



THE FROMM INSTITUTE
FOR LIFELONG LEARNING
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FROMM FOCUS

The Newsletter of the Fromm Institute

Issue #6 • June 7, 2021

PLANNING FOR THE UPCOMING FALL

On March 9, 2020, the Fromm staff left campus and started working from home. At that time, we thought it would be for a few weeks and we were hoping that our self-imposed isolation would help us get up and running by the Spring 2020 Session. A few days later, USF closed the campus completely, San Francisco went in to lockdown and California, the United States and the World followed soon after. We can all agree that we didn't think on March 9, 2020 that we would not be able to return to campus for a year and a half, but here we are – the tide is finally turning.

This week, the University of San Francisco will start reopening buildings on campus – preparing for the eventual return of people – buildings that have had electricity and water disconnected to save costs. In mid to late July, the University anticipates that all buildings will be fully opened to the USF community. **USF faculty and staff will be allowed to return to work on campus in early August, and students will be allowed to return for the start of the Fall semester on August 24.**

We have not yet received guidance on mask or social distance requirements for classes, but we have issued contracts to our Fall Faculty which require firm plans. We will offer no more than one in-person class in each time slot (8 in person classes total) and at least one zoom class in each time slot. We are working with USF ITS to set up the in-person classes to be streamed live to zoom for those of you who do not yet wish to return to campus.

The University of San Francisco will require all faculty, staff and students (including Fromm students) to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 in order to return to campus. The Fromm Institute staff is engaged in discussions with how this policy will be implemented for our Fromm Institute community.

Please watch your future email communications. Most of you come to campus by public transportation or

carpools and we are not sure how many of you plan to return to campus in September for the Fall Session. We will send out a survey to assess your interest in returning in the Fall session and we will send out more information on how to verify that you are fully vaccinated as required by USF.

Please remember, all these plans are contingent on the state of the pandemic. They may be changed as we wait for guidance from the State of California, City of San Francisco and University of San Francisco. While we are all excited to return, it will be important for us to follow this guidance to ensure the safety of our Fromm Institute and University of San Francisco communities as a priority.

SPRING SESSION 2021

June 24, 2021 - Spring Classes End

June 28 - July 1 - Make Up Week

FALL SESSION 2021 (CATALOGS WILL BE EMAILED ON AUGUST 4, 2021)

September 13, 2021 - Fall Classes Begin

November 4, 2021 - Fall Classes End

November 8 - 11 - Make Up Week

Thurs., Sept. 16 – Yom Kippur Holiday (no classes)

Mon., Oct. 11 – Indigenous Peoples’ Day Holiday (no classes)

UPCOMING VIRTUAL PERFORMANCES AT THE SF CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

RECITAL | BACH TO CWIK: WORKS FOR SOLO VIOLIN

Thursday, June 10, 2021, 7:30 PM

Featuring Partita No. 3 in E Major, BWV 1006 by Bach, and Partita for Solo Violin by Cwik.

[LEARN MORE](#)

EVENT | SFCM & UCSF PRESENT: JAZZ, EQUITY, AND BRAIN HEALTH

Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 1:00 PM

Join the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (SFCM), UC San Francisco Memory and Aging Center (UCSF MAC) and Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI), in collaboration with the Alzheimer’s Association, in an exchange on jazz, equity and brain health.

[LEARN MORE](#)



This week, Fromm Institute student and author **Barbara Sapienza** shares a special piece about her mother. The piece was written in response to a *This American Life* story about a man in Japan who installed a telephone booth in his yard. People from all over Japan come to speak to their ancestors who died in the Tsunami five years ago. You can listen to the show here: <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/597/one-last-thing-before-i-go-2016>. Submissions to **Express Yourself** are accepted on a rolling basis and can be articles, opinion pieces or notes, written by you, the students or others in the Fromm Institute family, who want to share something with the larger community. Email your submissions to Scott Moules in the Fromm Institute office (moules@usfca.edu or fromm@usfca.edu).

ACROSS THE LINES

By Barbara Sapienza

I dialed. Waited for her to answer.

“Mama, Can you hear me? In 1997 before you died you stood at the head of our long wooden table overseeing a bowl of steaming potato gnocchi, smothered in tomato sauce, topped with a snowcap of Parmesano - the way Nonna made them for you. I hope she’s listening in on this call, Mama. Is she beside you?”

I couldn’t know you’d die in three months.

Like a gondoliere with an oar you dipped into the sea of pasta, and scooped out rounded portions of tiny potato dumplings, rolled individually with your arthritic fingers, while we sailed on the bay. I can still see your striped blue, three-quarter sleeve jersey like a gondoliere but without his straw hat. You wouldn’t want to mess up your bouffant. Wearing silver earrings and a pendant, the color of your hair if it weren’t coiffed and blonde. The thin gold watch I wear was on your arm that day. I look, 5:00 pm, April 29, 2021 - the time you’d boil the russets, stir il sugo. Tomato and basil, sweet sauce.

I remember hundreds of bowls of homemade pasta, ravioli, fettucine and spaghetti you laid out on the bed to dry; the spaghetti hung from a pasta rack. We didn’t have a pasta machine then, the machine, your hands.



“Talk to me, Mama,” I say.

“I fed you good,” she says.

“You taught me how to cook,” I say, “we’re made of the same cloth though I didn’t like to think so when you were alive.”

She smiles and I swear I see her light up a Pall Mall, take a deep breath. But no, a cold moist wind blows.

“I see you baking cakes, Barbara, giving them away.” Her lips reflect the golden sun.

While baking I’m in a trance. Fluid motions become my morning meditation. I bake cakes - two, three, four times a week - send them to neighbors, one hundred fifty a year. Sometimes I feel crazy.

“Barbara, don’t say that!” She says, “I’m beside you, see you, smell the anise in pizzelle; almond extract in biscotti; Amaro Nonno liqueur in cream. That’s when I miss a good cup of coffee, a Pall Mall, a Manhattan.”

“Mama, I put these foods out for you on Los Dios de Los Muertos, every year.”

“Ah! Shit!” she says. “I come by but these primary feathers don’t grab like fingers. They’re more like wings now.” She turns to show me her large broad wings, a golden beak profile, a large white head.

Wings? The two eagles flying overhead at Abbots lagoon. “That’s you,” I say, “You swoop above. Your wings billow like the sheets you used to dry from the pulley outside the bedroom window. You’d pull the heavy white percale out to dry and they’d be stiff and flat in the cold like the wings of the eagle. You used to stare at them as if dream trance.”

She chirps. I look toward the sky.

“Mama, you’re a great free flapping bird, gliding and soaring overhead with long broad wings lumbering and stiff with deep upstrokes.”

A REMINDER OF JUNE'S CONVERSATORY ON RACISM WITH PROF. MARA KOLESAS



Friday, June 25 at 10am

A Memoir of Education, Race, Justice: What Social Transformation is Necessary to Change a Life? *Michelle Kuo in Conversation with Mara Kolesas*

Michelle Kuo is a writer, attorney, and professor. She is the author of [Reading with Patrick](#), a memoir of mentoring and tutoring a former student in a rural Arkansas county jail. It was a runner-up for the *Dayton Literary Peace Prize* and the *Goddard Riverside Stephan Russo Book Prize for Social Justice*. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Michelle has worked to protect the rights of undocumented immigrants, assist asylum seekers, and defend incarcerated people. She has taught in prisons in the United States, France, and Taiwan. Michelle is interested in literacy, racial and socioeconomic equality, and abolitionist approaches towards prison and detention. She has published in *The New York Review of Books*, the *New York Times*, *Public Books*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Point* and other outlets; recently, she and her husband Albert Wu started "[A Broad and Ample Road](#)," a weekly newsletter on culture and politics. Currently, she is an Associate Professor at the American University of Paris, where she works closely with college students on issues of social justice.

[REGISTER HERE](#) (Free and Open to the Public)

[REGISTER HERE](#) for the Discussion Group at Noon

A YEAR OF CONVERSATORIES ON RACISM ARCHIVED ON THE FROMM INSTITUTE WEBSITE

Since the inception of this critical component to our virtual curriculum in August 2020, The Fromm Institute and Prof. Mara Kolesas have produced 14 conversations about racism in America. The final Conversatory is later this month (see above), but if you want to revisit the archived discussions, head over to The Fromm Institute [website](#) or click this address to go directly to the [archive](#). You can also view the conversations on our [YouTube Conversatory channel](#).

FOR NEWS FROM YOUR STUDENT ASSOCIATION PLEASE VISIT <https://www.frommfisa.org/>

FROM THE FROMM INSTITUTE STUDENT ASSOCIATION DIVERSITY TASK FORCE

JUNE CELEBRATES GAY PRIDE AND JUNETEENTH

During this month we celebrate liberation movements of two important groups in American society.



GAY PRIDE

New York City's Stonewall uprising in June 1969 was a spontaneous reaction to a police raid on a gay bar in Greenwich Village. These "riots" initiated the modern LGBT rights movement. The first Gay Pride marches were held in 1970 in New York and numerous other cities including San Francisco and, within a few years, in cities worldwide. Gay Pride celebrations are an annual reminder of the ongoing struggle for human rights in the LGBTQ+ community. This year there will not be a Gay Pride parade in San Francisco because of COVID-19 concerns. Nevertheless, there are numerous other events happening to commemorate the occasion. A few notable examples are:

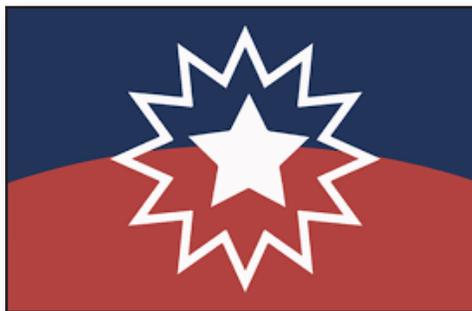
- **[Frameline45 \(San Francisco LGBTQ+ Film Festival\)](#)**. There are a few in-person films being shown along with streamed films. Among the events scheduled are a day at the Roxie theater (6/20), drive-in movies in Concord and Fort Mason, 50 virtual streaming programs with a special focus on Taiwan, Frameline talks on Queer cinema and 2 closing night features at the Castro Theater. Of special note are two Pride Movie Nights at Oracle Park. On 6/10 "In the Heights," a new filmed version of Lin Manuel Miranda's Broadway musical, will be shown the same day it will be released to movie theaters. "Everyone's Talking About Jamie" will screen on 6/11. This is a film adaptation of an award-winning musical from London's West End. Details and tickets for

FOR NEWS FROM YOUR STUDENT ASSOCIATION PLEASE VISIT <https://www.frommfisa.org/>

FROM THE FROMM INSTITUTE STUDENT ASSOCIATION DIVERSITY TASK FORCE

the Oracle movies can be found at <https://sfpride.org/movienight>.

- [**Black Liberation Event with AAACC \(African American Art + Cultural Complex\)**](#). This event demonstrates the connection between the fight for LGBTQ+ and racial equity and justice. It is scheduled for Friday June 18 (the eve of Juneteenth) with “details to come”.
- [**Pride Night at the Ballpark**](#). The Oakland A’s host the Kansas City Royals.
- [**SF Gay Men’s Chorus presents “Wired”**](#), an all-virtual showcase, will stream on their YouTube channel and Facebook page at 6 PM on 6/24.
- Oakland is planning a Pride Celebration September 21-22 and the Silicon Valley Pride Parade and Festival is scheduled for August 28-29.
- [**KQED**](#) has scheduled a number of TV programs in June to honor Gay Pride.
- The *SF Chronicle*’s Datebook section is likely to provide listings of Gay Pride events, particularly in the Sunday pink section.



JUNETEENTH

[**Juneteenth \(June 19th\)**](#), though perhaps less well known in the Bay Area, is a celebration of the end of slavery in the United States. The Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Lincoln on

FOR NEWS FROM YOUR STUDENT ASSOCIATION PLEASE VISIT <https://www.frommfisa.org/>

FROM THE FROMM INSTITUTE STUDENT ASSOCIATION DIVERSITY TASK FORCE

September 2, 1862 to be effective on January 1, 1863, outlawed slavery in all states in rebellion against the United States. However, full enforcement of the proclamation was dependent on the advancement of the Union army. Union forces did not reach Texas, the farthest state, until June of 1865. On June 19 Union army general Gordon Granger proclaimed freedom from slavery in Texas 2 ½ years after Lincoln's proclamation. Interestingly, the proclamation was directed only to the Confederate states. The border states of Delaware and Kentucky continued slavery until the 13th Amendment of the Constitution was ratified on December 6, 1865.

June 19th is also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day and Emancipation Day. This year, University of San Francisco President Fr. Paul Fitzgerald formally recognized Juneteenth as a USF holiday. Each year the University will be closed, classes will not meet and all faculty and staff will have the day off. This year the Juneteenth holiday will be recognized on Friday, June 18th.

Here are a couple of upcoming Juneteenth events:

- **26th Annual AfroSolo Arts Festival** - Black Voices: Our Stories Our Lives, will stream on AfroSolo's YouTube channel. There will be two programs; "Black Men: Embracing Our Light" (6/9-6/13) and "Courage Under Fire: The Liberation of Elroy" (6/17-6/20). More details along with a link to the YouTube channel can be found here: <https://www.ktvn.com/story/43883559/26th-annual-afrosolo-arts-festival-black-voices-our-stories-our-lives-june-9-13-and-17-20-2021>.
- **[Santa Clara County Juneteenth in the Park Festival](#)**. Events begin June 13. Details can be found in the Upcoming Events section of this website.