



# OMNIILORE NEWS



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September 2020

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Elected Officers

President	Steve Miller
VP - Academics	Jim Slattery
VP - Administration	Donald Tloughan
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

### Standing Committee Chairs

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

### Appointees

Registrar	Carolyn Pohlner
SDG Scheduling	Ruth & Hal Hart
Room Scheduling	Sharon Bohner
Laptop Administrator	Rick Spillane
Equipment	Hal Hart
	Jim Slattery
Supplies	Ginny Brown
	Bonnie Sadrpour
Office Manager	Marie Gleeurp
Member Advocate	Frank Reiner
Webmaster	Hal Hart

## Comedian Steve Bruner to Entertain at Omilore's Annual Meeting

Like almost everything else in life these past six months, Omnilore is adapting the **Burt Cutler Memorial Annual Meeting** due to the impact of COVID-19. On Friday, October 30th, instead of our usual luncheon at the Los Verdes Golf Club followed by an in-person annual meeting and a speaker, this year we will be doing everything via Zoom.



Steve Bruner

At 12:30 p.m. after a brief introduction, we will hold the annual business meeting including recognition of several members who have made significant contributions to Omnilore over the past year, followed by approval of the minutes from last year's annual meeting and approval of the 2020-2021 budget. The minutes and budget will be mailed and emailed to each Omnilore member along with the slate of nominees for upcoming Board positions with the annual meeting letter as provided in our bylaws. Nominees from the Zoom participants will be accepted at this time in the annual meeting. Members may also vote prior to or at the meeting using Survey Monkey. Details for voting using this method will be included in the annual meeting letter. Votes will then be tallied, and the winners announced.

With the goal of adding a lighter note to our annual meeting, the Board has arranged to have a professional comedic speaker to add some humor to our day, and he will entertain us after the business meeting.

Under the auspices of **Bonnie Barchichat's Senior Comedy Afternoons**, we will be enjoying comedian **Steve Bruner** for our annual meeting entertainment.

Bonnie's mission statement: "To provide the senior community with an afternoon of purpose, a reason to socialize with their peers and family and reasons to laugh at whatever life throws their way . . . at any age! It is our hope to improve and enhance the quality of lives for our seniors and 'growing boomer community.' Since 'laughter is the best medicine' we'd like to offer everyone a dose!" She explains, "We are a comedic company that caters to Seniors and their younger counterparts the 'Boomers' by using comedians who are 50+. All our shows feature clean AND clever comedy."

Steve Bruner looks like a perfectly normal guy . . . until he opens his mouth! A testimonial: "Steve Bruner is like the mailman, he always delivers! His clean stand-up comedy generates laughter and fun for all ages. His keen sense of timing and engaging stage presence is a win-win. Beyond being hysterically funny, he is honest and hard working. Clean Comedy USA audiences love Steve."

He has played at corporate events, concerts, cruises, colleges and clubs like The Comedy Store, The Improv, The Comedy & Magic Club, The Laugh Factory, The

*Continued on Page 2*

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

OMNIILORE 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 I write this president's column about two months remain of my twenty-four-month tenure as Omnilore president. As is typical of most volunteer-led organizations there were concerns and issues for Omnilore during this time but only one was of significance. That one, of course, was adapting to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the efforts of many members, especially those I recognized in the last newsletter, we have been able to finish the Spring trimester using Zoom and develop the curriculum for the next two trimesters of S/DGs and hold those meetings online. Although I don't have the final results for the number of members renewing for 2020-2021 I do know our losses due to members not renewing were not much above those of past years. And several former members who have moved away rejoined as they could now participate remotely using Zoom. But as I point out in every newsletter our new members mostly result from personal invitations from existing members. Please consider whom you might introduce to Omnilore.

Per our bylaws the Nominating Committee was comprised of the retiring president, one Board member, and three non-Board members. I wish to thank Judy Bayer, Gloria Dumais, Dale Korman and Petrina Long for serving on the committee with me. The nominees selected by the committee are:

**President: Jim Slattery****Vice President for Academics:  
Frank Reiner****Vice President for  
Administration:  
Carolyn Pohlner****Recording Secretary: Linda Nakashima****Treasurer: Mitch Blake****Members at Large: Mercedes Ortiz  
Maureen Raynor  
John Simpson**

Additional nominations from the floor will be accepted at the annual meeting.

It's been a pleasure to work these last two years with a great group of officers and chairpersons who took initiative and accepted responsibility in a period of uncertainty and turmoil. Omnilore would not exist without these dedicated volunteers. I also appreciate the good working relationship we have had with Dean Kim McNutt and his staff at the university.

**Omnilore's Proposed Board—2020-2021**

*Top row, from the left: Jim Slattery (President); Frank Reiner (VP Academics); Carolyn Pohlner (VP Administration); Linda Nakashima (Recording Secretary); Mitch Blake (Treasurer)*

*Bottom row, from the left: Mercedes Ortiz, Maureen Raynor and John Simpson—all Members at Large.*



*Continued from Page 1: Annual Meeting Details*

Punchline, Catch a Rising Star, The Ice House – to name a few.

Steve has written material for The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, The Byron Allen Show, and The Sunday Comics, and Comic Strip Live. He has long been the “go-to guy” to punch up the jokes in scripts, stand-up acts, and speeches.

We will be viewing Steve using a special Zoom function that allows large audiences to tune in. Instructions about how to join in will be forthcoming closer to the event.



## Omniole Profile: Linda Nakashima

by Judy Bayer

Meet new member of the Omniole Board of Directors, Recording Secretary, Linda Nakashima. Linda currently is an editor of the Omniole News, and her spelling and grammatical skills are outstanding along with her ability to turn a sentence or a phrase perfectly. Such talents will be an ideal fit with her new Omniole position.

Linda was born and raised in Los Angeles. When she was an infant, she and her family moved into a “tiny house” where she lived until she graduated college, married and began her travels to various locales around the country.

After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Los Angeles, and spending time as a stay-at-home mom, Linda became a preschool teacher. She taught three and four-year-olds for seven years and truly enjoyed the experience, finding it not only a lot of fun but also very fulfilling. She also taught parent education classes to the parents of her students.

A career change brought Linda to the California Childcare Resource and Referral agency in San Diego working with adults and her first experience working in a grant-funded program. The goal of the program was to help people, primarily women, become licensed and trained as in-home childcare providers.

The year 1994 found Linda and her family in Tucson, Arizona. Her foundation in early childhood education and parenting instruction facilitated her studies on the impact of addiction on children and families in Tucson and on the Tohono O’odham Indian Reservation. She worked with a behavioral health agency where her focus was on children’s programs with the ultimate goal of preventing addiction. Linda felt “privileged to partner with social workers [providing] parenting skills to adults in recovery from addiction and ill with HIV/AIDS wanting to reunite with their children in their last days”.

Six years later, Linda joined a large non-profit agency in Tucson that provided Head Start services to more than 2800 children and their families in southeastern Arizona. Linda provided oversight of direct services to children from birth to kindergarten along with their parents. As part of Lyndon Johnson’s War on Poverty, Head Start remains a viable program today, though over time it has evolved and changed in numerous ways. However, Johnson’s words still reflect the program’s inspirational vision, and the program continues to promote school readiness of children ages birth to five from low-income families by supporting the development of the whole child including early childhood education, health and nutrition services, and family well-being.

Linda accomplished an impressive and successful career while raising her two children, a boy and a girl, who have given her the pleasure of four grandchildren, three teenage girls and a four-year-old boy. Retirement in California is special as it provides plenty of time to spend with her children and grandchildren and more time and energy to pursue her interests. It has given her “the gift of time to do the things that bring me



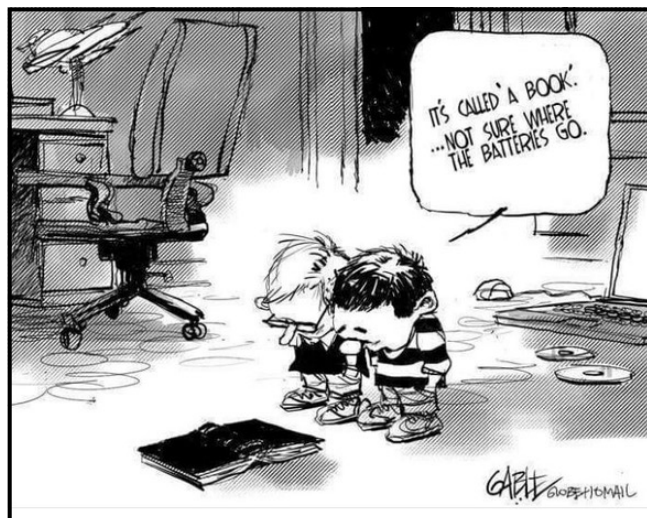
pleasure and fulfillment.”

Linda participated in classes through OLLI while in Arizona. Upon returning to Southern California, she researched OLLI at UCLA and at CSUDH. She registered for classes at CSUDH where she learned about Omniole, enrolled in classes, and the rest is history. Meeting friendly and accomplished people along with learning new subject matter has been a positive experience for Linda. She has enjoyed preparing for her class presentations and the accompanying in-depth exploration that ultimately has expanded her knowledge on new topics. She also has learned from classmates’ presentations and has found them educational and inspiring while expanding the scope of the class itself.

Unable to pick a favorite class, Linda has enjoyed each one of the classes she that she has taken in the arts, science, history and on geo-political topics.

In her free time, Linda enjoys tai chi, her library book group, and visits to many destinations throughout the world. One of her favorite trips was a journey to Japan twenty years ago. As Linda described it, “My paternal grandmother died while visiting family in Japan in the mid 1930s. Due to a variety of circumstances, including World War II, the location of her grave was lost. After many years of searching that read like a novel filled with dead-end clues, in the mid-1970s my grandmother’s grave was located. My parents were able to visit her gravesite in her family’s cemetery in her hometown. In 2000, with both of my parents long deceased, my brother organized a trip so we siblings could make that same trip. Visiting Japan is a fantastic trip in itself, but the historical and family aspect made it all the more special and memorable.”

With her positive attitude, talent and experience, Linda will bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to Omniole, thus ensuring the continued success of our organization. Thank you, Linda.





## Omniloreans Share Hunker-Down Stories

by Judy Bayer  
Omnilore News Editor

With our Fall newsletter, we again are enjoying your input to our new *Letters to the Editor* section. Thank you all so much for sharing your intriguing routines for maintaining a sense of normalcy during our ongoing pandemic. Your solutions have provided a source of strength, humor and appreciation for all of us. Enjoy.



**Jim North** has enjoyed practicing his writing skills and shared *Flickering Candles* with us.

Flickering candles project strange images on the walls of this ancient room. My fellow brothers are somber and showing the strain as we prepare for yet another vote to select a leader. It's been three days of prayer and self-examination, and I still mourn the dear man who led us for so many years thru such horrific turmoil. May he rest in God's hands and find peace.

This will be our eleventh try, and everyone is weary as the world waits for an announcement. I reach into my portfolio and examine my train ticket back to Venice. Despite my 76 years, I am energized by the projects started in my parishes and the response of the people I serve and love.

Votes are being counted and the room has gone silent as a solemn-faced cardinal makes the sign of the cross and addresses his fellow brothers. "We have a pope, praise God, and his name is Cardinal Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, Vicar of Venice."

I was asked to stand and face the cardinal protectoria who according to tradition asks me, "Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli do you accept the mantle of pope and agree to lead Christ's church as the successor of Saint Peter?" I managed to gather myself and in a faint voice accepted, as tears poured from my eyes. "Angelo, tell us how we are to address you?" I heard someone ask.

"My fellow priests, I will be called John."

### Epilogue

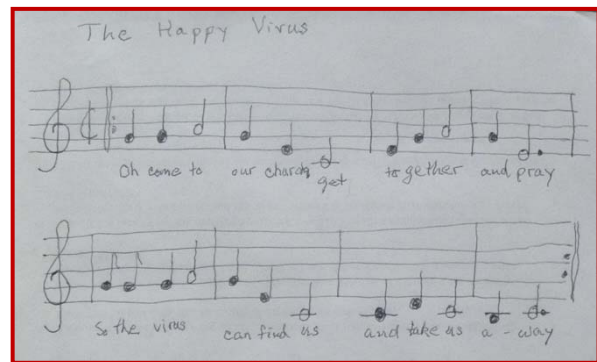
Pope John 23rd would reign from 1958 to 1963. Under his direction, a second Vatican Council was called, and the church returned to its historic pastoral role. This sharecropper's child, raised in poverty and seen as a "stop gap" leader, would have a major impact on all aspects of Catholic life. Clergy and followers alike refer to him as "Il Papa Buono".

### The Happy Virus by Sally Moite

Oh come to our church, get together to pray  
So the virus can find us, and take us away  
Oh come to the party, let us dance and play  
So the virus can find us, and take us away  
You must join our wedding, our most happy day  
So the virus can find us, and take us away  
Our family will gather, the young and the gray  
So the virus can find us, and take us away

Unmasked as the boss says, we'll work for our pay  
So the virus can find us, and take us away  
The virus is happy, the virus is gay  
It's found a great home in the old USA  
Uncle, sister and grandpa, have all passed away  
Stop hosting the virus, just send it away

It has a "tune" too:



### From Zelda Donin-Green

Some days, I do need to check my calendar to realize what the actual day of the week it is. Would you believe, even though I scratched out a number of planned events, I missed one doctor's appointment and then a week later, showed up for an appointment days earlier than planned?

These past few months, I have learned to bake babkas, listen to lectures, and watch various performances and concerts, call everyone on my list even though we haven't spoken in a while. I've set up Zoom meetings and book club discussion groups, realizing how untechie I am, which builds up my sense of incompetency.

Today, my husband and I were invited to two Bat Mitzvahs at the same time and watched each on Zoom on two different computers situated in one office room, alternating the audio of each so that we could at least "be" there for some of the time. The family adage spoken about in our families that you "can't dance at two weddings at the same time" has been proven wrong. Both of these events had been scheduled last spring and were postponed for today.

### My philosophy for staying positive & upbeat - Elyse Gura

When we were first advised to stay at home, maintain social distance & and wear a mask, it was easy to see that there was going to be a "new normal" to "normal life." I decided to focus on what I was grateful for every day and to enjoy what was possible.

The first thing I was grateful for was ...ZOOM! Through Zoom, I've been able to continue to enjoy my Omnilore classes and classmates, but also so much more. There are so many organizations providing Zoom experiences for us. I've done virtual art tours through both local and national museums (Bowers, Skirball, Smithsonian) and virtual docent-led tours

*Continued on Page 5*

*Continued from Page 4:* **Letters to the Editor: Elyse Gura**

of places of interest through Metro’s On The Move Riders Club (El Pueblo and the America Tropical Interpretive Center in July). There have been literature, history, social and cultural experiences offered through universities and public service groups. I’ve done arts and crafts classes also – learning doodling, origami, basket making and many others.

One of the most heart-warming Zoom experiences has been reconnecting with family through a Zoom “Cousins Club”. I started with two cousins and my sister, all Facebook friends. We hadn’t seen each other for many, many years. I asked if they wanted to have a Zoom meeting so we could see each other (without masks!) and have a real discussion (rather than sequential FB posts). We now have grown to eight cousins who have been meeting every week since June. We’ve shared vintage family photos and several versions of our family tree. We’ve discussed everything from family history, to politics, our personal histories, our concerns as well as what we are grateful for. One cousin drives from New Jersey to Vermont to visit her parents. Her father (my great-uncle) was the youngest child in his generation. He and his wife are still vibrant and were able to fill in a lot of family information. Can you imagine re-connecting with a 90+ year-old uncle on Zoom?

I’ve also been walking in my neighborhood a lot more. I’ve discovered very interesting homes and gardens that I hadn’t seen before, although I’ve lived in this house since 1986.

My philosophy?

- ★ Be grateful
- ★ Explore – whether on foot or online
- ★ Keep learning, connecting & contributing.

**Jean Steinmetz**

I am coping with the pandemic by finding new apps on my iPad or phone to occupy my mind. For example, coloring apps include: Happy Color and Paint by Number. Scrabble apps are Words with Friends and Scrabble GO. Others include: Rummikub, Boggle and Trivia Crack. All these apps are free. Virtual tours of museums are great.

I started a blog on WordPress and have been keeping a journal. Every day, I take a walk in my neighborhood, and if I see an interesting flower or plant, and I would like to learn its name, I use the PlantSnap app. Plus, I read a lot of historical fiction and try to keep up with my book clubs. And don’t forget our new friend, Zoom.

Oh, how we love zooming every day!

**Joan Kolic**

So thankful that Omnilore is available.

I wanted to let you know that Carolyn Pohlner did an amazing presentation for the 6GL class. She made tea bread and packets of various teas with beautiful teacups to distribute to all class members. She drove to each of our homes to drop off the goodies before class.

This was so delightful!

Her presentation focused on sharing how to make specialized teas via Zoom from her kitchen.

We watched while drinking tea and eating delicious tea bread!

This was a wonderful experience and added zest to our day while we were quarantined at home.

Despite the quarantine, Omnilore presentations continue to be amazing. We are also blessed in having superb techies who continue to ensure that we are all connected via Zoom.

Thank you for all that you do and stay healthy.



**From Dale Korman**

Only way to visit with the grandkids ..... Zooming!

**Having some states lock down and some states not lock down is like having a peeing section in a swimming pool.**

**The buttons on my jeans have started social distancing from each other.**

**You know what they say: feed a cold, starve a fever, drink a corona.**





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

Welcome to my “corner” of the world here at the College of Extended and International Education at CSUDH.

What a surreal spring and summer we experienced and continue to go through daily. The COVID-19 health crisis forced the university into delivering academic courses using alternative modalities, mostly online. At CEIE, we pivoted as quickly as we could, shifting many of our face-to-face training and community education courses to the Zoom video format. I was proud how our OLLI and Omnilore members also adapted to the new reality and began meeting virtually. As of this writing in mid-August, CSUDH will be in virtual teaching

mode at least through the Fall semester, and most likely will continue into Spring 2021, even if a vaccine is developed. Dealing with ambiguity and uncertainty is the new normal.

But I am a glass half-full person. This is not the time to stick our heads in the sand and hope the challenges disappear. This is time to lead, and to embrace change and experiment with new teaching techniques and educational offerings. CEIE staff created several just-in-time training programs to help local small businesses learn to manage a remote workforce and create emergency plans; the college launched a new Systems Engineering master’s degree (the first engineering program at CSUDH), and created and launched a Radiologic and Imaging Certificate that will spin off into a graduate degree in Spring 2021.

I refer to our college as the “test kitchen” of the university. We experiment with recipes and ingredients to create new menu offerings to retrain and upskill the local workforce or help people find new skills if they have been laid off. Instead of pumping the brakes, I encourage our staff to step on the gas, and that is what we are doing to make us stronger and more resilient when the pandemic blows over.

We used the pausing of classroom instruction to upgrade our campus facilities with new tables, chairs and vinyl laminate flooring and upgraded our A-V equipment. We will be upgrading the Beach Cities classroom tables too, replacing the heavy stationary tables with new, lightweight tables with wheels to improve the modularity of the space. I have 25 tables ready to go. We plan to donate the current tables to the Beach Cities Health District so they will be put to good use.

I hope you can detect the optimism in my words. Things will get better over time, and when we are able to meet in person, we will be ready to welcome you back.

Thank you for your continued membership, support, encouragement and resiliency through the crisis. Stay Safe and Be Healthy.

Until next time, Never Stop Learning!

Since the 1939 movie “Gone With the Wind” was highlighted in the previous newsletter as one of the most notable films for that year, it seems befitting that we bid a fond farewell to Olivia De Havilland at age 104, the last surviving cast member of that epic masterpiece. Her major works spanned from 1935 to 1988 in which she appeared in 49 feature films from the Golden Age of Hollywood Cinema and was the oldest living Academy Award winner until her death on July 25, 2020.

**Dale Korman Presents:**

**Tribute to  
Olivia De Havilland**



Born in Tokyo on July 1, 1916, she began her career at age 19 and remained sought after in Hollywood in the 30s and 40s to play demanding and harrowing roles resulting in Oscars as Best Actress for “To Each His Own” and “The Heiress” and being nominated for “The Snake Pit”, “Gone With the Wind” and “Hold Back the Dawn”. Her career took off in 1935 when she appeared in “Captain Blood” with Errol Flynn, and they became known as a screen couple in adventure films such as “The Adventures of Robin Hood”. But, hands down, one of her best-known roles is that of Melanie Hamilton in “Gone With the Wind” for which she received her first Oscar as Best Supporting Actress.

In addition to her movies, De Havilland had a successful career in work on stage and television, again, winning awards for her stellar acting. Hal Hart would appreciate the fact that she was reviewed as “doing greater justice to Shakespeare’s language than anyone else appearing in his many plays.” In her retirement (1989-2020) she remained active in the film community, her last film, “I Remember Better When I Paint” released in 2009. At the age of 92, she received the National Medal of Arts, the highest honor conferred on an individual artist on behalf of the people of the United States. Then, at the age of 101 in 2017 she was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II making De Havilland the oldest woman to receive this honor.

Of course, her personal life wasn’t always smooth sailing as she feuded with her sister, Joan Fontaine, who also was awarded an Oscar, making them the only siblings to have each won Academy Awards, and having two failed marriages, several romantic relationships with men such as Howard Hughes, James Stewart, and John Huston, and continually standing her ground with the big wigs in the studio scene that was challenging for her. However, none-the-less, Dame Olivia De Havilland will always be remembered as a great icon of cinematography. She was a mainstay of Hollywood’s Golden Age and an immeasurable talent. Here’s to a true legend of the movie industry. RIP

*Continued from Page 5: Letters to the Editor:*

I was feeling trapped in my apartment after four months of safer-at-home. So, on July 18th I decided to take my BMW F700 GS motorcycle and ride north, up to Big Sur. I packed a little bag for 5-7 days (2 pairs pants, 3 t-shirts, 2 sweaters, 7 undies, 6 socks) and headed out. Couple of nights in Santa Barbara, then San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, and finally Big Sur, Monterey, Carmel. But, I was having so much fun, I didn't want to go home. So I kept going north on Highway 1, to San Fran, Santa Cruz, Fort Bragg. Highway 1 ended in the Redwoods, so I stayed in Crescent City for a few days. Still didn't feel like coming home. So, on to Eugene, Oregon, Portland, Mount Rainier, Seattle, the Olympic National Park. I took a ferry through the islands in western Washington. I'd gone as far north and west as I could; it was time to head East, through Washington to Idaho and Montana. By the time you read this I will have gone south east through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and Michigan. I have a goal of seeing all the states I haven't been to yet; there's only 6. Iowa, Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Delaware and Connecticut. Yes, I still have the same little bag with me, but I bought an extra sweater and a coat. It was cold on the coast! I'm traveling alone, staying off the interstate, and staying out of the cities. Many things are closed during this pandemic, but nature is open. I continue to attend four Omnilore S/DGs, sometimes by phone, and work 15 hours a week in a mental health clinic in Long Beach (telemedicine), and teach 2 ESL classes a week. And of course, do my Head Coordinator job! This means that I often spend 3-4 days in the same little town. I haven't turned on the TV once, nor have I been bored. And I certainly don't feel trapped anymore, I feel free as a bird!



*Claire Damecour posing with her motorcycle.*



*Marion Smith (author) and Cordelia Hwang together.*

**Marion and Cordelia—BFF!**

In September 1982, a Rancho Palos Verdes mom suggested to her son, on his first day of kindergarten, that he pick out a boy in his classroom to invite home to play someday. He did that. His name was Kevin Hwang. The boy his mother ended up inviting to her home as a result was Barry Smith. What a history resulted from that!

Both boys were musicians—Kevin on clarinet and Barry on drums. Both boys enjoyed science and mathematics. Both now have PhDs in science and math, are married, and are dads.

Meanwhile, Kevin's mom Cordelia and Barry's mom Marion became buddies, enjoying volunteering at their sons' schools when they were K-12 students and joining AAUW/Palos Verdes Peninsula in order to continue to get together after Kevin and Barry were off to college.

Guess what. Working moms Cordelia and Marion ended up joining Omnilore when retirement gave them the time to do so. They never took the same S/DGs, but they always attended the Omnilore Forum luncheons together.

In 2018, Cordelia and her husband moved to San Ramon to live close to Kevin and his family, and in 2019 Marion moved to Palo Alto to live closer to her son Owen (Barry now lives in Pennsylvania). Cordelia and Marion got together twice after moving to Northern California.

And now guess what. Cordelia and Marion signed up for online Omnilore! They are taking Winston Churchill – The Splendid and the Vile via Zoom—and they look forward to their twice a month online visits.

Thank you, Omnilore!

**Frank Reiner:** John Simpson's article in the last issue, "Important Things Must be Happening," reminded me of my concern back in my grade school days. During World War II it seemed ALL the news on the radio was about the war. Broadcasts included the European front, the war in the Pacific, the war in Africa, etc. If not about the battles directly, there were many stories of the effort on the home front. These included volunteer activities to help supply the troops, war bond campaigns and other fundraising activities, support for the wounded returning home, the latest rationing rules in regard to foods and fuel, and on and on.

I remember my parents laughing when I announced, "After the War, there won't be any need for news programs any longer."

Well, fortunately, I was wrong. My advice to John: "Have patience, the war on the virus will pass, Omnilore will return to previous activities and there will plenty to report on again."



*Continued on Page 8*



Continued from Page 7: **Letters to the Editor:**

From **Paula Witkin**

The lockdown, difficult as it is, has given me the gift of time... time to experiment with a unique style of art... Analytical Cubism.

I am fortunate to be working with a mentor, Frank Minuto, from the Palos Verdes Art Center. Though currently living in Boston (unable to go back to Redondo Beach), Frank and I are able to continue this exploration via Zoom. I'm very lucky to use art as a way of communicating emotions during this unprecedented, life altering time. Stay safe...stay masked...stay healthy.



“Morning Walk - Masked”



Paula Witkin

“Trying to make sense of it all”



**Movie Goers Special Interest Group**  
by Dale Korman

“Who wants to go to the movies?” Entertainment Weekly says, “Would people leave their homes to see an angry Russell Crowe starring in a road-rage thriller *Unhinged*? Or Keanu Reeves in his fourth *Matrix* movie? Would you be comfortable entering a movie theater at all after COVID-19 has affected the way we see films?” How many of us have been streaming movies on our computers? Oh, how we miss the big screen! Our Omniole Movie Goers SIG would say that opening up the theaters again can't come soon enough.

In the meantime, however, have you considered the following alternative? Remember the days of Drive-in Movies? Well, it's made a comeback! Movies under the stars is the only way to see a film on a big screen. So, in the safety of your own enclosed car with all your close family members and huge home-made bowls of popcorn, you can enjoy going to the movies again. Just keep in mind, all sorts of things go on inside cars on the back row of drive-ins.

Ah, remember the good ole days!

Kudos to Our Movie Goers!

*The Next*  
Via  
Zoom

**INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETINGS:**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 14th - 10 a.m.**  
**Monday, November 16th - 2 p.m.**  
**Help Spread the Word! RSVP 310-370-2494**





## Spring 2020 Survey Results

by Don Tlougan

### Course Evaluations

- ◆ Number of respondents – 189/281 = 67%
- ◆ Book conducive to discussion – (5 being best)  
5 - 53%, 4 - 19%, 3 - 11%, 2 - 7%, 1 - 6%
- ◆ Recommend book – 64%
- ◆ Enough time for discussion –  
(Consistently/Sometimes) 91%/9%
- ◆ Discussions stimulated dialogue – 81%/15%
- ◆ Presentations relevant – 89%/11%
- ◆ Presentations well researched – 81%/19%
- ◆ Presentations stimulate questions – 76%/26%
- ◆ Balance between presentations/discussions –  
92%/7%
- ◆ Number of outstanding presentations – 50
- ◆ Gave presentation – 90%
- ◆ Class stayed on schedule – 93%
- ◆ Opportunity to participate for all – 94%

## Comparison of Overall Experience Over Past Trimesters

	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Summer 2019	Spring 2020
Very Positive	64%	81%	68%	71%
Somewhat Positive	24%	12%	22%	22%
Neutral	6%	4%	4%	2%
Somewhat Negative	5%	3%	3%	4%
Very Negative	1%	0%	2%	1%

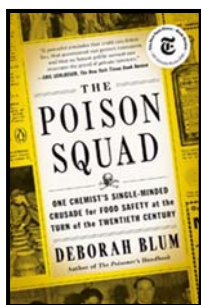
- ◆ Participated in Zoom meeting  
79% Yes  
7% No, because no Zoom meetings were held  
11% No, because person couldn't get Zoom to work
- ◆ How Easy to Use Zoom  
73% Very easy  
21% Some trouble but still able to participate  
3% Very difficult to use
- ◆ In-classroom Experience Compared to Zoom  
16% - Same as classroom  
59% - Not quite the same, but still good experience  
20% - Poor substitute for classroom experience  
3% - The pits

*Continued on Page 11*

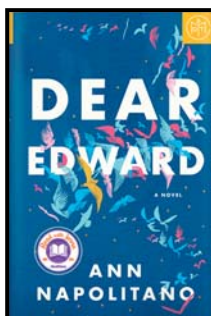
## Fall Best Sellers SIG Reads

by Patricia Edie & Cindy Eggert

Calling all "Readers!" The Omnilore Best Sellers SIG rises to the challenge by transitioning to a virtual Zoom Book Group session, held at 12 noon on the second Monday of the month. The link to give you access to the session will be included in the reminder emails sent prior to each session. Here are the upcoming books.



Monday,  
September 14:  
Non-Fiction  
*The Poison Squad*  
by  
Deborah  
Blum



Monday,  
October 12:  
Fiction  
*Dear Edward*  
by  
Ann  
Napolitano



Monday,  
November 9:  
Non-Fiction  
*Why We Sleep*  
by  
Matthew  
Walker

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.



Well, we're now into the Fall 2020 trimester of Omnilore, with lots of S/DGs running on Zoom. We now have ex-members who moved away participating again. Welcome back! Zoom has been such a success that we may continue to have some S/DGs on zoom even when we can get back in person. (Whenever that will be!) I want to personally thank each and every one of the coordinators and co-coordinators for volunteering to help facilitate these meetings. Stay calm and mask up!

Contact me with any issues you have:  
clairedamecour@yahoo.com



Claire Damecour  
Head Coordinator

## In Memoriam

### Nina Landis



**B**orn on March 20, 1933, Nina Tucker grew up in Manhattan, New York and was a proud graduate of their prestigious Hunter High School. She excelled on the West Coast too, eventually receiving a master's degree in English from UCLA. As an English/French teacher for over 30 years, she influenced the lives of countless middle/high schoolers and community college students. For decades thereafter, it was a rare outing when she didn't encounter former pupils who recognized her and expressed their gratitude. She and John Landis married in 1964 and welcomed two children. Raising kids at home and in the classroom was her priority, but Nina found time also to enjoy her passion for Paris and French culture.

As her sister, Diana Cutler who was married to Omnilore's founder, Burt Cutler, Nina joined Omnilore in 1998 and became a Shakespeare regular, along with any class studying Europe or anything French. Her zest for learning also included Emeritus College in Santa Monica, Jeopardy, reading the LA Times every day and doing every crossword puzzle. Her favorite game was Scrabble about which her son David fondly recalled, "She was very good, but took forever to make a move....That's an English teacher for ya!"

er to make a move....That's an English teacher for ya!"

### Frances Roberts

**T**hough born in Spokane, Washington, Frances Roberts was raised in Yakima. After completing junior college, she left Washington and resided in Chicago, Seattle and Hollywood before buying a home in South Shores, San Pedro, where she had lived since 1963.

While attending the universities of Chicago, Wisconsin and Washington, she was employed as a radio writer and advertising writer, and in the 50s, as a television writer, director and producer in Seattle and Hollywood. She was the first woman film producer in television.

At the age of 26, Frances ran the Washington State Capital Centennial celebration - a major event - and produced and starred in a travel film made throughout Europe in 1952.

Frances spent ten years in Hollywood producing broadcasts of films for clients that included C.B. DeMille, Robert Ryan, Barbara Stanwyck, Bob Hope, Walt Disney, John Raitt, Peter Graves, Stubby Kaye, Rhonda Fleming, Ann Blyth, Judith Anderson, Ann Baxter, and Ray Bolger.

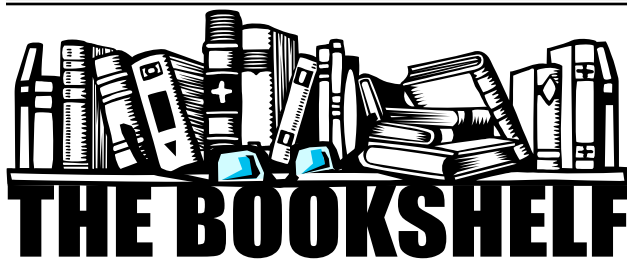
She returned to college as an "older student," earning her B.A. and M.A. at Cal State, Long Beach. She enrolled in the PhD program at USC, preparing to become a university professor, but dropped out when she ran into strong discrimination against women. Returning to journalism, she became public relations director at Santa Monica and St. John's Hospitals and had 12 other hospitals in Southern California as clients. She retired in 1981 after receiving national awards for journalism and editing the NOW newspaper in the ERA days.

Prior to her husband's death in 1990, they traveled throughout Europe, Asia, the United States, and Australia. She continued her travels for many years after that. Frances had two children - an artist-son and a teacher-daughter, and two actress-grandchildren.

In 1988 she joined the South Bay Literacy Council, served in many board positions, and became their grant writer/fundraiser. Between writing grant proposals, she was writing her memoirs and translating a book on theatre from French. She was a literary critic for the publication of the local Dickens Fellowship. She performed for several years with a group of Omniloreans Maria Ruiz and KC Johnson started that did skits and readings once a month at Joslyn Center in Manhattan Beach, achieving a reputation for her comedic acts. Frances started her own group, called Movers and Shakers who performed skits and acting for local nursing homes. She also was a member of Surf Writers and met regularly with others wishing to hone their conversational French skills.







**Fatal Discord: Erasmus, Luther, and the Fight for the Western Mind** by Michael Massing, Tom Parks, et al:

From Amazon: “At a time when Leonardo, Michelangelo, and Raphael were revolutionizing Western art and culture, Erasmus of Rotterdam was the leading figure of the Northern Renaissance, helping to transform Europe’s intellectual and religious life. Today, however, Erasmus is largely forgotten, and the reason can be summed up in two words: Martin Luther. Luther was initially a great admirer of Erasmus and his critique of the Catholic Church, but while Erasmus sought to reform that institution from within, Luther wanted a more radical transformation. Eventually, the differences be-

tween them flared into a bitter rivalry, with each trying to win over Europe to his vision.”

Similar to Philosophical Dilemmas, but more personal, full of conflict, and tied to the Renaissance in particular, this could lead

to a wealth of new understanding on philosophy, religion, other historical figures of the time, as well as the Renaissance itself.

**Ending Aging** by **Aubrey de Grey**: Writers who qualify their assertions with care so that they actually amount to something when summed up are fun to read. That’s the way de Grey writes about his quest to gradually, but eventually permanently, end the process which costs so much in money and pain.

It’s controversial. The results of a \$10,000 prize intended to disprove his thesis was the publishing in MIT Technology Review of three entries, none of which demonstrated that his ideas were not worth trying. Aubrey de Grey chuck-

led all the way to the bank.

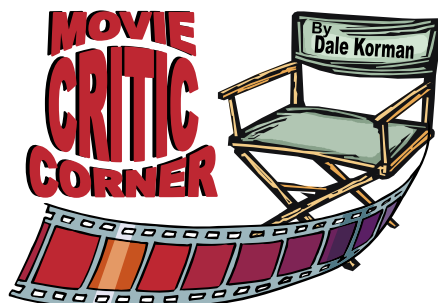
J.B.S. Haldane wrote that “there are four stages of acceptance: 1. This is worthless nonsense. 2. This is an interesting but perverse point of view. 3. This is true, but quite unimportant. 4. I always said so.”

The purpose of this book is two-fold: first, to explain the Strategies for Negligible Senescence\*, and second, having shown their feasibility, to encourage donations to the project from readers interested in rendering their own senescence negligible for as long as possible. A TED talk by the author, A Road Map to End Aging, is available online.

\*Senescence or biological aging is the gradual deterioration of functional characteristics. The word senescence can refer either to cellular senescence or to senescence of the whole organism.

*Book suggestions from Omnioleoreans make this column work. Thanks to **Rich Mansfield** for contributing to this issue’s list. Send submittals to:*

*newsletter@omnilore.org*



**South Bay Film Society  
Film Virtual Showings**

**I**nterested in seeing online international films, normally shown at the AMC - Rolling Hills Theater?

For information, check out their website: southbayfilmsociety.com

Many Omnioleoreans had been attending these showings before the theaters were closed down.

All positive opinions about the selections. Clicking on the website will give you information on the films that are available and how to access them. Give it a try!

**People mentioned to have helped out with Zoom:** yes, people were very grateful:

**Elyse Gura & Hal Hart**

*Continued from page 9: Spring 2020 Survey Results*

**Folks Named for Outstanding presentations:**

- Joanne Bailey
- Cliff Brodsky
- Ralph Brown
- Bob Caplan
- Barbara Case
- Leslie Criswell
- Claire Damecour
- Jean de Angelis
- Cindy Eggert
- Dennis Eggert
- Cathy Gallipeau
- Marie Glerup
- Rich Glerup
- Delores Gilmore
- Ruth Hart
- Sarah Jones
- Howard Korman
- M.J. Kutkus
- Kent McDonald
- Jim North
- Carolyn Pohlner
- Frank Pohlner
- Maureen Raynor
- Frank Reiner

**Coordinators Mentioned by Name for a Job Well Done:**

- Dick Balsam
- Dennis Bosch
- Rob Coe
- Claire Damecour
- Rich Glerup
- Hal Hart
- Jake Karmen
- Joan Kolic
- Florence Murphy
- Rick Pruetz
- Maureen Raynor
- Frank Reiner
- Jim Slattery
- Rick Spillane
- Tom Vincent

- Faye Schwartz
- John Simpson
- Jim Slattery
- Carmen Svensrud
- Deborah Thomas
- Carol Wingate

September	14	Best Sellers Book Group—12 noon-1 p.m., via Zoom
	10	Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., via Zoom
	19	Rosh Hashana
	28	Yom Kippur
October	8	Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., via Zoom
	12	Best Sellers Book Group—12 noon-1 p.m., via Zoom
	12	Columbus Day
	14	Introducing Omnilore Meeting—10:00 a.m., via Zoom
	30	Burt Cutler Annual Meeting and Forum—Via Zoom 12:30 p.m.—business meeting, 1:00 p.m.—speaker (see article, page 1)
	31	Halloween
November	3	Election Day
	9	Best Sellers Book Group—12 noon-1 p.m., via Zoom
	11	Veterans Day
	12	Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., via Zoom
	15	Input Deadline for November-December 2020 Newsletter
	16	Introducing Omnilore Meeting—2:00 p.m., via Zoom
	26	Thanksgiving

## OMNILORE CALENDAR 2020



**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](mailto:Calendar@omnilore.org)

## Update on the Outreach Program

This came from Lisa Jimenez, the Life Enrichment Coordinator for The Canterbury:

“Just wanted to give you an update on our community. We are still not hosting any in person events. However, for the past two weeks our residents have been getting training on how to use Zoom and are more comfortable with it. Do you have anyone that would like to do a Zoom lecture for our community?”

This is good news for our Omnilore Outreach Team. So, if you are interested in doing a presentation for The Canterbury, please, let me know. Afternoons are OK and can be scheduled according to your convenience.

I look forward to hearing from you soon 😊

**Dale Korman:310-373-2442 - [howarddale@verizon.net](mailto:howarddale@verizon.net)**



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

**Visit the Omnilore website at [Omnilore.org](http://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)