



Mechanics' Quarterly

Vol. 1, No. 2

April - June 2017

In the Community: Mechanics' Institute's Youth Outreach Chess Program

Under the direction of Grand Master Nick deFirmian, Mechanics' Institute's Youth Outreach Chess Program has expanded from a series of afternoon K-12 classes to a robust and growing program embedded in San Francisco's public schools.

Over the last five years, the Outreach Chess Program has become a staple of the San Francisco educational landscape and is now operating in twenty San Francisco schools, where we serve 500 students each week. We host a number of special events during the year, but the kids' particular favorite is the annual Scholastic Chess Championship in Golden Gate Park. Hundreds of students, along with their parents and siblings, participate in a fun day of chess in the County Fair Building.

In early March, we received our 2017 Certificate of Honor from Mayor Lee, who continues to recognize the Youth Outreach Chess Program's value to the community. Studies have documented improvement in problem-solving skills, development of critical thinking, notable gains in self-esteem, and an improved sense of responsibility among children who engage in chess activities. The San Francisco Unified School District has been appreciative, particularly as the Mechanics' Institute provides this service free to students; the program is funded by donations from foundations and individuals.



*Players in action at the 2016 Scholastic Chess Championship;
© Mark Pinto*

Not only does the outreach program engage with students, but it also assists with chess programming in adult venues, including the San Francisco Public Library, Hospitality House, and the Salvation Army. Mechanics' Institute's Chess Club has been known for a century and a half as the destination for chess in the Bay Area. With the Youth Outreach Chess Program, we share the royal game with the community.

All San Francisco-area students (K-12) can compete for trophies and the respect of their peers, free of charge! Play begins promptly at 11:00 a.m. at Golden Gate Park's County Fair Building on Saturday, March 25th. Visit milibrary.org/events for more information and to register.



Mechanics' Institute Calendar

Programs

Mechanics' Institute special programs and author events are open to members (free) and the public (check the web for admission). Programs take place in the 4th Floor Meeting Room, unless otherwise indicated. Advance registration is required for all events. **Watch for updates and additions on our website**, and register for events at milibrary.org/events; call 415.393.0101 for information.

Mechanics' Today Thursday programs begin at 6:30 pm in the 4th Floor Meeting Room.

April 20 **Lifestyle By Design—The Latest in Home, Health, Communication**

With Andrew M. Lindsay (Jawbone), and author B. Alexandra Szerlip; moderated by Dawn Zidonis

May 11 **Will VR Change the World?**

With Karim Iliya, Professor Allen Yang (UCB), and Dr. Walter Greenleaf (Stanford); moderated by James Nestor

June 22 **Brew City**



Dawn Zidonis

Transforming SF Thursday programs begin at 6:30 pm in the 4th Floor Meeting Room.

April 27 **The Future of Privacy & Security**

For Your Eyes Only: Keeping Your Online Information Private and Secure, with attorneys Nate Cardozo, Jacob Rogers, and Jeanne M. Sheahan; moderated by Mechanics' Institute Trustee Lindsey Tonsager

May 18 **The Future of Renewable Energy**

With David Hochschild, California State Energy Commissioner

June 29 **The Future of the City; Co-sponsored by AIA-SF**

With *SF Chronicle's* John King, Marsha Maytum, Principal, Leddy, Maytum, Stacy Architects, and Craig W. Hartman (SOM); moderated by Jennifer Jones (AIA)



Andrew M. Lindsay



B. Alexandra Szerlip
© Adam Keker

Think & Drink programs begin at 6:30 pm in the 4th Floor Meeting Room.

April 5 **Trump's Impact on Bay Area, Californian and Federal Politics;**

With journalists Darwin Bond Graham, Joe Eskenazi, Liam Dillon, and Lee Fang; moderated by Kim-Mai Cutler

May 10 **Don't Be Evil — Break Things Fast;**

Moderated by Walter Thompson, *Hoodline* Community Editor

Author Events begin at 6:00 pm in the 4th Floor Meeting Room, unless noted.

Saturday, April 29, 2:00 pm **Shaping the Soul of China: Religion and the Search for Meaning in the Middle Kingdom**

A conversation amongst authors Ian D. Johnson, Jennifer Lin, and Mary Kay Magistad

Wednesday, May 3 **Tides: The Science and Spirit of the Ocean**

With author Jonathan White and Rebecca Johnson of the California Academy of Sciences; moderated by James Nestor

Wednesday, June 7 **The Mighty Franks**

Author Michael Frank in conversation with Wendy Lesser, founder/editor of *The Threepenny Review*



David Hochschild

Special Events

Watch for updates and additions on our website, and register for events at milibrary.org/events; call 415.393.0101 for information.



Dana Gioia © Star Black

Honoring California Poet Laureate Dana Gioia

Mechanics' Institute is honored to welcome consummate poet and arts advocate Dana Gioia as guest of honor to celebrate National Poetry Month. Book sale and signing will follow the program.

**April 19; 2nd Floor Library;
6:30 pm; Registration Required**

Bloomsday Dinner

June 16; 4th Floor Meeting Room; 6:00 pm Dinner; 7:00 pm Community Readings; \$20; Registration Required

Offsite Events

Asia's Rise and America's Decline: From Obama to Trump and Beyond with author Gideon Rachman
May 23; World Affairs Council, 312 Sutter, SF Room #200; 6:30 pm; \$20; Registration Required;
worldaffairs.org/events

Crook's Tour: the Barbary Coast with Paul Drexler

June 10; The Old Ship Saloon, 298 Pacific Ave; 12:00 – 1:30 pm; \$17; Registration Required

Watch the Website For Details

ZYZZYVA's 2017 Spring Issue Celebration

CinemaLit Film Series curated by Michael Fox

CinemaLit screenings take place on Fridays in the 4th Floor Meeting Room; the cafe opens at 5:30 pm and the screening begins at 6:00 pm. Registration is required. Watch for listings at milibrary.org/events to register; call 415.393.0101 for information.

April: Literary License

April 7 Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead (1990)
April 14 Cold Comfort Farm (1995)
April 21 Love and Death (1975)
April 28 Stranger than Fiction (2006)



Stranger Than Fiction

Image used by permission; © Columbia Pictures

May: Critic's Choice

May 5 Wonder Boys (2000)
May 12 They All Laughed (1981)
May 19 Shine (1996)

Season Finale

May 26 The Artist (2006)



The Artist

Image used by permission; © Weinstein Company

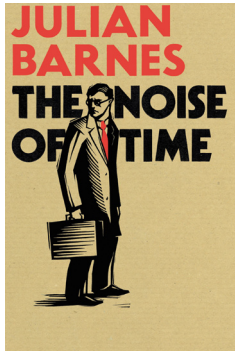
Bi-Annual Members' Meeting

May 25
4th Floor Meeting
Room 5:30 pm
Reception
6:00 pm Meeting

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.

Book, Discussion, and Meetup Groups

All M.I. members are welcome to join book discussion groups; authors will not be present during the discussions. Unless otherwise indicated, pre-registration is not required and groups meet in the **4th Floor Board Room**. Contact hterrell@milibrary.org or 415.857.6727 with any questions.

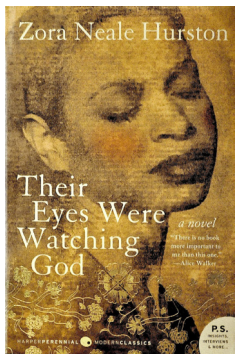


Brown Bag Mystery Readers meets on the second Monday of each month at **noon**. Bring your lunch and join the discussion with this long-running MI book group. Check the website for details on each month's readings.

Scheduled dates: **April 10; May 8; June 12**

World Literature Book Group meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from **6:45 - 8:00 pm**. This member-led group reads works of literary merit as determined by its readers. Check the website for details on each month's readings.

Scheduled dates: **April 12; April 26; May 10; May 24; June 14; June 28**



Book Riot Reading Club meets quarterly at **noon**. Bring your lunch and engage with members in Book Riot's 2017 "Read Harder" challenge.

April 7 *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

Second Tuesday TED Talks are hosted in the **4th Floor Meeting Room** at **noon** on the second Tuesday of each month. Drop-ins welcome.

Scheduled dates: **April 11; May 9; June 13**

The **Dwelling Dreamers Discussion Group** meets on the first Tuesday of each month at **5:00 pm** in **3rd Floor Classroom B**. This interactive, member-led discussion group explores books and websites on improving your living space.

Scheduled dates: **April 4; May 2; June 6**



The **Knit Happens Crochet/Knitting Group** meets at **5:30 pm** in **3rd Floor Classroom B** to work on independent projects and discuss knitting and crocheting techniques, books, and resources.

Scheduled dates: **April 20; June 15**

Writers' Programs

Visit milibrary.org/events for detailed information and registration. For questions about our member-maintained writers' groups, contact Taryn Edwards at tedwards@milibrary.org.

The **Indie Publishing Working Group** meets on the third Tuesday of each month from **4:00 pm - 6:00 pm** in the **3rd Floor Classrooms (A & B)**. Registration is not required.

Scheduled dates: **April 18; May 16; June 20**

The **Writers' Lunch** is hosted on the third Friday of each month in the **4th Floor Meeting Room** at **noon**. Light refreshments are provided, and attendees are welcome to bring their own lunches. **Please note that there will be no Writers' Lunch in April.**

May 19 Author and activist **Edward Hasbrouck** discusses the challenges and opportunities of "**Making a Living as a Writer in the Digital Age**".

June 16 **Jules & Effin Older** will discuss their work in a profession that's as romantic as it sounds: **travel journalism**.



Writers' Lunch presenters Edward Hasbrouck (above) and Jules & Effin Older (below)

Librarian-Led Classes

Classes are free of charge and open to Mechanics' Institute members. Classes without sufficient registration may be canceled. Watch for listings and updates at milibrary.org/events to register; call 415.393.0101 for information.

Technology Office Hours are held in the **4th Floor Meeting Room** from **10 am - 4 pm** on the second Thursday of each month; registration is strongly recommended to ensure a spot, but not required. To register, contact Erik Sandall with available time frames and a brief description of your topic at esandall@milibrary.org or 415.393.0111.

Scheduled dates: **April 13; May 11; June 8**

Library Downloads Workshop is held in **3rd Floor Classroom A** from **4 pm - 6 pm** on the third Wednesday of each month. Registration is not required.

Scheduled dates: **April 19; May 17; June 21**

Financial Literacy Classes are offered on the Thursdays listed at **12:15 pm** in the **3rd Floor Classroom A**.

April 27 Key Financial Magazines & Newspapers Every Astute Investor Should Read

May 18 Business Insights: Essentials

May 25 Morningstar Investment Research Center

June 22 Mergent Intellect

June 29 ValueLine Resource Center

Exploration Classes meet in the **3rd Floor Classroom A**. Check milibrary.org/classes for times.

April 12 The Internet Archive and Its Wayback Machine

April 18 www.milibrary.org For the Intrepid Library User

April 25 Find Your Next Favorite Book on Goodreads

May 04 Researching Articles on Popular Culture, Current Events, Sports and More

May 16 Literary Magazines for Writers

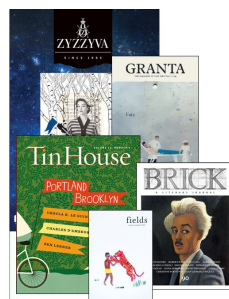
May 18 The Internet Archive and Its Wayback Machine

May 23 Find Your Next Favorite Book on Goodreads

June 20 Encrypting Your Digital Life

June 27 Adding Branches to Your Family Tree Using Ancestry

June 28 The Internet Archive and Its Wayback Machine



Noteworthy Updates

Staff Changes

Krysti Lu has joined the Mechanics' Institute as Accounting Assistant. Congratulations to **Kevin Lay**, who has accepted a full-time position with a Bay Area tech firm. We welcome **Roy Anguiano** as Desktop Support Specialist and AV Technician. Welcome new staff to the Mechanics' Institute!

Annual Magazine Sale

Mark your calendars! It is time, once again, for our annual magazine sale, which begins **May 1** on the **3rd Floor Library**. Come early, come often, and bring a bag to take home your favorite titles or new discoveries!

Night Tour

Join us on **May 1st at 6:00 p.m.** for the quarterly night tour of Mechanics' Institute, which covers the Institute's history and mission, provides orientation to our historic building, and outlines current services and the benefits of membership, followed by a wine and cheese reception. Bring friends and learn more about the Mechanics' Institute. This tour is free and open to all. **Additional details** can be found at milibrary.org/events.

Recent Major Gifts

We are grateful for the support we receive from the following individuals and foundations, who have made our continued growth possible. Thank you! The following contributions were received between December 1, 2016 and February 28, 2017.

Anonymous

Joel Bauman

Estate of Richard H. A. Blum*

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Chevron Matching Employee Funds

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* James Lick Legacy Society Member

**Life Member

Chess

Chess Activities take place on the 4th Floor Chess Room and Annex. Activities are open to members and guests. For additional information, contact the Chess Club at 415.393.0110 or visit the site at chessclub.org.

Tournaments

10:00 am – 8:00 pm

April 8 17th Imre Konig
Memorial

May 6 17th Charles Powell
Memorial

May 7 11th Annual Ray
Schutt Memorial Blitz

June 3 & 4 54th Arthur
Stamer Memorial

June 17 17th William
Addison Memorial

Wednesday Night Blitz

directed by Jules Jelinek

6:30 pm – 8:50 pm

April 5, 12, 19, 26

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

June 7, 14, 21, 28

Chess for Women

taught by Ewelina Krubnik

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

May 7, 14, 21, 28

June 4, 11, 18, 25

Tuesday Night Marathon and Lecture

by International Master John
Donaldson

Lecture 5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

Marathon Play 6:30 pm –
10:30 pm

April 4, 11, 18, 25

May 2, 23, 30

June 6, 13, 20, 27

Saturday All Ages Chess Class

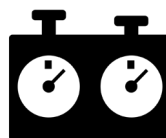
taught by International Master
Elliott Winslow

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

May 6, 13, 20, 27

June 3, 10, 17, 24



Falconer Award

International Master Cameron Wheeler has earned the prestigious 2017 Falconer Award, granted annually to the highest rated chess player under 18 in Northern California. The junior at Monta Vista High School in Cupertino received a check for \$2481, equal to his rating on the December 2016 U.S. Chess Federation rating supplement.

The Falconer Award is named in honor of the late Mechanics' Institute Trustee Neil Falconer, himself a strong tournament player, holding a 1900+ rating up to age 85. Over the past 17 years, three recipients of this generous prize have gone on to earn the Grandmaster title and three more are currently International Masters.

Recent Happenings at Mechanics' Institute

Inspiring Programs

Mechanics' Institute started 2017 with a rousing calendar of author events, salon discussions, and three brand new series of thought provoking programs: Mechanics' Today, Transforming SF, and Think & Drink.



Maxine Hong Kingston and **Gish Jen** discuss her new book, *The Girl at Baggage Claim: Examining the East-West Culture Gap*, an examination of self and society.



(above L - R) David Thomasson, Lisa Ellsworth, Todd Oppenheimer, and Philip Ross discussed companies, resources, and products that contribute to the Bay Area's spirit of innovation in the opener of our **Mechanics Today** series, "Innovators and Builders".

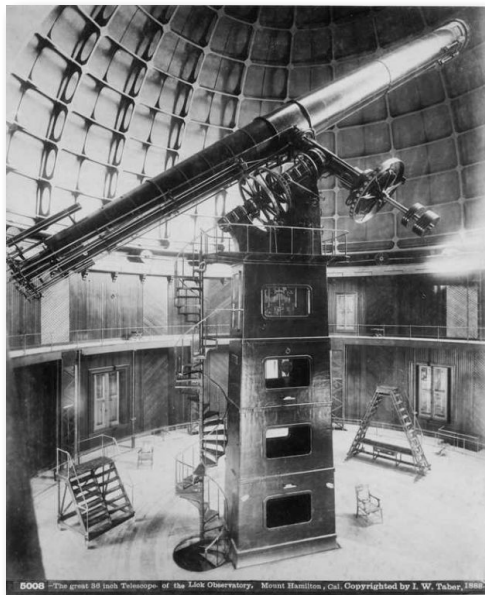


In a posthumous tribute to the life and work of activist **Tom Hayden**, moderated by Steve Wasserman and co-sponsored by City Lights Books, Mayor Willie Brown (pictured) joins a panel of Judy Gumbo Albert, Fred Glass, and Clara Bingham in *HELL NO: The Forgotten Power of the Vietnam Peace Movement*.



Our new **Think & Drink** series kicked off with "I Left My Art in San Francisco: Our Creative Diaspora", a discussion with (L - R) Nato Green and Jocelyn Kane, moderated by Walter Thompson, Community Editor of *Hoodline*.

California's First Philanthropist



October 1, 2016 marked the 140th anniversary of James Lick's death. Mr. Lick, whose commemorative bronze bust has hung in the lobby of the Mechanics' Institute for 121 years, was a millwright and a carpenter known best for his exquisite inlaid work and for his massive land holdings in San Francisco and in neighboring counties. Because of his land wealth he became California's first multimillionaire and towards the end of his life he established charitable "protection and relief" organizations to address the basic needs of his fellow, less fortunate citizens.

After his death, his entire fortune went to benefit the people of California in one way or another. In addition to endowing existing service organizations (including homes for the elderly, schools for orphans, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), Lick allocated

significant sums to ambitious projects benefitting future generations. He stipulated that \$700,000 be used to build "a telescope superior to and more powerful than any telescope yet made" on Mount Hamilton; Lick Observatory remains one of the great scientific institutions of the world. Other beneficiaries included the California Academy of Sciences, Mechanics' Institute, landmarks in Golden Gate Park, as well as the California School for Mechanical Arts, the first to enroll young women interested in studying industrial design and manufacturing.

Mechanics' Institute has partnered with the Society of California Pioneers to create a new exhibit that honors James Lick. If you are interested in learning more about California's First Philanthropist, please join us for this special tour and lecture.

California's First Philanthropist: The Legacy of James Lick

April 11, 4:00 - 5:30 pm
Pioneer Hall at the Presidio
101 Montgomery St, Suite 150

Come visit the Society of California Pioneers for a private tour of the exhibit and short presentation about the extraordinary James Lick by John Hogan (Gallery Manager) and Taryn Edwards (Mechanics' Institute Librarian). **Reservations Required**



About the Exhibition

February 1 – August 31; The exhibition considers the legacy of James Lick, California's first millionaire philanthropist, and features images by Isaiah West Taber, who operated one of the first commercially viable photography studios in San Francisco. Taber documented many of the projects Lick funded, including the construction and operation of the Lick Observatory and the Academy of Sciences.



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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

Closures

April 16
Easter

May 29
Memorial Day

Editorial Staff

Heather Terrell, Editor

Cherilyn Banson,
Contributing Editor