

OMNILORE NEWS



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Professor Helps Students Save Innocents

oyola Law School's Project for the Innocent (LPI) is dedicated to the exoneration of the wrongfully convicted. Loyola Law School students are the heart and soul of the clinic, which is yearlong. If, after a thorough investigation of a case, a true claim of innocence is provable, clinic students will help draft a petition for habeas so that the case can be litigated in court.



Paula Mitchell

Recently, this project secured freedom for Kash Delano Register, a man wrongfully convicted of murder. From immigration problems to entertainment law, come and listen to how this fascinating project got started and about some cases they handled

In August 2015, Paula Mitchell joined Loyola Law School as the Executive Director of the Alarcón Advocacy Center and Legal Director of its Project for the Innocent. Prior to joining Loyola full-time, Professor Mitchell taught Habeas Corpus and Prisoner Civil Rights Litigation as an adjunct professor.

Paula has co-authored groundbreaking articles with former Senior Ninth Circuit Judge Arthur L. Alarcón and served as Judge Alarcón's judicial law clerk for six years during which time she traveled extensively with him as he visited other federal circuits across the country by and assisted him in resolving over 500 federal appeals.

Paula is Vice Chair of the State Bar of California, Committee on Appellate Courts and holds seats on several boards, including the California Appellate Project, the Women Lawyers of Los Angeles Foundation Board, and the board of Death Penalty Focus. She is admitted to practice in New York, California, and the District of Columbia and is admitted to numerous courts, including several federal circuit courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. Professor Mitchell has practiced in major law firms in New York and Los Angeles focusing on high-stakes litigation and appeals, in both federal and state courts.

This forum luncheon will be held on **Tuesday**, **January 31st** at our usual place, the Los Verdes Golf Club, in the banquet room overlooking the ocean with a view of Santa Catalina Island. You may register for the Forum by using the coupon on the flyer you will receive or use the coupon on page 7. Menu for this luncheon is salmon with mustard dill sauce, rice pilaf, salad, mixed vegetables with lemon cake for dessert. All the coffee, water and tea that you can drink is available for free with your luncheon. Cost is \$22 per person. A vegetarian plate is available if you order at the time you make your reservation.

The Forum luncheon provides an opportunity for members and guests to enjoy a social event as well as hearing a speaker on a topic of interest.

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

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

Editor Marion Smith
Staff Member Open

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Frank Pohlner

s we start another trimester, I am continually amazed at the small army of volunteers who contribute to the success of Omnilore. Did you ever wonder how we have 20-25 new. unique Study/Discussion Groups offered every trimester? You can and should thank the dedicated members of the Curriculum Committee. They compile suggestions from members, other peer education programs, and their own experiences and reading. The initial list usually has over 100 candidate courses. The committee reads books, book reviews and other source material. Then, through a sequence of meetings involving spirited discussion and rigorous attention to addressing our broad spectrum of interests, the classes are winnowed down to the list for the membership to vote upon.

Three hundred members, 25 classes, each member asking for 1-4 classes, only two classrooms, spouses together if possible are just some of the issues that the hardworking Scheduling Team addresses each and every trimester. After the S/DG's are scheduled, the classrooms need to be booked both in our Calendar and the CSUDH calendar system. We can thank our Calendar manager and her backup for maintaining this dual system.

Contrary to popular belief, there are no

magical elves stocking our supply cabinet. Yes, there are real volunteers making sure there are ample supplies.

Coordinators do not magically appear. The Coordinator Committee contacts potential coordinators and co-coordinators for each class. Training classes are updated and presented. Resource materials are compiled, maintained and distributed. The Head Coordinator is responsible for all this.

Presenting the S/DGs requires that our audio-visual equipment be operating properly. This requires constant maintenance of both hardware and software by volunteers on our Technology Committee.

How many times have you accessed our Omnilore website? Well then thank our Webmaster and Website Working Group.

When your S/DG was over you received a request to respond to a survey about your experiences. A team of folks on the Evaluation Committee composed the survey, analyzed the results and are working on implementing ways to improve the Omnilore experience based on those results.

The Forum Committee conducts an ongoing search for engaging speakers, coordinates with the venue, publicizes

the event, staffs the registration tables, decorates the luncheon tables and then repeats four times a year.

How did you find out about Omnilore? It may have been through the Communications Chairperson or the Publicity



Director. We also have this Newsletter with its editor and multiple writers.

Signing up for Omnilore meant you met the Membership Committee at the orientation meeting and your paperwork was processed by our Registrar.

I haven't even listed the president, vicepresident of administration, vice-president of academics, treasurer, recording secretary, past presidents, member advocate, and mail distributor.

As you can see, the list of volunteers is long and we still depend on the services of our untiring Administrative Aide, Johan Smith.

So a big **THANK-YOU** to all our dedicated, selfless volunteers that help make Omnilore the great organization that it is



Winter—Best Sellers SIG Reads

by Patricia Edie & Cindy Eggert

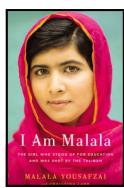
mnilore's Best Sellers Special Interest Group continues to meet each month, at 12 noon, on the second Monday of the month in L8 of the Beach Cities Health Center to discuss the chosen book for the month. We alternate each month between various works of fiction and non-fiction. The discussion is always lively and interesting! Upcoming dates and book selections are:



Monday
February 13:
Fiction *I Let You Go*by
Claire Mackintosh

Monday, March 13: Non-Fiction I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up For Education and Was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousofzai

As with any SIG, you do not need to register to participate... just show up on the date prepared to participate. Guests are always welcomed.



Omnilore Profile A Systems Engineer Takes over Omnilore's Finances: Meet Kent McDonald

by Marion Smith

re our finances that complicated? Maybe so. In any case, we have a brilliant systems engineer serving as Omnilore treasurer and handling our financial communications with CSU Dominguez Hills.

A Southern California native, Kent McDonald attended South Gate High School, where he was valedictorian of the Class of 1955. Kent was the first member of his family to go to college, and he experienced his first real winters in Boston, when he went east to earn a Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at MIT. Those of us who entered college at about the same time Kent did took the train—not an airplane—to school, so he came home

only during summer vacations. During one of those summer vacations, his favorite high school math teacher said to him, "You ought to try Hughes Aircraft for a summer job. That's a good company." Kent went on to work for 38 years at Hughes--based upon that highly-valued opinion.

One early benefit at Hughes was a program that allowed him to work half-time while earning a master's degree. Thus, after two years he ended up with a master's from USC--with tuition paid by Hughes.

Kent started his Hughes career designing computers at the sprawling plant in Culver City. In his early career, he designed systems tests and then he went on to software design. By 1970 he was doing systems engineering, and he now calls that his specialty. Systems engineering involves the big picture and figuring out a solution to a challenging problem.

During his systems engineering career, Kent was assigned to many out-of-town projects. His first project took him to Hawaii for about a year. Then he spent a year in Pittsfield, MA at the General Electric plant. While there he helped build a computer for the Polaris Submarine. Another Hughes assignment took him to Control Data Corporation in Minneapolis for about six months. One project took him to Denver, where he worked on the world's largest complex of super-computers; it's still in use today. Kent's job was to specify and order the computers, and he stayed in Denver during their installation and test. His last out-of-town job took him to Beijing, China, where Hughes was marketing a satellite telephone system to the Chinese government.

During his retirement Kent continued, as a consultant, to work on projects for Hughes. In 1998, Hughes sent him on



assignment to General Motors--specifically, to GM Hughes Electronics--in Detroit. (GM owned Hughes by then.) Hughes had people in Detroit trying to bring technology into GM. Kent shuttled back and forth between El Segundo and Detroit for about a year. He was working at the Renaissance Center, which had been built by Ford to become its headquarters. Then Ford needed to sell the center, and it became GM's headquarters. Kent helped with the system design of new networking equipment and other technology as the assistant to GM's head of IT. Kent enjoyed working with the architectural company, and he was the IT designer for the team. And at the end of that assignment, Kent retired.

Following his real retirement, Kent and his wife Mary Ann moved to Sun City in Palm Desert. They lived there for 13 years, and Kent was very involved in the community of 9,000 residents, which offers 85 clubs for residents. He served on a governing board, representing the 400 homes in his area. He served on the board of a computer club that now boasts 1,100 members. He loved living there and he misses Sun City. He remains on the mailing list and gets occasional invitations to present a computer seminar to Sun City's computer club.

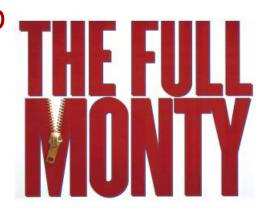
Now that Kent and his wife are living in Hawthorne, they are physically close to both of their children: a son who is a psychiatrist in West LA and a daughter who is a psychologist and works as a student counselor at UCLA. These apples did not fall far from the tree: Kent's minor at MIT was psychology. Kent and Mary Ann see their children every week.

A fairly new member of Omnilore (in his second year), he started this experience thinking he would take S/DGs offering topics he already understood—specifically, science and technology. Then he accidentally took an S/DG studying the history of Rome. He loved that and a short story class. Now his spring S/DGs include the algorithms course (ALG) and the American science and nature writing course (BSN). He does know he's "mostly interested in real things"—i.e., he wouldn't take a science fiction S/DG.

Omnilore doesn't waste any time identifying natural leaders, does it? Kent's already coordinated three classes, and now look: He's Omnilore's new treasurer. Welcome to Omnilore, Kent! [And thanks for joining!]

PRESENTATION WORKSHOP Wednesday February 15, 2017

12:00-2:30 - Room L9



id you know that "The Full Monty" is an English slang word that means "everything which is necessary, appropriate, or positive; the works"? In the US, we might say, "the whole enchilada".

NOW YOU CAN LEARN EVERYTHING THAT IS **NECESSARY**, **APPROPRIATE**, and **POSITIVE** – **THE WORKS** – about giving a presentation for your Omnilore classmates at the all new **PRESENTATION WORKSHOP** on **Wednesday**, **February 15**, **2017** in Room L9.

✓ THERE WILL BE PRIZES, REFRESHMENTS, AND ENTERTAINMENT (bets on our own Frank Pohlner Running the Red with Three Card Monte?)

Acquire renewed inspiration through demonstration - hands on participation - class involvement

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Discover new creative and innovative ways to use

- **⇒** PowerPoint
- **⇒ Overhead Projector**
- \Rightarrow Music
- ⇒ Food, Drama, Questions
- to enlighten your classmates and have fun in the process



Old-timers and newer members alike will be gratified to know that the Board of Directors voted to honor the annual meeting from now on as the **Burt Cutler Memorial Annual Meeting and Forum**, after Omnilore's founder—Burt Cutler—who passed away August 1, 2014.

INTRODUCING OMNILORE MEETINGS:

L9 Thursday, February 23rd - 1:30 p.m.,

L8 Thursday, March 30th - 1:30 p.m.

Help Spread the Word! RSVP 310-514-1415



o many really good movies to see this time of year, so little time!

The Handmaiden uses a Victorian crime novel as the loose inspiration for a true love story, revenge thriller and puzzle film that will keep you on the edge of your seat. There are twists within twists that will surprise you.

The film is set in Japanese-occupied Korea in 1930s. It is visually beautiful, sexually explicit with some violence. A Korean con man (Jung-woo Ha) devises an elaborate plot to seduce a Japanese woman (Min-hee Kim) and marry her for her inheritance. He employs the help of an orphaned pickpocket (Tae-ri Kin) to help him and secures a position for her as the woman's handmaiden. She is to help him have the woman fall in love with him.

The film is divided into three parts and all of the pieces are interwoven and assembled with such care. The acting is exceptional and beautifully performed with such psychological acuity that could only come from the hands of a true artist film maker, South Korean Director, Chan-wook Park. And it doesn't hurt that the two female leads are exquisite to look at.

It is now showing at the Laemmle Theater in Santa Monica and the Landmark in West Los Angeles.

Manchester by the Sea. I want to start out by saying that this movie was absolutely stunning. I was totally drawn into this movie immediately and involved with the characters, the plot and the beautiful cinematography. The movie is about handling loss and grief. It is written and directed by the brilliant, awardwinning Kenneth Lonergan.

Lee Chandler (Casey Affleck) is a hard working janitor/handyman for a Boston apartment block. He is a brooding, irritable loner who is uninterested in anything around him. After the death of his beloved brother Joe (Kyle Chandler), Lee is surprised to learn that Joe made him the sole guardian of his teenage nephew Patrick (Lucas Hedges), and he has to return to his hometown. As if losing his only sibling and doubts about raising a teenager weren't enough, his return to the past re-opens an unspeakable tragedy and hurt that he is now forced to confront and deal with, a past that separated him from his wife Randi (Michelle Williams) and the community where he was born and raised. We see Lee's efforts to overcome his past and his sadness at the comparative ease with which those around him have done so and moved on. And he cannot.

We are shown Lee's past through a series of flashbacks. Past and present are seamlessly woven together showing emotional insight and the deep effects of human relationships in a very honest way. You will cry, you will laugh, but you will not leave this movie unaffected.

Casey Affleck's performance is outstanding. It is what he doesn't say that is so powerful. He shows us his character's inner workings without saying much. We feel the wheels turning in his mind. There is a darkness he cannot shake. Michelle Williams is terrific as the exwife. With only a handful of scenes the impact of her performance is enormous. And the rest of the cast is exceptional.

This is a movie not to be missed.

La La Land. Loved it, loved it, loved it. They had me at the opening scene, a vibrant musical number set in the middle of a morning freeway traffic jam with bold bold colors.

Mia (Emma Stone) is a 20-something wanna be actress and playwright working as a waitress at Warner Brothers, leaping at all and any auditions. Sebastian (Ryan Gosling) is a jazz obsessive who dreams of opening his own jazz club, but works crummy gigs around LA to pay the bills. Both are struggling to make ends meet while they chase their dreams.

There is plenty of chemistry between Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling. They both did their own singing and dancing in this movie, and are more precious because they are not professional singers and dancers.

Written and directed by Damien Chazelle (also wrote and directed *Whiplash*), he stages a wonderful scene where overlooking LA's glittering lights, just like the movies of the 50s, they start dancing. And it works so well.

As the film and their love develop the question becomes, do they care more about their dreams than their love?

Loving. I don't think Loving has gotten the acclaim or the publicity it well deserves. This is a fantastic movie. Written and directed by Jeff Nichols (whose movies include Midnight Special and Mud), it is about the landmark US Civil Rights Court Case Loving v Virginia. Purposefully slow and low key, it is an intelligent movie during a violent, difficult time in our history. Nichols does a remarkable job keeping the movie calm and non-violent.

Sensitive and beautifully acted, an interracial couple, Richard Loving (Joel Edgerton) and Mildred Loving (Ruth Negga) are simple folks from the south who only want to love each other and marry. They grew up in Central Point, a small town in Virginia which was more integrated than the surrounding areas in the South. Virginia had laws against inter-racial marriage. So when they discovered that she was pregnant, they had to get married in Washington, DC, where mixed marriages were legal.

Soon afterwards the sheriff and his deputies raid their home, and the Lovings were arrested for breaking the antimiscegenation law and were sentenced to one year in prison. What unfolds next is history.

These two private, shy people's lives were made very public and they ended up at the center of one of the most important Supreme Court cases of the 60s. This is a well-told story, important today as in the 60s. It is a believable window into the lives of Richard and Mildred Loving, who changed the country just by falling in love.

Movies **NOT** to waste your precious time seeing:

Inferno with Tom Hanks whom I adore. *The Accountant*, staring Ben Affleck.

You, too, can be a film critic! Send your review to Newsletter@Omnilore.org



OLLI Offerings in Spring 2017 by Janice Champion

La Margo Washington, OLLI Director

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) www.csudh.edu/olli



LLI has an exciting spring semester planned. We have a number of new offerings that fit the theme of "our diverse local communities." You already know that we are fortunate in so many ways to be living here in Southern California. We have a diverse geography of mountains, deserts, oceans, wilderness areas and metropolis. We also have one of the broadest cultural diversities in the world. Furthermore, the number of options for entertainment, food, shopping, etc., in Los Angeles is overwhelming.

Along this theme, we will explore our communities. In the past, we have offered classes through which we discovered the richness of our locale, such as Plants of the South Bay, Urban Hiking and Gems of the South Bay. We also host events that celebrate our culture and diversity, such as the OLLI Poetry Faire, the Long Beach Opera lectures and Juneteenth.

The spring 2017 semester brings you new offerings as well as continuing some of the old ones.

"From Cows to Concrete - From Farming Village to Urban Farming in Los Angeles" is a series of three lectures from the author of Farming in Torrance and the South Bay, and co-author of From Cows to Concrete, Judi Gerber. She will talk about the pastoral history of Los Angeles, starting from the early Spanish rancho years, how it has transformed to the current urban setting, and how today's urban farmers are using backyards, balconies, beekeeping and community gardens in a new focus on healthy, locally produced food.

Freeway City is a documentary that chronicles the curious and little known history of Gardena. The film explores how the "collision of race, politics and casino economics shaped the destiny of Gardena, California." The director, Max Votolato, will join us for a question and answer period after the showing.

Unforgotten is a documentary about experiences of Vietnamese citizens after the US departure. Through testimonies from South Vietnamese who eventually made their way to Southern California, you will hear powerful personal experiences of how they survived. The producer-director, Diem Thuy, will join us for a question and answer period after the showing.

See our catalog for the full listing of classes and events for spring 2017 and more about OLLI at:

http://www4.csudh.edu/olli/



Computer Talks

January 26th - Noon to 1:00 - L8

Introduction to the World of the Electronic Reader

Presented by Rick Spillane



We all know that the world of books printed on paper is diminishing rapidly. Since Omniloreans love to read and books are heavy and take up a lot of space on the trips we love, what are our options? The January Computer Talk by Rick Spillane will focus on the world of iPhones, iPads and Kindles/Nooks, with special emphasis on eBooks.

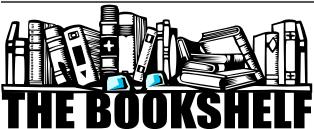
Each of the following iPads/Apps, Kindles/mobi/az3, and Nook eBooks will be defined and demonstrated. I will show you how to effectively use them.

- Learn how to download eBooks from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or your local library.
- Learn how to use your computer to convert eBooks from one format to another using Calibre -- a free eBook library management program that runs under Windows, OS X, or Linux.
- Learn how transfer or mail eBooks to different devices.
- Find out if there are legal ways to obtain free eBooks or music.

Please bring your iPad or Kindle if you have one or just come and learn how to take advantage of the new technology.

We will look at the iPad versions of Kindle, email, PowerPoint, and other Apps of interest if time allows.

Share your favorites apps for everything from Weather, to Maps to Photography and Facebook with your fellow Omniloreans. Continued on Page 8



omer & Langley by E. L. Doctorow. A masterful novel by a renowned author, it was shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize. Based on a true story of the reclusive Collyer brothers in New York: one blind, but deeply intuitive, the other damaged in WWI. They live in what was once a mansion on 5th Ave and scavenge at night. They try to shut out the world and succeed in opening a window to the rest of us about what our world really looks like. This novel has also been used as a teaching moment by the Cornell Community since it shines a light on societies strengths and weaknesses.

Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work, by Matthew B. Crawford. This NY Times bestseller is a great book about human excellence and the fact that it's undervalued in the U S. It reads a bit like the successor to Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance (by Pirsig) which I suspect is purposeful. With the demise of craft schools and vocational training, young people feel forced into an academic path. But that is clearly unsatisfying and inappropriate for

some. Based on his own experience, Crawford makes the case for doing physical things in an abstract society. Touched a chord with me as a car and motorcycle tinkerer.

The Tao is Silent, by **Raymond Smullyan.** Smullyan is widely known as a Professor of Logic and Philosophy. He provided Scientific American with logical puzzles for many years. However, this book is a beautiful view of Eastern Religion and The Tao in particular. Smullyan writes personally on how Taoism is a state of inner serenity combined with aesthetic awareness. He strives to get across that the Taoist is one who is not so much in search of something he hasn't, as the one who is enjoying what he has. The Logician and person fascinated with paradoxes does seep through.

Black Lies Matter, by Taleeb Starkes. There are the values of equality, opportunity, faith, family, character, generosity, justice, and perseverance. And then there's mob rule. And the mob's winning; but why not? Racial strife sells newspapers and funds rabble-rousers. Violence sells movies; the scene in "Straight Outa Compton" with armed gangstas swarming down the halls of a hotel was exciting (even more so for the other residents, I'd imagine).

This book lays it all out in shocking detail, from hoods shooting up a city bus, to

their next generation, starting with baby mamas with ten kids from nine fathers. Read it with a cup of calming tea, because Taleeb Starkes documents it all in two books, *The Un-Civil War*, and *Black Lies Matter*, with links to videos and newspaper articles for every incident he cites; and the depth and variety of those links are eye-opening. Who knew, for example, that in 2012 a police attorney advised tourists to avoid an entire city (Detroit)?

The ray of hope offered is, of course, books like Starkes'; sane words from an earlier Cosby in Come On, People; a monologue by Chris Rock; and a song by Kevon Carter in Chi-Raq, which has been somehow redacted from the Internet, the finding of which is a challenge to one's ingenuity; an Esquire article by John Ridley, and no doubt other lone black voices. What's missing is their uniting and forming the nucleus of a movement back to the values I cited at the top, and only they can do it. Topdown solutions won't work. But this might: from the song, "Stout-Hearted Men"

> "There is nothing in the world to halt or mar a plan; When stout-hearted men can stick together man to man." I wish them all luck.

Book suggestions from Omniloreans make this column work. Thanks to **Dan Stern** and **Rich Mansfield** for contributing to this month's list.

WHEN:	OMNILORE Winter Forum Luncheon Reservation Form EN: Tuesday, January 31st, 2017—11:30 a.m.	
WHERE:	Los Verdes Country Club 7000 W. Los Verdes Drive Rancho Palos Verdes	Reservation Form m. NO Reservations 21st! accepted after January
Please make	reservations for the Omnilore Winter Forum Lunc	
Name(s):		Phone
	(Please Print)	E-Mail
	(Please Print)	Enclosed is a check for: \$22.00 each
Vegetarian plate	: # Regular plate: #	Total number of meals:

Redondo Beach, CA 90277-5122



Computer Talks Continued from Page 6

February 23rd - Noon to 1:00 - L8 Protect Yourself and Your Computing Device on the Internet

Presented by Rick Spillane

The February Computer Working Group talk will be on protecting yourself while using computing devices connected to the Internet. Between Wi-Fi spoofing, keyloggers, and other types of hacking, public networks really are cesspools. But if you're working remotely and need to access sensitive data on your bank's private servers or checking on Facebook, doing so from an unsecured public network like a coffee shop, hotel, or airport Wi-Fi could put that data, your financial security, and other private information at risk. Many hackers sit in Starbucks, cafes, hotels, and airports looking for people using unprotected devices. We will cover how to protect your iPhone, iPad, or laptop when away from home and even at home. It only needs one successful attack on your iPhone to compromise your data.

Visit the Omnilore website at Omnilore.org! Key Omnilore volunteers can be contacted via email.

President@Omnilore.org
VP-Academics@Omnilore.org
VP-Administration@Omnilore.org
Curriculum@Omnilore.org (new S/DG suggestions)
Forum@Omnilore.org (Forum Committee)
Publicity@Omnilore.org (send your PR ideas)

Registrar@Omnilore.org (send updates to contact info)
Newsletter@Omnilore.org (submit articles or news)
Admin@Omnilore.org (Johan Smith)
Supplies@Omnilore.org (need to replenish cups, plates ...)
Equipment@Omnilore.org (report equipment issues)
Webmaster@Omnilore.org

CWG@Omnilore.org (propose a Computer Talk)
Best-Sellers@Omnilore.org (book discussion group)
Walking-Group@Omnilore.org
Calendar@Omnilore.org (room requests for pre-meetings)
SDG-Folders@Omnilore.org (help uploading class files)
Technology@Omnilore.org (new Technology Committee)