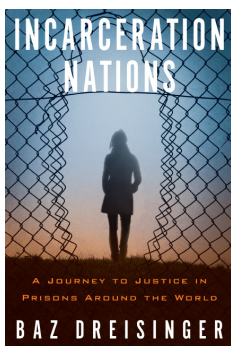




## Incarceration and the Path to Reform

A conversation with Baz Dreisinger, Jacques Verduin, and Terrell Merritt.

Wednesday, February 17 | 6 pm | 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM



Baz Dreisinger (photo copyright Colin Williams)



Jacques Verduin (photo copyright Paul Chinn)



Terrell Merritt

Locally, nationally, and internationally, U.S. penal systems are being challenged both fiscally and physically, fueled by changing attitudes about prison reform. Join this discussion between experts in the field: author of *Incarceration Nations: A Journey to Justice in Prisons Around the World* **Baz Dreisinger**, Executive Director of Insight-Out and the GRIP program at San Quentin **Jacques Verduin**, and GRIP graduate and facilitator **Terrell Merritt**. Learn how San Francisco is modeling a new paradigm for rehabilitation and issues of human rights for incarcerated individuals. From President Obama's December 18th commutation of ninety-five non-violent drug offenders, to the recent "vote-down" of funding for the new prison in San Francisco, there is much to talk about!

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

Register at [milibrary.org/events](http://milibrary.org/events) or 415.393.0102

### INSIDE:

Wineries of the Sierra Foothills, City Club Mural Tour, Antiheroes in Shakespeare & Cervantes, Call for Exhibitors: Wine, Women, and Start-Ups, and more...

### SAVE THE DATE

On **Wednesday, March 2nd**, the Mechanics' Institute will welcome National Book Award winner **Timothy Egan**, author of *The Immortal Irishman: the Irish Revolutionary Who Became an American Hero*.



(photo copyright Barry Wong)



# Programs at the Mechanics'

Thursday, February 4 | 5:30 pm Wine Tasting | Program 6 pm

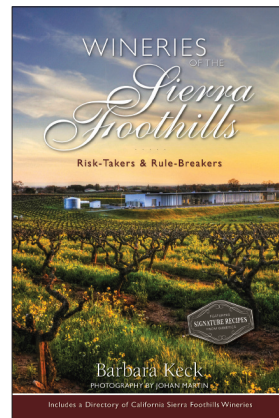
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## **Wineries of the Sierra Foothills: Risk-Takers & Rule-Breakers**

author Barbara Keck in conversation with Sierra Foothills vintners

Writer Barbara Keck expands the western adventure of the Sierra Foothills to wine lovers in this guide book, focusing on ten counties with more than 280 small wineries. A complete directory of wineries is included, with notes on flagship wines, personal stories, and family recipes, with photography by Johan Martin. Selected winemakers will join Barbara to talk about their experiences as vintners. BONUS: you'll be able to taste some unique wines from Vina Castellano and Madrona wineries!

**Reservations required. Free to MI members; Public \$15**



Monday, February 8 | 3:30 - 4:00 pm

MEET AT THE CITY CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO

155 SANSOME STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104

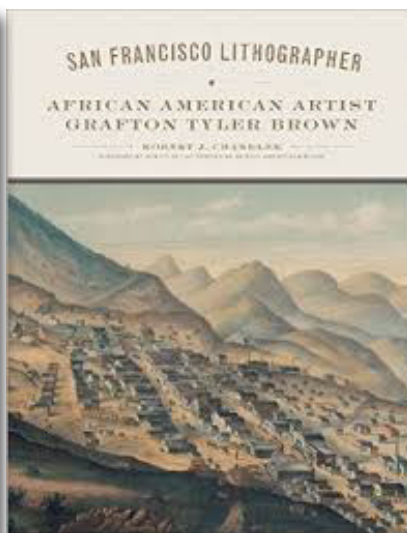
## **City Club Mural Tour**

a guided interpretation of Diego Rivera's mural *Allegory of California*



Join librarian Taryn Edwards and MI member/tour leader Rick Evans for a guided interpretation of the mural *Allegory of California* that graces the stairwell of the City Club (formerly the Pacific Stock Exchange Club). Normally closed to the public, this is an opportunity to see the first mural painted in the United States by the great Mexican artist Diego Rivera. The City Club's famed Art Deco interior is considered one of best in California.

**Reservations required. MI members only; \$20**



Friday, February 12 | noon

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## **Grafton Tyler Brown: African-American Lithographer**

an illustrated presentation by historian Robert J. Chandler

Grafton Tyler Brown finessed his way through San Francisco society by passing as white. He became a successful commercial artist and businessman in the rough-and-tumble gold rush era and the years after the Civil War. Best known for his bird's-eye cityscapes, he also produced and published maps, charts, and business documents, and he illustrated books, sheet music, advertisements, and labels for cans and other packaging. Chandler's talk is based on his book *San Francisco Lithographer: African American Artist Grafton Tyler Brown* and will compare Brown's artistry with that of competing lithographers in this city.

**Reservations required. Free to MI members; Public \$15**



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Friday, February 19 | noon

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## Writers' Lunch with speaker Vicky Walker

*What Editors Want From Writers - And What Makes Them Avoid Your Email*



Calling all writers and bloggers! During our monthly writers' brown bag lunch activity, MI member and magazine editor Vicky Walker will chat about what editors want from writers - *and what makes them avoid your email*. Bring your lunch, notebook and sense of humor! Be prepared to laugh, learn and make new friends.

**Vicky Walker** is executive editor of [Dogster.com](http://Dogster.com) and [Catster.com](http://Catster.com) and is a board member of the San Francisco History Association.

No reservations required. MI members only.

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Wednesday, February 24 | 6 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## Heroes and Anti-Heroes in Shakespeare and Cervantes

a presentation by Bruce Avery, co-sponsored by Humanities West

Shakespeare created some of the most memorable heroes in Western literature – Henry V, Hamlet, and Benedick, to name a few. Cervantes's Don Quixote certainly wants to be a hero along the same lines as these three. We will look at the notion of heroism, of anti-heroism, and through dramatic readings and textual analysis, explore the heroic and the anti-hero in the works of these two monumental writers. This program at Mechanics' Institute precedes the Humanities West symposium *Shakespeare & Cervantes* on February 26th and 27th at Marines' Memorial Theater.



Reservations required. Free to members of MI and Humanities West; Public \$15

See <http://humanitieswest.net/shakespeare-cervantes/> for details of the Humanities West symposium.

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Friday, February 26 | noon

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## How to Read a Newspaper Like an Inside-Dopester

a presentation by former New York Times correspondent Robert M. Smith

Ever wondered how a newspaper is put together? Is the information in it honest? Who decides what you read – and how? What makes reporters and editors tick? Why some items are given "read-me" prominence, and others hidden next to the obituaries? Who sets the agenda of coverage for the media? A newspaper comes to you, and you read (some of) it....What you should know about this daily habit by somebody who, as a New

York Times correspondent, covered the White House, the Congress, the State Department, the CIA and FBI, the My Lai massacre, and Watergate.



Reservations required. Free to Members and Public

Call 415.393.0102 or visit [milibrary.org/events](http://milibrary.org/events) to see what's coming up next and to make reservations.

# CinemaLit: *An Affair to Remember*

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

Fridays | 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM | Cafe Opens at 5:30pm | Program at 6pm

Members Free | Public Suggested Donation \$10

## February 5

**Emma** (1996) 111 min.

DIRECTED BY DOUGLAS MCGRATH

Starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Jeremy Northam

The 1990s saw a spate of Jane Austen adaptations, including *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Mansfield Park*. None were as much fun as Douglas McGrath's film starring Gwyneth Paltrow as the feckless, misguided young matchmaker, Emma Woodhouse.



## February 12

**Now, Voyager** (1942) 117 min.

DIRECTED BY IRWIN RAPPER

Starring Bette Davis, Paul Henreid

Charlotte Vail is overweight, shy, and bespectacled, quailing under the domination of her hypercritical mother. Under the care of a compassionate psychiatrist, Charlotte blossoms and falls in love – with a married man.



## February 19

**Casanova** (2005) 110 min.

DIRECTED BY LASSE HALLSTROM

Starring Heath Ledger, Sienna Miller

The late Heath Ledger brings a light touch in his turn as the famous magician, author, spy, libertine, and target of the inquisition. There are debauched nuns, chases across Venetian rooftops, hidden identities, and a cross-dressing feminist, but as critic Roger Ebert observed, "the film is no more implausible than Casanova's actual adventures."



## February 26

**Carrington** (1995) 121 min.

DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

Starring Emma Thompson, Jonathan Pryce

One night, in 1917, a young artist named Dora Carrington crept into the bedroom of the writer Lytton Strachey, intending to cut off his famous beard as a prank. He awoke, their eyes met, and so began one of the strangest and most enduring love affairs in literary history. This beautifully shot film about the nature of passion is comic, tragic, and a fascinating examination of love and iconoclasm in the Bloomsbury set.



Information & reservations: 415.393.0102 or [milibrary.org/events](http://milibrary.org/events).

# Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

## In Memoriam: Stephen Brandwein



Steve Brandwein in  
2014 (photo credit:  
Richard Shorman)

On January 24th, Mechanics' Institute memorialized former Chess Room Coordinator Stephen Brandwein, who died on December 12, 2015 in San Francisco, after a brief illness.

Steve was rated in the top 50 chess players in the United States throughout the mid- and late-1960s, but it was at blitz chess – five minutes per player per game – that he really showed his strength, ranking in the top half dozen players in the country in his prime.

Just how good was Steve? When Bobby Fischer stayed with him at 521 3rd Avenue in the Richmond district during the second half of 1981, the two played several sessions of three minute chess. The final result had Bobby winning 8 out of every 10 games. Scoring 20% against Fischer – only 8 years after he won the World Championship – was more than respectable. But typical of Steve, he never made a big deal of it.

Steve didn't excel only at chess. He was a first-rate games player, equally adept at bridge, backgammon and Scrabble. His exploits in the latter were given an entire chapter in Stefan Fatsis' *Word Freak*. Even so, games were hardly Steve's only interest.

Anyone who has frequented the Mechanics' Institute Library in the last thirty-five years likely saw Steve carrying a huge pile of books in his arms at one time or another. All told, he checked out 3,266 books since the Mechanics' Library computerized its checkout system in August of 1992. An impressive figure for sure, but this constituted no more than half of his total reading load, as Steve was also a loyal patron of the San Francisco Public Library system. There were few subjects that Steve was not conversant in; he was particularly interested in literature, history and politics.

The expression "they broke the mold when they made him" is used too often, but it really applied to Steve. He was a special person whose intelligence, generosity and kindness will be missed.

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## FEBRUARY EVENTS

### Chess for Women

SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 7, 14, 21,  
28

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

### Tournaments

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

16TH ANNUAL HENRY GROSS

MEMORIAL G/45

### Tuesday Night Events

FEBRUARY 2, 9, 16, 23

5:15 PM – 6:15 PM

LECTURE BY IM JOHN DONALDSON

6:30 PM – 10:30 PM

WINTER TUESDAY NIGHT

MARATHON

### Wednesday Night Blitz

FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, 24

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

DIRECTED BY JULES JELINEK

### Saturday Morning Chess Class for Kids

FEBRUARY 6, 13, 20, 27

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL

MASTER ELLIOTT WINSLOW

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

# Classes at Mechanics' Institute Library

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



## Strategies for Finding Info on Private Companies

**Wednesday, February 3 | 12:15 pm** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

This tutorial demonstrates several sources of relevant information, including Thomas Net on the web, the print resource *San Francisco Business Times Book of Lists*, and databases such as Reference USA and Hoover's.



## Second Tuesday TED Talk

**Tuesday, February 9 | 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**



## Pinterest: A Visual Bookmarking Tool

**Thursday, February 11 | noon** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Discover and compile your creative ideas with Pinterest, a visual bookmarking tool that you can use to store, organize, and share photos, videos, and links from anywhere on the web.



## Morningstar Investment Research: Financial Intelligence Pays Off

**Wednesday, February 17 | 12:15 pm** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

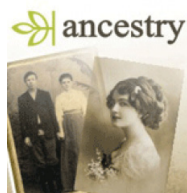
Learn how to retrieve investment research, analyst reports, and recommendations for thousands of mutual funds and stocks using Morningstar Investment Research.



## Tech Office Hours — One-on-one Technology Consultations

**Tuesday, February 23 | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm** 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Reserve a 30-minute appointment with librarians to work on technology-related questions. Advance registration is recommended, although some walk-in opportunities may be available. To register, contact Sarah Cruz with your available time frame and a brief description of your question or issue by emailing [scruz@milibrary.org](mailto:scruz@milibrary.org) or calling 415-857-6722.



## Grow Your Family Tree: Ancestry Library Edition

**Tuesday, February 23 | 6:30 pm** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Research your family history using the Library's subscription to the Ancestry database, which provides access to billions of records in census data, vital records, directories, photos, and more.



## Beginning Search: Poking Around the Engine

**Thursday, February 25 | noon** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

In this class, we'll discuss keywords and how to improve your search, the difference between privacy and security, and best practices for searching privately on the web.

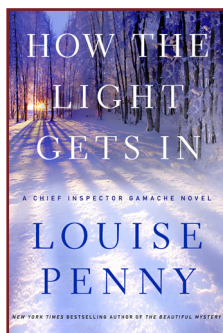
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**Information & Registration:** Call 415.393.0102 or register online at [milibrary.org/classes](http://milibrary.org/classes).



# 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, and book groups meet in the 4th floor Board Room. **Members Only. Walk-ins Welcome.**

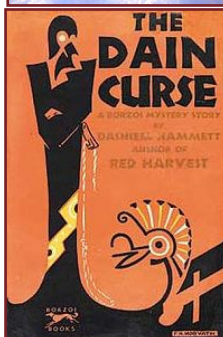


## First Wednesday Mystery Book Group

Wednesday, February 3 | 5:15 pm

***How the Light Gets In*** by Louise Penny

When Québec's Chief Inspector Armand Gamache receives a message that a longtime friend has failed to arrive for Christmas in the village of Three Pines, he soon discovers that he must not only investigate the disappearance, but also seek safety for himself and his colleagues.

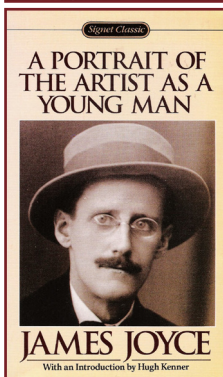


## Brown Bag Mystery Readers

Monday, February 8 | noon

***The Dain Curse*** by Dashiell Hammett

Originally serialized as *Black Mask*, in this novel a detective known only as The Continental Op investigates a diamond theft purportedly involving a curse on the Dain family – but there may be less mystical and more nefarious forces at work.

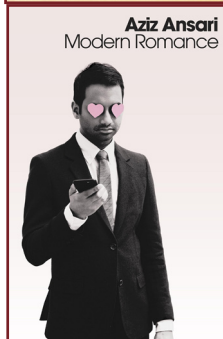


## World Literature Book Group

Wednesdays, February 10 & 24 | 6:45 pm

***Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*** by James Joyce

This modernist bildungsroman traces the religious and intellectual evolution of Stephen Dedalus. Joyce's debut novel uses literary techniques the author would develop further in his later works, and concerns the awakening and self-exile of Joyce's fictional alter ego – who will appear again in *Ulysses*. Widely considered to be one of the best English-language novels of the 20th century, this book will be discussed over two meetings of the World Literature Book Group.



## Non-Fiction Book Group

February | meets online at [milibrary.org/bookgroup](http://milibrary.org/bookgroup)

***Modern Romance*** BY AZIZ ANSARI AND ERIC KLINENBERG

Just in time for Valentine's Day, a book about romantic entanglements! Ansari and Klinenberg rely on data to illuminate how people communicate, court, and find love in the computing era. Drawing on history, science, and culture, *Modern Romance* reverberates with wit and humor. Join us online to talk dating, romance, and the single life. Email Heather at [hterrell@milibrary.org](mailto:hterrell@milibrary.org) to join this group.

**Information: Contact** Heather at 415.857.6727 or [hterrell@milibrary.org](mailto:hterrell@milibrary.org), or visit [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.

## AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE Wine, Women, and Start-ups an exhibition and networking event for women Wednesday, March 30 5 pm - 8 pm



photo courtesy of WOCinTech Stock Photos

In 1857, the Mechanics' Institute hosted its first industrial exhibition, starting a tradition that lasted until 1899. These events displayed and promoted the products of local entrepreneurs and inventors, encouraging local creativity and the economy of the San Francisco Bay Area. At the first four exhibitions, 25% of the exhibitors were women. March is National Women's History Month; Mechanics' Institute would like to take this opportunity to honor the ladies in tech who are making history now.

### Am I Eligible to Exhibit?

- You must have a product near completion that can be visually demonstrated.
- Your startup must have at least one female founder.
- Your startup must be pre-seed or seed stage, having raised less than \$100K.

### Submit Your Startup

An open call for submissions to demonstrate will be held until February 15, 2016. Fifteen qualified applicants will be selected to host tables and five will be selected to present.

If you'd like to be involved in another way please respond to Taryn Edwards:  
[tedwards@milibrary.org](mailto:tedwards@milibrary.org) or 415.393.0103.



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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 Tour @ Night Monday, February 22 | 6 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. Today the Mechanics' Institute continues as a membership

organization boasting a fantastic general-interest library, active cultural event calendar, and world renowned chess club. If you are a new, long-time, or prospective member this 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.

**Free to Members and Public; Walk-ins Welcome**

## Windows on the World: Writing Beyond the West

Thursday, February 18 | 5 pm - 6:30 pm  
3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM B



In February, registered group members attending the second meeting of this four-session series will discuss literature by Nigerian authors Wole Soyinka, Chinua Achebe, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and others. Writer and teacher Carol Verburg will lead the discussion and will recommend additional readings.

Register for the series online at <http://www.milibrary.org/windows-february>. Contact Heather for more information, at 415.857.6727 or via email at [hterrell@milibrary.org](mailto:hterrell@milibrary.org).