You’ve seen his portrait hanging in Mechanics’ Institute’s Library, you’ve ridden on a cable car, but what do you really know about Andrew Smith Hallidie? He arrived in California during the Gold Rush and quickly rose to meet the challenges of the frontier by using his gumption and his father’s patented wire rope to build bridges, ore transportation systems, and most famously, the San Francisco cable car. By the end of his life in 1900, Hallidie was a leader of the state’s industrial endeavors and a champion of the region’s libraries and educational institutions. Come celebrate this dynamic man and the recent refurbishment of his portrait.

Reservations Required. MI Members and Public, Free
Programs at the Mechanics’ Institute

Thursday, January 7 | noon
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM
Taxes for Writers

In partnership with the National Writers’ Union, join us and tax accountant Therese Francis for an informative discussion about many writers’ least favorite subject…taxes!

Reservations required. Free to members of Mechanics’ Institute, National Writers’ Union, and SF Grotto; Public $15

Check it out: Deduct it! : lower your small business taxes by Stephen Fishman, 343.052 F537 2013

Monday, January 11 | 6:30 pm
OFFSITE LOCATION: WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL, 312 SUTTER ST #200, SAN FRANCISCO
India and Pakistan: Challenges for Regional Stability
Mechanics’ Institute Promotional Co-Sponsor

Asia Society and World Affairs Council present Nisid Hajari, author of Midnight’s Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India’s Partition. From border disputes to foreign wars to the Taliban, many forces are at play in destabilizing South Asia. But the simmering conflicts of today have not emerged out of thin air. Nisid Hajari and Jonathan Karp, Executive Director of Asia Society Southern California, will examine the regional instability and its connection to the Bloody Partition of 1947.

Reservations required. Free to Asia Society and World Affairs Council; MI co-sponsor members and students $10; Public $20

Register at: http://bit.ly/1UZeulS
Use code: Hajari2016 for registration discount

Call 415.393.0102 or visit milibrary.org/events to see what’s coming up next and to make reservations.
Friday, January 15 | noon
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM
Writers’ Lunch

Writing is a lonely business! 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. At this first meeting we will have a brief presentation by MI member Rick Homan – organizer of a new Mystery Novel Writers’ Group. Rick is a retired professor of theater arts. He has completed a suspense novel and is now writing a murder mystery.

Bring your lunch and be prepared to briefly introduce yourself and the project you are working on.

Reservations required. MI Members Only; Free

Tuesday, January 19 | 12:30 pm
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM
Sidewalking: Coming to Terms with Los Angeles
Co-sponsored by ZYZZYVA
Author David Ulin in conversation with San Francisco Chronicle columnist Gary Kamiya, author of Cool Gray City of Love: 49 Views of San Francisco; moderated by Oscar Villalon, Managing Editor, ZYZZYVA

Former LA Times book editor David L. Ulin offers a compelling inquiry into the evolving landscape of a city he knows well. 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, and a rumination on the art of urban walking. Gary Kamiya brings his insights into San Francisco’s iconic geography and history.

Reservations required. Free to Members of Mechanics’ Institute and ZYZZYVA subscribers; Public $15
Thursday, January 28 | 6:00 pm
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 new California law

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. Join retired physician/activist Robert Liner, ethicist/editor Steve Heilig and author/blogger Fran Moreland Johns for a lively discussion of a no-longer-morbid subject.

Reservations required. Free to MI members; Public $15

Recommended Reading: God's Hotel: a doctor, a hospital, and a pilgrimage to the heart of medicine by Victoria Sweet, 610.92 S974

Announcing a new Literature Discussion Group, led by author and teacher Carol Verburg

Thursday, January 21 | 5:00 - 6:30 pm
3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM B
Windows on the World: Writing Beyond the West
Fiction & Non-Fiction From Turkey, Nigeria, South Africa, and Iraq | January Meeting: Turkey

Refugees. Repression. Resistance. Behind the endless conflicts on TV and social media, ordinary people struggle with universal issues: love, work, family, community. From this turmoil comes some of the world’s best writing. Led by author and teacher Carol Verburg, attendees will explore four non-Western countries from the inside, guided by their writers.

Each month, the group will look through the eyes of native authors at a different country where people have lived for thousands of years, in conflict and peace, hearing how the people who dwell in these geographies think about their identities, their homelands, their traditions of storytelling, each other, and the West. This group will focus on contemporary short stories and essays by some of the world’s most highly regarded writers, as well as featuring a few TED talks and novels.

Reservations required. For the series: MI members $40; Public $60

January’s readings can be obtained at the 2nd Floor Circulation Desk.
Before the first meeting, which focuses on the literature of Turkey, please read the following pieces:

Yashar Kemal: “A Dirty Story” from Anatolian Tales
Orhan Pamuk: “A Guide to Being Mediterranean” and “Anger of the Damned” from Other Colors
Elif Shafak: pp. 5-16 of Honor

Contact Heather at 415.857.6727 or hterrell@milibrary.org with questions. Call 415.393.0102 or visit milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings to register.
A memorial for long-time member and former Chess Room coordinator Stephen Brandwein (1942-2015) will be held on Sunday, January 24, from 1pm to 5pm on the 4th floor. Food and drink will be provided. All are welcome.

Chess For All Ages

The traditional image of chess players is that of two grey-bearded seniors hunched over a board – nothing could be further from the truth these days. As the governing body for chess in this country, the United States Chess Federation has over 80,000 members; roughly 75 percent of them are younger than 21. This breakdown is reflected in the attendance figures for the Mechanics’ weekend tournaments, but is not the case for the Tuesday Night Marathon.

The event averages over 100 participants each Tuesday, and draws players of all ages. A quarter of the field is over 50, including a significant number over 60. These veterans not only play, they compete quite successfully. International Master Elliott Winslow has won several Tuesday Night Marathons and is almost always battling for first. Peter Grey, at 80 years of age and almost twenty years Winslow’s senior, tied for third in the last TNM.

The playing schedule is one contributing factor in the success of these honored citizens. In contrast to multi-round weekend events, the pace of one four-hour battle per week puts a lower premium on stamina, and higher weight on skill and experience. In the Tuesday Night Marathon, all ages compete on even terms, whether fresh-faced newcomers or the seasoned players from whom they learn.

JANUARY EVENTS

Chess for Women

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Tuesday Night Events

JANUARY 5, 12, 19, 26
5:15 PM – 6:15 PM
LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON
6:30 PM – 10:30 PM
WINTER TUESDAY NIGHT MARATHON

Wednesday Night Blitz

JANUARY 6, 13, 20, 27
6:30 PM – 8:50 PM
DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

Tournaments

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9
10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
16TH ANNUAL BOB BURGAR G/45

Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

JANUARY 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW

Information & reservations: 415.393.0110 or chessclub.org.
Classes at Mechanics' Institute Library

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

Second Tuesday TED Talk
Tuesday, January 12  |  noon  4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM
Bring your lunch and curiosity to talk about ideas, stories, and concepts with fellow Mechanics' Institute members and staff. An informal discussion will follow the viewing.
No reservations required; Walk-ins Welcome

Key Financial Magazines and Newspapers Every Astute Investor Should Read
Thursday, January 14  |  12:15 pm  3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A
Discover the most resourceful sources of investment information encompassing financial and economic trends, industry reports, and corporate developments. These sources go beyond reading the morning newspaper and checking the web.

Value Line Resource Center
Wednesday, January 20  |  5:15 pm  3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A
Explore Value Line’s dynamic platform with myriad analytical tools and expert guidance. Learn about the resource’s ranking system for timeliness, safety, and financial strength of specific stocks. Access feature articles and analyst commentaries, display companies’ digital reports, and explore the revamped stock screener. Long-time users of Value Line will learn how to access the traditional single-page company reports. Put this leading authoritative investment information resource to work for you.

Library Downloads Workshop: eBooks, eMagazines, eAudiobooks
Thursday, January 21  |  3:00 - 6:00 pm  3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A
The Mechanics' Institute offers hundreds of digital titles that you can download to your computer, tablet, or smartphone from anywhere there’s an internet connection. Bring your device to this hands-on workshop where you’ll set up an account, get your questions answered, and get started downloading eBooks, eMagazines, and eAudiobooks.
No reservations required; Walk-ins Welcome

Web Basics: Under the Hood
Thursday, January 28  |  noon  3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A
Have you ever found yourself thinking there might be a layer of the web that you’re missing? What’s actually happening when you click a link, and why does knowing this matter? In a short talk, we’ll discuss the difference between the web and the internet, and demonstrate how to read a web page: its parts, what they do, and what they can tell you about the page’s source, followed by hands-on time to practice your web skills.

Information & Registration: Call 415.393.0102 or register online at milibrary.org/classes.
Book Discussion Groups

Book discussion groups select, read, and discuss books of a particular type or genre. 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. Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.

First Wednesday Mystery Book Group
Wednesday, January 6 | 5:15 pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM
Death at La Fenice  BY DONNA LEON
In his first literary outing, police commissario Guido Brunetti is called in when legendary German conductor Helmut Wellauer is found dead in his dressing room during a performance of La Traviata.

Brown Bag Mystery Readers
Monday, January 11 | noon 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM
Murder and Mendelssohn  BY KERRY GREENWOOD
Murder, spies, mathematics and music – it’s all in a day’s work for the intelligent, sophisticated, rule-breaking lady detective Phryne Fisher. Detective Inspector Jack Robinson requires the charm and assistance of Miss Fisher to enter an unfamiliar world when a not-much-liked orchestral conductor is found dead.

World Literature Book Group
Wednesday, January 13 and 27 | 6:45 pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM
Lolita  BY VLADIMIR NABOKOV
Humbert Humbert, scholar and self-proclaimed romantic, has fallen completely and utterly in love...with a twelve-year-old girl. He details his great sufferings in pursuit of this romance, going so far as to marry the child’s mother to be close to her, and then, when Lolita looks elsewhere for attention, kidnapping her in a desperate cross-country bid to preserve their connection. This novel will be discussed over two meetings of the World Literature Book Group.

Non-Fiction Online Book Group
January | meets online all month at www.milibrary.org/bookgroup
Thelonious Monk: the Life and Times of an American Original  BY ROBIN D. G. KELLEY
Thelonious Monk’s angular melodies and dissonant harmonies shook the jazz world to its foundations, ushering in the birth of “bebop” and establishing Monk as one of America’s greatest composers (from http://www.monkbook.com/the-book/). Email hterrell@milibrary.com for login instructions.

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.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 8
From Russia with Love (1963) 118 min.
DIRECTED BY TERENCE YOUNG

Starring Robert Shaw, Lotte Lenya
Not the first 007 film, but the most entertaining. A beautiful Soviet wants to defect with a cryptographic device – but only if she can defect to James Bond. Robert Shaw is “Red” Grant, the best of the blond psychopaths who frequent Bond films, and Lotte Lenya is engagingly hideous as Rosa Klebb, the SMERSH agent with a lethal kick. The Orient Express, fast cars, assassins, and John Barry’s brassy score make this vintage Bond.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15
The Anderson Tapes (1971) 98 min.
DIRECTED BY SIDNEY LUMET

Starring Dyan Cannon, Martin Balsam
A lot has changed in the ten years John Anderson’s been in prison. When he cooks up an ambitious plan to burglar an entire luxury apartment building, he’s unaware the place is infested with cameras, bugs and tracking devices planted by various private and public agencies. A wry, funny, and suspenseful look at the rise of surveillance, this film marked Connery’s escape from Bondage. It also includes young Christopher Walken’s first major film role.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22
The Name of the Rose (1986) 130 min.
DIRECTED BY JEAN-JACQUES ANNAUD

Starring F. Murray Abraham, Christian Slater
Atmosphere abounds in this whodunit set in a medieval Benedictine monastery. Someone is murdering the monks, and it is up to a Franciscan friar to solve the mystery. Connery brings a muscular intelligence to the skeptical friar, William of Baskerville, and Christian Slater is engaging as his callow protégé. Can William catch the killer before the inquisition gets involved? And why are the victims found with black stains on their tongue and index finger?