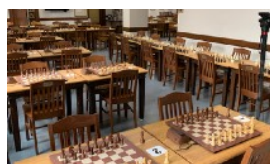




**VIRTUAL EVENTS**  
PAGE 7-8



**CHESS CLUB**  
PAGE 3-4



**LIBRARY PROGRAMS**  
PAGE 5-6



**CURBSIDE PICKUP**  
PAGE 1, 9

# MECHANICS' QUARTERLY

## Mechanics' Institute Library To Go Service

Beginning July 13, members can request available items showing an on-shelf status in the library's catalog, or place a hold on checked out items. Beginning July 20, the library's no-contact service is available by appointment only, on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12-4 p.m. in the 2nd floor lobby. Returns can be made in the 1st floor lobby book drop any time between 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Search for available items in our [catalog](#), call for staff assistance Monday through Friday, 12-4 p.m., or [email](#) requests. Please include your full name and member number in the email. Requests for materials made before the library's March 13 closure have been extended. However, some holds may have been inadvertently canceled. To check the status of a previous hold, log in to your [library account](#) or call the library on or after July 13 for staff assistance.

Returned library materials will be quarantined for several days and will not be checked in immediately upon return. Please keep this in mind when viewing your account details. You will not be charged overdue fees while materials are in quarantine. If you are out of the area after the To Go Service begins, or otherwise unable to return overdue library materials, please call Celeste Steward or Jenny Huynh at 415-393-0101 or email [csteward@milibrary.org](mailto:csteward@milibrary.org) or [jhuynh@milibrary.org](mailto:jhuynh@milibrary.org)

Staff is eager to get back to work providing you with full services. In the interim, all due dates for library materials have been extended until July 31, 2020. Starting July 7, library staff will check phone and email messages Monday-Friday and will respond as quickly as possible. Members also have access to thousands of [ebooks](#), [eaudiobooks](#), [emagazines](#), and [movies](#) as well as [virtual events](#), [book groups](#), [writers groups](#), and [chess](#).

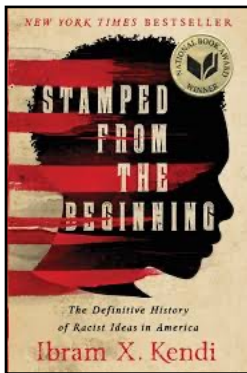
Please note that To Go Service is for **library materials pickup and return only**. Membership, chess, program, and account issues/questions should be directed as follows:

- **Chess** 415-393-0110 or [chess@milibrary.org](mailto:chess@milibrary.org)
- **CinemaLit and events** 415-393-0116 or [events@milibrary.org](mailto:events@milibrary.org)
- **Fines or other library account** issues 415-393-0101 or [circulation@milibrary.org](mailto:circulation@milibrary.org)
- **Library book clubs, virtual programs, Reference, and Reader's Advisory** 415-393-0102 or [reference@milibrary.org](mailto:reference@milibrary.org)
- **Membership** 415-393-0105 or [membership@milibrary.org](mailto:membership@milibrary.org)

**At this time, the library cannot accept book donations.**

## Antiracism Reading Recommendations

As many in our community continue to fight for equity and protest police brutality rooted in institutional racism, the board and staff at Mechanics' Institute has been examining how we can create more opportunities for dialogue about diversity, equality, and inclusion. We have been working to diversify our event offerings and welcome your recommendations on programs you would like to see – or participate in. For those looking for reading material, here are a few articles and books in our library's collection that may act as a starting point for understanding systemic racism and taking action to foster social justice.



[An African American and Latin History of the United States](#) by Paul Ortiz

[Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America](#) by Ibram X. Kendi

[So You Want to Talk About Race](#) by Ijeoma Oluo

[White Fragility](#) by Robin DiAngelo

["White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack"](#) by Peggy McIntosh

["I Wanted to Know What White Men Thought About Their Privilege, So I Asked"](#) by Claudia Rankine

[The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America](#) by Richard Rothstein

[The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism](#) by Edward E. Baptist

[How to Be an Antiracist](#) by Ibram X. Kendi

[Hood Feminism: Notes From the Women That a Movement Forgot](#) by Mikki Kendall

[Between the World and Me](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates

[Real American](#) by Julie Lythcott Haims

[When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir](#) by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele

[Citizen: An American Lyric](#) by Claudia Rankine

[Tears We Cannot Stop](#) by Michael Eric Dyson

[The Meaning of Freedom](#) by Angela Y. Davis

[The Origin of Others](#) by Toni Morrison

[White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide](#) by Carol Anderson

[Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow](#) by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

[The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](#) by Michelle Alexander

[The Fire Next Time](#) by James Baldwin

[The Fire This Time](#) by Jesmyn Ward

Please let us know if you are interested in creating a reading or discussion group focused on Black history, inclusion and diversity, or social justice.

## Chess Club

### San Francisco Scholastic Online Championship Draws 289 Participants



Shawnak Shivakumar won the 2020 San Francisco Scholastic Championship on tiebreaks with a perfect score of 5/5.

The 2020 San Francisco Scholastic Championship was set to take place in Golden Gate Park at the end of March; after the in-person event was cancelled due to San Francisco's shelter-in-place order, Mechanics' Institute successfully transitioned its popular annual free scholastic event to an online format.

At 11 a.m. on May 23, 289 students – the largest turnout in the event's history – joined Mechanics' Institute via ChessKid and Chess.com to participate in the 5-round tournament. We had three non-rated sections divided by grade level and two US Chess Federation (USCF) online-rated championship sections.

The champion of the tournament was Shawnak Shivakumar, an 11-year-old runner up in the 4th grade section of the 2017 National High School Championship; Shawnak's perfect score of 5/5 won the title on tiebreaks over Brian Fong and Rudransh

Pathak, who also earned perfect 5/5 scores. Congratulations to all the participants and to the winners of all the sections! Full results can be found in our [tournament archives](#).

### Scholastic Virtual Offerings: Chess Classes, Camps via Zoom & Tournaments via ChessKid

We are offering a wide range of programming including daily virtual chess classes, online summer camps, and free scholastic tournaments for children. Classes and camps are offered via Zoom, where our experienced coaches hold their dynamic, fun, and educational classes through screen sharing. Scholastic tournaments are offered daily on ChessKid.com, and any player may join with their free account. Check the web for [our offerings](#), and to see a list of [our daily free scholastic events](#).



## Chess Club

### Star-Studded Field For 2020 Mechanics' Institute Rapid and Blitz Championship



GM Eltaj Safarli (above) and GM Aleksandr Lenderman (below) are among the world class players that play at the Mechanics' Institute online chess club.

The 2020 Mechanics' Chess Club Blitz and Rapid Championships was hosted the weekend of May 30-31. In total, nine Grandmasters participated over the weekend, along with our club regulars, and it was lots of fun seeing them battle it out with some of the world's best players. The blitz championship was won by GM Eltaj Safarli, who won the 12-round G/3 +2 tournament with 10.5/12. In 2nd place was GM Aleksandr Lenderman with 9.5/12. Tied for 3rd were GM Andrew Tang and IM Christopher Yoo with 9/12. In the rapid championship, GM Aleksandr Lenderman and GM Gadir Guseinov tied for 1st with a score of 5.5/6 in this G/15 +2 6-round event. IM Christopher Yoo and FM Balaji Daggupati tied for 3rd with 5/6. Full results can be found at our [online championship tournament](#) page.

### Mechanics' Institute Chess Club Moves Online While Sheltering in Place

The vibrant chess community of Mechanics' Institute did not stop interacting with one another when the building closed in mid-March. Instead, we transitioned to Chess.com to form our own Mechanics' Institute Chess Club online, where many

Mechanics' regulars have showed up to play. Anyone can join at [chess.com](https://chess.com), then follow [our online chess club](#) and check the daily tournament schedule at [our website](#).

Our club is part of the Chess.com club's league, which plays against chess organizations from all over the world. Free daily tournaments are offered, and beginning in June, USCF online-rated events have been organized twice a month. Mechanics' Institute's very own FM Paul Whitehead started an online Wednesday evening class for intermediate players rated USCF 1000-1800. Players are encouraged to sign up, and send in their game to experience Paul's unique style and gain valuable insights and suggestions on improvements based on their games. GM Nick de Firmian will start his online series on Thursday evenings, where advanced players rated USCF 1400-2000 will join GM de Firmian to take them to their next chess level.

Whatever your skill level, become part of our chess community. Please reach out to us at [chessroom@milibrary.org](mailto:chessroom@milibrary.org) if you have any questions on how to join. Find more information about regular virtual offerings at <https://www.milibrary.org/chess/online>.



## Library Programs

### All Library Programs July - September will be held via Zoom.

To join a virtual library program via Zoom, you must register in advance. Go to the event page at [milibrary.org/events](https://milibrary.org/events) and click the registration link. Fill in the required information and a link to the event will be emailed to you. You will use this link to access the program on the date and time of the event.

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#### **Where Do We Go From Here: A Conversation on the Bay Area's Homeless Crisis**

July 2, 6:00 p.m.

MI Members & Public Free



Join "OG Rev" Harry Louis Williams II, Interim Minister of Compassionate Care at the historic Glide Memorial Church, and Randy Shaw, Director of San Francisco's Tenderloin Housing Clinic, for an inside look at the region's rapidly growing homeless population and what it is like on the streets during these turbulent times. Both gentlemen will speak of their writing careers and their experiences helping our most vulnerable citizens. Moderated by Laurie McLean, Director of the San Francisco Writers Conference and Taryn Edwards, Librarian and Strategic Partnerships Librarian of Mechanics' Institute.

#### **Hidden San Francisco**

July 7, 7:00 p.m.

MI Members & Public Free



Only when you look beyond the picture-postcards of the Golden Gate Bridge and the quaint cable cars do you realize that San Francisco's most interesting stories are not the Summer of Love, the Beats, or even

the latest Gold Rush in Silicon Valley. Join us as Chris Carlsson presents his new book, *Hidden San Francisco*, in which he peels back the layers of San Francisco's history to reveal a storied past: behind old walls and gleaming glass facades lurk former industries, secret music and poetry venues, forgotten terrorist bombings, and much more. Carlsson delves into the Bay Area's long prehistory as well, examining the region's geography and the lives of its inhabitants before the 1849 Gold Rush set in motion the clash between capital and labor that shaped the modern city.

## Library Programs

### **A History of Crime Fiction**

Saturdays July 18-August 8

10:00 a.m - 11:30 a.m.

MI Members \$79; Public \$99



Almost as long as crime has existed, people have been writing about it – but they only got around to making it all up a few hundred years ago. This four-week course led by Dr. Myles Dungan, examines the origins and the

development of English-language crime fiction since the late eighteenth century. The focus will be on work such as that which was produced by Arthur Conan Doyle at the turn of the twentieth century, Agatha Christie and writers of the so-called “Golden Age”, and the American hard-boiled school – Chandler, Hammett and Highsmith – of the mid-twentieth century.

### **Dostoevsky’s Demons**

Wednesdays September 2 - November 18,  
5:30 p.m.

MI Members & Public Free



In a small-town in 1860s Russia, high-minded retired academics, bored young aristocrats, and an enigmatic band of revolutionaries come together to make social

change – but the result is total chaos. this course examines one of the lesser-read great Russian novels, *Demons* (sometimes translated as *The Possessed* or *The Devils*), which Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote after returning from political exile in Siberia. We’ll work through this thrilling revolutionary mystery, along the way uncovering Dostoevsky’s political philosophy, and possibly drawing some parallels to our current moment. Watch our website for the upcoming listing to sign up for this class.

### **Flash Fiction Open Mic**

August 19, 6:00 p.m.

MI Members & Public Free



What we are facing in this country and worldwide is unprecedented as far as contemporary generations are concerned. The effects of the pandemic on social inequality, urban life, and industry have been both radical and

sweeping. In this virtual open mic event, share your flash fiction examining the truths and the lies we are uncovering amid this global pandemic. Moderated by author Lyzette Wanzer. Watch for the web listing in July, or sign up early to snag one of nine five-minute reading slots by contacting [Taryn Edwards](#)!

## Virtual Literary and Cultural Events

### All Events July - September will be held via Zoom.

To join a virtual library program via Zoom, you must register in advance. Go to the event page at [milibrary.org/events](http://milibrary.org/events) and click the registration link. Fill in the required information and a link to the event will be emailed to you. You will use this link to access the program on the date and time of the event.

#### **Abolish Silicon Valley: How to Take Capitalism out of Technology** Wendy Liu

July 1, 5:00 p.m. MI Members & Public Free



*Abolish Silicon Valley* is both a heartfelt personal story about the wasteful inequality of Silicon Valley,

and a rallying call to engage in the radical politics needed to upend the status quo.

*Tech and the City* is cosponsored by Gray Area and Goethe-Institut, SF

#### **Frida in America: The Creative Awakening of a Great Artist**

**Celia Star**

July 16, 5:00 p.m. MI Members & Public Free



In vivid detail, *Frida in America* recreates the pivotal journey including San

Francisco, Detroit, and New York – and made Señora Rivera the world-famous Frida Kahlo.

*When the DeYoung Museum reopens, enjoy the exhibit Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving, which will be extended this Fall.*

#### **Suffrage 100**

Commemorating the ratification of the 19th Amendment, this series on the history of the Suffrage Movement is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters, San Francisco. Watch our website to register for these events.

#### **July 23, 5:00 p.m. Voting Rights,**

**Equity, and the Political Process** covers local, state and federal laws and practices that promote or hinder voting rights.

#### **August 26, 5:00 p.m. Women in**

**Politics: A Progress Report** covers representation by women in government, what women can do to lead our country, and how we as citizens can preserve democratic values and voting rights during the 2020 presidential election.

## CinemaLit

### Classic French Films

MI Members Free; Public \$10 Donation

July is **Classic French Films** month with CinemaLit. Enjoy four great films of various eras and styles, each representative of some of the best filmmaking to come out of France.

July 10, 6:00 p.m.

**The Rules of the Game**, (1939)

Directed by Jean Renoir, starring Nora Gregor and Marcel Dalio

July 24, 6:00 p.m.

**The 400 Blows** (1959)

Directed by Francois Truffaut, starring Jean-Pierre Leaud and Abert Remy

July 17, 6:00 p.m.

**The Beauty and the Beast** (1946)

Directed by Jean Cocteau, starring Jean Marais and Josette Day

July 31, 6:00 p.m.

**Cleo from 5 to 7** (1962)

Directed by Agnes Varda, starring Corinne Marchand and Antoine Bourseiller

August CinemaLit will feature films and documentaries on social justice and Black history in America. Watch our website to register and for additional details.

### Bastille Day 2020



Mes Amis—we will miss celebrating Bastille Day with you in person on July 14th this year! CinemaLit recommends watching *Farewell, My Queen* (*Les adieux à la reine*) on Kanopy.

Marking the return of acclaimed director Benoit Jacquot (*A Single Girl*), *Farewell, My Queen* brilliantly captures the passions, debauchery, occasional glimpses of nobility, and ultimately the chaos that engulfed the court of Marie Antoinette in the final days before the full-scale outbreak of the Revolution. This sumptuous and suspenseful drama stars Diane Kruger, Léa Seydoux, and Virginie Ledoyen.



## Charitable Giving

These are bewildering times. Swept up in a relentless tempest, our lives adapt, adopt, surge, and sag. Yesterday's new normal becomes today's obsolescence. We can hardly fathom tomorrow, as uncertainty reigns.

This will pass. Through the years, the Mechanics' Institute has successfully weathered many storms. This one will be no different. Since 1854, Mechanics' has shined a beacon of San Francisco's venerable intellectual and cultural heritage, emerging from wars, fires, and plagues. We're strong, resilient, and carry on — in large part because of you, our treasured members and supporters.

Words cannot begin to adequately express our enormous appreciation and gratitude. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for sharing and participating in our classic, unique, and irreplaceable local gem.

Similar to most nonprofits, Mechanics' has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Reopening plans, replete with health protocols, are in the works. We invite your support to help us continue our programs and legacy. We are now utilizing PayPal to make it simpler for you to support the Mechanics' Institute by setting up a recurring gift on a monthly basis. Many thanks for your consideration in these turbulent times.

Take care, stay well, and thank you. We look forward to welcoming you back to Mechanics' Institute!

## Recent Major Gifts

We are extremely grateful for the support we have received from the following individuals and foundations, who make our continued growth possible. Thank you! The following contributions were received between March 1 and May 31, 2020.

**Lindsey Crittenden**

**William F. Heijn**

**Susan Karp**

**Napa Valley Community Foundation**

**SF Heritage**

## Ways to Give

Donations may be made online at [milibrary.org](https://milibrary.org), by mail, via your company's matching gifts program, or directly from your retirement or other investment account. Joining the James Lick Legacy Society signals your commitment to the Mechanics' Institute's ongoing mission, so that future generations may benefit from your generosity.

Contact Development Director Tony Adessa at [tadessa@milibrary.org](mailto:tadessa@milibrary.org) to request more information, or call him at 415.393.0115 to discuss giving opportunities.

## Library To Go Step-By-Step

### Request Items

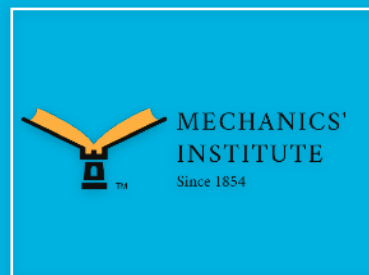
- Find books, DVDs, audiobooks on CD, or music CDs in the Library's catalog and place your hold.
- At this time, magazines are not available for reserve or checkout.
- Members are limited to 10 items for checkout. This can be any combination of media and print materials.
- If you require assistance placing holds, call 415-393-0101 Monday through Friday between 12-4 p.m.

### Wait for Notification

- You will receive an *email or phone notification* when your materials are ready for pickup.
- Once you receive your notification, call the Circulation Desk at 415-393-0101 to schedule an appointment for pickup. If you cannot reach a live person to schedule an appointment, please leave your name and phone number so we can return your call and confirm your appointment time.

### After Notification

- Arrive at your appointed day and time slot.
- If you need to reschedule, please give us a call at 415-393-0101.
- You may return books and other materials during your appointment.
- Fine resolution or member account consultation is not available during To Go Service.
- Staff will be wearing face masks.
- Face masks fully covering your nose and mouth are required.



57 Post St  
San Francisco, CA 94104

### Library Questions

415.393.0101  
[reference@milibrary.org](mailto:reference@milibrary.org)

### Membership Questions

415.393.0105  
[membership@milibrary.org](mailto:membership@milibrary.org)

### Support the Institute

Donate  
[milibrary.org/give](https://milibrary.org/give)  
Join  
[milibrary.org/join](https://milibrary.org/join)  
Renew  
[milibrary.org/renew](https://milibrary.org/renew)

### Hours

The Mechanics' Institute Building is currently closed. We will post hours to our website when we are able to reopen.

### Holiday Closures

July 3 Independence Day (observed)  
July 4 Independence Day  
September 7 Labor Day