



# OMNILORE NEWS

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## OMNILORE NEWS

A publication of OMNILORE, a Learning in Retirement Organization affiliated with The Division of Extended & International Education of California State University Dominguez Hills

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

Editor	Mary Oran
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The cover of the July 8, 2005 issue of Newsweek was stark. The words, "The Scary New World of Identity Theft; 40 Million Hacked Credit Cards: Are You a Victim? How to Protect Yourself," were printed around a face covered by a black and white striped hooded mask, from which peered really threatening eyes. It made me nervous.

This week, I received in the mail an invitation to join, for \$9.95 per month, Identity Monitor which would "begin guarding [my] good name and protecting [my] hard earned credit rating . . . and [provide] assistance if [I] ever become a victim of identity theft." Now, I was getting scared.

As I contemplated shredding every piece of identification I own that isn't nailed down, I was informed that **Sergeant Dana J. McCants** of the Lomita Sheriff's station, an officer with 21 years experience in the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, and an expert on the subject of Forgery/Fraud/Identity Theft, will be the speaker at *Omnilore's* January Forum Meeting! I'm saved!



Sgt. Dana J. McCants

As one of the originators of a curriculum on Identity Theft taught by the State of California, and as a regular speaker on this crime, Sergeant McCants is extremely knowledgeable. And as a detective with much of his service related to this subject, his knowledge is based on actual experience. Sergeant McCants calls his style of presentation "interactive learning." This is sure to guarantee our enjoyment as well as our interest in what should be a practical, informative, and even stress-reducing Forum.

For this first *Omnilore* (bf) Event of 2006, we are happily returning to the ever-popular, ever-accommodating Los Verdes Country Club on Tuesday, January 31st at 11:30 am. You can make a reservation by filling out the form on page 9 of this newsletter, or will for a detailed flyer which will be coming shortly via regular mail. Don't wait too long though. You don't want to miss it.



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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

by *Richard Johnson*

We were honored that **Dean Margaret Gordon** addressed our Board at the November Meeting. For those of you not familiar with our relationship with CSUDH, a little historical perspective combined with the Dean's comments might be interesting. *Omnilore* started in 1990, initially meeting in members' houses, then in Library meeting rooms and in a local S & L board room; for our organization to grow it was apparent that we needed to associate with a local college or university.

Margaret Gordon, CSUDH Dean of Extended Education & International Education was approached about a cooperative relationship. The result was that CSUDH then (and continuously for the last 13 years) supplied us with South Bay classrooms and *Omnilore* became part of the University. Our dues and other incidental income go to our university account and (as every Learning-in-Retirement organization that is associated with a UC or CSU) we are charged a small percentage of our income to pay expenses for handling these financial transactions.

During the *Omnilore* Board Meeting Dean Gordon explained how they have

expanded their Learning-in-Retirement Program, which once consisted only of *Omnilore*, into the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. This Institute is to be composed of four other activities along with *Omnilore*. These are:

1. The Osher Lecture Series which are also part of the *Omnilore* program, but which will be extended to others in the community,
2. OLLInet which is a new program to be started soon to help seniors use computers,
3. O-Pods which are learning groups in senior centers and retirement homes to engage residents in OLLIonline.
4. CSUDH's most ambitious program, OLLIonline, which consists of courses in which participants watch live television broadcasts every Wednesday for 14 weeks, phone in questions during broadcasts, participate in quiz shows, view a content-rich website about each broadcast, and enjoy on-line chats and discussions with others. Anyone wanting further information on this program can call (310) 243-3782.

Dean Gordon is looking for a partner organization or corporation to contribute financially to help support this activity of bringing a learning opportunity



to those who are no longer able to visit a classroom. If anyone has an entrée to such an organization or corporation, please call **Jim Bouchard** at CSUDH (310) 243-3729 to discuss the situation with him directly.

Another interesting development at the Board Meeting was the creation of three new offices under the Vice President of Administration:

**Pat Stevens** has agreed to be in charge of our Calendar, keeping track of class schedules, changes in class schedules, and room reservations. **Thank you Pat!**

**Robert Beach** has agreed to be in charge of equipment and facilities, doing equipment reservations and handling equipment and facility problems. **Thank you Robert!**

**Jeanne Carrier** has agreed to be in charge of office and kitchen supplies as well as key assignments and returns. **Thank you Jeanne!**

**Here's wishing everyone a Happy New Year!**



**Colorful Canada in Autumn**

by *Emil Raulin*



The travel group is currently making final plans for a motor coach tour of beautiful British Columbia and the Canadian Rockies. The 15 day trip is being planned for September 7, 2006 and the cost will be approximately \$2,900. Included will be visits to Vancouver and Victoria along with a ferry ride through the inland passage with visits to attractions and points of interest as we travel to Jasper and Banff. Canada has a rich history that many of us are not attuned to; this trip will enrich our

knowledge and appreciation of the "land above." This promises to be a beautiful excursion as the leaves will be turning as we travel.

We currently have 10 people who are planning to take the trip and we need a minimum of 20. If you and/or someone you know would like to travel with a group of interesting (make that "fascinating"! ) people, please contact **Emil Raulin** 316-5750 or **John Taber** 831-4768 soon so that you may be assured a place. Also, if you would like more information about the itinerary, contact the gentlemen named above. Below (from the left): Victoria at night, North Vancouver, and a typical autumn scene from the Canadian Rockies.



## OMNIOLORE PROFILE – DICK JOHNSON

by Merle Culbert

In the new year, we are introducing our new *Omnio* President, Dick Johnson. Answers to my questions reveal that we have another human dynamo, following aptly in Patricia Edie's footsteps.

Dick was born in New York City and raised in Rockville Center, Long Island. The family moved to Philadelphia in Dick's junior year in high school. He attended and graduated from William Penn Charter School in 1953.

Cornell University was his next stop. Are you ready for this – he graduated with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree plus a Bachelor's degree in Economics with a minor in Government! After graduating from Cornell he worked in Marketing for Westinghouse and for two different Manufacturer's Representatives. He

became Vice President of Marketing for a startup company named KMC Semiconductor Corporation. He worked at building up KMC for five years. At the end of that time it was sold. Hughes, for which he worked next, moved him and his family to Palos Verdes. He was marketing manager of the Hughes Microwave division in Torrance until 1989 when he took early retirement.

During his tenure at Hughes he got his real estate license (in 1979) and became a real estate broker. Early retirement allowed him to become a full time real estate broker and gave him time to manage his ten-unit apartment building. During his busy career he had a busy social life, that continues to this time. His wife of forty-three years, Dale, who is also a Cornell graduate, joins him in a myriad of activities. They are members

of the Jack Kramer Tennis Club and play duplicate bridge regularly. They gave up their membership (1991 – 2003) in the Rolling Hills Country Club after, as Dick puts it, "...the game of golf defeated me." Their family includes a son who lives in Manhattan Beach with a wife and three children and a daughter who lives in Puerto Rico. And, we cannot forget Tigger, their nine-year-old cat.

Dale and Dick are avid world travelers. Last May they spent two weeks driving around Spain and recently spent a week in New York City. New Year's Eve will see them on a bridge cruise in the Caribbean. Dick's parting statement, "It will be very difficult following presidents as dedicated as Patricia Edie and George Clark. I hope I can continue to make *Omnio* such a satisfying experience to its members."



### Kudos To The Coordinators!

We all want to thank and give credit for the achievement of coordinating classes for the fall trimester to Daniel Blatt, Margaret Thelen, Cecilia Graham, Jean Levanas, George Clark, Dick Johnson, Dick Croft, Gordon Reiter, Jim O'Neill, Mary O'Neill, Marvel Burke, Harold Simmons, Nancy Sorrenti, Jean De Angelis, Alfred Bernstein, Bob Bacinski, Gloria Rice, Betty Lefritz, Marilyn Landau, CJ Wilson, Laura Guneau, Edith Van Bellehem, Ruth Hart, Emil Raulin, James Sweeney, Hal Fenton, Jeanne Carrier, Joe Carrier, Jay Edie, Roberta Moore, Richard Wallace, John and Lynn Edwards Taber.

It takes time and dedication and Mary Jo Little, Joe Carrier and Dottie Fahrney thank you for saying "yes."



# The Sounding Board Echo Echo Echo

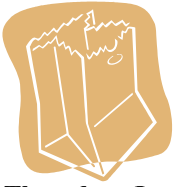
by the website Working Group



To begin the new year, we have two more sounding board areas up and running! **Lindie Banks** is moderating the Arts, Culture, and Entertainment board. At this site one can share ideas, opinions and information on all aspects of the arts. One has the opportunity to post reactions to plays, musical events, exhibitions and movies. Upcoming events can be announced here. The opportunities for discussion are endless. Want to talk about Picasso? Or find someone to attend an opera with you? Perhaps you saw a play that everyone is raving about, but you just "didn't get." Or saw a movie that was so fantastic you want to share it. Here is the place to communicate!

The Science sounding board, moderated by **George Clark**, is an informal forum for discussing interesting new developments in science and for pooling our knowledge in scientific areas. One can post scientific questions for others to answer or comment upon, suggest new *Omnio* courses, offer further discussion on Brown Bag Science topics and propose topics for future sessions. And to add a little fun, science trivia, limericks and puns are also welcome!

Whichever hat you want to put on - Einstein's, Seurat's, Coltrane's or Ebert's - we have the place for you! Check out these sounding boards at [www.omnio.org](http://www.omnio.org). If you haven't already registered, do so (it's a one-time only process); then just log in and enjoy.

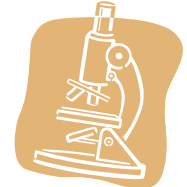


**Room 7**  
**12:15 to 1:15 PM**

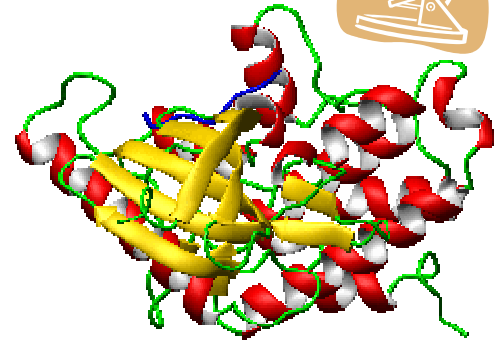
**Brown Bag Science**  
**(Science for the Non-Scientist)**

by George Clark

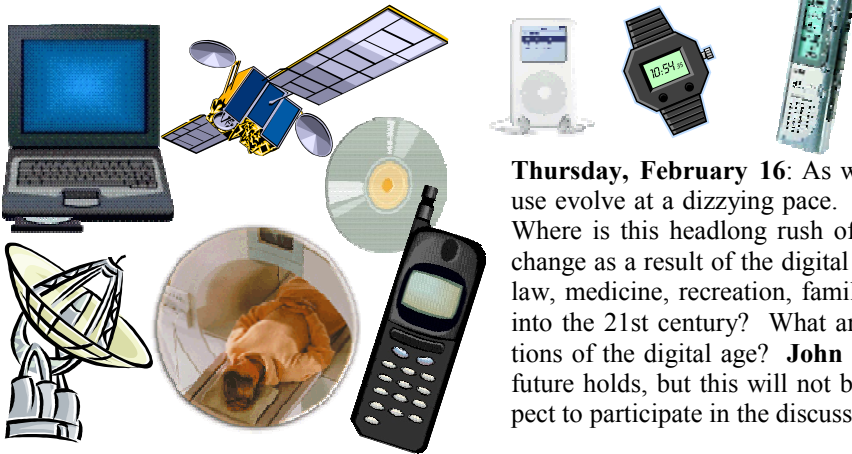
Bring Your Lunch - If You Like!



**Thursday, Jan. 19:** Brown Bag Science will explore a different branch of science: neurobiology. We know that proteins, which do a myriad of functions in the body, from carrying oxygen in the blood to allowing our muscles to contract, are complex organic molecules. The genes carry instructions for manufacturing long strings of amino acids, which then fold up in certain ways to make proteins. The shape of the folded protein is crucial; it must be correct for the molecule to do its job. Sometimes the strings of amino acids fold incorrectly, giving them the wrong shape. Not only do these defective proteins fail to do their job, they can poison the good proteins around them. The result is Alzheimer's, Mad Cow Disease, Cystic Fibrosis, etc. On January 19, **Dr. Teresa Palos**, biology professor at El Camino College, will tell us about protein folding disorders and their effects.



*No, this is not confetti! It's a 3-D "picture" of a protein biomolecule derived from electron microscope studies and integrated relational databases used to "view" the structure, property and function of various biomolecules; this particular one is called Phosphorylase Kinase and deals with how calcium interfaces with and controls this particular protein.*



**Thursday, February 16:** As we head into the digital age, the toys and tools we use evolve at a dizzying pace. They become obsolete long before they wear out. Where is this headlong rush of new technology taking us? How will our lives change as a result of the digital revolution we see around us? How will business, law, medicine, recreation, family life, and even sexuality, change as we advance into the 21st century? What are the strange and sometimes frightening implications of the digital age? **John Stevens** will share his speculation about what the future holds, but this will not be the usual kind of Brown Bag Science talk. Expect to participate in the discussion.

We are planning on *Illuminations* returning in the next newsletter. We had hoped that some people among the more than 200 plus members would volunteer to share their interests, thoughts, ideas, research..., but no one came forth. Please don't be shy. Let the editor know by contacting her at [msoran@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msoran@sbcglobal.net) We would like this publication to offer articles of interest, and we are dependent on our members for contributions. Please consider being a guest writer!



In the case of good books, the point is not how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you.  
*Mortimer J. Adler*  
Philosopher, Educator and Author (1902-2001)



**Checking Out The Links**

by Blanche Herring



If you've been logging onto (or is it 'into'?; or is it on to/in to??) the *Omniole* website, you already know it holds a wealth of valuable information. One section in the Members Only area offers a number of links to aid in research, both for presentations and for our own special interests.

The art dictionary known as ArtLex is one of these terrific research tools. In it you'll find extensive descriptions of art terms, images and rich examples of artists' works through the ages. Everything from Abacus to Zoopraxiscope! There are also more than 50,000 links to other pertinent sites. ArtLex, which combines the words 'art' and 'lexicon', has a glossary of 3,600 articles describing art works, quotations and other relevant information. This site also includes an extensive bibliography.

This link is constantly being expanded, updated and kept current by its originator, an art teacher with a Master of Fine Arts degree, who is currently working toward a PhD which concentrates on Art Education. So check out this fascinating art dictionary. Just go to [www.omniole.org](http://www.omniole.org), sign into the Members Only section with the user name and password, click on Research Tools and there you will find this art dictionary, another great resource for your research pleasure.



## A Curricular Mystery

by Rick Spillane

Every four months come sun, clouds, or even a little rain (this is LA, not NY) a letter shows up listing the courses for the next trimester. Ever wonder where they came from? I did during my first year in *Omnilore*. On asking around I got 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 new blessed curriculum came forth.

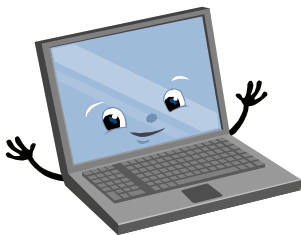
Feeling like Mulder in an episode of the “X Files,” I started asking around and trying to find someone who had actually been involved and knew the names of the secret group. Those who follow conspiracy theories know what happens next. I got co-opted into becoming a member. It was either that or a one 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 are normal appearing (aren't they always?) *Omnilore* 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. Initially we start with member suggestions, courses that almost made it the last time, courses from other learning-in-retirement groups that could be modified for *Omnilore*, and courses that occurred to the group on the way to the meeting. This first meeting is open to all possibilities which means we start with approximately 100 courses.

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. 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 – 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.

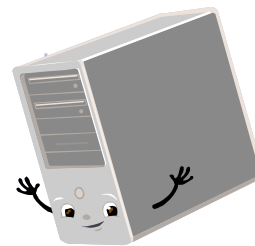
Given that the full moon is rising and I hear creaking boards approaching my room, I better end by giving the members' names. They are .....

**Editors Note:** *The article submitted ends at this point and we are still searching for the author. Please contact the Curriculum chairman if you can find him for any additional information or to volunteer (if you dare) for this dangerous assignment.*



## Computer Talk

by Carol Johnson



"Other". This will touch on e-mail attachments (the subject of an earlier Computer Talk), also floppies, and downloading various file types from web sites, including [www.Omnilore.Org](http://www.Omnilore.Org). We will also have some cautions about virus-checking and about compatibility of different versions of Windows and other software. Come to room 7 at noon on February 23 to learn about transporting data between PCs. If you have data transport problems or questions, do bring them or let **Carol Johnson** know beforehand.

### Using Omnilore's Laptop PC

*Omnilore's* laptop is available for anyone to use to enhance presentations in study/discussion groups and other meetings. On January 26, **Tom Vincent**, our Laptop Administrator, will describe how. Tom will talk about how to reserve it and arrange for setting it up with a multimedia projector. Data to show might include "slides" with a presentation outline and drawings or pictures. Data files can be brought to the classroom by various means, such as on a CD (see February's Computer Talk on that). Material to show could be developed in an application as simple as Notepad or as powerful as PowerPoint. Come to room 7 at noon on January 26 to learn about using this valuable resource.

### Transporting Data

*Omniloreans* have many reasons to transport data. One is to bring files to show on the *Omnilore* laptop. Another is to share schedules, presentation outlines and discussion questions with study/discussion group members. Another is to download files from the Internet.

At the February 23 Computer Talk, a panel will discuss the subject of Transporting Data. **Pat Stevens** will talk about writing CDs. **Bob Saunders'** subject is writing thumb drives which are also called flash disks. **Carol Johnson's** topic is

#### LIVE LIFE

by E-Mail Poet

Be calm, quiet, and tranquil,  
 But bloom as often as you can,  
 Stay close to family,  
 Explore the world around you,  
 Enjoy the relaxing rhythm of waves,  
 Watch the moon rise,  
 Spread your wings and take off on your own,  
 Enjoy the comfort of coming home again,  
 Life is short.



**Jim Bouchard**  
of my childhood – and why I moved to sunny Southern California when the opportunity arose!

## ***American Film, Television, and Culture of the 1950s*** **Series a Success!**

by **Jim Bouchard**  
Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
College of Extended and International Education, CSUDH



The fall semester is winding down, and I'm getting ready for the holiday break. This is time the of year that I get on the plane headed for Hartford, CT and ask myself – "Why am I going five hours in the wrong direction? I should be heading for Hawaii!" But there is nothing like the snow and chilly weather to remind me

Having just finished a semester of *American Film, Television, and Culture of the 1950s* for both **Omniole** (6 presentations) and OLLIonline (13 broadcasts), I have a different perspective of the decade that I was born in. I didn't realize that the *Twilight Zone* episodes Professor Edd Whetmore showed had been vehicles for political and social statements. Professor Bill DeLuca's *A Street Car Named Desire* presentation was so interesting that I rented the video (I realized that I had never actually seen the movie – I had only seen the famous clips!). And Michael Berlin pointed out the vast impact that television had on the movie industry and on our culture in general. The 1950s was the time of movies in Cinerama and 3-D in an unsuccessful attempt to keep the number of movie-goers from dwindling. But in the end, as we know, the newsreels were replaced by network news, and the television became a fixture in our homes.

Today we are facing another transformation due to technology. Debates have been going on among Hollywood directors and producers about whether DVDs should be released at the same time as movies are released in theaters. Some are concerned that this change, coupled with high definition television screens for home, will be the demise of movie theaters. And I really know that television is changing because an **Omniole**an asked me this semester when our OLLIonline broadcasts would be available to download to his IPOD!

Next semester our series for both **Omniole** and OLLIonline presentation will be *The Law and Criminal Investigation in Television, Film, and Literature*.

Some of the topics will include:

*The Insanity Defense in Criminal Justice Matters; Wrongful Arrest and Conviction: When the Law Makes a Mistake; Search and Seizure, Confiscation and Evidence: What C.S.I. Doesn't Tell You; Restorative Justice and the Death Penalty*, and much more. Please join us for another learning adventure when our lectures on campus start on February 15.

**I hope everyone's holidays were happy, and I wish you the best in the New Year!**



The Elizabethan Stage (above) at which we'll be viewing *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Two Gentlemen from Verona*; downtown Ashland (upper right); the Stratford Inn, at which we will be staying (right); the Angus Bowmer Theatre, outside and stage, at which we'll be viewing *The Winter's Tale* (below).



## **Ashland Shakespeare Festival**

by Marilyn Landau

Join fellow **Omniole**ans as they enjoy Shakespeare at its best. Planning for our trip to the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon is done. All we need is your deposit to hold your place on our four-night trip starting Monday, June 19, 2006.

Our venue includes: *The Winter's Tale*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Two Gentlemen from Verona*. We will book these plays, double-occupancy lodging at the Stratford Inn, continental breakfast each morning, a welcome dinner and a backstage tour for \$595 per person with a \$250 single supplement. Options include other non-Shakespearean plays, a wine tour, and/or theater seating upgrade. The lovely town of Ashland with its many shops, art galleries and restaurants is free for all to enjoy.

Transportation has not been included to allow enroute flexibility. Some people will drive. Others will take the train and still others may fly. We can provide information to permit easy booking.

If you desire to join us please send a check for \$25 per person to **Marilyn Landau** at 28538 Vista Madera, Rancho Palos Verdes, 90275 by January 10, 2006 to hold your place. If you have questions call Marilyn at (310) 514-3535.

## Thank You—Incoming & Outgoing Leaders!

by Dick Johnson

The following people have volunteered their time and expertise to keep our *Omniole* organization running. We would like to thank the people who have been on the Board of Directors, serving as officers and chairing committees. Each of them deserves a big thank you; when you see or meet them in a study/discussion group, let them know that you appreciate them!



### Outgoing Officers/Chairs

George Clark, Past President  
 Jay Edie, VP Academics  
 Patricia Edie, President  
 Dorothy Fahrney, Head Coordinator  
 Edith Garvey, Membership Chairman  
 Bob Grove, Registrar  
 Carol Johnson, VP Administration  
 JoAnna Kerrigan, Recording Secretary  
 Mary Jo Little, Member-at-Large



## Welcome, Continuing Leaders!

A round of applause and encouragement also goes to the following people, who have agreed to serve another year, some in different capacities:

Diana Cutler, Forum Chairman  
 Patricia Edie, Past President  
 Edith Garvey, Membership Liaison  
 Carol Johnson, Office Manager  
 Mary Oran, Communications Chairman  
 Myron Pullen, Webmaster  
 Bob Saunders, Archivist  
 Rick Spillane, Curriculum Chairman  
 Grace Tanaka, Member-at-Large  
 Tom Vincent, Treasurer

### Incoming Officers/Chairs

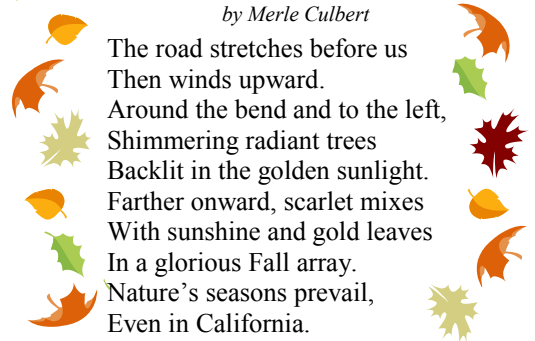
Janet Brown, Member-at-Large  
 Joe Carrier, VP Administration  
 Merle Culbert, VP Academics  
 Kathleen Fitzgerald, Membership Chair  
 Laura Guneau, Head Coordinator  
 Jim Jetton, Co-Registrar  
 Dick Johnson, President  
 Dorothy Riley, Recording Secretary  
 Gemma Scharfenberger, Member-at-Large  
 Roy Schubert, Co-Registrar



## The Road to the Ranch in November

by Merle Culbert

The road stretches before us  
 Then winds upward.  
 Around the bend and to the left,  
 Shimmering radiant trees  
 Backlit in the golden sunlight.  
 Farther onward, scarlet mixes  
 With sunshine and gold leaves  
 In a glorious Fall array.  
 Nature's seasons prevail,  
 Even in California.



## A Walk in San Pedro

by Blanche Herring

On December 2, a group of *Omniole*ans enjoyed an outing to San Pedro. The evening began with a ride on the Big Red Car, which runs on San Pedro's recently installed trolley line. These trolleys are exact replicas of the "Red Cars" which served the Los Angeles area for sixty years. We boarded the trolley at the north end, just outside the World Cruise Center. During the 1.5 mile ride which passes the Ports of Call Village and concludes at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, we heard a brief but entertaining history of San Pedro by the conductor, a history buff and lifelong San Pedro resident. Although the ride was a short one, it provided us with a great glimpse of the harbor area.

We left the trolley line and walked to dinner. The restaurant was beautifully decorated for the holidays . . . trees, ornaments and lights everywhere. During dinner we all had a chance to enjoy old and new friends, to socialize outside the classroom . . . one more way to enhance our *Omniole* experience.

From the restaurant we walked San Pedro's new promenade back to our cars. This walkway begins just north of the Los Angeles Maritime Museum. There are handsomely designed inscriptions in wave-like patterns interspersed along the walkway depicting the history of San Pedro, its harbor, industry and inhabitants. Stately palm trees flank the promenade. These were beautifully lit with strands of circling lights. Ahead of us was the Vincent Thomas Bridge with its blue lights also ablaze.

Our walk in San Pedro made for a great beginning to the holiday season. Thanks to John and Lynn Taber for arranging such a festive experience!



### Volunteer!!!

Too few *Omniole* members are having to do too many things. We need every member to volunteer to help out in some capacity. Please share in the many tasks that keep our great organization running. If someone calls and asks, say YES!

### Sounding Board

Join in the discussion! Enter the Members Only area and click on "Sounding Board." Log in and you can see many interesting threads (discussion topics) that you can explore. It's like being in an S/DG but in the comfort of your own home!

For information about the Hiking Group, contact Nancy Sinclair at [NancySincl@aol.com](mailto:NancySincl@aol.com) or John Taber at [JETaber@lafn.org](mailto:JETaber@lafn.org)

### The Results Are In . . .

Have you wondered what happened to all that data we requested in our two surveys last October? It is now available for viewing by all members on the *Omniole*.Org website. Click on Members Only, type in the ID and password you were given in your membership package, then "Operational Files," then "Surveys." You will see we have a rich "mother-lode" of experience and talent in our membership. You might even find someone who shares your love of classical music. Check it out! If you have any difficulty accessing the information, contact webmaster, Myron Pullen

### Did You Notice . . .

Have you filled out the Participation Form from the membership packet? It was in the white envelope with all of the other materials. You can bring it to your next S/DG and turn it in. We are dependent on everyone participating to keep our organization running smoothly.

### Check It Out!

Our wonderful Webmaster adds/changes/improves our website every month. Have you checked it out recently? [www.Omniole.Org](http://www.Omniole.Org)—it's the place to be!

### A Password Reminder

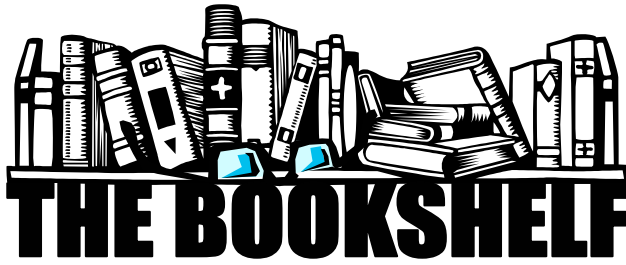
Remember— You now need to type in our new password in order to have access to the Members Only section on our *Omniole* website. The password was given to you in the just released Membership Packet. If you need help with the password, contact a member of the website working group (George Clark, Jay and Patricia Edie, Blanche Herring, Mary Oran, Myron Pullen).

### Newsletter in Color!

Remember— You can sign up to have the newsletter sent directly to your e-mail address in living color. You can also continue to receive it by mail at the same time, or you can choose to eliminate the paper version.

Contact Johan at [johansmith@comcast.net](mailto:johansmith@comcast.net) if you would like e-mail delivery. You even get it faster that way!





# THE BOOKSHELF

by Mary Oran

Happy New Year! We hope that you made a resolution not only to read some good books this year, but also to send us your favorite titles so we can share the wealth! We have such varied interests in our group, and consequently welcome your suggestions. *We know that most of you reading this article have been reading good books for years; please give us some input!* How about some science fiction? Poetry? History? Music? Fantasy? Science? Biography? We hear you talking about them; share them with us!

This month we will start with the nonfiction recommendations. Some of these titles were the core books for *Omniole* courses. They were so well-received, however, that they have been recommended for our "general populace." *Guns, Germs, and Steel* was written by **Jared Diamond**, a biologist who reviews human history on every continent since the Ice Age. He concludes that the differences in peoples' environments had the strongest influence on people and their history. Modern day civilization is determined by its geography. This is a long but fascinating study of human history.

**Dinesh D'Sousa's** *What's Great About America* offers a look at America from the viewpoint of a foreigner who can compare this country to others. It is not tied to any particular timeframe and is independent of current political controversies. If you are weary of all of the America-bashing, this book offers a refresher course on what's right and good about the country we live in.

*West With the Night*, a memoir of **Beryl Markham**, was originally published in 1942. Markham's father took her to Africa when she was still quite young. Her childhood was among African natives and wild animals. Her father was involved in horses-

breeding, racing, etc. Markham's unusual life didn't end when she turned 18. She became a horse trainer and then ultimately found her real love - flying. Her description of being a woman flying solo in Africa through the dark of night is compelling. Hers was no ordinary life, and even Hemingway offered high praise for this publication.

A recent best seller heads the list of fiction offerings this month. *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by **Lisa See** is set in 19<sup>th</sup> century China. It is the story of a special female friendship that was established between two girls and lasted their entire lives. As young girls, they had their feet bound, and then lived their lives in seclusion in the "women's chamber." In a remote Hunan province, women developed a secret code of writing called "nu shu" and they embroidered the code on handkerchiefs and painted them on fans to communicate with each other from their seclusion. Besides being a story that reveals the reality of life for females in China, it also reveals a love story between Snow Flower and Lily.

If you're ready to stay home, stay warm and read a good mystery, **Peter Tremayne's** series may be what you want. There are many books in the series; they take place in ancient Ireland - mid 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D., and feature Sister Fidelma, who is not only a religieuse, but also a qualified dalaigh, or advocate of the ancient law courts of Ireland. The author is a well-respected authority on the ancient Celts. The result is a series that is rich in historical material, Irish myths and law. These mysteries are more challenging than most;

the plots are "wonderfully designed" and require the reader to be as sharp as Sister Fidelma! The first title in the series is *Ab-solution By Murder*.

**Calvin Trillin** is known for his unique view of the world as well as his wit. *Tepper Isn't Going Out* is his entertaining novel about the quest for open parking spaces in New York City, as seen through the eyes of Murray Tepper. Tepper spends his days plugging meters, sitting in his car reading newspapers. Waves of people come along waiting for the space, but he doesn't move. The media gets hold of the story and he becomes a sort of cult hero. People line up to sit in his car and talk to him. The NY mayor becomes incensed. This is a quietly humorous and entertaining tale.

**Willa Cather's** *Death Comes to the Archbishop* is an American classic, published in 1927. It is based on two real life French-Catholic priests who were sent to the American Southwest in 1851. The Bishop and his vicar are the focal points for the events that occur, but the real protagonist may be the New Mexico landscape, so vividly described and depicted. As in her wonderful immigrant tale, *My Antonia*, Cather conveys the hardships people endured, and the inner strengths that helped them survive. *Death Comes to the Archbishop* is an ideal book to settle down with on a winter evening.

(Thank you to Jay and Patricia Edie for contributing to this list. Please send your titles, with author name and a brief description, to [msoran@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msoran@sbcglobal.net). Put "Omniole books" as the subject. Or, drop your suggestions in the Communication Chair mailbox in Room 7. We look forward to hearing from you!)

## OMNIOLORE Forum Luncheon Reservation Form

WHEN: **Tuesday**, January 31st, 2006 – 11:30 a.m.

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

Reservations are required by Jan. 24th, please!

Please make \_\_\_ reservations for the **Omniole** Luncheon Forum at **\$17.50** each:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Enclosed is a check for:  **\$17.50**  Other

Please make checks out to **CSUDH**, Forum Committee, c/o Diana Cutler  
and put in the Forum Committee's 10 Middleridge Lane S.  
box or send to: Rolling Hills, CA 90274

### Omniole Limerick

By Edith Garvey

There was a nice guy, 64  
Who retired and became quite a bore.  
He saw a brochure  
And chortled, "I'm sure  
I'm going to join Omniole."

<b>January</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>
	9	Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
	10	Membership Committee - 12 Noon - Room 8
	12	Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7
	<b>16</b>	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>
	19	Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. - Room 7 - <i>Protein Folding Disorders and Their Effects</i> Dr. Teresa Palos (see article, page 4)
	20	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
	23	Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
	26	Computer Talks - 12 Noon to 1 p.m. - Room 7 <i>Using Omnilore's Laptop</i> - Tom Vincent (see article, page 5)
	31	Winter Forum - 11:30 a.m. - Los Verdes Country Club
	<b>February</b>	9
13		Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8
14		Membership Committee - 12 Noon - Room 8
<b>14</b>		<b>St. Valentine's Day</b>
15		Input Deadline for March-April Newsletter
16		Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. - Room 7 - <i>The Digital Revolution &amp; the 21st Century</i> - John Stevens (see article, page 4)
17		Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
<b>20</b>		<b>Presidents Day</b>
23	Computer Talks - 12 noon to 1 p.m. - Room 7 <i>Transporting Data</i> - Pat Stevens, Bob Saunders, Carol Johnson (see article, page 5)	
27	Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8	

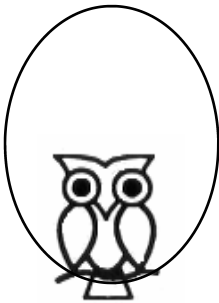
OMNIOLORE  
CALENDAR  
2006

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day



**IMPORTANT:**

Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with  
Pat Stevens - (310) 548-3253 - mh\_pt\_stevens@peoplepc.com



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