Dear Friends,

Entering the front door of the Mechanics’ Institute, I think of the librarians, chess players, readers, debaters, trustees, and members who have fought for and supported this San Francisco treasure over its 160 years.

Now, it is our turn.

As you read this annual report, you will note the sense of joy, seriousness, and responsibility with which we approach our work on behalf of the Mechanics’ Institute. Our programs convey a liveliness with authors like Joyce Carol Oates and Dave Eggers; our efforts to teach 500 San Francisco public school students how to think two steps ahead through chess illustrates a deep caring about the future; and our daily work to maintain a sanctuary of quiet in an increasingly noisy world reveals a timeless commitment to thoughtfulness and reflection.

Every day, we are inspired to work harder for you, our members and supporters. The stories contained in this year’s annual report were made possible by you. Thank you.

With gratitude,

Ralph Lewin
Executive Director

MORE THAN JUST A LIBRARY

Recently a member was showing a friend around the Mechanics’ Institute library and was overheard to say: “this is a weird little oasis in the heart of San Francisco”. Other members have told library staff that the MI library is their living room, co-work and social space. Some come here to read, write, work, and think. Authors peruse the stacks to find inspiration for their characters and locales, do research with our archivist to learn what a 19th century apartment looked like, or meet with other authors to be inspired or get honest feedback on their latest efforts. Programmers hunker down on their laptops to create code for driverless cars. Others access the knowledge and cultural heritage of our civilizations via digital or print resources.

The Mechanics’ Institute library is dedicated to the life of the mind, whether that be through reading, writing, contemplation or connecting with other members. The library provides access to thousands of digital resources, yet circulation of print materials is up almost 13% over last year. Members of all ages are browsing, reading, checking out books, and asking the library to purchase new titles.

This year, over 1,000 members and nonmembers joined our weekly Wednesday or quarterly night tours. Have you taken a tour? If not, come join us. You will learn about our history, culture, chess club, library, events, and much more. It will be time well spent.

“This is a weird little oasis in the heart of San Francisco.”
The MI's events attracted a total of 3,698 attendees this year, and reached even more through our Facebook Live-streamed programs and YouTube archives.

Fall 2017 highlights included the MI Treasure Hunt, an interactive extravaganza created for AIA's “Architecture and the City - Secret City” festival, as well as a special all-day program for the 100th year anniversary of the Russian Revolution, with authors Richard Robbins, Yuri Sleskine, and Bertrand Patenaud.

Winter and spring events included an array of programs attracting sold-out audiences. We welcomed heroic political whistle-blower Daniel Ellsberg; famed novelist Joyce Carol Oates spoke about her newest book; tech wizard Jaron Lanier graced the stage to discuss what it means to be human at a moment of unprecedented technological possibility; and hosted a Harvey Milk Day dedication, presenting biographer Lillian Faderman in conversation with gay activist Cleve Jones. A dynamic panel, "Bay Area Women on the Political Front Lines", featured local candidates and community leaders including Christine Pelosi and Natasha Middleton.

In summer, members enjoyed a participatory Bloomsday Celebration at DADA Bar; "Pictures of Gone City", on the downsides of tech in the Bay Area with Richard Walker and Walter Thompson; and a presentation by MI member John Villasenor on cryptocurrency.

Ongoing collaborations with ZYZZYVA for their Spring Issue Celebration and Litquake's "Comfort Lit" welcomed audiences new to the MI, while CinemaLit audiences grew, continuing to be a much-loved Friday night destination for film buffs. Most popular were the "Golden Age Divas" and "The Edge of Noir" series of films.

The events department is grateful for the volunteers who continue to support our programs; their infectious enthusiasm and steady assistance is invaluable.

We look forward to presenting you with the best the Bay Area has to offer.
ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of our chess room director, John Donaldson. Over his 20 years of service, John has worked tirelessly to make our chess program one of the most respected in the country. We cannot thank him enough for the recognition and prestige he has brought to the Mechanics’ Institute through his accomplishments with the US Chess Team and on his own merit. He hands the baton to a new Mechanics’ Institute chess director.

One of this year’s chess room highlights included a lecture by Grandmaster and former Woman’s World Champion, Hou Yifan. Over 100 people crowded the chess room as the charismatic and accomplished Grandmaster from China held the audience spellbound, talking about her development in chess – from a 6-year old prodigy to competing with the world’s best – in an unforgettable evening.

The chess club’s Tuesday Night Marathon continues as the bedrock of San Francisco’s chess culture, attracting players of all ages and walks of life. Drawing over 100 participants for the fifth consecutive year, the TNM is the largest weekly tournament in the United States. A new tradition begins with this year’s fall TNM when, starting in October, it also becomes the first Mechanics’ Institute Club Championship.

The MI continues its service to the community with our Youth Outreach Chess Program. We visit 20 schools each week, teaching chess to 500 children – providing an outlet for creative thinking, social interaction, and individual intellectual development. The majority of these schools are economically disadvantaged under Title 1; studies show that in these schools, chess has great effect in enhancing academic development. Our annual spring Scholastic Chess Championship is an event eagerly awaited by hundreds of students, and in 2019 we will add a fall tournament to enhance their opportunities.

John leaves a vibrant chess club in his wake, and we will carry the torch into next year and beyond.
Financial Highlights

Financial Summary (Audited), Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2018

INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rental Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bequests, Donations</td>
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<td>Library, Events, Chess Room</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind Donations</td>
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EXPENDITURES

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library, Events, Chess Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management, General Expenses</td>
<td>$924,897</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Assets (cash, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, investments at fair market value, deferred rent, building and equipment) $17,064,230

Total Liabilities (accounts payable, other liabilities, unearned income, tenants’ deposits) $461,765

Net Assets $16,602,465
Many Thanks: 2018 Donors

Individual Gifts

$25,000 to $49,999
Anonymous
Matthew H. Scanlan

$10,000 to $24,999
Robert Maller Anderson and Nicola Miner
Louise Frankel
Richard Lairdeman and Jung-Wha Song
Alexandra and Robert Lindsay
Edwin C. Nagel
Mark and Lisa Pinto
Peter B. Wiley

$5,000 to $9,999
Russell Brandwein
Estate of Christine Clark
Lindsey Crittenden
David and Stella Goodwin
Craig Jackson
Mrs. Louis O. Kelso
Charles K. McCabe
David Jamison McDaniel Trust
William L. Newmeyer, III
Richard W. Reinhardt
Mrs. John Robert Shuman
Lindsey and Keith Tonsager
Vanguard Charitable

$2,500 to $4,999
The Ansel Family Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation
Earl Diskin
Daniel H. Drown
Robert J. Eldred
Eugene Hale Family
Jean and Lindsay MacDermid
Donald R. and Virginia L. Meyer
E. Craig Moody
Vladimir Naroditsky
Peter and Bonnie Sherwood

$1,000 to $2,499
Anonymous (4)
Joel Bauman
Douglas and Stephanie Butler
Fred Caspersen Fund of Napa Valley Community Foundation

Kavounas
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas V. A. Kelsey
Martin N. Krasney
Ralph Lewin
Daniel Litowsky-Ducasa
Joseph Lonsdale
John Maguire
Mrs. David Jamison McDaniel
Anthony Nash
Andrew Ogus and Pete Bullard
Rozell R. Overmire
David Rakonitz
David Roe and Sukey Lilienthal
Philip and Carla Reed
Susan E. Roos
Richard M. Rosenberg
Donald H. Rubin
Greg Sarris
Bill Sevald
Samuel and Barbara Skelly
Maggie Thompson
Barry Traub
Tappan Wilder

$100 to $499
Alexander Aguara
Karen Aizawa
Julian Ajello
Elizabeth Andrews
Barbara Anger
Anonymous (3)
Mark Ashton
Milton C. Axt, Jr.
Nicholas M. Baran
Marie Barteau
Catherine Bator
Richard D. Baum
Richard Bauman
Elliot S. Beckelman
Brenda J. Becker
Michael Beebe
J. Bem
Jon C. Bensick
Robert Benson
Gerson and Sandy Bernhard
Donald Billings
John Dotsch, Jr.
John Briscoe
Mary Helen Briscoe
Jon L. Brown

David B. Brownell
Carol Brownson
Dennis Brydon
Ted Burge
Richard A. Byers
Bryan Byrne
Rob Calvert
Everett L. Campbell
Joyce Chen
Craig Chivatero
Robert Chlebowski
Bernard Choden
Roger V. Christensen
George H. Clyde, Jr.
James Cohee
Arthur H. Colas, Jr.
Richard Compean
Christopher S. Cotter
Cathy Creteinger
Julia Crossman
Alois J. Crowell
Joseph M. Curley
Robert D’Arcy
Loris P. Davanzo
Philip R. Day
Kathryn A. Demas
Barbara Dickey
Frances Dinkelspiel
Marc Donner
Thomas W. Dougherty
Sidney Dowell
Sandra J. Drissen
Earl Ducane
Thomas Durbin
Nathan Dwiri
Stephen E. Dykes
Thomas Eby
Emlen and Paul Ehrlich
Charles N. Eley and Miriam O. Phillips
John Engell
Patricia C. Emsberger
William T. Espey
Adele Fasick
Wayne L. Feinstein
John M. Ferreira
Philip A. Fisher
Michael W. Fitzgerald
Joe Fleming
Wilson B. Flick
Newton Fong
James H. Forsyth
June M. Fraps
Mary E. Frederick
Lynn C. Fritz
Genevieve S. Fujimoto
Sarah R. Fuller
David D. Gale
Jerome Garchik
Barbara Gaynor
Patricia L. Glasky
Emily Goldberg
Frederic Golden
Helen Goldsmith
Barbara S. Golumb
Geoffrey R. Gordon-Creed and Jean Fraser J.E. Goudie
Robert B. Graham
Fred C. Greaves
Sandra Green
Daniel P. Gregory
Donald M. Gregory, Jr.
Andrew J. Grimstad
Elizabeth Groenewegen
John K. Hanft
Patricia Hanlon
Jennifer P. Harding
Thomas R. Hardy
Faith Harris
Robert Haney
Abby E. Herget
Timothy Herlihy
Tori Hernandez
Stephen D. Hester
Charles Higgins
Michael Hilliard
Barbara J. Holmes
Rick Homan
Lisa Honig
Henrietta Humphreys
Stan Hutton
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Gordon & Babel Jacobs
Lynn A. Jacobson
A. Roger Jeanson
Brenda D. Jeffers
Eric P. Jensen
Margaret H. Johnson
Sean A. Johnston
Ralph W. Joy
Stephen Kadysiewski
David T. Keenan
David D. Kennedy
Eileen Keremitsis
Marshall M. Kilduff
Noel W. Kirshenbaum
Henry Klyce
Frederic Knapp
Richard Kolbert
Laurence Kornfield
Katie Korzun
Corporations, Foundations, and Organizations

$25,000 to $49,999
The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund

$10,000 to $24,999
The Craft Foundation
The Charles D. and Frances K. Field Fund
Wells Fargo Foundation

$5,000 to $9,999
Gold Rush Trail Foundation

$1,000 to $2,499
Chevron Matching Employee Funds

In Honor Of:

Book Club
Stephen Muller

Gray Brechin
Robert Chlebowsi

Anisia and Lynn Fritz
Robert and Michelle Friend

Roger Kumar
Paul Walmsley

Richard Laiderman and Jung-Wha Song
Robert and Michelle Friend

In Memory Of:

Stephen Brandwein
Russell Brandwein

Donald Laiderman
Judy and Bob Huret

Joseph Feingloss
Donald H. Rubin

Suzanne R. Fisher
Leslie Kay Carr

Margot Sheffner
Joan Hockaday

Hannah Patterson
Weisberger

Jane Q. Kennedy
Steven A. R. Edwards

Margaret M. Rust
Stephen M. Sagar and
Susan Semonoff

Robert P. Sanborn

Greta Savage
Theodore Savetnick

Connelly

Stuart Seligson
Jason Sexton

Julia Flynn Siler and
Charlie Siler

Roger D. Skinner

Carol L. Snodgrass

Rebecca Speer

Clark N. Starr

Susan R. Steer

John E. Stevens

C. Augusta Stewart

Harold Stoddard

Bruce Storrs

Cameron Sturdevant

Edward A. Sullivan, III

Neil Sullivan

Richard Suyeda

Viswanathan Swaminathan

Michael Sweetland

Benilda Taft-Kiewek

Betty Ruth Tansey

Dorothy Teichman
Valentine Pope Thaler

Peter and Gail Todd
Louis Torregrosa

Michael Torrey
Richard L. Tower, Jr.

Bruce Townley
Dieu-Hien Tran

Dalny Travaglio

Robert Turnberg

Roger P. Van Craeynest

Leticia Velasquez

Mark D. Vestrich

Paul Walsmey

Rosalie V. Weaver

Susen Weisberg

Sallie Weissinger

Will Welch

Robert Weston

Bruce Whaley

David L. White

Marshall White

Stephen L. White

Potter Wickware

Louis A. Williams

Steven R. Winkel and
Barbara W. Sahm

David Y. Wong

Guy R. Woods

Robert C. Yeager

Dinah Yee-Tom

Florette Yen

Mary Ann Yuen

Alexander Yuill-Thornton

In Honor Of:

Ralph Lewin
Charles Higgins

Frederick W. Ley
Mrs. John Robert Shuman

Garfield McNamara
Emmet Murphy

Jane Fargo
McNealy
Charles Sullivan

Elias White Noonan
Willow White Noonan

Gordon Poett
Cynthia Poett

Guido Roncal, Sr.
Glenn Roncal

Margot Sheffner
Joan Hockaday

Hannah Patterson
Weisberger

Jason Weisberger

Jane Q. Kennedy
Steven A. R. Edwards

Donald Laiderman
Judy and Bob Huret

Dorothy Teichman
Valentine Pope Thaler