



OMNIOLORE NEWS



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November 2009

OLLI AT CSUDH OMNIOLORE

OMNIOLORE NEWS is a publication of OMNIOLORE, a Learning-in-Retirement Organization, a program of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the California State University Dominguez Hills

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

Editor	Diana Cutler
Staff Member	Carol Kerster

Film Noir, Avec Amour, from Omnilore

by Carol Kerster



'Twas Halloween Eve and all through the hall
Omnilorean scholars were having a ball.
Thrown aside were excesses of study and discussion,
Instead it was pure fun, sans repercussion.
Many revelers wore costumes. The judges* had work
They struggled, but managed a job not to shirk.
Tickets to a movie 1st place winner could pick.
Popcorn to 2nd and 3rd (quite enough to make them sick).



How about Morgan Land, what doesn't he know
About Film Noir and film making? And didn't he show
That style and wit can enhance presentation?
Oh, that each of us could meet that expectation!
And did we learn:
If the hero's corruptible, and smokes cigarettes,
And the femme is fatale, and shows no regrets,
Where shadows hover darkly, and scenes emerge from afar,
When there's murder to commit, you're seeing Film Noir.



And lunch on that day was another special treat:
Orange soup, pie and 'taters were delicious to eat.
At Forum this time, besides costumes, food and "Noir,"
We elected leaders to guide us. They're all above par.



The Board of Directors, listed below
Needs no introduction, we just need to show
We appreciate totally their constant dedication,
Without which we'd miss our "Omnieducation."

All good events end, that's hardly news.
You members who attended did obviously choose
This Halloween bash, instead of any other thing smart.
I truly hope it left you with a happy, happy heart!



*Costume Judges: Chuck Herring, Helen Leven, Midge Solomon

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Ruth Hart

I want to welcome all of our members, and especially our new members, to the 2009-2010 membership year. I hope you are all enjoying your Fall classes and are excited about our offerings for the Spring.

As you know, Omnilore is part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Cal State Dominguez Hills. All Omniloreans are members of OLLI at CSUDH, which is one of 120 OLLIs in the United States, serving a total of 86,000 seniors! Each of these OLLIs is associated with a college or university and each receives some of its funding from the Bernard Osher Foundation. Mr. Osher is a philanthropist who has made funding learning-in-retirement organizations a priority. In addition to providing funding for every OLLI, the Osher Foundation has established the OLLI National Resource Center at the University of Southern Maine to provide information and networking opportunities. The National Resource Center also publishes the annual OLLI Review, with research articles and other contributions from OLLI members.

I encourage you to visit their website at <http://usm.maine.edu/olli/national/> for more information.

On October 12-14, Jim Bouchard of CSUDH and I attended the 6th OLLI National Conference in Park City, Utah.

The Osher Foundation paid for lodging (in a very nice resort) and meals; OLLI at CSUDH paid for transportation. This gave us an opportunity to network with members of other OLLIs and learn how they implement our shared mission. One of the things we learned is that there is no single model for an OLLI. For example, some OLLIs use professors to teach classes, others use their own members as instructors or facilitators, still others (like Omnilore) have study/discussion groups in which members teach each other. Most use multiple teaching methods. Some have extensive travel programs. Some have their own building on campus. Some offer classes at local retirement communities. About half pay their instructors. The cost structures are also very different. Some charge a single yearly fee for unlimited classes, others charge a nominal membership fee and a separate fee for each class. You get the idea. The one thing all OLLIs have in common is a focus on academic learning. In particular, it was made clear that, although workplace transition and second careers may be important areas of concern to seniors and seniors-to-be, it should not be something addressed by OLLI.

At the opening session, Mary Bitterman, the President of the Bernard Osher Foundation, surprised and delighted the attendees by announcing that a special

gift of \$25,000 is to be given to every Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. The aim of this gift is to recognize "the exceptional contributions of each institute to the community it serves as well as the many challenges that institutes are facing in the wake of the nation's economic downturn." In addition to the \$25,000 grant described above, OLLI at CSUDH recently learned that it was the recipient of a \$1 million endowment from the Osher Foundation. David Blazeovich of the Bernard Osher Foundation thanked me personally for the help that Omnilore members provided in qualifying OLLI at CSUDH for this grant, which is one of the largest single gifts ever received by CSUDH.



Many parallel sessions were offered at the conference, addressing a wide variety of subjects. I attended sessions on Research on Older Learners, How to Encourage New Members and Energize Current Members, and Strategies for Broadening and Enlarging the Curriculum. At the latter session, many people seemed intrigued by our model of peer learning.

Although I continue to believe that Omnilore provides a unique opportunity for learning in retirement, it was interesting to learn what is going on in other OLLIs across the country and share our own ideas.

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- President**
- VP Academics**
- VP Administration**
- Recording Sec'y**
- Treasurer**
- Members at Large**

- Ruth Hart**
- Kit Bell**
- Bill Gargaro**
- Echo Davis**
- Steve Miller**
- Dennis Eggert**
- Jade Suzanne Neely**
- RosaLee Saikley**

2009-2010 Board of Directors

Members of the Board present at the annual meeting: (from back, left) Bill Gargaro, Steve Miller, Dennis Eggert, RosaLee Saikley; (front, left) Ruth Hart, Echo Davis and Jade Suzanne Neely. Kit Bell was out of town.



Winners of the costume contest, Barbara Johnson and George Clark (from the movie, Doubt) pose with the judging committee: Chuck Herring, Helen Leven & Midge Solomon.

OMNIOLORE PROFILE – ROY SCHUBERT

by Norman Lobsenz

One glance at Roy Schubert's gleaming bald head clearly shows that he does NOT have horns. Yet when Roy was born, during the Great Depression of the 1930s, to the only Jewish family in the tiny farming community of Newcastle, PA, a curious elderly neighbor asked if she could touch the baby's forehead to feel his tiny budding horns.

It seems, Roy explains, that the neighbor's suspicions were rooted in an ancient Biblical story. It said that at the instant Moses received the tablets of the Ten Commandments from Jehovah, rays of light shone out from Moses' brow. Unfortunately, a later version of the story used an archaic form of the word "rays," which was then mis-translated as the word for "horns."

Even without horns, Roy's early years were troubled. Born with congenital cataracts, an infection in one eye so limited his vision that he could not see the blackboard in the school classroom. Efforts to treat the infection only made matters worse -- Roy lost all sight in that eye. But when he was four years old the family moved to Chicago, where they located an ophthalmologist who was able to restore full vision in Roy's good eye.

In high school, Roy's love for and skill at mathematics set the course for his life's work. He went on to win his B.A. and M.A. in math from the University of Chicago, became an instructor and research assistant in math at Arizona State University, then returned to the University of Illinois for his doctorate. He completed what was normally a two-year course of study in the mathematics of computer technology and programming in just one year.

Roy met his wife-to-be, Lynn, when both were members of a writing group. "I liked her very much," Roy says, "but I was always highly critical of the stuff she wrote. So Lynn would get angry and walk away. I guess I just grew on her." That proved to be a good guess, for Roy and Lynn were married in 1957 (both of them still in college), and recently celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary.

In the early 1960s Roy decided it was time, as he puts it, "to get

a real job." Fortunately, it was a decade when math and computer skills were starting to be in great demand. "I had many job offers," Roy recalls, "but Lynn and I wanted to move to California." So he went to work for the Philco Corp. in Palo Alto, helping to design the first U.S. space satellite.

Roy was eventually lured to the South Bay by TRW, where he specialized in space-project engineering, a field in which he could make best use of his skills in math and physics. After 27 years with TRW Roy retired, only to sign on for another 10 years as a consultant on satellite design. After retiring for the second time, Roy's unquenchable curiosity led him to become a member of Plato's learning-in-retirement program. Five years ago, however, he switched to Omnilore for two main reasons. "First," Roy says, "driving to Omnilore from Hermosa Beach, where I've lived for over 40 years, is a lot less stressful than taking the freeway to Plato. Second, and far more important, I have found Omniloreans a much more congenial group of people."

Like many who are talented in math, Roy developed a keen interest in music, especially grand opera. "My father exposed me to operatic music when I was a kid," Roy says. "He had a collection of those old vinyl records of the great singers of his time, like Enrico Caruso, and I just fell in love with opera." As a result, Roy and Lynn have traveled widely to visit the world's great opera houses -- in Milan, Paris, London, and last year in Israel. He is hard-pressed to name his favorite opera, but finally chose Wagner's "Flying Dutchman."

Soon after joining Omnilore Roy volunteered ("Well," he says, "I was asked to volunteer.") to be its Registrar, a job that requires computer skills and an attention to detail. He must constantly manage his data base to update and input the seemingly endless flow of changes in members' addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses. But Roy says probably the hardest part of the job is keeping track of who has or has not paid their annual dues. It bothers him a lot when he has to remind people to send in their checks.

So, folks -- pay your dues on time or Roy may have to grow horns after all.



C-2PO – Setting up a Slide Show

by Carol Johnson

Remember "Star War's" C-3PO, a droid designed to interact with organic life forms? His job was to see that meetings with different groups ran smoothly. He loyally served over forty masters. He hated it when he lost encounters, losing parts, and having them reattached, sometimes incorrectly. Is this feeling familiar yet?

Omniloreans could sometimes use a droid when projecting PowerPoint slide shows. So here is a virtual droid, called C-2PO. Its name is a short form of the necessary steps in setup, easy to remember.

C-2: **Connect 2** pieces of hardware, the computer and the projector, to each other. The projector is an output device to the computer, another monitor in fact, and the computer senses all its connected devices when it starts up (but most likely not later, after it has started up). An exception is a newer device such as memory stick attached to a USB port; it will be sensed anytime. So it is safest not to attach a memory stick beforehand because the computer might just try to boot from it. Note that the output device (such as the projector, or your printer at home) does not need to be turned on yet.

P: **Plug in** the computer and the projector to electrical outlets (via a surge protector).

O: **Operate**, as if the equipment were always standing there ready to use. Turn on the computer, and the projector if it is not automatically turned on. Find the slide show on the computer. If necessary, have the projector cycle through its input possibilities. The computer is an input device to the projector, just as the projector is an output device to the computer. With **C-2PO** you are ready to start on time and impress your audience.

Omnilore's 18th Annual Meeting & Luncheon



1. Burt Cutler, former president in two ways, and wife, Diana, our Forum Chairman; 2. Maria Ruiz, Roberta Welch and Dan LeVantine; 3. Ionia McDonald; 4. Merle Culbert & Edith Garvey (Judge Judy); 5. Marilyn & Al Peschel; 6. Lynn & Allen (guest) Shall; 7. Dick Johnson; 8. Nancy Shannon; 9. Barbara Case; 10. Irma Cohen & Lindie Banks; 11. Gordon & Anita Kehmeier; 12. John & Lynn Taber; 13. Ruth & Al Blinder; 14. Shirley Bachelder as Jean Harlow; 15. Rick & Laurel Spillane; 16. Janet & Larry Brown; 17. Mary Oran as Annie Hall; 18. Jim Bouchard, OLLI at CSUDH; 19. Deanne Edridge & Neva Gallegos (guest); 20. Cindy & Dennis Eggert.
Special thanks to George Clark and Hal Hart for sharing their photos.



1. Bob Bacinski & Sue Estes, pirates all; 2. Our Greeters: Carol Kerster, Helen Leven, Diana Cutler, Nancy Shannon, and Mimi Lau; 3. Bill Gargaro as an Egyptian nobleman; 4. Berthe (guest) & Jim Slattery; 5. Sally Downie & Nancy Sorrenti; 6. Dan & Mary Gluck; 7. Anne Faas; 8. Howard & Dale Korman (gangster 'n moll); 9. Carol & Tony Lopilato (a blond old movie star & nuther gangster); 10. Maggie Wilkinson; 11. Linda Jenson, Margery Norris & Sally Strehlke; 12. Myron & Jalé Pullen (a monk and a flapper? Hmm!); 13. June Wiley (guest) as Amelia Earhart; 14. Carol Simone; 15. Patricia & Kuang-yen Shih; 16. Mary Golob; 17. Elizabeth Brown, John & Sharon Bohner.

DEAN'S CORNER



Notes from CSUDH

by Margaret Gordon

Dean, Lifelong Learning Institute
College of Extended & International Education

The Osher Lifelong Institute at CSUDH continues to develop and attract memberships. Recent OLLI Open Houses held on campus and also at Beach Cities Health District in Redondo Beach resulted in 50 new members last month, bringing our membership to the 600 mark. Course offerings continue to expand. The OLLI curriculum committee currently is finalizing an appealing and varied selection of courses and activities for the coming spring term. Increasingly OLLI members and campus instructors are volunteering to offer lifelong learning courses and lectures. OLLI members are active, enrolling in courses, developing new curriculum concepts or facilitating events such as field trips. The experience and enthusiasm of OLLI/Omnimore participants as OLLI at CSUDH becomes institutionalized is especially appreciated.

In recognition of our OLLI's growth and achievements, the Bernard Osher Foundation has notified campus of continuing support for our lifelong learning program. An endowment gift of \$1 million was awarded to California State University Dominguez Hills by the Osher Foundation. In addition, the Osher Foundation provided a \$50,000 bridge grant to support OLLI at CSUDH during its transition period. On November 30, 2009 at 12:30 pm a reception, featuring President Mildred García, will be held on campus to recognize our OLLI endowment award. OLLI members will receive an invitation to this event. We look forward to celebrating this achievement with you.

On behalf of the staff of the College of Extended & International Education, best wishes for a happy holiday season.



Our Cable Jungle

With increased usage of Omnilore's Audio-Visual/computer equipment this year (which is good), the situation with our cables has deteriorated (bad!) –

our most basic cables (VGA/RGB for connecting laptops to projectors) are walking off (I've bought 4 replacements in the past year), and extra cables keep appearing in a jumble on the hooks on the Equipment Closet door in Room 7. And, just recently the power cord from our Room-8 projector disappeared!

I understand human nature and do not expect perfection on a matter as menial as cables management. Therefore, to help control costs and avoid wasting members' time when cables can not be found, I am taking the following actions: (1) all VGA cables are labeled with tags telling where they belong; (2) stored with every piece of equipment will be the cable(s) that equipment needs and those cables will all be tagged; (3) signage will be in each equipment closet identifying on which hook to hang the 4 or 5 basic cables I am aware we ever use, all of which will be back-up/spares due to (2); and (4) I am moving the boxes of other extra cables (most unused?) out of sight.

Please do your part to help alleviate our Cable Jungle – always return cables and power cords to their original locations as per their tags; and, sneak back any cables you have accidentally “borrowed.” (Hey, I've done that.) On the other hand, please report the need for any cable you cannot find, or defective cables, to Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG. Ditto, any other equipment problems...



by
Hal Hart

THE EQUIPMENT BOX



**Computer Talks Is Taking
November & December Off!
Look for Us in the Jan.-Feb. Newsletter**



Spotlight on the Showcase - by Mary Oran

What's the new Omnilore Honor? Being a Showcase winner! At a trimester's end, everyone in an SDG is sent an email survey. On the Spring and Summer 2009 surveys, there was a new question at the end of the survey that asked: “Is there any one outstanding creative or scholarly work developed by a class member in the course of this SDG that you would like to see showcased on our Omnilore Website during the following trimester? If so, please identify by the name of the author.”

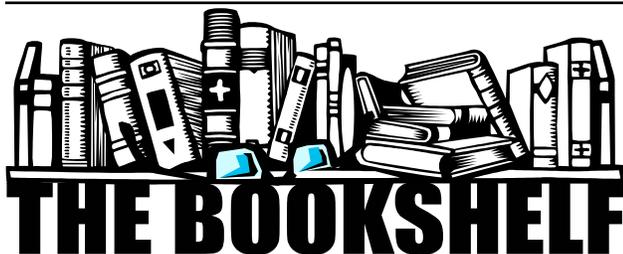
Listed below are the winners and their topics for each trimester. These are also linked on the Members Showcase page on the website. Check out the Members Showcase by going to this direct link: [http://www.omnilore.org/members/ Showcase2.htm](http://www.omnilore.org/members/Showcase2.htm). You will be asked for the Omnilore ID and Password. Those with electronic versions of the presentation can be viewed in their entirety on the website by clicking on the underlined links.

Congratulations to our winners; you are each an inspiration!

Spring 2009 Trimester Winners: **Nancy Bell**, “Pillow Talk;” **Bob Bragonier**, “Jazz Interpretations of The Nutcracker,” **Barbara Case**, “Farmed vs. Wild Fish;” **Jay Edie**, “Four Incipient Crises;” **Dennis Eggert**, “The Golden Age and Beyond;” **Andrea Gargaro**, “Early 20th Century American;” **Dick Granoff**, “The Vibraphone and Some Master Vibists;” **Laura Guneau**, “The Greek Polis;” **Cathy Kwan**, “Chromosomes from DNA to Proteins;” **Dale Korman**, “The ‘Method’ Sheriff;” **Gloria Martin**, “Mediterranean Diet;” Frances Roberts, “Margaret Fuller;” **Carol Simone**, “Recovered Voices;” **Midge Solomon**, “How Green is Nuclear Power;” and **John Vehrencamp**, “The Rise and Fall of the Ottoman Empire.”

Summer 2009 Trimester Winners: **Kit Bell**, “Central Park;” **Ruth Bloland**, “A Primer on Disease and the Problems of Emerging and Re-Emerging Diseases;” **Jay Edie**, “US Drug Policy – Time for Change?” **Cindy Eggert**, “Honey Bees;” **Lori**

Continued on Page 8



by Mary Oran

If I were to judge Omnioleors by their much-appreciated book suggestions, I would determine that 90% of you read only fiction. Before I offer this month's slate of books, I would like to request a new year's resolution from each of you. In the coming year I would like to do a biography/autobiography issue. Are there any really good ones that you remember from your past reading? Please let me know by sending in the information to the address at the end of the article. Resolve to send in nonfiction suggestions as well, and of course we always welcome the fiction choices too. Take a proactive stance in sharing the love of reading in 2010!

This month we have two nonfiction entries. *Beowulf On the Beach* by Jack Murnighan is subtitled "What to Love and What to Skip in Literature's 50 Greatest Hits." The author discusses the great books and why they still matter. The book is funny, smart, passionate and wise. If you've already read some of these books, this prose is a great refresher course, and if you have them on a mean-

to-read list, this will get you pumped up to get started.

With the success of the movie *Julie/Julia*, Julia Child is again a star. *My Life in France*, written by Julia and Alex

Prud'homme covers the years that Julia and her husband lived in France and other areas of Europe, and spends a considerable amount of time explaining the arduous process of writing *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. If you love food, you will enjoy Julia's enthusiasm for it. The book is full of interesting anecdotes, and it is especially delightful to read if you have seen the movie.

The first fiction entry takes place during the Depression. *Recapitulation* by Wallace Stegner focuses on a successful statesman and diplomat who returns to Salt Lake City where he had spent his youth. He had left the city in bitterness 45 years before. Upon his return he faces the ghosts of his past, and his recollections become a source of revelation.

Lisa Genova's *Still Alice* is a story told by the main character, a 50 year old linguistics professor at Harvard who has early-onset Alzheimer's. The author, a neuroscientist, has created a story that is heartbreaking and haunting; the prose gives a compelling first-person glimpse of the reality of the disease.

The next book was a best seller in France. *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery has a double narrative. The two narrators are both extremely intelligent and aware of their surroundings. One is a 54 year old concierge in a Paris apartment building. She describes herself as dumpy and uninteresting, but she is actually a well-read, likeable woman who life hasn't treated well. The other narrator is a 12 year old girl who lives in the apartment building; her journal describes how she is an outsider in her dysfunctional family, as well as in the way she thinks. Both narratives are philosophical in their approach.

As the November/December holidays appear, think back to the stories and poems that were reading treasures to you and your family. Reading them again can renew one's spirit. Whether it's Dickens or Robert Frost, Ogden Nash or Anatole France, treat yourself to the special feelings that familiar words can bring forth. Among the blessings we can be thankful for are Omniole, its members, and the freedom to study what interests us. May all of your holidays be happy and safe ones!

(Our thanks to Marilyn Denno and Patricia Edie for contributing to our list. Please send recommendations to msoran@sbcglobal.net. Include title, author, and a very brief description of the content. Please put "Omniole books" as the subject of the email. We look forward to hearing from you!)



**OLLI National Conference
/ Spring Osher Lecture Series**

by Jim Bouchard

Senior Program Development Specialist
Coordinator, Lifelong Learning, OLLI at CSUDH



I had the opportunity to attend the annual OLLI National Conference which was held in Park City, Utah on October 12-14. Sponsored by the Bernard Osher Foundation, the conference was structured according to the Foundation's proven formula—keep the attendees working constantly and feed them well! (Steak and salmon in the same meal is something I could get used to!)

I attended the conference with Ruth Hart, and we both had the opportunity to network with representatives from the other 120 OLLIs. We learned some very useful things, including the fact that the most successful OLLIs follow the model of using unpaid, volunteer instructors to conduct OLLI classes and workshops. OLLI instructors belong primarily to 3 groups: faculty, community experts and OLLI members themselves.

A variety of sessions were offered throughout the conference. The sessions I attended included (1) research on benefits of lifelong learning, (2) registration systems used by other universities, and (3) volunteer leadership in our member-led organizations.

I particularly liked our opening dinner at which it was announced that Mr. & Mrs. Osher were contributing \$25,000 (from them, not the Foundation) to each OLLI "to help get through these tough economic times". Once again, the generosity of the Oshers and their commitment to lifelong learning was clearly evident.

On another note, our spring 2010 Osher Lecture Series will be about "The Machines of Life." OLLI member and CSUDH emeritus faculty member, Mary Cruise, and OLLI/Omniole members John & Lynn Taber have been meeting with faculty in the CSUDH Biology Department to plan the 7 lectures. The Osher Lecture Series is free of charge to all OLLI members, and is held in the Extended Education auditorium on the campus of CSUDH in Carson.

OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2009

- November**
- 1 **Return to Standard Time**
 - 10 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
 - 11 **Veterans' Day**
 - 12 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 20 Hiking Group - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
 - 26 **Thanksgiving**

- December**
- 1 Introducing Omnilore - 10 a.m. - 12 noon - Room 8
 - 8 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
 - 10 Introducing Omnilore - 10 a.m. - 12 noon - Room 8
 - 10 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 12 **Hanukkah**
 - 15 Input Deadline for Jan.-Feb. 2010 Newsletter
 - 18 Hiking Group - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
 - 25 **Christmas Day**
 - 31 **New Year's Eve**



2010 Forums
 Winter—January 29th
 Spring—April 29th
 Summer—July 29th
 Ann. Mtg—October 29th

Calendar changes and

**December Dates Set
for New
"Introducing Omnilore"
Meetings**

by
*Howard
Korman*



The Membership Committee has scheduled two "Introducing Omnilore" for perspective members who may want to join *Omniole* for the Spring trimester. Dates are:

Tuesday, December 1st

Thursday, December 10th

- starting at 10 a.m. at the Franklin Center - Rm 8.

Attendance at one of these meetings is mandatory for new members, so please tell anyone you know who might be interested about these upcoming dates. We know that most of our new members join as a result of referrals by current members. We have a wonderful organization with a great deal to offer, and classes that are very enjoyable and informative.

Help Spread the Word!

Continued from Page 6 - Spotlight on the Showcase

Geittmann, "Roots and Cause of World War II;" **Jon Heise**, "Dutch Flower Painting;" **K.C. Johnson**, "Discussion of the Documentary Sicko;" **Carol Kerster**, "The short story 'Taiping' by Brittani Sonnenbert;" **Marilou Lieman**, "Discussion of the documentary, Shackleton and the Endurance;" **Frank Schmid**, "Medieval Monasteries;" **Roy Schubert**, "Evolutionary Psychology and the Existence of Non-Adaptive Human Traits: What It Tells Us About Religion and Belief Systems vs our Cognitive Abilities;" **Laurel Spillane**, "Discussion of movie and documentary Charlie Wilson's War and The Real Story of Charlie Wilson's War."



IN MEMORIAM

Bob Botek, an Omnilore member since 2005, died recently at age 81. His main interests were in the areas of current events, politics and theater. Bob is survived by his wife of 53 years and three children.

NOTICE

We'll have **The Movie Critic** column starting in the Jan.-Feb. newsletter. Meanwhile, send your candidates to Carol Kerster, CKerster@aol.com

Also, results of the Omnilore Owl Selection contest will be published in the Jan.-Feb. newsletter.