

# Mechanics'

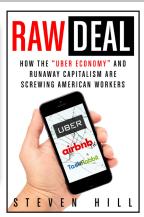
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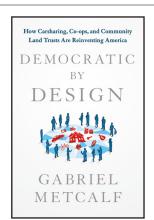
VOL. 5, NO. 11 NOVEMBER 2015

# RAW DEAL OR DEMOCRATIC BY DESIGN: AUTHORS STEVEN HILL AND GABRIEL METCALF DEBATE THE SHARING ECONOMY

co-sponsored by San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR)









#### Monday, November 16 | 6pm 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Steven Hill, author of Raw Deal: How the "Uber Economy" and Runaway Capitalism Are Screwing American Workers posits that the US workforce is undergoing an alarming transformation. Increasing numbers of workers find themselves on shaky ground, turned into freelancers, temps and contractors. Even many full-time and professional jobs are experiencing this precarious shift. Add to that the steamroller of automation, robots and artificial intelligence and the jobs picture starts looking grim. More disruption has been caused by the marriage of Silicon Valley technology and Wall Street that has pushed forward the so-called "sharing economy."

Gabriel Metcalf, author of *Democratic by Design: How Carsharing, Co-ops and Community Land Trusts Are Reinventing America* maintains that co-ops, credit unions, communal work space are alive and well throughout the country, yet their potential to challenge the status quo of corporate and government bloat is rarely discussed. At last, the practical dreamers' moment has arrived in the ascendance of the sharing economy. While the term refers largely to profit-making entities like car- and rent-sharing sites, it springs from the same impulse that has always prompted us to team up and work around the system.

The two authors will engage in spirited debate of this complex issue.

Reservations required. Members of Mechanics' Institute and SPUR Free | Public \$15

Read the books: Raw Deal: How the "Uber Economy" and Runaway Capitalism Are Screwing American Workers by Steven Hill | Democratic by Design: How Carsharing, Co-ops and Community Land Trusts Are Reinventing America by Gabriel Metcalf [both books coming soon to Mechanics' Institute Library shelves]

INSIDE: SF-MARIN FOOD BANK | NANOWRIMO VINTAGE SAN FRANCISCO | CHESS CLUB

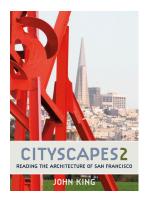
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# Programs at the Mechanics'

Wednesday, November 4 | 6pm 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM Cityscapes 2: Reading the Architecture of San Francisco with John King John King discusses the follow-up to his Pulitzer Prize finalist book Cityscapes



Part pocket guide, part history, and part architectural primer, the companion piece to urban design critic John King's Cityscapes: San Francisco and Its Buildings contains all of the wit and wonder of the first installment. In epigrammatic prose and with detailed full-color photographs, King highlights fifty structures that tell the story of San Francisco through architecture. Included are emblematic buildings such as the Golden Gate Bridge, Coit Tower, and the Palace of Fine Arts; but King pays just as close attention to less celebrated structures that embody the politics, architectural fads, and cultural values of the eras in which they were conceived. A fresh take on the familiar, Cityscapes 2 shows us how to read the structures around us as signposts and translations for the story of a multilayered and ever-changing city.



Reservations required. Members Free | Public \$15

Read the book: Cityscapes 2: reading the architecture of San Francisco by John King | 720.9794 K521

### Thursday, November 5 | 3pm - 4pm

MEET AT THE DIEGO RIVERA THEATRE, CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO, 50 PHELAN AVE The Pan American Unity Mural: A Tour of Diego Rivera's Masterpiece at City College

Join Librarian Taryn Edwards and local historian Will Maynez for a guided interpretation of City College's Pan American Unity mural. This San Francisco masterpiece was created by Mexican artist Diego Rivera for the Art in Action program of the 1940 season of the Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island. A truly stunning work, the mural is 22' high and 74' wide and is a sweeping synthesis of the art, religion, history, politics, and technology of the Americas that is as timely now as it was sixty years ago.

If you have questions or need directions, please contact Taryn Edwards tedwards@milibrary.org; 415-393-0103.

Reservations required. Mechanics' Institute Members Only | Free





Read the book: Painting on the left: Diego Rivera, radical politics, and San Francisco's public murals by Anthony W. Lee | 759.972 L47

### Mechanics' Institute in Support of the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank

This holiday season, the Mechanics' Institute is partnering with the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank throughout October and November. Did you know that 25% of San Francisco and Marin residents struggle to make ends meet, facing choices over whether to use limited incomes to pay bills, obtain medications, or to eat adequate meals? Every dollar donated to the SF-Marin Food Bank allows the organization to distribute enough food for three meals for a resident in need of food assistance. Mechanics' Institute will be accepting food donations on behalf of the SF-Marin Food Bank, and cash donations may be made via our Team Page at https://fooddrives.sfmfoodbank.org/team/mechanics-institute. Donations are tax-deductible and support one of our community's most essential needs. Thank you for your generous participation! If you have further questions, please contact Taryn Edwards at tedwards@milibrary.org or 415-393-0103.

PLEASE DONATE

### Our programs bring you into

# conversation

with Bay Area and world-renowned

### writers and thinkers.







Welcome our former CinemaLit curator back to the Bay Area with French cuisine and a book program! A passionate flâneur with an experienced eye and palette, Terrance Gelenter is a guide to all the best that France can offer for the traveler, seeker, or dedicated Francophile.

The pleasure of sharing a *petit rouge* with Terrance in Paris is multiplied six-fold – France, after all, is a hexagon – in these pages. His travels take him from the vineyards of Burgundy and Bordeaux to the châteaux of the Loire and the delights of the Riviera, with a visit to Normandy's D-Day beaches as an aside. And, no surprise, his stepping-stones are meals, all described in succulent detail, accompanied by an opinion on the chosen wines. With his inimitable voice, he is a good guide for the best possible reason: he wants us to enjoy this bucolic land as much as he does.

Reservations required. Members of Mechanics' Institute and Paris Through Ex-patriate Eyes Free | Public \$15

Read the book: Paris par hasard: from bagels to brioches by Terrance Gelenter | 914.436 G316

Thursday, November 12 | 6pm 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Nabokov in America: On the Road to Lolita

Author Robert Roper in conversation with San Francisco State University Professor Dr. Mark Calkins

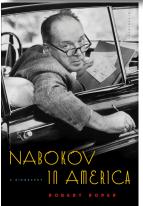
Marking the 75th year of Nabokov's arrival in America, Roper's new book finds its narrative heart in the writer's many sojourns into the wilds of the mountainous West, undertaken with his wife, Vera, and their son Dmitri over the course of nearly twenty years. Moving from one teaching job to another gave Nabokov ample opportunity to mount massive summer butterfly-hunting expeditions, traveling with his family over 200,000 miles.

Roper has mined fresh sources to bring sharp detail to these journeys, and he traces their significant influence in Nabokov's work: on two-lane highways and in late-'40s motels and cafés, *Lolita* draws near, and we come to understand Nabokov's seductive familiarity with the American mundane. He emerges as an arrogant and brilliant man, certainly, but one but with a sense of childlike happiness and a love of outdoor sport, someone deeply enamored of American culture, from Emerson to Poe, comic books to B-movies, Melville to the Beats.

Reservations required. Members Free | Public \$15

Read the book: Nabokov in America: on the road to Lolita by Robert Roper | 92 N11ro





### Friday, November 13 | Noon 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

#### **Discovering Vintage San Francisco**

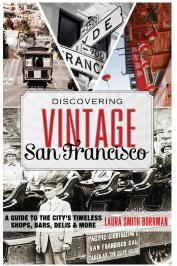
#### A panel discussion and book presentation

Join author Laura Smith Borrman and a host of representatives from local heritage businesses for tasty native treats and exciting conversation about vintage San Francisco.

Panelists include Mike Buhler, executive director of San Francisco Heritage; Jonathan Levin, second-generation owner of Cable Car Clothiers; Stacey Lewis, director of publicity and marketing at City Lights; and Peter Quartaroli, managing partner and maître d'extraordinaire at Sam's Grill.

### Reservations required. Free to Members and Public

Read the book: Discovering Vintage San Francisco: A Guide to the City's Timeless Eateries, Bars, Shops & More by Laura Borrman | [coming soon!]1 | A fabulous guide for tourists and a brag book for locals, Discovering Vintage San Francisco tells the story of the city's classic establishments - the restaurants, bars, shops and cultural institutions that have shaped San Francisco over decades, even centuries – those that have made the city what it is today, provided the foundation for pop-up shops and dinner clubs, the hippest modern bars, trendy boutiques, temporary and Michelinstarred restaurants, and everything on Bon Appetit's latest hot list. These are the spots that came first. The book highlights the charming stories that tell you what each place is like now and how it got that way, and features indexes allowing you to choose the places you want to visit by neighborhood, by category, and—naturally—by era.





Call 415.393.0102 or visit milibrary.org/events to see what's coming up next and to make reservations.



# You Versus the Blank Page: 50,000 Words in 30 Days NaNoWriMo at Mechanics' Institute

Each November, nearly 400,000 writers accept the challenge to write a 50,000-word novel during National Novel Writing Month. Register for our NaNoWriMo series to get a jumpstart – put the story that's been burning a hole in your brain onto the page!

Friday, October 30 | 4:00-5:00pm 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A Get Ready to Write

We'll kick it off with a tutorial on setting up your profile, uploading word count, and posting excerpts – as well as pointing out a few library resources that might help you refine your story idea before you begin writing in November.

Mondays, November 2, 9, 16, 23 | 5:30-7:00pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM BRING YOUR OWN COMPUTER, PEN/NOTEBOOK, OR OTHER WRITING IMPLEMENTS Monday Write-Ins

Each Monday in November we'll meet at 5:30 to talk about progress and craft, address any NaNoWriMo website questions you may have encountered, and at 6:00 – get writing!

Monday, November 30 | Noon-9:00pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM BRING YOUR OWN COMPUTER, PEN/NOTEBOOK, OR OTHER WRITING IMPLEMENTS NanoWriMo Write-athon

On November 30th, we'll help you make that last push to the 50,000th word – join NaNoWriMo participants for an all-day write-athon!

Monday, December 7 | 6:00-7:00 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A I've Got a Black Belt in Word Count: Life After NaNoWriMo

Did you spend November writing a novel? Now what?!? In this meeting, we'll discuss what to do with those 50,000 words you sweated over, explore tips & resources on the NaNoWriMo website, and provide suggestions & books to help you revise your manuscripts.

**Registration required**. Registration for this series is open to members and to the public. Learn more about NaNoWriMo at www.nanowrimo.org. Call Heather at 415-857-6727 or email her at hterrell@milibrary.org with questions about the programs.

# Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

### Wild Moves & Marathon Upsets

The last round of the Leighton Allen Tuesday Night Marathon was one of the wilder tournaments in the history of the 52-year-old series, with upsets galore, including games won by Sammy Greene and Erkhes Erdenebileg against opponents rated respectively 739 and 728 points higher.

International Master Elliott Winslow, who was a point out of first with two rounds to go, ended up taking first place by himself. His  $7\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$  score, which included a last-round win over Natalya Tsodikova, earned him \$650. Tying for second at 7 were National Masters James Critelli and Uyanga Byambaa with Tsodikova and 80-year-old Peter Grey. The latter two split the prize for best Expert.



Natalya Tsodikova and Uyanga Byambaa play, wearing their Pawn Sacrifice hoodies! (photo credit Elliott Winslow)



Peter Grey and Uyanga Byambaa play, while Natalya Tsodikova awaits her opponent's arrival. (photo credit Nick de Firmian)

### Chess for Women

SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

### **Tournaments**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

44TH ANNUAL CARROLL CAPPS MEMORIAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

44TH ANNUAL CARROLL CAPPS MEMORIAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

14TH ANNUAL PIERRE ST. AMANT MEMORIAL G/45

## Tuesday Night Events

NOVEMBER 3, 10, 17, 24

5:15 PM - 6:15 PM

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE CHESS CLUB: NOVEMBER EVENTS

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

6:30 PM - 10:30 PM

FALL TUESDAY NIGHT MARATHON

NOVEMBER 4, 11, 18

6:30 PM - 8:50 PM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BLITZ

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

### Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

NOVEMBER 7, 14, 21, 28

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW

Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or chessclub.org.

# 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.

### First Tuesday TED Talk: How Childhood Trauma Affects Health Across a Lifetime

Tuesday, November 3 | 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 video from 2014 of Nadine Burke Harris talking about how childhood trauma affects health across a lifetime. An informal discussion will follow the viewing.

No reservations required; Walk-ins Welcome



#### **Blogging with Wordpress: Tips and Tricks**

Tuesday, November 10 | 5:30pm - 7:00pm 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Building on the skills learned in WordPress I, students will learn how to use WordPress to further customize their blogs. We will explore creating pages and static homepages, customizing themes, and integrating social media into your blog. You must have a wordpress.com account to attend.



### Standard & Poor's NetAdvantage: Stock Reports, Industry Surveys, and More!

Thursday, November 12 | Noon 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Discover comprehensive business and investment information offered by this resource, such as industry surveys, stock reports, corporation records, mutual fund reports and market commentary. Includes search and screening tools to facilitate research, job searches, and competitive intelligence.



#### Social Media: Twitter

Tuesday, November 17 | 5:30pm 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Twitter has been around for nearly a decade, and the popular micro-blogging service has amassed more than 500 million users since its launch in 2006. People and companies use the platform for self-promotion, news reporting and gathering, conversation, and "pointless babble" (Pear Analytics, 2009). Whether you're a long-time user or still waiting to take the plunge, you may learn something new about how to use and think about Twitter in this informational and practical overview of the platform.



### Hoover's - Search the World's Largest Business Directory

Thursday, November 19 | 5:15pm 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Looking for timely business information, developing a prospect list or a potential employer, researching competitive intelligence, or grasping industry developments? The Hoover's database covers 84.5 million companies internationally, including 18 million companies located in the United States. Company and industry information is provided, along with extensive research, analysis, descriptive summaries and profiles.



**Information & Registration:** Call 415.393-0102 or register online at milibrary.org/classes.

# Book Discussion Groups

Our members' 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 **authors will not be present during the discussions.** Unless otherwise indicated, pre-registration is not required. Book descriptions courtesy of https://ipage.ingramcontent.com Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.

### First Wednesday Mystery Book Group

Wednesday, November 4 | 6pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

The High Window BY RAYMOND CHANDLER

Philip Marlowe, P.I., is called to the house of a wealthy widow to recover a missing Brasher Doubloon, a rare and valuable coin. The widow suspects her son's estranged wife, but her son has cashflow problems and a few unsavory friends – and the plot just keeps getting thicker! Members are welcome to bring other Chandler books to discuss during the meeting as well!



#### **World Literature Book Group**

Thursday, November 5 and Wednesday, November 18 | 6:45pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM
The Days of Abandonment BY ELENA FERRANTE

This is the gripping story of a woman's descent into devastating emptiness after being abandoned by her husband with two young children to care for. When she finds herself literally trapped within the four walls of their high-rise apartment, she is forced to confront her ghosts, the potential loss of her own identity, and the possibility that life may never return to normal. This novel will be discussed over a two-part session.

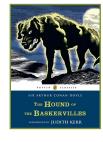


### **Brown Bag Mystery Readers**

Monday, November 9 | Noon 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

The Hound of the Baskervilles BY ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

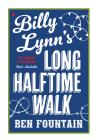
This novella finds Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson investigating the case of an attempted murder inspired by the legend of a ferocious, diabolical hound of supernatural origin. Recently returned from his own supposed death at the hands of Professor Moriarty, will Holmes be able to cut through the superstition to reveal the details of the case that illuminate the facts?



#### Good Reads Book Group

Tuesday, November 17 | Noon 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk BY BEN FOUNTAIN

A satire set in Texas during America's war in Iraq that explores the gaping national disconnect between the war at home and the war abroad. The novel follows the surviving members of the heroic Bravo Squad through one exhausting stop in their media-intensive "Victory Tour" at Texas Stadium.



**Information:** Contact Heather at 415.857-6727 or hterrell@milibrary.org, orvisit milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings. A copy of each book is available at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Circulation desk.

# CinemaLit Do The Right Thing

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

Fridays | Program 6pm (Cafe 5:30pm)

### Friday, November 6 | 6pm

Charlie Wilson's War (2007) 102 min.

SPECIAL GUEST: DAVID THOMSON, AUTHOR OF HOW TO WATCH A MOVIE

DIRECTED BY MIKE NICHOLS

Starring Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts

A Texas congressman's covert efforts to aid Afghan rebels fighting the Soviets has unforeseen consequences in this witty, fact-based drama scripted by Aaron Sorkin.



### Friday, November 13 | 6pm

Michael Clayton (2007) 119 min.

DIRECTED BY TONY GILROY

Starring George Clooney, Tom Wilkinson A corporate law firm calls on its fixer when the attorney defending a chemical company in a class-action suit cracks

υp.



### Friday, November 20 | 6pm

About a Boy (2002) 101 min.

DIRECTED BY CHRIS WEITZ, PAUL WEITZ Starring Hugh Grant, Toni Collette

A self-absorbed bachelor reluctantly bonds with a 12-year-old boy and his depressed mother in this warm, witty comedy-drama.



Members Free | Public Suggested Donation \$10

### Save the date: CinemaLit Season Finale December 4



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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

Heather Terrell, Editrix



Mechanics' Institute History Footnote...

In 1895, the Institute converted streetlevel store premises into a new circulation department, creating a "well--lighted and cheerful" room for members. This renovation had two favorable outcomes: circulation increased 25% over the next six months, and "of the members who have joined the Institute since the change, 31% have been ladies."

### 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 to serve the education, information, and social needs of the city's mechanics, artisans, and industrialists. Within a few years the Institute was offering classes in such subjects as mechanical drawing, industrial design, electrical science, and applied mathematics; 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 event calendar, and world renowned chess club. It is a favorite of avid readers, writers, downtown employees, students, film lovers, chess players, and the 21st century nomadic worker who is in search of a place for literary pursuits, thinking, research, and study.

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. Join us for this free public and member event.