



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

# FROMM FOCUS

*The Newsletter of the Fromm Institute*

Issue #7 • Oct. 25, 2021

## HOLIDAY SESSION 2021

Kick off the Winter Holiday Season with the Fromm Institute's annual Holiday Session on December 14 & 15!! You are invited to join us for four special lectures from our wonderful faculty – this year on the subjects of Performing Arts and History.

As in years past, Holiday Session is a fundraiser for two special purposes. The first is a \$5,000 scholarship provided to a USF minor in Gerontology. Anything over that goal goes toward student scholarships at the Fromm Institute. Each event costs \$25 and will take place in the comfort of your home via Zoom. Get your hot chocolate ready, kick up your feet and join us!! Scholarships to these events are available – please call the office at 415-422-6805.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021

10 am – 11:40 am

### SURREALISTIC PILLOW AND THE SAN FRANCISCO SOUND

Prof. Richie Unterberger

[Click Here to Enroll](#)

Featuring the classic psychedelic rock hits "Somebody to Love" and "White Rabbit," Jefferson Airplane's Surrealistic Pillow album did more than any other record to make the San Francisco Sound an international phenomenon. Rock author and historian Richie Unterberger discusses the genesis and recording of this 1967 LP, featuring film clips, tracks from the album and the sessions, and pictures of the band from the era. This was the first disc to feature Grace Slick, who had joined the Airplane just before it was recorded, and would along with Janis Joplin become the city's biggest rock star. Slick's work in her previous group, the Great Society, will also be discussed, as will the Airplane move from the folk-rock style of their debut LP to the more psychedelic one of Surrealistic Pillow.

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

1 pm – 2:40 pm

## SITTING DOWN WITH THE STARS

Prof. Ruthe Stein

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Fromm Film Professor Ruthe Stein has a new book, *Sitting Down with the Stars: Interviews with 100 Hollywood Legends* and she will tell you all about it in this talk combined with audio clips from her interviews with Paul Newman, Robert Redford, Hugh Grant, and many more. A celebrity profiler for the San Francisco Chronicle from 1970 to 2020, Prof. Stein looks back on her experiences and will take you back five decades to the time she spent with Hollywood stars like Cary Grant, Audrey Hepburn, Gene Kelly, and Ginger Rogers. Hear all about Hollywood Royalty (Princess Grace), Iconoclasts (Al Pacino, Clint Eastwood) and Funny People (Carol Burnett, Walter Matthau). *Sitting Down with the Stars* can be read from beginning to end or randomly dipped into to learn about your favorite Hollywood legend. It's the perfect holiday present for the movie fan in your life. Copies of this must-have compendium of movie stars are available at [www.grizzlypeakpress.com](http://www.grizzlypeakpress.com). Prof. Stein will take some time to field questions from the audience so here's the chance to ask the question you've always wondered about your favorite star.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021

10 am – 11:40 am

## NORDENSKJÖLD'S SAGA OF SURVIVAL

Prof. Joan Boothe

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Professor Joan Boothe will tell the story of an Antarctic expedition that was a worldwide sensation in its day — Swedish geologist Otto Nordenskjöld's 1901-03 expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula region. Although less well-known today, the dramatic and ultimately near miraculous events of Nordenskjöld's story are still riveting. In late 1901, Nordenskjöld sailed south for exploration and scientific work. A six-man team was landed on an island off the east coast of the Antarctic Peninsula to spend winter 1902. The expedition ship then sailed back north for winter. When spring came, she headed back south to pick up the wintering party, but from here on, things definitely did not go as planned. The story of what did happen to these Viking descendants — men who found themselves separated into three marooned parties fighting for survival during the winter of 1903 — is truly a modern saga.

1 pm – 2:40 pm

## NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE BIG FOUR AND THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD

Prof. Chris O'Sullivan

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Professor Chris O'Sullivan will explore aspects of the new scholarship about the making of the transcontinental railroad, the evolving interpretations about the role of the Big Four railroad barons (Charles Crocker, Leland Stanford, Collis Huntington and Mark Hopkins), and consequences for regional and local history.

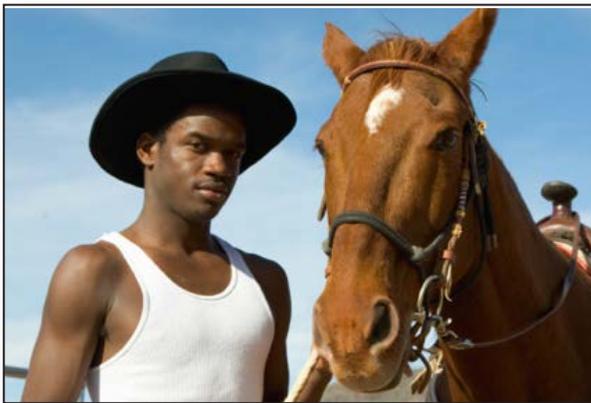
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## AFRICAN-AMERICAN COWBOYS WHO SHAPED THE WEST

*By Laverne Simon*

*Most of us grew up watching westerns on television and movies. Seldom did anyone but whites played cowboys as the hero. Books and textbooks also portrayed the cowboy as white. For example, in Texas, one in four cowboys were black. The west was filled with many cowboys of all colors and races. Here are a few of their stories. There is a story of a black cow girl included.*



### ADDISON JONES

He was known as the most noted Negro cowboy that ever topped off a horse. Topping off a horse means breaking a horse. He was skilled at breaking untrained wild horses, that involved clinging to the horse for dear life, while the horse bucked and tried to throw the rider off. Most cowboys retired from topping horses in their thirties. Addison kept topping horses until he was in his 70's. It was said that he could “read a horse's mind by staring it in the eye” and he was also renowned for riding, roping, and driving cattle.

Addison would tie a rope hard around his hips, hem a horse up to the corner of a corral or in open pasture, rope him around the neck as he rode full speed, where most men would have been dragged to death. By sheer power, Addison would flatten the horse out on the ground with his roping tricks.

When Addison married, in Roswell New Mexico, all of the cattle ranchers wanted to show their respect with a gift. Unfortunately, they all had the same gift and the newly weds found themselves with 19 cooking stoves. A song was written for him called “Whose Old Cow?” Unfortunately the song included racial epithets, so it is not performed today.

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## MARY FIELDS

Mary Fields was known as “Stage coach Mary”. She was one of the formidable women of the Old West. She was a match for any man. She enjoyed brawling and was known to brag that she could knock a challenger out with a single punch. Newspapers claimed that she broke more noses than anyone else in central Montana as she always backed herself up with a six-shooter holstered under her apron. She liked to drink, smoke cigars, and was very respected in her adopted hometown of Cascade, Montana that her birthday was made a school holiday every year.

Born a slave in Tennessee, Mary got her freedom after the Civil War. She worked on a steam boat Robert E. Lee during its famous race with the Natchez. In 1885, she moved to Cascade, Montana to work for the nuns of St. Peter’s Convent. She did all the heavy work, including hauling supplies, carpentry, and stonemasonry. One of her most famous deeds came when wolves attacked her supply wagon during a night run. The horses were spooked and the wagon overturned, but Mary stood guard over the supplies until morning, keeping the wolves at bay with her trusty revolver.

Mary was loved by the nuns, but was forced to leave after Montana’s first Catholic bishop heard of her brawling and a rumored gunfight. Shortly afterwards, she hitched a team of horses faster than any other applicant and was hired to deliver mail to the towns around Cascade, braving blizzards and harsh terrain in the process. She was 60 at the time and only the second woman ever hired by the US Postal Service. She loved baseball and always presented the Cascade team with bouquets of flowers from her garden. She babysat for most of the children in town, including the actor Gary Cooper, who recalled her fondly later in life. She was the only woman allowed to drink in the local saloon. She died in 1914 of liver failure.

## CHARLIE WILLIS

Charlie Willis was born a slave in Austin, Texas, in 1847 and became known across Texas as a bronco buster and cattle driver and a talented songwriter. He began breaking wild horses at the age of 18. At 23, he married and had four sons and three daughters. From the age of 24, he was a regular cattle driver along the famous Chisholm Trail, which was 1000 mile ride from Texas to Kansas City.

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He is most famous for the tune “Good-Bye, Old Paint.” This song is now preserved in the American Folk life Center at the Library of Congress as a valuable historical record of cowboy culture. This song was collected in 1947 by the musicologist John Lomax, who recorded a performance by the fiddle player Jess Morris. The song was initially credited to Morris, but he later clarified that he had been taught the lyrics by Charlie Willis when he was a boy. “Old Paint” was supposedly the name of Charlie’s trusted horse on the Chisholm trail. Charlie Willis lived to a ripe old age and was

buried in 1930 in the cemetery next to his property in Bartlett, Texas.



## BEFORE THERE WAS SUCH A THING AS 'CALIFORNIA', THERE WERE THE PEOPLE AND THE LAND"

Please join us for a talk by William J. Bauer Jr. on **Tuesday, November 16 at 10am**. Professor Bauer is an enrolled citizen of the Round Valley Indian Tribes and a professor of American Indian history at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. His research examines the history of Indigenous People, work and sovereignty in the American West. In his most recent book, *We Are the Land: A Native History of California*, co-authored with Damon Akins, (2021), Professor Bauer centers the long history of California around the lives and legacies of the Indigenous People who shaped it. His work combines the "history" in history books with the stories passed down by Native Americans to present a fuller picture of the events of the past. The book follows the story of California Indians from the settlement of the land, through Spanish colonization, the Gold Rush, statehood and genocide, efforts to reclaim the land and into their present-day activism. Professor Bauer has also authored *California Through Native Eyes: Reclaiming History* (2016) and “We Were All Like Migrant Workers Here”: Work, Community and Memory on California’s Round Valley Reservation, 1850-1941 (2012).

This talk is brought to you by the FISA Diversity Task Force.

[Sign up here!](#)

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**INTERPRETING THE CLASSICS TODAY  
JOIN A BROWN BAG ON ZOOM WITH SAN FRANCISCO'S  
MAGNIFICENT CAREY PERLOFF**

**DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH  
TIME: 10 AM**

Ms. Perloff led A.C.T. for 25 years and has directed plays by many of our era's greatest playwrights, plays starring renowned actors performing in prestigious venues world-wide. Hear her thoughts on her current project, bringing the great plays of the ancient Greeks to life on the modern stage.

*Carey explains:*

*"The Oedipus plays have loomed large in our cultural imaginations since they premiered in fifth century Athens. Comprised of three parts of a larger story, and written over the course of Sophocles' entire life, the plays raise fascinating questions and pose enormous challenges to any contemporary theater artist. In this Brown Bag session, I will share my current work (for Seattle Repertory Theater) on the Oedipus cycle, exploring themes of the quest for "self", adoption, collective action, plague, free will, climate crisis and family legacy as they emerge in the plays, and discussing ideas for a new staging of Oedipus in this complicated current moment."*

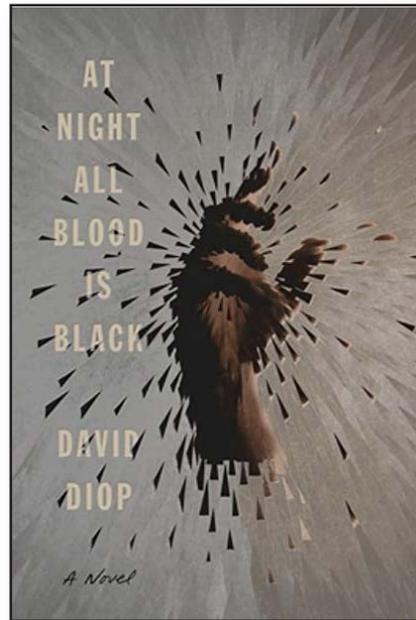
**You don't have to read the plays to attend this brown bag!**

*Fran Pinnock & Maxine Einhorn*

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## NEXT FOR THE DROP IN BOOK CLUB

Sign-up link provided later. Discussion will be set some time in January.



This 2021 **INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE** winner represents a change of pace for the Fromm Drop in Book Club. The winner of the Prix Goncourt *Leyceen* follows a Senegalese soldier sent by his French colonial masters to fight in the bloody trenches of World War One Europe. Race, imperial war and death form a terrible backdrop for Diop's short bracing novelistic exploration of the endurance of the human spirit amid madness.

Prize winning Scottish novelist, Ali Smith, describes it as “*so incantatory and visceral I don't think I will ever forget it.*” And Pulitzer winner, Viet Thahn Nguyen, calls it “*a visceral dramatization of how our humanity and inhumanity are forever intertwined.*” So don't hesitate. Join us on zoom in January. **Dates and sign-up link will follow.**

Please note, the book is only 146 pages and is wonderfully read on Audible. We highly recommend you give it a listen after you finish reading the text.

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



Thursday, November 18, 1 p.m.  
LIMITS OF SUPRANATIONAL JUSTICE: THE  
EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS &  
TURKEY'S KURDISH CONFLICT  
*Dilek Kurban in Conversation with Mara Kolesas*

*Dilek Kurban is a Max Weber postdoctoral fellow at the European University Institute (2021-2022). She holds a PhD from Maastricht University Law Faculty, a JD from Columbia Law School and a master's from Columbia University. Her dissertation received the Erasmus Prize in the Netherlands and was published as a monograph under the title Limits of Supranational Justice: The European Court of Human Rights and Turkey's Kurdish Conflict (CUP, 2020). The book has been awarded a Special Mention by the 2021 International Society of Public Law (ICON.S) Book Prize Committee. Kurban's research interests are regional human rights courts, state violence, legal mobilization and judicial politics, with a particular focus on authoritarian regimes and a regional focus on Turkey. Her research has also been published in edited volumes and in peer-reviewed journals, including *Human Rights Law Review* and *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*. Before transitioning to academia, Kurban engaged in policy-oriented research in Turkey. Earlier in her career, Kurban worked at the UN Department of Political Affairs in New York.*

[REGISTER HERE](#) for the Conversatory on Nov. 18 at 1 p.m.

[REGISTER HERE](#) for the Discussion Group on Nov. 18 at 3 p.m.