



Voices of the Easter Rising 1916

A Theatrical Evening of Irish Poetry, Stories and Song



Mechanics' Institute is pleased to co-sponsor this program with the Irish-American Crossroads Festival, Irish Literary and Historical Society, Humanities West and Irish Consulate

Thursday, April 28 | 7:00 pm; doors open at 6:00 pm
2ND FLOOR LIBRARY

This evening of readings – staged especially for the centennial – expresses the passions of poets, protesters, and activists in the quest for independence. Hear inspiring passages by playwright Sean O'Casey and other political leaders, poems by Patrick Pearse and William Butler Yeats, stories by rebel fighters Margaret Skinnider and Countess Markievicz, and the songs that brought them all

together. The cast includes Bruce Bierman, Howard Dillon, John Ilyin, Esther Mulligan, Melanie O'Reilly, Josiah Polhemus, Laura Sheppard, and musicians Anne Bingham Goess (fiddle/whistle), Lara Garner (harp/bodhran), and Jason Pollack (flute/whistle). Dramaturgy and direction by Hal Gelb.

Reservations required. Free to Members of the Mechanics' Institute, Members of the Irish Literary and Historical Society, donors to Irish American Crossroads Festival, and Members of Humanities West; Public \$15 | Register at milibrary.org/events or 415.393.0102

A few individuals whose voices will be dramatized: Countess Markievicz (top), William Butler Yeats (bottom left), and Patrick Pearse (bottom right)



Looking Forward: Humanities West at Marines Memorial Theater in May

Friday and Saturday, May 6-7

MARINES MEMORIAL THEATER

609 SUTTER ST (AT MASON)

The Celts: History, Culture, Legend

This symposium features history, art, music, and literature about Celtic history beginning with pre-Roman Europe to the contemporary era.

For more information visit: www.humanitieswest.org

Programs

Thursday, April 7 | 6pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

At the Existentialist Café: Freedom, Being, and Apricot Cocktails

Sarah Bakewell in conversation with Dr. Mark Calkins

Paris, 1933: three contemporaries meet over apricot cocktails at the Bec-de-Gaz bar on the rue Montparnasse. They are the young Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and longtime friend Raymond Aron, a fellow philosopher excited about a new conceptual framework called Phenomenology. Interweaving biography and philosophy, author Sarah Bakewell offers an epic account of passionate encounters—fights, love affairs, mentorships, and long partnerships—and a vital investigation into what the existentialists have to offer us today.

Reservations Required. Members Free; Public \$15

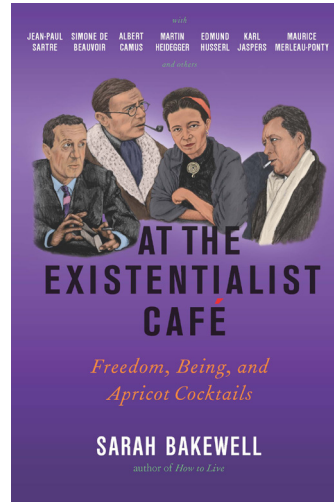


photo: Tundi Eugenia Haulik

Thursday, April 14 | 3pm - 4pm

UC BERKELEY ART MUSEUM AND PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE | 2155 CENTER ST, BERKELEY

(ONE BLOCK FROM THE DOWNTOWN BERKELEY BART STATION)

MEET OUTSIDE THE MAIN ENTRANCE AT 2:45 PM.

Tour of the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA)

BAMPFA

Join us for a tour of BAMPFA's new building and its inaugural exhibition, *Architecture of Life*. Totalling 83,000 square feet, the new BAMPFA, designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, combines serene spaces for viewing art and film with public areas that will inspire you with their fresh, imaginative design. Occupying every gallery in the new building, *Architecture of Life* explores the ways architecture illuminates life. The exhibit comprises over two hundred works of art in a wide range of media, as well as scientific illustrations and architectural drawings and models made over the past two thousand years.

Reservations Required. MI Members Only; \$10

Friday, April 15 | noon

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Writers' Lunch: Malay Jalundhwala Demonstrates Scrivener

Join us for another Writers' Lunch! MI member Malay Jalundhwala will demonstrate *Scrivener*: writing software that helps you plan, structure, research, write and revise your fiction and non-fiction work. You will see key features of *Scrivener* in action – binder, outliner, cork board and more – and learn how to apply these to your own process. Even if you are an existing *Scrivener* user, you may discover new possibilities. Whether you write short or long works - find out how this tool can transform your writing process and help you create your next masterpiece!



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



Saturday, April 16 | 1pm - 4pm

4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

Writing and Performing a 10-Minute Play with Helen Noakes

A ten minute play is over in a flash but can resonate powerfully if well done. Join Mechanics' Institute member and playwright Helen Noakes in this afternoon workshop where she will teach you the craft's basics, then set you free in groups to develop your play.

We will write, perform, and critique in a group setting each other's short plays, giving positive feedback and gaining writing skills for maximum impact. Gain a glimpse into the process and have fun!

Reservations Required. MI Members Only; \$10

Friday, April 22 | 3pm

HAAS-LILIENTHAL HOUSE | 2007 FRANKLIN ST (BETWEEN WASHINGTON & JACKSON)

MEET AT THE HAAS-LILIENTHAL HOUSE AT 2:45 PM.

Tour of the Haas-Lilienthal House

Love Victorian San Francisco? Come tour the Haas-Lilienthal House, the only period era home in the city which is open to the public. Designed by Peter R. Schmidt in the Queen Anne style, the house beautifully exemplifies upper-middle class life in the Victorian era. Check out the authentic furniture, wallpaper, artifacts, and the romantic corner tower!

Reservations Required. MI Members Only; \$12

Please note, the Haas-Lilienthal House is an historic structure that is not yet ADA compliant. Guests must be able to navigate staircases and small spaces.



Wednesday, April 20 | 6 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

The Emperor's Ride: Notes on a Famous Photograph

In 1869, San Francisco was in the throes of a "velocipede" mania. Hundreds of citizens flocked to the Velocipede Training School, located in the Mechanics' Pavilion that stood on part of today's Union Square, to learn how to ride and to participate or watch competitions. The Grand Velocipede Tournament, held in April 1869, was the zenith of this young cycling culture. It attracted the curious, the strong, and two important personages who realized its historical significance: the eccentric Emperor Norton and the photographer Eadweard Muybridge. Join the Mechanics' Institute and the Emperor's Bridge Campaign for a free lecture about this moment in time.

Reservations Required. Members and Public Free



CinemaLit *Alan Rickman: A Life in Pictures*

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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

Members Free | Public Suggested Donation \$10



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April 1

Quigley Down Under (1990) 119 min

Directed by Simon Wincer

Tom Selleck, Laura San Giacomo

Tom Selleck plays an American sharpshooter, Matthew Quigley, who balks when he learns he's been hired by an Australian cattle baron to shoot, not dingoes, but Aborigines. No villain played by Alan Rickman takes this kind of refusal gracefully. The resulting war of wills includes shootouts, horses, dingoes, and a dotty lady-in-distress played by Laura San Giacomo. Rickman's smooth villainy, Selleck's charm, and the beauties of the outback make this film a truly enjoyable ride.



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April 8

Sense and Sensibility (1995) 136 min

Directed by Ang Lee

Emma Thompson, Kate Winslet

When this movie was made, Alan Rickman was already well known as a player of villains, so it was refreshing to see him cast as a romantic interest in this excellent Jane Austen adaptation. The death of their father has cast Elinor and Marianne Dashwood financially adrift and in need of husbands willing to overlook their lack of fortune. Emma Thompson is Elinor, the sister of "sense," while Kate Winslet plays "sensibility," the romantic Marianne.



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April 15

Blow Dry (2001) 90 min

With special guest Jeffrey Anderson, film critic for the SF Examiner

Directed by Paddy Breathnach

Alan Rickman, Natasha Richardson

When his ex-wife asks Phil Allen to team with her and her partner, Sandra, in the British Hairdressing Championship, he refuses. Ten years ago, his wife eloped with Sandra, and Phil still holds a grudge. But Phil's son joins his mother's team, and Shelley is keeping a secret that may cause Phil himself to change his mind. Alan Rickman as Phil is backed up by an excellent cast that includes Natasha Richardson and Bill Nighy.



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April 22

A Little Chaos (2014) 117 min

Directed by Alan Rickman

Kate Winslet, Matthias Schoenaerts

Rickman directed and acted in this charming historical fable set in the reign of Louis XIV. Sabine (Kate Winslet) is a talented landscape designer chosen to build a garden in the new palace at Versailles. She must not only surmount class and gender barriers, but negotiate the complicated rivalries of the French court. Rickman plays Louis XIV with his signature dry wit, and offers up a floral feast for the eyes in this lavish production.



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April 29

Michael Collins (1996) 132 min

Directed by Neil Jordan

Liam Neeson, Aidan Quinn

In this biopic of the IRA co-founder Michael Collins, Rickman plays Éamon de Valera as a man who begins as Collins' revolutionary ally and ends as his philosophical opponent. Covering the end of the Easter Rising to Collins' assassination in 1920, this movie was the highest grossing film ever in Ireland on its release in 1996, surpassed only by *Titanic* four years later. Both its cinematography and score were nominated for Oscars.

Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

AN OLD-SCHOOL CHESS LEAGUE IN HIGH-TECH SAN FRANCISCO

Europe is home to hundreds of leagues, which are the heart of organized chess for amateurs and professionals all over the continent. For face-to-face chess, players in the U.S. flock to the Chicago Industrial Chess League and New York's Bankers League (founded in the late 1950s and in 1917, respectively).

Along the lines of these two leagues, the Mechanics' Institute is in the process of forming an employee-based team competition in the heart of the Bay Area's high tech community.

On February 18th, six teams met at the Mechanics' in a prequel to a full-fledged league. The top team by rating was LiveRamp, with near-2300 masters Tenzing Shaw and James Sun on the top boards. They defeated Dropbox, which fielded strong Experts and Class A players, by a score of 3-1. As evidenced in the event photos by Kyle Ong, the formation of this league is off to a great start!



all photos used by permission, copyright Kyle Ong

If you're interested in joining this new league, please contact Chess Room Director John Donaldson at jdonaldson@chessclub.org, or via telephone at 415.393.0110.



APRIL

CHESS ACTIVITIES

Chess for Women

Sundays, April 3, 10, 17, 24
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Taught by Ewelina Krubnik

Tournaments

Saturday, April 9

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

**16th Annual Imre Konig Memorial
G/45**

Tuesday Night Events

April 5, 12, 19, 26

5:15 pm - 6:15 pm

Lecture by John Donaldson

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Spring Tuesday Night Marathon

Wednesday Night Blitz

April 6, 13, 20, 27

6:30 pm – 8:50 pm

Directed by Jules Jelinek

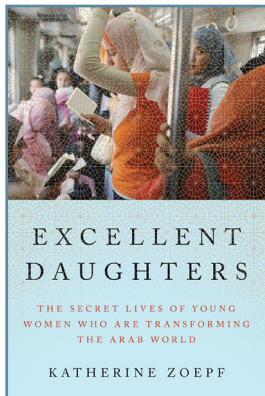
Saturday Morning All Ages Chess Class

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Taught by International Master
Elliott Winslow**

Book Discussion Groups



Vérité Book Group + Non-Fiction Online Book Group

Wednesday, April 20 | 5:30 pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

Also meets online all month at www.milibrary.org/bookgroup

Excellent Daughters: The Secret Lives of Young Women Who Are Transforming the Arab World BY KATHERINE ZOEPPF

Katherine Zoepf has lived in or traveled throughout the Arab world for more than a decade, reporting on the lives of women. This book presents their stories and provides a platform for the women themselves to speak to what they hold most dear, from religion to revolution – and in many cases, we see a powerful and revelatory fusion of strongly held convictions. Participate in discussion of this book in person, online, or both!

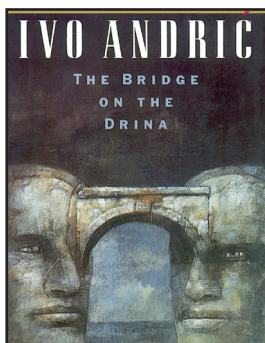


Brown Bag Mystery Readers

Monday, April 11 | noon 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

The Blank Wall BY ELISABETH SANXAY HOLDING

In this psychological thriller, a suburban matron dealing with domestic problems finds herself implicated in the murder of her young daughter's love interest. The *Daily Telegraph* says that "the mix of the everyday and the extraordinary is deft... A most welcome return to print." Raymond Chandler was a fan, Holding has been compared to the incomparable Patricia Highsmith, and the novel was filmed as *The Reckless Moment* in 1949 and as *The Deep End* in 2001. A complex, tense, page-turner, this is a must-read for mystery fans.



World Literature Book Group

Wednesdays, April 13 & 27 | 6:45 pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

The Bridge on the Drina BY IVO ANDRIĆ

This novel depicts the suffering imposed upon the people of Bosnia from the late 16th century to the beginning of World War I. As William H. McNeill states in the introduction, "It is an intellectual and emotional adventure to encounter the Ottoman world through Andrić's pages in its grandiose beginning and at its tottering finale. It is, in short, a marvelous work, a masterpiece, and very much sui generis."



Windows on the World: Writing Beyond the West

Thursday, April 21 | 5:00 - 6:30 pm 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM B

IRAQI WRITERS

- Hassan Blasim [pictured]: "A Thousand and One Knives" from *The Corpse Exhibition*
- Sinan Antoon: excerpt from *I'jaam*
- Samira Al-Mana: "The Soul" and Mahmoud Saeed: "A Figure in Repose" from *Contemporary Iraqi Fiction*

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THIS READING/STUDY SERIES

More Book Group News... COMING SOON: SUMMER READING

Graphic Novel Club

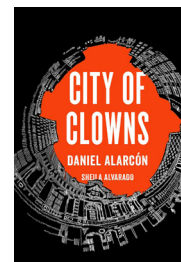
Date/Time/Location TBD

Beginning in June, we will offer a summer-long graphic novels book group. Stay tuned for details! Contact Heather with questions, and to assert your vote for a daytime or evening meeting: hterrell@milibrary.org or 415.857.6727. We'll be reading:

This One Summer BY MARIKO TAMAKI, JILLIAN TAMAKI

Ms. Marvel BY G. WILLOW WILSON

City of Clowns BY DANIEL ALARCÓN



IN FULL SWING: PROUST GROUP

The Proust Group, led by Dr. Mark Calkins, is currently reading *In Search of Lost Time, Volume 4: Sodom and Gomorrah*. The semester began March 9th. Look for next semester's registration beginning in August, at www.milibrary.org/events.

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, or visit milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings. A copy of each book is available at the 2nd floor Circulation desk.

Classes at the Library

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



Investment Information on the Web

Thursday, April 7 | 12:15 pm 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Attendees will learn how to access investment information focused on publicly traded companies and mutual funds, as well as industry surveys, company profiles, corporate developments, earnings prospects, stock rating services and screeners, trading statistics and financial reports – using various websites as well as the library's investment-related subscription databases.

Reservations required. Members only; Free.



Second Tuesday TED Talk

Tuesday, April 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.

Walk-ins Welcome. Members only; Free.



Grow Your Family Tree: Ancestry Library Edition

Thursday, April 14 | 6:00 pm 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

The Ancestry database provides access to billions of records in census data, vital records, directories, photos, and more. The class will provide tips on searching, how to download records, and plenty of time for hands-on practice. Participants are welcome to bring their own laptop, iPad, or similar WiFi-enabled device.

Reservations required. Members only; Free.



Exploring Hoover's – a Truly Global Company Resource

Thursday, April 21 | 12:15 pm 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Looking for timely business information, developing a list of key contacts for sales or as a potential employer, researching competitive intelligence, or grasping industry developments? Be sure to include Hoover's in your research efforts. Learn how to access information on a specific company, or how to generate a list of companies that meet specified criteria.

Reservations required. Members only; Free.



Library Downloads Workshop: eBooks, eMagazines, eAudiobooks

Thursday, April 21 | 4:00 - 6:00 pm 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

The Mechanics' Institute Library 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, have your questions answered, and get started downloading eBooks, eMagazines, and eAudiobooks.

Reservations required. Members only; Free.



Deal or Dud? Tools for Smarter Shopping

Thursday, April 28 | noon 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

With any purchase big or small, how do you know you're getting the best deal around? Whether you want to track your fitness (can't decide between fitbits?) or buy a laptop that lasts, this class will show you the most reliable consumer resources and tools that will help you spend wisely and become a savvy shopper.

Reservations required. Members only; Free.

ZYZZYVA Spring Issue Celebration

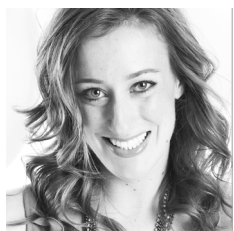
Hosted by Managing Editor Oscar Villalon

Thursday, April 21 | 6 pm

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Come celebrate ZYZZYVA's Spring/Summer issue at ZYZZYVA's new home in the Mechanics' Institute building. Issue No. 106 contributors Dallas Woodburn, Paul Wilner, Mauro Javier Cardenas, Ashley Nelson Levy, and Soma Mei Sheng Frazier will read from their work.

Reservations Required. MI Members and ZYZZYVA Readers Free; Public \$15



MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
LIBRARY & CHESS ROOM

57 Post Street, San Francisco,
CA 94104

www.milibrary.org

Important Numbers

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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

Magazine Sale

BEGINNING APRIL 1

Find back issues of everything from ARTnews to ZYZZYVA!

It's back! The artist, the chef, and the armchair traveler haven't been the only ones waiting for the annual magazine sale. There will be titles to please the poet, the genealogist, and the home carpenter too. Beginning April 1st, sift through bundles of magazines available for purchase on the 3rd floor of the library. Come early, come often, and bring a sturdy bag to take home your favorite titles as well as new discoveries. Buy as many as you can carry – proceeds benefit the library!

