

THIS MONTH AT THE



# Mechanics'

Institute

[www.milibrary.org](http://www.milibrary.org)

VOL. 6, NO. 9 SEPTEMBER 2016

## Power to the People: How Silicon Valley is Changing Our Democracy

A Discussion Moderated by Journalist Kim-Mai Cutler of *TechCrunch*

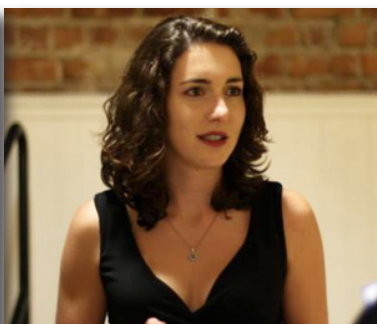
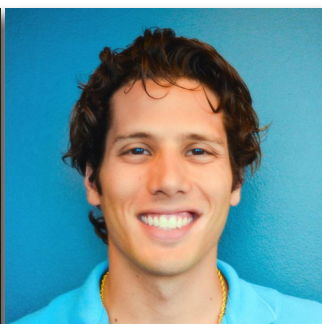


**Kim-Mai Cutler** (above) is a technology journalist and columnist for *TechCrunch* who has worked for *Bloomberg*, *VentureBeat* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

**Thursday, September 29**  
**6:30 pm | Café opens at 6:00 pm**  
**4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM**

This panel of experts and innovators discuss how technology and media platforms are transforming the election process through political messaging, connecting and motivating voters, and fundraising. Are these new directions expanding or limiting access in a democracy for all?

**Free to members of Mechanics' Institute | Public \$15**  
**Register at [milibrary.org/events](http://milibrary.org/events) or 415.393.0102**



(L- R) **Roddy Lindsay** is the CEO and co-founder of Hustle, a startup that helps organizations build enduring relationships with their supporters using personal text messaging. **Jason Putorti** is the co-founder of Brigade, a civic engagement platform, and Votizen, a company that connects registered voters to their local, regional, and national representatives via social media. **Kate Maeder**, Senior Account Executive at Storefront Political Media, develops strategic digital and traditional media efforts and leverages new direct response tools to drive coordinated, grassroots campaigns. **Fred Turner** is an historian, a Professor of Communication at Stanford University, and writes about media technology and cultural change.

# Programs at the Mechanics' Institute

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

**Wednesday, September 14 | 12:30 pm**

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

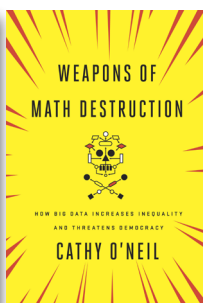
## ***Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy***

**Author Cathy O'Neil in conversation with Kashmir Hill, editor of Fusion's *Real Future***



Author Cathy O'Neil

(photo by Adam Morgenstern)



Kashmir Hill writes about privacy and technology.

Author Cathy O'Neil describes weapons of math destruction (WMDs) as unregulated and uncontested models that score teachers and students, sort résumés, grant (or deny) loans, evaluate workers, set parole and prison sentences, and monitor our health. O'Neil exposes ways that mathematical models are determining our futures, and offers ideas for making models more transparent and using them to promote positive social change. As she notes in her book, "Math deserves much better than WMDs, and democracy does too."

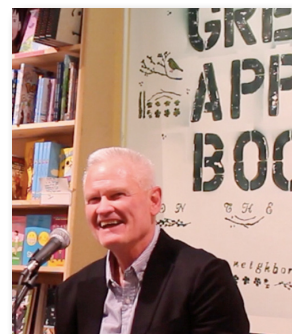
**Reservations required. MI members free; Public \$15**

**Friday, September 16 | noon**

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## ***Writers' Lunch with Brooks Roddan***

Join author and publisher Brooks Roddan in a discussion about both sides of the coin: writing and publishing! Operating under the conviction that all writing is inspiration-based, his press, IFSF Publishing, actively looks for that



inspiration with a determination to publish voices that deserve to be heard. Mr. Roddan will discuss publication of his new book *Mare Island* as well as the types of projects that he looks for as a publisher. If you are interested in dispensing with the traditional writer-publisher model, Mr. Roddan's real life experiences will help guide your own project.

*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, September 17 | 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## ***The Writers Studio SF Master Class Readings & Mixer in partnership with the Writers Studio SF***

Join The Writers Studio SF for an afternoon of Master Class readings, networking, and refreshments. If you've been curious about upping your game as a writer, this introduction to The Writers Studio SF and its students' work will help you decide whether to invest in one of their classes. This is a group that is regularly published, and has had several nominations for Pushcart Prizes. The Writers Studio offers writing workshops in San Francisco, New York, Tucson, and Amsterdam in a program developed by Pulitzer Prize winning poet Philip Schultz. Hailed by *The New York Times* as "the most personal of the programs," The Writers Studio is founded on the belief that when the desire to write is strong enough, anyone can learn the craft necessary for full creative expression. The Writers Studio opened its San Francisco branch in 2007, and currently offers introductory, intermediate, advanced and master level writing workshops, in addition to one-on-one private tutorials.

**No Reservations required. MI members and Writers Studio students only; Free**





# October Preview

## LITQUAKE

Mechanics' Institute will serve as one of the central venues for the annual city-wide Litquake Festival October 7-15, 2016. Watch for an exciting week of author events, panels, and conversations. Be part of this literary movable feast! [www.litquake.org](http://www.litquake.org).



## Plots and Subplots in the Novel with Jessica Levine

**Saturday, October 1 | 1:00 - 4:00 pm | 4th Floor Board Room**

Are you stumped by a plot or its subplots? Join Jessica Levine in an examination of E.M. Forster's *Room with a View* and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* in order to glean basic story structure and determine the relationship between the novels' plots and subplots. Learn about beginnings, middles, endings, and pacing as well as how film affects the contemporary novel. There will be time for several in-class writing exercises and brainstorming. This workshop is suitable for writers at all levels.



**Registration required. MI members \$45; Public \$55**

## Get the Grant! a workshop with Lizette Wanzer

**Saturday, October 22 | 10:30 - 2:30 pm | 3rd Floor Classroom B**

Get the Grant! is open to writers who plan to apply to the Literature Cultural Equity Grant, the Literature Investing in Artists grant, or for a writers' residency program. Those applying for other writers' grants are welcome, though the focus will be on these specific grant opportunities, covering applicant qualifications, defining a clear, feasible goal that costs a specific amount of money, and demonstrating a rising trajectory (remembering that most people who are awarded local grants are on their way up, not already "there"). There will be tips for writing clear, concise statements, using headings and "buckets" to make your statement navigable, and the dreaded Project Statement, Work Plan, or Goals and Objectives portions of grant/residency applications.



**Registration required. MI members \$85; Public \$100**

## New Member-Led Discussion Group: Dwelling Dreamers

**Tuesday, September 20 | 5:30 pm | 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM B**



Join an informal monthly club for Mechanics' Institute members of all ages who want to improve their living environment. This member-led group will discuss everything from the (seemingly) mundane desire of decluttering to a transformation of one's abode. This group is envisioned for the participant determined to improve the appearance and functionality of their home. Meetings will be held once a month at the Mechanics' Institute and will last for 1 hour in the evening – exact times and schedule to be determined by attendees at this initial meeting.

**Registration required. MI members only; Free**

# Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

### LEARN

#### Chess for Women

Sundays, September 4, 11, 18, 25  
11:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Taught by Ewelina Krubnik

#### Saturday Morning All Ages Chess Class

September 3, 10, 17, 24  
11:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Taught by International Master Elliott Winslow

### PLAY

#### Tournament

Saturday, September 10  
10:00 am – 7:00 pm  
16th Annual Howard Donnelly Memorial G/45

#### Tuesday Night Events

September 6, 13, 20, 27  
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm  
Lecture by John Donaldson  
6:30 pm – 10:30 pm  
Alan Benson Tuesday Night Marathon

#### Wednesday Night Blitz

September 7, 14, 21, 28  
6:30 pm – 8:50 pm  
Directed by Jules Jelinek

## U.S. Chess School with I.M. Greg Shahade

International Master Greg Shahade's U.S. Chess School held a session at the Mechanics' Chess Club from July 25-28 that was attended by some of the top young players in the country. Half the attendees were from the Bay Area, but others came from Southern California and as far away as Austin, Texas. The youngsters spent 8 hours a day analyzing their games, reviewing chess battles of the past, and solving tactical exercises and endgame studies.



Attendees (L - R):  
Alex Costello, Rayan  
Tagizahdeh, Josiah  
Stearman (sitting),  
Seaver Dahlgren,  
Christopher Yoo, Agata  
Bykovtsev, Karthik  
Padmanabhan, Ladia  
Jirasek, Annie Wang,  
Siddarth Banik, Emily  
Nguyen and Balaji  
Daggupati.

Photo by Greg Shahade

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

# Librarian-Led Classes

Classes are **free** and for **members only**. **Pre-registration** is strongly recommended; if space is available, members may join a class without registering. *Classes without sufficient registration may be canceled.* For additional information, contact Heather at 415.857.6727 or [hsterrell@milibrary.org](mailto:hsterrell@milibrary.org), or visit [milibrary.org/classes](http://milibrary.org/classes).



## Business Insights: Essentials

**Thursday, September 8 | 12:15 pm** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Obtain extensive company news and business/competitor intelligence, plus comprehensive financial overviews and performance ratings in this resource whose coverage is international in scope. We will explore how to access relevant articles published in scholarly journals, trade magazines, newsletters, and newspapers on specific companies, industries, or business topics.



## Second Tuesday TED Talk Topic TBD

**Tuesday, September 13 | 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. **No registration required.**



## Planning Your Blog: Blogging Series, I

**Tuesday, September 13 | 6:00 pm** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Find out more about blogging in this introductory class, which covers the ins and outs of developing your blog – identifying your purpose, starting a content plan, and considering your intended audience. We'll talk about the bio and about pages, and explain how to use a posting schedule.



## Unearthing Family History: Using Ancestry Library Edition

**Thursday, September 15 | 5:30 pm** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

Mechanics' Institute subscribes to the Ancestry database for libraries, which 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.



## Morningstar Investment Research Center

**Thursday, September 22 | 12:15 pm** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

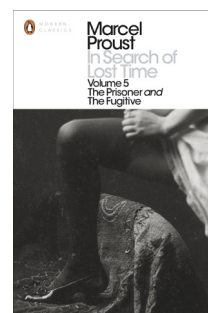
Learn three different ways of utilizing Morningstar Investment Research Center: search for mutual fund or stock reports by name or ticker symbol, generate a list of investments that meet particular criteria, and analyze your securities portfolio. You'll also learn how to print or download reports.

## Proust Group: New Session Begins in September

**September 2016 - February 2017**

**Bi-Weekly on Wednesdays, Beginning September 14th | 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 group will read *The Captive* and *The Fugitive* this session. Fees for the semester are payable when you register online. For more information, contact Dr. Calkins at [mcalkins@sfsu.edu](mailto:mcalkins@sfsu.edu). Register at [milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings](http://milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings). **Reservations required. Members \$70; Public \$100**



# Library Book Discussion Groups

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. A copy of each book is held at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor circulation desk for one-week checkout. For additional information, contact Heather at 415.857.6727 or [htrrell@milibrary.org](mailto:htrrell@milibrary.org), or visit [milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings](http://milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings). (Book descriptions courtesy of the publishers.)



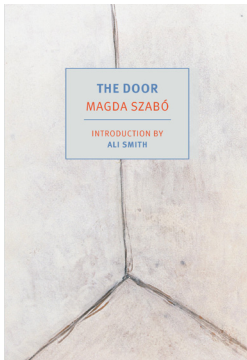
Brown Bag Mystery Readers

## Brown Bag Mystery Readers

**Monday, September 12 | noon** 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

***The Saturday Morning Murder*** BY BATYA GUR

Chief Inspector Michael Ohayon is called to the Jerusalem Psychoanalytic Institute on a quiet Sabbath morning when Dr. Eva Neidorf, a highly respected senior analyst, is found dead shortly before she was to have given a lecture on ethical and forensic problems in psychoanalysis. As he investigates in Jerusalem's commercial district and military ranks, Ohayon exhibits the patience and attention to detail of an experienced analyst in pursuit of the murderer.

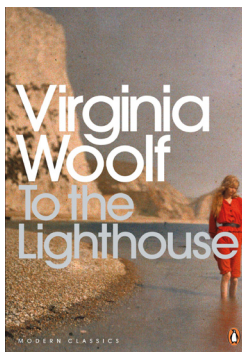


## World Literature Book Group

**Wednesday, September 14 | 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. These very different women share a kind of love—at least until Magda's long-sought success as a writer leads to a devastating revelation. **This is the second of two meetings discussing this book.**



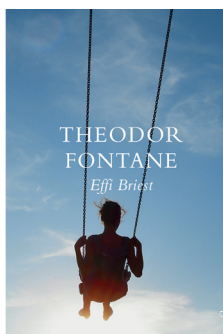
## Virginia Woolf Readers' Group

**Wednesday, September 21 | 5:30 pm** 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

***To the Lighthouse*** BY VIRGINIA WOOLF

"Radiant as [*To the Lighthouse*] is in its beauty, there could never be a mistake about it: here is a novel to the last degree severe and uncompromising. I think that beyond being about the very nature of reality, it is itself a vision of reality." —Eudora Welty, from the Introduction

The serene and maternal Mrs. Ramsay, the tragic yet absurd Mr. Ramsay, and their children and assorted guests are on holiday on the Isle of Skye. From the seemingly trivial postponement of a visit to a nearby lighthouse, Woolf constructs a remarkable, moving examination of the complex tensions and allegiances of family life and the conflict between men and women.



## World Literature Book Group

**Wednesday, September 28 | 6:45 pm** 4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

***Effi Briest*** BY THEODOR FONTANE

Set in Bismarck's Germany, this tale of a socially suitable but emotionally disastrous match between the enchanting seventeen-year-old Effi and an austere, workaholic civil servant twice her age, is at once touching and unsettling. Considered by many to be the pinnacle of the nineteenth-century German novel, *Effi Briest* is a tale of adultery that ranks with *Madame Bovary* and *Anna Karenina*. **This book will be discussed over two meetings.**



# CinemaLit *Fights and Rights: Profiles in Courage*

CURATED & HOSTED BY MICHAEL FOX

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

Members Free | Public Suggested Donation \$10



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Courtesy Columbia Pictures.



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## September 9

**Glory** (1989) 122 min.

DIRECTED BY EDWARD ZWICK

Starring Denzel Washington, Matthew Broderick

One of the first black units in the Civil War, the 54th Regiment discredited racist assumptions about the courage of black soldiers under fire. In this account, Matthew Broderick stars as the regiment's white commanding officer, Robert Gould Shaw, who fought the racism of both the Confederate and Union side. The movie inspires even as it confronts the realities of warfare. Denzel Washington won an Oscar for his performance as an angry escaped slave turned soldier.

## September 16

**Suffragette** (2015) 106 min.

DIRECTED BY SARAH GAVRON

Starring Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter

"We're in every home, we're half the human race. You can't stop us all," says a defiant young woman to a police inspector in this film about the fight for women's right to vote. Carey Mulligan is Maud Watts, a working-class wife and mother who is drawn into the suffragette movement by conscience and circumstance. The personal sacrifices and the physical courage required only make her more radical and more determined to fight for change.

## September 23

**Matewan** (1987) 135 min.

DIRECTED BY JOHN SAYLES

Starring Chris Cooper, Mary McDonnell

Based on a true story, this film is a gripping account of an attempt to unionize mine workers in West Virginia. Chris plays Joe Kenehan, a union organizer struggling to keep the lid on a standoff between company goons, black and Italian replacement workers, and embattled miners. While not filmed where the historic 1920 Battle of Matewan took place, the West Virginia locations and the spectacular camera work garnered the movie a Best Cinematography Oscar nomination.

## September 30

**Milk** (2008) 127 min.

DIRECTED BY GUS VAN SANT

Starring Sean Penn, Josh Brolin

Martyrs are often transformed into plaster saints when depicted in movies, but Sean Penn delivers a nuanced and believable performance as Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official. This movie got Oscar awards for Best Original Screenplay and Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role, and an Oscar nomination for Josh Brolin as the anguished, even pitiable Dan White. Filmed in San Francisco, frequently on the sites where the events took place.



57 Post Street  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
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### Questions?

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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