



# The Fromm Institute For Lifelong Learning

*at the University of San Francisco*



2130 Fulton St.  
SF, CA 94117-1080  
415.422.6805  
info@FrommInstitute.org  
www.FrommInstitute.org

## A LEGACY OF LEARNING, A FUTURE TO CELEBRATE

Nearly fifty years ago, Hanna and Alfred Fromm had a simple but powerful idea: learning should never stop. With that vision, they created the Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning at USF in 1976, a place where older adults could come together to study, explore, and connect purely for the joy of it.

What started with just a few courses has blossomed into a thriving community of hundreds of curious minds, dozens of classes each term, and a home of our own in Fromm Hall. Generations of students have walked through our doors, carrying forward the Fromms' belief that curiosity is timeless.

As we look ahead to our 50th Anniversary in 2026, we'll be celebrating not just the Institute's history, but all of you who make it vibrant today. The Fromms gave us the gift of lifelong learning; each of you keep that gift alive every time you show up eager to learn, laugh, and share.

We'll be marking this milestone with special events, stories from our past, and — of course — plenty of great classes. And as we plan for the next fifty years, your continued participation and support will make all the difference. Here's to Hanna and Alfred, here's to all of you, and here's to the joy of learning — at every age.

***Derek Leighnor, Executive Director***

### From 1976 to Today — 49 Years of Fromm

**1976** - Hanna & Alfred Fromm launch the Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning at USF. The very first term begins with just a handful of courses, about 75 students and a bold idea: learning has no age limit.

**1980s** - The program grows rapidly, attracting hundreds of students eager to study everything from history to music to science — all without tests or grades.

**2007** - Fromm Hall opens its doors on the USF campus, giving the Institute a permanent home and classrooms filled with lively discussions.

**2000s-2010s** - The Fromm community expands even further, welcoming thousands of students each year and inspiring similar lifelong learning programs across the country.

**Today** - More than four decades after its founding, the Institute remains true to the Fromms' vision: college-level learning in a warm, welcoming community offering more than 60 courses each year.

**2026** - Our 50th Anniversary! A year-long celebration of curiosity, connection, and the extraordinary gift Hanna & Alfred Fromm left us.

FALL 2025 ISSUE #2 | OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

# 02 WELCOME!

Discover, Engage & Connect

## OUR MISSION

The Fromm Institute, a "University within a University," stages daytime courses for retired adults over 50 years of age. Founded by Alfred and Hanna Fromm in 1976, the Institute offers intellectual stimulation and social camaraderie by introducing members to a wide range of college level learning opportunities with access to the facilities and services at the University of San Francisco.

## OUR VALUES

The Institute has a firm commitment to learning, believing that older students should be able to learn within a peer setting and be taught by emeritus professors of their own age. The Fromm Institute welcomes people regardless of previous academic achievement or their ability to pay a modest membership fee. As an independent, non-profit program on the USF campus, The Fromm Institute appeals to its members and to a broader philanthropic community for the financial support of its mission. This San Francisco "original" serves hundreds of older students each day, and includes thousands among its lifelong learning student body and alumni.



## OUR STAFF

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Derek Leighnor  
Derek@FrommInstitute.org

### ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Carla Hall  
Carla@FrommInstitute.org

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: TECHNOLOGY & MARKETING

Herbert Gracia  
Herbert@FrommInstitute.org

### PROGRAM MANAGER: STUDENTS & ENGAGEMENT

Dawa Dorjee  
Dawa@FrommInstitute.org

### PROGRAM MANAGER: FUNDRAISING & DATA

Alfredo Martinez  
Alfredo@FrommInstitute.org

## HELP US CELEBRATE 50 YEARS!

2026 marks the Fromm Institute's 50th Anniversary, and we want you to be part of the celebration. Over the next year, we'll be sharing stories, hosting special events, and honoring the legacy of Hanna & Alfred Fromm.

Here's how you can join in:

- **Share your story - Tell us what the Institute has meant to you.**
- **Spread the word - Invite friends to discover Fromm and the joy of lifelong learning.**
- **Support the future - Consider a gift to keep classes affordable and help the Institute thrive for the next fifty years.**

Together, we'll make this milestone year as memorable as the Fromms dreamed it could be.

With my warm regards,

**Derek Leighnor**  
Executive Director  
The Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning

## FALL 2025

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR

#### Classes Begin

September 8, 2025

#### Classes End

October 30, 2025

#### Make-up Week

November 3-6

#### Holidays

Yom Kippur

October 2, 2025

Indigenous People's Day

October 13, 2025



## HOW TO RESET YOUR FROMM PASSWORD

### ARE YOU HAVING DIFFICULTY LOGGING IN TO YOUR ACCOUNT

To access the Zoom link for your Hybrid & Online Classes:

1. Go to <https://fromminstitute.my.site.com/courses/>
2. Click **Log In** in the upper right corner
3. Click **Forgot your password?**
4. Enter your **username**. This should be your email address
5. Check your inbox or spam folder for the reset password link

## ACCESSING ZOOM LINK FOR ONLINE COURSES

### DON'T WAIT FOR THE COURTESY ZOOM REMINDER

To access the Zoom link for your Hybrid & Online Classes:

1. Go to <https://fromminstitute.my.site.com/courses/>
2. If you are not logged in, click **Log In** in the upper right corner
3. Click **My Class Schedule**
4. Scroll down to the course and select **JOIN**
5. Follow Zoom instructions for joining the meeting

## ACCESSING COURSE MATERIALS

### UPDATES TO OUR NEW WEBSITE

To Access Course Handouts & Course Recordings:

1. Go to <https://fromminstitute.my.site.com/courses/>
2. If you are not logged in, click **Log In** in the upper right corner
3. Click **My Class Schedule**
4. Scroll down to the course and select **More Details**
5. Along the left, navigate to **Class Recording** or **Course Material**

## REGISTERING FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

### FROMM INSTITUTE STUDENT ASSOCIATION EVENTS

1. Go to <https://fromminstitute.my.site.com/courses/>
2. If you're not logged in, click **Log In** in the upper right corner
3. Click on **Special Events**
4. Select **Add to Cart** for the events you are interested in attending
5. Scroll back to the top and select the **cart icon** to complete checkout

## PROF. NATHAN DENNIS

### WHO OWNS THE PAST? MUSEUM COLLECTIONS AND THE POLITICS OF DISPLAY

Presented by Nathan S. Dennis, Ph.D., Program Director and Associate Professor Art History & Museum Studies Program

This presentation will explore:

- The moral ambiguities around museum acquisitions of art and artifacts from around the world and legal claims to ownership.
- Recent and ongoing controversies surrounding cultural heritage acquisitions or display practices—the Parthenon Marbles, Benin Bronzes, Ethiopian tabots, or even the creation of the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C.
- How these controversies have brought these debates out of the halls of academia and into the public sphere.

**Monday September 29th at noon in Maraschi Room**

## MATINÉE

### COME TO THE MOVIES!

Film related to Professor Larry Eilenberg's class,  
**Film & Biography: The Biopic**

**Walk the Line (2005)**  
Romance/Musical 2h 16m

Joaquin Phoenix actually learned to sing and play guitar like Johnny Cash for this role and was rewarded with an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor. Reese Witherspoon revealed she almost walked out many times plagued by self-doubt - she felt she couldn't sing and play the instruments. She won her first Oscar for her performance as June Carter Cash.

Directed by James Mangold, this cool biopic of country/rock/blues legend Johnny Cash and his second wife, June Carter follows his life from his early days on an Arkansas cotton farm during the Great Depression, a childhood marked by the death of a beloved brother, to his rise to fame with Sun Records in Memphis. Great music, great performances.

**Wednesday, October 1 at 3pm in Berman Room**



## MATINÉE

### COME TO THE MOVIES!

Following the lecture by Program Director and Associate Professor Nathan Dennis on Who Should Own the Treasures of the Ancient World?

**Woman in Gold (2015) 1h 42m**

Directed by Simon Curtis, this film dramatizes one of the great legal battles in art history, opening with the Nazi takeover of Austria in 1938. Maria Altmann and her husband are wealthy Jews fleeing for their lives, leaving her family's famous artworks behind. The drama follows the story of Maria Altmann's brave mission to recover "The Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer," painting by Gustav Klimt, (so-called Mona Lisa of Austria) snatched from her family's stately Vienna apartment during the Nazi annexation of Austria. Starring Helen Mirren & Ryan Reynolds.

**Monday, October 6th at 3pm in Xavier Room**



Gustav Klimt's Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I (1907), popularly referred to as the "Woman in Gold." Oil, gold, and silver on canvas Neue Galerie New York.



## MATINÉE

### COME TO THE MOVIES!

Film related to Professor Mick LaSalle's class,  
**The Beauty of the Real: Women in Contemporary French Cinema**

**Le Rôle de Sa Vie (2004)**  
(The Role of Her Life) 1 h 42m

French drama directed by François Favrat. An ordinary quiet young woman, a freelance writer in a fashion journal, becomes the personal assistant to a movie star her own age. They have nothing in common other than their love for the same man. The film explores interesting themes such as ambition and identity. Starring Agnes Jaoui and Karin Viard - Karin Viard was nominated for the Best Actress award.

**Tuesday, October 14 at 3pm in Xavier Room**

**\*THIS EVENT IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE FROMM INSTITUTE STUDENT ASSOCIATION\***  
**TAC BAZAAR**



Discover and shop beautiful textiles, one-of-a-kind jewelry, and unique vintage clothes at the upcoming TAC Bazaar! Join us for a curated collection of handcrafted treasures. This is a one-day special event with free entry and free parking. It is also accessible via MUNI #38.

**Saturday, November 8, 2025 from 10 AM - 4 PM**

**St. Mary's Cathedral Event Center  
1111 Gough St (at Geary)  
San Francisco, CA 94109**



## FROMM STUDENT ART GALLERY

### FALL '25 SESSION DURATION

**Artist: Robert Socklov**

Come experience the evolving cityscape through the eyes of Bob Socklov. His captivating paintings—ranging from vintage views of San Francisco to impressionistic skylines—offer a unique, heartfelt perspective shaped by decades of observation and creativity. Join us at Maier Hallway Gallery to view Bob's latest collection. Whether you're a longtime admirer or discovering his work for the first time, his art invites you to see the familiar in a new light.

# 06 FISA EVENTS

Discover, Engage & Connect

10/16

**ERICA BACCUS**

"A Promise Kept"

10/21

**SUSAN STRAIGHT BOOK READING**

Sacramento

10/22

**MOVIE SCREENING: IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE**

Connected to the USF Series



## FROMM INSTITUTE DROP-IN BOOK CLUB

Looking for lively conversation and fresh perspectives?

Join the Drop-In Book Club, organized by Fromm Institute Student Association volunteer Frances Pinnock.

This welcoming group meets to explore a wide range of books and ideas. No long-term commitment is required—just bring your curiosity and love of reading! All Fromm students are invited to participate.

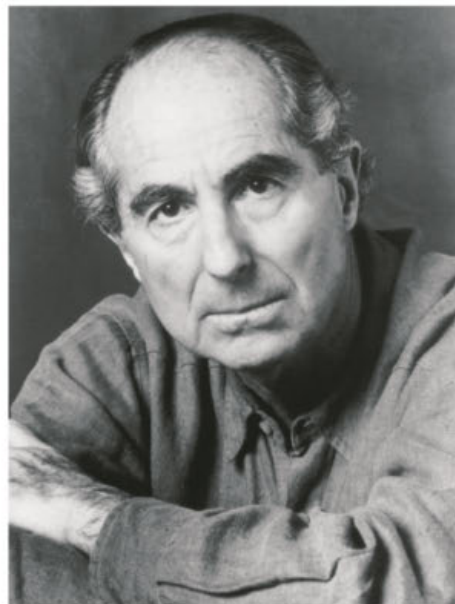


## DROP-IN BOOK CLUB

ORGANIZED BY FISA VOLUNTEER FRANCES PINNOCK

**American Pastoral** by Philip Roth

**Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>  
at 3 PM on Zoom**



We have heard, over time, several Fromm readers say that they avoid Phillip Roth based on having read "Portnoy's Complaint". Others have asserted that "American Pastoral" is their favorite novel of all time!

We have chosen "American Pastoral" for our next book in part to persuade those readers to give Mr. Roth another try and for those readers who love the book, to give it another read, since they probably read it around 1997 and it certainly is as wonderful now as it was then.

The book, a Pulitzer prize winner, has 423 pages and so we are giving you, our reader plenty of time to read it over the summer and the fall session.

We hope that on November 7th, at 3 PM, you will come to our drop-in book club and tell us exactly your response to the book, either as a new reader of Roth or a seasoned Roth fan or even if you don't fit into either of those categories.



## FALL 2025 - CHANGING THE WORLD FROM HERE: USF FACULTY LECTURES - WEDNESDAYS, 10-11:40 AM, XAVIER RM

“Changing the World from Here: USF Faculty Lectures” is a culmination and celebration of several projects – a concerted effort to diversify the Fromm Institute’s academic offerings, a forum to support intergenerational exchange and USF’s “Age-Friendly University” initiative, and a formal recognition of the Fromm Institute’s longtime relationship with USF. This series is intended to be ongoing and sustainable – each Fall showcasing not only USF faculty, but also leadership, research and student projects. Now, as we navigate the eminence of the Fromm Institute’s evolving program, and the challenges of current times, it seems fitting to turn to the experts right here at our doorstep. We hope you enjoy! This in-person only series is free to all Fromm Institute members enrolled in Fall classes, and requires registration. Our gift to you!

### SEPTEMBER '25

#### NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you have ideas for lunchtime activities, please let us know. We would love to involve Fromm students in planning these events. **Contact us at [jamestmullane@gmail.com](mailto:jamestmullane@gmail.com).**
- If you are in need of a ride from the East Bay, or have the means to share a ride, please provide your name and email address so that folks wanting to carpool may reach out to you.
- If you would like to post anything to this message board, please send it to **Alfredo at [alfredo@fromminstitute.org](mailto:alfredo@fromminstitute.org)**. Please keep in mind that this newsletter is shared with our email subscribers and in person students so be mindful when sharing your personal information.

### WED, OCTOBER 1 - FR DONAL GODFREY, S.J. UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN AT USF

**Talk Description:** Dónal Godfrey SJ will relate his vocation through the lens of being a pilgrim. He will examine what being a pilgrim, and what pilgrimage means in the world today. How are we to understand notions of pilgrimage and being a pilgrim? Why are more people making actual pilgrimages, such as the Camino a Santiago de Compostela, precisely as many forms of religiosity in the West have been in decline? This lecture will combine personal, theoretical, and historical examples of pilgrimage experiences, with inspiring images and videos.

**Bio:** Fr Dónal Godfrey, S.J., is University Chaplain at the University of San Francisco and serves on the Board at the Fromm Institute. Apart from his pastoral duties as chaplain, he runs Ignatian spirituality programs for faculty, staff, and students. These include book clubs, the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius in daily life, and other retreats. Donal was born in Liverpool, England. He was educated at Stonyhurst College and at University College, Cork. He was called to the Irish Bar, and is an Irish Jesuit priest. He has degrees in philosophy from the Milltown Institute of Dublin, a Master’s in theology from Regis College at the University of Toronto, a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, and a Doctorate in Ministry from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, CA. He is the author of the book, *Gays and Grays: The Story of the Gay Community at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church*, and serves on the LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee for the City of San Francisco.

### WED, OCTOBER 8 - DAVID WOLBER, PHD “GENERATIVE AI”

### WED, OCTOBER 15 - ALAN ZIAJKA, PHD “THE FOUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO”

### WED, OCTOBER 22 - KELI DAILEY, USF ADJ. PROF. “CAN COMEDY SAVE DEMOCRACY?”

# 08 EXPRESS YOURSELF COLUMN

Discover, Engage & Connect

## SHARE YOUR VOICE

### YOUR WORDS, YOUR VOICE, OUR COMMUNITY

Do you enjoy writing and want to share your creativity with the Fromm community? The Express Yourself column is a special space in our newsletter dedicated to showcasing the written pieces of Fromm Institute students.

Whether it's poetry, reflections, short essays, or creative stories, we welcome your submissions. Send your work to Alfredo at [Alfredo@fromminstitute.org](mailto:Alfredo@fromminstitute.org) for consideration in an upcoming issue.

This is your opportunity to inspire, connect, and celebrate the vibrant voices of our community.



## SHARE YOUR FROMM STORY!

### AS WE PREPARE FOR THE FROMM INSTITUTE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2026, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- Do you have a favorite class that stuck with you?
- A memorable moment or friendship made at Fromm?
- A story about how lifelong learning has enriched your life?

Send us your reflections — big or small — and be part of our anniversary celebration. Selected stories and quotes will be shared in upcoming newsletters, on our website, and at anniversary events.

Please email your story (and a photo if you'd like) to [Herbert@FrommInstitute.org](mailto:Herbert@FrommInstitute.org).

Your voice is part of the Fromm legacy — let's celebrate it together!

## GERONTOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

### ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-'26



Greetings Fromm Community,

Between tech, music, and good conversation, I'm excited to bring a little bit of all three to the Fromm Institute each week! My name is Kaylok Poon, your student leader, 4th year nursing major here at the University of San Francisco, and you'll see me running the Monday Tech Booths to help with smartphones, occasionally playing piano during Tuesday's lunchtime, and joining you all at the USF Lecture Series on Wednesday mornings.

A little about me: I'm into music, fitness, basketball, cooking, and biking around the city. Quick health tips I would like to bring in are short "movement snacks" like a brisk walk, stretching, or climbing a few stairs can lower blood pressure, improve circulation, as well as boosting heart health. Even five minutes of activity makes a difference!

Looking forward to meeting more of you, learning from your experiences, and continuing to build a strong sense of community together.