

Mechanics' Quarterly

april - june 2019

vol. 3 no.2



Mechanics' Institute
Since 1854

May
01

rising writers series



Lydia Kiesling

The Golden State



Namwali Serpell

The Old Drift

6:30 pm

Bay Area authors discuss their debut novels, one about self-determination in a colonial settlement in Zambia, the other in a small town in the high desert of California.

4th Floor Meeting Room | **Free to All**





No Human is Illegal

An Attorney on the Frontlines of the Immigration War

Author J.J. Mulligan Sepulveda visited us in January for a lively conversation with Attorney Holly Cooper

In an event cosponsored by California Historical Society and Refugee Transitions, J.J. Mulligan Sepulveda, author of *No Human is Illegal*, and attorney Holly Cooper, Co-Director of UC Davis's Immigration Law Clinic (ILC) offered riveting stories about their civil rights work aiding and supporting immigrants and refugees in California. Lawyers and the students in the ILC program work directly with undocumented immigrants in the Davis area and respond to the call for legal assistance at airports, borders, and clinics across the country.

Sepulveda and Cooper told the stories of those seeking refuge in our country for political or economic reasons to shed light on human rights violations at the border – including the perpetration of family separations, incarceration, and detainments – speaking on behalf of those fleeing untenable situations, and underscoring how they are so often used as tactical pawns

in a political game. The presenters discussed the imperative to put a human face on immigration, rather than relying on law enforcement as the primary approach to the immigration reforms necessary to support undocumented immigrants and the young generation of Dreamers living and working in the United States.

These immigrants' stories bring to mind the words of Emma Lazarus inscribed on the "Mother of Exiles" – the Statue of Liberty that once welcomed strangers to Ellis Island. "From her beacon-hand glows world-wide welcome..." Lazarus's Liberty declares, "Keep your storied pomp," to those nations who exhibit more regard for their history, than compassion for the "tempest-tost." This discussion reminded those in attendance to extend that world-wide welcome to a new group of immigrants whose myriad contributions will make America great, just as immigrants have been doing for nearly 300 years.

Photo: Holly Cooper and J.J. Mulligan Sepulveda discuss *No Human Is Illegal* on January 24, 2019.

: Celebrate National Poetry Month

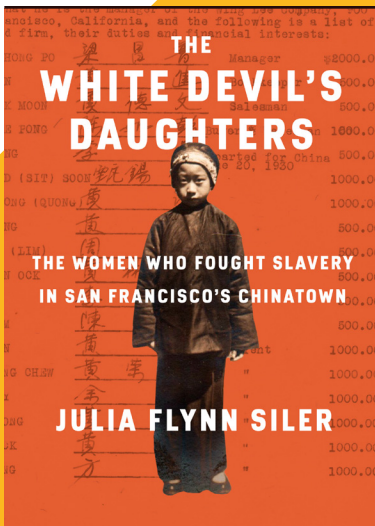
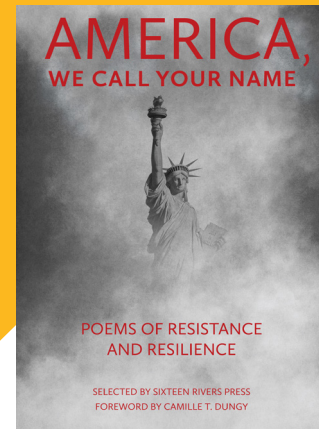
6:30 pm | 4th Floor Meeting Room

Poets and readers including Dan Bellm, Susan Griffin, Ken Haas, Dawn McGuire, Dean Rader, Murray Silverstein, and Susan Terris read from this provocative collection that inspires our highest values and aspirations.

Members **Free** | Public **\$15**

Thursday

04.11.2019



: The White Devil's Daughters: The Women Who Fought Slavery in San Francisco's Chinatown

6:30 pm | 4th Floor Meeting Room

Author Julia Flynn Siler discusses the history of Chinatown's Cameron house with Doreen Der-McLeod, former Executive Director of Donaldina Cameron House.

Cameron House and MI Members **Free**
Public **\$15**

Wednesday

06.12.2019



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday
06.16.2019

: Annual Bloomsday Celebration

6:30 pm | 4th Floor Meeting Room

Eat, read, drink, and walk on the Wild Side of Dublin with readings from James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

Members **\$15** | Public **\$15**



“When I was a boy they built an island in the center of San Francisco Bay that was the capsule of my dreams.”

--Richard Reinhardt,
Treasure Island 1939-1940: The Exposition Years

Treasure Island, constructed from Bay mud in 1936-37, hosted the last of San Francisco's three World's Fairs. It was also the last in a series of American expositions promising exciting modern design, jaw-dropping technology, and the romance of progress as an escape from the Depression. With its exotic architecture, brilliant lighting and color, and spectacular landscaping, the Golden Gate International Exposition was a "Pageant of the Pacific," with art and programming envisioning peace and unity across the Pacific region. Within days after the lights went out for the last time, the Navy moved onto the island, and the dream of "Pacific Unity" was shattered by the beginning of the Pacific War in 1941.

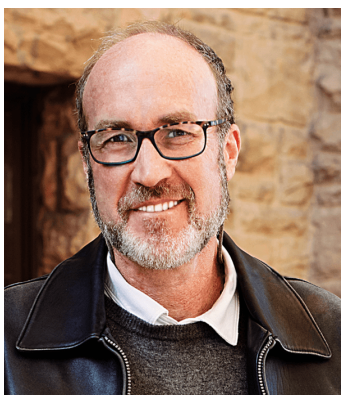
2019 is the 80th anniversary of the Golden Gate International Exposition. Sounds like a reason to have a party! The Mechanics' Institute, in conjunction with the Treasure Island Museum, will be hosting a full day of festivities on April 4, including an afternoon of lectures that explain, honor, and celebrate the Exposition; and a snazzy evening cocktail party. There you will enjoy a keynote address by acclaimed Treasure Island and Mechanics' Institute scholar Richard Reinhardt, music of the times by Lovin' Harmony Trio, and appetizers, wine, and craft liquor tastings. Period dress is encouraged! •

Monday

04.22.2019

: The Unruly Mystic: John Muir

A film screening and discussion
with Michael M. Conti



4th Floor Meeting Room

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm | 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

The Unruly Mystic: John Muir explores the remarkable life and influential works of a patron saint of environmental activism. Director Michael M. Conti will be in attendance for a short Q & A after the film, and will be joined by producer Heather Boyle.

Reservations required.

MI Members and Public **\$12**

4

Classes

2 PART

The 4 Essential Pillars of Novel Construction

4th Floor Meeting Room

Nailing the 4 Essential Pillars of Novel Construction – Talk and Q&A

Saturday, April 13, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Smart writers will take the time to learn how to structure strong pillars that will hold up their stories. If these 4 essential pillars are weak, your novel will collapse.

Members: **\$39**

Public: **\$49**

Workshop Your 4 Essential Pillars of Novel Construction

Saturday, April 13, 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

In this afternoon session, we'll dig deep into your 4 pillars, helping you brainstorm your ideas in small group critique sessions along with instructor feedback.

Members: **\$69**

Public: **\$79**

The Tenderloin District of San Francisco Through Time with Peter Field

May 10, Noon

4th Floor Meeting Room

Join historian Peter Field for a brief history of San Francisco's Tenderloin District.

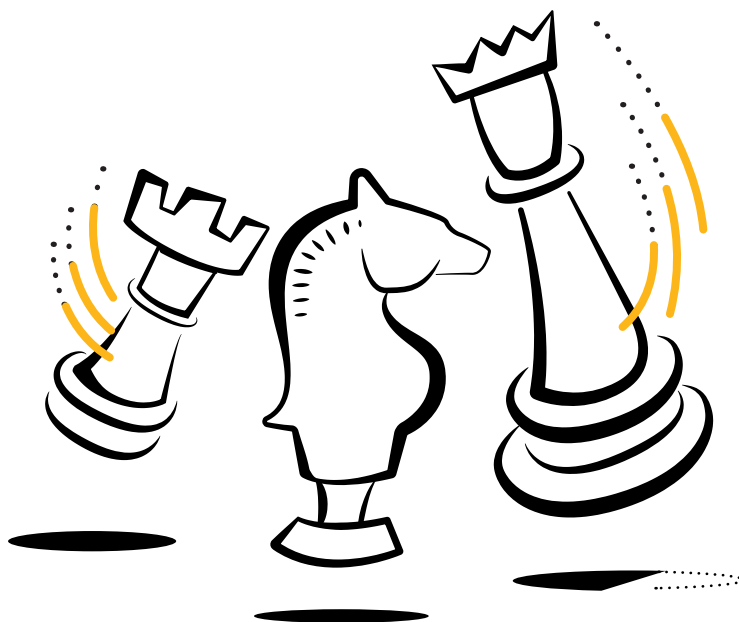
Free to all. No reservations required.

Writing for Children – “It's a Bunny Eat Bunny World”

May 18, 10:30 – 1:30 with midway break
3rd Floor Classrooms

The class gives you an overview of writing for children and helps you become a better children's writer.

MI Members **\$59**; Public **\$70**



New Events, New Formats, Expansion of Programs

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club will be offering a wide range of diverse tournament offerings over the next year that will satisfy the tastes of all types of players. On Monday nights beginning March 18, we will be offering our Monday Night Rapids, which will be a 4 round FIDE and USCF rated tournament with time controls of G/15+2. This will give players the opportunity to compete under faster time controls at an exciting pace that can be fit into one evening.

Our historic Tuesday Night Marathon (TNM) will have a new format for the Spring TNM, beginning March 19. It will be a 3 section tournament, each with its own prizes. We will have a 2000+, 1600-1999, and under 1600 sections. Play up option is available for players if they are within 200 rating points of the section. This will generate action and intrigue in the event and create competitive sections and games each and every week.

We will be hosting two State Championship events this year, with the 2019 CalChess Senior State Championship May 17-19, and the 2019 CalChess Rapid Championship October 26-27.

Also, we have modified some of our monthly weekend events to incorporate longer time controls such as G/90+30 and we will begin offering a monthly scholastic tournament at West Portal Elementary beginning April 15.

We believe the expansion of tournament offerings will provide a pathway for engagement and participation in regular chess events for the San Francisco community and the chess community at large. For more information, please visit our chess club home page at:

www.chessclub.org ●

Tournament Schedule

AJ. Fink Amateur Championship

March 2 - 3, 2019

6 rounds SS

USCF rated

Spring TNM

March 19 - May 7, 2019

8 round SS

G/120;d5

FIDE/USCF rated

Monthly Scholastic Tournament

April 13, 2019

5 round SS

G/30;d5

Open to all scholastic players

USCF rated

West Portal Elementary

Max Wilkerson Memorial

March 15 - 17, 2019

5 round SS

G/90 +30

FIDE/USCF rated

Imre Konig Memorial

April 6, 2019

5 round SS

G/40;d5

USCF rated

For more information on these events and to register, please visit: www.chessclub.org

Special Tournament Events

Monday Night Rapids

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Every other Monday beginning March 18, 2019

4 Round SS | G/15+2 | FIDE Rapid/USCF Action rated

Wednesday Night Blitz

Directed by Jules Jelinek

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Chess Classes

Thursday Chess Class for Tournament Players

Taught by FIDE Master Paul Whitehead

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm (Every Thursday except last one of the month)

Saturday All Ages Chess Class

Taught by International Master Elliott Winslow

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sunday Morning Chess Class for Women

Taught by Sophie Adams and Ewelina Krubnik

11:00 am - 1:00 pm



Robert Eugene Burger passed away on February 6, 2019. He was a Trustee of the Mechanics' Institute from 1982-1996. His devotion to chess and to the Mechanics' Institute will always be part of his legacy, and he will always be remembered among the legends that have been a part of this historic club.

San Francisco Spring Youth Scholastic Championship

The annual San Francisco Youth Scholastic Championship was held on Saturday, March 23 at Golden Gate Park. This event is a true celebration of chess, a free tournament for scholastic players from all over the Bay Area and an opportunity for everyone to participate. The event had six sections; grades K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12, and an open-rated championship section. This tournament is both a community event that complements the work of our Youth Outreach Program, which provides free chess programs to 18 public schools, and our nine after school enrichment programs.

The Mechanics' Institute would like to thank First Republic Bank for their generous sponsorship of this event, as well as the Bright Knights Chess Club, who provided additional support.

CinemaLit

April: Silver Screenwriting

6:00 pm | 4th Floor

04.05 - American Madness

04.12 - The Life of Emile Zola

04.19 - The Great McGinty

04.26 - The Whole Town's
Talking

Biannual Members Meeting

Saturday 06.29.2019

6:00 pm | 4th Floor

5:30 pm Reception & Refreshments

Join us for our biannual
Mechanics' Institute
community gathering to meet
fellow members, staff, and
trustees.

Open to Members & Guests

Night Tour

Monday, 05.13.2019

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.



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 December 1, 2018 and February 28, 2019.

Anonymous (2)

Joel Bauman

Douglas* and Stephanie Butler*

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Invest in the Future of MI

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The Mechanics' Institute depends on generous donors to sustain its programs and services. Membership dues cover 10% of the cost of our operating costs. There are many ways that you can support us, and with the IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution, making a donation benefits you while making a meaningful difference to MI. This law allows people to make transfers directly from their IRA to charity and meet their annual minimum required distribution without incurring income taxes.

You must be 70 ½ or older on the date of the distribution and the distribution must be from a traditional IRA or Roth IRA and transferred directly to the Mechanics' or other charity. The amount transferred counts toward your minimum annual distribution. IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution gifts are not tax-deductible, but you avoid income taxation on the amount transferred. The IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution is a great way to make a big impact and help the Mechanics' Institute continue its mission! Contact your IRA Plan Administrator for more information and to initiate a direct transfer from your IRA. Gifts must be made payable directly to the Mechanics' Institute from your IRA custodian.