



OMNIOLORE NEWS



Volume 22 Issue 4

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July 2013

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Ron Wildermuth

Water, Water Everywhere (Long May It Last!)

by Carol Kerster

At our Summer Forum on July 31, Omnilore will host, for a second time, one of the most well-received guest speakers we've ever had: Ron Wildermuth, Public and Governmental Affairs Manager, West Basin Municipal Water District.

Ron's responsibilities are as extensive as his title, and he is passionate about them, as perhaps we all should be. He is committed to water, to its reliability, quality, availability and financial management, as well as to the Water District's customers (that's all of us) and environment. His achievements in these areas were acknowledged in 2011-2012, when West Basin's 2020 Outreach Program for recycling, conservation and ocean-water desalination was awarded the Silver Anvil for Brand Management, the top award of the Public Relations Society of America's Best PR Program.

Prior to this position, which he still holds, Ron was Communications Director of the Orange County Water District, where his program, Groundwater Replenishment System Outreach, was also awarded a PRSA Silver Anvil, for Community Outreach. These outstanding experiences were preceded by two others, equally impressive. He was director (1992-1997) of Corporate Relations for Parsons Corporation (surely familiar to Omnilore's retired engineers), known as the international engineering and construction firm ranked number #1 design firm by Engineering News-Record magazine. And Wildermuth, now a retired Navy Captain, served as Public Relations Advisor to Army General H. Norman Schwarzkopf before, during and after the Gulf War. He actually supervised the entire Gulf War in-theater public relations effort (1989-1992).

Unfortunately, I missed Ron Wildermuth the first time he was with us. I do not intend to miss him again, and neither should you. Omniloreans who did attend his April 2009 Forum presentation describe him not only as an expert in his field, but as a very entertaining speaker. So, here's the drill: Register for the Summer Forum meeting, to be held at the ever-friendly Los Verdes Country Club on Wednesday, July 31, using the form on page 7 of this Newsletter. Or, if you prefer, wait for the flyer coming soon in your regular mail and send it, along with your check for \$20, for your sure-to-be delicious luncheon (vegetarian on request) to **Lori Geittmann**.

You'll be glad you did!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Elected Officers

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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

Welcome to all of you for the summer. Our membership has just gone through another successful fall trimester study/discussion group (S/DG) sign-up process. We need to thank the Curriculum Committee, under the able leadership of **Rick Spillane**, for offering such an excellent list of S/DG topics. **Johan Smith, Hal and Ruth Hart** are busy preparing the S/DG schedules for the fall. We will need volunteer coordinators and co-coordinators for the four-month S/DGs that begin in September.

The other important Omnilore activity going on in July is the annual re-registration for the coming Omnilore academic year (September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014). Omnilore members should have received their annual registration material by U. S. mail by now. Please fill out and return the registration form that was included. We are encouraging those of you who are

willing to receive communications electronically to so indicate on the form. The deadline for re-registering, along with payment of fees, is August 1.

I would like to promote and encourage additional activity in one important area: volunteerism in support of the Omnilore learning environment. As we all know, our organization is based almost solely on the work and effort that we ourselves provide, i.e., *we are it*. This includes the Board of Directors, committee chairs, working-group and special-interest-group leaders, of course, but also the people who really keep Omnilore running smoothly, especially the S/DG coordinators, committee members, etc. It is hard to overstate the importance of this latter group. We are making a special appeal for volunteers to coordinate the S/DGs. If you are asked to fill one of those slots or any other important position, please consider it carefully and agree if at all possible.

Please remember that this is an organization of volunteers, so without volunteers there is no organization.

We will have new officers who take office for one year starting on November 1. We will create a nominating committee that will be looking for the following officers: president, vice president for academics, vice president for administration, secretary, treasurer, and three members at large. The committee will put together a slate of officers for Omnilore Board approval at the September 12 Board meeting. So please express your interest in any of these offices when you submit your response to the Member Participation Opportunities form that was sent to you as part of your annual Omnilore registration package.

We encourage you to enjoy the summer and all related activities.



Omniloreans will be treated to new sight and sound when they come to the Forum Luncheon on Wednesday July 31 at the Los Verdes Golf Course.

The walls have been painted, new chandeliers have been installed and the room has a more up-to-date look.

But most important to us is a new sound system. We have heard complaints through the years about the sound, so we are hoping that all of us can hear better, even from the back of the room.

So come to the luncheon and try out the new sound.

Lori Geittmann, Forum Chair



The Next

INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETING:

Friday, August 2nd, 10 a.m. - Room 7

Help Spread the Word! RSVP 310-370-9522



OMNIOLORE PROFILE—Ralph Black

by Kate Nelson

We all know that anesthesiologists put people to sleep, but an hour spent talking to **Dr. Ralph Black**, who devoted his professional life to doing just that, will keep you on the edge of your seat. His wife used to joke that because he had worked so hard throughout his career, upon retiring he had to pack in all the fun he had missed! That fun includes traveling to every continent, including a memorable African safari and an extended trip to China, in addition to playing with his 10 grandchildren, attending musical events throughout the South Bay and, of course, Omnimore. Joining in 2001 at the urging of his friend **Emil Rawlins**, Ralph remembers his first class, *How The Allies Won*, an S/DG based on the book of the same title, and how impressed he was at the level of sophistication, education and expertise of his classmates. He hasn't missed a term since and over the last 12 years, has taken a slew of classes—often history-related—and traveled with fellow Omnimoreans to Gold Rush towns, Civil War sites, Washington D.C., and the northern California coast.

Dr. Black's improbable journey to a successful medical practice in the South Bay began on a farm in Saskatchewan, Canada where he was born. His mother, who had grown up in an orphanage in Scotland, had been brought to Canada to work as a domestic and vowed that her children would all go to college. They did. Ralph attended a one-room schoolhouse, where he was *the only student in grades 10, 11 and 12*. This may have had advantages (pretty easy to organize reunions, for example) but presented some obvious challenges. When asked what it was like, he said, "You learn to dig deep and rely on yourself." Apparently that strategy worked. After graduation and a distinguished university career, he became the only out-of-province student at that time ever to be admitted to the University of Alberta Medical School, where he graduated in 1955 with his MD. During his internship he met and married a nurse, then completed his residency at UC San Francisco. Ralph and Gladys moved to Los Angeles when he was offered a job at UCLA'S

Medical Center. Most of the newly minted doctors wanted to be assigned to Westwood, but Ralph landed at UCLA's Harbor Medical Center in Torrance, where he stayed for five years.

That was his introduction to the South Bay and he never looked back. In his long career as an anesthesiologist, he worked at South Bay Hospital in Redondo Beach, Torrance Memorial Medical Center and Long Beach Memorial Hospital. In the 1970's, when emergency 911 services were just beginning, he was credited with starting the first respiratory therapy departments at both Little Company of Mary and South Bay hospitals. He has taken his skills where they are most needed, traveling with his son James, a plastic surgeon, to Central and South America to perform surgery on indigent children, many of whom suffer from cleft palates.

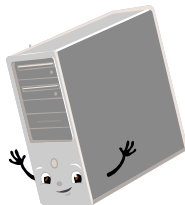
The Blacks lived in Palos Verdes where they raised their three children and where Ralph still lives. Gladys, his wife of 52 years, died five years ago, and is deeply missed by the family. "She was the cement that held us all together," Ralph said. "She remembered every grandchild's birthday and every milestone achievement, and there was always an occasion to celebrate with a big family dinner." Ralph still sees the family often, but he keeps a caterer on speed dial.

Besides Omnimore, travel, music and enthusiastic support of the Norris Center for the Performing Arts, Ralph's interests include gardening (he is involved with the South Coast Botanic Garden), and the Redondo Beach Lutheran Church where he remains very active ("Gladys was the real pillar of the church," he added). Somehow, he found time to serve as president of his Homeowners Association and, in recognition of his service, received the 2011 Citizen of the Year award from the City of Rolling Hills. To keep up this busy schedule, he runs every day and stays in great physical shape.

Ralph's mother's wish that her children attend college has been passed down the generations. All three of Ralph's kids have graduated from college and gone on to successful professional careers. The grandchildren are well on their way—one is graduating from DePaul University in Chicago this month and another one is starting at UCSB in the fall. "In my family," says Ralph, "it's not *if* you are going to college, it's *where*."



**Computer Talks
Is Taking
July & August
Off!
Look for Us in
The
September
- October
Newsletter**



Going Green . . .

About eBooks. . .

by Bill Gargaro



For a few years now, Omnilore has been attempting to contribute to the movement to lower the overall use of resources in printing and distributing information in physical form, i.e. reducing the usage of paper, ink, postage, etc. to save energy and avoid producing waste products (trash). Even though within Omnilore this effort is totally voluntary, we still have substantial enthusiasm for it and have achieved some success, thanks to those who have accepted our correspondence via electronic means. We would now like to present a new challenge, in particular to try to use eBooks rather than hard copy wherever possible. Recall that Katherine Gould, our Forum speaker from the Palos Verdes Library District pointed out that this is the way the future of reading (information consumption) will likely unfold.

Some Omniloreans already have eBook reading devices and are taking advantage of the convenience of being able to buy or checkout books without having to drive to a book source, buy or borrow a physical book, and retrace the steps to return borrowed ones. Acquiring a reading device is the first step. The difference in capabilities and prices of these devices is rather significant, but a good comparison study (not the only one) can be found at <http://ebook-reader-review.toptenreviews.com/>. The three that seem to be consistently the most highly rated are the iPad Mini, Kindle Fire, and Nook. However, these and others are constantly being updated so that capabilities are added and prices are changed several times in a year. You have to evaluate your needs at the time of purchase.

On acquiring your eBook reader you will be introduced at once to the vast number of titles available for purchase, but be aware also that there are thousands of titles out of copyright and available for free downloading. Amazon, iTunes, and other sources are numerous and easy to find and access.

The real treasure troves of free eBooks are, like their physical counterparts, the public libraries. All of our local libraries have an eBook service. Setting up your account so that you can download an eBook into your specific device in the format that you want (or can handle) is an exercise that you will have to go through once for each library that you want to use. To assure success you must have an on-line library account(s) and in some cases Amazon and Adobe accounts as well. All of these are all absolutely free and are easy to set up. Next, you need to find out the application/service that the library uses to manage their eBook titles; the individual libraries don't generally maintain this service themselves. Two examples are the Public Libraries in Redondo Beach and Torrance, which use different overall service applications. The Redondo Beach library uses *OverDrive Media Console* and Torrance uses *Blio*, which need to be downloaded as free applications from your apps store. When opened, they guide you through the process of locating the eBooks that the particular library has available, assist you in downloading the book, and generally provide a reader for the formats available. (Note that the steps are in different order for different libraries, but follow the same overall procedure.) The sources of the eBooks are different for the two libraries; Redondo uses *Southern California Digital Library* and Torrance uses *Axis360*, but the number of titles is very large in each. Most eBooks can be bought as well as borrowed, but that requires a separate account.



We hope we haven't made the process of acquiring and enjoying eBooks sound too tedious or difficult, because it isn't. Some care in setting up your library eBook-borrowing capability is required, so it may be advisable to do it in the library itself. The library will have a Wi-Fi hot spot, and, more importantly, a Help Desk, if you should have any difficulties following the printed instructions they provide to assist you.

Remember: an eBook checkout from your library will be as easy as a few key-strokes or screen touches whether you're sitting around in Southern California or enjoying your leisure in Timbuktu.

So, we urge you to get started: Try it -- you'll like it!



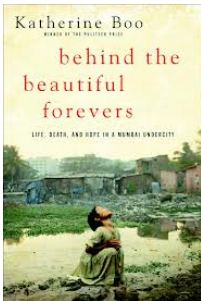
Omnimore's Best-Sellers Special Interest Group

by Patricia Edie

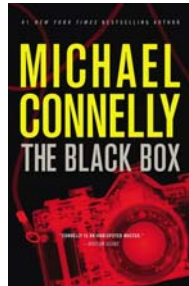
Calling All Avid Readers!

Our Best Sellers Special Interest Group continues to be a resounding success. In the past months we have had any from 12 to 31 members meeting in Room 8 of the Franklin Center on the second Monday of the month from 11 am to 12:30 pm discussing various works of fiction and non-fiction. The subject matter is varied and the discussion always animated! As with any SIG, you do not need to register to participate...just show up on the date prepared to participate. Guests are always welcomed.

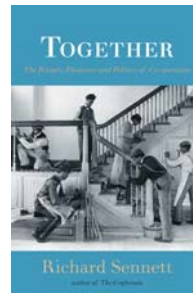
So you can get a head start, upcoming books being discussed are:



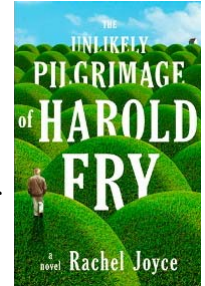
July 8: Non-Fiction
Behind the Beautiful Forevers
by Katherine Boo



August 12: Fiction
The Black Box
by Michael Connelly



September 9: Non-Fiction
Together
by Richard Sennett



October 14: Fiction
The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry
by Rachel Joyce



Promoting OLLI ... and having fun!

by Jim Bouchard

*Senior Program Development Specialist
Coordinator, Lifelong Learning, OLLI at CSUDH*



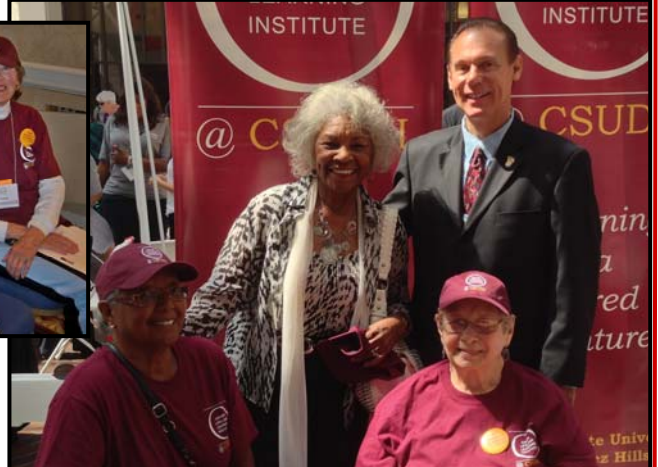
Osher Lectures will be held in three locations this fall: Carson, Manhattan Beach and Torrance. OLLI members are spreading the word by having a membership-drive event in Manhattan Beach, having a table at a Daily Breeze-sponsored event, and passing out catalogs at Congresswoman Janice Hahn's senior event. Here are some of the photos from recent events. Look for more activities promoting OLLI over the next few months as we try to achieve our goal of 1,000 OLLI members by fall! If you would like to volunteer, contact the OLLI office at 310.243.3208.



Omnimorean Kate Nelson with culinary historian Richard Foss in Manhattan Beach at the "OLLI Finale" on June 7.



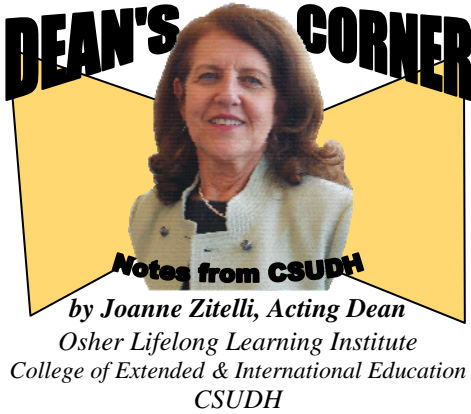
OLLI members from Manhattan Beach at the Daily Breeze's "Successful Aging Expo" at the Torrance Marriott on May 11.



Carson Mayor Jim Dear with OLLI members at the OLLI table at Congresswoman Janice Hahn's "Senior Briefing" in Carson on June 21.



Emeritus Faculty, Dr. Linda Groff, gives a presentation titled "The Hero's Journey in Mythology, Films and Our Own Lives" at an OLLI Open House on the CSUDH campus on June 12.



Dear OLLI Members and Omnilore Members,

I'll take this opportunity to introduce myself formally to you. As many of you have heard, Dr. Margaret Gordon, Emeritus Dean of the College of Extended & International Education (CEE) retired from the CSU in December 2012. I had the privilege of working for Marge for 12 years, first when I was coordinator of the M.A. Humanities External Degree program and then as her associ-

ate dean starting in 2001. Believe me, one can learn a lot from a seasoned professional such as Marge.

In early June, our Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Ramon Torrecilha, offered me the position of Acting Dean of CEE. Being selected to serve the campus in this capacity during a transition is an honor and, as one might imagine, a responsibility. Dr. Timothy Mozia, Director of CEE Operations will serve as Acting Associate Dean during the transition. Timothy and I will work on team- and capacity-building in the College.

CEE hired two new directors in June: Dr. Guadalupe Garcia Montano, Director of Special Sessions, and Mr. Raul Guzman, Director, OSHA Training Institute Education Center at CSUDH. These professionals add the skills and knowledge needed to achieve College goals in 2013-2014.

Recruitment for permanent dean for the College will recommence in

August when the academic year begins. This is a national search and the selection committee will include CEE staff members. I will keep you posted as the recruitment progresses. You may want to attend Open Forum discussion with the finalists when they are on campus for interviews.

As many of you know, I have an academic background with degrees in comparative literature but I also have entrepreneurial experience, having spent several years selling artwork in a family business. This combination of experiences has provided me with a broad perspective on higher education and certainly has helped me develop the array of skills needed as an extended education specialist and administrator.

I look forward to working with OLLI and Omnilore in the coming year. Enjoy your summer.



Our Patriots Said . . .

My country owes me nothing. It gave me, as it gives every boy and girl, a chance. It gave me schooling, independence of action, opportunity for service and honor. In no other land could a boy from a country village, without inheritance or influential friends, look forward with unbounded hope. *Herbert Hoover*

Intellectually I know that America is no better than any other country; emotionally I know she is better than every other country.

Sinclair Lewis

We talk a great deal about patriotism. What do we mean by patriotism in the context of our times? I venture to suggest that what we mean is a sense of national responsibility which will enable America to remain master of her power.

Adlai Stevenson

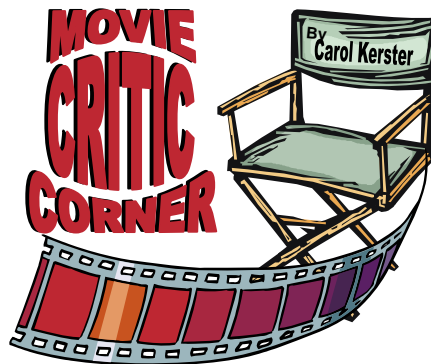
Every good citizen makes his country's honor his own, and cherishes it not only as precious but as sacred. He is willing to risk his life in its defense and is conscious that he gains protection while he gives it.

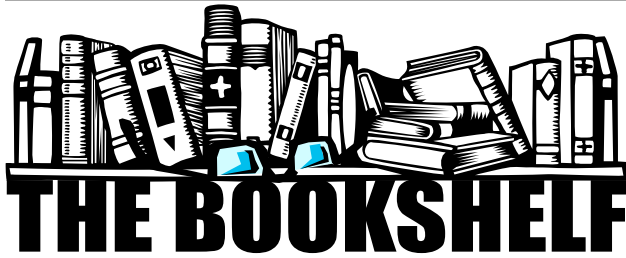
Andrew Jackson

The two films I saw most recently have neither earth-shaking explosions, vampire antics, nor muscularly over-developed superheroes soaring through space to save the intended victims of nefarious plots. They are, rather, the kind of quiet, little films that explore believable human conditions, with fine actors saying words real people might use to negotiate real-life experiences.

Before Midnight is the third in a trilogy of movies about the romantic meetings of two young people who, despite their love, are separated, united, separated again, and currently in their seventh year together. Their conversations, and indeed, they *do* talk, take place in the car, around the dinner table with good friends, and in a hotel room. The experiences they've each had in the years they were separated, and how their life together now is affected by them result in a series of exchanges that run the gamut from anger and accusation to passion and promise. Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy made me believe that this couple is going to survive their harsh -- but universal -- issues and, hopefully, live happily ever after.

Another kind of relationship is the center of *Frances Ha*. This is the relationship of two young women navigating the vagaries and realities of really growing up in today's most urban city, New York. Complete with all the pitfalls available to a dancer who is "not really a dancer," to a dreamer who sees her dreams crumble, to a woman with a tenaciously joyful hold on life, Greta Gerwig as Frances is a joy to watch. And she's a far cry from the clueless girl friend of Jessie Eisenberg she plays in Woody Allen's "To Rome with Love."





These suggestions for summer reading range from historical novels to the present-day fight against terrorism, women of the Italian Renaissance, a Quaker, an L.A. police officer – take your pick and enjoy a wide variety of stories!

The Deadly Sisterhood: A Story of Women, Power, and Intrigue in the Italian Renaissance by **Leonie Freda**. These women, joined by birth, marriage or friendship, ruled for a time in place of their powerful husbands. They were not afraid to take up the sword against their enemies, including their sisters during the struggles of the fifteenth century. All knew great wealth, power, and passion but also imprisonment, poverty and the loss of loved ones. Above all, none of them were passive bystanders.

The Last Runaway by **Tracy Chavalier**. Honor Bright, a young Quaker girl, accompanies her engaged sister from England to frontier Ohio. The sister dies en route, but Honor continues to Ohio where she has no choice but to enter into a hasty if loveless marriage. Honor becomes involved in helping runaway slaves and

endangers her marriage as well as her life.

The Way of the Knife by **Mark Mazzetti**. A national security advisor remarked that the United States needed to fight terrorism with “a scalpel not a hammer.” This is the story of the use of drones since 2001 to fight al Qaeda in undeclared wars in Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen, the Phillippines and possibly others. The CIA has become a second air force and no longer a traditional espionage service devoted to stealing the secrets of foreign governments. Not to be outdone, the Department of Defense, under Donald Rumsfeld, has built its own drone capability through the Joint Special Operations Command. All this has been done with little or no public accountability or discussion. Has it made our nation safer or have the numerous deaths it has brought to civilians encouraged terrorist recruitment efforts?

Robert Crais, already beloved by Southern Californians for his terrific PI series set in our area, just came out with his latest book – **Suspect** – which appears to be a stand-alone story about a wounded L.A. police officer who enters the K-9 world in order to stay on active duty. Besides the multi-faceted page-turning mystery, we are introduced to these special animals and taught how they are

trained, as well as their perceptions of our world and relationships. After reading this story, no dog lover will ever look at their pet the same way again!

In My Father's Country by **Saima Wahabi**. A girl born in Afghanistan goes as a refugee to Pakistan and then comes as a refugee to Portland, Oregon where she ultimately goes to college. She emancipates herself from her extended family and returns to war-torn Afghanistan as an interpreter to the Coalition forces. The story is fraught with culture conflict within herself and between herself, her family and the two countries.

Book suggestions from Omnimoreans make this column work. Thanks to **Ruth Bloland** and **JoAnna Kerrigan** 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 “Omnimore Books” as the subject of your email. We look forward to hearing from you.



OMNIOLORE Summer Forum Luncheon Reservation Form

WHEN: **Wednesday, July 31st 2013—11:30 a.m.**
 WHERE: **Los Verdes Country Club**
 7000 W. Los Verdes Drive
 Rancho Palos Verdes

Reservations must be received by July 21st

Please make _____ reservations for the **Omnimore** Summer Forum Luncheon at **\$20.00** each:

Name(s): _____
(Please Print)

(Please Print)

Phone #: _____

I want a vegetarian plate. Enclosed is a check for: **\$20.00 each** Total number of meals.

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

Forum Committee, c/o Lori Geittmann
 420 Avenue E
 Redondo Beach, CA 90277-5122

July

- 4 Independence Day**
 8 Best Sellers Book Group, 11 a.m. - 12.30 p.m., Room 8
 11 Board of Directors Meeting, 12 Noon - 2 p.m., Room 7
 19 Hiking Group, 10 a.m. - 12 Noon
 31 Summer Forum, 11:30 a.m., Los Verdes Country Club
 (see article, page 1; reservation form, page 7)

OMNIOLORE
 CALENDAR
 2013

August

- 2 Introducing Omnimore Meeting, 10 a.m. - 12 Noon, Room 7
 8 Board of Directors Meeting, 12 Noon - 2 p.m., Room 7
 12 Best Sellers Book Group, 11 a.m. - 12.30 p.m., Room 8
 15 Input Deadline for September-October 2013 Newsletter
 16 Hiking Group, 10 a.m. - 12 Noon

*Happy
 Summer*

**2013 Forums**

Winter—January 31st
 Spring—April 30th
 Summer—July 31st
 Annual Mtg.—October 31st

IMPORTANT:

Calendar changes and additions
 are scheduled with Lynn Taber
 (310) 831-4768—johnlynntaber@gmail.com

The Minus \$12 Million Stone Shark

by Frances Roberts

The "\$12 Million Stuffed Shark" class was delighted with learning about today's art market with its stratospheric prices and convoluted dealings, with maneuvers sometime beyond comprehension for people who aren't billionaires. We learned a lot about contemporary artists, where art is displayed, where it is auctioned, where it is bought and sold at Art Fairs--one at Chatsworth Country Estate in England attracted 36,000 people one weekend....and all sorts of intriguing things about names like Saatchi, Christie's and Sotheby's, and collectors like Eli Broad and Fred Weisman in L.A. We were all sorry to see this S/DG end.

