

OMNILORE NEWS



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A Report on the April Forum:

Habitat for Humanity and the Housing Crisis

by Hal Hart

Our April 30 Forum speaker was Erin Rank, President and CEO of the Greater Los Angeles affiliate of Habitat for Humanity (HFHGLA), a nonprofit housing builder that works with government agencies, philanthropic donors, and thousands of volunteers to offer hard-working, low-income families a Hand Up, Not a Hand Out. Erin overviewed the expanding scope of HFHGLA's



Bob Mallano, Forum Chair, Erin Rank and Hal Hart

activities and the benefits of homeownership realized by low-income families. During the question/answer period, she addressed the larger homeless situation which is growing faster in LA County than almost any other region in the country. As Erin said, "What better way to address homelessness than to **prevent** it?"

Under Erin's leadership (she was HFHGLA's first employee in 1997 when the affiliate was averaging building about one house per year), she has developed a staff of construction, fund-raising, volunteer-recruiting, and event-organizing professionals to fuel HFHGLA to provide decent, environmentally friendly housing for 82 families in 2017 via new construction, rehabilitation of distressed properties caused by the housing crisis, and their Housing Preservation Program, which provides critical health and safety fix-ups for low-income families — mainly seniors, disabled residents, and veterans threatened with losing their houses. Because over half of construction efforts are provided by volunteers (including approximately 10 AmeriCorps volunteers assigned here yearly), interest-free mortgages for new Partner Families average about half the average for the neighborhoods they serve. Qualifying families must have stable incomes (generally between 40% and 60% of the region's median), be currently living in substandard housing, and put in 500 hours of "sweat equity" building their own or a neighbor's house.

Erin cited some of the ways home ownership builds stronger families and communities, helping to break the cycle of poverty and pressures toward homelessness, compared to non-homeowners:

- More belong to PTAs, neighborhood watch programs, etc.
- ♦ Are 30% more likely to read newspapers
- Are 10% more likely to belong to faith and community groups
- Much more likely to repair and improve their own homes
- ♦ Live four years longer in their community
- Are more informed politically (e.g., know who represents them in Congress)
- ♦ Their children are 25% more likely to graduate from high school, 116% more likely from college, 20% less likely to become teen mothers, and 59% more likely to own a home within 10 years of moving from parent's household.

Erin went on to describe Habitat's recent prioritization of building in the poorest sections of LA County cities, especially her own hometown of *Continued on Page 2*.

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

J thought that I would give you a report on a number of issues, some significant, others not so, that have been discussed at recent Omnilore Board meetings. A few are discussed in greater detail in separate articles in this newsletter.

Facilities

There have been recurring water leaks in the ceiling of L8 (the larger classroom). Building maintenance workers have been quick to respond but the problem is repeating. At least once, it was reported back to us that the leak was from a toilet upstairs. Disgusting and potentially unhealthy! Protect yourself and use caution around any water leaks. Do not attempt to clean up. For any urgent maintenance issue, immediately contact the Front Desk personnel upstairs in the lobby and report the problem and location. Also send an email both to me at President@Omnilore.org and to the CSUDH facilities coordinator — Teresa Stevens at tstevens@csudh.edu describing the problem and location. This contact information is now posted in both classrooms.

Classroom housekeeping is going well. We have received no complaints about classroom cleanliness or incorrect trash bag disposal so it seems the clean-up is becoming part of our routine. Thanks to everyone who participates with a smile and good cheer.

We received a notice from the BCHC building management addressed to all tenants asking all of us to abide by the parking restrictions for the handicapped and physician parking.

Audio-Visual Equipment

After repairs/adjustments by the Cal State technicians, the sound system in L8 seemed to be working fine. At the time of this writing (April 14th) we are again experiencing problems. These have been reported to CSUDH and they have promised to again address the issue. In the meantime, remember that we still have our Omnilore add-on sound system that you can plug into CSUDH's computer or into your personal device that you are using for a presentation. If you are giving a presentation that requires sound it is doubly important that you contact your class "techie" in advance and plan to arrive at least a half hour ahead of class time to assure that the CSUDH system is operational and if not, set up our Omnilore system.

In general, remember that we still have our Omnilore laptops, desktop presenters, sound systems, and portable PA's locked in a storage cabinet in each classroom. If there is an issue with the CSUDH equipment that cannot easily be resolved just set up our equipment and report the problem to me at President@Omnilore.org. I will coordinate with the CSUDH folks to address the problem.

Community Awareness

We are delighted to have been awarded a display table at The Daily Breeze's 10th annual expo on "Successful Aging", designed especially for people ages 40 to 100. This FREE one-day event will be held on Saturday, May 12, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Torrance Marriott. Following our notification, which came just days before the April 30 Forum, several Omniloreans

graciously agreed to make sure the table is manned and equipped with handouts (and candy) throughout the expo. Thank you, thank you volunteers!

If you are a Yelp user please check out our listing and write a review.

The next "Introducing Omnilore" orientation meeting is Friday, June 29th at 1:30pm at BCHC. This meeting is required before signing up for Omnilore so new members



know about the peer-to-peer learning model that we use that requires everyone to prepare discussion questions, lead a discussion and research and present on a relevant topic.

Improving Skills

In response to your feedback from our surveys, we offered a workshop on preparing *discussion* questions not quiz questions, and presentations in various formats: PowerPoint, Desktop Presenter, and a Demonstration with props. In addition to simple guidelines, we corralled some of the top vote-getters who gave great presentations that were brief, 10-15 minute excerpts of their presentations.

This workshop with audience participation (and snacks, of course) occurred on Tuesday, April 24th. Many newcomers attended and experienced Omniloreans learned a new trick or two. I know I always have.

Coordinators

Spring coordinators and co-coordinators participated in a group sharing/discussion on class successes and challenges in an informal meeting held Thursday, April 26th. Those in attendance felt that this was worthwhile and it should be continued after every trimester.

Omnilore Budget

Our treasurer, **Kent McDonald**, reviewed his proposed budget for next year with me and a small Treasurer's Advisory Group from the Board. We are on track and we anticipate no fee increases for next year. Voting on the final approval for 2018-2019 budget will take place at the May board meeting.

Proposals for New Study and Discussion Groups

The Curriculum Committee winnows down a massive list of suggested class topics each trimester to 20-25 proposed topics that you, the members, vote upon by signing up to participate in the study group. I am often asked why a certain book was not studied or a topic or media type was not addressed. My answer is, if you are interested in a topic, then probably other Omniloreans are also. Write up a one paragraph proposal (a form is on our website or just send an email) and submit it to **Johan Smith** or **Rick Spillane**. Hint: If you volunteer to coordinate the class then you greatly increase the probability that your topic will get through the wickets.

Continued from Page 1: April Forum

Long Beach where they are currently completing four new houses in the Washington neighborhood and ten starting construction in Culver City in June.

Erin's charts are linked at our Omnilore.org homepage (under "What's Happened?") and much more information is available on the affiliate's website: **HabitatLA.org**, including How To Get Involved — not just construction activities, but donations of used furniture and building materials (their ReStores raised 30% of 2017's \$17M budget), volunteering in the ReStores, a variety of office functions, and serving as an Advocacy Ambassador for Habitat.

Meet Valuable Community Resource—and Omnilorean-Rich Wallace

by Marion Smith

Omnilorean Rich Wallace joined Omnilore 20 years ago, after retiring from a 30-year career as a counselor for disabled people for the state. And he continues to offer his professional skills to community members as a volunteer while expanding his personal scholarship with Omnilore S/DGs.

A second generation Angeleno, Rich attended the former Los Angeles Polytechnic High School in downtown LA before volunteering to join the United States Air Force, which took him to Newfoundland, Canada. He calls that registration a good move because he became eligible for the GI Bill—which he used to attend CSU Los Angeles, where he earned a BA in political science and an MA in counseling.

Rich's current volunteer activity is called Reading Partners—and he recommends it highly to anyone who likes kids. Rich says the program is well-constructed and that the kids really appreciate it. The Reading Partners website says, "You can unlock critical skills in a **child** who struggles to **read**." Rich's current partner is a 3rd grader—"a critical time for kids to have skills—otherwise they are likely to drop out", according to Rich. Rich meets with him twice a week. He's taken out of class for each one-hour meeting. Rich has been a partner at two schools in Lawndale; his 3rd grader's school is Roosevelt Elementary School.

Rich also volunteers as a Beach Cities Health District Conversation Companion to a couple of people, and in the past



he has been a bereavement volunteer with Hospice, a literacy program volunteer, and a substitute teacher in a child development program in Redondo Beach schools.

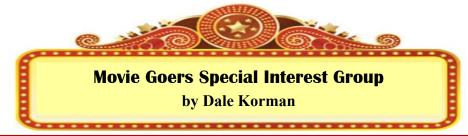
Rich wants to say about his volunteer experiences that he gets more out of it than his clients do. He calls it "a real treasure, a real gift."

Rich has enjoyed traveling all over the world and hiking, and he'll be combining those two pleasures in June with a hiking trip to Oregon and then later with a trip to Germany and Austria, during which he'll walk through the Black Forest.

And then there's Omnilore. Rich tends to take social science and political science classes, though he does also enjoys short

story classes. His favorite Omnilore S/DG ever was the first one he took: Great Rivers of the World. He says that course "hooked him on Omnilore." Another favorite course was a recent S/DG on economics. His favorite activity in an S/DG is the research he does for a presentation, and he does enjoy the discussions. For the economics course, he studied how robotics and other technology are changing the concept of jobs and other things. He values the exposure to areas he doesn't ordinarily know about that Omnilore provides, and he puts the January Forum featuring Moina Shaiq in that category.

A person who works out all the time, tries to keep his mind active, and watches what he eats, Rich sums up his Omnilore experience this way: "I appreciate the program and the idea that older people are keeping their minds active."



Our selection this month for the Movie Goers SIG was to see the latest Steven Spielberg movie, Ready Player One.

The discussion afterwards resulted in most concluding that this film was a stretch. Some admitted that if it hadn't been a Spielberg movie, they would have not agreed to see it. However, the visual effects were amazing, and if we had stepped into our grandchildren's shoes, we would have loved it! Storyline - The prize of this virtual reality video game was the ownership of OASIS - (Ontologically Anthropocentric Sensory Immersive Simulation) where you could go anywhere and escape from the harsh realities of 2045 - overpopulation, pollution, corruption, climate change, and more. The critics consensus stated, "This film is a sweetly nostalgic thrill ride that neatly encapsulates Spielberg's strengths while adding another solidly engrossing adventure to his filmography." We had fun giving our own criticisms. And, as I've said before, the best part of going to the movies together is the discussion afterwards. Come join with us. Check the website for future announcements. The more the merrier!

Again, please, email Dale Korman - 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!



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

CSUDH. "corner" of the world here at the College of Extended and International Education (CEIE) at CSUDH.

What an exciting first half of the year and second semester of the academic year. A whirlwind of activities and news has occurred since I last wrote this column.

CSU-Dominguez Hills welcomes a new president to campus this summer. Dr. Thomas A. Parham, currently Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs at UC-Irvine is set to replace Dr. Willie J. Hagan, who is retiring after more than 5 years at the helm of CSUDH. It's been a pleasure

working with President Hagan, and I look forward to working with incoming President Parham.

Spring commencement takes place May 18th and 19th at the Stub Hub center on campus. Thousands of students from the Class of 2018 will be cheered by family and friends for their academic achievements. Our college will be honoring graduates from the Humanities and Quality Assurance Master's degree programs. A big hearty congratulations to all of this year's graduating Toros!

OLLI is celebrating its 15th year in 2018. A Donor Appreciation Luncheon and Recognition Ceremony were held at the CSUDH library April 25th. Campus dignitaries and esteemed faculty joined long time OLLI members, volunteers and donors at the awards luncheon to mark the occasion. Re-



Dr. Thomas A. Parham President, CSUDH

minder: you can still contribute to the Enrich OLLI Campaign. For details, email olli@csudh.edu or call 310-243-3729

The Beach Cities facility continues to serve its dual role serving Omnilore programs and CEIE's continuing education and workforce development efforts. Our night and weekend classes continue to see enrollment growth and additional programs are being considered for this location.

At the College of Extended and International Education we never stop or slow down, even during the summer months. We run a full schedule of academic, professional development and community education programs year round to meet the needs of our community. For details, visit our website at csudh.edu/ceie.

Until next time, Never Stop Learning!



Since there is currently a Broadway Musical class for this summer's trimester, it makes perfect sense to write a review of a musical film that will most certainly end up on the Broadway stage sometime in the future. The movie is Mama Mia! Here We Go Again. The audience is invited to return to the magical Greek island of Kalokairi in this all new original musical based on the songs of ABBA. With Mamma Mia! the movie's original cast including Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Amanda Seyfried and Christine Baranski returning, it makes this new film a perfect sequel for us to find out if the romances lasted.

The storyline of *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again* goes through Donna's (played by Meryl Streep and Lily James) young



life, experiencing the fun she had with the three possible Dads of Sophie (played by Amanda Seyfried). Sophie is now pregnant. Like Donna, she will be young when she has her baby. This is where she realizes she will need to take risks like her mother did. What makes it totally "outrageous" (and fun) is that Cher plays a key role in this film as Sophie's grandmother! (Not so outrageous perhaps since we are almost the same age. Time flies!)

"Ooh
You can dance
You can jive
Having the time of your life
Ooh, see that girl
Watch that scene
Dig in the dancing queen"

Water-

The best aspect of this movie is the music. All-time favorites are revisited: *Water-loo*, *Dancing Queen*, *Thank You for the Music* and, of course, *Mama Mia*! Lots of pleasing dance numbers, too.

This is an upcoming American romantic musical comedy film to lighten up your summer and put a smile on your face. Don't miss it! I can guarantee that you'll leave the theater singing. Enjoy!

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

Dale Korman—howarddale@verizon.net

On Thursday, April 24, 2018, an enthusiastic group gathered in Room L8 for Omnilore's Discussion Question & Presentation Workshop.

The workshop began with a warm welcome from Frank Pohlner, Omnilore President, followed by the introduction of our program agenda by our M.C., Elaine Winer. Judy Bayer gave a Best Practices for PowerPoint presentation, explaining that "We'd love to hear your long story if you make it short and interesting". Using his own creation of a PowerPoint from the Spielberg Movie Class he attended, Frank demonstrated what a thoughtful, well-researched PowerPoint should look like. He was followed by Karol McQueary, who utilized PowerPoint slides along with a taste-test to describe maple syrup varietals, an excellent example of a hands-on alternative to a typical presentation.



by Judy Bayer

Bringing many back to their comfort zone, Elaine used a desktop presenter to illustrate best practices followed by an example from her presentation on the movie, "Minority Report".

The emphasis was on not whether or what equipment was used but how well you were prepared, how you engaged your audience, and how much you enjoyed the process. Following our presentation demonstrations, **Don Tlougan** led the group through a discussion of the best practices in creating discussion questions. He distributed a short article on Thomas Jefferson. After reading the piece, we wrote down one or two questions we thought would be thought-provoking subjects for discussion. The responses generated lots of dialogue with clever analysis and insight.

The emphasis during the morning was that creating a presentation should be fun, educational, and a good kind of challenge. There are many resources both on the Omnilore website and with Omnilore member/mentors who are available to help. The buzz during the break and following the end of the workshop was a good sign that all who attended were enthusiastic, engaged and involved.





OLLI Open House

by

La Margo Washington, OLLI Director

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)
California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH)

www.csudh.edu/olli



Important Announcement

Renew Your OLLI Membership

To participate in OLLI courses, your membership must be current. For OLLI members, the cost is only \$30 for an annual membership. For Omnilore Members the \$30 annual OLLI fee is included in Omnilore's annual membership fee during Omnilore's annual membership drive in mid-June. *The OLLI fiscal year starts July 1st*, *right in the middle of OLLI's Summer semester*, *and ends June 30th*. For OLLI Members who will be participating in OLLI's Summer 2018 courses, programs and special activities, it is recommended that you renew your OLLI membership on or before OLLI's Open House, Tuesday, June 5, 2018.

Members get \$5 off for the Juneteenth Event if you renew your OLLI Annual Membership by June 5th.

If you aren't sure whether your membership is current, or you would like to RSVP for the Summer 2018 OLLI Open House (your guests are welcome) or purchase OLLI's annual parking pass, call the OLLI office at (310) 243-3208 or by email to olli@csudh.edu.

OLLI members are welcome to invite friends to the Open House. This is your opportunity to learn about membership in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and to find out how to register for classes.

Light refreshments will be served.

OLLI Open House & Orientation - Summer 2018



Tuesday, June 5, 2018 – 10 a.m. - 12 Noon

CSUDH Campus, Extended Education Building, EE-1213 (Auditorium)

Must RSVP to 310 243-3208 or by email to olli@csudh.edu by May 30, 2018.

Update on the Outreach Program

by Dale Korman

Outreach Coordinator

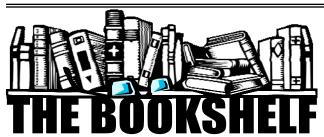
To date the Omnilore Outreach has made presentations at The Canterbury and Welbrook Senior Living Centers.

At The Canterbury Sydell Weiner gave a presentation on *Improving Family Relationships*, Leslie Criswell on *How Does Music Make You Feel*, Gail Ruder on *Gilbert and Sullivan*, and Ralph Brown on *Ten Famous Buildings in L.A.* On May 16th, Steve Miller will present *Cybercrime Against Individuals*. Leslie Schettler and Joy Jurena are scheduled for June and July.

At Welbrook Howard Korman gave his presentation on *Klezmer Music* and Leslie Criswell has scheduled her presentation to be given this month. Mary Gluck will be presenting this summer.

The Outreach has been a rewarding experience for the presenters and the residents. Discussions are always interesting. There will be a meeting for scheduling fall dates and topics this summer. If you would like to join in on this "feel good" activity, please contact Dale Korman, coordinator, at 310-373-2442 or email howarddale@verizon.net for more information.

Kudos to all those who have presented and to those who would like to participate in the months ahead.



Intifragile by Nassim Taleb. Similar to writers like Michael Lewis and Macolm Gladwell, Taleb writes in a wry, provocative style to take complex ideas and work them into an enjoyable, even personal, read. The basic idea is that some things are more than resilient or robust; these are the things that actually get better when stressed, such as muscle fibers in the body.

This book carries on the Incerto theme he introduced in *The Black Swan* and *Fooled by Randomness*—the problem of dealing with uncertainty, which is one of the conditions of being human. He takes a reductive approach to it, as he points out the old prophets did, more warnings *against* actions than predicting things to come. A "first, do no harm" view, or "Do NOT do unto others..."

Along the way, introducing characters like Nero Tulip and Fat Tony, he shows a "barbell" approach to investing in particular and life in general, minimizing exposure to ruin on one end of the bar, while maximizing specu-

lative possibilities on the other end.

There's something for everyone: advice to weightlifters, the best books to read, what's most likely to happen to nations and large companies.

The Bishop's Pawn by Steve Berry. History notes that the ugly feud between J. Edgar Hoover and Martin Luther King, Jr., marked by years of illegal surveillance and the accumulation of secret files, ended on April 4, 1968, when King was assassinated by James Earl Ray.

But that may not have been the case.

Now, fifty years later, former Justice Department agent, Cotton Malone, must reckon with the truth of what really happened that fateful day in Memphis.

It all turns on an incident from eighteen

years ago, when Malone, as a young Navy lawyer, is trying hard not to live up to his burgeoning reputation as a maverick. When Stephanie Nelle, a high -level Justice Department lawyer, enlists him to help with an investigation, he jumps at the opportunity. But he soon discovers that two opposing forces—the Justice Department and the FBI—are at war over a rare coin and a cadre of secret files containing explosive revelations about the King assassination, information that could ruin innocent lives and threaten the legacy of the civil rights movement's greatest martyr.

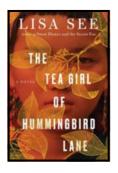
Malone's decision to see it through to the end — from the raucous bars of Mexico, to the clear waters of the Dry Tortugas, and ultimately into the halls of power within Washington D.C. itself — not only changes his own life, but the course of history.

Book suggestions from Omniloreans make this column work. Thanks to **Rich Mansfield** for contributing to this month's list. Send submittals to: newsletter@omnilore.org

Mid-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 Suite A 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, May 14: Fiction The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Land by Lisa See

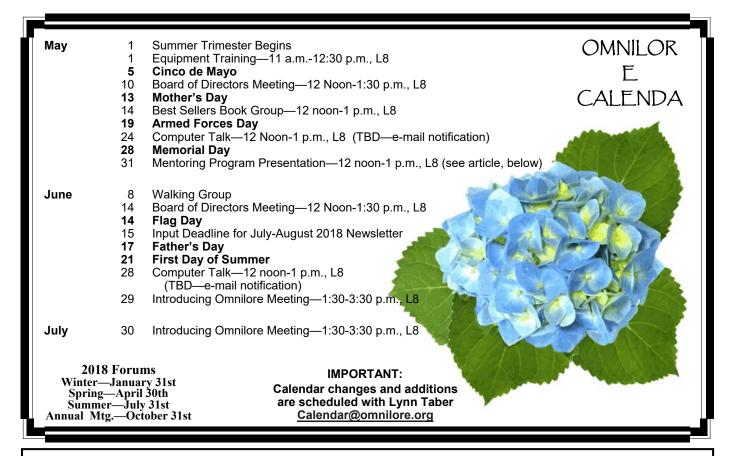


Monday, July 9: Non-Fiction Brain Rules for Aging Well



As with any SIG, you do not need to register to participate...just show up on the date prepared to participate. We always have interesting and stimulating discussions! Guests are always welcomed.

L8 Friday, June 29th - 1:30 p.m.
Help Spread the Word! RSVP 310-514-1415



Women Mentors Needed

by Dayla D. Sims. Ed D

id you know? Women Hold the Majority of College Degree Debt — and Take Longer to Pay It Off.

WASHINGTON — A new American Association of University Women (AAUW) report, Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans, estimates that women hold almost two-thirds (\$833 billion) of the country's \$1.3-trillion student debt while men hold \$477 billion. The research shows that those with the scarcest resources bear the brunt of student debt in the United States.



What can I do? Come to a Mentoring Program Presentation and hear about the program's two goals: Building relationships and addressing the student loan program by helping young girls to use best practices. Everyone is welcome!

When: May 31, 2018 at 12 noon-1 p.m. Where: L8 at Beach Cities Health District

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

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)