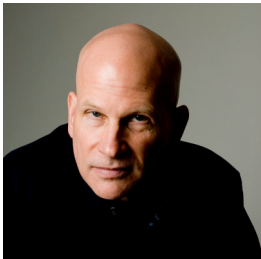
## Marc Dugain: In Conversation with David Corbett

**UPDATE: EVENT POSTPONED Friday, October 16th**

Litquake Author Program with Marc Dugain in conversation with David Corbett

Co-presented by the Cultural Services of the Consulate General of France, San Francisco

Please join us for an in-depth conversation with Marc Dugain, film director and author of *The Avenue of the Giants*, inspired by the horrific true story of Edmund Kemper, the six-foot-nine "Co-ed Killer" who terrorized Northern California in the 1970s. Delving into the mind of this complex murderer, Dugain powerfully evokes an America torn between the pacifism of the hippie movement and the violence of Vietnam.



Born in Senegal and raised in France, **Marc Dugain** is author of several novels, beginning with *La Chambre des Officiers*, inspired by his grandfather's experiences in World War I. He has since received numerous literary prizes, including le prix des libraires, le prix des Deux-Magots, and le prix Roger-Nimier. In recent years he has also directed film adaptations of his books such as *La Malédiction d'Edgar* and *Une exécution ordinaire*.

**David Corbett** is the author of five novels, as well as the writing guide *The Art of Character*. His book *Done for a Dime* (a *New York Times* Notable Book) was described by Patrick Anderson of the *Washington Post* as "one of the three or four best American crime novels I've ever read." His writing appears in *Narrative*, *ZYZZYVA*, *The New York Times* and elsewhere, and his newest novel is *The Mercy of the Night*. [www.davidcorbett.com](http://www.davidcorbett.com)

**Reservations required. Mechanics' Institute & Litquake Members Free | Public \$15**

# CinemaLit October

A Dark & Stormy Night CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

Fridays | Program 6pm | Cafe Opens 5:30pm

**A Cottage on Dartmoor** (1929) 88 min October 2

SPECIAL GUEST: KELLY VANCE, FILM CRITIC FOR THE *EAST BAY EXPRESS*

DIRECTED BY ANTHONY ASQUITH | Starring Norah Baring, Uno Henning

A barber's assistant spurned by a co-worker takes drastic action in this beautifully shot thriller from the end of the silent era.

**When Worlds Collide** (1951) 81 min October 9

DIRECTED BY RUDOLPH MATÉ | Starring Richard Derr, Barbara Rush

A handful of survivalists races to finish an escape rocket before an approaching planet destroys Earth.

**Murder by Decree** (1979) 121 min October 23

DIRECTED BY BOB CLARK | Starring Christopher Plummer, James Mason

Sherlock Holmes investigates Jack the Ripper's murders, and gets more than he bargained for.

**Spirits of the Dead** (1968) 117 min October 30

DIRECTED BY FEDERICO FELLINI, LOUIS MALLE, ROGER VADIM | Starring Terence Stamp, Jane Fonda, Alain Delon

Prominent European directors adapt three Edgar Allan Poe tales with perversity and style.



# Classes at Mechanics' Institute

Unless otherwise indicated, **registration is required**, classes last for **one hour**, are **taught by librarians**, and are **free to members** of the Mechanics' Institute.



## Investment Information on the Web

**Thursday, October 1 | 10am** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Learn how to access investment research, analysis and buy/hold/sell recommendations focused on publicly traded companies. Content includes company profiles, corporate developments, earnings prospects, stock rating services and screeners, trading statistics and financial reports. Participants will use Yahoo! Finance, MSN Money, MarketWatch, Google Finance, and Bloomberg.com.



## First Tuesday TED Talk: Why Good Hackers Make Good Citizens

**Tuesday, October 6 | Noon** 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

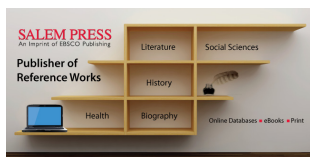
Bring your lunch and curiosity to talk about ideas, stories, and concepts with fellow Mechanics' Institute members and staff. This month we'll watch a 2013 video of Catherine Bracy discussing hacking as a force for good. An informal discussion will follow the viewing. **No registration required; walk-ins welcome.**



## WordPress Blog Workshop

**Tuesday, October 6 | 5:30pm** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Learn how to create a blog using the WordPress platform. Participants will learn how to publish and organize content on their blogs. No previous blogging experience is needed, but web navigation skills are a prerequisite. Required: Participants must have an email address prior to attending the class. Recommended: Participants should create an account at [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com) prior to attending.



## Salem History Database: An Introduction

**Thursday, October 15 | Noon** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Venerated publisher of print-based reference works, Salem Press also has an online component, which Mechanics' Institute members can use to access biographical and historical information via the library's website. Participants will discover the scope of materials the Mechanics' Institute subscribes to and learn how to search for information on historical topics using the Salem History Database.



## PowerPoint Basics

**Tuesday, October 20 | 5pm** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

In this beginner's class, participants will learn how to navigate PowerPoint's menus. Students will create a basic presentation with text, images, and charts, and make simple style customizations. Using PowerPoint during a presentation will be covered, as well as printing and saving slides in PDF and other formats. Laptops with PowerPoint will be available, but personal laptops running PowerPoint 2007 may be used in class as well.

## Gale Business Insights: Essentials

**Thursday, October 22 | Noon** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Find out how to obtain extensive company news and business/competitor intelligence, SWOT analyses, in-depth industry profiles, as well as market share data, product and brand information, parent/subsidiary relationships, comprehensive financial overviews and performance ratings in this resource whose coverage is international in scope. Attendees will learn how to access relevant full-text articles published in scholarly journals, trade magazines, newsletters, and newspapers.



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**Information & registration:** Kevin Coleman at 415.393.0102, [kcoleman@milibrary.org](mailto:kcoleman@milibrary.org), or [milibrary.org/classes](http://milibrary.org/classes).

# Book Discussion Groups

Our members' book groups select, read, and discuss works 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: the **authors will not be present** during the discussions. Unless otherwise indicated, book groups are for **members only**, and **walk-ins are welcome**. Book descriptions courtesy of <https://ipage.ingramcontent.com>.



## Brown Bag Mystery Readers

**Monday, October 5 | Noon** 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

**Now You See Me** BY S. J. BOLTON

Late one night, detective constable Lacey Flint stumbles onto a woman who has been brutally stabbed. Then a reporter receives an anonymous letter pointing out alarming similarities between the murder and Jack the Ripper's first murder. As the case unfolds, its details remind the detective of a part of her own past she'd rather keep hidden...and the only way to do that is to catch the killer herself.

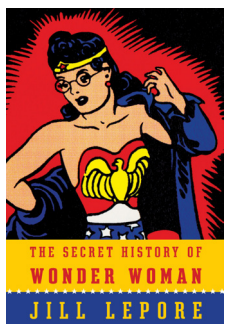


## First Wednesday Mystery Book Group

**Wednesday, October 7 | 6pm** 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

**Full Dark House** BY CHRISTOPHER FOWLER

A bomb rips through London, tragically ending the crime-fighting partnership of Arthur Bryant and John May. Desperately searching for clues to the saboteur's identity, May finds notes kept by his old friend, detailing their very first case, an investigation that began with a grisly murder: a faceless killer stalking London's theater row, creating his own sinister drama. It had taken Bryant's unorthodox techniques and May's dogged police work to catch a fiend whose ability to escape detection seemed almost supernatural – a murderer who, decades later, may have returned to kill one of them and won't stop until he kills the other.

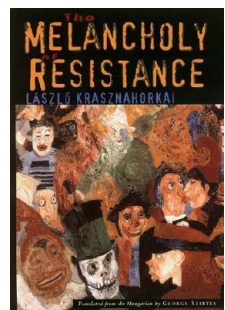


## Good Reads Book Group

**Tuesday, October 20 | Noon** 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

**The Secret History of Wonder Woman** BY JILL LEPORE

Wonder Woman, created in 1941, is the most popular female superhero of all time, none having lasted as long or commanded so vast and wildly passionate a following. Like every superhero, Wonder Woman has a secret identity. Unlike every superhero, she also has a secret history. This riveting work of historical detection reveals the origin of one of the world's most iconic superheroes, entwined in a fascinating family story and a crucial history of twentieth-century feminism.



## World Literature Book Group

**Wednesday, October 14 & 28 | 6:45pm** 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

**The Melancholy of Resistance** BY LÁSZLÓ KRASZNAHORKAI

A circus promising to display the stuffed body of the largest whale in the world arrives in an insignificant Hungarian town in the midst of a terminal frost, prompting bizarre rumors. Word spreads that the circus folk have a sinister purpose at hand, and frightened citizens cling to any manifestation of order they can find – music, cosmology, fascism. This work will be discussed over two meetings of the World Literature Book Group.

**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.

# Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM



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

Heather Terrell, Editrix

## Mechanics' Institute at the United States Chess League...

The Mechanics' Institute is fielding a team in the United States Chess League this Fall, the eleventh season in a row. The ten-player roster, which draws heavily on youth – half the players are under 16 – comes from all over the Bay Area.

The format has four players per team competing as individuals to be matched against four other players from another team. The scores are added together and the team scoring 2½ points or more wins the match – individual victories count as one point and draws as a half point.

The 2015 Mechanics' team is composed of Grandmasters Daniel Naroditsky and Vinay Bhat, International Master David Pruess, Fide Masters Cameron Wheeler, Andy Lee, and Vignesh Panchanatham, plus National Masters Rayan Tagizadeh, Siddarth Banik, James Critelli and Rayan Tagizadeh.

**Matches are played on Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club on the 4th floor. Spectators are welcome to attend.**



Vignesh  
Panchanatham  
(left) and  
Siddarth Banik  
(right) | photos  
by: Richard  
Shorman

## Mechanics' Institute History Footnote...

On April 17, 1906, the **Masked Carnival on Rollers** was held at the skating rink inside the Mechanics' Pavilion in Union Square.

Prefiguring the modern roller derby (with fewer bruises for the participants), the festivities revolved around skillful racing and audacious costumes.

Unfortunately, the two dozen prizes displayed in the window of Groom's Department Store were never collected by contest winners; a few hours after the ball ended, both the Pavilion and Groom's burned down in the fires of the 1906 earthquake.

## October 2015 Chess Room Activities

### Chess for Women

**October 4, 11, 18, 25**

**11am - 1pm**

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

### Tournaments

**October 3**

**10am - 8pm**

15TH ANNUAL J. J. DOLAN MEMORIAL G/45

### Tuesday Night Events

**October 20 and 27**

**5:15pm - 6:15pm**

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

**6:30pm - 10:30pm**

FALL TUESDAY NIGHT MARATHON

### Wednesday Night Blitz

**October 7, 14, 21, 28**

**6:30 pm – 8:50 pm**

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

### Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

**October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

**10:30 am – 12:30 pm**

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW

Visit [chessclub.org](http://chessclub.org) for information about these activities and more. Reach the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room at 415.393.0110.