



# OMNIOLORE NEWS



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September 2010

## 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	Vacant
Staff Member	Carol Kerster



## Poems, Pictures “. . . And All That Jazz”

by Carol Kerster

If the passion and enthusiasm a teacher has for his subject is contagious, prepare for an epidemic!

At our Annual Meeting Luncheon on Friday Oct. 29, we are indeed fortunate to have as the speaker our special friend and teacher, **Bob Bragonier**. Those of you who have participated in one of the many courses he has taught throughout the South

Bay since 2004, including five jazz and classical music discussion groups for Omniole, as well as those of you who were lucky enough to have heard him as our guest speaker in July 2007, might be aware of the staggering depth of his knowledge of jazz, of his ability to communicate about it, and of the size of his collection, (about 7000 pieces), of jazz and classical music.

In fact “You ain’t heard nothin’ yet!” Bob’s love affair with jazz, which began in his middle teens and grew while working his way through college and medical school\* as a “disc jockey” on FM stations in Iowa and Nebraska., has expanded recently by connecting it to poetry and art. His interest in the relationship of these three subjects began as the result of a Thank You note sent him by Omnioleans **Ray and Margareta Ericksen**, who were thrilled with his class in April of 2007. They also sent him a little book titled “Jazz Poems,” by Sascha Feinstein. Bob was enthralled with the book, which consisted of poems written by poets who had been inspired by jazz performers, by their listeners, even by their deaths. And he discovered that other poets also had been inspired by this uniquely American art form; Carl Sandburg, Langston Hughes, and Robert Pinsky, to name a few. Not willing to stop at poetry, Bob began seeking pictorial artists who had incorporated jazz into their work: Miles Davis (yes, the jazz musician), Debra Hurd, Man Ray and others, many of whom are identified with The Harlem Renaissance.

What to do with this abundance of material? Not surprisingly, Bob started to prepare something that he could ultimately use as a teaching tool. He put together a multimedia presentation of how jazz, poetry and art work together, and truly reflect the times in which they occur: wars, civil rights, the women’s movement, free speech. Also not surprisingly, Bob found the impact of each medium is profoundly intensified when experienced together. And we will discover that ourselves.

At this meeting we will elect officers for the coming year. If an “epidemic” and a “profoundly intense” media presentation aren’t enough to urge you to mail in your reservation for this event ASAP, we have our jam-packed, fun-filled Halloween Party! As in the past, costumes are encouraged, they will be rewarded (any that reflect the topic of the speaker will be particularly noticed), and we’ll all be amazed at the creativity of our membership!

So...send in your reservation by using the form on page 9 of this newsletter, or on the orange-colored-flyer coming via mail. This event is sure to be among the most swingin’ times you’ll ever have while learning, socializing, and just being an Omnioleean!

\*Bob was a full time academic practitioner in obstetrics and gynecology at UCLA

Medical School, LA County/Harbor Medical Center, and Cigna Healthplans of California, as well as member and chair of a whole slew of county, state and federally-funded health and family planning programs until his retirement in 2002.

### DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

by Ruth Hart

As I write this, pre-meetings are drawing to a close and we are getting ready to begin yet another year of Omnilore. In fact, my first presentation is scheduled for September 2<sup>nd</sup> and my outline is due tomorrow! Welcome back to all of our returning members and a special welcome to our new members. I hope you will find Omnilore as rewarding as I have.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, this column will be my final one as Omnilore President. It has been an honor to serve such a special organization. The past two years have given me an appreciation of how important our volunteers are to the organization. Simply put, there wouldn't be an Omnilore without the hard work of our

officers, committee chairs and members, coordinators and co-coordinators, the people who volunteered for AED training, and anyone else who serves the organization in any role. Unfortunately, too often, it seems as if the same names appear over and over again. We all have other commitments and lives apart from Omnilore, but I hope that if you are asked to take on a more active role in Omnilore you will consider doing so, and if you are not asked, you will offer your services anyway. We need all the help we can get!

Speaking of active, committed Omniloreans, sadly we lost two over the summer, **Jim O'Neill** and **Myron Pullen**. Jim was a punster extraordinaire and regular coordinator who livened

every S/DG he was in, regaling us with stories of his youth in Scotland. Myron was Omnilore's first Webmaster, an engineer and a lawyer with a passion for poetry, who pushed us inexorably into the digital age and also was a regular coordinator. A tribute to Myron will appear in the next newsletter. They both will be missed.

Even though I won't be President after October, I'll still be around, serving on the Curriculum Committee, running the scheduling program with my husband Hal, and above all, continuing to take classes each trimester. I look forward to continuing as an Omnilorean for a long time to come.



**PRESENTATIONS 101: THE WORKSHOP**

**Tuesday - September 28th**

**12 Noon - Room 7**

by Kit Bell



Are you a new member to Omnilore and a little uncertain about your first presentation? Perhaps you have been a member of Omnilore for a while and want to polish your presentation skills. In either case, we have some help for you. On Tuesday, September 28, 2010 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., you are invited to join

**Presentations 101: The Workshop.** Need help on selecting a topic? Don't know what audio/visual equipment is available? Not sure how to schedule your class presentation? Don't know how to operate the audio/visual equipment? The Workshop will answer these questions and any others you may have relating to one of the most enjoyable elements of the Omnilore experience. It's all about making our presentations better and enjoying livelier discussions.

If you can't attend The Workshop and want some help pulling your presentation together check the list of Presentation Mentors on the bulletin boards. You will find the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of Omnilore members who have volunteered to work with other members on preparing presentations. Just give one of them a call or fire off an e-mail to make arrangements for advice and to make a new friend. **Presentations 101: The Workshop** Tuesday, September 28th at 12:00 noon, Room 7, Franklin Center-Redondo Beach.



**Take A Hike!**

Omnilore's Hiking Group is a social group that meets at 10 am on the third Friday of each month. We normally begin our hike at a local park or other location with tables so we can return after the hike for a picnic lunch. We walk for about 1 1/2 or 2 hours on wooded trails, walking paths, and/or sidewalks through interesting neighborhoods. The October and November hikes are listed on page 6. In December, we will have a holiday hike followed by a potluck lunch at one of our member's homes.

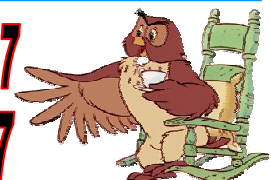
Members new to Omnilore as well as "old" members and friends are welcome on all walks. We are also looking for members who are willing to lead some of the walks.

If you would like to receive email notification about the hike each month or are willing to lead on an occasional or regular basis, contact **Lynn Taber** at [ledwards\\_92648@yahoo.com](mailto:ledwards_92648@yahoo.com).

*The Next*

**INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETINGS:** **Tues. Oct. 19th - Room 7**

**Help Spread the Word!** **Tues. Nov. 23rd - Room 7**



## OMNIOLORE PROFILE – BARBARA CASE

by Norman Lobsenz



Looking for a definition of an ideal Omnilore member? Try Barbara Case's description of herself: "I have an unquenchable thirst – a passion – for knowledge, and a variety of topics and questions just sets off fireworks in my brain." Not surprisingly, she has spent many years as chief research reference librarian at Cal State University, Los Angeles, "helping others find the knowledge they seek." During part of that time Barbara was responsible for implementing automation policies and procedures for the entire CSU Library System. "But the job I enjoyed most," says Barbara, "was helping students and faculty with their research. I loved it so much, when I retired after 35 years I volunteered to do the job one day a week for another five years."

If being a librarian for 35 years sounds like a dull life, make no mistake: Barbara's life proved interesting even before she was born. Charles, her father, was a British expatriate working in Manila during World War II. Soon after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, he, his wife Shelley and their three children were evacuated from the Philippines on Allied destroyers. Barbara was their American-born baby, arriving in San Pedro hospital in late 1946. Thanks to a full scholarship, she entered the Chadwick School in Rolling Hills, in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and found a whole glamorous world – most of her schoolmates were children of Hollywood celebrities.

"One of my best friends at Chadwick," Barbara recalls, "was Bette Davis' daughter. Her mother was coming to pick her up for the weekend. I was actually going to meet a movie star! When I saw her I was shocked. She was just an old lady in a pair of pants." But things got better. "I remember lying on the school lawn listening to Judy Garland's daughter, Liza Minelli, singing her mother's favorite tunes for us. And another celebrity youngster took me to the Brown Derby restaurant for lunch. He even ordered a Shirley Temple for me! It was puppy-love, Hollywood style, but even at my young age I knew I would never want to trade my life for theirs."

Barbara made several detours before she reached the goal she really wanted. At UC Berkeley she originally majored in German language and literature, spending her junior year abroad at Goettingen University, working as a nanny for a German family and as an aide at a Swiss nursing home. Her senior year was interrupted by the Berkeley student protests against the Vietnam war. "The streets were barricaded with barbed wire," Barbara recalls, "and I was tear-gassed twice by National Guardsmen on my way to class." But after getting her B.A. degree she realized her true love was in the world of intellectual information, and won her M.L.S. from Berkeley's Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

In London to visit her boy friend, an astrophysics major at Oxford, Barbara almost took one last detour: "At his urging," Barbara says, "I went to Harvard Business School. He wanted me to become a wealthy 'tycoon' so I could support his academic career. I was so in love it must have wiped out my judgment!"

Her first year there she found she hated the business world. "All the talk was about making money," she says, "and I knew, once and for all, I could never be happy unless I was in the world of ideas." So Barbara dumped Harvard and the boy friend, and returned to librarianship.

Her career at Cal State University moved swiftly. She was soon promoted to Full Librarian (equivalent to Full Professor), chaired

the Automation Committee for the entire 19-campus CSU system, and ultimately became University Librarian (equivalent to College Dean). "I've never regretted one day of those 35-plus years," Barbara says. "I loved being a librarian!"

Her family history provided a fertile field for Barbara's interests. More than 20 years ago, in the infancy of the internet, Barbara created a website on which she researched and wrote a biography of her remarkable grandfather. John Harwood Pierce was born in 1848 in the wilds of Canada. During his life he fought with the Union Army in the Civil War; was a frontier journalist during the Indian uprisings that led to the Battle of Little Big Horn; later became famous as an inventor, a poet, an entertainer, an orator, and an ordained minister. "Along the way he had five wives," says Barbara, "and he was 70 years old when my mother was born." When she started this website Barbara never dreamed it would interest others, but she often gets emails from long-lost relatives, and from journalists researching that era.

For another family research project, Barbara and her husband, Jim Halloran (also an Omnilorean), jointly edited her father's handwritten memoirs into digital format, and self-published them in a 200-page hard-bound book. It was a present for her father's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In retirement, books still play a part in Barbara's daily life – she is an avid book reviewer for Amazon.com. In the past two years she has contributed 135 published reviews to Amazon's book site, and readers have ranked her as the 1,300<sup>th</sup> most helpful reviewer in the U.S. "It takes me half a day or more – some even take several days," Barbara says. "I know my reviews help some people and irritate others, but I enjoy the academic discipline and it helps keep my mind sharp. I appreciate novels that challenge me to understand our human condition. And I am overjoyed when I find a book that can entertain me and at the same time make me think deeply about the major issues of our time."

Barbara met her husband ("oddly enough," as she says) at a USC seminar on "how to live as a single person." "I've known brilliant but controlling men," she says, "but Jim proved to be a brilliant man who could still understand and accept my need to be an independent woman." Today the couple live in Redondo Beach but travel widely. In the last few years they've been to Thailand and Peru, and made a 2,000-mile bicycle trip down the Pacific Coast from the Canadian to the Mexican border: "Don't think it was all downhill or flat! It was our own mini Tour de France, full of grueling climbs."

Hobbies? Barbara has two gardens – one floral, one planted with a dozen varieties of vegetables. "Between gardening and some experimental cooking, I figure that we eat healthily and get enough exercise," she says. Barbara also belongs to the PV and Torrance branches of the American Association of University Women. Some members of the AAUW told her about Omnilore, and she joined just over two years ago. "Somehow Myron Pullen heard that I had computer skills," Barbara says, "and I soon became Co-Webmaster. For me it was like finding home – everyone in the group loves learning, and each member has a mini-passion for knowledge."

So here's a question: Do Barbara and Omnilore make a good match? My answer: "Case" closed.

## DEAN'S CORNER



### Notes from CSUDH by Margaret Gordon

Dean, Lifelong Learning Institute  
College of Extended & International Education

Welcome to the new academic year at CSUDH. At the annual fall 2010 campus convocation which initiates the 2010-2011 academic year, President Mildred García addressed faculty and staff in the University Theatre. She recapped campus highlights of last year, including our Osher Endowment Award of \$1 million. Dr. García also previewed mission and goals from the new 5-year strategic plan for CSUDH which will soon be published. In addition, she thanked campus faculty and staff for their service to students and the community.

President García encouraged everyone to participate in an exciting line-up of special events for the campus' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The golden anniversary theme "Honoring Our History, Forging Our Future" will be recognized through many special presentations. Dr. García's Presidential Lecture Series, established in honor of the golden anniversary, will be inaugurated this fall with a talk by Henry Cisneros, former HUD Secretary and current Mayor of San Antonio. Mr. Cisneros' presentation, entitled "Essentials of Leadership for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," takes place September 30 at 6:30 pm in the University Theatre.

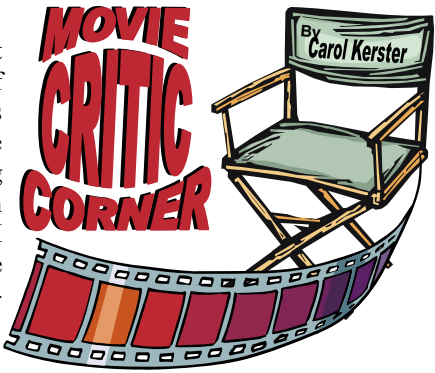
The Presidential Lecture Series is free and open to the public. OLLI members may want to bring a guest in order to highlight the kinds of campus events that OLLI members participate in regularly. The full schedule of campus 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary events is published at <http://www.csudh.edu/50thanniversary/>

Also in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup>, OLLI and CSUDH Alumni Programs are co-sponsoring "Walking in the Footsteps of the Dominguez Family," a lecture by Emeritus Professor of History Dr. Judson Grenier. The presentation is on November 10, 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Alumni 50+ years of age will be invited to socialize, discover South Bay's history, and find out about educational experiences our campus, including OLLI, offered to retired alumni.

For OLLI events and courses see the fall 2010 *OLLI at CSUDH Catalog* which was mailed to you in August. New OLLI courses, workshops and fieldtrips await you. The popular Osher Lecture Series begins Wednesday, September 22. This fall's topic is "Culture & Politics in History," and participants will enjoy lectures and discussions led by CSUDH professors.

We look forward to seeing you soon on campus.

If you liked the first film of the trilogy of Swedish crime movies developed from the books of the late Stieg Larsson, "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo," I believe you also will be enthralled with the second one, "The Girl Who Played With Fire." If



you were turned off by the violence, intrinsic though it was to the plot, you probably will skip this. However, I was once again, fully engaged by one of the most singular heroines ever seen, Lisbeth Salander, and her equally fascinating, if not always as aware of the machinations of the villains as she, magazine writer Mikael Blomkvist. This time, some of the early events that shaped Lisbeth are revealed, she is faced with antagonists of the most evil sort, and she must clear herself of two murder charges. No small task, but very exciting to watch, as played by this remarkable young actress, Noomi Rapace.

I couldn't have been more surprised about "The Kids Are All Right," than I was. I feared a preachy, sentimental, family values kind of film, and I was completely pleased by an excellent cast playing a perfectly delightful, believable, truly wholesome family, dealing with a crisis in very human, very recognizable ways. The parents, Annette Bening and Julianne Moore, are genuinely loving and caring moms to their teen-age children, Mia Wasikowska and Josh Hutcherson, who return the love and caring in equal measure. When Joni says to her brother, "That could really hurt mom's feelings," it rings absolutely true. Add to the mix the newly discovered sperm donor (father) of the children, Mark Ruffalo. Every one of these characters is beautifully drawn and totally appealing, a toast to their acting skills, to the director, Lisa Cholodenko, and to the smart script written by the director with Stuart Bloomberg. The kids are definitely all right, and so are the moms!

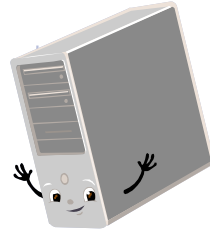
If memories of the consiglieri, Tom, who played to Marlon Brando's Godfather linger in your imagination, it's time to get over them, and take a look at Felix Bush. He is the self-condemned hermit with a reputation that the actual Godfather might have envied, and the center of the film "Get Low." Robert Duvall, the suave crime attorney in "The Godfather" couldn't be farther from type than Felix, the guilt-ridden Tennessee backwoodsman in this darkly comic piece. He is so dead-on, from his single word answers, to his gnarly hands, to his tangled face-covering beard, it's easy to forget you're watching an actor. That he's been called a "national monument" is not an exaggeration. Playing the undertaker who is more than happy to oblige Felix's extraordinary request to have a funeral before he is dead, is Bill Murray. His internal struggle between doing the right thing, or following his basically unethical self interest is as understated, but nevertheless as clear, as is Felix's struggle to disclose his painful truth. The two of them plus a beautiful, self-assured Sissy Spacek, as an early player in Felix's life, and a very attractive Lucas Black, the funeral director's assistant, who shows compassion without sentimentality, round out the cast of this very watchable, extremely satisfying movie.



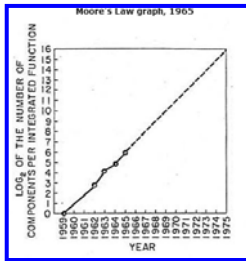
## Computer Talks

### Moore's Law

by Hal Hart



**Thursday, Sept. 23rd 12-1 p.m. - Room 7**



Every computer professional and many computer users are aware of Moore's Law. It predicts what has now been a 45-year unbroken trend (*which every computer buyer has noticed*) for computer hardware to halve in price every 2 years. Or is it really about doubling in component density on chips every 2 years? Or about computing power doubling per cost every 2 years? Or is it "every 18 months" instead of "2 years?" Actually, none

of these were Gordon Moore's original formulation in 1965 – but all are related (*one is his revised prediction in 1971*). These and other similarly stated trend projections have proven close to true for 4 decades, and all might figuratively be called a Collection of Moore's Laws.

This Computer Talk will start with a brief bio of the interesting Gordon Moore and then clarification of exactly what he predicted. Next we will look at some of the many related predictions sometimes confused with Moore's Law. Then we will see how Moore's Law has proven useful (e.g., for planning R&D budgets), to what extent it has become self-fulfilling, how it continues to remain important and what limiting or counteracting factors have come up, and current thinking about its future applicability. There will be time for questions and discussion, which are welcome at any time during the talk.

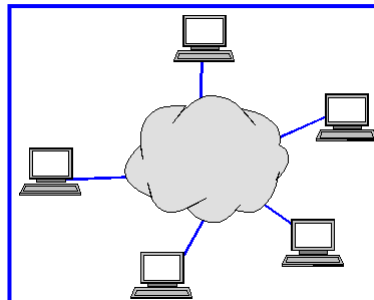
## Cloud Computing

### What It Is & How Could It Impact Your Life?

by Rick Spillane

**Thursday, Oct. 28th 12-1 p.m. - Room 7**

On October 28 Omnilore's Computer Talk will focus on the meaning of the term "Cloud Computing." **Cloud computing** is Internet-based and allows shared resources, software, and information to be provided to computers and other devices (like Smart phones) on demand, just like plugging into an electrical outlet. Cloud computing accommodates unlimited storage and backup of photos and documents while allowing instant movies and music on demand. This is a new area that Microsoft, Google, and Apple are trying to force us and entice us to move to. What is the real world impact on our lives and is it worth the cost? What about the security of your data or your computer? What about the security of information about you gathered by others or held by businesses you deal with? The talk will evaluate the cost to consumers and the advantages. Come to the Franklin Center at noon, **Thursday, October 28th** and we'll help you uncloud your mind about this developing trend.



## S/DG Survey Results for the Spring Trimester



by Patricia Edie

At the end of each trimester members receive a simple email survey asking for their feedback regarding each of the Study/Discussion Groups in which they participated. It is an opportunity to provide accolades for what contributed to a great learning experience as well as to make suggestions for improvement in future S/DGs.

**The good news:** results for the Spring Trimester indicate that on a whole, members are very pleased with their Omnilore experience. Most had their expectations met and five classes received an overall score of 5, with 5 being best! The aspects members enjoy most are the richness of discussion and the enthusiasm of the members. Field trips appear to be a highlight, adding to the overall experience. Coordinators that go out of their way to facilitate a stimulating class are very appreciated.

**The areas for improvement:** as always, our members don't like to be bored...so they recommend that presenters share their research in a comfortable conversational manner, not reading something word for word, and that they always leave time for stimulating discussion. They ask that "air time" be shared so all can participate and that opinions be heard in a respectful manner.

Lastly, the survey allows for members to nominate one person in the S/DG whose presentation was exceptional. The winners of this trimester's nominations are featured on the Members Showcase page on the Omnilore Website.

**We will be doing a tribute to Myron Pullen in the November-December newsletter.**



## *Songs for the Second Half*

by **Jim Bouchard**

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



### You Have to See this Original OLLI Musical!

I was invited a couple years ago to sit in on a reading of the first draft of a script. Living in L.A., and never having written a screen play myself, I jumped at the chance. Barry Bortnick, the UCLA OLLI director (since retired), was a composer and wanted to write an original "OLLI" musical. And he has seen his dream come true.

Since that reading, I've seen this project evolve into a funny, entertaining, poignant work that has been performed at UCLA, the Skirball, and Cal State L.A. After much cajoling, Barry agreed to assemble the cast of 8 actors for yet another performance for OLLI at CSUDH. The performance will take place on Sunday, October 10 at 1pm in the Extended Education Auditorium. Reserve a seat (there are only 99!) by calling Extended Education registration at 310-243-3741. The cost is only \$10 and non-members are welcome.

Read below for more about the musical. I look forward to seeing you there!

*OLLI at CSUDH presents...*

### **Songs for the Second Half**

*Special Performance: A staged reading of an original one-act musical about the joys, challenges, adventures and humor of the second half of life.*

**Sunday, October 10 at 1pm**

**Extended Ed Auditorium, CSUDH**

**Admission is \$10.**

**Call 310-243-3741 to reserve at seat.**

Enjoy a special afternoon as a cast of experienced singer/actors bring alive a new musical by writer Barry Bortnick - a comic and touching look at people of several generations engaged in one of everyone's favorite activities of the second half of life: *dealing with clutter, physical and otherwise*. Situations include: communicating across the generation and gender gaps, creating the psychological and physical space for things that matter and weeding out the things that don't, rediscovering old joys and passions as one approaches or finds oneself in the retirement years, grand parenting and leaving a legacy, and above all, maintaining a sense of wonder and humor. The show has had standing ovations from audiences at UCLA, the Skirball Cultural Center, and Cal State LA. The writer is also Founding Director of UCLA Extension's OLLI and manages to put that perspective to humorous and memorable use in some of the show's song moments.

The performance concludes with an opportunity to discuss with the cast and creative team some of the behind the scene secrets about the making of the show - and the mysterious workings of creativity in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of life.

Barry Bortnick, a composer/writer of musicals, has performed on both coasts as well as in London (for the Queen Mother). As former Program Director for the Humanities at UCLA Extension, Barry has worked with such figures at the Dalai Lama and Viktor Frankl, teacher of courses at UCLA on the American Musical and finding one's values in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of life.

## Hiking Group News

All Omnimore members and friends are invited to join the Hiking Group on the following walks:

On Friday, September 17, we will meet at 10 a.m. at the triangle among Palos Verdes Blvd. West, Via Corta, and Via Del Puente. Turn off PV Blvd. West onto Via Puente (it is one way). The memorial has a flagpole with an American flag and is across the street from the Palos Verdes Estates City Hall. Park on Via Del Puente. **Steve Miller** will lead a walk on the trails around the Palos Verdes Golf Course. The walk will take less than two hours and has little elevation gain. Bring a picnic lunch to eat following the hike. Contact Steve Miller (310) 379-5559 for further information.

On Friday, October 15th, **Kathleen Fitzgerald** will lead a walk at Ocean Front. We will meet in the parking lot at the Interpretive Center in Rancho Palos Verdes at 10 a.m. We will walk on the trail along the cliffs that parallel the ocean. Weather in October is very pleasant there and the shoreline and flocks of birds offer enjoyable views. The walk will take about 1-1/2 hours with little change of elevation. Bring a picnic lunch to eat following the walk. The Interpretive Center has some interesting exhibits depicting the geology and the flora and fauna of the area as well as the history of the region, and may be visited after lunch. Contact Kathleen Fitzgerald (310) 373-0946 for further information.

## October Date Set for New "Introducing Omnimore" Meeting

by  
*Howard  
Korman*



The Membership Committee has scheduled an "Introducing Omnimore" meeting for perspective members who may want to join *Omnimore* for the Spring trimester. The date is:

**Tuesday, October 19th  
10 a.m. at the Franklin Center in Room 7**

Attendance at an "Introducing Omnimore" meeting is mandatory for new members, so please tell anyone you know who might be interested about this upcoming date. 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!**



by  
Hal Hart

# THE EQUIPMENT BOX

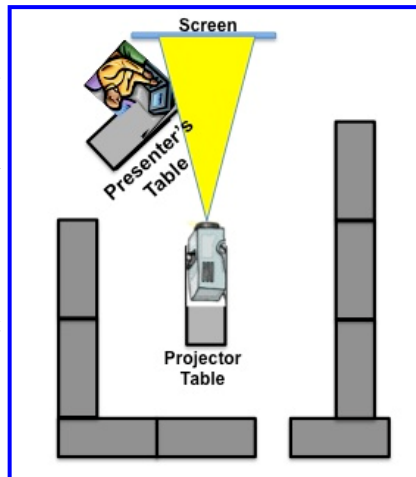
## MAKE EYE CONTACT!

### Newly Recommended Presentation-Friendly Room Setup

The meeting-room setup in the drawing below, putting the presenter up near the screen, has been tried with success in several Omnilore classes this spring and summer, and is now recommended for consideration by all S/DGs. This layout's main advantage is better eye contact between presenter and audience, including that class members do not have to turn heads 90 degrees or more in order to see the presenter and the screen when presentation equipment is used. Also, note the gap between tables at the bottom of the "U" setup – this has been used for about a year in most classes for ease of access to the projector table for equipment setup and the inevitable need to work switches and control buttons on the projector, speakers, etc.

3 hints to optimize this or any other equipment configuration:

1. Each equipment closet has (*in addition to the longer orange extension cord and power strip*) a thick black 6-foot extension cord with 3 outlets. Plug it into the power strip if plug-ins from different tables are necessary, that don't all easily reach to the power strip. Avoid stretching power cords so far that they don't lie safely on the floor.
2. Each equipment closet has a VGA "Extender Cable." This male-female VGA cable, when added to the standard male-male VGA cable that connects laptops to projectors, allows up to 12 feet of separation between laptop and projector instead of only 6 feet. The Extender Cables are stored on the 2<sup>nd</sup> hook from the left of the 5 hooks on the inside of the leftmost equipment closet door; they have tags with yellow backgrounds identifying them as "VGA Extender Cables." Use them whenever the most convenient setup requires the extra length, and please remember to return the Extender Cables to that 2<sup>nd</sup> hook (*as well as all other cables to their original locations, as indicated on their tags*).
3. Laptops must be set to the "2 Displays" mode for the presenter to see on her laptop's display what is being seen on the screen (behind her shoulder). On our Omnilore laptops, Function-8 toggles between the 1-Display & 2-Displays modes. On other laptops you must identify which function key has an icon or marking with 2 displays (or 2 side-by-side rectangles). Laminated help sheets about this situation are in Omnilore's laptop & projector cases.



**PS:** If you missed Equipment Training on Aug. 31, copies of the training charts are always available in an envelope on each equipment closet's doors. For personal help, email [Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG](mailto:Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG), or phone 310-375-1851 or cell 310-612-3410.

## Fall Osher Lecture Series

### Culture and Politics in History

#### About the series:

We are pleased to have the Dominguez Hills' History Department faculty present our Fall Osher Lecture Series. Culture and art may seem different from a society's economy and politics, but they are in fact integral to how it works. They tend to reflect and reinforce society's values. In addition, culture and art are frequently used by leaders to influence people. In this series of lectures we will look at how culture has served to reflect the values of a people and to influence those values in some key moments in history.

Six lectures are scheduled on mostly 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, beginning September 22nd (4th Wed.): October 6th, 20th; November 3rd, 17th; and December 8th (2nd Wed.). All lectures will be held in the Extended Education Auditorium, EE -1213.

#### Shaping Public Opinion in the Reign of Caesar Augustus

Wednesday, September 22 - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Jim Jeffers, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Chair, History Department

#### History and Memory

Wednesday, October 6 - **1:30 pm to 3:30 pm\***  
Christopher Monty, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, History Department

#### The Latin American Nueva Cancion or New Song Movement of the 1970's and 1980's: Music for Social Change

Wednesday, October 20 - 10:00 am to 12 pm  
Ericka Verba, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, History Department

#### Revolutionary Soviet Culture (1917-1941)

Wednesday, November 3 - **1:30 pm to 3:30 pm\***  
Christopher Monty, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, History Department

#### Making History Anew: Politics and Culture during the French Revolution

Wednesday, November 17 - 10:00 am to 12 pm  
Laura Talamante, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, History Department

#### Cultural Diversity in the Sixties:

#### Representations of the Chicana/o Movement

Wednesday, December 8 - 10:00 am to 12 pm  
Irene E. Vasquez, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, Chicana/Chicano Studies

**\*Please note** the time change for Dr. Christopher Monty's presentations on October 6th and November 3rd due to his Fall teaching schedule.

All fully-paid Omniloreans can attend these lectures free of charge. Members on mail-only status need to contact OLLI Assistant Diana in order to arrange OLLI membership status (310-243-3208).

Please let me know if you are interested in attending this series **and have not already informed me:** Johan 310-215-1848 - [johansmith@ca.rr.com](mailto:johansmith@ca.rr.com)

### THANKS from the Omnimore Board

The Board of Directors voted to show appreciation to the membership for the successful completion of over 20 years since the founding of Omnimore. All current fully-paid Omnimore members are invited to attend the October Annual Meeting for only \$10 per person (the cost for non-members is \$18). Please note this change on the registration form on page nine.

### Check It Out!

Our wonderful Webmaster adds/changes/improves our website every month. Have you checked it out recently?

### Forum Protocol

The Los Verdes Country Club is now insisting on an earlier count of attendees to Forum Luncheons.

You may not get the lunch as advertised if you don't send in your registration form and check in a timely manner. The Los Verdes Country Club cannot guarantee the same food for people who register after the required date.

Also we would very much appreciate it if all attendees register at the front table... and pick up your nametag when you come to these events. This will save Forum committee members' headaches when reconciling the attendance vs. the Los Verdes count.

### OLLI Macintosh Computer Lab - Opens this Fall!

Last fall, Bernard and Barbro Osher presented OLLI at CSUDH with a one-time gift of \$25,000 to buy equipment for an OLLI Macintosh computer lab. Additionally, Dr. Margaret Gordon, Dean, College of Extended & International Education offered room EE-1201 in the Extended Ed classroom building to house the 14 computers that were purchased. The lab will open this fall with 2 courses-- Introduction to Macintosh and Digital Photography.

In order to maximize the use of the Macintosh lab, we are looking for volunteer instructors to teach additional courses. If you can teach a class in web design, newsletters, greeting card, introductory Macintosh, or any other computer course, please contact our OLLI office at 310-243-3208, or email us at [olliassist@csudh.edu](mailto:olliassist@csudh.edu).

### Desperately Seeking Help!

*Newsletter Editor:* It's easy. Gather information of interest to Omnimoreans; writing, proof-reading and editing skills are desirable assets. (Make-up and assembly of the Newsletter is done by Johan Smith.) You can do it! Interested parties contact Diana Cutler (310) 541-8973 or Ruth Hart (310) 375-1851.

*Head Coordinator:* Three times a year, after class rosters have been determined, the Head Coordinator's important job is to find coordinators and co-coordinators for those classes. Needs to be a good 'cold-caller' and arm-twister. Good coordinators are the lifeblood of our organization! As a member of the board, you'll have an opportunity to help shape our organization. Interested parties contact Bill Gargaro (310) 316-1588.

### OLLI Open House - October 19

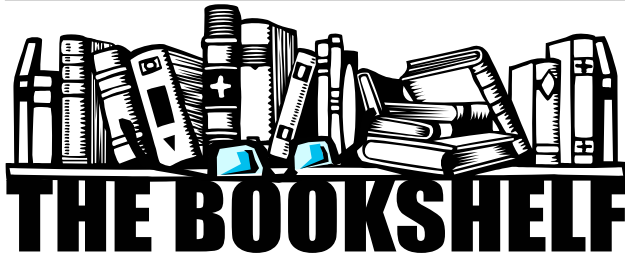
Do you have friends who are interested in joining OLLI? Invite them to our October OLLI Open House for a sample presentation by faculty member, Dr. Patricia Cherin who will discuss poetry and share some of her own poems!

OLLI Open House  
Extended Education Auditorium,  
EE-1213, CSUDH  
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

### Newsletter in Color!

Remember—You can sign up to have the newsletter sent directly to your email address in living color. You can also continue to receive it by mail at the same time, or you can choose to eliminate the paper version.

Contact Johan at [johansmith@ca.rr.com](mailto:johansmith@ca.rr.com) if you would like email delivery. You even get it faster that way!



by Patricia Edie

We had said this column would be “on vacation” until November 2010 but since Omnioleoreans **never** take a vacation from reading and recommending a good book, we are pleased to be able to offer the following suggestions for your autumn months’ reading pleasure:

Francis Fukuyama (NY Times) says that *Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry Into the Value of Work* by **Matthew B. Crawford**, is a beautiful little book about human excellence and the way it is undervalued in contemporary America. It is a natural heir to Pirsig’s “Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance.” Crawford, who has made the transition from philosopher and think-tank director to self-employed mender of motorbikes, extols the virtues of skilled trade, weaving together the rewards of fixing and making “things” with philosophy.

bread crumb trail and connects their dots to tell one big story by telling us many small stories that frame the history of civilization. It is not just about bread but the story of various grass seeds, ground into flour and baked into various breads that had major roles in nutrition, religion and culture, as well as politics, war and technology. Curl up in a cozy chair with a cup of tea and piece of toast and enjoy this read.

In *The Great Global Warming Blunder*, **Roy W. Spencer**, a key scientist in the global warming debate, brings crucial knowledge to the public and explains how and why others have reached the wrong hypotheses and why they refuse to back down from their bad science. This book clearly shows that the issue of global warming is not settled science.

Bread has been called the staff of life. It can also provide the structure for a unique look at history. In *Six Thousand Years of Bread: Its Holy and Unholy History* **Heinrich E. Jacob** follows his 6000 year long

Described as “an intriguing intellectual thriller,” “an amusing coming of age story,” and “offbeat, funny and swift” *Life After Genius* by **M. Ann Jacoby** is a tale of a highly intelligent college student and his relationships with parents, professors and a lack of friendships. The characters are remarkable and the devastations that life can bring ring so true.

If you are looking for a laugh, try *No Way to Treat a First Lady*, the latest novel by humorist **Christopher Buckley**, a scathing satire of sex and politics in Washington, DC. Buckley operates in a genre of satire that is all his own. His characters are recognizable and he adds another layer of farce by using real life media players to cover the trial. Peter Jennings, Jeffrey Toobin, Dan Rather and Barbara Walters, among others, all have cameo roles. It all adds up to a wonderfully easy read.

(Book suggestions from Omnioleoreans make this column work. Our thanks to **Jay Edie, H. E. Kamiya, Helen Leven** and **Dan Stern** for contributing to our list. Please send your title, with author’s name and a very brief description, to Patricia Edie: [jpédie@ca.rr.com](mailto:jpédie@ca.rr.com). Please put “Omnioleore Books” as the subject of your email. We look forward to hearing from you.)

**OMNIOLORE Annual Luncheon Reservation Form**

**Celebrating Over 20 Years of OMNIOLORE! Lunch for Each Fully-Paid Member is \$10!**

WHEN: **Friday, October 29th, 2010 – 11:00 a.m.**

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

Reservations are required by October 20th

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the **Omnioleore** Annual Luncheon at **\$10.00** each (current fully-paid member):

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

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the **Omnioleore** Annual Luncheon at **\$18.00** each (guest or mail-only member):

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

Enclosed is a check for:  \$10.00  \$18.00  Other

Please make checks out to **CSUDH**, and put in the Forum Committee’s box in Room 7 or send to:

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

- September**
- 6 Labor Day**
  - 9 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
  - 9 Rosh Hashanah**
  - 14 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
  - 17 Hiking Group - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
  - 18 Yom Kippur**
  - 22 First Day of Fall
  - 23 Computer Talk - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7  
*Moore's Law - Hal Hart (see article page 5)*
  - 28 Presentations 101 - 12 Noon - 1:30 p.m. - Room 7  
Kit Bell (see article, page 2)
- October**
- 11 Columbus Day Observed**
  - 12 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
  - 14 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
  - 15 Input Deadline for November-December 2010 Newsletter
  - 15 Hiking Group - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
  - 19 Introducing Omnimore Meeting - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon - Room 7
  - 28 Computer Talk - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7  
*Cloud Computing: What It Is & How Could It Impact Your Life?*  
Rick Spillane (see article page 5)
  - 29 Annual Meeting & Luncheon - **11 a.m.**  
Los Verdes Country Club (see article, page 1; reservation form, page 9)
  - 31 Halloween**
- November**
- 7 Daylight Savings Time Ends ("fall back" one hour)**
  - 23 Introducing Omnimore Meeting - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon - Room 7

OMNIOLORE  
CALENDAR  
2010

HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN



**2010 Forums**

- Winter - January 29th
- Spring - April 29th
- Summer - July 29th
- Annual Mtg. - October 29th

**IMPORTANT:**

Calendar changes and additions  
are scheduled with Lynn Taber  
(310) 831-4768 - ledwards\_92648@yahoo.com



**IN MEMORIAM**

Jim O'Neill died recently at 82 years young. He was born in Scotland and served for two years in the Royal Air Force. Afterwards he received his engineering degree from the

University of Glasgow. His career in the U.S. included working for North American Aviation on the Apollo Project, and culminated with 24 years at the McDonnell Douglas Corporation, where early on he introduced computer graphics to the engineering division.

In retirement, Jim enjoyed Omnimore for close to 20 years where he took over 100 classes, in many of which he served as coordinator. His favorite subjects were the human brain and evolution. He was also active in Great Books and Toastmasters. Everywhere he was recognized as a king of punsters.

**Omnimore Welcomes New Members**

by Howard Korman

Looking forward to the fall trimester, the Membership Committee held three "Introducing Omnimore" meetings this summer. Eighteen people attended; of those, 12 enrolled before the start of the new trimester.

Many **Omnimore** members helped by encouraging friends to get involved in **Omnimore**, and their assistance is much appreciated.

The Membership Committee would also like to thank the Daily Breeze, the Easy Reader, and the Beach Reporter for their publicity that resulted in several people attending. Flyers are posted in libraries for the meetings, and if anyone has any further suggestions for publicizing future meetings, feel free to contact me.

Let's welcome all our new members to the classes they have enthusiastically selected.



**WELCOME!**

**Dense DeVenuto**  
Rancho Palos Verdes

**Patricia Digre**  
Redondo Beach

**Jerry Green**  
Rancho Palos Verdes

**Janet Hironaka**  
San Pedro

**Bonny Kamen**  
Rancho Palos Verdes

**Deborah King-Powell**  
Hermosa Beach

**Nadine Koerner**  
Redondo Beach

**Julie Lane**  
Redondo Beach

**Mary & Tom Malone**  
Palos Verdes Estates

**Vera Minami**  
Torrance

**Alex Reisbord**  
San Pedro

**Geraldine Sinkus (Gerry)**  
Redondo Beach

**Barbara Torday**  
Redondo Beach