



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

# FROMM FOCUS

*The Newsletter of the Fromm Institute*

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## HALFWAY THERE

My daily commute involves crossing the Golden Gate Bridge, which lies halfway between my home and workplace – The Fromm Institute. During the first fifteen minutes driving on 101 southbound, I get to pass by towns such as Greenbrae, Corte Madera and Mill Valley, all within minutes. My car then roars up the Sausalito hills and passes through the Robin Williams Tunnel. On exiting the Tunnel, the freeway meanders downhill as if a plane is rapidly descending. Within a minute, the wheels of my car touch the northern edge of the Golden Gate Bridge. Fifteen more minutes to drive. I proudly cross the Bridge, one of the wonders of the world, with a sense of awe. I would sigh intermittently at its grandeur, look at the steel bars and ropes holding the Bridge. Out in the distance, I also see the glimmering city of San Francisco.

This morning the sky is spotlessly blue over the Bridge. Karl the fog is nowhere in sight. The rising sun radiates warmth over my face. How serendipitous it is that the Fromm Spring classes are also halfway through. We are now in the fourth week, out of the eight weeks of classes. As a community of insatiable learners, we have supported each other mightily and maintained our presence as a premier lifelong learning institute.



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The Pandemic has unquestionably tested our resilience during the last two years. Yet our work of bridging learners to our faculty, who teach rich and stimulating courses has not faltered. The ongoing in-person classes are giving us clues toward a full opening some day. We are halfway through in these many areas and we are all learning each day the better ways to engage you, the Frommies, and bridge the gap between in-person and online.

Reaching the halfway point is satisfying. Many Frommies are taking classes online while a good number of you are coming to the in-person classes on campus where, just a note, wearing masks is still required and the sense of arrival to Fromm is a wonderful feeling to have. I see that in each Frommie who walks through the Institute doors.

In the next fifteen minutes of my commute, I drive through the toll plaza, exit the General Douglas MacArthur Tunnel which then becomes Park Presidio Blvd. A right turn on Balboa Street and then a U-Turn and in about seven minutes, I arrive at the University of San Francisco campus. The towering St. Ignatius Church next to Fromm Hall feels like it is greeting and welcoming everyone.

Now that you have arrived halfway through and with four more weeks to go, I hope you continue to enjoy the remainder of the Session learning, engaging and enjoying a life filled with wonders and satisfaction.

Meanwhile you may want to know that I rarely encounter traffic – whether it is all the way or halfway to the destination – The Fromm Institute is a joyful ride all along!

— *Dawa Dorjee*

## A REMINDER FROM THE FROMM INSTITUTE TEAM

*It is GREAT to see you in Fromm Hall. We know it has been a bit of a bumpy start, but we KNOW it will get better and better.*

*A reminder to all those attending in-person classes to please wear a mask while you are indoors. This is a USF policy, and really, good common sense. We want to keep everyone safe and happy.*





This week Fromm Institute student **Ron Jones**, submits two short essays written during the Pandemic. **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).

## IT'S MORNING ON STANYAN STREET MARCH 6, 2022

*Ron Jones*

It's morning on Stanyan street. I can hear the whirling of cars and sense the early sunlight sneaking under front window shutters. I take a pee in a small bathroom with a painting of a hippo hanging over the tub. A lithograph image of my grandmother as a younger woman smiles down upon me. Crossing into the kitchen I say hello to Deanna's ceramic vases and precious photos of our grandchildren. The refrigerator door with its child drawings and requests for a pet remind me of everyday events. There is a frayed newspaper clipping by Vin Scully in the 9th inning of his final game as the voice of the Dodgers "Don't be sad that it's over. Smile because it happened!"

I retrieve the morning Chronicle from the front door step and think to myself I am among the last of the newspaper readers. I don't look at the headlines any more but turn to the more predictable sports page. The Warriors need Green back but its wonderful news about Clay and the youngsters. Paper under one arm I fill the tea pot and put two spoons of Greffeo Coffee into a ceramic cup. The pot whistles as I open the back door to the deck and awaiting garden. This garden has been salvation during the pandemic. My wife Deanna and I will sit here and marvel at the beauty and serenity. Normally we talk and laugh out loud about the latest photos of our first great grandchild Patrick and his new cowboy boots and jeans. But today on March 6, 2022 I see only the yellow blossoming of Daffodils and a clear blue sky. The colors and pain that is the Ukraine.



## SUNDAY, MARCH 12

*Ron Jones*

It's quiet as I begin my daily walk. The world around me holding a collective breath. This silence is broken by the sudden screams of children playing. I forgot it's Sunday. The Grattan Playground is buzzing with excitement – it's soccer day!

I stop and peer through the chain link fence. Children not far away from toddling chase after an illusive ball. It's a pin ball of excitement. Some children running after the escaping ball, others simply dancing or standing petrified in the place they were told to stand. One young player seems intent on adjusting her knit cap. Another kicks the dirt.

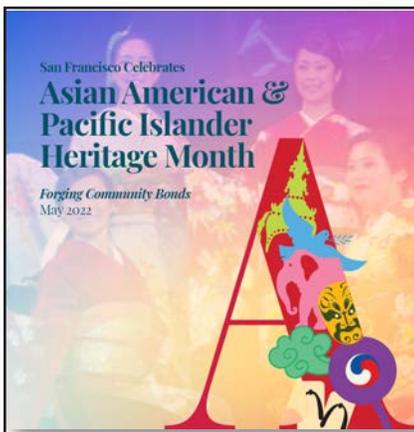
Parents on the sideline yelling encouragement. The hope that exists in kicking a ball toward a goal. Parental screams of “almost !” and “go” and “oh no!” “stop kicking the dirt...”

I revel in this peaceful solitude then imagine unthinkable horror. The parents and children of Ukraine huddled at a train station. A world without laughter or a ball to chase. Only a parents hug. Memories to carry into the unknown. A collective holding of breath.



### TAKE A WALK TO GET A BITE!

**This Summer all students are living in the Lone Mountain Residence Halls.  
The Market Café will be CLOSED until August.  
Lone Mountain Café and Store will be open Monday – Friday 9 am – 7pm**



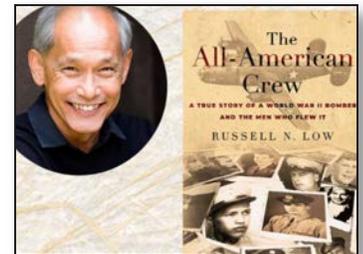
## AAPI HERITAGE MONTH

### More Events To Attend In-Person and Online

**AUTHOR: RUSSELL LOW, THE ALL-AMERICAN CREW**  
**MAY 24, 7:00PM - 8:00PM LOCATION: ONLINE**

#### The All-American Crew of a World War II Bomber and the Men Who Flew It

An inspiring true story of teamwork, camaraderie and Americans at war. On January 23, 1943, a B-24 Liberator bomber and its crew of ten men disappeared without a trace in New Guinea. Their families never knew what happened to them. Now, 80 years later, their long-forgotten letters and dusty photographs finally tell their story in *The All-American Crew*.



**WATCH ON YOUTUBE.**



**PERFORMANCE: JAPANESE TAIKO DRUMMING WITH KRISTY OSHIRO**  
**MAY 26, 3 PM - 3:45 PM LOCATION: 190 LENOX WAY, SF**

Learn about the Japanese art of taiko. Feel the thunderous sounds of the drums vibrating through your body as language, culture and history combine into an exciting educational experience. You may even get a chance to play the drums yourself.

**REGISTER FOR THE EVENT.**

**PRESENTATION: JAPANESE AESTHETICS:  
EXPLORING JAPAN'S ARTISTIC SENSIBILITIES**  
**MAY 31 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM LOCATION: ONLINE**

Kimono, netsuke, swords, lacquerware, screens and scrolls. Come explore the variety, complexity and beauty of Japanese art. For the Japanese, the functionality of an object was not enough; it also had to be aesthetically pleasing and display the skill of the artisan, the taste of the patron and the values of the culture. Luxuriate in this fascinating program highlighting some of the exquisite objects in the Japanese collection of the Asian Art Museum. This is a co-sponsored program by the Asian Art Museum Community Speakers Program.



**REGISTER FOR THE EVENT.**

*For a list of the remaining events this month please visit the [AAPI HERITAGE MONTH WEBSITE.](#)*



## THACHER GALLERY ART + ARCHITECTURE ANNUAL

### A Reminder: The Light Is Still On: The 23rd Thacher Gallery Art + Architecture Annual

**MAY 6 - JUNE 26, 2022**

Healing is a constant journey with no linear path. By celebrating the diverse lives and unique artistic approaches of USF's student-artists, the 23rd Thacher Annual reminds us that the light is still on, despite the many hardships present in the world. The 61 featured works offer opportunities for reflection, as well as avenues for restoring ourselves, our communities, and our globe.

**If you are on campus and have your Fromm-USF ID card or mobile ID (on your phone) you can visit the Thacher Gallery inside the Gleeson Library/Geshe Center. For more information on the exhibit visit the [Thacher Gallery's page](#).**

#### Featured Artists

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Lily Basting	Cristina Gilstrap	Savannah Miranda	Jacob Siu-Zmuidzinas
Samanda Beeman	Amanda Heuser-Caires	Sola Nagaoki	Beau Tattersall
Georgia Brabec	Vera Hines	Mira Nair	Somer Taylor
Reilly Brown	Emma Hunter	Natalie Ng	Lily Turner-Kipke
Andre Joshua Canta	Mohamed Ismail	Alexa Ortiz	Arin Vasquez
Liv Castagna	Maj Jenkins	Mary Lou Grace Robison	Fiona Young
Yitian Cheng	Serena Kathleen Johnson	Ronnie Saini	Jingyi Zhao
An Duong	Sherry Lam	Natalie Sanfilippo	
India Eastridge	Kahlia Laszlo	Grace Scerni	
Nancy Estrella	Charlotte Laurance	Peixuan (Jasper) Shao	
Emily Farrow	Shay McMillan		
Yolanda Faye			