



OMNIOLORE NEWS



Volume 26 Issue 5

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS Elected Officers

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Curriculum	Rick Spillane
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Charlie Manson Prosecutor to Address Omnilore's 26th Annual Meeting

Retired Head Deputy from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Stephen R. Kay will be joining us as our speaker for the October 31st annual meeting. His topic is *The Charlie Manson Case*, for which he is highly qualified as he prosecuted this case. With the LA County District Attorney's Office from August 1967 through 2005, he received his B.A. from Claremont McKenna College and his J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall.



Stephen R. Kay

Besides prosecuting in the trial of Charles Manson, Susan Atkins, Leslie Van Houten and Charles "Tex" Watson for the seven brutal Tate-La Bianca murders, he has participated in the trials of other Manson family members, such as Bruce Davis for the murders of Gary Hinman and Donald "Shorty" Shea, receiving a first-degree murder conviction without a body being recovered—the third time this had been achieved in U.S. history. Conducting retrials of any Manson family members as well, Kay also successfully handled 60 parole hearings against Manson and other Manson family members.

The Charles Manson family redefined cult in our country as no other has before or since. Although Manson himself did not participate in the actual vicious murders, his direction of and influence over the younger and impressionistic followers to commit these murders is what brought him first-degree murder convictions. Join us as Kay shares his inside knowledge of this case and updates us on the latest with these notorious individuals.

The **Burt Cutler Memorial Annual Meeting and Forum** will be held on **Tuesday, October 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 in early October or use the coupon on page 9. The menu for this luncheon is baby spinach salad with raspberry vinaigrette dressing, grilled salmon with lemon-caper-dill sauce, potatoes au gratin, fresh green beans, and carrot 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. Social hour starts at 11 a.m.

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.



Notice this is our first-time use of our new name for the annual meetings: The **Burt Cutler Memorial Annual Meeting and Forum**. Burt was Omnilore's founder back in 1990 and passed away August 1, 2014. The Board of Directors voted last November to rename the annual meeting in his honor.

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 am always pleased to be able to bring good news to our members. CSUDH has completed the installation of all new, upgraded audio-visual equipment in our classrooms L8 and L9. For each room this includes: a new ceiling mounted projector, computer, sound system, PA system, speakers and a new screen in L9. We will still be able to hook up our desktop projector and any other computer we wish. So those of you who like to hook up your Macs or tablets or personal PCs will still be able to do so. We offer a big thank you to **Teresa Stevens**, the Facilities Manager for CSUDH, for her tireless efforts to get this equipment upgrade installed. And we thank **Dean McNutt** for his commitment to the BCHC facility by approving the funding for these upgrades.

Some of the features of the new equipment:

1. New ceiling-mounted projector with remote control. This eliminates a major trip hazard and allows for more flexible seating arrangements. Both rooms now have wall mounted screens which means no more tripods.
2. Connections to projector and sound system on a panel on the front wall. (Inputs for HDMI, VGA and Audio Channels)
3. A sound system with multiple speakers in the ceiling so the sound should be more evenly distributed. The sound system is for both the PA microphones and the computer sound output. We can adjust the audio volume with the volume control on the computer. The sound quality was great during the demonstration.
4. The new PA system currently has two lapel wireless microphones. Per our request they will be getting a headset wireless microphone.
5. Ceiling lights in both rooms now have separate switches for the front and back of the room so the screen can be in darkness while the rear of the room has lights for reading or note-taking.
6. Our desktop presenter is wired to the VGA input of the new overhead projector. (CSUDH has ordered new desktop presenters and they will be installed when they arrive.)



Here are some salient points about the new set-up:

- ↳ Everything will be left powered on all the time. Both rooms have new Dell All-In-One computers running Windows 10 Pro that will be left powered on all the time and set so they update during nighttime hours.
- ↳ All electrical controls are in the lectern.
- ↳ There is a 2 to 1 HDMI switch with cable which will allow anyone to use their own PC or Apple product (with appropriate adapter).
- ↳ The sound system is not hooked to the HDMI so it will be necessary to plug the supplied cable into your PC or Apple headphone jack if you want sound.
- ↳ If you have an older laptop that only has a VGA video output, you may unplug the desktop presenter and use that cable to hook up your laptop just as we do now.
- ↳ The new computers have the appropriate software to play DVDs. When you insert a DVD a dialogue box will

display on the lower right corner of the screen near the DVD drive. (In addition to the Microsoft Media software, both VLC and Handbreak will be installed for those who care to use them.)

- ↳ Both Microsoft Office and LibreOffice are installed.

Members of the Equipment Committee have volunteered their time to meet with the Coordinators, Techies and any interested members in their classroom before their first classes. Both our equipment team and CSUDH will be preparing signage and training materials.

As we transition to this new equipment, I would make the suggestion that Coordinators, Techies and anyone giving a presentation that requires a computer, especially if you are using your own PC or Mac, show up for class 20 to 30 minutes early to allow time to make the appropriate connection and familiarize yourself with the new equipment.

I am fairly certain that there will be some early teething problems as we adapt to this new equipment, but I am equally confident that Omniloreans will address those issues with intelligence, grace and good humor.



As the Summer session winds down, the coordinators and co-coordinators will be having their last class. I hope it has been a very rewarding time for the class members as well as the coordinators and co-coordinators. As we all know, they are the backbone of our organization and deserve a thank you from every one of the members of their class. Keep up the good work.



Gloria Dumais
Head Coordinator

Hail, Caesar! – Meet Omnilore’s Forum Chair Robert (Bob) Mallano

by Marion Smith

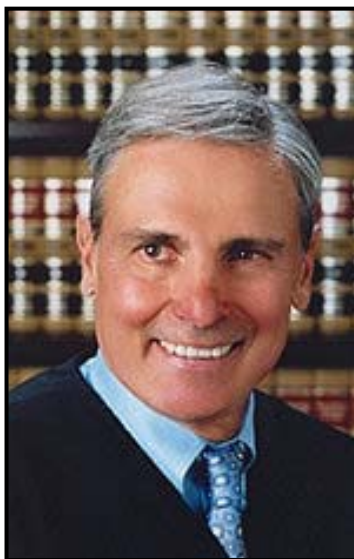
A fairly new Omnilorean [joining three years ago when he retired], Bob has wasted no time in getting active in the organization. He joined the board as Member-at-Large in October 2016 and became Chair of the Forum Committee in May 2017.

Bob joined Omnilore as a result of his wife Kathy’s running into Omnilorean H.E. Kamiya at Trader Joe’s and deciding it sounded like an activity Bob would enjoy. Done. (The Kamiya and Mallano families became acquainted when they had children attending Miraleste High School at the same time.)

Since joining Omnilore, Bob has taken a wide variety of classes including a short story class and the recent S/DG featuring Putin. He’s looking forward to enjoying the DARPA class in the fall.

What did he do before Omnilore? Bob had a long career in law. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Bob attended Mt. Carmel High School [a Roman Catholic boys’ high school, now closed], where he played football. He was then recruited to play football at Yale University, though he entered Yale with a financial aid scholarship because Ivy League schools don’t offer athletic scholarships. Then he attended the U.C. Berkeley School of Law, commonly referred to as Berkeley Law and Boalt Hall. He followed his Boalt Hall graduation with a year of studying law in Rome, Italy, on a Boalt Hall fellowship.

Bob began his law career at a downtown business firm after which he served as a deputy district attorney in the LA County District Attorney’s Office. He then joined a small firm in Torrance before becoming a sole practitioner doing criminal defense and family law. Next, he was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown [during Brown’s first term as governor] to the South Bay Municipal Court in Torrance. This was followed by appointments to the Los Angeles County Superior Court serving Compton, Long Beach, Torrance, and downtown LA and to the Court of Appeal, 2nd Appellate District, Division One in downtown Los Angeles. The latter court presides over Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties. His final position before retirement was Presiding Justice, 2nd District Court of Appeal.



Notes for readers who are not lawyers: Bob describes the difference in responsibilities between a California Superior Court judge and a California Appeals Court justice: The superior court judge [and sometimes a jury] hears witnesses’ testimony and other evidence and decides cases by applying the relevant law to the relevant facts. An appeals court justice determines whether or not a lower level court decision adheres to the law.

Bob and Kathy had their first date at Bob’s high school senior prom. Actually, Kathy wasn’t Bob’s date. She was his best friend’s date, and they double-dated to the prom. Married 54 years now, Bob and Kathy have four children two of whom are teachers, one a stay-at-home mom, and one an L.A. County Deputy District Attorney. They have seven grandchildren. And Bob and Kathy

currently parent two standard poodles, Lui and Keely, named after Louie Prima and Keely Smith [“favorites of ours”, adds Bob]. Bob and Kathy have enjoyed cruises in his retirement, including one between San Pedro and the Hawaiian Islands. A cruise from New York City to Quebec City, Canada, comes up in September.

Bob’s hobbies include bicycling and playing duplicate bridge [sometimes with other Omniloreans]. Recently he has enjoyed taking mandolin lessons. The classic Gibson instrument on which he receives lessons was an engagement gift given by his mother to his father before their 1928 marriage. For many years, the mandolin was enclosed in a display case, and just imagine what fun it’s been for Bob to bring new life to this instrument.

Bob is an active volunteer at Verbum Dei High School in Watts. Verbum Dei students are required to work one day a week, and it is Bob’s job to recruit companies to hire the students at \$7,500/year [payable to the school in lieu of a student’s tuition]. As you might imagine, knowing Bob’s career, many of the hiring organizations are law firms.

Bob appreciates the talent and work ethic of the members of Omnilore’s Forum Committee, making it a pleasure to step into the role that was filled so long and so well by former Forum Chair Lori Geittmann.



The Next

INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETINGS:

Friday, October 13th - 1:30 p.m.

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

Help Spread the Word! RSVP 310-514-1415





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

The new academic year is underway at the College of Extended and International Education. The Fall semester is about new beginnings, new students, new hopes and renewed aspirations.

I often say, the new year begins in September, not January. The evening air is crisp, football is underway (Go Sea Hawks!), and Halloween is around the corner (Remember to watch "It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown.")

Thinking about the notion of new beginnings, OLLI was awarded a capacity building grant of \$25,000. The funds will be invested to grow membership and improve programming, the lifeblood of any volunteer organization. One stipulation of the grant is robust fundraising.

So, I ask you to please consider, for a moment, what life might be like without your friends, stimulating conversations on culture and history, or travel to new and exciting locales.

Pretty boring, right?

Today, more than ever, lifelong learning programs, like the ones we offer, provide people from all walks of life, unique opportunities for personal growth and involvement.

As OLLI and Omnilore members, you have created a warm and welcoming forum for active individuals 50+ who are curious and want to learn new things.

It's because of you that OLLI will celebrate its 15th Anniversary in 2018, and we would not have made it this far without your partnership and support.

Please help OLLI continue to grow so that we can offer even more exciting events for our members.

You can make a contribution simply by writing a check to help future generations of lifelong learners. Any giving amount would be much appreciated.

It's also easy to make an online donation here:

https://toropay.csudh.edu/C20032_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=8&SINGLESTORE=true

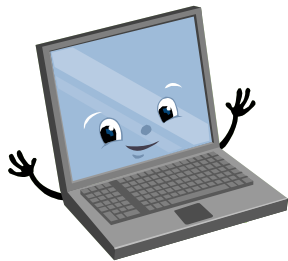
Just click on The College of Extended and International Educations button and follow the prompts.

CAUTION: The page takes about 20 seconds to load, so please be patient if contributing online.

To mark this occasion, we have set a goal of raising \$10,000 by February 28, 2018. If you have any questions, contact OLLI Coordinator La Margo Washington at 310-243-3208.

Together, we can take OLLI to new heights!

Thank You for your consideration and support of Omnilore and OLLI.



Computer Talks

September 28th - Noon to 1:00 - LS

**Free Software
Protection Against Thieves, & The Cloud**

Presented by Rick Spillane



This month's talk by Rick Spillane will cover using free software to protect you and your computer against hackers and thieves. For example, what if someone freezes your email and calls and wants money to restore it or they will eliminate all your stored email. This has happened to Omniloreans. What do you do to protect yourself? What about passwords and how do you remember secure passwords for all your accounts? An easy to break password is like leaving your front door and car unlocked and depending on luck to protect you.

The second part is: What is the cloud and what should you use it for? Knowing about the strengths and weakness of using the cloud is important. Since one no one really backs up their information frequently enough the cloud can help prevent loss of important data. It can save us money with the proper use and cost us money if we are not aware.

October 26th - Noon to 1:00 - LS

Omnilore's Magical S/DG Scheduling Program

Presented by Ruth and Hal Hart—Omnilore's S/DG Schedulers

Do you appreciate that Omnilore's course schedule is not arbitrarily set by the organization, but instead based on members' availabilities in order to maximize the number of Omniloreans getting into the classes they request?

Do you realize that your odds of getting the course(s) you request as first choice or a backup are approximately 96.43%?

The talk will explain the basic scheduling process, show and explain the visionary collaborative Haman-Computer program written more than 15 years ago by John Taber (*Omnilore's 2nd President*), and step through snapshots of screens and key numbers and human heuristics and optimality criteria used for determination of a trimester's actual class schedule.

A Report on the July Forum:

Bridget “Biddy” Mason—A Part of Los Angeles History

by *Teddie Milner*

At the Omnimore Forum on Monday, July 31, Bridget “Biddy” Mason’s journey from illiterate slave to bilingual Angelina, nurse, real estate entrepreneur and philanthropist came to life. Biddy Mason was born a slave in 1818 in Hancock County, Georgia, and died a wealthy landowner (and so much more) in January of 1891 in Los Angeles, California. She lived long enough to become the first African-American millionaire in Los Angeles. She was the founder of the First African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church of Los Angeles. At the time of her death she was 72 years old. She had accomplished more than most people—not just because she lived longer but because of her hard work, financial skills, kindness and generosity of time, spirit and money. Is she a forgotten page in our history?

Judge William Beverly, Jr., a retired judge of the California Superior Court, brought a slide presentation to enhance his talk and share what he knew about Biddy Mason’s extraordinary life. He told us that his father had once met Biddy Mason—when she first arrived in Los Angeles with her three kids. Judge Beverly is the founder and currently the president of a non-profit organization, Eighth and Wall Incorporated, dedicated to sharing the “almost forgotten stories” of the Los Angeles ethnic communities. (A description of the judge’s career and professional accomplishments can be found in the July edition of the Omnimore newsletter.)



Bridget “Biddy” Mason

Bridget “Biddy” Mason’s story begins in Georgia, where as a young slave she was separated from her parents and sold several times. She worked on several plantations in Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina. Most of her childhood was spent in South Carolina working for Robert Smithson. In 1836 Smithson gave Biddy to his cousin, Robert Marion Smith, and his wife as a wedding gift. After the Smiths were married, they all returned to Smith’s plantation in Logtown, Mississippi. Of course, Biddy had no choice but to move with them. Although she had no formal education, she picked up midwifery and herbal medicine from some of the other slaves. While working for the Smiths, Biddy gave birth to three daughters—Ellen, Ann and Harriet—who may have been fathered by Smith.

Missionaries from the Church of Latter-day Saints converted the Smiths to the Mormon religion. In 1847, Robert Smith took his entire family and slaves (about 90 people) from Mississippi to Utah. Biddy’s duties on the trip included herding the cattle, preparing the meals and using her skills as a midwife to assist women and animals during pregnancy and delivery. With her three daughters, one strapped to her back, Biddy walked behind the Smith’s wagon from Mississippi to the Salt Lake Valley in Utah, where the Mormon leadership had established a colony. In 1851 Brigham Young sent a group of Mormons, including the Smiths, Biddy and other slaves, to Southern California to establish a new settlement. Young encouraged all of the slave owners to free their slaves but many owners, including Robert Smith, were reluctant to do this. Again, Biddy and other slaves walked behind the wagon trains through rough, mountain and desert terrains to get to San Bernardino.

In 1850, California had been admitted to the Union as a free state so any slave stepping foot on California soil became free. Robert Smith may have learned that California was inconsistently enforcing this new law. Until 1855 slaves continued to be used in the mines in California. It was well known that two men were running a slave trade northeast of Los Angeles. They continued until a sheriff’s deputy got wind of the operation and sent a “cease and desist” order.

As Californians’ negative attitude toward slavery grew stronger, the courts began to prosecute those who illegally held slaves. The Smiths moved from San Bernardino, this time to the slave state of Texas, where Robert Smith planned to sell his slaves. As their owner, Robert Smith told those slaves who had not been freed, that they would be free in Texas. They learned from freed slaves that this was unlikely to happen in Texas. The Smith slaves were purposely kept ignorant of the law and their rights. When Biddy Mason, with the support of a few friends, left San Bernardino and arrived in Los Angeles she accepted an invitation to live with Robert Owens and his family. Charles Owens, the son of Robert Owens, began courting Biddy’s daughter. Owens and several other freed slaves told Biddy how to become a legally free woman. Robert Owens, a successful businessman, persuaded the sheriff to look into the Smith plan to take the slaves to Texas. The sheriff immediately arranged for a posse to pick up Biddy and the other slaves to put them in protective custody in county jail until their legal status could be sorted out. Meanwhile, Robert Owens filed a petition charging Smith with illegally holding slaves in a free state.

Biddy Mason never wanted to go to Texas. She feared that she would be separated from her children as she had been separated from her mother. Biddy petitioned the court for her freedom. Robert Smith was so confident that he would get Biddy back that he didn’t even appear in court. Through his attorney, he claimed that Biddy and the others were not slaves but family members. Smith knew that blacks were not allowed to testify against whites or anyone in court—not even on his/her own behalf.

Because Judge Benjamin Ignatius Hayes did not trust Robert Smith, he invited Biddy Mason to his chambers to tell him her story. Judge Hayes meticulously wrote about his findings, noting that Smith exercised undue interest. Biddy expressed herself passionately about her right to freedom, and the judge granted it to her. There is no record of these proceedings. The judge’s findings could not



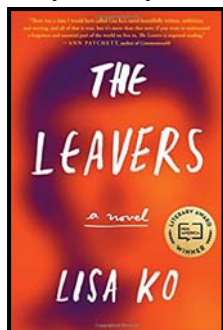
William Beverly, Jr.
Our Speaker

Continued on Page 7

Fall Best Sellers SIG Reads

by Patricia Edie & Cindy Eggert

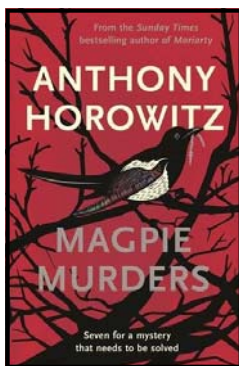
Omniole’s Best Sellers Special Interest Group continues to meet each month, at 12 noon, on the second Monday of the month in L8 of the Beach Cities Health Center to discuss the chosen book for the month. We alternate each month between various works of fiction and non-fiction. The discussion is always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



Monday,
September 11:
Fiction
The Leavers
by Lisa Ko

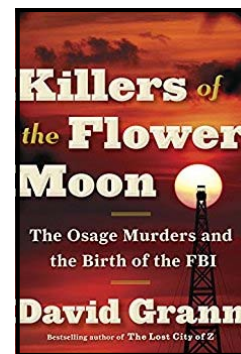


Monday,
October 9:
Non-Fiction
Option B: Facing Adversity, Building Resilience and Finding Joy



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.

Bridget “Biddy” Mason *Continued from Page 6.*

be officially recognized but they were accepted by the Smith family and the community. Interestingly, there was no court building at this time. Court would move from one space to another; participants and judges could be found slogging through rain, mud and filth to convene court. Any place the court could find to conduct its business was used, even in private homes. The Huntington Library currently holds courts archives from that period.

Judge Hayes was the first elected Judge of the Superior Court, which covered Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Diego. During his tenure, he was shot at several times but never hit, although his favorite hat did take a hit. Prior to 1852 all cases were heard in Civil Court.

After the judgment, Smith opened his doors to Biddy Mason. Smith encouraged Biddy to join Dr. John Strother Griffin’s medical practice, where she was offered a job as a midwife for a salary of \$2.50 a day. Robert Owens suggested that Biddy save as much money as she could to buy property for future security and independence. It was about 10 years later--at the age of 48 in 1866--that Biddy began buying lots between 3rd and 4th streets in downtown Los Angeles for \$250. At that time, these lots were considered out of town. Luckily for Biddy, there was a growing land boom and her neighborhood developed quickly. By the 1890s the financial district of Los Angeles had established itself one block from Biddy’s property. Biddy continued to work tirelessly managing to buy additional properties--one lot at Olive and Charity from Robert Owens for \$375. Her best known property was at 331 South Spring Street, where she built a house on a 100 by 40 foot lot for \$1,000. She lived there for 18 years and sold it for \$40,000. Due to her shrewd investments she became the wealthiest African-American woman in Los Angeles. She was well known downtown, often dining in the home of Pio Pico, a well-known politician and wealthy landowner.

In 1890, at the time of her death, her estate was valued at \$300,000. In spite of her generosity, her estate was still able to support her children and grandchildren throughout their lives. It is unthinkable that this extraordinary, enterprising woman wasn’t formally acknowledged. Her grave--in Evergreen Cemetery in today’s Boyle Heights--was unmarked until Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley established a memorial in her honor at 3rd and Spring Streets.

Biddy is an important historical figure who walked 2,000 miles behind a wagon train to claim her freedom and ended up owning prime urban real estate in downtown Los Angeles. And that’s not all: In 1880 she helped the town recover from a devastating flood that left many in Los Angeles homeless and penniless. She visited local markets and shopkeepers to let them know that the destitute could get food, clothing and shelter which was to be charged to her account. She became fluent in Spanish. She provided free medical services to the poor. She counseled inmates, ministered to the sick, and in 1872 founded with her son-in-law, Charles Owens, the First AME Church in Los Angeles. The church was built on land she donated.

Bridget “Biddy” Mason was an almost forgotten page of our history—but now you know about her. Pass it on!

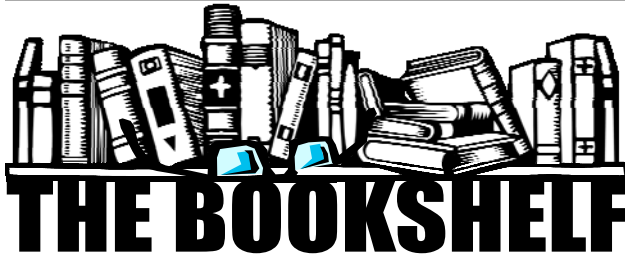
We are grateful to Judge Beverly for his enlightening presentation.

Some Smiles from the July Forum



1. Diana Cutler and Howard Korman; 2. Anne Coniglio and Vickie Volchok; 3. Linda Jensen; 4. Tom Vincent and Dale Korman; 5. Gary & Deborah Hawkins; 6. Lindie Banks; 7. Frank Reiner and Kent McDonald; 8. Judy & Gary Gonser (guest); 9. Teddie Milner; 10. Gloria Martin; 11. Rich & Jenia Mansfield (guest); 12. Kathleen Fitzgerald; 13. Deborah Thomas; 14. Sharon Van Enoo; 15. Cindy & Dennis Eggert; 16. Berthe (guest) & Jim Slatery and Ruth Bloland; 17. Fran Wielin and Marion Smith; 18. Ruth Hart and Rick & Lori Spillane.





The Powerhouse: Inside the Invention of a Battery to Save the World by **Steve Levine**. For people who like this sort of book, it's just the sort of book they'll like. It reads like a mystery crossed with science fiction. *Powerhouse* is the story of the brave attempt to rediscover what batteries really are, how materials act at the atomic level when stressed to toss and catch electrons, and how one startup in particular contended for the big bucks and government prize money. It's about people behaving well and badly.

And it ends on a promise: that the search will continue, going backwards a few steps to fundamentals in order to leap forward a few years hence (hopefully).

China of course wants to dominate the market. Meanwhile, Elon Musk's first gigafactory (more are planned) is already pumping out batteries at the current (pun unavoidable) cutting edge. If we can store grid energy cost-effectively, we'll not need as many new power plants, and we'll all be one-tier users.

The Nazi Officer's Wife, by **Edith Hahn Beer**. Whether you prefer a documentary or a good read, this is a very interesting woman. She was a young woman living with her family in Vienna, Austria when the Nazis came into power. With the help of others, Miss Hahn was able to pretend she was a non-Jew and married a Nazi officer.

A man, a friend from her youth, that she corresponded with saved her letters and pictures at great risk to both of them. These documents are now archived in the Museum of Tolerance in Washington, D.C.

The Hunter's Prayer, by **Kevin Wignall**. Elli Hattoo, a college student, is on summer break with her boyfriend in Italy. As they sip a drink and people watch at an outdoor café, their lives are turned upside down. Unbeknownst to her, her father had hired a body guard to protect and follow her. This man kills two men that might have killed her and gets both students to escape with him. A wild time ensues with twists and turns at every corner clear to the end. This novel has an ending that I could never have guessed. This is my new favorite author.

The Lost City of the Monkey God, by **Douglas Preston**. Although Douglas Preston is known for his own thrillers and those written with Lincoln Child, his journalistic background crops up now and then with free-lance stints for National Geographic Magazine, among others, which sometimes culminates in a non-fiction work as page-turning as his thrillers. This is such a case. He accompanied scientists, archeologists and technical folks to the wildest, most untamed rainforest in the world, following ancient stories and using ultramodern technology to see if there really was a lost city from a civilization that has yet to be chronicled. Two former SAS jungle fighters accompany them, but first try to prepare the group for the hardships and dangers they will face. However, nothing takes the place of going and experiencing cranky snakes

that like to attack, wild animals who have never experienced humans and the raw beauty of the jungle environment. The first half of the book tells of the incredible complexity of getting permission from a shaky government (Honduras), the thorough research through ancient and country records to determine fact from folklore, the trek to get to the general area of search which at first was only via rivers, and the incredible risks and dangers they were exposed to. Using new laser radar equipment and clues from old records, they find what they are looking for and start documenting via film, pictures and written records what they find.

The second half of the book deals with what happens to this team after they turn over the camp to other scientists and archeology teams and come home. They've all been bitten by sand fleas carrying a parasitic disease no one outside of rainforests has heard of and few people in the world know how to handle. They do find experts who help them through this little-known mine field and most come out the other side with their own story of survival, each affected differently. This turns out to be important information for the rest of us, as global warming has allowed this scourge to move out of rain forests northward and uncomfortably close – already appearing in Texas and Arizona. This part of the book also deals with further research and speculation on the sudden demise of several civilizations in the region and comes up with some pretty interesting theories as to how and why this happened.

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

Burt Cutler Memorial Annual Meeting and Forum Reservation Form

WHEN: **Tuesday, October 31st 2017—11:00 a.m.**

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

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

Please make _____ reservations for the **Omniole Annual Meeting and 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

OMNIOLORE CALENDAR 2017

- September**
- 4 Labor Day
 - 11 Best Sellers Book Group—12 Noon.-1 p.m., L8
 - 14 Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., L8
 - 21 Rosh Hashana
 - 22 September Equinox
 - 25 Study/Discussion Questions and Presentation Workshop
- The Full Monty Revealed—10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Beach Cities Room (see article, page 5)
 - 28 Computer Talk—12 noon-1 p.m., L8
(Free Software, Protection Against Thieves, and the Cloud)
see article, page 4—Rick Spillane
 - 30 Yom Kippur
- October**
- 9 Columbus Day
 - 9 Best Sellers Book Group—12 Noon.-1 p.m., L8
 - 12 Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., L8
 - 13 Walking Group—10 a.m.-12 Noon
 - 13 Introducing Omnilore Meeting—1:30 p.m., L8
 - 15 Input Deadline for November-December 2017 Newsletter
 - 26 Computer Talk—12 noon-1 p.m., L8
(Omnilore's Magical S/DG Scheduling Program)
see article, page 4—Ruth and Hal Hart
 - 31 Burt Cutler Memorial Annual Meeting and Forum
—11:00 a.m., Los Verdes Country Club
see article, page 1; reservation form, page 9
- November**
- 5 Daylight Savings Time Ends
 - 14 Introducing Omnilore Meeting—10 a.m., L8



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
johnlynnntaber@gmail.com

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)

Membership@Omnilore.org (inquiries about joining Omnilore, or referring friends)