

# FROM THE ROOFTOP

*The Newsletter of The Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning*



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## ALL SET AND READY TO GO

Packing more punch than a jalapeño latte, the Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning at the University of San Francisco now launches its first of three academic sessions for the 2004-2005 Academic Year. This is the week that kicks it all off for a 28th year, and we're ready to go with a curriculum that has something for everyone. It should be amazing.

For at least the next sixty days, Democrats and Republicans will be respectfully disagreeing with each other at the same time that poets and physicians are looking for the location of emotions. Fundamental laws of nature will be expressed by "magical" mathematics. Authors will be read who are masters of ecstatic prose and masterly in their depictions of American West. Medical lectures will discuss disease, discovery and the national debate over health insurance.

This fall, the ancients will figure prominently along side of the moderns, as some classes will ask what was so great about Alexander, or why study Aristides? Others will compare Thespis to Stanislavski to Stella Adler, or comment on the stylistic resemblance of Nabokov and Updike.

There'll be the opportunity to examine 19th century Russian novelists and 16th century Low Country composers. In small group seminars, creative writers and amateur anthropologists will hone their observation skills, and in large lecture halls Fromm Institute students will study unsuccessful presidential contenders and the successful strategies of powerful economies.

Through popular films, the development of civilization and the details of a continental culture will be illuminated. In rare books we'll see the power of illustration. All the while stories born from the Irish Neolithic landscape and tales from Canterbury will captivate our imaginations and inspire our admiration. Certainly, the great variety of mind-expanding experiences this session is as awesome as the outcome.

Imagine discussing mimesis, dynamis and eikon, at the dinner table, speaking strine, Australian slang, among your inner circle of friends, or discussing the new treatments and diagnostic tools for gastrointestinal problems with the Sodality or Hadassah ladies. It's all possible! Goldwater's influence, Delphi's magnificence and Faraday's significance? Come November, you'll all be experts.

Yes, the next eight weeks will be filled with witches, Wilke and walkabouts, and by the time Halloween is here, Bernoulli, Bryan, and Barque will be as familiar as Natty Bumpo, Hopalong Cassidy and Rooster Cogburn. It's all a part of a wonderful world we call lifelong learning and it's all about to start once again here at USF.

Welcome and welcome back one and all. If you're looking for learning in retirement, this is the right place to be at the right time. The Fromm Institute is all set for another session and we're all ready to go.

*Robert Fordham*  
Executive Director



## YOUR IDENTITY AWAITS

New Fromm Institute students can now go to the **One Card Office, A-3 Campion Hall, starting Monday, September 13**, and obtain a new USF Student ID. Photo ID's for returning Fromm Institute students have been preprinted and are still available from the Fromm Institute Office, UC 538. Remember, the Fromm Institute Office is open throughout your lunch hour, but closes at 1p.m. so that the staff can grab a bite to eat.



## FROMMABOUT HERE, TO THERE!

Because of our Fromm Institute student volunteer drivers, the *Frommabout* is zipping around campus transporting those of you who have trouble walking. If you need the service, flag our electric car down and hop on board — or contact the Fromm Institute Office. If you would like to volunteer to drive on any of the shifts before or after classes, drivers are still needed. The *Frommabout* is there to help, because your fellow students care and are willing to volunteer.

## ELECTION FORUM STARTS NEXT WEEK

Because of a room scheduling conflict concerning McLaren 252, the Presidential Election Forum scheduled to begin on Thursday, September 16, cannot meet until the second week of Fromm Institute classes. Its first meeting will be Thursday, September 23 at 1 p.m. in McLaren 252. All other Thursday classes will meet on September 16. We emphasize this as some have asked if there will be classes on Rosh Hashanah. Please note that beyond civic holidays (this session Monday, October 11, Columbus Day), the Fromm Institute is only closed on Yom Kippur and Good Friday.



## LAN ACCOUNTS? WHAT THE HECK ARE THEY?

You may have noticed in your confirmation letters some information regarding your new LAN account username and password. That information is important if you use the library computers at any time during the school year and it's just like your email, in that you'll need to type in your username and password in order to access the electronic card catalog or do research on the internet. If you've misplaced your confirmation letter or need your LAN account information stop by the Fromm Institute office in UC 538.

## SR. M. THOMAS MAGEE EXPLAINS IT ALL FOR US

A Fromm Institute member needed the service of a hearing dog, so he was allowed to bring the dog to class with him. One Monday afternoon the class was viewing a movie. The dog sat next to his master. A stranger sat on the other side of the dog. When the movie was over the stranger said, "I was surprised how intently the dog watched the movie."

"I was too," replied the master. "He didn't like the book at all." — Sr. M.T. Magee



## WHO OWNS THE NEWS? MORE 2004 ELECTION COVERAGE

Radio and television political commentator **Susan Rasky** is a columnist for the *California Journal*, a contributor to the *Sacramento Bee* and *LA Times*. She was congressional correspondent for the *NYT* and currently teaches political and government reporting at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism as well as courses and workshops on such subjects as punditry, opinion writing and blogging at the Fromm Institute. She will discuss news and views that are shaping the election with **Randall Harrison**, research psychologist, cartoonist, and former journalist. Mr. Harrison is also a Fromm Institute student who shares his talents through this newsletter drawing our very own *Frommtoons*. **This event, sponsored by MoveOn, will take place on Thursday, September 23, 7:30 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. at Southern Heights one long block up from 20th Street in San Francisco.** All are welcome to attend.

### MAJESTIC MAYAN COURTLY ART

**Kathleen Berrin** has been with the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco since 1977. Pioneering projects under her direction have focused on pre-Columbian Art. She directed international exhibitions on Latin American art and now her current curated show, "**Courtly Art of the Ancient Maya,**" covers this culture's influence across Central America and southern Mexico from the Caribbean to the Pacific. You are invited to join her for a free lecture that is open to the public on **Wednesday, September 29, 2004, at 5:45 p.m. on USF's Lone Mountain Campus, Room 100.** This lecture is presented by the USF Center for the Pacific Rim and is cosponsored by the Pan American Society and the Fromm Institute. **Professor Lloyd Hatcher**, a Kirayama Fellow at the Center for the Pacific Rim will lead a discussion that follows Berrin's slide lecture. **For more information or to make a reservation, which is not required for attendance but strongly recommended, contact USF's Center for the Pacific Rim at 415-422-6357.**



### SHOULD TAXATION BE MORAL?

On Tuesday, September 14 at 7 p.m. on USF's Lone Mountain Campus in Room 148, the **Swig Judaic Studies Program** at the University of San Francisco is pleased to present the **2004 Swig Lecture, "Making Taxes Moral: An Argument for Tax Reform Based on Judeo-Christian Ethics,"** given by **Susan Pace Hamill**, Professor of Law at the University of Alabama. Professor Hamill came to national attention with her recent book, *The Least of These: Fair Taxes and the Moral Duty of Christians*, which indicts Alabama's tax policy for its unjust impact on the poor. She will expand upon her controversial argument that, according to Judeo-Christian ethics, Christians and Jews have a moral duty to support tax reform that will correct these injustices. **For more information on this lecture this week contact Mary Silver at 415-422-6302.**



# THE DR. WALTER BIRNBAUM MEDICAL LECTURE SERIES

## LOOKING AT NATIONAL HEALTH CARE

Please join us each week as the *Dr. Walter Birnbaum Medical Lecture Series* tackles state-of-the-science medical arts topics in a ninety-minute forum that brings experts in their field right into our Fromm Institute classroom. The series is coordinated by *Melvin Cheitlin, M.D.* and it holds the official sponsorship of the **University of California San Francisco Medical Center.**

This week on **Wednesday, September 15 at 10 a.m. in McLaren 252**, the topic is one that is on everyone's mind. It is "*National Health Insurance: In My Lifetime. . . Or In My Grandchildren's Lifetime?*" and it will be presented by **Kevin Grumbach, M.D.**, Professor and Chair of Family & Community Medicine at UCSF and Chief of Family Medicine at SF General.

Next week on **September 22** at the same time and in the same location, the featured lecturer will be **B. Joseph Guglielmo** from UCSF's School of Pharmacy. He'll speak on "*Molecule to Medicine: The Long Road From Drug Discovery to Lifesaving Medication.*"

### Remembering Walter Birnbaum, M.D.

Walter Birnbaum, M.D., well known San Francisco surgeon died on June 18, 2004. He served as a Director of the Friends of the Fromm Institute for eight years becoming a Director Emeritus in 1998. In 1982 Dr. Birnbaum began turning his idea for a medical lecture series into one of the cornerstones of the Fromm Institute's curriculum. In its design, he was specific. It was not intended to be a clinic for the aches and pains of the elderly,



*Medical Lecture  
Series founder,  
Dr. Walter Birnbaum*

but would instead feature speakers from the UCSF Medical Center, to speak on a range of medical topics of interest to our student body. His idea immediately became a success and under his watchful eye it grew in popularity and prestige. In 1989 at the age of 83, he retired as series' coordinator but the series tradition of excellence continued under the care of successor series coordinators, retired UCSF physicians all. In September of 1990 the series was renamed the Dr. Walter Birnbaum Medical Lecture Series in honor of its founder. Walter Birnbaum was an intelligent and forthright man whose convictions were as strong as his expectations. He framed his world around principles of excellence that he always practiced and anticipated of others. He was generous and appreciative, never failing to assist or thank whenever he could. His commitment to the Fromm Institute was unfailing and his presence among us as a student, series coordinator and board member will never be forgotten.

## AUSTRALIAN FILM SERIES

From "*Breaker Morant*" to "*Gallipoli*"



Monday morning during the session in McLaren 252 at 10 a.m., the Fromm Institute will screen a different Australian film selected by **Professor Ernest Newbrun** to highlight his course "**Australia: Land Down Under.**" Participation in the afternoon lecture class is not a requirement and all members of the Fromm Institute are invited to see these eight movies considered among this nation's finest.

Bruce Berford's Boer War drama "*Breaker Morant*" will be shown on **September 13**, and next week's film on **September 20**, "*Gallipoli*," features a young Mel Gibson (1981) in the moving story of a group of young Australian men who leave their various backgrounds to join the ANZACs in World War I and are sent to Gallipoli, where they encounter the might of the Turkish army. This film runs 110 minutes. All films will be projected on the auditorium's big screen.

Here's a postcard of an essay to kick off our weekly column of Fromm Institute student, creative writing. Like so many notes from afar, it starts with the usual, "Having a wonderful time."

## ON TRAVEL

by Jackie Link

I've been thinking about the tiresome emptiness of travel once you've experienced the first rush of surprise and seen how others live, once all the fictional accounts, all the photographs, the brochures and maps, have been confirmed. I remember sailing and hiking in the Galapagos Islands and thinking I had come to the Garden of Eden, to a simplified version of life where you could learn the name of every plant and every animal. It was there that instead of saying no to life I said a hopeful maybe. I came home, quit my job, went back to school and have been adventuring ever since.

After the Galapagos I spent time in Oaxaca, cycled alone with friends in northern Europe and I began to doubt the importance of being elsewhere, of the need to leave home to appreciate my surroundings. I wonder if the excitement of being somewhere foreign comes from the constant dislocation you feel when nothing you do is routine, when you have to stretch yourself, when all your senses are heightened. And maybe when you're far from home you give yourself permission to be a fool, to learn anew all those daily, ordinary things like where to wash your face and should you drink the water? It's like the thrill of a roller coaster ride — there are no guarantees — but you know there will always be surprises in each new place.

Memories from my travels: Giant tortoises on the Galapagos Islands; Andean flute music in Quito; zocalos and jacaranda trees in southern Mexico; rain and castles in northern Europe; the high red desert of Sedona; misty islands in the Puget Sound; and the long solo wanderings by car and bicycle up and down our western states can suddenly overtake me in poignant flashes and I stop what I'm doing and I smile. I'm glad I went.

In the Galapagos I rolled myself in the tanbark sail of our small boat and spent the night watching the Southern Cross as we motored against the current, crossing the equator over and over, knowing I was very far from home. I stood on Hood Island as the albatross lifted off over the sea and I vowed I'd be back. But I won't go back I know that now. I've stood on the Farallon Islands, thirty miles off shore and I know that the adventure and personal epiphanies can happen anywhere.

I see my world differently thanks to having had tired feet in so many places where the only thing to do is look and walk, or look and pedal and then look some more. My home city, San Francisco, is a beautiful city.

Even during my worst times it has given me heart. Just to come to the top of a hill and suddenly see out over the bay is to see a wider world, a world of adventure and beauty. My journeys are increasingly very close to home.

When I take off on my bike with panniers loaded I head south on Highway 1, out over Devil's Slide. I usually leave on Friday morning when there won't be too much other traffic — that two mile climb to the land's end is dark and narrow and dangerous. I stop when I come to the top, to the high cliff over the ocean; I grab a snack and catch my breath. That's almost travel enough; I'm twenty miles from home.



It is a normal morning at the Fromm Institute Office. A little more relaxed since it's Friday. The four of us, Scott, Derek, Robert and I come to our desks with coffee, chat, and movie reviews before jumping into our duties. One thing is looming in the back of our minds. Next week the Fall session begins. We giggle with stories and excitement about our *kids* coming back, but there is also a mix of nostalgia, anxiety and pride.

Robert is preparing an innovative schedule for Open House while making important phone calls. This takes careful thought, attention and creativity. Scott works on the design and layout of the new "Rooftop" while researching technical support. Innovation and refined simplicity. Derek graphs out the professor's equipment needs for the session while processing fund raising contributions. Strategy and efficiency. I type away and think of the symbols in this office space that — between answering phone calls, greeting visitors, and enrolling students — I return to for solace, humor, and focus.

There is, for example, the glazed glass door through which the Fromm bookends are suspended. This logo was one that Mrs. Fromm cherished. I think of her style, her aspiration, her elegant voice, her soft sliding heels as she approached the office for work.

There are the cabinets which contain all the files of our active students; also those who haven't come for awhile, or who have passed on. When I file, I remember your faces, smiles, and sometimes I peak at your background info. I am amused with the student body that surrounds us every day. The high caliber of humanity.

There is the meeting table in the middle of the office where we do everything from large mailings, to important meetings, to eating lunch. Many ideas have been chewed out here regarding how to better run the program. Latest discussions include how do we distribute new ID cards and LAN accounts? How do we get volunteers for the *Frommabout*? Should we move a professor from this room or that room? What rooms are available? The debates are endless and stimulating.

There is Mrs. Fromm's desk. Yes, I sometimes expect her to appear at around 10:30 in the morning, ask for a small latte with coco while reviewing the day with Robert before going to visit a class. I still see her eating her small black forest ham sandwich with mayonnaise, leaning to see the computer screen, or leaning back in her chair telling a clever joke. There is still her paperweight: "Wonder Woman Works Here." How fitting.

There are the eight windows that when you open them on a warm afternoon bring a strong SF breeze which stirs up not only office papers but also giddy conversations. Through these windows we see amazing things. Robert may spot a student who needs help getting to a class or a tardy professor. He's witnessed several Fromm emergencies and called 911 many times. We all notice the fashion and fervor of the USF youngsters. On a sunny day the lawns are full of sunbathers, hookah smokers, Frisbee throwers, laughter, and ill-attended books. On a gray day we see the fog billowing in from the west which draws in around the stoic St. Ignatius Church.

Last but not least, each day I play a little game with myself. I can here the many footsteps that travel down the hall to our door. For each click, clunk, tap, or slide, I hear a kind of music. I can, many times, guess who is making it. I wait patiently to see that person's face, greet it with a smile, and I feel welcomed.

BY RANDY HARRISON

FROMMTOONS



DID YOU KNOW?

Submissions to our newsletter are always welcome! Just send it to or bring it by the Fromm Institute office in University Center, Room 538.

## COMMAND PERFORMANCES



*A hearty welcome back to all returning students and a welcome to all of the 100 some new students that are joining us this year. It was great as always to see so many of you at Open House last week.*

*Let me summarize some immediate and important things you should be aware of to take advantage of the great savings offered to you as Fromm Institute students:*

*First, the San Francisco Opera is in the final week of offering student subscription discounts. The 7 and 5 series are no longer available for this season; however, the 3 performance series is available — only if you act in the next week!!! Over 90 of your fellow students have taken advantage of this 75% discount, so if you are interested you must fill-out an order form (look on the info tables in each of your classrooms) and send it in with a copy of your Fromm Institute/USF student ID card. After this week there will not be any other opportunity until next year for you to get these amazing discounts.*

*The San Francisco Symphony student discount subscriptions for 1/2 off are also in your classrooms, and you have approximately one month yet to subscribe to them. There are 6 subscriptions offered and you may get as little as 6 or as many as 24 different performances with your Fromm/USF Student ID. You can also take a friend with you who is not a student. Already 120+ Fromm Institute students have taken advantage of this great offer.*

*I will be on campus all 4 days this coming term so look me up if you have any questions regarding the above offers, or go to the Fromm Institute Office and write me a message and leave it in my box.*

*One last item! Get your new IDs and carry them with you wherever you go to get great student discounts at all performing arts, museums, zoos, etc. Always ask if an organization gives student discounts as student discounts are sometimes much better than senior discounts (i.e. the opera above).*

*Be sure to look in on my column next week and in future weeks for great tips on saving money as well as good shows to come. Have a great fall session!*

*Bob Morgan*

## TOURS AND TRAVELS



### TAKING OFF FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF ADVENTURES

Following on the past summer's wonderful Blue Danube Cruise and our traditional theatre excursion to

the Ashland Shakespeare Festival, there's a new set of adventures waiting for Fromm Institute students, their family and friends. More on those past trips, with photos, in a later issue of the "Rooftop." Now I'm eager to announce what's ahead: Mexico, Coastal California, then the South Pacific — Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, and of course, our 5th annual pilgrimage to celebrate the Bard.

Take a Spring Break on a ten-day cruise to the Mexican Riviera and the beautiful California Coast aboard Celebrity's luxury cruise ship *The Mercury* sailing from San Francisco on March 20. Celebrity is the highest rated premium cruise line, and the Special Group Prices start at only \$801 for an inside stateroom, \$966 for an outside. At this rate, space will go fast. Space is guaranteed only until November 20. Don't wait! Pick up a flyer in the classrooms.

In early June it's off to the South Pacific — Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. This trip ties in nicely with the course and film series being offered this fall. If your curiosity is piqued, come see the amazing lands Down Under for yourself. Once again, a Special Group Price makes the trip very affordable. Air and land for 17 days in 3 countries is only \$3579 per person. Departing June 2 via Quantas Airlines, the long trans-Pacific journey is broken with a 2-day stop in Fiji. Then explore Melbourne, the Great Barrier Reef, Cairns and Sydney, Australia before flying off to New Zealand. There behold Queenstown, Milford Sound, Mt. Cook, highest in the southern hemisphere, and Christ Church. Flyers are available.

Come the end of June we're off to Ashland once more. Details as they become available. For further information please see me on campus on Mondays or call my direct phone (707) 257-1804.

Happy Travels!  
*Susan Kennelley*

## Fromm Institute Events & Reminders

Monday, September 13  
10 a.m., McLaren 252

Australia Land Down Under - The Film Series  
*Breaker Morant* - Directed by Bruce Beresford

Wednesday, September 15  
10 a.m., McLaren 252

Medical Lecture Series *with* Kevin Brumbach, M.D.  
“National Healthcare: My Lifetime or My Grandchildren’s Lifetime?”

Thursday, September 16  
10 a.m., Marschi Room

*Classroom Change - one week only!!!*  
Prof. Houle’s “Muic of the 16th Century, Part 1”

Monday, September 20  
10 a.m., McLaren 252

Australia Land Down Under - The Film Series  
*Gallipoli* - Directed by Peter Weir

Wednesday, September 22  
10 a.m., McLaren 252

Medical Lecture Series *with* Joseph Guglielmo, D.Pharm.  
“Molecule to Medicine”

### **Remember:**

Profs Goldberg & Rubin will not meet their class, “2004 Presidential Election Forum” this week. It’s FIRST meeting is scheduled for next week on Thursday, September 23 at 1 p.m. in McLaren 252.