



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

FROMM FOCUS

The Newsletter of the Fromm Institute

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CELEBRATING A TRUE FRIEND, ALBERT JONSEN

This week, we are running Prof. Albert Jonsen's obituary again. **A funeral mass has been planned for Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 1pm at St. Ignatius Parish. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the Fromm Institute office at 415-422-6805 or [register here](#).** The funeral will also be live streamed on the [St. Ignatius Parish YouTube page](#).



Professor Albert Jonsen was a true friend of the Fromm Institute and believed in the Fromm Institute's mission of encouraging people, 50 and older, from all walks of life, to engage their minds in academic pursuits. Born in San Francisco in 1931, he was the fourth Academic Advisor of the Fromm Institute from 2009 through 2017, and he was President of the University of San Francisco from 1969 to 1972.

After leaving USF, he became Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics at the University of California, San Francisco. Most recently, he was Chair of the Department of Medical History and Ethics at the University of Washington School of Medicine from 1987 until his retirement in 1999 when he returned to San Francisco and joined the Fromm Institute with his wife Elizabeth (Liz) as students.

A true scholar and leader in the field of Bioethics, he authored several books, the most recent in 2005 – [Bioethics Beyond the Headlines: Who Lives? Who Dies? Who Decides?](#) He has also written chapters in more than 70 books and numerous articles in medical and legal journals on ethics, medicine and healthcare. Among the honors received by Prof. Jonsen are the Davies Award of the American College of Physicians and a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship.

Although he accomplished so much, he was a humble, genuine friend to all who knew him. Prof. Jonsen had a big, generous smile which matched his energetic spirit. He was a calm, polite gentleman who especially loved to sit and talk with anyone on any subject, listening intently with genuine interest to whatever his conversation partners had to say. He really understood and appreciated people. In 2020 in honor of his service, the title of Fromm Institute Academic Advisor was changed to the **Albert Jonsen Dean of Academic Affairs**. *His legacy continues to guide The Fromm Institute well in to the future.*

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2130 Fulton Street San Francisco, CA 94117-1080 | 415 422 6805 (t) fromm@usfca.edu (e) fromminstitute.org (w)



This week Fromm Institute author and student **Barbara Sapienza**, shares late Summer memories of deliciously prepared tomatoes and a burgeoning young love. *Express Yourself*, is a column created to share your thoughts, opinion pieces or other creative writing for the rest of the Fromm Institute community. If you would like to share your work, please submit articles to **Scott Moules** either at moules@usfca.edu or fromm@usfca.edu.

TOMATOES AND YOUNG LOVE

By Barbara Sapienza

Late summer with its waning light brings the plumpest red tomatoes, early girls and beefsteak, heirlooms, cherries, and plums. The stalls at the farmers market burst with cherries and small pear-shaped tomatoes dressed in their summer best of yellow, orange, and red dresses, smiling as I sift through them filling my bag, knowing they soaked in spring rains and summer rays, bursting to their fullness. I want to preserve them in their shiny skins, but preserving will only reduce them so that they will no longer be cherries or early girls but shriveled dried tomatoes, old ladies.

Guilt assuages, knowing their beauty will provide nourishment and joy to me and my family as they sit on the table embellished with bright green basil, cut and sprinkled in the right amount, glistening with olive oil, and frosted with Salt and Pepper, and if lucky, the heel of a baguette to dip into the marinade.

In my youth something new and exciting endeared me forever to the tomato. It was the summer before sixth grade. I was nine years old when I associated these red Devils with my oldest cousin Janet, a teenager then, and the daughter of my mother's oldest sister, Aunt Lucy. Janet's late afternoon snack pulled me to her house and tomatoes. First thing she did arriving home from school - she made a tomato salad every weekday. I loved watching her prepare her tomatoes, so I begged my mother to take me to her house until at some point Mama let me walk the few blocks alone. I liked it better that way, convincing myself I was a big girl like Janet. Janet lived in the above flat over my cousins Roberta and Carolyn. Roberta, a teen like Janet, let Carolyn and me wear her patent leather high heel shoes and flop around the front porch, but that was after the tomatoes.

I was happy when I could get to Janet's in time for the ritual. I would climb the back stairway and open the door to see her standing at the kitchen counter in her pretty sandals, exposing red painted toenails, and wearing capris. She would touch the tomatoes, searching, for the ones just ready to be cut and eaten. I learned the just ready ones were at room temperature, wore a beautiful orange red satin gown, and had an ever so slight squishy



feel to them. The first prod of the knife gave a little squirt. On a cutting board she cut them into wedges. Once they were in a bowl, she generously salted and peppered them and swirled golden olive oil over them just the way I do now. I don't remember whether she added vinegar or sweet white onion. I remember her glee as she sat at the table with the bowl of tomatoes for herself. Smiling and eating each wedge one by one until they were gone. She never offered me any tomatoes. I think she knew I was there for the watching. And maybe she liked it, because whenever I showed up, she let me in.

One day in the late summer I was surprised to find another guest at Janet's table. He seemed to like her tomatoes too. His name was Ronnie and he was sixteen. He would come to visit every day just like me. Then he began to get there before me and before he worked on his cars. He was a boy mechanic who fixed cars. At first they didn't mind me there, when they were getting to know each other. It was almost as if I held a place, like in a checker game. They only had eyes for each other. Janet was the Early Girl and Ronnie, the Big Beef. They seasoned each other with salt, pepper and slimy olive oil. I was enamored by the way they stared at each other, giggled, poked, spoke in short phrases, while they cut the wedges. Occasionally they squeezed shoulders or hands and laughed when the juice squirted out.

When Ronnie told a story about the old car he was fixing and the old man who complained about his tools being on the ground, even when Ronnie was flat on his belly under the car working, Janet would give a light strike to his shoulder and say, "Get out of here, he didn't . . . Go figure!"

Ron was a handsome teenager about the same height as Janet with twinkly eyes that spoke of love, especially when he looked at her. His voice was deep like a man's. Pretty soon I forgot all about the tomatoes just as Janet forgot about me. I was enchanted by the way they looked and touched each other, the same way she used to touch tomatoes. I felt a curious tickly feeling inside my small body. I was in love with their togetherness as much as the plump, sweet flesh of the tomato.

Tomatoes still give me that tickly feeling inside, especially as I make the first cut and see the red juices squirt outside. The tomatoes I prepare for myself every day in late summer remind me of sugary balls of love.

"Come and get these Early Girls and Beefy Boys," I yell to my family, "before I eat them up like my cousin Janet did."

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“MEXICAN REPATRIATION” UNITED STATES DEPORTS OVER A MILLION OF ITS OWN DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION

By Hector Esparza

As you read this article, it might be the first time you are learning about the “Mexican Repatriation”. There appears to be little written about this chapter in our history that occurred in the United States (U.S.) between 1929 and 1939. The term “repatriation” euphemistically used as it referred to returning people to their native country and carries the connotation that it was voluntary.

During the 1910’s and 1920’s, American businesses (mining, farming, ranching, and railroads) recruited labor from Mexico as well as hiring Mexican Americans. The workers provided U.S. companies with inexpensive labor that allowed these companies to prosper. Demand for Mexican laborers significantly dropped with the onset of the Great Depression and anti-Mexican hysteria ensued. Laws were passed depriving Mexicans of jobs in both the public and private sectors. Companies such as Ford Motors and Southern Pacific Railroad told their Mexican workers that they’d be better off with their own people.

As many as 2 million Mexican Nationals and U.S. citizens of Mexican descent throughout the U.S. were forced to leave and relocate across the border to Mexico. This happened in the form of raids, scare tactics, deportation, repatriation and public pressure. It is estimated that 60% were U.S. citizens of Mexican descent.

California officially apologized for a long forgotten chapter in this country’s history by passing the bill, “Apology Act for the 1930s Mexican Repatriation Program” on January 1, 2006. The California legislation included the following:

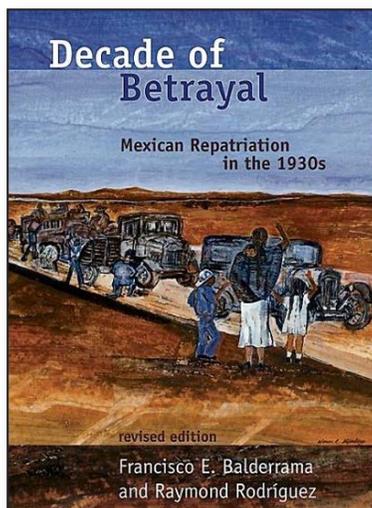
- Beginning in 1929, government authorities and certain private sector entities in California and throughout

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the United States undertook an aggressive program to forcibly remove persons of Mexican ancestry from the United States.

- In California alone, approximately 400,000 American citizens and legal residents of Mexican ancestry were forced to go to Mexico.
- In total, it is estimated that two million people of Mexican ancestry were forcibly relocated to Mexico, approximately 1.2 million of whom had been born in the United States, including the State of California.
- Throughout California, massive raids were conducted on Mexican American communities, resulting in the clandestine removal of thousands of people, many of whom were never able to return to the United States, their country of birth.
- These raids also had the effect of coercing thousands of people to leave the country in the face of threats and acts of violence.
- As a result of these illegal activities, families were forced to abandon, or were defrauded of, personal and real property, which often was sold by local authorities as “payment” for the transportation expenses incurred in their removal from the United States to Mexico.
- As a further result of these illegal activities, United States citizens and legal residents were separated from their families and country and were deprived of their livelihood and United States constitutional rights.

There are only a few instances where the U.S. federal government admitted it had done wrong and issued a formal apology. Unfortunately, the “Mexican Repatriation” has not been included in this list and perhaps until then, it will be a forgotten time in American history that forever changed the lives of so many people.



THE FISA DIVERSITY TASK FORCE HOSTS A BROWN BAG ABOUT MEXICAN REPATRIATION

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

On December 1st at 11 a.m., the *Diversity Task Force* is pleased to offer a free Brown Bag “[Learning About Mexican Repatriation](#)”, with **Francisco E. Balderrama**, Emeritus Professor of Chicano Studies and History at California State University Los Angeles. Balderrama’s degrees are in History: Bachelor of Arts from Loyola University of Los Angeles, Master of Arts and Doctorate from UCLA. Balderrama’s research program focuses on the Mexican community during the early 20th century with particular attention to relations with the Mexican nation. He co-authored with Raymond Rodríguez

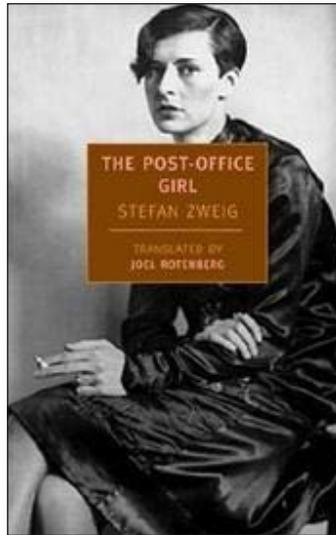
[Decade of Betrayal: Mexican Repatriation in the 1930s.](#)

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REMEMBER - THE FROMM DROP IN BOOK CLUB

October 8, 2021 3:00 p.m.

Love and despair with an Austrian flair



The Post Office Girl

by Stefan Zweig

After our smashing success with “Hamnet” we now invite you to read something very different! World famous and translated in 50 languages

before his exile and suicide during World War II, Stefan Zweig is in the midst of a revival.

“I stole from Stefan Zweig!” confessed American director, Wes Anderson, admitting he based his movie “The Grand Budapest Hotel” partly on The Post Office Girl.

The book is fierce, sad and powerfully moving in its description of the social impact of WWI. Join us on [Zoom](#) for a 3:00 pm discussion of this amazing book. Register for the discussion at [this link](#). Feel free to drop in: you can talk or not talk, show your face or remain incognito.

Fran and Nancy

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CORRELATION OF MUSIC & DANCE WITH JONAH KIM & JULIA ROWE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1 AT NOON

Grammy-Award winning cellist Jonah Kim and San Francisco Ballet dance soloist Julia Rowe sharing the beautiful way they interact with each other as artists and as a couple. They are a wonderful team, and during the pandemic, they have developed their interactions on Zoom interweaving solo performances plus duets combining music and dance. Most or all of their numbers are outside!

Jonah was educated at the Juilliard School and the Curtis Institute. Julia danced at Youth Ballet of Pennsylvania before joining the San Francisco Ballet in 2013 as a member of the Corps de Ballet. In 2016 she was promoted to Soloist. Jonah is not only an accomplished cellist, but very articulate and will explain how they developed their interactions and numbers during the pandemic. During their time with us, they will share several video clips of what they have done individually and together.

This event is sponsored by the Fromm Institute Student Association.

[REGISTER HERE](#) for the event at Noon on Oct 1.

TECH HELP ANYONE?



Hello, my name is Jen Sarkany. I am a recent graduate and a gerontology minor scholarship recipient from the Fromm Institute. In 2020 and 2021, I completed both my Bachelor and Master of Science in Nursing at USF. Currently, I am working in a cardiac unit as a Registered Nurse. While in nursing school, I worked as an EMT and nursing assistant, often with older populations. During this time, I saw an increased need for nurses educated in the risk factors and customized care needs of older adults. The education I received as a gerontology minor helped prepare me for the last winter surge of COVID-19, where I spent months working with older adults both in a COVID ICU and then as an injector giving vaccinations out of USF's Koret gymnasium. It has been an incredibly

rewarding experience working on both the treatment and preventive side of this pandemic, where older adults have been the hardest hit.

This semester, I look forward to providing customized technology assistance to Fromm students over Zoom or through email. During a time of social distancing, knowledge of technology has been especially needed due to the swift adaptation of new online software and programs necessary to communicate with loved ones and attend online classes. While I am not an expert in any particular technology, I am a researcher at heart and confident that I am able to find the answer to most problems.

“My Fromm ‘office hours’ are **Wednesday’s 10am-Noon**. For assistance via email or Zoom. Please email me at jsarkany@usfca.edu to schedule an appointment.”

A REMINDER: SUBMIT YOUR WORK TO THE FROMM FOCUS

This is a reminder to all Fromm Institute students who create art, poetry, fiction and more to submit your work to the **Fromm Focus**. As mentioned before the popular **Express Yourself** column was designed to publish the opinion pieces and other musings of the membership. The newly created **Poetry for a Pandemic** began as a way to share poetry written by the faculty and the students during our still occurring pandemic life. **In the Virtual Gallery** was created to share the artwork made by Fromm Institute members. If you are a visual artist, you can submit your work and all genres are accepted — including painting, photography, film, sculpture, and new media. You can submit your work to **Scott Moules** in the Fromm Institute office, moules@usfca.edu or fromm@usfca.edu.

USF SILK SPEAKER SERIES

SILK SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS KRISTI YAMAGUCHI & MICHELLE WIE WEST

5 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021
War Memorial Gymnasium at the Sobrato Center

[Register Now »](#)

The ***Silk Speaker Series*** at the University of San Francisco welcomes you to attend a conversation with Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi and professional golfer Michelle Wie West. The conversation will be moderated by USF alumna and NBC News correspondent Vicky Nguyen.

Whether it's a hole in one or sticking the landing, these accomplished women may have been the first, but they won't be the last! Learn how these extraordinary women are paving the way for others and using their voice and powerful platforms for social change. [Learn more and register](#)



Kristi Yamaguchi *Featured Speaker*



Michelle Wie West *Featured Speaker*



Vicky Nguyen *Moderator*

Can't attend? Please register and we'll send you a link to the recording!

In the [Silk Speaker Series at the University of San Francisco](#), thought leaders in business, culture, and global affairs share their wisdom and ideas with students, alumni, faculty, and friends of the university.