With a warm sense of humor, single-payer healthcare system advocate Dr. William Honigman (aka “Dr. Bill”) provided Forum guests a fact-filled presentation and a lively Q&A period. Along with data gathered by Harvard Medical School researchers, he included anecdotes from his own emergency-care experience. Stating that his was “not a partisan speech, just about the facts,” he encouraged all to view a film, “The Healthcare Movie,” narrated by Kiefer Sutherland, whose grandfather, Tommy Douglas, was the world’s first advocate for universal healthcare, in 1930s’ Canada.*

After citing a relatively recent City of Santa Monica study, which found a single-payer system could save that city $6 million annually, he noted that Vermont, currently the only state with such a system and a population of only 500,000, looks to save $500 million in healthcare costs each year. Extrapolating those figures, he estimates California, with its 35 million residents, could save up to $35 billion per year.

“Dr. Bill” also cited data showing that public spending on healthcare in the U.S. outstrips total healthcare costs in other developed countries. And -- in about 75 percent of medical bankruptcy cases here, he said, the individuals or families had medical insurance, but either were underinsured or had policies with deductibles that did not consider the possibility of catastrophic medical problems. In fact, underinsurance is problematic mainly because individuals facing expensive deductibles tend to postpone care until their health problem has become so severe they wind up in an Emergency Room in the middle of the night!

The speaker emphasized that “we, the people” are the Government, and should seek what is best for us. He then compared health problems and outcomes for the American public with the staggeringly high management pay and company profits within the health-insurance and pharmaceutical industries; those salaries consistently far exceed the annual compensation of like-level executives in the “Fortune 500” firms. As an exclamation point to his talk, he presented a list of healthy annual salaries for Canadian physicians by specialty and mentioned that Canadian physicians who had left Canada to work in the U.S. are now returning because of the state of America’s health care system.

*As the Newsletter goes to press, Omnilore’s Equipment Manager/Webmaster Hal Hart is making arrangements to screen “The Healthcare Movie” at Franklin Center, Wednesday, May 29. Watch for reminders about the event, the time, and a confirmation of the date.

Forum Speaker Enlightens the Healthcare Debate

by Art Irizarry

Dr. Bob & Dr. Bill (Bragonier & Honigman)

OMNILORE NEWS is a publication of OMNILORE, a Learning-in-Retirement Organization, a program of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the California State University Dominguez Hills.
LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH YOU SUCCESS AS WE START ANOTHER TRIMESTER. I PERSONALLY LOOK FORWARD TO MY INVOLVEMENT IN THE SUMMER S/DG ACTIVITIES. I WANT TO THANK RICK SPILLANE AND THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE, JOHAN SMITH AND THE HARTS FOR ALL THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING TOGETHER ANOTHER ATTRACTION ARRAY OF INTERESTING CLASSES. A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION LIKE OMNILORE DEPENDS ON THE PARTICIPATION OF ITS MEMBERS TO REMAIN STRONG. ONE OF THE IMPORTANT JOBS IS BEING A COORDINATOR FOR YOUR S/DG. WE HAD TO CANCEL A CLASS THIS SUMMER BECAUSE NO ONE WOULD TAKE ON THE COORDINATOR JOB FOR THE CLASS. SO PLEASE STEP UP IF OUR ABLE HEAD COORDINATOR NORMAN MORRIS CONTACTS YOU WHEN TRYING TO SELECT THE COORDINATOR FOR A NEW S/DG.

SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW THAT THE FRANKLIN CENTER HAS RECENTLY BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH TO THE REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT. LORI GEITTMANN AND I (ALONG WITH HELP FROM BILL GARGARO AND RICK SPILLANE) HAVE BEEN MAKING A CONCERTED EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD PEOPLE AND THE SCHOOL SYSTEM MANAGEMENT ARE FULLY AWARE OF WHAT OMNILORE IS ALL ABOUT. LET ME SUMMARIZE SOME OF THE KEY POINTS THAT WE ARE MAKING: WE ARE THE LARGEST EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR SENIORS IN THE SOUTH BAY AREA. OUR GOALS ARE TO PROVIDE AN EASY WAY FOR SOUTH BAY SENIORS TO EXPAND THEIR INTELLECTUAL AND EDUCATIONAL HORIZONS; TO PROVIDE SENIORS AN AVENUE TO KEEP MENTALLY ACTIVE IN A FRIENDLY SETTING WITH OTHER LIKE-MINDED, CONTEMPORARY CLASSMATES; AND TO INCREASE MENTAL ACTIVITY AND SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT OF SOUTH BAY SENIORS FOR BETTER MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH. OMNILORE MEMBERSHIP IS CURRENTLY OVER 300 RETIRED BUT ACTIVE SENIORS. ALL ARE INTERESTED IN CONTINUING TO LEARN AND SELF-EDUCATE ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS. MANY ARE RETIRED SCHOOL TEACHERS AND AEROSPACE EMPLOYEES, AS WELL AS PROFESSIONALS SUCH AS MEDICAL DOCTORS AND LAWYERS. MANY ARE INVOLVED IN OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, AND THE RED CROSS. OMNILORE HAS A PEER-LED, MEMBER-MODERATED CLASSROOM FORMAT WITH NO LECTURER OR TESTS. EVERY MEMBER IS EXPECTED TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN EVERY MEETING. DURING EACH TRIMESTER SESSION EACH MEMBER MUST PRESENT MATERIAL ON A CHOSEN SUBJECT AT A MEETING AND LEAD THE GROUP DISCUSSION. OMNILORE HAS USED THE FRANKLIN CENTER AS ITS HOME BASE SINCE 2000 IN ROOMS UNDER LEASE BY CSUDH FROM THE CITY OF REDONDO BEACH.

WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO OUR MAY/JUNE ACTIVITIES THAT YOU CAN REVIEW ON OUR OMNILORE WEBSITE, WWW.OMNILORE.ORG. PLEASE TELL PROSPECTIVE OMNILOREANS THAT WE WILL BE HOLDING AN INTRODUCING OMNILORE (I/O) ORIENTATION ON THURSDAY, JUNE 27TH UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, LINDA JENSON. WE HAVE ANOTHER I/O MEETING PLANNED FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 2ND.

SO, ENJOY YOUR REMAINING SPRING ACTIVITIES AND THE TRANSITION TO SUMMER.

LIFELONG LEARNING AT CSUDH HAS GROWN CONSIDERABLY SINCE OMNILORE JOINED CSUDH IN 1992. WE LOOK FORWARD TO BEING ABLE TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE QUALITY, COLLEGE-LEVEL LEARNING-IN-RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES AS OMNILORE GROWS.

By now you probably know that we are trying to grow our OLLI membership to 1,000 by fall 2013 so that we can apply for an additional million-dollar endowment. Increased membership is one of the criteria that we are expected to meet, in addition to fundraising and volunteering. With a second endowment, the ability of the College to support our learning-in-retirement activities, including the Omnilore peer-learning classes, will be much stronger.

One strategy to bring in more members is to offer CSUDH faculty lectures closer to where OLLI members live in the University service area. For many years, we have provided 10 Osher Lectures annually in Carson on the CSU Dominguez Hills campus (5 in the fall and 5 in the spring). Last fall, we established an Osher Lecturer Series, with phenomenal success, in Manhattan Beach at the Joslyn Center. In fall 2013, the City of Torrance Adult School has agreed to host a third Osher Lecture Series in Torrance at the Levy Center.

In addition to these lecture series, we will continue to hold special OLLI events on campus for all to attend. This past semester the City of Manhattan Beach provided a bus to bring OLLI members to see a production of “Cabaret” on campus, and, on another occasion, to participate in the first OLLI Poetry Event. We are hoping that other cities will also provide transportation to campus events and OLLI activities.

The strategy is to attract new members by providing access to the lecture series. Our experience is that new members seek out other OLLI programming such as Omnilore peer-led classes and/or on-campus classes and computer workshops.

We look forward to the continued support of our members as we seek to both grow and sustain our learning-in-retirement organization.
A sked if he can be called Omniiore’s “Mr. Shakespeare,” Gordon Reiter says, “No! I’d have to share that title with Dick Croft!” The two of them initiated the Omniiore Shakespeare S/DG back in 1998.

Although Gordon’s mother nurtured his early interest in Shakespeare, Gordon’s future educational experience did not exactly lead to this appellation. While his parents were professors at the University of New Mexico (his father taught archaeology and his mother journalism), it was an influential high school science teacher, Mr. Harrington, who was responsible for Gordon’s decision to attend Caltech; he earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering (with honors) there, and then went on to receive M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in aeronautical engineering from UCLA. His major graduate work was in dynamics, fluid mechanics, and applied mathematics.

Gordon says he was fortunate enough to graduate from college just in time for the 1957 launch of the Russian Sputnik satellite, leading him to his long career in the design of satellites and rockets. He began at TRW Systems (now Northrop Grumman), then moved to Hughes Space & Communications Group, where his early responsibilities included management of the structural analysis, thermal control and dynamic analysis/test functions. He also directed the mechanical qualification testing of several generations of Hughes spacecraft, from Intelsat II through Anik C/SBS. An active member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), he holds patents for five space devices.

Gordon accumulated 2.5 hours of weightless time in his career, done as space experiments in Air Force planes. Each weightless test lasted 43 seconds. You can do the math to determine how many times he did this test! He says that being weightless feels like swimming underwater. He also indicates that humans can just barely tolerate space and especially zero gravity; this is demonstrated by one’s difficulty walking after experiencing weightlessness. Though he says companies no longer conduct these tests, he thinks his weightless experiences look great on his resume. (Agreed.) Wouldn’t Mr. Harrington be proud?

Before you decide after reading this that you are going to refocus your time in retirement on becoming an astronaut, Gordon adds this caveat: “There’s nothing people can do in space now that can’t be done more cheaply by robots.” [Darn.]

Gordon and his wife Mary used to own a home in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. They spent the winter months there each year, driving to Mexico with their cats. The gringos in the neighborhood (mainly Canadian snowbirds) got together every week or two to read from a Shakespeare play. Members used their personal libraries for their scripts and, after a reading, the group would attempt to critique the play; they soon discovered, though, that different book publishers assigned different page- and line-numbers to a single play, making it difficult for the group to do a line-by-line reading from their different editions. (At least once, the same line was discovered in different scenes.) Fast-forward now to Omniiore’s Shakespeare class: Gordon credits coordinator Hal Hart for making these classes run very smoothly: Hal orders the books from a single source — Signet Classics, which publishes the complete Shakespeare repertoire. No personal copies used here!

In Omniiore, each class begins with a member summarizing the plot of a play by the bard. Then members read the lines. Depending on the number of characters in a play, a member might represent several characters in a single class session. For example, on the day of this interview, Gordon was preparing to read three different roles in “Macbeth” that afternoon.

Though she attends Omniiore forums with Gordon, Mary Reiter has yet to become an Omniiorean. (Gordon’s working on her to join.) However, she is a willing partner with him in world travel. They’ve visited over 100 countries, and hope to go to Central and South America by private jet in November. (That mode of travel took them around the world in 2004.) Omniiore offers Shakespeare S/DGs in the fall and winter trimesters. If you sign up for a future session, you’re bound to meet—and enjoy—Gordon Reiter.
Have you ever felt overwhelmed? Well, that is where I am now . . . I found out that one of my responsibilities as the new vice president of academics is “Presentations 101.” Wow!

So, I need your help! What I want to do is start a dialogue among Omniloreans as to what makes a good presentation, and use our Newsletter to share these ideas. I asked the Board of Directors at our last meeting to jot down their ideas on the subject of presentations, and following are some of their comments:

**Choosing a Topic:**

“You can make almost any subject interesting!” one member said, adding that one of the most enjoyable presentations she’d seen was on “Salt,” delivered in the “HOM: A History of Private Life” S/DG. Before the presentation, she recalls asking herself, “How could the subject of ‘salt’ possibly take up 40 minutes?” But, “It did” and “It was fascinating!”

Judith Burke, presenter, brought in many different kinds of salt and passed around the samples for the class to touch and taste as she told of the histories and uses over time and around the world of these various types of salt. The reason for its success: Omniloreans were participants in the presentation; we became involved through this hands-on experience.

The same HOM S/DG was treated to a presentation on “Wool” by Patti Ialongo, who circulated among the class a l-o-n-g scarf she was knitting from 40+ types of wool. In addition to the “show-and-tell” scarf, her presentation included photos of various breeds of sheep, each of which produces its own type of wool, e.g., the “Wedding Dress” Wool, shown in the accompanying photo.

**Individuals as Topics:**

Individuals can make interesting subjects. (Think John Paul Jones . . Marie Antoinette. . . Harry Truman.) And delivery is also important. Consider role-playing:

One of the most memorable S/DG presentations was a look at the life of Aimee Semple McPherson in an “L. A. Architecture” S/DG. Edith Garvey came dressed as McPherson and answered, in character, pre-determined questions posed by a class member who “interviewed” her. Here, while class members were mostly observers, the exchange itself was lively and engaging. Edith also once wore a convincingly judicial black robe (from a thrift shop), to portray a judge overseeing the debate on campaign finance reform in “The Supreme Court” S/DG.

**How to Prepare/Present:**

Another major concern is preparing for -- and then making -- the presentation itself. Here are some suggestions from the Board:

- Be engaging – look at your audience.
- When developing your presentation, keep your audience in mind. If it’s technical, explain terms.
- Include visuals/props – but don’t let them get in the way.
- Know your stuff – Practice, practice, practice!
- Don’t be afraid to be creative (except with the facts).
- Leave time for discussion – Too much information may be a greater “no-no” for this group than too little. We do love to talk.

So, please tell me: What was the most enjoyable presentation you’ve attended in an Omnilore S/DG? What made it so memorable?

Would love to hear from you. . . Please send your responses to jaber@aol.com
**Computer Talks**

**May 23rd - Noon to 1:00 - Room 7**

*Presented by Hal Hart*

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**PowerPoint for Macintosh Idiosyncrasies**

Some Omnileores have had trouble adapting to PowerPoint 2011 (part of Office for Mac 2011) after using PowerPoint 2008 and earlier versions. Worse yet, features that worked identically across the Mac and Windows computer platforms in previous versions of PowerPoint do not seem quite the same in the latest PowerPoint versions — causing problems for those who develop presentations at home on a Mac and bring their PowerPoint file to the Franklin Center to run on one of Omnileore's Windows laptops (aka PCs).

In this Computer Talk we will demonstrate in PowerPoint for Mac some of the same intermediate PowerPoint for Windows features taught by Bob Bragonier in the March and April Computer Talks — such as inserting pictures, videos, and music; animating photos and bullets and arrows (so they appear individually, or move around on the slide, or change size or color); and packaging your PowerPoint presentation to play on a computer without your music and video files loaded, or even without PowerPoint installed. One of the Mac-vs.-Windows differences we will explore is the video formats needed by PowerPoint for Mac, and we'll demonstrate browser utilities for capturing YouTube and other videos in the proper formats.

Also, we will fire up both PowerPoint 2008 and PowerPoint 2011 so members can learn how to use these features in whichever version they have installed and can see what changed.

Bring your laptop and follow along with Hal. Also, don’t forget to bring the questions and concerns that you have experienced during your own PowerPoint for Macintosh adventures!

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**June 27th - Noon to 1:00 - Room 7**

*Presented by Rick Spillane*

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**iPads and Kindles: An Interactive Discussion**

The June Computer Talk by Rick Spillane will focus on the world of iPads and e-books. What are iPads, apps, Kindles, and e-books? How do you effectively use them? We will look at the iPad versions of email, PowerPoint, other apps of interest and how to download e-books from Amazon or your local library. Please bring your iPad or Kindle if you have one or just come and learn how to take advantage of the new technology. You may not know what you are missing. Come and find out.

We anticipate a free flowing exchange of information. Share your favorite apps for everything from Angry Birds to Maps to Photography.

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**Omnilore’s Best-Sellers Special Interest Group**

*by Patricia Edie*

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**Time Flies When You’re Having Fun!**

A year has passed since we inaugurated our Best-Sellers Special Interest Group as a beta-test to see if Omnileoreans would like to gather once a month to discuss a current best-selling book. The answer is “YES!” and the activity has been a resounding success. In the past months we have had from 12 to 31 members meeting in Room 8 of the Franklin Center on the second Monday of the month from 11 am to 12:30 pm, discussing works of both fiction and non-fiction. The subject matter of the books varies widely and the discussion is always animated! As with any SIG, you do not need to register to join. . . just show up on the date, prepared to participate. Upcoming books to be discussed are:

- **May 13:** Non-Fiction
  *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot

- **June 10:** Fiction
  *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese

- **July 8:** Non-Fiction
  *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo

Synopses of these books appeared in the March Omnileore News. Guests are always welcome.
I have enjoyed the opportunity to share with OLLI members in this column some of the key topics being discussed on campus and in public higher education.

CSU Dominguez Hills like many public institutions across the state and nation is working to address concerns expressed by state and federal officials and accreditation entities regarding retention rates for admitted students, the amount of time and units required to complete a degree, and graduation rates. Financial resources for public education are being tied to normalized graduation rates, that is, the average number of years it should take a student to complete a baccalaureate degree.

A traditional full-time college student would be expected to complete a degree in approximately four years, taking approximately ten courses in the academic year. However, nontraditional students, for example returning adults who have multiple commitments of work and family, take fewer courses per term and therefore require a greater length of time to complete a degree program. For many years CSUDH has served a large working-adult student population, so for this and other reasons the average time-to-degree for a CSUDH student is greater.

Our campus like many other public universities is seeking ways to decrease the time it takes to graduate by examining and addressing factors which may negatively impact a student’s progress. In the CSU, initiatives such as better articulation between community college lower division and CSU upper division courses; setting 120 as the maximum units required for a baccalaureate; reducing the number of “super seniors” (students with excessive number of units) through intrusive advising; accepting courses from our “sister” institutions; and strengthening freshman programs which help students achieve academic success from the start. These are some of the efforts underway on campus to shore up student retention and promote timely graduation. Research has shown that when college students complete a substantial number of units toward a degree, they are less likely to drop out.

Partnership programs between high schools and colleges also help the State to produce more and better prepared college graduates in a timely fashion. At CSUDH, the Young Scholar Program (YSP) is offered through the College of Extended & International Education’s Center for Mediated Instruction and Distance Learning. This program addresses several State needs, such as providing qualified high school students in remote geographic areas with freshman-level college classes. Each spring and fall, YSP offers three to four CSUDH freshman courses to qualified high school seniors via televised and webcast lectures supported by an online course learning management platform. Participating high schools monitor students who participate. Students are registered at CSUDH for these courses, earn CSU transferrable credit and can complete approximately one year of college course work while attending high school. YSP promotes success among freshmen by introducing them to college instructors and material and enables them to complete in advance general education units needed for a degree, therefore positively affecting their time-to-degree.

Final Note: Many of you know that I have announced my retirement from CSUDH. Being dean of the College of Extended & International Education for 25 years has been both gratifying and fun. My best wishes for your continuing success as a lifelong learning organization. Thank you for the gift of membership in OLLI @CSUDH.
This set of reading selections truly runs the gamut—from science writings and war survival tales to plain, old thrillers. There is something for everyone in this batch, including an unusual take on early American colonial leaders, and all will be well served for a summer of reading.

**Antifragile: Things that Gain from Disorder** by Nassim Taleb. Taleb has two earlier bestsellers: *Fooled by Randomness* and *Black Swan*. He considers this book the culmination of his thinking about probabilities, risk, and what to do about it. He has many original ideas concerning knowledge, unpredictability and how the real world works. The book is worth reading for his creative insights in the “noisy” geopolitical and financial information spheres, this book is worth reading about.

**The Emperor’s Tomb** is a non-stop thriller by Steve Berry. Besides its suspenseful telling, one of two main themes addresses abiogenic oil, proposing that there may be more oil in our planet than originally thought, that some sources are renewable and that oil can be found in places other than fossil deposits. The second theme contrasts two would-be Chinese leaders, both of whom desire to run present-day China with very different views of how this should be done. Meanwhile, all is cleverly woven into a very readable, fast-moving and nail-biting story—one of the best I’ve read in years. Author Steve Berry can be counted on to include a chapter at the end of his books, delineating what is truth and what he has incorporated as fiction. In this book, the “afterword” may be surprising and thought-provoking to readers.

**The Intimate Lives of the Founding Fathers** by Thomas Fleming. The personal lives of Washington, Franklin, John Adams, Hamilton and Jefferson show many strengths and more than a few weaknesses. Their childhoods, relationships with their parents, wives, and children as well as their finances are presented in the context of their public lives. None are quite the persons we learned about in school.

**All But My Life** is a memoir by Gerda W. Klein telling of her life in Poland under the Nazis. Her ordeal, along with her parents’ and brother’s, began in 1939 when Germany occupied Poland and, as a Jew, her life was totally changed. From that time until 1945, she suffered from constant terror and deprivation. How she survived until the end of WWII is a remarkable story.

**The Light Between Oceans** by M. L. Stedman. The story begins in Australia in the 1920s when a dead man—and a baby—wash up onto a lighthouse shore. The lighthouse keeper and his wife, who have endured several miscarriages and a stillbirth, decide to keep this baby and raise it lovingly as their own. But there is another set of loving and grieving parents who want their child back. The resolution presents a moral dilemma for the town, the families and the reader.

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**MOVIE CRITIC CORNER**

Is it fantasy, stark realism, metaphor, coming of age, or just a good, old-fashioned love story with sort of a happy ending? You’ll have to see *Mud,* and decide for yourself. What I saw was a totally captivating film about a self-described killer on the run (Matthew McConaughey as Mud), two teenage boys (Tye Sheridan as Ellis and Jacob LoFland as Neckbone), and a cast of characters including Sam Shepard, Reese Witherspoon and Michael Shannon, so genuine they could have easily emerged from the depths of the Arkansas river tributary on which the action takes place, rather than from a Hollywood casting office.

Mud is living in a stranded boat on an island in the snake-ridden river when he is discovered by the boys. They are captivated by his easy-going manner and his unremitting passion for Juniper (Reese Witherspoon as a sympathetic, seductive slut). Their willingness to help him escape both the law and the father and brothers of the man he killed is as inevitable as the shoot-out that is the near culmination of the story.

Gratefully, the ending ties together the several sub-plots that enrich this decadently rich movie, written and directed by Arkansas-born Jeff Nichols. The home lives of the young boys give new meaning to the term “dysfunctional,” but they do not end in despair. The first, most heart-breaking love affair that young Tye falls into does not leave him a doomed cynic; Mud’s new-found truth does not leave him an embittered old man. So while this is not your classic “they lived happily ever after” tale, it is a wonderful film with superb actors, a stunning background, and lines that are both simple and profound. It left me with high hopes— for humanity and for the continuing production of really good movies!  

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**OMNILORE NEWS** May 2013
### OMNILORE CALENDAR 2013

**May**
- 1 Summer Trimester Starts
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 9 Board of Directors Meeting, 12 Noon - 2 p.m., Room 7
- 12 Mother's Day
- 13 Best Sellers Book Group, 11 a.m. - 12.30 p.m., Room 8
- 17 Hiking Group, 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
- 18 Armed Forces Day
- 23 Computer Talk, 12 Noon - 1 p.m., Room 7
  - *PowerPoint for Macintosh Idiosyncrasies* - Hal Hart
  - (see article page 5)
- 27 Memorial Day

**June**
- 10 Best Sellers Book Group, 11 a.m. - 12.30 p.m., Room 8
- 13 Board of Directors Meeting, 12 Noon - 2 p.m., Room 7
- 14 Flag Day
- 15 Input Deadline for July-August 2013 Newsletter
- 16 Father's Day
- 18 Armed Forces Day
- 21 First Day of Summer
- 21 Hiking Group, 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
- 23 Computer Talk, 12 Noon - 1 p.m., Room 7
  - *iPads and Kindles* - Rick Spillane
  - (see article page 5)
- 27 Introducing Omnilore Meeting, 10 a.m. - 12 Noon, Room 8

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**2013 Forums**
- Winter—January 31st
- Spring—April 30th
- Summer—July 31st
- Annual Mtg.—October 31st

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**IMPORTANT:**

Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with Lynn Taber
(310) 831-4768—johnlynntaber@gmail.com

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# THE EQUIPMENT BOX

by Hal Hart, Omnilore Equipment Manager
(Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG)

**Amplification for Weaker Voices**

**HEADSET-MICROPHONE SPEAKERS**

Does your voice need help being heard by your classmates when you present? That help is available as a flexible hands-free headset microphone wired to a hand-sized speaker. One of these systems is stored in a labeled ziploc bag in each room’s equipment closet. Here’s what you need to know to use them:

1. Insert the batteries (loose in the bag) into the speaker in the marked +/- polarity.
2. Plug the mic wire into the speaker. Place headset on your head and adjust the mic to be positioned a couple inches from your mouth.
3. Turn on speaker and place it on the table as far from you as the wire reaches to avoid static or feedback.
4. Test to get mic position, volume, and tone set for clearest amplification.
5. When done, please remove batteries and store them loose (along with the headset mic and speaker) in the ziploc bag to avoid accidentally draining them.

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Monroe Haas, an Omnilorean from 1995 to 2007 who died last year, has been honored with a plaque at the library of Grand View Elementary School in Manhattan Beach, where he served as principal for 18 years. Monroe believed, “Learning is ongoing. It should be pleasant and fun all through your life. Education doesn’t stop at the school door.” Those words are inscribed in the plaque, which was made possible by family, friends and school staff, both past and present.