



OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 14 Issue 1

January 2005

OMNILORE NEWS

A publication of OMNILORE, a Learning in Retirement Organization affiliated with The Division of Extended Education of California State University Dominguez Hills

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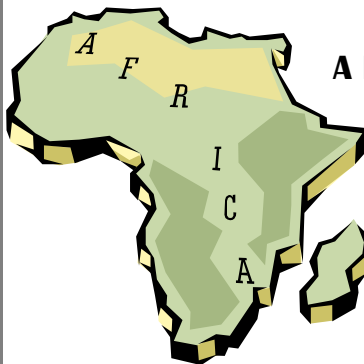
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Omnilore News is published six times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Please contact the editor with your contributions.

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January Forum:

A Bright Look At The Dark Continent

By Carol Kerster

The conflicts and tragedies in Africa are well-documented in the news and on TV, and most of us are well aware of them. It will be a welcome change, therefore, to learn that there are some bright spots shining on some of the many challenges facing the African people.

To illuminate some of the more hopeful developments on the continent, we are happy to have

two speakers at our next Forum Luncheon, to be held at the Los Verdes Country Club on **MONDAY**, January 31, 2005, at 11:30 a.m.

Karen Hayes is a Development Director for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Quaker organization supported by individuals of many faiths who share the common goals of social justice, humanitarian service and peace. In addition to her work for the AFSC, Ms. Hayes is a volunteer with the Global Aids Interfaith Alliance. Also, she is a filmmaker, currently working on a documentary on Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a subject which has necessitated many trips to several African countries over the last 16 years.

A third-generation AFSC volunteer, **Brian Hooks**, will also grace our podium. A recent trip to Kenya on AFSC's Africa Initiative Youth Exchange Program, has resulted in his current work as a youth leader, and as an advocate of a vision for Africa which promotes peace, unity, democracy and sustainable development. Mr. Hooks is also finishing his Master's degree in the field of non-profit and educational institutions.

The words of these two very busy and informed people will be enhanced by the use of visual aids, which should make the presentation all the more meaningful and informative.

To reserve your place for this special event, use the reservation form on page 5, or wait for a flyer with more details, which will be in the mail to you shortly.

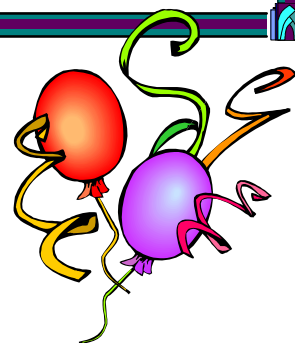
Colorful Omnilore Option Offered

Did you like the look of the latest *Omnilore* newsletter with its multicolor presentations? Are you working on decreasing the paper load in your life? If so, consider this option: You can now download our bimonthly publication on your home computer! Your computer needs to be capable of handling pdf format, possible with Adobe Acrobat. You get the "technicolor" version, and *Omnilore* saves the mailing expense!

If you are interested, contact **Johan Smith** at johansmith@comcast.net.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Patricia Edie

A famous philosopher, Yogi Berra, is attributed with having said, “You’ve got to be very careful if you don’t know where you are going, because you might not get there.” Well, I am happy to tell you that OMNIOLORE knows where it is going. Your Executive Board has met and discussed our goals for the coming year and while the specifics have yet to be defined, we will be moving forward with goals in the areas of *Curriculum, Communication* and *Membership*.

What distinguishes *Omnilore* as a Learning-in-Retirement organization is the quality of the educational opportunities provided in our various courses. As active teachers and students, together we all grow intellectually. We plan to ensure the continuity of that experience and enhance it in some innovative ways. Continue to bring your ideas to the Curriculum Committee.

The oil to keep an organization functioning smoothly is flow of information in all

directions. To ensure that this occurs, creative avenues for increased communication, feedback and suggestions will be developed this coming year. Technology will play a part in this. I am excited to tell you that *Omnilorians* are on the cutting edge, using computers for communicating and researching. When I joined *Omnilore* four years ago, about 20% of the members had email addresses. Today, over 85% have email addresses and communicate electronically. In fact, in this newsletter there is information on how you can request to receive your newsletter through an email rather than by postal mail, if you so desire. Soon we will roll out our new website. This will serve two audiences: prospective members wanting to know about us and how to join us, and current members wanting to be kept up to date on what is happening in the organization. A group has been working diligently to design a user-friendly and creative site for the organization. Once we unveil it, we will welcome your ideas and suggestions to ensure it achieves its goals.

When you see a movie you especially enjoy or read a book that truly captures you, it is natural to want to share that with others. That is how we feel about the *OMNIOLORE* experience.



We welcome new members, knowing that they bring with them diverse life experiences and interests that enrich all of us. During the year we will be focusing on ways to spread the word about *OMNIOLORE*, highlighting our program and our members. Word-of-mouth continues to be the most successful way of bringing in new members and we encourage you to invite your friends to attend future “Introducing *Omnilore*” meetings.

While these goals sound ambitious, you will see them acted upon in concrete steps. *OMNIOLORE* is an open and supportive group. If you have something new to suggest, a comment, a criticism – speak up. Your input brings fresh ideas and inputs into the system and we all benefit.



Is There A Trip In Your Future?

by John Taber

Picture yourself in a class on New England authors, colonial architecture, the renaissance, archaeology or another subject, and having the opportunity to visit what you have been studying. Many *Omnilorians* accomplish this on Elderhostel trips, but without *Omnilore’s* study/discussion group environment and the accompaniment of so many friends.

Omnilore’s travel program has been trying to add travel to some of our study/discussion groups, but it needs your help! What kind of course/trips would be of interest? How far are you willing to go? How long would you like to be away? What kind of luxury makes sense?

Please join us at 10:30 on Friday, January 28th in Room 7 at the Franklin Center, for a short presentation and discussion of ways travel can aid selected study/discussion groups. Bring your ideas and your questions. To explore the feasibility of your ideas, we have invited **Colleen Showalter** to join us and add her extensive knowledge of travel and its help in learning. She will answer questions concerning places to go, things to see, tour guides, accommodations, meals and costs. She has demonstrated on prior trips a desire to meet *Omnilorians’* special needs as they are identified. Together, we can enhance our already-great learning-in-retirement program. Snacks will be provided!



OMNIOLORE PROFILE – JOANNA KERRIGAN

By the time she was 14 JoAnna Kerrigan, a native of Grand Forks, ND, had lived in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and New York and had graduated from high school in Albany. Following her high school graduation she attended night college at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy and Union College in Schenectady.

She worked days at Albany Medical School as a biochemistry technician.

She moved to Chicago to accept a position with the Atomic Energy Commission (now known as the Department of Energy, DOE) at Argonne National Lab as a histology technician. At the lab she met Michael Kerrigan, a biomedical technician attending the University of Chicago where he majored in classical languages. She married him at the age of 21.

Shortly after their marriage the newlyweds moved to California where he attended UCLA and received a degree in physics. Following graduation Michael went to work for TRW as a microwave systems engineer. The Kerrigans had three children and moved to the South Bay. At the age of 30 JoAnna enrolled at Cal State

Dominguez Hills and received a degree in mathematics.

Following her graduation JoAnna went to work for the Air Force at Aerospace where she did cost estimating and financial analysis

Because her husband traveled a great deal on his job, JoAnna took summers off from work and she and the children accompanied him abroad. JoAnna's in-laws lived in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Besides visiting Spanish relatives, the Kerrigans spent summers in Germany, France and England.

In 1986 Michael became a consultant to the European Space Agency and the family moved to Rome where they lived for two years. The children attended school abroad. Her oldest daughter studied at the Sorbonne, the second daughter attended college in Rome and her son attended high school in Rome.

When JoAnna's brother came to visit he fell so in love with Europe that he has worked there ever since, residing in Switzerland.

In 1989 the Kerrigans returned to TRW and moved back to their house in Palos Verdes. JoAnna returned to her job at

Aerospace, but continued traveling one month a year with her husband who spoke several languages. In 1994 at the age of 56 he died suddenly of a heart attack.

JoAnna continued working until 2001 when she retired. In 2002 her 34-year-old son died in a surfing accident in Indonesia.

Since retiring, JoAnna, who always loved sewing, took up quilting. In addition to gifts to family members, she has donated 30 quilts to the Long Beach Women's Shelter.

An avid reader, JoAnna joined *Omniole* in 2001 and has been taking classes since 2002. She is currently a member of the *Omniole* Board, serving as secretary both last year and this year.

Her math talents have come in handy in volunteer work. She has served as treasurer of the South Bay Literacy Council, the Long Beach Quilt Guild and her homeowners association.

JoAnna has five grandchildren—three of which live in Rolling Hills Estates (including a pair of twin boys) and a boy and girl in London whom she visits two or three times a year.

Welcome - New Members!

Nancy Bell
San Pedro

Marlene & Tom Black
Rancho Palos Verdes

Margaret Ellis
Redondo Beach

Elaine Endres
Redondo Beach

Mary Golob
Manhattan Beach

Aprille & Tex Isham
Manhattan Beach

Mary Lewis
San Pedro

Nancy Mericle
Rancho Palos Verdes

Cecelia Moore
San Pedro

Joy Neri
Hermosa Beach

Roy Schubert
Hermosa Beach

AnneMarie Weber
Rancho Palos Verdes

See new roster insert for contact details.

Valentine Traditions Old 'n New

In Wales wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts on February 14th. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favorite decorations on the spoons. The decoration meant, "You unlock my heart!"



Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.

"I think you're supposed to get shot with an arrow or something, but the rest of it isn't supposed to be so painful."
Manuel, age 8

"Lovers will just be staring at each other and their food will get cold... Other people care more about the food."
Bart, age 9

"One of the Greek lady gods got a crush on one of the Greek man gods. He tried to hit her with lightning and thunderbolts, but he just couldn't get her away from him ... After a while, they became the first married gods."
Robbie, age 8



Brown Bag Science for the Non-Scientist

Bits and Strings

by George Clark



January - Data Compression and Encryption



Dr. Gilbert Ialongo

A picture is worth a thousand words, but it seems to take ten thousand times as long to download. All of us who use computers and deal with digital images are aware that picture files take a lot of memory space and take considerable lengths of time to copy and transmit. Can something be done about it? Yes. Data, whether representing text or image information, can be compressed so that it can be stored in a smaller file and transmitted more quickly and we will learn about that in January. **Dr. Gilbert Ialongo**, recently retired from Honeywell Corporation, will speak on *Data Compression and Encryption* at our Brown Bag Science meeting on **January 20th**. Dr. Ialongo has many years of experience in computer systems and artificial intelligence and will share his knowledge with us.

February - The Fabric of the Cosmos, Part I



In February, Brown Bag Science will try something new. We will have a series of panel discussions of a book that attendees are invited to read as we progress through the series of Brown Bag Science meetings. By reading the material in advance, the audience will be prepared to get more out of the presentations and to participate more fully in the discussion. The book we will use for this experiment is *The Fabric of The Cosmos*, by **Dr. Brian Greene**. While most of Dr. Greene's publications are scholarly and difficult to read, he wrote this book to give the layman an understanding of what string theory is about. The first panel discussion will be on **February 17th**, and will cover Part I of the book, basic relativity and quantum theory. We will get to the strings after we have built a foundation. The panel will be **Dan Stern, John Stevens, and George Clark**. **Burt Cutler** will moderate. If you can read the homework assignment ahead of time, terrific, but if you can't, come anyway.



Dr. Brian Greene

Our Wonderful Mr. Lincoln

We see him as a marble monument, but our 16th President was actually an animated, often funny, surprising man. Every new generation of Americans needs to get in touch with Abraham Lincoln. He is the most written-about figure in U.S. history – and the most mysterious. His is the most familiar of faces and the most evanescent in spirit. Our other Rushmore-size leaders had political careers that spanned decades; Lincoln occupied center stage for only a half-dozen years, from his famous debates with Stephen A. Douglas in late 1858 to his assassination in April 1865.

Lincoln joked more than any President before or since and at a time when statesmen were expected to be as solemn as churchwardens. The commander in chief was also the storyteller in chief, the quipster in chief. "I laugh because I must not weep—that's all, that's all," he once said.

Indeed, jokes drove away the demons of melancholy. As someone else might walk a dog for recreation, Lincoln walked his wit. Yet his humor was more than a suit of mail against despair. One minute it was a feather duster tickling friends, another minute a velvet-tipped lance pricking foes.



He once pronounced Stephen Douglas's arguments as thin as a soup "made by boiling the shadow of a pigeon that had starved to death."

Not least, he used jokes as exercises in evasion. When delegations came to the White House with demands or questions Lincoln had no wish to hear, he would recite stories with gusto, scratching his elbows and guffawing loudly as the punch lines neared. Soon the visitors were out the door, still laughing at good old Abe, even if they had never managed to bring up the topic taxing their minds.

Presidents today are so layered with policy experts, pulse-takers, public-relations special-

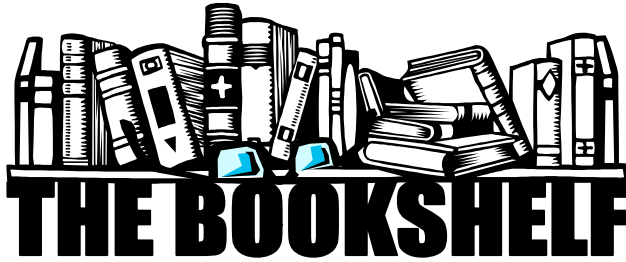


ists and other White House bureaucrats that it is easy to forget it was not always thus. Abraham Lincoln never had more than three secretaries on his payroll as he won the Civil War, secured the future of freedom in the world and dealt with sundry other matters.

In making important decisions, Lincoln relied less on experts, books or reports than on his own intuition, which could be agonizingly slow in rendering its verdicts. But once formed, his resolve was not easily shaken.

Lincoln, who never lost sight of his principles and who persevered when those principles and realities led to war, teaches a final lesson: in a world that knows profound tragedy we must have sympathy for everyone. Six weeks before his death, he ended his second inaugural address with these words:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."



by Mary Oran

The new year is a great time to treat yourself to some good reading. First off is **Ted Kooser**, America's newest poet laureate. I confess I had never heard of him; I have a feeling most of you hadn't either. He is a retired insurance administrator who has been writing poetry all his life. A recent *Christian Science Monitor* article described Kooser's poetry as presenting ordinary moments in a clear, graceful style; he has been described as a "haiku-like imagist." He is the first poet laureate appointed from the Great Plains (Nebraska). *Delights and Shadows* is a 2004 publication that presents poetry about the overlooked details of everyday life. *Winter Morning Walks: 100 Postcards to Jim Harrison* is a 2001 publication composed of poems no longer than a page that Kooser wrote while he was battling cancer. They form a diary of sorts. In February 2005, a new book will appear, entitled, *The Poetry Home Repair Manual: Practical Advice for Beginning Poets*. For those who enjoy writing, this one sounds like a winner!

Barbara Dove Inspires In Her "Ethical Will"



by Edith Garvy

Barbara Dove, a recent and enthusiastic *Omniole* member, died in November. When I attended her Memorial Service, I was given a card quoting words she had written in her "Ethical Will." I would like to share them with you:

Have the courage to dip into new adventures. Travel, learn a foreign language, try a new hairstyle or way of dressing. Try new foods and new hobbies.

Give yourselves permission to make mistakes. I made a lot. And forgive yourselves, as I did myself. And move on.

Gospel by **Wilton Barnhart** has been described as "exciting, profound, irreverent, and terrifically funny." The novel involves a search for a lost 1st century gospel of the Bible. The narrative covers three continents, nine countries, and numerous colorful locales. Lucy, a shy theological student and Patrick, a disillusioned ex-Jesuit are in pursuit of the gospel, following rumors, clues, and a cast of fascinating characters. One reviewer called this "an addictive epic." In the course of the suspenseful journey, one comes to have a new understanding of the meaning of faith.

In *Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By In America* by **Barbara Ehrenreich**, the essayist goes "undercover" to find out if one can survive in low wage jobs. Taking the cheapest lodgings available, she accepts work as a waitress, hotel maid, house cleaner, nursing-home aide and Wal-Mart salesperson. Whether in Florida, Maine or Minnesota, she discovers survival is a constant struggle. This is a riveting work that brings to life the "invisible poor" - those who are working hard to make a living, facing obstacles that are impossible to overcome.

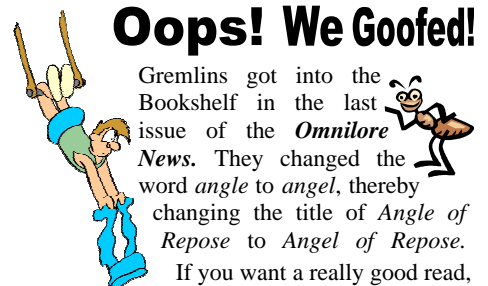
Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories by **Hisaye Yamamoto** chronicle the Japanese experience in America, from the oil fields in Redondo Beach to the

internment camps of WWII and beyond. A recurrent theme is the experience of Japanese-American women. The 19 stories are delicately presented; most have a California setting.

And finally, why not return to a classic? **Thornton Wilder's *The Bridge of San Luis Rey***, a Pulitzer Prize winner, is worth reading (or rereading). In 18th century Peru a major bridge collapses and five people die. Brother Juniper observes this happening, and wonders why these particular five were there at that time. Was this their destiny? Was it divine intervention, or was it chance? He investigates their lives to find out what led them to the bridge at that fatal time. Again, as in *Gospel*, faith is a central focus.

How about making a new year's resolution to contribute to this column?

Please send your titles, with the author's name and a brief description to msoran@sbcglobal.net. Please put "Omniole books" as the subject. We look forward to hearing from you!



Oops! We Goofed!

Gremlins got into the Bookshelf in the last issue of the *Omniole News*. They changed the word *angle* to *angel*, thereby changing the title of *Angle of Repose* to *Angel of Repose*.

If you want a really good read, be sure to curl up with a copy of *Angle of Repose* by **Wallace Stegner**.

OMNIOLORE Forum Luncheon Reservation Form

WHEN: **Monday**, January 31st 2004 – 11:30 a.m.

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

Reservations are required by January 25th, please!

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

Name(s): _____ Phone #: _____
(Please Print)

_____ Phone #: _____
(Please Print)

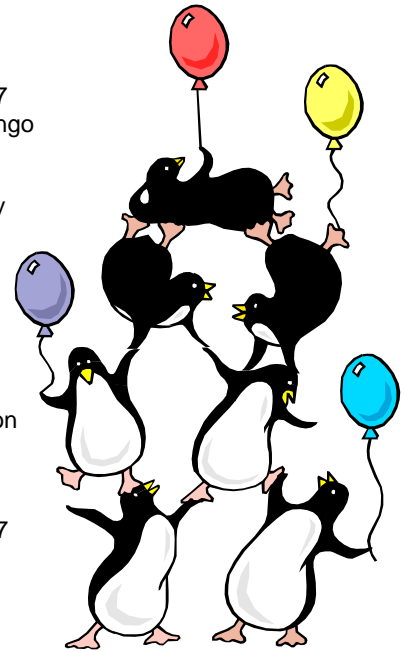
Enclosed is a check for: \$15 Other

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

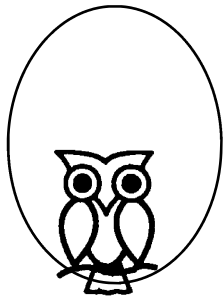
Forum Committee, c/o Diana Cutler
10 Middleridge Lane S.
Rolling Hills, CA 90274

January	1	New Year's Day
	3	Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
	11	Membership Committee Meeting - 12 Noon - Room 7
	13	Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7
	14	Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 7 <i>PC 101: E-Mail Groups in AOL, George Clark</i>
	17	Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
	19	CSU . . . Film as Art Form - 10 to 12 p.m. - CSUDH
	20	Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12 to 1:00 p.m. - Room 7 <i>Data Compression and Encryption, Dr. Gilbert Ialongo</i>
	21	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
	28	Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 7 <i>PC 101: E-Mail Attachments in Outlook, Jay Belsky</i>
	28	Meeting to Discuss Travel Trips - 10:30 - Room 7
	February	2
7		Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
8		Membership Committee Meeting - 12 Noon - Room 7
10		Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7
11		Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 7 <i>PC 101: Word - Bullets & Formatting, Carol Johnson</i>
14		Valentine's Day
15		Input Deadline for March-April Newsletter
16		CSU . . . Film as Art Form - 10 to 12 a.m. - CSUDH
17		Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12 to 1:00 p.m. - Room 7 <i>Panel Discussion: Fabric of the Cosmos, Part I</i>
18		Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
21	Presidents' Day	
21	Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8	
25	Computers & Technology SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 7	

OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2005



IMPORTANT: Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with Carol Johnson 372-8535 - CNordj@sprynet.com



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