



# OMNIOLORE NEWS



Volume 20 Issue 1

www.omnilore.org

January 2011

## OLLI AT CSUDH OMNIOLORE

OMNIOLORE NEWS is a publication of OMNIOLORE, a Learning-in-Retirement Organization, a program of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the California State University Dominguez Hills

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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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Staff Member	Carol Kerster

## Is Obama Good for the Economy?

by Carol Kerster

When was the last time we featured a Forum speaker who was a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist; an author currently on the *New York Times* best seller list (*Colossus: Hoover Dam and the Making of the American Century*); a business, financial, and political columnist; and one who has been an investigative reporter and a foreign correspondent in Africa and Russia? In spite of my many years in Omnilore, I don't remember anyone who was currently, or in the past, more than one of these.



Michael A. Hiltzik

This is all about to change, and not with a panel of speakers, but with just one very extraordinary gentleman.

Michael Hiltzik has worked for the *Los Angeles Times* in several of the above capacities for three decades, and is currently a business columnist. He will be our guest speaker for the first Forum Luncheon Meeting of 2011. And not to be confused with anyone who looks to the past for his topic, as fascinating as any of these aforementioned occupations may be, his talk will focus on "Is Obama Good for the Economy?" This is most decidedly an issue in which we are all interested.

But in preparing this, I began to wonder about a more personal issue: how does the recipient of a Pulitzer (granted in 1999 for articles exposing corruption in the entertainment industry), of the 2004 Gerald Loeb Award (for outstanding business commentary), and of the Silver Gavel from the American Bar Association (for outstanding legal reporting), deal with the "slings and arrows" elicited by a regular column in the *Times*? On one day, the following comments about a single column were addressed to him: "Michael Hiltzik really nailed it." "Hiltzik reveals his bad faith as a business columnist." "I am a fan of Hiltzik but..."

Perhaps we'll find out how he deals with this during the Question and Answer period which always follows a presentation.

Now, the meeting: I encourage you to register on the form on page 9 of this newsletter, or on the forthcoming flyer which will reach you via regular mail. It will contain the following information: date, time, and place; Monday, January 31, 2011, 11:30 a.m., at Los Verdes Country Club; better-than-usual chicken or a vegetarian plate if requested, \$18 per person.

Hopefully, you need no further encouragement to register ASAP for this memorable event. If you do, you might want to read Hiltzik's column in the *Times*. We all know how helpful a little research is!

### DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

by Bill Gargaro

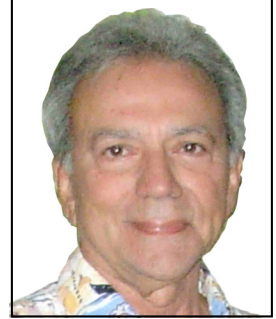
Another year just blew by; I hope yours was full of happiness, achievements, and—of course—intellectual stimulation through Omnilore participation. The new Omnilore year has already begun with outstanding S/DGs in progress. My wife Andrea and I are coordinators for the California Stories-2 S/DG and are really looking forward to fun and interesting sessions.

With your assent this year, I would like to pursue two activities. The first is an effort to help familiarize ourselves with each other. This effort has already been started by making available photos of the officers and the support contacts on the Omnilore Website. Those who have the means and knowledge, just go to the *Officers* page (<http://www.omnilore.org/members/Officers2.htm>) and you will see instructions “See Photo” after some Board members’ names; click on that and, not surprisingly, you will see a photo of the named member. We would like to add, perhaps, short biographic sketches to the photos so that you can know more about your Board members. I, for one, have substantial difficulty keeping names and faces straight no matter how hard I try. Thus, I would suggest that we add class photographs or something of that nature to the S/DG folders. This latter suggestion is just an early concept now and will have to be developed further before being presented to you for consideration, and before any actual official steps are taken. Please be assured that anything developed from this idea will be entirely voluntary (i.e.,

any information that you do not want to be displayed will not be). In the meantime, if any class wants to take its photo and have it in the folder, just snap it and have your designated folder maintenance guru transfer it in. Please remember, you **must** get the permission of everyone in the photo before it is put into the folder.

The second activity is an overall effort by the Omnilore membership to follow *green* operating principles for the organization. Initially, this would consist of trying to cut down on paper waste. The first candidate I would like to suggest is to reduce the amount of information we distribute in paper form, especially through the U.S. Postal Service. Cutting down on both the printed material and mailings not only eliminates waste—the primary objective—but also saves us real money in printing and postage. Those savings would be used for other benefits to our program (e.g., we could perhaps repeat the discount for our annual meeting forum). I believe our first priority should be the Newsletter, our most expensive and widely distributed publication. While it may be handy to have a physical copy, in my experience (and from informal polls) that copy will ultimately end up in the trash (hopefully the recyclable bin). Of course there are always exceptions. Copies of these Newsletters, from the current one to those dating back to 2004, are kept in electronic form on the Omnilore Website. If you have a basic knowledge

of computer operation and the Internet, you will find it easy to navigate from the home page to *Newsletters* page, and from there to the *Archive of Current and*



*Past Newsletters* section, and there you can find and select the one in which you are interested. For all of you who have computers and can accomplish these basic operations, I urge you to try it. If you sign up for electronic delivery of the Newsletter, Johan, our Omnilore Administrative Assistant, will send you an email with a direct link to the new Newsletter on the Website. Just click on the link and the Newsletter will appear on your computer screen. You can read it there, or print it out to read later. There are numerous advantages to receiving the Newsletter in electronic form. Look for a short announcement outlining those advantages included in this issue on page 4.

Soon we will try to determine if enough members will accept this procedure so we can reduce the number of copies of the Newsletter that we have to print and mail. As in the effort discussed above involving photos and bios, this procedure will only be adopted with your consent. If you insist on receiving a physical copy for any reason, you will be provided with one.

I hope you will consider these ideas, and that we can try them out and evaluate their acceptability in the near future.

Happy New Year!

## **PRESENTATIONS 101: THE WORKSHOP**

### **Thursday, January 20th**

**12 Noon**  
**Room 7**



Are you a new member of Omnilore and a little uncertain about what to do about your first presentation? Perhaps you have been a member of Omnilore for a while and want to polish your presentation skills. In either case, we have some help for you. On **Thursday, January 20th, 2011 from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.**, you are invited to join **Presentations 101: The Workshop**. Need help on selecting a topic? Don't know what audio/visual equipment is available or how to use it? Not sure how to schedule your class presentation? The Workshop will answer these questions and any others you may have relating to one of the most enjoyable elements of the Omnilore experience.

It's all about making our presentations better and enjoying livelier discussions. If you can't attend The Workshop and want some help pulling your presentation together, check the list of **Presentation Mentors** on the bulletin boards, phone or e-mail one of those Omnilore members who have volunteered to work with other members on making presentations, and to make arrangements for advice and make a new friend.

**Presentations 101: The Workshop—Thursday, January 20th at 12 Noon - Room 7**

## OMNIOLORE PROFILE—CAROL SIMONE

by Norman Lobsenz

Ever get lost on your way to the Franklin Center while mentally rehearsing your presentation? Probably not. But many of us *have* been trapped in a London roundabout, desperately looking for the right exit, or lost in the maze of Venice's backstreets. If only we had been traveling with Carol Simone, who is a virtual human Global Positioning System and never ever gets lost!

Carol came by her skills at the age of eight, when her father made her walk all over Chicago's North Side until she memorized—in sequence—every street and all the major intersections. “As a result,” she says, “I grew up with a wonderful sense of direction, and always knew how to find my way no matter what city or country I was in.” And as we shall see, Carol's work and curiosity has taken her to most of the world's exotic places.

Those travels were the result of a sudden insight when she was 29 years old. Carol, her husband and three-year-old daughter had moved to a Chicago suburb a few years earlier and, characteristically, she had become an active part of the community—working with church groups, political groups, the Junior Women's Club, etc. “Then I woke up one morning,” she says, “and realized I could be doing the same things every day for the next 50 years—I needed to make a change.”

No stick-in-the mud, Carol became a college freshman when she was 30, specializing in Asian Studies. After graduation Carol embarked on what would be a three-decade teaching career. At first she taught history and social studies at a Skokie, IL, high school with a progressive philosophy. “While most schools focused on courses in Western civilization, students at Niles West High were required to learn about non-Western history and cultures,” Carol recalls. “Some of our teachers specialized in India, China, South Asian nations, and though we all worked together, I went to graduate school to focus on Japan.” While on a study tour in Asia, Carol did ground-breaking research for her master's thesis on a Buddhist sect in Japan which spawned a controversial political party. It won her an MA degree in Political Science and Asian Studies.

But Carol had no trouble changing continents. When a teacher who specialized in African history retired, Carol took courses in African studies to be able to teach that area of the curriculum. From then on, there seemed to be no stopping her—she continued to take classes. “At one point,” Carol says, “I even signed up for 30 hours of economics courses at DePaul University—just for fun!” But when her department

needed someone to teach an Advanced Placement economics class, she was drafted for the job.

Indeed, every course of study Carol took led to another opportunity. After her African classes at Northwestern University, Carol was one of ten people chosen for a Fulbright Group Project Abroad program. “We spent almost a month in Egypt,” Carol recalls, “where we had a private meeting with then-UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali, and three weeks in Kenya where our guide was Zawi Hawass, Egypt's Director of Antiquities. But we weren't just watching lions and gazelles—I spent four days living in a native compound with an African woman and her family.”

Is it any wonder that Carol loves traveling? She has been to Europe many times, to Russia, Peru, India, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, and of course, thrice to Japan.

She is not your usual tourist. Carol has never taken a “group tour.” She travels alone or with friends, usually plans the entire itinerary, and prefers to stay in local or native hostels rather than “those fancy chain hotels.”

Eight years ago the lure of grandmothering changed Carol's peripatetic life. She moved to an ocean-view condo in Rancho Palos Verdes, only a few minutes away from her married daughter and two teenage granddaughters: “I am grateful every day for being able to share their lives.” Yet Carol also plays an active part in local activities. She is a regular volunteer at the House of Yahweh, an organization which distributes food to the hungry and finds housing for the homeless, as well as at a food ministry run by her church, St. John Fisher.

Omniole came to her attention via friends who live in her condominium building. (“Some people make friends,” Carol says, “but I take prisoners.”) Shortly after becoming an Omniole, Carol volunteered as a coordinator, and later was elected Vice-President of Administration. After three years on the Board of Directors—“great fun,” she says—Carol now signs up for “topics I know nothing about so I can learn something new.”

Now, a warning to those in Carol's S/DG—she believes you learn more by asking questions than by getting answers. To that end, she prefers to make an early class presentation. “Otherwise,” Carol says, “I'd never be done on time because I keep researching and rewriting, finding more questions to ask. “After all, it took me three years to finish my master's thesis because I completely rewrote it six times!”

### INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETINGS:

*The  
Next*

**Tuesday February 22nd**  
**Tuesday March 22nd**  
**Help Spread the Word!**

**Room 7**





**CSUDH Spring 2011 Lecture Series:  
Topics in Geoscience: Scientific Wonders of the Earth**

Presented by the Earth Sciences Department, CSUDH

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is proud to continue our Lecture Series this Spring with topics presented by the Earth Sciences faculty at CSUDH. They have selected a wide range of topics that highlight the expertise of the presenters as well as give us a sampling of the breadth, depth, and complexity of geoscience as a discipline. Attendees can look forward to learning about specific locations where geography and geology have shaped the earth, and becoming aware of scientific advances that shape how the earth can be examined. Join us for lectures and discussions that will stimulate us to want to know more about the scientific wonders of our earth.

**Geology of the Peruvian Andes\***

Brendan McNulty, Ph.D., Professor of Geology  
Thursday, February 3rd—10 a.m. to 12 noon

**Rivers, Streams, and Waterfalls of Yosemite**

John Keyantash, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Geography  
Wednesday, February 16th—10 a.m. to 12 noon

**Pixels and People: An Introduction to  
Satellite Remote Sensing**

Rod Hay, Ph.D., Associate Dean, College of Natural and  
Behavioral Science, Professor of Geography  
Wednesday, March 2nd—10 a.m. to 12 noon

**Climate of the Past: A Perspective From Caves**

Ashish Sinha, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Geology  
Wednesday, March 16th—10 a.m. to 12 noon

**Fifty Years of Vegetation Change at Portuguese Bend**

Mike Ferris, Ph.D., Lecturer of Geography  
Wednesday, April 6th—10 a.m. to 12 noon

One Thursday (February 3rd) and four Wednesdays  
(February 16th, March 2nd & 16th, and April 6th).

\*Please note the day and date change (*Thursday, February 3rd*)  
for Dr. McNulty's presentation due to his spring teaching schedule.

There is no cost for Omniloreans or other OLLI members to attend this series. All lectures will be held in the Extended Education Auditorium, EE-1213. If you are interested in this series **and have not already told us**, please let Johan know: 310 215-1848, or [johansmith@ca.rr.com](mailto:johansmith@ca.rr.com)

**History, Homes, and Hospitality: Another Outstanding Omnilore Trip** *by Nancy Shannon*

**T**ouring *Virginia and Her Neighbors—A Focus on History, Homes, and Hospitality* was another Taber trip triumph. Twenty-four fortunate Omniloreans were able to experience this historically rich trip from September 9 to September 20, 2010.

Preceding the trip, many of the travelers participated in the Omnilore Study/Discussion Group *Early American History in the Virginia Area*, coordinated by **John and Lynn Taber**. The varied and stimulating topics presented were: Jamestown, Shenandoah Valley, James Monroe, Underground Railroad, White House, Antietam, Virginia universities, Gettysburg, Williamsburg, Tidewater/Chesapeake, Jefferson and Monticello, Patrick Henry, Harper's Ferry (John Brown), Fredricksburg/Chancellorsville, Civil War music and political cartoonist Thomas Nast. The text, *Cradle of America: Four Centuries of Virginia History*, added further knowledge of Virginia.

On this custom-designed Omnilore trip, the group explored significant areas of Washington, D.C., Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. The memorials of WWII, Iwo Jima, Korean, and Viet Nam War were seen, as well as other sites including the Jefferson, Lincoln, and F.D.R. memorials. The tour visited Arlington Cemetery (where we witnessed the changing of the guard), Mount Vernon, Montpelier, Monticello, Shenandoah Caverns, Colonial Williamsburg, the Museum and White House of the Confederacy, Lexington, Charlottesville, Richmond, Antietam, Harper's Ferry, Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, and other museums and battlefields.

Some of the trip highlights included: attending a free performance of *Choro Livre*, a Brazilian group at the Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.; a candlelight organ and harpsichord recital in the 1674 Williamsburg, VA church; being present at a special "9/11" service at the Quantico Marine Corps Memorial; and having a farewell dinner at Fairfield Inn, PA, once part of the Underground Railroad and where Patrick Henry once stayed.

An informative pretrip meeting was held at John and Lynn Taber's home to prepare for the trip and a lively posttrip meeting was held at the sea-side home of Bob and McNair Maxwell.



**Picture taken on Blue Ridge Parkway  
enroute to Lexington, Virginia**

Back row: John Taber, Elinor Foster (Fullerton OLLI), Ralph Black, Brenda Kehmeier, Guy Neumann, Anita Kehmeier, Gordon Kehmeier, Gary Marlotte, Marilou Lieman, Dan Gluck, Stu Watson, Paul Konstan, Bob Maxwell

Front row: Jill McKenzie, Les Berg, Irma Cohen, Marge Thelen, Lynn Taber, Anne Allen, Sally Konstan, Mary Gluck, McNair Maxwell, Nancy Shannon, Gretchen Marlotte

## Mimi and Jimmy Shook Hands

*Mimi Lau, as told to Teresa Yu*

What does Omnilorean **Mimi Lau** have in common with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter? They were both invited by China to attend the 2010 China International Friendship Cities Conference held in Shanghai on September 8, 2010.

The invitation came from the China Peoples Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. The Association, founded in 1974, has 50 chapters in four regions. President Carter, who in 1978 established a formal relationship with China, was one of the speakers at the conference. Mimi, on the other hand, was one of the 14 U.S. delegates representing the *US-China Peoples Friendship Association* (USCPFA). Their paths crossed when Carter granted an audience to the USCPFA delegates. The Association presented President Carter an engraved USCPFA medallion to acknowledge his “extraordinary achievements in U.S.-China relations.” What excited Mimi most was the photo session afterward with Carter, hurriedly done in five minutes. She considers this a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Mimi proudly stated that, out of 700 conference attendees from 49 nations, no other group had enjoyed the same privilege, not even delegates from Shanghai’s three U.S. sister cities. You can’t blame Mimi for being so enthused about this event. Indeed, how many people can claim that they shook hands with a U.S. President, present or former?



*Mimi Lau and President Carter*



*USCPFA Delegates and President Carter*

The day before, September 7th, President Carter was invited to Zhijiang in Hunan Province for the 4th China Zhijiang International Peace Culture Festival commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Japanese surrender to China in Zhijiang. One of the festival activities was unveiling a statue of U.S. General Claire Lee Chennault, who established the U.S. "Flying Tigers" air squadron in 1941 to help China’s fight against Japanese invaders. Chennault’s granddaughter, Nell Calloway, also attended the ceremony.

The theme of the 2010 International Friendship Cities Conference was “Better Cities Through Cooperation.” The Conference provided a platform for delegates to exchange ideas on urban sustainable development. They discussed topics ranging from tackling the financial crisis, environmental protection, and creating a low-carbon economy to use new energy sources. After the one-day meeting, and another day touring the Shanghai Expo, Mimi’s group joined other English-speaking delegations to Nanchang in Jiangxi Province for the 4<sup>th</sup> Friendship Forum. The Forum aims at promoting friendship exchange among the non-governmental organizations of China and countries from the Americas and Oceania.

Of course, one does not go to China without doing some sightseeing. Among many historical, interesting, and scenic spots the delegates visited was the Tengwang Pavilion in Jiangxi, first built in the Tang dynasty in 653 AD. It is considered one of the three most renowned pavilions in China.

Another noted place they visited is Mt. Lushan, a cultural landscape known for its natural beauty that prompted UNESCO to list it as a World Heritage site in 1996. Beside its breathtaking beauty, Mt. Lushan has a historical house called Mei-lu. This modest villa was the favorite retreat of Chiang Kai-shek and his wife Soon Mei-ling before they fled to Taiwan in 1949. Chiang’s archenemy Mao Tze-tung also had a residence in Mt. Lushan which has been turned into a museum.

In addition to fantastic views and moments in history, the delegates also saw modern China at work. Construction cranes are visible not just in big cities but also in small rural towns. Some Chinese like to say that the crane is now their national bird.

Mimi was very impressed when she toured the Best Solar Company, one of the world’s leading providers for thin-film solar modules. She marvelled that biogas is available to 76.1% of a small village with population of 188 in 46 families.

I asked Mimi how the 14 delegates out of 1000 members from all corners of U.S. were selected. Did China pay for everything? She told me that China actually only provided for ten, excluding airfare. The rest, mostly nonmember spouses, had to pay for themselves. As for the delegates, Mimi said that the Association’s membership does not have many young people, and the old guards in their 80s and 90s no longer care to travel. That leaves only members in her age group who were interested in applying for this trip, though Mimi doesn’t know how many. Regardless, her Long Beach chapter of the Western Region got four slots on the delegation, with Mimi and her husband Joe taking two of them. Some people are just plain lucky.

**DEAN'S CORNER**



**Notes from CSUDH**  
by Margaret Gordon  
Dean, Lifelong Learning Institute

From the staff of the College of Extended & International Education to each of you, best wishes for your happiness in 2011.

In the year that is closing, our campus, college and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute accomplished many “points of pride.” This is an expression President Mildred Garcia uses to express notable achievements at CSUDH. One of the highlights of 2010 is the maturing of OLLI at CSUDH. The OLLI Omnimore program is growing; OLLI curriculum is being strengthened as more members serve on curriculum and OLLI ambassador committees; and OLLI offerings and events are expanding to include, for example, theatrical events, travel study, and more presentations by CSUDH faculty. OLLI held two organizational meetings in 2010 in order to plan next steps based on members’ interests. Although the times present challenges, with continued support and participation of our members, as well as the campus community and new OLLI members, our CSUDH OLLI will continue to prosper.

We hope you enjoy the holiday season with friends and family. Our best wishes to you and yours for the new year.

Due to the generosity and good taste of Omnimorean Nancy Shannon, here are some movies she saw, liked enough to recommend, and allowed me to pass along to you. Why not follow Nancy’s example and let me know of films that you’ve seen recently? You needn’t have liked them, particularly, but if you have any reaction at all, please take a moment to e-mail a sentence or two to me about them

([ckerster@aol.com](mailto:ckerster@aol.com)). Remember, if they are not playing currently, they are likely available from *Netflix*, libraries, *Blockbuster*, or other outlets.

If you enjoyed older films that show up on TCM or other channels, please share them with us. **Don’t be shy! Be a critic!**

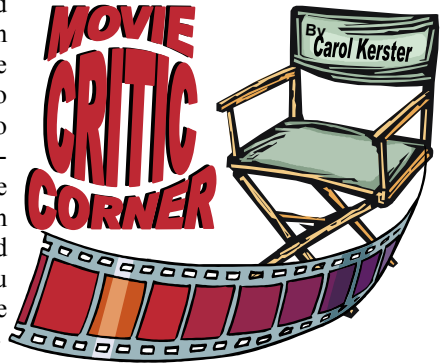
Now for the films...

“Fair Game” is the dramatic story of the *outing* of CIA agent Valerie Plame. The movie reveals more about the impact of it on her marriage to Joe Wilson than was reported in the news at the time. With Sean Penn and Naomi Watts, it is as well-acted as it is devastating to learn about the government’s dishonest, illegal behavior.

Two documentaries, “The Tillman Story” and “The Inside Job,” are equally disturbing because of government complicity in deceitful cover-ups. That the first concerns just one family, and the other involves major businesses, only intensifies the pervasive, despicable nature of the perpetrators.

“Coco Chanel and Igor Stravinsky” is an exquisitely photographed movie of an intense and erotic love affair between two people who created beautiful music and gorgeous clothing in another era. That their creations outlasted their affair is neither surprising nor unbelievable. It is an elegantly crafted film.

“Winter’s Bone” is a chilling tale, filled with Ozark atmosphere. It features Jennifer Lawrence as a 17-year-old daughter searching, against all odds, for her drug-dealing father—a man who recently skipped out on a bail bond. It was a deserving winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival.



**New Year Prayer  
for Seniors**

God, grant me the senility  
to forget the people I  
never liked anyway,  
The good fortune to run  
into the ones that I do,  
And the eyesight to tell  
the difference.

**February Date Set for New  
“Introducing Omnimore” Meeting**

by Howard Korman

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

**Tuesday, February 22nd  
10 a.m. at the Franklin Center in Room 7**

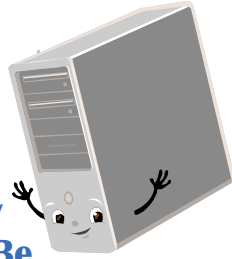
Attendance at an "Introducing Omnimore" meeting is mandatory for new members, so please tell anyone you know who might be interested about this upcoming date. We know that most of our new members join as a result of referrals by current members. We have a wonderful organization with a great deal to offer, and classes that are very enjoyable and informative.



**Help Spread the Word!**



## Computer Talks



### January & February Computer Talks Will Be a Two-Part Series on the Use of *PowerPoint*

by Rick Spillane

Start the New Year by upgrading your presentation skills. Following up on our suggestions in the Presentations 101 class, these Computer Talks will focus on making *PowerPoint* understandable and thus easier to use. At the Franklin Center on January 27<sup>th</sup> and February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Omnilore Computer Talks will cover everything you need to know, and were afraid to ask, to use *PowerPoint* successfully.

*PowerPoint* is a software program that helps you organize your notes, charts, and pictures in a simple-to-understand and easy-to-use manner. No more scrambling through your note pages or juggling pictures for presentation on the screen. There will be handouts with the talks to enable you to use the information at home to build your own presentations. The various versions of *PowerPoint* will be compared, including *OpenOffice*'s free version. You are encouraged to come with questions and problems related to your use of *PowerPoint*. Indeed, bring your own laptop and follow along.

The **January 27<sup>th</sup>** talk by **Rick Spillane** will start at the very beginning of creating a presentation. We will first create an outline of a talk in *PowerPoint*, and then build and organize slides with your discussion points. We'll briefly look at customizing your presentation by adding notes to any slide, and working with the slide master to set a style for the presentation. We will end by showing how to save the presentation on a flash drive to move it from your computer to the Omnilore classroom computer.

On **February 24<sup>th</sup>** **Bob Bragonier** will continue by showing you how to enhance your presentation in *PowerPoint*. His talk will start where the January *PowerPoint* coverage ended and demonstrate how to add music, graphics (maps, charts and pictures), and videos keyed to the slide to add interest and information to presentations. Mark your calendars now for January 27<sup>th</sup> and February 24<sup>th</sup>, noon to 1 p.m., in Room 7 at the Franklin Center.

## Omnilore Welcomes New Members

by Howard Korman

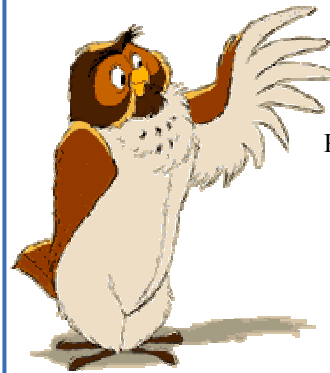
Looking forward to the spring trimester, the Membership Committee held two *Introducing Omnilore* meetings this fall. Twenty-five people attended; of those, 11 have enrolled before the start of the new trimester.

Many **Omnilore** members helped by encouraging friends to get involved in **Omnilore**; their assistance is much appreciated. The Membership Committee would also like to thank the *Daily Breeze*, the *Easy Reader*, and the *Beach Reporter* for their publicity that inspired several people to attend. We post flyers in libraries for these meetings, and if anyone has any further suggestions for publicizing future meetings, feel free to contact me.

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

(The following is a list of new Omnilore members who have joined since October 2010 and do not appear on the 10/30/10 roster distributed at the annual meeting.)

WELCOME!



- Leslie Back**  
Redondo Beach
- Jean Custer**  
Torrance
- Joan Matthews**  
San Pedro
- Mark Pepys**  
Rancho Palos Verdes
- Linda Robertson**  
Redondo Beach
- Robert Svensrud**  
Torrance
- Carol Wingate**  
El Segundo

### Calling all Programmers: Wanna Play with Apps?

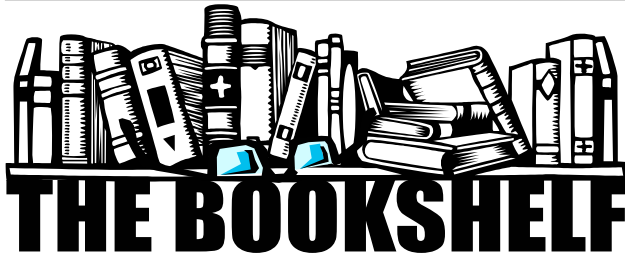
Nobody's done an accurate count, but **Rich Mansfield** believes that at least a third of Omniloreans have technical backgrounds that may include at least some programming. And most of those folks know that programming can be fun and addictive.

Rich would like to get a group of Omniloreans together who are interested in learning about and writing programs for the iPod, iPhone, and—waxing Boolean here—the iPad!

The software is free at Apple.com. It consists of a well-developed IDE (Integrated Development Environment) and a simulator that looks and acts just like an iPhone in most ways. The documentation is there, too...it is the same documentation that Apple employees use. There are at least two online courses offered for free on iTunes U. Stanford offers one of them. There are lots of books available as well, e.g., Stephen Kochan's *Programming in Objective C 2.0* is in its second edition and available...you can even download it to your Kindle, iPad, iPod or iPhone.

Personally, Rich has always wanted to create an educational app that teaches multiplication in a fun and addictive way. He even has a name for it: *Go Forth and Multiply!* Perhaps you have another project you'd like to see in the App Store? Let's get together, talk about it, and see what we can do. If you're interested, send Rich Mansfield an email ([richman0829@yahoo.com](mailto:richman0829@yahoo.com)) or give him a call (562-421-7274). The group will organize itself as an Omnilore Special Interest Group (SIG)...sort of like the Hiking Group, but with the exercising being done in our heads.





by Patricia Edie

Members eagerly share recommendations of varied and compelling books.

*Amsterdam*, by **Ian McEwan**, is a well-crafted suspense story. Two friends each make moral choices with which the other violently disagrees, leading to a split in their friendship with disastrous results. If you like music, you'll have double pleasure in the reading, because one friend is a composer who is working on a symphony that he considers his "magnum opus." This is a quick read, but an exciting one.

*Await Your Reply* by **Dan Chaon**. A quote from the book gives you a feel for the novel, "The circumstances of life—The events of life—The people around me in life—Do not make me the way I am. They reveal the way I am." This is a totally engrossing novel, but the reader must pay attention to this multithreaded narrative which is resolved so intelligently that one is left totally satisfied.

*Comedy in a Minor Key*, by **Hans Keilson**, a compelling novel and semiautobiography written in 1947, is available for the first time in English. The author, a

German Jew who is now 101, was a member of the Dutch resistance during WWII, then a novelist and a psychiatrist specializing in the war trauma of children. The story takes place in the Netherlands

during the German occupation and revolves around a couple who agree to hide a Jew in their home, only to end up with an unexpected problem when he sickens and dies. Like Anne Frank's story it writes of the understanding of displacement, the difficulty of hiding, the little attempts to make the unbearable bearable, even normal. A small, very powerful book.

*Long for This World* by **Sonya Chung**. In 1953, two brothers leave a small island off South Korea to go their own ways with one going to the United States and one remaining in Korea. Both men become physicians, marry, and have children. When the U.S. brother returns to Korea to visit his brother and family in his 60s, his journey is to find himself and connect again with his beginnings. The book shows the cultural world they shared as Koreans of their generation even after years apart.

*Why Does E=mc<sup>2</sup> (And Why Should We Care?)* by **Cox and Forshaw**. Here is one for the science buffs. New insights and understanding of relativity abound in this book, claimed to be suitable for any high

school graduate. While the book only assumes a familiarity with basic algebra and geometry, some science background is helpful. The reader is rewarded with a simple derivation of the famous equation and new appreciation for the breadth of its applicability.

*Global Warming and Climate Change Demystified* by **Jerry Silver**. This book provides a clear description of the arguments and claims for man-made global warming as of 2008. It does not raise any of the scientific challenges to these arguments and claims nor the economic or social costs of ignoring this threat or of trying to reduce or to mitigate the effects of climate change. But it is an excellent source for the subject it covers.

(Book suggestions from Omniloreans make this column work. Our thanks to **Jay Edie, Cindy Eggert, Edith Garvey, Helen Leven, Midge Solomon and Dan Stern** for contributing to our list. Please send your titles, with author names and a very brief description, to Patricia Edie, ([jpedie@ca.rr.com](mailto:jpedie@ca.rr.com)). Please put "Omniole Books" as the subject of your email. We look forward to hearing from you.)

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man.  
Benjamin Franklin

**OMNIOLORE Winter Forum Luncheon Reservation Form**

WHEN: **Monday**, January 31st, 2011—11:30 a.m.

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

Reservations are required by January 21st

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the **Omniole** Winter Luncheon at **\$18.00** each:

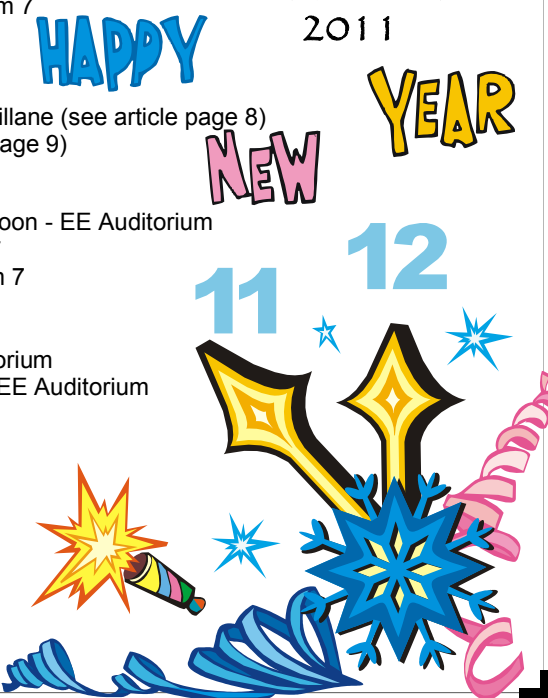
Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

Enclosed is a check for:  **\$18.00**  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

<p><b>January</b></p> <p>1 <b>New Year's Day</b> 3 Spring Trimester Begins 11 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7 11 Equipment Training - 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Room 8 13 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7 17 <b>Martin Luther King Day</b> 20 Presentations 101 - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7 27 Computer Talk - 12 Noon - 1:15 p.m. - Room 7 <i>Creating Your Presentation in PowerPoint</i> - Rick Spillane (see article page 8) 31 Winter Forum (see article page 1, reservation form page 9)</p> <p><b>February</b></p> <p>1 OLLI at CSUDH Open House - 1:30. - EE Auditorium 3 1st of OLLI at CSUDH Lecture Series - 10 a.m. -12 Noon - EE Auditorium 8 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7 10 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7 14 <b>Valentine's Day</b> 15 Input Deadline for March-April 2011 Newsletter 16 OLLI at CSUDH Lecture Series - 12 Noon - EE Auditorium 16 OLLI Macintosh Lab Dedication Ceremony - 1 p.m. - EE Auditorium 21 <b>Presidents' Day</b> 22 Introducing Omnimore Meeting - 10 a.m. - Room 7 24 Computer Talk - 12 Noon - 1:15 p.m. - Room 7 <i>Enhancing Your Presentation in PowerPoint</i> Bob Bragonier (see article page 8)</p>	<p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with Lynn Taber <a href="mailto:johnlynntaber@gmail.com">johnlynntaber@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>2011 Forums</b> Winter - January 31st Spring - April 29th Summer - July 29th</p>	<p>OMNIOLORE CALENDAR 2011</p> <p><b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b></p> <p>11 12</p> 
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by  
Hal Hart  
[Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG](mailto:Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG)

## THE EQUIPMENT BOX THE NEW IS NOW!

Now Available for Your Enjoyment:  
New Desktop Presenter, Mac Laptop, & Printer

We reported in the previous newsletter the Board's purchase approval of new desktop presenters (to replace our old ones) and a Macintosh laptop (which came bundled with an almost-free printer-copier-scanner). As of this writing, **one presenter, the Mac laptop, and the printer are in service in Room 7**, and hopefully the second presenter will be in Room 8 before the start of January classes.



The new AVerMedia VP-1 document camera (pictured above) provides the improvements we hoped for (i.e., ease of use and superior performance). Here are a few tips for its usage:

1. The VP-1 is stored with the neck and camera head folded down compactly atop the base. Set up by unfolding into the position shown.
2. Note that the neck works best not perfectly vertical, but pulled out over the image, as shown. The camera head at the top should then be moved to horizontal, as shown.
3. The big round control on the base, pictured at right, provides zoom in or out (right and left sides of circle), bright-

ness control (top of circle for brighter, bottom for less bright), and autofocus (middle of circle). Bigger and easier to use than the old presenter's remote controller, these should be all the controls you need.



4. Preliminary testing indicates that materials are seen best with about three-quarters brightness, not turned up to maximum. Experiment to get your material most readable.
5. The VP-1 may be cabled to the projector via either the same yellow-plug thin cable as the old presenter, or the same type of VGA (RGB) cable as the laptops. We recommend the VGA cable because it can be extended to a 12-foot reach between VP-1 and projector by using the yellow-tagged "extender" cable on the second hook on the equipment closet door. The VGA cable attaches to the **blue** 15-pin "output" port on the back of the VP-1's base. (The other VGA port is "input.")
6. For storage, carefully fold the VP-1 neck and camera head back into the compact position, folded lying atop the base. (Folded up, it's about half the size of the old presenter.) The VGA cable that came with the VP-1 may be left screwed into the blue output port for storage.

Little need be said about Omnimore's new Mac laptop because of its ease of use. *Office 2011, Firefox, Safari*, video players, and other normally used software are all installed on our new Mac, and of course it's on our Omnimore wireless classroom network. It is stored on the middle shelf of the Room 7 equipment closet in a red and gray carrying case, along with its VGA adapter. A future column will explore the Mac and the HP PhotoSmart printer in more detail.