

San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship Returns to Golden Gate Park

The San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship returns to over-the-board play in Spring 2023.

“As many youth chess players know, Mechanics' Institute had to pivot during the pandemic and move most of our classes and tournaments online. Over the past year and a half, the Institute's staff have worked diligently to ensure that we have been able to return to more schools and in-person tournaments in our scholastic enrichment program,” said Kimberly Scrafano, CEO of Mechanics' Institute. “While we have appreciated the opportunity to organize our annual chess championship online for the last three years, we are excited to announce that the Institute is planning to host the 2023 San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship in-person and live in Golden Gate Park this spring.”



The Mechanics' Institute's San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship has brought together hundreds of young players of all levels annually since 2015. The intent of the event is to foster competition in a friendly environment, and therefore there are both non-rated and USCF-rated sections, engaging players of all skill levels. With past grant support from the Morris and Alma Shapiro Fund, the A.O. Dragge Foundation, the Mary A. Crocker Trust, and First Republic Bank, the Institute has been able to offer this event free to all players.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 4. The San Francisco Scholastic Chess Championship will take place at 10am at the San Francisco County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park.

Featured in this Issue



**Fête de
Colette**
pg. 2



**Two New
Financial
Literacy
Classes**
pg. 4



**Private Tour of
"We Are Bruce
Lee: Under
the Sky, One
Family" Exhibit**
pg. 5

Featured Events

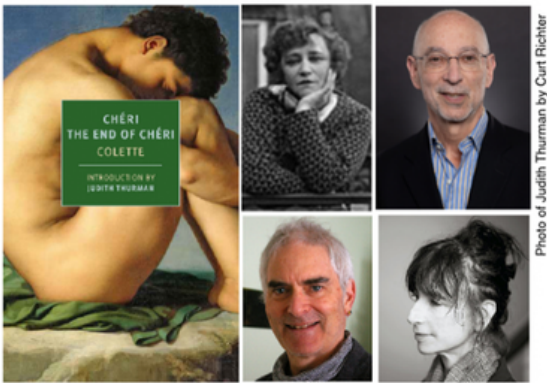
Fête de Colette

Mechanics' Institute hosts the Fête de Colette, our three-day celebration of the 150th birthday of France's most famous and provocative woman writer Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette (1873-1954) and the re-printing of her beloved novels *Chéri* and *The End of Chéri* (New York Review of Books). The festival, to be held January 25, 26, and 27, includes an online panel with internationally renowned translators and biographers, a live performance of *Colette Uncensored* performed by Bay Area actress Lorri Holt, and a CinemaLit film feature *Chéri* starring Michelle Pfeiffer (details on pg. 6).

Fête de Colette: The Intimate Worlds of Colette

Colette's *Chéri* (1920) and its sequel, *The End of Chéri* (1926), are widely considered her masterpieces. Paul Eprile's new translations of these two celebrated novels bring out a vivid sensuality and intelligence that past translations have failed to capture. Join this online opening event with celebrated literary experts.

Translator Paul Eprile in conversation with biographer Judith Thurman, moderated by writer and poet Zack Rogow
Wednesday, January 25 at 12pm
Online; Registration required



World Literature Book Group: *The Pure and the Impure* by Colette

Read and discuss what Colette regarded as her best novel and most autobiographical, *The Pure and the Impure*, with fellow members and Mechanics' Institute staff on Zoom.

Hosted by Myles Cooper
Wednesday, January 25, 7-8:15pm
Online; Registration required



Fête de Colette: Solo Performance of *Colette Uncensored*

Colette Uncensored is a one-woman show about the amazing life of French author Colette (1873–1954). Colette wrote the books that the movies *Gigi* and *Chéri* were based on, as well as fifty other works. She blazed trails in many areas such as women's empowerment, respect for nature, and sexual liberation. This one-woman show features actress Lorri Holt playing Colette and nine other characters from the author's life. The play's bold themes will resonate deeply with audiences in the current political climate. The live performance will be followed by a talk-back with the audience.

Performed by Lorri Holt, directed by David Ford and Jayne Wenger, co-written by Zack Rogow
Thursday, January 26 at 7pm
4th Floor Meeting Room; Registration required

Featured Events

Author Events



Paulina Van
Phd, RN, CNE

Sandra Kistler
RN, MSN, CIC

Health, Healing, and Beginning a New Year

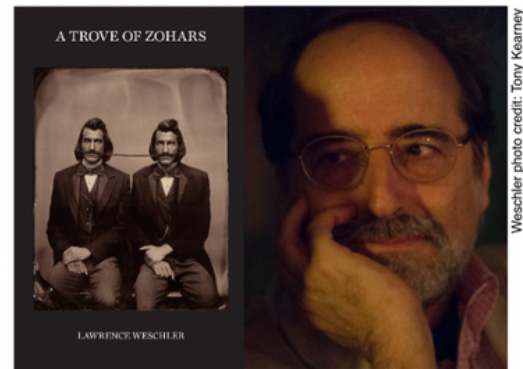
Registered nurses and veteran health practitioners Paulina Van and Sandra Kistler will engage us with innovative ways to start 2023 beyond the usual New Year resolutions. Using meditative writing, Nia Technique movement, and approaches for coping with grief, this session will rejuvenate us from Covid era loss and uncertainty. Join us for a unique and illuminating program. Tea and refreshments will be served.

With Paulina Van, Phd, RN, CNE and Sandra Kistler, RN, MSN, CIC
Friday, January 6 from 12:30-2pm
4th Floor Meeting Room; Registration required

A Trove of Zohars

An antic tale of investigative perplexities and inquiry ensues when author Lawrence Weschler tracks down Stephen Berkman, the wet-collodion devotee who claims to have discovered a trove of work by Shimmel Zohar, a nineteenth-century photographer who chronicled the Jewish immigrant community of the Lower East Side.

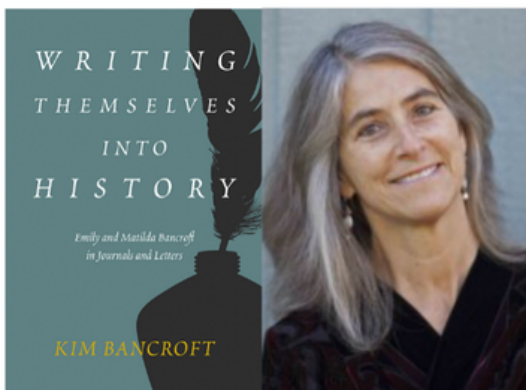
With author Lawrence Weschler and photographer Stephen Berkman,
co-sponsored by The Contemporary Jewish Museum of San Francisco
Thursday, January 12 at 6pm
4th Floor Meeting Room; Registration required



Writing Themselves into History: Emily and Matilda Bancroft in Journals and Letters

In the early years of California's statehood, Emily Brist Ketchum Bancroft (1834–1869) and Matilda Coley Griffing Bancroft (1848–1910) had front-row seats to the unfolding of the Golden State's history. *Writing Themselves into History* offers a rich immersion in nineteenth-century California, detailing Emily and Matilda's experiences with public life, motherhood, and business against the backdrop of San Francisco's high society and the state's growth amidst the tumult of the American Civil War.

With author Kim Bancroft, co-sponsored by Heyday Press
Thursday, January 19 at 6pm
4th Floor Meeting Room; Registration required



Featured Programs

Writing the Heroine's Journey

Tired of the hero's journey? Explore the exceptional and unique challenges of the heroine's journey as depicted in ancient feminine myths and fairy tales. Learn how to use the heroine's quest in your journaling or creative writing for any genre: fiction, nonfiction, memoir, and more. In this session, we'll discuss five basic benchmarks of the feminine journey found in myths and fairy tales that date back millennia to matriarchal cultures including separation from home, dependency, and motherhood; confrontation of the Aphrodite influences of beauty and envy; descent to the underworld, forest, or darkness; impossible tasks that develop Logos, the male aspect; and returning alone and empowered.

Taught by Kate Farrell

Saturday, February 25 from 11am-1pm

4th Floor Meeting Room; Registration required



Value Line Resource Center

Investing in publicly traded stocks? If so, you may want to explore this resource that covers some 1,700 stocks, representing more than 90% of the U.S. trading volume. Learn about Value Line's ranking system for the timeliness, safety, and financial strength of specific stocks, and how to access company research reports. With analyst commentary and recommendations, we will also examine how to utilize the stock screener to generate a focused list of different companies.

Hosted by Craig Jackson

Friday, January 13 from 2-2:45pm

3rd Floor Library Classroom A; Registration required

Morningstar Investment Research Center

This tutorial demonstrates both site content and site navigation. Morningstar provides independent research, analysis, and recommendations covering 1,700 stocks, 2,200 mutual funds, and 400 exchange traded funds. Useful site tools include screeners for both funds and stocks to generate a list of investments that meet particular criteria; portfolio X-ray, an analytical tool to view portfolios in a variety of ways; four monthly newsletters covering various types of securities; plus articles and video features.

Hosted by Craig Jackson

Friday, January 27 from 2-2:45pm

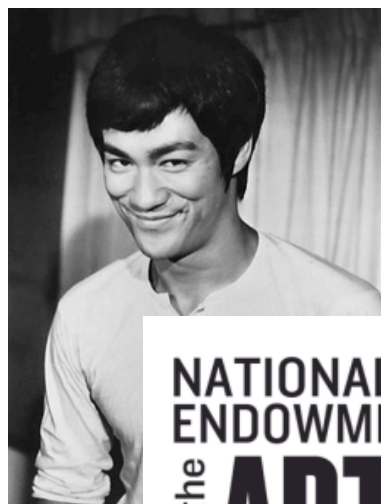
3rd Floor Library Classroom A; Registration required

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

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

Featured Programs

National Endowment for the Arts Big Read Programming at Mechanics' Institute



Private Tour of "We Are Bruce Lee: Under the Sky, One Family" Exhibit

Join Mechanics' Institute for a private tour of the "We Are Bruce Lee: Under the Sky, One Family" exhibit honoring San Francisco native Bruce Lee at the Chinese Historical Society. There you will experience contemporary art and historical artifacts that celebrate the remarkable life of the Chinese American icon Bruce Lee who transcended race, geography, and culture through uncanny strength and resilience. The tour will be led by Jeff Chinn, renowned expert and collector of Bruce Lee memorabilia.

Hosted by Jeff Chinn, co-sponsored by NEA Big Read and the Chinese Historical Society of San Francisco

Wednesday, January 11 from 1-2pm

Chinese Historical Society of San Francisco; Registration required

Proust Seminar Returns

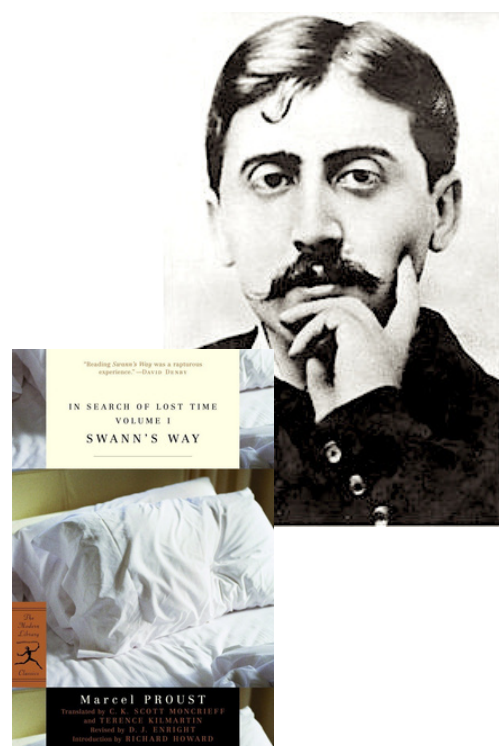
Mechanics' Institute's Proust Seminar led by Dr. Mark Calkins

Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time* (also known in English as *Remembrance of Things Past*) is a monumental, seven-volume novel that Edmund White called, "the most respected novel of the twentieth century." San Francisco State University Professor of Comparative & World Literature Mark Calkins has led the Proust Seminar at Mechanics' Institute since 2001. In February 2023, the Seminar begins its seventh cycle with *Swann's Way*. Dr. Calkins will be using the Penguin/Lydia Davis translation, but any translation will serve you well.

Hosted by Dr. Mark Calkins

2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, February 8-June 28 from 5:30-6:30pm

4th Floor Meeting Room; Registration required



CinemaLit

January 2023 La Belle Époque

January features three films set during La Belle Époque, the fabled era from the 1870's to World War I that saw a great flourishing of French art and culture. The films look at three creative giants: pioneering filmmaker Georges Méliès, painter Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, and novelist Colette as a part of our Fête de Colette programming.

January 13

Hugo (2011)

126 minutes, directed by Martin Scorsese

January 20

Moulin Rouge (1952)

123 minutes, directed by John Huston

January 27

Chéri (2009)

86 minutes, directed by Stephen Frears

Fridays, Doors at 5:30pm, Program begins at 6pm
4th Floor Meeting room; Registration required
Members Free; Public \$10 suggested donation

Watch our website for our winter line-up. February features epic stories based on the Black Experience and March showcases Chinatown in Film!



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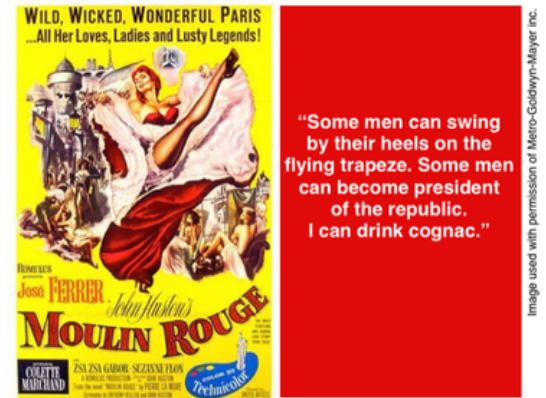


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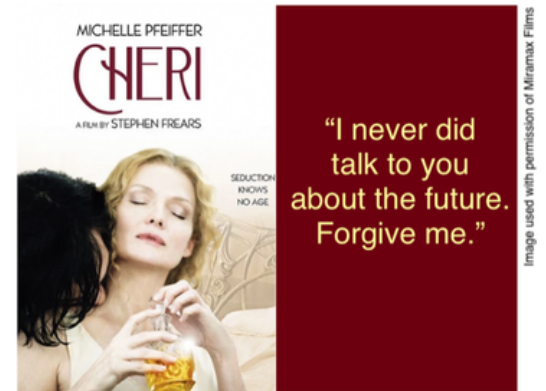


Image used with permission of Miramax Films

The Herbst Foundation and Mechanics' Institute: Lighting the Way

This fall, the Institute was the grateful recipient of a Herbst Foundation capital grant. A portion of the generous contribution will be used toward brick and mortar repairs to our building's exterior. A larger portion of the grant will be used to upgrade interior electrical wiring and to improve lighting fixtures, beginning with our library stacks. We seek additional support for our interior lighting upgrades which will ultimately extend through the library to the meeting and chess rooms. Thank you to the Herbst Foundation for this keystone gift, for sharing our commitment to our local community, and for ensuring the stability, safety, and beauty of our landmark building into the future.

Featured Chess Events

22nd Bob Burger Memorial Championship

Join us for the 22nd Annual Bob Burger Memorial Championship, our first tournament of 2023! This is a four-round G/40; d5 swiss tournament with three sections for 2000+, 1600-1999, and under 1600 rated players.

Saturday, January 7, 10am
4th Floor Chess Room; Registration required



New Year Tuesday Night Marathon

Start off your year of chess with the New Year TNM at Mechanics' Institute. This is a seven-round G/120;d5 tournament with three sections for 2000+, 1600-1999, and under 1600 rated players. Come early for the pre-TNM lecture at 5:45pm by FM Paul Whitehead covering exciting news from the chess world, as well as reviewing interesting games from famed players or our own tournaments.

Tuesdays, January 10-February 21, 6:30pm 4th Floor Chess Room; Registration required



Want to learn more about our chess programs? Join our Chess Club Newsletter, find us on Twitch, or check out our events listings online.

Your Gifts Sustain Our Programs and Services

We are grateful to all Mechanics' Institute donors, at every level of giving, especially during these trying times. If you would like to give a gift of any amount to Mechanics' Institute, 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.

Another way to lend a hand is by joining the James Lick Legacy Society, designating a special gift for the Institute in your will so that future generations may benefit from your generosity. Contact Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Scrafano at kscafano@milibrary.org to request more information, or call us at 415.393.0117 to discuss additional giving opportunities.

Year-End Activities



Mechanics' Institute members Sally Martin, Christine Babinski, and Brenda Osborne enjoying our Holiday Gathering, December 8, 2022.



Mechanics' Institute is honored with the Resilience Award from the Center for Architecture and Design and American Institute of Architects, San Francisco (AIA SF). Photo courtesy of Mike Calpito, Creative Director, CRE8R



Held on the First Friday of the month at 5pm, our new chess socials are a welcome reprise at the end of the week, complete with games, snacks, beverages, and socializing. All are welcome, no registration required.

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www.milibrary.org

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Closures

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 16

President's Day
Monday, February 20

Library Hours
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am-6pm
Tuesday, Thursday 10am-8pm
Saturday 10am-5pm

Chess Room Hours
Monday-Saturday 11am-5pm

Building Hours
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8am-6pm
Tuesday, Thursday 8am-8pm