Last week was difficult. The effects of long-standing, institutionalized, racism and oppression played out on streets of American cities and cities around the World. I find myself unable to put the things I am thinking and feeling into words. Instead, I ask you to read the words below by those who can with an open heart. - Derek

A STATEMENT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE FROMM INSTITUTE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADDRESSING RACISM:

At the Fromm Institute, we aspire to be a community dedicated to the pursuit of truth and understanding. In this process, we acknowledge the need to be aware of diverse voices in our faculty, students and the world around us; and the need to take meaningful steps to expand the number of those voices in our faculty, students, and on our Board. We are committed to listening with compassion and empathy to those impacted by prejudice and to be open in our own learning process to those who lack power and privilege.

EIGHT AND A HALF MINUTES by ROSEMARY O’CONNELL

“All time is unredeemable
What might have been is an abstraction” - T.S. Eliot

Eight and a half minutes is a very long time
What is eight and a half minutes
How long is eight and a half minutes

So I thought, how long to do ordinary daily things and not think of time
make the bed
sort the compost and other recycling
empty the dishwasher
Each, less than eight and a half minutes
Because eight and a half minutes is a very long time
Answer my son’s message from Maryland
my daughter in Berkeley
my daughter in San Francisco
and because they all work
Each less than eight and a half minutes
Our staff have been meeting regularly and diligently with the Board and University members to keep current and informed about the impact of COVID-19 as it relates to both USF and our community. Though at times difficult and trying, we are fortunate to have such leadership and support – it is inspiring and truly a time for teamwork and creativity.

We would like you to know that the Fromm “magic touch” of one-on-one personalized attention for our students has not gone away. The only thing that is gone is the face-to-face interactions, but we are still able to provide personalized attention by email, phone, or Zoom.

The Friends of the Fromm Institute Board of Directors met on Friday, June 5, and we would like to update all of you with our plans as we move forward with the 2020-2021 Academic Year. The Board, in conjunction with University Leadership and the Fromm Institute staff, considered our options for proceeding with the Fall Session: 1) Return to full in-person classes only; 2) Create a hybrid session, with live classes that are also transmitted off-site by Zoom, and 3) All classes delivered by Zoom for the Fall semester. Each has its pros and cons, which were discussed extensively:

Because eight and a half minutes is a very long time
What does a person think as he presses his knee on a Man’s throat
  What does he See, Hear, Think, Compute
  for eight and a half minutes
  Hearing him cry
  I Can’t Breathe
Because eight and a half minutes is a very long time
What do observers think
  while seeing life pushed out of a man.
  Hearing him cry
  I can’t Breathe
What do they See, Hear, Think, Compute for eight and a half minutes
  Because eight and half minutes is a very long time

Seamus Heaney’s Cassandra says
There is no such thing as innocent bystanding
  and I say
Eight and a half minutes is a very long time
And so we measure awareness of time
  To See, Hear, Think and Compute
What Joy it would be to spend it well and
  To Breathe

WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR FALL – A NEW MODALITY

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In-Person Classes Only

- Access to Fromm – 95% of students come to campus by public transportation or carpool, increasing exposure. USF will limit access to campus so it will be more difficult for our students to easily access our building.
- Difficulty of Enforcing Social Distancing/Masks – Masks would be required during classes, and we would most likely have to close the lunch space due to capacity and need for masks while eating. Thus, we lose much of the social element anyway.
- Logistical Issues – We would have to take temperatures, enforce mask policies, and control rate of ingress and egress from the building, classrooms, and bathrooms. This exposes our staff significantly. Protocols would need to be developed in case students test positive during the semester – which could ultimately require cancelling the session altogether anyway. Additionally, students would have to adhere to a testing regimen.
- With physical distancing, all five of our classrooms only hold 100 students – an 80% drop in capacity.
- Liability – It is an unknown what liability a school has to its students if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs among its student body.

Hybrid of In-Person and Zoom Classes

- We have all of the problems of the in-person option.
- The pro is that we add a Zoom option for our students. This is not as simple as it sounds, as the professors would have to operate their Zoom computer at the same time as teaching the live class. We would need to have a microphone for the in-person students in order that their questions be heard by the Zoom participants.

Zoom Only Classes

- Lack of social interaction (compromised anyway with physical distancing in above options) and unfamiliarity of many of our students with using Zoom.
- Provides Full access to courses without exposing students, faculty, or staff. Also eliminates the “cons” of the physical class and the hybrid. We will have training sessions for students by our staff before classes start in September.
- Time shifting: Zoom automatically records the classes as a full video file, so students could choose to watch later if they can’t watch the actual class session.

As you can see, the reasons to elect the “all-Zoom” option are compelling. Therefore, we have decided to proceed with an “all-Zoom” Fall session, with the hope that we can return to “Normal Operations” for the Winter and Spring sessions.

Fall Classes:
For the Fall term, we intend to offer 9 or 10 live Zoom classes during our regular times of 10am and 1pm schedule. To that end, during the next few weeks, our curriculum planning committee will begin to create a Fall session that includes challenges, variety, and meaningful encounters with you and your academic discipline. We are so sorry not to be able to offer employment to the thirty members of our faculty we
usually engage, however the limits of enrollment and major financial constraints at this difficult time simply make it impossible.

**Single Session Zoom Lectures:**
We will not be able to hire as many faculty members as we have in past years. To accommodate more faculty members and more diversity of curriculum for our students, the staff is busy working on the Zoom platform and developing the technology for students to enroll in one-time 90-minute lectures offered by our faculty. We will not be able to start these single lectures until September, and timing and other details are still to be determined.

**Winter & Spring Classes:**
Because we do not anticipate offering in-person classes without a vaccine or treatment at this time, we will be delaying the Winter and Spring sessions by one month this year to provide more time for the development of a vaccine or treatment for COVID-19. Winter classes will start on February 1, 2021 instead of the usual January start, and Spring classes will start on May 3, 2021 instead of the usual April start.

**Budget Considerations:**
We are expecting the COVID-19 pandemic to negatively impact the 2020-2021 fiscal year's budget. In order to help cut costs, the Board of Directors has implemented 10% cuts in staff salaries and faculty honoraria until we are able to resume normal operations with our usual complement of course offerings. These measures will help us save approximately $120,000 in the current year's budget.

The process and steps the Board and University have taken are cautious, diligent, and thorough with the safety and well-being of our community at the forefront. For staff, it has been an opportunity to grow and innovate. There are definitely some exciting prospects of online learning; and we truly want to continue serving the needs of our community as best we can. As difficult as the upcoming year will be, thank you to all of you for the part you are playing in helping us not only survive our current situation, but also thrive into the future.

We miss you all, and welcome your phone calls and emails. It is best for all of us if we stay physically distanced for now, but we are still available and excited to talk with you by phone, email or Zoom when necessary.

Thank you for your continued support,
The Fromm Staff & Jonathan Bailey, Academic Advisor

415-422-6805
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While he usually expresses himself in writing novels and plays, Ron Jones has turned to crayon drawings in this time of staying-at-home. He shares a few of them in this week’s Express Yourself. To see more of his accomplishments visit www.ronjoneswriter.com and www.thewavehome.com.

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 (fromm@usfca.edu).
IN THE VIRTUAL GALLERY
FROMM INSTITUTE VISUAL ARTISTS
This week, photographer Chris Ray showcases a sampling of his work. If you are interested in submitting your work for consideration in the Virtual Gallery, send images, sound files, links to webpages, or links to moving art/movies to gallery coordinator Scott Moules at the general Fromm Institute email box (fromm@usfca.edu).

CHRIS RAY
After retiring from high tech, I began shooting regattas. The St. Francis Yacht Club hosts many international events and hence my photos have found their way into publications all over the world. My wife's wanderlust has not abated either and my photo galleries have been the beneficiaries. Big Cats, Birds, Blue Angels, Butterflies, Flowers and Reef Fish are but a few of my many interests. I have always looked for ways to "contribute" to organizations that I enjoy being a part of, and sharing these galleries seems like a great way to "give back" to Fromm.

To view more of Chris's photography please visit: https://www.crayivp.com/
**A REMINDER - BLOOMSDAY**

Noon on Zoom, Tuesday, June 16, 12:00 pm

**RESERVATIONS**

**ARE OPEN NOW** at millibrary.org/events. Advance Reservations Required on EventBrite. Admission $10.00 which supports musicians and artists!

**Cosponsored by**

Mechanics' Institute and Gray Area, Irish Consulate of San Francisco and National Library of Ireland

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**THACHER ART HOUR**

**Wednesday, June 17 & June 24 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Online via Zoom**

*Register here!*

Missing community? Need to find ways to keep your (or your kids’) hands busy? Have a creative project you would like to finish?

Join *Thacher Gallery* staff and artists for a family-friendly arts session. Each meeting, we will suggest and lead a new project using household supplies. You are invited to join in or bring whatever you are working on, from knitting to coloring books. Stop by for a short time or the whole hour.

We'll explore techniques for creating a still life drawing. This will be the first session in a two-part series. In the first session (June 17) we’ll select our objects, arrange the composition, and do some initial sketches. During the second session (June 24), we’ll add color and complete the artwork!

**Suggested supplies:** drawing paper, pencils or crayons, 3-7 objects gathered from your home, and a clear space for arranging your objects.

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Walk on the wild side of Dublin from your living room! It’s our first international Bloomsday on Tuesday, June 16 at Noon on Zoom with readings, music, song and celebration. We have guest artists from the Bay Area, New York and Ireland to bring Joyce’s epic novel to life with interpretations both traditional and contemporary! Performers include Anne Bingham Goess, Esther Mulligan, John Ilyin, Melanie O’Reilly, Caraíd O’Brien, Aaron Beall, Bruce Bierman and others. Bloomsday attire is welcome! Pull up a chair, bring your lunch and a libation of your choice -- or clear the room and be ready to dance a jig!

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Mechanics’ Institute and Gray Area, Irish Consulate of San Francisco and National Library of Ireland
Guided Creative Movement Class
For All Ages

San Francisco Village and USF’s Intergenerational dance troupe, Dance Generators, invite you to the June creative movement classes via Zoom on June 13 & June 27, at 11 a.m.
To register, please contact aschaffer3@usfca.edu.