



OMNILORE NEWS

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July 2006

OMNILORE NEWS

A publication of OMNILORE, a Learning in Retirement Organization affiliated with The Division of Extended & International Education of California State University Dominguez Hills

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Omnilore News is published six times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Please contact the editor with your contributions.

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Bridging the Language Gap Between Liberals and Conservatives???

by Carol Kerster



Rev. John Morehouse

Given the religious right(eousness) currently coming from Washington, I confess to some skepticism at the notion of any minister speaking on “How Conservatives and Liberals Can Communicate.” After reading about **John Morehouse**, Minister of the Pacific Unitarian Church in Rancho Palos Verdes, our speaker at *Omnilore*’s Forum on Monday, July 31st, my concerns vanished.

As a longtime student of fundamentalism in America, Reverend Morehouse is uniquely qualified to offer solutions to the issue of bridging opposing values and views through the use of a “new language.” His previous positions bolster his authority as an expert on the subject, and as an expert communicator. In Maryland, he was chair of the county government Human Relations Commission, and organizer of interfaith organizations. He co-founded and was Senior Editor of a TV series, *Faith in the Community*. A class he developed, *Responding to Fundamentalism*, has been taught in churches and community colleges in Maryland and California, and his own graduate work

was done at the University of Chicago, under the renown theologian, Dr. Martin Marty. A world traveler, Reverend Morehouse’s childhood is notable for having lived in India for a good part of it.

As is our custom, reservations for this memorable Forum Luncheon, to be held at the invariably accommodating Los Verdes Country Club can be made by filling in the form on page 5 or by doing the same with the soon-to-be-mailed, ever-so-colorful flyer. However you reserve it, please do it!



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Richard Johnson

When I took the job of president, I really did not know what to expect. What I've found is that *Omnio* members are very dedicated and many members are quite anxious to help in all areas. Consequently, being president is more a joy than a chore.

There is one area, however, where some of you could make a big difference in the workability of our S/DGs: by taking the courses you sign up for. Obviously,

there are times when circumstances force one to drop a course, but *Omnio* will not work if most of us signed up for courses and then cancelled after seeing which members signed up for which course. And if we wait to see which courses are given and who is in each one before deciding what to take, the result will be that some courses will be eliminated that otherwise would be available.

The other way all members could help is by prioritizing a NUMBER of courses when signing up, even if planning to take only one.



The majority of us who sign up appropriately and take the courses we are assigned will very much appreciate it if everyone follows these guidelines. Our S/DG groups need all of us to help our coordinators provide a learning experience that is challenging and fun for every member of the group.



Writing Haikus With Alfred

by Metle Culbert

My friend Alfred came to class with an armful of colorful children's books. He put them down on a table and left. In a few minutes he was

back, this time with arms full of plants - Mexican sage and rosemary. He arranged them in large cherry red cups along the counter beneath the windows. Gradually the room became suffused with the distinct aroma of rosemary.

Our group is studying the human senses and this week's chapter dealt with the sense of smell; that most ancient and primitive of human senses. Alfred, who volunteers to work with young children, brought the haiku project he uses with them to share with us.

Little white paper markers marked pages that held haikus dealing with the senses. He read the haikus to us, repeating each poem. On the first reading one hears the words and opens the mind. The second reading allows the mind to wander and absorb the poem. Meanwhile, his offerings of sage and rosemary bathed us in their smell, which some may describe as an odor, but others might call a fragrance.

Next came the lesson on the writing of haikus. Choose a subject - any subject, but for today, perhaps something to do with the senses. Brainstorm a list of words related to your subject. The haikus we are writing are three lines long totaling seventeen syllables - five syllables, seven syllables, five again.

Silence settles over us as we work. Within minutes everyone has written at least one haiku and some have written more. Alfred asks who would like to read their work. Responding to his gentle invitation, everyone wants to read. Most poems deal with subjects with depth such as striving for world peace, environmental issues, friendship. Remaining true to my nature, mine dealt with trivia. My husband's comment later was that I would not do well in a Miss America contest. Here are my haikus.



Rosemary



A beautiful plant
With slim silvery green leaves
Pungent aroma.

Add to olive oil
Crush it and stir it around
Slather the bird.

Very useful plant
Chop its leaves into pieces.
Put it on chicken.

Into my nostrils
Rosemary. Intoxicating!
My brain reels with it.

(If you have a story to tell, an idea to explore, a question to ponder, and would like to write an article for "Illuminations," please contact the newsletter editor. We are interested in all subjects — art, music, science, history, culture, drama, psychology — topics of interest to most, if not all of us. We welcome your input).

M. Y. O. B.

by George Clark

There was an old grad from Duquesne
Who liked to take walks in the resne.
When this codger was told
That he might catch a cold,
He said, "Nosy folks give me a pesne."

Thank you, Alfred for this creative experience. Rosemary chicken for dinner tonight. Garlicky rosemary shrimp for dinner tomorrow. Who knows where it will all end?

Donna Barlow, whose wide-ranging interests include the arts, psychology (“how the brain works”), the universe, (both “here and beyond”), and remembering to experience the awe and wonderment of being alive, nevertheless finds time to continue working on a part-time basis. She lives in Manhattan Beach.

Mary Coropoff is a super-active senior. At age 80, she participates in 5k races and table-tennis competitions, having won 50 trophies and medals. She also loves singing and court tennis. Mary holds two master’s degrees in Education – reading specialist and demo/training teacher.

Meet Our New Members

by *Mary Golob*



Other New Members:

Bill Lama

Mary Louise Mavian

Madonna Newberg

Sylvia Stadlman

Carla Staight

Alma Vazzana

Jon Heise moved to California two years ago to be near his grandsons (and their parents). He had just retired from a career working with foreign students at universities in the U.S. and American students who wanted to study abroad. After 20 years at the University of Michigan, he wrapped up his career at Loyola University in Chicago.

Jim Slattery, a graduate of both the University of Wisconsin and UC Berkeley, retired in 2002 after nearly 40 years in aerospace engineering. He is the father of three and grandfather of two. Jim and his wife Berthe, from Quebec, enjoy traveling in the French countryside and also touring the western United States in their camper-conversion van.

The Impossible Dream

by *Edith Garvey*

CARNEGIE HALL - what images the name evokes: Toscanini, Heifetz, Calas, and Horowitz, to name just a few. The best performers in the world appeared at Carnegie Hall, a name symbolic with the zenith of achievement.

In the past few years the hall has been opened to musicians, vocal and instrumental, who are not professionals. Many are young people in school choruses, and what a marvelous learning experience for them. There are also middle-aged and older people who sing with vocal groups throughout the U.S., just because they love to sing.

I stood on the stage with members of the

Torrance Civic Chorale and other groups, totaling two hundred eager singers. It was in the Isaac Stern Auditorium (named for the man who saved Carnegie Hall when it fell upon hard times) on Sunday evening, May 28, 2006. In Mozart’s 250th birthday year, we sang his Mass in C Minor, an extremely difficult work to learn due to its intricate construction. All of us had rehearsed with our teachers or directors months prior to this gathering and approached this event with confidence.

To add to my excitement, I knew that friends of mine from Maine and from California were to be in the audience. My *Omniole* friends, Lynn and John Taber were visiting in N.Y. that weekend and had bought tickets for the performance.

In N.Y.C. we had three rehearsals with Dr. Jonathan Griffith, an inspired conductor, who led the massed chorus in addition to four fine soloists and an excellent orchestra, for the hour-long concert. Just before we were to file into the hall, Dr. Griffith quoted a poem which ended

“For the heights and depths no word can reach
God gave us music, the soul’s own speech.”

With those lines ringing in our ears we marched onto the Carnegie stage.



Jim Bouchard

“Lunch with OLLI” and More...

by *Jim Bouchard*

*Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
College of Extended and International Education, CSUDH*



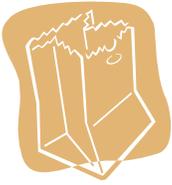
Summer is here! This morning’s “June gloom” has given way to a sunny afternoon. Last month it was “May gray,” and as a friend pointed out, it seems that as Californians we will go to any length not to use the word “cloudy”!

As I write this it is June 19, and the first re-broadcast of OLLIonline aired on Rancho Palos Verdes Television Channel 33 at noontime today. This summer series, *Lunch With OLLI* will air Monday through Friday until August 30th, and we are hoping to build our OLLIonline membership as a result of this exposure.

Some other good news is that the Motion Picture Television Fund retirement community is sponsoring 100 of their residents to become OLLIonline members. The MPTF retirement community has an internal television station (designed by the same person who designed Al Gore’s television station, I’m told!)

On Thursday, August 24th at 2 p.m. we are going to have an open event for those Redondo Beach residents who want to know about our Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (*Omniole*, OLLIonline, and Osher Lectures). Abe Ravitz, one our favorite emeritus faculty, will give folks a taste of Osher lectures with a brief presentation on a topic related to the American West. **Dick Johnson** will also say a few words about *Omniole*. The event will take place at the beautiful, new Redondo Beach library.

Please feel free to attend!



Room 7
12:15 to 1:15 PM

Brown Bag Science

(Science for the Non-Scientist)

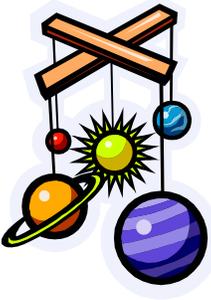
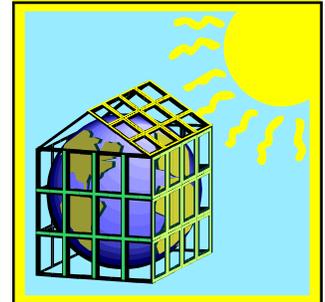
by George Clark

Bring Your Lunch - If You Like!



July 20:

A conference on *The Environmental Wars*, *The Science of Politics* was held at Cal Tech on June 2-4. There were thirteen speakers, including academics, field scientists, and journalists. Four members of *Omniole* attended the conference: **John Stevens, George Clark and Jay and Patricia Edie** (**John and Joy Gault**, former *Omniole*ans, were also there from out of town). Most of the presentations dealt with global warming, and the four *Omniole* attendees have agreed to report on the latest news on that hot topic on July 20th, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in Room 7.



August 17:

Dick Johnson, *Omniole* President, does more than keep *Omniole* running. He is also a student of cosmology. He has agreed to tell us what is in the universe, how we know all those things are out there, how far away they are, how the universe started, how old it is, and how we know all these things. He says he can do this without using equations, graphs or technical terms. He will try this on August 17th, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in Room 7. An amazing feat, but I think he can do it!

Membership Committee Sets New Dates for "Introducing Omniole"

by Katherine Fitzgerald

The new "Introducing Omniole" meetings will take place on Wednesday, August 2nd and Monday, August 14th in Room 7 at Franklin Center. Both meetings will start at 10 a.m. and conclude around noon. Attending either one of these meetings will qualify prospective members to join *Omniole* and sign up for the S/DGs starting the first full week in September. It has been shown that one of the most effective means of recruitment is word-of-mouth. All *Omniole* members are urged to tell anyone they know who might be interested about these meetings and invite them to come. They can get information by calling (310) 540-6011 or visiting the *Omniole* website: www.Omniole.Org.

The Sounding Board Echo Echo Echo

by the Website Working Group



Have you ever wondered what interesting events your fellow *Omniole*ans are experiencing in our community? Have you ever wished you had known about it before it left town? The Arts and Entertainment Forum on the Sounding Board of our website is the perfect place to find out about an art exhibit, a cultural event, a lecture, a show. Recently some members wrote of attending the exhibit of the *Mysterious Bog People* at the Natural History Museum. Check it out on www.Omniole.org, go into the Members Only section and click on Sounding Board. Your first time requires a simple registration process. There are directions on the website; if you prefer, you can contact the Webmaster or a member of the website working group (**George Clark, Jay & Patricia Edie, Blanche Herring, Mary Oran, Myron Pullen**). They will be happy to help you.



- ★ **To All Coordinators - PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE**
- ★ *Omniole* is built on your efforts.
- ★ Without coordinator volunteers, classes cannot matriculate. The duties are not
- ★ ominous, (*trust me...!*) and include:
- ★ organizing a pre-meeting
- ★ helping the class develop a presentation schedule
- ★ acting as a facilitator

THANK YOU!

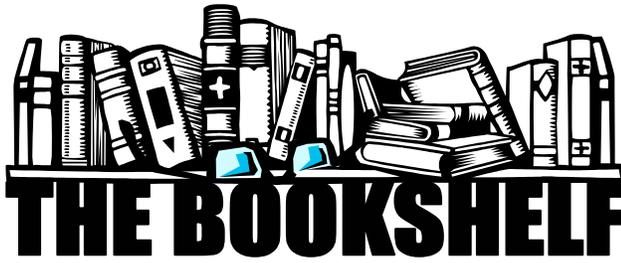
★ There are good materials on our website to assist you (see attachment 4.2 Head
★ Coordinator duties in our on-line Procedure Manual). Sounds too much like a
★ job?! Not Really. There are 8-15 eager classmates who signed up for your
★ class because they wanted to learn more about this subject. A training work-
★ shop is scheduled each trimester so coordinators can share their successful
★ techniques.

HAVE FUN, LEARN - Laura Guneau, Head Coordinator



Tell a Friend!





by Mary Oran

Summer, for many of us, brings back memories of lazy times, reading for pleasure in the sun, on the beach, under a tree, maybe even in a hammock. The seven offerings described below may be just the ones to get you back in the summer reading groove.

If you are in a mood for fiction, consider *The Reasons I Won't Be Coming*, by **Elliot Perlman**. The author is an Australian barrister, but these nine short stories prove that he is also an accomplished writer. The stories explore the complex worlds of lovers, poet, lawyers, immigrants, students and murderers. This is totally absorbing fiction. Short stories too often get short shrift; give these a chance!

Ordinary Heroes by **Scott Turow** takes place primarily during World War II when a lawyer finds himself in the midst of battle with little preparation. His orders are to find and arrest an American soldier who is a turncoat. Many problems ensue, and the crises of battle make for an exciting story. A secondary plot revolves around the lawyer's son who sets out to learn the truth about his father's actions. The ending of all this is

truly a revelation, in true Turow fashion.

A best seller in Europe is *The Princess of Borundi* by **Kjell Eriksson**. This is a thoroughly suspenseful book about crime in today's Sweden. If you are in the mood for some

action and mystery, get involved with these realistic characters. The universality of our lives is evident in this selection.

Carl Hiaasen's *Skinny Dip* is pure escapism, definitely rated PG-21. A woman's husband pushes her overboard on a cruise, and assumes she's dead. But she's not, and the story centers on her delicious revenge. Along the way Hiaasen covers his usual themes of saving the environment and condemning corporate corruption. This is an enjoyable read for those with a somewhat wicked sense of humor - ideal summer reading.

For nonfiction we have three diverse suggestions. First, there is *Darwin's Dangerous Idea: Evolution and the Meaning of Life* by **Daniel C. Dennett**. The author, a philosophy professor, presents a position on the implications of evolution, and is not afraid to criticize those who disagree with him. He gives the reader plenty to think about as well as a crystal clear explanation of his positions. The contrast to **Michael J. Behe's *Darwin's Black Box*** is striking. After reading Dennett's book, you will definitely have a working knowledge of evolution (and

several views of its consequences).

Honeymoon With My Brother is **Franz Wisner's** narrative that begins with his being dumped by his fiancée four days before a big, expensive wedding in Laguna Beach. Since it is too late to cancel the festivities, he goes on with the party, and then takes his brother with him on his honeymoon to Costa Rica. The adventure changes both of their lives in major ways. The "honeymoon" turns into a two year plus voyage to see the world. This story is interspersed with unique humor and a startling insight. This is a book that one just hates to see end!

J. R. Moehringer is a Pulitzer prize-winning writer for the Los Angeles Times. His memoir, *The Tender Bar*, tells of his growing up, fatherless, in Manhassat, New York. His mentors and male role models are the regulars at Dickens, a neighborhood bar where his Uncle Charlie is the bartender. The eccentric characters, the dysfunctional family, the struggles in school, the girlfriend problems - it's all here. At times one is laughing out loud; at other times one is moved by his mother's courage. This is a coming of age story that stays with the reader; J.R. is so honest, and ultimately likeable; one cheers his eventual success.

(Our thanks to Patricia Edie, Edith Garvey, Midge Solomon and Dan Stern for contributing to this list. Please send your titles, with author name and a brief description, to msoran@sbcglobal.net. Put "Omniole Books" as the subject. We look forward to hearing from you.)

OMNIOLORE Forum Luncheon Reservation Form

WHEN: **Monday, July 31st, 2005 – 11:30 a.m.**

WHERE: **Los Verdes Country Club**
7000 W. Los Verdes Drive
Rancho Palos Verdes

Reservations are required by July 25th, please!

Please make _____ reservations for the **Omniole** Forum Luncheon at **\$17.50** each:

Name(s): _____ Phone #: _____
(Please Print)
_____ Phone #: _____
(Please Print)

Enclosed is a check for: **\$17.50** Other

Please make checks out to **CSUDH**, and put in the Forum Committee's box or send to:

Forum Committee, c/o Diana Cutler
10 Middleridge Lane S.
Rolling Hills, CA 90274

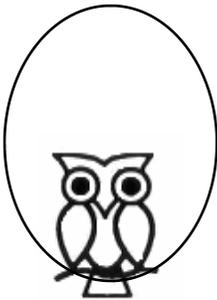
OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2006

- July**
- 4 **Independence Day**
 - 10 Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
 - 11 Membership Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 - 13 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 20 Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. - Room 7 -
The Environmental Wars, The Science of Politics
John Stevens, George Clark, and Jay & Patricia Edie
(see article, page 4)
 - 21 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 - 24 Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
 - 31 Summer Forum - 11:30 p.m.

- August**
- 2 Introducing Omnimore - 10 a.m. to 12 Noon
 - 8 Membership Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 - 10 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 14 Introducing Omnimore - 10 a.m. to 12 Noon
 - 14 Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
 - 15 Input Deadline for September-October Newsletter
 - 17 Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. - Room 7 -
The Universe Around Us - Dick Johnson
(see article, page 4)
 - 18 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 - 28 Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8



IMPORTANT: Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with
Pat Stevens - (310) 548-3253 - mh_pt_stevens@peoplepc.com



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