



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.

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Times Editorial Editor Looks To The Future

by Carol Kerster

I start by defining two professions according to Webster-

Journalism: The work of gathering, writing, editing, and publishing or disseminating news, as through newspapers and magazines, or by radio and television;
Law: All the rules of conduct established and enforced by the authority, legislation or custom of a given community, state, or other group.

Whatever one thinks of the individuals who practice these professions (and the abundance of good and bad guys on all sides in both professions could fuel debate indefinitely), one must admit that the combination in one man is both intriguing and provocative.



Andres Martinez

Andres Martinez, Editorial Page Editor of the Los Angeles Times, our speaker for the Thursday, April 27th Forum, is just such a man, and his topic, *Newspaper Trends for the Future*, sounds just as intriguing and provocative as his background suggests that he is.

Martinez joined the Times as editorial page editor in September, 2004, and in the following year had the op-ed page and Current added to his responsibilities. Prior to this he worked for the New York Times, where as editorial writer, he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist; he was an editorial writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette; and he was a reporter at the Wall Street Journal.

This career in journalism followed his practice of communications law in Washington, D.C., and his service as a law clerk for a federal district judge in Dallas.

The formal education of Martinez is equally diverse, and gives credence to the maxim that a good journalist has a wide variety of interests. A native of Mexico, he earned a B.A. degree in history from Yale University in 1988, an M.A. in Russian history from Stanford University in 1989, and authored *24/7: Living It Up and Doubling Down in the New Las Vegas*, no doubt, in his spare time.

I hope you agree that this is not a speaker to be missed so mark the date, April 27, 2006, the time, 11:30 a.m., the place, Los Verdes Country Club, and send in your registration form now (see page 9), or as soon as you receive a colorful flyer in the mail.

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Happy St. Patrick's Day



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Richard Johnson

Since *Omniole* is only utilizing about 50% of its classroom availability, we could absorb a larger variety of course offerings space-wise and have fewer of our course preferences turned down if we had more members.

I intend to propose at the next Board Meeting that we establish a goal for our Membership Committee to increase our membership this year by 5 to 10%. Please contact me or speak to any of the other Board members if you have an opinion you'd like considered regarding this proposal. Increasing the membership is my idea and not necessarily what our members want. In any case, the chair of our Membership Committee, **Kathleen Fitzgerald**, would like to hear from any members who would like to help in the task of finding new members. (We have to replace about 7% of our

membership each year due to attrition.) It is necessary, of course, to maintain our standards as we seek new members. We must look for members who are willing to put in the time to make quality presentations. There's concern that some presentations are being given without adequate preparation by our current members. Human nature being what it is we all like to cut corners, but those who do this are short-changing both their group and themselves. My own observation is that 25 hours is an average amount of time and effort needed to prepare a presentation. A good bit of that time should be spent thinking about how the group can be brought into the discussion of your subject; remember that a good goal is to allocate about 50% of the time for

group discussions. There are excellent notes on our website about making good presentations. Our older members should be setting a good example for our newer members.



Finally, *Omniole* has been extremely fortunate to have had a Registrar, **Bob Grove**, who took it upon himself to make sure that professional looking name tags were available for every class, even after changes were made to the initial schedule. After Bob retired as Registrar, we tried asking members to hand print their own name tags, but this was not satisfactory. Consequently, we are having them made professionally to be distributed before classes start. After the classes start, Coordinators will provide name cards for the new members coming into their classes.



Do You Know About



by Patricia & Jay Edie

"Google Alerts" is a wonderful tool to aid in *Omniole* research. The alerts are emails automatically sent to you when there are new Google results for your search terms. They currently offer three types of alerts: 'News,' 'Web,' and 'News & Web.'

We have been using Google Alerts- News to be informed of current news articles that are related to the topics of our research for our Study/Discussion Groups. A 'News' alert is an email that lets you know if new articles make it into the top ten results of your Google News search. We receive a daily email that includes links to the news articles on our search topics. But you can request the email to come weekly or "as it happens."

It is a very easy tool to set up. Simply visit the Google Alerts home page, <http://www.google.com/alerts?hl=en>, enter your search, the type of results you'd like (News, Web, or News & Web), how often you'd like Google to check for results, and your email address. When you're done, click the 'Create Alert' button. Google will send you a confirmation email; clicking the link in this email will activate your Alert.

You can manage your alert requests if you create a free account with Google. You do this by clicking on the link at the bottom of the screen.



Hurray For OLLIwood!!

Jim Bouchard

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



Hollywood! How many people from all over the world dream of the world's entertainment capital where dreams and hopes are immortalized on film (and on these days, computers!). Yet as a matter of course we are more likely to complain about being stuck in traffic on Hollywood Boulevard than appreciate the rich history of the film industry.

What is it about film that captures our attention and engages our minds like nothing else? For the last three semesters, participating faculty have used film clips throughout their presentations to reinforce their point, whether it was about *History of American Film* (Spring 2005), *American Film, Television, and Culture of the 1950's* (Fall 2005), or this semester's *The Law and Criminal Investigation in Film, TV, and Literature*. Our efforts have been realized with six on-campus Osher Lectures, 14

OLLIonline television/online broadcasts, and an active learning group at the Motion Picture & Television Fund retirement community in Woodland Hills.

By the time you read this article, the Oscars will have come and gone, and Diana Ossana will have visited the Dominguez Hills campus to speak with students about *Brokeback Mountain*, a movie she wrote the screenplay for and produced. In an e-mail to us she said "I'm looking forward to spending time on your campus. It will probably be the highlight of my trip!" The highlight of

Continued on page 3.

OMNIOLORE PROFILE – HAL FENTON

by Frances Roberts

Hal Fenton, a very active member of *Omniole*, was born in New York City in 1923. His education began at DeWitt Clinton High School there, his BS degree came from Long Island University, Brookville, NY, and after the war, he continued studies at Columbia University on the GI bill.

Hal served three years in the Army Air Corps as a mechanic and flight engineer on B-24 heavy bombers in China and India with the Flying Tigers. His bases sound extremely exotic: Kunming, Chengtu, Liuchow, Luliand, Suichuan in China, Chabua, Tezpur, Bombay and Karachi in India. In World War II this area was known for its high-risk nature! He was, in fact, in one of the most dangerous theatres of operation anywhere. Here's his view of the life of an Air Corps soldier in China, probably "different from anything American soldiers experienced anywhere else"...

"We got off the boat at Bombay, crossed India via rail and river boat and arrived at Chabua, India, for the ride over the 'hump' to China. Lord Louis Mountbatten himself, driving a jeep, welcomed us and wished us luck. He was then supreme commander of the entire Southeast Asia command, and certainly made us feel good.

"We had no idea where we were going until we landed in Kunming. This was the China terminus of the famous Burma Road, which we were glad we hadn't had to walk through. When we got off the plane, an Air Corp Captain drove up and asked if any of us could type. I could, but had been told not to

volunteer for anything, so I stayed silent. My first of many errors. One man did go along and ended up as a medic in the base office. All he had to do for two years was type a few forms, give out Atabrine tablets to prevent malaria, and take the Chinese nurses out to dinner in town.

"I was trucked over to the end of the air strip and assigned as assistant crew chief to a master sergeant boss on a B-52 heavy bomber. I had never seen this plane, let alone repair it, but that was the Army. After making my share of mistakes, I was accepted as better than nothing.

"As a member of the 425th Bomb Squadron, I flew in 'Dragon Lady' to forward bases in free China. As part of the famous Flying Tigers, our job was to harass the enemy and keep them from taking over the rest of China, Burma and India. We bombed Japanese railroads, sea ports, and Japan itself when we had enough gas to make long flights. We controlled the skies. Our only danger was at night when they sent bombers over to annoy us, but we soon got safe and comfortable in the neighborhood caves.

"Life was exciting, seeing new cities and towns and being treated as heroes by the local people, who had been badly treated by the invading Japanese. At the time, we Tigers were the only American forces that were striking back and doing real damage. I am also happy to say that we rarely had casualties. Those few who were downed were often helped back to our base by friendly Chinese peasants."

When Hal returned after the war, life must have seemed a bit prosaic. But he was glad to go back to a placid life at college where he didn't have to resort to cave-dwelling.

After the stint at Columbia, he came to California in '53 as an employee of the Tuck Tape Co. where he learned enough about packaging to start his own company. In 1962 he set about manufacturing polyethylene bags and wraps for agricultural growers. He traveled California from San Francisco to El Centro selling mostly carrot and cauliflower bags and helping in the brand naming and design of many for clients. He says, "It was a new product and lots of fun, a gratifying occupation." He retired in 1990.

Having played too much tennis in his spare time, he ruined both knees and was "forced" to take up golf, "a frustrating sport!"

His lovely wife is the former Flo Lipman, and the couple has three sons: William, M.D., Sacramento; Robert, a school principal in San Pedro, and Alan, an attorney in Santa Barbara. He's exceedingly proud of all of them. In addition, son Alan has twin grandsons, almost four years old, whom he adores. One can imagine why when one of them is quoted as saying, "Grandpa, you don't need to give us so many toys. I'd rather you read a book to me." This could be a future *Omniole*an!

Hal has had a rewarding time with learning in retirement. "I'm truly grateful for being able to meet the people and enjoy the classes at *Omniole*," he says.

The Sounding Board

Echo Echo Echo

by the Website Working Group

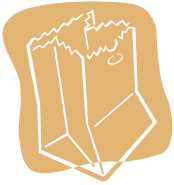


Some may have not yet discovered the new Science Sounding Board on the *Omniole* website. One of the intriguing science questions posed there concerns the reality of dark matter. Do you believe in it? Read what is posted and give us your comments.

Hollywood - Continued from page 2 her trip. . . and the purpose of her trip to Los Angeles is to potentially pick up eight Oscars at the Kodak Theatre two days after her visit to us!

As co-sponsors of the event, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is fortunate to be within proximity of the entertainment industry and its legions of employees, past and present. As we move forward with the evolution of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (with particular emphasis on required membership drives and fund-raising), we hope to continue to take advantage of our ties with the entertainment industry to bring our members quality learning-in-retirement which is as entertaining as it is intellectually challenging.

See you at the movies!



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!

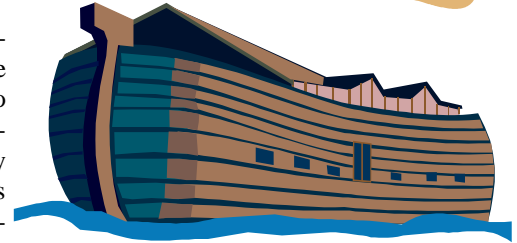


March 17:



Professor Ed Tarvyd

In March, we will not be so serious. We will have an entertaining speaker, **Professor Ed Tarvyd**, who is a marine biologist and a professor at Santa Monica College, but who became interested in the size of Noah's Ark from the description in Genesis, and went on to estimate the difficulty of the task assigned to Noah. We will learn how many trees had to be felled, the number of workers employed, the duration of the job, and the logistics of food and housing for the animals, as well as consideration of waste removal and flatulence problems. And where did all that water come from? He titles his talk, *The Ecology of Noah's Ark*.



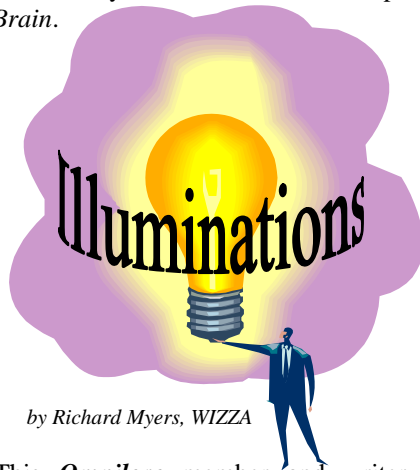
**NOTE THAT FOR THIS TIME ONLY,
BROWN BAG SCIENCE WILL BE
ON A FRIDAY**

April 19:

In April, we will get to hear the Brown Bag Science talk that unfortunately had to be postponed in January because of the illness of our speaker, **Dr. Teresa Palos**. We will explore the science of 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 make them by manufacturing long strings of amino acids, which then spontaneously 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 April 19, Dr. Palos will tell us about *Misbehaving Proteins and the Brain*.



This is the DNA imprint of the Mad Cow Disease



by Richard Myers, WIZZA

This *Omniole* member and writer (I helped start our *Omniole* Writers' Seminar in Sept., 1994) has received some wonderful news about a book I wrote years ago—its status and value. A writer friend has alerted me that my book *Lightning Lancer* (I wrote it in 1952; it was published in 1953) is now listed in the used book market as a collectible "rare" book. Also, its price in the used book market, contrary to the downward norm, is actually moving up! It has risen to \$285.

Writer/friend Katherine Poehlmann tipped me that the book has surfaced at abebooks.com (Advanced Book Exchange). So I went to that website, typed

the title, and got confirmation. The dealer classes the book as rare, something that almost never happens. As you might imagine, I'm delighted.

The book was a labor of love—to capture a significant time in the Air Force—the conversion from propeller birds to jets; and to depict the squadron that scored the first aerial victories in the Korean War, the 68th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, my first fighter squadron.

I thought the official squadron history too opaque, written in stuffy bureaucratese, sans illustrations. So I shot many photos, got some from other squadron members (acknowledged), and cropped them to focus attention. Some I fitted into mosaic form. I then wrote the text and captions to explain the sets of photos.

After laying out, typing, and pasting-up about 100 pages, including cover and endpapers, I had *Lightning Lancer* finished. A small print run, it sold <1000 copies. I considered that the end of the matter. But now my book has a 'pricey' new life as a rare book.

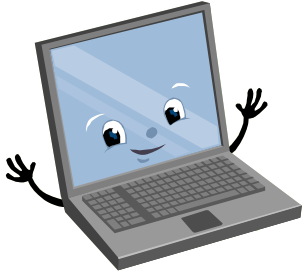
I'd guess several factors give the book value: It records a significant moment in military history and includes every man in the squadron, the crash boat crew and a controller. It shows a scramble. Numbered copies went to the families of men we had lost. The photo mosaics offers a visual history. The writing is lean and clear.

This experience prompts me to urge other writers: refine your concept, and always do your best work. Even if your book isn't a best seller, it may have a future that will surprise you.

(If you have a story to tell, an idea to explore, a question to ponder, and would like to write an article for "Illuminations," please contact the newsletter editor at msoran@sbcglobal.net. We are interested in all subjects — art, music, science, history, culture, drama, psychology — topics of interest to most, if not all of us. We welcome your input).



The F-82 Twin Mustang, made by North American.



Computer Talk

by George Clark

Speeding Up Your PC

When you turn on your computer, do you wait forever while it twiddles its electronic thumbs? What is it doing all that time? It is loading software. Have you noticed that there are maybe fifty processes running on your computer? No wonder your computer is slow! Have you looked at all those cryptic file names? How can you find out which processes you need so you can get rid of the rest? Do you get messages *ad nauseum* reminding you about available Windows updates? Do you feel obligated to stop what you are doing and download and install them? What about when you click on Start/Programs and then watch your fingernails grow while you wait for the menu to appear? Windows has an excessive time delay built in, but you can reduce it or take it out entirely. **George Clark** will share some ways to speed up your computer on Thursday, **March 23** from 12 Noon to 1 p.m., Room 7. There will also be time for bringing up your own computer problems. Most likely someone in the group will be able to help.

Note: There will be no **Computer Talk** in April.



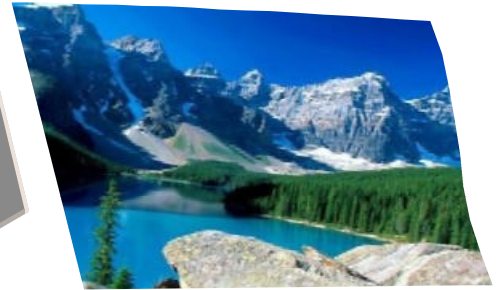
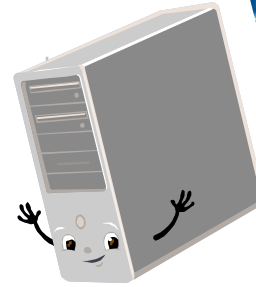
Refining the Omnilore Picture

by Janet Brown, New Member-at-Large

Being new to the *Omnilore* Board, I quickly found out that not only does one attend Board meetings, but one also participates actively in one of the committees...we get to choose which one. I chose membership. One of my first responsibilities was to find classes for potential members to visit so they could get a feel for what was in store should they choose to join *Omnilore*. I got to call fall class coordinators; and what a pleasure this turned out to be!

I spoke with approximately half of the class coordinators (those I could contact in one afternoon) and to a person they were **gracious** and **enthusiastic** and **helpful**. They explained thoroughly what the make-up of the class was and alerted me to situations that might not work for the potential member (such as few members attending the meeting just before a holiday). And here was an unexpected surprise for me...not all S/DG classes are conducted in the same way. Some emphasize the text book over the presentations. Some have no textbooks at all. Some prefer emphasis to be on the presentations with discussion of the topic presented. Some prefer a shorter time for presentations with plenty of time for discussing pre-determined questions. One class helps beginning writers to learn the craft with plenty of class support and encouragement. I was aware of the variety of content...science, history, literature, the arts...and approaches. If there are field trips, these are usually noted in the blurb which accompanies the class description. I had no idea of the extent of the flexibility of this program, however. It truly seems to be determined by both the coordinator AND the class members each semester for each class!

(It is our hope that coordinators and/or class members will share some of the interesting things going on in the S/DGs. In future newsletter issues we would like to let the entire membership know about the exciting things happening in the Omnilore classrooms. Let's share the wealth!)



Explore Canada in a New Way!

by Emil Raulin

Come to hear about the unique Canadian Adventure planned for Omniloreans.

Date: Wednesday, March 8

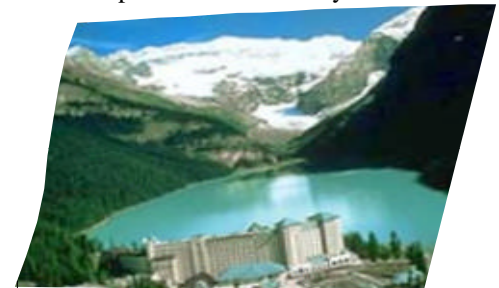
Time: 10 a.m.

Place: Franklin Center, Room 8

Contact Person: Emil Raulin
316-5750

Most tours focus on Southern British Columbia and/or the Canadian Rockies. Our trip is designed to also cover Northern Vancouver Island, the Inland Passage, and other areas of the Northwest with their rich history of mineral exploration and fur trading.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear how this experience can enrich your life.



On Learning . . .

For where is any author in the world,
T eaches such beauty as a woman's eye?
Learning is but an adjunct to oneself.

Shakespeare

With just enough learning to misquote. Lord Byron

Learning without thought is labor lost; thought
without learning is perilous. Confucius

Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready
man, and writing an exact man. Francis Bacon

The love of learning, the sequestered nooks,
And the sweet serenity of books. Longfellow

Much learning does not teach understanding.
Heraclitus

Learning is not attained by chance, it must be
sought with ardor and attended to with diligence.

Abigail Adams

Meet Our New Members!

by Mary Golob

Barbara and Bob Bragonier, 36-year residents of the South Bay, have three children, five grandchildren and one great-grandson. She is a retired university instructor and MFCC; he a retired public health physician and professor at UCLA Medical School. Their shared interests include music, travel, walking and progressive political activity.

Jim McClane is an 86-year-old widower who retired in 1985 after a 47-year career in the administration side of the Hearst newspapers in Los Angeles. A Colorado native, he is a veteran of World War II and now lives with his daughter, the mother of his two granddaughters. He enjoys playing golf a couple of times a week.

Damon Swank is a retired criminal defense attorney who, in his own words, has "never sued anybody for anything!" He has a wide range of activities, including maintaining a salt-water-reef fish tank, growing tomatoes, and working on his 25-year-old house and car, as well as upgrading his newer RV so he can travel in it more frequently.

Katherine Walker, after a 30-year career in Information Systems, continues part-time in the Mathematics and Computer Science departments of the CSU system, where she has taught for 25 years. A remodel of her San Pedro townhouse and activities like kayaking, bridge and travel have not kept her from becoming addicted to Sudoku in the past year.

Candy Wilson attended L.A. schools until she moved to Inglewood, graduating from Inglewood High School in 1940. She married soon after graduation and, when three of her five children had completed high school, she enrolled at Cal State Long Beach, earning a degree in Social Welfare in 1970. She loves the outdoors and traveling.



Other New Members!

Mary Coropoff
Redondo Beach

Ruby Graupner
Rolling Hills Estates

Jack Kellam
Redondo Beach

McNair Maxwell
Rancho Palos Verdes

Ardith Morningstar
Rolling Hills Estates

Norman Morris
Rancho Palos Verdes

Jean Riegelhuth
Palos Verdes Estates

Please welcome these new members !

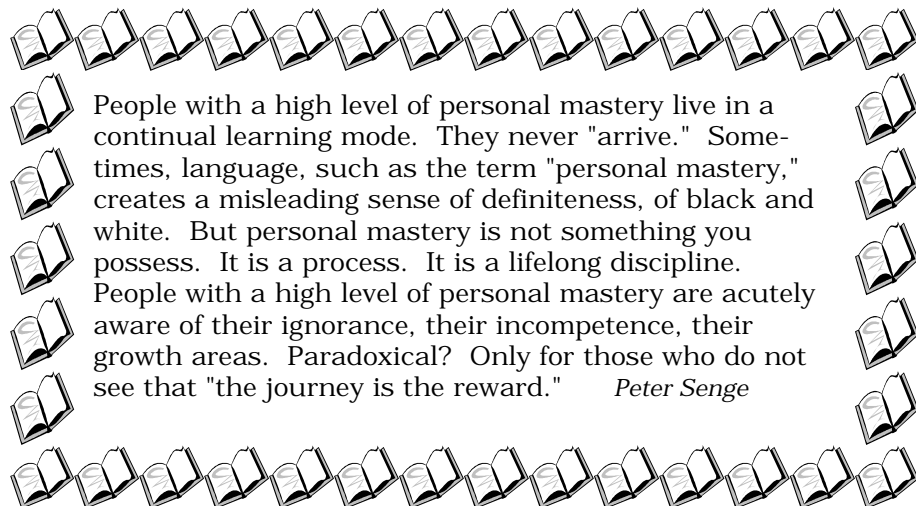
Check the roster insert for more complete contact information.



The University of Oklahoma
College of Law

Resource Link

You can have a copy of the Federalist Papers at your fingertips in the time it takes you to sing "Yankee Doodle Dandy." The University of Oklahoma, College of Law, offers electronic copies of US Historical documents at their website at www.law.ou.edu/hist/. The documents are listed in chronological order and go from the Magna Carta in 1215 to President George W. Bush's 2005 State of Union Address. This is just one of many research links you can find at the www.Omniole.org website, in the Member's Section. By the way, the link also has the lyrics to "Yankee Doodle Dandy!"



People with a high level of personal mastery live in a continual learning mode. They never "arrive." Sometimes, language, such as the term "personal mastery," creates a misleading sense of definiteness, of black and white. But personal mastery is not something you possess. It is a process. It is a lifelong discipline. People with a high level of personal mastery are acutely aware of their ignorance, their incompetence, their growth areas. Paradoxical? Only for those who do not see that "the journey is the reward." *Peter Senge*

Limerick from Limerick

There once was a wee Limerick
Lass,
Drank beer from a two liter glass,
When asked how she holds,
Such hydraulic loads,
She said, surely this too shall pass.

H.E. Kamiya





Ambassador Fountain



Gamble House

Annual Downtown Walk

On April 21, 2006 *Omniole*'s hiking group will sponsor its annual downtown walk which is open to all interested parties. This year we will tour the western part of Pasadena which has many features of architectural interest including the Tournament House and Wrigley Gardens, Ambassador College, The Gamble house and many more. Those that require an entrance fee will be viewed from the outside only.

We will depart from the Artesia Metro Station on the first train after 9:00 a.m. and return about 3:00 p.m. after our tour and no-host lunch. The Artesia Metro station is just north of the 91 freeway a few miles east of the 110 interchange. Going east on the 91, get off at the Acacia off ramp, go under the freeway and then cross Artesia Blvd. The Metro parking lot is on your right a short way north of Artesia Blvd. Arrive at least 15 minutes early to allow time to park, go to the platform and buy a ticket with transfer privileges (55¢ for seniors)

If you have any questions call **Nancy Shannon** at (323) 254-1396 or John or Lynn Taber at (310) 831-4768.



Wrigley Gardens



Tournament House

Introducing – Your Membership Committee

by Kathleen Fitzgerald

Edith Garvey, after a very successful tenure as Membership Chairperson, has decided to retire from that position, although she retains her Membership Liaison role. The new Chairperson is Kathleen Fitzgerald and the members serving on the committee are: **Janet Brown, Dick Croft, Margareta Ericksen, Edith Garvey, Mary Golob, Gordon Kehmeier, and Rick Spillane**, with assistance from **Joe Carrier and Dick Johnson**. These volunteers play an important role on the committee.

The Membership Committee is responsible for recruiting new members at the start of each of the trimesters, which commence in September, January, and May.

The Membership Committee meets three months prior to the beginning of each trimester and assigns tasks to members in preparation for the campaign to recruit new members. Two months before the semester starts, another meeting is held to begin the distribution of brochures about *Omniole* and fliers announcing upcoming “Introducing Omniole” meetings, and to prepare for the scheduled two Introduction - Orientation meetings

Each trimester the Membership Committee holds these Introduction - Orientation meetings in order to explain fully to prospective new members what *Omniole* is about and what is expected of them as participating members. Those who decide to join are registered at this time.

The Committee convened on Jan. 10th for its first meeting of the new year. Among the items discussed was the need to maintain or perhaps increase membership numbers. This is something that we should all support. To maintain a vital organization, we must at least bring in enough new members to cover attrition.

We are asking several things of *Omniole* members. One way *Omniole* members can support the organization is by letting friends, associates, people we meet, know about *Omniole* and what we get out of it. Business cards are available (in quantity) that give information and telephone numbers to call. Everyone is invited to take some. Many members have been introduced to *Omniole* just by hearing about it from someone. We are also hoping to promote diversity and increased membership numbers by broadening our area of brochure and flier circulation and perhaps doing some presentations at libraries and places of business from which people are retiring. We also would like to encourage more publicity about the organization. To do these things we could use more help. Additional volunteers for the Membership Committee will be most welcome.

We are also conducting a survey to try to find out just how present members came to join *Omniole*. Coordinators will be helping to gather this information and all members of S/DGs are asked to participate. We are trying to determine just where we can best put our recruitment efforts.

We will be holding new “Introducing Omniole” sessions for prospective members on **Tuesday, April 4th and Monday, April 17th**, both at 10 a.m. at Franklin Center, for the Summer Trimester. Remember, in order that prospective members fully understand what they are committing to, they must go through one of these introductory sessions before becoming eligible for membership.

Have You Seen . . .

The new Torrance Art Museum (TAM) is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Located at 3320 Civic Center Drive, Torrance, it is currently focusing on landscapes in its exhibits. Free admission and parking.

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!

Whatchadoin??

If you are interested in volunteering to help out on the Communications Committee, an information meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 10th at the Franklin Center. Come to Room 7 and lend your ear(s) and perhaps pens to our wonderful little group!



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!

Did You Know . . .

Remember- if you notice events, landmarks, exhibits, etc. that you think might be of interest to *Omniole* members, email a brief announcement to the webmaster@omniole.org. The web page has the capability of being more current than the bimonthly newsletter!

The Nakano Theatre, also at the Torrance Civic Center, continues its "Works in Progress" series, an epic drama of events leading up to the attacks on Sept. 11th. Call 310/781-7171 for further information and dates.

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.

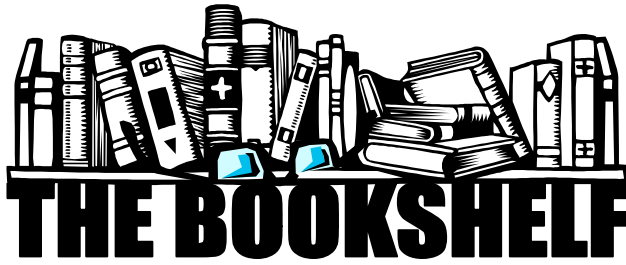
Contact Johan at johansmith@comcast.net if you would like e-mail delivery. You even get it faster that way!

How can you be a VP in *Omniole*?

Volunteer and Participate!

That's Interesting . . .

The Curriculum Committee welcomes topic suggestions any time of the year! If you have an idea, write it up and send it to Rick Spillane (RSpillane@comcast.net) for consideration.



by Mary Oran

This issue's book selections cover a range of time periods and settings. (A reminder that we welcome suggestions from all of our readers. What are you reading now? What memorable book do you remember from years past?)

Our first fiction entry is *Easter Island* by **Jennifer Vanderbes**. In this fascinating narrative, two women of different eras experience the mysteries of Easter Island. In 1912, Elsa marries an anthropologist with the Royal Geographic Society in England. Along with Elsa's 19 year old sister, who has mental problems, the three travel to Easter Island to research the statues. In a parallel narrative, Greer, a young American botanist, arrives on the island in 1973 with a grant to study the island's trees. The women's stories are told in alternate sections, along with a third element that is intertwined – the tale of Graf von Spee, a German admiral in charge of a fleet at the beginning of WWI. This is a fascinating tale that is intellectual, scientific, intriguing, and emotional.

Tracy Chevalier's historical novel *The Lady and the Unicorn* tells the story of the six famous lady and unicorn tapestries. In 15th century France, Nicholas des Innocents, a rakish artist, designs works for a French nobleman, Jean La Viste. The nobleman's wife asks the artist to feature a unicorn in the tapestries. Nicholas' love of women, however, inspires him to include the faces and gestures of women as well (including the nobleman's daughter). The richness of this novel centers on its portrayal of the social customs of the times, and especially the craft of weaving. Brussels was the home of the major weavers, and much of the novel occurs there. Only a few

Learning is like rowing upstream;
not to advance is to drop back.
Chinese Saying

facts are known about the creation of the unicorn tapestries; Chevalier has taken these and embellished them, creating a riveting tale.

Another recommendation is *González & Daughter Trucking Co.* by **Maria**

Amparo Escandon. The story is told by "Libertad," a young Mexican-American woman who is incarcerated in the Mexicali Penal Institution for Women. There are parallel stories of Libertad in prison and her life on the road growing up with her father. It is quirky and yet poignant, and gives one a glimpse into life in the prison where she helps pass the time by forming a literary club in the prison library. It also offers a glimpse into the life of a trucker, complete with CB calls. It offers a nice change of pace, especially for a reader looking for something just a little different.

The Piano Shop on the Left Bank: Discovering a Forgotten Passion in a Paris Atelier, authored by **Thad Carhart**, is definitely a book for music lovers (especially piano players). Carhart is an American writer who, with his family, resides in Paris. Near his apartment he discovers a little piano shop that comes to play an important part in his life. This is an account of his finding a piano to purchase, and relearning how to play it. In the process, he tells the history of the piano, provides technical explanations on how a piano works, and discusses the fine art of piano tuning. He also looks

back on his childhood experiences with piano teachers and music. His relationship with Luc, the piano shop owner, and the Friday night social gatherings at the little establishment present a warm picture of everyday life in France. This is an infectious book that is going to affect anyone who has ever played a note!

We may think we have some of the smartest people in the world in our group, but how many of us have read the entire *Encyclopedia Britannica* cover to cover? In *The Know-It-All: One Man's Humble Quest to Become the Smartest Person in the World*, **A.J. Jacobs** describes his year reading all 32 volumes of the 2002 edition of the *EB*. The alphabetical arrangement of the book allows him to share the highlights of each volume, and shows his special interests. But the best parts are his digressions into anecdotes describing his attendance at a MENSA meeting, trying out for a crossword puzzle tournament, meeting Alex Trebek, irritating family and friends with his new found knowledge, and much more. This is a memoir that causes one to laugh out loud. Jacobs' wit and the *EB's* trivia combine to form an enjoyable book that will allow you to feel like you've conquered some of the *EB* yourself!

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

OMNIOLORE Forum Luncheon Reservation Form

WHEN: **Thursday**, April 27th, 2006 – 11:30 a.m.

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

Reservations are
required by April 21st,
please!

Please make ___ reservations for the **Omniole** Luncheon Forum 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**, 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

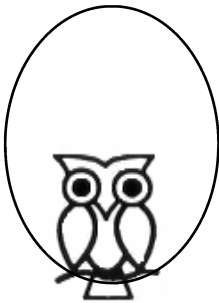
**OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2006**

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| March | 8 | Canadian Adventure Information Meeting - 10 a.m. - Room 8 |
| | 9 | Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7 |
| | 10 | Communications Committee - 10 a.m. - Room 7 |
| | 13 | Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8 |
| | 14 | Membership Committee - 12 Noon - Room 8 |
| | 17 | Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. - Room 7 -
<i>The Ecology of Noah's Ark</i> - Professor Ed Tarvyd
(see article, page 4) |
| | 17 | Hiking Group - 10 a.m. |
| | 17 | St. Patrick's Day |
| | 23 | Computer Talks - 12 Noon to 1 p.m. - Room 7
<i>Speeding Up Your PC</i> - George Clark (see article, page 5) |
| | 27 | Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8 |
| April | 10 | Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8 |
| | 11 | Membership Committee - 12 Noon - Room 8 |
| | 13 | Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7 |
| | 13 | Passover |
| | 14 | Good Friday |
| | 15 | Input Deadline for May-June Newsletter |
| | 16 | Easter |
| | 19 | Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. - Room 7 -
<i>Misbehaving Proteins and the Brain</i> - Dr. Teresa Palos
(see article, page 4) |
| | 21 | Annual Downtown Walk - 9 a.m. (see article, page 7) |
| | 24 | Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8 |
| 27 | No Computer Talks in April | |
| 27 | Spring Forum - 11:30 a.m. - Los Verdes Country Club | |



IMPORTANT:

Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with
Pat Stevens - (310) 548-3253 - mh_pt_stevens@peoplepc.com



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