



OMNIOLORE NEWS



Volume 25 Issue 6

www.omnilore.org

December 2016

DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	Page 2
Profile: Marion Smith	Page 3
In Memoriam	Page 3
Movie Critic Corner	Page 4
Calling all Coordinators . . .	Page 4
Dean's Corner	Page 5
Costume Contest Winners	Page 5
News from OLLI	Page 6
Best Sellers SIG	Page 6
SKYPing the Pacific	Page 7
Annual Meeting Pictures	Pages 8-10
The Bookshelf	Page 11
Next Intro. Omnilore Meeting	Page 11
Calendar	Page 12
Omnilore's New Board	Page 12

Omnilore Loses a Founder: Michael Scordan

Michael Joseph Scordan entered this world on Monday, July 9, 1934 at Providence Hospital in Seattle, Washington. He left Seattle in 1952 after graduating Seattle Preparatory, joined the Marine Corps as the Korean War was winding down, and spent most of his three years in service repairing transmitters at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station in North Carolina.



Michael with Lindie Banks.

Following his military discharge, Mike attended Loyola University in Chicago for a semester prior to entering the seminary in August 1956 to study for the Jesuit priesthood. By the time he graduated from Gonzaga University in Spokane six years later, he had raked up bachelors' degrees with honors in five majors - English, Latin, Greek, History, and Philosophy. In 1963 he received his master's degree in philosophy and credentials to teach in both Washington and Oregon.

After leaving the Jesuits, Mike spent three quarters teaching at the University of Washington in Seattle before he decided to leave teaching and into claims adjusting. He began his career with an independent claims adjusting firm in Riverside, California before switching to State Farm in 1966 from which followed a 23-year career. While pursuing his career in the insurance industry, Mike picked up a law degree from La Salle University at Chicago after four years of correspondence study.



Michael in 1952

He was a life member of Mensa and a member of ISPE (International Society for Philosophical Enquiry) since 1990. Not only was Mike's intellectual life lofty, but his social life as well. Measuring 6'4", Mike has been affiliated with the Tall Clubs International since 1964, mingling with over 5'10" women and 6'2" men for over 50 years. He was also a member of the San Fernando Tip Toppers.

After retiring in 1989, Mike pursued two primary interests: study and travel. Many of his travels were based on first-hand visits to historical places; and he frequently made these trips by rail to enable him to see the country close-up. His travels took him to Canada, Boston, Chicago, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Houston and San Antonio on this continent and to Russia, China, Hong Kong, Greece and Italy. His most meaningful travel experiences included spending time in the room in which Lincoln died at the Peterson House opposite the Ford Theatre and seeing

[For Donations, see Page 3.](#)

[Continued on Page 2.](#)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Elected Officers

President	Frank Pohlner
VP - Academics	Judy Bayer
VP - Administration	Gloria Martin
Treasurer	Kent McDonald
Recording Secretary	Judy North
Past President	Art Irizarry
Member-at-Large	Claire Damecour
Member-at-Large	Joy Jurena
Member-at-Large	Robert Mallano

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership	Florence Murphy
Forum	Lori Geittmann
Communications	Marion Smith
Curriculum	Rick Spillane
Technology	Bill Gargaro
Head Coordinator	Marilyn Brashear

Appointees

Registrar	Carolyn Pohlner
SDG Scheduling	Ruth & Hal Hart
Room Scheduling	Lynn Taber
Laptop Administrator	Rick Spillane
Equipment	Hal Hart
	Jim Slattery
Supplies	Jill McKenzie
Office Manager	Lynn Anderson
Member Advocate	Frank Reiner
Webmasters	Hal Hart
	Dennis Goodno

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.

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

Editor	Mary Golob
Staff Member	Open

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Frank Pohlner

First, allow me to offer a sincere thank-you to Art Irizarry and the entire 2015-2016 Board of Directors for: the above and beyond work in arranging and executing our move to BCHD, updating our Governing Procedures, launching an in-depth organization self-evaluation effort, all while facilitating three trimesters of stimulating study and discussion groups, supporting the Special Interest Groups, and exploring the feasibility of presentations at senior housing communities and future group travel opportunities.

Second, I welcome our incoming board with the knowledge that they too share the passion for learning and the desire to continue to make Omnilore the best that we possibly can.

I thought that I knew a great many Omniloreans through the S/DG's in which I had participated but I realized at the Annual Meeting that there are still a great many that I do not know so I thought that I would introduce myself.

Some of you may have seen the profile about me and my wife that was in the newsletter last year, so I will keep my introduction brief. I grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. It is now probably most famous for spicy hot, steamed blue crabs and being the birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner. I earned my bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and moved to Los Angeles to take a job with the Hughes Aircraft Company in Culver City in 1973. This same year Carolyn and I got married. Taking advantage of a great Hughes tuition

reimbursement plan and the proximity to Loyola, I received my master's degree in computer engineering in 1976.

I designed specialized computer hardware for a few years but then became more and more interested in the discipline of systems engineering. My career progressed to larger and more complex assignments in line management and systems engineering management. I developed and taught a number of systems engineering courses for the Hughes Advanced Technical Education Program (ATEP), an after hours educational program for the technical staff to keep up to date. I taught these courses for about 18 years until I retired in 2007 after 34 years at Hughes and then Raytheon.

After retiring from Raytheon I took a position with a consulting firm. My main assignment was to assist client companies in the development and presentation of major milestone design reviews to the U.S. government on defense contracts. One of these assignments was for three years in Huntsville, Alabama. What an immersion in a foreign culture! I was even able to pick up some of the language.

It was during the Huntsville years that Carolyn discovered OLLI courses at the University of Alabama. When we returned to L.A. we found Omnilore through the OLLI program at CSUDH.

A modern engineering education left little time for classes in the humanities so I embrace the concept of becoming a "Renaissance Man" and study literature,

art, architecture, philosophy, law, history, political science, etc. as an Omnilorean. I firmly believe in the ideals of Omnilore. My objectives for the upcoming year are to:



1. Continue to elicit feedback from our membership on our performance as a peer learning and teaching in retirement organization.
2. Use that feedback to improve Coordinator training, Member Awareness, Procedures and Administration.
3. Develop a "Best Practices" area for our website for templates, examples, checklists, study guides etc.
4. Follow-up on providing presentation speakers to senior housing communities that request it.
5. Continue efforts to provide Group Travel opportunities.
6. Encourage more hands-on S/DG's similar to the cooking presentations in the Julia Child SD/G and the wine tastings for the Wine Appreciation class. Maybe have HAM radio licensing, woodworking, embroidery, you propose it. Possibly add some more Special Interest Groups in other hobby areas.

I look forward to another enriching year with you in Omnilore.



Continued from Page 1. Michelangelo's David in Florence, Italy. He enjoyed studying philosophy, theology, and mysticism (both Eastern and Western). Shortly after he retired, he joined Great Books and the embryo group which was later to evolve into the OmniLore Society where he was an early Curriculum Chair.

Mike was always interested in exploring new ideas and never gave up on his love of philosophy, and learning in general. His experience ran the gamut from a Jesuit Seminary to the Marine Corps, with a law degree thrown in for good measure.

Dan Stern

Mike coordinated a long series of philosophy classes with Omnilore. We went from the early Greeks up to contemporary thinkers, some of which were really hard to understand, but we learned a lot. Mike loved to discuss ideas. He also greatly enjoyed chocolate chip cookies.

Kathleen Fitzgerald

He was a good friend . . . He took me to three outpatient surgeries, waited and brought me home. I'm grateful for our poetry sessions, our breakfasts at Ruby's, and his appreciation of my efforts to provide him with a home-cooked meal now and then.

Lindie Banks

Omnilore Profile—Marion Smith

by Kate Nelson

Marion Smith loves lectures. She looks forward to giving and listening to presentations in her Omnilore classes. Discussions? Not so much. “I don’t say a word during discussions,” she said. “Even when I’m leading one—I just ask the questions and listen to the answers.” She is the first to agree that Omnilore’s model works for all different learning styles: listeners, talkers, researchers, demonstrators, readers, writers, debaters, even, in the case of Shakespeare, frustrated actors. Marion joined Omnilore in 2011, and many of you will recognize her as the author of a number of profiles in the Omnilore newsletter (she asks questions; she listens to the answers). She also manages the OLLI website using skills she honed in her 26-year career as Policy and Web Consultant at Cal State Dominguez Hills.



computers were beginning to be used in industry. Companies were looking for math majors to write programs and analyze data, and Marion was picked up by Standard Oil in the days of punched cards and room-sized computers. She agrees with the axiom that if you want to stay young, change careers every five years. In the rapidly developing world of computers, this happens automatically. Marion is still learning about computers, only these days she is sometimes helped by her two sons. The oldest, a software engineer, recently showed her how to dictate a text into her phone, helpful for texting in the car (“only as a passenger,” she hastens to add). The younger son, a college math professor, is

her primary editor and her go-to date for the annual Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM) which she attends faithfully (2017: Atlanta, January 4-8).

When digital information started to take over the academic world, the library staff at CSUDH said they couldn’t handle the copyright issues any more. Marion took on that responsibility and enjoyed the challenge of keeping up with copyright laws and training staff in correct practices. When she first started at CSUDH, in 1986, she ran computer labs, teaching incoming students how to use various applications. “Students don’t need that any more. Another job I worked my way out of,” she said with a laugh.

When she’s not profiling or preparing an Omnilore presentation, Marion is taking Omnilore classes (history is a favorite subject now, since she avoided it at Stanford), going to the theater and traveling from her home in San Pedro. Coming up: “Hamilton” in NYC on April 30 and the Kentucky Derby on May 6, giving her just five months to shop for a hat. She was in Vienna in April and cruising the Hudson River in October. At the end of September, she took a Road Scholar trip with fellow Omnilorean Lynn Anderson to St. Nicolas Ranch just outside Fresno. The ranch hosts a nearby Greek monastery and immerses visitors in all things Greek: a Greek cooking class, a Greek dancing lesson--and four lectures. Perfect!

Marion had been lucky to be in on the ground floor of computer development. Born and raised in Long Beach, she graduated from Stanford in 1959 with a degree in math, just as

- Donations in memory of Michael Scordan and his contributions to Omnilore may be made to **The Friends of the Redondo Beach Public Library**. Please mail to:
- Friends of the Redondo Beach Public Library
- 303 North Pacific Coast Highway
- Redondo Beach, CA, 90277



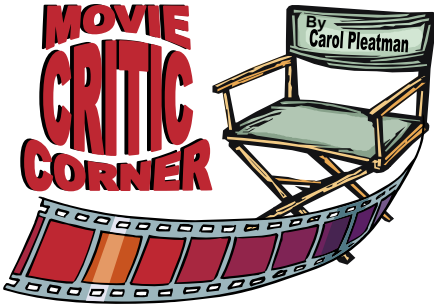
**Beach Cities renamed our rooms so firefighters could logically find them:
Suite A is now L8
Suite B is now L9**

In Memoriam

Marvin Orenstein



Marvin was born in The Bronx, NY, September 12, 1932. He graduated from Bronx High School of Science and Baruch College, a division of CCNY. He was a CPA and worked in public accounting for more than 50 years. He moved from the New York area to Palos Verdes in 1982. Marvin was an active member of Congregation Ner Tamid and served as its Treasurer, later serving as Treasurer of the CNT Men’s Club. His first wife, Dorothy, died in 1995 and he married Ellen in 1997. He and Ellen enjoyed traveling, especially cruising, and covered a lot of territory – cruising to Mexico, through the Panama Canal, to Alaska as well as journeying farther afield to Hawaii, Europe, Russia, China, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, the south Pacific and the Galapagos. He enjoyed being an Omnilorean and especially enjoyed the documentary film classes. He took a number of short story classes with Ellen and was always surprised at how much retired English teachers could find to discuss in a story of just a few pages. Marvin passed away August 19th.



A *Man Called Ove* is an adaptation of the Swedish best seller of the same name by the writer and director Hannes Holm. It tells the story of the curmudgeonly old widower, Ove Lindahl (Rolf Lassgard), who hates dogs, cats, kids and foreigners.

Ove is an ill-tempered, isolated retiree who lost his job with the railroad after he worked there for more than 40 years. He has strict principles and a short fuse. He spends his days enforcing block association rules and visiting his wife's grave. Several years ago he was deposed as president of the condominium association, but doesn't care that he is deposed and keeps looking over the neighborhood with an iron first.

When we first meet Ove in the movie, he has finally given up on life just as an unlikely friendship develops with his boisterous, nuisance neighbors. Pregnant Parvaneh (Bahar Pars) and her family move into the house opposite his, and an unexpected friendship begins between the matriarch Parvaneh and grumpy Ove. It is a drama comedy that

will make you cry and laugh as this unexpected friendship unfolds.

The story of Ove's life is shown through a series of flashbacks with a casual social history of Sweden in the last half of the 20th century.

While the entire cast is terrific, Lassgard and Pars are the standouts. Sweden's official entry for the best foreign-language film for Academy Awards, it won three Gulbagge (Oscars) including the Best Actor Award for its star Rolf Lassgard.

It is currently playing at the Laemmle theaters in Santa Monica and in Long Beach.

I really didn't want to see the movie *Sully*, even though it stars Tom Hanks and was made by the genius of Clint Eastwood. I thought it was another Hollywood hero glorification movie - a cookie-cutter version of the stoic superhero. But when a friend invited me to a special screening at Warner Brothers with food and wine, how could I refuse? I was surprised at how really good this movie is, good enough for me to recommend. It had so much more to it than just a man landing an airplane and saving 155 lives.

The film is about the life of Chesley Sullenberger, the pilot who pulled off an emergency plane landing on the Hudson River on January 15, 2009, known as "the Miracle on the Hudson." The Airbus A320 left New York's La Guardia airport headed to Charlotte, NC. Five

minutes after taking off, the Airbus lost both engines after flying into a flock of Canada geese. Sully was able to save all 155 passengers and crew

This is a story about the human behind the wheel. It is a story of a professional pilot facing not only an incredible event, but the harrowing aftermath of its investigation by the FAA and the National Transportation Board which questioned his decision to land in the Hudson rather than trying to make it back to La Guardia. The movie focuses on Sully's struggles, self doubt, the crash investigation and the effect on him and his family.

No one plays a better "any man" than Tom Hanks. He has a unique way of connecting with the audience, so that we experience the personal journey of Sully. Aaron Eckhart gives a great performance as the co-pilot and looks remarkably like the real co-pilot, Jeff Skiles, by the way. Laua Linney gives a convincing performance as Sully's wife.

The movie is now showing at AMC Rolling Hills, Arclight El Segundo and Cinemax in Playa Vista.

And don't forget to see *The Eagle Huntress*, a beautiful documentary set in the Mongolian steppe, and the winner of the audience award for best documentary feature. It is playing an exclusive engagement at the Laemmle Royal in Santa Monica.

You, too, can be a film critic!

Send your review to

Newsletter@Omniole.org

Calling All Coordinators and Co-coordinators!

... and all those members who've ever wondered what it means to be a coordinator! This meeting is for YOU!

2017 Winter- Spring 2017 Coordinators Meeting

Wednesday, November 30th, 2016

1:30 - 3:30 pm

BCHD Suite L8 (formerly known as Suite A)

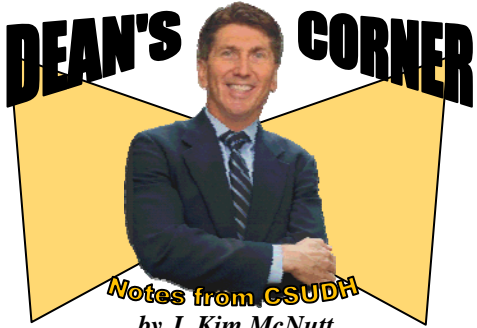
by Carolyn Pohlner

The meeting will be presented in 2 parts. Part 1 will acquaint all coordinators and their cos with the standard requirements of their respective positions - approximately a 45 minutes presentation. Part 2 will be a panel discussion with experienced coordinators who will address 'Tactful Techniques' for being a Coordinator.

Immediately afterwards, an intercession of light refreshments will be served. And I mean good refreshments!

But, WAIT, there's more!

In our continuing efforts to offer the best training for our wonderful cast of Volunteer Coordinators, Omnilore is pleased to present Part 2 - a "Select Panel" of experienced, well-evaluated, currently active Coordinators who have been asked to share some of their more successful classroom management techniques with us! These panel members have been highly rated by their classes for modeling behavior and characteristics that would benefit all of us in the true Omnilorean spirit. The panel will focus on standard FAQ, as well as questions from the audience - so stay for Part 2. You'll be glad you did!



Dean, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
College of Extended & International Education
CSUDH

Season's Greetings Omnimoreans!

First I want to thank everyone for the invitation to attend the Halloween luncheon and general meeting October 31st. Budget Officer Ed Cleek and I enjoyed the costumes, good food and lively conversation. Los Verdes is a wonderful venue.

It's my favorite time of year when the nights are colder and days are cool and

crisp and the Holiday season is upon us. Remember to enjoy good food and enjoy spending time with loved ones and friends.

It's been another great year at The College of Extended and International Education. We've added new staff to increase the number of international students to CSUDH; have made or will be making replacement hires for our faculty coordinator for the Masters of Quality Assurance degree program and a Director of Training and Development to develop new programs and generate new tuition revenue to finance the college. I'm well into my 3rd year as Dean of CEIE and we are nearly fully staffed to take the college well into the future. We look forward to offering training and professional development courses at the Beach Cities Health Center beginning in February. If prospective adult learners can't come to Carson, we'll take the education to them. I'm excited by the possibilities to extend our reach into the beach communities. Exciting times indeed.

Finally, I want to personally thank Art Irrizary for his outstanding service as Omnimore President. He did a great job leading the organization and working with CEIE in a collegial fashion, particularly with the move to the new BCHC location. I also want to welcome new Omnimore President, Frank Pohlner. Frank will do a great job continuing the good work of the organization working in tandem with a dedicated Board of Directors, vibrant members, OLLI and of course the team at CEIE.

Enjoy Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza, Winter Fest, or whatever you celebrate in your home at this magical time of year. Reflect on all the good things in your life and Best Wishes for an exciting and prosperous new year!

Costume Contest Winners



Jill McKenzie took 1st place in the costume contest depicting Cleopatra



Joy Jurena, Carol Wingate and Gloria Martin cast their spell over Omnimore, winning 3rd place in the costume contest. They were depicting the "Three Witches" from Shakespeare's play Macbeth. They were reading from the scene that begins "Double, double, toil and trouble" which communicates the witches' intent in the play to increase trouble for the mortals around them.



PRINCE HAL, Cohort of Falstaff in Wenching & Ale Tasting during King Henry IV, Future Revered King Henry V (Hal Hart took 2nd place in the costume contest.)



**Computer Talks is Taking
November & December Off Due to the Holidays!
Look for Us in The January-February 2017 Newsletter**





**Long Beach Opera Production of Henry Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*
(as adapted by The Culture Clash & Andreas Mitisek)**

by Elyse Gura

La Margo Washington, OLLI Director

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)
California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH)**

www.csudh.edu/olli



The Long Beach Opera (LBO) is the oldest opera company in the LA/OC region. Unlike other opera companies, LBO presents new, rarely performed and unconventional works. *The Fairy Queen* represents one of those rare and unconventional experiences – a gender-bending culture clash of social satire, re-imagining Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in our own multicultural America. Henry Purcell’s music is fused with Chicano updates from Culture Clash and Baroque overlays from Musica Angelica. Spoken text and movement combine with the music to create a truly unique experience – at once 17th century England and 21st century America. The LA Times review says it all: “*The music is, from start to finish, delicious.*”

The Fairy Queen will be presented by the **Long Beach Opera** on January 22 and 28, 2017 (two shows) at The Beverly O’Neill Theater in Long Beach.

Ingrigued? Want to learn more?

On January 12, 2017, Jerold Kappel, Executive Director and CEO of the Long Beach Opera, will be at Omnimore to offer insight into the origins of this opera, the social setting in which it was created and its rediscovery in the twentieth century. The presentation covers spoken word, visual images and musical sound.

You are invited to register for this presentation and to bring a friend. The presentation is free for both of you!

Where & When

Thursday, January 12, 10:30am – 12:00 pm

Beach Cities Room at BCHD



SPACE IS LIMITED so register soon.

RSVP either by emailing olli@csudh.edu or call (310) 243-3208

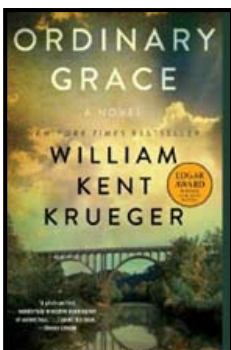
Happiness doesn't lie in conspicuousness. Happiness lies in the person sitting beside you and your ability to talk to them. Happiness is clear-headed human interaction and empathy. Happiness is home. And home is not a house---home is a mythological conceit. It is a state of mind. A place of communion and unconditional love. It is where when you cross its threshold, you finally feel at peace.

Dennis Lehane, *Mystery Writer* (provided by Helen Leven)

Fall—Best Sellers SIG Reads

by Patricia Edie & Cindy Eggert

Omnimore’s Best Sellers Special Interest Group continues to meet each month, at 12 noon on the second Monday of the month in Suite A (L8) of the Beach Cities Health Center to discuss the chosen book for the month. We alternate each month between various works of fiction and non-fiction. After taking a hiatus for the month of October, we will resume our meetings in November and December. Upcoming dates and book selections are:



Monday
December 12:
Fiction
Ordinary Grace
by
William Kent Krueger

Monday
January 9:
Non-Fiction
H is for Hawk
by
Helen MacDonald



As with any SIG,
you do not need to register to participate...
just show up on the date prepared to participate.
Guests are always welcomed.



SKYPEing the Pacific

by Bill Gargaro and Judith Burke

The Pacific 1 S/DG got started with a real bang at its first meeting: an electronic face-to-face interview with the renowned author, Simon Winchester, whose book *Pacific* is the principal basis for the S/DG. This interview was made possible by a Skype session set up by Omnilorean **Judith Burke**. She had previously established a personal relationship with Mr. Winchester's wife while visiting Massachusetts. This led to the idea of asking him if he would be willing to participate in a Skype session with the class and he graciously agreed. Judith set up a successful preparatory session with him to check things out.

At our first meeting Judith and **Bill Gargaro** set up her laptop and the Omnilore audio/video projection equipment in Suite A (now L8) to conduct the interview in which the whole action would be projected for everyone to see and hear, and with possible participation of the audience. All the equipment worked without a glitch. At the agreed time, Judith and Mr. Winchester went on-line and Judith initiated the Internet Skype connection. In an instant the author's image appeared (from his writing room) on the screen (still the wall) and his voice was clear and loud thanks to our small speakers having been plugged into Judith's laptop.

The interview itself was keyed by questions that PA1 members had come up with and Judith had submitted to Mr. Winchester in advance, although he was willing to accept questions presented on-the-spot. He was charming, gracious and very interesting in addressing our questions, as well as adding his own thoughts on related topics. He even shared other topics, such as future books that he might pursue. The session lasted some 25-30 minutes. Altogether the audience, which included some PA2 members invited by coordinator **Maria Ashla**, enjoyed the session immensely. During the session our PA1 ace photographer **Kirk Tuey** took some great photos to capture the occasion.

Given our success in this instance, this method of holding a real-time, electronic face-to-face "meeting" can clearly be applied for similar purposes by other interested S/DGs with some advance footwork by interested Omniloreans. Any Omnilorean with a Skype account can use our own PCs to provide the image of the person being interviewed as the source to be projected. For technical advice and support, potential Skyppers should get in touch with our technical crew via: equipment@omnilore.org.



Judith Burke & Bill Gargaro man the equipment while Mr. Winchesster talked to the class.



PA1 Class

Standing from left to right: Kirk Tuey, Ruth Bloland (co-coordinator), Chuck Gray, Judith Burke, Maria Ashla (Coordinator), Mark Pepys, Bill Gargaro

Sitting: Mary Gluck, Carl Spiegel, Marilou Lieman—holding class book, Lynn Taber, Margaret Thelen

Omnilore's 25th Annual Meeting & Luncheon



1. Nancy Bell; 2. Egyptian queens, Jill McKenzie & Andrea Gargaro; 3. Frank Pohlner, our new president, with his Halloween smile; 4. Carolyn Pohlner; 5. Claire Damecour as Lady Macbeth; 6. Red Communist Steve Miller; 7. Ronnie & Carlos Lemmi; 8. Muriel Blatt, Frances Roberts and Stu Watson; 9. Donna Wong and husband/guest Dennis Vaznaian; 10. Cordelia Hwang; 11. Judy Bayer, Mary Gluck and Lynn Taber; 12. Ruth Bloland and Kathleen Fitzgerald.

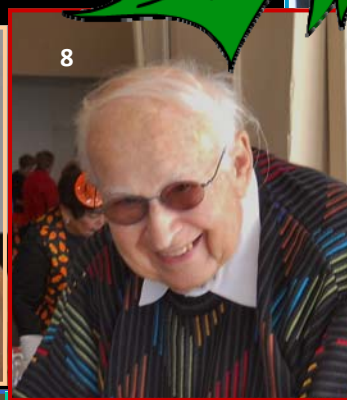
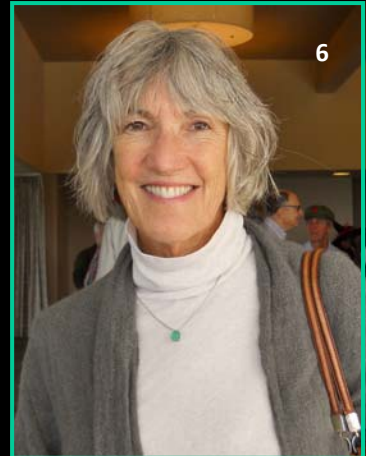


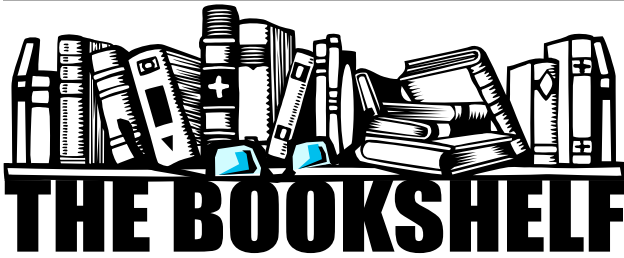


1. Leslie Criswell; 2. Lynn Schubert; 3. Jade Suzanne Neely; 4. Marilyn Brashear and Jean de Angelis; 5. Marion Smith as Princess Di; 6. Richard Reilly; 7. Dean Kim McNutt & Ed Cleek EE CFO; 8. Lynn & John Taber and Nancy Shannon; 9. Bill Gargaro as the Merchant of Venice with Prince Hal (Hart); 10. Judith & Jim North; 11. Frances Roberts and Janet Hironaka; 12. Vera Pashky and Janet Christy; 13. Bob Mallano flanked by Jim and Berthe Slattery; 14. Omnilore witches: Florence Murphy, Gloria Martin, Joy Jurena and Carol Wingate.



1. Jeanne Wilson; 2. Kent McDonald; 3. Frank Reimer with Mercedes & Al Ortiz; 4. Mary Watson; 5. Linda Jensen with her natural lavender hair; 6. Kate Nelson; 7. Dick (guest) & Anne Faass; 8. Mel Schrier; 9. Lisa Coffi, our speaker, with Lori Geittmann, Forum Chair; 10. Harriet Apsel and Dale Korman (mother and daughter); 11. Rick Spillane and Ken Meyer; 12. Lynn & Philip Solomita flanking Howard Korman in his Lego Nexo Knight costume.





***The Piano Teacher*, by Janice Lee**

Read this right after *The Expatriates* since I really enjoyed this author's style. Again, the story takes place in Hong Kong. Time goes back and forth between 1942 and 1953. Interesting characters and vivid descriptions of that part of the world during wartime make this book another winner by Janice Lee.

***Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America*, by Jill Leovy.** Jill Leovy is an acclaimed Los Angeles Times reporter. Her book is a reflection of eleven years as a journalist on the "police beat" during which time she was embedded in the Los Angeles Police Department's Seventy-seventh Street Division. She has met personally with the characters she describes and has watched the crime scenes unfold, attended court hearings, and conducted extensive research. She has visited with victims' families, attended funerals, and walked the streets of South Los Angeles where she has observed neighborhoods overwhelmed by grief – a mother in a baggy T-shirt with her murdered son's picture emblazoned on it, grieving families hiding behind barred windows.

To Leovy, the media and law enforcement have practically ignored the murder of African Americans who comprise just six percent of the country's population but almost 40 percent of homicide victims. We read the book primarily through the investigations of Detective John Skaggs, LAPD, who is both compassionate and relentless. He cares. He earns the trust of the community. To him, and to many of his fellow detectives, black lives do matter.

The narrative of "Ghettoside" traces a homicide case – the murder of Bryant

Tennelle, 18 years old, out with a friend walking his bike and carrying a root beer a few doors from his home. Bryant is the son of a respected African-American detective with the LAPD, who has stayed in Watts to raise his family. Tennelle is the first detective on the scene and has to leave to tell his wife that their son has been shot and killed by a random stranger who has escaped. It's difficult to read but so important. The issues of police brutality that have exploded in the news preceded the writing of "Ghettoside"; however, despite their flaws, Leovy presents the homicide detectives as dedicated, hard-working, often frustrated public servants. Witnesses refuse to talk to them, recant on the witness stand, lie, all making their task practically impossible. They are like the stepchildren of the legal/criminal justice system.

"Ghettoside" is riveting, a must-read. It has had amazing reviews, all well deserved.

***Finale*, by Thomas Mallon.** A novel of the Reagan era in his last term. Filled with the back stories of those closest to the President, the Iceland summit, lobbyists, D.C. wheeling and dealing, the very close relationship of Nancy and Ronald and her protectiveness. Though it has a bit of the Dominick Dunne kind of gossip, it is a great reminder of that period.

***The Sunflower*, by Simon Wiesenthal.** At a September meeting of *Mystery Writers of America Presents Vengeance*, our classmate Steve Kolodny made reference to the above story and related it to forgiveness in the story we were reading.

I was fascinated & came home to download it on my Kindle. My 23 year old granddaughter, Jennifer, was also caught up by the subject as I talked about it. Reading it together has led to some interesting discussions. Reading it with a younger person whose beliefs are still developing has given me a different per-

spective on the ideas in the book.

The first 100 pages or so are by Mr. Wiesenthal and describe his experience in the prison camps and having a dying SS Nazi ask him for forgiveness. His prison mates and friends have ideas on whether or not forgiveness should be granted. The subject haunted him for years until someone close helped him gain new insight of the Holocaust.

Originally written in the 70's before a lot of us had much knowledge on the holocaust, it is current & relevant. The following pages are short essays on forgiveness by philosophers & theologians. I highly recommend this book.

And Then All Hell Broke Loose is a riveting account of the last 20 years of chaos in the middle east. Told by the journalist **Richard Engel** who spent these years in the midst of the fighting in Palestine/Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and Afghanistan, one gets a realistic view of what really went on and the US role in the causes and continued fighting. This non-fiction account reads like an adventure novel because of the dangers Engel placed himself in and his dramatic writing style. He was the foreign correspondent for NBC in the midst of the fighting and has reported on their news shows. Engel begins with the Israeli Palestinian conflict and then describes the fighting with the different and splintered terrorist groups. Among them are ISIS, al-Qaeda, Taliban and Hezbollah. A terrific read for a look into what the past two decades have wrought in the middle east and what the future might bring.

Book suggestions from Omnioleoreans make this column work. Thanks to Helen Leven, Judy Bayer and Vickie Volchok for contributing to this month's list. Please send your titles, with author's name and a brief description, to Johan (johansmith@ca.rr.com). Please put "Omnioleore Books" as the subject of your email. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Next INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETING:
Tuesday, November 29th
 1:30 p.m.
 Suite A / L8 **Help Spread the Word! RSVP 310-514-1415**



- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--|
| November | 6 | Return to Standard Time |
| | 8 | Election Day |
| | 10 | Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-2 p.m., Suite A/L8 |
| | 11 | Veterans Day |
| | 14 | Best Sellers Book Group—12 noon-1 p.m., Suite A/L8 |
| | 24 | Thanksgiving Day |
| | 29 | Introducing Omnilore Meeting—1:30 p.m., Suite A/L8 |
| | 30 | Coordinator Training—1:30-3:30 p.m., Suite A/L8 |
| December | 8 | Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-2 p.m., Suite A/L8 |
| | 12 | Best Sellers Book Group—12 noon-1 p.m., Suite A/L8 |
| | 15 | Input Deadline for January-February 2017 Newsletter |
| | 16 | Walking Group—Holiday Hike & Lunch, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. |
| | 24 | Hanukkah |
| | 25 | Christmas Day |

OMNILORE
CALENDAR
2016



**Happy
Hanukkah**

**Merry
Christmas**

2017 Forums

- Winter—January 31st
- Spring—April 28th
- Summer—July 31st
- Annual Mtg.—October 31st

IMPORTANT:

**Calendar changes and additions
are scheduled with Lynn Taber
johnlyntaber@gmail.com**



**Omnilore's New
Board of Directors**

From left:

- Joy Jurena**
Member-at-Large
- Kent McDonald**
Treasurer
- Gloria Martin**
VP Administration
- Frank Pohlner**
President
- Judy Bayer**
VP Academics
- Judy North**
Recording Secretary
- Claire Damecour**
Member-at-Large
- Bob Mallano**
Member-at-Large

Visit the Omnilore website at Omnilore.org! Key Omnilore volunteers can be contacted via email.

President@Omnilore.org
VP-Academics@Omnilore.org
VP-Administration@Omnilore.org
Curriculum@Omnilore.org (new S/DG suggestions)
Forum@Omnilore.org (Forum Committee)
Publicity@Omnilore.org (send your PR ideas)

Registrar@Omnilore.org (send updates to contact info)
Newsletter@Omnilore.org (submit articles or news)
Admin@Omnilore.org (Johan Smith)
Supplies@Omnilore.org (need to replenish cups, plates ...)
Equipment@Omnilore.org (report equipment issues)
Webmaster@Omnilore.org

CWG@Omnilore.org (propose a Computer Talk)
Best-Sellers@Omnilore.org (book discussion group)
Walking-Group@Omnilore.org
Calendar@Omnilore.org (room requests for pre-meetings)
SDG-Folders@Omnilore.org (help uploading class files)
Technology@Omnilore.org (new Technology Committee)

Membership@Omnilore.org (inquiries about joining Omnilore, or referring friends)