

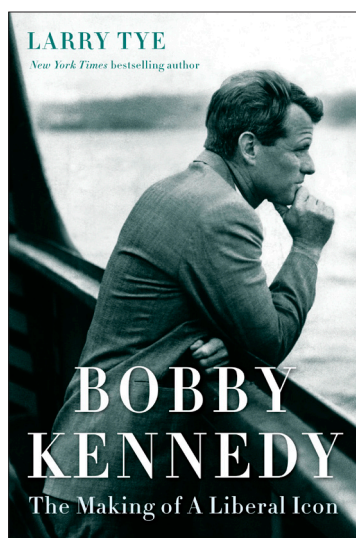


Bobby Kennedy: The Making of a Liberal Icon co-sponsored with Irish Literary & Historical Society

Author Larry Tye in conversation with journalist Martin Nolan

Tuesday, August 16, 12:30 pm

4th floor meeting room | café opens at noon



Larry Tye is a *New York Times* bestselling author whose most recent book is a biography of Robert F. Kennedy, the former attorney general, U.S. senator, and presidential candidate. Tye explores RFK's life and times, and his extraordinary transformation from cold war warrior to fiery leftist and fighter for justice and equality.

Robert Kennedy began his public life as counsel to the red-baiting senator Joseph McCarthy. He ended it with a noble campaign to unite working-class whites and poor. Author Larry Tye draws on access granted to him by the Kennedy family and others, including unpublished memoirs, interviews with RFK intimates, and

unreleased government files. The result is a book that will stand as the definitive biography of a man much beloved, but just as often misunderstood.

Free to Members of Mechanics' Institute and Irish Literary & Historical Society | Public \$15

Register at milibrary.org/events or 415.393.0102

Volunteer at Mechanics' Institute

Do you enjoy Mechanics' Institute events, meetings, movies and parties? Consider signing up as a volunteer for events. It's a great way to contribute to a wonderful institution and the cultural life of our community. Volunteers get the opportunity to work closely with staff, engage with other Institute members and the public, meet the authors and speakers, and have an inside view of event production. To find out more about volunteer opportunities, contact Pamela Troy, Events Assistant/CinemaLit Coordinator at rsvp@milibrary.org, or 415-393-0116.



Events volunteer Mitzi Wortman greets attendees of the Bloomsday noon program.

Programs at the Mechanics'

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

Monday, August 8 | 6:00 pm | 3RD FLOOR LIBRARY
Mechanics' Institute Tour @ Night



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 in such subjects as mechanical drawing, industrial design, electrical science, and applied mathematics; had started a chess club; and had acquired 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 events 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 historic 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. MI Members and Public Free

Friday, August 19 | noon | 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Writers' Lunch

Reinventing Yourself as a Writer in an Age of Disruption: 10 Commandments That Guarantee Your Success with Michael Larsen



Calling all writers and bloggers! Bring your lunch, and join us and author coach Michael Larsen for a chat about the "Ten Commandments" that will transform your writing and your career. You will learn how to use your passion and devotion to the trinities of content, communication, and sustainability to become a successful writer faster and more easily than ever. Registrants will receive more than 50 pages of handouts. Michael Larsen is an author coach and co-director of the San Francisco Writers Conference and the San Francisco Writing for Change Conference.

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

Thursday, August 25 | 1:45 - 4:00 pm

OFFSITE: GATHER AT LANDS END LOOKOUT VISITOR CENTER, 680 POINT LOBOS AVE, SAN FRANCISCO

MEET AT 1:45PM. TOUR STARTS AT 2:00PM

Walking Tour: Lands End



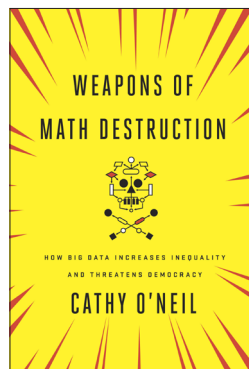
Join historian John A. Martini and discover this part of the city's storied past on a 2-hour walk exploring Adolph Sutro's vanished seaside recreation attractions at Lands End. Explore the ruins of Sutro Baths, retrace the route of the Ferries & Cliff House Railroad, learn about shipwrecks at the Golden Gate, and discover the faded glory of Sutro's once-lavish private estate at Sutro Heights. Wear good hiking shoes. There are some steep uphill sections of trail.

John Martini is a native San Franciscan who worked as a national park ranger for more than 25 years. He completed his long career with the National Park Service at the Presidio of San Francisco where he served as curator of military history. A noted historian, he is the author of many articles and several books, including *Sutro's Glass Palace: The Story of Sutro Baths*.

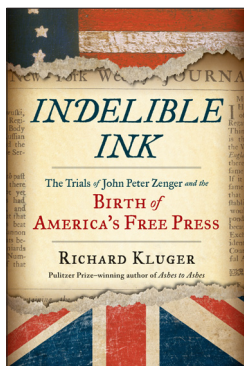
Reservations required. MI Members \$10; Public \$15

Events: Fall Preview

As we enter the pre-election season this September, events will focus on Voices and Choices of Democracy. Author events and conversations will reflect on the landmarks and hallmarks of democracy, as well as current issues and trends. Watch for these upcoming programs!



Wednesday, September 14 Author **Cathy O'Neil** discusses her book, *Weapons of Math Destruction*, which explores the impact of algorithms and the collection and use of data that affect every aspect of daily life. Is metadata creating inequality? How does data collection influence personal choices, social status, and politics on the ground?



Thursday, September 22 Local author **Richard Kluger** gives an historical view of the first free press, the movers and shakers of this movement, and the importance of this American ideal today, in discussion of his book, *Indelible Ink: The Trials of John Peter Zenger and the Birth of the American Free Press*.

CinemaLit *Hot Summer Nights*

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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

Members Free | Public Suggested Donation \$10



Images used by permission. *Our Man in Havana* (above) courtesy Columbia Pictures. *Evita* (below) courtesy Walt Disney.



August 5

Our Man in Havana (1959) 111 min.

DIRECTED BY CAROL REED

Starring Alec Guinness, Noel Coward

James Wormold is not James Bond material. He's a vacuum salesman adrift in pre-revolutionary Cuba, struggling to support himself and his teenage daughter. When he's approached in a bar by an MI6 agent, hustled into the bathroom and recruited as a spy, he can hardly refuse. What follows is part spoof, part deadpan commentary on the innate absurdity of espionage. Alec Guinness, Noel Coward, Ernie Kovacs and Burl Ives shine in this sardonic cold-war comedy.

August 19

Evita (1996) 134 min.

DIRECTED BY ALAN PARKER

Starring Madonna, Antonio Banderas

This bravura filmed version of the stage musical by Rice-Webber stars Madonna as the legendary Eva Peron, the Argentine first lady who started out life poor and illegitimate and rose to be one of the most loved and hated women in Argentina. Madonna lends her iconic charisma to the role, with the wonderful Jonathan Pryce as a surprisingly poignant Juan Peron. Antonio Banderas offers a necessary, powerful and skeptical political counterpoint as Che.

CinemaLit Fall Preview

Paralleling Fall's political mood, CinemaLit will dedicate the month of September to "Rights & Fights," and October to "Election Fever," with films like *Suffragette*, starring Carey Mulligan, and *The Best Man* starring Henry Fonda. Watch for two upcoming books of interest including film writer and critic David Thomson's book, *Television, a Biography* and Shawn Levy's *Dolce Vita Confidential: Fellini, Loren, Pucci, Paparazzi, and the Swinging High Life of 1950s Rome*.



Images used by permission. *Suffragette* (L) courtesy Focus Features. *The Best Man* (R) courtesy Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.



Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

Kondakov Gains on International Masters

Charles Bagby Memorial Recap

International Masters Ricardo de Guzman and Cyrus Lakdawala tied for first in the 16th Charles Bagby Memorial held July 10th at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, but the real story was 8-year-old Adrian Kondakov who was only half a point behind.

The East Bay youngster scored an undefeated 4-1, drawing with National Master Romy Fuentes in the last round. This result will push Adrian's rating over 1900, making him the top-rated player in the United States under nine. He and his younger sister Elena are regular participants in the Mechanics' Tuesday Night Marathon tournaments.



Adrian Kondakov
Photo: Berkeley
Chess School

From the Blog

Check out posts by Chess Room Director John Donaldson, Chess Coordinator Paul Whitehead, and Grandmaster-in-Residence Nick De Firmian at milibrary.org/blog. Recent posts include "The Magician From Riga", "Bobby Fischer and the M.I. Chess Club", and "An Educational Trend: Chess in Schools".

AUGUST EVENTS

Chess for Women

SUNDAYS, AUGUST 7, 14, 21, 28
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
TAUGHT BY EWELINA KRUBNIK

Tournaments

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6
10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
**16TH ANNUAL VLADIMIR PAFNUTIEFF
MEMORIAL G/45**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20
10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
**11TH ANNUAL BERNARDO SMITH
MEMORIAL**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21
10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
**11TH ANNUAL BERNARDO SMITH
MEMORIAL**

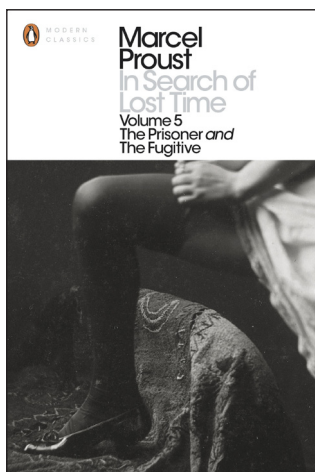
Tuesday Night Events

AUGUST 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
5:15 PM – 6:15 PM
LECTURE BY JOHN DONALDSON
6:30 PM – 10:30 PM
**ALAN BENSON TUESDAY NIGHT
MARATHON**

Saturday Morning All Ages Chess Class

AUGUST 6, 13, 20, 27
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
**TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL MASTER
ELLIOTT WINSLOW**

Library Book Discussion Groups



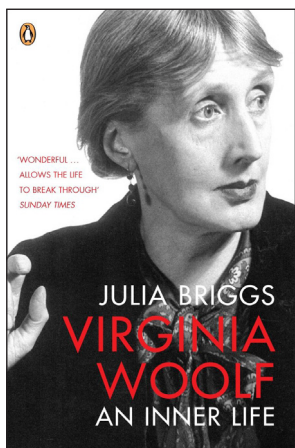
Proust Group: Register for September Session

September 2016 - February 2017

5:30 - 6:30 pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

Under the leadership of Dr. Mark Calkins, the Mechanics' Institute offers a Proust discussion group on a semester basis. The new session begins on September 14th, and the group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Proust's *The Captive and the Fugitive* (Vol. V) will be studied this semester. Fees for the semester are payable when you register online. For more information, contact Dr. Calkins at mcalkins@sfsu.edu. Beginning August 1st, register at milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings.

Reservations required. Members \$70; Public \$100



Online Book Group: Farewell Meeting

Mechanics' Institute's online book group will be discontinued beginning in September due to lack of participation during its incubation period. The online space at milibrary.org/bookgroup will be used by some of our thriving in-person book groups in the future; stay tuned for more information.

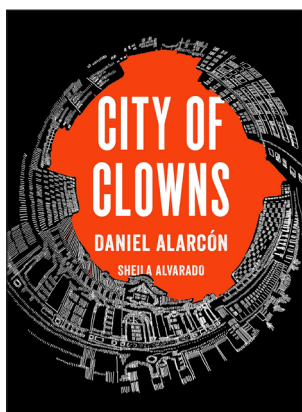
Vérité Book Group

August 5-31 | MEETS ONLINE ONLY AT milibrary.org/bookgroup

Virginia Woolf: An Inner Life BY JULIA BRIGGS

Virginia Woolf is one of the most influential figures in twentieth-century literature. She was original, passionate, vivid, dedicated to her art. Yet most writing about her still revolves around her social life and the Bloomsbury set. In this fresh, absorbing book, Julia Briggs puts the writing back at the center of Woolf's life, reads that life through her work, and mines the novels themselves to create a compelling new form of biography. Analyzing Woolf's own commentary on the creative process

through her letters, diaries, and essays, Julia Briggs has produced a book that is a convincing, moving portrait of an artist, as well as a profound meditation on the nature of creativity.



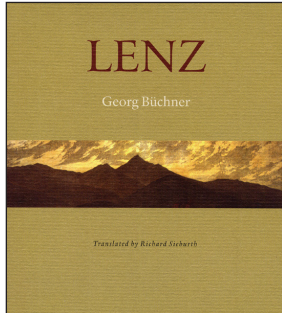
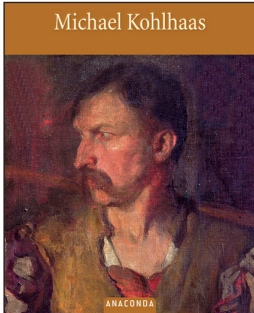
Summer Reading: Graphic Novel Group Concludes

Thursday, August 11 | **noon** 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

City of Clowns BY DANIEL ALARCÓN

Oscar "Chino" Uribe is a young Peruvian journalist for a local tabloid paper. After the recent death of his philandering father, he must confront the idea of his father's other family, and how much of his own identity has been shaped by his father's murky morals. At the same time, he begins to chronicle the life of street clowns, sad characters who populate the violent and corrupt city streets of Lima, and is drawn into their haunting, fantastical world.

Book discussion groups select, read, and discuss books of their choosing. New members are 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 are for members only.** (Book descriptions courtesy of the publishers.) A copy of each book is available at the 2nd floor Circulation desk for one-week checkout. For additional information, contact Heather at 415.857.6727 or hterrell@milibrary.org, or visit milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings.



World Literature Book Group

Wednesday, August 3 | 6:45 pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

GERMAN NOVELLAS:

Michael Kohlhaas BY HEINRICH VON KLEIST & **Lenz** BY GEORG BÜCHNER

Based on actual historic events, *Michael Kohlhaas* bridged the gap between medieval and modern literature, and speaks so profoundly to the contemporary spirit that it has been the basis of numerous plays, movies, and novels. *Lenz*, the visionary exploration of an 18th-century playwright's descent into madness, has been called the inception of European modernist prose.



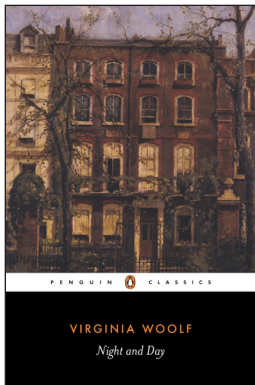
Brown Bag Mystery Readers

Brown Bag Mystery Readers

Monday, August 8 | noon 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

Murder on Fifth Avenue BY MICHAEL JAHN

Captain Bill Donovan, resting comfortably with his expectant wife, is enjoying his well-deserved leave from the danger and mayhem of the big city. But more dangerous matters are afoot, and when a high-society Manhattanite is shot and killed while shopping for jewels at Sarkana with his fiancée, Donovan is drawn, quite unwillingly, into the most bizarre murder case of his career.

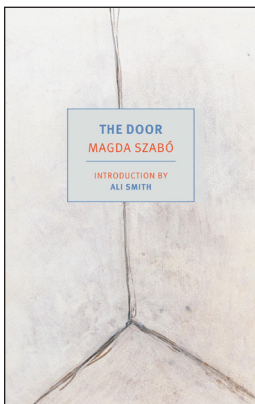


Virginia Woolf Readers' Group

Thursday, August 17 | 5:30 pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

Night and Day BY VIRGINIA WOOLF

Katharine Hilbery must choose between becoming engaged to the oddly prosaic poet William Rodney, and her dangerous attraction to the passionate Ralph Denham. As she struggles to decide, the lives of two other women—women's rights activist Mary Datchet and Katharine's mother, Margaret, struggling to weave together the documents, events and memories of her own father's life into a biography—impinge on hers with unexpected and intriguing consequences. Virginia Woolf's delicate second novel is both a love story and a social comedy, yet it subtly undermines these traditions, questioning a woman's role and the very nature of experience.



World Literature Book Group

Wednesday, August 24 | 6:45 pm 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

The Door BY MAGDA SZABÓ

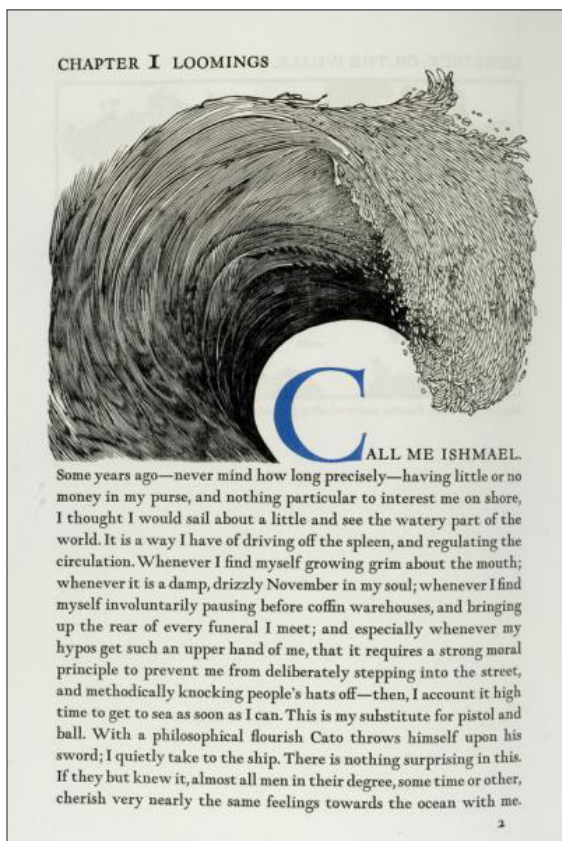
Magda is a writer, educated, married to an academic, public-spirited, with an on-again-off-again relationship to Hungary's Communist authorities. Emerence is a peasant, illiterate, impassive, abrupt, seemingly ageless. She lives alone in a house that no one else may enter, not even her closest relatives. She is Magda's housekeeper and she has taken control over Magda's household, becoming indispensable to her. And Emerence, in her way, has come to depend on Magda. *The Door* is an unsettling exploration of the relationship between two very different women.

Institute News



Arion Press Fine Print Books

Introducing a Mechanics' Institute Special Collection Display
by Library Manager Diane Lai



Since 1974, the Arion Press has been publishing limited-edition books from their location in the Presidio. Their catalogue currently lists a total of 106 volumes, lovingly hand-crafted from the meticulously hand-set metal type to the hand-made paper that is fed into the letterpress machines to the individually hand-crafted slipcases that the books are stored in. While many of the volumes are literary classics, they also publish contemporary and original works of literature, and most of the volumes are illustrated with original artwork or photographs by prominent artists.

The Mechanics' Institute is fortunate to have a collection of over 70 volumes of Arion Press books that were donated to the Institute by a long-time member.

Stop by the 2nd floor of the Library to see a small selection of these books that are on exhibit through September in the Archival Display Cabinet. Among others, you will be able to view *Moby-Dick* which is considered to be one of the treasures of their catalogue. In 2013,

Harvard Magazine wrote, "To study the Arion Press edition of *Moby-Dick* today is to have an almost sacred experience of the power of physical print....The result is something that one would not think possible: a nearly perfect book."

Chair Appeal

Make Your Mark on the M.I. Chess Room and Event Space

Help purchase new chairs for the Chess Room, to replace those that have been used for the past 80 years. Your \$500 tax-deductible donation towards our Chair Appeal will entitle you to a brass plaque engraved with the dedication of your choosing, and the opportunity to designate whether your plaque will be on a new chair in the Chess Room or the Meeting Room.

So far, twenty-eight plaques have been purchased. Join these donors and make your legacy part of the Mechanics' Institute for generations to come. To donate, visit <https://secure.milibrary.org/chair-appeal.php>. If you have questions, please contact Membership Office Manager Margot Sheffner at 415.393.0105 or membership@milibrary.org.

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Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday: 1 pm - 5 pm

Heather Terrell, Editrix

**David Madson in honor
of Beatrice Antholtz
a great English teacher**

**In memory of
GM Walter Browne:
"Infinite Finesse"**