

Polls and Politics: Join Mechanics' Online This Fall

Lost in a Gallup: Polling Failures in US Presidential Elections

October 1, 5:30 pm

Online; Registration required

MI members and public: Free

Author W. Joseph Campbell talks with Priya David Clemens, host of KQED Newsroom in a sweeping look at the messy and contentious past of US presidential pre-election polls and why they aren't as reliable as we think. Please check the [event link](#) for additional details and to register.



A People's Guide to the San Francisco Bay Area

October 8, 5:30 pm

Online; Registration required

MI members and public: Free

Authors Rachel Brahinsky and Alexander Tarr delve into an alternative history and geography of the Bay Area that offers new ways of seeing the city, highlighting sites of oppression, resistance, and transformation. Please check the [event link](#) for additional details and to register.

Would you like to read more on these topics? Search our library collection!

To use the library's **To Go pickup service**, reserve materials through your online account or call the circulation desk at 415-393-0101. Staff will contact you to set up an appointment when your requested materials are ready for pickup. Appointments are available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm. Find more information on the To Go service in our [blog announcement](#).

Chess

Mechanics' Online Chess Classes

Check out the wide range of classes being offered by the Mechanics' Institute, including our new, free Women's Class on Sundays, offered through a grant from the US Chess Women's Program and the St. Louis Chess Club!

Class details can be found on the [chess classes](#) page of our website. Classes are 60-90 minutes long and conducted via Zoom. Details of the class are sent via email. If registering for multiple classes, registration can be used within the next two months.



Three-time US Champion GM Nick de Firmian (below) and FM Paul Whitehead (above) teach engaging online courses for our chess community and members.



Endgame Lab with FM Paul Whitehead

Mondays 6:30 - 8:00 pm; August 31 through October 5

More information can be found in the [class listing](#).

[Registration](#) is required.

Online class for Club players with FM Paul Whitehead

Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm; Ongoing

More information can be found in the [class listing](#).

[Registration](#) is required.

NEW: A Journey Through Chess History; Course 1: Olympiads with GM Nick de Firmian

Thursdays 5:00 - 6:30 pm; September 3 through September 24

More information can be found in the [class listing](#).

[Registration](#) is required.

NEW: The World Championship Match with FM Paul Whitehead

Thursdays 6:30 - 8:00 pm; Part 1 September 3 through October 1;

Part 2 October 8 through November 5

More information can be found in the [class listing](#).

[Registration](#) is required.

Free Women's Online Chess Class with FIDE trainer Sophie Adams

Sundays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

More information can be found in the [class listing](#).

[Registration](#) is required.

Mechanics' Institute Tuesday Night Marathon Continues Online

The flagship event for the Mechanics' Institute continues online, with solid turnout and participation from regular MI Chess Club players. The Tuesday Night Marathon (TNM) includes two games each Tuesday evening on Chess.com, time control of G/35+2 with games paired manually. An average of 60 participants have turned up at each event and the chat during the broadcast is lively and fun. While it is not the TNM many are used to at the Mechanics' chess room, it is exciting to see so many familiar players coming together for a social, competitive, and fun evening. To follow results and to participate, [join us online](#).

Blitz Tournament of the Americas Draws 91 Participants

The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club organized and hosted the Blitz Tournament of the Americas on August 15, 2020, bringing together masters primarily from the continental Americas in an effort to showcase top notch talent from diverse communities. Representing 15 countries, 91 players -- including nine Grandmasters (GM) and 13 International Masters (IM) -- participated in this event. More than 20% of this exceptionally strong field were women.

In the end, GM Juan Carlos Obregon Rivero from Cuba won the series with a score of 8/9. GM Conrad Holt took second place with a score of 7.5/9. IM Andrew Hong and FM Kyron Griffith tied for third place with a score of 7/9. MI Trustee and former two-time U.S. Champion GM Patrick Wolff turned in a fine performance, including a victory over second place finisher GM Conrad Holt. Women's Grand Master (WGM) Lisandra Teresa Ordaz Valdes (Cuba) was the top female finisher with 6/9 and Ann Lindsay Chumpitaz Carbajal (Peru) scored 5.5/9.

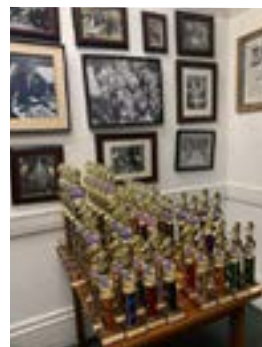
We wish to thank our partners, KmadaChess and Chess sin Fronteras for helping with the organization of this event.

Mechanics' Institute Chosen To Organize 2020 US Cadet National Championship

We are proud to announce that the US Chess Federation has selected the Mechanics' Institute to organize the 2020 US Cadet Online National Championship. This event is an eight-player invitational for the top under 16-year-old players in the country. Six of the players are chosen by USCF rating, one is chosen as winner of the Barber Championship (Junior High), and one is an organizer wild card.

This event will be held September 25 through 27, 2020 online on Chess.com. The schedule and event info can be found on the [tournament schedule page](#) of our website.

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



The MI Chess Club offers a wide range of programming online, including daily virtual chess classes, online summer camps, and free scholastic tournaments for children. Classes and camps are taught by experienced coaches who hold their dynamic, fun, and educational classes via screen sharing. Scholastic tournaments happen daily on ChessKid.com, where any player may join with their free account. Scholastic players joining our tournaments compete for trophies (left) that can be picked up by arrangement at the Mechanics' Institute.

Find a list of our daily free scholastic events on [the event's web page](#).

Mechanics' Institute Chess on YouTube

Many Mechanics' Chess Club regulars have transitioned to our online club. Whatever your skill level, join, play, and be a part of our community. Please reach out to us at chessroom@milibrary.org if you have any questions on how to join. You can watch archived videos of our events on [our YouTube channel](#).

Upcoming Events

Two Novels and Novelists: An evening of Love and Mysteries

October 15, 5:30 pm
Online; Registration required
MI members and public: Free

Multi-talented poet/playwright Dan Harder, author of *Rancho de Amor* and well-known writer/illustrator Paul Madonna, author of *Come to Light* present their intriguing novels combining lost and discovered love, hidden identities and disappearances. Join us for an evening of delicious mystery and romance! Please check the [event link](#) for additional details and to register.



What a Body Can Do: How We Meet the Built World

October 29, 5:30 pm
Online; Registration required
MI members and public: Free

Author and designer Sara Hendren, in conversation with disability activist Rosemarie Garland-Thompson, will discuss a fascinating and provocative new way of looking at the things we use and the spaces we inhabit, with an invitation to imagine a better-designed world for diverse abilities. The Tech and the City series is cosponsored by Gray Area and Goethe-Institut. Please check the [event link](#) for additional details and to register.



One Hundred Years of Exile: A Romanov's Search for Her Father's Russia with Tania Romanov

November 10, 6:00 pm
Online; Registration required
MI members and public: Free

Join award-winning travel photographer and author Tania Romanov for a discussion about how her new book *One Hundred Years of Exile: A Romanov's Search for Her Father's Russia* came to life. She will share the story of her journey through 100 years of history to find peace with her father. Please check the [event link](#) for additional details and to register.



Unforgetting: A Memoir of Family, Migration, Gangs, and Revolution in the Americas

November 12, 5:30 pm
Online; Registration required
MI members and public: Free



Journalist and Writer's Grotto member Robert Lovato's memoir is an urgent, no-holds-barred tale of gang life, guerrilla warfare, intergenerational trauma, and interconnected violence between the United States and El Salvador. Please check our

[website](#) for additional details and to register.

Bi-Annual Members' Meeting Online

December 3, 5:30-6:30 pm
Online; Registration not required
MI members and guests: Free

Join us for our bi-annual Mechanics' Institute community gathering to hear from fellow members, staff, and trustees. Learn about new plans and programs, technology updates, and our efforts to improve your experience as members. Your participation is welcome.

In advance of this meeting, Mechanics' Institute's 2020 Annual Report will be published online and emailed to members who have an email address on file with us. The Annual Report contains information about the Institute's year in review as well as plans for the future. You will find the results of our 2020 audit, as well as a list of those who have sustained the MI with their donations throughout the year. The 2020 report can be accessed at [our website](#) in late November.

Mechanics' Institute Holiday Gathering: Happy Hour Online

December 10, 5:30-6:30 pm
Online; Registration recommended
MI members and guests: Free

Join us for an hour of good cheer at our online holiday party (bring your own libations)! Enjoy some fun and camaraderie to reconnect during this time.

A Selection of Upcoming Writers Programs

Mechanics' Institute offers a host of classes as well as reading, activity, and discussion groups each week. For program details and to register for programs, visit our website at milibrary.org, where you will find complete listings and information.

Face Time with an Editor
November 13, 12:00-2:00 pm
To submit writing sample for evaluation \$25; To observe \$5

Much can be learned about writing and self-editing from watching an editor in the trenches. It can also calm a writer's trepidation about submitting their own writing for editorial scrutiny. Editor and instructor David Colin Carr will use attendees' submissions of writing and/or structural concerns, and students will observe how an editor explores specific challenges in live conversation with a writer. Learn more about this class and how to submit work for evaluation at the [event link](#).

Building Your Author Platform: 10 Ways to Leverage Authority Marketing to Grow A Meaningful Brand
November 20, 10:00 - 1130 am
MI Members \$75; Public \$95

This 90-minute workshop will give you a practical roadmap to building a platform for your work. Author and instructor Rusty Shelton will share the strategies used to develop branding for some of the world's leading authors and thought leaders, drawing on the framework shared in his newest bestselling book, *Authority Marketing: How to Leverage 7 Pillars of Thought Leadership to Make Competition Irrelevant*.

Shelton will share a 10-step plan that combines insights from the changing worlds of publicity, social media, and marketing to help nonfiction authors cut through the clutter and build an audience. Attendees will leave the presentation with an online brand audit and a roadmap they can follow to grow their platform in the years to come. Learn more and register at the [event link](#).

Upcoming Events

And Then They Were Gone: Teenagers of Peoples Temple from High School to Jonestown

November 17, 6:00 pm
Online; Registration required
MI members and public: Free

Judy Beelaar and Ron Cabral were both instructors at Opportunity High, a public alternative school in San Francisco when, in September of 1976, Jim Jones enrolled all the Temple teenagers there. Within nine months, most had been sent to Guyana. Judy Beelaar will talk about the idealistic young people from the Temple she and Ron met at Opportunity. Please check the [event link](#) for additional details and to register.

Hamnet: A Novel of the Plague

November 19, 1:30 pm
Online; Registration required
MI members and public: Free

Acclaimed author of *I Am, I Am, I Am*, Maggie O'Farrell will join us in conversation with Philippa Kelly, Dramaturg for Cal Shakespeare Theater Company, to discuss her piercing, deeply moving new novel about the death of Shakespeare's eleven-year-old son Hamnet -- a name interchangeable with Hamlet in fifteenth-century Britain -- and the years leading up to the production of his great play. Please check our website for additional details and to register.

The Money Plot A History of Currency's Power to Enchant, Control, and Manipulate

December 2, 5:30 pm
Online; Registration required
MI members and public: Free

Author Frederick Kaufman delves into the past 65,000 years to demystify the concept of money, and see through the fog of modern finance. Please check our website for additional details and to register.

Missed any of our recent events or programs? Many of them are recorded and available online. Please visit the MI YouTube channel to enjoy some of our recent events!



CinemaLit



Women of Noir

October 2
Woman on the Run
(1950) 77 min; Directed by Norman Foster
Anne Sheridan, Dennis O'Keefe

October 9
Sudden Fear
(1952) 110 min; Directed by David Miller
Joan Crawford, Jack Palance

October 16
The Hitch-Hiker
(1953) 71 min; Directed by Ida Lupino
Edmond O'Brien, William Talman

October 23
The Bigamist
(1953) 80 min; Directed by Ida Lupino
Joan Fontaine, Ida Lupino

October 30
The Naked Kiss
(1964) 90 min; Directed by Samuel Fuller
Constance Towers, Anthony Eisley

Programs begin at 6:00 pm;
MI members free; Public \$10 Suggested Donation;
Registration required

Watch our website for a November dedicated to *Comic Relief* -- and our big season finale in December!

Recent Major Gifts

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 June 1 and August 31, 2020.

Estate of Barbara E. Busch*
Lindsey Crittenden
Robert and Michelle Friend
In Honor of Mr & Mrs Richard Laiderman
David* and Stella Goodwin
Laura Hamady
Sandra Hess
Douglas M. Jamieson
Donald R.* And Virginia L. Meyer**
Jerrold Moskowitz
Mark** and Lisa Pinto
Charles T. Sullivan*
In Honor of Richard Reinhardt

* James Lick Legacy Society Member
**Life Member

Give the Gift of Culture

Consider giving a Mechanics' Institute [gift membership](#) to those on your holiday list this year. Recipients will have access to our online databases, ebooks, films, emagazines, and eaudiobooks, as well as the opportunity to join virtual author events, salon discussions, and book groups; members can also join online chess matches and classes with our staff of grandmasters and chess teachers. When we're able to safely reopen, members will have access to even more benefits!

To support our work and your fellow members during the ongoing pandemic, **donations** may be made online at milibrary.org/give, 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 to request more information, or call him at 415.393.0115 to discuss giving opportunities.

Frances Thompson



In Memoriam, 1913-2019

Frances Thompson was a substantial benefactress of the Mechanics' Institute. A long-time member, she chose to support MI quietly and privately. She was involved in MI's development and marketing. Along with current MI trustee Bill Newmeyer, Frances was instrumental in the founding of the James Lick Society for planned giving. Bill remembers her involved in our outreach as well, recalling Frances as a 'tireless worker on the sesquicentennial (150th) celebration.' Former Executive Director Jim Flack fondly remembers Frances as a 'sparkplug full of good ideas,' and appreciated her commitment to support MI in its outreach and development work.

Frances had a long career at AT&T and was reportedly an astute businesswoman. She was always enthusiastic in supporting the MI and was an ardent user of the MI Library's financial and investment advisory services publications. Frances enjoyed sharing stories of her experiences, including the time she met Steve Jobs in the 1970s, when his jeans and sandals practically crashed a AT&T meeting and ended with her spending the day with the famous Jobs. Even long after she retired, Frances loved to come to MI and help with our events and read financial publications. She even stated that what she read and learned at MI helped her save the money she did during her lifetime.

Upon Frances' death last year, MI was informed that she had left a large bequest for MI. This bequest of more than half of a million dollars was dedicated to our National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) challenge grant. Therefore, with the NEH match, her gift will support approximately \$775K in work to ensure the integrity of our historic building in downtown San Francisco. From what we know of Frances, we believe that she would appreciate our leveraging her very generous contribution to make such a significant impact on the viability of MI and its legacy for generations to come.

With Frances seeming not to have left any living relatives, it is our hope that this tribute serves to show the appreciation we have for her generosity and care of MI. She clearly felt so strongly about MI that she left her entire estate to the Institute to ensure that more members can feel the connection she seems to have had here for many years. Frances is missed by many here at MI, but her legacy and commitment to the Institute will live on.



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Library Questions?

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Support the Institute today!

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Renew: milibrary.org/renew

Library Hours

Please see our website for details.

Closures

October 12
Indigenous Peoples' Day

November 11
Veterans' Day

November 26 - 27
Thanksgiving

December 24 - 25
Christmas

January 1
New Year's Day

Due to San Francisco public health requirements, 57 Post Street has been closed to the public since March 15, 2020, with the exception of pre-arranged appointments to pick up materials reserved via the library's To Go library service. Please check milibrary.org for updates.