



OMNIOLORE NEWS



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November 2021

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Report on the October Forum via Zoom:

Kea Johnston: "Magic and Mythology: The Place of Humans in the Ancient Egyptian Cosmos"

by Marion Smith

Omnilore's Halloween Forum was held online on Friday, October 29. Following a short business meeting that included the election of officers, we were treated to a presentation by Kea Johnston, a PhD candidate in Egyptology from UC Berkeley [and my beloved daughter-in-law]. What would a Halloween event be without gods, goddesses, or mummies?



Kea Johnston

Let's think about lessons we learned from Kea. When you go to bed at night and turn out your lights, do you think that's the end of the world? Probably not. But if you were living in Egypt in 3100 BCE (when the creation of the world took place), you would be saying goodbye to the Sun God at night (the end of time) and then awaken to a reborn Sun God (the restarting of time) in the morning. Thereafter, the creation of the Sun God led to his creation of other gods. This is a clear representation of continuity in the universe. A good question: Where does the sun go at night?

A flood was considered a transition from life into death. And the annual renewal of land that followed a flood represented a rebirth after death. That is, a desert represented death and water represented birth. The three realms of the universe included the sky (Nut), air (Shu), and earth (Geb).

The numerous gods of Egypt were the focal points of the nation's cultic rites and personal religious practices. They also played a part in the great mortuary rituals and in the Egyptian belief in posthumous eternal bliss.

As stated, the creation of the world—and the foundation of the Egyptian state—occurred in 3100 BCE (the first millennium BC). Egypt occupied the center of the world, known as the "cosmos". Egypt featured a strong government that was ruled by a pharaoh.

Isis was the ancient Egyptian goddess of fertility and was also known as the goddess of motherhood, magic, death, healing, and rebirth. Isis was the first daughter of Geb and Nut (the god of the earth and the goddess of the sky). Isis was the sister of Osiris who later on became her husband as well. The two of them reigned over a golden age of peace and prosperity. However, their younger brother, Seth, grew jealous of Osiris and murdered him, becoming king. Isis and her sister Nephthys gathered the parts of Osiris and brought him back to life. Osiris, the ancient Egyptian god of the dead, was believed to have been the first mummified being and was the model of rebirth for humanity.

Continued on Page 2

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Elected Officers

President	Frank Pohlner
VP - Academics	Rick Spillane
VP - Administration	Dennis Bosch
Treasurer	Phil Solomita
Secretary	Michael Goergen
Past President	Jim Slattery
Member-at-Large	Shera Dolmatz
Member-at-Large	Karol McQueary
Member-at-Large	TBD

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Communications	Gloria Dumais
Curriculum	Ruth Hart
Evaluation	Rick Spillane
	Dennis Bosch
Technology	Rick Spillane
Head Coordinator	Denise DeVenuto

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SDG Scheduling	Ruth & Hal Hart
Room Scheduling	Sharon Bohner
Laptop Administrator	Rick Spillane
Equipment	Hal Hart
Supplies	TBD
	Carolyn Pohlner
Office Manager	Marie Gleerup
Member Advocate	Gloria Martin
Webmaster	Hal Hart

OMNIOLORE NEWS is a publication of OMNIOLORE Learning-In-Retirement, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit Organization.

OMNIOLORE 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 OMNIOLORE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Frank Pohlner



Frank Pohlner
President
Omnimore LIR, Inc.

I wish to welcome our members to our 2021-2022 Academic Year under the management of Omnimore Learning-In-Retirement, Inc., a nonprofit public benefit corporation established in May, 2021. We have maintained a relationship with CSUDH by enrolling each of our members in their OLLI program with the benefits that entails. However, CSUDH will no longer be handling our finances or providing any financial support.

As a group, we mourn the sudden passing of our Past President Jim Slattery. We send our sincere condolences to his family and give thanks for his leadership over this past year.

We have much to be grateful for and some challenges to face. Our start-up budget was cutting it close to the bone but you came through with approximately fifty-thousand dollars in donations. Your donations replaced the audio-video equipment that CSUDH removed, allowed us to begin leasing the Beach Cities Health Center classrooms, established Johan Smith as our first part-time employee and purchased liability insurance.

We both lost and gained members during the pandemic. We lost some members who did not wish to attend S/DGs via Zoom, and we gained members who lived outside our area, some as faraway as New York, because they were able to

attend via Zoom. The Winter Trimester will once again be made available via a Hybrid Zoom approach. Each S/DG will make the decision at their Pre-Meeting whether to meet via Zoom only or use the Hybrid Zoom approach of some members in the classroom while others attend via Zoom. As of this writing, a decision has not been made about holding an in-person luncheon Forum in January.

The Curriculum Committee has come up with another great, stimulating selection of potential S/DGs, the members have made their choices, the Schedulers accommodated as many choices as possible, the Technology Committee is setting up the equipment, and we are ready to launch a new year!

Looking to the future,

Frank Pohlner
President, Omnimore Learning-In-Retirement, Inc.

The new Board of Directors for Omnimore Learning-In-Retirement, Inc. consists of the President, Frank Pohlner; Vice President for Academics, Rick Spillane; Vice President for Administration, Dennis Bosch; Treasurer, Phil Solomita; and Secretary, Michael Goergen. This Board will meet quarterly and keep its own minutes.

The group that meets monthly on Omnimore affairs is now called the **Management Council** and their meeting will be called the **Management Council Status Meeting**. This group consists of the above-named individuals except the Secretary, as well as Members at Large, all Committee chairs (Membership, Forum, Communications, Curriculum, Evaluation and Technology); Head Coordinator; and Recording Secretary, who is as yet to be appointed. With the idea of streamlining the meeting to an hour or less, each will bring a written status of their area of responsibility which can be used in the minutes and, when needed, on the website.

Continued from Page 1: October 29th Forum

Would you like to get closer to the goddess Sekhmet? The name Sekhmet literally means “the powerful one”. Shown with the body of a woman and the head of a lioness, she was the bloodthirsty (but fun-loving) daughter of Ra, the Egyptian sun-god. A disc on her head symbolizes the sun. As goddess of war, she was a destroyer, but she was often invoked as the protector of the pharaoh and thus a healer. You can find four sculptures of Sekhmet at the Hearst Castle in San Simeon. They all date to the 18th Dynasty (c. 1550-c.1295 BCE). She would enjoy your visit, for sure.

And we hope you enjoyed the Halloween Forum!

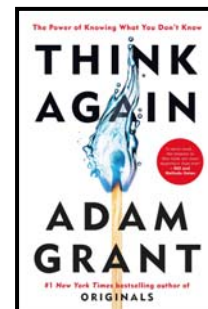
Winter Best Sellers SIG Reads

by Patricia Edie & Cindy Eggert

Calling all “Readers!” The Omnimore 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,
Dec. 13:
Fiction
*The
Lost
Apothe-
cary*
by
Sarah
Penner



Monday,
January 10:
Non-Fiction
*Think Again:
The Power of
Knowing
What You
Don't Know*
by Adam
Grant

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!

Omnilore Profile: Petrina Long

by Eddy Bay

Exuberant, engaging and immensely curious, Petrina Long recently ended decades of work as an athletic director for academics at several leading US universities to retire at PV Shores in San Pedro.

She grew to young adulthood in Newport Beach and went off to UC-Berkeley for her undergraduate degree in Anthropology. As graduation approached, Petrina was considering primatology as a career, planning to do research on the model of Jane Goodall, when she was offered a temporary job tutoring football players. The curriculum was broad: English, English as a Second Language, social sciences, and writing. Petrina found herself supervising a tutoring program for 600 students, including new immigrants and students who were first in their families to attend college. Her responsibilities extended also to reviewing athletes' admissions files and advising incoming athletes academically. When the school year ended, the person running the program left and Petrina began directing the Student-Athlete Academic Support Program at the Learning Center, which proved to be the start of a 45-year career working in university intercollegiate academic support for athletes.

After five years or so, Petrina was ready for new challenges and accepted a similar job at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The South, she found, was not ready for her. Besides fostering abundant memories of the Confederacy, SMU, she



found, was deeply involved in an NCAA scandal involving illegal payments to athletes by boosters at the level of the state governor and trustees. Meanwhile, Petrina met her husband of 37 years and together, they decided on a move to NYC and Columbia University. She served 10 years as Associate Athletic Director for Academics at Columbia, bore a daughter, Samantha, and completed a master's degree in Anthropology.

The call of California brought her west and home near family when Petrina took a position at UC Irvine in 1993. Her boss then stole her away to UCLA, where she spent the last 17 years of her career, moving to San Pedro five years ago.

Petrina plunged into activism in retirement, becoming a docent at the Palos Verdes Interpretive Center at Point

Vicente and building a garden in her yard. Then, one of her new neighbors at PV Shores, Patricia Edie, introduced her to Omnilore. A first class, in archaeoastronomy, converted her to the Omnilore method and she has enthusiastically taken two or three courses every trimester since. Her best experience has been joining a small group of women who support a literature project in which they approach and study a single different author, often a woman, each trimester.

In Omnilore, Petrina Long is happy to report, she has found the stimulation that she had longed for in retirement.



I have been an Omnilore member since 2010 and I've enjoyed coordinating many S/DGs. As Head Coordinator, I plan to emphasize the important role that communication plays in the smooth functioning and quality of our Omnilore classes.

I look forward to serving in this role and conducting the Coordinator Information Meeting for the winter term. This meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 1 at 10:00 a.m. I look forward to meeting you there.

If you have any questions or issues, don't hesitate to reach out to me at dendev88@gmail.com

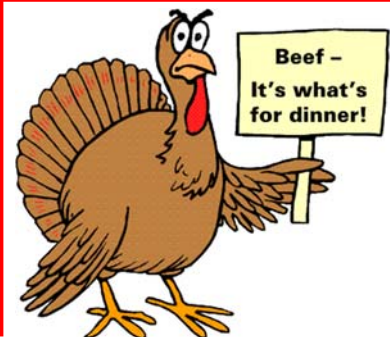


Denise DeVenuto
Head Coordinator



As the fill-in Head Coordinator, I would like to thank the committee for their work in getting all the coordinators/co-coordinators for the winter/spring trimester. The committee consists of **Marilyn Brashear, Gail Ruder, Carol Wingate and Carmen Svensrud**. This is a group of ladies who know how to get the job done. Thank you so much. Also, thanks to all of you who accepted the coordinator and/or co-coordinator position for the next trimester.

Gloria Dumais



Omniole Donors to Omniole Learning-In-Retirement, Inc.

Steve Miller and I (Linda Jenson) are so appreciative of the generosity of the many donors listed below who showed their support for Omniole Learning-In-Retirement, Inc.

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Diana Cutler in Memory of Burt Cutler
Rick and Lori Spillane

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Anonymous (2)



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OTHER GIFTS

Harriet Allyn
Rick Davis
Margareta Ericksen
Patti Kitching
Cheryl Morton
Richard Reilly
Marion Smith
Anonymous



And thanks to our lawyer **Michael Goergen** who donated the advances he made to the SOS and the IRS, as well as his time and expertise.



Omnioleoreans Share Hunker-Down Stories

by Judy Bayer, *Omnioleore News Editor*

Thank you for sharing Letters to the Editor brimming with wonderful vignettes describing your adventures as you have been navigating through the subsiding days of the pandemic. With a brighter more hopeful future on the horizon both for Omniloreans and our new Omnilore Learning-In-Retirement, Inc., we all should be feeling positive and ready to share our optimism with one another. Keep your heartening thoughts flowing.



Jim North: AH HA !

A Labradoodle is a cross breed between a fun-loving Labrador and a very serious and discriminating Standard Poodle. Ours is named **Mister Bear**. In theory, a non-shedding, hypoallergenic, medium to small size family pet. At five years of age and sixty pounds, we observed a distinct change in our care-free pet during the COVID lock-down. Mister Bear decided to become the supreme protector of our household and its residents.

Confused and frankly disappointed by our human, casual response to strangers wearing masks who dared to approach our front door for any reason, HE stepped up. Uniforms and people wearing hats are sure to witness the frenzied barking and his guard dog gymnastic. Family members who leave the residence are considered AWOL, and he will wait at the door for their return. Once checked in, he leaves his post and takes an overdue nap. You don't take him for a walk, he takes you. Fellow dog owners, does this sound familiar? Is your pet behaving the same way? AH HA! Obviously, cat owners need not reply! At any rate, professionals tell us not to be too concerned, that this is just a temporary stage. In theory, our ancient ancestors depended on the dog for a level of protection and defense. That bond remains in place and is stronger than ever. Grrrr.



Claire Damecour:

In our last newsletter I was traveling across the country with my husband, and we'd just been to the Grand Canyon. We left May 5th and have been on the road since. There have been a lot of things to see and do as we cross back and forth, up and down. Gary says that our trail looks like the wandering Jews in the desert! After the western states, we headed through Texas to the southern states. It was very hot and humid, but the Delta variant of COVID-19 had not yet started mowing down the unvaccinated southerners. By the time that began to happen, we were already safely ensconced in the northeast where the vaccination rates are the highest in the country! (Yay Vermont!) And, people wear masks, so that's a plus.

We've been to a lot of the "burgs", - Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and the "towns", Jamestown, Yorktown, etc. Lots of out of the way national historic sites I'd never heard of (the last broadsword charge in the world, anyone?) and scenic spots (where the mosquitoes were ruthless).

Our next goal is to visit my family in Canada, and hopefully we can get across the border before they decide to shut it down! With almost a million new COVID cases in the last week, I wouldn't be surprised if they did close it again. Fortunately the Canadian population is vaccinated at an overwhelmingly high rate (72% of population, 85% of eligible).

I continued to participate in two S/DGs through the summer, OPR and SOU. I particularly liked going through the south and sharing some information with the members of my SOU S/DG about the history of racism after the civil war. Eye opening. And contemporary voting restrictions bring it all back to the present.



FATs Compared - Natural FATs are Necessary and Healthy



Joy Jurena

- “We were told that vegetable oils were good and saturated fats were bad.
- “The American Heart Association, the National Education Cholesterol Program, the NIH and even our government's own [dietary guidelines](#) promoted them.”

✓out the Fats. Those with **X** are generally highly unstable and **inflammatory** oils.

Dr. Mark Hyman – why vegetable oils should not be part of your diet.

Oil	Stability	Saturated	Polyunsaturated Omega 6	Polyunsaturated Omega 3	Monounsaturated Omega 9	Total
Canola oil		7	21	11		39
Safflower oil	X	8	14	1		23
Flaxseed oil	?	9	It depends	16	57	82
Sunflower oil	X	12			71	83
Corn oil	X	13		57	1	71
Avocado oil	👍	12	14	2		28
Olive oil	👍	15	9	1		25
Soybean oil	X	Do not use to cook	5		54	59
Peanut oil	?	It depends	19	33	*	52
Cottonseed oil	X		27		54	81
Lard	👍	Remember Julia Child used Lard	43	9	1	53
Palm oil	X	Deforestation/habitat destruction – in processed food	1	10	*	11
Butter	👍	From pasture raised cow - hi Omega 3, good for cooking		3	1	4
Coconut oil	👍	Healthline: evidence-based-health-benefits-of-coconut-oil good for cooking		2		2

FATS Saturated ■ Polyunsaturated Omega 6 ■ Omega 3 ■ Monounsaturated Omega 9 ■

The Dietary Reference Intakes published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture say 20% to 35% of the calories we consume should come from (natural) FAT. **All NATURAL FATS ARE GOOD AND NECESSARY.** UNNATURAL FATS ARE UNHEALTHY - Deep Nutrition by Catherine Shanahan, M.D. former Nutritionist for the Lakers.

ALERT! Refined grains and sugar become glucose **FAST** and when combined with FAT (e.g., ice cream and cake) insulin must get the FAT out of the way so the glucose gets used. **(It is NOT the FAT's Fault.)** If not, the glucose will latch onto proteins, fat or DNA becoming AGES* a toxic molecule.

*Advanced Glycation End product.



Bona Fide EVOO has anti-inflammatory compounds. But polyphenols decrease by 40% in 6 mos. ✓ harvest date

It's OK baby. Baby oil is NOT made from babies. But fake olive oil from the mafia might be!

In Memoriam

James Emmett Slattery

James Emmett Slattery of Torrance, CA passed away Friday, November 5, 2021, at the age of 81 after gracefully handling the limitations aging imposed in the last few years. He enjoyed life until the very end, and he was very proud of his extended family and loved by all.

Jimmy was born in Wisconsin Rapids, WI November 2, 1940. He attended St. Norbert College before transferring to the University of Wisconsin at Madison to pursue a BS in Mechanical Engineering. An engineering master's degree at UC Berkeley brought him to California in the early 1960's.

After college, he travelled to Alaska working for Chevron before the space race inspired a 37-year career at The Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo, CA. James helped manage the Space Based Infrared Defense System (SBIDS) program and he loved being around creative/intelligent people.

Jimmy met his best friend and the love of his life, Berthe, at a singles dance in 1966. They were happily married for 54 years. His endless curiosity was fueled by a very active participation in Omnimore most recently as President.

In 2015, Kate Nelson wrote a profile of Jim which began, "Talking to Jim Slattery is like being in a class with your favorite teacher—the best parts aren't the lesson plans, but the digressions." When talking about where he grew up, Jim mentioned Wisconsin but soon digressed to tales of his father, one of 12 children, who grew up on a dairy farm. His dad was diverted from that line of work by his bride, Jim's mother, who didn't want to live as a dairy farmer's wife. Yielding to his wife's wishes, Jim's dad

For the past several years of Omnimore, Jim was the kindest, most gentle individual I was privileged to know. I was fortunate to be in several classes with him. He always was helpful, friendly and full of enthusiasm to study and share his knowledge on many subjects.

My condolences to his family. *Paula Witkin, MA*



managed a cranberry farm or *marsh* ("You don't have to milk cranberries," Jim added helpfully).

In the Summer 2021 edition of Omnimore News, John Simpson wrote about Jim retiring from Aerospace Corporation in 2002 and very soon thereafter, in 2003, joining Omnimore. Jim enjoyed "meeting interesting people, interacting with new friends and the opportunity to research and learn new things." Jim considered Omnimore a real plus in his retirement and when asked to be president, he agreed because he felt he "needed to give back something to the organization."

Jim was retiring as president of Omnimore at the end of 2021. In his Message from the President's Desk for the Omnimore News, he wrote that it had been a "pleasure and a privilege to serve as president [and he] looked forward to [his] continuing membership and joining the ranks of 'emeritus' Omnimore presidents. Omnimore [was] a highlight of [his] retirement experience and [he looked] forward to continuing for many years in the program."

Jim thanked the members of the Omnimore Board for their service and especially Steve Miller who was his "mentor as Treasurer and President".

He lauded the success of our new Omnimore Learning-In-Retirement, Inc. and thanked those who were instrumental in its creation.

Jim truly was a special Omnimorean and will be missed. Lifelong learning was one of his passions, and he shared his joy and appreciation with all.

Obviously, I can't get to Jim's memorial, but I've been thinking about him. Years ago, he and I were in a jazz class taught by Bob Bragonier (another big loss) for the South Bay Adult School. Bob always had us meet at least once at the Lighthouse in Hermosa Beach. Jim was such a nice guy --unfailingly good-natured, friendly, and interested in all kinds of things—including jazz and Shakespeare. I also enjoyed going to the Bluewater Grill, and I can't think of a better spot to say goodbye to him. *Kate Nelson, OR*

Virginia (Ginny) Ann Brown

Virginia (Ginny) Ann Brown passed away peacefully at Torrance Memorial Hospital on August 9, 2021.

Born on April 29, 1944 in Bakersfield to Lee and Marie Brown, she was a resident of Redondo Beach for over 45 years. Ginny is survived by her life-long partner and best friend, Geronimo "Jerry" Sigala of Wilmington.

Ginny was a graduate of Principia College in Elsau, Illinois and returned to the Los Angeles area where she received her teaching credential and Masters in Reading Instruction. She worked in the Inglewood School District for 35 years, first teaching 4th and 6th grades at Highland and

Warren Lane Schools and then as a Special Projects teacher and coordinator at Oak Street School for over 25 years. She was a thoughtful, get-it-done organizer and beloved leader and friend. Her students and fellow teachers



Continued on Page 9

In Memoriam

Virginia (Ginny) Ann Brown (cont'd)

learned from her caring nature and her dramatic ability to teach a lesson.

Ginny always had an adventurous spirit and a love of the outdoors. Her passion for skiing and for travel took her across continents and on 60 journeys throughout Europe, Asia, Latin and South America, and, especially of late, in the U.S. She had planned three future trips and was dreaming of her new escapades. She had a love of the arts in all forms: from theater, with season tickets to the OC and LA Music centers; to paintings, with annual pilgrimages to the Laguna Art Festival and Ojai Art Tour; in

clothing – enjoying her wearable art; and in jewelry, especially her signature rings!

Ginny joined Omnilore in August 2009, taking classes every trimester for the past 12 years and coordinating often.



Ginny was our coordinator for the class *Bad Girls Throughout History* in the Spring of 2019. For her presentation Ginny showed up as Carmen Miranda, all dressed up with a fruits hat on her head and music playing (see picture on the right). She became Carmen for a short while. She was fabulous. It totally set up the mood for the class as a fun, informative and creative class. By far, it has been one of my favorites in terms of fun and relaxing atmosphere.

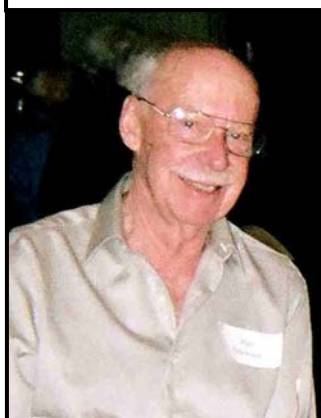
Truly an asset to Omnilore! I am very thankful to have met her and feel privileged to have been one of her classmates. *Francoise Schmutz*



Ginny gave an extraordinary presentation from the Ray Bradbury Short Stories class on *The Rocket* that included pictures of the planets as the “rocket” traveled to Mars. She also presented this at The Canterbury. A real loss for Omnilore. Being in a class with her was always such a pleasure!

Dale Korman

Ray Ericksen



Ray was born in Carlin, Nevada on September 25, 1928. His family moved to Los Angeles in 1931 during “The Great Depression”. He graduated from Burbank High School in August 1946 and enlisted in the Navy at the age of seventeen. After graduating from Treasure Island Navy Electronics School, he was assigned to the USS Piedmont, a Destroyer Tender (AD-17), where he repaired ship vacuum tube electronics. His ship was stationed in Tsing Tao, China, for most of 1948. When discharged from the Navy, he received the WW II Victory Medal, the China Service Medal, and the WW II GI Bill, which made it possible for him to attend USC.

At USC in 1953, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and was President of the Sigma Phi Delta Engineering Fraternity. That college degree was a first in his family. He met Margareta (UCLA) on a blind date and immediately began a three-year quest to convince her to say “I do”. After graduation, they married and then honeymooned in Atami, Japan. They lived in Yokohama, Japan, where Ray worked for Philco Radio Corporation at the Army Signal Corp Depot. After Japan, he was assigned to San Francisco supporting Army Nike Missile Sites and then to the Signal Corps Depot in

Pirmasens, Germany. While in Germany, Ray and Margareta traveled extensively throughout Western Europe.

In 1959, Ray went to work for System Development Company. For the next 30 years he worked in the Computer Program Integration Contractor (CPIC) organization supporting satellite projects. At retirement in 1989, he was Department Manager of the company’s satellite support program with the Air Force.

Ray was an amateur geologist, who loved to share his enthusiasm for this earth science with his friends and family. In 2000, they moved back to the Palos Verdes Peninsula after living for ten years in Santa Fe, NM where Margareta took award winning photos and Ray studied the local geology. Ray took up golf and connected with San Pedro and Palos Verdes golfers. He “shot his age” at 77.

Ray and Margareta joined Omnilore in September 1999; he enjoyed Bob Bragonier’s jazz classes in particular, other topics on music, art and short stories. He passed away Wednesday, October 20th of prostate cancer. He had celebrated his 93rd birthday this last September.

Report on the July 30 Forum

Traveling Through the Ages with Members of the Historical Novel Society

by Judy Bayer

Founded in 1997, the **Historical Novel Society** is a community of historical fiction lovers. Society members include established and yet to be published authors, readers and publishers.

For our July 30th Forum, Omniole presented a panel of four authors from the Historical Novel Society who spoke engagingly about *Traveling Through the Ages*.

Whether it was the Silk Road through the Far East, dog mushing in the Arctic, railroads in California history, or comfortable berths aboard the *Lusitania*, the panel brought a lively perspective on how merchants, clergy, pilgrims, and settlers got to where they wanted to go.

Frank Pohlner, Omniole Forum Chair, welcomed panel moderator, Janet Wertman who described how historical novels have transported us to times and places with fascinating and incredibly accurate details that pull us into the fascinating world of history and adventure. She encouraged questions at the end of the presentation telling us that they all welcomed and loved questions.



Janet introduced panel members Anne Louise Bannon, Colleen Adair Fliedner and Xina Marie Uhl.



Anne Louise Bannon began the discussion by describing what it was like getting around in Los Angeles in the 1870s. Travel was by horse, horse and buggy, mule, and railroad from Wilmington to downtown Los Angeles, all on unpaved roads. People who traveled were doctors visiting patients, merchants delivering goods including wine, and men in town looking for work or

others who were simply leaving town. The population at the time was only 7000, and yet violence was quite prevalent with at least one murder occurring per month.

Xina Marie Uhl described the last of the age of imperialism especially by Europeans who wanted to make their mark in the world in the 1900s with a race to the South Pole. It was the heyday of dog sledding, and in Antarctica, it was the only way to get around. An explorer brought Manchurian ponies to the area as a possible alternative, but they did not work out. At one point, all non-native species were banished from the continent. Many explorers arrived claiming territory for their countries while others conducted scientific experiments.



We also learned that in the Old West, stagecoaches were the main way to get around from the 1700s to the early 1900s. They had leather straps that supported the body of the carriage. Riding along, you were jostled left and right; shock

absorbers were unheard of. Most of the stagecoach travel took place in the East where the population was greater and the roads much better. Mining and ranching eventually drew people to the West.

Colleen Adair Fliedner with a smile explained she had titled one of her stories *Hat Field*, because in the early 1900s through the desert of Anza Borrego, the stagecoaches had roll-down leather blinds over the windows. When it was unbearably hot, the blinds would be raised, and the wind would blow the passengers' hats off and into the fields where they were retrieved by scavengers; thus, the name of her book.



Colleen also told of Phineas Banning, his stagecoach connecting San Pedro/Wilmington with Los Angeles and how he had to give it up for the Southern Pacific Railroad to agree to connect Los Angeles as a terminus on its railroad line.

Her current novel is set during World War 1, a war fought mostly on the water. The *Lusitania*, the largest of the ships, figured prominently during the battle. Twelve hundred died when it was torpedoed. Who traveled at that time? Nurses, troops, emigres going home, and people coming to America to escape the war. Such large ships were floating palaces for the likes of a Vanderbilt and even like a palace for the lower class, many of whom enjoyed three meals a day for the first time.

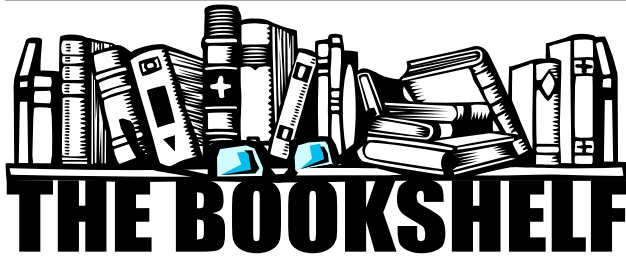
When asked her favorite sources of information, Anne responded that she looked up the speed at which horses typically walked and ran on Google, noting that a horse when pulling a stagecoach must rest after every two hours of running. Other sources included museums, newspapers from the era, and her secret weapon, her husband, who is the archivist for the City of Los Angeles.

Xina noted that when researching information for nonfiction children's books, an encyclopedia and primary sources were excellent. The author must add authentic color, tone, and language to her writing. Diaries, photos, artifacts, china, pottery, tools, journals, books are excellent resources, even in the time when written materials were not available. Surprisingly, many miner's stories were captured from their own tales. Invaluable information was learned from tourist literature.

Colleen told us how cruising was the means of travel during the early 1900s. Ship building was extremely competitive with the ongoing challenge to arrive the fastest. The *Lusitania* sailed from New York to Liverpool in just less than five days.

When asked what the most amazing facts were to emerge during their research, our panel delighted us with their answers. According to Anne, competition to get a railroad to Los Angeles became virulent. Banning ran the railroad between San Pedro/Wilmington and L.A. and was adamant that the new

Continued on Page 11



Let There Be Laughter by Michael Krasny

A JAP (Jewish-American Princess) drops a vase at Tiffany’s, looks around, and assures everyone, “I’m all right!”

They’re hiring lumberjacks, and a little old Jewish guy says he has experience.

“Where?”

“In the Sahara.”

“The Sahara? C’mon, that’s a desert!”

“Yeah, now.”

nym, lighten up, have some fun, trade non-PC ethnic jokes with your friends! You’ll be glad you did.

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

newsletter@omnilore.org



Fresh out of NPR, Michael Krasny has been telling Jewish jokes since his bar mitzvah, and it’s been said that he knows more of them than anyone on the planet. It’s a window into Jewish culture. Open it. If you flinched at the JAP acro-

So glad that there’s good news to share about a letter that I received from the Torrance Cultural Arts Commission. Evidently, I’ve been granted the Katy Geissert Award for my contributions to the Arts over the years. The Excellence in Arts Award Ceremony will be held on Oct. 9th from 2 to 4 in the Toyota Meeting Hall. I am truly humbled by this honor. Hopefully, the COVID restrictions will have lessened by then. Otherwise, the event will be postponed. None-the-less, I wanted to share this announcement with you.

So amazed,
Dale Korman

Report on the July 30 Forum (*continued from page 10*):

line end in Los Angeles. The Competitors were going after each other “hammer and tongs”, and they were quite corrupt. Interestingly, they didn’t swear at one another but did “come close” referring to their competitors as “idiots”.

Xina was intrigued by the variation of dog sledding in Antarctica – she is a huge dog lover. There are two kinds of sledding arrangements: one with which we are familiar is a team of 12 to 16 dogs in pairs pulling the sled. The other placed 12 to 15 dogs in a “fan formation” like fingers on a hand. It was a beautiful sight and worked perfectly in the open country of Antarctica, although it was not effective on narrow trails. Running in the fan formation, each dog was pulling its own weight and did not get tangled up.

Colleen was shocked by the incompetence of the British government especially after researching the sinking of the Titanic. There were no instructions on the use of life jackets or lifeboats. The lifeboats never were manually lowered. There were no emergency drills.

Time permitted a few comments and questions at the end of the presentation:

Lori Geittmann shared that her relative, Benjamin Colling, was the first locomotive engineer on Phineas Banning’s train from Wilmington to Los Angeles. Lori emailed a copy of his truly interesting obituary to Omnioleans.

Sunny Moss’ question reached a common dilemma: When do you stop researching and get down to writing? Responses included: when you have too much research, try utilizing a blog for the additional material. Start writing when the characters start talking to you. Research and writing at the same time are okay. You don’t want to put your head into a real evil person’s mind. Focus on the particular point you want your reader to take away. Your focus should be on your character or, as in historical fiction, the story is the most important part and should be your focus.

An interesting, entertaining learning experience was enjoyed by all.

OMNIOLORE NEWS is looking for folks to fill the following openings:

- Movie Critic Corner**
- Movie Goers SIG**
- That’s Entertainment**
- Outreach Program Updates**

Dale Korman at the Awards Ceremony



