



OMNIOLORE NEWS



Volume 23 Issue 5

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September 2014

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"...Four to Get Ready"

by Carol Kerster

As you read this, four well-known L.A.-based mystery writers are indeed getting ready – to speak to Omniloreans about the various types of mysteries at our annual general meeting and Halloween Forum luncheon on October 31 at the Los Verdes Country Club. For details, read on:

Panelist **Craig Faustus Buck** is a man who has his priorities straight. He will soon be honored at Bouchercon, a prestigious conference for mystery writers, for his short story *Dead Ends*, to be included in Bouchercon's 2014 anthology *Murder on the Beach*. This journalist, TV writer-producer and novelist called that a "Big Event." He also called the ritual conference poker game, which takes place at these meetings, a "Big Event." His concern was that the real poker chips, replacing for the first time the usual colored paper clips, hard candies and bags of corn chips, might affect his game! We hope they will not. . . .



Moderator

What would compel a California native and former film industry professional to write a novel that takes place in the "...densely populated cities and breathtaking landscapes...on the fringes of the Chinese art world?" Yet **Lisa Brackmann** not only did just that with *Rock Paper Tiger*; she also won several "Bests" of 2010: Amazon's Top 100 books and Top 10 Mystery/Thrillers. Not one to rest on her laurels, Lisa has written a sequel, *Hour of the Rat*, which was short-listed for a West Coast Crimes Calamari (international mystery) award. One wonders if Lisa, who has lived and traveled extensively in China, might be the model for her "flawed but appealing" heroine, Elsie McEnroe. . . .

Operating in a context considerably closer than China is Edgar Award-winning author of the Mas Arai mystery series, **Naomi Hirhara**. Featuring a gardener and a Hiroshima survivor who solve crimes, the third mystery in the series, *Snakeskin Shamesin*, is set in the South Bay, as is her middle-grade book, *1001 Cranes*. Naomi's new series features a 23-year-old female LAPD bicycle-riding cop. The first in the series, *Murder on Bamboo Lane*, was nominated for the T.J. Jefferson Parker mystery award. The former editor of The Rafu Shimpo newspaper in L.A. also writes short stories, historical non-fiction and essays. A history of Terminal Island, co-written with Geraldine Knatz, will be released in 2015.



Continued on Page 2

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

OMNIOLORE NEWS is published six times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Please contact the editor with your contributions.

Editor Mary Golob
Staff Member Carol Kerster

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Howard Korman

We have accomplished the move of Omnilore to the Edison Center (EC)! There are a number of benefits to the move, including two large meeting rooms for afternoon S/DGs, the availability of a third room in the afternoon (Conf. Room B), cleaning services, and reasonable restroom facilities. We are learning how to work with the constraints at the EC (e.g., only one meeting room in the morning, the size limitation of Conf. Room B, limited storage, a different WiFi setup). I want to thank everyone for their cooperation and patience as we go through this experience.

Our next Forum event on Halloween will include our annual meeting, when the new slate of officers will be voted on and the budget for next year presented, so please plan to attend. It is always fun because of the creative costumes and holiday atmosphere. **Lori Geittmann**, Forum chair, has arranged an extra-special program this year by signing up a panel of authors to talk about various kinds of mysteries. To achieve this, Lori worked with the L A. Chapter of "Sisters in Crime," an international organization that promotes the professional development and advancement of

women who write crime fiction. (Check out <http://sistersincrimela.com>.) And **Carol Kerster**, whose enticing accounts of our Forum luncheon programs appear quarterly in our Newsletter, outdoes herself in this issue with interesting notes about our four (yes, *four*) panelists; see page 1.

I personally want to express my sorrow on the passing of our Omnilore founder, **Burt Cutler**. Burt was an amazing person who inspired all of us to make Omnilore as good as it could be. I enjoyed my conversations with him about how to structure the organization for the betterment of all of us. He will be greatly missed.

This is my final column for the Newsletter as president. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served in this capacity. As an organization Omnilore is fiscally sound, has a stable membership of 300+, and offers truly wonderful opportunities to learn and grow through intellectual stimulation. Omnilore provides two elements that many studies of senior citizens credit for a long and satisfying life: brain nourishment and social interaction. As you all know, there wouldn't be an Omnilore without the hard work of our

officers, committee chairs and members, coordinators and co-coordinators, and everyone else who serves the organization in any role. Unfortunately, too

often, it seems as if the same names appear over and over again. We all have other commitments and lives apart from Omnilore, but I hope that, if you are asked to take on a more active role in Omnilore, you will consider doing so, and if you are not asked, you will offer your services anyway. There is a richness in our membership...a richness of life experience, talent, interests and expertise. Make some contribution; it is sure to be a rewarding experience in this great organization.

Even though I won't be president after October, I'll still be around, serving on the Curriculum Committee and, above all, continuing to take classes each trimester. I look forward to continuing as an Omnilorean for a long time to come. I am very proud of our organization. I thank all of you for your support, encouragement and friendship. Thanks for making these past two years so enjoyable for me, and I hope to see you at future Forums and at the Edison Center.

**The Forum—Continued from Page 1**

Not many would question the influence -- good, bad or indifferent -- of parents on their children. For **Matt Coyle**, none could have been greater than that of his father. When Matt was 12 years old, his dad gave him a copy of *The Simple Art of Murder* by **Raymond Chandler**, and a multi-award-winning mystery writer was born. His first novel, *Yesterday's Echo*, won the Ben Franklin Silver Award for Best New Voice in Fiction and the San Diego Award for Best Mystery. The hero of Matt's books is Rick Cahill, who re-appears as an ex-cop in *Night Tremors*, Matt's latest book, which is due out in 2015. That is when his readers will discover "What a man will sacrifice for a chance at redemption."

This extraordinary panel of writers will highlight Omnilore's Annual Halloween Forum, Friday, October 31, at the Los Verdes Country Club way up in Palos Verdes off Hawthorne Blvd. As you know, we will have a brief business meeting and election of officers and board members, a particularly tasty lunch, garden salad, chicken with Champagne honey mustard sauce, scalloped potatoes, seasonal vegetables, and pumpkin pie (vegetarian meal—chef's choice) upon early request) still only \$22.00, and a smashing Costume Contest (optional), complete with prizes and lots of admiration! Registration forms are on page 11 of this newsletter, and on a flyer, which will arrive at your home by regular mail in late September.

**The Next****INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETINGS:****Mon. Oct. 20th & Fri. Nov. 21st****10 a.m.
Conf Rm B****Help Spread the Word! RSVP 310-370-9522**

OMNIOLORE PROFILE: Art Irizarry

by Kate Nelson

The first thing you ought to know about Omnilore's recording secretary, Art Irizarry, is his exotic ancestry. Born in Puerto Rico, he has Basque, Italian, Spanish, French and Hindu-Indian roots, with a dash of English thrown in for good measure. This citizen-of-the-world heritage might be what led him from Puerto Rico to California to a remote town in Brazil. The second thing you ought to know is how to pronounce his last name: "Ear iz zar ree."

After earning a BA in Anthropology in 1964 at UCLA, Art signed up for the Peace Corps and served for three years in a small, extremely remote town in Paraiba, in northeastern Brazil. He describes his first glimpse of the town, after hours on a bus bouncing along a bone-jarring road, as a journey back in time, much like a New Yorker traveling to the hollows of Appalachia. He had learned Portuguese, and the village was made up mostly of old Portuguese farmers who made a hardscrabble living from land that was rocky desert most of the year but bloomed when the rainy season hit. Despite their poverty, the people were generous and welcoming. His job initially was to spread information about disease prevention, but it was clear that there was a more compelling goal: to save the town from dying. There were virtually no services and the young people—and anyone else who could—were moving away to cities with more opportunities. This community had been largely forgotten by Brazil's faraway central government.

The first time Art went door to door with his Peace Corps partner, they both accepted coffee at every house until, by the end of the day, Art was so jittery he could hardly focus, much less sleep. He learned to decline the coffee, but continue to listen carefully. Over time, the townspeople and he rehabilitated a school, established a youth volunteer group, obtained a van to take the older kids to a high school in a neighboring town, secured other necessary services, and slowly brought back a sense of community—and hope. And what did Art get out of it? A feeling of accomplishment, of course, but also three worm infestations and dysentery. In 1967, as he was recovering from his third case of worms (his weight dropped to 119 pounds), Art heard from Uncle Sam—he'd been drafted into the Army just in time to go to Vietnam.

The landowners where he worked were so fond of him by this time that a group of them volunteered to donate land and build a house so that Art could stay in Brazil and avoid the draft.

("The CIA will never get past us," one of the farmers told him.). Art was touched, but knew his duty and eventually trained as an Army medical corpsman. He was sent to the village of Duc Pho as part of a MASH unit, often a very dangerous place in that war. One early evening he headed to the shower stalls and realized he had forgotten his soap. He returned to his tent, retrieved it, but it slipped out of his hands. When he bent to pick it up, he felt and heard a massive explosion. A rocket demolished the shower and latrine and shredded nearby tents. Art ended up with the soap in his hand, a shrapnel cut in his backside, and advice to apply for a Purple Heart. He declined, considering it an insult to the soldiers who had been wounded or died in battle.

His service as a medical corpsman, and the experience of dealing with a brother who was severely brain damaged in a car accident, led Art to develop an interest in psychological counseling. While stationed in West Germany, he worked with servicemen and found a deep calling to help resolve psychological problems. When he returned to the States, he earned a Master's Degree in Psychology and became a counselor for disabled adults, helping them secure training, education and jobs. Because of this work, he was recruited for a position at El Camino College to work with disabled students. Art eagerly accepted the job, which later led to his selection as Dean of Counseling Services and, ultimately, Dean of Student Services. He retired in 2001.

He has remained single ("close, but never did marry"), but became a second father to the two children of a lady friend and several other young people as an outgrowth of mentoring college students. Currently, he is "Grandpa Art" to eight, who range in age from 6 to 23, (the two oldest just graduated from university). He enjoys all kinds of music when he's not attending UCLA football or basketball games.

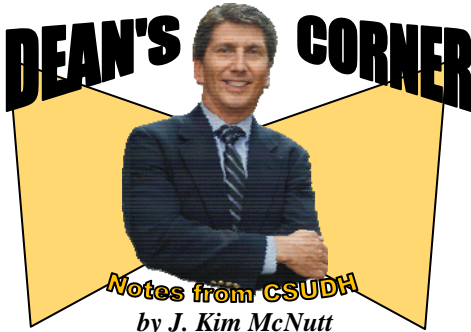
As a member of the Board of Directors, Art often draws on his extensive background to expand Omnilore's contributions to life in our South Bay community.



Send Email to
EQUIPMENT@OMNIOLORE.ORG
 with questions or problems concerning
 our presentation equipment.



Equipment@omnilore.org now goes to four talented
 equipment- and technology-oriented individuals:
[Hal Hart](#), [Rick Spillane](#), [Jim Slattery](#) and [Bill Gargaro](#).
 This new team coverage ensures that Omniloreans' technology
 and equipment concerns will be addressed in a timely manner.



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

Greetings, Lifelong Learners!

It is with great pleasure I write my first Dean's Corner column for the **Omnilore** newsletter.

First, I want to heartily thank **Dr. Joanne Zitelli**, for serving as Acting Dean before my arrival here at Cal State Dominguez Hills. She did a terrific job holding down the fort and bringing me up to speed during my first 30 days on campus. I come to SoCal by way of San Antonio, Texas (Go, Spurs!) and look forward to the wonderful opportunities awaiting us at the College of Extended and International Education. I'm no stranger to California; prior to my stint as Asst. Vice President of Continued Learning at Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU), I served two years as Dean of Extended Education at the Cal Maritime Academy in Vallejo, and I'm glad to be back in the Golden State. My entire career in academia has been engaging with adult and lifelong learners and helping them to achieve their academic and education goals. **Omnilore** serves that niche on a myriad of levels. We have moved beyond the world of K-16 education in this country and now operate in a K-80 (lifelong learning) environment.

Secondly, I am excited by our new home at the Edison Center. We have been working closely with the leadership of the Redondo Beach Unified School District in making the transition as smooth as possible. I want to also thank **Jim Bouchard** on our staff for working diligently with all stakeholders to make the move a positive one. I ask for everyone to be patient and things will continue to get better over time.

Again, I'm very glad to be here and I look forward to meeting with you all in the near future. Thanks for making me feel welcome here at Cal State Dominguez Hills. Go, Toros!

Not For Sissies:

Boyhood was on my "must see" list until I read Kenneth Turan's "second thought" review. In it he takes exception to the avalanche of critics (he counted 16), claiming it a "Masterpiece," "Academy Award-headed," "Glorious," etc., etc., etc. Also in this piece he acknowledges a key truth of criticism: Whatever the subject, a critique is "...an expression of personal taste." Believing that, which I do, and admiring him as one whose personal taste often agrees with my own, (e.g. he "took objection to **Titanic**," which I heartily disliked) I decided to skip **Boyhood**.

However, as with many such decisions, life and circumstances intervened, and I did see it. I'm very glad I did.

The idea of filming one family over a period of twelve years was striking. That the same actors portrayed the family members as they aged, eliminated the jarring effect of trying to make different actors look like their younger selves. The actors who allowed parts of their lives to be thus recorded were splendid. The youngest, **Ellar Coltrane**, as son, Mason, Jr., and his slightly older sister, Samantha, played by Director **Richard Linklater**'s real daughter, **Lorelai**, are true masters of unspoken words, as pre-teens, teen-agers, and finally, as young adults. The eyes rolling, the teeth-gritting, the biting back of cutting retorts, are familiar signals to anyone who has ever been around children. The subsequent restraints, gradually giving way to more direct observations and actions, are realistic enough to ring a lot of bells, lots of shocks of recognition. Their gradual separation from their parents and friends as they go off to college, as they move on, is so real. These could be our own kids!

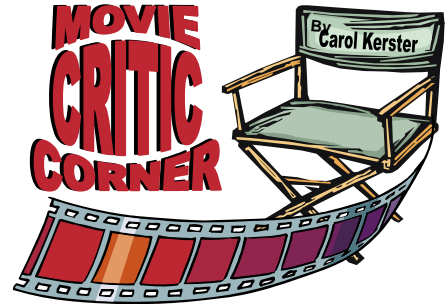
Patricia Arquette and **Ethan Hawke** are equally suited to their roles in **Boyhood**. As a single mother, Arquette anguishes over the conflict between going to school to prepare for a career, being as good a parent as she can be, and finding a husband who will make her little brood a "real family." Some of her decisions made me want to scream, but she's not the first to have made them, nor will she be the last. Her ex-husband, father of Mason and Samantha, literally skips around between being father and being pal to the kids whom he truly loves. There's some evidence that growth to adulthood is in the works for him. And there's clear evidence that Mother and children are headed for outcomes that will not be totally smooth, but definitely will not disappoint. Aren't these outcomes we all would welcome, for ourselves, as well as for our children?

Woody Allen's latest film: **Magic In the Moonlight** opened to mixed reviews; however, this reviewer was enchanted with it. There was magic on every level: the dialogue, the scenery (South of France), costumes/cars/chateaus (1920s) and fabulous music (from Cole Porter to Stravinsky)! **Colin Firth** plays acerbic Wei Ling Soo, famous Chinese magician, who is asked by a fellow magician to help unmask a psychic (played by a sunny **Emma Stone**) whom he believes is deceiving some rich people. This film was a delicious experience with its themes of romance, magicians, humor and spirituality.

Tech Tidbit by Hal Hart

Do you know when the Internet started? In **1969** the first message was sent from UCLA to Stanford Research Institute over what was then called the "ARPAnet." In the early 1970's, the ARPAnet led to multiple separate networks being joined together into a network of networks – thus, "internetworking" or "internet" for short.

(Several Omniloreans were using the Internet in the 1970's. Some of them know what "ARPA" stands for; some worked on ARPA projects. Do you think any Omniloreans were on the ARPAnet in the 1960's?)





Dark Secrets of the Curriculum Committee Revealed!

by Rick Spillane

Every four months -- come sun, clouds, or even a little rain (because this is LA, not NY) -- a letter shows up in our Omnimore mailboxes (USPS or electronic) listing the S/DGs for the next trimester. Ever wonder where they came from? I did, for my first year in *Omnimore*. I had the distinct impression that an extremely secretive group met at some unannounced time (perhaps every third full moon) and after some cabalistic ritual involving sacrifices to the "old gods," whose names are better left unmentioned, a blessed, new curriculum came forth.

Feeling like Mulder in an episode of the "The X Files," I started asking around, trying to find someone who had actually been involved and knew the names of the secret group.

Those who follow conspiracy theories know what happened next: I got co-opted into becoming a member. It was either that or a one-way ticket to Madagascar!

Following the good American ideal that any conspiracy of more than two people must be written up for the newspapers, I now reveal the secrets of this strange group.

Its members appear to be normal (don't they always?) *Omnimore* volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to producing an interesting, fun and stimulating group of topics for each new trimester.

The Curriculum Committee or CC (as it's known to its secret membership) usually meets at the beginning of each *new* trimester, to plan for the *following* trimester. We start with suggestions from members, topics from other learning-in-retirement groups that could be modified for *Omnimore*, and classes that occurred to members of the group on their way to the meeting! This first meeting is open to all possibilities, which means we start with approximately 100 titles.

At this first meeting the number of courses is filtered down to around 40 excellent suggestions, ensuring that we have choices in our eight main topic areas, which are: Art, Music & Architecture; Government/GeoPolitics; History; Literature; Philosophy/Religion; Science & Technology; Social Sciences; Miscellaneous.

The preliminary course write-ups are then divided among the members, into areas of interest and/or expertise, to be revised and strengthened. After reading the revised versions, the group meets again to discuss and vote on the 20 to 25 final course topics. The opinions of the members lead to spirited discussions of the relative merits of the topics, but we always arrive at our final selection without shedding human blood. (Of course, this is not counting the pigeons and chickens sacrificed during voting!)

Given that the full moon is rising and I hear creaking boards approaching my chamber, I'd better end by giving the Curriculum Committee members' names. They are

Editor's Note: The article submitted ends at this point, but we are still searching for the author. For additional information or to volunteer (if you dare) for this dangerous assignment, please contact the Curriculum Chairman -- if you can find him!



OLLI at CSUDH – Fall 2014

by **Jim Bouchard**

Senior Program Development Specialist
Coordinator, Lifelong Learning, OLLI at CSUDH—www.csudh.edu/olli



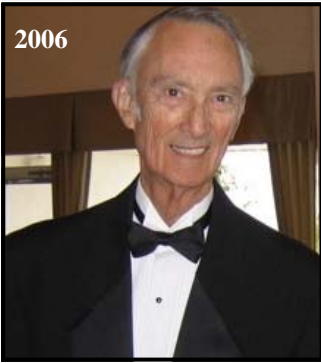
This summer has been a period of transition for Omnimore and I want to thank everyone for their patience. I especially want to thank **Howard Korman** and the Omnimore Board of Directors for the many hours they spent making the move from the Franklin Center to the Edison Center.

I want to remind everyone that we have a terrific Osher Lecture Series planned for this fall. And, if there is one lecture that I would recommend you don't miss (of course, they are all exceptional), it would be the **Friday, October 24, 10:00 a.m.** presentation at the Joslyn Center in Manhattan Beach. Dr. Jerry Moore, professor of Anthropology at CSUDH, will present *The Pre-History of Home*. Dr. Moore will discuss his award-winning book of the same name.

I encourage everyone to review the OLLI catalog that was mailed to you to see the variety of courses, discussion groups, and workshops being offered on campus. By popular demand we will be offering *The Tawdry Tales and Travails of the First Lady* with Pam Watson--the feedback on this course has been very positive.

And please put **Thursday, December 11, 1:00-4:00 p.m.** on your calendar to attend the OLLI Holiday Celebration. This event grows bigger and better each year, and you will enjoy the music, food, and door prizes.

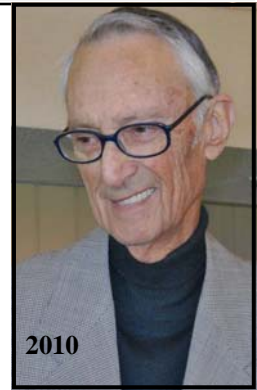
Have a great fall!



We Honor Our Founder: **Burt Cutler** 1926-2014

I've considered Burt a good friend for twenty-three years. He has always been friendly, upbeat, informed and interesting. Burt was always comfortable expressing his opinion and respectful of other's opinions. I'll miss being with him. *Whit Wilson*

Burt did not suffer *fools easily*. I remember being in a short story class and he interrupted me when I started reading all the titles of the books the prolific author had written. Burt said, "We don't need to know that. Tell us about the author." He was right and I remembered that in future classes, not to bore everyone with such a long list and go right to the background of the author. *Lori Geitmann*



I first met Burt when Omnilore paired with the university and expanded beyond their original 10 members. It was Burt's presentation at the original orientation meeting that convinced many of us to join. Through the next 20 plus years, Burt was probably the single person that kept the organization on track so that today it is still growing, still peer led, and responding to a multitude of interests. When Burt took over the presidency in 1998 I became his VP of Academics and was also fortunate to co-coordinate a number of classes with him. What fun! Burt's intellectual curiosity in ALL areas was infectious.

Burt, you will be missed, but your legacy of Omnilore will remain for many generations who have retired but are still looking for intellectual stimulation with like-minded individuals in a fun, relaxing environment.

Ginger Engstrom

Burt was an amazing person who was very inspirational to all Omniloreans. He was always striving to make Omnilore as good as it could be. When we talked I felt that he had special insight into how to resolve any issues and how to work with all types of people. *Howard Korman*

To me, Burt Cutler was an Emissary of Lifelong Learning, Good Will and Friendship. *Blanche Herring*

Burt had the wonderful capacity to know when I needed some kind of help, support, friendship. During my darkest hours, he was there every time; it seems like somehow he knew without my saying anything.

Bob Bacinski



Fond memories: Norman and I sharing theater and dinners with Burt and Diana. There was never dull conversation with Burt around. He would raise a topic, sometimes controversial, sometimes just good meat for a discussion. When anyone spoke, Burt made you feel as if you were the only person in the world. A rich evening filled with humor, intelligence and fun. Burt had it all. *Helen Leven*

Burt was such a gentleman and so intelligent that it was a pleasure to have classes and discussions with him. He also provided a real inspiration for intellectual pursuits during "retirement,, especially the Omnilore kinds of activities.

Bill Gargaro

I don't think there is anyone who has contributed more to the success of Omnilore over the years. His calm and reasoned manner could be counted on to smooth over difficulties and he was a wonderful addition to the many Omnilore classes he led or participated in. I particularly remember him in a class we did on Opera. Burt came costumed as Richard Wagner, with beard, beret, and burgundy jacket and gave his presentation in the person of Wagner. The beard served for a second occasion a week later when he appeared at the Omnilore Halloween Forum as Abraham Lincoln.

Kathleen Fitzgerald



BURT CUTLER — OMNIOLORE'S 5TH PRESIDENT

by Diana Cutler

My husband, Burt Cutler, is a man who conceives and does. During his prolific career he founded several companies. When he was 63, friends invited him to join the Plato Society at UCLA, an early learning-in-retirement (LIR) organization; deciding that it was too far away, he thought, "Why can't we grow our own LIR group in the South Bay?"...leading to his most cherished accomplishment, Omnilore.

Burt was born in 1926 in east Los Angeles to poor Ukrainian immigrants. During WWII he enlisted and eventually was stationed at Fort Monmouth, NJ. Fortunately during weekend passes he was exposed to music, museums, plays, sport events, etc., in nearby New York City. He also met his many east coast relatives, including me. One thing led to another and we married several years later while he was completing his Master of Science program at Stanford.

His first post-graduate job was at Gilfillan Bros. in Los Angeles, a large radar design and manufacturing company. Beginning as a Jr. Design Engineer he was promoted to Supervisor, Group Leader, Program Manager and Director of Engineering. (Some of his patented concepts are still in use worldwide in radar search systems.) ITT purchased Gilfillan and within a year they made Burt President and CEO.

Meanwhile, our family was growing; we had two children soon after we married—and another girl was born "miraculously" (unplanned) 16 years later. (Today we have nine grandchildren.) Our first child, Carol, although quite bright, was having difficulty with the "sight reading" system then in use. Burt taught Carol phonics over a summer and by summer's end she'd become an avid reader, devouring library books.

This was a common problem of the times (magazine articles asked "Why can't Johnny read?"), so Burt put together a stimulating set of records plus booklet teaching phonics by employing a teacher (my sister and present Omnilorean **Nina Landis**) interacting with a group of boisterous students (our two kids and their friends). We sold this kit to many thousands of public and parochial schools and teachers, employing a unique mail-order "try this" approach.

Despite the pluses of the job, Burt became increasingly restless dealing with the ITT hierarchy, the U.S. government and the military; wondering what the real world of business was like, he resigned from ITT and began to build our fledgling company creating and publishing supplementary (non-textbook) educational materials. With the help of many (including me as VP and our son Jay as Production Manager, and our first editor, **Elayne Sidley** – a 2011 Omnilorean), *Educational Insights* became one of the major supplementary



Diana Cutler, Omnilore News editor from 2004 - 2010, created this portrait of Burt in March 2012 for the Newsletter's occasional series of past-president profiles.

school material publishers in the country. Our most popular item was *GeoSafari*, an electronic geography teaching aid that Burt conceived while on vacation - a fun-learning-game that National Geographic highly recommended. *GeoSafari* led us to an expansion of our distribution beyond schools and teachers, to parents.

Burt also proposed and co-founded another very successful company, *Opportunities for Learning*, which catalogued special-ed materials for schools.

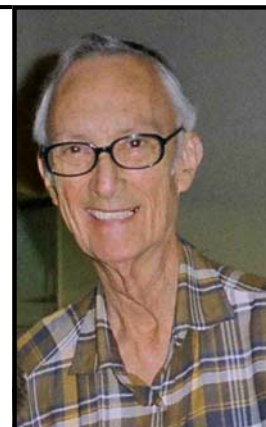
On to Omnilore: leaving a trail of failed attempts to start a learning-in-retirement group, Burt did a direct-mailing to members of the *South Bay League of Women Voters*. Six accepted the invitation to meet, and they agreed to help test the concept. The first S/DG began in January 1989, with nine members studying "Islam." During the first year the meeting venues moved from our dining room to the PV Library and then to the Board Room of the Malaga Cove S&L.

When it became clear that it was a "go," Burt proposed an organization name combining 'omni' for "universal" and 'lore' for "knowledge."..... OMNIOLORE.

In the first decade of Omnilore Burt served as Vice-President several times and he became our 5th Omnilore president in 1998 and 1999. Goals were set and met for membership expansion. Another goal was to gain ethnic diversity; turned out it was easier said than done. Burt arranged for top Omnilore officers to meet their equivalents at Plato and Sage to compare procedures and peripheral activities. Sage suggested adding a social hour and lunch to our Forum; we did and attendance zoomed.

Burt chaired the Curriculum Committee at times both before and after his presidency. No matter what special events were created to help members generate curriculum topic write-ups, obtaining great topics was a continuing challenge during our first decade. Finally he asked "Why reinvent fire?" Curriculum Committee members were asked to evaluate topics offered by other learning-in-retirement groups. We've since employed many topic ideas from Plato, Northwestern, Duke, Harvard, etc., in addition to our home-grown recommendations.

Of the three different focuses of his adult life—several decades in engineering, several decades in educational publishing and two decades in Omnilore—Burt retains a very special feeling for Omnilore. Our process of learning and discussion has been wonderful for us as it has for all our members, and the friendships have been wonderful. In a newsletter President's Message, Burt commented on the growth and experimentation of our organization: "Omnilore will continue to evolve and add flavor while maintaining its well-established direction." And so it has!



Presentations 101:**Let's All Become "Microphiles"***by Janet Brown, VP Academics*

Reviewing the surveys completed by members of our summer classes at Edison Center, we noted that several -- throughout the classes -- expressed concerns about their ability to hear clearly during the sessions. The causes were a combination of the presenter's delivery, outside noises, and/or attempts to adjust to new hearing aids.

After a bit of thought, I offer a **challenge to us** all...

Let's become MICROPHILES! Let's learn to love the microphones!

Following are ideas that might help me and others with limited microphone experience to be at ease with a "mic":

Step 1 – Attend Presentations 101 and the Equipment Workshop.

Step 2 – Set microphones out for every class.

Step 3 – Try them out! (Since there are three different types of microphone systems in each room, you can determine which works best for you and your class.)

Step 4 – Ensure that every member gets to use -- or at least speak into -- a microphone during the trimester.

**Presentations 101, Tuesday, September 16, Noon to 1 p.m. Conf. Room B**

will have a knowledgeable guest artist there to demonstrate the microphones and answer questions.

Hal's Equipment Workshop September 5, 1:15-2:45 p.m., Room 5

will go over the set-up and care of the microphones.

The summer trimester surveys also revealed that most classes were enjoyable (some in spite of difficult circumstances) and that presentations have been improving! Respondents also appreciated the quality of preparation and thoroughness of the reports, staying within the scope of the class, and participation of class members through the discussions.

Let's make our hard work pay off for everyone and bring all of our members into the moment. Microphones, here we come!

**Computer Talks****September 25th - Noon to 1:00 - Conference Room B***Presented by Rick Spillane***Free Software . . . ?**

Free Software! Yes, Free Software for PCs and MACs. Don't pay another penny for commercial software. Microsoft has come out with Windows 8 and Office 2013. Do you really need to buy new software and maybe even a new computer? Tired of paying high prices for software? Want to enhance your presentations and computer competence with "Word," "PowerPoint," "Excel?" Why pay for expensive software when you can get the same thing free?

Come hear a discussion of LibreOffice 3.6, an "open source" version of Microsoft's Office, which does everything Office does plus more and is free. **Rick Spillane** will cover what "open source" software is and why it is both free and legal. We will show how the OpenOffice version of Word and PowerPoint work using actual presentations. If time remains we will briefly discuss how to download and install free versions of Adobe Reader, anti-virus, and firewall software programs, and the best email program out there, Thunderbird. Note the software to be discussed runs on both PCs and MACs.

October 23th - Noon to 1:00 - Conference Room B*Presented by Ruth Hart***Facebook: How to Use It**

If Omniloreans were asked how often they think about Facebook in the course of a day, their responses would probably range from "Too often. . . it's addictive!" to "Seldom or never!"

Whichever end of the spectrum you occupy -- or from any point in between -- you will undoubtedly learn from and enjoy **Ruth Hart's** presentation on this darling of the Internet, Facebook.

This branch of our ubiquitous and oft-quoted social media has given new meaning to familiar words and phrases, including "friend request," "notification" (which differs from "message"), "timeline" and even "like" (as a verb). Facebook content ranges from serious comments on world issues to humorous videos showing the antics of various pets. Undoubtedly, we love our grandchildren; if we also want to be "cool" and "like" them electronically, Facebook provides a great vehicle for that type of interaction with those youthful members of the gadget/device generation.

There will surely be something for everyone when Ruth shines the spotlight on Facebook. Be there. . . or be square!

Meet “Chevalier and Lady Blinder”—Also Known as “Al and Ruth”

by Marion Smith



*Al being congratulated
by Axel Cruau
Consul General of France
Los Angeles*

Have you ever met a Chevalier of France’s Legion of Honor? If you’ve taken **Omniole**’s Shakespeare class in the last few years, you have! Our own Chevalier is Al Blinder, who received this honor from the French Consul General of Los Angeles at his 90th birthday party in August. The letter informing him of his award—composed of medal and certificate -- cited “President Hollande’s high esteem for your merits and accomplishments. In particular, it is a sign of France’s infinite gratitude and appreciation for your personal and precious contribution to the United States’ decisive role in the liberation of our country during World War II.” This tribute, initiated in 1802 by Napoleon, was bestowed on Al as he was honored as a D-Day Veteran at the L.A. Dodgers’ July 2 home game. What a year he’s had!



But let’s back up a few years—seventy-one, to be exact. Nineteen-year-old Al Blinder was drafted into the U.S. Army in March 1943. He traveled by train from his native Appleton, Wisconsin, to South Carolina for basic training. If a draftee passed certain tests, he might be eligible for Army College. Al passed the tests and was then sent by train to Providence College in Rhode Island. He was one of 80,000 troops who were sent to colleges to study engineering, medicine, or law. One year later, however, the program was abruptly cancelled. The 80,000 students

would be used in “different ways”—the Army’s euphemism for infantry fighting. Two days later Al was A. He was now in training to go to Europe, where Scout is the man who goes ahead of the group, frequently receiving serious wounds—or worse. Communications Sergeant, sent to New Jersey, Utah Beach at Normandy on his 20th birthday, journeys to Europe, making it harder for German voy from the New York area to arrive at the main-ships to shallow water.

Following training at Normandy for two months, the Metz, France. The troops were charged with reinforcing push to liberate France and defeat the German Army.



*France’s
Legion of Honor*

When he became the assistant to the Communications Sergeant, Al was promoted to Pfc. Later, Al became Communications Sergeant for his battalion. His job was to maintain the wire that connected the radios of three rifle platoons, one weapons platoon, and his battalion’s headquarters. Many soldiers were wounded, and it was now winter and snowy. The Army provided minimal winter gear, allowing Al to develop frostbite on his feet via his single pair of non-winterized boots. Al was sent to a medical station, then to England for further treatment. In a few days he was on a hospital ship, on his way back to the U.S. and Colorado Springs, where he was eventually discharged. (Al was awarded a Purple Heart, and his feet continue to show ill effects from the frostbite.) While in Colorado Springs, Al played poker every day. One of his poker pals was from L.A., so with the \$500 separation pay he received, Al traveled by Greyhound to L.A. with his pal after his discharge.

Meanwhile, in 1954, young Ruth Goldberg paid a visit to Los Angeles. A native of Milwaukee, Ruth had just graduated from the University of Wisconsin, and her parents had given her the trip as a graduation present. Ruth had an aunt who lived in L.A., and auntie introduced Al and Ruth, figuring two young Wisconsinites in L.A. should meet each other. Ruth was engaged to someone else at the time but. . . . not a problem: Al and Ruth married in Las Vegas two weeks after meeting!



Though she had a degree in social work, Ruth went to work at the May Company on Wilshire Boulevard after they married. Later, while raising their two sons, Ruth learned to drive and



Meet “Chevalier and Lady Blinder”—Also Known as “Al and Ruth” (cont’d)

by Marion Smith

earned a teaching credential at CSU Long Beach. This was a time when a mom would take her children to school with her, and one professor accused Ruth of daydreaming in class, when she was actually keeping an eye out the window on her two boys who were playing outside. (Fortunately, the professor believed her.) After earning her credential, Ruth taught elementary school in Lynwood for several years before moving to LAUSD. Ruth continues to teach, now as an after-school tutor two days a week at Temple Menorah in Redondo Beach.

Al attended USC for one year and then enrolled in a new MBA program that provided a concurrent bachelor’s degree at Pepperdine University. In 1991 he retired from a career selling investments. His retirement hobbies have included roles at the Norris Theatre and playing bridge. And he volunteers on a regular basis at Torrance Memorial Medical Center’s Transitional Care Unit.

Ruth has found herself living in a family of sports nuts, and she has graciously accompanied the men to many sporting events. One day, seven or eight years ago, Ruth read about a Shakespeare class offered by Omnilore. Wow. . . she’d always loved Shakespeare, and she convinced Al to sign up for the class with her. That was it: They take Shakespeare every fall and winter/spring trimester! And they’ve taken a variety of other Omnilore classes during the summer trimesters.

The Blinders are a charming and interesting couple. Treat yourself to viewing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uci1XsPZVLQ>, a five-minute video about Al on the day he was honored by the Dodgers. Have a hankie handy when you watch this.

A final question: If the title “Chevalier” is equivalent to the title “Knight,” doesn’t that make Ruth a Lady? Sounds good: “Chevalier and Lady Blinder.” You in the Shakespeare class: Be sure to provide appropriate homage when addressing the Blinders!

*If it’s up to your correspondent, it does.



Steve Blinder (son), Ruth & Al Blinder, Bob Blinder (son), and Axel Cruau, Los Angeles Consul General of France

Recruiting Coordinators and Co-coordinators

by Marilyn Brashear, Head Coordinator

A word of “THANKS” to all of you who volunteered to be a Coordinator or Co-coordinator for the fall trimester. The classes look exciting, and I am sure all of you will have a rewarding experience.

I hope all of our **Omnilore** members realize that we have some new changes that took effect for the fall trimester. A Coordinator may now choose his/her co-coordinator from the new class lists. If you know someone you like to work with and feel comfortable asking this person to be your co-coordinator, you may do so. If not, I shall be happy to find a co-coordinator for you.

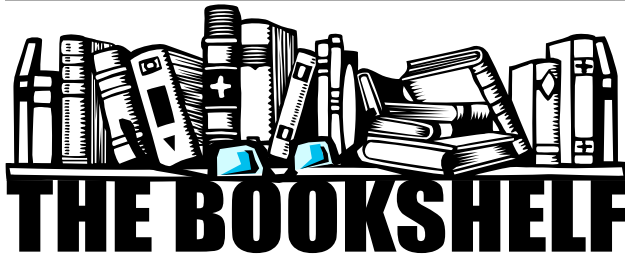
Also, it is possible for two people to share a coordinatorship, and each person will then be a co-coordinator. Sometimes two people plan to take a class together and want to share the responsibilities, and this is the best

way to do it. The choice is yours.

Whatever your decision, my committee and I are happy to work with you to find a Coordinator and Co-coordinator for every class. I only ask that you notify me as soon as possible if you have chosen your own Co-coordinator or if you decide to share the job.

I also want to thank everyone for being cooperative when my committee and I call to ask you to be a willing participant. We work under a lot of pressure because there are usually only two weeks to get the job done. Your kind attitude makes our job a lot easier.

We will be calling again in a couple of months to get ready for the winter/spring trimester. Looking forward to talking to you then. Enjoy this trimester and start thinking about what to take next!



Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant, by **Roz Chast**. If the only graphic book you've read belonged to a grandchild, you are in for a unique experience, with Roz Chast's memoir of her very old parents' final years. Chast's cartoons will be familiar to those who read *The New Yorker*.

The writer chronicles, in her jagged and expressive style, complete with "speech bubbles," the frustration, financial costs, loss and occasional hilarity of advanced old age. One familial theme is the co-dependence (and proud of it!) of her parents, Elizabeth and George, and the author's own longing for maternal love the way Chast wishes it had been expressed.

Some pages that are only words are hand-printed, some are photos of peculiar items found among the detritus of a Brooklyn apartment long lived in. Most are more traditional sequences of cartoon panels that tell of one particular incident, the way it happened. This unusual variety makes reading the book a visual as well as intellectual and emotional pleasure.

How Proust Can Change Your Life, by **Alain de Botton**. This pleasant summer

read reveals many of the insights normally only available to a very careful reader of Marcel Proust's "In Search of Lost Time". Excellent advice on friendship, hardship, love, enjoying life, and much more is revealed with great wit. If this leaves you looking for more, try a new and wonderful translation by Lydia Davis of "Swann's Way."

There Are No Children Here, by **Alex Kotlowitz**. The author is an investigative reporter who has studied the lives of children living in low-cost housing projects of Chicago. He follows one family and especially two young boys in that family. He shows how the boys rely on their mother and each other while growing up. Kotlowitz gives us a view of the sad living conditions in the projects including drugs, crime and gangs. These influences destroy the innocence and hope of the children at a very young age.

You Should Have Known, by **Jean Hanff Korelitz**. The central character of this novel, Grace, is a New York therapist about to publish a book called "You Should Have Known" which encourages women to stop being blind to the glaring flaws in the men in their lives and to move on.

Of course, Grace is not one of these women. She is happily married to a pediatric oncologist, who she describes in loving and idealistic tones. Her most seri-

ous concern in one of privilege: about her teenage son's music lessons. That is, until she learns that the mother of one of her son's classmates has been murdered and Grace's own husband, out of town at an oncology conference, suddenly becomes unreachable. The second half of the novel enumerates details and clues – an accumulation of facts that topples her world of illusions. For this reader, there was suspense, surprise, recognition...and a satisfying ending.

Steve Berry delivers as ever in his latest novel, **The Lincoln Myth**. Filled with secrets, twists and the usual life-threatening situations, this story is also quite an exposé of the Mormon church. The plot is wrapped around a mysterious secret passed from president to president starting with Washington and which Lincoln used to his own end during the Civil War: an important what-if that is hinted at throughout his tale, a secret that even if it were true and came out today would spell the end of our great country. This is a profoundly disturbing read for anyone who loves our Constitution and our country.

Book suggestions from Omnioleans make this column work. Thanks to Margery Norris, Dan Stern and Edith Garvey for contributing to this month's list. Please send your titles, with author's name and a brief description, to Johan (johansmith@ca.rr.com). Please put "Omniole Books" as the subject of your email. We look forward to hearing from you.

OMNIOLORE Annual Luncheon Reservation Form

WHEN: **Friday, October 31st, 2014—11:00 a.m.**

WHERE: **Los Verdes Country Club
7000 W. Los Verdes Drive
Rancho Palos Verdes**

**NO Reservations
accepted after October 21st!**

Please make _____ reservations for the **Omniole** Annual Meeting & Luncheon at **\$22.00** each:

Name(s): _____
(Please Print)

(Please Print)

Phone #: _____

Enclosed is a check for: **\$22.00 each**

I want a vegetarian plate.

Total number of meals:

Please make checks out to **CSUDH**, and put in the Forum Committee's box in Room 7 or send to:

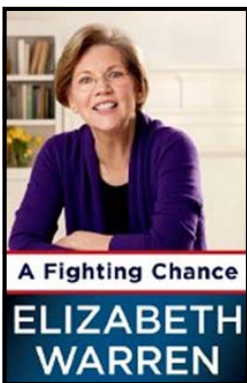
Registrar, JoAnna Kerrigan
13 Coach Road
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-5202

September		1 Labor Day	<p style="text-align: center;">OMNILORE CALENDAR 2014</p> 
	5	Equipment Training—1:15-2:45 p.m., Room 5 Best Sellers Book Group—Canceled for September	
	11	Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-2 p.m., Conf. Rm. B	
	16	Presentations 101—10 a.m.-12 Noon-1 p.m., Conf. Rm. B	
	19	Hiking Group—10 a.m.-12 Noon	
	23	First Day of Fall	
	24 Rosh Hashanah		
	25	Computer Talk—12 Noon - 1 p.m., Conf. Rm. B Free Software . . . ?—Rick Spillane (see article page 8)	
October		3 Yom Kippur	
	9	Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon-2 p.m., Conf. Rm. B	
	13 Columbus Day		
	13	Best Sellers Book Group—11 a.m.-12.30 p.m., Conf. Rm. B	
	15	Input Deadline for November-December 2014 Newsletter	
	17	Hiking Group—10 a.m.-12 Noon	
	20	Introducing Omnimore Meeting—10 a.m.-12 Noon, Conf. Rm. B	
	23	Computer Talk—12 Noon - 1 p.m., Conf. Rm. B Facebook: How to Use It—Ruth Hart (see article page 8)	
	31 Halloween / Annual Forum General Meeting/Luncheon	Doors Open 11 a.m., Los Verdes Country Club (see article, page 1; reservation form, page 11)	
November		21 Introducing Omnimore Meeting—10 a.m.-12 Noon, Conf. Rm. B	
2014 Forums		IMPORTANT:	
Winter—January 30th		<p style="text-align: center;">Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with Lynn Taber (310) 831-4768—johnlynntaber@gmail.com</p>	
Spring—April 30th			
Summer—July 31st			
Annual Mtg.—October 31st			

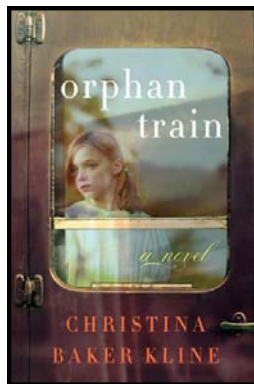
Best Sellers SIG Looks Forward to Fall Selections

by Patricia Edie & Cindy Eggert

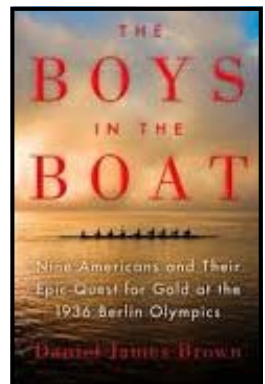
Omnimore’s Best-Sellers Special Interest Group is taking a “time out” for the month of September while the facilitators (**Patricia Edie** and **Cindy Eggert**) indulge in a bit of travel. But, upon their return, the group will resume its stimulating discussions of fiction and non-fiction books, at 11 am on the second Monday of the month in Conf. Room B of the Edison Center. Selections for these future gatherings are:



October 13: Non-Fiction
A Fighting Chance
by Elizabeth Warren



December 8: Non-Fiction
The Boys in the Boat
by Daniel James Brown



November 10: Fiction
Orphan Train
by Christina Baker Kline

**As with any SIG, you need not register to participate. . .just show up on the date, prepared to join in.
Guests are always welcome.**