THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE FROMM INSTITUTE

Robert E. Fordham, our beloved Executive Director, died on Thursday, October 12, 2017 at the age of 69.

The death of one so widely admired is never easy. Often it is cushioned by the remembrance of a life which was fully lived. So it was with our courageous Robert. For nearly one half of his life, he was bound eternally to the Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning at the University of San Francisco.

He was a native of Boston, Massachusetts who spent many summers on Cape Cod. In 1971 he received his degree in Speech and Drama from the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C.

He joined the Fromm Institute in 1986, only ten years after it was founded by Alfred & Hanna Fromm, and served as Program Director. Ultimately, his responsibilities were to organize the curriculum, manage funds, supervise events and make sure that student and faculty needs were met.

Upon the death of Mrs. Fromm in 2003, Robert was chosen by the Board to succeed her as Executive Director. He has brilliantly served, making sure that things run smoothly with his staff of Scott Moules, Carla Hall, Herbert Gracia and Dawa Dorjee.

In 2004 a Professor wrote that she taught her first course and noted that she and other faculty observed the Fromm method of serving both student and faculty needs are “in the realm of the exceptional.”

She continued, “Robert Fordham is quintessentially skilled in public relations. I can’t imagine a better person to represent Fromm to the public than Robert. His responsibilities are enormous, but he makes time to go out of his way to greet everyone. He is an excellent mediator. He is very deft at smoothing the ruffled feathers of both faculty and students when problems arise for either one.”

Among his extraordinary achievements, it is significant to mention that he was the leader in planning and executing the remodeling of Fromm Hall which opened in 2006. Under his guidance the Institute has steadily grown to 1,700 students and 75 professors actively participating in the program annually.

Robert is survived by his husband, Tyrone Cannon and his faithful dog Jaidon in San Rafael as well as five siblings living on the East Coast.

A celebration of his life and dedication of the Fromm Institute atrium will be held in Fromm Hall on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. to be followed by a joyous gathering beginning at 3 p.m.

If your heart dictates contributions can be offered in his memory to the Fromm Institute For Lifelong Learning - 2130 Fulton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117-1080.

Albert Fraenkel II, Executive Vice-President, Friends of the Fromm Institute Board of Directors
DON’T LOOK NOW, BUT THE FROMM BOOK CLUB IS BACK
This winter semester our book and movie selection is Don’t Look Now, a moody novella of dread and suspense set in Venice and written by Daphne du Maurier. The work is a small masterpiece that creates its effect, as one critic said, “not with fright, which is easy, but with dread, grief and apprehension.” Read the novella over the holidays and come to the discussion of the text and the showing of the movie toward the end of the winter semester. Hope you can join us.

MATINÉE SERIES …..COME TO THE MOVIES!
Why is there nothing quite like the movies? The big screen offers up an imaginary world that can reach into our deepest secrets and most profound fears. It can evoke love, wonder and laughter. What do you look for?

Our film series will continue in the New Year with a selection of films related to the classes offered in the winter session at Fromm. Join our hearty band of movie lovers and find something to think deeply about, laugh and cry about through the drama of the screen. Look for movie calendars and flyers in the Atrium.

Meanwhile thank you to Diane, Marvin and Carla for introducing their fave films this session and Kathleen for her ideas and sparkle. If you would like to be more active in building our Fromm film community, let me know. If you have an idea about films that would enrich the course you choose, please email me at maxine_einhorn@hotmail.com. I’m always interested in suggestions for the series.

FROMMCAST WINTER SESSION ENROLLMENT
The Frommcast is the Fromm Institute’s digital platform where you, as on-line students, can access an ever-growing library of educational content recorded by our faculty here in Fromm Hall . . . from anywhere you have internet access. For just $50 for registered Winter students ($100 for those who’ve not registered to attend classes in Fromm Hall), the On-Line Winter Session (Dec. 1 to Mar. 1) awaits your registration. Of note, two Winter classes will be uploaded on the following Friday one week after their classes have been recorded. Those classes are Prof. Clay Large’s “Passage to Modernity” and Prof. Hohmann’s “Search for the Holy Grail.” For full information on all video lectures, video courses, & audio-only courses, a Frommcast brochure will be mailed with your Winter 2018 Course Catalog and you can enroll online or by calling the Fromm Institute office. Join today making the Frommcast your on-line companion to all the educational opportunities Fromm Hall provides.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR
2018 Winter Classes begin the week of Monday, Jan. 8 and end on Thursday, March 1. “Make-Up” Week, when classes cancelled by a holiday or by a faculty commitment/illness will be Mar. 5 - 8. Monday Holidays during the Winter are Jan. 15 and Feb. 19, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Presidents’ Day, respectively.

“MAKEUP” WEEK — NOV. 6, 7, 8, 9
Mon., Nov. 6: All Monday courses meet.
Tues., Nov. 7: Prof. Kohn makes up a missed class.
Wed., Nov. 8: Rabbi Lee Bycel will meet his class one more time.
Thurs., Nov. 9: Profs. Minninger, O’Sullivan & Garrett meet.