THE FROMM INSTITUTE
FOR LIFELONG LEARNING
at the Unviersity of San Francisco

FROM THE ROOFTOP

FROMM HALL INAUGURAL YEAR 2006 - 2007

Volume 93, Issue 2 • January 22, 2007

BE EMBRACED

It has become our tradition around the middle of the Winter Session to recall and remember the two good people who founded the Fromm Institute. Without Alfred and Hanna Fromm nothing that we experience today would exist. It was their idea and interest that created this lifelong learning institute that bears their family name, and it was their determination and support for such a "school for seniors" that made it work. Certainly, there have been significant academic, administrative and financial contributions made by others over the years — after all Alfred used to say *"we are nothing without the community we serve,"* but Alfred and Hanna Fromm were clearly and unquestionably the head, heart and soul of this organization — and it is because of them that we flourish today.

Hanna Fromm was a fixture here at school. With European style she was described by one Fromm Institute student *"as if she had stepped out of a Marie Laurencin canvas: the arresting dark eyes, the pastel colors of the face, hair and clothes; the body shaped by the discipline of a dancer."* Others who knew her at USF remember her as a kind and gentle headmistress who came to work most days and made so many insightful contributions to the Fromm Institute, that the staff still apply the "What Would Mrs. Fromm Do" rule to tough decisions. Many of you recall how she would sit "incognito" in lectures, but what you may not be aware of was the incredible suggestions she would articulate after watching her program in action. *"Why don't faculty repeat the questions?"* was a particular pet peeve of hers.

Having received many honors for her work in founding and leading the Fromm Instiute, one of which she was particularly proud came from the Women's International Center in 1990. In a ceremony that also included honorees such as Rose Kennedy and Dolores Hope, she was introduced by her friend and Fromm Institute colleague, Professor Leslie Lipson, our second Academic Advisor.

> "Hanna Fromm herself serves the institute actively. What makes that contribution so special is her personal touch — her vision, her whimsical sense of humor, her broad humanity. Those of us who are privileged to be associated with her always welcome her ideas because she personifies the highest authority — that which flows from her own integrity, her selfless dedication, her acute sensitivity to others."

Hanna & Alfred Fromm in the early 70s.

When it came to the Fromm Institute, Alfred Fromm was more of a behind-the-scenes person who was so proud of the leadership his wife had taken in this brave new field of learning in retirement. While he was always

present for all of our special events, his work was, and had always been, in the wine business. Well into his nineties, he was still going in to his office on a daily basis. Like his wife, however, he had our interests at heart and dedicated much of his later life to fundraising for us as Chairman of the Friends of the Fromm Institute.

In 1988 the regents of the University of California and the Trustees of the Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum published Wines, Music and Lifelong Education as a tribute to him. In an introduction to it, Rabbi Brian Lurie described Alfred as *"always the gentleman, considerate, unspoiled, kind to family and the world at large."* Those who knew Alfred Fromm could not have said it better but it was his daughter, Caroline, who recalled him more intimately on this introductory page — as only a loving daughter could.

> "The man who wrote children's stories for me when he had to go out of town so that I wouldn't be without an original bedtime story; or the man with whom I, as a child, rode all over San Francisco on a bus just to have the pleasure of speaking our own private gobbledygook in front of strangers; or the man who for hours helped me with my English essays when piles of his own work awaited him; or the man who always encouraged imagination mixed with reason, laughter with seriousness, adventuresomeness with practicality, generosity of spirit towards others with a degree of enlightened self interest."

Concluding their comments, Rabbi Lurie noted that, *"Alfred Fromm is also a grateful man. Places that have been kind to him are called 'lucky.' The country that allowed him to find a safe haven from the Nazi persecution, he calls 'great.' The life he has led is full and rich and for this he is 'grateful,'"* and that would sum up these two grand people perfectly. They were indeed always grateful for any kindness, no matter how large or small, that was extended to them.

Along with so many thoughtful and creative expressions of gratitude from Hanna Fromm, I keep in my possession the last note that Alfred sent to me. In his self-described 'chicken scratch' he wrote, *"Know that Hanna and I love you and that your work is much appreciated."* He signed it with two words, *"Be embraced."*

As we celebrate our founders again and as we embark on our 31st year, may we know them or remember them, and cherish them for all they have done for us. If you ever doubt that an action on a small and local scale can ever make a difference, just consider this effort of the Fromms, and then look around at all that surrounds us today. Be embraced! Robert Fordham, Executive Director

"T'IS MY OWN"

from Prof. Sheldon Rothblatt

I don't quite remember when I started teaching at the Fromm but certainly long enough to feel that it is a special sort of home. Over the years I have given many different kinds of courses reflecting a variety of interests, but always in what historians call intellectual and cultural history. Many of my courses have been created especially with Fromm in mind. Several contain bits and pieces of courses I have given to undergraduates and graduate degree candidates, although always reassembled for Fromm. For years, possibly for decades, I have wanted to teach a course in "Virtue." The word from the Latin refers to a conception of public service or public participation that can be traced back to classical antiquity. The basic and consistent idea is that men and women live together in mutually dependent communities and should be "other-regarding." I am dismayed and disappointed by what I consider selfish and self-centered activity rampant in American society, to include the world of the universities. I admire those who believe and act upon the premise that a Good Life requires that one give something of oneself to others. I recall that it is Achilles in Shakespeare's "Troilus and Cressida" who offers a gift and says that "t'is a small thing but t'is my own." Nothing has pleased me more in a long and varied academic career than offering my Small Thing to a society like Fromm that I revere as a very Big Thing indeed.

Announcing

THE ALFRED AND HANNA FROMM SOCIETY — A LIVING LEGACY

Recognizing the unparalleled contribution of our founders, The Friends of the Fromm Institute have created *The Alfred and Hanna Fromm Society — A Living Legacy*. Its purpose is to honor their foresight, inspiration and commitment in creating a living legacy for all older learners — The Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning — and to acknowledge donors who have joined them in that undertaking by endowing the Fromm Institute through their estate plans. Through designations such as a specific charitable bequest of cash or personal or real property in your will; contributing to a charitable remainder trust; providing a cash gift to a pooled income fund; using life insurance to create a future cash benefit for the Fromm Institute, or designating the Fromm Institute as a secondary beneficiary of your retirement plan, you can make their legacy part of your living legacy.

Soon, The Friends of the Fromm Institute will be contacting you asking you to join with others who have already endowed this remarkable academic program through their estate plan, sharing a treasured gift of any size that will live on through the work of the Fromm Institute. Can anyone who has benefited from the Fromm Institute deny that it is a wonderful cause to remember and a wonderful way to be remembered? As a part of your charitable giving plan you can now join *The Alfred and Hanna Fromm Society* — and your fellow students — in making sure that lifelong learning plays an important part in the lives of older learners far into the future.

SOME HELPFUL REMINDERS

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD!

With the exception of Magnolia's, there are no food services available in Fromm Hall. USF dining sites are located on the first two floors of the University Center Building about a four minute walk from your classes. The main dining room "Market Café," is located on the second floor and at its various food courts you can find just about everything you'll need to quell your mid day hunger. On the ground floor level one there is also the "Crossroads" Coffee Shop and a "Jamba Juice."

PRE-ENROLLMENT FOR SPRING 2007 CLASSES?

Catalogs for the Spring 2007 Session will be in the mail and on-line Tues. March 6, and the phone-in **Pre-Enrollment Period will be Wed. March 7, Thurs. March 8 and Friday March 9**. During this time no enrollments are processed but statistical sampling is done to determine which classes may close. The receipt of an application during the Pre-Enrollment Period does not guarantee access to the classes requested. Remember, your seat in a class is "saved" for 15 days from the date of your confirmation. You must pay your membership within that period or forfeit your seat.

ENROLLMENT ENDS THIS WEEK, ON JANUARY 25TH.

Here's a final reminder! The third week of Fromm classes is the last week for any new enrollments. After Thursday, January 25, the class lists will be frozen. So if you are on the fence about changing your schedule by adding a different course, do it soon. While you can drop a class at the Fromm Institute at any time, this week is the last week to add one. Remember, when you become a member you're able to take as many as four courses each session and attend our Wednesday morning series. Thank you.

'BROWN BAGS' GALORE

As Webster's defines it, 'galore' is an abundance, and certainly when it comes to 'Brown Bag' lunchtime meetings in the Maraschi Room of Fromm Hall, there is an abundance of food-for-thought for everyone this session. During the remaining many weeks of the Winter Session, we've got 10 'Brown Bags' planned on multiple topics that are sure to be of interest. These informally informative meetings will highlight culture, travel, service, self-help and personal experience and feature speakers from their respective worlds who are experts and authorities. Everyone is invited to take a seat at one of the round tables and join in on the *topic du jour*. Most days of the session the Maraschi Room behind Magnolia's Coffee Stop is a great place to eat a brown bag lunch. Add to that at least two speakers a week, and that turkey sandwich and apple that you brought for lunch just gets better and better.

On **Monday, January 29,** the focus will be on the work of the **San Francisco Civil Grand Jury** and how you can be a part of it. After all, Fromm Institute students have a reputation for intellectual activism and civic involvement and that is just what this meeting will be all about. If you ever have felt hopeless about changing City Hall or would like to learn a whole lot more about how city government works, come to this 'Brown Bag' and hear from Fromm Institute student **Susan Ruwart** and others who served on recent SF Civil Grand Juries. She'll share her experiences and let you know how you, too, can also be considered for service.

On **Tuesday, January 30,** our guest will be **John Trauth** and his topic will be the title of his new book **"Your Retirement, Your Way."** While most retirement books focus on finance, this forty-minute presentation deals with retirement from psychological, strategic and financial perspectives. Focusing both on pre-retirees and those who have already retired, John Trauth proposes that, to create a retirement lifestyle that will make you happy and fulfilled, it is first important to understand who you really are at this stage of your life. Employing self-analysis exercises based on a well-regarded personality profile, the Birkman Method, he'll suggest a step-by-step individual strategic planning process to create the master plan for this "New Life." To anyone in need, he'll also offer advice on how to "manage toward happiness and fulfillment."

On **Tuesday, February 6**, the Fromm Institute Student Association will sponsor a **Tour & Travel 'Brown Bag'** with **Susan Kennelly**. For this meeting Susan will be highlighting all that awaits Fromm Institute travelers on the Smithsonian journey to Spain called ***"Crossing the Pyrenees"*** that is scheduled for next October. That noontime she'll have a Powerpoint presentation of this Smithsonian guided tour that will visit some of Spain's most important centers of art including the Prado in Madrid, the El Greco sites of Toledo, the striking new Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and the works of Gaudi and Picasso in Barcelona. While you eat your lunch, you can drink in this spectacular scenery of the mountains, the ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the places and the tour.

On **Thursday, February 8**, our students **Heather Sterner** and **Al Breslauer** bring to our attention the **Meritus College Fund**, a grassroots organization started by Dr. Henry Safrit ten years ago, that grants scholarships to deserving, low income, SF public high school graduates several of whom are attending USF this year. In our opinion, Dr. Safrit's motivation is as simple as this program will be interesting. *"We live in a great city,"* he says, *"and there are some people who need help. Some of them don't need much help – I'd categorize my students that way."* How's that for simple and effective. Join us and discover just how simple and effective the work of the Meritus College Fund really is.

So there are our 'Brown Bags' for the upcoming weeks. Join us in the **Maraschi Room** at **noon** for any or all of them. In our next issues of the *"Rooftop"* we'll cover the details of even more lunchtime meetings scheduled in the second half of February. Sponsored by the Fromm Institute and the Fromm Institute Student Association, remember that on those days at Magnolia's ***"Your cup of coffee is free, if at a brown bag you'll be."*** Bring your lunch, don't be surprised if a cookie or cake shows up at your place, also complimentary, on any of the above dates.

Science does not know its debt to imagination.
~ ~ ~
Ralph Waldo Emerson

WONDERS OF SCIENCE SERIES

FROM GIGANTIC WAVES TO GUINEA TREASURES TO MYSTIFYING DEMENTIA WONDERS OF SCIENCE COVERS IT ALL!

Our third lecture in the *Wonders of Science Series* should be both exciting and timely. **Dr. Thorne Lay, Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at UC Santa Cruz**, will present "**Tsunami!"** this **Wednesday, January 24 at 10:00 a.m. in the Xavier Chapel** of Fromm Hall. Prof. Lay will inform us on the nature of devastating sea waves, or tsunami, primarily in the context of the December 26, 2004 Sumatra earthquake and tsunami, which caused more than 250,000 deaths. Explanation of why some earthquakes cause tsunamis while others do not will be given. A special category of earthquakes, called "tsunami earthquakes" will be reviewed in light of the deadly July 17, 2006 Java tsunami earthquake. Prof. Lay will also cover the efforts to mitigate the effects of tsunamis by advance warning systems and the potential for devastating tsunami striking the coasts of the USA.

"New Discoveries in the Gulf of Guinea" will be our fourth lecture in the series, taking place on **Wednesday, January 31 at 10:00 a.m. in Xavier**. Given by **Dr. Robert Drewes, Curator of Herpetology California Academy of Sciences**, you'll be enticed by an obscure topic. Six years ago, Bob Drewes led a large group of Academy scientists to the poorly-known Gulf of Guinea islands, off the coast of West Africa in order to survey their unique fauna. Noted for high endemism, gigantism and other island biogeographic phenomena, these "islands at the center of the world" are much, much older than the well-studied Galapagos of Hawai'i.

On **February 7, Bruce Miller, Professor of Neurology, and Director of the Memory and Aging Center, UCSF** will give his lecture titled **"Dementia, Art and the Brain."** Dr. Miller directs an NIH-funded program project on frontotemporal dementia (FTD) called *Frontotemporal Dementia: Genes, Images and Emotions*. His work with FTD has emphasized both the behavioral and emotional deficits that characterize these patients, while simultaneously noting the visual creativity that can emerge in the setting of FTD.

All students of the Fromm Institute and their guests are welcomed to attend the Wonders of Science Series for all, or any, from the published lecture list. As a series there are no class lists maintained and everyone can attend in addition to the four-course maximum.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION TREASURER'S REPORT

Once a session, the Fromm Institute Student Association Treasurer makes a financial statement. That statement is required by the Association's by-laws and appears here, to the right. Students are reminded that each session, a voluntary dues of $5 may be given to treasurer Dorothy Auerbach, any of the Student Association Officers or, if it's more convenient, to a staff member in the Fromm Institute office.

FROMM INSTITUTE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL REPORT
December 31, 2006

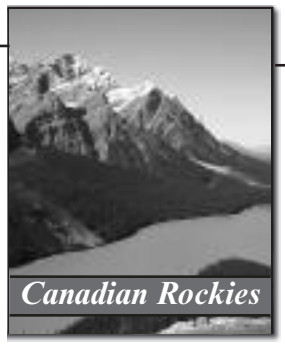
Balance Forward – 9/1/06	$1,640.64
Receipts	2,155.94
Disbursements	(2,564.48)
Balance – 12/31/06	$1.232.10

NOTES: Receipts:

Dues	161 @ $ 5 –	805.00
	73 @ 15 –	1,095.00
Donations		255.00
Interest		.94
Disbursements:		
Pro-rata Share		824.48
Gifts		1,700.00
Bank Charges		40.00

Dorothy Auerbach, Treasurer

TOUR AND TRAVEL NEWS


Canadian Rockies

SICILY SIZZLES! SPAIN IS HOT AND THE CANADIAN ROCKIES ARE "COOL!"

Enthusiasm is at high pitch for DISCOVER SICILY March 14-22. A few places are still available for the "Crossroads of Civilization" as Prof. Kenning so aptly describes it in his popular course. We stay at one hotel for the entire trip, located overlooking the sea at Giardini Naxos.We visit Taormina (which we've now learned was named for one of Ulysses' adventures) and see ancient Greek and Roman sites, explore countryside villages, and journey up Mt. Etna. If you want to join us, contact me right away!

Beget, Spain in the Pyrenees.

Reservations are already coming in for the Smithsonian Journey to Spain CROSSING THE PYRENEES next October. With Smithsonian experts to guide us we'll visit some of Spain's most important centers of art including the Prado in Madrid, the El Greco sites of Toledo, the striking new Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and the works of Gaudi and Picasso in Barcelona. Add to this spectacular scenery of the mountains, the ocean and the Mediterranean sea. Remember, our space is guaranteed only until April 2.

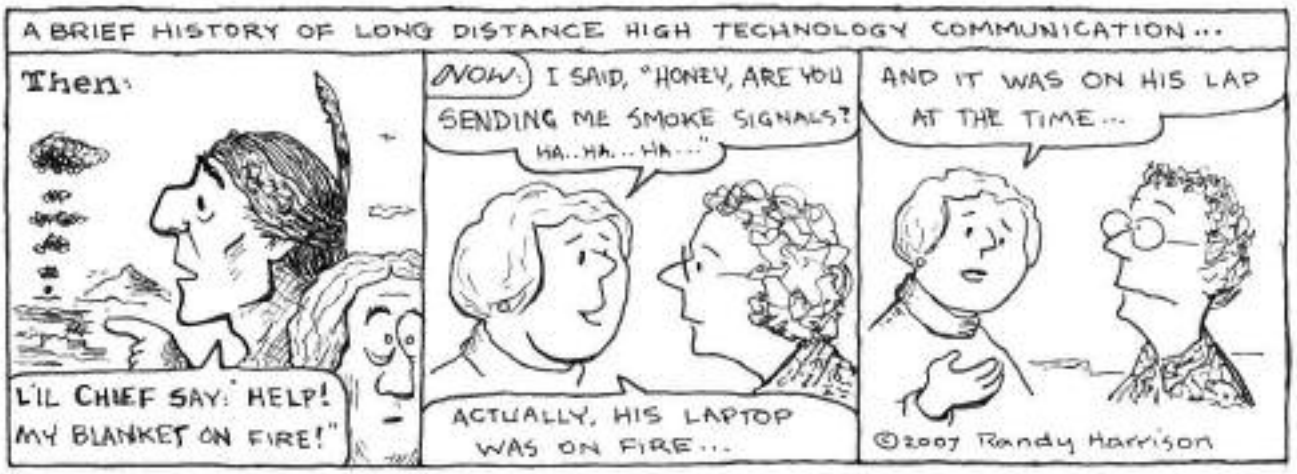
For a "cool" holiday July 11-19 come aboard the Rocky Mountaineer train as it travels through the magnificent Canadian Rockies. The trip begins at the once-a-year Calgary Stampede, visits Banff, Lake Louise, Jasper and the IceFields Highway before heading west to Vancouver and then, by ferry, to Victoria Island and Butchert Gardens. Be sure to get the flyer on this one for all details.

Don't forget the Ashland Shakespeare Festival Tour, June 19-22. Four great plays, private lectures, four star hotel, meals, deluxe motorcoach, and even a tour of Shasta Dam.

Details and flyers are in the Student Activities area. For any questions contact me at 707-257-1804 or spk@napanet.net. Mark your calendars for the Tour and Travel 'Brown Bag' coming up Tuesday, Feb. 6.

Happy Travels! *Susan Kennelly*

FROMMTOONS *by* RANDY HARRISON



COMMAND PERFORMANCES

More on SF Ballet | Brown Bag | Rush Tickets

I hope that everyone is settled into the new session by now, enjoying all your classes as I certainly am. I also hope that you're already enjoying many good performances in the New Year. I can highly recommend the new *A.C.T.* play "The Circle" which if you hurry you can still get as part of a short student subscription at 1/2-price. Look in the display racks for the *A.C.T.* Student Brochure. You still have 3 weeks to save on a short subscription of your own choice.

Many of you have already asked me about student tickets to the *SF Ballet*. The student postcards were not out when we started classes two weeks ago, and as I write this they have been promised and hopefully will be in the display racks. But if they are not, you can call the Ballet Box-Office and order them. There are only two series available to you as students – the Wednesday T series at 7:30 and the Saturday X series at 2:00. Both series include programs 1, 4 and 8 (which is the full length ballet "Don Quixote"). The series begin on 1/31 so you must hurry if interested. Tickets will range in price from $89-$33 depending on the section, and the Ballet requires your Fromm Institute/USF student ID to make a purchase. You are able to get two series tickets with your student ID at 1/2-price. If you have any questions call their box-office at 415-865-2000. You may also go online at *www.sfballet.org* to order. Once their season begins you can get day-of-performance rush tickets by calling the same box-office number the day of or the day before a performance and ask if there will be "rush" tickets. You'll be able to order them over the phone and pay for them for pickup at performance time.

The Command Performance "Brown Bag" this session will be on Wednesday, February 28 in the Maraschi Room at Fromm Hall. Mark your calendar to join us then. Ed Decker, Founder of the *New Conservatory Theatre*, will bring you up-to-date on their 25th Anniversary Season and much more. I'll fill you in on the details as we get closer to that date.

A reminder that the *SF Symphony* hotline for rush tickets is 415-503-5577. This is a recording that will tell you if there are tickets available for $20 that day. Rush tickets are available to everyone, not just students, so share this number with your friends too. The *Symphony* will give you the best seats they still have available and you can get two tickets per order.

Be sure to continue to check the display racks weekly for new postcards on shows coming up. I'll continue to get programs from shows I've seen for you to look at to help you decide if you may want to see a particular performance. I appreciate all your comments about shows you like and recommend, so do look me up and share your thoughts and opinions with me. The next column won't be out for 3 weeks.

Bob Morgan

P.S. I don't usually recommend movies but I'll go out on a limb and say that if you haven't seen "The Queen" or "Miss Potter" yet, you're missing two of the best films out in a long time!

EPITOME OF COOL How cool is this line-up of upcoming jazz films on Monday mornings? Next week, on **Monday, January 29** it's the classic **"Cabin in the Sky."** Then, on **February 5**, the original dreamgirl in her film debut, **"Lady Sings the Blues."** On **Monday, February 12,** two more concert films showcase the big talents of Peggy Lee - **"Fever"** and another great with the self-titled film **"Rosemary Clooney."** Coming up on **February 26**, Spike Lee's now classic 1990 film, **"Mo' Better Blues."** All films begin promptly at **10 a.m.** and are screened in the **Maier Room** of Fromm Hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

WONDERS OF SCIENCE SERIES:

Wednesday, Jan. 24
10 a.m., Xavier Chapel
Thorne Lay, Prof. of Earth Sciences, UC Santa Cruz
"Tsunami!"

Wednesday, Jan. 31
10 a.m., Xavier Chapel
Robert Drewes, Curator of Herpetology, C.A.S.
"New Discoveries in the Gulf of Guinea"

Wednesday, Feb. 7
10 a.m., Xavier Chapel
Bruce Miller, Prof. of Neurology, UCSF
"Dementia, Art and the Brain"

FROMM INSTITUTE DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thurs., Jan. 25 ***Winter Session Enrollment Ends***

Tues., Feb. 6 ***Tour and Travel 'Brown Bag' at Noon in Maraschi***

Thurs., Feb. 8 ***Meritus College Fund 'Brown Bag' at Noon in Maraschi***

STAY TUNED:

The 3rd of 4 issues of "From the Rooftop" hits the stands on Monday, Feb. 12th!

ONGOING:

"Through the Lens" Paintings by Martin Gumbel, Maier/Xavier Hallway ongoing throughout the Winter Session.

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