



# OMNIOLORE NEWS



Volume 26 Issue 4

www.omnilore.org

July 2017

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS Elected Officers

President	Frank Pohlner
VP - Academics	Judy Bayer
VP - Administration	Gloria Martin
Treasurer	Kent McDonald
Recording Secretary	Judy North
Past President	Art Irizarry
Member-at-Large	Claire Damecour
Member-at-Large	Joy Jurena
Member-at-Large	Carol Wingate

### Standing Committee Chairs

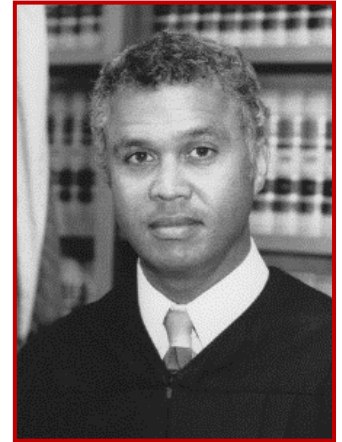
Membership	Florence Murphy
Forum	Robert Mallano
Communications	Marion Smith
Curriculum	Rick Spillane
Technology	Bill Gargaro
Finance	Kent McDonald
Head Coordinator	Gloria Dumais

### Appointees

Registrar	Carolyn Pohlner
SDG Scheduling	Ruth & Hal Hart
Room Scheduling	Lynn Taber
Laptop Administrator	Rick Spillane
Equipment	Hal Hart
	Jim Slattery
Supplies	Carolyn Pohlner
	Jill McKenzie
Office Manager	Lynn Anderson
Member Advocate	Frank Reiner
Webmaster	Hal Hart

## Retired Superior Court Judge to Address Omnilore on Biddy Mason— a Part of LA's Ethnic History

Retired Judge William Beverly Jr. is founder and 10-year president of Eighth & Wall Incorporated, a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to tell the forgotten stories of the Los Angeles ethnic communities. He will be speaking to Omnilore on Biddy Mason, born a slave in 1818, who walked 2000 miles behind a wagon train to claim her freedom, and ended up owning much of downtown Los Angeles. Along the way she helped the town recover from disaster, counseled inmates at the jail and founded the first African American church in the city, only to later become a forgotten page in history.



William C. Beverly, Jr.

Judge Beverly is a 1965 graduate of Pepperdine University and was a Los Angeles County social worker while attending Southwestern University School of Law, from which he earned his degree in 1969. He practiced in Hollywood for three years before forming a Long Beach firm with several other lawyers. He was also a member of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, serving as its vice president prior to being named to the Long Beach Municipal Court by Governor Jerry Brown in 1980. He was elevated to the Superior Court by Governor George Deukmejian in 1985, serving until his retirement in August 2003.

The Forum luncheon will be held on **Monday, July 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 in the mail or use the coupon on page 7. The menu for this luncheon is baby spinach salad with vinaigrette dressing, grilled salmon with lemon-caper-dill sauce, potatoes au gratin, asparagus, and chocolate tuxedo mousse cake for dessert. All the coffee, water and tea that you can drink is available for free with your luncheon. The cost is \$25 per person. A protein 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 has raised the Forum luncheon cost to \$25  
to cover the full cost of the luncheon.**

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.

OMNIOLORE 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

I started writing a version of this column describing how the position of president of Omnilore sometimes becomes a human complaint department and I shared the most common complaints that I have received and asked for your suggestions on how to address them. I figuratively tore up that column and started to think about all the positive things that I have learned and experienced through Omnilore.

Currently I am enrolled in an S/DG based on the book *Grace Without God* by Katherine Ozment. This book is the deeply personal story of the author's search for something to fill the void she feels in her life because she is religiously unaffiliated. My classmates are a wonderful mix of believers and non-believers, church-goers and those who do not attend religious services. We have shared our feelings, beliefs, opinions and knowledge of religion, lifestyles,

atheism, deism, etc. It has reminded me of how little I know of the world's belief systems. Since starting this course I have read two additional books referenced in the core reading. I look forward to each class.

Since last November nothing has consistently dominated the news like the alleged Russian influence in our last presidential election. Another class I am taking is "Putin". However, the book we are using is really a detailed look by a journalist that spent years studying the people of a town in the Russian heartland. How these folks view Putin, the Russian economy, the United States, drug addiction, education, etc. is the story. I thank the Curriculum Committee for such a timely pick.

I have participated in the last two Omnilore Walking Group outings. One was along the San Pedro waterfront including Ports O' Call Village; another

started at Point Fermin lighthouse and proceeded along the P.V. Bluffs. We had brilliantly clear weather for both walks and I found the conversations with the other Omniloreans as good if not better than the scenery. The group so thoroughly enjoyed these experiences that plans are being made to increase the frequency of these outings.

I realized that every trimester brings another round of great experiences in Omnilore and I am so glad that I share them with a like-minded group of people.

I hope every one of you had a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.




**THE EQUIPMENT BOX**

**2017 Laptop Problems and Solutions**

Hal Hart (Omnilore Co-Equipment Manager – [Equipment@Omnilore.org](mailto:Equipment@Omnilore.org))

In 2017 Omniloreans have experienced a frustrating uptick in problems using our Dell laptops — causing delays and interruptions in presentations. Deeper explanations of the two most frequent recurring problems follow, but the #1 message to spread is that

**Every class's Equipment Techie needs to arrive 30 minutes early and turn on the laptop to allow time for (1) possible Windows updates and to (2) assure the display shows properly on the laptop and via the projector on the screen.**

More on these two problems, particularly #2 where techie actions are required:

1. Windows 10 has made automatic updates virtually un-interruptible and their frequency seems to have increased. The laptop has to be on for updates from Microsoft to be detected and installed. Thus, all queued-up or past-due updates run automatically the next time the laptop is turned on, sometimes taking 10-20 minutes. You never know when updates are sent by Microsoft, so turning on the laptop early and waiting out any updates is the solution. The update process may finish with instructions to then Restart the laptop, which takes about one minute.
2. Several members have reported that the laptop display does not come on, even though they are sure the laptop has been started up by pushing the button at the top of the keyboard. The solution here is:

*Continued on Page 5*



**Coordinators and co-coordinators are the most important people in our organization. Without them we would be "Up a Creek without a Paddle." So when you are asked to be a coordinator or co-coordinator, please be one of these paddles.**



Gloria Dumais  
Head Coordinator

## Omniole Profile: Omniole's Hart

by Kate Nelson [edits by Hal Hart]

For a decade, Hal Hart has been the director/producer/actor/coordinator for Omniole's Shakespeare class, known informally as the Bardolators. It seems only appropriate then to frame his profile with quotes from the Bard himself.

**"Things won are done. Joy's soul lies in the doing" (Troilus and Cressida):** If you've been in Omniole for more than week, you've seen Hal. He's the guy fixing and testing all the equipment (he's Equipment Manager), developing and perfecting the web site (he's the Webmaster), scheduling all the classes with his wife, Ruth (they're the S/DG Schedulers), running the Shakespeare class (which has a devoted following) and generally making himself indispensable to the organization. But, Hal is quick to say he never volunteers for anything he doesn't love to do.

**"We know what we are, but know not what we may be" (Othello):** Hal was born in Salt Lake City, grew up in Valparaiso (Indiana), attended Carleton College (math major) and then grad school in Brown University's applied math department. At Brown, while taking a new course (taught by Andy of "Toy Story" — ask Hal for the full story), Hal "fell in love" with the new field of computer science and transferred to Purdue which offered the first CS degrees in the country. That's where he met Ruth, both earning Masters in CS and then marrying in 1969 after Hal flunked his draft induction physical. After 5 more years not finishing his PhD in artificial intelligence / machine learning systems (while he was a part-time instructor in CS, Ruth full time), they both decided they liked the hands-on work of software engineering and decamped to Southern California where they spent over 30 years at TRW. Ruth got into project management early in her career and Hal made his mark as a so-called *software technology manager* — which meant research, technology insertion, and quantitative process management plus representing TRW at (and often organizing or hosting) standards meetings and government-industry working groups, on a Federal Advisory Committee and a NATO working group, and in international software professional society activities. From 1993-1997, Hal led an international cult named "SIGAda" which worshipped Lord Byron's daughter, Lady Ada Lovelace — another story Hal loves to tell because in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Ada presciently predicted today's computer technology situation.

**"Let's go hand in hand, not one before the other" (The Comedy of Errors):** Besides his extensive work with Omniole, Hal is a dedicated volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. A proponent of "lead by example", he has helped build over 100 houses for qualifying low-income families as a crew leader — teaching, mentoring, and quality-controlling newbie volunteers in construction basics. Hal has worked on only one Habitat project outside greater LA, on a team which blitz-built a house in one week flat in the 9<sup>th</sup> ward of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. He recalls one occasion in



2007 when he observed an 80-year-old improperly holding a power saw dangling at his side with his finger on the saw's trigger, keeping it powered on. Since safety was his charge that day, Hal yelled at him: "Hey, take your finger off that *trigger!*" Instantly, two Secret Service agents focused on Hal — the elderly man was Jimmy Carter. Age has caused Hal to scale back his work for Habitat (now serving primarily as chief Safety Guy and only an occasional day crew-leading construction), but he's passionate about Habitat as an organization he says embodies his belief in the importance of giving back to society by sharing his time and expertise to

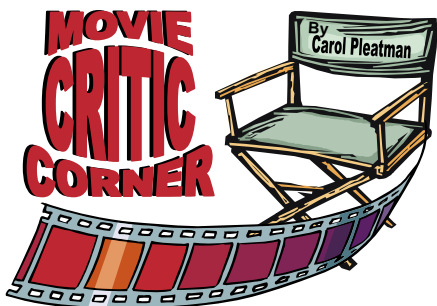
make the world a better place. Because he has always loved to *play with tools*, Hal feels lucky a Habitat opportunity dropped in his lap via a TRW volunteering day in 2000. (Last story — ask why Facebook thinks Ruth is married to Jimmy Carter.)

**"To thine own self be true" (Hamlet):** These days Hal's prodigious energy is slightly curtailed by two knee replacement operations—no more tennis, softball, jogging, basketball or carrying heavy loads of two-by-fours in competition with Habitat's AmeriCorps kids, but he is still an avid walker and golfer, shunning cart rides most of the time. His attitude regarding exercise is reflected in a theory he semi-jokingly cites: "Every minute you spend sweating is a minute added to your life span." Ruth counters with her own mantra: "No pain, no pain." But they're both avid sports fans, having gone to three Olympics games, and attended Clippers games and the local pro women's tennis tournament for many years. He and Ruth have also discovered geocaching and have roamed around the South Bay and over 6 continents playing the GPS-enabled outdoor adventure game (think of a hike with extra benefits, he explains). Older daughter Erika (also turned on to CS by Andy) lives in Rhode Island (where Hal visits several weeks a year helping remodel her 100-year-old house and geocaching with her), but plans to relocate to California. Daughter Alison is close by and used to work for Habitat.

**"Brevity is the soul of wit" (Hamlet):** That's true, but with someone this interesting and accomplished, who can be brief?



Bernie Sills' sketches of Ruth & Hal Hart from their Political Cartoons S/DG in 2008.



**F**rantz - written and directed by **François Ozon**. Adrien Rivoire – Pierre Niney; Anna – Paula Beer; Doktor Hans Hoffmeister – Ernest Stotzner.

When the film opens in Quedlinburg, Germany, in 1919, we learn that Anna's (Paula Beer) German fiancée was killed in World War I. She is living with the parents of her dead fiancée. Anna remains with the couple to look after them and mourn together.

Anna is understandably morose and quiet, mourning the loss of her fiancée. Her partner's parents are eager to marry her off to another German suitor, but she says she will never marry.

She perks up with the surprise arrival of Adrien (Pierre Niney), a lanky Frenchman with a sexy moustache, who claims to have been close friends with her late partner. Anna is intrigued. The two bond over their shared connection against the background of ongoing community antagonism towards Adrien's presence in their town. When Adrien details his relationship with Frantz, their relationship develops in surprising ways. Moved by this connection to her lost love, she introduces him to Frantz's parents. Initially, Frantz's father wants nothing to do with the man ("Every French man is my son's murderer," he snarls). Adrien proves to be such a charming presence, however, that even Anna's family soon embrace him and treat him like a surrogate son.

A largely black-and-white loose adaptation of the 1932 Ernst Lubitsch drama *Broken Lullaby*, which was in turn based on a play by French playwright Maurice Rostand, *Frantz* is also mostly told in German – a first for the director. Ozon has changed the entire perspective to put a woman at the core of the tale. The original centered on a young Frenchman. *Frantz* instead focuses on the German's fiancée, who strikes up a quasi-romantic relationship with the mysterious stranger after he enters her life.

Ozon is often at his best when working with women, and he has a fabulous talent in Paula Beer to bring his protagonist, Anna, to vivid life. She's stunning in the role.

Not long into *Frantz*, Ozon boldly shifts to full-blown color for some key sequences. The flashbacks, recounting Adrien's time spent with Frantz in Paris-scenes like touring the Louvre, Adrien teaching Frantz how to play the violin--do away with the gloominess of the film, as does a lovely scene that sees Anna and Adrien grow closer over the course of a long hike in the mountains. The color gives a needed respite from the misery that affects Anna's circumstance. Ozon tends to favor a twisty narrative, and again offers a juicy one here that makes further plot description impossible. Suffice it to say that the film's best stretch involves Anna journeying to Paris and taking on a more active role as detective. It's thrilling to watch the twists and turns this movie takes and keeps you deeply engrossed.

*Genius*. This is the first time I am reviewing a TV series, but I feel I have to. *Genius*, a 10 episode series on the life of Albert Einstein, his ups and downs, his failures and successes is so extraordinary that it well deserves to be seen by all. It is screening on the National Geographic Channel, and is so extraordinary that it

well deserves to be seen by all. If you missed it, it will be shown again on the National Geographic channel and is available with the On-Demand feature for cable folks. The series started April 25th.

The series goes beyond what you know about Albert Einstein and delves into his multidimensional persona. It explains his genius for non-scientist viewers and who this man is behind the wildly frizzy hair.

The producers are Ron Howard who wrote and directed the first episode, Brian Grazer and Gigi Pritzker. It is loosely based upon Walter Isaacson's best-selling biography, *Einstein, His Life and Universe*. This is a real view of Albert Einstein. Ron Howard said of the series, "These are important real events and characters from history. This series is meant to capture the truth, both in a literal sense and spirit." He goes on to say, "If you just want to understand his scientific insights, this series is probably not for you. . . ." Mr. Howard said in a later interview, "I didn't understand relativity before making *Genius* and I don't now either."

*Genius* begins in Einstein's teen years (played by a newcomer, Johnny Flynn.) He is an exceptionally inquisitive student who challenges the current thoughts on physics and the conformity of his professors. He quits school in Germany much to the dismay of his parents, and after two attempts is accepted to the Zurich Polytechnic University. Here he meets Mileva Maric (Played by Samantha Colley). She is one of the very few female students in science.

He is intrigued by Mileva who is the only woman he's every met who can debate him in physics and also keep him interested in bed. She becomes pregnant and they marry. He is forced to take a job as a common patent clerk. He continues to publish breakthrough papers, making friends and enemies with his outspoken arrogance. After having two children, Albert divorces Mileva and marries his first cousin Elsa

*Continued on Page 8*

*The Next*

**INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETINGS:**

**Thursday, June 29th - 1:30 p.m.**

**L8 Friday, August 4th - 1:30 p.m.**

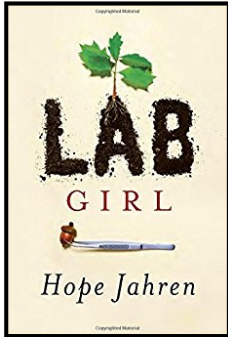
**Help Spread the Word! RSVP 310-514-1415**



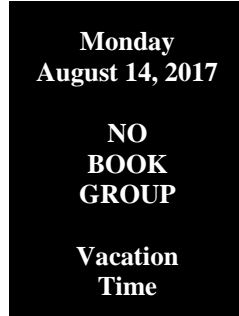
**Summer and Fall Best Sellers SIG Reads**

by Patricia Edie & Cindy Eggert

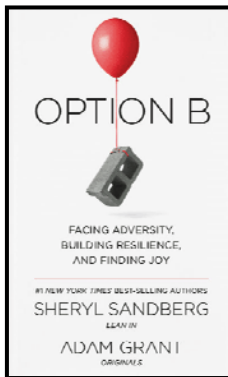
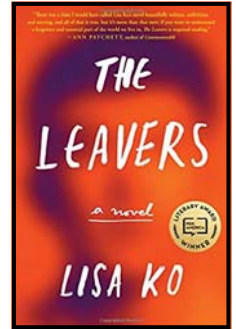
Omnilore’s Best Sellers Special Interest Group continues to meet each month, at 12 noon, on the second Monday of the month in L8 of the Beach Cities Health Center to discuss the chosen book for the month. We alternate each month between various works of fiction and non-fiction. The discussion is always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



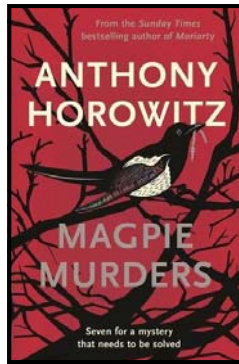
Monday,  
July 10:  
Non-Fiction  
**Lab Girl**  
by Hope Jahren



Monday,  
September 11:  
Fiction  
**The Leavers**  
by Lisa Ko

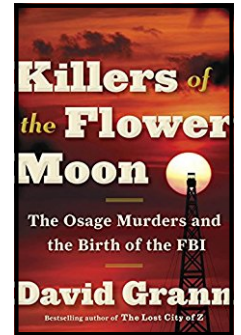


Monday,  
October 9:  
Non-Fiction  
**Option B: Facing Adversity, Building Resilience and Finding Joy**  
by Sheryl Sandberg & Adam Grant



Monday, November 13: Fiction  
**The Magpie Murders**  
by Anthony Horowitz

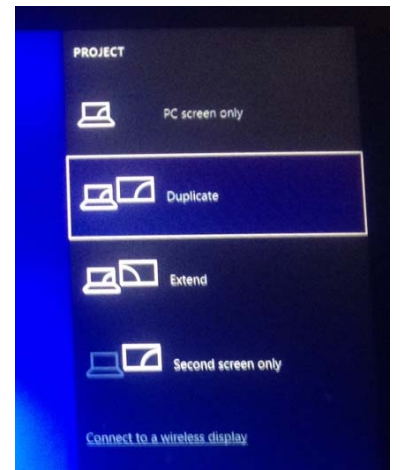
Monday,  
December 11:  
Non-Fiction  
**The Killers of the Flower Moon**  
by David Grann



**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.**

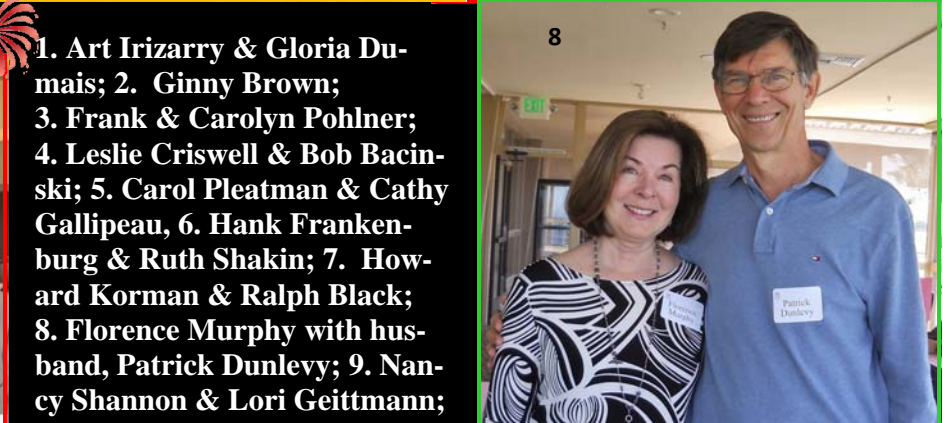
**Equipment Box - Continued from Page 2.**

- Assure the laptop is really on by checking for two or more small light-blue lights on at the front rim of the laptop, below the keyboard.
- Turn on the projector and be sure it cycles to find the HDMI connection. The laptop should then display via the projector on the screen while the laptop stays dark. Look at the projected screen to accomplish the next step:
- Hold down the “Fn” key which is next-to-leftmost in the bottom row of the keyboard and strike “F1” in the top row to toggle the display between 4 modes that Fn-F1 makes visible and selectable on the right quarter or third of the screen (see partial screenshot at right): (1) “PC screen only,” (2) “Duplicate,” (3) “Extended” (never select this mode), and (4) “Second screen only,” i.e., via the projector (which is probably how you will find the mode set). Continue to hold down Fn and strike F1 repeatedly until “Duplicate” is lighted up. Within seconds you should see the laptop display both on the laptop and on the projected screen.

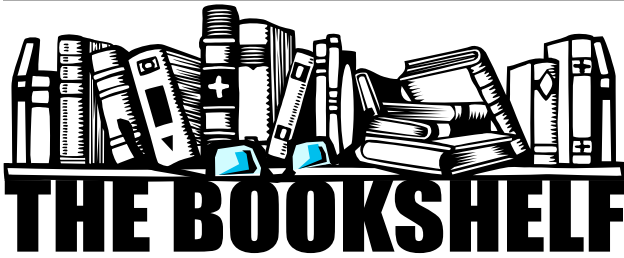


Stick-on labels on the laptop and laminated tip sheets help guide you through these steps. Always email [Equipment@Omnilore.org](mailto:Equipment@Omnilore.org) with questions, problems, or suggestions about our presentation equipment.

# Some Smiles from the April Forum



1. Art Irizarry & Gloria Du-mais; 2. Ginny Brown; 3. Frank & Carolyn Pohlner; 4. Leslie Criswell & Bob Bacinski; 5. Carol Pleatman & Cathy Gallipeau, 6. Hank Frankenburg & Ruth Shakin; 7. Howard Korman & Ralph Black; 8. Florence Murphy with husband, Patrick Dunlevy; 9. Nancy Shannon & Lori Geittmann; 10. Carol Wingate & Gloria Martin; 11. Lindie Banks.



**H**omo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow, by Yuval Noah Harari is another best seller and follow-up to his Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind. Homo Deus is the better of the two, though they're both very good. Harari has also done at least one TED presentation, so you can get a taste of him there. It's an original, compelling, and provocative book, looking at humanity's future, and our quest to upgrade humans. Harari brings colorful and thought-provoking writing and a broad grasp of humanity, both ancient and contemporary, to the table. He starts with exploring the three main causes of human misery through the ages: disease, starvation and war. Harari then shows, perhaps surprisingly, that for the first time ever, more people die from eating too much than from eating too little; more people die from old age than from infectious diseases; and, more people commit suicide than are killed by soldiers, terrorists and criminals put together. The average American is a thousand times more likely to die from binging at

McDonalds than from being blown up by Al Qaeda.

Homo Deus explores the projects, dreams and nightmares that will shape the twenty-first century, from overcoming death to creating artificial life. It asks the fundamental question: Where do we go from here?

**Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer**, by John Grisham. A very precocious 13 year old dreams of being a great lawyer. Both of his parents and his disbarred uncle are big influences in his life. He knows all of the judges, court employees and police.

He knows enough about law that he helps his school mates and some adults. He doesn't just give advice, he refers them to a licensed lawyer if they need one.

After arranging for his class to attend a day of the town's biggest trial, Theo finds out information that places him and others in danger. It also changes the course of the trial.

Being a Grisham lover, I wasn't sure about ordering this book. I did it anyway and now can hardly wait for the next installment to come out.

This is a good lazy day read that I recommend if you read and enjoy suspense

novels.

**The Undoing Project: A Friendship that Changed Our Minds** by Michael Lewis. This is a wonderfully written account, by a best-selling author, about Daniel Kahneman, Amos Tversky and a Nobel Prize. Kahneman wrote *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, explaining the ground breaking experiments and conclusions about human decision making (behavioral economics) that led to his Nobel Prize. It's a fascinating, worthwhile read (but not a page turner). Lewis tells the backstory, an amazing read that is a page turner. With his characteristic accessibility and knack for turning the complex into palatable pieces, Lewis presents the foundations of the science by crafting a story about its two visionary scholars. While telling a riveting story about human relationships, he manages to explain the Anchoring Effect, Framing, Overconfidence Bias, Regression to the Mean, Halo Effect and other "cognitive biases." In fact, he arguably explains it better than Kahneman. It doesn't matter whether you've read *Thinking Fast, and Slow*, read this book.

Book suggestions from Omnioleoreans make this column work. Thanks to Dan Stern and Vickie Volchok for contributing to this month's list. Please send your reads to johansmith@ca.rr.com. Include title, author and a brief description.

**OMNIOLORE Summer Forum Luncheon Reservation Form**

WHEN: **Monday, July 31st 2017—11:30 a.m.**

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

**NO Reservations**  
**accepted after July 21st!**

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the **Omnioleore** Summer Forum Luncheon at **\$25.00** each:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Phone**

\_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail**

Enclosed is a check for:  **\$25.00 each**

Vegetarian plate:  # \_\_\_\_\_ Regular plate:  # \_\_\_\_\_ **Total number of meals:**

Please make checks out to **CSUDH**, and put in the Forum Committee's box in L8 or send to:

Forum Committee, c/o Linda Jenson  
43 Margate Square  
Palos Verdes Est., CA 90274-1843

<b>July</b>	<b>4 Independence Day</b>
	10 Best Sellers Book Group—12 Noon.-1 p.m., L8
	13 Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m.
	31 Summer Forum—11:30 a.m., Los Verdes Country Club (see article, page 1; reservation form, page 7)
<b>August</b>	<b>4</b> Introducing Omnilore Meeting—1:30 p.m., L8
	10 Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., L8
	11 Walking Group—10 a.m.-12 Noon
	14 Best Sellers Book Group—12 Noon.-1 p.m., L8
	15 Input Deadline for September-October 2017 Newsletter

## OMNIOLORE CALENDAR 2017

# Happy Birthday America!

### 2017 Forums

Winter—January 31st  
Spring—April 28th  
Summer—July 31st  
Annual Mtg.—October 31st

### IMPORTANT:

Calendar changes and additions  
are scheduled with Lynn Taber  
[johnlyntaber@gmail.com](mailto:johnlyntaber@gmail.com)

**Movie Critic Corner**—*Genius* Continued from Page 4.

Rathenau (played by Emily Watson).

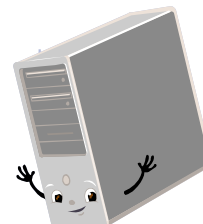
Jeffery Rush plays the elder, self-centered Albert Einstein. He is already famous and much revered. With the fear and rise of Nazism, Albert leaves Germany for the United States in 1933 where he is a professor at Princeton.

The series is a tense binge-worthy psychological thriller, full of politics, breakthrough scientific discoveries and romance. Einstein's fame is so big that it masks the man behind it. I love this series because it explores the man behind Albert Einstein.

**You, too, can be a film critic!** Send your review to [Newsletter@Omnilore.org](mailto:Newsletter@Omnilore.org)



**Computer Talks Is Taking July & August Off!**  
**Look for Us in the**  
**September - October Newsletter**



**Visit the Omnilore website at [Omnilore.org](http://Omnilore.org)! Key Omnilore volunteers can be contacted via email.**

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

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