



OMNILORE NEWS

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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.

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Let's Play Jeopardy

Category: Muslims In America

by Carol Kerster



Dr. Hamoud Salhi

Answer: It is a religion, a culture and a political movement.

Question: What is Islam?

Answer: World events (9/11, terrorism, Iraq, the Israel-Palestine conflict), education, and voting intentions in 2008.

Question: Which of these topics are viewed differently by 2nd / 3rd generation Muslims in America, than by their parents? Which are seen similarly?

Answer: Dr. Hamoud Salhi, professor, writer, journalist.

Question: Who is the speaker for the next Omnilore Forum Luncheon?

Answer: Virtually all Omniloreans.

Question: Who is concerned about these topics, and will make every attempt to attend this meeting?

Having earned his PhD and Master's degrees from USC, and his Bachelor degree from the Institute of International Relations and Information from the University of Algiers, Professor Hamoud Salhi presently teaches courses in Middle East Politics, international relations and American foreign policy at CSUDH. He also publishes (in *International Relations and Security in the Digital Age*, and in *Strategic Insight*), is a book reviewer and is working on a new book, *Gulf Security*. He will be presenting his paper, *Bridging the Divides between Muslims and the West: Towards a New Theory of Terrorism Preemption—The Case of the U.S.*, at the International Studies Association annual conference, in April of this year.

Dr. Salhi writes a weekly column for El Khabar, an independent Algerian newspaper, and is a frequent contributor to many newspapers and magazines in the Middle East. He is also a regular guest on various Algerian television and radio programs, speaking about current political issues.

Answer: Any member who does not register and attend the Forum, 11:30AM, on Wednesday April 30th, at the Los Verdes Country Club.

Question: Who will be sorely disappointed for missing an informed lecture on a most timely topic?

For your convenience, use the registration form on page 5.

DON'T MISS — IN THIS ISSUE

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HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT*by Rick Spillane*

A new year is under way and the Omnilore Board members want it to be the best ever. The Board is composed of members who have actively supported Omnilore's activities. Some of the members would like time off and some have served longer than our bylaw term limits suggest. We would like some new faces and ideas to continue the good work of the last 17 years. The work is evenly distributed and does not take too much time each month. Give it some serious thought. Let any Board member know if you would be willing to be an officer or the chairperson of a committee. The present officers would help anyone to become familiar with their duties.

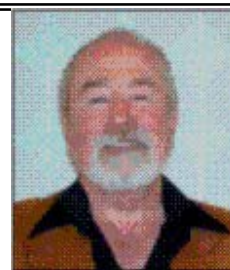
We all enjoy our classes, discussions, and the friends we have made in Omnilore. Let's all pitch in and make it an even better organization.

At the end of each trimester you receive a questionnaire about the class you just completed. Please take a moment to fill it out and return it. The Board and the curriculum committee need your feedback to understand how well we are meeting the needs of our members. This is not a fault-finding exercise, but is an important tool in striving to better our

classes and improve member satisfaction.

If you aren't attending our quarterly Forum lunches you really are missing good food, friendly people, and speakers who are interesting, dynamic, and topical. Atypically, the January talk was a surprise and more topical than I expected. At 10:15 AM the day of the luncheon, our Forum Chairwoman **Diana Cutler** (who, with her committee, has for the last 10 years secured excellent speakers) called with a problem and a solution. The problem: for the first time in 10 years the speaker was missing. Her solution: **Laurel** (my wife) and I should speak about our recent Kenya trip which put us in the middle of Kenya's civil war. Now Omnilore has prepared us to do presentations, but 40 minutes (subtract 10 minutes discussing why we couldn't possibly do it) does not allow for pictures and a PowerPoint presentation. So, with the help of Laurel's trip notes, we laid out an outline and speaker roles. We truly appreciate the warm reception we received to our talk on being tourists caught in the civil war. As to the experience itself, the knowledge we had gained taking an

Omnilore course covering African history over the last 50 years became very pertinent in understanding what was going on around us.



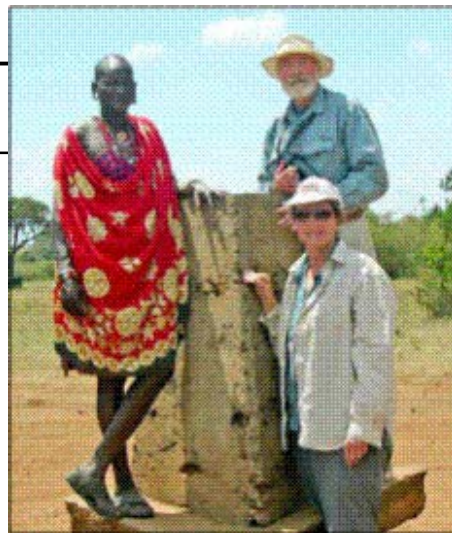
It is common, particularly at our age, to be reluctant to ask questions on how to use ever-changing technology. Try to not let this stop you. We are all in the same boat, and those at Omnilore who know a little more are very willing to help out others. Questions often are related to class presentations and include: "How do I make up a mailing list for people in my class?"; "How do I use the new Omnilore equipment that is available in the classroom?"; "How do I put together a PowerPoint presentation?"; "How do I do things like add music and photos to my presentations?" At Omnilore we are actively trying to answer questions like this by having a Computer Special Interest Group and by having a list of computer knowledgeable members who have indicated a willingness to answer individual questions and provide help when needed.

Any questions or suggestions on providing help on technology can be e-mailed to me.

To The Rescue!*by Mary Oran*

The well-attended January Forum, festively featuring "hearty" décor, turned out to be quite a surprise. A collective gasp was heard when **Diana Cutler** announced that the expected speaker would not be in attendance. But our "presidential couple" came to the rescue! **Rick and Laurel Spillane** had recently returned from a three-week trip to Kenya. With just a few hours' notice, they offered a mesmerizing presentation of their experience. We felt the cold; we felt the heat; we felt the frustration. And then we felt the fear of the unknown, as they found out a civil war had broken out and they were stuck in one spot. Rick and Laurel had the full attention of Omniloreans as they related their adventures.

After the luncheon, we gathered some reactions from the audience. Here is what individuals had to say: "We couldn't have had better speakers if we had paid for them!" "Not only did the Spillanes step in at the last minute to replace the no-show speaker; they did it with such good grace. Their presentation was outstanding, done in true Omnilorean spirit." "Their descriptions of being caught in the middle of the fighting had me on the edge of my seat." "The most thought-provoking information was Laurel's comments on being led by a little old lady and the respect that was bestowed on her as they traveled along." "I appreciate the team effort. When Rick is ready to pass on responsibilities of president of Omnilore, I will vote for Laurel!" "...From the comprehensive diary that Laurel kept during their trip, they described their birding experiences, their contacts with guides and residents, and their rather harrowing departure from Kenya....We are very glad they are back safe and sound!" "It was real 'Omnilore serendipity' to hear Laurel and Rick Spillane's harrowing description (continued on page 4)



Rick & Lori Spillane with their Masai guide on the border of Kenya & Tanzania

DEAN'S CORNER



Notes from CSUDH

by Margaret Gordon
Dean

Lifelong Learning Institute
College of Extended & International Education
CSUDH

I look forward to informing you of campus and our College highlights through this column in your *Omnilore News*.

In January the College of Extended & International Education (CEE) was selected to administer an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Training Institute (OTI) Education Center by the U.S. Department of Labor. Dominguez Hills, the only CSU campus to be so designated, becomes one of twenty-eight OTI Education Centers in the United States. CEE participated in a competitive national search and was chosen as one of eight new centers. The Center will provide training and education to improve employee safety and health throughout OSHA's Region IX, which includes California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and the Pacific Territories. Centers are evaluated on the basis of occupational safety and health experience, continuing education background and ability to provide training throughout the region. The Department of Labor was particularly impressed by the convenience and accessibility of the campus location and overall quality of our training facilities, our distance learning capabilities, and the fact that CEE has had over 15 years experience in offering environmental and occupational safety and security training to the public. According to Scott Mackay, director of the new CSUDH OTI Education Center, "As an official OTI education center, CSUDH will assume a leadership role in ensuring the region's workforce are properly trained in workforce safety. We are excited about bringing this new program to our region."

OMNILORE PROFILE – DALE & HOWARD KORMAN

by Tom Rische

Howard and Dale Korman, who joined *Omnilore* a year ago, have spent their lives in the fast track, interweaving science, music, education, civic affairs, and family. Now retired, he is *Omnilore's* new Membership Chair, and she is serving a fourth term as president of the Torrance Symphony Association.

They were both born in Cleveland, Ohio, and met at Cleveland Heights High School. He played tuba in the school band, for which she sold tickets. They've been together ever since, including 43 years of marriage. This power couple attended Case Western Reserve in Cleveland. He took engineering science and holds Masters and PhD degrees from Harvard. He majored in fluid mechanics, and minored in applied math, and thermodynamic heat transfer, graduating in 1969. She attended Boston University, majoring in elementary education. She later got a Masters from the University of Redlands.

Howard retired as a systems engineer in 2006, after 38 years of working at Northrop and its former entity, TRW. For 15 years he worked for TRW in San Bernardino and lived in Redlands. He founded a Systems Engineering Extension Program for UC Riverside, co-authored a book for the program, and taught a course on Concept Development. He also taught in USC's Graduate School of Mechanical Engineering. The equally active Dale worked for school systems in Torrance, Redlands, and Lincoln, MA, teaching music, PE and Special Ed in elementary and middle schools; she was also a teacher coordinator and enrichment specialist.

In retirement, she bought South Bay Phonics, a company which provided one-on-one instruction for learning-disabled students. She was prop mistress and chorus member for the Redlands Bowl Summer Musicals for 15 years, where she met Frank Fetta, who later became the maestro of the Torrance Symphony. Now she is

President of the Symphony Association. She's also treasurer of the Torrance Arts Council and a member of the California Retired Teachers Assn., and Membership Chair of the South Bay Community Concert Series Assn.

Both Kormans have been in the Norris Theater production *The Notables*, performing with the Prime Time Players group. Square dancers since 1971 they were the California Couple on the Square Dancers of America float in the 1977 Rose Parade—the first time a float had live dancers. Howard still plays the tuba in the Palos Verdes Symphonic Band and in a Klezmer band.

Dale's working career was punctuated by the births of three children, Arik, Caryn and Diane, all now married. The Kormans like to travel, but for the moment, use their vacations for shuttles to relatively new grandkids.

Dale and Howard were delighted to discover *Omnilore* through *Omnilore* friends, **Bob and Elaine Grove**. Dale's mother, **Harriet Apstel**, a Torrance resident, also joined *Omnilore* last year. "It's nice to be on the same page with people who feel as we do that lifelong learning is important," they noted.

To The Rescue

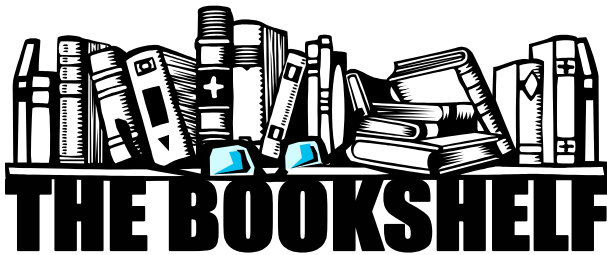
(continued from page 2)

of their recent Kenyan trip. We are fortunate to have heard of their adventures and bravery." "I'm ready for a repeat performance WITH SLIDES."

Bravo! The Spillanes were rescued...the Forum was rescued, and we're all richer for the experience!

A plateau
is a high
form
of
flattery.





by Mary Oran

Two of our recommendations this month have, as a foundation, diaries and journals from World War II. The first, *The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story* by **Diane Ackerman** (praised by many of our *Omniole* members for her *Natural History of the Senses*) is a true story of wartime Poland, based on the diaries of Antonina Zabinski, the wife of Jan Zabinski, who ran the Warsaw Zoo. This courageous couple sheltered over 300 Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto, constantly risking the lives of themselves and family. In this beautifully crafted work, Ackerman has thoroughly researched the time period and tells not only of other heroes of the time, but gives a wonderful picture of zoo life, animal behavior, and the harrowing experiences of the people of Warsaw.

Italy is the scene of our second piece of wartime nonfiction. *Iris Origo's War in Val D'Orcia: An Italian War Diary-1943-1944* presents a daily record of living in Tuscany during the war. The author's personal account gives a day to day picture of life in rural Italy. She is an American/Briton and her husband is an Italian landowner. Together they protected the poor people in their commu-

nity, hid escaped Allied prisoners of war, sheltered over 60 orphans, and stood up to the Germans. One reviewer indicated that this inspiring work belongs to "the literature of humanity."

If you are concerned with the increasing threat of secrecy in America, you should read *Nation of Secrets: The Threat to Democracy and the American Way of Life*. Author **Ted Gup** is a former *Washington Post* and *Time* magazine investigative reporter. His premise is that secrecy in the federal government, on college campuses, in courts and in the corporate world, is generally undercutting a central condition necessary in a democracy – the ability to know.

For fiction readers, we offer three diverse works. *Away* by **Amy Bloom** tells of a larger-than-life Russian immigrant who claws her way through life to find a child left for dead in Russia. She starts in New York tenement life and ultimately walks through Alaska. This book has been called "epic storytelling." Taking place in the early part of the 20th century, it presents a vivid picture of the immigrant experience.

Angell, Pearl and Little God by **Winston Graham** is what one would call "an oldie but timeless." It is the story of a love triangle portrayed by a masterful English writer. Described as having a sharp and interesting style, Graham develops three fascinating characters in this piece.

If historical fiction is to your liking, then *To Spit Against the Wind: A Novel About the Turbulent Life of Tom Paine* should definitely be on your personal booklist. In this biographical novel, author **Bernard Levin** presents the life of one of America's most brilliant and misunderstood heroes. While Paine was of major importance to our eventual independence, he definitely didn't lead a "charmed" life.

Whether the rain is pouring or the sun is shining, we hope you find at least one of these books to your liking!

(Our thanks to **Al Blinder**, **Patricia Edie** and **Helen Leven** for contributing to our list. Please send your titles, with author name and a very brief description, to msoran@sbcglobal.net. Please put "Omniole books" as the subject. We look forward to hearing from you.)



You, too, can mentor!!!
Omniole needs people
 to help new members
 with presentation and
 discussion skills.

If you would like to
 volunteer, please call
Merle Culbert:
 310-545-7994

OMNIOLORE Forum Luncheon Reservation Form

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

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

Reservations are
 required by April 25th,
 please!

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

Name(s): _____
(Please Print)

(Please Print)

Phone #: _____

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

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

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

OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2008

- March**
- 9 **Daylight Saving Time Starts**
 - 11 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 - 13 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 17 **St. Patrick's Day**
 - 20 **First Day of Spring**
 - 21 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 - 21 **Good Friday/Purim**
 - 23 **Easter Sunday**
 - 26 "Introducing Omnimore" Meeting - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon, Room 8
 - 26 Website Working Group - 12 Noon - 1:15 p.m. - Room 8
 - 27 Computer Talks - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
Omnimore's New S/DG Folders on the Internet
- Myron Pullen (see article page 3)
- April**
- 1 **April Fool's Day**
 - 8 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 - 10 "Introducing Omnimore Meeting" - 10 a.m. - 12 Noon, Room 7
 - 10 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 15 Input Deadline for May-June 2008 Newsletter
 - 18 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 - 20 **Passover (first day)**
 - 24 Computer Talks - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
Future of Computer Talks
- Patricia Edie (see article page 3)
 - 27 **Passover (last day)**



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

**March & April Dates
Set for New
"Introducing Omnimore"
Meetings**

by Howard Korman



The Membership Committee has scheduled two "Introducing Omnimore" meetings in March and April for perspective members who may want to join Omnimore for the Summer trimester. Dates are:

Wednesday, March 26th

&

Thursday, April 10th

starting at 10 AM 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!

*To FTP or not to FTP? . . .
That is the Question*

Here is a new acronym for you: "File Transfer Protocol." This is the process by which electronic documents get from someone's home computer to our *Omnimore* Website. Now that we have folders for each S/DG located on our website that can hold all pertinent information for the class, we have a need for help from members who know how (or would like to learn how) to FTP and upload the information into the folders. It is not a complicated process and there are probably some of you who already possess this skill. If you are willing to join this "elite cadre" of members, please contact **Myron Pullen** (our great webmaster) by email at mdpullen@verizon.net or by phone at 310-546-2155. It would be a great help to coordinators who would like to use the folders for their S/DG.