



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

# FROMM FOCUS

*The Newsletter of the Fromm Institute*

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## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CURRENT DONORS AND POTENTIAL DONORS!!

We have 1,044 students attending 18 paid classes and countless free lectures and events this session. We do this three times a year and most of the more than 3,700 people on our active mailing list participate in at least one paid class and at least one free event. Altogether our program costs about \$2 million per year.

It takes about 45 students paying the full membership fee of \$100 per class just to cover the honoraria of the faculty member teaching that class – this doesn't cover course materials, technology needs, guest speaker honoraria, online fees, classroom upkeep, scholarships or staff salaries. When you think about it that way, you can see how our membership fees cover less than half of all our operating costs – in reality, all Fromm students are “on scholarship” because membership fees do not cover all program costs. The remaining budget needs are covered each year by our annual donors.

As we are now mid-way through the session, I would like to urge those of you who might be unaware of our need for support from our philanthropic community to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Friends of the Fromm Institute. Here are a few ways you can help:

- **\$100** covers the membership fees of one class for a full scholarship student
- **\$350** covers the membership fees of a full session (four classes) for a full scholarship student
- **\$1,500** covers one Zoom Webinar room
- **\$35,000** covers the program costs for an entire eight-week course
- **\$40,000** covers an endowed scholarship for one full time student annually for 10 years
- **\$100,000** covers the cost of Named Endowed Lecture or Lecture Series for 10 years
- **\$670,000** covers the entire program costs of one full session at the Fromm Institute

Gifts of any size are greatly and sincerely appreciated by all of us at the Fromm Institute – students, faculty, staff and our Board of Directors. Please consider joining our community of donors by including the Fromm Institute in your estate planning, mailing a check to our office, or by making a contribution online ([CLICK HERE NOW](#)).

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## FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

### RECOGNIZING FILIPINO AMERICANS

*By Irene Minabe*

In 2009, the United States Congress officially recognized October as **Filipino American History Month**. The arrival of the first Filipinos (and first Asians) in the United States occurred on October 18, 1587 when Luzones Indios came ashore from the Spanish galleon Nuestra Senora de Esperanza and landed in what is now Morro Bay, California.

I grew up in the Central Valley and my father was a small fruit farmer. I was unaware of the involvement Filipino farm workers had on the grape strike until seeing the documentary “The Delano Manongs: Forgotten Heroes of the United Farm Workers”. The 30 minute video can be found on Kanopy and directed by Marissa Aroy. “Manongs” is the Filipino word for elders. This documentary highlights labor organizer, Larry Itliong and the Filipino farm workers in Delano, California during the 1965 grape strike. Filipino and Mexican workers merged together to form the United Farm Workers. The film also talks about how the anti-miscegenation laws

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that criminalized interracial relationships and marriages impacted the Filipino community.

I also discovered the documentary on Kanopy called “Jeepney”. Directed by Esy Casey, the film takes the viewer inside the Philippines and discusses this most popular form of mass transportation - vividly decorated jeeps and buses. Many of the Jeepneys were former WWII military jeeps. Unlike mass transportation in many parts of the world, Jeepneys are not a government service but are individually operated by their drivers, who manifest their identity, values, and dreams by painting and decorating their vehicles.

The Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) was founded 39 years ago and is a community based organization whose mission is to preserve, document and present the history and culture of Filipino Americans in the United States. Because Stockton, California is significant in Filipino American history (1920s to 1960s), it was selected as the site for the FANHS Museum. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the center of Filipino American life was in Stockton and the port city to so many Filipinos that a section of town was dubbed “Little Manila.”

To commemorate Filipino American Heritage Month, please consider checking out the NextDayBetter’s Youtube: [“A Filipino American Story Since 1587”](#)

*Editors note: There are many Filipino movies that stream online - just Google Filipino movies for a list of great films and documentaries. Some important historical documentaries are: [Rizal](#) (José Rizal - a Filipino nationalist and polymath during the tail end of the Spanish colonial period and whose nationalism got him killed by the Spanish.) [Quezon’s Game](#) (a documentary of the president of the country during the Japanese occupation of World World II.) [The King Maker](#) the political career of Imelda Marcos with a focus on the Marcos family's efforts to rehabilitate the family's image and to return to political power. )*

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**DID YOU MISS THE FROMM INSTITUTE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (FISA) BROWN BAG ON OCTOBER 1 THAT RECEIVED RAVE REVIEWS? IF SO, YOU CAN STILL SEE THE VIDEO, [CLICK HERE.](#)**

*“What a charming and talented young couple! And what an enjoyable presentation. And kudos to you .. for finding them and engaging them in the Fromm program.” - Betty Bloom*

*“The Bach violin solo oplayed on a cello was thoroughly enjoyed.” “His transcription of a Verdi chorus and orchestra into four cello parts, recorded separately, and merged into one video was amazing” - Borden Bloom*

*“What a delight in a sad time to see how these two talented artists love and support each other. Love the cello solo and the graceful dancer.” - Anne Long*

*“I want to add my name to those who have praised Jonah and Julia for the exquisite program they prepared for us. The cello playing at Saint Ignatius where I have spent so many hours in my life nearly brought tears to my eyes.” - Joan Cucek*

*“It was a truly wonderful, moving, high-quality production. Thank you” - Hector Esparza*

*“Be still my heart. I fell in love with this couple even before they started performing. Thank you to Susie Kaplan for finding them and presenting this brown bag.” - Linda Marks*



**In this video, Grammy-Award-winning cellist Jonah Kim and San Francisco Ballet dance soloist Julia Rowe share the beautiful way they interact with each other as artists and as a couple. They are a wonderful team, and during the pandemic, they 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 explains how they developed their interactions and numbers during the pandemic. During their time with us, they shared several video clips of what they have done individually and together.**

**This event was sponsored by the Fromm Institute Student Association.  
To view the video, [click here.](#)**

# CONVERSATORY ON RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD WITH PROF. MARA KOLESAS

Friday, October 15, 10 a.m.

RIGHTS, ACTIVISM AND REPRESENTATION -  
REFLECTIONS FROM THE ARMENIAN DIASPORA

*Sossie Kasbarian in Conversation with Mara Kolesas*



[Sossie Kasbarian](#) is a Senior Lecturer in Politics at the University of Stirling and currently an academic visitor at the Oriental Institute, the University of Oxford (Michaelmas 2021). She earned her doctorate from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London in 2006. She has been a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Edinburgh and has taught at SOAS, the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva), the University of Lancaster (England), and the American University in Cairo. She is co-editor of *Diaspora- A Journal of Transnational Studies*.

Dr. Kasbarian's research interests and publications broadly span diaspora studies; contemporary Middle East politics and society; nationalism and ethnicity; transnational political activism; refugee, displacement and migration studies. She is the co-editor (with Anthony Gorman) of [Diasporas of the Modern Middle East: Contextualising Community](#) (Edinburgh University Press 2015) and the forthcoming [Diaspora and 'Stateless Power': Social Discipline and Identity Formation Across the Armenian Diaspora during the Long Twentieth Century](#) (co-edited with Talar Chahinian and Tsolin Nalbantian). She is currently working on a monograph entitled, [Diasporizing the modern Middle East – Armenian remnants, resilience and reconfigurations](#). Please see <https://www.stir.ac.uk/people/256684>

[REGISTER HERE](#) for the *Conversatory on Oct 15 at 10 a.m.*

[REGISTER HERE](#) for the *Discussion Group on OCT 15 at 12 p.m.*



This week Fromm Institute Professor **Andrew Fraknoi**, shares a delightful tale of first contact with a celestial neighbor. **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](mailto:moules@usfca.edu) or [fromm@usfca.edu](mailto:fromm@usfca.edu).

## I SWALLOWED A MARTIAN

I didn't mean to swallow a Martian. I didn't even know it was there, for Pete's sake. But there's no question I swallowed it. I haven't been the same since.

Dr. Okito told me to record what happened, so people who come to Mars in the future will all be able to hear it straight from the horse's mouth. My story's not going to make anyone happy, but maybe you'll be more likely to heed the old warning they always gave to tourists on Earth—don't drink the water until you know what's in it.

My name is Dave Esposito, a Navy grunt from the Service Compound. I work the machines that do the hard labor of making Mars more habitable.

All I was doing that day was getting some exercise. I wanted to swim in the new pool we'd finally opened at Mars Base Alpha. My team had worked hard with the new drilling array, going down deep to where the permafrost layer was, and installing the heaters and pipes to bring water up to the surface.

For the first time, we who lived on this damn desert of a planet had lots of water. So the engineering team thought it would be a hoot to build a pool and let people go swimming after all the years we had to save and re-filter every drop of Earth water.

Of course, it was martian water in the pool, but we thought the high-falutin' purification process the tech guys put in would take out anything that could harm us. But it turned out the Martians' biochemistry was just different enough that it didn't trip any alarms. They had tested the filters with a big range of microorganisms from Earth, but no one found any martian microbes until I ate one.

Just my luck that I had my day off, on that Thursday the Lowell Pool opened. I woke up too early after a bad night's sleep thinking about my ex-wife. I thought, what the hell, I worked hard to dig up the ice, let me go enjoy the water. So I was one of the first people swimming. Soon others were in the pool too, the base kids splashing and kicking up water. Trying to do a few laps, I swallowed a big mouthful of pool water when one of the kids cut me off.



That's how the Martian got into my system. Once it was in, it found itself in a place with warmth, water, and raw materials, and it woke up. And then it did what the docs say it's really good at—it started reproducing. Kind of makes sense; if you're evolving on a planet that's getting colder and losing its air, you have a lot to gain by making copies of yourself the minute the environment seems favorable.

So this martian microbe, waking up inside me, must have thought it had died and gone to heaven. It was in a warm place where it could feast on my atoms and molecules. I'm no scientist, but here's the way they explained it to me. Its biochemistry is all different from ours, but it has ways of breaking down some of our complicated molecules and grabbing specific pieces it can use. And then it just goes and makes as many of its kind as it can.

At first, I didn't feel anything except a bit queasy in my stomach. I sometimes get that feeling from the cooking in the Compound kitchen, so I didn't think much of it. But then, as the Martians in me multiplied and multiplied, they began filling whatever tubes in my body were open to them. Not just my digestive system, but the blood, the nerves, you name it. I was a damn all-you-can-eat banquet to them, and they took advantage. Soon I was feeling so bad, I asked a buddy to call the Base Ambulance.

By the time I was in the medical machine in the hospital, it was too late to do anything except try flushing whatever systems they could. But soon enough, I was a lost cause, except as an example to others about drinking the water.

They won't tell me whether anyone else got sick from swallowing a Martian from that pool, or if I'm the only one. In another day or so, the docs say, I won't care, because I won't be conscious anymore. They must have put something to reduce anxiety into the feeding tube, because I'm remarkably calm about the whole thing. I did tell 'em right away not to use the water from down below for anything else, but they'd already thought of that, of course.

Back when I was young, I read an old book that made a big impression on me. It was a science fiction novel, called *War of the Worlds*. I can't remember the author, but it was a great story about Martians coming to Earth and wanting our water because their planet was dry. Now it's our wanting martian water that's killing me. Damned if I'm not the first casualty in this modern war of the worlds, and the Martians got me without firing a shot.