



OMNIOLORE NEWS



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March 2012

OLLI AT CSUDH OMNIOLORE

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

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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.

Editor Mary Golob
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“Libraries of the Future” at the Spring Forum

by Carol Kerster

Omniloreans are fortunate! We have heard a variety of experts entertain, enlighten, and/or educate us at our quarterly Forum meetings. While most of our speakers have followed a direct course from their education and experience to their current occupations, this is not the case for the speaker at our next Forum on April 30: Katherine R. Gould, director of the Palos Verdes Library District, whose eclectic background enhances her qualifications to share her ideas about how our traditionally paper-based library systems are transitioning into the digital world.



Katherine Gould

Armed with a magna cum laude B.A. from Brandon University in Manitoba, Canada, and an M.S. in Library and Information Management from USC, Ms. Gould has traveled huge distances, both professionally and geographically. She started out as a reference librarian in Pasadena, then in 1989 moved to Queensland, Australia, to lead a multi-disciplinary team on a \$20 million project to redesign and implement business processes, the first of three positions she held on that continent. In 1998 she returned to the U.S. to serve as vice-president of Commonwealth Industries, a public company with 2000 employees in five states. Currently, as director of the PV Library District, a job she assumed in 2004, she manages technology, community outreach, fundraising, finance/accounting, human resources, and facilities management.

And then there are the numerous professional organizations which she has served and/or chaired since 2003, including a statewide library technology development and purchasing consortium and the Palos Verdes Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Gould is truly a woman of wide-ranging skills, many talents, varied experiences and, undoubtedly, the most up-to-date ideas on “Libraries of the Future.” Do plan to see and hear her at our Spring Forum on April 30. You may register for the luncheon by sending in the handy form on page 9 of this newsletter, or use the pastel-colored flyer, which should reach you by regular mail early in April. Of course, we’ll again enjoy the excellent food and service at our venue of choice, the Los Verdes Country Club. Vegetarian meals are available for the same charge of \$20 as the regular lunch, but you must request the vegetarian entrée on your registration form.

DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ President’s Message Page 2
- ◆ Omnilore’s Fifth President Page 3
- ◆ AED Training Page 6
- ◆ Computer Talks Page 7
- ◆ Dean’s Corner Page 8
- ◆ The Bookshelf Page 9



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Bill Gargaro

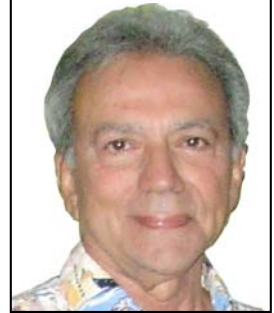
By now those of you who are going to attend S/DG's this summer have already voted for the ones you wish to participate in and I hope they made the final cut at a time when you are available. The array of subjects was interesting, as usual, and the Curriculum Committee (CC) is to be congratulated once again. It turns out that the most popular subject for the summer will have to do with understanding your brain and how to make it work better. I am not surprised but am happy that this subject should prove so popular, since making your brain work better is one of the primary goals of the Omnilore program, if not *the* primary goal.

The subject of the March Forum should be particularly interesting considering the new era we have entered into, where electronic media are challenging the printed word, e.g., ebooks are available from many libraries now for reading on your Kindle, iPad or other tablet, and digital audio books on CD are available as well. The "Future of the Library" is already emerging. But can all the electronic media really replace traditional "books," for instance, those beautiful illuminated manuscripts, e.g., the Book of Kells? (Of course those are really hard to check out.) Anyway, I am sure this will be a very "illuminating" Forum.

To continue thoughts on our entry into the digital world, for the summer trimester we took a first step in trying to reduce the bulk of the postal mailings associated with the enrollment process. We asked those who had volunteered to receive the newsletter via our website to take part in an experiment to review the summer S/DG offerings only on the website and to enroll via email or by printing the enrollment form, completing it and placing it into the Room 7 CC box. This was the first step toward a totally paperless and convenient method of course selection and enrollment for those of you who are comfortable with operating a computer. By the fall trimester we intend to have made the process even simpler: one selects subjects, fills in a form on the computer and then simply hits a "submit" button on the screen, with no other action required to enroll. However, be assured that we will always make the materials you need for enrollment available to you in the form you specify, so the electronic enrollment procedure will not be mandatory.

OLLI's Spring Osher Lecture Series began on February 15 at the University, showcasing the Theater and Dance Departments programs. It was both interesting to hear of the University's programs in these areas

and a positive inducement for attending the actual performances staged by the University. These are free lectures for OLLI members, which we all



are, and I encourage you to take advantage of these and all the other benefits of OLLI. We should all take the time to review the descriptions of the lectures and other activities in our OLLI catalogues and not miss out on some really great benefits that we have paid for. I would like to encourage you especially to consider the next "lecture" in the series: it will be an actual performance by the theater department of a play in their small theater. I know it will be worthwhile.

As I mentioned in January's newsletter, the time for instruction on the use of our Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), located in Room 7, is here again. We currently have 45 of our members trained, but the time for training renewal is in the spring of this year. We plan to train 30 members at no cost to those trained starting in April. The call for volunteers to take the training will go out soon. All of you are eligible, so please give it some serious thought. We hope we'll never need the AED, but if we do, we'll also need to have trained members who know all the proper emergency procedures, including the use of the AED.

March Date Set for New "Introducing Omnilore" Meeting

by Linda Jensen

The Membership Committee has scheduled an *Introducing Omnilore* meeting for prospective members who may want to join *Omnilore* for the Summer trimester. The date is:

Tuesday, March 27th
10 a.m. at the Franklin Center in Room 7

Attendance at an *Introducing Omnilore* meeting is mandatory for new members, so please tell anyone you know who might be interested about this upcoming date. 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!



BURT CUTLER — OMNIOLORE'S 5TH PRESIDENT

by Diana Cutler

My husband, Burt Cutler, is a man who conceives and does. During his prolific career he founded several companies. When he was 63, friends invited him to join the Plato Society at UCLA, an early learning-in-retirement (LIR) organization; deciding that it was too far away, he thought, "Why can't we grow our own LIR group in the South Bay?"...leading to his most cherished accomplishment, Omnilore.

Burt was born in 1926 in east Los Angeles to poor Ukrainian immigrants. During WWII he enlisted and eventually was stationed at Fort Monmouth, NJ. Fortunately during weekend passes he was exposed to music, museums, plays, sport events, etc., in nearby New York City. He also met his many east coast relatives, including me. One thing led to another and we married several years later while he was completing his Master of Science program at Stanford.

His first post-graduate job was at Gilfillan Bros. in Los Angeles, a large radar design and manufacturing company. Beginning as a Jr. Design Engineer he was promoted to Supervisor, Group Leader, Program Manager and Director of Engineering. (Some of his patented concepts are still in use worldwide in radar search systems.) ITT purchased Gilfillan and within a year they made Burt President and CEO.

Meanwhile, our family was growing; we had two children soon after we married—and another girl was born "miraculously" (unplanned) 16 years later. (Today we have nine grandchildren.) Our first child, Carol, although quite bright, was having difficulty with the "sight reading" system then in use. Burt taught Carol phonics over a summer and by summer's end she'd become an avid reader, devouring library books.

This was a common problem of the times (magazine articles asked "Why can't Johnny read?"), so Burt put together a stimulating set of records plus booklet teaching phonics by employing a teacher (my sister and present Omnilorean **Nina Landis**) interacting with a group of boisterous students (our two kids and their friends). We sold this kit to many thousands of public and parochial schools and teachers, employing a unique mail-order "try this" approach.

Despite the pluses of the job, Burt became increasingly restless dealing with the ITT hierarchy, the U.S. government and the military; wondering what the real world of business was like, he resigned from ITT and began to build our fledgling company creating and publishing supplementary (non-textbook) educational materials. With the help of many

(including me as VP and our son Jay as Production Manager, and our first editor, **Elayne Sidley** – a 2011 Omnilorean), *Educational Insights* became one of the major

supplementary school material publishers in the country. Our most popular item was *GeoSafari*, an electronic geography teaching aid that Burt conceived while on vacation - a fun-learning-game that National Geographic highly recommended. *GeoSafari* led us to an expansion of our distribution beyond schools and teachers, to parents.

Burt also proposed and co-founded another very successful company, *Opportunities for Learning*, which catalogued special-ed materials for schools.

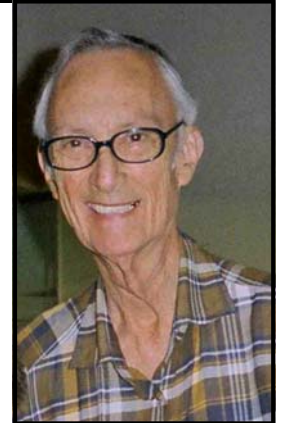
On to Omnilore: leaving a trail of failed attempts to start a learning-in-retirement group, Burt did a direct-mailing to members of the *South Bay League of Women Voters*. Six accepted the invitation to meet, and they agreed to help test the concept. The first S/DG began in January 1989, with nine members studying "Islam." During the first year the meeting venues moved from our dining room to the PV Library and then to the Board Room of the Malaga Cove S&L.

When it became clear that it was a "go," Burt proposed an organization name combining 'omni' for "universal" and 'lore' for "knowledge."..... OMNIOLORE.

In the first decade of Omnilore Burt served as Vice-President several times and he became our 5th Omnilore president in 1998 and 1999. Goals were set and met for membership expansion. Another goal was to gain ethnic diversity; turned out it was easier said than done. Burt arranged for top Omnilore officers to meet their equivalents at Plato and Sage to compare procedures and peripheral activities. Sage suggested adding a social hour and lunch to our Forum; we did and attendance zoomed.

Burt chaired the Curriculum Committee at times both before and after his presidency. No matter what special events were created to help members generate curriculum topic write-ups, obtaining great topics was a continuing challenge during our first decade. Finally he asked "Why reinvent fire?" Curriculum Committee members were asked to evaluate topics offered by other learning-in-retirement groups. We've since employed many topic ideas from Plato, Northwestern, Duke, Harvard, etc., in addition to our home-grown recommendations.

Of the three different focuses of his adult life—several decades in engineering, several decades in educational publishing and two decades in Omnilore—Burt retains a very special feeling for Omnilore. Our process of learning and discussion has been wonderful for us as it has for all our members, and the friendships have been wonderful. In a newsletter President's Message, Burt commented on the growth and experimentation of our organization: "Omnilore will continue to evolve and add flavor while maintaining its well-established direction." And so it has!



*Diana Cutler was chairman of the Forum Committee for many years, as well as editor of the **Omnilore News** from 2004 through 2010.*



OLLI Spring Semester Events

by *Jim Bouchard*

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



The spring semester is off to a good start, and there are a few updates regarding upcoming OLLI events to be aware of...

Free Play on March 7!

The Osher Lecture on Wednesday, March 7 at 10am will include a free, live presentation of the play "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Unfurled." The play will take place in the Edison Theatre, which is in the same building as the University Theatre. You can enter from the side closest to Parking Lots 3 and 6 (the west side). The theatre is a short walk from the Extended Ed building.

OLLI Members Meeting Changed

The OLLI Members Meeting, originally scheduled for Tuesday, March 27 at 10 a.m. has been changed to the following Tuesday, April 3 at 10 a.m. The event will be held in the Extended Education Auditorium (EE-1213). Professor Edd Whetmore will return as the emcee by popular demand. Please remember to RSVP to the OLLI office at 310.243.3208 so a box lunch can be ordered for you. Feel free to leave a voice mail indicating the number of members attending.

CarFit Program Changed (following the OLLI Members Meeting)

The CarFit Event has been changed from March 27 to April 3 as well. The CarFit Event will follow the OLLI Members Meeting, and will begin at 1pm. CarFit is an educational program designed to help older drivers find how well they fit in their personal vehicle. A trained CarFit technician will work with OLLI members one-on-one. Appointments will take approximately 20 minutes each. RSVP to the OLLI office at 310.243.3208 to set up an appointment.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the play and the OLLI Members Meeting!

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Do-It-Yourself Equipment Training

by *Hal Hart, Omnilore Equipment Manager*
(Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG)

There are two ways you can *train yourself* on proper usage of Omnilore's presentation equipment, in case you don't want to wait for the official offering of Equipment Training held around the start of each trimester:

1. From our website, view the charts handed out in Equipment Training and the *Tip Sheets*, which are individual charts on our **Equipment webpage** – at the top of the Omnilore homepage at <http://Omnilore.org>, click on the 5th button, which is labeled "Equipment," in the 2nd (orange) row of navigation buttons. (Email the address below to request the password for the members-only area if you've forgotten it.)
2. **Hard copies** of the full set of charts handed out in Equipment Training, identical to what's on the Equipment webpage, are in a clear plastic envelope hanging on the door of the equipment closet in each classroom. Feel free to take a set.



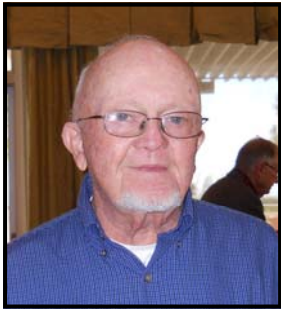
In any event, be sure to allow extra time to set up and practice with the equipment before using it, preferably *before* the day of your presentation. If you become desperate, the Equipment Managers are usually willing to schedule one-on-one help/training – arrange this assistance by emailing: **Equipment@Omnilore.org**

LATE-BREAKING NEWS!

We have just purchased two adapter/cables to connect iPads or iPods to our projectors. Some members are doing presentations on their iPads, and now you can cable up for easy presentation.

Omniole 2012 Winter Forum: From Cattle to Corporations

by Art Irizarry



Dr. Judson Grenier

A trip through time in the South Bay -- some 240+ years -- was enjoyed by those who heard Dr. Judson Grenier, CSUDH Professor Emeritus of History and authoritative historian of the Dominguez family heritage, the featured speaker at our Winter Forum luncheon. The Dominguez heritage left a broad imprint on the development of this region, including its aerospace industry, where so many of our members spent distinguished careers before their eventual retirement and decision to join Omniole. And the family name is, of course, incorporated into the name of our affiliate university.

His presentation included slides of photographs, documents and maps, which he obtained through research and his personal contact with Dominguez family heirs.

Juan Jose Dominguez arrived in what is now the South Bay in 1769 with a Spanish expedition that led to the founding of the Catholic missions in California. San Gabriel Mission, founded in 1775, provided the locus from which Spanish settlers scattered throughout the Los Angeles region. Dominguez became one of those settlers, receiving a 75,000-acre land grant called Rancho San Pedro, which covered the area stretching from Manhattan Beach south beyond the Palos Verdes Peninsula to Long Beach, and including portions of Los Angeles near the harbor.

Property Dispute with Sepulvedas

Since Juan had no children at his death in 1809, his nephew, Cristobal Dominguez, inherited the lands and cattle of the Rancho. Cristobal did not live long enough to gain control of the property, which then passed on to his son, Manuel Dominguez. During the period when property and assets were being transferred to Manuel, the ranch supervisor allowed the Sepulveda family to graze its cattle on the peninsula. That allowed the Sepulvedas to engage the Dominguez family in a land dispute, resulting in the ownership of Rancho San Pedro land on the Peninsula going to the Sepulvedas. As a result, Manuel Dominguez inherited a somewhat reduced property, along with approximately 6,000 head of cattle, which he branded to ensure no further disputes resulted from freely roaming cattle. Dr. Grenier provided a graphic depiction of the Dominguez brand and what became the Dominguez family symbol, a bull's head, which in turn inspired the Spanish name for the CSUDH athletic team mascot, "Toro."

Once American authorities took control of California, land grant families were required to prove ownership. Travel to San Francisco was required, along with representation by a lawyer, who was allowed to claim one-third of a property in question as payment for services. Property owners denied recognition were allowed to appeal, but had to cede another third of their property to lawyers in the appeal. The Dominguez family was fortunate that George Carson, husband of Victoria Dominguez, and James A. Watson, husband of Dolores Dominguez, were able to represent their interests. Carson, an American army veteran, had intimate knowledge of the property as he had mapped out parcels for the Dominguez heirs, while Watson was an established lawyer. As a result of their efforts, the Dominguez family land grant was the first to be recognized by American authorities. Those two men became patriarchs of two branches of Dominguez heirs. The third Dominguez son-in-law who left prominent heirs was Gregorio del Amo y Gonzalez, a Spanish doctor.

Development of the South Bay

In 1869 the Dominguez family successfully lobbied for a railroad spur through their property. That spur eventually became part of the Southern Pacific Railroad system and provided transportation for goods produced on Dominguez lands and other nearby ranches. It also led to development of the Los Angeles Harbor as a world port. When Manuel and Engracia Dominguez passed away, Dominguez lands were distributed according to the parcels map prepared by George Carson for Manuel Dominguez. Each daughter was provided land in different parts of the Rancho. The Del Amo, Carson and Watson families respectively gained control of the areas now known as Torrance, Carson and Wilmington. A portion of the Rancho known as the "estuary tract," covering 1,700 acres, was sold in 1893. Originally nicknamed "Rattlesnake Island," the tract became Terminal Island because it was the terminus for the railroad for which the Dominguez family had lobbied.

Dr. Grenier went on to describe the development of the Rancho, the oil wealth that accrued to Dominguez heirs when land in and about Dominguez Hills became an oil field, and the investment of those heirs in the South Bay's developing economy. He also noted the role the Dominguez family played in the cultural diversity of the area by hiring Japanese, Chinese and European immigrants to work on their lands and provide the skills of craftsmen needed as the Dominguez holdings expanded.

Photographs of agricultural pursuits, industrial parks, business and shopping centers, technology parks and housing tracts gave clear evidence of the Dominguez family imprint on the South Bay.



Tony Lopilato, left, chats with Art Irizarry, author of this article.



Some Smiles from the Forum

1. Lynn & John Taber; 2. Patricia & Kuangyen Shih; 3. Marilou Lieman; 4. Mary & Dan Gluck; 5. Lindie Banks; 6. Linda Jenson; 7. Gloria Jacobs and husband, Ernest—long time, no see! Welcome back! 8. Mary Golob & Kathleen Fitzgerald; 9. Our snow birds from PA: Connie & Gail Siegel; 10. Bill & Andrea Gargaro; 11. Merle Culbert.



AED Training/Certification Coming Up

Two years ago Omnilore acquired an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for possible emergency use during Omnilore class periods and meetings at the Franklin Center. The AED is a computerized medical device that can check a person's heart rhythm. It can recognize a rhythm that requires a shock; then it can advise the rescuer if a shock is needed. The AED uses voice prompts, lights and text messages to tell the rescuer the steps to take. Our device, a Zoll AED Plus, is installed in Room 7 at the center.

In order to use the AED, members must be trained by a certified trainer. In 2010 about 45 Omnilore members were trained and certified by the American Heart Association in the use of the AED and in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). We want to be sure that if an unwanted emergency comes our way, our trained members and the AED will be ready to do the job right.

The recommended training interval for AED certification is two years, so Omnilore is again offering AED/CPR training to members, both those previously trained and new trainees. There is no cost for the training. We are fortunate to have our training provided by Fireman/Paramedic **Vince Dipane** of the Redondo Beach Fire Department (RBFDD), who did our training in 2010. Vince is certified by the American Heart Association for AED/CPR instruction. He leads an emergency response unit within the RBFDD, which uses a Zoll AED similar to the one that we purchased.

We anticipate two—possibly three if there is interest—AED/CPR training classes of 15 students each. The first class will be held on Saturday, April 21, starting at 9:00 a.m. and concluding mid-afternoon. Subsequent class(es) will be scheduled to accommodate as many students' schedules as possible. Upon successfully completing the class, the trained member will receive a two-year certification in CPR and AED operation. An e-mail notification will be distributed in March with details for registration, which will be coordinated by Johan Smith, our administrative assistant.

The AED device requires periodic care/maintenance and related record-keeping. Kudos to our Equipment Manager, **Hal Hart**, who has handled this task with his usual efficiency for the past two years. He is assisted by En-Pro Management Inc. in implementing and maintaining AED programs.

Steve Miller is coordinating the training program and questions about it may be directed to him: 310 379-5559 - RedQuark@aol.com



Computer Talks

March 22nd - Noon to 1:00 - Room 7

Using PowerPoint for Presentations



Bob Bragonier will continue demonstrating how to make PowerPoint understandable and thus easier to use. His talk will start where the February PowerPoint coverage ended, showing you how to enhance your PowerPoint presentation with pictures, music, videos, and animation. He will demonstrate the actual making of a PowerPoint presentation from the very beginning, so please bring your questions related to problems you have experienced. And, be prepared to take notes!

April 26th - Noon to 1:00 - Room 7

Hardware & Software Problems with Your PC

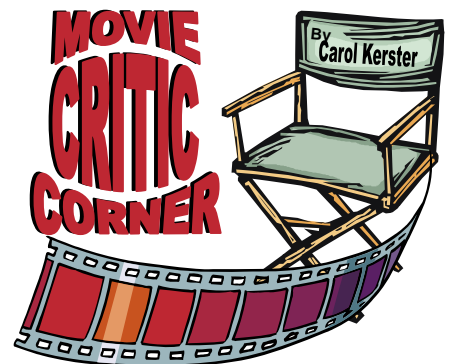
April's Computer Talk focuses on hardware and software PC problems. Unsure of how to deal with problems that occur when setting up your presentation? **Rick Spillane** and **Al Peschel** will show step by step how to set up the Omnilore IBM-type personal computers (PCs) and deal with problems involving start up and connecting to the internet and the projector. Participants are encouraged to bring their own laptop PCs and flash drives. We will attempt to answer all questions and provide hands on help. To ensure your particular question is answered, please email it to one of the speakers and we will be sure to cover it. (Rick: RSpillane@ca.rr.com; Al: alpeschel@pvcoxmail.com)

I've been a fan of Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* since I was about 10 years old. I read it and re-read my favorite parts until I finally gave it to my granddaughter. I made the mistake of going to see some of the many films and TV shows based on *Jane Eyre* from at least the 1940s. I even had the questionable pleasure of seeing an absolutely dreadful rendering of it as a sort of opera some years ago. Among the disappointing Rochesters I saw were Orson Welles, George C. Scott, and William Hurt. They were barely exceeded in their awfulness by Joan Fontaine, Charlotte Gainsborough and even, believe it or not, Elizabeth Taylor.

When the news of a new *Jane Eyre* movie came out in 2011, I vowed not to sully further my loving memories of this most romantic of stories by watching yet another butchered version. "Movies on Demand," however, has a way of rearing its head at the right moment, which is how I happened to see the latest film version of *Jane Eyre*.

I was not familiar with Michael Fassbinder, who has just this year become a movie star to be reckoned with, and knew very little about Mia Wasikowska, who played the innocent semi-victim opposite Natalie Portman's *Black Swan* last year. But they turned out to be the best versions of Rochester and Jane I'd ever seen! I had no trouble believing the tortured, passionate Rochester . . . or Jane, the survivor of both a merciless childhood and a grand love gone wrong, as well as other characters, chief among them Dame Judi Dench as the housekeeper of Rochester's estate. In appearance, for one thing, the main characters were less than gorgeous (facts made repeatedly in the book). But their portrayals were so layered, so rich, that the intensity of their feelings was clear, and they did, in fact, become beautiful. The story was further enhanced by the atmosphere (credits to photography, surely): dark foreboding permeates the moors; the upper floors of Thornfield are spooky; the punitive "red room" of Jane's childhood as well as the cruel deprivation of Lowood School are all palpable, thereby making the movie as close to the book as I could have wished.

That doesn't mean that there weren't a couple of scenes I missed: specifically, the party where Rochester arrives as a "witch-fortune-teller" demanding an audience with Jane, the governess, and the exact reading of "I declare the existence of an impediment!" at a most inopportune moment. But, oh well, not to diminish this lovely movie, I recommend it heartily, especially to anyone who loved the book. Or just to anyone who loves a good love story.





Dean, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
College of Extended & International Education

You may be aware that the entire CSU and a majority of higher education is undergoing transition due in large part to the retirement of many long term college presidents and chancellors. The CSU alone currently has five presidential vacancies. 2012 will also mark a year of transition in leadership for CSUDH. After four and one half years Dr. Mildred García, the seventh president of CSU Dominguez Hills, will leave for her new position as president of CSU Fullerton on June 1. In his September convocation address, Dr. Milton Gordon, who served

as president of CSU Fullerton for 22 years, announced his plan to retire.

The Chancellor's Office announced Dr. García's appointment by the CSU Board of Trustees in January just as faculty and students were returning to campus for spring term. CSU Trustee Lou Monville, chair of the presidential search committee, cited Dr. García's "student-focused approach, commitment to scholarship and strong administrative experience." The full announcement is posted at <http://www3.csudh.edu/president/presidential-transition/news-release-from-the-csu.html>. Announcement of an interim CSUDH president is anticipated this spring. A presidential search likely will begin in fall 2012.

In addition to the change in presidential leadership, the campus is welcoming a new provost and vice president of academic affairs. Dominguez Hills conducted a nationwide search for this important position in fall 2011. All academic-related units, programs and key activities, such as recruitment and

retention of faculty, report to this executive. President García announced her selection of Dr. Ramon Torrecilha as provost and vice president in late January, and on February 23 he officially assumed office. Dr. Torrecilha comes to CSUDH from Mills College. You can read more about Dr. Torrecilha at <http://www.csudhnews.com/2012/01/new-provost-ramon-torrecilha/>.



Ramon
Torrecilha, PhD,
appointed
CSUDH Provost
and
Vice President
of
Academic Affairs

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Ramon Torrecilha to our campus and in sending congratulations to Dr. García.

Calling All Omnilore Readers!

A **Best-Sellers Special Interest Group** is being formed by – and for - Omniloreans who are interested in reading and discussing current best sellers, both fiction and non-fiction. Plans call for the group to meet at the Franklin Center once a month during the summer months of May, June, July and August (date and time TBD after the SDG summer schedule is set). Each month, you and other avid readers would gather to discuss the "book of the month" in a free-form format using open-ended discussion questions.

The summer 2012 selections cover a wide variety of topics:

- ◆ May: *Coming Apart: The State of White America 1960-2010* by **Charles Murray***
- ◆ June: *The Tiger's Wife* by **Tia Obrecht**
- ◆ July: *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking* by **Susan Cain**
- ◆ Aug: *The Hunger Games* by **Suzanne Collins**

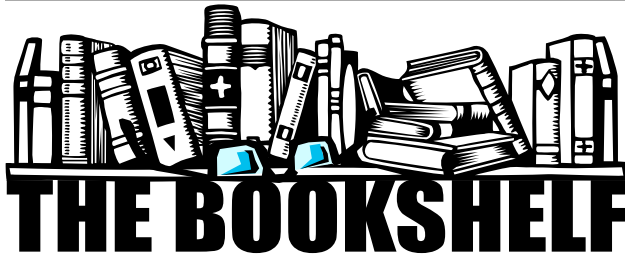
As with any Special Interest Group, there is no need to enroll, no need to do a presentation. . . just be there on the day and time with enthusiasm, prepared to participate. For more information contact: **Patricia Edie** (jpedie@ca.rr.com) or **Cindy Eggert** (ceggert2008@aol.com).

*From the Jacket:

The reason **Charles Murray** wrote *Coming Apart: The State of White America 1960-2010*: "The American project consists of the continuing effort, begun with the founding, to demonstrate that human beings can be left free as individuals and families to live their lives as they see fit, coming together voluntarily to solve their joint problems. The polity based on that idea led to a civic culture that was seen as exceptional by all the world. To be an American was to be different from other nationalities, in ways that Americans treasured. That culture is unraveling.

I focus on what happened, not why. I discuss some of the whys, but most of them involve forces that cannot be changed. My primary goal is to induce recognition of the ways in which America is coming apart at the seams—not seams of race or ethnicity but of class.

As with all books on policy, this one will eventually discuss how we might change course. But discussing solutions is secondary in this book, just as understanding causes is secondary. The important thing is to look unblinkingly at the nature of the problem."



by Patricia Edie

The following books are recommended by Omnioleoreans who found them worthwhile:

In the fiction realm:

1Q84 by **Haruki Murakami**. It's big -- just under 1,000 pages -- takes place in Tokyo in 1984, and is basically a love story. The book tackles themes of murder, history, cult religion, violence, family ties and love. It has echoes of sci-fi, fantasy and god knows what else. It is also filled with marvelous imagery, introspection by the characters, incredible similes and references. The writer is so good I suspended my disbelief and went with the flow.

Loving Frank by **Nancy Horan**. This is a novel that reads like a biography of Frank Lloyd Wright. It is told from the perspective of his mistress, Mahmee, a woman who faces the critical eyes of her family and friends when she leaves her husband and children to go to Europe with Wright. In an age (early 1900s) when women didn't have any rights, including the right to vote, this was scan-

dalous conduct indeed! Her fight to be a person in her own right, and her many extraordinary experiences with the great architect, make for a fascinating read.

Cutting For Stone by **Abraham Verghese**. Very well done story of twin brothers whose mother died in childbirth and whose father immediately abandoned them. Set in Addis Ababa and the United States, it deals with the lives of both boys and their relationships with each other and the practice of medicine. Very detailed medical scenes but worth it. Lack of medical supplies and knowledge in the Sudan emphasized.

Some non-fiction suggestions:

Less than a hundred years ago, a diagnosis of diabetes was a death sentence, since there was no treatment for the many children so condemned. **Breakthrough, the Discovery of Insulin** by **Thea Cooper** and **Arthur Ainsberg** is the story of how this changed. Written in layman's terms, it tells of the dedication in the face of heartbreaking trials by many scientists to find a way to alleviate the disastrous effects on diabetics. The march toward a treatment is told through the researchers, their emaciated patients, philanthropists, and politicians, who stepped in to produce a miracle.

Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life by **Annette Lareau**. This ethnographic study offers valuable insights into contemporary family life in poor, working-class and middle-class American households. The author shadowed 12 diverse families for observation of parenting habits and family culture, and demonstrates the power and limits of social class in shaping the lives of America's children.

Unbroken by **Laura Hillenbrand**. This recent best seller tells the amazing story of local hero Louis Zamperini, a son of Italian immigrants, 1936 Olympics runner, soldier in WWII in the Pacific Theater, and survivor of both a plane crash in the Pacific and a Japanese POW camp. Through all of this, his courage and spirit caused him to be "unbroken." If you have not read this yet, you are in for a treat! By the way, the Torrance Airport is named Zamperini Field.

(Book suggestions from Omnioleoreans make this column work. Our thanks to **Jay Edie, Edith Garvey, Helen Leven, and Midge Solomon** for contributing to our list. Please send your titles, with author name and a very brief description, to Patricia Edie (jpedie@ca.rr.com). Please put "Omnioleore Books" as the subject of your email. We look forward to hearing from you.)



When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, "U.C.L.A."



OMNIOLORE Spring Forum Luncheon Reservation Form

WHEN: **Monday, April 30th, 2012—11:30 a.m.**

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

Reservations are required by April 20th

Please make _____ reservations for the **Omnioleore Spring Luncheon** at **\$20.00** each:

Name(s): _____
(Please Print)


(Please Print)

Phone #: _____

Enclosed is a check for: **\$20.00** Other

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

- | | | |
|--------------|--|---|
| March | 7 OLLI AT CSUDH Lecture Series—10 a.m.-Noon—University Theatre
Free Play for Omniloreans!
8 Board of Directors Meeting— 12 Noon - 2 p.m.—Room 7
11 Daylight Saving Time Begins
16 Hiking Group—10 a.m.
17 St. Patrick's Day
20 First Day of Spring
22 Computer Talk - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
<i>Use of PowerPoint for Presentations—Part 2 - Bob Bragonier (see article page 7)</i>
27 Introducing Omnilore—10 a.m. — 12 p.m., Room 7 | OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2012 |
| April | 1 April Fool's Day
4 OLLI AT CSUDH Lecture Series—10 a.m.-Noon—University Theatre
6 Good Friday
6 Passover (begins at sundown)
8 Easter Sunday
12 Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon - 2 p.m.—Room 7
15 Input Deadline for May-June Newsletter
18 OLLI AT CSUDH Lecture Series—10 a.m.-Noon—University Theatre
20 Hiking Group City Walk (Angelino Heights)
[Contact John Taber (johnlyntaber@gmail.com) for meeting time and location.]
22 Earth Day
26 Computer Talk—12 Noon - 1 p.m.—Room 7
Hardware & Software Problems with Your PC
- Rick Spillane & Al Peschel (see article page 7)
30 Spring Forum—11:30 a.m., Los Verdes Country Club
(see article, page 1; reservation form, page 9) |  |

2012 Forums
 Winter—January 30th
 Spring—April 30th
 Summer—July 30th
 Annual Mtg.—October 31st

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

In Memoriam

John Joseph Bohner



John J. Bohner, a 34-year resident of the South Bay, passed away on February 16 while taking pictures at the beach. Born in Utica, N.Y., John was 62 and semi-retired when he died. Educated at the University of Maine and Syracuse University, he worked in the aerospace industry at Hughes (now Boeing) and the Aerospace Corporation. John also had a lifetime interest in photography and, though a film photographer in his youth, successfully transitioned to digital photography, including using digital manipulation to create what he called "pictures of alternate realities." As a scientist, he was delighted to have made contact with astronauts on the space station and people all around the world. John joined Omnilore in 2009 and is survived by his wife of nearly 40 years, Sharon Bohner of Manhattan Beach, also an active Omnilorean, and a son.

Monroe Haas



Monroe Haas, an active Omnilorean for 12 years beginning in 1995, died December 23 from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). He was 83 and had been diagnosed with the condition six months prior to his death. Monroe graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1950 and later earned a master's degree in education before serving as the popular principal of three elementary schools in Manhattan Beach, from 1960 to 1986, when he retired. After his retirement, he and his wife, Elaine, traveled all over the world, never spending more than a few days in any one city. In addition to Elaine, he is survived by three daughters, whom he always encouraged to challenge themselves intellectually and athletically, and six grandchildren. An avid athlete, Monroe particularly favored tennis, and his interests in Omnilore were typically in the field of history.