



OMNIOLORE NEWS

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OLLI@CSUDH

OMNIOLORE

OMNIOLORE NEWS

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

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

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Eulogy to Emil Raulin

By John Taber

In August of this year Omnilore lost one of its best. After several years in remission, Emil Raulin's cancer returned and he lost his last battle.

Emil was born in 1929 in Dearborn, Michigan and after receiving a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1951 he married Betty, his life partner. A few years later they moved to California.

Emil joined Omnilore in 1992. He was part of Omnilore's expansion when it joined CSUDH. He frequently took several classes a trimester, and as presenter he had few peers. His research was always superb, and he had an intuitive way of providing answers to questions he had uncovered. It was a thrill to learn as Emil unwrapped his message. Whatever Emil did in Omnilore, he seemed to enjoy.

Emil held several board positions before beginning two one-year terms as Omnilore's President in 1999. His term brought lightness when at annual Halloween Omni Boos he would change subjects by saying "it's time to put on a new hat." This he would do with a real hat; notable ones included a chef's toque and a fur one for a Cossack. After his term as president, he spent several years as Head Coordinator. He not only lined up class coordinators each trimester, but also used his great skill and knowledge to train and help the new ones.

Emil and Betty were travelers, and the pleasure of being with them on Omnilore trips was great. As time went by he helped in the planning and leading of these trips. He and Betty took charge of the wonderful Canadian trip and kept everyone smiling. He planned to lead our trip to New Mexico in April 2007 when his final illness overtook him and he had to drop out.

To know Emil was to understand why he was such a special person. He was a happy and gentle soul and had smiles for everyone. He had a marvelous ability to get things done without appearing to make a fuss, and needing to be in charge or taking credit; *he was* a peacemaker who found ways to resolve a situation calmly, quietly and to the satisfaction of all parties. He had a knack for pointing out alternate solutions to issues without implying a deficiency in someone who needed help. He was adept at dealing with life and issues and yet he never lost sight of others and their needs.

At the services for Emil, it was clear that his family members who spoke of their special relationships with him saw him as the same kind and thoughtful person we knew him to be. His widowed sister spoke of his filling in with chores and family needs when he would visit them, and his family's younger generation spoke of his adventurous spirit, and how Uncle Emil always made them feel special.

He was indeed a "gentle" man. All who knew him felt like better people in his presence.



DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ President's Message Page 2
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Ruth Hart

One of my tasks as the President of Omnimore is to write a column for our bimonthly newsletter. I thought I'd use this first column to introduce myself to those of you who don't yet know me. I'm an ex-New Yorker (I actually grew up in Manhattan) who has lived in California for the last 32+ years. I was a math major at Cornell and then ventured into the new field of Computer Science, receiving a Masters from Purdue in 1969. While there, I met my husband, Hal, also an active Omnimorean. In 1974, we joined TRW in a field group in Dayton, Ohio, relocated to California in 1976, and remained with the company (which eventually became part of Northrop-Grumman) until our retirements in 2005. Although I am a software engineer by training, I spent most of the last 20 years there as a manager of both people and projects. We also have two twenty-something daughters, who both live in Providence, Rhode Island.

Several years ago, I happened to be at a party with **Sam Rifman**, who had recently retired from TRW. I asked him what he was doing with his newly found free time, and he described Omnimore to me. I realized that this was an organiza-

tion that would appeal to my life-long love of learning. Although I promptly forgot its name, I remembered that the organization was associated with CSUDH, and tracked it down when the time was right. **Rick Spillane**, who I also knew from work, recruited me onto the Curriculum Committee and shortly thereafter, I became an at-large member of the Board of Directors. The rest, as they say, is history. Hal and I have also been running **John Taber's** excellent scheduling program for the last couple of years. It is a challenge coming up with a schedule that disappoints as few people as possible.

During the past year, I've looked at a lot of learning in retirement programs all across the country. I've discovered that Omnimore's emphasis on peer learning is quite unusual and provides all Omnimoreans with an unparalleled opportunity for active rather than passive learning. Of course, we all know that keeping your mind active is vital as we age.

I am proud to have been selected as Omnimore's President and look forward to continuing the excellent organization that others have developed over the past

15 or so years, as well as working with CSUDH to expand their own offerings for retirees. Like all volunteer organizations, our members are our



lifeblood. One way to keep Omnimore strong is to maintain and, if possible, increase our membership. This allows us to offer a wider variety of classes each trimester. The Chairman of our membership committee, **Howard Korman**, is doing an excellent job promoting Omnimore throughout the community. However, at TRW, we found that one of our best sources of new hires were recommendations from current employees. Therefore, I encourage all members to recruit their intellectually engaged friends and acquaintances into Omnimore. As baby boomers begin to retire, we will have an increased pool from which to draw.

In future columns, I'll address Omnimore's relationship with CSUDH and volunteer opportunities, among other topics. Meanwhile, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns about Omnimore or suggestions on how to improve the organization, feel free to email me at Ruth.Hart@cornell.edu.



Current OLLI@CSUDH Courses

by **Jim Bouchard**

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



It's fall again and everyone is looking forward to the annual Halloween Omnimore luncheon. This has also been a great beginning for the fall 2008 semester of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at CSUDH, and I wanted to remind all Omnimoreans that you are now members of OLLI@CSUDH. This represents an expansion of the scope of learning opportunities offered to seniors in the South Bay region by the College of Extended & International Education. In addition to sponsoring the Omnimore Study/Discussion Groups at the Franklin Center, OLLI sponsors the Osher Lecture Series on Baroque music and our DVD discussion group on the "History of American Film," both of which meet on the CSUDH campus. Additionally, several instructor-led OLLI courses are also taking place this semester on-campus. Please see our fall 2008 OLLI catalog or our website at <http://www.csudh.edu/extendeded/lifelong/> for a complete list of courses and dates.

One of our OLLI instructor-led courses, "How Can We Live With Expensive Oil and Global Warming?" was taught by **Jay Edie**, a longtime Omnimore member. Students attending this course include five other Omnimoreans (**Barbara Case, Patricia Edie, Cordelia Hwang, Al Peschel, and John Vehrencamp**) plus two students who are new OLLI members.

Jay says that it is important to note the question mark in that title because no one knows the answers (plural) to the question "How Can We Live With Expensive Oil and Global Warming?" The four lectures are titled: 1. Transition to New Economics; 2. The End of

Cheap Fossil Fuels; 3. Global Warming and Its Discontents; and 4. What Are We To Do? Homework is assigned at the end of each class. In addition to the presentations, there are extensive discussions in each meeting. Jay says he feels "successful in that the class members have clearly continued thinking about these problems and are adjusting their lives accordingly." Since Omnimoreans are OLLI members, you can attend the remaining Baroque music lectures which are free, in the Extended Education auditorium (EE-1213) on-campus. You can also register for any of the other instructor-led courses (e.g., "Introduction to Laughter Yoga") for a small fee.

We look forward to the participation of many OLLI volunteers as we prepare for another successful and exciting spring 2009 semester!



OMNIOLORE PROFILE – DAN STERN

by Norman Lobsenz

When Dan Stern was a young electronics engineer in Manhattan Beach, he often relaxed after work in a local tavern. One evening an attractive woman walked over and struck up a conversation with him. Dan wondered aloud, “Why me?”

“You look like the only one in this room with a chance of having brains,” she replied.

Gail Stern (they’ve been married now for 30 years) was not the first nor the last person to recognize this quality in Dan. Omnioleoreans who have shared classes with him are well aware of his wide-ranging abilities and interests.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1944, Dan used his brains to graduate from Stuyvesant High at the age of 16, and to get his B.S. in engineering from Cornell University at 20.

When Hughes Electronics offered him both a job and a Master’s fellowship at USC, he moved to Manhattan Beach in 1965. Except for a return to Cornell to earn a Ph.D. in Electronic and Computer Sciences, he has lived there ever since. After working at Hughes, and then TRW, Dan started his own aerospace company and, via mergers with other firms in that field, he eventually held the position of Chief Scientist and Vice-President of the Olin Corporation. During the 1990s he worked as an independent consultant, ultimately retiring in 2003.

Dan has also been active in civic affairs. Concerned that the Manhattan Beach city council and school board were not responding to the community’s real needs, he ran for city councilman. “I never expected to be elected,” he says, “but to my surprise I came in first. During my early years on the council I was in the minority, and I was often told that I had to ‘go along to get along.’ But I didn’t do that, and the voters seemed to approve.” Dan served four years on the council, then was elected mayor. During his term as mayor he presided over the restoration of the storm-damaged MB pier.

Dan’s interests span a broad spectrum of activities: reading philosophy and science; foreign travel; studying and experiencing Buddhism; and being what he calls a “gearhead” – tinkering with mechanical objects, from watches to motorcycles. He owns three cycles, and recently rode one around New Zealand. Travel is also an important part of both Dan’s and Gail’s life. In her work as a computer programmer and trainer, she has traveled widely in the U.S. as well as to Japan and Singapore. Together they have toured western and eastern Europe, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and North Africa. Dan is now planning a trip to China. But the concepts of Buddhism may rank as Dan’s deepest interest. Introduced to the philosophy of that religion by a friend, Dan has become increasingly involved in its activities. Dan meditates regularly: “I sit in the lotus position on a zafu—a small, round, black cushion used mainly by Zen Buddhists.” Last year, as a result of their support of the Buddhist chaplain at Cornell, Dan and Gail received the high honor of being invited to meet the Dalai Lama when he was in the U.S. to dedicate a monastery near the university. And not long ago Dan spent time at a retreat at a Zen monastery in upstate New York.

An Omnioleorean for seven years, Dan has been a coordinator, member-at-large on the Board of Directors, and is currently on the Curriculum Committee. After all his years as a scientist, Dan had an opportunity in 1990 to attend a scholarly conference at the famous Aspen Institute in Colorado: “It was called an Executive Training Seminar, but it was more like a two-week course in Great Books. For me,” Dan recalls, “it was a huge eye-opener. There was so much to learn beyond my technical field, and ever since I have continued to want to get more broadly educated. I also learned at the Institute that it is important to realize our choices in life are not permanent—that one can choose new things again and again. I so enjoy learning new things!”

What a great motto for all of us in Omnioleore.

**Whooooo
Needs a New Password?**

Important information and resources that are available only to current Omnioleoreans are protected behind a member password. As of November 1st, that password will change. The new password and instructions for its use are included in the Current Members Package distributed to all members at the Annual Meeting or located in Room 7 of the Franklin Center.

And the Survey Says . . .

by Patricia Edie



Thanks again to all the *Omnioleoreans* who submitted their feedback for the Summer 2008 S/DGs. 62% of the participating members provided information. The results are in and Omnioleoreans obtained helpful data to assist in continuing to provide classes that are stimulating and educational. Special kudos go to *Great Dramatists* and *Pakistan as Keystone* for providing their participants with the highest levels of satisfaction. Comments were especially helpful and reminded us that what members appreciate most in their S/DG are *the ability to have stimulating discussion that include and respect everyone’s opinion, classes that are well organized, presentations that are well-prepared and not read from website print-outs, and the opportunity to interact with a diversity of members.* Many expressed appreciation for the efforts of their coordinators.

This survey is an easy avenue to get your ideas and comments to *Omnioleoreans* ears! Speak up and be heard.



Omniole's 17th Annual Meeting & Luncheon

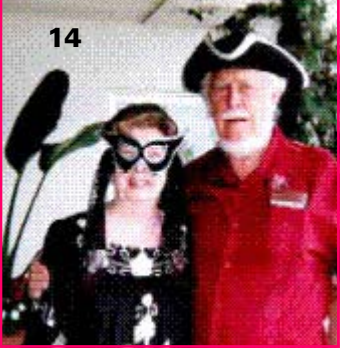
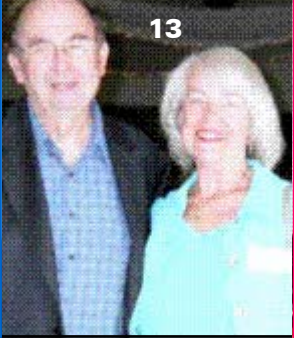
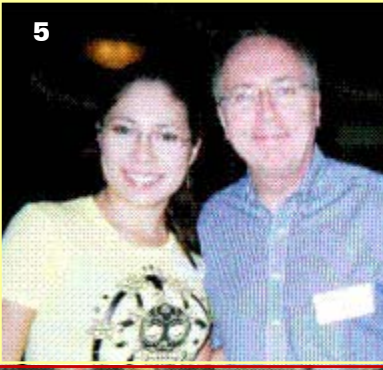


1. Edith Garvey as Joan the Plumber; 2. Mimi Lau, one of our greeters; 3. Jean De Angelis; 4. Howard and Dale Korman fondly recalling their hippy days; 5. Carol Johnson, posing as an Omnioleean, shows her message on her back; 6. Elaine and Bob Grove still bumming around together; 7. Faraday Bartos; 8. Bert Goldstein's behind that mask! 9. Maggie Wilkinson; 10. George Clark as Freddie Mac: "No job? No down-payment? No problem;" 11. our in-house alien, Nancy Shannon poses with Mary Oran; 12. Kathleen Fitzgerald; 13. Irma Cohen; 14. Mary Golob, another greeter; 15. Les Berg, Omniole's shining knight! 16. Cleone Gabel with Margaret Thelen; 17. Hal Goodman and Carol Simone; 18. Carol Kerster (one of our greeters), Harry Cohn, Midge Solomon and Maria Ruiz.

Omniole's 2008-2009 Board of Directors



Rick Spillane, outgoing president, introduces our new Board of Directors: Steve Miller (member-at-large), Ruth Hart (president), Carol Simone (VP Administration), Tom Vincent (treasurer), Janet Brown (recording secretary), and Hank Frankenberg next to Bill Gargaro (members-at-large); (Kit Bell, our new VP of Academics was on jury duty); 1. Bob Bacinski and Sue Estes dressed from *Momma Mia*; 2. Mary & Jim O'Neil in their wonderful Spanish motif; 3. Diana Cutler; 4. Lynn & John Taber; 5. Marcy Rodriguez, our speaker, with Jim Bouchard, OLLI@CSUDH; 6. Dennis Eggert; 7. Marge Alexander as a tough biker gal; 8. Larry and Janet Brown; 9. Ruth & Hal (the Bard) Hart; 10. Harriet Allyn and Nancy Bell; 11. Harriet & Barry Dunbridge; 12. Norman & Patricia Morris; 13. Al & Marilyn Peschel; 14. Anna Jane Lescoe with Richard Foy. *Thanks to Laurel Spillane & Hal Hart for their photography contributions.*



DEAN'S CORNER



Notes from CSUDH

by Margaret Gordon

Dean, Lifelong Learning Institute
College of Extended & International Education

We are pleased to share with you news of the recent award of \$100,000 from the Bernard Osher Foundation to CSU Dominguez Hills and the College of Extended & International Education (CEE). This funding supports, in part, the expansion of college-level learning-in-retirement courses and programs for lifelong learners 50 years of age and over. The funding will enable CEE to expand its programming for seniors by offering a broad spectrum of educational experiences and attracting seniors from many communities neighboring the campus. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at California State University Dominguez Hills will be known as "OLLI@CSUDH." Mr. Bernard Osher through his Foundation has funded approximately 120 OLLIs at colleges and universities throughout the United States (<http://usm.maine.edu/olli/national>).

During 2007-2008 CEE worked with Omnilore representatives as well as campus administrators in order to craft a successful proposal to the Osher Foundation. We appreciate the contributions of Omnilore members and leaders during the proposal process as well as at OLLI Open House events. David Blazeovich, an Osher Foundation director who visited with Omnilore members on campus in June 2008, was impressed by Omnilore's commitment to and implementation of the peer learning model. The Omnilore program is an important component of the new OLLI@CSUDH organization which was launched September 2008.

Omnilore participants are now members of OLLI@CSUDH. Each of you should have received your Fall 2008 *OLLI@CSUDH Catalog* which lists programs, events and membership benefits. We hope that you have had an opportunity to peruse the catalog, and we welcome your comments. We

Greetings From Your New Head Coordinator

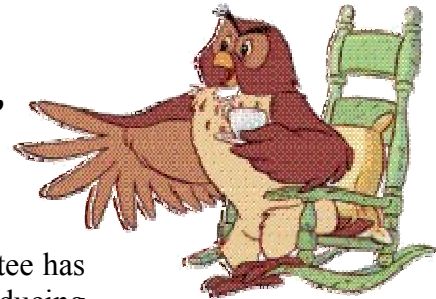
by Dick Johnson

My job will be to assist the coordinators in making our Study/Discussion Groups the very best we can make them, but I need everyone's help. I'm sure you've been impressed by someone in your class who you thought would make a good coordinator. Please send his or her name to dickajohnson@cox.net or call me at 310 891-0819.

I will try to get the very best coordinators for your classes, and I would like to point out what a joy it is to be a coordinator and have everyone in your group learning something and enjoying themselves. It isn't even difficult!!! Please be open to the possibility if I call you. Here's looking forward to a great new year.

**November & December
Dates Set for New
"Introducing Omnilore"
Meetings**

by Howard Korman



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

Thursday, November 20th
Wednesday, December 3rd

. . . starting at 10 a.m. at the Franklin Center.

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!

will be communicating with you about exciting opportunities you can participate in, including the opportunity to teach your own course as part of the OLLI@CSUDH expert-led course schedule. Currently, for example, Omnilore participant **Jay Edie** is teaching "How Can We Live with Expensive Oil and Global Warming?"

The \$100,000 Osher grant enables OLLI@CSUDH to develop programming, infrastructure and membership so that CSUDH can qualify for a \$1 million Osher Foundation endowment, which would significantly enhance our ability to continue providing educational resources for retirees. One requirement is that the OLLI@CSUDH must demonstrate a membership level of at least 500 dues-paying participants and there is a deadline for submitting a proposal for the endowment. By August 2009 OLLI@CSUDH will need to add at least 200 members to its existing membership of approximately 300. We can achieve this goal by working together in order to promote OLLI@CSUDH in our communities. We invite your suggestions and participation as we campaign together for this \$1 million award.

By the way, Happy Halloween!



by Mary Oran

To show that Nobel “judge” that American writers aren’t as “insular” as he claims, we are recommending three excellent pieces of fiction by American writers who have focused on settings in Japan, China, and Rome.

The first selection, *The Commoner*, by **John B. Schwartz**, depicts the rigid Japanese monarchy after WWII. It tells of the first-time marriage of Japan’s prince with a non-royal woman. Through her eyes, one sees the restrictions and protocols imposed upon an intelligent, modern woman who protests her lack of freedom. The story parallels actual Japanese events. It is a fascinating study of what goes on beyond the moat and behind the imperial walls.

Peony in Love, by **Lisa See** is narrated by a ghost. The book reveals the life of a young girl from a successful family, her hopes and dreams and death (no, I’m not giving anything away!). The majority of the book takes place from her after-life point of view. This narrative offers an intriguing view of Chinese beliefs and customs, a horrific description of the Man-

chu rebellion, and culminates in a better understanding of the culture.

Stephen Saylor’s *Roma* is an impressive work of historical fiction. Each chapter is devoted to a significant time period in the city of Rome, begin-

ning when it is a source of salt, and ending in the time of Augustus. It follows the fortunes and misfortunes of two family lines that play varied roles in Rome’s progress. Romulus and Remus-vestal virgins...playwrights...wars and warriors...Caesar...barbarians...rape and pillage...architecture... you name it, it’s all here in this epic novel. It’s an entertaining way to refresh your knowledge of Roman history.

The first nonfiction recommendation is **Comfort** by **Ann Hood**. She writes of her tortuous journey trying to cope with the sudden death of her five year old daughter Gracie. While she conveys the sense of disbelief, helplessness and raw pain that accompanied this event, she also weaves in an energy and lust for life that is redeeming. In spite of the topic, the book is not a “downer.” It is an inspiration that reminds us that there is hope for all of us who have difficult journeys in our future.

How about a complete turnabout? ***The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid:***

A Memoir by **Bill Bryson** is called “A laugh-out-loud pilgrimage” by Tom Brokaw. Bryson was born in 1951 in Des Moines, Iowa, and this is his hilarious tale of growing up in middle America. He presents the simple pleasures of boyhood, and the fantasy life he had as a superhero - the thunderbolt kid. The book has also been described as “an exercise in hyperbole.” Go on – give it a try!

As long as we are pushing humor, consider ***Humor for the Holidays*** compiled by **Shari MacDonald**. The book has stories, quips and quotes for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s. It has the perfect material to get family members of all ages laughing or a cocktail party off the ground. You might want to take a gander at lists telling you what not to get your wife or husband for Christmas, or at the tips for kids, including mashed potato sculpting. (Also, you should know, without even trying it, that you won’t like mince pie until at least age 30).

Here’s my annual New Year’s plea – recommend some books to me – please?

(Our thanks to **Patricia Edie** and **Edith Garvey** for contributing to our list. Please send your titles with author name and a very brief description to msoran@sbcglobal.net. Please put “Omniole Books” as the subject. We look forward to hearing from you.)

A backwards poet writes inverse.



Unveiling...Computer Talks Archives

by the Website Working Group (WWG)



Omniole has sponsored numerous 1 hour Computer Talks since 2004, where various members have shared their expertise on topics related to your computer as well as to other electronic equipment such as a GPS or digital camera. We have learned such skills as how to set up a group distribution list, how to research on the internet, how to prepare a PowerPoint presentation, and how to make class schedules. Now, thanks to the efforts of **Al Peschel**, a member of the Computer Working Group (CWG), many of those instructional files have been uploaded to our website, www.Omniole.org and can be viewed by members.

Al has designed the folder to be very user-friendly. Once there, you will see that you can scroll for the area of information you desire and a click of the mouse on the title will launch the document for you to read or print from your printer.

The Computer Talks Archive files are located behind the password protected Members Only section of the website, where we have other Study/Discussion Group files. The direct link to the folder is:

http://www.omniole.org/members/Curriculum/SDGs/ZZ-COMPUTER_TALKS_ARCHIVE/

You will be asked for your Omniole ID and password, which were given to you in your current 2008-2009 Membership Package. Future computer talks will be continue to be added to this folder. This is a tremendous resource for all of us. Thank you so much, Al!

- November**
- 2 Return to Standard Time
 - 4 Election Day
 - 11 **Veterans' Day**
 - 11 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
 - 13 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 20 Introducing Omnimore Meeting - 10 a.m.-12 Noon - Room 7
 - 21 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 - 24 Website Working Group - 10 - 11:30 a.m. - Room 8
 - 27 **Thanksgiving**
- December**
- 3 Introducing Omnimore Meeting - 10 a.m.-12 Noon - Room 7
 - 5 Website Working Group - 10 - 11:30 a.m. - Room 8
 - 9 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 - 11 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 15 Input Deadline for Jan.-Feb. 09 Newsletter
 - 19 Hiking Group Christmas Party - 10 a.m.
 - 21 Winter Begins
 - 22 **Hanukkah**
 - 25 **Christmas**
 - 31 **New Year's Eve**

OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2008

*Happy
Holidays*



IMPORTANT:

Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with
Lynn Taber - (310) 831-4768 - ledwards_92648@yahoo.com

**The Right Way to Write a
Check—by Tom Vincent**

Whenever you make out a check for a Forum luncheon or registration, be sure that you make it payable to CSUDH. If the check is made out to any other payee, CSUDH will no longer accept the check and the check will need to be replaced, causing a lot of unnecessary delay. So, please do not make out your check to Omnimore or CSUDH Omnimore – just CSUDH!

Omnimore Donated Books
Did you know that the bookcase in Room 7 is filled with Omnimorean donated books that are looking for a home? Browse through them and if you see anything that interests you, please consider it yours! Good books may be added to the shelves but please, no magazines!

Newsletter in Color!

Remember—You can sign up to have the newsletter sent directly to your e-mail address in living color. You can also continue to receive it by mail at the same time, or you can choose to eliminate the paper version.

Contact Johan at johansmith@ca.rr.com if you would like e-mail delivery. You even get it faster that way!

Notice!

Computer Talks for November and December are cancelled due to their being on the holidays.

Look for them in January 2009—better than ever!

For information about the Hiking Group, contact Nancy Shannon at NancySincl@aol.com or John Taber at ledwards_92648@yahoo.com