



# OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 14 Issue 2

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March 2005

## OMNILORE NEWS

A publication of OMNILORE, a Learning in Retirement Organization affiliated with The Division of Extended 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.

Editor	Ronnie Saunders
Associate Editor	Diana Cutler
Staff Members	Carol Kerster Mary Oran

## Dawn Unity Group to be Featured at Forum Program

by Carol Kerster



Robert L. Rothman

Guest speaker at the April Forum will be Robert L. Rothman who combines a technical background with experience of religious-service orientation. He has forged an organization dedicated to bringing together different religious communities for the purpose of fostering understanding and mutual respect. His organization, the "Dawn Unity Group," emphasizes and enables cooperation in the works of education and service.

Rothman's education (in Metallurgical Engineering, Materials Science, and History) and his many years of service (at Congregation Ner Tamid, Mary & Joseph Retreat Center, Toberman Settlement House, National Prayer Breakfast) make him an excellent example of an innovator who knows from personal experience how to help others achieve desired goals.

The Forum will take place **Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m.**, at Los Verdes Country Club. You'll find a reservation form for this event on page 5 of this newsletter, or look for the flyer with more details that will be in the mail to you shortly.

### New Treasurer Appointed



**Tom Vincent** has been appointed by the President and Board of Directors to replace

**John Stevens** as Treasurer of **Omnilore**. John resigned his position for personal reasons. We thank John for his excellent service to the organization over the past year and we thank Tom for his willingness to step in and serve in this capacity for the remainder of this term.

### Prospective Member Meetings Set

The Membership Committee is getting ready for two more Learning About **Omnilore** meetings when prospective members are introduced to information about **Omnilore's** discussions, presentations and other good things.

Meetings are set for **March 25<sup>th</sup>** and **April 5<sup>th</sup>** at Franklin Center starting at 10 a.m. for a two-hour session. Summer trimester is not that far away; so if you have a friend who would like to join, tell him/her about this chance to find out more about our group. Remember, this meeting is required for all who wish to become members. The last pair of meetings resulted in 19 new members for the Spring trimester.

### DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

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- ◆ Brown-Bag Science Special Event Page 4
- ◆ Pasadena Walk Page 4
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- ◆ The Bookshelf Page 5





**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

By Patricia Edie

Here we are half way through our Spring Trimester and we can say that "Life is fully in session" for

trimesters more than 600 separate topics have been researched, and oral presentations given on them, by members of *Omniole*! Our Study/Discussion Groups are the core of our program. It is through the commitment and energy of each S/DG member that our courses soar! We are like a symphony with each person contributing to the overall music. And, as every symphony has a conductor, we have our coordinators and co-coordinators, who are crucial to the S/DG. They do much more than just open the door and turn on the coffee pot. The coordinator accepts the responsibility of ensuring that what was promised in the course topic description is delivered, makes sure that the course stays on topic, that the presentations are all related to the subject under study, facilitates discussion so that everyone has an opportunity to participate and be heard, and provides assistance to those in the group who request it. They put in extra time because they need to be prepared for the unexpected and have something to fill in if someone is suddenly absent. Usually, the coordinator is someone who has been in the organization for a year or

two and understands what is needed for a successful course. I want to acknowledge the coordinators and co-coordinators who have said "yes" to this role for the current trimester. We thank you for doing this.



Behind the coordinators, is the head coordinator, **Dottie Fahrney**, and the Coordinator Selection Committee of **Mary Jo Little** and **Joe Carrier**. This small group has the task of finding willing members to coordinate the classes and they only have a short period of time, once the members have selected their courses, in which to accomplish the task. *We all are expected to take our turn as a coordinator.* As a volunteer organization, that is the only way that we can continue to function and have our courses. So, when you receive a phone call from the coordinator selection committee, please be pre-disposed to say yes. At this time in our life, none of us wanted to be telemarketers! Better yet, if you feel that you are ready to give your time in this role...volunteer to coordinate your next Study/Discussion Group by contacting Dottie or one of the committee members. If they haven't yet filled the position, they will welcome you with open arms.

*Omniole*. Like life we have our hills and our valleys. Some of our peaks have been our study/discussion groups and lecture series, which are well underway. We have enjoyed a stimulating Forum. We have rolled our website: [www.Omniole.Org](http://www.Omniole.Org). And in our valley, we have experienced the passing of two of our longtime members, **Roger Debelak** and **Marge Winston**.

As President I am periodically asked to provide information to other Learning-in-Retirement organizations that are seeking ways to make their groups successful. This gives me a chance to compare our structure and format with others and I always come away so proud of *OMNIOLORE*. We focus on peer-learning, with each of us sharing the responsibility of researching information and teaching it to others. This active learning style is unique and not shared by many other organizations. Someone did the math for us and over the past three



**Brown Bag Science for the Non-Scientist**

by George Clark



Our BBS series on *Fabric of the Cosmos*, originally scheduled for the third Thursday of March (17th) and April (21st), is now scheduled to continue in that time slot beginning in May. This is due to the following:

- ◆ We scheduled **John Steven**'s encore presentation of *Ballistic-Missile Defense - Boon or Boondoggle?* for the March 17th **BBS** time slot (see story on pg 4).
- ◆ We cancelled the April 21st **BBS** session because CSUDH chose to reschedule their last talk in the *Film as Art Form* series to that date and we knew you'd be torn between the conflicting meetings.

So, put on something **green** and attend John's outstanding enhanced presentation, originally offered in December, and we'll republish our **BBS** series topics and times in the May-June 2005 newsletter.

**NAMES IN THE NEWS**

**Married**

On December 28th, **John Taber** and **Lynn Edwards** exchanged wedding vows.

**Walter Skiba** married **Amy Jackson** on January 15th.

**Congratulations, Newlyweds!**

**Died**

We are sad to report the death of three *Omniole*rians:

**Roger Debelele**

**Greg Vore**

**Marge Winston**

Condolences to their families.



**OMNIOLORE PROFILE – CONNIE GREASER**

**B**orn in San Diego, Connie Greaser is a third generation native Californian. As a child she fell in love with books, and as an adult she went into book publishing.

After receiving her undergraduate degree in journalism at San Diego State College, she did graduate work at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark and Georgetown University of Foreign Service in Washington, D.C. She received her masters degree in international relations at USC.

For five years she was vice president and editorial director of Sage Publications which published scholarly books and journals in Beverly Hills. She spent 18 years as head of the publication department at Rand Corporation in Santa Monica.

During the last ten years of her career she served as manager of service communications at American Honda in Torrance. Her job at Honda required

close cooperation with publishing people in Japan.

Connie loves traveling and traveled a great deal both professionally and personally. She enjoyed a six-month trip around the world with two girlfriends so much that two years later she spent three months drifting around South America.

The passion of her life has been the entertainment arts. One year she joined a group of 100 people who went to England to see 20 plays in 20 days. During that time she met with luminaries of the British stage. As a volunteer at the Music Center she recently attended the opening of the newest play at the Mark Taper Theater—*The Goat or Who is Sylvia*, by Edward Albee.

She is also currently involved in organizing the Kirk Douglas Center at the Old Music Theater in Culver City where she has worked on two plays

headed for Broadway.

A writing hopeful, she has so far published a couple of books on word processing. She is looking forward to writing two plays—one on roles of strong women in the business world and one which will focus on the life of Job Charnock who founded the city of Calcutta.

During the seventies and eighties Connie was one of the founding members of Women in Business, and served as president during the second and third year of the organization.

Five years ago Connie survived a life-and-death brain surgery experience and decided to take early retirement. Since her retirement in 2001 Connie's interests have focused on publishing, international relations, and travel. She feels that retirement has been the best part of life and finds *Omniole* one of the best parts of retirement.



*Jim Bouchard*

**“History of American Film” Series  
Off to Great Start!**

*by Jim Bouchard  
Coordinator, Lifelong Learning  
College of Extended and International Education  
CSUDH*

I didn't know that before dancing the tango onscreen, Rudolph Valentino was a minor actor. I didn't know that Valentino tragically passed away at the young age of 31, and that New York police had to be called in to control the crowds. I learned this during the second in the series of “History of American Film” here at the College of Extended & International Education auditorium on the Cal State Dominguez Hills campus.

What a privilege it is to have Hollywood as our “local” history, and esteemed professors such as Dr. Abe Ravitz and Dr. Edd Whetmore to share their expertise about film history.

As it turns out, this has been one of the best-attended presentations to date with over 60 *Omniole* attendees attending our first two sessions. Film clips from *Citizen Kane*, images of the first Nickelodean moving pictures, and rare footage of Mary Pickford have captivated the interest of attendees. In fact, so great is the interest that we have added a seventh presentation, *Film Noir* with Dr. Lorna Fitzsimmons for Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m.

Running concurrently, of course, are the OLLIonline broadcasts. These live programs broadcast throughout Los Angeles and the South Bay are intended to reach those who are unable to travel to campus to attend a live presentation. Though the broadcasts are not available in the beach cities currently, they can be viewed via the internet at [www.ollionline.tv](http://www.ollionline.tv). For 14 consecutive weeks an hour long broadcast will be webcast live, and you can e-mail in your questions while the presentation takes place.

I want to remind one and all that your participation in this webcast is critical to the future of life-long learning at CSUDH. Future funding of learning-in-retirement activities depends on the number of participants in OLLIonline. So, please watch the broadcast, visit the website, phone or e-mail your question in while the broadcast proceeds, and contribute to the online discussion. Help to keep learning-in-retirement alive and well at CSUDH by participating in OLLIonline.



Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day?  
*Regular rocks are too heavy.*

How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?  
*He's Dublin over with laughter!*

What would you get if you crossed Quasimodo with an Irish football player?  
*The Halfback of Notre Dame!*

How did the Irish Jig get started?  
*Too much to drink and not enough restrooms!*

Why did the leprechaun stand on the potato?  
*To keep from falling in the stew!*

Do leprechauns make good secretaries?  
*Sure, they're great at shorthand!*

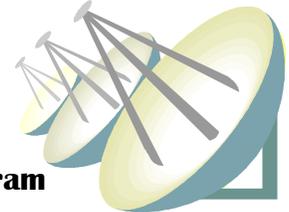
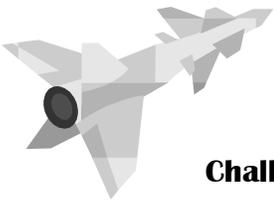
What do leprechauns love to barbecue?  
*Short ribs!*



**A Unique Omnilore Event You Shouldn't Miss!**

**Ballistic-Missile Defense  
Boon or Boondoggle?**

**Challenges, Successes and Failures of the U.S. Star Wars Program**



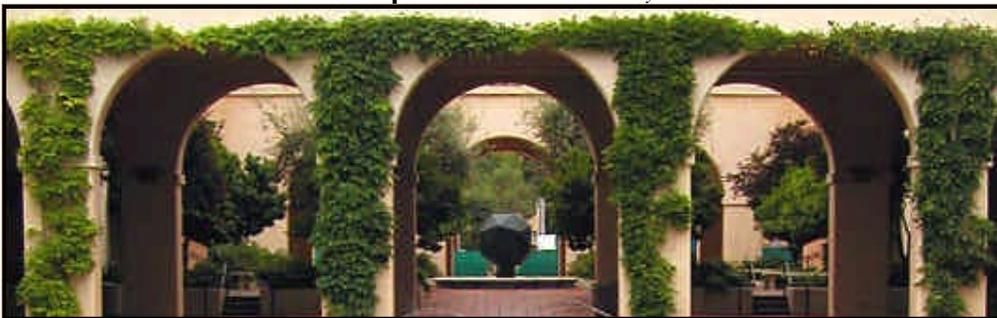
Several months ago **John Stevens** gave an outstanding presentation about the U.S. Star Wars program to a small group of *Omniorians*. The presentation was so fascinating that a group in the audience begged him to repeat it to the larger body of *Omniorians*. John has kindly agreed to do so, and on March 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Patrick's Day, all *Omniorians* are invited from 12 noon to 1 p.m., Room 7, to hear an analysis of the political, engineering, and scientific aspects of the "Star Wars" program. John will picture the U.S./Soviet political and military situation from the end of WWII to the big push during the Reagan era. He'll describe the goals of the program, some incredibly difficult technical obstacles, alternate approaches conceived - some partially implemented, and some outstanding research developments. He'll conclude by summarizing some of the surprising and little-known current actual implementation by the U.S. and by selected U.S. allies.

After receiving a doctorate in physics from Cal Tech, John Stevens devoted many years providing technical support to the United States Air Force and the NRO (National Reconnaissance Office) while at The Aerospace Corporation. The NRO designs, builds and operates the nation's reconnaissance satellites. John's 40-year professional career included basic research of the near-earth space environment, test and demonstration of new technologies in space, and during the "Star Wars" program, advanced planning, and infrastructure development for launch vehicle and satellite control, and implementation.

**See you all on  
St. Patrick's Day!**

**Pasadena Walk Set for April 15th**

*by John Taber*



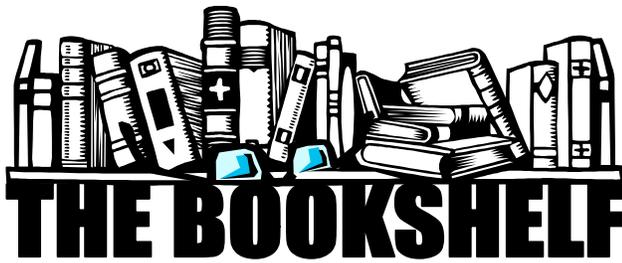
Each April *Omnilore's* Hiking Group has been taking the Metro to do a downtown Los Angeles architectural walk. This year we will be taking advantage of the recent opening of the Metro Gold Line and will go on to see some of historical Pasadena. We are trying to set up a few special tours of places such as the Pasadena Play House and Cal Tech. However, with or without any special tours we will be visiting such places as Old Town, the City Hall, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, old and new shopping areas and a few parks and have lunch in a local restaurant. Pasadena also has several outstanding museums which we may pass but will not enter because of cost and time constraints. This outing on Friday, April 15, 2005 is open to all *Omniorians*.

We will meet at the Artesia station of the Blue Metro Line and catch the first train after 9 a.m. The Artesia station is off the 91 freeway. Go east from the 110 freeway and exit at the Acacia off-ramp. Go under the freeway and continue north past Artesia Boulevard to the parking lot. Allow about 10 minutes to park, walk to the platform, buy your ticket (get the all day senior pass for \$1.50) and find the group. Because of the extra travel time to and from Pasadena we will be returning to the Artesia station at about 4 p.m. If you have questions call **Nancy Shannon-Sinclair** at 513-0287 or **John Taber** at 831-4768.



From upper left: Arches at CalTech, City Hall, The Gamble House (lower right), entryway to Huntington Hospital, Pasadena Playhouse (lower left) & Colorado Street Bridge





by Mary Oran

This month's list features a variety of cultures. Each book offers a perspective that deepens our understanding of humanity.

*The Bone People* was written by **Keri Hulme**, a New Zealander of Maori, Scottish and English ancestry. This 450 page novel won the prestigious Booker Prize in 1985. Three pivotal characters (one Maori, one European and one mixed blood) learn what it means to lose and regain family in a culture dominated by colonialism. The thoroughly original writing, which includes Maori vocabulary, poetic punctuation and shifting points of view, is a challenge, but the "mural" of New Zealand that emerges makes it well worth the effort.

*Wild Swans: The Three Daughters of China* by **Jung Chang** is a mesmerizing nonfiction work covering 1911-1976 in China. It is the story of three generations of women and how they endured the many transformations of 20th century China. The author's grandmother was a warlord's concubine. Jung Chang's mother, after a sheltered childhood, struggled through many hardships, including Mao's revolution and the cultural revolution. The third generation author was an ardent follower of Mao until disillusionment set in. This book is an excellent way to absorb China's recent history.

### Out on a Limerick

by H.E. Kamiya

#### Trying Writing

There was a senior from Omnimore,  
Who felt his writing skills inferior,  
With dialog and hyperbole,  
Metaphor and simile,  
His products continued evermore sophomore.

#### Retirement

As I pondered my life in retirement,  
I weighed my leisure time requirements,  
But, grandkids and honey-dos galore,  
Volunteering and Omnimore,  
Kept my relaxing hopes only aspirements.



**James McBride's** *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* is the inspiring story of Ruth McBride Jordan. She was raised a Polish Jew who immigrated to America as a child. As a young adult, she moved to New York City, leaving the family behind. She married a black man and battled racism and poverty most of her life. And amidst it all, she had "two good husbands and twelve good children." This is a beautifully written tribute that, as one reviewer says, "makes you proud to be a member of the human race."

One of our best known Hispanic writers is **Rudolfo A. Anaya**, whose *Bless Me, Ultima* is required reading in many schools. Six-year-old Antonio lives with his family in New Mexico; Ultima, who is a "curandera"- one who cures with herbs and magic - comes to live with his family. Antonio's self-discovery is guided by Ultima and her wise ways. The novel casts a lovely spell as it explores Latin American mythology/theology.

Now, very close to home, let's take a look at our voting culture. Recommended is *What's the Matter with Kansas?* by **Thomas Frank**. The book provides an analysis of America's shift to the right as demonstrated by the red state of Kansas. It discusses the backlash of the 60s, the rise of religious fundamentalism, the concentration of wealth, and the consequences for the middle class as

it has impacted the citizens of the heartland and all of us. Why are the Democrats now viewed as part of the "elite"? What does this new form of populism portend? Are we voting against our best political and economic interests? Frank writes with great foresight and humor.

We mustn't neglect our "literary culture." *The Discovery of Poetry: A Field Guide to Reading and Writing Poems* by **Frances Mayes** is just the ticket! Mayes is probably better known as the author of *Under the Tuscan Sun* and *Bella Tuscany* (both good reads!), but she has taught poetry at San Francisco State for many years. In this volume, in lyric language, she invites the reader to share her passion for poetry by focusing on each aspect of a poem to better understand it. She presents discussions of word texture and sound, imagery, voice, rhyme, meter and forms. For each chapter she presents a wide selection of poems to illustrate the point of the discussion. Just reading the poetry selections is wonderful, but in addition, the reader gains more appreciation of the poem by the understanding resulting from the text.

New Zealand, China, New Mexico, Kansas, black and white America, or the land of poetry . . . take your pick!

Thank you to **Merle Culbert** and **Jo-Anna Kerrigan** for contributing to this list. Please send your titles, with the author's name and a brief description to [msoran@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msoran@sbcglobal.net). Please put "Omnimore books" as the subject. We look forward to hearing from you!

### OMNIOLORE Forum Luncheon Reservation Form

WHEN: **Friday**, April 29th, 2005 – 11:30 a.m.

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

Reservations are  
required by April 25th,  
please!

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the **Omnimore** Luncheon Forum at \$15 each:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

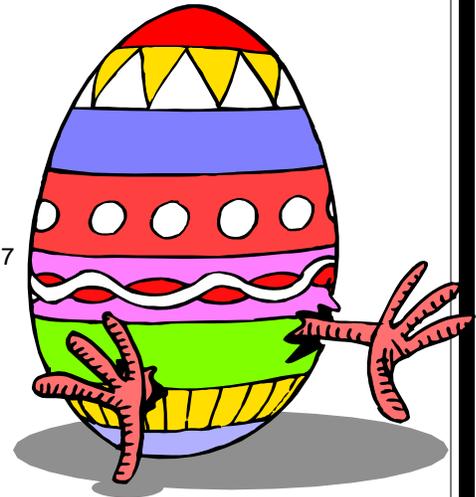
Enclosed is a check for:  \$15  Other

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

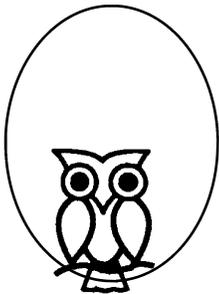
OMNIOLORE  
CALENDAR  
2005

<b>March</b>	2	CSU . . . Film as Art Form - 10 to 12 p.m. - CSUDH
	7	Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
	8	Membership Committee Meeting - 12 Noon - Room 7
	10	Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7
	16	CSU . . . Film as Art Form - 10 to 12 p.m. - CSUDH
	17	<b>St. Patrick's Day</b>
	17	Brown-Bag Special Event - 12 to 1:00 p.m. - Room 7 <i>Ballistic Missile Defense—Boon or Boondoggle?</i> John Stevens (see article, page 4)
	18	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
	21	Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
	25	Introducing Omnimore Meeting - 10 a.m. - Room 7
	27	<b>Easter</b>
<b>April</b>	3	<b>Daylight Savings Begins</b>
	4	Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
	5	Introducing Omnimore Meeting - 10 a.m. - Room 7
	6	CSU . . . Film as Art Form - 10 to 12 a.m. - CSUDH
	12	Membership Committee Meeting - 12 Noon - Room 7
	14	Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7
	15	Input Deadline for May-June Newsletter
	15	Hiking Group - Pasadena Walk (see article, page 4)
	18	Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
	21	CSU . . . Film as Art Form - 10 to 12 a.m. - CSUDH
	21	Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - Cancelled for April
	24	<b>Passover</b>
	29	Forum - Los Verdes Country Club - 11:30 a.m.



**IMPORTANT:**

Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with  
Carol Johnson (310) 372-8535 - CNordJ@sprynet.com



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