



OMNIOLORE NEWS



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November 2011

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
Staff Member Carol Kerster

The Culture of Cuba

by Mary Louise Mavian

In the Halloween costume of a Cuban hustler (in sync with the theme of the costume contest), **Mary Drobny** took her audience at the Omnilore Forum meeting on Halloween on a tour (with slides) of Cuban life and culture today. A credentialed expert in art education,-- she has led many tours of Cuba and had just recently returned to Los Angeles from her last trip. Some of her observations follow:

The U.S. embargo of Cuba began in 1960 and, as we know, exists to this day. As a result, many aspects of daily life in Cuba encourage black market activity in many ways. The population of more than 11 million people is well educated with full literacy, and has a thirst for news, but all news is filtered. Access to the Internet and satellite TV is limited to hotels for tourists. There aren't many computers in Cuba (too costly to maintain) and the Internet is censored. Doctors, however, are allowed to have computers with certain restrictions.

The average age of the population is 55. There are approximately 1.2 children per family and the state gives each family one set of new clothes per child per year; the children are usually clean and well-dressed. Medical care is good, but medicine is scarce. Some treatments cannot be performed because of a lack of electricity; the 1950s-era grid does not support modern technology. Homelessness is rare; life expectancy is 77+.

The Cuban culture is more like our own than Spain's: they have no siestas, their flag is modeled on the flag of Texas, and they love baseball, not soccer. The U.S. works closely with Cuban drug authorities and there is not a major drug problem there. The Cuban people are too poor to buy drugs for their own use, with wages at about \$6 per month (27 Cuban pesos equal one U. S. dollar).

Cubans are mixed racially; most of those who left after the triumph of the Castro-led revolution were white. About 20,000 Cubans are allowed to come to the U.S. per year through a system they call "the lottery." Some leave Cuba for Israel, many of them eventually coming to the U.S.

Havana, population 2 million, was founded in the 16th Century by the Spanish; there you find a mixture of styles and goods from Spain, Mexico and the Philippines available in shops amid the crumbling buildings, many of which were once noted examples of European architecture, now showing years of neglect. Its eclectic architecture sites today are home to several noted art museums and a UNESCO campus.

Cubans love Americans; they're happy to have us visit their beautiful country. And we were most happy to have Mary share her vast knowledge and personal views of Cuba at our luncheon.



Jim Bouchard, OLLI at CSUDH, flanks our speaker, Mary Drobny, with Omnilore President, Bill Gargaro

DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

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We have a new phone number:

310-370-9522

Use for inquiries about Omnilore, particularly for reservations for "Introducing Omnilore" meetings and any follow-up messages.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Bill Gargaro

Although difficult to believe, it has been a year since I had the honor of becoming president of Omnilore and wrote my first column for the Newsletter. The year was very rewarding for me and for that I wish to thank the general membership and my fellow Board members. For the entire new Board I would like to assure you that we will do our best to run our organization for the mutual benefit of all. We will continue to provide varied and interesting Study/Discussion Groups as well as supply our classrooms with appropriate and convenient equipment to support the S/DG presentations and discussions.

Continuing that last statement, under our “Infrastructure Improvement Program” we were able to supplement our presentation equipment this past year with two desktop presenters that are brighter and more capable than the old ones. We also acquired a new “business” computer and printer for our administrative assistant so that our business could be conducted more efficiently. Finally, we just acquired a new laptop computer to replace the Room 7 laptop that was malfunctioning in several ways and a new projector for Room 8. As of this writing, we don’t have any equipment problems; however, we intend to continue improving our infrastructure this year as well. We are considering a faster Internet connection for real-time Internet presentations and other improvements of that nature.

Our financial situation is good, and our reserve funds for the kinds of modest improvements that we have already made and that are being planned for the future are more than adequate.

Reluctantly I am bringing up the issue of our facility situation, i.e., our long-term outlook at the Franklin Center. The reason I am bringing it up is that a lot of you have probably been reading about land and building swaps between the City of Redondo Beach and the School District, one of which would involve the Franklin Center. My reluctance stems from the fact that the initial agreements have seemingly been abandoned so that there is nothing definitive to discuss at this time. However, both the Board and the University are staying as informed as possible and will report anything that promises to impact our operations as soon as we find out. It does not seem that anything is afoot in the near future relative to our situation.

One of the activities that I think enhanced our operations this past year has been the improvements to our website and its increased utilization by the membership. It is a really great means of enhancing our communications regarding upcoming events, providing information about our Board and general membership, reviewing instructional information, e.g., equipment instructions, archiving newsletters, capturing S/DG information in the

folders section, etc. I consider this activity our entry into the modern way of doing business and encourage all of you who are able to take full advantage of all it offers.

By the way, the 150 or so members who use the website for reading the Newsletter have saved us a lot of printing and mailing expenses, and we hope to expand that method of information delivery to other mailings. So, if you haven’t tried it yet, please just get in there and “mouse around” a bit: www.omnilore.org.

I wish to thank all of the departing members of the Board and standing committees for their outstanding efforts. But there is one who merits very special thanks: **Diana Cutler**. She has been such a great Forum planner and hostess for such a long time (since 2000) that it is difficult for most of us to think of the Forum without thinking of her also. We wish Diana the best of everything. And we welcome **Lori Geitmann** as our new Forum committee chairperson. Many of us know Lori and are very confident that she will also do a terrific job with our treasured Forum.

Lastly, we are saddened by the passing of **George Clark**, one of our past presidents. George’s smiling face could also be seen at many Forums taking those pictures for the Newsletter and the website. We will miss his intelligence and his activism.



The Osher Lecture Series

by Jim Bouchard

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

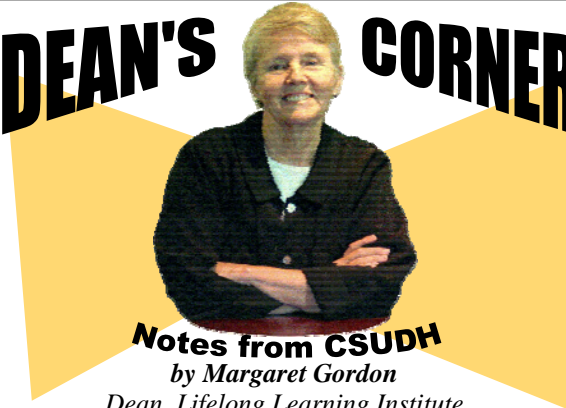


The Osher Lecture Series is held on the campus of CSUDH in the Extended Education auditorium. Lectures are scheduled on the first and third Wednesdays of each month during both the fall and spring semesters. For many years, Omnilore has generously contributed \$300 toward the series, which all OLLI members can attend. Recent contributions include \$300 to the Earth Sciences Department for the spring 2011 series, “Topics in Geoscience: Scientific Wonders of the Earth.”

The fall 2011 Osher Lecture Series is “The Arab Spring” and it has been very well attended. Dr. Hamoud Shalhi gave us an overview of “The Arab Spring” in September. In early October the Consulate General of Egypt, at the invitation of Dr. Amer El-Ahraf, gave an informative presentation on Egyptian history. And on October 19 Dr. Gus Martin discussed the role of Islamic organizations in the Arab Spring. The lecture series is attended by some Omniloreans who are also participating in “The Arab Spring” S/DG, which is being held this trimester as well. Everyone is looking forward to the remaining presentations.

We have confirmed that the spring 2012 Osher Lecture Series will be presented by the Theatre Arts & Dance Department. The lectures will include information regarding the spring plays and dance programs that are being planned. To see the many events happening this spring in Theatre Arts & Dance, you are encouraged to visit their website at <http://csudh.edu/theatre/>.

DEAN'S CORNER



Notes from CSUDH
by Margaret Gordon

Dean, Lifelong Learning Institute
College of Extended & International Education

The College of Extended & International Education (CEE) has a mission, as you know, to serve the community and campus of CSU Dominguez Hills through a broad spectrum of educational programs and activities. As its name indicates, one area of programming involves international exchange. Several units in the college conduct programs that support the goal of internationalizing the campus, such as the American Language and Culture Program (ALCP), training programs for international professionals, and the International Education Center (IEC).

Each fall the IEC, which promotes and facilitates student study abroad programs, organizes on-campus activities in support of International Education Week (IEW), an initiative promoted by the U.S. Departments of State and Education “to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This is part of our efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States” (<http://iew.state.gov/>).

International Education Week is recognized on campus with activities scheduled November 14 through 16. A highlight of this year’s IEW events is a lecture by Fulbright scholar Li-Yang, PhD, on **November 16, from 1:00-2:00 pm** in Loker Student Union, Ballroom C. Dr. LiYang is professor of Chinese folklore and literature at Ocean University of China and is currently a visiting Fulbright scholar at UCLA. His talk is entitled *Chinese Folklore: Costumes and Their Changes in Modern Time*. OLLI members can meet Dr. LiYang at a reception, 2:00 -3:00, following his presentation.

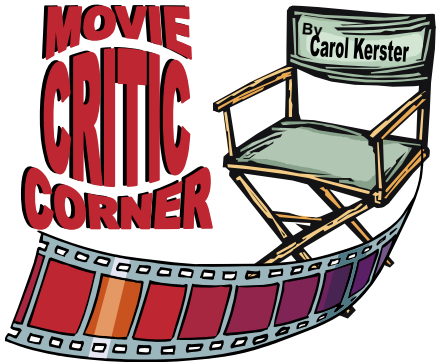
In the photo below, Dr. LiYang (left) is pictured with Interim Dean of the College of Business Administration and Public Policy, Kaye Bragg, PhD. Dean Bragg is co-hosting Professor LiYang’s lecture on November 16. “He will share his experience through stories and pictures to bring Chinese folklore to life,” she said. “I hope many of you will join me in welcoming him to our campus at the reception.”

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is co-sponsoring this lecture and reception.

Dr. LiYang, Fulbright scholar, with Dr. Kaye Bragg, Interim Dean, College of Business Administration & Public Policy



Two very different movies for your consideration this time: *My Afternoons With Marguerite* and *Moneyball*.



The first is a very small, very quiet story that takes place in what appears to be a small town in

France. Much of the action (*interaction*, really) takes place on a park bench, and in the very simple residence of the main character, Germain, who is played by Gerard Depardieu. In *Pastiche*, the last film in which I saw him, he was compared, not inaccurately, to a bus. He was not only an unbelievable-looking heartthrob, but a bungling one. (Did anyone see *Pastiche*?)

In this film, his size has not changed, but his character and his portrayal have. From a disappointing, and disappointed, very humble, almost incommunicative simpleton, to an enlightened, compassionate and truly sensitive human being, Germain undergoes monumental change. Through his introduction to books and music, by way of a new and most unlikely friend, he evolves into a man with real possibilities for a richer, more fulfilling life, and one whose impact will be felt by others. The underlying causes for his life are portrayed by fine actors who know their skills, but whom I do not know. Never mind; the movie will be an afternoon, or evening, well spent.

Except for his hilarious portrayal of a lollipop-sucking, pretty dumb physical trainer in the bureaucratic send-up, *Burn After Reading*, I’ve never been a great Brad Pitt fan. And unless my grandson is pitching or catching on his team of 10- and 11-year-olds, I’ve not been much of a baseball fan, either. But thanks to an amazingly well written, well acted, well directed *Moneyball*, all that has changed. Based on the true story of Billy Beane, the Oakland Athletics general manager in 2002 (and Brad Pitt in an Academy Award performance), who led an underfunded, underachieving team to an unprecedented 20 consecutive wins by enlisting a complicated theory called sabermetrics, this movie left me cheering. By using obtuse (to me) computer analyses of players’ performances, and the extraordinary talents of his super-brainy, Yale-educated economist and assistant general manager, played to an exquisitely understated “T” by Jonah Hill, Beane developed a team that, for all practical purposes, was washed up. As if that story weren’t enough to enthrall viewers, Beane’s back story, including an abusive childhood, unfulfilled personal dreams, and a heart-touching relationship with a lovely teenage daughter (Kerris Dorsey in her first featured role; watch for her), add to the top quality cast, as does the ever-reliable Philip Seymour Hoffman, in a small, but potent, role. The director, Bennett Miller, and the writers, Steven Zaillian and Aaron Sorkin (yes, *The Social Network* and *West Wing* Sorkin) have set new standards for their crafts. I haven’t one reservation in urging you to treat yourself to this amazing and entertaining film.

L.A. Noir Field Trip to 7th Street *by Hal Hart*

Nine members of the "L.A. Noir 2" S/DG took an end-of-trimester field trip in August, riding the Green and Blue Lines from Redondo Beach to historic 7th Street and strolling along that route, which is described by the L.A. Conservancy as "Downtown's Historic Thoroughfare." They visited some of the famous buildings from the notorious 1920's-to-1960's era when Los Angeles grew into a great city while undergoing the shifting alliances and battles between newspaper and business magnates, politicians, the underworld and the L.A. Police Department -- the latter two personified for decades by Mickey Cohen and William Parker. The group lunched at Clifton's Cafeteria, founded in 1931 by Clifford Clinton, champion of 5-cent meals during hard times, a behind-the-scenes activist influencing reforms in L.A. politics, and founder in 1946 of "Meals for Millions," which has since consolidated with the worldwide "Freedom from Hunger" organization. As you can see from the photo, Clifton's is no ordinary cafeteria, with rich wood everywhere, lavish staircases to the second level, and miniature forest scenes in every cranny.

(Hiking Group members, note: The Harts picked up one geocache downtown and three more at the Redondo Green Line station!)



Left to right, sitting are Jill McKenzie, Judi Jones, Jade Suzanne Neely and Margaret Thelen; standing are Ruth Hart, Howard Korman, Midge Solomon, Dave Knauer and Hal Hart.



Our Oceans



Our oceans – what they mean to us and what we can do to understand and preserve them – is the first of the "timely topics" to be addressed in a Newsletter feature that will – from time to time – report on information, presented in an S/DG, that is timely and relevant to all Omnilore members.

Our first entry, suggested by Chuck Herring, recommends the videotaped TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) Talk, presented during the Summer 2011 S/DG, "Saving the Oceans and Marine Life." Dr. Sylvia Earle, a highly respected marine scientist who says we humans are her favorite species, and calls the Earth "our support system," received a TED Wish prize in 2009. To learn about her wish, go to:

http://www.ted.com/speakers/sylvia_earle.html

where Dr. Earle has summarized her findings in a mesmerizing

"TED Talks" episode of 18 minutes. To access it, use the link above, then select the video titled "TED Prize Winners" in the upper right.

Following are direct quotes from the common reading, *The World is Blue: How Our Fate and the Ocean's Are One*, by Dr. Earle:

"Fifty years ago, no one, not Rachel Carson, not Jacques Cousteau, imagined that we could harm or do anything to the ocean by what we put in it or took out of it. It seemed to be a sea of Eden. But now we know that we are facing "Paradise Lost."

"Most of the oxygen in the atmosphere is generated by life in the sea."

"Excess carbon dioxide (in the atmosphere) is changing ocean chemistry, making the sea more acidic. That's bad news. . . ." and there is more!

Send your nominations for "Timely Topics" to Communications@Omnilore.org.

Omniole's 20th Annual Meeting & Luncheon



1. Sporting red stars, Steve Miller & Bill Gargaro plan their next revolution together; 2. Brenda Blow, OLLI's purse strings, & Jim Bouchard, OLLI at CSUDH; 3. Roseleen Gaffney, Art Irizarry & Mary Lou Busch; 4. Maggie Wilkinson & Marg Alexander; 5. Some of our greeters: Mimi Lau, Marilou Lieman & Mary Golob; 6. JoAnna Kerrigan; 7. Janet Hironaka; 8. Julie Cook (guest and costume prize winner) & Bob Bacinski; 9. Lynn & John Taber; 10. Muriel Blatt; 11. Sally Downie; 12. Mary & Dan Gluck; 13. Sunny Moss; 14. Les Berg; 15. Dee & Al (guest) Edridge; 16. Burt Cutler posing as an electrician; 17. Joann Kostelas (guest) & Dorothy Riley; 18. Barbara Crispin (guest) & Carol Lopilato; 19. Evil witch Carol Kerster with red witch, Nancy Shannon.

Thanks to Lori Spillane for sharing her photos with us!



1. Jade Suzanne Neely, Rick Spillane & Edith Garvy, who won a prize for her Cuban lady outfit; 2. Ray & Anne Destabelle; 3. Dick

Johnson & newbie Gene Mick; 4. Shirley Nagai, wearing her very special Halloween beer-can hat (knitted by her mother-in-law); 5. Jean de Angelis; 6. John Stevens; 7. Gary Nofziger; 8. Alice Aoto (guest); 9. Dennis Eggert; 10. Alex Reisbord; 11. Bill & Andrea Gargaro, who also won an award for her clown costume; 12. Howard Korman; 13. Al & Marcia Kovalsky; 14. Jill McKenzie; 15. Anne Faass & husband, Richard (guest); 16. Linda Jenson & Edith Eddleman; 17. Gary & Gretchen Marlotte; 18. Patricia Shih & Berta Bilezikjian; 19. Elizabeth Brown; 20. Norman Lobsenz & Helen Leven; 21. Robin Kirk (guest) & RosaLee Saikley; 22. Barry & Harriet Dunbridge; 23. Blanche & Chuck Herring, sporting evidence of being an open ocean sailboat racer.



**Thanks for the Memories ...
Diana!**

1. Janice Champion & husband, David (guest); 2. President Gargaro honors outgoing Forum Chairperson, Diana Cutler for her 11 years of service; 3. Lucia & Luke Dzwonczyk flank Carol Simone; 4. Ginger Engstrom; 5. Lindie Banks; 6. Carol Johnson; 7. Harriet Allyn & Margaret Thelen; 8. Jane Parmenter (guest) & Lori Geitmann; 9. Blanche Herring & Merle Culbert; 10. Tom Vincent & Tony Lopilato; 11. Scotty Wuerker & Joan Springer; 12. Nick Gomez, Lynn Anderson (guest) & Marion Smith; 13. Lori & Rick Spillane (Spider Woman meets Birder); 14. Patricia & Jay Edie; 15. a rare appearance by Gordon Reiter, wearing his cat mask upside down; 16. Teresa Yu showing her Cuban outfit; 17. Marilyn & Al Peschel; 18. Maria Ruiz.

“A Wonderful Experience” . . .

by Carol Lopilato

...that is the consensus of Omniloreans who went on the “Studios of the Sun” S/DG trip to Nice, France, this fall.

Though difficult to name *one* favorite activity, **Barbara Barrett** chose the visit to the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild. She loved the themed gardens and impressive collection of 18th Century art, furniture and tapestries. “All this - and lunch with a panoramic view of the Mediterranean. . . a special day!”

Shirley Nagai enjoyed the comments made by our tour guide, Jean, about the ancient ruins and his explanations of paintings and sculptures. Shirley said, “It was everything that our fellow students reported in the ‘Studios of the Sun’ class, but our group saw the originals instead of photos in the text.” Shirley also had great luck: she doubled her money at the Casino!

What **Mimi Lau** liked best was visiting the Kerylos Greek Villa: “It was like going back into an ancient Greek villa.” **Elizabeth Brown** liked the Monaco oceanographic museum associated with Jacques-Yves Cousteau. We took a picture of **Gary Marlotte** in a diving bell!

Gretchen Marlotte liked the liveliness (often joyfulness) of the art and art museums: “Picassos in the Musee Picasso from one of his happiest periods. . . art at the Maeght Foundation beautifully integrated with sculpture gardens.

. . . the Annuciade Museum in St. Tropez, showing works from the Nice school with their colorful celebration of the Cote d'Azur. . . Chagall stained glass windows, stunning and vivid.”

Though obviously struck also by the “incredible scenery,” the group, when asked to name the best thing about the trip, agreed: “The tour guides – Jean and Patrick.”



*In front of our hotel, Le Royal, on the Promenade des Anglais, Nice, France:
Front row - Valerie Katz (guest of Shirley Nagai), Margie Queen
(guest of Barbara Barrett), Barbara Barrett, Mimi Lau, Joe Lau, Shirley Nagai
Back Row - Tony Lopilato, Carol Lopilato, Elizabeth Brown,
Gary Marlotte, Gretchen Marlotte*

Think it's too hard to go to CSUDH for an OLLI lecture? Think again. . . .

by Marion Smith

Have you looked at the OLLI brochures, noted the outstanding lectures being held on the CSUDH campus, and felt overwhelmed about finding the campus, finding a place to park, and finding the auditorium? Don't give up. It's really easier than you might think to get to these terrific events. Here are some tips on getting to CSUDH from the Beach Cities:

The CSUDH address is 1000 E. Victoria Street, Carson. Did you know that 190th Street becomes Victoria Street where it intersects Figueroa Street? And that Figueroa runs parallel to -- and just east of -- the Harbor (I-110) freeway? If you can find your way to Figueroa and 190th/Victoria, you'll find the entry to the campus exactly 1.3 miles east of that intersection. Avalon Boulevard is the last major street you'll cross before reaching the campus.

About the map at the back of the OLLI brochure: If you're like me, you have to look at a map with north at the top. Rotate the brochure so that the words "Extended Education" at the top and "CAMPUS MAP" at the bottom are upright. You'll then be looking at the map with north at the top of the

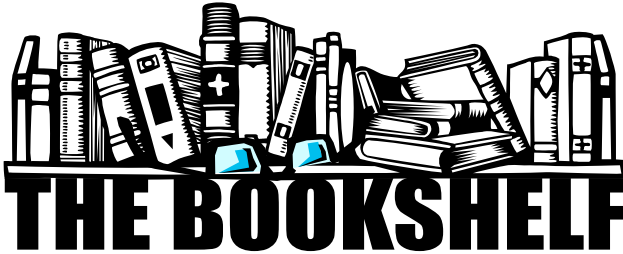
page. Note that the street running across the north of the campus is Victoria Street. From Victoria Street, turn right (south) into the campus at a driveway just past (east of) Home Depot Center. From the driveway, take the second left, into Parking Lot 3. Looking at the map in the brochure, you'll see Lot 3 at the intersection of the bold black circle (around the Extended Education complex) and the bold black arrow.

Then you'll have to buy a daily parking pass for \$4. You'll find yellow dispensers at the NW and SE corners of Lot 3. The machines accept debit and credit cards as well as cash. The paper pass should be placed on your dashboard.

The College of Extended and International Education (Extended Education, for short) occupies three one-story buildings just east of the Home Depot Center. The auditorium (EE-1213) is in the center building, and the entrance faces Parking Lot 3. For a larger map, go to

<http://www.csudh.edu/visitus/campusmap.shtml>.

The Extended Education complex is #106 on that map.



by Patricia Edie

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

2030: The Real Story of What Happens to America by **Albert Brooks**. In the same vein as Orwell's chilling vision of "Nineteen Eighty-Four," Albert Brooks takes a look into the future of America, and produces a somber, yet highly plausible, outlook. Intelligent writing, intriguing ideas, memorable characters, and surprising dark humor all combine to make this an enthusiastic recommendation.

The Hypnotist by **Lars Kepler**. Following the mystery novel path set by "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" series by Stieg Larsson, "The Hypnotist" takes place in Sweden with the same dark feel brought on by past events leading to murders in the present. The primary character is a psychiatrist who fell from public grace when using hypnosis 10 years prior on seriously troubled patients. Now he is asked to use his skill in hypnosis to get information from a severely wounded patient that may solve several brutal murders and possibly save the lives of others. The pace of the story is fast with descrip-

tive jolts of dark menacing violence while giving a picture of police procedural process in Sweden. Overall, a pulse-pounding read from the first few pages.

A Small Hotel: A Novel by **Robert Olen Butler**. Intertwining viewpoints of husband and wife over many years of marriage are seamlessly woven together in a small novel that packs a lot of emotional punch.

The Upright Piano Player: A Novel by **David Abbott**. In his debut novel, David Abbott places the main character in threatening and sometimes horrific circumstances and asks how our decisions, even with the best intentions, affect others? He presents us with a character, Henry Cage, tossed about by life's circumstances and the tolls paid for engagement. This is a cautionary tale of the complexity of life, proving the old adage that none of us comes out of it unscathed no matter our intents or collected wisdom. It is well-written, sparse and understated but with a sustained impact

The Wandering Falcon by **Jamil Ahmad**. This short, compact novel is actually six interwoven stories drawn from the experiences of a man who spent decades as a civil servant in the northwest tribal regions of Pakistan. The book transports the reader to a land of nomadic tribes who live and die by ancestral codes. But it is

not only about tribes. It is about honor, love, loyalty, and grace; about borders--geographical, political, and personal. Every page of this book is filled with beauty and humanity: an unforgettable portrait of a world of custom and compassion, of love and cruelty, of hardship and survival, a place fragile, unknown, and unforgiving. The novel was published 40 years after it was written, when the author was 80 years old.

And one non-fiction recommendation:

False Economy: A Surprising Economic History of the World by **Alan Beatie**. This book is filled with stories of financial triumph and disaster, and provides a look at how the world really works and why it all too frequently doesn't. The author explains how and why countries and societies and economies got to where they are today, what make cities the way they are, why corruption destroyed some nations but not others; why the economy that fed the Roman Empire is now the world's biggest importer of grain. He says countries have choices, and those choices have substantially determined whether they succeeded or failed.

(Book suggestions from Omnioleoreans make this column work. Our thanks to **Cindy Eggert**, **H. E. Kamiya**, 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.)

In Memoriam—George Clark

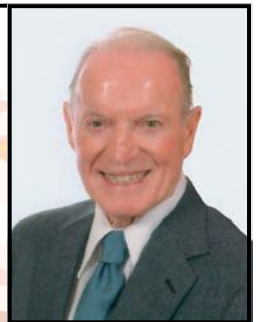
Former Omnioleore president, distinguished scientist and published author, George Clark passed away October 15 from cancer. Always an enthusiastic participant in Omnioleore events, he regularly photographed many memorable moments for the Omnioleore News. . . the Forum was his favorite. . . and we will miss him!

George received his degrees, including a Ph.D. in electrical engineering, from the University of Illinois, which he attended after serving 18 months in the Philippines during World War II. He moved to California to work for Ramo-Wooldridge Space Technology Labs (STL), the forerunner of TRW, in 1956. His assignment there was to build a very fast camera to provide instrumentation for fusion power research. His camera turned out to be the fastest camera in the world at the time, and became STL's first commercial product.

When the laser was invented in 1960, George used his camera to take the first high-speed photographs of laser emissions, discovering new optical phenomena. The holder of 27 patents, he also received the first prestigious Simon Ramo Award for Innovation. After stints as chief scientist at other high-tech companies, he returned to TRW where he was a senior department manager, involved in laser communications and optical systems in space, until his retirement in 1991.

During retirement, George developed software that can eliminate "politics" from the process of drawing Congressional voting districts by using population and geographic data only. His book on the subject, *Stealing Our Votes*, demonstrates that the software can make gerrymandering impossible.

George leaves three children, six grandchildren and his companion, Barbara Johnson, also a member of Omnioleore.



November	6	Return to Standard Time ("fall back" one hour)
	8	Election Day
	10	Board of Directors Meeting— 12 Noon - 1:45 p.m.—Room 7
	11	Veterans Day
	18	Hiking Group—10 a.m. - 12 Noon
	24	Thanksgiving
	27	First Sunday of Advent
	29	Introducing Omnilore Meeting—10 a.m. - 12 Noon—Room 7
December	8	Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon - 1:45 p.m.—Room 7
	13	Membership—12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
	15	Input Deadline for January-February Newsletter
	16	Hiking Group Holiday Hike and Lunch—10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
	21	Hannukkah
	22	First Day of Winter
	25	Christmas Day
	31	New Year's Eve

OMNIOLORE CALENDAR 2011

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

Happy Hannukkah

Merry Christmas

IMPORTANT:

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



Call for Forum Volunteers

by Lori Geitmann

For the last several years, Diana Cutler has organized the quarterly Omnilore Forum luncheons. Under her leadership we have had many stimulating speakers who have helped to quench our thirst for knowledge. It is going to be difficult for me to maintain the same quality of programs that have been presented by Diana and her committee. Fortunately, she has agreed to mentor me.

Since I lack the superb organizing skills of Diana, I am putting out a call for help. It is your Forum and I would like more of you to volunteer to join the committee. And, if you feel you don't have time to participate regularly, at least help us to select speakers. While our treasury cannot afford to pay for "big names," we have been fortunate enough to have had some really good speakers with interesting programs from many different fields. I believe that is due to many of our members stepping up and convincing their contacts (and others) to speak at one of our Forums.

So, please contact me to volunteer your help or speaker ideas at catcali-co@aol.com. Thanks!

(Some of the duties of the Forum committee include: finding the speakers, negotiating with the caterers, selecting the menu, designing and taking care of the printing and mailing of the flyers, taking the reservations and collecting the money.)



**Computer Talks Is Taking
November & December Off !
Look for Us in The Jan.-Feb.2012 Newsletter**



November Date Set for New "Introducing Omnilore" Meeting

by
Howard
Korman



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

**Tuesday, November 29, 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!