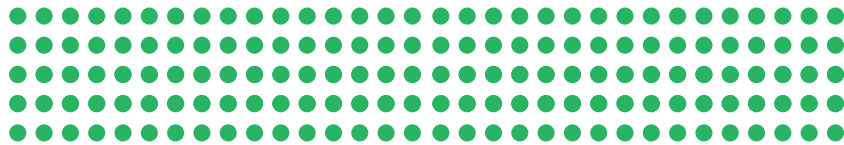


Mechanics' Quarterly



**Mechanics'
Institute**
Since 1854



**Library
Chess
Events**



Read in the New Year: 2019 Reading Challenge

Looking for a reading challenge to kick off 2019 right? Try choosing authors of color or women authors, selecting from a different genre or style each month, seeking out books from an international perspective, a topical theme, or moving through the eras. Below are a few examples for each of these possibilities to get you started!

Topical (art)

- *The Blazing World* by Siri Hustvedt (fiction)
- *A History of Pictures: From the Cave to the Computer Screen* by David Hockney & Martin Gayford (art history)
- *Shocking Paris: Soutine, Chagall and the Outsiders of Montparnasse* by Stanley Meisler (art biography)

Women Authors (also, incidentally, authors of color; also, books from an international perspective)

- *Boy, Snow, Bird* by Helen Oyeyemi
- *Faces in the Crowd* by Valeria Luiselli
- *Kinder Than Solitude* by Yiyun Li

Different Genres/Styles

- *Speech & Debate* by Stephen Karam (stage drama)
- *Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables* by Michael Stewart Foley (music writing)
- *The Incal* by Alejandro Jodorowsky & Moebius (comics)

Eras (11th century)

- *The Tale of Genji* by Murasaki Shikibu
- *Beowulf* translated by Seamus Heaney
- *Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám* translated by Edward Fitzgerald

Do any of these groups of books pique your interest? Get a jump on your 2019 reading and check out a book or two today!

- **Heather Terrell**, Library Manager



Upcoming Events

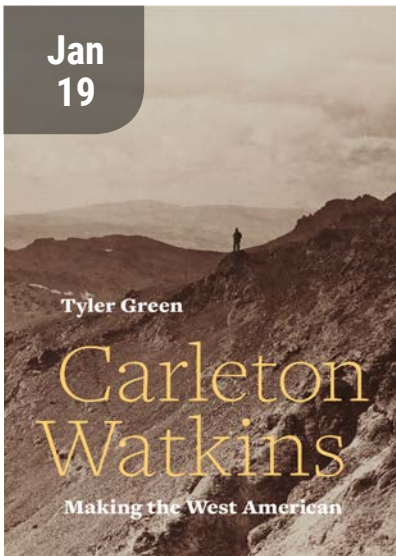


An Evening with Prix Goncourt Winner Eric Vuillard

On November 8 we welcomed author and filmmaker Eric Vuillard to discuss his acclaimed book, *The Order of the Day*, winner of the Prix Goncourt, the highest literary award in France. It was an honor to present this eloquent author in collaboration with the French Embassy & Consulate and Alliance Francaise. Vuillard was in conversation with San Francisco mystery writer Cara Black and interpreter Christiane Abel.

The evening proved to be stimulating, provocative, and topical all at the same time. Looking back at history's most devastating moments, this book reveals the machinations of Germany's Nazi regime and the 1938 annexation of Austria - known as the Anschluss - and its players and betrayers. Eric discussed the many ways literature portrays history from Balzac to Cooper, but does not consider his work historical fiction. Although his writing has a poetic and cinematic style, the book is based on facts and interviews, exposing what actually happened without reinvention.

Carleton Watkins: Making the West American



Wednesday, 01.16.2019

6:30 pm

4th Floor Meeting Room

Carleton Watkins is best known for his pictures of Yosemite Valley and the nearby Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias, some of the most important documents to motivate the world's first act of landscape conservation—the national park idea.

This telling of Watkins' story will fascinate anyone interested in American history, the West, early American science, and how artists impacted the development of American ideas, industry, landscape, conservation, and politics.

MI and Alta Members Free | **Public** \$15

Don Cox and the Black Panther Party



Wednesday, 02.13.2019

6:30 pm

4th Floor Meeting Room

Don Cox's compelling account of his years in the Black Panther Party will be presented by his daughter, Kimberly Marshall and publisher Steve Wasserman. *Just Another Nigger* is Cox's revelatory and incendiary account of his years in the Black Panther Party, when he participated in many peaceful Bay Area civil rights protests but hungered for more militant action.

MI & Heyday Members Free | **Public** \$15

Special Feature: Joyce Carol Oates *Hazards of Time Travel*



Wednesday, 02.27.2019

6:30 pm

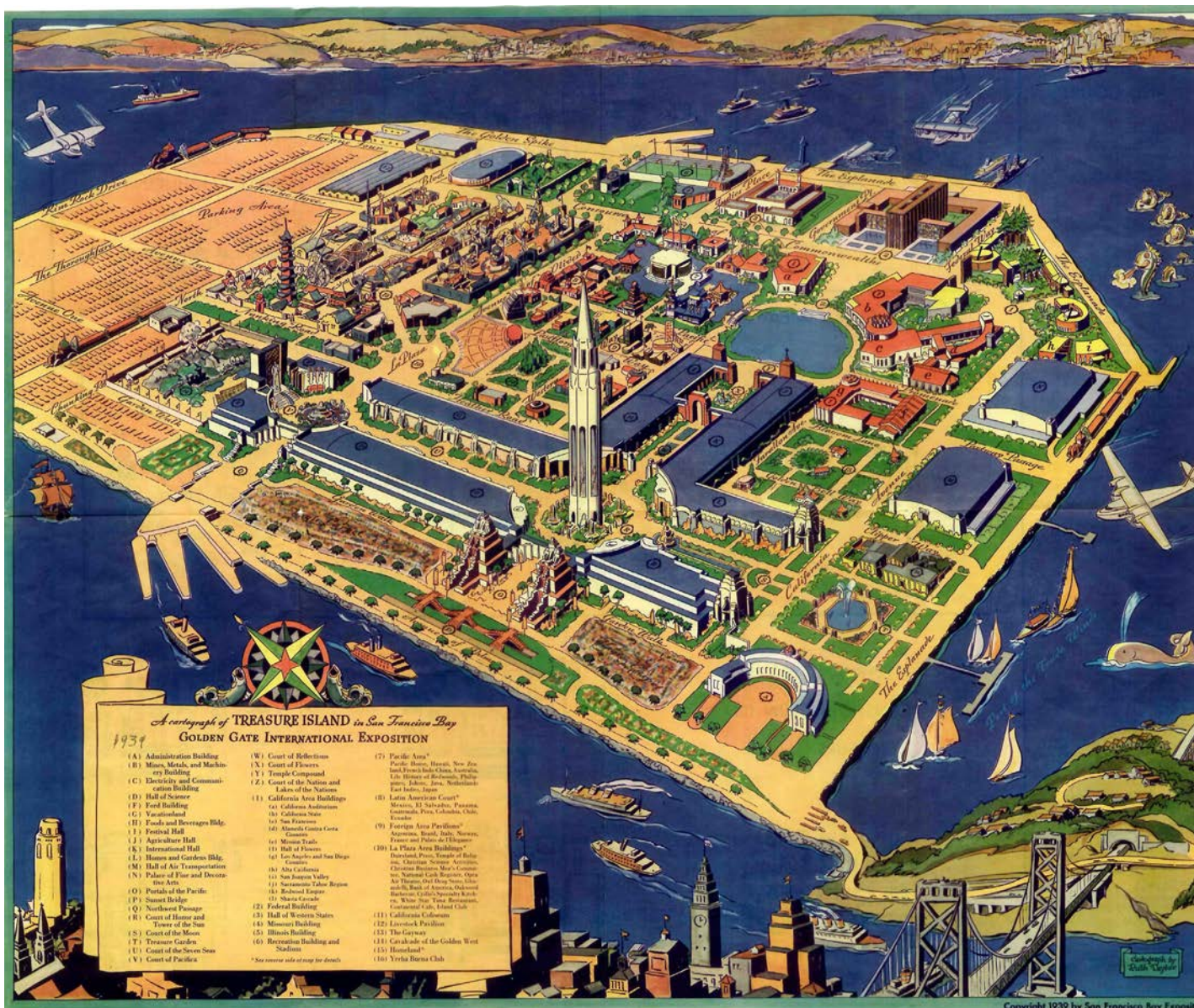
2nd Floor Library

"Time travel"—and its hazards—are made literal in this astonishing new novel in which a recklessly idealistic girl dares to test the perimeters of her tightly controlled (future) world and is punished by being sent back in time to a region of North America—"Wainscotia, Wisconsin"—that existed eighty years before. Arresting and visionary, *Hazards of Time Travel* is both a novel of harrowing discovery and an exquisitely wrought love story that may be Joyce Carol Oates' most unexpected novel so far.

Members Free | **Public** \$15



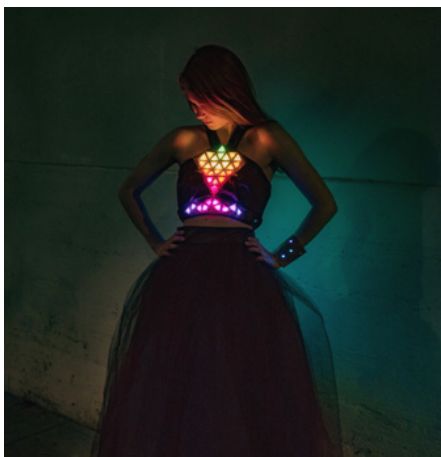
Events From the Stacks



Save the Date!

On April 4, 2019, the Mechanics' Institute and Treasure Island Museum will present an all-day festival to honor the 80th anniversary of the Golden Gate International Exhibition. Look forward to stimulating lectures, art, and presentations that interpret and bring the fair to life. There also will be an evening party (period dress encouraged!) with music by Lovin' Harmony Trio. Tickets will be available after February 1. If you would like to sponsor this event, please contact Taryn Edwards, tedwards@milibrary.org.

Make It, Wear It: Wearable Electronics for Makers, Crafters, and Cosplayers



Friday, 01.11.2019

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

4th Floor Meeting Room

Join local authors of *Make It, Wear It: Wearable Electronics for Makers, Crafters, and Cosplayers* for an interactive book presentation and craft. See and learn how they make their fashion art pieces using 3D printing, traditional sewing, and electronics. Guests will learn how to make a simple circuit using only copper tape, an LED, and a battery!

Reservations Required | MI Members and Public Free

How to Write Stunning Sentences with Nina Schuyler



Saturday, 02.02.2019

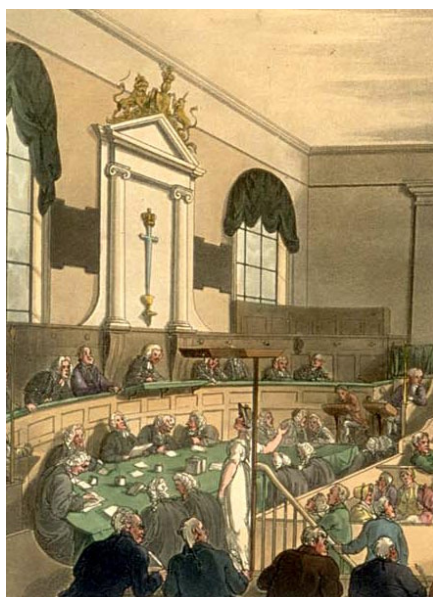
10:30 am - 1:00 pm

4th Floor Meeting Room

What sentences do you craft to capture anxiety? Thought? A reminiscent narrator? What kind of sentence creates a feeling of euphoria? Of exhaustion? The style of the sentence – the diction, imagery, syntax, rhythm, and sound – isn't frivolous decoration, but content. By the end of this class, you will have mastered the art of writing sentences that do more than move the story along.

Members \$60 | Public \$75

Murder in Seven Dials: A Staged Reading of a Notorious Old Bailey Trial



Thursday, 02.28.2019

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

4th Floor Meeting Room

Member author Philip Williams needs help solving what really happened that night of November 16, 1916, when his granduncle Private Alfred Williams was stabbed to death outside the Sussex Arms pub. We will be reading the sworn statements of the witnesses who were there that night and then try to determine what actually happened, and who was telling the whole truth. Brush off your acting and detective skills!

If you would like to be a reader at this event, please contact Taryn Edwards, tedwards@milibrary.org

Reservations Required | MI Members and Public Free



Chess Room Events

MI Chess Director John Donaldson Retires

International Master John Donaldson, the longest-serving chess director in the history of the Mechanics' Institute, has stepped down after 20 years of service. John considered it a good time to retire when he recently joined Barry Bonds in the 500/500 club (500 games rated over 2500 USCF and 500 USCF rated tournaments directed). He looks forward to playing more and continuing his other chess-related activities.

Over the past 35 years, Donaldson has been a chess professional working as a writer, journalist, player, coach, and historian of the game. He has served as the U.S. team captain 21 times, including 13 of the biennial Chess Olympiads. Highlights include first-place finishes in the 1993 World Team Championship and the 2016 Chess Olympiad.

We will miss John!



John Donaldson at the MI chess room

TOURNAMENTS

10:00 am - 8:00 pm

19TH BOB BURGER MEMORIAL

Saturday January 5

5 Round Swiss - One Day G/40,d5

19TH HENRY GROSS MEMORIAL

Saturday February 3

5 Round Swiss – One Day G/40,d5

19TH A.J. FINK AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday and Sunday March 2 and 3

6 Round Swiss

19th Max Wilkerson Memorial

Friday March 15- Sunday March 17

5 Round Swiss with 3-day and 2-day option

See website for more information

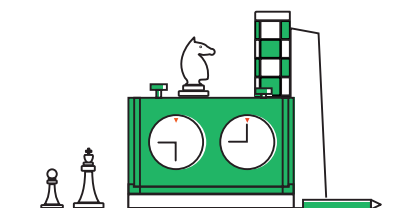
TUESDAY NIGHT MARATHON AND LECTURE

Grandmaster Nick de Firmian

Lecture 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm

Marathon Play 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm

January 8, 15, 22, 29



February 5, 12, 19, 26

March 19, 26

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BLITZ

Directed by Jules Jelinek

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

February 6, 13, 20, 27

March 6, 13, 20, 27

SATURDAY ALL AGES CHESS CLASS

Taught by International Master

Elliott Winslow

11am – 1pm

January 6, 13, 20, 27

February 3, 10, 17, 24

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

SUNDAY MORNING CHESS CLASS FOR WOMEN

Taught by Sophie Adams

and Ewelina Krubnik

11am – 1pm

January 7, 14, 21, 28

February 4, 11, 18, 25

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Youth Outreach Program

Our Mechanics' Institute Youth Outreach Chess Program continues to serve the community of San Francisco. Students, teachers, parents, and librarians of the San Francisco Unified School District remain enthusiastic about the program helping 20 schools and 500 children each week. They welcome the intellectual stimulation and opportunity for social engagement it gives the children.

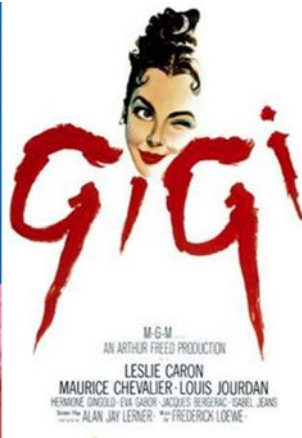
We collaborated with Bright Knights Chess for an event with 80 children on October 13th—National Chess Day—at the main branch of the San Francisco Public Library. This smaller event complements our big annual spring championship in March.

The 2019 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship will be held on Saturday, March 23 at the County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park. This amazing outreach event provides a free chess tournament, open to any San Francisco area students in both rated and unrated categories. This event is a celebration of scholastic chess and provides the chance for all to participate in friendly competition while building and supporting growth in our chess community. This event is in its 6th year and is organized by the chess team at the Mechanics'. More details, including how to register will be coming soon. You can also visit the chess club website at chessclub.org for more information in the coming weeks.





CinemaLit



January: Academy Award Classics & More!

January 4th 6:00 pm Gigi

January 11th 6:00 pm A Man for All Seasons

January 18th 6:00 pm All Quiet on the Western Front

January 25th 6:00 pm You Can't Take It With You

Award Winning Institute

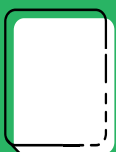


(photo by Ron Henggeler)

Executive Director Ralph Lewin and Board of Trustees President Lindsey Crittenden receive the William C. Ralston Award from the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society for outstanding contributions to the history and culture of San Francisco.

► The MI Then and Now

1900
85,191 Volumes
2018
160,000 Volumes



1900
3807 Members
2018
4619 Members

THANK YOU

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 September 1, 2018 and November 30, 2018.

Robert Mailer Anderson and Nicola Miner
Anonymous** (2)
Anonymous* **
Arde Bedjanian
Russell Brandwein
R. Frederick Caspersen
Estate of Earl Diskin**
Jerome L. Dodson
John M. Ferreira*, **
Sandra Hess
Mike and Lark Hilliard
Leonard Holmes
Signa Irwin Houghteling
Doug S. Huestis
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David J. Madson*
Sally M. Martin
Matthew and Martina Scanlan
Mrs. John Robert Shuman
Ollia B. Yenikomshian

* James Lick Legacy Society Member

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Night Tour

02.11.2019

6:00 pm

3rd Floor Library



If you are a new, long-time, or prospective member the tour of the Institute will orient you to our building, include an overview of our history and mission, and outline our current services and the benefits of membership. Tours typically take 45 to 60 minutes. Bring a friend!

A wine and cheese reception will follow the tour.

Holidays Hours

Jan 1 **Closed**

Feb 18 **Closed**

Jan 21 **Closed**