Poetry in Motion:
Mechanics’ Institute Celebrates National Poetry Month

San Francisco Poet Laureate Kim Shuck with poet Tongo Eisen-Martin:
readings and a conversation

Mechanics’ Institute is proud to welcome San Francisco’s seventh Poet Laureate, Kim Shuck, who succeeds Alejandro Murguia and Jack Hirschman. As a fifth generation San Francisco resident of Cherokee and Polish heritage, Ms. Shuck is devoted to giving voice to the city’s diversity through the power of language and culture, as exhibited in her full-length collections Rabbit Stories and Smuggling Cherokee. Kim will be joined by poet Tongo Eisen-Martin, whose work confronts issues of injustice and incarceration, power politics, and struggles for survival.

April 19, 6:30 pm
Members Free; Public $15
4th Floor Meeting Room

Take a Closer Look: MI Library’s Poetry Collection

The Library has amassed some 2000 items in our poetry collection, by authors from Chris Abani to Rachel Zucker. You’ll find works by U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner Tracy K. Smith, Nobel Prize winner Derek Walcott, and Pulitzer Prize winner and MacArthur Foundation fellow Charles Simic. Alongside these superstar poets, you’ll find the work of emerging poets of distinction such as Amber West, Emily Berry, and others.

Bloomsday Celebration

Eat, drink, read, and walk on the wild side of Dublin! Join fellow Ulysses enthusiasts at DADA Art Gallery & Bar for a special Bloomsday menu, lively musical interludes featuring a Celtic music ensemble, and an open-mic community reading of James Joyce’s master work. Advance reservations are required; check our website for details!
**Writerly Pursuits**

**Lunch and Learn, Mingle and Mix at Monthly Writers Lunches**

**Writers Lunch** arose from the desire of MI member writers to interact on a more casual basis. During these monthly brown-bag BYO lunch events, member authors and guests with expertise in the field speak on topics from sustaining a fledgling practice to monetizing your writing. You’ll hear from a mix of established and emerging writers, enjoy coffee, tea, and snacks provided by Mechanics’ Institute, and mingle with fellow MI writers. Upcoming meetings will feature the National Writers Union, where September Williams will discuss *Why Novelists Might Need a Press Pass*, and in May we’ll host a **Writers Mixer**. This networking event will connect writers who may want to form a critique group, and will allow them to learn about existing groups at MI who may be looking for new members.

Third Friday of each month, 12:00 – 1:00 pm
Members and Public Free; 4th Floor Meeting Room

More information: milibrary.org/events
More information on writers groups: tedwards@milibary.org

**The Creative Writer's Professional Toolkit**

Want to be taken seriously as an author, even though you have yet to establish a record of impressive publishing credits or complete the Great American Novel?

Instructor Lyzette Wanzer says, “Believe it or not, one of the best ways of getting the literary world to notice you is to manage the less-sexy aspects of your practice. That means realizing that writing is a business, not just an art. Marketing is a critical, often overlooked aspect of our craft.” Lyzette will introduce you to several tools that will enable you to boost your writing career.

April 28, 10:30 am - 4:30 pm; MI Members $29; Public $39; 4th Floor Meeting Room

Supported in part by the San Francisco Arts Commission

**Upcoming Writing Classes Hosted by Mechanics' Institute**
In Partnership with the San Francisco Writers Conference

**The Character of Plot** with David Corbett
April 14, 10:30 am - 4:30 pm
MI Members $189; Public $219

**The Perfect Pitch and the Quintessential Query** with Carlisle Webber
April 21, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
MI Members $39; Public $49

**Workshopping Your Perfect Pitch and Quintessential Query** with Carlisle Webber
April 21, 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
MI Members $99; Public $119

**The Acorn Class: Growing Your Writing Ideas** with Victoria Zackheim
May 12, 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
MI Members $149; Public $179

**Comics and Graphic Novels** with Trina Robbins
May 19, 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
MI Members $89; Public $109

**Aboutness: A Workshop for Novelists and Narrative Memoirists** with Sandra Scofield
June 9, 10:30 am - 4:30 pm
MI Members $129; Public $159

**Become an AUTHORpreneur: Turn Your Book into a Paying Business** with Sam Horn
June 30, 10:30 am - 4:00 pm
MI Members $149; Public $189

Classes are hosted in the 4th Floor Meeting Room unless otherwise specified. Pre-registration is required. For more information on SFWC Workshops at Mechanics' Institute, visit milibrary.org/classes.
CinemaLit

CinemaLit starts a new season of *Spring Flings* with films celebrating new love, new discoveries, and new roles for women. Check our website for CinemaLit’s May line-up.

Fridays, Doors at 5:30 pm, Program at 6:00 pm
Registration required

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Comfort Lit

Litquake announces a new lunchtime series at Mechanics’ Institute. *Comfort Lit: Books That Make You Feel Better* aims to provide a much-needed break from fighting the powers that be and help recharge from the grim realities of the day. **Jez Burrows**, author of *Dictionary Stories: Short Fictions and Other Findings* will appear in discussion with lexicographer **Jane Solomon** on **April 17**. Check our website for events throughout this spring and summer, including **Jonathan Kauffman** discussing his book, *Hippie Food: How Back-to-the-Landers, Longhairs, and Revolutionaries Changed the Way We Eat*, and **September Williams** presenting her novel, *Chasing Mercury*.

Noon; Members and Public Free; 4th Floor Meeting Room

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Monsters & Magic, a librarian led seminar

Victorian society firmly believed in science and rationalism; meanwhile, the popular imagination and the arts became obsessed with monsters and magic – things that weren’t real. Or were they?

In this seminar, attendees will read and discuss Victorian literature, starting with Christina Rossetti’s controversial poem "Goblin Market". Participants will look at how real-life events influenced the literature of the time, and examine how authors responded to one another in their novels. Explore the grotesque, the gothic, and the horrifying threads that stuck in the Victorian consciousness and refused to be ignored!

April 9, April 23, May 21, and June 18; 6:00 - 7:00 pm; 4th Floor Board Room

Registration strongly recommended to ensure a spot; walk-ins welcome as space allows

Contact Lia at lyrland@milibrary.org with questions about this seminar. Check milibrary.org for readings and to register.
Featured Upcoming Events

Orphic Paris

Author Henri Cole in conversation with Dr. Mark Calkins
Cosponsored by City Lights Bookstore & Publishers

The true star of this collection of poetic essays is Paris itself. The city reveals its secrets to Cole at every turn. From the café with an Old-World atmosphere frequented by Hemingway to the paint shop where Cezanne and Monet bought supplies, this is a Paris bursting with art and culture. Cole’s vivid prose and the photos that accompany it let us imagine ourselves sitting at the table sipping coffee or wandering cobbled streets with him; candid descriptions of each day provide plenty of fodder for dreaming of a Paris trip of your own!

April 5, 6:30 pm; Registration required; 4th Floor Meeting Room

Harvey Milk Day

Author Lillian Faderman in conversation with author and activist Cleve Jones

Charismatic, eloquent, and a bit of a smart-aleck, Harvey Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. He had served for less than a year when he was gunned down by a homophobic fellow supervisor. Countless tributes, including a posthumous Medal of Freedom, honor Milk’s legacy. On May 22, MI welcomes Lillian Faderman to discuss her book, Harvey Milk: His Lives and Death, with author and activist Cleve Jones. This special celebration of the life of a progressive trailblazer will be held on the 2nd floor of the library.

May 22, 6:30 pm; Registration required; 2nd Floor Library

Lillian Faderman (left), will appear in conversation with Cleve Jones (below).
50/50 Day

MI hosts LET IT RIPLE film studio’s second annual 50/50 Day in support of gender equality. MI will host a panel discussion entitled Bay Area Women on the Political Front, one of the 20,000 events scheduled around the globe in support of a more gender-balanced world. Check our website for details.

April 26, 6:30 pm; Registration required; 4th Floor Meeting Room
For more information on #GettingTo5050, visit letitripple.org/films/50-50/5050-day/

Recent Major Gifts

We are grateful for the support we receive from the following individuals and foundations, who make our continued growth possible. Thank you! The following contributions were received between December 1, 2017 and February 28, 2018.

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ZYZZYVA 2018 Spring Issue

Celebration

Join San Francisco’s lauded literary journal, ZYZZYVA, to celebrate the launch of their newest issue, featuring readings by contributors Natalie Serber, Christopher Adamson, Greg Sarris, Mackenzie Evan Smith, and Tom Barbash. Emceed by Managing Editor Oscar Villalon.

May 3, 6:30 pm; Registration required; 4th Floor Meeting Room

And More!

Check our website for additional events, including appearances by Susan Ronald and Frances Dinkelspiel!
A Selection of Upcoming Events

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 MI, visit our website at milibrary.org, or call the reference desk at 415.393.0102 between 10 am and 5 pm, Monday through Saturday. Below, find a partial list of offerings. Complete listings can be found on our website.

Library

Check milibrary.org for a new quarter of librarian-led book and discussion groups, activities, classes, workshops, one-on-one instruction, and much more.

Interested in nurturing your family tree? Attend a free, members-only, librarian-led class on using Ancestry Library Edition, or learn how to collect and organize family and community life stories with Basya Petnick at an all-day workshop (Members of Mechanics’ Institute and California Genealogical Society $100; Public $125) on May 26; pre-registration is required.

Calling all readers! MI provides space for member-only book groups like Brown Bag Mystery Readers and World Literature Book Group. Upcoming selections include The Devotion of Suspect X by Keiko Higashino and Middlemarch by George Eliot. Check our website for readings and schedules. (image: Woman Reading with Peaches, Henri Matisse, 1923)

Knit Happens on the last Tuesday of each month. Bring a project and get to know your fellow Mechanics’ Institute members.

Improve your investment knowledge using the Library’s e-resource subscriptions. Learn the ins and outs of using Morningstar Investment Research Center, Value Line Resource Center, and Mergent Intellect. Pre-registration is recommended.

Want to improve your technological skills? Make an appointment for one of our monthly Technology Office Hours, or drop in with your device to the Library Downloads Workshop on the third Wednesday of each month.

Chess

**Tournaments** 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
- April 7 18th Annual Imre Konig Memorial G/40
- May 5 18th Annual Charles Powell Memorial G/40
- May 6 11th Annual Ray Schutt/Stephen Brandwein/ Jay Whitehead Memorial Blitz
- June 2-3 55th Annual Arthur Stamer Memorial
- June 16 18th Annual William Addison Memorial G/40

**Tuesday Night Marathon and Lecture**
International Master John Donaldson
Lecture 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm
Marathon Play 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm
- April 3, 10, 17, 24
- May 1, 8, 29
- June 5, 12, 19, 26

**Wednesday Night Blitz**
Directed by Jules Jelinek
6:30 pm - 8:50 pm
- April 4, 11, 18, 25
- May 2

**Saturday Morning All Ages Chess Class**
Taught by International Master Elliot Winslow
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- April 7, 14, 21, 28
- May 5, 12, 19, 26
- June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

**Sunday Morning Chess Class for Women**
Taught by Sophie Adams and Ewelina Krubnik
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
- May 6, 13, 20, 27
- June 3, 10, 17, 24
In January, Daniel Ellsberg spoke to a sold-out crowd about his work as a high level defense analyst during the Cold War era, in conversation with Robert J. Rosenthal of The Center for Investigative Reporting (above). The two discussed Ellsberg’s new book, The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner at Mechanics’ Institute. Major donors were invited to meet Mr. Ellsberg at a reception preceding the event (below).

Emperor Norton’s 200th Birthday Bash, hosted at the MI in February, was a smashing success. Not one, but TWO Emperors (above) were in attendance, and a biographer (below, right) of Emperor Norton traveled all the way from Osaka, Japan to join the festivities!

Staff (above) and guests (below) celebrated the eccentric life and times of Emperor Norton, MI member and iconic San Francisco presence!
End Notes

Bi-Annual Members’ Meeting
Thursday, May 24, 5:30 pm Reception, 6:00 pm Meeting
Members & Guests Free
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.

Night Tours at the MI
April 2, 6:00 pm
June 25, 6:00 pm
Members & Public Free
3rd Floor Library

Mechanics’ Institute of San Francisco was founded in 1854 to serve the vocational and social needs of the city’s mechanics, artisans, and industrialists. Today Mechanics’ Institute continues as a membership organization boasting a fantastic general-interest library, active cultural events calendar, and world-renowned chess club. Open to new, long-time, and prospective members, this tour of the Institute will orient you to the building, include an overview of our history and mission, and outline current services and the benefits of membership. Tours typically take 60 minutes, and a wine and cheese reception will follow.

Annual Magazine Sale
Begins April 1
3rd Floor Library

Each year, the circulation department tidies our holdings – and you benefit! Travel the world from your favorite armchair with favorites such as National Geographic Travel or Travel & Leisure. Perhaps you prefer to undertake new adventures in the kitchen with the help of Clean Eating, Christopher Kimball’s Milk Street Magazine, or Delicious. Whatever your interests or hobbies, there’s something sure to please you – from Arts Monthly to ZYZZYVA literary journal, with plenty of science, history, news, and pop culture in between. Visit the 3rd floor of the library early and often to find added magazine titles for purchase.

Due to the popularity of some titles we cannot hold bundles for future purchase. Since most are priced to sell at $2 or $3 a bundle + tax, you’ll want to take home as many as you can carry.