

FROM THE ROOFTOP

The Newsletter of THE FROMM INSTITUTE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

COMMUNITY

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*The Fromm
Institute*



*Where old friends
meet for the
first time.*

PUTTING U INTO THIS ISSUE

Without trying too hard, and certainly not wanting to be like some political leaders who manage to turn all topics back to them, this issue of “From the Rooftop” legitimately focuses on you, the students of the Fromm Institute. Featuring you is easy because you are, without question, a real community. This session you share this place called Fromm Hall with more than 1200 other like-minded and “career free” folks; you have the common purpose of learning in retirement; and thanks to the energies and efforts of so many who work through the Fromm Institute Student Association, there is a community-building social agenda always at work and just waiting for your engagement.

So, let’s put down your books for a minute and look around the Fromm Institute from this “Rooftop’s” perspective. Check out so much that’s going on this session. Remember, that all things are possible if you just make the effort, and if you consider that all these possibilities could offer you just as much satisfaction as the courses you’re enrolled in this Spring.

Look at yourself, (you are that “U”), and become more involved in this issue of a meaningful retirement. Find new friends, rather than just recall them, and broaden your horizons beyond those things that have become your predictable routine. On the next seven pages, offered to you in the second and third week of your classes, read all about so much that’s planned, is going on right now, or has been happening at the Fromm for days, months, maybe even for decades. After all The Fromm Institute at USF has been at this since 1976! Put yourself out there, ready to try something new and see if, in doing so, “you” becomes that U.

Now, if you’ll turn the page you can see how a good idea came to be and how, with your involvement, it continues to evolve. Yes, if it’s springtime at Fromm, it is time for another round of Fromm Institute Student Association Elections. Read about this on page two and page three. The history is fascinating.

On pages four through eight, you might also find of interest so much that is planned for the session: the results of the Student Association Survey conducted only last session; a biography of one of your own fellows from biographer and Fromm artist Eleanor Burke; information on special access to the performing arts; opportunities for adventure; after school movies linked to some of our courses; the photography that is featured in the Maier Hallway Gallery, and many other activities.



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DON'T "WAITE." NOMINATE!

A long time ago, in its second year of existence, when the Fromm Institute was just a youngster, its students went through something you might describe as an organizational puberty. Early adolescence is a tough time, even for institutes, but at two, the growth spurts were difficult. Not quite satisfied with just attending a good school with six great classes to choose from each session, the 120 people who were enrolled back in 1978 wanted a social life, too. What kids don't?

The leader of the pack was a crusty but stylish chap (he wore the biggest shirt collars over his suit jacket – hey, it was the late 70s). His name was Captain Girvan Waite. He was a retired merchant marine officer, and he was, as you'll soon see, a born leader.

One day he approached Hanna Fromm in a respectful manner, much like a sea captain to an admiral. He voiced his idea for an association of students who might organize various social events that would add to the overall Fromm Institute experience. Concerned that no one should be excluded, Mrs. Fromm asked, *"How would one belong?"*

In true military style, Captain Waite came up with the perfect conscription. Everybody who enrolled would be a member, automatically, whether they wanted to or not. *"They can pay a voluntary dues, too,"* he added. This universal eligibility struck Mrs. Fromm as fair and a voluntary dues structure quite practical. *"It's a great idea Captain,"* she replied and then, just as if she had served in the military herself, she volunteered that the man who had the idea, should do the job. *"Captain Waite, you'd make the perfect President!"*

As time marched on the Girvan Waite's chain of command passed to Helen MacCollister and then to Sophia Conley. Because Sophia seemed to be more of a benevolent dictator than a president, the Fromm Institute students, who number around 250 by then (1988), led by Drs. Ben Budai and Jean Hayward, formalized the Association creating By-Laws that set election protocols, terms and term limits. Immediately thereafter, the students elected Dr. Budai and subsequently Dr. Hayward to serve full terms as their president. No good deed goes unrewarded!

Following them and moving into more recent history, the Student Association has been led by such talented, dedicated people as Joan San Jule, Dolores Simon, P.J. Joseph, Alan Entine, Joan Cucek and now Lois Roach. While this anecdotal history focuses on the presidents, it's equally important to understand that these men and women have been served by an incredibly competent corps of Officers and Steering Committee members from which the leadership ascends and among this group, Lois Roach counts on a current team of officers, Steering Committee members and Student Council volunteers.



He had the biggest shirt collars in every class.

NOMINATIONS, NOW REQUESTED

Now, you are reminded of not only of Capt. Waite and the Student Association's history of leadership, but more immediately of your responsibility to it. As required in the By-Laws, which are up for review as well, it's time to call for nominations for the four officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Those same rules remind us that (1) the term of service is two years, that (2) no one can serve more than two terms (four years) and that (3) all current students can nominate any other current student who agrees to run.



Lois Roach
President



Shari Groper
Vice-President



Greg Brown
Treasurer



Eleanor Burke
Secretary

After one term (2 years) in office, President Lois Roach, Vice President Shari Gropper, Treasurer Greg Brown and Secretary Eleanor Burke are all eligible to serve another two-year term. While their service has been exemplary, some may not choose to run for a second term or there may be others whom you would like to see at that helm. That's why this time of nomination is so important. So now, the spirit of the sea captain asks just who do you want to have "on board" as your officers from 2017 to 2019? It's time to inquire if they would like to be nominated for the first time or, in the case of the four pictured, another two-year term.

When it comes to nominations, the decision is ultimately yours and so, students of the Fromm Institute, it's time to keep Captain Waite's good idea alive. **From April 17 until April 27, nominations can be made and placed in the Nominations Box outside the Fromm Institute Office. Nomination Forms are at the Student Association Booth and in the Fromm Institute Office. Fill one out for your suggested candidate, sign your nomination, and remember to get the consent of the person you nominate.**

This year in the middle of our forty-first, the Fromm Institute is a long way from organizational puberty and we do have a strong social program thanks to the leadership of so many in the Fromm Institute Student Association. With your nominations this week, and your participation in the election in the weeks to come, you can insure that this tradition continues. Make the Captain, proud. **Don't "Waite." Nominate!**

...AND HOW ABOUT 'THE RULES OF THE ROAD' Revised By-Laws Await Ratification

For the past year, your Fromm Institute Student Association (FISA) Officers, Steering Committee and Student Council have been reviewing the FISA Organizational By-Laws. Led by **Greg Brown**, FISA Treasurer, this effort to revise the 'rules of the road' has been an ongoing project to which many on the FISA team have contributed. Available on line at fromm.usfca.edu (click on Fromm Institute Student Association) and at the FISA Booth is that revision draft which, if approved by a plurality of the voters in this Spring's election (May 15 to May 18), will become the guidelines under which the Student Association will operate. If you would like to compare them to the current by-laws, those are available there too. Your review is appreciated and if any questions or concerns arise from that reading, please bring them to the Fromm Institute Student Association booth, where they will be answered or referred to by someone who has the information you seek.

WHAT'S SHOWING IN THE MAIER HALLWAY GALLERY?

"Photographs: 1968 - 2015 by Rodger Birt"

Don't just look because he is a Fromm Institute Faculty Member, but take a few minutes out your Fromm Hall day to experience the way Prof. Birt sees the world.

"The photographs I selected to exhibit here at the Fromm Institute represent themes and interests I have pursued since purchasing my first camera in 1968. While consistently working with both black and white and color film (I have resisted the urge to photograph digitally), I adhere to the conviction that the subject matter when using black and white film tends primary towards narrative expression while that of color film is color itself."



RESULTS OF THE 2017 FROMM INSTITUTE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (FISA) STUDENT SURVEY

by Linda Marks

Top 5 Current FISA Offerings Considered "important" to Fromm Students

According to the Fromm Institute Student Survey:

- Concerts and other musical performances
- Brochures about local arts and entertainment events
- Matinee Film Series
- Arts & Entertainment Presentations
- Post-Class Discussions

In the middle of the 2017 Winter Session, FISA surveyed students to 1) find out how important the 14 current FISA offerings are to them and 2) gather ideas for new offerings. We received 447 responses, which means about a third of the student body took the time to give us their feedback. If you are one of those 447 people, thank you for doing this!

FINDINGS: (See the table to the right, for details)

1. Things related to arts and entertainment (concerts, presentations from different A&E groups, brochures) were considered the most important by students. This wasn't a surprise — FISA has been offering these for years and they have always been well received. When asked, "What would be the most important new activity, event, or offering that you would like FISA to provide?" many people said they'd like to see an expansion of current offerings, citing the concerts more than any other activity. Bravo to Bob Morgan for all the work he has done on this.

2. We were delighted that some of our newest programs, the Matinée Film Series and post-class discussions, the brain-children of Maxine Einhorn and Frances Pinnock, are already great successes.

3. We found that Fromm students would like more ways of getting to know one another, both at Fromm and outside of Fromm. They suggested "Brown Bag" lunches to meet-and-greet, current-events discussions, docent-led tours at museums and many other activities.

4. We were somewhat surprised to find that many people aren't sure what FISA does. There were a lot of "new ideas" related to classes and professors, but things relating to the academic program at Fromm are outside of the purview of FISA. Our purpose is to supplement the academic program of the Fromm Institute with a social activity agenda.

FISA STUDENT SURVEY FEBRUARY 2017

GRAND TOTAL % & WEIGHTED AVERAGE	WEIGHTED AVERAGE	'VERY IMPORTANT' OR "IMPORTANT"	MOST ENJOY
Brochures about local A&E events	3.9	70.9%	3
Concerts	3.9	69.1%	88
Matinee film series	3.7	65.0%	33
A&E Presentations	3.6	59.1%	6
Post-class discussions	3.5	53.2%	13
Cookies/candy etc.	3.3	48.5%	9
Perf. Arts Q&A	3.2	44.7%	4
Newcomer sessions	3.2	44.1%	0
Travel Presentations	3.0	33.4%	3
Meet-up board	2.9	30.9%	4
Fromm student plays performed/ read by Fromm students	2.7	28.1%	5
Fromm authors' table	2.8	28.0%	0
Fromm authors' readings	2.8	26.8%	4
Fromm works performed by USF theater students	2.8	26.5%	0
Notebooks (not on list)			7

NEXT STEPS:

1. We will continue to offer concerts and other performances and hope to expand these offerings by opening up a time other than noon, when rooms are difficult to find and many Fromm students enjoy eating lunch with their friends. Watch for offerings in the after-class hour of 3-4 p.m.

2. We will continue the Matinée Film Series, to be coordinated by Maxine Einhorn, and the post-class discussions, to be coordinated by Frances Pinnock. Keep an eye out for postings of these things on bulletin boards and in "From the Rooftop."
3. "Meet-Ups" are a perfect way for students to socialize with one another. If you want to go to a museum, take a walk, see a play -- invite others to go with you. We recently set up a "Meet-Up Board" in the atrium and we will better publicize activities on it. Thank you to Linda Allan for this collegial idea.
4. We thought about dropping some of the offerings that scored lower on the survey, but they are relatively new and are very valuable to the participants (Fromm Playwrights and Fromm Writers Read) and the attendees. So, we're going to continue offering them hoping that with more publicity they may become more appreciated. Thank you, David McClure, for your work on this.
5. Although they didn't score high on the survey, we'll continue to offer the newcomer sessions. We didn't ask on the survey if people were new to Fromm, and these sessions would be important only to that group. Started by Maxine Einhorn and Frances Pinnock, and now continued by Fran, they provide a free lunch courtesy of the Fromm Institute Office and serve as an important way for new students to hear from Fromm Institute Staff, Friends of Fromm Board Members, FISA Representatives and most importantly Fromm students. Most importantly, it gives new students an opportunity to ask questions about questions on their minds as they start school.

In the spreadsheet to the left the fourteen activities on the survey are listed in order of "how important" students reported they found them (column two of spreadsheet), with 5 = "very important" combined with 4 = "important." This result was almost identical to the weighted averages of the responses (first column). For that we multiplied the number of "5" responses to a question by 5, the number of "4" responses by 4, etc., and then divided the total by the number of responses to that question. The last column indicates the number of times a particular response was chosen to question 2 as the "one thing that FISA offers that you most enjoy."

If you would like more information about the survey results or would like to discuss them (or anything else) with me, contact me at lindamarkssf@comcast.net or come by the FISA booth on Wednesdays at noon-time. I'll be there collecting FISA dues, answering questions and otherwise being friendly.



THANKS: *I offer great thanks to Greg Brown, Maxine Einhorn and Frances Pinnock for all the time and effort they spent on designing, fielding and tabulating the survey. They were an amazing team. The survey was Greg Brown's idea and I volunteered to "help." We're indebted to these students who volunteered to stand at the doors distributing the survey: Roberta Gordon, Virginia Johnson, Linda Moore, Norma Murphy, Nancy Kenyon, Jay Davies, Patricia MacDonald, Donna Calame, Kay Stoepler, Frances Verrinder, Sarah Wilcox, Betsy Glover, Carol Simpson, Ron Sribnik, Janet Castenada, Stephanie Kipperman, Mary Ann Wolcott, Rosemary O'Connell, Judith Cox, Michael Misch and David McClure.*



COME HEAR THE SONGBIRDS by Linda Allan

Thanks to the Fromm Institute Student Association you are invited to a concert from San Francisco's Songbirds, **Thursday, May 4, at noon, Maraschi Room.** All the members of this chorus are all old enough to attend Fromm except the conductor, Dwight Okumura, who has achieved national renown as a pianist and composer before the age of 50. Their program, "Big Broadway" will be full of the songs you know and remember, sung in a swing tempo in exciting new arrangements. A sing-a-long is included. The Songbirds evolved from and support the Children's Theatre Association. CTA brings grade school children from the Bay Area to an annual musical at no cost to the kids. Come and enjoy *The Songbirds* and support this youth program with your presence. See you there!



WELCOME COMMITTEE

“We’re In Full Swing” by Frances Pinnock

As you read this, we’ll have had a "meet-up" at the cinema to watch "Hedda Gabler" and we’re in full swing welcoming new members to Fromm at three separate lunchtime events. We’ve planned for weekly lunchtime meetings after Professor Zimmerman's class to discuss The Brothers Karamazov in the Berman Room (where the class is held) on Tuesdays right after class. It’s open to everyone. The first meeting will be after the third class on April 25. This will give everyone an opportunity to read the almost 1000 pages! Please know, you’re welcome to join us even if you haven't enrolled in the class.

In conjunction with the Professor Eddelman’s “Venice” course, we’re reconvening last semester’s book club. Again, no need to be a member of this class to join. Read the very short Death in Venice and come to the **Broad Room on Thurs., May 25 at noon** for a discussion of it.

Please continue to look regularly at the “Meet-Up” Board in the Atrium by the Maier Hallway. There you’ll find details of our future Welcome Committee events and off-campus meet-ups including a book club screening of “Death In Venice” and plans for off-campus cinema get-togethers for more National Theater and Royal Shakespeare Company broadcasts.



COMMAND PERFORMANCES

“Discounts! Discounts! Discounts!” by Bob Morgan

A hearty Spring welcome to all! I’m in classes on Tues. a.m., Wed. p.m. and all day Thurs., so look for me with your Performing Arts questions in the Activities Hallway before my classes. I’m beginning my 21st year at Fromm and ending my 17th year as your volunteer Performing Arts Representative. The middle display racks are bursting with info on this season’s shows with a few brochures for the Fall. I’ll be getting more as the term progresses, so check there every week. Have a great time and be sure to take advantage of these great discounts. My next column will be May 15.

- **Attention New Students:** On **Thurs., Apr. 27 at noon in the Broad Room**, I’ll hold a once-a-term Performing Arts Q & A. I strongly encourage all new or newish students to attend. As always, I’ll explain how to use your Fromm USF Student to get discount tickets here or wherever you may be traveling.
- **“Brown Bag” Performing Arts Noontime Programs:** I’ve arranged four programs. There will be 2 **SF Conservatory of Music Concerts**. One **Thurs., May 11**, a Cello Quartet, and another on **Wed., May 17**, a Jazz Trio of Sax, Guitar, Triple Bass. On **Wed. May 24**, I’ve invited the **SF Museum of Performance & Design** to come and tell us all about their organization and archives.
- **SF Opera:** The Display Racks now hold the 1/2 price student brochures and order forms for the 2017 Fall SF Opera Season. Pick one up to study, and if you have any questions, call their box-office. There are still some 1/2 price series for the 3 Summer Operas, but hurry. Order forms are in the racks, if you are interested.
- **SF Symphony:** There are 1/2 Price Series for Thursday & Sunday Matinees and for the Youth Orchestra and Chamber Sunday Matinee Concerts. These are series of six and are called “Silver Savers” Concerts. NOTE: You must call the Symphony Box Office and tell them that you want to be put on the list and identify yourself in their computer records as a “Senior,” otherwise they won’t send you the materials to order in May or put you on their list for the future. If you have questions call their box-office. Ask about “Silver Saver” deals.
- **Humanities West:** Their final program “Cleopatra: The Last Pharaoh” is on **May 5 & 6** at the Marines Memorial. Info cards are in the far-right rack. Tickets are for both days or only one. Fromm is an organizational sponsor so Fromm Institute students get discounts.



MATINÉE SERIES

“Come to the Movies!” by Maxine Einhorn

Matinée, Fromm’s student organized movie club, continues this semester with films linked to Spring courses on the History of Russia, Romantic Comedies: Hollywood-Style, U.S. Immigration Policy and The Brothers Karamazov. Films are chosen to enhance and enrich the courses. That is the idea but you don’t have to be enrolled in these courses to come to the movies. Everyone is invited! Matinée Series films are shown in the **Maraschi Room** after school at **3 p.m.** (with one exception on 4/25.) Look for movie calendars and flyers in the related classrooms, at the FISA booth and on the “Meet-Up” Board in Fromm Hall’s Atrium. A special surprise is scheduled for **May 31 at 3 p.m.** A very special guest will introduce their favorite rom com after Ruthe’s Stein class “Romantic Comedies: Hollywood-Style” Watch this space!

MATINÉE

Film Screening Calendar –Spring 2017 Films Related to:

- Ruthe Stein’s class - ROMANTIC COMEDY: HOLLYWOOD-STYLE
- Professor Zimmerman’s class – BROTHERS KARAMAZOV
- Professor Hohmann’s class -HISTORY OF RUSSIA
- Professor Jonas’s class – FROM TRUMAN TO TRUMP: US POLICY IN THE AMERICAS

April

Tuesday 25th	State of Siege*	2 hours	3pm	Maier Room
Wednesday 26th	The Shop Around the Corner (1940)	1 hour 39 mins	3pm	Maraschi

May

Tuesday 2nd	The Lady With The Dog (1960)	83 minutes	3pm	Maraschi
Thursday 4th	The Cranes Are Flying (1957)	97 minutes	3pm	Maraschi
Wednesday 10th	Starting Over (1979)	1 hour 45 mins	3pm	Maraschi
Thursday 11th	Hipsters (2008)	2 hours 10 minutes	3pm	Maraschi

** Please note this movie screens in the Maier Room. All others are screened in Maraschi.*



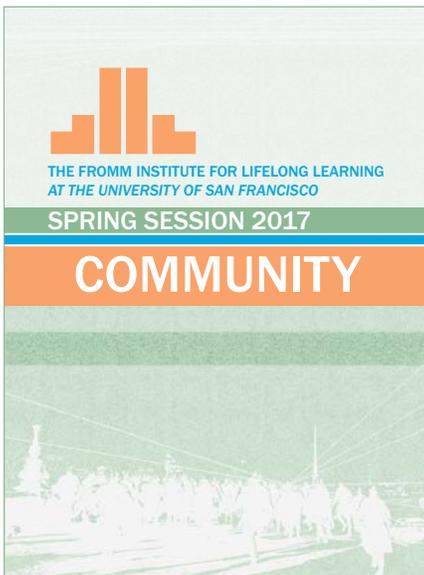
TOUR & TRAVEL

“Count the Opportunities” by Susan Kennelly

There have never been so many opportunities for Fromm Travel than are being offered right now! Five different trips over five different months are in the works, just waiting for sign-ups to fill them.

- First up is the ever-popular “Ashland Shakespeare Tour.” A few spaces remain on this 17th Annual from June 20-23.
- In July, it’s off to Germany along the “Romantic and Fairy Tale Roads” which happens July 13-24, 2017.
- For those who prefer domestic travel, in August there is “Historic Trains and National Parks of Colorado.”
- As Fall approaches, “Frommies” can also head south, from Oct.13-19, to the “Jungles, Beaches, Modern City and Panama Canal” via round trip air .
- Don’t forget you could enjoy, or enjoy again, our latest chance to “Discover Cuba” that heads to the island from Nov. 15-22.

Flyers with full details are in the Activities Hallway or come to my “Brown Bags” on **May 25** and **June 1** to learn more about these . . . Happy Travels!



JEAN FOWLER — FEATURED FROMMIE

by Eleanor Burke

Jean Fowler is the very embodiment of a doer. The life she has created for herself, her can-do attitude, and her unfailing candor all underscore that.

Born in Illinois, she attended Grinnell College in Iowa. As women from the '40s and '50s know, they were expected to be nurses, teachers or secretaries (before becoming wives and mothers). They weren't to aim for a job that paid enough to support a family — that was up to husbands. Jean made her choice: she didn't like blood, wasn't interested in the required psych classes for teaching. She chose "other." (Now, she says she'd be an archaeologist).

After college and a year in Grand Rapids working for the Girl Scouts, in '59, she took off for Germany, bought a VW, traveled around, and left as the Wall went up. Her trekking in that VW continued, next in the U.S. where in New York she spotted an old boyfriend with his new girlfriend, and quickly headed to Chicago to earn enough to stake herself to a new life in California.

She arrived here in October of '62, and all that it took was the sun setting off the Golden Gate. She was hooked. She got a job at The Asia Foundation with a boss who declared, "If you think we're sending you to Asia, we're not. We don't send women there." Two years later, she was in Kabul, where she spent 2 ½ years working on educational projects conceived by Afghans, "some of the best money the U.S. ever spent." There, she never wore a burqa but did dress conservatively, unlike her Afghan women friends who, she noted, dressed elegantly. She remembers a trip to Peshawar and Swat with some of those friends, lamenting the fact that the Afghan women were given their passports as they crossed into Pakistan, but had to surrender them back to authorities as they re-entered. She saw how Afghans pitted Russians against Americans for aid, i.e., the Russians funded a north-south road and the Kabul Airport, the Americans an east-west road and the Kandahar Airport. She was never afraid, "even when an old Afghan man spat at her to erase the evil spirits that emanated from my blond being." He was just protecting himself. While she never tired of the view (the snow-covered Hindu Kush) outside her window, the insularity frustrated her — no TV and only the BBC Radio. International flights brought in "Time," "Newsweek," and the "International Herald Tribune." A growing need to escape prevailed. She had missed the whole summer of love in San Francisco.

Back home, she signed on with the World Affairs Council as program coordinator, leaving briefly for a stint at Levis, only to return to the Council as Executive V-P. In 2000 this lifelong learner started taking classes at Fromm. At the Heritage, where she lives, she also organizes tours of the city for the fellow residents, exploring its lesser-known delights.

Yogi Berra's famous words, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it," are part of Jean's innate makeup. She says of her impressive travels that it wasn't that they changed her perspective; they gave her that perspective.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Nothing is Ever Completely Done, or Done By Just One" by Lois Roach

As this issue of "From The Rooftop" illustrates so well your Student Association is at work trying to fulfill its mission of building community. I hope you have enjoyed reading all about it. Don't forget to nominate one, or more than one of your peers so that we can have a **strong election the week of May 15**. Thanks to everybody on the Student Council (all other Officers, Steering Committee and Volunteers) who work so actively for your betterment. Stop any of us with your creative ideas and constructive criticism on ways we can extend FISA's social agenda mission.

