



# OMNIOLORE NEWS

Volume 13 Issue 2

March 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

### Board of Directors

President	George Clark
VP - Academics	Nancy Sinclair
VP - Administration	Carol Johnson
Treasurer	John Stevens
Recording Secretary	JoAnna Kerrigan
Past President	Blanche Herring
Member-at-Large	Tom Vincent
Member-at-Large	Lori Geittmann
Member-at-Large	Rick Spillane

### Standing Committee Chairs

Membership	Edith Garvey
Forum	Diana Cutler
Communications	Ronnie Saunders
Head Coordinator	Emil Raulin
Curriculum	Burt Cutler

### Appointees

Edith Garvey	New Member Liaison
Bob Grove	Registrar
Bob Saunders	Archivist

*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



Jonathan 'Yonni' Schwartz

## Scientist, Naturalist, To Address April Forum

By Diana Cutler

**Jonathan Schwartz** will be our guest speaker at the *Omniole* Forum Luncheon, to be held at the Los Verdes Country Club, 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

His credentials include eight years of formal education in world geography and allied topics at the University of Haifa and at USC, where he taught environmental ethics, concepts, policy and theory, and he has 18 years of world travel experience.

The specific focus of the presentation is the half year trip 'Yonnie' made from the border of the US and Mexico with a backpacking trip in Copper Canyon, climbing the high volcanoes in Central Mexico, visiting Mayan ruins in Southern Mexico, scuba diving in the Yucatan Peninsula and a canoe trip through the jungles of Guatemala. In each of these regions he will talk about the natural and human landscape of the area while showing slides taken on the trip.

Cost of the luncheon is \$15.00 and you can reserve your place by filling out the registration form on page 3. A flyer with more details will be mailed to you shortly.

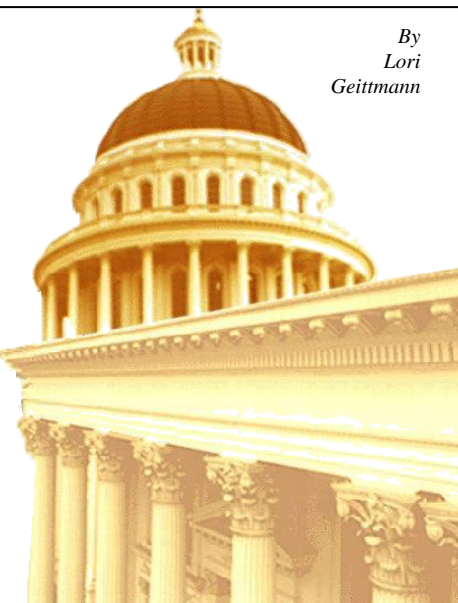
## Legislator to Address Class

By  
Lori  
Geittmann

The two sections of the California Problems Class will end by going directly to the source when a local member of the State Legislature will attend the class and answer questions. The plan is to have the final meeting at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 23rd. As this is a split class, both groups will attend together.

By the time you receive this newsletter, plans should be firm.

Other *Omniole*ians who are interested may visit the class on this day. Please contact either coordinator so that we may have an idea on how many visitors to expect: **Gordon Kehmeier**, 833-6213 or **Lori Geittmann**, 316-1729.



Poets say science takes away from the beauty of the stars - mere globs of gas atoms. I, too, can see the stars on a desert night, and feel them. But do I see less or more? The vastness of the heavens stretches my imagination - stuck on this carousel my eye can catch one-million-year-old light. It does no harm to the mystery to know a little about it.

Richard Feynman

### DON'T MISS - IN THIS ISSUE

◆ President's Message	Page 2
◆ Information Bytes	Page 2
◆ Profile - Midge Solomon	Page 3
◆ Brown-Bag Science	Page 4
◆ Forum Reservation Form	Page 5





**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

By George Clark

By the time we have reached our present ages, we *Omnilore* members tend to have made up our minds on a number of things we were unsure of when we were younger. We have also developed some level of pride in our accomplishments and expertise. If we do not guard against it, these natural traits may be accompanied by a tendency to be less open to opposing viewpoints. Also, some of us may sometimes be a little, well, um, crotchety (it could *happen*). It is worth keeping in mind that we are in *Omnilore* to learn, not to win arguments. We will get the most out of

group discussions if we maintain the approach that we are all working together to find and understand the facts about our topics. The benefit we all seek is not a personal victory of any kind, but the new knowledge we carry away from the discussions.



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

**Special Interest = Special Expertise!**

**How did the Irish Jig get started?**

Too much to drink and not enough restrooms!



**Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?**

Because they're always a little short.



**How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?**

He's Dublin over with laughter!



In August 2002 a group of *Omnilore* members, with a desire to enhance computer skills, began meeting as a Special Interest Group. In true *Omnilore* fashion, we began to share our knowledge and questions with each other and we all learned. In the hope of helping all levels of computer users (from the members who just acquired their first computers to the members who once earned livings as computer specialists) we attempt to create meeting agendas twice a month (1st and 3rd Friday afternoons, Room 7, 1:30 – 3:30) with something for everyone. In this column we hope to share some of our “learnings” with the greater membership.

**Myron Pullen** told us about the website “Wikipedia” at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

This website is a free, multilingual encyclopedia that currently contains 204,035 articles in the English version sent in by people from all over the world. A “know-it-all” website, it is unique in that it is not only free and easy to use but it is built on collaboration, allowing users to submit entries as well as edit entries. From what Myron has been able to determine, there are some controls in place, although the users are rather controlled themselves. The bottom line in his mind is that Wikipedia embodies the true spirit of the Internet being dynamic and open. Of course its content should be verified against other sources, but it is an interesting place to visit and peruse.

**Jay Belsky** told us of a new software application, “GuruNet” that he downloaded from [www.gurunet.com](http://www.gurunet.com)

This application is praised by the *Wall Street Journal* as an ultimate reference software. GuruNet comes in several flavors. With GuruNet Free, you get instant access to a first-class dictionary, spell-checker, thesaurus and word translations, accessed by Alt-clicking on any word or phrase in any Windows document. The full version of GuruNet (annual subscription of \$24) gives you the *complete* library full of online reference books on demand, packed into a small bar on your screen, available exactly where and when you need them. With a single click on any word, GuruNet delivers valuable *real-time* reference data, including encyclopedia and dictionary terms, thesaurus, acronyms, tech terms, quotations, idioms, people, company descriptions, stock quotes, news, sports, weather, maps, celebrities and more.

**Members helping Members:**

Some regular C&T SIG members have volunteered to help other *Omnilorians* solve hardware and software problems by telephone. Feel free to contact the appropriate person below if you have a question or problem with any of the computer software or hardware listed:

<b>Microsoft WORD</b>	Carol Johnson	372-8535
<b>Microsoft EXCEL</b>	Bob Grove	833-3039
<b>Microsoft PowerPoint</b>	George Clark	546-2343
<b>Outlook Express Email</b>	Patricia Edie	822-8549
<b>Web Browsers</b>	Myron Pullen	546-2155
<b>Hardware issues</b>	Bob Saunders	540-1429
<b>Using Search Engines</b>	Jay Edie	822-8549

Please join us and pick up more “Information Bytes!”

**Signs That Technology Has Taken Over Your Life**

- ◆ On vacation, you are reading a computer manual and turning the pages faster than everyone else who is reading John Grisham novels.
- ◆ The thought that CD could refer to investment finance or music rarely enters your mind.
- ◆ You rotate your screen savers more frequently than your automobile tires.
- ◆ Your wife asks you to pick up some minipads for her at the store and you return with a rest for your mouse.
- ◆ You have a functioning home copier machine, but every toaster you own turns bread into charcoal.

**OMNIOLORE PROFILE – MIDGE SOLOMON**

Midge Solomon was a child of the depression. After moving from apartment to apartment in upper Manhattan and the Bronx as financial circumstances dictated, at the age of 10 she moved with her parents and two younger sisters to New Britain, Conn. where her father opened a service yard for school busses and tour busses.

As the depression worsened and he lost his business, he became a traveling salesman, selling auto parts. The family traveled with him to Columbus, Ohio, where Midge attended middle school; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Detroit, Michigan during World War II where her father went into the tire retread business and her mother became a bookkeeper.

During her teen years Midge spent her summers with an aunt who was a bookie. Midge picked up the numbers for her, accompanied her to the track and learned how to gamble and handicap horses. Moving around with her family and meeting her aunt's interesting friends was a priceless education in meeting people and making friends.

After graduation from Central High School in Detroit, Midge enrolled at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where she studied for a year before moving with her parents to Los Angeles.

After buying gas ration stamps, she drove cross country in 1945 to their new home and enrolled in UCLA. When her father died, Midge's mother opened a paint and hardware store in the Los Feliz area and put her three daughters through college.

At UCLA Midge majored in "anything and everything," finally getting her degree in apparel merchandising. While in college she met Fred Solomon on a blind date, fell in love, and married him after graduation. Fred worked in his father's fine wine and gourmet food business on Rodeo Drive. After moving into an apartment, Midge and Fred built a house in Cheviot Hills, where their two sons were born.

After Fred's father sold his business, he became a salesman for an importer from San Francisco. After his father's death, Fred decided to go into the importing business himself. Midge became his bookkeeper, went back to UCLA evenings for eight years and studied accounting. Although she qualified for the CPA exam, she decided to keep working with Fred. She was one of the early women in the accounting field, and she loved it. She took care of all import documentation for their growing business. The Solomons sold their

house in the sixties and moved to Beverly Hills.

As the business grew, Midge loved traveling with Fred. They would combine business trips with pleasure and visit areas tourists never see. They attended parties in the homes of business acquaintances in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia and China; and they watched those countries emerge.

When they retired nine years ago they decided to relocate. They came to the South Bay because their two sons lived there, fell in love with the Peninsula, rented at first, and then bought and remodeled their condo in Rolling Hills Estates.

Since her retirement Midge has kept busy. For five years she volunteered to help AARP assist low-income people do their annual income taxes, and loved it. She worked with the grounds committee of her homeowner's association and served on the condo board for three and one-half years. Four years ago she joined *Omniole*. In addition, she is a member of Spectrum Athletic Club where she participates in yoga and Pilates.

Rounding out her busy schedule is reading, classic jazz, and making new friends in *Omniole*.

**ANNUAL DOWNTOWN WALK  
SET FOR APRIL 2ND**

*By John Taber*

Care to see downtown Los Angeles from a different point of view? Join *Omniole's* Walking Group on Friday, April 2nd for its annual downtown tour. We'll meet at the Artesia Blue-Line Metro station and catch the first train after 9:00 a.m. Get off the 91 freeway at the Acadia off-ramp, cross under the freeway and Artesia Boulevard, and find the parking lot about a block north on your right. Plan to be there about 15 minutes early to find a parking place and buy your ticket.

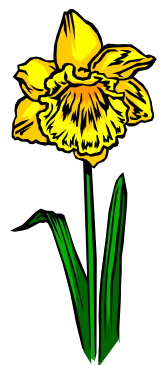
We'll view architecture, art and history in an area that's undergone remarkable change in the past few decades. Our tour will include lunch at a local eatery, rests, and restroom stops. By 3:30 p.m. we will be back at our starting station. Details of the tour are still evolving, so prepare to be surprised!

This walk was originally scheduled for April 23rd, but was rescheduled so participants in the special edition of the California Problems Class can attend that as well as join us for this event. (See article on first page).

Questions? Call **John Taber** at 831-4768 or **Nancy Shannon-Sinclair** at 513-0287.



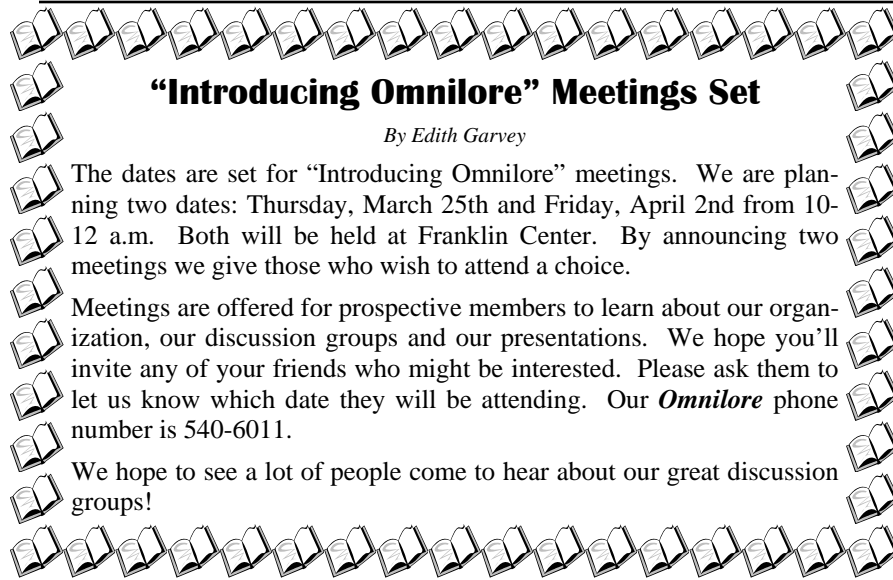
**Bundles  
of  
Blooms**



Wheat and corn are important crops, no question about that. But a daffodil farm provides nourishment too - for the soul. By the handful at first, and then the armful, beauty goes forth from there in bundles of blooms.

How else to set hope down on distant desks and table tops all over the country? Daffodils amount to a kind of bulletin in a vase, a news flash to say: things are looking up, so we can too.

The center of the daffodil is called the trumpet. Of course it is. What else would a messenger have but a trumpet?



## “Introducing Omnimore” Meetings Set

By Edith Garvey

The dates are set for “Introducing Omnimore” meetings. We are planning two dates: Thursday, March 25th and Friday, April 2nd from 10-12 a.m. Both will be held at Franklin Center. By announcing two meetings we give those who wish to attend a choice.

Meetings are offered for prospective members to learn about our organization, our discussion groups and our presentations. We hope you’ll invite any of your friends who might be interested. Please ask them to let us know which date they will be attending. Our *Omnimore* phone number is 540-6011.

We hope to see a lot of people come to hear about our great discussion groups!

## OMNIOLORE CURRICULUM



By Burt Cutler

A special **Thank You** from the Curriculum Committee to those members who recently submitted topic suggestions that helped add spice to our summer offerings!

Hurrahs to **Shirley Bachelder, Les Berg, Marian Buck, Daryl Creighton, Diana & Burt Cutler, Dean Dwyer, Patricia & Jay Edie, Estelle & Sam Feinstein, Sheila Hoff, H.E. Kamiya, Robert Koch, Helen Leven, Norman Lobsenz, Carol Lopalito, Kathryn Loseff, Mary & Jim O’Neill, Myron Pullen, Nancy Shannon-Sinclair, Hal Simmons, Hank Steddum** and **Nancy Wells**.

### Attaway, Gang!

Topics may be submitted throughout the year - just take home a Topic Suggestion Form from, and return it to, the Curriculum Box in Room #7.

Two cautions:

1. Several topic suggestions did not make the cut because the writer’s description was just a single sentence; we really need a well-written paragraph comparable to those you vote on every trimester.
2. If you’ve been submitting topics and they haven’t been offered to the membership, perhaps a mentor can help you add some pizzazz - the members of the Curriculum Committee are semi-ordinary humans, just like other *Omnimore* members, who inevitably are influenced by the quality of the write-up. I can recommend three members - **Patricia Edie, H.E. Kamiya** and **Sam Rifman** - who could do a topic on “cats” or on “plumbing” and have it sail right through; so next time why don’t you sidle up to one of them and get some top-notch critique and suggestions?



## Brown Bag Science

By Lloyd Money

Brown-Bag lectures on Science for the Intelligent Layman are scheduled for the first Thursday of every month in Room 7 at noon.

Recent noon time Science Seminars featured Lloyd Money in December talking about Searching for Dark Energy and Dark Matter. Those of you who missed this lecture could still be in the dark about the 95 percent of the universe that we cannot see. In February Ruth Money’s illustrated talk showed fascinating good news of research in neuroscience, dispelling the misconception that the neurons that you are born with are all you will ever have. Furthermore, the synapses of the brain are continuously being rewired through our experience. Those who attended were reminded that their brains had been rewired by the time they left.

Here are the treats that are lined up for future seminars. Please join us and feel free to bring your lunch.

### March 4 *The Strange Order in Chaos* - George Clark

Chaos took a long time to be discovered. The first surprise in its discovery was that the explanations defied common sense: one expected small causes to have small effects and simple systems to behave in simple ways. The next surprise was finding the same behavior in radically different chaotic systems. If you want to avoid a heart attack, reading a book on mathematics seemed a nonsensical way to approach the problem. It hadn’t been obvious that heart fibrillation, the stock market, the weather, the learning process, the population of rabbits, turbulence in fluids, the flow of electricity, the behavior of computer networks, etc., etc., all obey the same mathematical laws of chaos. It seems that new knowledge is most valuable when it contradicts something we thought we knew.

### April 1 *The Brain’s Visual System* - Jim O’Neill

This talk will explore normal and abnormal aspects of vision: illusions, sleight-of-hand, blind sight, dreams, hallucinations, visions, eyewitness reliability, effects of emotions and discrepancies in visual memory.

### May 6 *Faster Than a Speeding Bullet* - John Travis

How do you get satellites into orbit? How does centrifugal force balance the pull of gravity? What is the needed speed compared to various kinds of bullets? More details in the next issue of the *Omnimore* Newsletter.

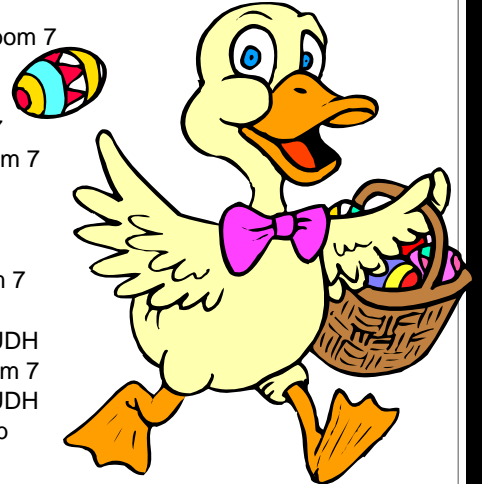
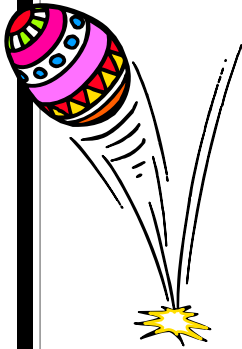
OMNIOLORE  
CALENDAR  
2004

**March**

3 REN - Modern Renaissance Class - 1-3:00 p.m. - CSUDH  
 4 Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12-1:00 p.m. - Room 7  
*Chaos Theory* - George Clark  
 5 Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Room 7  
 9 Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m. - Room 7  
 10 REN - Modern Renaissance Class - 1-3:00 p.m. - CSUDH  
 11 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7  
**17 St. Patrick's Day**  
 19 Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Room 7  
 25 Introducing **Omniole** Meeting - 10-12 p.m. - Room 7  
 26 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.  
 29 Forum Committee Meeting - 11:30-1 p.m. - Room 7

**April**

1 Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12-1:00 p.m. - Room 7  
*The Brain's Visual System* - Jim O'Neill  
 2 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.  
 2 Introducing **Omniole** Meeting - 10-12 p.m. - Room 7  
 2 Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Room 7  
**6 Passover**  
 8 Board of Directors Meeting - 12-2 p.m. - Room  
**11 Easter**  
 13 Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m. - Room 7  
 15 Input Deadline for May-June Newsletter  
 16 REN - Modern Renaissance Class, 10-12 p.m. - CSUDH  
 16 Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Room 7  
 21 REN - Modern Renaissance Class, 10-12 p.m. - CSUDH  
 29 Spring Forum - 11:30 a.m. - Los Verdes Country Club



**IMPORTANT**

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

**Cancer Activist  
Addresses Forum**

By Carol Kerster

From the moment she approached the lectern at our Forum Luncheon on January 29th, it was easy to see why **Helene Brown**, Director of the Johnson Cancer Center Foundation at UCLA, has been, and still is, such a success in her efforts to place public health issues into action. It was also possible to feel as hopeful as she, that cancer deaths can be reduced in half by 2015.



With energy, wit, and clarity she informed a rapt audience of the many achievements in raising public awareness regarding early prevention and detection techniques of cancer. Pap smears, lumpectomies, PSA tests, colonoscopies and the hazards of smoking have all been issues she has put her considerable knowledge and strength into publicizing and promoting. Through lobbying, advising, lecturing, and even, she acknowledged, "bribing," (she invited

a large group of MD's to a "fancy dinner at the Century Plaza" where they were persuaded of the efficacy of lumpectomies), she has made an immeasurable impact on the lives of many.

She concluded her excellent presentation with some very practical advice to **Omniole**ians: make sure you avail yourself of the above-mentioned techniques, avoid the noon-day sun, and for more information, call the National Cancer Institute at (800) 4 CANCER, or the American Cancer Society at (800) ACS 2345 for specific cancer questions.

**OMNIOLORE Forum Luncheon Reservation Form**

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

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

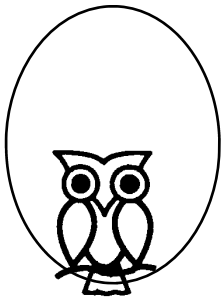
Reservations are  
required by April 23rd,  
please!

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

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



**Omnilore, CSUDH**  
**Division of Extended Education**  
**PMB 236**  
**P.O. Box 7000**  
**Redondo Beach, Ca. 90277-8710**