



# OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 17 Issue 4

www.omnilore.org

July 2008

## OMNILORE

California State University  
Dominguez Hills

### OMNILORE NEWS

A publication of OMNILORE, a Learning in Retirement Organization affiliated with The College 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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## Omnilore's July Forum

by Carol Kerster

In simpler times, money had clear properties: it was paper or metal, foreign currency or U.S. dollars, and it was used in most cases, for purchasing tangible things, necessary and not depending on how much of it one had. But today money has another property. It can be "clean" or "dirty." And it is a necessity, even a determinate, in running a successful political campaign in California, not to mention in the entire country.

The profound affect that money raised by candidates has on the contributor, on the elected officials, and finally on all of us, will be the topic of our July 30th Summer Forum Luncheon speaker, **Julie Rajan**, Executive Director of California Clean Money Campaign.

While relatively new to this organization, (she became executive director in March, 2008), Julie's portfolio covers a wide range of social issues from children and family legislation, housing, health care, mental health and juvenile justice, to education from pre-kindergarten to community colleges and universities. Much of this work was done as Social Policy Director on the board of the League of Women Voters of California, then as executive director of the Los Angeles League.

Her personal background is even more extensive. Born in Sydney, Australia, Julie received a business degree from the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland, and has worked in nonprofits in the U.K., East Africa, Australia and Los Angeles for more than thirty years.

Julie Rajan is passionate in her belief in the mission of the California Clean Money Campaign. "... achieving an open and accountable government responsive to the needs of all Californians." To have her as our guest in this already extraordinary political season is indeed — extraordinary.

And all you have to do to hear Julie, have a delightful buffet lunch, share some jolly minutes with fellow *Omniloreans*, and beat the summer doldrums, is send in

your registration (on page 5 of this newsletter, or in the forthcoming flyer). Of course, we'll be at the Los Verdes Country Club.

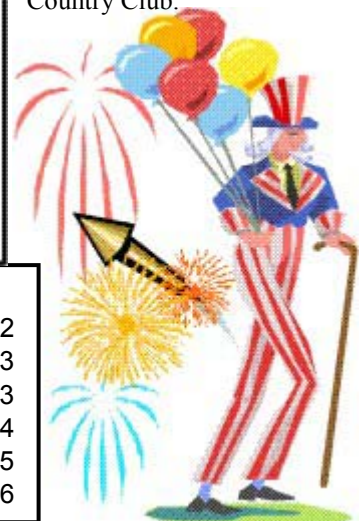


Julie Rajan



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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

by Rick Spillane

Omnilore is working with California State University at Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) College of Extended and International Education as they inaugurate their Lifelong Learning Institute which they are organizing to meet the needs of the increasing number of retired people in the PV and South Bay areas.

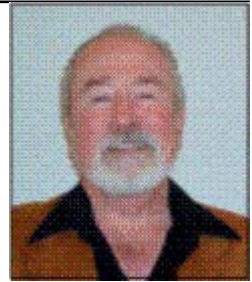
As a member of Omnilore you are automatically a member of CSUDH's Lifelong Learning Institute. This means that as an Omnilore member you have everything you had before with some additional benefits, if you choose to take advantage of them. Members receive an email account (note you do not have to use this), a library card which gives you access to the CSUDH library and to online research journals, notifications of campus activities (concerts and guest lectures), and free access to the CSUDH Lecture Series which is always a popular course for Omnilore members. You have already been notified that the Lecture Series has been moved from the Redondo Beach Library (no charge to any attendee) back to the CSUDH campus with a registration fee applicable to non-Omnilore members. CSUDH is still defining what additional features

will be offered by the LIR. A nice benefit for Omnilore members is access to the CSUDH book store at student rates. Among other things, this means that books and software for both the Mac and PC are available at very substantial discounts. If you need Microsoft Office or Photoshop you may want to visit the bookstore.

Speaking of software, you should know that there are many free software packages available through the internet that may meet your needs. For example, OpenOffice 2 is the leading free office software suite for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases and more. It is available in many languages and works on PC and Mac computers. It stores all of your data in an international open standard format and can also read and write files from other common office software packages (e.g. Microsoft Office). It can be downloaded and used completely free of charge for any purpose. Just go to [www.openoffice.com](http://www.openoffice.com) and follow the instructions to download and install it on your computer.

Need to transfer all those digital photos of trips or family events to your

computer and organize them in albums? Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and download the program Picasa for a free program that does all that and more. While at



Google you might be interested in their wonderful Google Earth program – it too is free. Google Earth lets you fly anywhere on Earth to view satellite imagery, maps, terrain, 3D buildings and even explore galaxies in the sky. You can explore rich geographical content, save your toured places and share them with others.

After enjoying your photos on Picasa you may find they need some improvement (just possible) and want to edit them, but find the cost of Photoshop a little high for your taste even if you get the discounts mentioned earlier. If so, try free photo editing software. Two excellent free programs are “Serif Photo Plus” at [www.freeserifsoftware](http://www.freeserifsoftware) and “GIMP for Windows” at [www.gimp.org/windows](http://www.gimp.org/windows) a long time favorite from UNIX days. If you know what UNIX was you may want GIMP, if not try Serif Photo Plus.

For more software advice, attend a Computer Working Group meeting starting in September.



Jim Bouchard

**“Lifelong Learning at CSUDH”  
Open House**

by Jim Bouchard

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



On June 17, the College of Extended & International Education held a “Lifelong Learning at CSUDH” Open House. The purpose of the open house was to expose individuals 50+ to the lifelong learning programs available at CSUDH. Approximately 70 people attended.

A number of speakers spoke about the various ways that CSUDH serves lifelong learners, especially those who are learning-in-retirement.

- Dean Margaret Gordon greeted everyone, and thanked them for attending our open house.
- Patrick Stewart from our Advancement Office talked about the new Student Union, and the Library addition.
- Annette (Toni) Rogers, a gerontologist from the City of Redondo Beach Senior Services, spoke about the importance of career and retirement transition in her talk entitled “Choices or Chance at 50+ Planning for the Rest of Your Life”
- **Howard Korman** talked about *Omnilore*, and encouraged people to attend one

of the frequently-held orientations.

- I spoke about our fall 2008 program on-campus including our lecture series on Baroque music which will be held on the CSUDH campus in the Extended Education auditorium.

Dr. Edd Whetmore, Chair of the Communications Department at CSUDH, spoke about “Television of the 1950s.” He showed film clips of the early “Ozzie and Harriet” television series, and other clips of Groucho Marx.

Door prizes were raffled off at the end of the event. Gifts included tickets to CSUDH plays in the fall and a CSUDH gift basket. Thank you to everyone who attended!

The next Lifelong Learning Open House at CSUDH will take place on Tuesday, September 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the Extended Education Auditorium.

## “Baroque Music – A Prelude to the Modern Age”

### Fall 2008 Lecture Series

by Jim Bouchard, Lifelong Learning Coordinator—College of Extended and International Education, CSUDH

**B**aroque originally referred to a large, irregularly shaped pearl used in the extravagant jewelry of the post-Renaissance period. Later art historians used *baroque* to designate the ornate and emotionally appealing style of art produced c. 1600-1750. Dramatic vitality, strong emotions, symbolism and subtleties are characteristics of baroque art that are also revealed in the new musical traditions of this period. The lectures in this series focus on innovative baroque vocal and instrumental compositions which were popular with audiences then and now. You will be treated to a variety of lively presentations by expert professors who will make the baroque period and its music come alive for you.

Lecture topics include an overview of the culture & history of 17<sup>th</sup> century / baroque period, baroque performance practices then and now, baroque instruments and instrumental music, baroque vocal music, textures of baroque music, parallels between jazz and baroque music, and a special holiday presentation featuring Handel’s “Messiah.”

Lectures will be held on the first and third Wednesday of the month, and the dates for the presentations will be September 17th, October 1st and 15th, November 5th and 19th, and December 3rd.

## An Important Note About Location and Attendance!

There are two changes to the fall lecture series: (1) the lecture series will be held on the CSUDH campus in the Extended Education auditorium; (2) attendees must be members of Lifelong Learning at CSUDH.

1. As many of you recall, this lecture series was originally held on campus and only registered members of *Omniole* could attend. Then, for the last several semesters, the lecture series has been held at the Redondo Beach Library.
2. In the fall 2008, the lecture series will once again be held on campus, and those attending must be registered members of “Lifelong Learning at CSUDH.” If you are registered for fall 2008 in *Omniole*, then you are a member of “Lifelong Learning at CSUDH,” and are invited to attend one or all lectures. The lecture series is included with membership in “Lifelong Learning at CSUDH.”

Please join us for this lecture series!

**South Bay Community Concert Association**

South Bay area residents have a unique opportunity to join the South Bay Community Concert Association (SBCCA - a not-for-profit organization) which presents six high quality annual musical performances at the Redondo Beach Union High School Auditorium (PCH at Diamond in Redondo Beach). At \$40 for a full season's membership SBCCA's program is clearly the best entertainment value in the West. The six 2008/2009 season performances feature professional artists in live concerts including Big Band, Broadway, Russian Folk Dance, a Brass Ensemble, 50's Vocalists and Latin/Greek Guitar. Membership Applications may be obtained at the organization's web site, [www.southbayconcerts.org](http://www.southbayconcerts.org). For further information call Dale or Howard Korman - 310-373-2442.



### A Volunteer Opportunity for Omniole Members

*Omniole* member Dick Granoff recently completed a 45-hour training program to become a volunteer listener for the Community Helpline, a non-profit confidential listening support system and referral network for people in need or crisis. They have been helping people in the South Bay since 1971.

The Community Helpline recently moved to the Franklin Center and is now a neighbor of *Omniole*. Community Helpline staff members and volunteers will be offering free lunch-time listening skills classes to *Omniole* members sometime in the future.

Those needing someone to listen to them are welcome to call the Community Helpline at 877-541-2525. Those interested in volunteering as a listener are welcome to call the office at 310-793-1415 and speak with Colleen Sass, the Program Director.

### Presentations 101: The Workshop



**12 Noon  
Room 7**

**Thursday, July 17th  
Thursday, August 21st**

**Call Merle Culbert 545-7994**

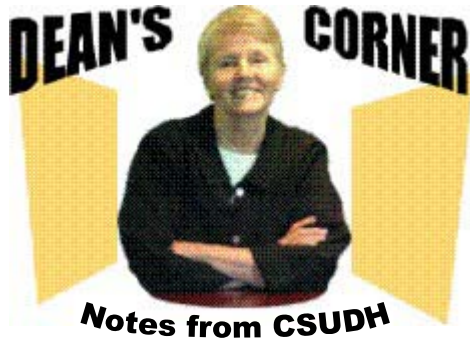
**Mentors Available**

### Newsletter in Color!

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@ca.rr.com](mailto:johansmith@ca.rr.com) if you would like e-mail delivery. You'll get it faster that way!





### Notes from CSUDH

by Margaret Gordon

Dean, Lifelong Learning Institute

College of Extended & International Education

Providing educational experiences for learners across the life span is a goal of the College of Extended & International Education. We usually discuss with you programs that the University offers for individuals over age 50. This time I'd like to share with you some of our programs for children and teens.

Exciting topics in the creative arts are covered in three summer camps for youths 11 to 17 years of age. Beginning computer graphic enthusiasts can learn how to design video games in a four-day work shop, July 14-17. An Advanced Computer Video Game Design workshop follows, August 4 - 7. For teens fascinated with cartoon drawing, a hands-on workshop will teach how to develop characters and write dialog. This cartoon workshop runs from July 21-24. The camps meet 9:30 am – 4:00 pm in the Extended Education classroom building on campus. Information is available at <http://www.csudh.edu/extendeded/prodev/youth.htm>

CSU Dominguez Hills and the College of Extended & International Education also hosted an ADTECH Student Technology Camp from June 23 – June 27. The South Bay Advanced Educational Technology Consortium (ADTECH) is the organizing entity for this camp, which CSUDH has hosted for several years. Sixty 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders participate in a variety of technology-centered learning activities, including using palm handheld computers, networking basics and working with peripheral devices. The camp culminates with students showcasing their short films created in a video production and digital editing workshop. For more information about ADTECH visit <http://www.adtech.org/>

For several years the College has offered successful summer reading programs for youngsters and teens in cooperation with the Institute for Reading Development. Parents are encouraged to participate in workshops with their kindergartners and young learners. <http://www.csudh.edu/extendeded/prodev/youth.htm>

CSUDH Athletics also offers a variety of youth sports camps. These include basketball and softball camps. For basketball camps phone 310-243-3173; for softball camp 310-243-3889.

The College of Extended & International Education is integral to the campus' initiatives to reach and serve the community.

## Visit Our Online Newsletter File Cabinet

by Barbara Case

Have you discovered the new "Newsletter" link on our *Omniole* Website ([www.omniole.org](http://www.omniole.org)) It's there in the left-hand column of the home page with a flashing red "NEW" next to it.

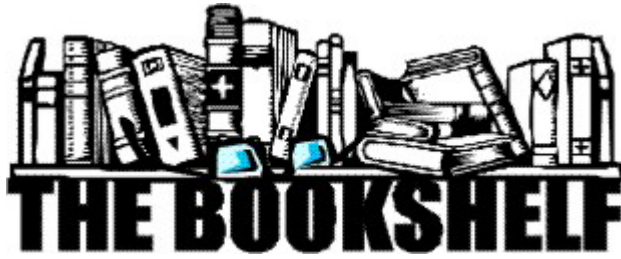
Clicking on this new "Newsletter" link will take you to a page where you can select any one of our last 25 *Omniole* newsletters-i.e., those published from 2004 to the present. All the newsletters are in PDF format. The best feature is that the online editions appear in full color whereas the print editions are sent to you in black and white.

We hope that many of you will soon prefer accessing your newsletter on our Website, rather than getting a print edition through the mail. If you do, it will save *Omniole* a ton of money and effort that can be spent better elsewhere. Eventually, the Board of Directors plans to ask everybody if they'd like to switch from print format to online format. At that time, if you still can't live without the print edition, that'll be okay, and *Omniole* will continue to send it to you regularly by mail. If you switch, we'll notify you by email whenever a new issue is published.

There are many advantages to the online edition; you can:

1. count on receiving your online issues a few days before everybody else gets their print editions;
2. increase the magnification on the PDF, to read issues without your reading glasses;
3. print them out at home, and read them whenever or wherever you like;
4. easily go back to the Website and find any past newsletter to re-examine an article or find a nice photo of an event that you attended;
5. see the illustrations in color rather than back and white.
6. discard all the old print editions of the newsletter that you may have cluttering up your file cabinet at home and rely on our online file instead;
7. find and read profiles of members dating back to 2004.

You'll have plenty of time to decide whether or not to switch to the online Newsletter or continue receiving the print edition by mail. In the meantime, please give the new Newsletter link a test-drive on our *Omniole* Website home page. Take the link, and explore a few issues on your own.



by Mary Oran

Oliver Wendell Holmes said “One’s mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains the original dimensions.” Hopefully the books suggested in this issue will offer some stretching opportunities for you!

First up is *The Yellow-Lighted Bookshop* by Lewis Buzbee. Both a memoir and a history, this writing is for people who love reading, love books, love browsing in bookstores, and can’t resist adding books to the stacks already at home! Buzbee fluidly tells tales of his life in the book business while interweaving the history of book publishing and bookstores. Beautiful descriptions and fascinating trivia add to this delightful tome. It is an unusual treasure to add to that “must-read” stack.

*Life Is So Good* by George Dawson (ghost written by Richard Glaubman) is the story of 101 year old Dawson, the grandson of a slave in Marshall, Texas; Dawson started work at the age of 4, and finally learned to read at the age of 98. In the book he reflects on the philosophy he learned from his father, that “life is good.” Uplifting in showing how attitude is everything, it also gives a wonderful

historic account of 20<sup>th</sup> century America through the eyes of a black man. The book was written in 2000; Dawson passed away in July, 2001. This story is inspirational; tissues are advised.

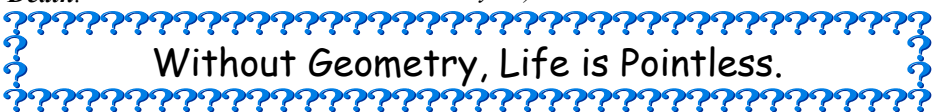
How obsessed are you with your diet and the foods you eat? How have your nutritional habits changed over the years? Michael Pollan’s *In Defense of Food: An Eater’s Manifesto* examines our unhealthy preoccupation with everything dietary. He looks at the diet bullies, the processed food industry, marketers, nutritional scientists, and while he doesn’t preach to the reader, he implies that change is necessary. “Eat food. Not too much. Mostly Plants.” Try to avoid snack foods while reading this one.

For our fiction entries this month, consider Donna Leon and her captivating mysteries for good vacation reading. She has written seventeen novels centered on Commissario Guido Brunetti, all set in beautiful Venice, Italy. The city is as important in each of these novels as the plot – the food, family, art, history, politics, all aspects of Venetian life are vividly brought to life. Brunetti has an intelligence, wit, and sensitivity that makes these books addicting. All of the books are good; a few of the titles are *Death at La Fenice*, *Acqua Alta*, and *Dressed for Death*.

Markus Zurak’s *The Book Thief* is one of the most compelling books I have read in years. Related by Death (who is a fascinating spirit as he weaves in and out of the narrative), the story is set in a small German town in the beginning years of WWII. A young girl, her “adopted” family, and various vivid village inhabitants are presented over a four year period, as the war accelerates. The impact of various events on the girl, her family, and the village is powerfully presented. The author’s writing style is exceptionally good, the personalities portrayed are memorable, and the emotional impact is strong. I’m sticking my neck out here, but if you only put one book on your list this year, make it this one!

Finally, a quirky little piece by Margaret Atwood, *The Penelopiad*, is the myth of Penelope and Odysseus as told from Penelope’s point of view. It starts before their betrothal and continues on through the long years until his return. Amidst the story line is some poetry, some songs (sung by a Greek chorus, of course) and doses of wit and humor. For a whole different take on the famous couple, this book is a little gem.

(Our thanks to Patricia Edie for contributing to our list. Please send your titles, with author name and a very brief description, to [msoran@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msoran@sbcglobal.net)) Please put “Omniole Books” as the subject. We look forward to hearing from you.)



Without Geometry, Life is Pointless.

**OMNIOLORE Forum Luncheon Reservation Form**

WHEN: *Wednesday, July 30th, 2008 – 11:30 a.m.*

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

Reservations are required by July 24th, please!

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

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

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

- July**
- 4 **Independence Day**
  - 8 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 8
  - 10 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
  - 17 Presentations 101: The Workshop - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
  - 18 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
  - 25 Website Working Group - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon - Room 8
  - 30 Summer Forum
  - 31 Introducing Omnilore Meeting - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon - Room 7

- August**
- 12 Introducing Omnilore Meeting - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon - Room 8
  - 12 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 8
  - 14 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
  - 15 Input Deadline for Sept.-Oct. 08 Newsletter
  - 15 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
  - 21 Presentations 101: The Workshop - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7

OMNIOLORE  
CALENDAR  
2008

Summer time



**IMPORTANT:**

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

**July & August Dates  
Set for New  
"Introducing Omnilore"  
Meetings**

by Howard Korman



The Membership Committee has scheduled two "Introducing Omnilore" meetings in July and August for perspective members who may want to join *Omnio* for the Fall trimester. Dates are:

**Thursday, July 31st**  
**Tuesday, August 12th**

... starting at 10 a.m. at the 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, and classes that are very enjoyable and informative.

**Help Spread the Word!**

**PASSPORT TO  
CENTRAL AMERICA  
May 8 – May 22, 2009**

by Carol Lopilato

A 14-day University of Virginia/Semester at Sea Voyage, *Passport to Central America* starts May 8, 2009 and covers the Art, Music, Biology/Environmental Science, History and Political Science of seven Central American countries.

A limited number of cabins start at \$1,999 including air from Los Angeles. If at least 16 *Omnio* sign up, Enrichment Voyages will refund the cost of one passenger which can be split among participants.

The Curriculum Committee is considering a S/DG in Spring 2009 that researches and discusses the topics covered by the Voyage. For details on signups and down payments, contact Sharon at Enrichment Voyages (1-800-780-9002 extension 6461) or go to: <http://www.enrichmentvoyages.com/panama/index.cfm> or <http://www.semesteratsea.org/>

Note from **Carol Lopilato**: I taught on Semester at Sea and Tony & I sailed on this voyage. It is a great trip and good value. For info, contact me at carol@lop.net.