



OMNILORE NEWS



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November 2018

DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

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A record of the Annual Meeting Forum Presentation on October 31, 2018

Presenters from Homeboy Industries: Jessica and Alegria

Welcome to Homeboy Industries, a Beacon of Hope

by *Teddie Milner*

Omnilore's October 2018 Forum was held on Halloween in the comfort and beauty of the banquet room of the Los Verdes Golf Course in Rancho Palos Verdes. This venue has served us well for years—featuring beautiful views, good food, gracious servers—and a golf cart that circles the tiered parking lot, offering Omniloreans a chance to ride to/from the Forum.



Homeboy Speakers: Jessica Sanchez and Alegria Castro, Community Outreach Manager

Following lunch, Omnilore

President, **Frank Pohlner**, came to the microphone to welcome us. There was a brief business meeting and a bit of voting required to change the by-laws and elect officers and board members before the winners of the best Halloween costume contest were introduced, photographed and awarded small prizes.

Bob Mallano, Forum Chair, was then called upon to introduce the speakers from Homeboy Industries, a successful gang intervention and re-entry program. The program, in its 30th year, was founded by Father Gregory Boyle, members of the Delores Mission Church and business owners who were willing to take a chance on hiring participants who needed jobs as part of their recovery. They created a program called "Jobs For A Future". Their mission was to improve the health and safety of our community through jobs and education rather than through suppression and incarceration. There is a lot more to learn about this wonderful organization in the September edition of the Omnilore Newsletter.

Jessica Sanchez, the first Homeboy Industry speaker, walked from her table confidently to the podium. She started by saying, "I'm a Home Girl, a female gang member. I've been a Home Girl off and on for years. It's been a spiritual place for me." She then paused a moment to gather her thoughts and emotions before she launched into her history with shocking generosity.

Jessica's History: I am my mother's oldest daughter. She was a seamstress who held three jobs to support us. Growing up, I not only attended but loved school and was a straight "A" student. Eventually what happened to me at home caused me to act out in school until I had to go to work. There was trauma in my life from age six, when I was molested by the person I considered my father (actually my stepfather). I found the situation very confusing and at the age of eight men-

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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 Judy Bayer
Staff Member

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Steve Miller

I'm sure that more than a few of you were surprised to see my name as the nominee for Omnilore president since I have not recently been on the Omnilore Board. I served on the Board as treasurer for two years, November 2009 to October 2011. In 2011 my wife Andrea and I bought a second home in Arizona, and I realized I could not accept any ongoing Omnilore responsibility if I were going to be in Arizona four months a year. We sold that house last year allowing me the opportunity to rejoin the Board. I am enthusiastic about joining this year's great group of volunteer leaders and would like to thank them for agreeing to serve Omnilore.

A few words about my background. I was born and raised in Ohio and got my undergraduate and graduate degrees in Massachusetts from MIT. I moved to California to work at The Aerospace Corporation for most of my career except for two periods, one where I worked for Hughes Aircraft and one when I took time to start a business. I ended my full-time employment at Aerospace in 2006. Andrea and I have two grown daughters.

I have not yet established all my goals for this next year leading Omnilore but one that will be near the top of the list is

expanding our membership from about 260 to 300. I anticipate that the larger number of members taking our study/discussion groups will result in fewer classes cancelled due to an insufficient number of signups. This is where you, the members, come in. Most of the potential members attending our Introducing Omnilore sessions are there because they have been invited by current members. Please, give me a hand in making the 300-member goal and invite your friends and acquaintances to consider joining Omnilore! If you have other ideas about changes/improvements in Omnilore, tell me in person or email me at RedQuark@aol.com.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the great job that **Frank Pohlner** and the Board have done the past two years. We'll have to work hard to match their efforts and successes. My thanks to them and to the many other volunteers who are needed to keep our organization going



Summer Survey Results 2018

by Judy Bayer

Your input is critical in this process. We always love to hear from you. Your ideas and suggestions for improving the curriculum and conducting the classes is essential. We welcome your views for encouraging new members and recognizing outstanding contributions by current participants.

156 people responded to the 2018 summer survey. Your thoughtful comments following survey questions continue to give the committee insight into how best to interpret responses. The results again were very positive (78% indicated very positive) and reflect your appreciation for your learning experience.

Following are some survey results:

- ✓ 78% would recommend the book for a subsequent class
- ✓ 83% thought discussion questions stimulated dialogue
- ✓ 87% thought the presentations were relevant. There were no negative responses
- ✓ 74% thought their class was well organized. There were no negative responses
- ✓ 75% thought the presentations stimulated questions
- ✓ 52% thought there had been several outstanding presentations in their class
- ✓ 95% thought they had an opportunity to participate

There still were concerns that some books were too long and the class should have been offered over two semesters. A class that did not rate their book highly noted that class participants and interesting discussions made the class excellent. For different reasons, some class members were not able to give their presentations on the assigned date. Coordinators were excellent in handling the situation and coming up with Plan B.

Thank you for your great efforts in making Omnilore a truly rewarding learning experience.



Gloria Martin—Outgoing VP Administration

by Marion Smith

A native Kentuckian who grew up in Springfield, Ohio, business school graduate Gloria Martin began a career with the federal government as a secretary at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. After 10-11 years and three different night schools in two states, Gloria graduated with a B.S. (Cum Laude) in Management/Organizational Behavior while continuing to work full time for the Air Force, both at Edwards AFB near Lancaster, CA., and at the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) in El Segundo, CA. While working at SMC, she was selected for a highly competitive Financial Management Program and met and married her husband, David. Then, with support from both the U.S. Navy and the Air Force, Gloria was chosen for a full-time Master’s program, earning an M.B.A in Systems Management/R&D Technology. And by the time she took early retirement in 2001, she was the Chief of Program Control for the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program Office, where she led a team in providing budget and cost support to both Air Force and Navy space programs. Gloria received the Air Force Outstanding Civilian Service Award near the time of her retirement.



mini-business, *Uniquely You* jewelry, with a workshop behind her house. She takes her collection to two or three shows a year, including the Torrance Craftsmen’s Guild show in November, and the South Bay Quilt Show in February. She especially enjoys helping people select what’s exactly right for them--and the way these business activities have expanded her social network.

Gloria likes to have projects, and she just finished landscaping her yard. She lost her husband David to pancreatic cancer six years ago, and she says, “Dave was the other half of me. He had a great sense of humor.” They remodeled their El Segundo home twice,

producing a huge dining room that became the entertainment center for their neighborhood. Gloria loves the sociability of the neighborhood, including the presence of Omnimorean Carol Wingate. She says, “Keeping relationships going takes time.”

Here is Gloria’s retirement formula, including her personal choices: You’ve got to do something to stimulate your mind [Omnimore], got to give back [member, Children’s Hospital El Segundo Auxiliary], have to do something creative [making jewelry] and nurture social relationships [community of friends]. But you need to have balance in this formula.

Her Fall 2018 Omnimore S/DG is TED Talks: Ideas Worth Spreading. Probably her favorite S/DG was a course describing how to think like Leonardo da Vinci. Her S/DG preferences tend to be ones that excite something creative in her or talk about the aging process and how to make things better.

Gloria offers this advice to us: “We can’t say that we’re old or we become old.” We’ll stop thinking, stop interacting. “Stay active in Omnimore because you’ll be stimulated by the classes and most importantly by the people. You meet such nice people.” Well, certainly Gloria fulfills her Omnimorean promise to us: stimulating and nice.

Gloria joined Omnimore in about 2003. She recently served as Vice President of Administration. In this capacity she was responsible for Membership, Registration, Office Management and other committees and activities, including the Governance and Procedures Manual. As a side job, she was co-chair of the Evaluation Committee, about which she says, “Kudos to Omnimore’s Evaluation Committee! They care so much about improving the organization.”

Gloria didn’t realize until she retired that she also has a right brain. Actually, during the summer before she retired, Gloria started making jewelry. She found a silversmithing class very scary because of its use of torches. A later wire-wrap class showed her that she didn’t have to use fire alone to make jewelry. She’s turned her pleasure in making jewelry into a



Costume Contest Winners

1st Place

Leslie Criswell

as Big Bird

2nd Place

Dennis Bosch

as himself

3rd Place

Eddy Bay

as Mohammed bin Salman, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia (she says since a classic idea for Halloween is to be a monster and he seemed to fit the bill!)

Evaluation Committee - A New Omnilore Standing Committee

by Judy Bayer

The Evaluation Committee became a standing Omnilore Committee by vote of the Omnilore Board at its September Meeting. The committee meets monthly to evaluate Omnilore plans, procedures and methods to improve the overall Omnilore experience.

The committee is comprised of diverse, qualified individuals to assure that the goals and tasks of the committee are carried out.

- ↪ Standing members include, at a minimum, the Curriculum Committee Chair, the Membership Chair, and the Head Coordinator who provide perspectives across multiple disciplines.
- ↪ The committee is co-chaired by the Vice President Administration and Vice President Academics, and the co-chairs report to the president.

Objectives of the committee include:

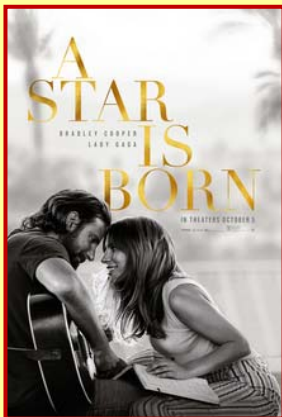
- ↪ Conduct surveys of classes to obtain member feedback each trimester
- ↪ Encourage greater participation in the surveys
 - ◆ Survey response rates are critical to the committee's understanding of member satisfaction and implementation of positive outcomes
- ↪ Measure effectiveness in areas such as presentations, discussion questions, book selection and class management, training techniques and administrative procedures
- ↪ Analyze survey results; establish trends and areas of improvement; identify problem areas and develop solutions
- ↪ Share results with coordinators, co-coordinators, and members via newsletter article(s) and personal contacts
- ↪ Identify members for recognition based upon survey comments:
 - ◆ Coordinators based upon organization, time management, and group facilitation skills
 - ◆ Participants who present well-researched topics with interesting delivery
- ↪ Develop training and conduct workshops to improve presentations and study/discussions
 - ◆ Establish a committee to plan and implement the workshops
 - ◆ Conduct the workshop at least once yearly
- ↪ Facilitate via the Head Coordinator a coordinator/co-coordinator de-briefing meeting at the end of each trimester to identify challenges and share positive techniques identified through surveys and communication
- ↪ Identify Coordinator issues such as class management that may be addressed in Coordinator training
- ↪ Identify curriculum concerns such as the value of a chosen book selection that may be addressed at the Curriculum Committee meeting
- ↪ Identify new member concerns such as a fear of using PowerPoint in a presentation that can be addressed in a Presentation Workshop
- ↪ Identify best practice methods and procedures including templates and examples for use by coordinators and presenters making the best practices available on the Omnilore website to all members

The **Evaluation Committee** has successfully implemented the on-line Survey Monkey tool. Survey Monkey is utilized to provide feedback from members each trimester that measures class effectiveness in areas such as presentations, study/discussions, book selection and class management.

- ↪ Survey results indicate that participating in Omnilore classes is a very positive experience.
- ↪ Narrative comments from the survey have increased and are trending positive



Movie Goers Special Interest Group



Very recently the SIG - Movie Goers gathered together at AMC - Rolling Hills to see "A Star is Born" with Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga. The discussion afterwards at Mimi's proved to be complete with excellent critical opinions, as usual. Overall, the consensus was that it exceeded their expectations with the fine acting of both stars. (Who could resist Cooper's gorgeous blue eyes in this film?) Even though this is the 4th time that this story has been produced, it was evident that the younger generation will definitely give it a high rating, especially for the original songs composed for this updated version. Already the album is #1 on the charts. We are all anticipating



Oscars galore for this debut of Bradley Cooper's directing talent. Don't miss seeing "A Star is Born". It's a real keeper!

For the next two months the SIG will be meeting on the third Sunday of the month to avoid the holidays. Keep looking at the website. Thanks to Hal for his diligence in updating upcoming outings. For any suggestions about interest in a film, please let me know.

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

The academic year is at the half way point at the College of Extended and International Education (CEIE). The Holiday season is upon us with Thanksgiving, Christmas and myriad other diverse winter festivals we celebrate this time of year. We've had a terrific slate of community education programs this Fall at OLLI and peer led programs at Omnilore. The Beach Cities extended campus has proved to be a viable and vibrant location that continues to serve our stakeholders well.

The OLLI and Omnilore program at CSUDH offer unique opportunities for individuals who consider lifelong learning an integral part of retirement. Our program consists of a broad spectrum of experiences including workshops, lecture series, cultural events, field trips, study groups and more. All adults 50 and older are welcome to join OLLI at CSUDH. Members represent all walks of life, with a wide range of experiences and diverse backgrounds.

This is a special time in the history of OLLI at Dominguez Hills. 2018 marks the 15th anniversary of the lifelong learning program. OLLI has grown from humble beginnings to more than 500 active members participating in programs at CSUDH. To ensure that OLLI and Omnilore remain vibrant and self-sustaining, we launched the "Enrich OLLI" annual giving program that is now winding down. Our goal was to raise \$10,000 in 2018, but sadly we did not achieve our goal as of this writing in late October. Toward that end, I ask you one last time to consider making a minimum \$50 donation. Making a gift is easy and convenient. You can go online using the secure giving site at www.csudh.edu/onlinegiving and look for the College of Extended and International Education button and follow the prompts.

All OLLI gifts will be used to enhance OLLI programs which serve hundreds of retired and semi-retired members-many of whom are finding a new purpose and path by participating in OLLI classes and events. Every gift, large or small is valued and appreciated. I realize the holiday season can be expensive and stressful, but please keep us in mind when contributing to your favorite charities.

Thank You!

I believe you will be energized by the mutual support that such learning communities offer. I have always believed in the concept of K-90 education, and Omnilore at CSUDH provides the perfect opportunities for enriching lifelong learning. Enjoy the holiday season with family and friends, and safe travels. Until next time.

Continued from Page 1: Welcome to Homeboy Industries, a Beacon of Hope

tioned the abuse to my mother. My mother's response was to kick me out of the house. Alcohol was very accessible in our house and at a tender age in my development, I used it to go to sleep. I was devastated.

I asked my mom if I could come home, and when I returned, there was even more violence in our house. My mom would not look at me or talk with me. I always thought she'd love me if I were a good student and I did what she asked of me. Love and the need for love further propelled my story.

I became a very quiet kid. I didn't talk too much. I was bullied, but I tried to avoid the violence. Finally, my mom told me, "If you don't stick up for yourself, you'll be fighting me". I began to lash out, watching others become afraid. Then the question became: Why do I lash out and fight so much? The answer would not come out until years later. I learned as a young child what goes on in the household stays in the household. I knew about gangs and could recognize them. At 14, I was still excelling in school but I had to go to work. I continued to avoid violence and abuse but it was a nightly occurrence at our house. One night, a neighbor called the police. I told the police about the drinking, abuse, molestation and violence at our house. Again, my mother threw me out of the house.

Nothing happened at first, until my stepdad was arrested. My mother asked me, "What did you do? Our family can't survive now." I felt I had to help my mother by providing money but this proved to be almost impossible. I was not born in the USA but arrived here at the age of six months. There were no programs I could apply to for assistance with housing, food, counseling or continuing my education. In despair, on the street without a support system of any kind, at 14 years old I began to inject heroin. The heroin helped me escape the hurt and the pain. To pay for my drugs and to help my family I hustled in the street. I cried sometimes because I was convinced that I would never be able to marry, have kids or a family. It was a lonely existence without depth and honesty and not much hope of improving my situation.

As a young girl on the streets alone, I had to protect myself. I accepted that my former life ended and a new life had begun. At 16 years old, even if you had

money you couldn't rent an apartment or buy a car. I was emotionally spent, living a shallow life, longing for connection, love and acceptance but I didn't see anyone as a human being. It was, "What do you have to offer?"

I had heard about Homeboy Industries as possibly a place to find help for my mother. It never occurred to me that Homeboy might be able to assist me with getting a visa. A man met me at the door with a smile. I looked around to see who he was smiling at. He didn't ask where I was from. He was covered in tattoos. He simply asked, "How can I help you?" The energy in the room was just right for my state of mind. Those I met wanted to shake my hand and were very nice to me. They just asked me to sit down. I was referred to legal services to explain the issues my mother faced and my need for a visa. While waiting I noticed that there were classes being taught. I began attending classes the next day and came to Homeboy Industries earlier and earlier each day. It became my new spiritual place. Father Greg, one of the Homeboy founders, saw something special in me. He offered me inspiration, acceptance and a job at first, then a place in their 18-month program. He influenced me greatly, and to my surprise, he hired me again at Homeboy Industries, after I completed the program.

How can I describe Homeboy Industries? It is a peaceful place, with light inside the building that shines brighter than being outside. I love it! The truth is I had lots of pain, anger and confusion to work on. I work on my issues but don't try to fix them. To work at Homeboy, you can't test dirty for drugs. If you do you are asked to fix yourself and come back. They will send you to rehab for three months and invite you back. At work, I met a guy who really bugged me at first, but slowly we began a relationship and I got pregnant. He was thrilled but I was nervous because I didn't know how to mother a child or even how to



Forum Chair, Bob Mallano flanked by Alegria Castro on the left and Jessica Sanchez on the right.

dress one. I told father Greg about my fears. He told me he was sure I'd be a good parent.

I didn't like giving birth. I didn't like people whom I didn't know touching me. I was 20 years old, by myself with a baby. The baby cried and cried; she just wanted to be with me. As soon as I held the baby, she stopped crying. Ten months later I got pregnant again. The father of my baby had been in jail off and on since he was nine years old and was back in again. It had been difficult, the father of my children kept losing his job, and I did too when there was a cut-back at Homeboy. We had no one to rely on for temporary support. Once you've been in this kind of crisis, it's easy to go back to old ways. My husband and I ended up in jail. He bailed me out of jail even though he was unable to post his own bail. When I got out of jail, I began to fight my own case. In a few months he got out of jail and we began our new life as a family.

One day, my kids were playing with my husband in the yard at our house, while I went to the market to get lunch meat. Before I returned I heard sirens, a helicopter over head and some commotion coming from the area around our house. It was the gang unit of the Sheriff's department and the LAPD closing in. When I got there the kids were being taken by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). That was the last time I saw my daughters and stepson. I walked out of jail at 3 AM with no place to go. No home, no family and a mother who undermined me at every turn. I went to Homeboy again,

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Continued from Page 6: **Welcome to Homeboy Industries, a Beacon of Hope**

meeting with Father Greg, who cried for us after learning about our latest crisis. By now, I couldn't feel a thing or show any emotion. It had been an overwhelming struggle, filled with constant, obsessive attacks by the police. At least we had had two happy years as a family.

Months later, I got to visit my daughters at McDonald's. My oldest daughter asked me, "Mom are you going to leave me like my dad?" My other daughter said, "Mom you don't love me." Hearing this just about killed me. I realized that I had to become a mother to become vulnerable and accept responsibility. I needed to change and do better. I know I am smart and can accomplish school, but the hardest thing to do is fall really hard and get up. I have been in and out of the program several times. I realize that everybody has had issues to deal with, but every time I have to leave my kids, I make a vow to continue to find the discipline to challenge myself to do better for them. I hate leaving them. It is upsetting for us all. I cry.

Just let me say that Homeboy Industries is an organization, but it feels more like a family. You can go to Homeboy Industries downtown at Bruno and Alame-

da Streets to see for yourself. Participants change in a beautiful way. Just call for a tour; you'll be amazed by what you see. Go to the Home Girls café for lunch. It's fun.

Thank you to Jessica from all of us for sharing her story, a raw, grounded picture of her life. Jessica could teach a master class on surviving the streets of Los Angeles and successfully finding a way out of abuse, addiction and violence. And, another plus is that she got a work permit with Homeboy's help.

We wish her a future in a peaceful, safe and loving environment in which she will be able to raise her daughters with pride and respect.

A second speaker, **Alegria Castro**, gave a short, more administrative review of Homeboy Industries, revealing that no government funding is received. They function with the income from Homeboy's foods and bakery, silk screening, Home Girls Café, private donations and grants from social enterprises. Ms. Castro mentioned that it takes about \$18 million dollars per year to run the programs. To qualify for the 18-month program you must:

1. Be a gang member
2. Be in jail or have been in jail
3. Be on probation or parole

Homeboy Industries teaches 40 classes, as a part of a charter high school. At the present time, 40 of their graduates are enrolled in college and one is working on a master's degree. Ms. Castro said, "We are considered the largest and most successful gang intervention and re-entry program in the world." At the end of her talk, an Omnioorean who was a luncheon guest (later identified as Charles Golden) walked to the podium with a bread basket offering the first \$50.00 gift from our group. In a very short time, the basket was overflowing with donations.

Please visit the Homeboy Industries website at:

www.homebovindustries.org.

Those interested in seeing this world-renowned program up close can make an appointment to visit. Ask for Jessica Sanchez as your tour guide. Learn about and donate to this organization's support, if you can. Let's let Jessica know that we care about her growth and progress at Homeboy Industries and especially her personal development.

Update on the Outreach Program

by Dale Korman, Outreach Coordinator

"Thank you's" are in order to our Outreach Team of presenters: **Mary Gluck** who shared the amazing art work of her late husband, **Daniel**, at Welbrook, **Jean Custer** who gave residents at The Canterbury insights into Catalina Island and Endangered Species, and **Thomas Galbraith** for leading the topic of music of 1927.

Both Welbrook and The Canterbury are looking forward to future Omniolore presentations. There are some dates already in the works led by **Howard Korman**, **Gail Ruder**, **Carol Custer** and **Jeanne Lenahan**. If you would like to join our Outreach Team, please let me know and you'll be invited to attend a brief scheduling meeting at noontime on **Tuesday, December 4th in L9**. It's really been a win-win activity.

If you are interested in joining this Outreach Team for the upcoming year (2019), please contact **Dale Korman**, Outreach coordinator.: 310-373-2442 or howarddale@verizon.net

Continued from Page 4: **Evaluation Committee**

- ☞ Coordinators receive survey feedback to make them aware of approaches that are effective and those which may need refinement
- ☞ Presentation and Discussion Question Workshop – three have been completed to date with very positive survey results.

Omniolore members have entrusted the Evaluation Committee with the responsibility of working to improve and enhance their educational experience. With the support and participation of all Omniooreans, the Evaluation Committee will strive to meet their expectations and fulfill its articulated objectives.



**Computer Talks is Taking
November & December Off Due to the Holidays!
Look for Us in The January-February 2019 Newsletter**



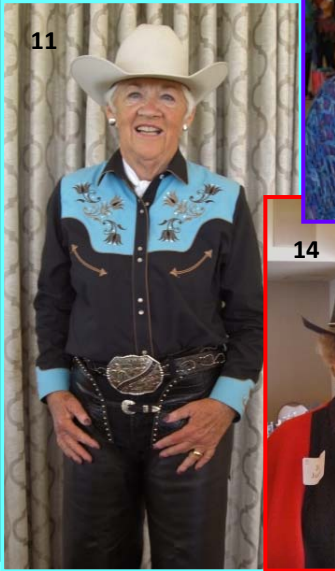
Some Smiles from the Annual Meeting



1. Carol Pleatman as Groucho Marx; 2. our new president, Steve Miller and his wife, Andrea; 3. Nancy Bell; 4. Howard & Dale Korman; 5. Margaret Thelen and Mary Gluck; 6. Kent McDonald, our treasurer; 7. Marty Leveille; 8. Leslie Criswell as Big Bird (& 1st place in the costume contest); 9. new member Mary Mauck; 10. Mary Varieur & Mary Watson; 11. Carol Wingate & Gloria Martin; 12. Jean Custer as a country farm girl; 13. our newest members: Helen & Stan Nah; 14. new member Jim Parkman; 15. Jill McKenzie, as a hippie from the flower child days.



1. Eddy Bay as Mohammed bin Salman, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia; 2. Lori Spillane & Jade Suzanne Neely; 3. Denise DeVenuto & Maria Ruiz; 4. new member, Gail Driver; 5. Mary Jo Little; 6. Carolynn Pohlner with Marilyn Brashear, seated; 7. Mimi Lau; 8. Bud Friedman, guest of Harriet Allyn; 9. Ronnie & Carlos Lemmi; 10. Lori Geittmann with caregiver, Lesly Pineda; 11. Judy North in her real-world horse getup; 12. Faye Schwartz; 13. Charles Golden, Roger Schamp & Frank Pohlner; 14. Joy Jurena, witch hunter, with new member and witch, Janet Zupke; 15. Ruth Bloland, Fran Wielin & Judy Bayer; 16. Dennis Bosch.



Omnilore's 2018-2019 Board of Directors



From left:
Jean Custer
 VP Academics
Kent McDonald
 Treasurer
Dale Johnson
 Recording Secretary
Don Tlougan
 VP Administration
and
Steve Miller
 President

Omnilore Walking Group – Annual Yule Potluck, Preceded by Holiday Walk

Friday, December 14: 37 Harbor Sight Drive, Rolling Hills Estates

No Rain:

- 9:45 a.m. – Leave potluck dish with Lynn Taber
- 10:00 a.m. – Walk (Optional) from John & Lynn Taber's Home
- 11:30 a.m. – Potluck Luncheon (all Omniloreans welcome)

Raining:

- 11:00 a.m. – Potluck Luncheon (all Omniloreans welcome)



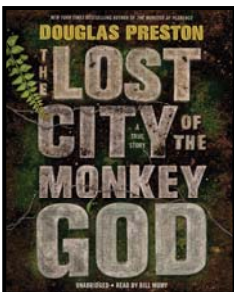
Please email Lynn Taber johnlynnntaber@gmail.com, to let her know what you are bringing for the potluck (side dish, salad, bread, appetizer, dessert, wine, other drinks, etc.) Lynn is providing the main dish, plates, cups and utensils.

Contact Dennis Bosch dennis.bosch@gmail.com with questions about the walk.

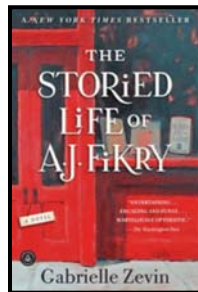
Winter Best Sellers SIG Reads

by Patricia Edie & Cindy Eggert

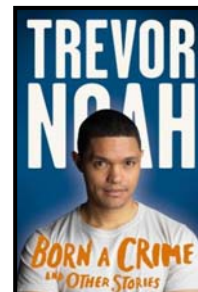
Calling all “Readers!” Omnilore’s Best Sellers Special Interest Group continues to meet each month, at 12 noon, on the second Monday of the month in L8 of the Beach Cities Health Center to discuss the chosen book for the month. We alternate each month between various works of fiction and non-fiction. The discussion is always lively and interesting! Upcoming dates and book selections for the remainder of the year 2018 and January are:



Monday,
 November 12:
 Non-Fiction
*The Lost City
 of the Monkey
 God*
 by Douglas
 Preston

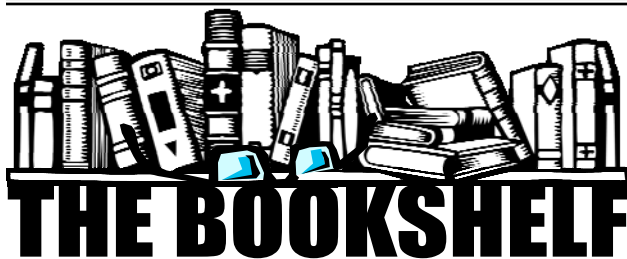


Monday,
 December 10
 Fiction
*The Storied
 Life of
 A. J. Fikry*
 by Gabrielle
 Zevin



Monday,
 January 14:
 Non-Fiction
*Born a Crime:
 Stories from a
 South African
 Childhood*
 by Trevor Noah

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.



The Hate U Give, by Angie Thomas. This is ostensibly an older young adult book, but I recommend it nevertheless as a barnburner of a first novel, written about race relations from the point of view of a black teenager who shuttles between a violent black neighborhood and an exclusive white high school.

With one foot in each culture, the girl is able to see and articulate the pros and cons of two very disparate cultures. Being one of a very few black kids there, she's become adept at "code-switching", and white readers will do well to have their smart phones locked into an urban dictionary as they get into the story - which starts with her best friend being killed by a police officer.

But it's hardly that simple. The initials of the title, it turns out, spell THUG, a reference to a Tupac rap about "Thug Life". That title, in turn, turns out to be an acro-

nym for "the hate you give little infants f***s everybody". You might say it's a black version of the song from South Pacific, "You Have to be Carefully Taught" — to hate.

Of course the hatred coming out of the black neighborhood (whites can't say "ghetto") gets emphasized, as the South Pacific song did the other way. It's a throwing knife with a slight imbalance. But it comes close to a bullseye.

In *Accidental Heroes*, Danielle Steel takes ordinary people in various settings - a decorated former Air Force pilot who just lost her husband in the worst way to terrorists; a pregnant flight attendant; a senior Homeland Security agent, still grappling with guilt after a disastrous operation in which hostages were killed; a distraught father, traveling with the baby son he has abducted from his estranged wife; a major film star - who converge on a plane flight across the country. On a beautiful May morning at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport, two planes have just departed for San Francisco—one a 757, another a smaller Airbus A321. The "normal" flight

morphs into a nightmare starting with a TSA agent noticing a strange post card left behind by one of the passengers and turns it into higher security professionals - just in case. Research on key individuals on the flight starts tightening stomachs as possibilities become more probabilities. Sifting through data and relying on instinct, Ben, the HS agent, becomes convinced that someone on the Airbus is planning something terrible. And he's right. Passengers, crew, and experts on the ground become heroes out of necessity to try to avert tragedy at the eleventh hour.

Danielle Steel combines intense action with stories of emotionally rich, intertwined lives. As the jet bears down on its destination of San Francisco, strangers are united, desperate choices are made, and futures will be changed forever by a handful of accidental heroes.

Book suggestions from Omnioleans make this column work. Thanks to Rich Mansfield for contributing the first book in this month's list.

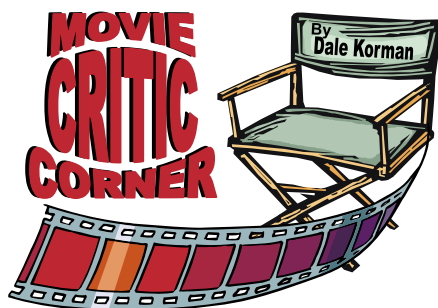
Send submittals to:
newsletter@omnilore.org

The Next

INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETING:

L8 Friday, Nov. 16th - 1:30 p.m.

Help Spread the Word! RSVP 310-514-1415



How many of you are familiar with the British Rock Band - QUEEN? Formed in 1970, their earliest works were influenced by progressive rock, hard rock and heavy metal. Lead vocalist and pianist was Freddie Mercury, born Farrokh "Freddie" Bulsara, who suggested the name

"Queen" for the band. Then the 1977 album, *News of the World* contained *We Will Rock You* and *We Are the Champions* which became anthems at sporting events. Later, in 1980 *Another One Bites the Dust* became their best selling single. Their performance in 1985 at the LIVE AID Concert has become ranked among the greatest in rock history.

The current movie, *Bohemian Rhapsody* is the biopic of singer Freddie Mercury. The film follows the band's rise to fame; however, it tells the backstory of his life as he battled with drugs and an AIDS diagnosis. Fans of QUEEN and rock music will likely enjoy this foot-stomping musical cele-

bration, but expect heavy themes, sexuality, drug use and bad language. Nonetheless, Freddie Mercury who defied stereotypes and shattered conventions became one of the most beloved entertainers of all time. Audience review on Rotten Tomatoes is already 97%. Plan to see this movie as it is quite an extraordinary legacy to inspire dreamers and music lovers to this day.

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

Dale Korman
howarddale@verizon.net

- November**
- 4 Daylight Savings Time Ends
 - 8 Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., L8
 - 11 **Veterans Day**
 - 12 Best Sellers Book Group—12 noon-1 p.m., L8
 - 16 Introducing Omnilore Meeting—1:30-3:30 p.m., L8
 - 22 **Thanksgiving Day**
 - 29 Coordinator Essential Information Meeting—10:30 -11:30 a.m., L8
- December**
- 3 **Hanukkah (first day)**
 - 10 Best Sellers Book Group—12 noon-1 p.m., L8
 - 12 Fall 2018 Coordinator Debriefing—10-11 a.m., L8
 - 13 Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., L8
 - 14 Walking Group—Holiday Hike & Lunch, 10 a.m. (see article, page 10)
 - 15 Input Deadline for January-February 2019 Newsletter
 - 25 **Christmas Day**

OMNILORE CALENDAR

Happy
HANUKKAH
CHRISTMAS
Merry



2019 Forums
Winter—January 31st
Spring—April 30th
Summer—July 31st
Annual Mtg.—October 31st

IMPORTANT:
Calendar changes and additions
are scheduled with Sharon Bohner
Calendar@omnilore.org

Coordinators and co-coordinators for Spring 2019, thank you for volunteering. We will have our Coordinator Essential Information Meeting on November 29, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Put this on your calendar and we hope to see all of you there. There will be some new info at this session.

Fall 2018 coordinators and co-coordinators, we will have our "debriefing" session on December 12, 10 to 11 a.m. These have been very successful in the past and I hope you will come and contribute some of your experiences from the Fall trimester. Both of these sessions will be in L8. Thank you all for your great work.

Thank you,
Gloria Dumais, Head Coordinator



Gloria Dumais
Head Coordinator



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)