

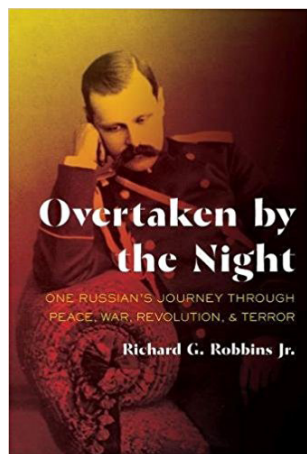
Seize the Day: A Russian Revolution Centennial

A daylong event with authors, experts, Russian tea and cuisine

Wednesday, November 8

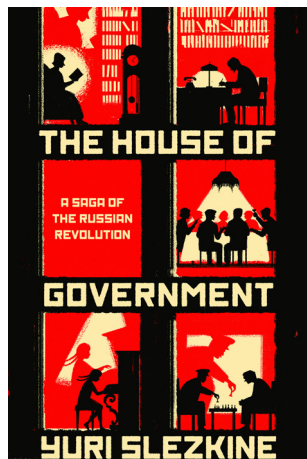
Immerse yourself in a historical milestone that marks the fall of the Winter Palace and the takeover by the Bolsheviks of Russia, led by Vladimir Lenin. Hear two views of the Revolution – first from an insider, Dzhunkovsky, a civil servant and confidante of the Tsar; and then learn about the residents of the House of Government, who came to power and were caught in the conflicts of ideology and the shift to Communism.

Co-sponsored by the Institute of Historical Study



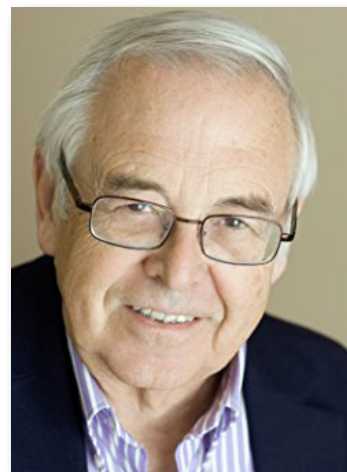
Overtaken by the Night: One Russian's Journey through Peace, War, Revolution and Terror, with author Richard G. Robbins, Jr.
12:30 p.m.

Vladimir Fedorovich Dzhunkovsky witnessed Russia's unfolding tragedy — from Tsar Alexander II's Great Reforms, through world war, revolution, the rise of a new regime, and finally, his country's descent into terror under Stalin.



The House of Government: A Saga of the Russian Revolution, author Professor Yuri Slezkine in conversation with Bertrand Patenaude, author of *Trotsky: Downfall of a Revolutionary*
6:30 p.m.

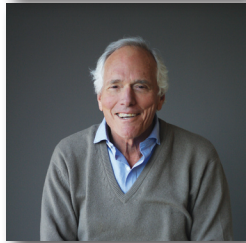
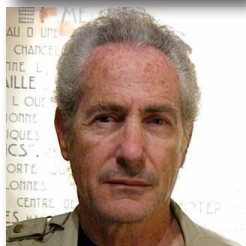
This gripping narrative tells the true story of the residents of an enormous Moscow apartment building where top Communist officials and their families lived before they were murdered in Stalin's purges. A vivid account of the personal and public lives of Bolshevik true believers.



Check milibrary.org/events for complete details and to register for these and more events exploring this watershed moment in world history.

(Top - Bottom): Richard G. Robbins, Jr., Yuri Slezkine, Bertrand Patenaude

Litquake Events at MI



[Top - Bottom]: Margaret Wilkerson Sexton, Rachel Khong, Meghan Ward, Eric Lax (image copyright Michael Lionstar)

First Fiction: Ties That Bind

October 10, 6:30 p.m.

Margaret Wilkerson Sexton and Rachel Khong plumb the richness of familial relationships in their debut novels to great effect. These two critically acclaimed authors read and discuss their recent books with author, journalist, and teacher Meghan Ward. Register for this event at litquake.org. MI members register for free with code: MECH.

Literary Lunch: The World of Elena Ferrante

October 11, 12:30 p.m.

The wildly popular yet pseudonymous Italian author known as Elena Ferrante is best known for her four-volume *Neapolitan Novels* series, which follows two girls from Naples who attempt to create lives for themselves within a violent and stultifying culture. Writer and Professor of Comparative Literature Sara Marinelli speaks on Ferrante's narrative world and cultural relevance. Bring your own lunch; reservations are not required for this event.

Maximum Punch, Minimum Words: The Short Fiction of Barry Gifford

October 11, 6:30 p.m.

For 40 years and at least that many printed works, Barry Gifford has been known as a writer's writer. Jonathan Lethem says he "invented his own American vernacular: William Faulkner by way of B-movie film noir, porn paperbacks, and Sun Records rockabilly." Gifford will discuss his new short fiction collection, *The Cuban Club*, with bestselling author Tom Barbash. Register for this event at litquake.org. MI members register for free with code: MECH.

Literary Lunch: Jane Eyre Turns 170

October 12, 12:30 p.m.

Mallory Ortberg speaks on the continued popularity and relevance of Charlotte Brontë's classic Gothic-Victorian novel. First published in 1847 under the pseudonym "Currer Bell," *Jane Eyre* revolutionized the art of fiction, and although criticized as anti-Christian, was eventually praised for its fearless exploration of the themes of classism, sexuality, religion, and feminism. Bring your own lunch; reservations are not required for this event.

Gotta Get Outta Here: Why We Love Science Fiction and Fantasy

October 12, 6:30 p.m.

Why do people value entertainment and escapism above almost anything but food and shelter? Why do we plunge ourselves into made-up worlds? Is it because reality sucks? Or because storytellers present worlds we can strive to build? And how do our minds respond to the impossible? We'll investigate these questions and yours, with the help of Nick Kanas (neuroscientist), Jonathan Keats (philosopher), and authors Meg Elison, Pat Murphy, and Ransom Stephens (moderator). Register for this event at litquake.org. MI members register for free with code: MECH.

Litquake/CinemaLit Special Event

October 13, 6:30 p.m.

***Start to Finish: Woody Allen and the Art of Moviemaking*, author Eric Lax in conversation with Film Critic David Thomson, with an introduction by Michael Fox, CinemaLit Film Series Curator**

Eric Lax invites us onto the set – and even further behind the scenes – of Allen's *Irrational Man*, which was released in 2015, starring Joaquin Phoenix and Emma Stone. Revealing the intimate details of Allen's filmmaking process, Lax shows us the screenplay being shaped; the scenes being prepared; the actors, cinematographers, other crew members, and editors engaged in their work. Register for this event at milibrary.org/events.

December Member Events

Bi-annual Members' Meeting

December 7, reception at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6:00 p.m.

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

Annual Members' Holiday Gathering

December 14, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., advance registration required ; \$15 for MI members and their guests



Celebrate the winter holidays with your Mechanics' Institute community. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, gourmet cheeses, delectable desserts and tempting libations!

Mechanics' Members Through the Ages

by Pam, Mechanics' Institute Events Assistant

A glimpse of one of the MI Library's past regulars is offered in Samuel Dickson's 1955 book, *The Streets of San Francisco*. Dickson devotes an entire chapter to David Josephi, a quietly brilliant man obsessed with educating himself. According to Dickson, Josephi could "discuss the architecture of Flanders or that of Byzantium," or "the science of Newton and of the new man, Einstein."

In a 1926 interview, Dr. Simeon Edward Josephi of Oregon states that his eldest brother David came to San Francisco in the 19th century as a manager of a branch of their father's wholesale jewelry company, I & S Josephi & Co. Dickson says that around 1915, Josephi retired from the business world. The gentleman reportedly spent his mornings walking from his home near Sacramento and Divisadero streets. "Straight-shouldered, handsome, white-haired, in his immaculate black suit, clutching a black umbrella, he walked all the way downtown to the Mechanics' Library on Post Street near Kearny. He would sit there all day reading, studying, accumulating more and more knowledge; now he studied with almost a frenzy, like a miser accumulating as much gold as possible in his few remaining years. When the library closed at night, he would walk slowly home, a lonely, very old gentleman, with a brain that had become a treasure trove of knowledge."

If you consider yourself a Mechanics' Institute regular, you keep interesting company! Check the Library's copy of *Tales of San Francisco* to find the stories of David Josephi and others.

Recent Major Gifts

We are grateful for support from the following individuals and foundations, who make our continued growth possible. Thank you! The following contributions were received between June 1, 2017 and August 31, 2017.

Brewster West Foundation

Douglas* and Stephanie Butler*

Robert J. Eldred and Elizabeth J. Folger

Thomas W.** and Mary H. Foote**

David* and Stella Goodwin

Susan Karp and Paul Haahr

Richard Laiderman* and

Jung-Wha Song

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Richard M. Rosenberg

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Charles Sullivan

* James Lick Legacy Society Member

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Tales of San Francisco



Samuel Dickson

Library Programs: Useful Knowledge

Preserving Life Stories

Are you thinking about collecting and preserving your community's life stories in an organized way but don't know where to start? This one-day workshop will help jumpstart your project by focusing on the two most important aspects of oral history projects: the art of the interview and the art and technology of presentation. In order to provide adequate individual attention, the workshop is limited to the first 15 registrants. This all-day course focuses on both instruction and practice in large and small groups.



November 4
10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
45 minute lunch break
Members \$75; Public \$100
SAVE IT! How to collect, communicate, and share family and community life stories, with oral historian Basya Petnick

Résumé Clinic

Join a group of career changers in an immersive résumé makeover clinic with fellow job seekers, focusing on creative techniques to help transition to a new job function or industry. In this workshop, you will gain insights about innovative approaches, review résumé examples that follow best practices in a changing job market, and learn tips to strengthen your résumé for better results. Attendance is limited to allow individual, leader-led feedback and maximum interaction among attendees. Please bring a printed copy of your résumé and a digital copy on a flash drive.

November 6
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Free to Members & Public
Here's to Your Career Change! Résumé Makeover Clinic for Career Transitioning, with Marilyn Tullius of Career Ladder



How Knit Happens

by Lia, Mechanics' Institute Librarian

Somewhere around age 10, I watched my mother sitting on the couch knitting a sweater, and said, "I want to do that!" She put two sticks and some yarn in my hands, and said, "Copy what I'm doing." My first project wasn't a sweater – as I recall, it was a pair of mittens with a thumb longer than the rest of my hand. Nonetheless, it inspired my enduring passion for knitting.

Sometimes people ask me why I knit when I can easily buy sweaters, mittens, and hats in a store. For the most part it's not about the finished product – it's about the way I feel when I knit. When I'm knitting I feel relaxed, content, and calm. I'm not alone in feeling this way; studies have found that knitting helps people from all walks of life reduce their stress levels, combat depression, and stave off cognitive decline. As it turns out, your grandma's knitting circle was great for her health! On top of the benefits of knitting, socializing and forming bonds with others can also have a positive impact.

With this in mind, I started the **Knit Happens** group at Mechanics' Institute, for knitters and crocheters. Dropped your stitches? Not sure what to do next? We can help you. Bring a project and get to know others – I'd love to see you there. No need to register, just drop into Classroom B on the last Tuesday of every month at 5:30 (with December off due to holidays). **Want to learn to knit? Let me know at lryland@milibrary.org.**

A Selection of Coming Events

The Mechanics' Institute offers a host of chess events, classes, reading and discussion groups, series events, and special author engagements each week. For program details and to register for programs, check posters and flyers throughout the MI, visit our website at milibrary.org, or call the reference desk at 415.393.0102 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Below, find a partial list of offerings. Complete listings can be found on our website.

Chess

Tournaments 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

October 7

17th Annual J.J. Dolan Memorial G/45

October 28 - 29

17th Annual Carroll Capps Memorial

November 18

17th Pierre St. Amant Memorial G/45

December 2

17th Annual Guthrie McClain Memorial
G/45

Tuesday Night Marathon and Lecture By International Master John Donaldson Lecture 5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. Marathon Play 6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

October 3, 24

November 7, 14,
21, 28

December 5, 12, 19



Wednesday Night Blitz Directed by Jules Jelinek 6:30 p.m. – 8:50 p.m.

October 4, 11, 18, 25

November 8, 15, 29

December 6, 13, 20

Sunday Morning Chess Class for Women Taught by Sophie Adams and Ewelina Krubnik

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

October 8, 15, 22, 29

November 5, 12, 19, 26

December 3, 10, 17

Saturday Morning All Ages Chess Class Taught by International Master Elliott Winslow

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

October 7, 14, 21, 29

November 4, 18, 25

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Selected Activities

Check milibrary.org for a new quarter of librarian-led classes on research databases (including Ancestry, finance, and the Internet Archive), metadata and XML courses, Library Downloads workshops, and many activity and discussion groups such as TED Talks, Brown Bag Mystery Readers, Writers' Lunches, Dwelling Dreamers, and much more.

Got a question about your device or other technology-related conundrum? **Technology Office Hours** are scheduled for October 12 and November 9. Contact Erik at esandall@milibrary.org to make an appointment.



On October 14, master memoirist **Adair Lara** will conduct a full-day course on the art of **crafting a compelling memoir**. Register online for this and other classes in our new writers' workshop series.

Join us for the **Mechanics' Institute Night Tour** with a wine and cheese reception to follow, on October 16.



Learn at your own pace, one-on-one, about resources that will help you improve your financial know-how at our new **Financial Office Hours**, scheduled for October 19 and November 22. To sign up, contact Craig at acjackson@milibrary.org.

On November 3, tour the **Wells Fargo History Museum** with MI members and staff. Be sure to pre-register for this members-only event – tickets are going fast!

Not sure what to read next? Sign up for a November 7 **Reader's Appointment**. Contact Lia at lryland@milibrary.org to sign up.



Recent Happenings at Mechanics' Institute



As part of our **Transforming SF** series, moderated by the executive director of American Institute of Architects SF, Jennifer Jones (L) discusses **The Future of the City** with architects and experts John King, Marsha Maytum, and Craig W. Hartman (L-R).



Author and a native son of the Sierra, Gary Noy reveals the surprising and untold complexities of the Gold Rush from his book *Gold Rush Tales: 49 Tales of Seekers, Scoundrels, Loss, and Luck*.



Chris Mavraedis is a man who truly loves baseball, pictured here with his wife Liz Mavraedis, who translated his passion for the game in their book *Falling in Love With Baseball*.

CinemaLit: Upcoming Programs

Writers in Action!

October 6
Midnight in Paris
October 20
Infamous
October 27
Deathtrap

Au Revoir, Jeanne Moreau

November 3
The Train
November 17
The Old Lady Who Walked in the Sea

Season Finale December 1
The Last Tycoon



(image courtesy of Paramount Pictures)

Featured Upcoming Events

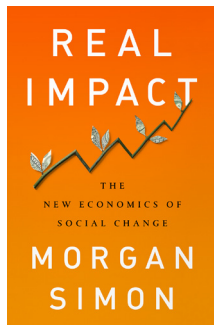
Impact Investment

Impact investment – the support of social and environmental projects with a financial return – has become a hot topic in the world's philanthropy and development circles, and is growing exponentially; in the next decade, it is poised to eclipse traditional aid tenfold. Yet for all the excitement, there is work to do to ensure that it actually realizes its potential. Will impact investment empower millions of people worldwide, or will it just replicate the same failures that have plagued the aid and antipoverty industry?

October 26, 6:30 p.m.

Members of MI Free; Public \$15

Real Impact: The New Economics of Social Change, author Morgan Simon in conversation with Activist/Fundraiser Kath Delaney of Madera Group



Morgan Simon (l), image credit: Javier Machado, Kath Delaney (below)



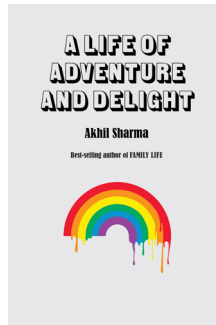
Short Stories

From the award-winning author of *Family Life* comes an engrossing window into the Indian experience at home and abroad. Akhil Sharma's deeply perceptive collection of short stories weaves between India, New York, and New Jersey, profiling flawed characters as they stumble, repent, reform, and relapse. Wrestling with tradition and temptation, they long for belonging and meaning but veer inexorably toward self-destruction, doomed to repeat their mistakes. Sharma masterfully depicts how the burdens of family and culture shape our choices, whether or not we try to resist them.

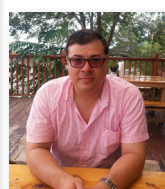
October 6, 12:30 p.m.

Members of MI and Friends of ZYZZYVA Free; Public \$15

A Life of Adventure and Delight, author Akhil Sharma in conversation with Oscar Villalon, Managing Editor, ZYZZYVA



Akhil Sharma (l), image credit: Nicholas Prakas, Oscar Villalon (below)



The Evolution of Silicon Valley

At a time when the five most valuable companies on the planet are high-tech firms and nearly half of Americans say they cannot live without their cell phones, *Troublemakers* reveals the untold story of how we got here. This is the gripping tale of seven exceptional men and women, pioneers of Silicon Valley in the 1970s and early 1980s. Together, they worked across generations, industries, and companies to bring technology from Pentagon offices and university laboratories to the rest of us. In doing so, they changed the world.

November 15, 6:30 p.m.

Troublemakers: Silicon Valley's Coming of Age, author Leslie Berlin in conversation with journalist Frances Dinkelspiel



Leslie Berlin, image credit: Anne Barry

End Notes

Book Notes



Fiction books recently added to the library's collection with the highest rates of checkout include:

A distant view of everything by Alexander McCall Smith

On her majesty's frightfully secret service by Rhys Bowen

Penhale Wood by Julia Thomas

Athenian Blues by Pol Koutsakis

The Birdwatcher by William Shaw

Non-Fiction books recently added to the library's collection with the highest rates of checkout include:

The Trouble with reality: a rumination on moral panic in our time by Brooke Gladstone

You don't have to say you love me: a memoir by Sherman Alexie

Volunteer: a traveller's guide to making a difference around the world by Charlotte Hindle, et al

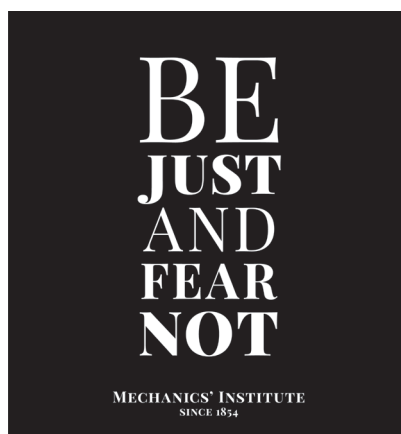
Victor Arnautoff and the politics of art by Robert W. Cherny

The chickenshit club: why the Justice Department fails to prosecute executives by Jesse Eisinger

Just in Time for the Holidays!

MI is rolling out some new branded items. Look forward to black zippered tote bags and improved t-shirts emblazoned with our historic motto "Be Just and Fear Not".

Totes will sell for \$15 and the shirts for \$20. These new items will make a great gift for the "mechanic" in your life!



Staff Updates

Diane Lai is now pursuing her passion right here at Mechanics' Institute; in September, she transitioned from Library Manager to Archivist. Former Public Services Librarian **Heather Terrell** has moved into the Library Manager role. You'll see a new face around the Institute – **Chris Burns** joins us as our new Public Services & Communications Librarian. Welcome to Chris, and congrats to both Diane and Heather!



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San Francisco, CA 94104
www.milibrary.org

Questions?

Call:

415.393.0101

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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 Hours

Indigenous Peoples' Day
Oct 9 Closed

Veterans' Day
Nov 10 - 11 Closed

Thanksgiving
Nov 22 Early Closure 5pm
Nov 23 - 24 Closed

Christmas
Dec 24 - 26 Closed

New Year's Eve
Dec 31 Early Closure 5pm

Editorial Staff

Cherilyn Banson
Heather Terrell