



# OMNIOLORE NEWS



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## 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



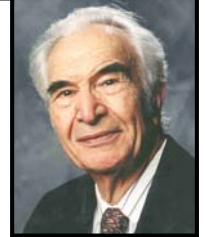
Dave Brubeck  
— then . . .

## Creative Inspirations Are All Around Us

by Lori Spillane

How you can see jazz in paintings. How jazz rhythms can be heard in poems.

How words can capture jazz. The amazing characters which inhabit each of these artistic realms. That's what the Jazz, Poetry and Art S/DG is exploring and that's what so inspired Omnimorean Gary Hart. It was especially the juxtaposition of jazz and poetry which he's never really thought about before – and which he found fascinating.



... and now

While driving home from the pre-meeting, Dave Brubeck's "Take Five" was playing on his car radio. Words just started coming to him. When he got home he started writing them down – then did more listening and more writing. The result is "On 'Take Five,'" the poem which follows. It's the first poem he's written. He's a serious fan of jazz, country and folk music, and has written lyrics for his own enjoyment in the past. His career was "left brain" – computers from the business end – so in exploring his creative side, he's joining many other Omnimoreans.

We listened to the poem at our last S/DG meeting accompanied by "Take Five" – they fit perfectly together. Find a recording of Brubeck's classic "Take Five" and read the poem along with it – you too can be inspired! Do seize those inspiring moments!

## On "Take Five"

by Gary Hart

### Take Five:

It's all you need,  
Even though Four is enough  
For most of us.



Is something wrong?  
The drummer skips,  
And then skips again.  
But the Black & White vamps  
Right in time - So sublime  
With the flow of Desmond's diamonds.

And then the Break,  
St. Paul at his best!  
From Neuron to Tendon,  
The Sweet Breath through the reed.

### Is it sad?

Soulful certainly,  
But hopeful as well.

Dave and Joe back again -  
As cool as cool could be.  
Poetry in pigsaw and ivory.

We swim along a while -  
And then, Quiet and low -  
And then, just Quiet -  
And then, just Cool.

Listen to "Take Five:"

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwNrmYRiX\\_o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwNrmYRiX_o)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS Elected Officers

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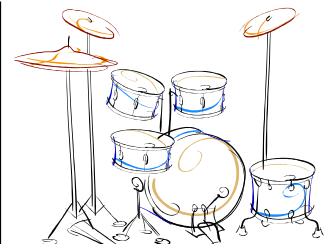
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Omnimore News is published six times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Please contact the editor with your contributions.

Editor Mary Golob  
Staff Member Carol Kerster

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

by Bill Gargaro

What is it that we're all about here in the Omnilore learning environment? Satisfying curiosity, of course, but how about brain *neoteny*? The latter is certainly a new word for me, despite all those crossword puzzles I've done over the years. I was introduced to it at the opening session of the National Conference of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in April. I was privileged to attend the conference with Jim Bouchard, the director of OLLI at California State University at Dominguez Hills (CSUDH), where we are all members of OLLI. Getting back to *neoteny*, it is derived from Greek *neos* "young" and *teinen* "to extend," and one meaning is the retention of youthful characteristics in adult life. I believe it applies especially to our Omnilorean gray matter, since one of our primary goals should be to have as healthy and active a brain as possible at our current (not chronologically young) ages.

The National Conference lasted three days and covered a variety of subjects related to assuring OLLI success in recruiting and retaining members, fund raising, establishing curricula, partnering with other organizations, developing strong boards and committees, and a few other endeavors. Since it was a national meeting, representatives of OLLI organizations from all over the U. S. A. were present, and a great idea-interchange environment developed. I took away lessons that I hope to apply to our own OLLI/Omnilore in the categories mentioned above. However, after speaking with a lot of the other attendees, I did not find any other organization with our unique Omnilore characteristic of requiring each member to be a presenter/discussion leader at an S/DG meeting. There were OLLIs that had what were termed "discussion groups" or "interest groups" with

greater class participation, but even these had a lecturer. When I explained our S/DG approach, some other organizations expressed real interest; in particular, the one from Northwestern University believed they might try it. At the final session, I must tell our NPR fans that, all things considered, the featured speaker, Susan Stamberg, did a great job discussing her lifelong educational experiences in the world of interviewing.

I was stimulated by the conference to renew my own efforts to participate more fully in the OLLI activities at the CSUDH campus. I hope you will consider it also, since you are OLLI members. There is ample information on campus activities, such as free lectures, classes with fees of a few dollars, and general meetings, in the catalogue and on bulletin boards in classrooms 7 and 8.

Finally, if you have a computer or an Internet-capable mobile device, I hope you are looking at its screen right now!

**Summer 2011 – OLLI at CSUDH**

by Jim Bouchard

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

The OLLI Curriculum Committee has scheduled some interesting courses and events for summer 2011. Since the Osher Lecture Series is held in fall and spring, we have scheduled the "My Favorite Movie Series" for a second time this summer. These movies are selected by an OLLI member or faculty member, and the movies are viewed in their entirety. Each movie is followed by a group discussion. This summer's movies include *Imitation of Life* (1959), *Auntie Mame* (1958), *Spellbound* (1945), *Lost Horizon* (1947), *The Sand Pebbles* (1966), and *Singing in the Rain* (1952). Popcorn is included!

One of the courses offered this summer will be "Virginia Revisited," which will recap the highlights of last fall's OLLI

trip. Another course is "The Culture and Values of Africa," which will be taught by Munashe Furusa, PhD, Associate Professor, Africana Studies Department.

Several field trips will be offered including John Taber's "Let's Go Downtown." This course will include a class on a short history of Pasadena. This informative presentation will be followed by two downtown Pasadena trips by Metro line.

There will be a special event at the Toyota-USA Automobile Museum which is located just down the street from the campus. And we will have another field trip to visit the Dominguez Rancho Adobe. These are offerings for the summer and more are in the OLLI catalog

which will be mailed soon.

**Student I.D. Cards** – A frequent question I get is about OLLI student ID cards. You should receive a paper ID when you join or renew your membership. If you didn't receive one, or if you lost your card, please visit the Extended Education registration office which is located next to the Extended Education classroom building. They will issue you a new student ID.

If you want to take out a book from the library you will need to get a sticker for the current semester placed on your ID card. These stickers are available at the same Extended Education registration office each semester, and you just need to stop by and ask for one.

I hope everyone has a great summer!

**The Next INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETINGS: Tues. June 14th - Room 7**  
**Help Spread the Word! Thurs. July 28th - Room 7**



## OMNIOLORE PROFILE—Ruth Hart

by Norman Lobsenz

The character of Wonder Woman vanished from our TV screens years ago, yet we may have our own “wonder woman” in Omnilore. Modestly, Ruth Hart describes herself as “often feeling lazy,” which makes no sense for someone who has recently served two consecutive terms as President, several years on the Board of Directors, is an active member of the Curriculum Committee, and with her husband, Hal, performs the thrice-a-year miracle of matching members with the S/DGs they want to be in.

“Luckily,” Ruth says, “I’ve always been around smart people.” That luck began when, growing up in Manhattan, she was accepted into the elementary and high school for gifted youngsters run by New York’s Hunter College. There a smart seventh-grade teacher noticed that she was particularly good at mathematics (even though Ruth herself dreamed of becoming a lawyer like TV’s Perry Mason). As a result, Ruth majored in math at Cornell University; as a by-product of that, she grew attracted to the then-new field of computer science, and found that she was equally skilled at making the analytical connections involved in that technology.

In 1969 Ruth won a master’s degree in computer science at Purdue University, where she met her husband-to-be, also a computer science student. Both went to work for TRW when the company opened a field office in nearby Dayton, Ohio, and then moved to California 36 years ago, continuing their TRW careers until Ruth retired from the company (then part of Northrop Grumman) in 2005.

A software engineer by training, Ruth early on rewrote/updated the software for new versions of military communication satellites. “But most of my work,” Ruth says, “focused on managing people and a variety of projects.”

Shortly after moving to Southern California, Ruth met Omnilorean Sam Rifman at a party, “and the stories he told me about the organization really sparked my interest in it,” Ruth

says. Soon after joining she volunteered for the Curriculum Committee, and later this Omnilore couple took on the course-scheduling system developed by John Taber: “It takes a minimum of 10 hours to work it so every member can get the classes they want at the times they can take them,” Ruth says.

As president, Ruth’s first goal was to expand the membership – a goal that has been achieved with the help of Howard Korman’s committee and its outreach program. “One result is that the median age of the membership has been lowered,” Ruth says. “I’m also pleased by the fact that more folks are using e-mail to communicate, and that there is an increasing use of our technical equipment.”

When she is not involved in Omnilore activities, Ruth meets with old friends in a book club, takes yoga classes, and admits to spending as much as eight hours a day surfing the net and exchanging e-mails. Her interest in the growing influence of social networking has led, she admits, to a growing addiction to Facebook games – “but,” she protests, “they’re actually strategy problems” where she can use her analytical skills. And though her two daughters live on the east coast, she keeps in touch with them regularly. Not surprisingly, Alison works in public policy and Erika is a computer scientist.

Through a quirk of political map-making, Ruth and Hal technically live in the City of Torrance, but their post office address is Redondo Beach. To complicate matters a bit more, their home sits on one of a network of curving streets, and the house numbers – instead of behaving in the normal fashion – run lower to higher on one side of the street, higher to lower on the other. It’s a good thing Ruth is a math major so she can figure out how to get home.



## PRESENTATIONS 101: THE WORKSHOP

### Thursday - May 19th

### 12 Noon - Room 7

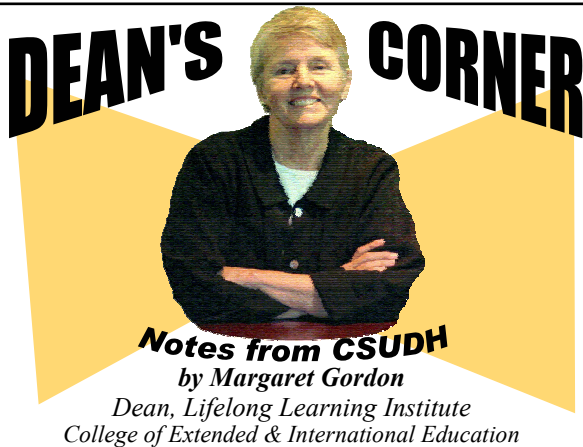
by Jade Suzanne Neely



Are you a new member of Omnilore and a little uncertain 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, May 19th from 12:00 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? Not sure how to schedule your class presentation? Don't know how to operate the audio/visual equipment? 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. You will find the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of Omnilore members who have volunteered to work with other members on preparing presentations. Just give one of them a call or fire off an e-mail to make arrangements for advice and perhaps to make a new friend.

**Presentations 101: The Workshop Thursday, May 19th at 12:00 noon, Room 7, Franklin Center-Redondo Beach**



Summertime is often viewed as slower-paced on college campuses because of the traditional fall-through-spring academic calendar. Not so this summer in the College of Extended & International Education (CEE). CEE will administer several important campus academic programs as well as offer travel study, youth camps, international student programs and our regular summer extension courses and programs, including of course, OLLI.

Due to the statewide budget crisis extended education, rather than the state-funded side of campus, will operate the CSUDH **summer academic program**. CSU students, recognizing ongoing increases in CSU tuition, are eager to complete their degree programs in a timely fashion by taking applicable courses in summer and in special programs scheduled in between traditional semester calendars. In the case of summer, students will pay the same tuition as they would in a state-funded program but the campus benefits by not having to use state-allocated funds to pay faculty summer salaries. (As you know, extended education by definition operates through revenue generated by course fees.) Each CSU campus is also limited in the number of full-time equivalent students (FTES) its state budget allocation can accommodate. So a self-supported summer program provides students access to college courses they need.

In addition to the summer (self-support) schedule, CEE will offer a **spring intersession** program consisting of special academic courses that may have a smaller audience but are needed for students in specific majors to make progress toward their degrees.

Enrollment in these academic courses is not limited to CSUDH regular students. For example, qualified students attending community college or colleges out of state during the academic year may enroll in spring and summer courses to earn transferable college credit. Details on spring intersession and summer courses are posted on our CEE website (<http://www.csudh.edu/ee/>).

If you long for adventure this summer, CEE may have a program for you. Looking for an exotic setting such as Angkor Wat? You may want to look into Dr. Sue Needham's summer **travel study program** in Cambodia. <http://www.csudh.edu/anthropologyclub/summerstudycambodia.html>. Or you may be seeking adventure in the Southwest. Pursue your interest in Native American culture, specifically Anasazi architecture and village design, by enrolling in the Utah Applied Archeology Field school travel study program, led by Anasazi expert Daniel Cutrone. (<http://www.csudh.edu/ee/archaeologyutah2011.html>).

**Youth camps** offered this summer include the perennial summer favorite, video game design, beginner and advanced levels (<http://www.csudh.edu/ee/Summer2011Youth.pdf>).

CEE is also hosting international summer youth camps for students from Korea and China. CEE staff are pleased to be able to offer this variety of summer educational experiences to meet the needs of the community members we serve.

## Omniole Turkish Feast

by Kit Bell

In our April 13 Omniole S/DG on "Turkey Between Two Worlds" all in attendance experienced the world of Turkish food. After her recent trip to Turkey, **Joan Matthews** decided to make her presentation on Turkish food and the entire class was glad she did. She prepared about half a dozen Turkish dishes from chicken to custard and explained what ingredients were involved and even handed out recipes so we could try them ourselves when we got home. Everything was great and most of the class members want to find out what class she selected for this summer so we can join her for a repeat performance.



Top: Joan Matthews (the feast provider), Scotty Wuerker, Joan Springer and Luke Dzwonczyk

Below: Scotty Wuerker, Alex Reisbord and Margaret Thelen



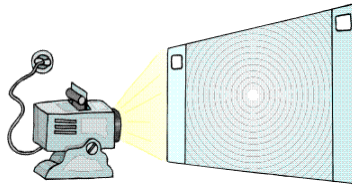


## THE EQUIPMENT BOX

### Warning: Room-8 Projector is Flaky ...

by  
Hal Hart  
[Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG](mailto:Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG)

The title of this article says it all. This is the projector that was previously in Room 7 and quit working in March. I tinkered with it and it now works, but I don't trust the fix because I don't know what I did that got it to work. So, members should help spread the word to be aware:



- ▶ I have swapped the projectors between the two rooms so the better one is now in Room 7 where two-thirds of our classes are held. I am unaware of any problems ever with this projector.
- ▶ The projector now in Room 8 (*the one that we've had trouble with*) seems a little slow on warming up, but only takes an extra minute or so to come on fully bright. It has been back in service in Room 8 since mid-April and so far, so good.
- ▶ A still-working bulky 3M projector that was replaced in 2007 is still stored on the bottom shelf of the Room-7 equipment closet and is our *backup* projector in case either of the new, smaller ones fails. I am sorry there is not room to place it in the smaller Room-8 equipment closet because that's where I expect the backup projector to be needed next.
- ▶ If you're planning to present in Room 8 and the projector there doesn't work, go to Room 7 and quietly get that backup projector. Its cable hookups are the same as the new projectors' (*connect to the labeled "laptop" RGB connection for both laptop and new desktop presenter hookups*). Its operation is also almost the same as the new projectors, the only difference being you may need to manually hit the "INPUT" button several times before it finds the right RGB signal. (*Alternatively, if the class in Room 7 is not using its new projector, ask to take that one to Room 8.*) Please be sure to return the borrowed projector to Room 7 afterward.

Please keep your fingers crossed regarding the Room-8 projector. I am. Maybe we'll be lucky.

Coming soon: New Windows-based laptops in both classrooms?

**PS:** Copies of equipment training charts are always available in an envelope on each equipment closet's doors. Or, study up before using with the *tip sheets* on the new "Equipment" webpage directly visible on our [omnilore.org](http://omnilore.org) homepage. Check it out. For personal help, and particularly if a projector fails, please email [Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG](mailto:Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG), or phone 310/375-1851 or cell 310/612-3410.

### A FEW SPOTS LEFT!

#### Omnilore-OLLI Trip

September 22 -

October 3, 2011

#### STUDIOS OF THE SUN

by Carol Lopilato

An invitation to Omnilore and other OLLI members: a trip to the French Riviera with our extraordinary tour guides, Jean and Patrick!

Omniloreans went on a wonderful trip to Provence and the Dordogne with Jean and Patrick in 2008. They are following it up with a trip to Nice and Cannes in 2011.

Participants will spend seven nights in a hotel on the Promenade des Anglais in Nice, followed by four nights in Cannes. Included in the trip are most meals with wine, visits to the Matisse, Chagall and Picasso museums and Renoir's studio. We will also visit museums of Modern and Contemporary Art, Fine Arts, Archaeology and Oceanography. As before, Jean and Patrick's lectures will inform and entertain us.

The price is \$3,185 (double occupancy; excluding airfare); \$450 single supplement; \$165 "optional sea view supplement." The tour starts on a Thursday, which means participants can fly on Wednesday (usually lower air fares). With the U.S. dollar hitting new lows, this trip is a very good deal.

For more information, contact **Tony** or **Carol Lopilato** ([carol@lop.net](mailto:carol@lop.net)).





## Computer Talks

### Using Computers and the Internet to Better Learn Math

by Al Peschel



**Thursday, May 26th 12-1 p.m. - Room 7**



Previous Computer Talks showed how we can use computers and the Internet to support our unique Omnilore learning community. In this talk we will examine how we can use computers and the Internet to improve K-12 math education. Forty years ago the United States was the international leader in fourth and eighth grade math education. In 40 years we increased inflation-adjusted per pupil spending by over 140%, but now rank 15th among the major industrial nations.

Almost half of California students drop out of high school and many who do graduate are unprepared for college math.

New cognitive science research informs us how we can best learn mathematics to mastery. This has inspired some innovative educators to offer successful charter schools in the Inner City. However, you need to win a lottery to enter them because they are so popular. Other innovators are being stopped because they are creating virtual classrooms by teaching online at a distance. Today parents and students can benefit from mostly-free and affordable Internet resources for learning math. Private teacher-coaches can personalize a student's learning program towards mastery. These coaches are more affordable because they use web conferencing tools, scheduled virtual flash card practice, free Internet video lessons and diagnostics to guide a student's after-school practice. There is now hope for students who are either at-risk or who seek a reliable advance from middle school to high school AP classes. Concerned parents no longer have to wait for lotteries or for the fulfillment of promised new "school reforms."

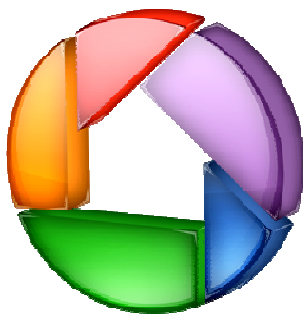
### Using Picasa to Organize, Enhance and Share Your Digital Photos

by Patricia Edie

**Thursday, June 23rd 12-1 p.m. - Room 7**

So you use your digital camera to take wonderful photos. You download them to your computer. Then what? How do you organize them so you can easily find them? How can you enhance their quality or crop out unnecessary pieces? And most importantly, how do you share them with family and friends?

Google seems to know our wishes and dreams regarding our computer and continues to make various applications available to users to meet their needs. One such program is **Picasa**, a free application which, once downloaded and installed, allows you to enhance your photos and share the best ones with others with a click of a button. At our June 23 Computer Talk, Patricia Edie will demonstrate the basics of Picasa. Learn how to obtain the program, do some simple editing and place a photo album in Google Photos that can be seen by others of your choice. Join us in Room 7 of the Franklin Center at 12 noon for this one-hour tutorial.



### Frederick P. Kiefer Omnilore's Fourth President

by Burt Cutler

**F**red Kiefer was born in New York City in 1922. Following high



school graduation, he took a position as an assistant chemist with Western Union while studying nights at CCNY for a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. His college studies were interrupted by World

War II when he volunteered in early 1943. A week before he entered military service he married Muriel, his high school sweetheart.

Following his military service Fred continued his night college studies while working as a safety engineer for a large insurance company. After graduating in 1949, Fred was employed for 11 years at Sperry Gyroscope as safety director and he continued night studies to obtain his MS in biology and physics.

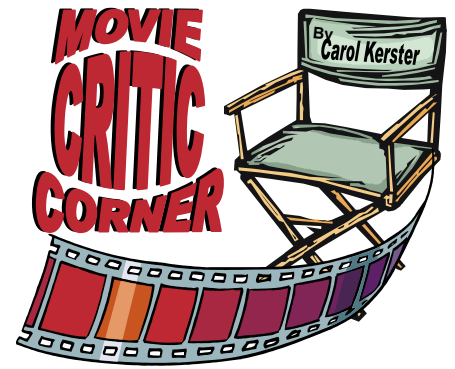
In 1961 the Kiefers, now with two sons, moved to Baltimore where he became a director of engineering at the Martin Co., which later became Martin Marietta. Four years later he accepted a job in California at Aerospace Corp. where he stayed until retiring in 1991. Fred and Muriel were involved with the League of Women Voters, and were instrumental in founding the Human Relations Council which addressed interracial problems on the PV Peninsula. Fred was always fascinated by languages. He studied Latin, Ancient Greek, German, and also taught himself Mandarin and Japanese.

After retiring, Fred and Muriel joined Omnilore; Fred became VP Academics in 1995 and he served as President in 1996. Omnilore's previous President, **Whit Wilson**, recalls that under Fred's leadership Omnilore academic activities expanded with two well-attended and popular "colloquia." Fred passed away the following year in August 1997.

*One in an occasional series on past Omnilore presidents.*

There are several films I want to draw to your attention. I start with the recently released *In a Better World*, which received an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 2011.

The opening scenes could be in any part of the African continent currently being ravaged by violent tribal conflict. (The credits cite Kenya.) The white doctor dealing with the ugly wounds and illnesses of people living in a refugee camp is overworked, but dogged in his treatment and his compassion for these tortured people. Move away to a funeral in an affluent urban church, and the heartfelt reading by a teen-age boy, Christian, for his just-deceased Mother. The Doctor, who treks back and forth between Africa and Europe, returns to his home in Denmark, and finds his son, Elias, has been befriended by Christian. The attempts of the boys to seek revenge for the bullying they receive at school are met with what they consider to be cowardly behavior by the Doctor. His deep non-violent convictions are challenged, not only by the boys, but by what happens when he returns to his make-shift hospital in Africa. There he is called upon to treat the wounded leader of the tribe who has committed many vicious crimes, some of the most heinous on the female patients. The Doctor's responses to these challenges, as well as to his own marital problems, and to Christian's father, a man suffering his own demons, all play out with exquisite sensibility and authenticity, and a considerable dose of fearful anxiety, at least on the part of this viewer. Credit all the technical aspects, sensational photography, music, etc. to the vast international staff, the acting to a most amazing ensemble, and the whole movie to a woman director, Susanne Bier. Dialogue is some English, some African dialect, but mostly Danish, with captions. If you love movies, do not miss this.



I would say the same about *Gods and Men*, a French language film about a small group of monks in Algeria, before an earlier Muslim uprising. The enormous amount of faith in the importance of their work, assisting the impoverished Muslim villagers, and in the God whom they believe sent them there to do the work, and to live the monastic life, is at the core of this film. The different paths that led this group of men to this place and time is told with enough artful, gentle persuasion so as to make the story, based on a true incident, believable and poignant. Do not be dissuaded by the rather slow, languorous opening; I think it insures greater enjoyment as the pace, energy and mood pick up. The scene of the Monks enjoying some rarely drunk wine, and more rarely heard music, is one of the most exquisite I've seen in a long time. Kudos to the writer, Etienne Comar, to the director, Xavier Beauvois, and to the eight actors, one can believe are really and truly Christian Monks.

Finally, *Win Win* is (drum roll) an American film with American actors...and what a film with what actors! The ever popular "everyman" who has appeared in such a variety of interesting roles (John Adams in the HBO special, Tolstoy's side-kick, Chertkov, in "The Last Station," the non-Merlot drinking pal of Thomas Haden Church in "Sideways," Harvey Pekar in "American Splendor") Paul Giamatti, stars here as small town lawyer, Mike Flaherty, whose ship has not quite come in. He is also volunteer wrestling coach at the local high school, has a best buddy, goofy-funny Bobby Cannavale, and a spot-on smart- without- being-smart-ass wife, Amy Ryan. Into this mix arrives Alex Shaffer as Kyle, grandson of the hero's client, Leo, played by Burt Young. The young man is not only loaded with wrestling talent, he is burning with anger at his self-obsessed, drug-addicted mother. (He was, in fact, hired for the movie as a wrestler, not as an actor and he's terrific at both!) What evolves is an unexpected, but wholly plausible, very non-Hollywood, very satisfying story, steered by writer/director Tom McCarthy, who knew what he wanted, and had the good sense to cast actors who know their craft. This one will leave you smiling.

## Why Is Omnilore So Popular?

by Edith Garvey



I have read all the "Profiles" of Omniloreans in the Omnilore News since Ronnie Saunders, a former editor of the Newsletter, introduced these excellent articles some 19 years ago; I have also read the announcements about Omnilore members we have lost. I've often asked myself this question: How does our organization attract so many brilliant, creative men and women? Here are some of my thoughts:

1. INTELLECTUAL STIMULATION, which Omnilore provides in abundance, is one reason people want to become members. The Curriculum Committee offers exciting topics to feed the mind and spur discussion.
2. DISCUSSION about the book or presentation is why members stay on. The searching questions and the give-and-take within the allotted time capture members' minds and imaginations.
3. FRIENDSHIPS that develop are an added incentive to continuing membership. Meeting new people with similar interests and pursuits is an unexpected plus.
4. SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES within the organization give active people a challenge and a chance to grow outside the Study/Discussion Groups.

I have finally accounted for the popularity of Omnilore among so many people of intellectual ability. Small wonder that this ever-growing organization attracts creative people from all walks of life!

*Edith Garvey, our new-member liaison, is an enthusiastic member of Omnilore and its Membership Committee.*

## OMNIOLORE'S WEBSITE HAS A NEW LOOK!

by Mary Golob

At the conclusion of our last Forum luncheon, Omniloreans in attendance were treated to a view of the newly designed website (<http://www.Omnilore.org>), which was unveiled by **Hal Hart**, working with **Dennis Goodno**. Together, they have created an easier, more streamlined way to navigate through our web pages.

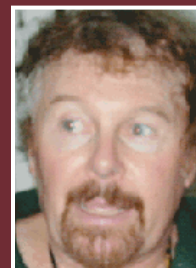
Little in the way of content has changed on the website since the Website Working Group (WWG), meeting in January (five months after the passing of our original webmaster Myron Pullen last summer), began to review the site in detail and decide where they could make improvements. Members will still enjoy the familiar, warm look-and-feel of the webpages implemented over the past few years by Myron and former webmaster **Barbara Case**, who resigned her position in March because of other commitments.

Aware that the principal users of our website are twofold -- our members and our prospective members, who often peruse the site after hearing about Omnilore from friends and/or after attending an "Introducing Omnilore" session -- the WWG recommended implementing two rows of "navigation buttons" at the top of each page. Navigation buttons provide "links" from one page to another (and also enable return to the top of a given page).

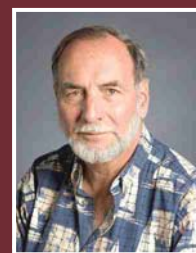
- ▶ Eight buttons on yellow background are for general viewing, and include the "Omnilore.org" homepage, a site index, general information about our S/DG curriculum, special interest groups, forums, and newsletters. Another button offers readers a way to "Contact Us.". The new homepage also includes a prominent display of "Upcoming Events" (no longer a separate webpage), which the WWG judged to be both the item members would find most valuable and, for prospective members, an enticing advertisement about Omnilore's extracurricular activities.
- ▶ Eight buttons on orange background are for members only, all of whom -- upon joining Omnilore -- receive a password enabling them to access all portions of the site. "Members Only" pages are typically confined to members' and class rosters, S/DG schedules, training sessions, etc.

Readers are encouraged to visit the Website at [www.Omnilore.org](http://www.Omnilore.org) to check out the new features. Since much of the information on the site is updated frequently, the WWG recommends that members visit often, to keep abreast of upcoming events and any schedule changes that may occur. Your comments on the site are solicited via an email address on the homepage. In particular, tell us what would make the Omnilore website more useful, and therefore more frequently visited, by emailing [Webmaster@Omnilore.org](mailto:Webmaster@Omnilore.org). Enjoy!

Please  
Welcome  
Our New  
Webmasters!



Hal Hart



Dennis Goodno

Omnilore Homepage

California State University, Dominguez Hills College of Extended & International Education

Orange Buttons: Members Only (Password Required)

Home Site Index Curriculum Newsletters Interest Groups Forum Computer Talks Contact Us

Calendars Rosters SDG Folders Officers Equipment Training Meeting Minutes Biosketches

[Click here](#) for more information about Omnilore and how to join.

### Welcome!

**Omnilore** is a program of **OLLI at CSUDH** (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at California State University, Dominguez Hills). The program is centered on study discussion groups, which meet at classroom facilities in Redondo Beach. A learning-in-retirement community of approximately 300 seniors, we organize study discussion groups that are conceived, planned, and directed by the members. There are no tests or grades. Membership is open to all who seek intellectual stimulation and the challenge of shared inquiry. For a glimpse of some of our other activities, see [Upcoming Events](#) below.

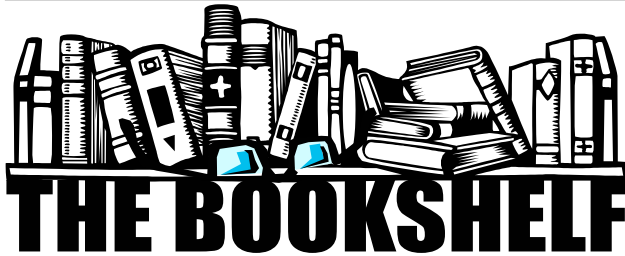
**What's New?**

- Website Change: navigation buttons added to top of webpages (4/29/11)
- Website Change: former Upcoming Events, About Omnilore, Membership Information, and Directions webpages incorporated into this homepage (4/29/11)
  - Email comments on the website to [Webmaster@Omnilore.org](mailto:Webmaster@Omnilore.org)

### Upcoming Events

Each of Omnilore's extracurricular events occurs 3 to 12 times yearly. The next dates for the grayed-out events will be posted as soon as available.





by Patricia Edie

Omniloreans recommend the following books they have found engaging and compelling:

**Big Bang: The Origin of the Universe**, by **Simon Singh** provides an excellent introduction, especially for the non-scientist, by covering history, personalities, predictions, discoveries, quarrels, etc. Very well written by a well known author and scientist.

**1434, The Year a Magnificent Chinese Fleet Sailed To Italy and Ignited the Renaissance** by **Gavin Menzies**. The author presents a controversial hypothetical account and evidence that a Chinese fleet visited Florence in 1434 and gave the Pope: Ocean charts used by Da Gama, Magellan, Drake and Columbus; Star charts used by Galileo and Copernicus; and other technology used by Guttenberg and Da Vinci. Our contributor states, "This is somewhat controversial as it may require the re-writing of the Western

that redefines issues of sexual fidelity. Richard's shrewd asides reflect his search for a new and exhilarating form of commitment in his chaotic world. Much to enjoy in this work of fiction.

**Fixing Freddie** by **Paula Munier**. A story about a single mother and a Beagle puppy named Freddie. It sounds cute, but it's not cute; just well written, funny and very enjoyable. Nuanced, adult and warm.

**Wesley the Owl** by **Stacey O'Brien**. In 1985, while working at Caltech, biologist Stacey O'Brien adopted Wesley, a baby barn owl with a nerve-damaged wing which made it impossible for him to survive in the wild. O'Brien wrote this book telling about the 19 years Wesley lived in her home and the work she did with him. It tells the touching, frustrating, and often funny, events that led to this damaged creature growing into a full-sized, healthy and capable barn owl. She details her

World's history of science and exploration." A supporting web site is: [www.gavinmenzies.net](http://www.gavinmenzies.net)

**Insignificant Others** by **Stephen McCauley** is a darkly funny tale of love, sex and moral ambiguity

discoveries about Wesley's behavior, intelligence and amazing communication skills. This is a book all animal lovers will want to read.

**Nothing to Envy** by **Barbara Demick** Much has been in the news the past year regarding the political issues in North Korea. But what about the people who live there? Barbara Demick has traced the ordinary lives and everyday life in North Korea from the early 1990s. She describes the lives of six individuals who defect from the repressive regime of Kim Jong-sung, and more recently of Kim Jong-il. Her characters are impacted by the famine, starvation, ceased salaries, deaths and by their struggle for survival brought about by the totalitarian government. The book reads more like a novel as she weaves their stories of love, fear, betrayal and loyalty.

[Book suggestions from Omniloreans make this column work. Our thanks to **Blanche & Chuck Herring, Joyce Mar, Midge Solomon and Dan Stern** for contributing to our list. Please send your titles, with author name and a very brief description, to Patricia Edie, ([jpedie@ca.rr.com](mailto:jpedie@ca.rr.com)). Please put "Omnilore Books" as the subject of your email. We look forward to hearing from you.]

## Omnilore Welcomes New Members

by Howard Korman

Looking forward to the summer trimester, the Membership Committee held three "Introducing Omnilore" meetings this spring. Sixteen people attended; of those, six 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** and their publicity that led several people to attend. We post flyers for meetings in libraries. If you have any further suggestions for publicizing future meetings, feel free to contact me at 310-373-2442—[howarddale@verizon.net](mailto:howarddale@verizon.net).

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

*The following is a list of new Omnilore members, as of April 22, 2011, who have joined since the January newsletter.*



**Genny Burchfield**  
Redondo Beach

**Janice Champion**  
Manhattan Beach

**Valerie Donahue**  
Rolling Hills Estates

**Shirley Mitchell**  
Marina del Rey

**Shirley Nagai**  
Rolling Hills Estates

**Marion Smith**  
San Pedro

**Sheila Whalen**  
San Pedro



**WELCOME!**

OMNIOLORE  
CALENDAR  
2011

- May**
- 2 Summer Trimester Begins
  - 5 **Cinco de Mayo**
  - 8 **Mother's Day**
  - 10 Membership Committee—12 Noon - 1 p.m., Room 7
  - 12 Board of Directors Meeting—12 - 2 p.m., Room 7
  - 19 Presentations 101—12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Room 7  
(see article page 3)
  - 20 **Armed Forces Day**
  - 21 Introducing Omnilore—10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Room 7
  - 26 Computer Talk—12 Noon - 1 p.m., Room 7  
*Using Computers and the Internet to Better Learn Math* – Al Peschel (see article page 6)
  - 30 **Memorial Day**
- June**
- 9 Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon - 2 p.m., Room 7
  - 14 **Flag Day**
  - 14 Introducing Omnilore Meeting—10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Room 7
  - 14 Membership Committee—12 Noon - 1 p.m., Room 7
  - 15 Input Deadline for July-August 2011 Newsletter
  - 16 Hiking Group—10 a.m.
  - 19 **Father's Day**
  - 21 **First Day of Summer**
  - 23 Computer Talk—12 Noon - 1 p.m., Room 7  
*Using Picasa to Organize, Enhance and Share Your Digital Photos* – Patricia Edie (see article page 6)



**2011 Forums**

- Winter—January 31st
- Spring—April 29th
- Summer—July 29th
- Annual Mtg.—October 31st

**IMPORTANT:**

**Calendar changes and additions  
are scheduled with Lynn Taber  
(310) 831-4768—johnlyntaber@gmail.com**

**In Memoriam**

**Hal Simmons**

**H**arold “Hal” Simmons, an active Omnilorean, died at the age of 87 on March 4 from heart failure. His education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was interrupted by his service in the U.S. Army in the South Pacific during World War II. After graduating from MIT, Hal worked as a metallurgical engineer, retiring in 1986 from Garrett Corp., now Honeywell. He was a regular enrollee in Omnilore’s writing S/DGs and an enthusiastic member of the Hiking Group.



**Bernie Sills**

**B**ernie and Barbara Sills were an “Omnilore couple.” Bernie died January 6 of this year, less than three months after Barbara’s passing on October 19, 2010; he was 84. Bernie and Barbara were married in 1967. Bernie joined the U.S. Army directly after high school and served in Korea between World War II and the Korean conflict. While in the army he attended Cornell University, and later found his way to California, where he worked for many years as a graphic artist and producer of special events.

**Recycling at Franklin Center**

Omniloreans can now recycle at Franklin Center! The City of Redondo Beach has placed blue recycling bins inside Rooms 7 and 8 and a larger blue receptacle outside in the common area near the two rooms.

The larger, outdoor receptacle, which resembles the barrels often distributed by cities for residential service, is shared by the two rooms and will be picked up by the city twice a week. The indoor bins should be emptied into the outdoor receptacle when they are full.

The city recommends (but does not require) that containers be rinsed out before being placed in the receptacles; labels can be left on. Items acceptable for recycling include:

- ▶ all plastics labeled #1 - #7, including plastic bags and styrofoam
- ▶ glass bottles and jars of any color
- ▶ metal cans (aluminum, tin and steel)
- ▶ all clean, dry paper regardless of color
- ▶ file folders and index cards.

Please do not recycle paper cups or plates; soiled paper towels or napkins; fast food wrapping; paper with wax or plastic coating, or photographs.