



OMNIOLORE NEWS

Volume 16 Issue 5

www.omnilore.org

September 2007

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

President	Rick Spillane
VP - Academics	Merle Culbert
VP - Administration	Carol Simone
Treasurer	Tom Vincent
Recording Secretary	Dorothy Riley
Past President	Dick Johnson
Member-at-Large	Janet Brown
Member-at-Large	Ruth Hart
Member-at-Large	Gemma Scharfenberger

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership	Kathleen Fitzgerald
Forum	Diana Cutler
Communications	Ralph Brown
Head Coordinator	Laura Guneau
Curriculum	Richard 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 Members	Carol Kerster Ronnie Saunders



Things That Went Bump Backstage

by Carol Kerster



James A. Blackman III

It's easy to imagine that every fine theater production is the result of a good script, a well-rehearsed cast, thoughtful direction, and general feelings of cooperation and camaraderie that all come together more or less smoothly. If you do, just fasten your seat belts before attending this year's Annual Halloween Bash, because you're in for a bumpy ride!

No less an authority on behind the scenes action than **James Blackman**, founder and executive director of the popular, award-winning Redondo Beach Civic Light Opera, will regale us with *Hysterical Nightmare Stories From Backstage Never Told Before*.

Is it possible that there was a war in West Side Story, besides the one between the Jets and the Sharks? Maybe the Fiddler really fell off his roof, and maybe the audience did not believe in Peter Pan, didn't applaud, and Peter never got off the ground! The nightmare possibilities are endless, and should be endlessly amusing, especially when told by the effervescent, enthusiastic, entertaining Blackman.

Even if you're not a theater buff, could there be a better way to celebrate our classic Halloween Annual Meeting than with some true theater horror tales? In addition to hearing what are sure to be juicy stories, you can wear a costume (optional), elect officers for the coming year (recommended), and exchange your own juicy stories with fellow *Omniloreans* (discreetly)!

So keep your eyes peeled for the (undoubtedly) orange flyer forthcoming via regular mail, or fill in the coupon on page 5 of this newsletter, and be sure to attend on Wednesday, Oct. 31, at the ever-accommodating Los Verdes Country Club. Otherwise, imagine what *Omnilore* ghosts, goblins and assorted witches will haunt you!

Omnilore Welcomes New Members

by Kathleen Fitzgerald

Looking forward to the Fall trimester, the Membership Committee held two "Introducing Omnilore" meetings in August. Thirty people attended; of those, 20 enrolled at once and several others said they might enroll later. Many *Omnilore* members helped both by encouraging friends to get involved in *Omnilore* and by participating in the meetings; their assistance is much appreciated. The Membership Committee would also like to thank the *Daily Breeze*, especially **Meredith Grenier**, whose very nice write-up inspired several people to attend, and the "Out & About" calendar editor, **Sandy Gerety**. Let's welcome all our new members to the classes they have so enthusiastically selected.

DON'T MISS — IN THIS ISSUE

◆ President's Message	Page 2
◆ What a Week It Was	Page 3
◆ Innovation Thrives at <i>Omnilore</i>	Page 4
◆ Computer Talk	Page 4
◆ The Bookshelf	Page 5



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Rick Spillane

The end of summer has come too quickly. Our classes are ending, but boy, what memories and interesting discussions we had while learning together.

The July forum was certainly memorable with **Bob Bragonier's** great multi-media presentation on *Jazz as America's Contribution to World Culture*. **Diana Cutler's** Forum Committee continues to have stimulating speakers with each Forum seemingly better than the previous one. Consider joining us at the next Forum on October 31st which is also our annual meeting. The scariest Halloween costume the better.

I would like to thank those members who have supported *Omniole* by serving as officers. They have been extremely competent and always ready to do what is needed to ensure *Omniole's* continued success. **Merle Culbert** has served as Vice President for Academics for the last two years supported by the excellent work of **Dick Johnson** as Curriculum Chair and **Laura Guneau** as Head Coordinator. **Tom Vincent**, our Treasurer, is indispensable and manages

to balance our books and keeps us out of financial trouble - no easy task. **Carol Simone**, Vice President for Administration, has handled her responsibilities with ease and is always quick to see a solution and solve a problem.

Kathleen Fitzgerald has been very effective as membership Chair for the last two years. She, along with her volunteers (special thanks to **Edith Garvey** for her continued support), is responsible for the high percentage of membership signups after her *Introduction to Omniole* presentation. **Mary Oran**, who has done so much for *Omniole*, needed a replacement so **Ralph Brown** has agreed to become our new Communication Chair. Others who have been extremely capable and helpful are our Recording Secretary **Dorothy Riley**, our "Members at Large" **Janet Brown**, **Ruth Hart**, and **Gemma Scharfenberger**, our "Web Master" **Myron Pullen**, our Registrar **Roy Schubert**, our Facilities Manager **Bob Beach**, our Office Manager **Carol Johnson** (who also insists that we keep our Procedures current), **Pat Stevens**

who keeps our Calendar up to date, and the Newsletter group headed by **Diana Cutler** and **JoAnna Kerri-gan** who do such a great job of



publishing our bimonthly newsletter and making sure it's informative and interesting. The list goes on and I am sure to have missed some names, but we all sincerely appreciate their efforts.

Finally, I would like to thank our secretary **Johan Smith** who has supported *Omniole* since 1996. She is extremely dedicated to her work and efficient concerning all aspects of *Omniole* administration. Johan keeps us on track concerning the many details which need to be attended to. She is an important reason the officers are able to function so well. I personally know what a fantastic job she does supporting the Curriculum Committee, as well as the newsletter, and handling all the mailings and support functions needed to ensure that an all-volunteer organization functions and remains on schedule. We are very fortunate to have her helping us.



The Fall 2007 Lecture Series



by **Jim Bouchard**

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

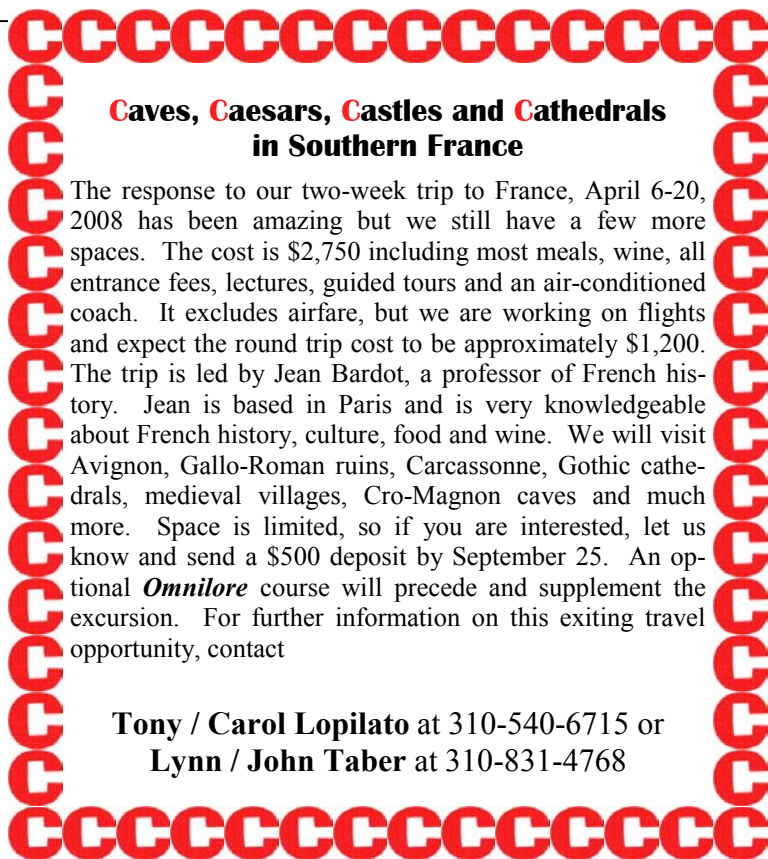
As I write this it is the first week of classes of the fall semester. It's a time for text books, new clothes, and sharpened pencils... and finding a parking space! It is the beginning of the academic year after a hopefully relaxing summer.

This fall we will once again present a series of presentations from CSUDH professors and other experts. The theme for Fall 2007 is *Comedy: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Join us at the Redondo Beach Library to hear presentations from the disciplines of literature, art, history, philosophy and social science. We hope that looking at comedy in film, television and literature will bring some levity to our sometimes all-too-serious modern world. See you at the library!

Caves, Caesars, Castles and Cathedrals in Southern France

The response to our two-week trip to France, April 6-20, 2008 has been amazing but we still have a few more spaces. The cost is \$2,750 including most meals, wine, all entrance fees, lectures, guided tours and an air-conditioned coach. It excludes airfare, but we are working on flights and expect the round trip cost to be approximately \$1,200. The trip is led by Jean Bardot, a professor of French history. Jean is based in Paris and is very knowledgeable about French history, culture, food and wine. We will visit Avignon, Gallo-Roman ruins, Carcassonne, Gothic cathedrals, medieval villages, Cro-Magnon caves and much more. Space is limited, so if you are interested, let us know and send a \$500 deposit by September 25. An optional *Omniole* course will precede and supplement the excursion. For further information on this exiting travel opportunity, contact

**Tony / Carol Lopilato at 310-540-6715 or
Lynn / John Taber at 310-831-4768**



What A Week It Was

by Carol Kerster—July 30, 2007

A notice sent last January resulted in an amazing adventure this past July. **Marilyn Landau** (whose efficiency and attention to detail was awe-inspiring) planned, organized and coordinated a trip to the Shakespearean Festival in Cedar City, Utah. She arranged airfare, lodging, play reservations (three Shakespeare and three others), tours to Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks, plus a backstage tour, and a group dinner for about 25 eager *Omnioleans*. As one of those, I was so exhilarated by the whole experience, I had to convey it this way.

From the rage of King Lear, at the perfidy of daughters,
To the formations of Zion, shaped by centuries of waters,
Winds and weather, coursing and crashing,
Complementing, in a way, the incredible casting
Of Coriolanus, Twelfth Night, and not the least bit irrev'rently,
Matchmaker and Candida. "Lent" Tenor sang magnificently!
The event, though for some, not new at all,
Was the Shakespearean Festival in the state of Utah.
'Twas a week that had days for Bryce and for Zion,
Where some even managed (with a little help) some strenuous climbin'.
But the mesa, the arches, the multi-colored canyons,
Caused feelings of wonder we hope never to abandon.

There were plays, oh, the plays! The acting! The dramatic sights!
Took all of us, heart and soul, to grand, glorious heights
Of appreciation and gratitude for Shakespeare's creations.
They're fountains of wisdom, of wit, of sensations.
Did Coriolanus pay heed to mom Volumnia, and get killed?
As did Lear's girls, who thought themselves ever so skilled
At lying and cheating, and placing the blame
On Cordelia, the daughter, who loved dad without shame.
Did Viola have identity crisis, and end up delirious?
Or, did Orsino wanting Olivia, bring chaos to Ilyirous?
However, it wasn't all Shakespeare . . .

There was Mrs. Levi, the Matchmaker, whose each song, dance and article
Was line-for-line funny, merry and farcical.
Cornelius and Ermengarde, Horace, of course, Dolly
Maneuvered and romped, and kept matchmaking jolly.
Max, Maggie, and Tenor, from hysteric to fr'natic
Candida, by Shaw (no fan of the Bard),
Decided positively, which for her wasn't hard!

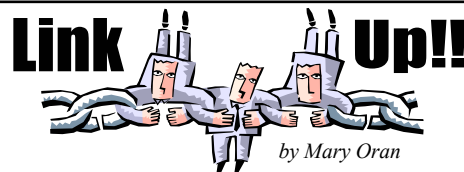
As all good things must, the week came to conclusion,
That's when we found extreme airline confusion!
But home we returned, now we're ready for more.
After all's well and done, we have, still Omniole.

A DIFFERENT PRESENTATION

by Edith Garvey

In our Shakespeare SD/G this summer we had an unusual presentation that I'd like to share with you. **Sharon Siegelman** gave her presentation about Shakespeare's language. She told us of some common quotations that most of us attribute to Shakespeare himself but as it turns out the Bard borrowed these from others.

As part of her talk, Sharon handed out authentic Shakespearean quotations that are very much a part of our language. We each received eight of these slips of paper



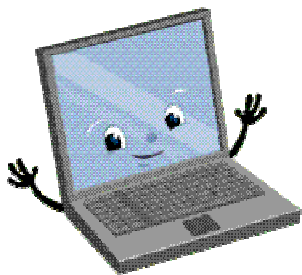
New members sometimes get nervous about presentations. There is no need to! On the *Omniole* web page (www.omniole.org) there are many helpful tools. One of the best ones is found in the "More Information" section. Click on "links" and a list of several categories will appear.* Within these categories are several websites that offer a variety of scholarly information. The category "Research Tools" is especially helpful, linking up to online museums, references, and other university level materials. In addition, there are some websites listed that provide stress relief and other personal tips. One category is "Humor;" another website is a conversion table that converts just about anything! When you have a spare hour, why not explore what our website has to offer? In addition to the Links (you could spend a day exploring there!), one can find presentation pointers and other helpful hints. Why waste time searching the Internet when some of the investigation has already been done for you? Think "Link!"

(If you have discovered any special websites that would be good links to add to our webpage, please let one of the following WWG members know: George Clark, Jay Edie, Patricia Edie, Blanche Herring, Myron Pullen, Rich Mansfield or Mary Oran).

*Note: If you are not familiar with navigating our website, you can get to the Links Page by going to the Home Page (www.omniole.org) and clicking on "More Info" in the left hand column list; then click on "Links" in the left hand column list of the More Info page when it comes up. That series of clicks will get you to the Links Page. It's easy – we promise!

and were asked to explain the meaning. We had a good time trying to define each saying. Here are some of them that you may try for yourself:

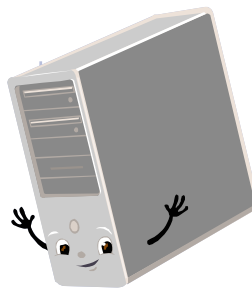
- "a dish fit for a king" Julius Caesar
- "every inch a king" King Lear
- "What a piece of work is man" Hamlet
- "flaming youth" Hamlet
- "Hoist with his own petard" Hamlet
- "What's done is done!" Macbeth



Computer Talks

Web Access by Internet Explorer 7

by Carol Johnson



You probably use the Internet Explorer program if you access the Internet from a PC to visit websites. Some also use it to read and send e-mail. An upgrade from version 6 (IE6) to version 7 (IE7) is free and happened painlessly on a Windows XP system with service pack 2.

On **Thursday, September 27**, noon to 1 p.m., **Carol Johnson** will describe some features of IE7, including easier searching, larger icons and fonts, automatic notices of changes in certain websites (such as blogs), and multiple tabs for toggling among web pages. Web pages in six tabs can be shown all at once, thumbnail style. A page can be sent to an e-mail message with a single click. The only drawback seems to be that it has too many icons in the command bar. Do come hear about this new web browser and decide whether it is right for you.

PowerPoint Workshop

by Pat Stevens

The Computer Talk for October will be a *Power Point Workshop* for those who want to improve their *Omniole* presentations using this handy application. There will be one station for beginners, one for intermediate users, and one for answering questions and experimentation. **George Clark, Pat Stevens, Tom Vincent** and **Carol Johnson** will be presenting and providing guidance with this program. If you have a laptop, you are welcome to bring it along for some hands-on practice. (Be prepared to run on batteries, so that we don't blow the circuits.) Everyone should gain enough knowledge to create a simple presentation, improve his/her skills or learn some tricks to make her/his presentation even more "powerful."



And the Survey Says...

by Patricia Edie

Thanks again to all the *Omniole*ans who submitted their feedback for the Spring 2007 S/DGs. 56% of the participating members provided information. The results are in and *Omniole* obtained some helpful data to assist in continuing to provide classes that are stimulating and educational. Special kudos go to "Jazz for the Classical Music Lover," "All Aboard for Santa Fe, Taos and Los Alamos," and "The Fiction Gallery of Short Stories" for providing their participants with the highest levels of satisfaction. Comments were especially helpful and reminded us that what the members appreciate most in their S/DG **are the ability to have stimulating discussion that include and respect everyone's opinion, classes that are well organized, presentations that are well-prepared and not read from website print-outs, and the opportunity to interact with a diversity of members.** Many expressed appreciation for the efforts of their coordinators.

You should have received your request for feedback on your Summer 2007 classes. Please take the time to respond. This survey is an easy avenue to get your ideas and comments to *Omniole* ears! Speak up and be heard!

Innovation Thrives at Omniole

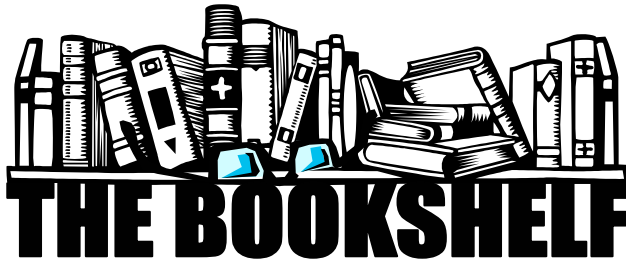
by Patricia Edie

No one doubts that *Omniole* is a great way for us to flex our gray matter! The creativity capacity of *Omniole*ans is evidenced in two Summer Study/Discussion Groups. One S/DG, "Ayn Rand and Objectivism" is using a new method of communication between classes. Coordinator **Al Peschel** has established a Yahoo Group for the class members. It allows the class to store documents, outlines, presentations on an internet site and also enables members to have continuing electronic discussions by sending blanket messages to the entire group. A recent message was received from a class member who, while on vacation, was able to respond to a previous message via internet access! So our classroom becomes virtual! (Note: Stay tuned... the ability to store documents for easy retrieval will soon be available to all S/DGs on our *Omniole.org* website, thanks to the creativity of webmaster, **Myron Pullen**.)

Another S/DG, "Appreciating the Fruit of the Vine," has been meeting in members homes so that in addition to giving presentations on various aspects of viticulture, they can also do wine-tasting to learn how to recognize the subtleties in various grape varietals. They even had a guest-expert at a recent class teach them about the growing wine industry in South Africa. Here is a photo of **Jay Edie**, using a map and chart to explain the Mediterranean climate that is so conducive to grape growing, and **Jeanne Wilson**, perfecting her "sniff!"

Bravo to all of our creative members!!





by Mary Oran

In most of our “Book Shelf” columns, the recommendations have concentrated on works outside the best seller lists. This time, however, there are two recommendations from *Omnioleans* that are best sellers, and books that simply shouldn’t be missed.

Joan Didion’s *A Year of Magical Thinking* is a remarkable piece of nonfiction describing the author’s reactions and emotions after the sudden death of her husband, John Gregory Dunne. “Life changes fast, life changes in an instant” begins the book. In this very moving story she shares her thoughts and her search for understanding. This book is neither self-pitying nor depressing. It offers an honest look at grief – something that affects all of us at some unexpected time in our lives.

The other best seller is *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by **Khaled Hosseini** (author of *The Kite Runner*). Again, the setting is Afghanistan. It is about love and friendship and the meaning of family ties during a time of invasion and tyrannical governance. Most of all, it is a shocking revelation of the treatment of women

throughout these years, and of their remarkable resilience. The memorable characters will stay with you long after you have turned the final page.

For another trip back in time, consider *Medicus: a Novel of the Roman Empire* by first-time novelist **Ruth Downie**. Set in Roman-occupied Britain and featuring wry army doctor Gaius Petreius Ruso, this novel is a delight of period detail, humor, and suspense.

Ruso has just arrived at his assignment; he is overworked, underpaid, and a sucker for taking care of those he should probably ignore. He may not have the best bedside manner, but, as critics say, he has a “sullen charm”!

For those still beaching it, cruising it, or escaping it, this piece of “chick lit” was recommended as being “the best of its genre.” *The Guy Not Taken* by **Jennifer Weiner** is a collection of 11 stories that follow the sometimes serious, sometimes hilarious progress of love and relationships in the course of a lifetime. Maybe it’s just the ticket for that wait in the dental or doctor office?

Back to the very serious, we have *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century*. Author **Thomas J. Friedman** shows the “surprising advances and ubiquity of the computer revolution in the world at large.” Think of “flat” as

meaning “connected.” He offers facts one can’t ignore, and Friedman is definitely a writer one can’t ignore either!

White Guilt: How Blacks and Whites Together Destroyed the Promise of the Civil Rights Era. **Shelby Steele** says it all in the title, indicating that white guilt has been exploited, resulting in a lack of progress in black achievement. Did blacks make a deal with the devil by exchanging control for handouts? This is a controversial piece of prose that raises a number of questions.

Most people have read the powerful short holocaust novel, *Night*, by **Elie Wiesel**. But how many of you have read *Dawn*? Equally concise, it is a night-to-dawn narrative centered on Elisha, a young holocaust survivor and Israeli freedom fighter, who is scheduled to assassinate an English officer in retribution for a British execution. What dilemmas does conflict bring us to? Justifications, compromises, horrors of the past and present...one reads the book feeling the same anguish and torn feelings as Elisha and the officer.

Remember, if any examples of the printed word please you, we would like to know about them!

(Our thanks go to **Edith Garvey, Rich Mansfield, Nancy Shannon and Midge Solomon** 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.)

OMNIOLORE Annual Luncheon Reservation Form

WHEN: **Wednesday, October 31st, 2007 – 11:00 a.m.**

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

Reservations are required by October 26th, please!

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

Name(s): _____ Phone #: _____
(Please Print)
_____ Phone #: _____
(Please Print)

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

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

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

OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2007

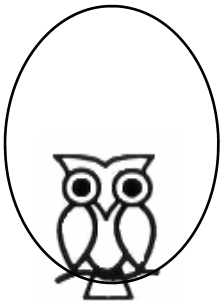
- September**
- 3 Labor Day**
 - 3 Fall 07 Trimester Classes Begin
 - 11 Membership Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 - 13 Rosh Hashanah**
 - 13 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 21 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 - 22 Yom Kippur**
 - 27 Computer Talks - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
Web Access Using Internet Explorer 7 - Carol Johnson
(see page 4)

- October**
- 9 Membership Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 - 11 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 15 Input Deadline for September/October Newsletter
 - 19 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 - 25 Computer Talks - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
PowerPoint Workshop - Pat Stevens
(see page 4)
 - 31 Halloween**
 - 31 Annual Meeting & Luncheon - 11 a.m.
Los Verdes Country Club



IMPORTANT:

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



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

