

Mechanics' Quarterly

july - september 2019 vol. 3 no. 3

World's Top Players at the Mechanics'



World #2 GM Fabiano Caruana (left) ponders a move against GM Jon Ludvig Hammer in the 2019 Mechanics' Institute Rapid Championship



Announcing New ED Kimberly Scrafano

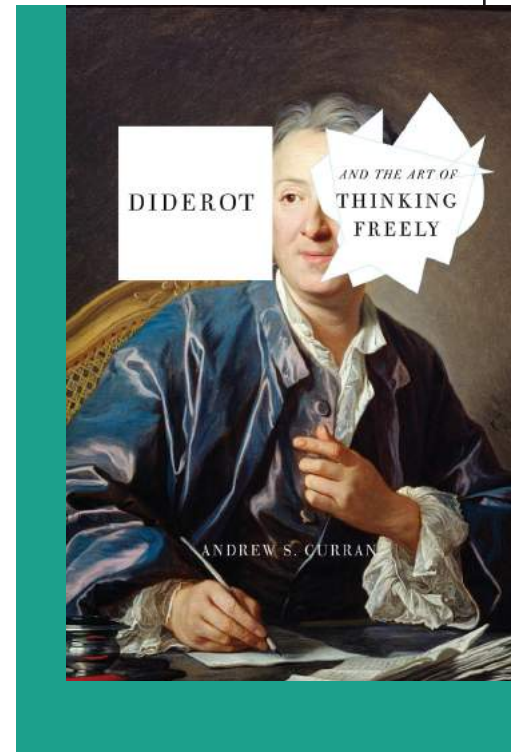


We are delighted to announce that the Institute has a new Executive Director, Kimberly Scrafano, who will join us this coming July.

During an extensive search with many qualified candidates, Kimberly stood out for her expertise, knowledge, and passion for the work of the Mechanics' Institute, as well as her vision for the role of the Institute in today's San Francisco and the larger Bay Area. Her career – most recently as president at Calidad Industries and Chief Program Officer at Goodwill Industries of the Greater East Bay – speaks to an expertise in and passion for community and educational advocacy. She has extensive experience in executive leadership, fundraising, operations, communications, public affairs, and program and staff development. Her dedication to bringing people together and to fostering learning and engagement will ensure that MI continues to support the growth of members in their intellectual and educational endeavors.

Kimberly worked at the U.S. Courts, Ninth Circuit, and for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. She holds BAs in English with a focus on Creative Writing and in Women's Studies with a concentration in Art History and Film Studies from Barnard College, Columbia University, and an MS from the Academy of Chinese Culture & Health Sciences. Kimberly has served on a number of boards and is active in her community in civic and volunteer activities. She enjoys writing prose and poetry and lives in Alameda with her wife and two children.

Kimberly's excitement in joining the Board, staff, and membership of MI is contagious, and we look forward to her joining our community.



Events

: Rectify: The Power of Restorative Justice after Wrongful Convictions

6:30 pm | 4th Floor Meeting Room

Author Lara Bazelon in conversation with Public Defender Brendon Woods. Two experts in criminal justice discuss righting the injustice of wrongful accusation and conviction in California.

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

The Art of Thinking Freely

Author Andrew S. Curran in conversation
with Professor Mark Calkins

On Tuesday, May 14, Professor Andrew Curran gave a dynamic talk on *Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely*, his expansive biography of the famous 18th century writer, playwright and philosopher Denis Diderot. The “bad boy” of his time, Diderot’s atheist views and bold ideas resulted in his incarceration and the banning of his most comprehensive work, a multi-volume *Encyclopedie*—the first of its kind. Much to the delight of Francophiles, Dan Harder, who attended, brought from his personal collection an original 1778 Geneva edition of the forbidden *Encyclopedie* with early illustrations of California.

: Bastille Day Celebration with Le Jazz Hot Concert

3:00 pm | 4th Floor Meeting
Room

Join our annual celebration with the sizzling sounds of Le Jazz Hot! Bring your beret and your love for everything French. We will be serving a special gâteau for the occasion. No-host bar with French wines available for purchase.

Members **\$18** | Public **\$25**

Sunday

07.14.2019



Thursday

07.25.2019



: The San Francisco Civic Center: A History of the Design, Controversies, and Realization of a City Beautiful Masterpiece

6:30 pm | 4th Floor Meeting Room

Co-sponsored by AIA and San Francisco
Historical Society

Author James W. Haas in
conversation with John King, Urban
Design critic of the *San Francisco
Chronicle*. Two experts discuss the
early design and history of Civic
Center and the City Beautiful
movement.

Members and co-sponsors **Free** | Public **\$15**

Thursday

08.08.2019





Join a Writers Group This Summer!

MI currently supports 10 critique groups open to MI members. These groups are all self-governing and self-selecting – after an informal interview, a group decides whether to accept the applicant into the group. For each writers group, commitment to attendance and thoughtful critique of one another's work is essential.

If you are considering a writers group and want to test the waters, try our Thursday afternoon drop-in group, Teacherless Writing, Thursdays 11-1. Registration is not required, and all MI members are welcome to join for impromptu writing, sharing, and critique. Additionally, our Long Form and Suspense groups are looking for new members.

Participants in the Long Form group present novel chapters, short stories, memoirs, plays, screenplays, poems and essays. All members engage in critique with the intention of forwarding the authors' vision through honest, focused feedback. This is a group for experienced, craft-focused writers. An open house to learn more and meet members of this

group will take place on June 17th in Classroom B at 5:30 pm. Contact Paul Heller for additional information about the meeting or the group (paulpaul9443@sbcglobal.net).

The Suspense group is a new addition to the MI writers community, and is looking for members writing suspense from unique perspectives; participants will present short stories as well as novels, and supportive feedback will be provided by and to members. Contact Ellen Pearson, edpsf1@gmail.com for more information, or attend the Writers Lunch on July 19th.

The July mixer will provide networking opportunities and allow interested members to learn about writers groups that are currently looking for new members, as well as to meet other writers that are interested in forming a group. Attendance at the Writers Lunch is open to all, but in order to join or form a writers group at MI, one must be a Mechanics' member.

Wednesday
08.28.2019



:Mapping the City: a discussion of the 1854 map drawn by R.P. Bridgens

2nd floor Library
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

In 1859, the Mechanics' Institute acquired a large map drawn from the 1853 Survey of San Francisco by noted draftsman Richard P. Bridgens. Gracing the Library's 2nd floor, this excessively rare map is among the earliest printed maps of San Francisco and is notable for its grand dimensions and wonderful vignettes of the city's landmarks and architecture.

MI Members and Public **\$12**

Classes

Influencer Outreach with Judy Baker

August 31, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
3rd Floor Classroom

We want blurbs for our books. How do you get them? In this workshop, we cover the step-by-step actions for cultivating connections, building long-term relationships with influencers, and the value of being generous.

Members: **\$59**
Public: **\$69**

Building Your Author Platform: From Strategy to Action

Saturday, April 13, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
3rd Floor Classroom

This workshop is designed to help independent authors overcome the most challenging issues in book marketing, including how to plan for a successful book launch.

Members: **\$59**
Public: **\$69**

What's Your Story? Become an Unforgettable Storyteller **How to create, frame, and tell memorable stories for every occasion**

4th Floor Meeting Room
September 21, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Presented by Kate Farrell, author, librarian, storyteller, and founder of the Word Weaving Storytelling Project. With step-by-step coaching using basic storytelling techniques, you will find your storytelling style. All it requires is your authentic voice and a love of stories. Includes a PDF of the presentation, sent after class.

MI Members **\$25** | Public **\$35**

Chess



World's Top Players at the MI



On May 2, the club hosted the 2019 Mechanics' Institute Rapid Championship, which included top players from all over the world, including world #2 GM Fabiano Caruana and 2018 U.S. Champion GM Sam Shankland. In all, 37 titled players, including 13 Grandmasters, played in a 72-player event that may be the strongest tournament ever held in San Francisco. What was also special about this event was that our club regulars got the opportunity to play in the same section as these elite players, making it a truly remarkable event. The event was organized and directed by Chess Club Director Abel Talamantez with the help of FM Paul Whitehead, GM Nick de Firmian, and Dr. Judit Sztaray. Special thanks also to our Mechanics' Institute Chess Committee and Interim Executive Director Patrick Wolff for being a part of this event and supporting the innovation and activities of the club. This event was produced in partnership with the PRO Chess League, Chess.com, and Twitch.

New MI Chess Director



Abel Talamantez became the 10th Chess Director of the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club in December 2018. He previously served as Deputy Director of Bay Area Chess. He is looking forward to further developing scholastic chess programming and youth outreach, organizing high profile events for the chess club, and introducing innovative changes that connect the chess community to the club. He always welcomes feedback, and can be reached at atalamantez@milibrary.org.

Events

May 28 - July 16, 2019:
Summer TNM: 8 rounds,
G/120;d5.

June 1, 2019:
Arthur Stamer Memorial: 5
rounds, G/40;d5

June 15, 2019:
June Scholastic: 5 rounds,
G/30;d5

June 21 - 23, 2019:
William Addison Memorial:
5 rounds, G/90 +30, \$5000
guaranteed prize fund.

July 13, 2019: July Scholastic:
5 rounds, G/30;d5

July 27, 2019: Charles Bagby
Memorial: 5 rounds, G/40;d5

Monday Night Rapids:
Last Monday of the month,
G/15 +2.

To register for events, visit
the chess club website:
www.chessclub.org

Scholastic Chess



We had our first Scholastic weekend event in April at West Portal Elementary, attracting 22 players. This is the first in a monthly series with the next events scheduled for June 15 and July 13.

Our Saturday kids class continues through the summer from 11 am - 1 pm. To keep up with the exponential growth of this class, we have added an additional coach: WGM Carla Heredia joins the team this summer! This class is suitable for new players, up to those rated 1000. No need to register in advance; just drop by the Mechanics' Institute Chess Room on Saturdays.

Holiday Hours

CLOSED

07.04 INDEPENDENCE

DAY



09.02 LABOR DAY

Summer CinemaLit

Funny Ladies

- 📅 Friday, July 12
I'm No Angel (1933)
Mae West
- 📅 Friday, July 26
The Patsy (1928)
Marion Davies
- 📅 Friday, August 9
Lover Come Back (1961)
Doris Day
- 📅 Friday, August 23
Born Yesterday (1950)
Judy Holliday

Night Tour



Monday, 08.19.2019
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, includes an overview of our history and mission, and outlines 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 March 1, 2019 and May 31, 2019.

Chevron Matching Gifts Program

The Craft Foundation

Estate of Elaine A. Eklund**

The Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund

Jerrold Moskowitz

Universal Service Administrative Co.

Warren LoPresti Fund of The San Francisco Foundation

* James Lick Legacy Society Member

**Life Member

MI's Scholastic Chess Program Fosters Learning and Love of the Game

MI's Scholastic Chess Program began over five years ago at a single school – Marshall Elementary – with 10 boys and girls. Today, due to the support of generous donors and partners, Mechanics' provides chess instruction and mentorship through weekly classes in nearly 20 San Francisco public schools, serving more than 700 K-12 students each year.

At Mechanics', we believe that no child should experience barriers to playing chess. Your donations ensure that our programming is either free or heavily subsidized so that every child who wants to play can join the game, through activities such as weekly classes; a summer camp held each June at the MI; monthly scholarship-supported tournaments focused on encouraging girls and young women to join in; and an annual scholastic tournament where over 250 young players come together to practice their chess skills and learn proper tournament etiquette under the supervision of an experienced, United States Chess Federation-certified tournament director.

The goal of the Scholastic Chess Program is to not only to foster a love of chess, but also to cultivate the social/emotional benefits of gameplay. Our program nourishes critical thinking skills, persevering through adversity, learning from mistakes, and sporting conduct. With your help, we can continue to enhance the lives of the more than 700 students who have embraced the game – increasing their critical thinking skills, improving their social interactions, and allowing them to fall in love with chess.

If you'd like to learn more about how to make a gift to help Mechanics' continue this essential work, please contact Jessica Neaves, Development Director at jneaves@milibrary.org or 415-393-0115.