



OMNILORE NEWS

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November 2019

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Report on the Annual Meeting Forum:

Recruitment of People Living in the United States by Terrorists Including ISIS, al-Qaeda, and Domestic Extremists

By Teddie Milner

The Burt Cutler Memorial Annual Meeting and Forum was held at the Los Verdes Golf Club on October 31, 2019.

At noon the formal program began with President Steve Miller welcoming everyone and providing a brief history of Omnilore (established in 1990) and the Burt Cutler Memorial Annual Meeting and Forum. After retirement Burt Cutler, Omnilore's founder, attended UCLA's Plato Society meetings on the UCLA campus. The Plato Society provides courses to retired faculty and staff on campus. Burt was very impressed with the idea of the establishment of the Plato Society. He came home excited, immediately writing a letter about his plan to start a similar group in the South Bay. He posted his letter in the local library and put it in the newspaper. Ten people dedicated to continuing education responded. Initially, they met in their homes; however, as membership increased, they located a venue to accommodate the rooms needed for classes. Over the past 19 years, the organization has grown to nearly 300 members, requiring an expansion of the administrative board and an affiliation with Cal State Dominguez Hills. The Burt Cutler Memorial Annual Meeting was established a few years ago, as a tribute to Burt Cutler after he passed away.



Clarence Augustus Martin
J. D., Ph.D.
Professor, Criminal Justice
Administration

President Miller began the business meeting by recognizing the volunteers and the outgoing board members. The Board of Directors for 2018-2019 followed by the candidates for the board for 2019-2020 were introduced. The minutes from the last meeting were approved. The treasurer's report and the new budget also were approved. Steve Miller discussed his primary goals for this past year: 1) to increase Omnilore's membership to 300. Steve reported that he came up just short of his goal; however, the membership had grown. 2) to limit the organization's vulnerabilities, such as a failed computer program to schedule the S/DGs, alternate room availability in the case that Omnilore would suddenly have to move, training of others to take care of the website in the event Hal Hart would become unavailable, etc. Strategies have been developed to help stabilize Omnilore in case of unforeseen difficulties.

The Announcement of the Winners of the Costume Contest came at 12:15. All who came in costume were quietly excited. The winners were: Marie Gleeurp, Hal Hart and me, Teddie Milner. We were each awarded a gift card from Barnes and Noble. A big thank you for your gifts and the fun all of us had putting ourselves together for the Annual Meeting.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected Officers

President	Steve Miller
VP - Academics	Jim Slattery
VP - Administration	Donald Tlougan
Treasurer	Jack Lyons
Recording Secretary	Rich Gleeurp
Past President	Frank Pohlner
Member-at-Large	Martin Ageson
Member-at-Large	Joann Bally
Member-at-Large	Mitch Blake

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Forum	Robert Mallano
Communications	Judy Bayer
Curriculum	Howard Korman
Technology	Rick Spillane
Head Coordinator	Claire Damecour

Appointees

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SADG Scheduling	Ruth & Hal Hart
Room Scheduling	Sharon Bohner
Laptop Administrator	Rick Spillane
Equipment	Hal Hart
	Jim Slattery
Supplies	Ginny Brown
	Jill McKenzie
Office Manager	Marie Gleeurp
Member Advocate	Frank Reiner
Webmaster	Hal Hart

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	TBD

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Steve Miller



As you already have heard, Omnilore has lost one of our most accomplished, hardworking, smart, and beloved members, **Jean Custer**. Jean was our Vice President, Academics as well as a class coordinator. I had the benefit of being in several S/DGs with her, enjoying her excellent presentations and intelligent class discussion. We worked together on the Executive Committee and I often found when a new issue arose, Jean had addressed it, and often resolved it, before I even laid out my own solution to the problem. I will miss her, both personally and as a Omnilore worker and leader.

In light of Jean's many contributions to Omnilore, it seems like a good time to ask all our members to consider volunteering to help keep Omnilore a vibrant and efficient organization. We can always use help on our major committees – Communications, Curriculum, Evaluation, Forum, Membership, and Technology. No special skills are needed for most jobs but I would like to make a pitch here for one area where we could use help from a member or two. The Board has for some time thought it desirable to have a single database that all committees and officers could use in their duties. I am hoping that one or two of you with experience in databases will consider helping in this area. I am told that it is

not a very large task as databases go and you would get to work with some great folks to define the requirements. Please send an email to Technology@Omnilore.org if you would like to discuss any details.

I set a goal last November of 300 Omnilore members. Even with the super efforts of the membership and communication committees we fell a few members short of that goal. Let's try again this year for 300 (or more) members. The more members we have the better the chance that the less popular S/DGs will reach the minimum number required to schedule the class, so it is in every members' interest to have a few more members. In the recent past, we have had more than 300 members so this is doable. And as you must know, we find most of our new members join after being introduced to Omnilore by an existing member. So do potential new members and yourself a favor by inviting them to an Introducing Omnilore meeting.

Continued from Page 1—Report on the Annual Meeting Forum

Bob Mallano, Forum Chair, introduced the featured speaker, Clarence Augustus Martin, J.D., PhD. His presentation on "Recruitment of People Living in the United States by Terrorists Including ISIS, al-Qaeda, and Domestic Extremists" was extremely well received. Dr. Martin is a professor in the College of Business Administration and Public Policy at California State University, Dominguez Hills. He has a rich background in teaching, research, public and private practice of law and is the author of several books. For more information about this amazing, very accomplished man take a look at the September 2019 Omnilore News or visit the website: www.omnilore.org.

The professor began his talk with a dramatic slide show. First, he took us back to September 11, 2001, when the twin towers were on fire in New York City. He explained that his information and research begins from that important date.

The content of his lecture included: Recruitment Resources, Islamist Recruitment in the United States, Recruitment by Domestic Extremists, his conclusions, and time for questions. Dr. Martin discussed the characteristics of violent extremists: intolerance, moral absolutes, broad conclusions and a new language and conspiratorial beliefs. He noted that today most recruitment is done online especially for "lone wolves" who are ready to become radicalized. Some of the resources used to connect with possible recruits included: websites and chat rooms, videos on YouTube, online magazines, manifestos and/or charismatic fellow-travelers.

Professor Martin introduced some of the websites he has found where recruitment occurs. One example was "Inspire", a digital magazine in which the home page displays a pressure cooker and boasts of instructions to make a pressure cooker bomb. Jihadi John is on this next slide in the foreground, [some of you may remember him from news stories - Mohammed Emwazi, a British Arab] dressed in a camouflage uniform with his neck and face encircled by black fabric—only his eyes can be seen. In the background is a black flag planted in a desolate desert community.



Forum Chair Bob Mallano
with Dr. Martin

To understand the characteristics of violent extremists, Professor Martin explained, look for intolerance, moral absolutes, broad conclusions, development of a new language and conspiratorial beliefs. They contend that there is a right versus wrong (moral absolutes) in their actions. God will bless whatever they do. They tend to over-simplify solutions to complicated questions and invent new languages. In the USA alone, there are hundreds of definitions of terrorism. The professor indicated that one definition he finds authentic: "The illegal or unlawful use of force by law enforcement on groups and/or individuals where there may be a political motivation, or they may be attacks on 'soft' civilian and passive military targets which purposely affect an audience." These tactics do not overthrow a government but do make lifestyle changes.

Dr. Martin explained Islamist recruitment in the United States from a global context: Osama Bin Laden was the inspiration for the Al-Qaeda movement and its loose network based on the belief that Islamist armed resistance is required. Bin Laden also developed the Al-Qaeda "franchises": the AQAP; AQIM.

Continued on Page 4

Omnilore Profile: John Simpson

by Judy Bayer

It's amazing how following life's winding, enigmatic road may lead to unlimited opportunities and the dawning not only of a career, but also an avocation. John Simpson continues his travels along this road, and how fortunate that his path ultimately has included a journey to Omnilore.

Born in Madison, Wisconsin, a move from Annapolis, MD, to Canton, NY and then to Knittlingen, Germany as an American Field Service exchange student – all have nurtured his love of writing and culminated in a degree in philosophy at the State University of New York, Binghamton where he was the editor of the student newspaper.

A stint in politics as the manager of the congressional campaign of David Bernstein (who lost his election) culminated in a job offer with the Binghamton Sun-Bulletin, a newspaper then owned by Bernstein and later acquired by Gannett Company. "I want to be a reporter," John eagerly told his mentor. And thus began a 30-year career in journalism. He was well versed in a variety of newspaper positions including City Editor and reporter. A young lady whose name was Carol was John's assistant. John jokes that there weren't a lot of choices at the hours he worked, and soon he and Carol were dating and ultimately married. When he left for Ithaca, NY to work for the Ithaca Journal, Carol became the City Editor at the Sun.

John was introduced to the publisher of the Pacific Daily News, a Gannett publication on Guam, who was looking for a managing editor on the island. Soon, John and Carol were headed for Guam. While there, Carol trained students in journalism at the University of Guam, and John hired several of them to work for the newspaper. His mission was to hire a managing editor from the indigenous population, a Chamorro; Gannett wanted him to be the last the last managing editor from the United States.

Kate and Alexis, Carol and John's daughters, were born while the family was living on Guam. Today, Kate lives in Springfield, VA and works for Freddie Mac, and Alexis an actor, who lives in Rosemead, has a son, Soren, John and Carol's first grandchild. Believing that their children should be educated in the United States, John and Carol departed Guam after five years. For John, it was a perfect time to take a year's sabbatical as a Gannett Fellow at the University of Hawaii's Center for Asian and Pacific Studies.

In 1984, John's career took another fortuitous turn. He became managing editor of USA Today's International Edition. Later he left the newsroom for a year and worked on Gannett's "Jetcapade" reporting project which visited 35 countries. John was part of the advanced reporting team making most of the arrangements, a commitment that absented him from home six out of seven weeks at a time. When he asked his very young daughter, Alexis, what job he should take when the project ended, she responded, "Oh Dad, I don't care. I just want you to come home at night."

As a member of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, John traveled to South Africa to interview F. W. De Clerk and Nelson Mandela. He met Mandela at a barbecue not long after



his release from prison. "He was an amazing man," John remembered. "He wanted to move forward with what was best for everybody – with malice toward none. He was incredible, amazingly powerful, very positive."

The family travels continued between 1999 and 2000, when John and Carol settled in Dublin, Ireland. John was a visiting professor at Dublin City University School of Communication teaching journalism, and Carol earned her second master's degree in Communications.

Home from Ireland, John became executive editor of Tribune Media Services International, a syndication company owned by the Tribune Company.

Ready for a career change and learning that Consumer Watchdog was looking for someone who was a "Hell-raiser", John, believing he fit the description perfectly, applied. He became a consumer advocate. In 2005, he was named director of Consumer Watchdog's Stem Cell Oversight and Accountability Project. The project was created to ensure that citizens of California reaped the benefits of state-funded stem cell research. As John stated, "There was too much money and not enough accountability."

Next John moved on to Consumer Watchdog's Privacy and Technology project designed to educate the general public "about the need for greater online privacy, and among other things, to hold Google accountable for its tracking of consumers without permission."

John's wife told him about Omnilore and encouraged him to try it. He enjoys the classes and finds most of the presentations interesting and enlightening. He particularly enjoyed the class on Saudi Arabia and thought the presentation on Mohammed bin Salman truly excellent. And, he really likes the Omnilore Book Club, the interaction engendered through discussion.

When asked his thoughts about the accusations of "fake news" in today's media, John opined, "There was a time when media was far more limited and standing around the water cooler, you had a good understanding of the facts. People today watch only those things that perpetuate their views. Unfortunately, understanding the issues and the facts becomes problematic, and minds become closed to the other side. It's dangerous today that people are focusing on only one point of view, and the level of truth has become questionable. As a journalist, you have the obligation to be truthful. The mainstream media in their news coverage all strive to be factual and objective. I don't think they slant things. Crazy jumps in the news cycles present a difficult challenge. Today there is a huge internet presence with deadlines every minute, resulting in compromises in the accuracy of the reporting."

Now that John has retired, how is he utilizing all of his energy and talents? He is "relaxing and taking the time to do many things. Kicking my feet up, pouring a martini". He is an avid lawn bowler. "I haven't been around the house for a long time," he continues. "Married couples do not have to do everything together. When they do things together, they have a great time." Good advice for all of us.

Continued from Page 2—Report on the Annual Meeting Forum

Another global context is the Islamic State (ISIS). This group is attempting to establish a new caliphate. A caliphate is the rule or reign of a caliph or chief Muslim ruler in a new state with insurgency underground. This group usually declares itself. In 2014, ISIS mounted an offensive and in 2016-2018, counter-offensives. There are franchises in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. A particularly imposing slide showed a group of men sitting in a triangle formation with the leader waving a flag that reads, "There is no life without Jihad".

Islamist recruiters in the U.S. prefer to use threats from homegrown jihadists. The lone-wolf phenomenon fits in the case of the Orlando, Florida mass homicide by Omar Mateen on June 12, 2016 at the Pulse Nightclub. There is a terrorism hate crime nexus and a push toward religion-inspired mass shooting directed against a demographic group. Inspire, an English-language online magazine, now has 18 issues all published in many languages. "Shattered" is the title of one of the articles. This article provides instructions for making and placing car bombs in America, and arson jihad for those who want to start fires in California.

A left-wing movement in the U.S., Neo-Anarchists, promotes propaganda by the deed. Antifa, an idea movement, developed in Germany in the 1960s, teaches ideology and tactics. On the right is white nationalism, the Klan, the Neo-Nazis now called the National Socialist movement, the Patriot movement, the Oath Keepers and the 3%ers. The right-wing groups use websites, chat rooms, videos and manifestos such as NSM

website, Stormfront website, and the White Patriot Survival Manual.

White Nationalists find each other online. There they find information about how to arm, how to go underground, perform leaderless resistance. 3%ers are a group of gun owners who will not disarm. They will not obey more restrictions on guns. Super Patriots organization was established in the 1990s and experienced resurgence when President Obama was elected. Timothy McVey, the Oklahoma City bomber, was known to be a Super Patriot.

How can you identify members of these groups? Oath Keepers wear a patch and are usually former military or police officers who are willing to fight and die to keep their weapons. Some groups display or waive confederate or special flags at various events. If you attend an event promoted by one of these groups, for your own safety stand near the paramedics or medical workers.

Examples of lone wolves who have attacked are:

- ↳ Dylan Roof in 2015 shot worshipers in a church in Charleston, South Carolina. Nine were killed and one was wounded.
- ↳ Robert Bowers killed eleven and wounded seven in a Pittsburgh synagogue in 2018. He was found to be active on GAB.com
- ↳ Anders Breivik planted and detonated a car bomb in Oslo using the ANFO website. He killed 77 children at a youth camp in 2011.

↳ Brenton Tarrant attacked two mosques in 2019, killing 50 and wounding 50. It was found that he had been reading the Great Replacement Manifesto.

A lively question and answer period followed Professor Martin's presentation. Some of the dialogue included the following:

In our domestic environment, who is monitoring the environment? The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Is there a common denominator for identifying these folks? No, often they are from middle class families, are lone wolves, mostly male, and those who carry out violence are male.

Can't the internet be controlled? No.

If a Democrat President is elected? Our speaker quickly noted that it won't matter which party is elected.

What is the answer? Dr. Martin told us the solution may be found in education and awareness. He suggested that Al-Jazeera, a news agency in Qatar, is pretty good and honest in their reporting. He gave President George Bush a lot of credit for going to a mosque after 9/11 in an effort to keep communication flowing and tap down hostile feelings toward Muslims.

Without further questions, the meeting adjourned. Dr. Martin was thanked for his very informative presentation.



Computer Talks

November 21st - Noon to 1:00 - L8

The Geek Squad The Good, The Bad, The Possible Better

Presented by Carol Johnson



Carol will talk about her recent experience using Best Buy's Geek Squad. Carol's experiences and her lessons learned should be of value to other Omniloreans in the future. Topics to be covered:

- ✓ The problem with a Windows 10 PC after two MS updates on Oct. 9
- ✓ The decision to use the Geek Squad
- ✓ The quick fix
- ✓ Some communication issues
- ✓ Better preparation before and during
- ✓ Other geek services
- ✓ "Gremlins" to expect





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

The academic year is in full swing here at the College of Extended and International Education (CEIE). Even during the holiday season, it seldom slows down in CEIE, which is why I enjoy what I do for a living.

We added nearly 2,000 more freshmen and transfer students to Dominguez Hills and to help meet the increased demand for learning space, Extended Education donated the use of three classrooms to the university free of charge.

During the months of November and December, the night air in the South Bay is generally cool and crisp. College and pro football seasons

are well underway. It is surreal to know that my office is less than 50 yards from the LA Charger stadium.

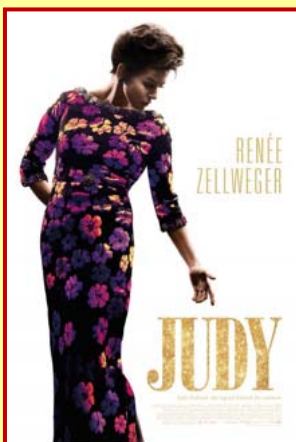
Thanksgiving, Christmas and the myriad other winter holidays are just around the corner—another reason why this time of year is my favorite. It’s a time to gather with family and friends and renew holiday traditions and rituals.

For me, the New Year is not January 1st; it begins in September. Each fall, traditional and non-traditional students enroll in face-to-face or online courses to better their lives and career potential. Despite this busy time of year, I take time to walk the classroom building of Extended Education to peek in on the diverse classes being taught. I see OLLI members learning about the history of jazz music; American Language and Culture International students practicing speaking English; I hear our part-time instructors training working adults in career fields such as human resource management or occupational safety. This management by walking around always energizes me and continues to drive my passion for what we do at CEIE.

Taken together, this is the definition of lifelong learning. I am proud of the diverse educational programs offered through CEIE. We are launching a new graduate degree in Systems Engineering next fall, and earlier this year we launched a new Emergency Medical Technician certificate program. Our students receive hands on training thanks to Med Reach, a local emergency medical response company. Med Reach donated a fully functioning ambulance for students to use as a working lab.

Now more than ever in the history of education, have humans had so many opportunities to learn; from Kindergarten through 100 years of age. I like to refer to The College of Extended Education as the “Swiss army knife” of higher education, because no matter what you want to learn about, CEIE has it. This unprecedented access to educational opportunities provides unique opportunities for personal enrichment and career advancement. That being said, I encourage you to take time out for yourself and your family this time of year and appreciate all that we have. That’s a wrap for this edition of Dean’s Corner. See you in the spring.

Movie Goers Special Interest Group



The movie we all saw in October was *Judy*, starring Renée Zellweger. Without a doubt, we all agreed that she should definitely get an Oscar nomination for her portrayal of the legendary Judy Garland which delves into her behind-the-scenes battles with her management, her relationships with charmed musicians, fans and problems with family and finances, as well as her addiction to drugs and alcohol. The consensus of our discussion was that it was impressive that Zellweger radically altered her physical appearance and succeeded in altering her own voice in order to capture the timbre of Garland’s voice, as well as her mannerisms. The only criticism was that, even though young Judy in *The Wizard of Oz* showed how her downfall started right at the “git-go”, there was much left out between 1939 and 1968 with most of the film centering around her London run of concerts at the Talk of the Town Nightclub. Very sad to see her downfall as her vocal powers were diminished by



years of self-abuse that led to her death of a barbiturate overdose at age 47. The rating that the Movie Goers gave *Judy* averaged a seven. All were glad they had seen it and would recommend it to others.

Our next movie in November is going to be *The Good Liar*. (See the movie review for a brief snippet.)

Keep your eye on the website for details. Or, contact — Dale Korman - (howarddale@verizon.net)

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

Kudos to Our Movie Goers!

Some Smiles from the Annual Meeting



1. The Whistle Blower played by Claire Damecour—that’s a whistle in the middle; 2. Harriet Allyn and Nancy Bell; 3. Kent McDonald and Gloria Dumais; 4. Joan Kolic in her Elizabethan dress with stiffened lace sleeves; 5. Lori Geittmann; 6. Judith Sommerstein; 7. Joyce Mar; 8. Leslie Clark; 9. Dayla Sims; 10. Tom Vincent and Don Tloughan; 11. Mary Watson and Kathleen Fitzgerald; 12. Gail Ruder; 13. Buccaneer Dennis Eggert.





1. Leslie Criswell as a Benevolent Wizard; Marge Goddard, Bonnie Sadrpour, Gloria Martin and Carol Wingate –our El Segundo delegation; 3. Joy Jurena as Mother Earth's Helper (her sign: Compost - Keep Mother Earth Alive); 4. Andrea and Bill Gargaro (can you see the family resemblance?); 5. Judi Carter, one of our newest members; 6. Jean de Angelis; 7. Jeanne Wilson; 8. Berthe and Jim Slattery; 9. Costume Winners—Hal Hart, Teddie Milner and Marie Gleerup; greeter Nancy Shannon



Costume Winners

Teddie Milner
(middle)
Court Jester
1st Place

Hal Hart
(left)
Old Tyme
Scottish Golfer
2nd Place

Marie Gleerup
(right)
Black-Eyed Pea
3rd Place



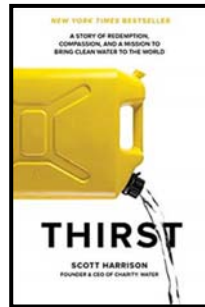
Holiday & New Year Best Sellers SIG Reads

by Patricia Edie & Cindy Eggert

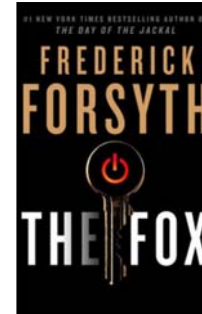
Calling all “Readers!” Omnilore’s Best Sellers Special Interest Group continues to meet each month at 12 noon on the second Monday of the month in L8 of the Beach Cities Health Center to discuss the chosen book for the month. We alternate each month between various works of fiction and non-fiction. The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



Monday,
November 11:
Fiction
*The Keeper
of
Lost Things*
by Ruth
Hogan



Monday,
December 9:
Non-Fiction
*Thirst: A Story of
Redemption, Com-
passion, and a Mis-
sion to Bring Clean
Water to the World*
by Scott Harrison



Monday,
January 13:
Fiction
The Fox
by
Frederick
Forsyth

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
Next*

L8

INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETING:
Friday, Nov. 22nd - 10 a.m.
Help Spread the Word! RSVP 310-370-2494



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

Friday, December 13: 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 johnlynntaber@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.



By now you are well on the way through your Fall 2019 BS/DGs. I trust all is going well (since I haven't heard any complaints!)

The coordinator's recruitment committee will be contacting most of you to ask if you're willing to help out with Spring 2020. (2020 - isn't that crazy!!) I hope that you will continue to be an active part of making Omnilore the great program it is.

Thank you for all that you do, and go ahead and have that extra piece of pie; its only Thanksgiving once a



Claire Damecour
Head Coordinator

Tribute to Jean Louise Custer

Jean Custer touched everyone in her life, both personally and positively – then she left us without saying goodbye! Now we are compensating for this by sharing with each other our personal experiences and memories of her, and in our heart of hearts hope she somehow knows this.



I only knew Jean for five or six years but, in those short years I became a real fan of everything she had accomplished and stood for. We shared coordinator and co-coordinator duties a number of times. We had some friendly talks about shared experiences as members of the Peace Corps and adventures in Russia. I had been there several times and the last time I came back with some rubles that I gave her to send to the daughter who had returned there. I admired her greatly and wish I had known her longer but doubt that it would ever have been long enough. I still can't believe that I won't see her at BCHC next time I'm there. *Bill Gargaro*

What a gracious, kind, helpful person. Never overwhelmed by any glitch in her life, she dealt with every difficulty with intelligence and humor.

Mary Jo Little

Jean Custer was a wonderful and very original leader. I had never met her before our current class on "Reconstruction," so I was really surprised when I came to the first meeting and she was dressed as Andrew Johnson. She set up questions for us to ask President Johnson in a very clever way. She inspired each of us to create a more imaginative presentation of our own. She was an excellent facilitator--making sure that everyone had enough time. She was a beautiful woman inside and out.

Dayla Sims

Jean was warm, perceptive, intelligent and an outstanding contributor to Omnilore. She worked on behalf of Omnilore without need for credit or attention, sharing insights and information interspersed with her quick sense of humor. She was a Spring breeze, morning sunlight.

Art Irizarry

Jean was always willing to go above and beyond in demonstrating the best about Omnilore whether in a class, as a volunteer presenter for our Outreach, in a committee, or as a dear caring friend. Such a blessing to have known her.

Dale & Howard Korman

Jean reflected the spirit of Omnilore maxim, that life-long learning is essential. She was always gracious and patient with me which took some doing. As an S/DG member, she timely smilingly participated with presentations ranging from consistently thoughtful to superb. She was an excellent coordinator, generating energy and enthusiasm regardless of subject matter; she enforced timelines and agendas, while entertaining questions and lively discussion while sensing when to divert them away from anger or anarchy. She had a welcoming smile but knew how to assert herself when an S/DG appeared headed in the wrong direction. Somehow if she were being a bit scolding, the message was delivered but like being hit in the face with a cotton ball. She will be missed. *David G. Miller*

I remember taking many short story classes with Jean. We both loved discussing them and when the others were finished with their discussion and we were not, we just continued our animated thoughtful discussion. She made the discussions great fun and intellectually stimulating! I will really miss her.

Frankie Goldstein

I worked with Jean while I was Head Coordinator. She was just learning but caught on very fast and helped me with problems and always had good ideas. She was a great help when I needed some answers and got them back to me fast and efficiently. A very easy person to work with. Whatever class she was in she always made it interesting and entertaining. Greatly missed. *Gloria Dumais*



Jean was an incredible example of what an Omnilorian should be; I was a member of several of Jean's classes. She was a studious and exciting leader. She will be missed. *Ralph Singer*

Jean Custer was a wonderful coordinator. I enjoyed her presentations so much. She made a great Anton Chekov! When I accepted the job of head coordinator, she spent a lot of time with me guiding me through the processes. She accepted roles in so many aspects of Omnilore; she was always so energetic and vibrant. I cannot believe that she is gone! She was always so healthy. She traveled to Europe this past July. It is such a shock. It makes me realize how precious life is! *Claire Damecour*

A wonderful natural born teacher, Jean Custer loved igniting interest and awareness, and loved sharing her wide knowledge of the world. Jean was a caring supportive friend to us all over the years, encouraging us to take chances and to try new opportunities. I remember Jean helping me boost my garden along, and showing me how to invite monarchs butterflies and kin to visit, and how to encourage them to land on my fingers. (Thanks, Jean, couldn't have done the bugs without you!) In addition to her academic know-how, Jean possessed many talents; her hand-crafted gifts to friends demonstrate exceptional artistic and writing ability.

Mary Watson

Continued on Page 10

Continued from Page 9: Jean Custer Tribute

I didn't know her well or for very long. I had her in two classes and both times she was always, warm, kind, and generous to me. I knew her less than a year; however, she treated me as if we were close friends. I could tell she was special from the moment I met her. I am going to miss Jean. *Steven Rosenberg*

I first met Jean Custer when she joined my committee to find coordinators for S /DG's. She was so helpful and responsive and just a lovely person to work with. Over the years, she often referred me to websites or articles of interest when we discussed different topics about different classes in Omniole. She was so smart and gracious and wonderful to know. I miss her.

Marilyn Brashear

I met Jean in an S/DG. She brought a neighbor who was wheelchair bound. I read in the newsletter more of how she helped others throughout her life. And, then I tried to keep up with Jean on the last Taber Christmas walk. I started up the hill at least 3 minutes before the others, thinking I would finish with the group, but Jean and the long legged men passed me in a flash. I wish I had known her better - she was a role model. Glad I had the opportunity to know her for a short time. *Joy Jurena*

How fortunate I feel that I had the opportunity to have met such a remarkable human being as Jean Custer. I was the Coordinator of a poetry class for Omniole when Jean walked in and sat down for the class. During the break, she came up to me and said, "I don't write poetry." I told her, "Why don't you try?." The next time that we met for the class, we had several members read their poems. When Jean read her poem, I said, "Jean, oh! why don't have that poem published, it's fabulous!"

Maria Ruiz

I was in several Omniole classes with Jean, notably one on Chekhov. For her presentation she dressed up as Chekhov and "interviewed" him. She was a coordinator or co-coordinator so often I suggested she turn "pro." Jean always went the extra mile in whatever she did.

Stu Watson

I was in the class and Jean was the coordinator for BKT (Basketball) in the fall of 2018. Chatting with her I came to find out that she has never attended or even watched a basketball game. It floored me that she was the coordinator of the class. I suggested we have a field trip to a local basketball game so we can all have the experience together. I got it organized and got a block of tickets, and we were able to attend a South Bay Lakers game on Nov 20, 2018. Below is a group picture of our outing. *Jake Kamen*

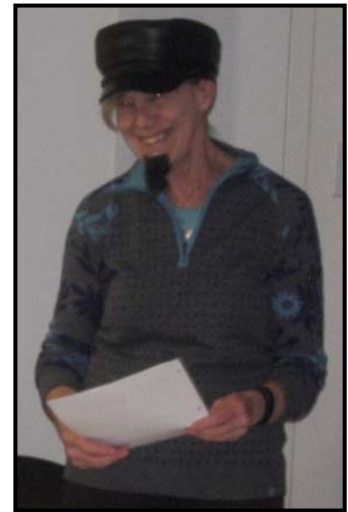
I remember especially when she coordinated the Chekov class. She dressed up as Chekov the first class and we got to "interview" her. Also, she shared with us a special Russian Easter cake and talked about taking her children to Russia to learn about their heritage. At the last class, she gave us each a small souvenir from her trip. She was very caring and considerate. When Norm had to ride home on his Rasca by himself from Franklin school, Jean and Mary Watson followed him home in their cars to be sure he made it all the way! We do miss her very much.

Helen Stockwell

I only knew Jean through a Chekhov short story class earlier this year where Jean was the Coordinator. Based on those interactions, she impressed me as a very kind and thoughtful person. She also demonstrated her creativity during that class by taking on the role of Anton Chekhov (including the appropriate costume) and answering questions as if she was Chekhov. Of course I was shocked to hear of her passing particularly given how vibrant a person she was. *Mitch Blake*

Jean was an inspiration. She never complained and always was there to greet you with a smile and a positive word. Her accomplishments were daunting: from climbing Mount Whitney 11 times to hiking, running, volunteering, raising children, learning the harp, participating in Omniole, taking on the responsibility of Academic VP and coordinating classes, to backpacking along the John Muir Trail at age 72. She radiated love and kindness, and it was an incredible privilege to have known her. *Judy Bayer*

I interacted with Jean in many Omniole classes and was co-coordinator with her once. She was a very kind, intelligent, compassionate, giving woman. She was a very special lady and her loss is a terrible thing. I was very upset when I heard of her passing. People like Jean are what make Omniole great. *Steve Kolodny*

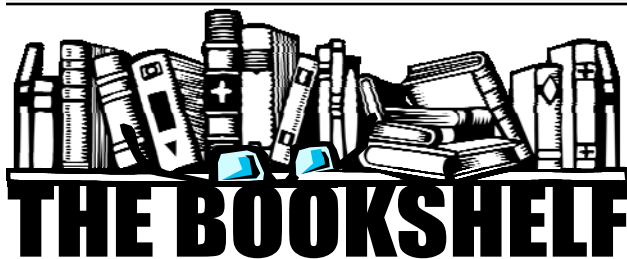


Jean in her Chekov Outfit

Jean and I first met some 30-odd years ago when we were both members of the TRW Wilderness Club. Two memories from an early time come to mind: The first was the manner in which she set up and organized a 'day at the tide-pools'. She had the participants (both young and old) form and move in large geocentric circles in order to demonstrate the effect of lunar movement on tides. Her Catalina backpacks were another example of how she was able to combine an enjoyable experience with a work project to help benefit the whole island. Jean had the unique ability and talent to transform ordinary occasions into more meaningful events. *John Vehrencamp*



Top Left: Ruth & Hal Hart, Michael Klineman (red hat) and his wife, Kathie; Middle: Bonnie Kamen, Jake Kamen & Jean Custer; Bottom: Leslie Schettler and her husband.



Something Deeply Hidden: Quantum Worlds and the Emergence of Spacetime, by Sean Carroll. This is a well-written book by one of the best theoretical physicists in the world. The study of foundational theoretical physics whether cosmology, relativity, astrophysics, or as in this case foundational quantum mechanics should be interesting to any person who wants to think of themselves as 'educated'. Carroll is a physics professor at Caltech, but this is one of his books intended for a general audience interested in science. Some math/science background is, however, very helpful. He goes over quantum mechanics, quantum interpretations, and a possible way to look at quantum gravity. This is all written excellently and engagingly. Carroll is a proponent of the Many Worlds Interpretation (MWI) or Everett interpretation. In this interpretation our entire universe is a superposition state. There are many branches that effectively never affect each other, and so we call each branch a separate universe—hence, many worlds/universes. While seemingly mystical it has become the most popular view among polled physicists. Carroll shows that one can carefully explain many aspects of

reality---in his case the physics particles and the cosmos---without using much math.

River God, by Wilber Smith. Whether you like historical reading or just entertaining novels, this could be the book for you.

This is the first book in a trilogy & full of historical facts on ancient Egypt. It follows a dynasty thru several generations. Their survival means fleeing their beloved home and traveling down the Nile to a new unknown. Full of intrigue with a few surprises. The Nile and land come alive in this book.

Being Peace, by Thich Nhat Hanh. An ideal starting-point for those interested in Buddhism, "Being Peace" contains Thich Nhat Hanh's teachings on peace and meditation. Using real examples from his own life, as well as poems and fables, Nhat Hanh explains his key practices for living right in the moment. He claims that world peace starts with the individual's acquiring inner peace. He challenges the reader in warm and anecdotal dialogues: "Have we wasted our hours and days? Are we wasting our lives? . . . Practicing Buddhism is to be alive to each moment." Meditation, says the author, is not an escape from the difficult present but an active form of service to society, directing us to understanding and compassion toward all suffering humanity. The author terms this "engaged Buddhism." Free of jargon and eminently practical, this wise and joyous book celebrates the spirituali-

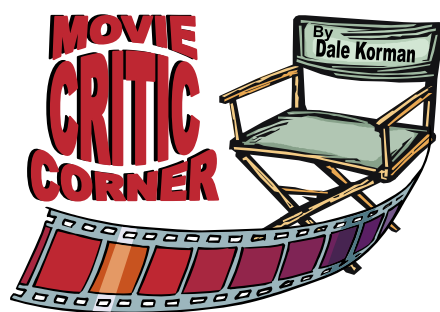
ty inherent in daily life. This is an excellent book. It contains a collection of teachings written by Nhat Hanh that cover typical Buddhist topics including (but not limited to) peace, consciousness, interbeing, meditation, love, understanding, and mindfulness. The wisdom found throughout the book has the potential to awaken readers that have an open mind. There is something about his writing style that makes for easy reading and his message seems to be absorbed subconsciously in my mind. An example, in the first chapter, the author writes about smiling, namely that being happy and showing it by smiling is a way of sharing peace.

A Prayer for Owen Meany, by John Irving. From the first sentence of this well-written book you will be hooked. Owen believes he is an instrument of God. What is the reason for Owen's size and voice? He is very small with a loud booming voice. Is it because he was a premature baby or something that we can't understand? The events in Owen's life lead to a great climax. As you read the book, the characters feel like people you might have met before. This book will stay with you for a while. John Irving is considered one of America's great authors for a good reason.

Book suggestions from Omnioleoreans make this column work. Thanks to Dan Stern and Vickie Volchok for contributing to this issue's list.

Send submissions to:

newsletter@omnilore.org



The Good Liar: Directed by Bill Condon, this psychological thriller stars British heavy-weights Ian McKellan and Helen Mirren in their first ever movie together. *The Good Liar* is based on the 2017 novel by Nicholas Searle. Conman Roy Courtney thinks he's hit the jackpot when he meets rich widow Betty McLeish online. But what should be an easy, low-



risk scam takes a sharp turn when Courtney finds that he might be falling for his mark. Meanwhile, she may be hiding a trick or two of her own. It's going to be a wild ride as we find out who is the better liar in this game of sharp wits. There's a lot of mystery, intrigue and deception obviously. So, we're left with wondering who is the real con artist? It's worthwhile to see this twist-filled movie where you're never quite sure who is playing whom. Either way, it's clear that these two lost souls definitely deserve each other. Altogether, the movie looks very stylish, slick, and just might prove to be a very effective thriller.

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

Dale Korman
howarddale@verizon.net

- November**
- 2 Daylight Savings Time Ends
 - 11 Best Sellers Book Group—12 noon-1 p.m., L8
 - 11 **Veterans Day**
 - 14 Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., L8
 - 21 Computer Talk—12 Noon-1 p.m., L8
The Geek Squad- the Good, the Bad, the Possible Better
Carol Johnson (see article on page 4)
 - 22 Introducing Omnimore Meeting—10 a.m., L8
 - 28 **Thanksgiving Day**

OMNIOLORE CALENDAR

- December**
- 4 Coordinator Essential Information Meeting—10-11:30 a.m., L8
 - 9 Best Sellers Book Group—12 noon-1 p.m., L8
 - 11 Fall 2019 Coordinator Debriefing—11- a.m., L8
 - 12 Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., L8
 - 13 Walking Group—Holiday Hike & Lunch, 10 a.m. (see article, page 8)
 - 15 Input Deadline for January-February 2020 Newsletter
 - 22 **Hanukkah (first day)**
 - 25 **Christmas Day**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



2020 Forums
 Winter—January 31st
 Spring—April 30th
 Summer—July 31st
 Annual Mtg.—October 30th

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

Update on the Outreach Program

by Dale Korman, Outreach Coordinator

The Canterbury thanks the Omnimore volunteers for coming to present interesting topics to the residents. Al Ortiz had such a good experience that he is willing to make a return appearance. Hopefully, other Omnimoreans will consider presenting there in the coming months. Please, contact Dale Korman if this good deed activity is something you would like to do.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Dale Korman—310-373-2442 or howarddale@verizon.net

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

Visit the Omnimore website at 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)