



OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 15 Issue 6

www.omnilore.org

November 2006

OMNILORE NEWS

A publication of OMNILORE, a Learning in Retirement Organization affiliated with The Division of Extended & International Education of 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.

Co-Editors Diana Cutler
JoAnna Kerrigan

Staff Members Carol Kerster
Ronnie Saunders



A Visit From The Great Pumpkin

by Carol Kerster

Twas Halloween Day, and all through the hall,
 Omnimoreans arrived bent on having a ball.
 Some were bedecked in colors bright and snappy.
 Others were sober, but all looked really happy.
 The tables were adorned in orange, black and peach,
 And candies were strewn within everyone's reach.
 The luncheon was yummy. Chicken, yes, but in style
 Mediterranean, and for that, who couldn't smile?



There was, have no doubt, business to attend.
 A new Board of Directors, and to the old Board, an end
 Of effort unswerving in service to us,
 In our quest to research, learn anew, and discuss.
 To Johnson, and Carrier, Tanaka, and Edie,
 Thank you, we thank you for always being ready
 To do what was needed. Now let's welcome the new:
 Spillane, Culbert, Simone, Riley, Vincent. And who
 Could ever forget the three others in charge:
 Gemma, Janet, and Ruth, good Members-at-Large.



So, good luck to you all, we know you'll do well.
 We'll support and encourage, and be here to tell
 You next year again, when the pumpkins are ripe,
 That we've all been enriched by your wit, not your hype!
 And one final word from the Forum Committee, this is true,
 We wish Happy Days, Happy Learning, Happy Holidays to YOU!

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Rick Spillane

Well that was a great Halloween Luncheon; I hope you didn't miss it. It had funny costumes (at least I hope they were costumes), an excellent speaker, good food and a chance to talk to the many interested people that we have shared classes with over the years. The luncheon also signifies the end of the *Omnilore* year and the start of a new one.

I would like to thank **Dick Johnson** and his fellow officers for the great job they did in maintaining and improving *Omnilore* during their term. Running a volunteer organization smoothly is a little like being a referee, in that people only notice when you do something wrong. And the general satisfaction of our members is proof that Dick and his fellow officers did a great job.

Some other groups that contribute greatly to the success of *Omnilore* are the Membership Committee and the Curriculum Committee. In my years at *Omnilore* the Membership Committee headed by first **Edith Garvey** and now

by **Kathleen Fitzgerald** has labored to come up with innovative methods of ensuring that we reach out to a large and diverse group of potential members. Their success has enabled *Omnilore* to continue to grow. We are now at 239 members, thanks to the Membership Committee, a significant size for a Learning in Retirement group.

Having spent the last two years with the Curriculum Committee I can personally vouch for their hard work in developing an intellectually challenging and yet fun set of courses for the membership's consideration. You have already voted on which courses *Omnilore* will offer for the spring term, but consider that the Curriculum Committee started with 148 potential courses of which 122 were new ones. In the course of several weeks this set was filtered down or combined and rewritten to first 49 courses and then to the final 24 courses which were submitted to the membership for consideration. This is a fun group and the more ideas for courses submitted the

better their final selection will be. So if you have an idea for a course, or you wonder why we never have a course on some favorite subject of yours, why not submit it and see what happens. I can assure you that all submittals are carefully reviewed and discussed.



I am honored to be selected President and will work with the new board and the various committees to maintain and improve the *Omnilore* that we all enjoy. A volunteer organization such as *Omnilore* can only exist and prosper if its membership is willing to put in the time and effort needed to support its various functions. So, if asked, consider being a coordinator or serving on one of our committees.

Any suggestions or comments on ways to improve *Omnilore* can be sent directly to me by email, or if you wish just dropped off at the Franklin Center.



Jim Bouchard

The Golden Thread

by **Jim Bouchard**
 Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
 College of Extended and International Education, CSUDH



I'm writing this on a Friday afternoon, just a few days before the annual *Omnilore* Halloween luncheon at the Los Verdes Golf Course. The College of Extended & International Education has had many goodies strategically placed throughout its offices, and in the last week alone I have had about 15 small Tootsie rolls, 4 small Snicker bars, 3 Tootsie pops, and several caramels. I have also read at least one article on the dangers of sugars and I swear I will return to broccoli and brown rice... until Thanksgiving, that is, when I will indulge in pumpkin pie and Boston Cream (or Crème) Pie!

Last week, as part of our Osher Lecture Series, we had an enlightening presentation from Bob Yassin, Director of the Palos Verdes Art Center in which he discussed "What Is a Masterpiece". The most memorable thing I learned from the presentation was that we know that the Sistine Chapel was restored correctly because Michelangelo left the accurate records of the formulas for his paintings. That is probably the world's record for thoughtfulness!

This week, as part of the OLLIonline series "The Golden Thread: Masterpieces, Artists and Their Times", Mari-Tere Alvarez joined us from the J. Paul Getty Museum with what we hope to be the first of many presentations. Dr. Alvarez' television broadcast was a presentation about a successful female artist from the 17th century, "La Roldana (1655-1704), Sculptress to the King of Spain". The works of La Roldana are currently on display at the J. Paul Getty museum.

This spring we are planning an exciting OLLIonline series called "Connected Continents, Divided Destinies: An Overview of the History and Culture of the Middle

East". The part of the world where Africa, Europe, and Asia meet is obviously important both historically and currently. We are planning to invite a series of experts to discuss artistic, social and religious dimensions of Near Eastern cultures. As always, film and graphics will be used to illustrate concepts.

My special thanks to **Dick Johnson**, outgoing president of *Omnilore*. He has been a pleasure to work with, and I look forward to working with him in the future. I also want to give a big welcome to **Rick Spillane**, the new president of *Omnilore*. We are all looking forward to another great year.

Again, I want to thank all the *Omniloreans* who helped us reach our goal of 100 new OLLIonline members. You all really came through, and made possible our fourth year application for funding for our OLLIonline project.

Well, I have to go charge the batteries of my digital camera in preparation for the costumes I anticipate seeing at the Halloween luncheon! Have a great Thanksgiving everyone!



Brown Bag Science To Take A Break!

(Science for the Non-Scientist)

by Burt Cutler



Exactly four years ago we incorporated a new *Omniole* feature - "Brown Bag Science" - a monthly presentation of science topics for the non-scientist.

It's had a good run, but in recognition of falling attendance the BBS Steering Committee - **Dan Stern, John Stevens, George Clark, Tom Vincent** and **Burt Cutler** - has decided to suspend the program. Any future events will be announced in the *Omniole* Newsletter.



www.pvld.org

by Patricia Edie

On Thursday, October 26th, Jay and I attended the *Omniole* Tech Talk that was presented by the resource librarians from Palos Verdes Library. They demonstrated, very successfully, how easy it is to use their online services and the vast array of databases available. While I have used such resources on other library websites, PV seems to have a greater selection of services and databases. Thank you, Dick Johnson, for making the presentation possible. Unfortunately, there were only 10 members there to hear the talk.

To use these resources, you must have a PV library card. I followed their instructions and requested one from their website. It was delivered to me through the postal mail and arrived yesterday (Saturday)...so **it took only two days to receive**. I have been having great fun with it. I am currently researching the topic of "The Impact of Agriculture on Energy Use" for our Energy S/DG. By searching through the various databases, especially the *General Reference Center Gold*, and selecting only full-text articles, I have found some great references. I am able to email the entire article to my email address and then peruse it at my leisure.

I encourage you to check it out if you have not already done so.

www.pvld.org

A Christmas Dinner

by H.E. Kamiya

A traditional partridge in a seasonal pear tree
 Barely a meal for one, you'd agree,
 Adding turtle doves, a cooing pair,
 Would render enough for a cozy affair,
 Plus three French hens, *tres bien*,
 Might feed a family *Parisienne*,
 A calling bird quartet, each hardly a bite,
 I'd bake them all in a fresh pear pie,
 Five goooooooooooooooooold rings,
 (everybody sings)
 I'll cook six geese, from a flyaway flock,
 To feed the folks from around the block,
 Seven swans should surely satiate,
 The citizenry of a smallish state,
 With twenty-three fowl to pluck and marinate,
 We called rent-a-maid—please send us eight,
 A fantastic troupe to lightly trip the boards:
 Nine lovely ladies and ten leaping lord,
 The band: 11 reeds & brasses; 12 basses & drums,
 We emptied our glasses, ate the last crumbs
 Twas a Christmas gala beyond compare,
 Come morn, naught but five rings
 and feathers everywhere.



Remember - As of Nov. 1st, you will need to type in our new password in order to have access to the Members Only section on our *Omniole* website. The password was given to you in the "just released" Membership Packet.

If you need help with the password, contact a member of the website working group (Jay and Patricia Edie, Blanche Herring, Mary Oran, Myron Pullen).

New "Introducing Omniole" meetings are scheduled for Friday, December 1st and Tuesday, December 12th. Both meetings will be held from 10 am - 12 noon in Room 7 at Franklin Center. Please tell friends and acquaintances about *Omniole* and about these meetings. Our best source of new members is referrals by present members. For further information, contact **Kathleen Fitzgerald, (310) 373-0946.**



Lorraine Nagy, Nancy Shannon, Catherine McAdoo, Ernie Jacobs, Gloria Jacobs, Eugene McAdoo, Betty Raulin, Trudy Irwin, Mary Oran and Emil Raulin. Bob, our bus driver, stands behind the last bunch.



1st Row: Sally Konstan, Carol Lopilano, Lynn Taber, Mary Oran, Betty Raulin, Emil Raulin.
2nd Row: Tony Lopilano, John Taber, Nancy Shannon, Catherine McAdoo, Luke Dzwonczyk.



Bill Rouzie, Marguerite Rouzie & Sally Konstan. Betty Raulin stands to the right of the proprietress at the General Warehouse and Fur Storage. The warehouse is piled high with furs, reproductions of trade goods & original artifacts to give visitors a sense of the role that Fort St. James played as the distribution and administrative center of New Caledonia.

Our Canadian Adventure

by Mary Oran

Our northern neighbors really put out the welcome mat for the *Omniole* travel group's thirteen-day September adventure. Twenty-four *Omnioleans*, spouses and friends enjoyed the sites of British Columbia and the Canadian Rockies. At the beginning of the trip, the group took the skyride up Vancouver's Grouse Mountain and had dinner under a full moon. A wonderful guide gave us an understanding of a Chinese scholar's garden when we visited Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's garden in Vancouver's Chinatown. The colorful Butchart Gardens in Victoria and a private tour of Canadian artist Emily Carr's house were next on the itinerary. The steam engine ride and tour to McLean sawmill as well as the nineteen and a half-hour (honest!) ferry ride from Port Hardy to Prince Rupert (with dolphin and whale appearances!) were definite highlights. Everyone enjoyed the views of bears, elk, and deer in their natural habitat, and the glacial walk at the Columbian Icefields. The many museums offered a clear picture of the history and culture of British Columbia and the First Nation people. The real scene stealers were the Canadian Rockies, the rivers and falls, the shimmering turquoise of Lake Louise, and the natural beauty that surrounded us each day. Added to that was the camaraderie formed as the group shared experiences and ideas. From Vancouver to Banff, from totem poles to hoodoos, we learned, laughed, and loved each day's experiences. An *Omniole* trip is definitely a great way to travel!

Capilano Suspension Bridge



Lucia Dzwonczyk (in pink), Betty Raulin (back to camera), Lorraine Nagy, Eugene McAdoo (above), Tom Rische, Lynn Taber at the entrance to the 450-foot suspension bridge originally built in 1889.

Fort Saint James



Bill Rouzie, Betty Raulin, Emil Raulin, Ernie Jacobs, Marguerite Rouzie, Lynn and John Taber.



Our new Board of Directors: **Dick Johnson** (last President), **Rick Spillane** (new President), **Merle Culbert** (Vice President, Academics), **Carol Simone** (Vice President, Administration), **Dorothy Riley** (Recording Secretary), **Tom Vincent** (Treasurer), **Ruth Hart** (Member at Large), **Mary Oran** (Communications Committee Chairman), **Diana Cutler**, our hostess (Forum Committee Chairman), and **Kathleen Fitzgerald** (Membership Committee Chairman).

The Sounding Board Echo Echo Echo

by Patricia Edie



A few months ago the Website Working Group made the decision to move the Sounding Board from the password-protected "Members Only" area of the website out into the open area of "More Info". This allowed people to access it without having to enter a password. Our hope was that it would facilitate more use of this wonderful, interactive tool by members. However, since there has been no increase in the number of users, the decision was made to return the Sounding Board to the password protection area, allowing those members who do participate on the Sounding Board to share their thoughts and ideas in a more protective environment. The Sounding Board is still easy to use. Instructions are on site; one just needs to take the additional step of entering a password the second time.

For those of you who do enjoy viewing the Sounding Board, this is the season when many people attend interesting cultural events. Please share your experiences - theatre, speakers, galleries, movies, gardens.... Post your evaluations on the Sounding Board and give your reactions. Have you read a good book or interesting article? Let people know. One person can't catch everything that is going on; by sharing, we increase everyone's awareness and possible enjoyment. The Sounding Board is the ideal place to reach out to people. *Omnioleans* will hopefully make checking the Sounding Board part of their regular routine. Why not give it a try?

UPCOMING TRAVEL

by Carol Lopilato

Omniole members, spouses, and friends are invited to consider the following trips:

Santa Fe/Taos. In April 2007 we are planning a week-long tour of Santa Fe, Taos and Los Alamos. We will experience the arts, culture, history in a southwest setting and take a short detour to Los Alamos which has led in our atomic developments since WWII. A spring class is being offered for those wanting to expand their knowledge of the area.

Shakespeare Festival. In June 2007 we are contemplating a repeat of the 2006 Shakespeare Festival if there is sufficient interest. This year it will be held in **Cedar City, Utah**.

Hudson Valley. Next fall ('07) we are organizing a tour of the Hudson River Valley and parts of upstate New York. We will visit parks, mansions, notable historic places and Cooperstown's Baseball Hall of Fame. Optional time in New York City can be arranged. We will get a special chance to interface with the river's ecology and its recovery from near pollution death. A class to be offered in the summer/fall of '07 will be planned.

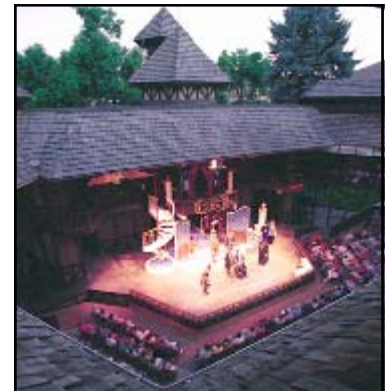
France. We are making arrangements to tour southwestern France under the leadership of Prof. Jean Bardot of the American University in Paris in the Spring of '08. This trip will include the Lascaux archaeological caves, Roman ruins, medieval churches and cathedrals plus the topography of southern France. A historical and cultural perspective will be given. We expect to offer a class to precede the tour.

To continue we need input from you. Please tell us if you would like more detail as we progress or if you have ideas to make our effort more effective. Phone **Emil Raulin** at 310-316-5750 or **John Taber** at 310-831-4768 or send an e-mail to e-braulin@verizon.net or ledwards_92648@yahoo.com.

Thanks for taking the time to help *Omniole* create great learning/travel opportunities.



Countryside around Los Alamos, NM



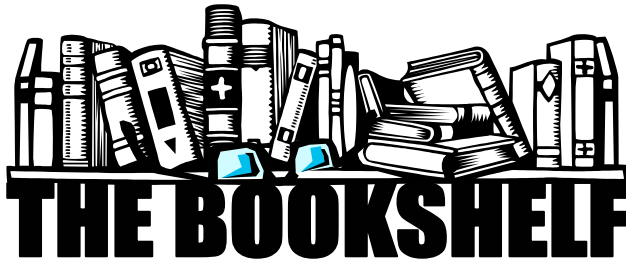
The Adams Shakespearean Theatre is one of the most authentic Tudor theatres in the world. Below, the Hudson Valley from a hiker's viewpoint. Next, a home in the area during autumn.



A sample of prehistoric engravings and paintings from the Lascaux caves, one of several hundred archaeological sites in the area.



ings and paintings from the Lascaux caves, one of several hundred archaeological sites in the area.



by Mary Oran

A reminder to all of you to take some time to relax the next few months and pull out some of your favorite readings to enjoy again. Whether they are holiday classics, beautiful poems of the season, or wintry tales perfect for the fireside, give yourself the pleasure of reading –maybe aloud!

Meanwhile, we have some recommendations this month that may be good for your gift list. *The Last Days of Dogtown* by **Anita Diamant** (of *The Red Tent* fame) is a haunting novel about a forgotten chapter of early American life. In this decrepit settlement at the heart of Cape Ann, Dogtown residents cope with day to day existence. Widows, orphans, free Africans, scoundrels, witches, and spinners inhabit the story that turns into an affirmation of life. This is a historical novel with vivid and compelling description.

Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men* has been receiving attention due to the Sean Penn movie on screen. Ignore the movie's mixed reviews and read the real thing. This American classic is described as a book of poetry and willpower, of twists and turns. The setting may be Depression era politics in Louisiana, but the relevance rings true today.

We have had author **Geraldine Brooks** appear in this column before. With her latest, *March*, she has another winner. It is the story of the father of Alcott's girls from *Little Women*. Much of it

is his narration of how he came to be involved in the war to free the slaves. When he enlists, he becomes a chaplain. His experiences in battle, in early reconstruction attempts, and in the military hospital are all graphically told. His sense of failure is deeply felt. This compact but intense book is no sentimental addition to Alcott's writings. It definitely stands on its own, featuring historical figures such as John Brown, Emerson, and Thoreau.

Our final fiction offering is *Water for Elephants*. It is a richly textured novel about a traveling circus during the Depression. The story is revealed through the voice of the an elderly resident of a nursing home. **Sara Gruen** has certainly done her research on circus life, and she enhances the novel with actual photos of circuses. While introducing us to offbeat circus characters, Gruen also takes an insightful look at aging in America. This is a really good read!

Everyone needs a good laugh. *Marley & Me: Life & Love With the World's Worst Dog* is just the ticket. **John Grogan** offers this memoir about the puppy that he and his wife adopt. Actually, Marley is just an adorable golden lab who has special needs. From the time the family adopts him, Marley offers

challenges. Failing Obedience School is only the tip of the iceberg. The reader is guaranteed to be laughing nonstop at some points. The narrative is a bit of an emotional roller coaster, but worth every minute spent on it. This is a truly delightful and touching tribute to a pet that is part of a family.

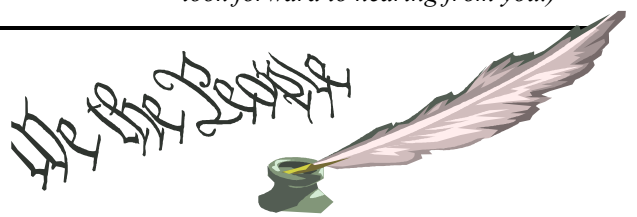
Is there a bibliophile, a bibliopole or a bibliophagist in your life? Then *Bibliotopia*, compiled by **Steven Gilbar** is the perfect book. Subtitled "Mr. Gilbar's Book of Books & Catch-all of Literary Facts and Curiosities," the text features lists, quotations, author trivia and book-related facts. Did you know that the first printing press in the New World was established in Mexico City in 1533? Or that the phrases "wild goose chase" and "mind your own business" came from *Don Quixote*? There will probably be more facts and quotes from this book source in future columns – it's irresistible!

As a finale, here are, according to The Library Journal, and as quoted from *Bibliotopia*, the 10 most influential 20th century novels: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Catcher in the Rye*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Gone With the Wind*, *Beloved*, *The Color Purple*, *1984*, *Animal Farm*, *Lord of the Flies*, *Catch-22*. I know, I know – lists are controversial!

(Our thanks go to **Luke Dzwonczyk** and **Helen Leven** for contributing to our list. Please send your titles, with author's name and a brief description, to msoran@sbcglobal.net. Please put "Omniole Books" as the subject. We look forward to hearing from you.)

Resource Link

by your
Website Working Group



Have you ever been in a Study/Discussion Group when the topic of a historical document was raised and you wished your personal library contained copies of all those speeches, treaties and charters? Well, they exist online, just a few mouse clicks away, on the Links page of our *Omniole* Website. After going to www.omniole.org, click on "More Information" in the far left column. Then, again in the far left column, click on "Links." Once you are in Links, scroll down to the "Research Tools" and click on law.ou.edu/hist and be taken to the website of the College of Law at the University of Oklahoma (www.law.ou.edu/hist/). Here you will find complete documents such as the Magna Carta in 1215, the Fugitive Slave law of 1793, the Monroe Doctrine of 1823, the German Surrender Documents of 1945 as well as all the Inaugural Addresses and State of the Union speeches. There are even lesser known documents like a letter written by Christopher Columbus to the King and Queen of Spain. Fascinating!

If there is a website link you have discovered that you would like to see added to the Links page of the website, please contact **Blanche Herring** of the Website Working Group.

November 7 **Election Day**
 10 **Veterans Day** (observed)
 14 Membership Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 16 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7
 17 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 23 **Thanksgiving Day**

December 1 *Introducing Omnimore* Meeting - 10 a.m. - Room 7
 12 Membership Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 12 *Introducing Omnimore* Meeting - 10 a.m. - Room 7
 14 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7
 15 Input Deadline for January-February Newsletter
 16 **First Day of Hanukkah**
 18 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 22 **First Day of Winter**
 23 **Last Day of Hanukkah**
 25 **Christmas**
 31 **New Year's Eve**

January 2 **Spring Trimester Begins**

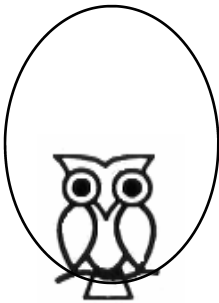
OMNIOLORE
 CALENDAR
 2006

Happy
Holidays



IMPORTANT:

Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with
 Pat Stevens - (310) 548-3253 - mh_pt_stevens@peoplepc.com



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