THE FROMM SOCIETY - A WAY TO SAY THANK YOU

Long time Fromm Institute student and Board of Directors member Jordan Sachs has many reasons to say thank you to The Fromm Institute. Jordan, who had lost his wife, joined the Fromm Institute and began a journey not only of education, but of social engagement, stimulation and healing. He was so thankful after his first year, he came to meet with Robert and I about setting up an overflow system in the newly opened Fromm Hall. He promised to help fund it, and even recommended some technology gurus to help create what would become the Classroom Simulcast System, or what we casually call the overflow. Fast forward some years, and that overflow system installed in Fromm Hall allowed us to not only stream classes to other classrooms, it gave us the ability to significantly increase the Fromm Institute membership. As online learning grew, the staff began thinking of what to do with these recordings we’d collected from the CSS and through creative thinking and innovation we created the Frommcast, an online portal of learning which has turned out to be a lifeline for hundreds of students across the country during this pandemic. Without Jordan, the early CSS, and the innovative staff of the Institute there would be no physically distant lifeline, the Frommcast.

Jordan, like many dozens of other thankful students, has joined a collection of donors called The Fromm Society. They have all named the Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning as a beneficiary in their estate plans. Members of the society have created legacy gifts of varying sizes and in so many different forms all in an attempt to say thank you to an organization which has not only enriched their lives but kept their minds active and engaged. Most importantly they want to see this continue far into the future.

Below, Jordan Sachs speaks directly to you, the members of the Fromm Institute community. Please take a moment to read through his thoughts and consider joining The Fromm Society.

Scott Moules, The Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning

Sheltering at home provided time to contemplate what, in normal times, are the activities I most enjoy. What keeps my day to day routines inviting and challenging? None rose to the top as quickly as attending Fromm classes.

During the pandemic, I “attended” Frommcasts several times a week. As fulfilling as they are, I missed the personal interaction with the instructors and fellow Frommies, the sense of being part of a community, the social interactions in the hallway or over lunch and the always welcome smiles.
and assistance of our exceptional Fromm staff. Fromm offers a diverse choice of courses with superb professors, even these experienced professors comment on the unique experience they have teaching at The Fromm Institute.

I also thought about how the pandemic will impact the financial future of Fromm. What can I do to provide some relief to this organization that is such an important contributor to a satisfying life at my age. Two ways were to increase my annual donation and by being a member of the Fromm Society, our legacy society which I have included in my will.

If The Fromm Institute is important to you, will you join me by doing the same? - Jordan Sachs

2020 FALL SESSION ENROLLMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic has made us all a little stir crazy and starved for interaction whether that be a risky in person encounter or a much safer online gather spot. However, at the time of preparing this newsletter and at the completion of the first week of enrollment, over 550 Fromm Institute members from across the world have signed up for the second virtual session of the Fromm Institute - FALL 2020. Students who have had no experience with zoom have signed up, willing to test the technology waters of online instruction no matter their tech expertise level. We encourage all of you to try out the virtual Fall 2020 Session. Staff will be on hand at every class to assist with your move into zoom and will provide live support for not only the professor lecturing but facilitate your transition into online learning. Until we can be together in person, our virtual session is now our unique way of staying in touch and creating the space of shared learning.

We know that not all of you will be ready for this move, and that is ok. We do ask of you these two action items: please spread word of our virtual program to your circle of friends and family - no matter where they live, and to make a donation to help keep the Institute alive during these hard times. Your participation is still important to us and to all of those who have already made a donation to The Fromm Institute, either as you enrolled or in the past few months, thank you for your support.

CONVERSATORY ON RACISM

A reminder that the remaining three Conversatories on Racism, moderated by Fromm Institute Professor Mara Kolesas are now open to registration. Next up on on Monday, Aug. 24, at 10am UC Berkeley Professor of Psychology, Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton joins Prof. Kolesas in a conversation about “Racism, Stigma and Intergroup Relationships.” The following week on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 1pm Professor of Law at University of Southern California Gould School of Law, Franita Tolson converses about a timely topic: “Is there a Constitutional Right to Vote? Mechanisms of Voter Suppression.” The final lecture, concludes the conservatories on Sept. 8 at 1pm with Fromm Institute Professor Martin Carcieri on “The Constitution and Race.” Registration for the next event is now open and found online here.