



# OMNIOLORE NEWS

Volume 13 Issue 1

January 2004

## OMNIOLORE NEWS

A publication of OMNIOLORE, a Learning in Retirement Organization affiliated with The Division of Extended Education of 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	Ronnie Saunders
Staff Members	Diana Cutler Carol Kerster

## January Forum To Focus On The Control Of Cancer In The Next 20 Years

By Carol Kerster



Once in awhile we have the opportunity to hear a topic of universal interest by an exceptional proponent. At the next Forum Luncheon, on Thursday, January 29th, our speaker is **Helene G. Brown**, nationally known expert in the field of cancer research, control and prevention. The meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the Los Verdes Country Club.

Mrs. Brown has been leading the charge against cancer since the 1950s. Everything related to the disease, from battling the fraud of cancer quackery, to reducing the use of tobacco in this country, to raising public awareness as to the importance of early detection, has been the object of her extraordinary energy and skill. It is not surprising that she is respected nationally as a forceful "political oncologist."

She has raised millions of private and federal dollars for research. She developed the original publication of *Guidelines for Cancer Related Examinations*, now used regularly by the American Cancer Society and National Cancer Institute. She has served on a seemingly endless number of committees and advisory boards extending from a position on the Health Section of the Democratic Platform Committee to recent service as co-chair of the Futures Initiative of the American Cancer Society.

If you don't want to miss the presentation by this most amazing woman, make your reservation using the form on page 5. A flyer with more details will be in the mail to you shortly.



### Golden State Encounter Trip Scheduled

*Omniole's* second motor coach tour in support of classes has been rescheduled to occur this coming spring. All *Omniole*ians are cordially invited to join those who studied early California history during the fall term and/or are continuing to study California history during the spring term. This form of study and travel proved highly successful for our encounter with Lewis and Clark last spring. This tour presents an opportunity to enhance your knowledge of California and its history, bond with other *Omniole*ians and have lots of fun.

Highlights of the trip include: Features of the 49er Trail; Sacramento's Old Town, Sutter's Fort, The State Capitol; John Muir's Home; an earlier capitol in Benicia; Jack London Historical Park; Guided Tours of "Gold-Rush-Era" San Francisco and Chinatown; National Steinbeck Center; Historic Monterey; some missions and much more. **Make reservations early to be sure you're included!**

Trip Dates: **April 28-May 4, 2004**

Per Person Price: \$798 Double Occupancy, \$345 Single Supplement  
Signup details in brochure available in Room 7

For further information, please contact: **John Taber**  
(310) 831-4768 or e-mail [ledwards\\_92648@yahoo.com](mailto:ledwards_92648@yahoo.com)

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

By George Clark

**O**mniole includes people from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests. This is usually an advantage, but it can also be a problem.

It is an advantage because of the breadth of knowledge and life experience we find in the average study/discussion group. I am surprised over and over again when a

question comes up in a group and we find we have an expert on the subject in our midst. Our discussions are also enriched when members share personal experiences related to the topic.

The wide spectrum of backgrounds becomes a problem when the topic involves specialized areas of knowledge. Sometimes this happens in study/discussion groups, such as in recent presentations on the contributions of

Isaac Newton to physics in the 17th century. Other examples are our Brown Bag Science series and the Computer Special Interest Group. How does one talk on a technical subject to a group containing both neophytes and experts? The best we can do is to pitch to somewhere in the middle, limit the coverage to three or four main points, and leave plenty of time for questions.



**Information Bytes  
from the  
Computer & Technology  
Special Interest Group**

**Library Resources . . . Just A Click Away!**

As students of CSUDH Extended Education department all *Omniorians* are eligible to use the University Library. It is a nice "field trip" to drive to the campus and spend the afternoon browsing through the stacks at the university, but did you know you could also access the library resources online using your computer internet browser? **Dottie Fahrney** gave a brief tutorial on the library website at our last C & T SIG. Here are some of the key points:

First of all you must register for borrowing privileges. Each *Omniorian* should have received a current, validated, buff-colored, paper university extension identification card when you received your receipt for your annual *Omniole* membership fee. If you did not receive yours, contact **Letty Rodriquez** at 310-243-2425 or [lmrodriguez@csudh.edu](mailto:lmrodriguez@csudh.edu) to request one.

Take this card and a picture ID to the Library Circulation Desk at the University and request borrowing privileges. A barcode will be attached to your card. You will need this number to log on to the Library website.

Using your internet browser, access the website at: <http://library.csudh.edu/>. If you use Internet Explorer 6 or Netscape 7 as your browser, you must enable cookies. (For IE 6 go to: Tools → Internet Options → Privacy → Edit)

From the website you can do many things:

- ◆ Search the CSUDH library catalog as well as the catalogs for the entire SCU and UC systems, the Library of Congress, and other academic libraries in the U.S.
- ◆ Search the full-text journals available in the CSUDH library and through internet databases.
- ◆ There are also electronic reference books available to you. At some point, you will need to enter your name and bar code. This gets you "inside" the library and gives you access to many restricted databases.

It takes some practice to get familiar with the links. Also, there is technical support available with a phone number listed on the website. The University will only provide technical support to certain browsers, and unfortunately AOL is not one of them. You can still access the site through AOL. However, you may have difficulty accessing certain databases, and if you have problems they will be unable to help you.

**Five-Star Repeats**

The Curriculum Committee is assembling a list of previously-offered excellent study/discussion groups that perhaps should be offered again. We would appreciate hearing recommendations from members about any S/DGs that you feel should be on this five-star list.

Just jot down your recommendation(s) on a piece of notepaper and place in the Curriculum box in Room 7, or directly suggest or e-mail to any of the members of the Curriculum Committee. If you have any suggestions for changes in the format of that S/DG, we'd like to hear that, too.

**Barbara Dove** - 326-3129  
26201 S. Vermont #201B  
Harbor City 90710

**Connie Greaser** - 821-8340  
4735C La Villa Marina  
Marina del Rey 90292-7036  
[conniegreaser@comcast.net](mailto:conniegreaser@comcast.net)

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Welcome

... New

Folks!

E-MAILS

Also, most public libraries now have electronic access to their resources. By going to their website in addition to searching their catalogs you can read search and read newspapers, place a request for a book, check your account status, and renew books. All from the comfort of your home!

**NEW MEETING DAY!!**

For the Spring Trimester the Computer & Technology SIG will meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons, from 1:30 to 3:30 pm, in Room 7. The first session will be Friday, January 16. All *Omniorians* are welcome to attend.

**OMNIOLORE PROFILE – GORDON KEHMEIER** *By Tom Rische*

Self-described workaholic and detail man, **Gordon Kehmeier** has just completed a two-year term as *Omniole* treasurer.

As a 30-year civil and structural engineer with the Los Angeles City Building Department, he dealt with tasks ranging from checking plans to testing new building materials.

As head of the research section, he conducted many studies of earthquake effects on buildings. (He gave a talk on these movers and shakers as part of *Omniole*'s ongoing Brown Bag science series.)

Of his lifetime achievements, he is proudest of his work with earth tremors. He notes that both southern Russia and Los Angeles had similar 7.2 earthquakes in the early 90's, but "We only lost 60-70 people in the Northridge quake, while more than 12,000 Russians died. I think I contributed to our better outcome. Earlier I was employed by aircraft companies making armaments, but both the F-86 and F-100 that I worked on were killing machines. I'd rather save lives," he said.

The International Conference on Building Officials adopted earthquake

codes based in large part on studies in Los Angeles. Here, they discovered a new factor, vertical thrust, as a possible component in quake damage. For several years, Gordon was a representative at ICBO conferences.

Born near Eckert, a small western Colorado town, he was the youngest of five children and spent his growing-up years on a farm, performing jobs ranging from milking cows to plowing fields and pitching hay. On irrigated land, they raised grains and raised cattle.

His recollections of early farm days were in *Omniole*'s 1996 *Writers Workshop - Fact and Fancy* short story collection.

Gordon's Depression Era parents, however, were determined on college for all their children. Aided by a scholarship and part-time jobs, he graduated from Colorado State in 1952 with a civil engineering degree.

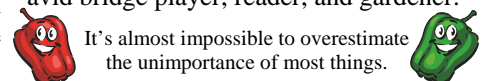
A student deferment kept him out of the Korean War, but he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1954 and spent 18 months in Panama as a surveyor and civil engineer. "I was pretty good in Spanish then, but when I got back, I forgot it," he commented.

Returning, he was smitten (in church) with a Scottish lass named Betty. Married in 1958, they produced a son and a daughter, but no grandchildren. From their first Inglewood home, they moved to El Segundo and later to their present San Pedro residence.

The Kehmeiers enjoy travel. They toured Europe, where he was pleased to find German relatives. Caribbean cruises as well, they celebrated the Millennium twice on a cruise to Australia and New Zealand. Their ship crossed and re-crossed the International Dateline on the trip. Earlier, their camper took the family to many American sites.

After retiring from the Los Angeles City Building Department, Kehmeier worked for other firms, including the Charles Abbot Company, which provided consulting and civic services for several smaller cities. He retired again in 1995.

In addition to *Omniole* sessions, he also tutors fourth graders at Torrance Elementary school one day a week and has long been a Presbyterian church elder. He also is an active Toastmaster and an avid bridge player, reader, and gardener.



It's almost impossible to overestimate the unimportance of most things.

**Thank You, Coordinators!**

*By Emil Raulin*

Coordinators and Co-Coordinators are essential to making *Omniole* a rather unique and outstanding Learning-In-Retirement organization. The coordinators plan and schedule the pre-meeting and set the tone for the study/discussion group. It is the coordinator that opens the room, arranges it to suit the group and begins and ends the meeting. They are the people that make our groups interesting, informative and keep things functioning smoothly.

We appreciate the work the following coordinators and co-coordinators have done during the fall trimester and thank them for accepting this responsibility:

- Marilou Lieman
- Cecilia Graham
- John Taber
- Terry Savage
- Edith Garvey
- Jim O'Neill
- Burt Cutler
- Merle Culbert
- Lori Geittmann
- Lloyd Money
- Diana Cutler
- Bob Saunders
- Julian Reinheimer
- Myron Pullen

- Marian Buck
- Dorothy Fahrney
- Carol Mc Cully
- Kathryn Loseff
- Denise Richards
- Patricia Edie
- Mike Scordan
- Ronnie Saunders
- Jean Levanas
- Gene Parrish
- Arlene Ememaker
- Jo-Ellen Gould
- Fran Kaveney
- Josephine Lancaster

- JoAnna Kerrigan
- Nancy Sinclair
- Elaine Grove
- Mary O'Neill
- Richard Foy
- Edith VanBellehem
- Hank Steddom
- Marvel Burke
- Edmund Rea
- Helene Macklis
- Emil Raulin
- Sally Konstan
- Jay Edie
- Shirlee Browne



Many of our coordinators have served in this capacity a number of times, so each trimester an effort is made to get some new people involved. We are a volunteer organization, and it is expected that our members will take on some responsibilities in addition to attending classes. How about volunteering to be a coordinator or co-coordinator next time?



Ten members of the Curriculum Committee (referred to as CC below) recently met to review our modus operandi. A number of suggestions and criticisms were presented - generated both by committee members and by other *Omniole* members. This will result in a number of improvements, but this article will focus on just one problem: the sometimes poor choice of a core text.

Inevitably, the quality and utility of the core text will vary all over the map. Usually the book selections are excellent, but sometimes a selection may be fair-to-awful.

In many instances, the person who wrote up a course description based it upon a book they had not read, or did read and thought appropriate, but that opinion was not shared by the class members. Hey, we are not all programmed to see things the same way. And of course whatever different process is used for book selection, there will be some who will not be happy.

There are many excellent S/DGs that do not use a core text, but many *Omniole* members strongly prefer courses using a book. A determination is made during the planning of each course as to how much time to allot to book discussions, taking into account the subject matter and the number of class members. It is not within the purview of the CC to tell coordinators or class members how to run their meetings. But it



February 22, 1732—December 14, 1799

We should never despair, our situation before has been unpromising and has changed for the better, so I trust, it will again. If new difficulties arise, we must only put forth new exertions and proportion our efforts to the exigency of the times.

## CURRICULUM COMMITTEE PLANS EXPERIMENT

By Burt Cutler

may be a useful exercise for all *Omniole* members to understand how some groups have handled this challenge in the past.

Here are some examples (none of which involved me as coordinator):

1. The very first *Omniole* class in January 1990, *Islam*, used a book recommended by the coordinator. By the second meeting the entire class was convinced that the selection was terrible, so we reduced the time that we spent discussing the book. Is that ever done today? If not, why not????
2. Rarely, coordinators have perused the proposed core text and found it, for any number of reasons, unacceptable; I recall *The English Revolution* years ago, where the two coordinators recognized that the suggested text covered only a small fraction of the topic, searched book stores and libraries to no avail (no Amazon.com then) and recommended that we proceed without a common reading. (The two brand-new members were abashed when the group concurred 9 to 2. It was a tougher introduction to *Omniole*, but it worked out well.)
3. For the S/DG *Opera 101* last year, the coordinators announced in the pre-meeting that though the common reading was excellent, with 16 members it was impractical to have presentations, listen to the selected music, and discuss the core text in a single session—so they recommended that everyone read the book on their own time, and zero class time would be devoted to the book; it was a rare and very wise decision.
4. There have been numerous cases where a coordinator personally has selected a book that the majority of the group finds disappointing. What are you going to do? In such a case the members can logically recommend a de-emphasis on the book or any other proposal intended to alleviate the pain.

People have asked why the CC does not examine all the proposed books and just weed out the bad ones. Quite impractical; who would want someone who wasn't even in the class to be involved in the book selection? And imagine the job of evaluating some 20 books each trimester?

Here's what we're going to try in Summer 2004. All common reading will be noted as "tentative" (which means don't buy it until you hear from the coordinator). After the selection of a coordinator and co-coordinator, their first responsibility will be to immediately obtain and mutually examine the tentative common reading. In the majority of cases, they will concur that the book selection is a good one and will advise their members to purchase same. In the rare circumstance where the book is deemed inappropriate, they will evaluate other books and advise the members as soon as possible of their alternate recommendation.

The key thing, in our view, is to have two people concur; two views will surely help if not entirely eliminate the problem. We believe that this process will significantly reduce complaints about the quality of the common reading. Also, it is hoped that coordinator training will emphasize to both new and 'old' coordinators that a common reading does not always have to be the "core" of the class operation.



February 12, 1809—April 5, 1865  
16th President

It is said an Eastern monarch once charged his wise men to invent him a sentence, to be ever in view, and which should be true and appropriate in all times and situations. They presented him the words: "*And this, too, shall pass away.*" How much it expresses! How chastening in the hour of pride!—how consoling in the depth of affliction!



**The Cookie Thief**

*By Valerie Cox*

*How many times in our lives, have we absolutely known that something was a certain way, only to discover later that what we believed to be true ... was not? We've all been cookie thieves at one time or another!*



A woman was waiting at an airport one night,  
 With several long hours before her flight.  
 She hunted for a book in the airport shops.  
 Bought a bag of cookies and found a place to drop.  
 She was engrossed in her book but happened to see,  
 That the man sitting beside her, as bold as could be.  
 Grabbed a cookie or two from the bag in between,  
 Which she tried to ignore to avoid a scene.  
 So she munched the cookies and watched the clock,  
 As the gutsy cookie thief diminished her stock.  
 She was getting more irritated as the minutes ticked by,  
 Thinking, "If I wasn't so nice, I would blacken his eye."  
 With each cookie she took, he took one too,  
 When only one was left, she wondered what he would do.  
 With a smile on his face, and a nervous laugh,  
 He took the last cookie and broke it in half.  
 He offered her half, as he ate the other,  
 She snatched it from him and thought...  
 ooh, brother.  
 This guy has some nerve and he's also rude,  
 Why he didn't even show any gratitude!  
 She had never known when she had been so galled,  
 And sighed with relief when her flight was called.  
 She gathered her belongings and headed to the gate,  
 Refusing to look back at the thieving ingrate.  
 She boarded the plane, and sank in her seat,  
 Then she sought her book, which was almost complete.  
 As she reached in her baggage, she gasped with surprise,  
 There was her bag of cookies, in front of her eyes.  
 If mine are here, she moaned in despair,  
 The others were his, and he tried to share.  
 Too late to apologize, she realized with grief,  
 That she was the rude one, the ingrate, the thief.

**Osher  
 Lifelong  
 Learning  
 Institute**

**University Telecasts:  
 OLLIonline Discussion Forums**

*By Patricia Edie*



If you have tuned into the OLLIonline program televised from CSUDH on Monday afternoons from 1 – 2 pm, you have experienced the interactive learning opportunity to view and participate in a stimulating lecture. Are you aware that you can also participate in a "Discussion" on the lecture material from the comfort of your own computer? The University has prepared a simple step-by-step set of instructions to help you access and engage in this ongoing discussion.

1. Access the internet through your usual internet service provider.
2. **Click once** on the address bar.
3. **Type www.ollionline.tv**.
4. Press the **Enter** button on the keyboard. This brings you to the OLLIonline Website
5. **Click once** on "**Program Series**" This is the first item in the Menu Box below the OLLI logo. This will take you to the list of lectures and topics.
6. **Click once** on the class and lecture topic that you would like to learn more about; for example click on "Where is the West and Where Can I Find It?" Use the arrows to scroll up & down on the right side of the screen if needed. Now you are in the area of specific lecture topics.
7. To participate in the discussion of a specific topic, **Click** on **Student Discussion Forum** on the box located in the right side of the page.
8. A list of questions will appear and a list of resources to assist you in answering the questions. **Click once** on the question you would like to respond to.
9. If you would like to answer this question or add a comment, **Click** on the **Post Reply** button.
10. **Type** your name in the **Username Box**.
11. **Type** the Subject of your response in the **Subject Box**.
12. **Type** your response in the **Message Body Box** below.
13. When finished, **Click Submit** and your response will be posted on the forum. Please wait a couple of seconds for your response to be posted; then you will be taken to the beginning of the Discussion Forum.

**OMNIOLORE Forum Luncheon Reservation Form**

WHEN: *Thursday*, January 29th, 2004 – 11:30 a.m.

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

*Reservations are  
 required by January 23rd,  
 please!*

Please make \_\_\_\_ reservations for the **Omniole** Luncheon Forum at \$15

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

Enclosed is a check for:  \$15  Other

Please make checks out to **CSUDH**, Forum Committee, c/o Diana Cutler  
 and put in the Forum Committee's 10 Middleridge Lane S.  
 box or send to: Rolling Hills, CA 90274

## OMNIOLORE CALENDAR

2004

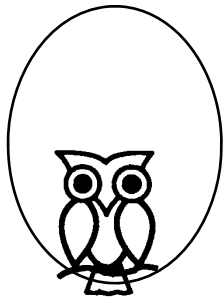
# Happy New Year!



<b>January</b>	1	<b>New Year's Day</b>
	5	Forum Committee Meeting - 12 Noon - Room 7
	8	Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7
	13	Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m. - Room 7
	16	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
	16	Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Room 7
<b>February</b>	19	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>
	29	Spring Forum - 11:30 a.m. - Los Verdes Country Club
	5	Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12-1:00 p.m. - Room 7 <i>The Developing Brain</i> - Ruth Money
	6	Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Room 7
	10	Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m. - Room 7
	12	Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7
	14	<b>Valentine's Day</b>
	15	Input Deadline for March-April Newsletter
	16	<b>Presidents' Day</b>
	18	REN - Modern Renaissance Class, 10 a.m.-Noon - CSUDH (to be confirmed)
20	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.	
20	Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Room 7	

### IMPORTANT

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



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