



# OMNIOLORE NEWS



Volume 18 Issue 4

www.omnilore.org

July 2009

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

Editor	Diana Cutler
Staff Member	Carol Kerster

## State of Hate in America

by Carol Kerster

Call it coincidence, call it fate, kismet, or whatever suits you, but be assured that we had scheduled Richard Cohen, President of the Southern Poverty Law Center, to speak on *The State of Hate in America*, before the horrendous events that took place within weeks of each other last month.

I refer of course to the murder of George Tiller, a physician who performed abortions in Wichita, Kansas, and to the attack by a "longtime white supremacist and anti-Semite," on the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., which resulted in the death of a security guard.

Richard Cohen started as Legal Director of Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) in 1986. For his first six months there, he served as co-counsel with Morris Dees (co-founder of the Center in 1971) in a criminal contempt action against the leaders of the most dangerous hate group in the country and he argued a precedent-setting case before the Supreme Court. In 1997 he was named by American Lawyer magazine as one of the 45 "young lawyers outside the private sector whose vision and commitment are changing lives." In 1999 he was a finalist for the Trial Lawyer of the Year Award from the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice. In 2003, Cohen became president of the Southern Poverty Law Center; he assumed oversight of the Center's monitoring of extremist activities and its tolerance education initiatives, became executive producer for the Center's award-winning documentary films, and of course he continued doing legal work.

In his speech at the Forum, Cohen will address some of the apparent causes of the growing resurgence of hate groups in America. He will tell us how the influence of these groups whose malicious propaganda seeps into the mainstream media, has resulted in more threats against the president than any other before him, and has been a likely cause of the rise in hate crimes against Latinos. Since the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI and many local police departments have come to the SPLC for information on specific hate groups, it is no wonder that Homeland Security issued an alert confirming the SPLC's work saying that extremists "... embracing violent rightwing ideology are the most dangerous domestic terrorism threat [we face]."

The Forum Luncheon is on Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>; please use the form on page 9 for your reservation. Since this speaker and topic will surely be a huge draw, with Omniloreans, OLLI members and South Bay supporters of SPLC, we urge you to make your reservations ASAP. NOTICE: Unlike previous events reservations will only be accepted on or before July 22<sup>nd</sup>.



J. Richard Cohen

### DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

by Ruth Hart

“Omnilore is a member driven, peer teaching organization, and I agree to assume my share of responsibility for both the academic and administrative activities necessary for the success of the program.” All Omnilore members must sign this statement when registering. Many of us probably sign it without thinking about the meaning of these words. Although we know that all members are required to prepare a presentation, we may not know what else is expected of us. In this month’s column, I want to focus on the ways in which members can assist with the administrative activities of the organization.

Our greatest need is for coordinators and co-coordinators, because they are required for every Study/Discussion Group. That’s about 150 coordinators and co-coordinators a year! Although a few people with specific expertise and/or interest in a subject choose to take a more active role in an S/DG, the basic duties of the coordinator are fairly limited in scope. The primary job of a coordinator is to ensure that the S/DG runs smoothly. Typically, the coordinator schedules a pre-meeting at which the group decides how to run the S/DG, including meeting time, refreshments and schedule. After that, the coordinator makes sure that presenters and/or discussion leaders are scheduled for every session, that the room is open, and that equipment is available as needed by presenters. Some of these tasks can be delegated to the co-coordinator or to other group members. Training is held for all coordinators, and the head coordinator (currently **Dick Johnson**) is available to provide additional assistance if needed. If you’ve never done this job before, serving as co-coordinator to an experienced coordinator is a good way to get your feet wet.

Omnilore also has a number of standing committees and working groups that are always eager for new members.

► The **Curriculum Committee** is responsible for selecting topics for study/discussion groups to be presented to the membership. Curriculum Committee members suggest topics and also look at the course offerings of

other learning-in-retirement organizations to come up with over 100 topics every trimester, which are then winnowed down to around 25. If you’re unhappy with the course offerings, consider joining this committee. Although all Omnilore members are encouraged to come up with proposals for S/DGs, if you’re on the committee you’ll have a chance to influence other members. **Rick Spillane** is the current chairman of the Curriculum Committee.

► The **Membership Committee** is responsible for attracting new members to Omnilore. They attend the Introducing Omnilore sessions, OLLI Open Houses and quarterly Forums, and interface with local media. If you’re interested in helping Omnilore grow, contact **Howard Korman**, Chairman of the Membership Committee.

► The **Forum Committee** is responsible for planning the quarterly Forums, including arranging for speakers, choosing a menu, sending out notices, collecting money, and checking in guests. **Diana Cutler** is the Chair of the Forum Committee. You can also suggest future speakers to the Forum Committee, but unless you’re a member of the committee, you won’t have a vote in their selection.

► The **Computer Working Group** is dedicated to improving computer literacy among all Omniloreans. Among other activities, it sponsors monthly Computer Talks that covers topics that our members have told us they need to know more about. Most of the Talks are at a basic level. Occasionally, the Group sponsors workshops on more advanced topics. If you’d like to join this committee or if you have expertise that you’d like to share with the membership, contact **Rick Spillane**, Chair.

► The **Website Working Group**, chaired by **Patricia Edie**, works with the Omnilore Webmasters, **Myron Pullen & Barbara Case**, to produce and maintain the Omnilore website.

Other volunteer opportunities are available through the OLLI program at

CSUDH. Omnilore members serve on the OLLI Curriculum and Membership Committees, and Omniloreans have taught classes such as *Memoir*



*Writing (Patricia Edie), Expensive Oil & Global Warming (Jay Edie) and Introduction to Computers (Carol Johnson)*. This summer, **John Taber** will be leading a ten week, DVD-based discussion group on *Understanding the Conservative Tradition*. These classes can either be one session or multiple sessions, depending on the subject matter. If you’re interested in any of these opportunities to help OLLI, contact **Jim Bouchard** at CSUDH.

Finally, if you’re interested in taking a more active role in Omnilore, consider volunteering for an appointed support position, such as keys, supplies, etc.

A volunteer organization like Omnilore depends on the participation of its members to remain strong. If you’re interested in volunteering for any of the opportunities described here, contact the appropriate person. Our Administrative Assistant, **Johan Smith**, can provide additional contact information (310-215-1848—[johansmith@ca.rr.com](mailto:johansmith@ca.rr.com)).



**Computer Talks  
Is Taking  
July & August Off!  
Look for Us in  
the Sept.-Oct. Newsletter**



## OMNIOLORE PROFILE – FRAN KAVENEY

by Norman Lobsenz

If you want to catch up with Fran Kaveney, do it soon or you may have to go to Seattle. Well, not literally, perhaps. Fran has lived in San Pedro for 30 years. “But in my mind,” she says, “I’m always on the way to Seattle. I’d love to live there because it has cool weather, lakes, ferryboats, the ocean – water everywhere. Being near water is very important to me.”

Not surprisingly, water played a part in bringing Fran to Omniole. Ten years ago she was in a swim-exercise class at the Y when she overheard a couple who were swimming nearby (she thinks it was Bob and Elaine Grove) talking about how much they enjoyed their “senior classes.” Fran made a mental note, traced it to Omniole, and promptly became a member.

Born in St. Louis, Mo., 69 years ago, Fran graduated from St. Louis University with a B.S. in psychology. After working as a juvenile probation officer, she returned to graduate school, won her Master of Social Work degree, and moved to Redondo Beach – “probably,” she says, “to be closer to the ocean.”

The paradox of Fran’s life is that although she never married, and says she never really wanted children of her own, her entire professional career has been focused on helping to make a better life for the children of others. During her 13 years with the L.A. County Adoption Agency, and many more years with the State Child Welfare Department, Fran was responsible for dealing with delicate, disturbing, and sometimes potentially hazardous situations involving children at risk.

“Working in the child welfare field has been called one of the hardest jobs there is,” Fran says. “Not just because you work long hours, often late into the night, or sometimes have to call in the police to deal with an overly distraught parent, but because the job is so emotionally demanding.” Of the many cases in which she was involved, two in particular stand out in Fran’s memory.

“A woman had just given birth to a drug-addicted baby,” Fran recalls, “and I had to decide whether to have the infant transferred right away to the county welfare system. Something in the mother’s eyes made me hesitate – should I trust my instincts against the rules?”

Fran took the risk, and was rewarded years later when a woman, holding the arm of her teenage son close to her side, walked up to Fran. “The woman said, ‘I remember you. You came to my hospital bed 13 years ago and told me I had given up the right to my baby because he was born addicted. But you also told me exactly what I had to do to earn the right to keep him and raise him. And I did, and I am forever grateful to you for that.’”

The other case involved parents who for a variety of reasons were unable to care for their five children - four girls and an eight-year-old boy - and put them up for adoption. But the agency could not find anyone who would take all five, and the children refused to be separated. “Then I had a wild idea,” Fran says. “I asked if the parents would be willing to have their story told on television. They agreed, and then I convinced one of the local stations to run it. Within a few hours we got a call from a mid-life couple who had no children, and a large home. They wanted to talk with the little boy. I took him to meet the couple, and as he talked about his life, and his hopes, I could literally see their hearts melting. There were formalities to overcome, but in the end everything worked out.”

Fran retired in 1998. “One of the good things about retirement,” she says, “is you have time to take care of your friends.” And she has dozens of them, mostly acquired as a result of her many volunteer activities. For example, Fran is a docent at the Point Fermin Lighthouse; twice a week she runs a senior swim-aerobics class; works with a wheelchair therapy program for disabled persons at the Little Sisters of the Poor Senior Center; and almost daily goes to Peck Park in San Pedro to feed the abandoned cats that congregate there. Of course, Fran has her own cat – King Tut – who “acts as if he knows his name,” says Fran, “and rules my house.”

In whatever spare time remains, Fran travels with her friends: “I’ve been all over Europe, been every place I ever wanted to see, and I’m topping it off with a trip to Alaska next month. But now there are places I can’t go because they’re either too hot or too cold for me.”

Sounds like mild, rainy, watery Seattle will be next on Fran’s port of call.



### OLLI Summer Series

by Jim Bouchard

Senior Program Development Specialist  
Coordinator, Lifelong Learning, OLLI@CSUDH



refer to your OLLI catalog for dates, time and location of these events.

The Osher Lecture Series will return

This summer there are a great many courses, lectures, workshops, discussion groups and field trips being offered in our summer 2009 OLLI program. Omnioleean **Carol Johnson** will offer her popular *Beginning Computer* course. Also, **John Taber** is facilitating a video series on the *The Conservative Tradition*.

Our EFA (Emeritus Faculty Association) Legacy Series will feature lectures from three CSUDH professors who received awards from the Emeritus Faculty Association to support scholarly research.

Field trips to the Los Angeles Natural History Museum and the Page Museum (La Brea Tar Pits) are planned as well. Please

in the fall with seven lectures on the *Popular Culture of the 1930s*. In America in the 1930s a “vibrant popular culture emerged that included art forms, mass media, icons, fads, and trends that provided diversion.” This is sure to be a fascinating and informative series!

**Have a Wonderful Summer!**



## The Heart of Omnilore



If you have ever been ill, had surgery, or lost a loved one and you have received a greeting card from Omnilore, then you have been touched by the “Heart of Omnilore.” As a community of Lifelong Learners, we care about each other. The person behind this generous action is **Nancy Shannon** who for over seven years has quietly and competently communicated Omnilore’s wishes for a speedy recovery or condolences. She can only act if she is made aware of the need. If you know of a member who is ill or has passed away, please let her know. And to Nancy, a big **“THANK YOU”** for being the “Heart of Omnilore.”

### Ethel Allen, Omnilore’s First President

*by Burt Cutler*

Recognizing that there are a large number of Omniloreans who have little awareness of Omnilore history, the newsletter editor asked me if I would prepare a series of brief sequential profiles of past Omnilore presidents. We’ll try to do that in subsequent issues. My intent is to ask each living past president to write his/her own profile with little assistance except when requested, and I’ll be responsible for the profiles for those no longer with us. Let’s begin with our first president, Ethel Allen.

Ethel has departed our planet, so I’m relying on a profile written many years ago by **Ronnie Saunders**, together with memories from **Mike Scordan**, **John Taber** and me.

I first met Ethel and her husband Ray in 1989 when I sent a flyer to a number of people, describing a proposed Learning-in-Retirement organization I hoped to establish in the South Bay—it was to be patterned after PLATO, which had been operating in a peer-led mode for several years at UCLA. Ethel and Ray enthusiastically joined our initial small group, which selected a study of Islam for our first S/DG in January 1990. For about six trimesters we moved from homes to library meeting rooms to an S&L board room, each time with one S/DG determined by group vote. By that time we clearly were pleased with our mini modus operandi, and our group decided to associate with a local college/university and expand so that we would have some variety of S/DGs to offer each trimester.

Ethel and **Tom Woods**, a former Supervisor of the Palos Verdes School District, contacted a number of academic institutions and Dean Margaret Gordon convinced us to select CSUDH. That association began in the spring of 1992 and later that year Ethel became our first president.

Omnilore was so fortunate to have Ethel’s ideas, intelligence and unbridled energy during those early years. She took responsibility for the initial organization with CSUDH, for advertising for new members (mostly direct mailings in those days) and personally making presentations to them; she was our driving force when we were setting up the mechanisms of a large organization. She had the foresight fifteen years ago to input early decisions and documentation into a computer. As president she conceived, did all the arranging of, defined the agenda for and led our first annual meeting. She was responsible for the establishment of Omnilore’s bylaws. And she wrote the “Omnilore Member’s Creed” that **Ruth Hart** referred to in a recent newsletter.

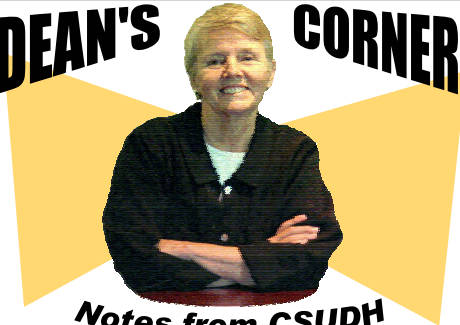
Following her two-year term as president, Ethel served as our University Liaison as well as Past President on the Board of Directors.

Hard to believe that such a force could stem from a ‘little ole musician.’ Ethel received a Bachelor’s degree in music history at New York’s Hunter College, earned a Masters in musicology from Smith College and her doctorate in music education at Columbia. She then taught music at New Jersey State Teacher’s College in Jersey City, N.J. While doing her Omnilore thing Ethel was continuously active in The Great Books Foundation, serving as co-chair of the P.V. area group. She also was chairman of the Greater Los Angeles Great Book Activities.

We should all be thankful to our first president, the diminutive dynamo, Ethel Allen!



**DEAN'S CORNER**



**Notes from CSUDH**

by Margaret Gordon

Dean, Lifelong Learning Institute  
College of Extended & International Education

In the previous newsletter I noted the progress OLLI at CSUDH has made since September 2008. I mentioned an interim report the College submitted to the Bernard Osher Foundation, which partially funds OLLI through annual grants. As an update, I am happy to convey that David Blazeovich from the Osher Foundation notified me in June that, based on information documenting our OLLI's progress, CSUDH is invited to submit a proposal for a one million dollar Osher Foundation endowment. Congratulations to OLLI members who worked to develop our OLLI organization: those who worked to promote OLLI and integrate Omnilore into OLLI, those who volunteered to teach OLLI courses, and those who participated in OLLI courses.

The campus community is pleased that we have met project objectives thus far. Individual membership in OLLI to date is at 557 and activities continue to expand. It is indeed wonderful to see individuals, including CSUDH alumni, from many surrounding communities participate in and benefit from OLLI at CSUDH.

The proposal for an OLLI endowment will be written and submitted this summer. If the Osher Foundation awards an endowment, only interest earnings from the principal can be used to support OLLI at CSUDH. Fortunately our organizational model relies a great deal on volunteers for teaching and committee work. However, since OLLI at CSUDH charges modest fees for membership and courses, an endowed OLLI will need, in addition, to continue with membership and fundraising efforts. The College will keep OLLI members posted on the status of our proposal.

OLLI at CSUDH Summer 2009 Catalog has been mailed. You will find attractive lectures, technology courses (such as introduction to online social networking) and field trips to fascinating LA sites. Enjoy your summer and continue to learn with OLLI! Phone us at 310-243-3208 if you would like additional catalogs or information about summer programs.



by Hal Hart

# THE EQUIPMENT BOX

The *Equipment Box* reports updates on Omnilore's audio/visual equipment suite, which members may use for presentations and other classroom activities. The mainstay of our equipment suite is the multi-media digital-data projector stored in the equipment closet in each classroom. For large-screen display of hard-copy (*non-electronic*) materials, members connect the projector to the Desktop Presenter. The projectors also cable to anyone's laptop (*PC or MAC*) and to the DVD/VCR machines stored on the TV carts. In the previous May-June newsletter, we summarized several equipment upgrades over the past year.

Our big news this month:

**We have just taken delivery on a 2<sup>nd</sup> fully loaded laptop PC running the XP operating system**, matching the other new laptop acquired this spring. Each classroom now has a laptop stored in its regular equipment closet for members to use any time. Reservations are no longer needed for laptop usage. (*Please don't be confused by the black carrying cases for both the data projectors and laptops - the data projectors are the smaller, lighter ones.*)

Also, equipment training is available for all Omnilore members. A training session is generally conducted as part of Coordinator Training about a month before each trimester, but other classes or even on-demand one-on-one training can be provided upon request. Contact [Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG](mailto:Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG) (310/375-1851).

## July & August Dates Set for New "Introducing Omnilore" Meetings

by Howard Korman



The Membership Committee has scheduled two "Introducing Omnilore" meetings in July and August for perspective members who may want to join *Omnilore* for the Fall trimester. Dates are:

**Thursday, July 30th**  
**Tuesday, August 11th**

. . . starting at 10 a.m. at the Franklin Center - Room 7.

Attendance at one of these meetings is mandatory for new members, so please tell anyone you know who might be interested about these upcoming dates. 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!**

## Successful Aging Expo Exceeds All Expectations

by Howard Korman

The Daily Breeze sponsored a groundbreaking Expo on *Successful Aging* at the Torrance Marriott Hotel on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. It featured a festive atmosphere and was rich in resources and information. Visitors and participants had the opportunity to visit 58 booths of companies and organizations offering advice and services to each person wanting to age successfully. Omnimore was invited to participate by exhibiting Omnimore material at the event.

What an extraordinary day! For this unique South Bay community event attendance was between 3,500 and 4,000. The eight seminars were standing room only, and vendors filled all of the available spaces. The parking lot was full, and the turnout was more that anyone anticipated.

The number of attendees, their diverse ages, the variety of vendors and the well-attended seminars convey several underlying messages about aging and our community. For example:

- ▶ Successful aging does not begin at 65, although it is never too late to make good lifestyle decisions,
- ▶ Midlife and older adults are hungry for relevant information about aging. The huge response to the seminar series was one indicator. The expo acknowledged that older adults want scientific and practical information that support self-reliance and quality of life.

Many people stopped by our Omnimore table and became aware of what we are all about. Approximately 400 yellow brochures were handed out. Over twenty people gave their names and addresses, requesting further information. I'd like to thank the members of the Membership Committee for manning the table and attending Omnimoreans for helping "spread the word." Most of all, we are very grateful to Helen Dennis (Daily Breeze Columnist) for inviting our participation and being so supportive of Omnimore.

So ends the first of the Successful Aging Expos. Next year, look for a larger venue and more valued businesses, nonprofit organizations, seminars and Daily Breeze journalists and staff. All share the goal to provide more opportunity for each of us to age successfully.



Above, Howard Korman and Jim Bouchard at Omnimore's table at the Expo; below, interested visitor is greeted by Bill Gargaro and Kit Bell, seated



### Macintosh Help Is Available

by Hal Hart



Several Omnimoreans have recently moved to Macintosh computers, joining a small cadre of long-time loyalists. **"Everything is easier with a Mac"** as a slogan is largely true, as recent converts will verify — but some things are not totally obvious, and there are many nifty features you might not even know about if someone doesn't show you. Perhaps you just need help setting up fully formatted email or email folders to save the important ones, customizing your web browser, or getting fully onboard the popular iTunes, or downloading and installing the free OpenOffice.org applications **Rick Spillane** talked about at the February and April Computer Talks that obviates paying for PowerPoint, Word, Excel, PhotoShop, etc. Do you know what great fun you can have with the newer Macs' built-in camera and **PhotoBooth**, or the iLife suite of multimedia and creativity software? Maybe the Mac's biggest advantage is how easy it is to graduate from basic computer usage to medium/advanced functions. To this end, **Hal Hart** volunteers to provide Mac help, or at least to ascertain the need and then marshal a group of *Mac Helpers* or make a plan for *Mac Help Resources*. This can include assistance in deciding whether or not your next computer should be a Mac and then picking the right one.

If you have Mac questions or want to become a Mac Helper, contact Hal at [Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG](mailto:Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG). Maybe we'll even start a Macintosh Special Interest Group (SIG), welcoming beginners and pros, if there's sufficient interest in networking on Mac matters. (Hal has been a Mac user literally "for decades" and was a software professional for almost 40 years before retirement, as was Ruth Hart.)

Alternatively and more immediately, Apple Computer provides plenty of well organized, easy-to-digest information online, reflective of the user friendliness of the Mac. These are surely more informed than Hal (even if sometimes you just need the human touch). Two such websites are: **Explore Mac Purchase Options:** <http://www.apple.com/mac/>

**For Online Mac Tutorials & Other Help:** <http://www.apple.com/findouthow/mac/>

## A Special Trimester Ending for the Death Valley S/DG Members

By Laurel Spillane

Not only did the Spring Trimester's *Death Valley* S/DG members get grand views of Death Valley on their field trip there (see May, 2009 Omnilore News), but they were also treated to spectacular views of Santa Monica Bay, the Santa Monica Mountains and the Los Angeles Basin thanks to Co-Coordinator **Fred Virrazzi**. He offered to host the last meeting of the S/DG at his home – with its great views – and to prepare lunch for everyone in the class. We did have an hour of discussion, then shared one incredible meal. My first question to Fred was: “Where’s your restaurant?” When he told me he didn’t have a restaurant, I told him he needed another career! He only recently began cooking, upon the passing of his wife, Barbara Lee Virrazzi, and he did so by selecting his favorite family recipes, then just experimenting. Has he got it right with the pasta sauce, meatballs and sausage! It’s his wife’s adaptation of his Italian grandmother’s recipe. No, he won’t give out the recipe, sorry. Everything else was also delicious and presented beautifully by Fred’s daughter, **Lisa Martz**, who came over for the afternoon to help him. All present had a wonderful time and very much appreciated Fred’s generosity and creative suggestion for the last class meeting!



Top left: Rick Spillane, Jim Slattery, Rosalee Saikley, Ted Kotzin, Fred Virrazzi, Sally Konstan, and Laurel Spillane;  
Bottom left: Irma Cohen, Jean de Angelis, Elizabeth Brown & Margaret Thelan.  
Below: View of Santa Monica bay from Fred’s house.  
Insert: Fred’s daughter, Lisa Martz.



## Omnilore Presentation Takes to the High Seas



When **Patricia Edie** prepared her presentation, “*Getting Started on Your Summer Garden*,” for the current *Science & Rewards of Vegetable Gardening* S/DG, she had no idea that she would also be sharing her research with the passengers aboard the MV Explorer on its way through the Panama Canal. **Jay and Patricia**, as well as **Mimi & Joe Lau** and **Anne Allen**, signed up for this Enrichment Voyage as a chance to see Central America and the Canal in an educational setting. The MV Explorer is a cruise ship, converted to a campus environment, that is used for educational cruises of 5 month-long Semester at Sea programs as well as shorter Enrichment Voyages of 2 – 4 weeks. In addition to offering varied lectures by qualified “experts” throughout the voyage, passengers are invited to present their own lectures in available classrooms. As a result of having the PowerPoint presentation on the flash drive she had with her, Patricia was able to share it with cruisers from throughout the US and Canada. So, you never know what may happen when you are preparing your Omnilore presentations...you just might be able to take your show on the road!

**Fellow Classmates!**  
 We are missing two  
 restroom keys—  
 one from each room—  
 Room 7 & Room 8.  
 If you have inadvertently  
 taken one,  
**PLEASE RETURN  
 IT AS SOON AS  
 POSSIBLE!**

**SUPPLIES MANAGER NEEDED**

We all enjoy having coffee, tea and  
 the paper goods in each of our class-  
 rooms. Are you willing to shop and  
 keep our cabinets supplied? Please  
 e-mail or phone Carol Simone  
[casimone@verizon.net](mailto:casimone@verizon.net) or 541-5243.

Your help is really needed.

For information  
 about the Hiking  
 Group, contact  
 Nancy Shannon at  
[NancySincl@aol.com](mailto:NancySincl@aol.com)  
 or John Taber at  
 831-4768.

**Did You Know . . .**

Although the Curriculum Com-  
 mittee meets at the beginning of  
 each trimester in order to start  
 work on the next trimester's top-  
 ics, we can receive topic sugges-  
 tions and write-ups ALL YEAR  
 LONG!

That's right - anytime you get an  
 idea, sit down and write out a  
 brief description and possible  
 research topic suggestions.

Either e-mail to Johan  
 ([johansmith@ca.rr.com](mailto:johansmith@ca.rr.com)), or  
 place in the Curriculum Com-  
 mittee box in Room 7.

**Newsletter Readers:** remember, you  
 can decrease your clutter and help save  
 a tree (well, maybe!) by signing up to  
 receive the electronic version of the  
 newsletter. Additionally, this saves  
 the organization on postage, and, as an  
 added bonus, you get it in color! To  
 take advantage of this option, email  
[johansmith@ca.rr.com](mailto:johansmith@ca.rr.com) and indicate  
 that you would like to switch from  
 the mail version to the electronic  
 version. It's as simple as that!

**Website Working Group**

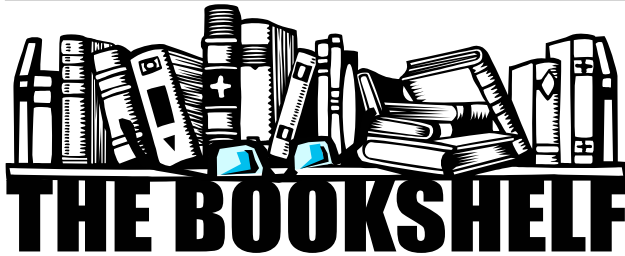
**Check It Out!**  
 Our wonderful Webmasters  
 add/change/improve our  
 website every month. Have  
 you checked it out re-  
 cently?  
[www.Omniole.org](http://www.Omniole.org)—it's  
 the place to be!

**Everything is going UP**  
 . . . your food, your taxes,  
 your gasoline, etc. etc.,  
 and so is our Forum  
 Luncheon. Please note  
 that the new cost of the  
 delicious lunch at Los  
 Verdes Country Club has  
 been raised from \$17.50  
 to \$18.00 - and well  
 worth it!

**El Segundo Water Recycling Plant Tour**

After the wildly successful talk at the last Forum by Ron Wildermuth  
 on the *What's What on Water*, Mr. Wildermuth offered to lead a tour for  
 interested Omniloreans at the El Segundo water recycling facility. This  
 facility is operated by the West Basin Municipal Water District which  
 supplies water to the local systems used by most of our South Bay Om-  
 niloreans. Additional information is available on their website  
<http://www.westbasin.org/>. We will visit their water treatment facility on  
 Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at noon. The tour is free and will take 45 minutes to an  
 hour and if there is enough interest, those interested can have lunch at  
 one of the several good restaurants in the new mall adjacent to their  
 plant. Tour participants must wear closed-toe shoes and be prepared  
 to walk up stairs for part of the tour. Please contact Johan if you are  
 interested: 310 215-1848 - [johansmith@ca.rr.com](mailto:johansmith@ca.rr.com). Any questions  
 should be directed to Steve Miller who is coordinating this outing:  
 310 379-5559 - [RedQuark@aol.com](mailto:RedQuark@aol.com).





by Mary Oran

Whether you are traveling or enjoying summer at home, we have some fascinating book suggestions for you.

*A Pigeon and a Boy* by Miev Shalev features a middle-aged Israeli tour guide and his American client. With themes of home, memory and survival, the two story lines concentrate on the fascinating subject of birds and their keepers as well as Israel's fight for independence. This book won Israel's Brenner Prize, and in the words of an Omnimorean, it "touches and breaks your heart."

If short stories are your summer preference, consider *Love Stories in This Town* by Amanda Eyre Ward. The collection of twelve stories travels from Montana to Saudi Arabia, and tackles the subjects of love, terrorism and "grave matters of the heart."

As our reviewer described them so effectively: "These stories are filled with humor, clear-eyed insight and emotional richness. How can you not read a story that starts, 'I first heard about Cipro at the potluck,' or 'It's a crappy coincidence that on the day James asks for my hand in marriage, there is a masturbator loose in the library?'"

Occasionally one is looking for a sweeping epic of a novel that one can live with for many hours. *Cutting for Stone* is just such a piece. Weighing in at 560 pages, it covers decades and generations, and is an enthralling family saga of Africa and America, doctors and patients, exile and home. Author **Abraham Verghese** offers an intriguing look at the practice of medicine; the narrative is absorbing and deeply moving.

In the nonfiction department we recommend the much talked about *The Outliers: the Story of Success* by **Malcolm Gladwell**. Why are Mozart, Bill Gates, etc. successful while others aren't? The author says that successful people have hidden advantages and opportunities. He challenges the self-made man idea. This very readable text also offers a lot of interesting trivia.

For something even lighter in fare, consider *Sit, Ubu, Sit: How I Went From Brooklyn to Hollywood with the Same Woman, the Same Dog, and a Lot Less Hair*. **Gary David Goldberg** is a TV scriptwriter and producer. His credits include "The Bob Newhart Show" and "Family Ties." This is a funny, touching memoir (and Ubu is the dog).

Finally, many of you have read the columns and/or seen the movie, but I would still recommend **Steve Lopez's** *The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music*. Each genre has offered a dif-

ferent perspective on this fascinating story of a homeless musician and the LA Times reporter.

Whatever reading discoveries you make this summer, please share them with us!

(Our thanks to **Al Blinder**, **Helen Leven**, and **Midge Solomon** for contributing to our list. Please send recommendations to [msoran@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msoran@sbcglobal.net). Include title, author, and a very brief description of the content. Please put "Omnimore books" as the subject of the email. **We look forward to hearing from you!**)

**Children's Science Exam Answers:**

- Q: Name the four seasons.
- A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.
- Q: How is dew formed?
- A: The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.
- Q: What is the fibula?
- A: A small lie.
- Q: What does "varicose" mean?
- A: Nearby.
- Q: Give the meaning of the term "Caesarean Section."
- A: The Caesarean Section is a district in Rome.
- Q: What are steroids?
- A: Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.
- Q: What causes the tides in the oceans?
- A: The tides are a fight between the Earth and the Moon. All water tends to flow towards the moon, because there is no water on the moon, and nature hates a vacuum. I forget where the sun joins in this fight.

**OMNIOLORE Forum Luncheon Reservation Form**

WHEN: **Wednesday, July 29th, 2009 – 11:30 a.m.**

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

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the **Omnimore Annual 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

Reservations are required by July 22nd . . . at the latest, please!

# OMNIOLORE CALENDAR 2009

## July

### 4 Independence Day

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
- 14 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
- 19 Hiking Group - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
- 29 Summer Forum (see page 1)
- 30 Introducing Omnilore Meeting - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon - Room 7
- 31 Water Plant Tour (see Bulletin Board)

## August

- 11 Introducing Omnilore Meeting - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon - Room 7
- 11 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
- 13 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
- 15 Input Deadline for September-October 09 Newsletter
- 21 Hiking Group - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon



### IMPORTANT:

Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with Lynn Taber  
(310) 831-4768 - ledwards\_92648@yahoo.com