



OMNIOLORE NEWS

Volume 16 Issue 6

www.omnilore.org

November 2007

OMNIOLORE

California State University
Dominguez Hills

OMNIOLORE NEWS

A publication of OMNIOLORE, a Learning in Retirement Organization affiliated with The Division of Extended & International Education of California State University Dominguez Hills

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected Officers

President	Rick Spillane
VP - Academics	Merle Culbert
VP - Administration	Carol Simone
Treasurer	Tom Vincent
Recording Secretary	Janet Brown
Past President	Dick Johnson
Member-at-Large	Kit Bell
Member-at-Large	Ruth Hart
Member-at-Large	Janice Plank

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership	Howard Korman
Forum	Diana Cutler
Communications	Ralph Brown
Head Coordinator	Laura Guneau
Curriculum	Dick Johnson

Appointees

New Member Liaison	Edith Garvey
Registrar	Roy Schubert
Archivist	Bob Saunders
Laptop Admin.	Tom Vincent
Office Manager	Carol Johnson
Supplies	JoAnna Kerrigan
Webmaster	Myron Pullen

Omnilore News is published six times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Please contact the editor with your contributions.

Co-Editors	Diana Cutler JoAnna Kerrigan
Staff Member	Carol Kerster

What A Hoot!

by Mary Oran

The orange and black décor at Los Verdes Country Club greeted the Halloween luncheon attendees. President **Rick Spillane** conducted the Annual Meeting, which consisted of minutes and budget approval, and a brief State of Omnilore speech, which was very informative. In Caesarean rhetoric, Julius **Jim O'Neill** moved that the slate of 2008 officers be elected, and unanimous "ayes" roared from the crowd.

Can words really convey the bigger-than-life bursts of energy that entertained us that afternoon? **James Blackman** took the stage and gave us some South Bay Civic Light Opera history. From the Ovation Award winners: *West Side Story*, *Dreamgirls*, and *Crazy For You* to the eerie backstage happenings (at 12:45 a.m.!) during *Titanic*, Blackman kept the colorfully-attired audience enthralled. It was literally a laugh a minute, whether he was talking about his student days at Aviation High School, his nervousness and excitement at the Ovation Awards, or June Allyson (don't ask!).

Blackman's goal, when first forming the theatre group, was to put the South Bay on the map – and he's done it. Not only has New York taken notice, but next year he will be producing a world premiere, *Twice Upon a Time*, before it goes on to Broadway and London.

There is no really accurate way to describe the whirlwind performance we saw at the luncheon. As my tablemate said, "You had to be there."

What a hoot! What a treat!



Our Speaker, James Blackman, with that Twinkle in His Eye before He Dropped Another One on Us!

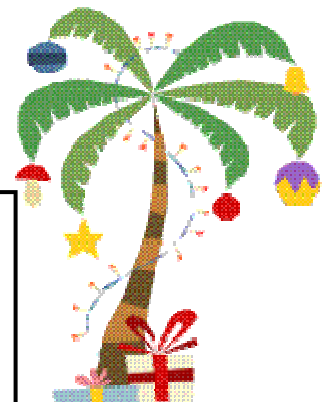
Omnilore Elects New Officers

Omniloreans elected the following officers to serve them for the 2007-2008 term. For a complete listing of all Omnilore positions, see left-hand column of this page.

President	RICK SPILLANE
Vice-President, Academics	MERLE CULBERT
Vice-President, Administration	CAROL SIMONE
Recording Secretary	JANET BROWN
Treasurer	TOM VINCENT
Members At Large	KIT BELL RUTH HART JANICE PLANK

DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

◆ President's Message	Page 2
◆ Introducing Omnilore Meeting Dates	Page 3
◆ New Projectors Are Here	Page 3
◆ 16th Annual Meeting	Page 4
◆ The Bookshelf	Page 7



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Rick Spillane

Our annual end-of-Omniole year Halloween luncheon was once again a fun afternoon. The costumes were great and enjoyed by both those wearing them and those who saw them. James Blackman, founder and executive director of the popular, award-winning Redondo Beach Civic Light Opera regaled us with his great stories of backstage events. What drama in that venue too.

Our new board members were elected. Thanks to all the board members past and present for volunteering their time and talents to support Omniole.

Our new equipment (two projectors, two screens and a voice-amplifier) has arrived. Now we need to upgrade our presentations to match the new equipment! Training classes have been set up, so come and learn how to use our new user friendly equipment to enhance your presentations.

CSU Dominguez Hills' Dean Margaret Gordon attended the Omniole Board meeting on 13 September 2007; detailed minutes of the meeting are available on the Omniole web site.

My personal summary of what Dean Gordon said and my reaction to it follow.

I stress that this is just my personal opinion and that I realize that, while I view the position Omniole is being put in as extremely unfair, others may not share these views, and regardless, we still must determine how best to move forward in the best interests of our members.

Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning cancelled its grant money to CSUDH/Omniole. To successfully apply for any future Osher grant, Omniole must have 350 members to meet Osher's definition of a sustainable organization; to continue to receive Osher grants or an endowment, Omniole must grow to 500 members. Dean Gordon wants to re-apply for an Osher grant by January, 2008 so Omniole would have to have 350 members by then. Osher did not approve of CSUDH's attempts at meeting the 500-member requirement via its Ollie online program with its electronically connected participants; that program has been dropped by CSUDH.

CSUDH offered no money or staff hours to assist Omniole in increasing membership or to increase the type of programs offered; Dean Gordon has

firmly said we needed to use our own resources.

Without Osher grant money, CSUDH may well stop its support and affiliation with Omniole. Currently CSUDH supplies our classrooms, liability insurance coverage, and arranges the lecture series.

We are continuing to meet with CSUDH representatives to try, if possible, to continue a relationship between Omniole and CSUDH. We are also exploring other options. We find that Omniole is highly regarded in the surrounding communities and we are evaluating offers that would supply the same or better facilities than those we presently occupy. Let me assure you that the Board has the best interest of Omniole members at heart and we all want to maintain our existing types of programs in an environment that allows us to meet, make friends, and have interesting discussions while learning.



A Class at Omniole Gives More Than a Class at Any Edu-Store!

by Frances Roberts

We had a course in poetry
For all of three semesters.
We looked at line and symmetry,
At seers, psychics, jesters.

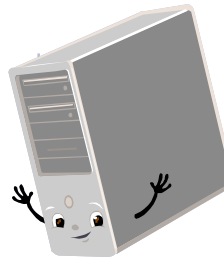
They ran a gamut vast and wide;
Ideas flowed from every side.
Some read their own with hesitant pride,
Others followed a populist tide,
And over all we laughed –
and sometimes cried.

There was no arbitrary rule,
No proffered poetic-licensed school.
Instead the offerings spread like fire,
The boundaries widened to a world entire.
All who sampled came away
Realizing a poem is for everyday,
For keeping sorrows a bit at bay,
For learning that laughter oft saves the day.

Lightening our hours in a new way
Twas not class work, but more like play.
I thank all those who showed us how,
A poet can lead us, here and now,
Through a timeless art that's ever new,
That totally enthralled this lucky few.



Computer Talks



PrintScreen

Copying Images for Presentations

by Carol Johnson

Computer keyboards usually have a little-known key labeled "Prt Sc" or so, which stands for "Print Screen", and is near the upper right corner of the keyboard. Have you pressed it and nothing seemed to happen? Well, it actually does a "copy screen" so that its image can be "pasted" into a file such as a PowerPoint slide or MS Word file. This is useful for capturing anything you can display on the screen, such as digital photos, images scanned in, and web pages. Various techniques can "crop" (select part of the image), change size and rotate.



Winking Owl from

Carol Johnson will illustrate these techniques at the noon-time (12-1 p.m.) Computer Talks in November, which will be the **3rd Thursday, November 15**, because the usual fourth Thursday is Thanksgiving Day.

There Will be NO Computer Talks in December Because of the Christmas Holiday

November and December Dates Set for New “Introducing Omnimore” Meetings

by Howard Korman

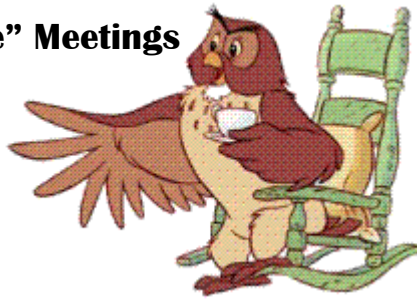
The Membership Committee has scheduled two "Introducing Omnimore" meetings in November and December for perspective members who may want to join Omnimore for the Spring trimester. Dates are:

Thursday, November 29th
and
Tuesday, December 11th

from 10 AM to Noon in Room 7 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 to people who want to be intellectually stimulated.

Help spread the word!



The New Projectors Are Here!

by Tom Vincent

The new projectors are here! They are smaller, lighter, and much easier to use. InputSelect is now automatic and image quality from the Desktop Presenter is much, much better. As of November 12, the old projectors will be replaced with the new ones in the same equipment closets in Rooms 7 and 8. So start enjoying the new projectors for your S/DG presentations!

There will be one training session at **12:30 p.m. on Monday, November 12th**. Reservations are required. The first 15 people to e-mail **Tom Vincent** (twvincent@aol.com) will get into this once-only class.



New-projector Documentation

by Carol Johnson

There are light blue notebooks in the equipment closets of room 7 and 8, which show how to use the audio/visual equipment. They have been updated for Omnimore's new CP-X253 projectors. These projectors have the same functionality as the older ones, but there are differences in the ways they are set up and adjusted for a good picture. You may want to see this information beforehand or when the new method is puzzling.

The Downside

by George Clark

A man who took road trips in summer
Decided to purchase a Hummer.
He liked the wide chassis,
It looked really classy,
But buying the gas was a bummer.



October in New York

by Carol Kerster



Ever thrill-seeking, adventurous Omnimoreans, led by irrepressible **Carol** and **Tony Lopilato**, travel guides extraordinaire, spent a week touring the Hudson River Valley. A few impressions of this jam-packed, fun-filled trip follow.

'Twas the month of Halloween, (now past), and all through Hudson Valley,
The leaves were changing colors, and we were there to sally
Forth among estates, and grounds, and views so very glorious,
The abundance of it all could have eas'ly allowed in more of us.

(There were 26 exuberant Omnimoreans. You know who you are!)

There was Saugerties, "Kindred Spirits," (painting and place), and a Hudson River Cruise.

The little town of Woodstock, with '60's stuff still much in use.

The capitol of Albany, elegant for the state,

But barely comparable in "wealth," to the houses of the great
Business barons, collectors, and leaders who didn't lack

For anything that money could buy;

Vanderbilts, Rockefellers, and Roosevelts led this prestigious pack.

At the other end of the domestic scene, lived the hardworking Huguenots,
In a one room house, with no amenities, lived two adults, and their six tots.

(The town is New Paltz.)

We viewed classic art by Church & Cole, heard stories about Sleepy Hollow,
Boscobel, (Federal architecture), Mohonk Mountain, (great resort), were all
tough acts to follow.

Still, the CIA (Culinary Institute of America) and West Point, tho' visited
in haste,

Left little doubt that this amazing trip had appeal for any taste!

(If YOUR taste for travel has been tickled by this "pome," please check out "April in France." What better place to roam?)

Omnilore's 16th Annual Meeting & Luncheon



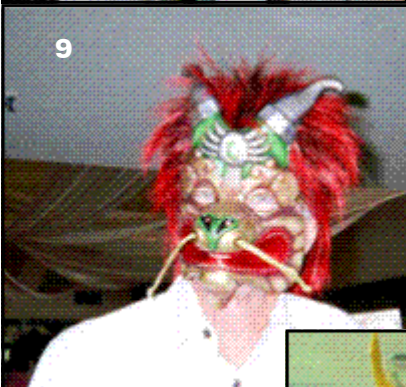
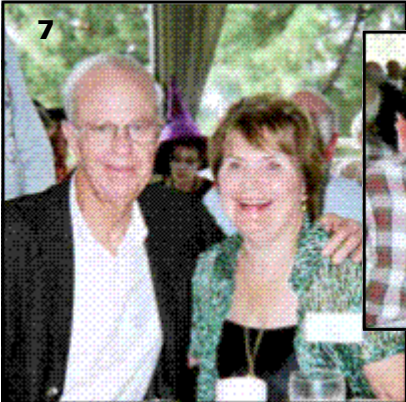
1. Lindie Banks; 2. Margaret Ellis;
3. Laura Guneau, posing as the Omnilore owl; 4. Dick Johnson shares a laugh with Ruth Hart; 5. Our President, Rick Spillane; 6. Lori Geittmann; 7. Irma Cohen; 8. Dean Gordon, Jim Bouchard (Sherlock) & Dick Johnson; 9. Helen Leven and Sheila Banken; 10. Janice Plank, one of our more colorful witches; 11. Ginger Engstrom; 12. Jim & Mary O'Neill as Caesar & Cleopatra; 13. Penny Stein; 14. George Clark as our own home-grown terrorist with his FBI profiler, Barbara Johnson; 15. Robert Koch with one of those free persimmons; 16. Bob & Ronnie Saunders; and 17. Bob & Elaine Grove, pretending they like each other.

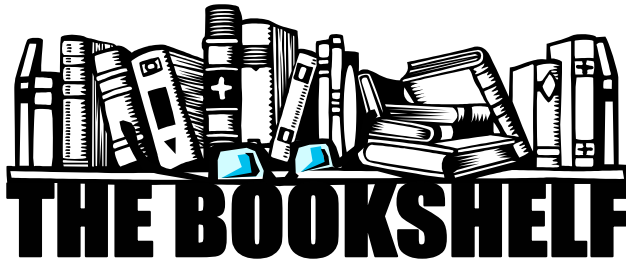


1. Pat Brown, Peninsula News; 2. Mel Schrier & Phyllis Appel; 3. Carol Johnson; 4. Chuck & Blanche Herring; 5. Adele & Al Fletcher; 6. Carol Lopilato & Tom Vincent; 7. Anna Jane Lescoe consorting with a terrorist; 8. Mary Louise Mavian; 9. Shirley Bachelder; 10. Mary Jane Borman & Les Berg; 11. Bill & Andrea Gargaro; 12. Lilja Rizzo; 13. Sisters Nina Landis & Diana Cutler; 14. Gordon Kehmeier with his new wife, Anita, and daughter, Brenda; 15. Edith Garvey standing over Marty Leveille & Terry Helmy; and 16. Dian Ashley & Teresa Yu.



1. Donna Russell; 2. Marilyn & Al Peschel with Joyce Mar; 3. John Vehrencamp as hook-handed pirate; 4. Kathleen Fitzgerald; 5. Jim Bouchard & Joanne Zitelli from CSUDH; 6. Emil Raulin, Hal Simmons & JoAnna Kerrigan; 7. John & Lynn Taber; 8. Mimi Lau, attractive even as a green-haired witch; 9. John Stevens with his ornate mask (the hair was a dead giveaway!); 10. Nancy Shannon, our card-sender on behalf of Omnilore; 11. Howard Korman standing next to Pat Brown of the Peninsula News, Dale Korman seated to the left and her mother, Harriett Apssel, also a member; 12. Blanche Herring & Mary Oran; 13. Sally Strehlke.





by Mary Oran

“The universe is made of stories, not atoms.” Muriel Rukeyser, American poet stated this, and on a metaphorical level, it is true. This month’s selections are all stories of the human experience. Hopefully you will find that at least one of them touches your own personal story line.

Ivan Doig’s *The Whistling Season* is set in rural Montana, beginning in the fall of 1909. The narrator, an aging state superintendent of schools, must decide the fate of the remaining rural schools in Montana. He is a product of those schools, and relates the experiences of his seventh grade, his motherless family, and the hard life in the rural environment. The setting, the characters, the humorous and sad events that compose the book are beautifully presented. This is perfect reading for a winter day or evening, and its scenes will stay with you long after you have read the last page.

Going much further back in time, *The Birth of Venus* by Sarah Dunant is a delightful piece of historical fiction taking place in 15th century Florence. The Medici Family, Savonarola, and the city’s culture are highlighted

through the eyes of the daughter of a wealthy fabric merchant. In the course of the action, the reader sees how the church, the diseases, and the political events affect individual lives. If one has visited Florence, the descriptions will add to the reading pleasure. A compelling and colorful story offers some insights to the past.

Autobiography of an Elderly Woman by Anonymous is a tricky book to classify. Is it fiction or nonfiction? Originally published in 1911, it is written from the perspective of an elderly woman who bemoans her existence because of the hovering of her adult children. The book was actually the work of 37-year-old Mary Heaton Vorse, a Greenwich Village bohemian and radical journalist who wrote it in the voice of her mother. The mother rebelled against the constant interference of her overprotective children. “Every moment of our lives we are preparing for age; carving out the faces that

we are to wear.” Recently republished, the messages and observations are current!

A detailed account of the surveying and mapping of the territory that became the United States is the focus of *The Fabric of America* by Andro Linklater. From early colonial times through the post revolutionary period, and later the expansion and division of the Louisiana-purchased territories into individual states, the book reveals how Andrew Elliott (self-educated astronomer, mathematician, and surveyor), commissioned by President Washington, delineated the boundaries of the capital of the new nation. Later he surveyed and mapped much of the northern and southern boundaries of the country and established principles used in cartography. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark also come into play in this fascinating history.

On a lighter vein, Michael Tucker and Jill Eikenberry (of “LA Law” fame) wrote the memoir *Living in a Foreign Language*. The couple bought a small “rustico” in Umbria. The story is not so much about the restoration process as it is about their experiences as they are drawn into the daily life of their community. The descriptions of the food and wine are enough to send the reader to the nearest Italian restaurant – immediately! Additionally, it tells the beautiful story of their relationship.

Finally, this may be a book you will like or you will hate – *The End of Faith* by Sam Harris. The subtitle, “Religion, Terror and the Future of Reason” offers a good summary of the content. The author contends that faith is the most dangerous element of modern life. He indicates that faith, as contrasted with reliance on evidence, has proved to be a cure worse than the disease. He also proposes alternate approaches to the mysteries of life, and has a comprehensive bibliography for those who wish to pursue this fascinating topic.

In the spirit of the season, how about giving us some book recommendations????

(Our thanks go to Marilyn Denno, Patricia Edie, Chuck Gray and Rich Mansfield 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.)

Jean Bardot, French tour director par excellence, will show a PowerPoint presentation on the upcoming Omniole April 2008 trip to France at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, November 6th in Room 8 at Franklin Center.
Carol Lopilato

Computer Talks
There will be no Computer Talks during December. (If you miss it, go to the Omniole website Sounding Board and chat!)

New & Improved
Check out the Omniole website at www.omniole.org. Several new and exciting links have been added for your research and pleasure! For instance, did you know that there are 6,912 living languages in the world? Go to our Website, click on "More Info" and then "Links." Scroll down and you will find the site that will give you more information. Impress friends and family with your newly acquired facts! Link up with our own very special web page.
Mary Oran

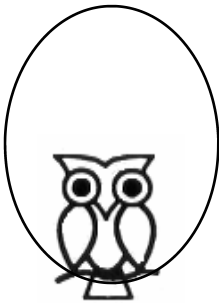
- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| November | <p>4 Daylight Saving Time Ends
 6 Election Day
 8 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 12 Veteran's Day Observed
 13 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 15 Computer Talks - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
 <i>PrintScreen—Copying Images for Presentations</i>
 - Carol Johnson (see page 2)
 16 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 22 Thanksgiving Day
 29 Introducing Omnilore Meeting - 10 a.m. - Noon - Room 7
 (see article, page 3)</p> |
| December | <p>5 First Day of Hanukkah
 11 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 11 Introducing Omnilore Meeting - 10 a.m. - Noon - Room 7
 (see article, page 3)
 12 Last Day of Hanukkah
 13 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7.
 15 Input Deadline for January/February Newsletter
 21 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 22 First Day of Winter
 25 Christmas Day
 27 Computer Talks Cancelled
 31 New Year's Eve</p> |
| January | <p>2 Spring Trimester Begins</p> |

OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2007



IMPORTANT:

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



Omnilore, CSUDH
 Division of Extended & International Education
 PMB 236
 P.O. Box 7000
 Redondo Beach, Ca. 90277-8710