

FROM THE ROOFTOP

The Newsletter of The Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning



Volume 91 • Issue 8 - 2/27/2006



CHEERIO, BUT BE BACK SOON

While never meaning to imply that the students of the Fromm Institute are like a bunch of hooligan street urchins, we're still somehow drawn at this particular time of year to the lyric from Lionel Bart's "Oliver." For us, this eighth week of the Winter Session signals the end of a time together and the start of a four-week spring break that would be the envy of any contemporary college student.

In the time that you're away we'll be mailing new catalogs to nearly 2000 interested persons and then enrolling another 900 plus students in the 22 classes offered next session. While we're handling all those administrative arrangements to launch our Spring 2006 Session on time and on schedule, we'll also be busy with a faculty retreat and semi-annual Board of Directors meeting.

You'll be away from the campus and, hopefully, busy doing many of the things you love — working around the home, traveling, volunteering or just making your way through a good book. We'll be here waiting for you to return, refreshed and ready to continue your lifelong learning at USF.

We hope that you would agree with us that it has been a great session filled with wonderful classes and a campus bustling with opportunity. Next session, we hope you'll find the same possibilities for intellectual stimulation and social interaction that have been a part of the Fromm Institute for 30 years.

After all that's our goal. One of the things we give our students is a structured and constructive academic experience, one that gives you something meaningful to do besides all the things you're about to do for the next month. If all of that seems curiously cockeyed, remember what they said about Jack. Like most enlightened souls, we also believe that the results of "all play and no school work" are not a pretty sight. Hmm, is that what they said about that dull boy? Whatever!

So we're sending you off with a ditty this session. It's Fagin's words to his boys, but it speaks well for all of us on the "Rooftop" who will be busy but will miss you too. It goes:

*Cheerio, but be back soon.
I dunno, somehow I'll miss you
I love you, that's why I say,
"Cheerio"..
Not goodbye.*

Thank you for being with us this Winter and have a great Spring Break! We hope to see all of you back in school and loving it when classes begin the week of April 17. Cheerio!



A TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDERS

Alfred & Hanna Fromm Featured in a Special “Telling Our Story”

Once each session to celebrate the lives of all of us who participate in the Fromm Institute, a member shares his/her life story in our last ‘Brown Bag’ for the term. “Telling Our Story,” as this program is called, uses an individual oral history to paint the experiences, joys and pains of life so that we can all observe how differing backgrounds only yield similar tales of the human condition. This session, in a variant of our usual format, the story that will be told will be that of our founders Alfred & Hanna Fromm who with their inspiration and dedication gave this program its heart.

As our Executive Director, Mrs. Fromm was a familiar figure who tried to be inconspicuous as she took classes and always apologized for her peculiar type of laryngitis (“publicspeakingitis”) that she developed as often as she could. Her husband, Alfred Fromm, was a gregarious and good-hearted businessman who was one of a few who created a national and global market for California wines. A vintner from Germany, as an American he became a loyal patriot who pledged that his philanthropy would “give back to the country that took him in.” Mr. Fromm passed away on July 2, 1998 at the age of 93. Mrs. Fromm left us on January 2, 2003.

This **Wednesday, March 1 at noontime in McLaren 250/251** we invite everybody, especially those of you who might not have had the pleasure of ever knowing them, to come and meet our founders, Alfred and Hanna Fromm, in a “Telling Our Story” program. For those of us who knew them, this is a great way to remember this outstanding couple who were dedicated to the well being of all of us.

In honor of Mrs. Fromm who always brought one to school, pack a brown bag and join us this Wednesday. Beverages and dessert will be served courtesy of the Fromm Institute Student Association. “Telling Our Story” takes place March 1 at noon in McLaren 250/251.



USF CENTER FOR THE PACIFIC RIM OFFERS TWO MORE OF INTEREST

USF's Center for the Pacific Rim has more fascinating topics in store for anyone who climbs Lone Mountain around sunset. As with those the 'Rooftop' mentioned last week, both topics listed below are free and open to the public.

On **Wednesday March 1**, **Patrick Lloyd Hatcher, Ph.D.**, will present a slide lecture based on his recent trip to Manchuria. The lecture is called "**Manchuria's Ice Festival & Tiger Breeding Program**," and will feature comments from **Gregory Grossman Ph.D.**, and **Vladimir Kuznetsov**, Former Governor, Primorski Region of Russia. They will discuss the most famous outdoor Ice Festival in the former Russian city of Harbin as well as the breeding of the largest cat found in Northern Asia, the threatened Siberian Tiger.

On **Wednesday March 8**, **Colonel John Chere**, Former Army Attache to Morocco and Army Attache Designate to Israel, and **Bruse Rogers**, a Retired Foreign Service Officer, will lead a discussion about the Islamic world and the West called "**Why Do They Hate Us, or Do They?**" This discussion will address those questions Americans have about post 9/11 acts of terrorism.

Both meetings of USF's Center for the Pacific Rim start at **5:45 p.m.**, and are located at USF's Lone Mountain Campus, Room 100. Reservations are recommended. **For more information and reservations call the Center for the Pacific Rim Events Registration Line at 415-422-6828.**

FORMER UC BEKELEY EXTENSION CAMPUS TO BECOME NEW SENIOR COMMUNITY

Fromm Institute student *Elaine Adamson* shares this information with the rest of us that there are plans to develop the UC Berkeley Extension property at 55 Laguna Street in San Francisco by the AF Evans Development Company and their senior community division who built Coventry Park and Byron Park. There will be about 430 mixed income apartments/town homes, a community center, community garden, on-site parking and a 20,000 square foot park. All of the units will be rental units. The timeline for the project is to work with the selected architects and community this year on design, build the apartments after that and have occupancy by about 2009-2011. If any Fromm members are interested in this project, or in giving their input as they begin to design the community, you can email Elaine at elned1@aol.com or contact the AF Evans Company directly by emailing *Ruthy Bennett* at rbennett@afevans.com.

SENIOR BROWN BAG LECTURE SERIES

The Community Health Resource Center sponsors regular lectures geared to seniors. Lectures are free with donations appreciated. These programs are funded in part by the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund. Here are two occurring during your Spring Break:

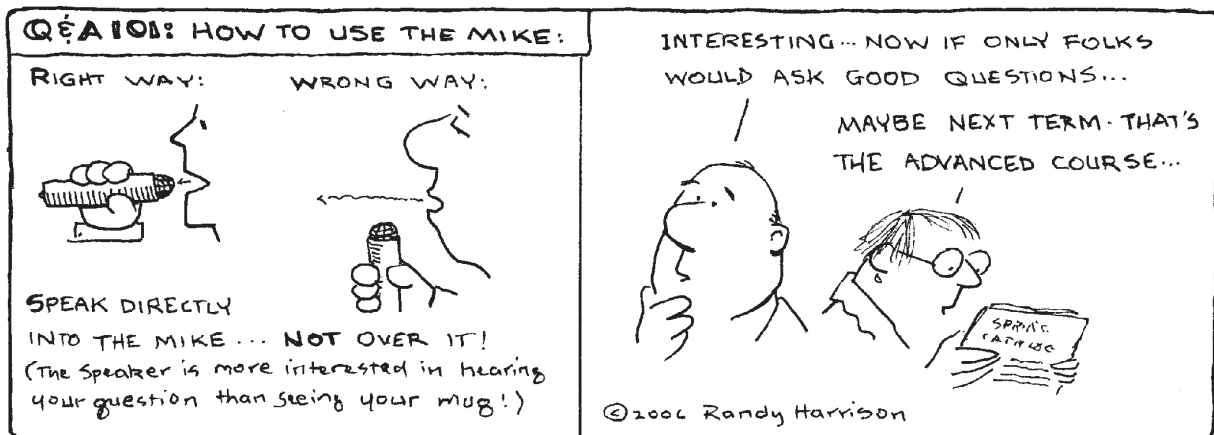
-Tuesday, March 7, "Protect Yourself from Identity Theft Scams" Officer Matthew Lobre, SFPD

-Tuesday, March 21, "Macular Degeneration Update" Anne E. Fung, M.D.

Lectures will be held at 2100 Webster St., Suite 106. Both lectures are from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. **They strongly recommend that you pre-register, and you may do so by calling 415-923-3155.**

FROMMTOONS

BY RANDY HARRISON



TOUR AND TRAVEL NEWS

SOME ASHLAND SURPRISES THIS YEAR



So you think you know that modern classic “The Diary of Ann Frank.” Maybe not. You’ll need to join the Ashland Shakespeare Festival Tour for 2006 to find out. Based on the journal of a young Jewish girl in hiding from the Nazis with her family and neighbors, the play has now been re-adapted from its original source and presents a different image from the version first produced in 1955. This new and possibly controversial adaptation by Wendy Kesselman eschews the sentiment and places much more emphasis on what actually happened to the Jews. Here we have an example of what the Ashland Shakespeare Festival Company does best: taking a fresh look at an old subject.

Another fresh look will be found in Shakespeare’s romp with Falstaff “The Merry Wives of Windsor.” Completing the lineup is Rostand’s French romantic classic “Cyrano de Bergerac.” Both of these are performed in the outdoor Elizabethan Theatre. Our fourth play is Oscar Wilde’s deliciously-stylistic “The Importance of Being Earnest” which turns the Victorian roles of men and women upside down.

Spring Break is coming and so is the March 31 deadline for \$500 per stateroom savings on the Rhone River Cruise through Provence. Remember the Alps to Dubrovnik trip through Croatia is set for June. Don’t wait till Spring Session if you want to save your place.

Flyers are in all classrooms or you can reach me at 707-257-1804 or by email at spk@napanet.net.

Happy Travels!

Susan Kennelly

COMMAND PERFORMANCES

THINGS TO DO WHILE NOT IN SCHOOL

– PLUS –

SPECIAL THANKS TO CHRIS SMITH

We’ve reached the end of another great session that went by too fast! Now we have a 6-week break during which you can see all those performances you missed while in school or the many interesting ones coming up. So let’s go!

For those of you in Prof. Marchi’s class, there is *42nd Street Moon’s* concert version of “The Golden Apple” starting on March 23 for 2 weeks at the Eureka Theatre. This is a rarely done musical from the early fifties and one of Prof. Marchi’s favorites. *The Magic Theatre* continues with their “Hot House ‘06” which consists of three world premiers throughout the month of March. The postcards and brochures for these are in your classrooms. *The Symphony* is in full swing with new concerts every week: Mozart, Sarah Chang, Kurt Mazur, Rostropovich, and MTT/Mahler among others. The *San Francisco Lyric Opera’s* “Tosca” begins this week for the next two weekends at the Gould Theatre. For those of you who like cutting edge productions, in addition to *Magic Theatre*, there is *Intersection for the Arts* showing Campo Santo’s play “Purvis” which looks like it will be very exciting. *The Philharmonia Baroque* continues with an all Mozart program at the Herbst Theatre. *The Marin Theatre* does “Old Wicked Songs.” *Berkeley Rep* presents a new “Zorro” by Culture Class, and *A.C.T.* continues with “Gem of the Ocean,” “The Rivals,” and “Nightingales.” Just a sampling of performances for you to enjoy while you are on break.

Be sure to check the display racks in all your classes before you leave and when you return next session. Throughout the spring we will receive Season ’06/’07 season brochures for many of the organizations in the Bay Area.

I want to thank Chris Smith from the *Magic Theatre* once again for his ‘Brown Bag’ talk on February 13. Over 65 of your fellow students attended, and I think all will agree it was a very informative and rewarding experience.

Wishing everyone many great performances until I see you in mid-April,

Bob Morgan

THE ERASMUS PROJECT

Remember that group of kind and energetic USF students at our October 15th Commencement who volunteered to usher? Or the girls you helped by donating collectively \$1000 to their trip to Vietnam last summer? Did you speak to one of them, get a postcard or view their slide show of Vietnam? These scholars are the Erasmus Project. Below member Margaret Ramos writes you a letter. Please see what she says, and consider supporting another Erasmus journey

Dear Fromm Students,

The Erasmus Project is a living/earning community inspired by the life and teachings of the Renaissance humanist Erasmus of Rotterdam. Erasmus students live together in Phelan Hall and attend a seminar class once a week. In class, students focus on global justice issues. In addition, students gather weekly for a community meeting. These meetings give students the opportunity to discuss issues and current events. Erasmus enhances students' commitment toward community development, consensus based decision-making, social justice, and social activism. Students apply ethical and social justice theory to student-driven service projects.

Each service project covers a broad social injustice, which can be tackled at the local or global level. Each individual service project is taken on by a small, passionate group of USF students, working at the grassroots level. Current student-drive service projects for the 2005-2006 year are:

· *The One Campaign* · *HIV-AIDS* · *Land Mines* · *Juvenile Justice*

The Erasmus Project is scheduled in Spring 2006 to travel to South Africa and Mozambique, where the focus will be on street children orphaned by HIV-AIDS and poverty. The students will work closely with "Umthombo," a national street children "think tank" concerned with developing and implementing informed, working strategies to address the AIDS issue in South Africa. "Umthombo" is a voice from the streets. It is unique, led by and staffed by former street children whose aim is to change the way that society perceives and treats street children.

This trip will culminate with a three-week experience in a marginalized community providing students with the opportunity to directly engage with individuals affected by the issue at hand and to collaborate closely with organizations working towards a positive social change.

Each student needs to raise \$3,000 towards the cost of the trip. People are invited to help with money, prayers, encouragement, time - all is appreciated. The Erasmus Project is grateful to have your continual support and interest in our development within the USF community and in our immersion to a foreign country.

In Solidarity, The Erasmus Project

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your tax deductible donations of any amount will be appreciated. Erasmus is going to South Africa to make a difference. You can "be with us" through your financial support. Contributions can be placed in the Evaluation Box in classrooms or given to the Fromm Institute staff. Checks payable to USF-Erasmus.



On his latest trip, Prof. Joseph Bodovitz sent us this picture on which he wrote:

"This is from my recent trip to Washington D.C., and is a major archway in the Library of Congress. The tour leader told us that the sculpture on the left represents youthful learning, and on the right, older folks learning"

STUDENT BY-LINES

For the final “Student By-Lines” of the winter session, you’ll find a poem which considers that delicate subject of parenthood, and for you who’ve come full circle, that dazzling time of grandparenthood. What happens when you enter the second parenting stage? Here is Sallie Robbin’s thoughtful, lyrical, and pithy reflection. Mrs. Robbins, by the way, took the Winter Session off to spend time (and help of course!) with her new grandchild.

A Grandma’s Poem

by Sallie Robbins

So what’s it about, this business of birth?
(The barrels of pooing and cooing and mirth?)

For the innocent parents, it’s fun at the start
To be the proud owners of a baby so smart
And gorgeous and good.
Look! He sleeps through the night!
He’s walking, he’s talking,
His name is “Delight”.

But then we all know come the terrible twos
The first day of school, the puberty blues,
The trials and torments ... the SAT test
We suffer with them and hope for the best.

That’s not to say its all work and no play
There’s an offsetting joy about every tenth day.

They go off to college and enter the world
Their conquests and triumphs make life seem all sunny
They’re out of your hands ... do they make enough money?

Are they happy? Fulfilled?

No, you’re not off the hook
Being a parent doesn’t go by the book.

Yeah, it’s a merry-go-round of winning and woe
You might never do it if you really did know.

But ... there IS a pay-off you never would guess.
Your life comes full circle and you feel truly blessed.

No matter the years of squabbling and fights,
The worry and wonder ... the ‘did I do rights?’

There is a conundrum which now I can see
You must be a mother for a grandma to be.

And all of the love I feel towards my three,
I now can bestow on my little baby.



Fromm Institute Events & Reminders

Wednesday, March 1
10 a.m., McLaren 252

Wonders of Science Series presents Jerold Lowenstein, M.D.
“What is the Quagga, Really.. & Other Jurassic Park Stuff?”

Wednesday, March 1
Noon, McLaren 250/251

Telling Our Story
Remembering Our Founders, Alfred & Hanna Fromm

SPRING SESSION DATES:

Catalogs in the mail: Tuesday, March 7
Pre-Enrollment begins: Wednesday, March 8
Pre-Enrollment Ends: Friday, March 10
Enrollment begins Monday, March 13.

NOTE → Spring Session Open House: Monday, April 10 ← **NOTE**
Classes Begin: Monday, April 17.



**The Fromm Institute
For Lifelong Learning**

at the University of San Francisco
2130 Fulton Street
San Francisco, CA 94117-1080