



# OMNIILORE NEWS



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## Omnilore's Halloween Treat: The Charlie Manson Trial

by Marion Smith

Should we wish Charles Manson a happy 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday on November 12? Probably not. Manson (usually referred to as "Charlie") was the "brain" behind nine murders at two Los Angeles County venues in August 1969.

We Omniloreans were given a first-hand account of the resulting criminal trials [and the charges that led to them] by Retired Head Deputy from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Stephen R. Kay, at our Burt Cutler Memorial Annual Meeting and Forum on Tuesday, October 31. (Forum Chair Bob Mallano and Mr. Kay have known each other since 1966, when Mr. Kay was a summer law clerk and Mallano was a Deputy District Attorney.)

Vincent Bugliosi headed the prosecution team that argued *People v. Manson*, *Charles Milles et al* and *People v. Watson, Charles*, the two major court cases that involved the Manson Family's crimes. Bugliosi served as first chair and Mr. Kay was second. Then, oops: Bugliosi left the trial in order to run for Los Angeles District Attorney, moving Mr. Kay to the first chair. Jury selection began on June 15, 1970, and the trials ended eight months later. Defendant Linda Kasabian was on the stand for over a month. One prosecutor was called off the case for talking to the press too much. These were not typical trials on which you might serve as juror!

Mr. Kay prosecuted Bruce Davis first. Davis was a musician and Scientologist—two characteristics that he shared with Manson. Next he prosecuted Leslie Van Houten, who was charged with the LaBianca murders. Van Houten thought that she was an angel and Manson was Christ, so they couldn't be convicted of murder. But they were.

Manson's attorney was Ronald Hughes, to whom Manson said: "I never want to see you again." Hughes disappeared while on a camping trip during a trial recess. His decomposed body was found months later.

Let's back up in history now. Manson was born Charles Milles Maddox to a young prostitute who landed in prison. (He later took the surname "Manson" from a step-father.) After her release, she turned 7-year-old Charlie over to detention as an incorrigible. He was bisexual and happy in such an environment. When he was old enough to be on his own, Charlie found a partner who was a student at UC Berkeley, and then the two moved to the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco. Charlie surrounded himself with misfits, and this included Susan Atkins, who was working as a dancer. They worked their way down to Southern California, where they met Patricia (Katie) Krenwinkel and Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme.

The growing "family" took LSD and listened to the album entitled "The Beatles". This album is also known as the Beatles' "White Album". Manson and the family

*Continued on Page 4*



Stephen Kay with  
Bob Mallano, Forum Chair

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

OMNIILORE 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

As most of you know, we have dedicated our annual meeting as a memorial to our beloved founder, Burt Cutler. I did not have the pleasure of knowing Burt personally so I looked up biographical information about him for a short tribute at our last Forum and Annual Meeting. My sources for this information were Omnilore Newsletter articles written by Burt, his lovely wife Diana who still takes our courses, and various newsletter contributors over the years. What I found was that Burt was born in East Los Angeles in 1926, earned a master's degree in electrical engineering from Stanford, and then rose to president and CEO of Gilfillian, a tech company.

Burt taught his daughter phonics; his successful methods led to establishing a business—Teaching Aids Institute—which eventually became a very successful supplementary school material publisher of “Educational Insights”. He also founded “Opportunities for Learning” which catalogued specialized materials for schools.



*Burt Cutler as President  
in 1997*

After a few failed attempts, Burt founded a Learning-in-Retirement program with a little help from the South Bay League of Women Voters and CSUDH. Burt proposed ‘omni’ for “universal” and ‘lore’ for “knowledge” -- OMNIOLORE. You can read the November 2012 article written by Diana Cutler at [http://omnilore.org/Information/Newsletters/News\\_Mar-Apr\\_12.pdf](http://omnilore.org/Information/Newsletters/News_Mar-Apr_12.pdf).

While reading these old newsletters, I became intrigued with the issues facing this young organization and its founder 20 years ago after Omnilore had been around for five to six years. What struck me was that at least four of the issues are discussed endlessly at Omnilore board and committee meetings today and one Special Interest Group that was proposed.

The first was budget issues. The budget had had surpluses that needed to be spent down. In 1997 they were faced with cutting back or recruiting more volunteer labor. The second was the issue of whether every class should have presentations. Burt was strongly in favor of it. Here is an excerpt from his column:

“Now let's say that some future group has a pre-meeting and one of the people — either a member or a coordinator — says “let's not do presentations.” Sorry, no dice. According to the Omnilore operating procedures . . . that's not something that an S/DG group can or should decide. According to our Procedures, if there's to be a no-presentation format it should be spelled out as such in the topic write-up. When you sign up for an S/DG in OMNIOLORE you should have assurance that it will conform to our standard modus operandi. I can tell you many horror stories from other learning-in-retirement groups that have “opened it up” and have quickly and completely lost the peer-led format, because it's so natural to take the easy path . . . if we do it we can lose our precious identity.”

*Burt Cutler, Omnilore News, Vol 8, Issue 5*

The third issue was improving the quality of presentations. In 1998 it was decided to offer a “Member Presentation Workshop” using examples. And to offer similar training to coordinators to assist them. It was a great success according to a later article.

The fourth was to start surveying the members for their opinions. Our new on-line surveys have been very well received and have provided valuable insights for improving our program.

And the last that I am going to mention is that in 1998 it was suggested to form a Movie Discussion Group!

So we once again see that the more things change, the more things stay the same.



This is our first annual meeting reflecting our new name for this event:

### **Burt Cutler Memorial Annual Meeting and Forum**

*John & Lynn Taber pose with Diana Cutler, our guest of honor, beside the new Cutler poster generated for this event.*





## Currently Managing the Omnilore Office—Lynn Anderson

by Marion Smith

Actually, Lynn doesn't sit in an Omnilore office space. She does our managing remotely from home. Her job description reads: "The Office Manager is responsible for keeping and distributing an up-to-date Omnilore Governance and Procedures Manual, and reports to the Vice-President for Administration." And she attends meetings of the Omnilore Board of Directors.

Now that you know her current "professional" history, how about learning more about Omnilorean Lynn Anderson?

Born in a suburb of Winnipeg, Canada, Lynn and her parents moved to L.A. County in 1959 to get away from Canadian winters. Later, having served as class valedictorian at Banning High School, she attended LA Harbor College—serving as student body vice president and receiving a Scholar-Reader Award. Next, she graduated from California State College, Dominguez Hills\* with a double major of American Studies and History. This was followed by an MBA at Dominguez Hills, while she held a temporary job as a COBOL programmer. After graduation, she worked as Assistant to the Dean of the School of Management, but a desire to get back into technology led to her teaching COBOL at El Camino College for a couple of years. Dominguez Hills beckoned again, and she returned to DH as Coordinator of Instructional Computing. She was promoted to Assistant Director, Computer Services, before becoming Director of Network and Telecommunication Services following a reorganization. With the latter responsibility, she managed the campus network, e-mail, telephone/PBX, student computer labs, and the help desk. Her most pleasurable work experience came when she chaired a CSU systemwide committee for the 23-campus deployment of wireless communications. She wrote the specs that went out to bid, and she says that time in her career was so much fun. She retired from CSUDH in 2009.

In her first year of retirement, Lynn took lots of trips. Later, while looking for something else to do, she joined Omnilore—probably in the Fall 2012 trimester. She's enjoyed all of her classes, which tend toward art and architecture and natural history. Another favorite topic: Baseball.

Lynn has been a big baseball fan since she was a kid. The Dodgers won the World Series two weeks after she moved to the United States. She continues to be a huge Dodgers fan, frequently going to Spring Training games in Arizona and games in other cities. She had tickets for a Blue Jays game in Toronto in August.

She continues to love to travel, adding two or three other trips to her Spring Training trip. Some of her favorites include a Smithsonian tour of Newfoundland and a Mediterranean cruise that included Croatia, the Greek Isles, and Venice. One of her most memorable trips was her first trip to England, where she visited her mom's Midlands hometown and the Anglican Cathedral in which her grandparents were married and her mother was baptized.

She loves chocolate, so an April 2017 trip to Hershey, PA, was a recent winner, especially since that trip concluded with a ticket to see the musical "Hamilton" in New York City.



Additional highlights of her April trip included seeing Falling Water in rural Pennsylvania and Robie House in Chicago—both beautifully illustrative of Frank Lloyd Wright's prairie style. Her travel bucket list includes the Panama Canal, the Italian lakes, Hong Kong, and Greenland.

Lynn has taken on two important volunteer jobs in her retirement. While talking with a friend at a Christmas party, she learned about the AARP Tax-Aide Foundation, which offers free help with income tax returns for low- to moderate-income individuals. With her background in finance, this sounded very interesting to Lynn, and she's now been a Tax-Aide volunteer at the Torrance office for five years. As you can imagine, aspects of tax law change every year. Volunteers receive training material in November. Then they have to take [and pass] three tests before attending a two-day class in January. If you take a spring trimester S/DG with Lynn, you'll see her schedule her presentation for January because she gets SO busy with her Tax-Aide job starting February 1. Volunteers work one or two days per week plus some Saturdays from February 1 until April 15, except for years like 2017, when—since April 15 fell on a Saturday—the season extended to April 17. Lynn says that this is a really rewarding experience since the clients are so appreciative of the service. This is a close-knit group of volunteers, but they are always looking for new volunteers. You don't have to have a background in finance, but you do have to enjoy working with numbers.

Her other big volunteer commitment was a result of her attending the April 2016 Omnilore Forum that featured a talk about the Village Concept by Helen Dennis. What is a "village"? It's one option for "aging in place", where a person has the ability to live in the residence of one's choice as long as s/he is able. A Tax-Aide volunteer told Lynn that the South Bay Village was looking for volunteers to work in the office that was just about to open in Torrance. There goes Lynn. Since April 2016, Lynn has served as office manager one day/week, helping seniors find transportation and other services. [And Lynn wants you to know that the South Bay Village, serving Torrance and Beach Cities, continues to look for volunteers!]

What's in Lynn's future? Having enjoyed the 1984 Olympics—especially the bicycling at the Velodrome on the CSUDH campus—Lynn is hoping that the Olympics will return to LA in 2024. She participates in a couple of 5K walks/year, including the Torrance Turkey Trot before Thanksgiving. She takes a yoga class and has heard a friend say, "You're busier now that you were when you were working." Lynn's response: "And that's a good thing."

Thank you, Lynn, for your generosity with your time and talents to Omniloreans, AARP Tax-Aide recipients, and South Bay Villagers.



\*[Continued on Page 5.](#)

*The Charlie Manson Trial—Continued from Page 1.*

decided that the Beatles weren't the Beatles—that they were instead locusts out of the Bible who would cause destruction. (And in fact, most of the songs were composed while the quartet was taking a transcendental meditation course in India.) In an interview, Paul McCartney indicated that the lyrics of the song “Blackbirds” were inspired by the unfortunate state of race relations in the United States. The song “Piggies” was not about cops but about upper class white people who needed to be destroyed. Manson's Helter Skelter theory of a race-related countercultural revolution would take African Americans back to the top. (“Helter Skelter” was another song on the album.) The song “Revolution 9” was supposed to demonstrate what Armageddon would be like.

In 1986, the Manson family moved to a sometime movie ranch near Simi Valley owned by an elderly man named George Spahn. In return for free rent, Manson girls cooked for him and slept with him.

In the spring, Manson wasn't happy that blacks hadn't started the revolution and decided that “we'll have to show them how to do it.” And in August, Manson decided that now is the time for Helter Skelter, the new revolution. He then offered his girls to a motorcycle gang. He wanted to go to Death Valley, thinking that they would survive in an underground river there. They needed a golden rope to get to the bottom of the pit. When they came out they would find a black president and Congress. But since Manson was a racist, they only thing blacks could do was pick cotton, so they'd then turn the government over to him.

On August 8, he gathered his followers, saying “Go with Tex [Watson] and do what he says.” On Saturday, August 9, Linda Kasabian, who had a valid driver's license, drove them from the Spahn Ranch to a home in Benedict Canyon. They had one gun and a couple of knives with them. This was the home of Sharon Tate and Roman Polanski, although Polanski was out of the country at the time. There was a telephone pole in front of the residence. Watson, who had been a high hurdles champ, climbed the pole and cut the telephone wires. The hill was covered with barbed wire, so Watson laid something over the wire to help the women get over it. Tex encountered an employee outside the home and killed him. Then they all walked up to the residence, where Watson found an open window. He told Kasabian to stay outside and listen for sounds—and she heard many horrible ones. A Polanski friend was asleep on the couch. Manson said to this man, “I'm the devil to do the devil's work.”

Sharon Tate was 8½ months pregnant. The main evidence in her murder came from Krenwinkel, who left a hand print on the door when running after Tate with a knife. [And a fingerprint at the home nailed Watson.] Four people were murdered at the home, plus the 18-year-old employee who was leaving the home. Sharon Tate had begged for her life. Susan Atkins responded, “Look, bitch. I don't care about you or your baby,” then stabbed her, and then hung her since she was still alive. (The fetus was not stabbed and could have been saved if the body had been found before the next morning, when a maid found it.)

Susan Atkins drank some of Sharon Tate's blood before writing “PIG” on the front door with more blood. Kasabian and Watson then drove back to the Spahn Ranch while other family members had to hitchhike there. The next day, Sunday, everybody watched accounts of the murders on television.

On Sunday, Manson joined his followers, saying he didn't go the night before because “last night was too messy.” Sunday's participants included the four from the previous night (Tex Watson, Susan Atkins, Linda Kasabian, Patricia Krenwinkel) plus Leslie Van Houten and Steve “Clem” Grogan. They drove down Fair Oaks Boulevard in Pasadena, then drove to a hilly area and stopped in front of a mansion. Then they drove to the Congregational Church in South Pasadena, planning to crucify the minister upside down outside the church. But no one was around, so they skipped that idea. They visited Will Rogers State Park, downtown LA, and finally drove to the Los Feliz area, ending up at the home of Leno and Rosemary LaBianca. The LaBiancas owned a chain of small markets. Manson told Leno, “Don't worry. This is only a robbery.” Then he tied the LaBiancas up, went back to the car, and ordered Van Houten and Krenwinkel to kill them with Watson. The women got kitchen knives, untied Rosemary, and took her to her bedroom. Van Houten put pillows over Rosemary's head, and Watson and Van Houten stabbed her 42 times. Watson stabbed Leno with a bayonet, the first strike going through his throat.

Someone had taken Rosemary's wallet. Kasabian later planted the wallet in a gas station bathroom, and it was not found until December!

Before leaving the LaBianca home, someone wrote “Rise” [another Beatles song name] over the front door in blood. “Helter Skelter” was written in blood on the fridge door. “Death to Pigs” was written in blood elsewhere. This is the way the revolution would start.

Manson entered Corcoran State Prison in April 1971 for seven counts of first-degree murder and one count of conspiracy to commit murder for the deaths of Abigail Ann Folger, Wojciech Frykowski, Steven Earl Parent, Sharon Tate Polanski, Jay Sebring and Leno and Rosemary La Bianca. He was sentenced to death. When the death penalty was ruled unconstitutional in 1972, he was resented to life with the possibility of parole.

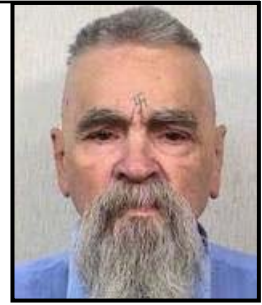
[Editor's Note: Manson died Sunday, November 19th at age 83 of natural causes.]

Mr. Kay then took questions from the audience, with these answers:

↳ Steve Grogan is the only Manson family member who is no longer in prison. He was released because he led authorities to another body.

↳ It was difficult to share the court with Irving Kanarek, Manson's attorney, because he objected to every single question.

Mr. Kay ended his fascinating presentation with the funniest moment of the trial: Susan Atkins had confessed to two cellmates, who were high-priced call girls. Her attorney asked the jury: “How can you believe these two call girls? Each has at least 15 aliases, and I'll bet none of you has more than eight.”



*Charlie Manson Today*



Dean, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
College of Extended & International Education  
CSUDH

It's hard to believe the Fall semester has come to a close. Winter holidays and festivities are upon us. It's a special time for renewal and reflection, hope and faith both in ourselves and each other.

As noted in my last Dean's Corner, Fall and Winter are my favorite times of the year.

College Football playoffs are underway and the Super Bowl is around the corner. Holiday food, family, fellowship and good tidings are in the air. It's also a time of giving and giving back to community.

Last September I wrote about giving back to the Omnilore and OLLI communities and the modest fundraising campaign that is underway. The College of Extended and International Education has contracted with a non-profit fundraising consultant to help us raise \$10,000 as

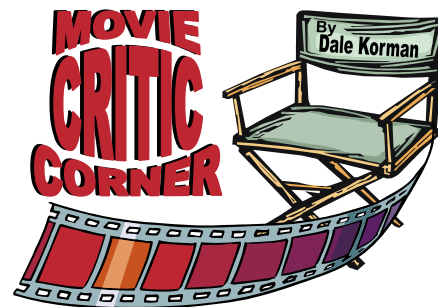
part of our deliverable from a \$25,000 capacity building grant awarded to OLLI. To those of you who contributed I say "Thank You." To those who have not, you can write a good old fashioned check, or make an online donation by starting here: <https://www.csudh.edu/development/where/ceie/> Click on The College of Extended and International Education button and follow the prompts.

CAUTION: The page takes about 20 seconds to load, so please be patient.....It will come up eventually!

Every dollar counts and any amount is appreciated. We plan to raise the \$10,000 by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. If you have any questions contact La Margo or Janice at 310-243-3208 or 310-243-3729.

Finally, I appreciate the acknowledgement by Omnilore President Frank Pohlner regarding the technology and classroom upgrades made at the BCHC classrooms. I believe in providing the best resources possible to improve the education experience. The partnership between CEIE and Omnilore continues to be strong and collegial. Omnilore and OLLI are points of pride for the CEIE and both programs fit nicely into the mission of extended education. That's all for now.....

**Happy Holiday's Everyone!**



*Victoria & Abdul* is definitely worth seeing! The 2017 film directed by Stephen Frears is a biographical comedy-drama based on the real-life relationship between Queen Victoria and her Indian Muslim servant/teacher, Abdul Karim. It is an unofficial sequel to the 1997 film "Mrs. Brown", which reunites Dame Judi Dench with the role of Queen Victoria. Particularly interesting were the photography, beautiful scenery and the use of Victoria's former royal residence, Osborne House, with masterpiece paintings.

There are many touching scenes between Victoria and her *munshi* when he teaches her about the Qur'an and how to speak and write Urdu. As Rex Reed, critic for the *New York Observer*, wrote: "Judi Dench gives a majestic performance, complimenting the script and direction. As good as it gets in movies today."

Don't miss this excellent film and the stellar portrayal of Queen Victoria by Dame Judi Dench. In my opinion, it's worth 4 stars.

*This review is my first critique. Perhaps you would like to join me at the movies and become a film critic partner?*

Dale Korman  
[howarddale@verizon.net](mailto:howarddale@verizon.net)

*Continued from Page 3—Profile*

**\*A short history of California State University, Dominguez Hills:**

Its original name (from 1960-62) was South Bay State College. From 1962-66 it bore the name California State College at Palos Verdes. (And in fact, Lynn submitted her application to the college at a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor office in the former California Federal Bank building on Silver Spur in Rolling Hills Estates.) What happened next? The Watts riots of August 1965 resulted in stunning changes in Los Angeles County. Governor Pat Brown established the McCone Commission, which determined "the root causes of the riots to be high unemployment, poor schools, and other inferior living conditions for African Americans in Watts". Consequently, the Palos Verdes college, which really did not have a campus yet, was renamed California State College, Dominguez Hills, and was relocated to Victoria Street in Carson. That's where Lynn started her classes—in the Watt Building (named for Ray Watt, its builder)—across Victoria Street from the current CSUDH campus. The Watt Building, which looked like a motel, was later torn down for the apartment houses that are there now. Lynn paid \$36/quarter for tuition, and parking was free. Fewer than 300 students were enrolled when she started her education there, and her 1969 graduating class featured 80 students. Most faculty members were full-time faculty at other local colleges and worked part-time at Dominguez Hills. She attended the groundbreaking for the current campus and moved to a new building (the current Small College) for the winter quarter of her graduation year. In 1972, the California State College system was designated as the California State University and Colleges, and in 1982 the system became the California State University (CSU). Today, the CSU is comprised of 23 campuses.



*California Lt. Governor Robert Finch, left, helps College President Leo Cain lift shovel of dirt at CSUDH groundbreaking ceremony held in 1967.*





**Forming a Movie Group**  
 Looking for movie lovers who would like to go to the show with a group once a month. Afterwards, we would have a chance to discuss the likes and dislikes of what we've just seen at a nearby coffee shop or restaurant.  
 My hope is to form an official Special Interest Group (SIG) for movie goers. If you are interested, let me know.....  
 Dale Korman - ([howarddale@verizon.net](mailto:howarddale@verizon.net)) - 310-373-2442



**Spring 2018  
 Coordinator Training**  
**Thursday  
 November 30th**  
**10:30 a.m.—12 Noon  
 Redondo Room  
 (between the elevators  
 and L8/L9.)**

**The Cookie Thief**  
 by Valerie Cox

(How many times in our lives, have we absolutely known that something was a certain way, only to discover later that what we believed to be true ... was not?)

A woman was waiting at an airport one night,  
 With several long hours before her flight.  
 She hunted for a book in the airport shops.  
 Bought a bag of cookies and found a place to drop.

She was engrossed in her book but happened to see,  
 That the man sitting beside her, as bold as could be.  
 Grabbed a cookie or two from the bag in between,  
 Which she tried to ignore to avoid a scene.

So she munched the cookies and watched the clock,  
 As the gutsy cookie thief diminished her stock.  
 She was getting more irritated as the minutes ticked by,  
 Thinking, "If I wasn't so nice, I would blacken his eye."

With each cookie she took, he took one too,  
 When only one was left, she wondered what he would do.  
 With a smile on his face, and a nervous laugh,  
 He took the last cookie and broke it in half.

He offered her half, as he ate the other,  
 She snatched it from him and thought... ooooh, brother.  
 This guy has some nerve and he's also rude,  
 Why he didn't even show any gratitude!

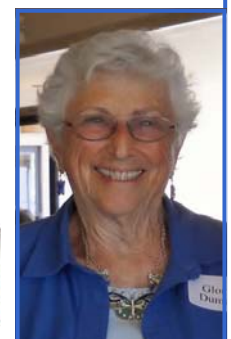
She had never known when she had been so galled,  
 And sighed with relief when her flight was called.  
 She gathered her belongings and headed to the gate,  
 Refusing to look back at the thieving ingrate.

She boarded the plane, and sank in her seat,  
 Then she sought her book, which was almost complete.  
 As she reached in her baggage, she gasped with surprise,  
 There was her bag of cookies, in front of her eyes.

If mine are here, she moaned in despair,  
 The others were his, and he tried to share.  
 Too late to apologize, she realized with grief,  
 That she was the rude one, the ingrate, the thief.



I have heard great things about our great coordinators and co-coordinators. Good work. We are now looking for new coordinators and co-coordinators for the next session. We will be getting in touch with some of you to volunteer for the Spring 2018 session. The coordinator training will be November 30, 10:30 - 12:00 in the Redondo Room. If you are going to be a coordinator or co-coordinator for the Spring, please plan to attend. Thanks again!



*Gloria Dumais  
 Head Coordinator*



## OLLI Prepares for Spring 2018 at Beach Cities

*La Margo Washington, OLLI Director*  
**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)**  
**California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH)**  
[www.csudh.edu/olli](http://www.csudh.edu/olli)



CEIE's available inventory of classrooms was impacted with construction start of the new CSUDH Science building Fall 2017. OLLI is being encouraged by CEIE to hold a class or two at BCHD during weekday timeframes where Omnimore is not using their rooms L8 and L9.

La Margo, OLLI's Program Director, would like to hear from Omnimoreans about what topics would appeal to you—that you would attend—so, he can arrange a successful slate based on Omnimoreans' selections. Being OLLI members, these classes would be of no cost to you.

Please send your suggestions to OLLI at: [olli@csudh.edu](mailto:olli@csudh.edu)

Thanks! I know we can make this work by working together!

*The Next*

## INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETING:

# Tuesday, November 14th - 10 a.m. - L8

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



## In Memoriam

### Dan Gluck

Dan was born in Lakeland, NJ in February 1933, but grew up in Alameda, CA. He attended San Jose State College and was a technical graphic artist at TRW early in his career. He then became a set designer at the movie studios and is remembered for his Star Trek set work.



Dan was a quite well-known sculptor here in Southern California, as well as across the country, and some of his work can be viewed in Jewish theme sculptures in local synagogues. He has done work for the Los Angeles Rams and then Gov. Ronald Reagan's sports commission, and sculpted a 32-foot high, 17-foot-wide steel recreation of nine soaring birds at the Eagle Rock Plaza. At Dodger Stadium, in the historical displays near the Vin Scully Press Box resides his Governor's trophy which was in use from 1971-94.

Dan joined Omnimore with his wife, Mary, in 2009. He passed away September 11<sup>th</sup> after a dual battle of kidney failure and dementia. He turned 84 last February.

### Ruth Shakin

Ruth was born in Allentown, PA on May 5, 1929. She had a long-time career in the fashion accessory industry, and at one time owned her own Long Island company called Design Circle. Before that she was a fashion editor for Mademoiselle Magazine.

She moved to Southern California in 1998 when her husband fell ill and the expert he needed was here. Cementing her need to move was the fact that her three children and their families lived here.

Ruth was a long-time member of Plato and often alternated our classes with theirs. She was an active member of Omnimore when she passed away September 28<sup>th</sup> after battling pancreatic cancer. She was 88.





# Omnilore's 26th Annual Meeting & Luncheon



1. Lori Geittmann with caregiver, Jason George; 2. Bob Mallano, Forum Chair, with Linda Jensen and Dr. Lynda Wilson representing CSUDH; 3. Dale Korman showing off her lion's tail with Bill & Andrea Gargaro; 4. Joy Jurena as Compost Queen; 5. Tom Vincent; 6. Jim & Judy North; 7. Ronnie & Carlos Lemmi; 8. Muriel Blatt; 9. Dick Johnson with a Lion King mask; 10. Jill McKenzie with guest, Irving Hoffman; 11. Carol Wingate and Gloria Martin; 12. Frank Reiner; 13. Nancy Shannon.







### Costume Contest Winners

**Howard & Dale Korman**  
(on left)  
Wizard of Oz Characters  
**1st Place**

**Lori Geittmann &  
Jason George**  
(middle)  
Fortune Teller  
& Dr. Death  
**3rd Place**

**Leslie Criswell &  
Bob Bacinski**  
(right)  
Sacagawea and  
Companion  
(Lewis gone native?)  
**2nd Place**



### Christmas History in America

In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, a wave of religious reform changed the way Christmas was celebrated in Europe. When Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan forces took over England in 1645, they vowed to rid England of decadence and, as part of their effort, cancelled Christmas. By popular demand, Charles II was restored to the throne and, with him, came the return of the popular holiday.

The pilgrims, English separatists that came to America in 1620, were even more orthodox in their Puritan beliefs than Cromwell. As a result, Christmas was not a holiday in early America. From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was actually outlawed in Boston. Anyone exhibiting the Christmas spirit was fined five shillings. By contrast, in the Jamestown settlement, Captain John Smith reported that Christmas was enjoyed by all and passed without incident.

After the American Revolution, English customs fell out of favor, including Christmas. In fact, Congress was in session on December 25, 1789, the first Christmas under America's new constitution. Christmas wasn't declared a federal holiday until June 26, 1870.

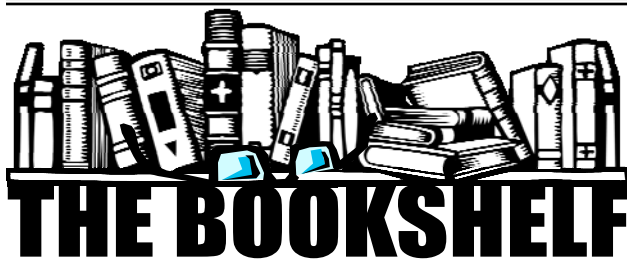
Before the Civil War, the North and South were divided on the issue of Christmas, as well as on the question of slavery. Many Northerners saw sin in the celebration of Christmas; to these people the celebration of Thanksgiving was more appropriate. But in the South, Christmas was an important part of the social season. Not surprisingly, the first three states to make Christmas a legal holiday were in the South: Alabama in 1836, Louisiana and Arkansas in 1838.

In the years after the Civil War, Christmas traditions spread across the country. Children's books played an important role in spreading the customs of celebrating Christmas, especially the tradition of trimmed trees and gifts delivered by Santa Claus. Sunday school classes encouraged the celebration of Christmas. Women's magazines were also very important in suggesting ways to decorate for the holidays, as well as how to make these decorations.

By the last quarter of the nineteenth century, America eagerly decorated trees, caroled, baked, and shopped for the Christmas season. Since that time, materialism, media, advertising, and mass marketing have made Christmas what it is today. The traditions that we enjoy at Christmas today were invented by blending together customs from many different countries into what is considered by many to be our national holiday.







*Hillbilly Elegy*, by J.D. Vance. An elegy is “a poem of serious reflection; typically a lament for the dead”. Serious this book is, and certainly it is a lament as well, and yet it’s a good read, hard to put down, and it evidently resonates with a lot of people, being a best-seller. It’s also beautifully written and obviously heart-felt, and, like seeing someone you’ve only talked with on the telephone, it puts a face on the social problem Charles Murray writes about in *Coming Apart*, or Bill Cosby in *Come On, People*.

When people talk about income inequality or the loss of jobs or “the education problem” as things you could solve if you just threw more tax money at them, they’re missing something essential, and it’s laid bare in this “memoir of a family and culture in crisis.” It’s the families, stupid. By feeding feckless parents, we aid ‘n abet an explosion of feral children.

To quote a teacher in the book, “They want us to be shepherds to these kids. But no one wants to talk about the fact that many of them are raised by wolves.”

Of course, there’s a statute of limitations on how much you can blame parents for

the problems of adult children (a telling phrase in itself). The author himself is a success story, as are two or three others he mentions, who marry out of the hillbilly tradition. But this book gives an idea of the inner struggle

involved.

*The Lost Order*, by Steve Berry concerns a long-forgotten order that originated in the South well before the Civil War. Subversive in nature, it was known to gather and bury large hoards of gold throughout the South when it became evident the South was not going to win. These treasures were alluded to with signs and symbols and guarded by sentinels carried through generations in each family. So, our story starts out with our favorite presidential agents on leave helping the Smithsonian unravel some of these locations, never knowing the protection they were up against or the other sets of people looking for the same things. Add to the intrigue with a popular ex-president getting the scent of a movement to take power from the Senate and you have a fast-moving page-turner for your reading pleasure. Berry bothers to write a chapter after the end of the story, telling what is truth and what is fiction; what falls into the truth category is constantly amazing.

*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, by Jamie Ford is a beautifully written story about the handling of the Japanese

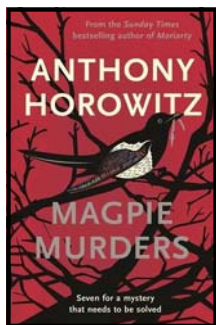
community during early World War II as seen from the eyes of a 13-year old Chinese boy, Henry Lee. It takes place in Seattle and the internment camp serving that area. Henry is growing up in a strict traditional Chinese home, but like many first-generation children, thinks of himself as American. He is forced by his father to wear a button that says “I am Chinese” so he won’t be confused as Japanese, which doesn’t mean a thing to the bullies he constantly encounters. His best friend is a Japanese girl, Keiko, who was also born here and is more American than her parents who are much more open to the “new world” than Henry’s. The best friend status morphs into love, which is not recognized as such by the confused 13-year-old who has no role model in that area. Added to that, Henry’s father is active in supporting his people back home who are being constantly attacked by the Japanese war machine well before America becomes their target. The story is constantly switching between the 1942 war era and 45 years later with Henry experiencing his own misgivings about his own family relationships, as well as his son’s endeavor to understand his father’s reaction to change and relationships. An endearing thread of the love of early jazz is woven throughout. The story has a surprise confession toward the end, as well as an ending gift to the reader.

*Book suggestions from Omniloreans make this column work. Thanks to Rich Mansfield for contributing to this month’s list.*

### Winter Best Sellers SIG Reads

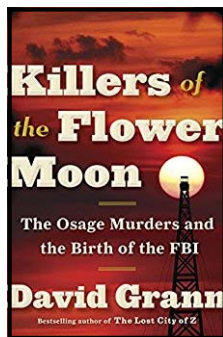
by Patricia Edie & Cindy Eggert

Read an engaging book and gather to talk about it? Omnilore’s Best Sellers Special Interest Group continues to meet each month, at 12 noon, on the second Monday of the month in Suite 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,  
November 13:  
Fiction  
*The Magpie Murders*  
by Anthony Horowitz

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.



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

*Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*  
by Gail Honeyman



Monday,  
January 8, 2018  
Fiction

<b>November</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Return to Standard Time</b>
	9	Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., L8
	<b>11</b>	<b>Veterans Day</b>
	13	Best Sellers Book Group—12 noon-1 p.m., L8
	14	Introducing Omnilore Meeting—10 a.m., L8
	<b>23</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>
	30	Coordinator Training—10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Redondo Room
<b>December</b>	8	Walking Group—Holiday Hike & Lunch, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
	11	Best Sellers Book Group—12 noon-1 p.m., L8
	<b>13</b>	<b>Hanukkah</b>
	14	Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., L8
	15	Input Deadline for January-February 2018 Newsletter
	<b>25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>

## OMNIOLORE CALENDAR 2017



**2018 Forums**  
 Winter—January 31st  
 Spring—April 30th  
 Summer—July 31st  
 Annual Mtg.—October 31st

**IMPORTANT:**  
 Calendar changes and additions  
 are scheduled with Lynn Taber  
[Calendar@omnilore.org](mailto:Calendar@omnilore.org)



**Computer Talks is Taking  
 November & December Off Due to the Holidays!  
 Look for Us in The January-February 2018 Newsletter**



**Visit the Omnilore website at [Omnilore.org](http://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)

**[Membership@Omnilore.org](mailto:Membership@Omnilore.org)** (inquiries about joining Omnilore, or referring friends)