



## Wine at the Fairs: Vinous Products at the Mechanics' Institute's Industrial Expositions, 1857-1899

*an illustrated presentation,  
in partnership with the Culinary Historians of Northern California*



Thursday, May 19 | 6:00 pm  
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

What do the Kohler and Frohling, Beringer, Landsberger & Co., and Buena Vista wineries have in common? They all won accolades at the Mechanics' Institute's Industrial Expositions. In an effort to encourage local industry, the Mechanics' Institute – a pioneer San Francisco library and vocational training center - hosted thirty one Industrial Expositions between 1857 and 1899. These month-long extravaganzas featured the products, food stuffs, art and inventions produced locally and the innovations of the day such as steam engines, cable cars, flying machines, locomotives and California wines. Serving both the public and business communities, these Exhibitions bolstered the state's infant economy, encouraged the demand for local goods, and enabled many entrepreneurs to get in touch with the capital they needed to develop their businesses.



In this presentation, Taryn Edwards will provide an overview of the wine producers that exhibited at the Expositions, the birth of California's wine industry and the Expositions' impact on California.

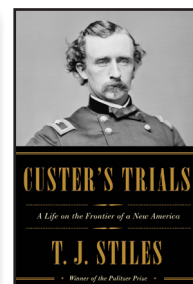
**Reservations Required. Members and Public Free**

**The Culinary Historians of Northern California (CHoNC) is a non-profit educational organization focused on the role of food and drink in history.** Since the group began in 2004, our purpose has been to encourage informal exchanges and conversations among people living in the greater San Francisco Bay Area who are interested in culinary history. We meet once a month, often at Omnivore Books, 3885 Cesar Chavez Street, San Francisco. Unless otherwise announced, meetings are free and open to the public. All who are interested are very welcome to attend.  
**For more information, visit [www.chonc.com](http://www.chonc.com).**

photo credits: Giant Wine Cask circa 1876 – Photograph by Caneton Watkins (top); California Wine Cooperage's Display – 1895, Photograph by I.W. Taber (bottom, left); speaker Taryn Edwards, Mechanics' Institute Librarian (bottom, right)

### Mechanics' Institute Member News

Mechanics' Institute congratulates member T. J. Stiles on winning the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in History. *Custer's Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America* is described by the Pulitzer committee as, "A rich and surprising new telling of the journey of the iconic American soldier whose death turns out not to have been the main point of his life."



# Programs

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

Thursday, May 5 | 6pm

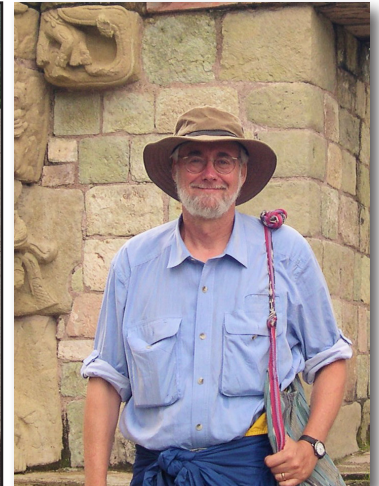
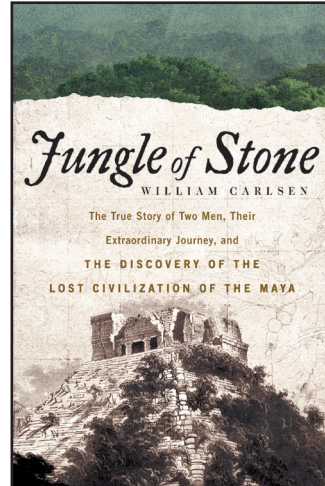
**Come early for the Cinco de Mayo menu, available at 5:30pm!**

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## **Meet the Author | *Jungle of Stone: The True Story of Two Men, Their Extraordinary Journey, And the Discovery of the Lost Civilization of the Maya***

Author William Carlsen offers the true story of the uncovering of the remains of the astonishing Maya civilization that revealed an ancient, wide-spread and sophisticated culture. In 1839, rumors of baffling stone ruins in the jungles of Mexico and Central America reached two intrepid travelers, American diplomat John Lloyd Stephens and British artist Frederick Catherwood. Drawing upon their journals and illustrations, Carlsen tells how this stunning discovery changed the prevailing view of human history in the Western Hemisphere.

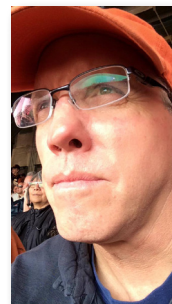
**Reservations Required. Members Free; Public \$15**



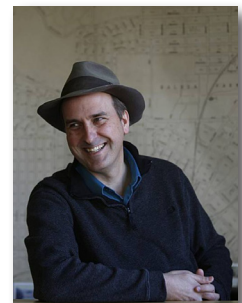
Thursday, May 12 | 6pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## **100,000 Pictures | Presenting OpenSFHistory**



David Gallagher



Woody LaBounty  
photo credit: [sfgate.com](http://sfgate.com)



[Clockwise] Sutro Bathers, Kids in North Beach, Cairo Dancing Girls, Cable Car / Owl Drugs  
historical photos courtesy of [OpenSFHistory.org](http://OpenSFHistory.org)

Join David Gallagher and Woody LaBounty, founders of the Western Neighborhoods Project, for an illustrated presentation about their newly launched endeavor: [OpenSFHistory.org](http://OpenSFHistory.org). This new web portal presents the results of a huge and ongoing volunteer effort to archive and make public over 100,000 historical images of San Francisco amassed over decades by a private collector. The slideshow will present many high resolution gems of the collection and highlight the process of bringing them to the public.

**Reservations Required. Members & Public Free**



Friday, May 20 | noon

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## Writers' Lunch | Jessica Levine on *Turning Life Into Fiction*



Personal experience has always functioned as a source of inspiration for fiction writers. But it can be an obstacle when we remain too attached to factual veracity or if self-revelation is uncomfortable. How can we move beyond what we know in order to create fiction? How do we draw from raw experience characters, stories, and situations enabling resolutions that escape us in life? When fact resists being transformed into fiction, what methods can a writer use to overcome that resistance? Drawing on her work as a novelist and an Edith Wharton scholar, Jessica Levine will discuss the alchemy of turning autobiographical material into fiction.

*The Writers' Lunch is a casual brown-bag lunch activity on the 3rd Friday of each 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.*

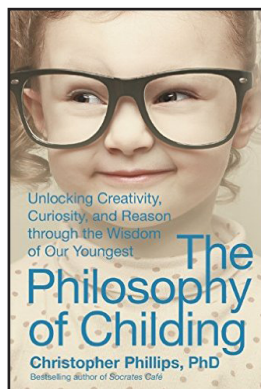
**No Reservations Required. MI Members Only; Free**

Monday, May 23 | 12:30pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## Learn from Children? | Christopher Phillips in conversation with Ralph Lewin

Join Christopher Phillips in conversation with Ralph Lewin as they talk about Phillips's latest book, *The Philosophy of Childing: Unlocking Creativity, Curiosity and Reason Through the Wisdom of Our Youngest*. Phillips weaves together philosophy, social science, and the latest in neuroscience research. He takes a radically different approach revealing how rather than lapse into adulthood, we can achieve what the Greeks call *arête*—all-around excellence—when we look to children and youth as a lodestar for our development.

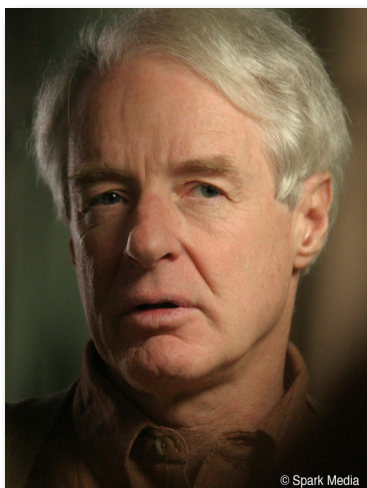


**Reservations Required. Members Free; Public \$15**

Wednesday, May 25 | 6pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## Meet the Author | *Spain in Our Hearts: Americans in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939* co-sponsored by Humanities West



We're accustomed to remembering the Spanish Civil War through Hemingway's novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, George Orwell's memoirs, and Robert Capa's photographs. Adam Hochschild offers a fascinating account of the Americans who traveled to Spain to help its democratic government fight off Francisco Franco's fascist uprising. "All of us who care about social justice feel a need for political ancestors," Hochschild writes, "and surely, it seems, that's what these [volunteers] were." Here are the stories of idealism and suffering for a noble cause.

**Reservations Required. Members of Mechanics' Institute and Humanities West Free; Public \$15**

# CinemaLit *Idol Worship*

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

Fridays | 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM | Café opens at 5:30pm | Program at 6pm

Reservations Required | Members Free | Public Suggested Donation \$10



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**May 6**

**The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex (1939) 106 min**

**Directed by Michael Curtiz**

**Starring Bette Davis, Errol Flynn**

Bette Davis was a courageous actress. She plucked her eyebrows, shaved her forehead, and allowed bags to be drawn under her eyes as she played the aging Queen Elizabeth opposite a young Errol Flynn as Lord Essex. Davis may not be beautiful, but she's a convincing ruler, and Errol Flynn is perfect as her dashing, dangerously ambitious lover. Supporting actors include Olivia de Havilland, Vincent Price, and Alan Hale in this lavish Technicolor film.

**May 13**

**The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance (1962) 123 min**

**Directed by John Ford**

**Starring Jimmy Stewart, John Wayne**

In the frontier town of Shinbone, Senator Ransom Stoddard, famous as "the man who shot Liberty Valance," pauses on his way to a funeral to explain to a reporter why he and his wife have made the long journey from Washington. Reality and legend collide in the extended flashback that reveals the truth. Jimmy Stewart is the civilized Ransom Stoddard, and John Wayne is the rancher Tom Doniphon, a man of the Old West.



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**May 20**

**Ray (2004) 152 min**

**Directed by Taylor Hackford**

**Starring Jamie Foxx, Kerry Washington**

Ray Charles was a man of such tremendous talent, energy and appetites it would take an actor of extraordinary gifts just to keep up with him. Jamie Foxx more than delivers, with an electrifying performance in a film that handles the tragedies of Charles' life, - poverty, addiction, and blindness - without bathos or sugarcoating. Ray Charles provided the vocals, but viewers are likely to forget that they are not watching the man himself perform.



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## CinemaLit Season Finale

**May 27**

**Dishonored (1931) 92 min**

**Directed by Josef von Sternberg**

**Starring Marlene Dietrich, Victor McLaglen**

Josef von Sternberg's pre-code film draws heavily on the legend of Mata Hari, but Marlene Dietrich's version is far more accomplished and glamorous than that ill-fated spy. How can any secrets be safe from a siren who drives men mad merely by lighting a cigarette? "I am not afraid of life or death," she declares early in this film, and by its hard punch of an ending, the audience believes it.



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copyright Universal Pictures

**Special Guest C.W. Gortner, author of *Marlene***

Marlene Dietrich set the world on fire with her bedroom eyes, trademark top hat and tails, sultry voice and inscrutable manner. In this biographical novel, the mink stoles, the Lanvin gowns, the androgynous suits are all put away, and the true spirit of one of Hollywood's alluring legends is unveiled. *Marlene* is an insightful, enthralling account of a woman of grit, glamour and ambition; a soul who defied convention and forged her own path.





# Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

## MR. TUESDAY NIGHT MARATHON



Peter Grey playing in the first round of the Winter Tuesday Night Marathon on January 5th, 2016. (Used by permission, copyright Armen Boldi)

The weekly Tuesday Night Marathon is the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club's most successful tournament, averaging over 125 entries per event in 2016. Rapid growth during the past few years has made it the largest weeknight tournament in the country, with players of all ages (6 to 86) and backgrounds coming to the Mechanics' each week. This is a dramatic transformation from the T.N.M.'s humble beginnings in the early 1970s. One player saw these changes close up.

Peter Grey (1935 - 2016), who passed away in early April, moved from the Midwest to San Francisco in the mid-1960s and quickly made the Mechanics' his home. Well-liked for his pleasant personality and even temperament, Peter quickly made many friends and became a fixture at the Mechanics' – in both the Chess Club and Library. He used the Library's chess book and periodical collection to keep abreast of trends in opening theory.

Peter was not only ranked as a National Master by the U.S. Chess Federation, but was a keen student of the game, and loved its history. This combination of passion and knowledge helped when Peter assisted George Koltanowski in preparing his daily chess column for the San Francisco Chronicle – which ran for over 50 years. Peter was a key helper to George in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Peter played weekend tournaments at the Mechanics', but his favorite event was unquestionably the Tuesday Night Marathon. You could count on both hands the number of games Peter missed in over 40 years of playing in these events. A conservative estimate has him playing over 1500 games! The Tuesday Night Marathon series and the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will not be the same without him.

## MAY CHESS ACTIVITIES

### Chess for Women

Sundays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Taught by Ewelina Krubnik**

### Tournaments

Saturday, May 7  
10:00 am – 8:00 pm  
**14th Annual Charles Powell  
Memorial G/45**

Sunday, May 15  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
**10th Ray Schutt Memorial Blitz**

### Tuesday Night Events

May 3, 24, 31  
5:15 pm - 6:15 pm  
**Lecture by John Donaldson**

### Tuesday Night Events (cont'd)

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm  
**Spring & Summer Tuesday Night  
Marathons**

### Wednesday Night Blitz

May 11, 18, 25  
6:30 pm – 8:50 pm  
**Directed by Jules Jelinek**

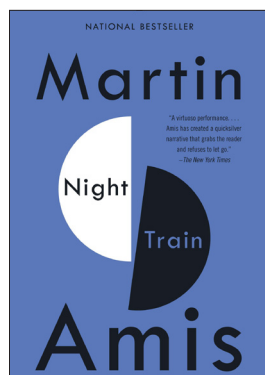
### Saturday Morning All Ages Chess Class

May 7, 14, 21, 28  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
**Taught by International Master  
Elliott Winslow**



Pictured above are a few of the participants in the 2016 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship with MI executive director Ralph Lewin and Derick Brown from the Mayor's Office. They are holding the Certificate of Honor issued to the Mechanics' Institute by Mayor Lee for holding the event, which drew 300 participants for our annual March tournament at the County Fair Building.

# Book Discussion Groups



## Brown Bag Mystery Readers

**Monday, May 9 | noon** 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

**Night Train** BY MARTIN AMIS

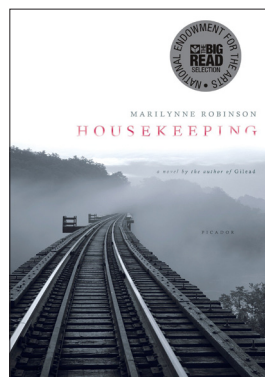
Former homicide officer Mike Hoolihan is called in by her mentor, Colonel Tom Rockwell, to investigate the suspicious suicide of his daughter. As details are uncovered, the case becomes more and more suspect. This book has much in common with the traditional detective novel – the autopsy, the interviews – but this detective story is turned on its head as the facts pile up and the meaning of the tragedy unfolds. The *New York Times* says, "A virtuoso performance.... Amis has created a quicksilver narrative that grabs the reader and refuses to let go."

## World Literature Book Group

**Wednesday, May 11 | 6:45 pm** 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

**Housekeeping** BY MARILYNNE ROBINSON

When Marilynne Robinson published this novel in 1980, she was hailed as one of the defining American writers of her generation. *Housekeeping* is the story of Ruthie, a friendless child living in a remote town, orphaned, and with no one but her sister Lucille and their grandmother to turn to. For the *New York Times*, Anatole Broyard wrote, "It's as if, in writing it, [Robinson] broke through the ordinary human condition with all its dissatisfactions, and achieved a kind of transfiguration." For over 35 years, the critic's enthusiasm for this novel has been shared by the literary establishment and readers alike.



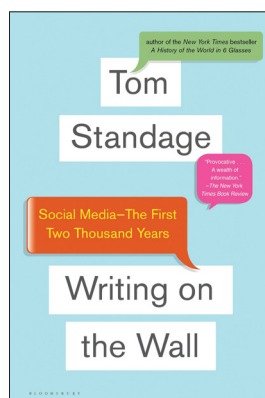
## Vérité Book Group + Non-Fiction Online Book Group

**Wednesday, May 18 | 5:30 pm** 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

Also meets online all month at [www.milibrary.org/bookgroup](http://www.milibrary.org/bookgroup)

**Writing on the Wall: Social Media — the First 2,000 Years** BY TOM STANDAGE

Social media is anything but a new phenomenon. From the papyrus letters that Cicero and other Roman statesmen used to exchange news, to the hand-printed tracts of the Reformation and the pamphlets that spread propaganda during the American and French revolutions, the ways people shared information with their peers in the past are echoed in the present. ...the Internet has spawned a reemergence of social media as a powerful new way for individuals to share information, driving public discourse in new ways... *Writing on the Wall* draws on history to cast provocative new light on today's social media and encourages debate and discussion about how we'll communicate in the future. [source: Bloomsbury USA, publisher]

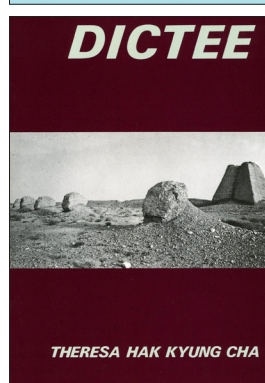


## World Literature Book Group

**Wednesday, May 25 | 6:45 pm** 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

**Dictée** BY THERESA HAK CHYUNG CHA

A classic work of autobiography that transcends the self, *Dictée* is the story of several women: the Korean revolutionary Yu Guan Soon, Joan of Arc, Demeter and Persephone, Cha's mother Hyung Soon Huo (a Korean born in Manchuria to first-generation Korean exiles), and Cha herself. The element that unites these women is suffering and the transcendence of suffering. The book is divided into nine parts structured around the Greek Muses. Cha deploys a variety of texts, documents, images, and forms of address and inquiry to explore issues of dislocation and the fragmentation of memory. The result is a work of power, complexity, and enduring beauty. [source: University of California Press, publisher]



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. 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.

# Classes at the Library

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



## **Strategies for Finding Information on Private Companies**

**Thursday, May 5 | 12:15 pm** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Finding information about public companies can be a cakewalk. For private companies, this same task can be a challenge. This tutorial demonstrates to attendees various free and private web-based resources that access relevant information on these elusive organizations.

**Reservations required. Members only; Free**

## **Second Tuesday TED Talk**

**Tuesday, May 10 | 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. **Walk-ins Welcome. Members only; Free**

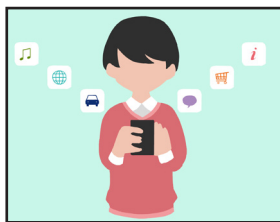


## **Become an Email Hero with Methods for Achieving Inbox Zero**

**Wednesday, May 18 | noon** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

**Wednesday, May 25 | 6:00pm** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Email is a big part of our lives and our workdays, and many are looking for new ways to organize our inboxes and keep them organized. Find out about methods for sorting and processing emails, and bring your own questions on how to manage your inbox. **Reservations required. Members only; Free**



## **Value Line Resource Center: The Road to Smarter Investing**

**Thursday, May 19 | 12:15 pm** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Explore the proprietary content of Value Line's dynamic platform with myriad analytical tools and expert guidance. Learn about Value Line's ranking system for timeliness, safety, and financial strength of specific stocks. Put this leading authoritative investment information resource covering over 3,000 publicly traded companies to work for you.

**Reservations required. Members only; Free**



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## Mechanics' Institute Night Tour

**Monday, May 9, 6:00pm, MEET ON THE THIRD 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, had started a chess club, and had developed 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 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.



**No reservations required. Free to Members and the Public**



# From the Blog [www.milibrary.org/blog](http://www.milibrary.org/blog)

On our website, you'll find new titles and staff picks, plus articles on our archives and activities, behind the scenes info, book reviews, and updates on fundraising efforts to keep the MI strong.



Larkin Street, 1906 (from Mechanics' Institute Archives)

Here's a sampling of recent articles from the blog:

## **"Taking a Close Look at One of the Library's Nine Endowed Book Funds" by Librarian/Collections Manager Craig Jackson**

Book endowments are essential to keeping our collection strong, varied, and up-to-date. Understand how they supplement the Library's book budget.

## **"The Chess Club's Devoted Servant" by Chess Director John Donaldson, International Grand Master**

Max Wilkerson was a strong chess player, an artist, and a gentleman. Find out more about this beloved MI Chess Director.

## **"San Francisco is No More" -- A New Archival Display" by Library Manager/Archivist Diane Lai**

Learn about the 2nd floor display of 1906 photographs, books, and ephemera from the MI Archives – then visit the Library to take a look.

Find out more about Mechanics' Institute through the lens of staff members by checking our blog regularly!



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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

## **What Would James Do?** by Ralph Lewin, Executive Director of the Mechanics' Institute

How many of us know a story of someone who came to San Francisco to reinvent themselves? Some of these people strike it rich, others just get by, and still others head back home. One of the reinvention stories that fascinates me is James Lick's.

Here's a guy who leaves his hometown after a failed relationship, spending time in Argentina and works as a piano maker. When he arrives in San Francisco, he invests in all the right places and becomes one of the largest land holders in California. At the end of his life, he considers what to do with his fortune. He briefly considers building a huge pyramid in his own honor to dominate the San Francisco skyline, but ultimately decides to distribute his wealth amongst institutions that helped shape who he became and those he believed to be important to the fabric of society, including – what would translate to more than \$200,000 in today's dollars – a gift to the Mechanics' Institute.

I like James Lick's vision, his commitment to the places that helped sustain him. Mechanics' Institute's James Lick Legacy Society is composed of people who share this vision – those who want to ensure that the Mechanics' Institute continues our work for the benefit of future generations.

As you contemplate your own legacy, please consider the Mechanics' Institute. We've established a guide to help at [www.milibrary.org/give/estate](http://www.milibrary.org/give/estate), and you can reach out to me at [rl Lewin@milibrary.org](mailto:rl Lewin@milibrary.org) or 415.393.0117 to discuss membership in the James Lick Legacy Society.



57 Post St (from Mechanics' Institute Archives)

## **Save the Date**

**June 1 The Brazen Age: New York City and the American Empire: Politics, Art, and Bohemia**  
**June 16 Bloomsday Noon!**