



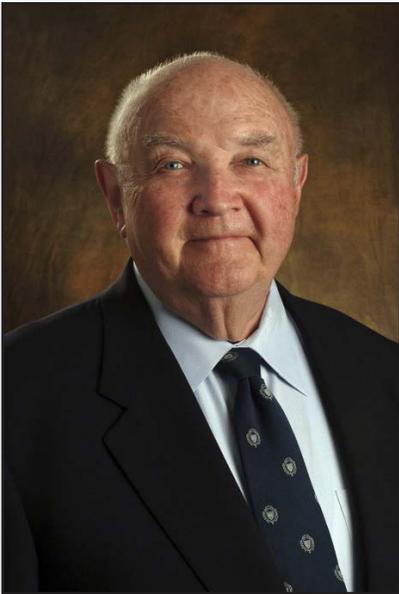
THE FROMM INSTITUTE
FOR LIFELONG LEARNING
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FROMM FOCUS

The Newsletter of the Fromm Institute

Issue #7 • October 26, 2020

CELEBRATING A TRUE FRIEND, ALBERT JONSEN



It is with a heavy heart that we inform our Fromm community of the passing of Prof. Albert Jonsen. Born in San Francisco in 1931, he was the fourth Academic Advisor of the Fromm Institute from 2009 through 2017, and he was President of the University of San Francisco from 1969 to 1972.

After leaving USF, he became Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics at the University of California, San Francisco. Most recently, he was Chair of the Department of Medical History and Ethics at the University of Washington School of Medicine from 1987 until his retirement in 1999 when he returned to San Francisco and joined the Fromm Institute with his wife Elizabeth (Liz) as students.

A true scholar and leader in the field of Bioethics, he authored several books, the most recent in 2005 – *Bioethics Beyond the Headlines: Who Lives? Who Dies? Who Decides?* He has also written chapters in more than 70 books and numerous articles in medical and legal journals on ethics, medicine and healthcare. Among the honors received by Prof. Jonsen are the Davies Award of the American

College of Physicians and a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship.

Although he accomplished so much, he was a humble, genuine friend to all who knew him. Prof. Jonsen had a big, generous smile which matched his energetic spirit. He was a calm, polite gentleman who especially loved to sit and talk with anyone on any subject, listening intently with genuine interest to whatever his conversation partners had to say. He really understood and appreciated people.

The staff of the Fromm Institute and the members of our Board all took this news especially hard, and I know many of you do too. Prof. Jonsen leaves behind his wife Elizabeth and a multitude of friends and loved ones. We hold Prof. and Mrs. Jonsen in our hearts with gratitude for all the contributions they have made to the Fromm Institute and the people who had the good fortune of knowing them.

Derek Leighnor
Executive Director,
Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning

Albert Fraenkel II
Executive Vice President,
Friends of the Fromm Institute
Board of Directors

IN THIS ISSUE: **Express Yourself** with Marigrace Bannon • **FISA NEWS** featuring *Matinée* with **Maxine Einhorn**, FISA's first virtual "Brown Bag," & a *Vote Forward Update* from **Frances Pinnock**, *Let's Not Just Text* • **USF Center For Asia Pacific Studies** presents a book talk and film screening • *SF Conservatory of Music Concert Series*

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In this week's **Express Yourself** Fromm Institute member, **Marigrace Bannon**, shares from her ongoing project: The Isolation Journals.

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 (moules@usfca.edu or fromm@usfca.edu).

THE ISOLATION JOURNALS

By Marigrace Bannon

The Isolation Journals/Prompt 109, September 15, 2020

Your prompt for this week: This is what the living do...

Use this line from [Marie Howe's poem](#) as inspiration—perhaps as the opening sentence of your journal entry, or as a poetic refrain. Reflect on the mundane; revel in the glorious everyday details of living.

This is what the living do.

Wake up on Wednesday September, 9th, 2020, in San Francisco.

The sky bright orange, receding coral, thick haze, a darkness, like no other.

Are the clocks wrong? She doesn't turn on the TV.

A sleepwalk? A nightmare?

Is it time for Earl Grey tea or Cabernet?

Poached eggs or seared salmon?

It's always time for potatoes, and she has a few red round and gold misshapen spuds. They are perfect.

Will there be zombies, locusts? Is she walking through a movie?
She doesn't watch this genre.

Boil potatoes

Scramble eggs

Grate a little sharp cheddar

No more chives.

One English muffin under the broiler.

Outside a massive broiler.

She doesn't call anyone.

She eats her breakfast looking out at the broiling sky.

The tea kettle whistles its reminder.

Earl grey tea, a squeeze of lemon and boiling water into the pale blue Tiffany mug with the white bow. A gift.

She stares out at the Apocalyptic visual.

Sometimes, the living go back to bed.

FOR NEWS FROM YOUR STUDENT ASSOCIATION PLEASE VISIT <https://www.frommfisa.org/>



MATINÉE by *Maxine Einhorn*

See “Red Hook Summer” (2012)

Many of us are reading “Deacon King Kong”, James Mc Bride’s latest novel, in Professor Goldberg’s class on Black and Brown literature. It is set in 1969 in the Causeway Housing Projects in Brooklyn and introduces us to a panoply of weird and wonderful characters – drunks, dealers, ex-cons, janitors, preachers, mobsters and sweet, sweet matriarchs – all surviving the grinding poverty while singing praise to the Lord in their Five Ends Baptist Church. The “Cause” is based on Red Hook Housing Project in Brooklyn where McBride grew up and still hangs out. He shares with Spike Lee his love for Brooklyn and together they wrote “Red Hook Summer” (2012), which although it garnered very mixed reviews, is totally worth watching.

One of Lee’s “Chronicles of Brooklyn” series, the film is set in the Red Hook community which was founded in 1938 to support workers in the docks and shipyards, later becoming a poor African-American neighborhood with 80 percent unemployment.* The movie tells the story of Flik Royale, a 13-year-old private school boy from middle-class Atlanta who is sent to live with his preacher grandfather for the summer. He has never met his grandfather and to be fair anyone would be shocked by the intensity of Da Good Bishop Enoch Rouse, whose incessant crazed sermonizing is played with magnificent exuberance by Clarke Peters. Enoch’s church, the “Lil’ Peace of Heaven Baptist Church of Red Hook” is actually the New Brown Memorial Baptist Church, which was born in McBride’s parents’ kitchen. McBride grew up in that church.

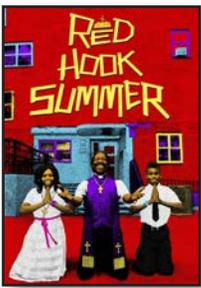
It is a coming of age story with Flik discovering the vagaries of the neighborhood and befriending Chazz, the daughter of Sister Sharon Morningstar, who is a member of Enoch’s congregation. Flik goes everywhere with his iPad 2, his shield, without the street smarts to realize it is not a good idea, although there isn’t the political or racial tinderbox feel of “Do the Right Thing.” The Red Hook community seems relatively peaceful, except for the little group of swaggering homeboys. But it is classic Spike Lee even with a cameo appearance from Mookie (Spike), the pizza deliverer from the earlier film, still making his rounds all these years later. Here is Spike loving the neighborhood and the community, with long lingering takes and wonderful gospel music.

What has caused the outrage with “Red Hook Summer”? The plot twist is ugly and takes an unexpected turn and has been attacked for transforming the film into “a feverish tabloid dream crammed with symbolic images that include recurrent shots of the Statue of Liberty and violence that evokes the persecution of Jesus.” (Stephen Holden, New York Times, Aug, 2012). I don’t agree, but leave it to you to decide.

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For readers of James McBride, I recommend this movie because it gives an insight into where McBride's sensibility and depth of humanity was born. Deacon King Kong is about community and religion relayed with sarcasm and wit. It also rages at the fortunes of the underclass servicing Manhattan - "while the blacks and Latinos who cleaned the apartments and dragged out the trash and made the music and filled the jails with sorrow slept the sleep of the invisible and functioned as local color."

If you watch the film, I would love to hear your thoughts. Email me at maxine_einhorn@hotmail.com



Red Hook Summer (2012) directed by Spike Lee – [streaming free on Tubi](#)

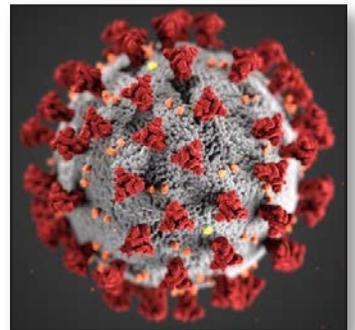
Screenplay: Spike Lee and James McBride

Starring: Clarke Peters, Jules Brown, Toni Lysaith and Thomas Jefferson Byrd.

[**Independent Lens . RED HOOK JUSTICE*](#)

A FISA SPONSORED VIRTUAL "BROWN BAG" THE HISTORY OF HUMAN CORONAVIRUSES FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 10 AM (PST)

Please join us for a talk from **Dr. Susan Weiss** covering a history of human coronaviruses. She will discuss the three coronavirus epidemics in the past 20 years and how these viruses differ from each other. Dr. Weiss will also discuss the biology of the coronavirus lifecycle, how this informs vaccine and antiviral therapies and how to prepare for future coronaviruses.



Dr. Weiss is a microbiologist who has worked on the basic biology of coronaviruses for 40 years. She began her work as a postdoctoral student at UCSF and is currently the Co-Director of The University of Pennsylvania Coronavirus Research Center.

Please join us for this talk. The presentation is sponsored by FISA – the Fromm Institute Student Association and is free for all Fromm students, but you must pre-register. You can register at [this link](#). As with your classes, you will receive a Zoom link prior to the talk.

https://usfca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1PsdGScbR32e9BMBXEagOQ

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VOTE FORWARD UPDATE *by Frances Pinnock*

FROMM STUDENTS STEP FORWARD!!!

A few weeks ago, a call went out in this Fromm Institute newsletter. Readers were asked to take part in *Vote Forward*, a national letter writing campaign to turn out the vote. The plan was simple. Write letters to strategically selected swing state voters. Send them a real letter in a hand addressed envelope with a real stamp. Share with them a little of your own story. Urge them to vote and mail the letters out on Saturday, October 17th, to have maximum impact.

And, Fromm students stepped forward!

Most of you started by writing 20 letters. But just like *Oliver Twist* many of you asked for more! And yes, it was pretty boring at times and yes, it became more arduous as time went on. But yes, Fromm Institute students generated over a thousand letters. On the night October 17th I drank a toast to Fromm!

Scott Moules, our editor, was asked to publish this before the results of the election are known because this effort by Fromm Institute students, should be utterly admired whatever the outcome.



LET'S TALK NOT JUST TEXT OR LEARN VIRTUALLY

A FISA SOCIAL PHONE CALL INITIATIVE

The Fromm Institute has provided virtual classes by our favorite professors and frequent newsletters and emails to keep us informed about the school, but nothing can truly substitute for in class learning and meeting with our friends.

As an additional alternative, a group of officers and steering committee members of the Fromm Institute Student Association has volunteered to phone willing students to chat about almost anything except fundraising.

Privacy regulations prohibit the administrative staff from releasing your phone numbers to the volunteers so we need your personal permission. If you would like to hear from a fellow Fromm Institute student or better yet if you are willing to call other students, please let us know by [completing this form](#).

We look forward to connecting with you!

USF CENTER FOR ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES PRESENTS TWO EVENTS THIS FALL



KIM JONG UN AND THE BOMB: SURVIVAL AND DETERRENCE IN NORTH KOREA **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28 5:30 – 6:45 P.M.** **ONLINE - ZOOM WEBINAR**

**Book Talk by Ankit Panda, Stanton Senior Fellow,
Nuclear Policy Program,
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

Free and open to the public. Registration required. RSVP

The USF Center for Asia Pacific Studies welcomes **Ankit Panda, Stanton Senior Fellow in the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**, to campus to discuss his book [Kim Jong Un and the Bomb: Survival and Deterrence in North Korea](#).

What can nuclear weapons do for a country like North Korea? Panda explores the origins of the country's interests in nuclear weapons and the realization of its longstanding ambitions under Kim Jong Un, the country's third leader. As the world's newest nuclear power, North Korea presents unique challenges to Northeast Asian, American, and global security, and the international nuclear nonproliferation regime.

Ankit Panda is the Stanton Senior Fellow in the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. An expert on the Asia-Pacific region, his research interests range from nuclear strategy, arms control, missile defense, nonproliferation, emerging technologies, and U.S. extended deterrence. He is the author of [Kim Jong Un and the Bomb: Survival and Deterrence in North Korea](#) (Hurst Publishers/Oxford University Press, 2020).

FILM SCREENING: LEFTOVER WOMEN **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 6 – 7:30 P.M.** **ONLINE - VIA VIMEO LINK**

RSVP for the film screening. [Watch the trailer here.](#)

Join the USF Center for Asia Pacific Studies for a screening of the award winning film, *Leftover Women*. With 30 million more men than women, social stability of China is under threat.



“Leftover Women” is how the Chinese describe educated, cosmopolitan women who are not married and settled by the time they reach their mid-twenties. Through marriage markets, matchmakers, and government-sponsored dating events, the film follows three professionally successful women who, under immense pressure from their families and the government, are determined to find love on their own terms.

Free and Open to the Public. Registration required.

Registrants will have access to view the film via Vimeo for a 48 hour window starting on Friday, Nov. 13th at 6 p.m. and closing at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 15th at 6 p.m. The event will also feature a taped introduction to the film by the directors.

music and (e)motion

LIVE PERFORMANCES STREAMED

From the Concert Halls on Campus



This is a reminder that the [San Francisco Conservatory of Music](#) (SFCM) continues its **Fall 2020 concert series**, featuring an expansive line-up of free live-streamed performances. While SFCM's concert halls and campus are closed to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic, this digital concert series will bring performances from SFCM's talented students, renowned faculty, and accomplished alumni directly to audiences around the globe. The remaining Fall 2020 (e)Motion Boost concerts are listed below.

(e)Motion Boost

Of the 68 concerts streaming this fall, eight performances across genres have been specially chosen to bring audiences an "(e)Motion Boost." These programs will feature expertly filmed, multi-camera HD video in addition to composer interviews, faculty storytelling, trivia factoids, and mini-documentaries on how each program was made.

Friday, October 30

STRING AND PIANO CHAMBER MUSIC: Students, alumni, and faculty perform together; high profile alums and department chair Dimitri Murrath share how SFCM's chamber music program keeps producing big job winners.

Wednesday, November 18

BRASS ENSEMBLE: Works by acclaimed brass composers and players, including a piece for brass, wood, stone, and steel.

Thursday, November 19

RJAM (ROOTS, JAZZ, AND AMERICAN MUSIC) SIDE-BY-SIDE: Duke Ellington, Marvin Gaye, Billie Holiday, Stevie Wonder, and other legends anchor this program in which jazz faculty superstars perform alongside their students.

Monday, November 30

SIMON JAMES FACULTY RECITAL: Simon James' career spans an orchestra job with Seattle Symphony, studio recordings for film and game scores, and teaching — all explored here in the making of a multi-dimensional violinist.

Saturday, December 12

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA WITH EDWIN OUTWATER: Edwin Outwater makes his debut as SFCM's new Music Director in a program of Copland, Brahms, and William Grant Still.

Friday, December 18

RADIO OPERAS: Voice and opera students will perform two one-act operas, "The Old Maid and The Thief" and "Comedy on the Bridge," the way they were conceived in the 1930s – as stories to be told via the airwaves!