



# OMNILORE NEWS



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Habitat for Humanity and the Housing Crisis

by Hal Hart

What better way to address homelessness than to *prevent* it? That's one of the strategic points to be elaborated concerning Habitat for Humanity's mission, constituency, and *modus operandi* by our April 30 Forum speaker **Erin Rank** — Habitat of Greater Los Angeles's first employee in 1998 and CEO.



Erin Rank

Erin started building houses with Habitat as a volunteer in 1995, became a member of the local Habitat affiliate's all-volunteer Board, and in 1998 Erin and the Board decided to put her community-based fund-raising background to use. Under Erin's leadership, they finished house #8 that year and #800 last year, increased the budget from \$200K to \$20M annually, and now cover 85% of Los Angeles County. Additionally, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles (HFH GLA) has become one of the most productive and most honored Habitat affiliates in the nation and the world, plus being named one of *LA Business Journal's* "Top Residential Developers" four years running.

Erin Rank's personal honors include serving on HFH International's U.S. Council which oversees policy for all U.S. Habitat affiliates, serving as past Chair of the Board of Housing CA, and being named among the "Top 100 Irish Americans" by *Irish American Magazine* and "Alumni of the Year" by Pepperdine University in 2013. With degrees in counseling and psychology, she never got around to her childhood dream of becoming a veterinarian — but has inspired not only her staff but also thousands of volunteers (*including this article's author*) to join the cause that she sees as her personal calling.

Come to the April 30 Forum to learn more about Habitat for Humanity from a master.

The Omnilore Forum Luncheon will be held on **Monday, April 30th** 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 page 11, or use the coupon on the flyer you will receive in early March. 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. Cost is \$27 per person. A vegetarian plate is available if you order at the time you make your reservation.

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

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

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

Editor	Marion Smith
Staff Member	Open

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Frank Pohlner

I read an article in the op-ed section of the *LA Times* a few days ago by a Princeton professor claiming that high school and college students game our current educational system by only working to obtain the diploma, which is the ticket to a job, and not working for the acquisition of knowledge. He cites the example of students celebrating when a professor cancels a class. Shouldn't the students be protesting that they are being cheated out of a day of instruction, he asked. Another example he gives is the unregistered student who attends classes for free. Professors don't care since it is rarely done. A quarter-million-dollar Princeton education is worthless without the diploma to go with it.

Why then are programs like Omnilore so popular with seniors all over the country and the world? After all, we do not give out diplomas or credits; not even little participation certificates. I did a little research and found a study (<https://sites.udel.edu/osherdover/files/2016/02/PPP-06-Peer-Learning-11r36wq.pdf>) done at McGill University in Canada that has a peer-led program for seniors run almost exactly like Omnilore. The study attempts to analyze why the peer learning model is so popular among seniors.

Among the many issues studied was the satisfaction with the

learning experience and the benefits the members perceive in participating. An overwhelming majority of survey respondents reported experiencing the benefits of "intellectual stimulation," "increased understanding of a field of study," and "social interaction with peers". The number one benefit reported was "enjoyment". Some synonyms for enjoyment from Merriam-Webster are: delight, pleasure, gladness, gratification, happiness, relish, satisfaction, contentment. I hope you as an Omnilore member experience enjoyment as you participate in our myriad activities whether it is a discussion group based upon a book, plays, movies, short stories or a special interest group or a day hike or a committee helping to make Omnilore one of the premier Learning-In-Retirement organizations in the country.

Heed the words of Mahatma Gandhi: "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."



# STUDY/DISCUSSION QUESTION & PRESENTATION WORKSHOP

**Tuesday, April 24, 2018**  
**10:30-12 Noon - Room L8**

*Tell me, and I forget.*

*Teach me, and I remember.*

*Benjamin Franklin*

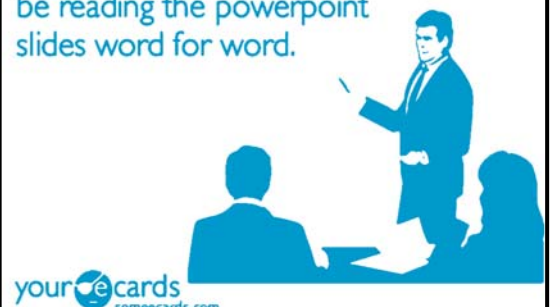


*Involve me, and I learn.*

What's in store for your learning delight? There will be hands-on examples of how to create an innovative PowerPoint Presentation, a creative desk-top staging, and either an Epicurean Experience or a Dramatic Demonstration. Whether your passion be science, philosophy, literature, theater, or history, there will be something for everyone.

Are you reading a challenging text? Come to the workshop and learn through empirical involvement the best way to create great, open-ended questions that will stimulate an engaged, lively discussion.

For my presentation today, I'll be reading the powerpoint slides word for word.





## Introducing Public Service to Teenagers – Meet Omnimorean Leslie Criswell

by Marion Smith

Chances are you've met Leslie Criswell, since she's a very active participant in Omnimore. Bob Bacinski introduced her to Omnimore about five years ago, after she retired as a lawyer having a private practice in downtown LA. Her primary focus while working was civil law—especially product liability, in which she usually represented manufacturers. One thing she enjoyed doing while practicing law was taking her young associates to high schools in East Los Angeles to provide the students an introduction to the law and its benefits for society.

At the time of her retirement, through a friend of hers who taught at Narbonne High School, Leslie became aware of the school's program called Public Service Academy (PSA), which provides information about careers in public service to students. She and a friend of hers who is a retired LA County Sheriff criminalist offered to participate in PSA. Leslie planned to introduce mock trial activities to literature classes, but her initial idea has morphed into a broad program featuring a variety of guest lecturers, including law enforcement personnel, judges, lawyers, paramedics, social workers, fire personnel, and an FBI agent. But in order to teach at Narbonne, she and her friend (Ruben) had to get teaching credentials—and they did. PSA is now three years old and thriving. Leslie and Ruben have added forensics and constitutional law/speech/debate to the curriculum. Ruben teaches the juniors and Leslie teaches the seniors. Juniors learn about criminal law and forensics. Seniors practice debate and speech through mock trials.

Those of us who attended the January 2017 Omnimore Forum will remember learning about Loyola Law School's Project for the Innocent, which is dedicated to the exoneration of the wrongly convicted. Leslie's students at Narbonne receive a lesson about the Innocence Project. And they learn about evidence, in which this question is asked: "What do you have to back up your position?"

For the last two years, the Narbonne students also participated in Teen Court, a project of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County. [You can read about Teen Court at [http://www.lacourt.org/generalinfo/communityoutreach/GI\\_CO010.aspx](http://www.lacourt.org/generalinfo/communityoutreach/GI_CO010.aspx).] Thirty-eight high schools in LA County have Teen Courts. With Teen Court, one afternoon per month PSA students serve on juries. The defendant is a juvenile (from a different school) under 18 with no criminal record and what Leslie calls a "stupid crime", e.g., fighting at school or driving without a license. Her students have been trained to ask good questions, listen to the answers, and provide follow-up questions. They try to determine what was behind the bad behavior. A Teen Court trial lasts about 40 minutes. A state seal is on the wall of the "courtroom", and the real judge in attendance (from Torrance Court) wears a robe. Jurors wear business clothes, if possible, and they pick a foreperson before the trial begins. The usual verdict is



"guilty", and the jury has a list of penalties to impose, such as community service or writing a letter of apology. After the determination of the verdict, the foreperson reads the verdict to the court. If the offender is able to complete the penalty within six months, the defendant has no record of the crime in the future. Leslie says that one of her Teen Court students will be a dynamite lawyer someday, for sure. This young woman lived in a car with her mom and brother a few years ago. She had an internship with a Torrance Court judge over the summer.

And Leslie still has time to participate in Omnimore. Whew!

A native of Denver, where her father was in the Air Force, Leslie moved to LA when she was 12. She has two children: a daughter, Katie, who is a patent attorney, and a son, Ryan, who is a chef. Ryan worked at Terranea for six years, and he now works at L'Ermitage in Beverly Hills.

Leslie started her college education at UC Irvine, but then transferred to UC Santa Barbara because this was during the exciting Vietnam War time and UCSB offered more of the excitement she sought. She graduated from Southwestern Law School in 1980.

Regarding Omnimore, Leslie says she's "all over the place" with her course selections—from algorithms to Shakespeare. This term she's especially enjoying Music—Language of the Spirit. She says the accompanying book (*Language of the Spirit: An Introduction to Classical Music* by Jan Swafford) is wonderful. And she's taking a music class to The Canterbury as part of Omnimore's outreach to retirement homes. But wait: She's also taking Shakespeare: All the World's a Stage, The Power of Fake News in Politics, and The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln. What? She's taking all these Omnimore S/DGs while also teaching part-time? Amazing!! And she's co-coordinator of the Lincoln class.

In her spare time she takes care of raptors at South Bay Wildlife Rehab. She feeds them, cleans them, and takes them to veterinarians if needed. She also paints watercolors and works with glass and ceramics, making mosaics. And she rides her bike and hikes.

She participates in the South Bay Film Society, Omnimore's movie group, and movies at the PVP Library. She's usually working when Omnimore's book club meets, but she always reads the recommended books.

Travel? Yes, she enjoys that, too. Her next trip is taking her to Springfield, IL, to learn more about Lincoln. Her father's great-grandparents lived in Springfield, so she plans to do genealogical research while she's there.

Leslie says she always finds "what you stumble into" such an interesting part of life. What an ideal role model of that idea Leslie proves to be.



# DEAN'S CORNER





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

**This column is written by guest columnist Associate Dean Lynda Wilson, PhD.**

We are very fortunate to live in Los Angeles because it embraces cultural diversity and promotes cultural understanding from its many celebrations throughout the year. At this time of the year, one February celebration, and one in March, come to mind. Even though the roots of the two celebrations originate from different parts of the globe, they both celebrate sacred traditions which are important to every global citizen. These celebrations honor the New Year, and the observance of both date back thousands of years. However, the fact of the matter is that the meaning of symbols and behaviors used in both celebrations are quite similar.

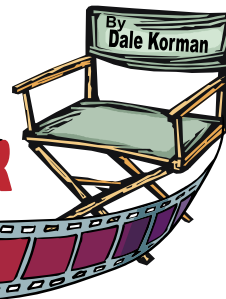
The Chinese New Year, also known as Spring Festival, has been celebrated across the globe for centuries, and during the weekend of February 17, 2018, the city featured the 119<sup>th</sup> Golden Dragon Parade in Los Angeles' Chinatown. Likewise the upcoming Persian New Year, known as

Nowruz, translated as New Day, celebrates the Persian New Year in early March. Nowruz's origin dates back over 3,500 years and is still being celebrated across the globe, including here in Los Angeles. Many universities around the country, including CSUDH, promote cultural sensitivity and feature the food and symbols of Nowruz.

Both festivals run approximately two weeks and celebrate seasonal shifts that signify the rebirth of the earth, which was important in the agrarian society because it asked for good planting and harvest. In addition, both celebrate new beginnings and fresh starts. To that end, cleaning of one's home is featured in both celebrations, as is buying and wearing new clothes. Honoring and visiting family and friends is also featured in both celebrations and both celebrate the expectation of good fortune and luck in the New Year. Traditional foods and special decorations permeate these two celebrations.

Although there are many differences in how the New Year is celebrated in the Chinese and Persian cultures, all cultures, including our New Year's Eve celebration, on December 31<sup>st</sup> reminds us that citizens of the world have similar goals, including peace, prosperity, happiness, hope and inclusiveness. As we move into Spring here in Southern California, it's an opportunity to learn more about other cultures, remember how important your relationships with friends and family are to you, and how much good fortune we have to be a part of a learning community that's committed to lifelong learning and its importance to our health and well-being.

# MOVIE CRITIC CORNER



*Phantom Thread*, set in the glamour of 1950 post-war London is a story about renowned dressmaker, Reynolds Woodcock, and the House of Woodcock frequented by High Society: royalty, movie stars, heiresses, socialites, debutantes, and more. Daniel Day-Lewis is impressive as always. I must admit that I've seen every one of his films and was truly amazed that there were shots of him in *The Last of the Mohicans* where I could have sworn our son was there on the screen. Needless to say, I have that movie in my film collection.

Critics have written that *Phantom Thread's* finely woven narrative is filled with humor and romantic tension. Stealing the show, in their opinion, is Vicky Krieps as Alma who is Woodcock's muse and lover. She definitely plays a strong-willed woman who executes a successful plan to disrupt his workaholic life style and to keep his love for her alive and well. How she does this may surprise you.

This film is Paul Thomas Anderson's eighth movie as director/writer and his second collaboration with Daniel Day-Lewis. (*There Will Be Blood* in 2007 was the first.) There's no doubt that 47-year-old Anderson has a glorious future ahead in the world of film making. I predict that he will be the focus of one of our S/DGs within the next decade. In the meantime, consider seeing *Phantom Thread*. It's my recommendation to put this on your list of worthwhile movies.

*Perhaps you would like to join me at the movies and become a film critic partner?*

Dale Korman  
howarddale@verizon.net

## Do You Enjoy Omnilore?

If so, how about submitting a review of Omnilore at Yelp? Wait. What is Yelp? Located at [www.yelp.com](http://www.yelp.com), it's a website that welcomes reviews of businesses from the communities in which the businesses live. Most visitors to Yelp are looking for restaurant reviews, but tons of other businesses and trades (e.g., piano tuning) are also listed there.

**You'll find Omnimore listed under Education and Adult Education in Redondo Beach, CA on Yelp. On February 8, we were listed as #10 under "Adult Education" and #255 under "Education." Your review might improve [raise] Omnimore's name in the listings. Thank you!**

**The  
Next**

**INTRODUCING OMNILORE MEETING:**  
**Friday, March 16th - 1:30 p.m. - L8**  
 Help Spread the Word! RSVP 310-514-1415



**A Report on the January Forum:****Peace and Blessings Be With You!***by Teddie Milner*

That's the way Moina Shaiq, a brave, direct, confident and intelligent Muslim woman began her presentation at the January Omnilore Forum at the Los Verdes Golf Club. As you may remember from the January issue of *Omnilore News*, Moina has lived with her family (husband and four children) for 35 years in Fremont, California. Recently, her daughter, who is a social worker, moved to the Philippines, looking for a friendly environment. One of Moina's sons is an entrepreneur, another son is a public defender, and her fourth child attends UCLA.

Mrs. Shaiq is also an entrepreneur, community activist, lecturer and--above all--a leader. This former citizen of Pakistan has led an accomplished life in the United States, not only raising impressive children but has been a highly functioning member of her community. She holds degrees in Economics and Psychology. Moina owned several small businesses from 1991 to 1999. In 2005 she founded and now leads the Muslim Support Network to insure that the basic needs of elders in the Muslim community are met. Her current mission is to build bridges of love, respect, understanding and acceptance, one heart at a time through her "Meet a Muslim" program.

Before she began taking questions from the audience, she provided a brief description of Islam. Islam is a faith and comprehensive way of life that literally means "peace through submission to God." It provides a clear understanding of a person's relationship with God, purpose in life, and ultimate destiny. A Muslim is someone who adopts the Islamic way of life by believing in the Oneness of God and the prophet Muhammad. Today, Islam is one of the fastest growing religions and is practiced by more than 1.6 billion Muslims across the world. No one is taught about killing, only peace and blessing.

With a deep, sad sigh, she shared how 9/11 had changed everything. Moina explained how devastating it was and how she was numb, angry, and frustrated about the lives lost. It was only four months before 9/11 that she began to wear the traditional head scarf, a hijab. Of course, she considered whether she should continue to wear it, but she had

made a promise to God. She stayed in her house for three months, wondering what to do next. Finally, she found an interfaith group, where she thought she could make a difference. She threw herself into learning about other religions, still trying to figure out why 9/11 happened. She worked hard to encourage more participation in interfaith lectures and activities in her community.

She cited other examples of violence, following the attacks of 9/11, that upset her. One was a mass shooting at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin. Moina noted that Sikhs are misunderstood; they are not Muslims or Hindus. They make up the world's fifth-largest religion. After 9/11, wearing a turban, a custom of Sikhs, may have confused some people, putting Sikhs at greater risk for attacks. There have been 300 reported incidents of violence against them since 9/11. They are actually some of the most peaceful of all religious groups.

The shootings in San Bernardino by a Middle Eastern married couple, who were thought to have connections with ISIS, were the last straw and the catalyst Moina needed to take action. The couple had stormed a San Bernardino County holiday party, murdering 14 innocent people with assault rifles. As a result, Mrs. Shaiq placed an ad in the local Fremont newspaper inviting those interested in discussing these violent incidents to meet at a designated restaurant. She had no idea how many people would show up. When she got there, there were forty people waiting and by the end 100 concerned citizens had shown up. From this one newspaper ad, she was invited to do 130 events, spreading information and answering all questions about the Muslim faith to churches, temples, synagogues and organizations.

Moina then welcomed any and all of our questions, calling the session "Muslim 101". She admonished the group that she is lay Muslim, so she would answer as best she could. She told the group that the first question she is usually asked is: "Why do Muslims do what they do?" She asked the group: "What motivates all of us? We are all children of God. Let me introduce you to the Five Pillars of Islam, to help you understand more about us."

Moina then defined what it is to be Muslim and how worship is woven into daily life. Although not confined to a holy place, the fundamental aspects of worship are encompassed in the Five Pillars, which allow practitioners to cultivate their relationships with God. This is a 1,400 year old religion.

**Pillar 1**

**Faith in one God.** The first of the five basic foundations is knowingly and voluntarily asserting that, "There is nothing worthy of worship except God." As a result of this belief, Muslims seek guidance in life through God's revelation (the Quran). This monotheistic belief in one God is the most essential principle.

**Pillar 2**

**Prayer.** Muslims are required to pray five times a day to maintain a spiritual connection with God and to remind themselves of their ultimate purpose in life. These prayers (generally 4-5 minutes each) check on how Muslims are doing with their spiritual goals. Evening prayer is considered the most important.

**Pillar 3**

**Charity.** This is an annual charity given to the poor. Muslims must give 2.5% of their wealth annually to help the poor, needy and/or oppressed. Charity is one of the vital sources of social welfare in Islam, encouraging a just society where everyone's basic needs are provided for.

**Pillar 4**

**Fasting.** Muslims fast during the month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim lunar calendar, by refraining from eating, drinking and sexual interaction from dawn to sunset. It is considered an act of self-restraint and spiritual cleansing that increases one's empathy for the less fortunate.

**Pillar 5**

**Pilgrimage (Hajj).** The journey to Mecca is an act that every Muslim must perform once in their life if they are physically and financially able. It symbolizes the unity of humankind as Muslims from every race and nationality assemble together in equality to worship God.

If you would like more, in depth information about Islam and the culture, you can go to the web: [www.whyislam.org](http://www.whyislam.org).

*Continued on Page 6.*



*Continued from Page 5:*  
**Peace and Blessings Be With You**

One questioner asked, “**Is there more than one version of the Quran?**”

**Answer:** No, but I understand why you might ask that question. For example, in some Muslim countries women are required to cover their hair with a hajib; in other countries the practice is optional. Men must also cover parts of their bodies and are taught to lower their eyes when they are in the company of women. These are cultural practices, as are many other differences in interpretation of the Quran.

**Question:** What is a fatwa?

**Answer:** A decree by scholars.

**Question:** Why was there a fatwa that called for the death of Salman Rushdie?

**Answer:** This was the heated and violent reaction of Muslims to the publication of Rushdie’s novel, *The Satanic Verses*, inspired in part by the life of Prophet Muhammad. Many Muslims accused Rushdie of blasphemy and in 1989 Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran issued a fatwa ordering Muslims to kill Rushdie. Numerous killings, attempted killings, and bombings resulted from angry Muslims over the novel. It pits a core Western value of freedom of expression against the view of many Muslims—that no one should be free to “insult and malign Muslims” by disparaging the honor of the prophet Muhammad.

**Question:** What is the difference between the Sunni and Shia?

**Answer:** When Mohammad died, a successor had to be appointed. There were two factions--a group who wanted to appoint Muhammad’s advisor and best friend: Sunnis. The other group wanted Muhammad’s cousin and son-in-law, Ali, as their leader: Shias. Shias are found in India, Pakistan, Iran and Iraq. Ali and his successors are called imams, who not only lead the Shiites but are considered to be descendants of Muhammad. These are simply political designations; both factions are interested in the world.

**Question:** How did/does the Taliban use its force and power to control women?

**Answer:** The Taliban killed mothers with daughters over 8 years old because of the cultural practice of mothers educating their daughters. In Pakistan education is highly valued but considered dangerous for women and girls.

**Question:** So why do Middle Eastern men join ISIS, the Taliban or other terrorist organizations?

**Answer:** They are sad and lonely; they have lost hope. Iraq was an intelligence failure sold to America. Iran was behind 9/11, but it had nothing to do with Muslims. In Pakistan, innocent people are dying every day. There are many sole survivors who have lost their families and are without resources, education and money—primary candidates for recruitment. “Yes,” Moina said, “I own that some Muslims are doing wrong but so are your religions and you also doing wrong.”

It was reported by Pew Research that 76% of ISIS recruits



*Moina Shaiq flanked by Carolyn Pohlner and Bob Mallano, Forum Chair*

have no knowledge of Muslim tradition. Muslims do not believe in drinking alcohol. Ninety-nine percent of terrorists are infidels, who were found to drink. These are not Muslims.

She also mentioned how 900 Muslim clergy met in Morocco to write a press release about how ISIS formed. According to CNN’s Fareed Zakaria, ISIS was funded by the CIA. ISIS sprang from al Qaeda in Iraq but was started in 2004 by Jordanian Islamist Abu Musabal-Zarqawi. He exploited Sunni resentments against Shiites. This is a complicated story that deserves more attention. You can find a more detailed account on CNN’s website in a story called “Here’s how ISIS was really founded.”

**Question:** What’s the motivation of suicide bombers?

**Answer:** Normal people would not choose this solution, but it happens when a person has no hope. Look to the psyche--that’s what makes them do this. Life is a gift from God. Muslims believe that it’s a deep-rooted sin to take your own life or that of another.

Surroundings and environment make people who they are. None of us is given a choice to whom or where we are born. Moina asked: “Why do we look at people as ‘other’?” No one is other! People are judged on looks. Why?

**Question:** What can you do to make Muslims feel more comfortable?

**Answer:** Wear safety pins,\* smile, and strike up a conversation. [\*Although starting in a political setting, it has become a universal sign indicating the wearer is saying “You are safe with me. I stand beside you.”]

**Question:** Do you think that the results of DNA assessments by firms like 23andMe, Ancestry, and MyHeritage can promote more understanding among people?

**Answer:** Yes, learning about yourself and where your ancestors came from promotes acceptance of others.

Moina Shaiq’s time for her presentation had run out. She invited us to be our own religions and she, too, would work to be her religion. She offered her blessing one more time:

**Peace and blessings be with you!**





**OLLI@CSUDH Goes to CUBA**  
*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)



Join us for an 8-day tour, from Varadero to Havana. Shrouded in mystery for the last 50 years, you now have the opportunity to visit the captivating country of Cuba. This special people-to-people program allows you to share meaningful interactions with Cubans while enjoying the rich history and culture of this amazing country.

## **CUBA'S DISCOVERY**

### **OCTOBER 21 - 28, 2018**

***Tour: 23 Reserved Seats: Please make your per-person deposit today; seating is limited.***

***Interested:*** Contact the OLLI Office at 310/243-3208 or email: [olli@csudh.edu](mailto:olli@csudh.edu)



**For more information, go to: <https://www.cosmos.com/tour/cuba-discovery/8700/>**

### **Early Spring Best Sellers SIG Reads**

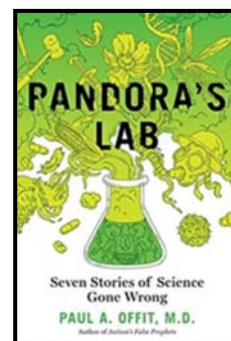
*by Patricia Edie & Cindy Eggert*

Calling all Readers! Omnilore's Best Sellers Special Interest Group continues to meet each month, at 12 noon, on the second Monday of the month in Room 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,  
 March 12, 2018  
 Fiction  
***The Dry***  
 by Jane Harper

Monday,  
 April 9, 2018  
 Non-Fiction  
***Pandora's Lab:***  
*Seven Stories of Science*  
*Gone Wrong*  
 by Paul A. Offit



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

**Guests are always welcomed.**



## **Omnilore News Editor Mary Golob Passes Away at 83**

Mary was born June 28, 1934, in St. Louis, Missouri, to Walter and Helen Moynihan. Raised in the suburbs of Boston, she graduated from Regis College in Weston, MA with a degree in English and a minor in Journalism in 1955.

In 1964, she began her move toward Manhattan Beach with her marriage to David Richard Golob, an officer in the United States Air Force. After a few stops and welcoming three children, she made Manhattan Beach her home in 1972.

Starting her career as an editor for the Boston Archdiocese Newsletter, she worked at Hughes Aircraft leading the publications division after moving here, and played a critical role in the success of the Pioneer Venus Orbiter which launched in 1978.

Mary gave of her time and energy to a number of projects over the years. She was active with the Manhattan Beach Historical Society in the 1970s. In the 1980s, she edited the AYSO soccer game summaries for The Beach Reporter. Mary was active with the Manhattan Beach Police Department's Victims Assistance Team and in Omnilore, as well as the Residents' Council at Brookdale South Bay where she lived the last few years.

Her daughter says Mary was a lover of crossword puzzles, *60 Minutes* and all things Manhattan Beach.

Mary joined Omnilore in December 2005, and became very active in our organization. She was Communications Chair, took over as newsletter editor in mid-2010, and was involved with the Website Working Group. She passed away January 25th, after being in hospice care for two weeks. She had gallbladder cancer which got to stage four before the symptoms were correctly diagnosed. She would have celebrated her 84th birthday this June.



**Attention Spring 2018 Coordinators and Co-Coordinators - Save the date of April 26th, 10 a.m. in L8 for an informal sharing of problems and solutions, things that work and things that don't - plus general feedback of your experiences during this spring trimester. This will be a casual meeting with no presentations or questions. Everyone will be heard and hopefully we can solve some problems. Also we would really like to hear of the positive things that are going on.**



Gloria Dumais  
Head Coordinator

## **Another Survey?**

### **Yes, and THANK YOU for Your Participation!**

by Marilyn Brashear

Course surveys provide feedback to the Evaluation Committee to make sure Omnilore can be the best possible! Your feedback lets us know if we are providing interesting course selections coordinated by skilled coordinators. You also inform us if there were enough varied topics to choose from, and how good and relevant the selected reading was for each S/DG. We also discover if the presentations are interesting, well-presented and did they lead to questions and discussion. Additionally, we can learn how many people participate and enjoy the Omnilore experience.

Please continue to take the time to complete the surveys so we can move forward to make your Omnilore experiences more enjoyable. This information is confidential.

*Thank You*



# Some Smiles from the January Forum





## Omnilore's Outreach Residential Community Program

by Art Irizarry

Omnilore members join as active learners and independent individuals, managing their own homes, driving their own vehicles and carrying on activities as if they vacated the calendar when they turned 50 or 60. But, even when they remain Omnilore members and retain their intellectual curiosity, love of learning and enjoyment of the camaraderie of fellow learners, change does come.

Eventually, the day arrives when it is no longer possible to read all the books in the library or to get to all group sessions in the library. Managing a home becomes either a bother or a challenge. The day arrives when some members have to make major adjustments in their lives, including a move into a residential community. Despite the need for changes, the need to learn and have meaningful, stimulating conversations remains.

In the summer of 2016 Omnilore, too, had moved into a new home. During its search for that new home, Omnilore members had been asked to suggest possible locations. About eleven locations were identified by members, including **Diana Cutler** and the late **Mary Golob**, who had themselves made residential changes. Mary had moved into **Brookdale**, a western Torrance residential community, and asked management about use of its meeting space for an Omnilore group. About the same time, Diana and her son **Jay Cutler** presented the idea for an Omnilore program at **The Canterbury**, where several former Omnilore members resided. That idea evolved to a format where an Omnilore member would do a pre-selected presentation to interested Canterbury residents.

Following some preliminary discussions with Canterbury and Brookdale staff, then Omnilore president **Art Irizarry** presented both ideas to the Omnilore Board of Directors. In October 2016 the Board voted to pursue both options—use of Brookdale meeting space for an Omnilore S/DG, and development of a modified S/DG presentation and discussion program at The Canterbury.

Not long after, longtime member **Harriet Apsel** moved to the **Welbrook** community in Torrance and asked about setting up a special interest group to involve Welbrook residents. Her

## Update on the Outreach Program

by Dale Korman  
Outreach Coordinator

At our meeting on December 4th, three Omniloreans signed up to come to The Canterbury to do a presentation.

- ♦ **January 17 - Sydell Weiner**, Topic: *Improving Family Relationships*. It was a good start of the Outreach Project.
- ♦ **February 21 - Leslie Criswell**, Topic: *How Does Music Make You Feel?*
- ♦ **March 21 - Gail Ruder**, Topic: *Gilbert and Sullivan*

At Welbrook **Howard Korman** will be doing a presentation on *Klezmer Music* and **Mary Gluck** will present a music topic.

The activities director at The Canterbury would like the next three presentations to focus on history or science. There will be a meeting in the near future to select presenters for the next three months. Let me know if you are interested! (310) 373-2442—[howarddale@verizon.net](mailto:howarddale@verizon.net)

daughter and son-in-law, **Dale and Howard Korman**, brought that suggestion to the new Omnilore Board and president-elect **Frank Pohlner**. The Board approved development of that third concept. In Fall 2017 Frank Pohlner named Dale Korman as the coordinator for what is to be called Omnilore Outreach.

Since then, meetings have been held and the Welbrook and Canterbury programs are under way. Omnilore volunteers, 18 and counting, have lined up to do presentations and lead discussions. Omnilore members whose presentations have been recommended as noteworthy by their S/DG members are invited to contact Dale, whose information is on our member roster. We want to present the best of Omnilore.

## In Memoriam—Luke Dzwonczyk

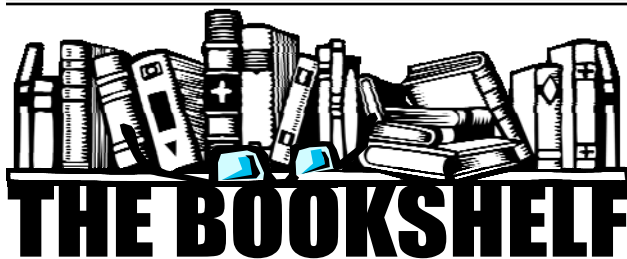


Born in Mayfield, Pennsylvania on April 2, 1933, Luke served in the U.S. Navy aboard the *USS Benewah* and the *USS Vulcan* from 1951 to 1955. He attended Penn State University and received an engineering degree from Syracuse University in 1959 under the GI Bill.

After marrying Lucia in 1956, he worked for General Electric in Utica, NY, on the design of military avionics. Later, while employed by Raytheon at the MIT Instrumentation Laboratory in Cambridge, MA, he assisted in the design of the guidance system for the Polaris, Poseidon, and Trident submarine-launched missiles. For his efforts on the design of Plated Wire Memory, he was awarded the US Navy's 1995 FBM [Fleet Ballistic Missile] Achievement Award. He held four patents on electronic equipment and was a Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of New York.

He retired from the Raytheon Company in Sudbury, Massachusetts, and moved to Lompoc, CA in 1994 and then to San Pedro, CA in 2003. He and Lucia joined Omnilore in December of that year, and both are remembered for being very active in many S/DGs. A voracious reader, he relished taking classes in the humanities after his career in engineering.

Luke passed away January 12th, after a short time in hospice care at home. He had left Omnilore a couple of years earlier to address heart problems. He would have celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday this coming April.



**Seven Brief Lessons on Physics**, by **Carlo Rovelli**. This short (80 pp.) book was on the *Times* best seller list for almost a year. It can be read at so many levels. For a physics neophyte it represents a wonderful introduction and for the knowledgeable scientist deep insight to physics and the relevant philosophies. It's both an introduction and a refresher on quantum mechanics, relativity, elementary particles, gravity, black holes and the architecture of the universe. These are big ideas presented playfully and a joy to read. There is not a single equation; so dive in, you won't be sorry.

**Post-Dated: The Schooling of an Irreverent Bonsai Monk**, by **Michael Hagedorn**. Here's an illuminating book on the true nature of bonsai. It reveals how bonsai opens our hearts to compassion and the beauty of nature. It is a Buddhist treasure if read from that point of view and a great book on bonsai if not. An entertaining narrative and an examination of the meaning and soul of bonsai, it makes you want to set aside a corner of the garden for bonsai and learn. Even if that's not the end result there will be many useful take-aways. This is a funny and thought-provoking read.

**The Rooster Bar** is another great **John Grisham** read with a sub-par law school,

lawyers that are not lawyers practicing law, suicide, class action law suits and deportations. This book is like reading first-person newspaper articles. After reading this book you will want to check the credentials of any lawyer that you might be tempted to do business with.

**The Secret of the Tulip Sisters**, by **Susan Mallory** is a lighter book than I usually read. I did really enjoy it. Family problems with twists, love bloom, a struggling town and a tulip farm make for lots of fun. I learned a lot about a seasonal flower market that has so many colors and uses. The complexities of growing and cultivating tulips along with the science of developing new colors and types is very interesting.

**Origin**, by **Dan Brown**. Robert Langdon, Harvard professor of symbology and religious iconology who uncovered stunning secrets and shocking conspiracies in *The Da Vinci Code* and Brown's other phenomenally best-selling novels is back in another theological thriller that pits creationism against science and is liable to stir up as much controversy as the aforementioned book. (This also means another Tom Hanks movie is in the making!)

Langdon arrives at the ultramodern Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao to attend a major announcement-the unveiling of a discovery that "will change the face of science forever." The evening's host is Edmond Kirsch, a forty-year-old billionaire and futurist whose dazzling high-tech inventions and audacious predictions have made him a renowned global figure. Kirsch, who was one of Langdon's first

students at Harvard two decades earlier, is about to reveal an astonishing breakthrough-one that will answer two of the fundamental questions of human existence.

As the event begins, Langdon and several hundred guests find themselves captivated by an utterly original presentation, which Langdon realizes will be far more controversial than he ever imagined. But the meticulously orchestrated evening suddenly erupts into chaos, and Kirsch's precious discovery teeters on the brink of being lost forever. Reeling and facing an imminent threat, Langdon is forced into a desperate bid to escape Bilbao. With him is Ambra Vidal, the elegant museum director who worked with Kirsch to stage the provocative event, and who is also by the way, the future queen of Spain. Together they flee to Barcelona on a perilous quest to locate a cryptic password that will unlock Kirsch's secret.

Navigating the dark corridors of hidden history and extreme religion, Langdon and Vidal must evade a tormented enemy whose all-knowing power seems to emanate from Spain's Royal Palace itself and who will stop at nothing to silence Edmond Kirsch. On a trail marked by modern art and enigmatic symbols, Langdon and Vidal uncover clues that ultimately bring them face-to-face with Kirsch's shocking discovery... and the breathtaking truth that has long eluded us.

*Book suggestions from Omnioleans make this column work. Thanks to Dan Stern and Vickie Volchok for contributing to this month's list. Send submittals to: newsletter@omnilore.org*

### OMNIOLORE Spring Forum Luncheon Reservation Form

WHEN: Monday, April 30th, 2018—11:30 a.m.

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

**NO Reservations  
accepted after April 20th!**

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservation(s) for the **Omniole** Spring Forum Luncheon at **\$27.00** each:

Name(s):

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

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

Phone

E-Mail

Enclosed is a check for:  \$27.00 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>March</b>	8	Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., L8
	11	<b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b>
	12	Best Sellers Book Group—12 noon-1 p.m., L8
	16	Introducing Omnimore Meeting—1:30-3:30 p.m., L8
	17	<b>St. Patrick's Day</b>
	20	<b>First Day of Spring</b>
	22	Computer Talk—12 Noon-1 p.m., L8 (TBD—e-mail notification)
<b>April</b>	27	Summer Coordinator Meeting—10 a.m.-12 Noon, L8
	30	<b>Passover Begins</b>
	1	<b>Easter</b>
	7	<b>Passover Ends</b>
	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
	15	Input Deadline for May-June 2018 Newsletter
	22	<b>Earth Day</b>
	24	S/D Question & Presentation Workshop—10:30 a.m.-12 Noon, L8 (see article, page 2)
<b>May</b>	26	Coordinator Sharing Session—10 a.m., L8 (see Coordinator's Corner, page 8)
	26	Computer Talk—12 noon-1 p.m., L8 (TBD—e-mail notification)
	30	<b>Spring Forum</b> —11:30 a.m., Los Verdes Country Club (see article, page 1; reservation form, page 11)
	1	Summer Trimester Begins

**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)

## OMNIOLORE CALENDAR 2018

**Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day!**



### Movie Goers Special Interest Group

by Dale Korman

Once again the SIG - Movie Goers had an all-inclusive discussion at Mimi's after seeing *The Post* - 27 of us!

Different this time was that some saw the movie prior to the 25th, while others went to the AMC - Rolling Hills or the Regal before gathering for the discussion. Thank you to Ruth Hart for enlightening us with her previous presentation of Daniel Ellsberg. It truly gave us insights relevant to *The Post*.

Our next SIG - Movie Goers event will be March 25th. The plan, since the Academy Awards are scheduled for the 4th, is for us to go to a movie (s) nominated in preparation for our discussion at Mimi's. At that time, the Oscar will have been given to one of the nine. Naturally, we may or may not agree with the outcome. So, we'll talk about our personal opinions and favorite. We've seen *Darkest Hour* and *The Post* as a group. Now, it's your choice as to which movie you would like to see on your own: *Call me by Your Name*, *Dunkirk*, *Get Out*, *Lady Bird*, *The Shape of Water*, and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri*. (Some may be on DVDs already.)

See one or all and come to the discussion.

Again, please, email Dale Korman - [howarddale@verizon.net](mailto:howarddale@verizon.net) - if you are coming, so that Mimi's has a head count. The private room has been so perfect for our discussions. Call time will be at 6:30 p.m.

Looking forward to being our own review critics. Our observations and opinions are definitely credible. Kudos to our Movie Goers!

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

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

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

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

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