

THIS MONTH AT THE



# Mechanics'

Institute

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

VOL. 6, NO. 12 DECEMBER 2016

## Annual Members' Holiday Gathering

Thursday, December 15, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm, 2ND FLOOR LIBRARY

Reservations required. Open to MI Members and Guests; \$15.



*Hors d'oeuvres, Gourmet  
Cheeses, Delectable Desserts  
and Tempting Libations!*

*Advance Reservations Required*

Admission \$15; Open to  
Members & Guests

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

415.393.0102



## Bi-Annual Members' Meeting

Thursday, December 1, 5:30 pm reception; 6:00 pm meeting, 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM



Join us for our bi-annual Mechanics' Institute community gathering to meet fellow members, staff, and trustees. Hear from the staff about new plans and programs, technology updates, and our efforts to improve your experience as members.

Reservations required. MI Members and Guests Free.

# 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.

Saturday, December 3 | 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

## Writing Nonfiction Like a Novel with T.J. Stiles



Researching that sprawling nonfiction book project, but finding yourself bogged down in the narrative? Announcing Litquake's Master Class Mixer with two-time Pulitzer Prize winner T.J. Stiles! The class will include three full hours of instruction with Stiles, and then conclude with a cocktail reception with the author in Litquake's downtown San Francisco office. Class size is limited to 15 participants.

Stiles, called "a superb researcher" by the Washington Post, recently won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in History for his most recent book, *Custer's Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America*. He is also the winner of the 2010 Pulitzer for Biography and the 2009 National Book Award for Nonfiction for *The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt*. A Guggenheim fellow, he has taught creative nonfiction at Columbia University. To reserve, please see Litquake's website [www.litquake.org/event-series/master-class-mixers](http://www.litquake.org/event-series/master-class-mixers). If you are a Mechanics' Institute member, use the code MI2016 for 10% off.

**Reservations required. MI Members and Public \$100**

Friday, December 9 | 3:00 pm

OFFSITE

## Tour: Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center

Come take a tour of the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center, a local innovation hub that provides support and mentorship via training and events to entrepreneurs. This tour will dazzle the interested public and those interested in starting a business or launching a concept.

Meet at 505 Howard Street ten minutes prior to start of tour. Tour starts PROMPTLY at 3:00 pm.

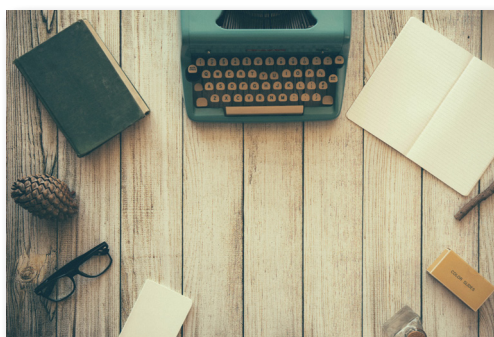
**Reservations required. MI Members and Public \$5**



Friday, December 16 | noon

4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## Writers' Lunch with the MI Indie Publishers' Working Group: Indie or Traditional Publishing: Six Things You Need to Know Before 2017



Are you struggling to adapt to the constantly shifting landscape of publishing? Daunted by the pressure to master marketing tactics from the perfect cover to the ideal mix of social media? Baffled by the Internet bazaar of tools,

advice, and forums for readers and writers? Come to this presentation by the MI Indie Publishers' Working Group to hear about key pros and cons of publishing your book yourself, with an independent company, or via the traditional agent-corporate route.

**No Reservations required. MI members only; Free**



# Library Inventory Project



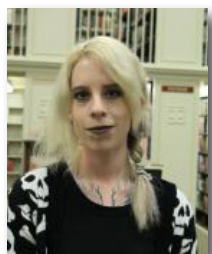
*Judy Heggie*



*Michael Williams*



*Vesna Lerotic*



*Lily Hoshi*



*David Grenell*



*Karina Amin-Salehi*



*Jo Falcon*

Just how many items do we have on our shelves, and how do we keep track of them? With a tablet and scanner in hand, volunteers have graciously put in the time each week to scan each item by section. We started this inventory project in June, with the travel section on the second floor, and have worked our way through the DVDs, short stories, large print, audio books, and are now currently in fiction. Over 11,000 items have been scanned so far, out of what we estimate to be 150,000 items.

With such a big collection, things do get misplaced. Going through each section has helped us locate several items that we thought were missing for good, or sometimes we find items that are worn and need to be replaced, or have a bibliographic record that the cataloging department can fix. This project cannot be accomplished without our volunteers, and we would like to put a face to the names of those who are diligently working to help us with this mammoth project.

Thanks to our volunteers, the Library Inventory Project is well underway!

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## Volunteer Opportunities

If your new year's resolution will be to support organizations that matter to you, and if the Mechanics' Institute is one of those organizations, consider volunteering in our Library, Chess Room, or with our Events Department.

You may find yourself working with the Library Inventory team, bartending at social gatherings, welcoming members and guests to our varied programs, or helping the Chess Club continue to thrive. It's a great way to meet friends, engage with staff, and be involved with the Institute's work!

If interested, see [www.milibrary.org/contact](http://www.milibrary.org/contact) to reach the director of the department with which you wish to volunteer.

# Welcome New Staff Members

## Lia Ryland, Cataloging & Metadata Librarian



Lia comes to us from the Labor Archives and Research Center at San Francisco State University, where she worked as an archivist. She began her new role at Mechanics' Institute as Cataloging and Metadata Librarian in November.

Lia earned her Master's degree in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University, specializing in metadata and archival work, and holds a BA in Medieval and Renaissance Literature.

Lia loves to read both new and older fiction, and some of her favorite authors include George Eliot, Jim Butcher, and Neil Gaiman. Please extend a warm MI welcome to Lia!

## Jessica Neaves, Development Manager



Jessica Neaves joined the Mechanics' Institute in November as Development Manager. She brings 15 years of experience in the non-profit sector, with a background in cultural and social services organizations. Jessica has a long record of helping people build meaningful connections with the programs their philanthropy supports. During the interview process, both board and staff members were impressed by her deep experience in fundraising, her ease with others, and her passion for the work of the Mechanics' Institute. We all felt she would be a great fit.

In addition to her fund development experience, she was awarded a Master of Library and Information Science in 2015. She also sits on the Advisory Council of the Special Libraries Association San Francisco Chapter and volunteers for a small library in San Francisco. A native San Franciscan, Jessica loves to take pictures, visit museums, and, of course, travel. One of her favorite travel memories is from a trip to Iran, where she had a spontaneous tour of the Esfahan Main Library by the library's director. Jessica looks forward to meeting our members and sharing some of the new and exciting initiatives in progress at the Mechanics' Institute.

## A Gift

You know first-hand that the Mechanics' Institute is a very special community and place. You may also be aware that membership dues only cover about 10% of our budget needs. Please consider making an end of year gift to strengthen the Mechanics' Institute for our members and in our community. If the Mechanics' Institute is to remain a part of San Francisco's future, your generosity is key. To make a donation, please visit [www.milibrary.org/give](http://www.milibrary.org/give) or contact Jessica Neaves at 415.393.0115.

# Chess

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JOHN DONALDSON, DIRECTOR OF THE CHESS ROOM

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## Chess Club: Player Spotlight

11-year-old Chinguun Bayaraa, a regular in the Tuesday Night Marathon and Mechanics' Chess Club weekend tournaments, is rated number three for his age in the United States. Chinguun, is one of many players who were born in Mongolia or who have Mongolian parents, who play in Mechanics' events.



Chinguun Bayaraa; Photo credit, Michael Aigner

## December Events

### LEARN

#### Chess for Women

Sundays, December 4, 11, 18

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Taught by Ewelina Krubnik

#### Saturday Morning All Ages Chess Class

December 3, 10, 17

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Taught by International Master Elliott Winslow

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### PLAY

#### Tournament

Saturday, December 3

10:00 am - 8:00 pm

16th Annual Guthrie McClain Memorial G/45

#### Tuesday Night Events

December 6, 13

5:15 pm - 6:15 pm

Lecture by John Donaldson

6:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Fall Tuesday Night Marathon

#### Wednesday Night Blitz

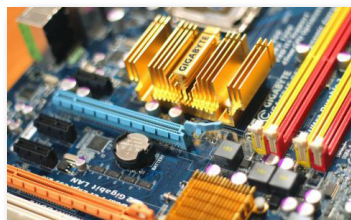
December 7, 14, 21

6:30 pm – 8:50 pm

Directed by Jules Jelinek

# Librarian-Led Classes

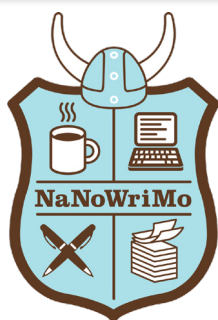
Classes are **free** and for **members only**. **Pre-registration** is strongly recommended; if space is available, members may join a class without registering. *Classes without sufficient registration may be canceled.* For additional information, contact Heather at 415.857.6727 or [htterrell@milibrary.org](mailto:htterrell@milibrary.org),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



## Tech Office Hours

**Thursday, December 8 | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm** 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

If you're looking for one-on-one help with a device, software, email, or have other internet-related questions, librarians are happy to help you with many of these issues. Reserve a 30-minute appointment to work with a librarian regarding email, ebook readers, how to make the best use of the Library's online features, how to safely manage social media accounts, or other technology-related questions. To register, contact Erik Sandall with available time frames and a brief description of your topic by emailing [esandall@milibrary.org](mailto:esandall@milibrary.org) or by calling 415.393.0111. Walk-ins are welcome, but registration is strongly recommended to ensure a spot.



## NaNoWriMo: What Now?

**Wednesday, December 7 | noon** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM A

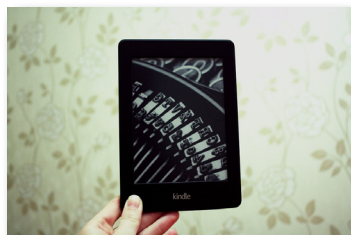
Whether you finished your 50,000 words, started a solid writing practice but didn't quite reach the finish line, or flopped magnificently – come to this class to learn about resources for revising your writing. We'll discuss what we learned during NaNoWriMo, strategies for approaching revision, and how to start and sustain a writers' critique group.



## Second Tuesday TED Talk

**Tuesday, December 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.



## Library Downloads Workshop: eBooks, eMagazines, eComics, eAudiobooks

**Wednesday, December 14 | 5:00 pm** 3RD FLOOR CLASSROOM

The Mechanics' Institute offers thousands 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, eComics, and eAudiobooks.

## BUILDING NOTES

During 2016, our landmark building at 57 Post Street has undergone repairs, upgrades, and various cosmetic enhancements, and this December (23rd -31st), the Institute will finish off the year with another major project. These important upgrades will require us to close floors 2 - 4 for infrastructure wiring upgrades.

The good news is that, owing to this upgrade, members will experience even faster internet speeds in 2017. We currently have a 100 mbps connection speed; with the upcoming improvements, these speeds are expected to increase exponentially! Stay tuned for additional building improvements in the future.



# 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 [hterrell@milibrary.org](mailto:hterrell@milibrary.org), or visit [milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings](http://milibrary.org/events/book-group-meetings). (Book descriptions courtesy of the publishers.)



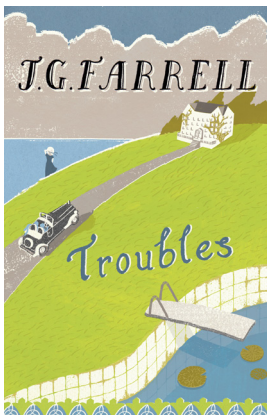
## **Brown Bag Mystery Readers**

**Monday, December 12 | noon**

4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

***Tied Up in Tinsel*** BY NGAIO MARSH

Holed up at Hilary Bill-Tasman's manor estate for Christmas, Troy Alleyn is to paint the man's portrait and, while she's there, view the Druid Christmas pageant. Along with a pack of eccentric guests, Troy enjoys the festivities—until one of the pageant's players mysteriously disappears into the snowy night. Did the hired help – each a paroled murderer from the nearby prison – have a deadly hand in this Christmas conundrum? Inspector Roderick Alleyn arrives to join his wife in finding the lost man – and unraveling the glaring truth from the glittering tinsel.



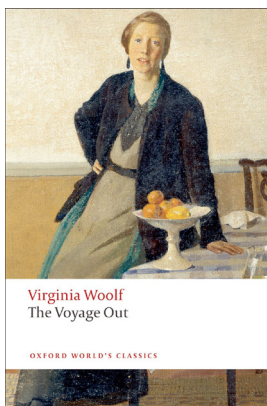
## **World Literature Book Group**

**Wednesday, December 14 | 6:45 pm**

4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

***Troubles*** BY J. G. FARRELL

After surviving the Great War, Major Brendan Archer makes his way to Ireland, hoping to discover whether he is indeed betrothed to Angela Spencer, whose Anglo-Irish family owns the once-aptly-named Majestic Hotel in Kilnalough. But his fiancée is strangely altered and her family's fortunes have suffered a spectacular decline. As housekeeping disasters force Archer from room to room, outside the order of the British Empire also totters: there is unrest in the East, and in Ireland itself the mounting violence of "the troubles." *Troubles* will be discussed over two meetings; this is the second half of a two-part discussion.



## **Virginia Woolf Readers' Group**

**Wednesday, December 21 | 5:30 pm**

4TH FLOOR BOARD ROOM

***The Voyage Out*** BY VIRGINIA WOOLF

Rachel Vinrace embarks for South America on her father's ship and is launched on a course of self-discovery in a kind of modern mythical voyage. The mismatched jumble of passengers – including an early introduction to Clarissa Dalloway – allows Woolf to satirize Edwardian mores, and focuses on Rachel's journey from a cloistered life in a London suburb to freedom, challenging intellectual discourse, and discovery.

# CinemaLit December Season Finale!

Friday, December 2, 6:00 pm  
Cafe Opens at 5:30 pm  
4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

## Holiday Affair (1949) 87 min

DIRECTED BY DON HARTMAN

Starring Robert Mitchum, Janet Leigh, Wendell Corey



Image used by permission. Courtesy of Warner Brothers.

Robert Mitchum, who usually played tough guys, is genuinely appealing in this holiday confection about a sales clerk who loses his job when he fails to report a pretty war widow hired by a rival store as a comparison shopper. The lady has a winsome little boy, there are Christmas wishes to be granted and tears to be dried, and an uninteresting fiancé to be supplanted. Who will she choose? Well, for heaven's sake, this is *Robert Mitchum*.

**Members Free | Public Suggested Donation \$10**  
Register at [milibrary.org/events](http://milibrary.org/events) or call 415.393.0102



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### Questions?

Call: 415.393.0101

E-mail: [reference@milibrary.org](mailto:reference@milibrary.org)

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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

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES IN DECEMBER

**December 24 - 26**, the Institute will be closed for the Christmas holiday.

**December 27 - 30**, the Institute will be closed for an infrastructure upgrade to our building's wiring.

**December 31 - January 2**, the Institute will be closed for the New Year holiday.

## CinemaLit Sneak Peek!



### January

*Pre-Code Hollywood: Adult Entertainment*

### February

*A Fine Romance: A Kiss is Never Just a Kiss*