



YEAR-END BUSINESS & PLEASURE



Bi-Annual Members' Meeting

Thursday, December 3 | 5:30 pm

Reception; 6:00 pm Meeting 4TH

FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Join us for the bi-annual Mechanics' Institute community gathering. Meet fellow members, staff, and trustees. Hear from staff about new plans and programs, technology updates, and our efforts to improve your experience as members. Your participation is encouraged. Refreshments will be served.

Free | Open to Members & Guests

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Annual Members' Holiday Gathering

Thursday, December 17

5:30 - 7:00pm

2ND FLOOR LIBRARY

Come celebrate with fellow Mechanics' Institute members, friends, staff, and trustees. Enjoy great conversation, hors d'oeuvres, gourmet cheeses, delectable desserts, and tempting libations!

Advance Reservations Required

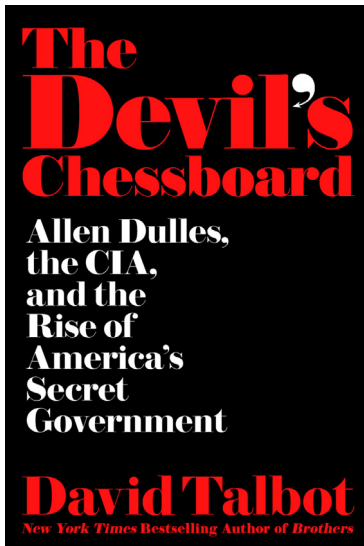
www.milibrary.org/events or 415.393.0100

Admission \$15 | Open to Members & Guests

INSIDE: David Talbot in conversation with Peter Dale Scott | CinemaLit Season Finale | ZYZZYVA

PLUS: January 2016 Preview

Programs at the Mechanics'



Wednesday, December 2 | 6pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

The Devil's Chessboard: Allen Dulles, the CIA, and the Rise of America's Secret Government

Author David Talbot in conversation with political analyst Peter Dale Scott

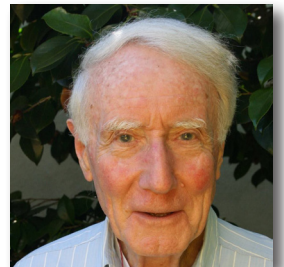
An exposé of American power as disturbing as it is timely, *The Devil's Chessboard* is a provocative and gripping story of the rise of the national security state. Author David Talbot will discuss his explosive, headline-making portrait of Allen Dulles, the man who transformed the CIA into the most powerful and secretive colossus in Washington, with political analyst and UC-Berkeley professor emeritus Peter Dale Scott.

Reservations required. Members Free | Public \$15

Read the book: *The Devil's Chessboard : Allen Dulles, the CIA, and the Rise of America's Secret Government* by David Talbot | 327.12 T138

David Talbot is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Brothers: The Hidden History of the Kennedy Years* and the acclaimed national bestseller *Season of the Witch: Enchantment, Terror, and Deliverance in the City of Love*. He is the founder and former editor-in-chief of *Salon*, and was a senior editor at *Mother Jones* magazine and the features editor at the *San Francisco Examiner*. He has written for *The New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone*, *Time*, and other major publications, and lives in San Francisco, California.

Peter Dale Scott, a former Canadian diplomat and professor emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, is a leading political analyst and poet. His most recent books include *The American Deep State: Wall Street, Big Oil, and the Attack on U.S. Democracy* and *Dallas '63: The First Deep State Revolt Against the White House*. He was awarded the Lannan Poetry Award in 2002. For a complete biography see www.peterdalescott.net.



Monday, December 7 | 6pm

3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

I've Got a Black Belt in Word Count: Life After NaNoWriMo | You Versus the Blank Page NaNoWriMo Series Wrap-Up

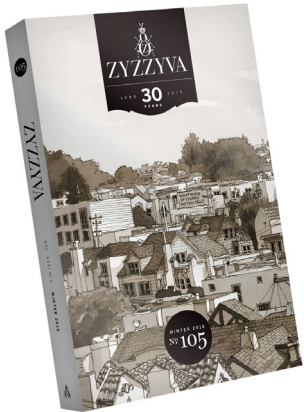
Did you spend November writing a novel? Now what?! In this meeting, we'll discuss what to do with those 50,000 words you sweated over, explore tips & resources on the NaNoWriMo website, and provide suggestions & books to help you revise your manuscripts.

Reservations required. Members Free | Public \$15

Read the book: *Ready, set, novel! : a writer's workbook : plan and plot your upcoming masterpiece* by Chris Baty, Lindsey Grant, and Tavia Stewart-Streit of National Novel Writing Month | 808.3 B336



Our programs entertain, inform, and inspire your passions...



Friday, December 11 | 6pm Reception , 6:30 Program

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

ZYZZYVA's Winter Issue Celebration

Hosted by Oscar Villalon, Managing Editor

Come to ZYZZYVA's annual Winter Issue Celebration and Holiday Party, being held for the first time at ZYZZYVA's new home, the Mechanics' Institute! Reading will be Winter Issue contributors Paul Madonna, Heather Monley, Austin Smith, Dominica Phetteplace, and Lauren Alwan. Join ZYZZYVA ("one of the country's finest literary journals" — *Washington Post*) as it closes out its 30th anniversary year with holiday cheer.

Reservations required. Free to ZYZZYVA subscribers and MI members; Public \$15

Find current and past issues of Zyzzyva on the 3rd Floor of the library.



Monday, December 14 | 6pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

A Child's Christmas in Wales

Join us for a spirited celebration of Dylan Thomas' prose work, *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. The piece is a sentimental, romantic account of an early 20th century Welsh Christmas and consists of a series of scenarios, reminiscences, anecdotes, childhood adventures and family incidents. Its atmospheric Welsh charm and humor from the early twentieth century will be heroically recreated by the energetic Dulais Rhys (a real live Welshman). The program will include a slideshow of Dylan Thomas's life and work as well audio examples of the poet's unique reading voice. Rhys will also give a 5-minute mandatory, non-optional, compulsory, doors-are-locked Welsh language lesson before reading *A Child's Christmas in Wales*.

Reservations required. Members Free | Public \$15

Read the book: *A Child's Christmas in Wales* by Dylan Thomas | 92 T4553c

See also: *Dylan Thomas : a new life* by Andrew Lycett | 92 T4553L

Mark your calendars...Coming Soon!



Thursday, January 7, 2016 | Noon 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Taxes for Writers

A panel discussion and book presentation

Reservations required. Free to Members of Mechanics' Institute, National Writers' Union, and the Writers' Grotto | Public \$15



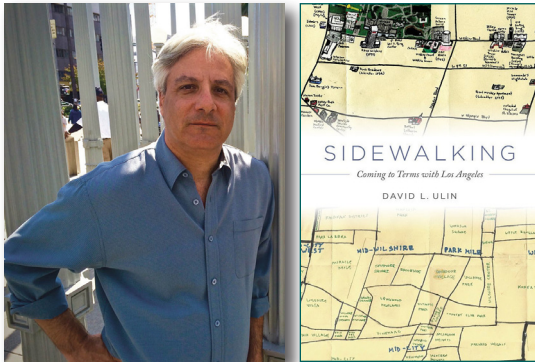
Friday, January 15, 2016 | Noon 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Writers' Lunch

A panel discussion and book presentation

In an effort to encourage community and networking amongst our writers' community the Mechanics' Institute will host a casual brown-bag lunch on the 3rd Friday of every month. Look forward to mini-reviews on books that have been added to our "literary craft" collection, informal presentations by member writers, and excellent conversation.

Reservations required. Free | Members only



Tuesday, January 19 | 12:30pm 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Sidewalking: Coming to Terms with Los Angeles

Author David Ulin in conversation with San Francisco Chronicle columnist Gary Kamiya

In *Sidewalking*, David L. Ulin offers a compelling inquiry into the evolving landscape of Los Angeles. Part personal narrative, part investigation of the city as both idea and environment, *Sidewalking* is many things: a discussion of Los Angeles as urban space, a history of the city's built environment, a meditation on the author's relationship to the city, and a rumination on the art of urban walking.

Reservations required. Members Free | Public \$15



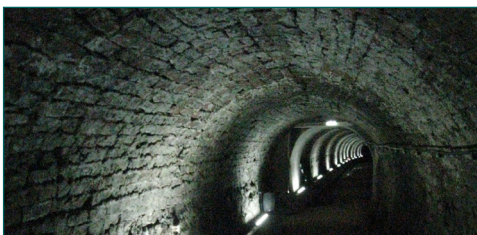
Thursday, January 21 | 5pm - 6:30pm 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM B

Windows on the World: Writing Beyond the West

A reading and discussion series hosted by author Carol Verburg

Author Carol Verburg will host a 4-session series exploring essays and stories by writers from Turkey, Nigeria, South Africa, and Iraq. Join the discussion to understand how these writers think about their identities, their homelands, and their storytelling traditions.

Reservations required. Members \$30 for the series | Public \$60 for the series



Thursday, January 28 | 6pm 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Pro-Choice to the End: End-of-Life Issues, End-of-Life Options

A panel discussion on the long-running debate and California law SB-128, the "End of Life Option Act"

Hear three perspectives on where we've been, what it's been like and how we finally got to legal aid-in-dying in California.

Reservations required. Free to Members | Public \$15

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

Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

San Francisco Mechanics: Huzzah!

Q: Who is the most successful team in the Bay Area?

A: Golden State is the reigning NBA champion, the Giants have won the World Series three times in the last five years, and the Athletics, 49ers, Sharks, Raiders, and Earthquakes all have rich traditions – but none of these teams are the correct answer. This distinction belongs to the San Francisco Mechanics in the United States Chess League!

From late August to the end of November, four-player teams face one other to earn two and a half points for a winning match in the U.S. Chess League's internet-based competition. Many of those competing in the league are Grandmasters, including world number ten Wesley So, who played for Minnesota this season. The Mechanics' Institute roster included Grandmasters Daniel Naroditsky and Vinay Bhat, several of the best young players in the United States, including Cameron Wheeler, Vignesh Panchanatham, Siddarth Banik, and Rayan Tagizahdeh, and the top female player in the Bay Area, Uyanga Byambaa. Since the League's debut in 2005, the Mechanics' Institute's team has consistently been one of the top, and recently qualified for the playoffs for the ninth time in eleven seasons. With a record like this one, a ticker-tape parade must be just around the corner! Attend our chess classes, lectures, and tournaments this month to learn more about Mechanics' Institute's Chess Club.



Vinay Bhat



Daniel Naroditsky

DECEMBER EVENTS

Chess for Women

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 6, 13, 20, 27

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Tuesday Night Events

DECEMBER 1, 8, 15

5:15 PM – 6:15 PM

LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON

6:30 PM – 10:30 PM

FALL TUESDAY NIGHT MARATHON

Wednesday Night Blitz

DECEMBER 2, 9, 16

6:30 PM – 8:50 PM

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

Tournaments

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

15TH ANNUAL GUTHRIE MCCLAIN MEMORIAL G/45

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

DECEMBER 5, 12, 19, 26

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: The Voice of the Natural World

Tuesday, December 1 | 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 2013 of Bernie Krause talking about what we can learn through nature's symphonies. An informal discussion will follow the viewing.

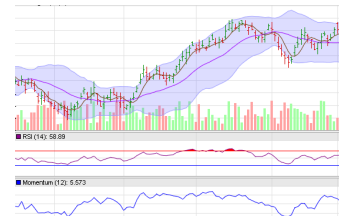
No reservations required; Walk-ins Welcome



Financial Newsletters

Thursday, December 3, Noon 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Invest just over an hour of your time, and walk away with a solid knowledge of the Library's collection of over a dozen financial newsletters covering stocks, mutual funds, technical analysis, and market timing. Discover particular strengths of each newsletter. Titles with similar content are compared. Learn about *Hulbert's Financial Digest*, a monthly publication which tracks the performance of the investment letters themselves, based on their security recommendations over time.



Social Media: Instagram

Tuesday December 8 | 6:00pm 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Instagram launched in 2010 as a photo sharing application for mobile devices. With more than 300 million users, it has shaped how mobile users interact with photography and one another on their devices. Learn about the application's history, trends, affiliations, and features in this Instagram 101-level class.



Ancestry Library Edition

Thursday, December 10 | 5:30pm 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOMS A & B

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. Please note: There are eleven computers available in our combined classroom. Participants are welcome to bring their own laptop, iPad, or similar WiFi-enabled device, or to check-out one of the library's three laptops from the 2nd Floor Circulation Desk.



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

Book Discussion Groups

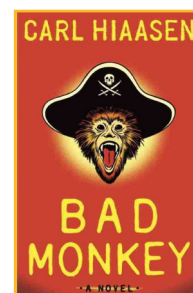
Our members' book groups select, read, and discuss books of a particular type or genre. Members lead the discussions and new members are always welcome. Please note that Book Groups are not author events and **authors will not be present during the discussions**. Unless otherwise indicated, pre-registration is not required. Book descriptions courtesy of <https://ipage.ingramcontent.com> **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

First Wednesday Mystery Book Group

Wednesday, December 2 | 6pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

Bad Monkey BY CARL HIAASEN

Andrew Yancy has a human arm in his freezer. There's a logical explanation for that, but not for how and why it parted from its owner. Yancy is pretty sure there's a murder in this somewhere, but he must negotiate an obstacle course of wildly unpredictable events with a crew of even more wildly unpredictable characters!

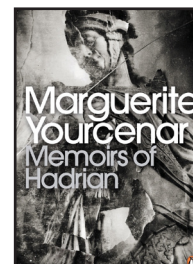


World Literature Book Group

Wednesdays, December 9 and 16 | 6:45pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

Memoirs of Hadrian BY MARGUERITE YOURCENAR

Both an exploration of character and a reflection on the meaning of history, Yourcenar reimagines the Emperor Hadrian's arduous boyhood, his triumphs and reversals, and finally, as emperor, his gradual reordering of a war-torn world, writing with the imaginative insight of a great writer of the twentieth century while crafting a prose style as elegant and precise as those of the Latin stylists of Hadrian's own era. This novel will be discussed over a two-part session.

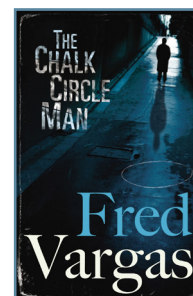


Brown Bag Mystery Readers

Monday, December 14 | Noon 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

The Chalk Circle Man BY FRED VARGAS

When chalk circles containing increasingly bizarre objects begin to appear on the pavement in neighborhoods around Paris, everyone except Commissaire Jean-Baptiste Adamsberg thinks they are entertaining pranks. But when a circle is discovered with decidedly less amusing contents, Adamsberg uses his trademark intuition to hunt for the responsible person.

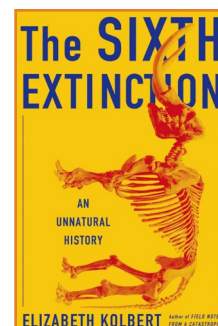


Good Reads Book Group

Tuesday, December 15 | Noon 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History BY ELIZABETH KOLBERT

This Pulitzer Prize-winning book details the five mass extinctions that have occurred over the last half billion years, and introduces the reader to scientists who are currently monitoring the sixth extinction – projected to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. But this time around, the cataclysm is us. Drawing on field research, introducing readers to species extinct or facing extinction now, and tracing the evolution of extinction as a concept, Kolbert posits that the most lasting legacy of mankind is likely to be this sixth extinction, asking readers to question the fundamentals of what makes us human.



Information: Contact Heather at 415.857-6727 or hterrell@milibrary.org, or visit milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings.

A copy of each book is available at the 2nd floor Circulation desk.



Holiday Hours

November 25
November 26 - 27
December 24 - 25
December 31
January 1

The Library and Chess Room will **close at 5 pm.**
The Library and Chess Room will be **closed.**
Mechanics' Institute building will be **closed.**
The Library and Chess Room will **close at 3 pm.**
Mechanics' Institute building will be **closed.**



57 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94104
www.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

Heather Terrell, Editrix

Mechanics' Institute History Footnote...



Mechanics' Institute hosted 31 Industrial Fairs between 1857 and 1899, spawning the careers of celebrated local businesses – including Levi & Strauss, Singer Sewing Machines, and others. Classes were established for various maker categories – such as wine, shoes, mechanics, buttons, and vegetables. Medallions (left), diplomas, and certificates were issued to the best artisans in each class.

CinemaLit Season Finale

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

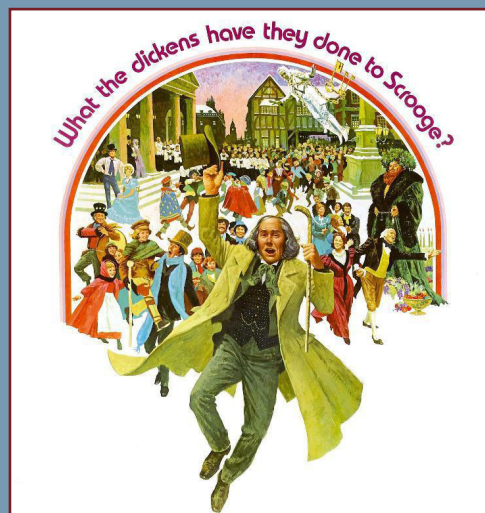


Scrooge (1970) 113 min.

DIRECTED BY RONALD NEAME

Starring Albert Finney, Alec Guinness,
Dame Edith Evans

This lively musical retelling of Dickens' classic has a stellar cast and features music by composer Leslie Bricusse. Join us and get into the holiday spirit!



Friday, December 4 | 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM
Cafe Opens at 5:30pm | Program at 6pm
Members Free | Public Suggested Donation \$10



JANUARY PREVIEW
**Sean Connery: Lights,
Camera, Action!**