



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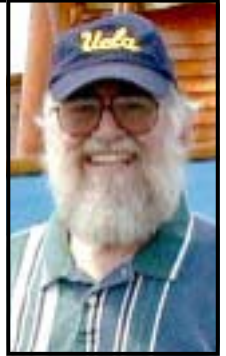
Omnilore News is published six times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Please contact the editor with your contributions.

Co-Editors	Diana Cutler JoAnna Kerrigan
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“LET’S PLAY JEOPARDY!”

by Carol Kerster

The category is:
OMNILORE FORUM GUEST SPEAKERS



Bob Bragonier

The Answer: He had an extensive career as outstanding teacher, and full time academic practitioner in obstetrics and gynecology at UCLA School of Medicine, LA County/Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, and CIGNA Healthplans of California. Through various county, state and federal programs, which he either directed or chaired, his focus was largely on public health and psycho-social issues of women's health, which covered problems from perinatal services, and all aspects of family planning, to human sexuality.

He is a passionate teacher, practitioner, collector, writer, reviewer; as of the last six months, he's been a blogger, writing on the interface of jazz and classical music for the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

If you are among the fortunate Omniloreans who have taken his study/discussion group on Jazz, you've probably figured out that The Question is: Who is DR J. ROBERT BRAGONIER, M.D., Ph.D? And as you can tell from the "category," he is our guest speaker at the upcoming July Forum Luncheon.

Dr. Bragonier identifies Jazz as the only art form created by Americans. He'll talk to us about how it has grown and developed over the past 100 years because of a handful of musical geniuses, and how it encompasses many kinds of music. Not least, he will demonstrate how the lives of so many have been enhanced and enriched by one kind or another of this unique art form. With his incredibly vast knowledge of Jazz, and with his approximate 6,000 piece collection of jazz and classical music, we shall definitely become members of that lucky group.

You can reserve your place for this outstanding program by using the form on page 5 of this Newsletter, or by using the JAZZY flyer that will come by regular mail in due time. So stay IN TUNE with the whole ENSEMBLE as you enjoy a delectable luncheon on July 31st at our special summer (also, winter, spring and fall) watering hole, The Los Verdes Country Club.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Rick Spillane

I recently attended a meeting of “Osher Lifelong Learning Institute” (OLLI) member representatives. They were from local universities trying to attract intellectually curious seniors to their “Learning in Retirement” programs. California State University at Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) is a member with their three prong program: **Omniole**; the lecture series at CSUDH; and their OLLI on-line TV programming available on some cable systems and also on the internet.

It was informative to hear what programs CSU Fullerton and UC Irvine, and other universities were offering. All the programs were developed and presented by a lecturer; very much like standard college courses we have all taken. Since lecturers were usually retired college professors the course quality varied with individuals and quality control was an issue for all programs. Parking availability at all these universities was also a major issue. After hearing about the other programs I appreciate **Omniole** more than ever.

Omniole’s peer learning approach provides a rational and fun atmosphere for learning and intellectual discussions

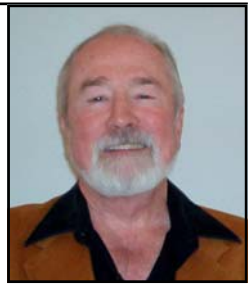
with friends. On occasion we have our own quality control problems. There are times when the discussion of issues strays from statements based on ideas and facts and becomes personal, denigrating the individual or groups who believe differently. To me the most interesting part of our courses is the chance to raise and discuss issues with a variety of people. If I only want to hear my side of an issue I can stay home and talk to my self.

Recently we had an incident where a lecture series speaker on Islam was attacked by a letter writer as being a bad person because his religion held beliefs different than those of the letter writer. The truth or falsity of the belief is not the issue here. If we want to learn about other cultures or issues facing us, we need to listen to the ideas presented. Our Study Discussion Groups (S/DGs) need to be based on discussions of facts and issues, not personalities.

To assure we accomplish this, at the pre-meetings we should review basic ground rules for discussion and presentations. The **Omniole** web site will have a set of rules that have been used with success

by other S/DGs. While the coordinators are the most visible leaders they are not hall monitors. It is the responsibility of the entire group (group-led leadership) to ensure that meaningful discussions occur and that our S/DGs are successful. If a coordinator does not move the group in the proper direction, any member can speak up to ensure that various points of view are heard and that both presenters and class members remember their responsibility to avoid propaganda and personal confrontations.

The July 31 Forum luncheon should be terrific. **Omniole**’s own **Bob Bragonier** will share his wealth of knowledge about Jazz and its history. He will tell us (with both audio and visual examples I’m sure) why he believes Jazz has been America’s most important contribution to world culture. No one who has been part of Bob’s S/DGs will want to miss this. To those who haven’t taken Bob’s S/DGs, come and be prepared to have a great time. Get your tickets early – it will be a sell out.



Jim Bouchard

**Comedy in History & Culture:
An Interdisciplinary Perspective**

by Jim Bouchard

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



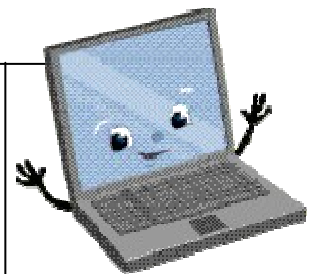
The summer is just starting and we are in the midst of preparing for our OLLIonline series for the fall. Once again we will be televising presentations by CSUDH professors and other experts from Los Angeles-area universities. In addition to the televised broadcasts, we will continue our popular Osher Lecture Series.

After a very popular program on the Middle East, we are going to return to feature films, television, and literature to examine comedy from a variety of perspectives. Research shows that laughter improves the quality of life, and we hope to both learn and be entertained as we explore this topic.

This summer will be a busy time for the Osher Institute @ CSUDH. We will be starting our OLLIonline membership renewal drive. This year we exceeded our 350 member requirement to apply for a 4th year of funding from the Bernard Osher Institute. By next summer we will need to reach 500 unique individual members (remember that Omniole members are automatically OLLIonline members). By reaching this number we will meet the requirements to apply for a \$1 million endowment, which will help us to continue to fund learning-in-retirement activities.

By fall we will have implemented an online environment for OLLIonline members to enhance their lifelong learning experience. Watch for details this summer.

I look forward to another exciting year!



**Computer Talks
Is Taking July
& August Off!
Look for Us in
the Sept.-Oct.
Newsletter**



CSUDH Announces Their Fall Lecture Series “Comedy: An Interdisciplinary Approach”

Humor is a key aspect of how we understand and express ourselves. This six-part series provides an overview of the experience, nature, and function of comedy and humor in America and other cultures. Experts from disciplines of literature, art, film studies, history, philosophy and social science will explore broad and specific topics as they introduce various genres, modes, and traditions in comedy. Presentations will feature film and television clips and other media to demonstrate ideas and even make us laugh a little!

This series of lectures will be held at the Redondo Beach Library at 10:30 a.m. on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, starting the third week of September and ending the first week in December; as follows:

**September 19—October 3 & 17—November 7 & 21
December 5**

John & Lynn Taber are responsible for this course and have to be notified if you are planning to attend. They need to be able to give the college an accurate estimate of attendees, and will be in a position to pass on any changes or other information you may need to know. John & Lynn can be reached as follows:

831-4768 – ledwards_92648@yahoo.com

August Dates Set for New “Introducing Omnimore” Meetings

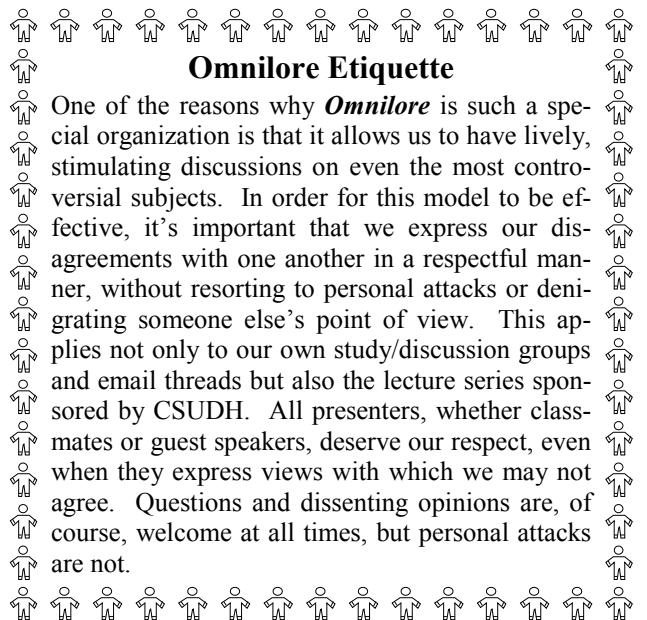
by Kathleen Fitzgerald

The Membership Committee has scheduled two “Introducing Omnimore” meetings in August for prospective members who may want to join **Omnimore** for the Fall trimester. Dates are Tuesday, August 7th and Friday August 24th, from 10 am to noon in Room 7 at Franklin Center.



Attendance at one of these meetings is mandatory for new members, so please tell anyone you know who might be interested about these upcoming dates. We know that most of our new members join as a result of referrals by current members. We have a wonderful organization with a great deal to offer.

Help spread the word!



Omnimore Etiquette

One of the reasons why **Omnimore** is such a special organization is that it allows us to have lively, stimulating discussions on even the most controversial subjects. In order for this model to be effective, it's important that we express our disagreements with one another in a respectful manner, without resorting to personal attacks or denigrating someone else's point of view. This applies not only to our own study/discussion groups and email threads but also the lecture series sponsored by CSUDH. All presenters, whether classmates or guest speakers, deserve our respect, even when they express views with which we may not agree. Questions and dissenting opinions are, of course, welcome at all times, but personal attacks are not.

Take Photos For Our Website

by George Clark

The disposable cameras kept in Rooms 7 and 8 are for your use. It's easy and adds to the fun. Try to make the pictures you take interesting. When your group is doing something unusual, such as wearing costumes or making funny hats, take some pictures for the rest of us to enjoy. Then jot down on the Camera Exposures sheet what the S/DG is doing at the time. Just remember to use the flash when shooting indoors.

Here are some examples of photos taken recently during **Omnimore** activities.



Above, from left: **Peg Van Vooren** with husband, **Bob**; **Mary Barling**, **Bob Bacinski**, **Carol Johnson**, **Margaret Thelen** & **Helen Leven**.

To the right, **Marjory Jensen** shows **Emil Raulin** an Incan necklace during a presentation on Mayan culture.



A Reminder to Coordinators

When leaving Franklin Center classrooms, please remember to: secure cabinets, turn off lights & make sure the **DOOR IS LOCKED**

Call for Digital Cameras!

Upgrading yourself to a newer digital camera? Why not donate your older model to Omnilore! The WWG is looking for faster ways to update the website with pictures taken on the spot during class presentations which are currently done with throw-away cameras. To be efficient, we try to wait until the disposable cameras are mostly filled up. With digital cameras, we can download whatever pictures are there and leave the camera for the next class. Package the camera with the instruction book and software, if possible, with George Clark's name on it and leave it in the "Webmaster's" box in the main cupboard in Room 7. Call George if you have any questions.

For information about the Hiking Group, contact Nancy Shannon at NancySincl@aol.com or John Taber at 831-4768.

Volunteer Needed!

We all know that Omnilore is a volunteer driven organization, and I am looking for a volunteer to assist me with the calendars. I will continue to be Calendar Manager for the 2007-2008 year, but I am often out of town when I am needed. I need a volunteer to learn the system and to be available when I am not. I am hoping this volunteer will take over the job of Calendar Manager when my term is finished. Please contact me at 310-548-3253 or p.t.stevens@cox.net if you are interested.

Pat Stevens

Newsletter readers: remember, you can decrease your clutter and help save a tree (well, maybe!) by signing up to receive the electronic version of the newsletter. Additionally, this saves the organization on postage, and, as an added bonus, you get it in color! To take advantage of this option, email johansmith@ca.rr.com and indicate that you would like to switch from the mail version to the electronic version. It's as simple as that

Website Working Group

Check It Out!

Our wonderful Webmaster adds/changes/improves our website every month. Have you checked it out recently? www.Omnilore.Org—it's the place to be!

Oops! We Goofed!

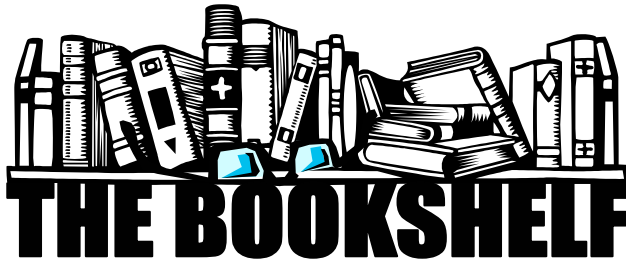


In the last newsletter we called **Marcia Kovalsky - Martha Kovalsky** on two pictures accompanying the 6th page article about the Santa Fe, Taos, and Los Alamos, New Mexico trip.

Sorry, **Marcia**... we won't do it again!!

Springtime in France

Our two-week trip to France, April 5-19, 2008 is still on track. The approximate cost is \$3600 for double occupancy, including 13 nights in 3 star hotels, 13 breakfasts, 20 lunches and dinners, wine, all entrance fees, lectures, guided tours, an air-conditioned coach and airfare from Los Angeles. See the last newsletter for a more detailed description. **We need to reserve space by July 15 so if you are interested, let us know as soon as possible. A deposit of \$500 will be due August 15.** An optional *Omnilore* course will precede and supplement the excursion. For further information on this exciting travel opportunity, contact **Tony / Carol Lopilato** at 310-540-6715 or **Lynn / John Taber** at 310-831-4768



by Mary Oran

The books recommended this month will hopefully appeal to you whether you are traveling or lounging in your backyard – or sitting in your comfortable chair with your favorite beverage. Enjoy!

We have some nonfiction titles this month that will open your minds to some new ideas. *The Future and Its Enemies* by Virginia Postrel describes two kinds of people that she terms “dynamists” and “stasists.” The dynamists embrace the future with the technological and social change it brings; the stasists fear change and/or hang on to memories of an imagined former “golden era.” The stasists try to apply old solutions to current problems. The viewpoints of these two groups provide a different dimension by which to evaluate policies and candidates. Forward-looking progressive or backward-looking reactionary? With elections in the offing, this is a worthwhile reading choice to consider.

Hidden Power: Presidential Marriages That Shaped Our History by Kati Marton consists of twelve biographical sketches of twentieth century presidents and their first ladies. While the concen-

tration is on post 1960 couples, the chapters on the Wilsons and Roosevelts provide a strong beginning to the book. How much influence do first ladies really have? Read this one for some insights!

Journalist David Brooks examines the rapid rise of a new group of leaders based on a meritocracy of “genius and geniality” in *Bobos in Paradise – The New Upper Class and How They Got There*. According to Brooks, this meritocracy resulted in significant part from Harvard’s shift in admissions policy during the 1950s, and the subsequent similar raising of academic standards by other major universities. This new class of leaders has benefited from their talents and education, leveraged by new technologies; this has contributed to the rapid rise of new fortunes in the US.

Have you thought about gene splicing and its unknown possibilities, especially when applied to humans? Are transgenic scientists performing experiments that are outlawed? What to read next? **Next!** This intriguing piece of fiction by Michael Crichton is an exciting story about bioscientists threatened by the results of their own work, including an unintended experiment with humans, and the adventures of their strange creations in the modern world.

If reading a mystery is your idea of a good time, consider Ariana Franklin’s *Mistress of the Art of Death*. This is the

story of children being murdered in 12th century Cambridge, and a forensic doctor being brought in to solve the crimes. Described as time travel at its best, this is a well written and researched piece that includes Latin, Greek, Hebrew (all translated!) as well as local dialects and medieval English.

For something different, consider *A Measure of Love* by Christopher Wilkins. This is a stylish and witty novel about the history of clocks, time and time-keeping, love and presenile dementia; the story lays bare everything that matters in a marvelous and moving way.

Whatever you read, I hope it is a good experience. And if you read something REALLY good, let us know about it!

(Our thanks to George Clark, Lucia Dzwonczyk, Jay Edie and Midge Solomon for contributing to our list. Please send your suggestions, with title, author name and a brief description, to msoran@sbcglobal.net Please put “Omniole Books” as the subject. We look forward to hearing from you.)

Need more reading ideas than what this month’s “Bookshelf has to offer? Remember that on the Omniole website, there is a composite list of all of the books Omnioleans have recommended to “The Bookshelf” since its first appearance in July, 2004. Print it out and you have a great reading list for your next visit to the library or book store. On the Home Page, click on “More Info” in the left hand column. Presto! At the top of the new left hand column, the Fiction and Nonfiction choices will appear. Click on them and you will find a potpourri of good reading, so check it out!

OMNIOLORE Forum Luncheon Reservation Form

WHEN: **Tuesday, July 31st, 2007 – 11:30 a.m.**

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

Reservations are required by July 25th, please!

Please make _____ reservations for the **Omniole Annual Luncheon** at **\$17.50** each:

Name(s): _____
(Please Print)

(Please Print)

Phone #: _____

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

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

Forum Committee, c/o Diana Cutler
10 Middleridge Lane S.
Rolling Hills, CA 90274

OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2007

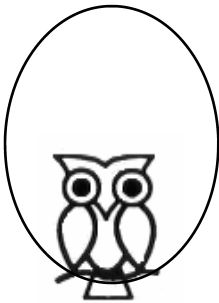
- July**
- 4 Independence Day**
 - 10 Membership Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 - 12 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 15 Deadline for Committing to 2008 France Trip
(see Bulletin Board)
 - 20 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 - 31 Summer Forum** (see front page article)

- August**
- Room 7
 - 7 **Introducing Omnilore** Meeting - 10 a.m. - Noon
(see article, page 3)
 - 9 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. -
Room 7
 - 14 Membership Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. -
Room 8
 - 15 Input Deadline for September/October Newsletter
 - 15 Down-payment Deadline for 2008 France Trip
(see Bulletin Board)
 - 17 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 - 24 **Introducing Omnilore** Meeting - 10 a.m. - Noon



IMPORTANT:

Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with
Pat Stevens - (310) 548-3253 - p.t.stevens@cox.net



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