



OMNIOLORE NEWS

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OMNIOLORE

California State University
Dominguez Hills

OMNIOLORE NEWS

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

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

Editor	Diana Cutler
Staff Member	Carol Kerster

A Scintillating Annual Meeting

by Carol Kerster

In the presence of an ever-growing Latino community, our every-increasing interaction with members of this community and the abundance of news about the "immigrant situation," perhaps it's time to learn more about another aspect of that community, specifically its fine art, and related cultural and educational achievements. How appropriate to have as our October Annual Luncheon speaker, Marcy Rodriguez, the Outreach Coordinator of the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach.



Marcy Rodriguez

Marcy obtained a degree in Art History from UCLA, worked in various student transfer and outreach programs at the University, volunteered at the Museum of Tolerance in LA, and is fluent in English, Spanish, French, Microsoft Office Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc. Her presentation to us will focus on MOLAA's history and its mission.

In 2007 when Marcy joined the Museum, it was at the end of a major physical expansion. It now consists of 55,000 square feet, which includes expanded public areas, exhibition space, a research library, an educational art studio, and the Robert Gumbiner Sculpture and Event Garden which opened in 2005. The entrance to the building features a dramatic façade, symbolizing a bridge and testifying to the heart of MOLAA'S mission, a Bridge to the Americas. The Museum's permanent collection, its various temporary exhibitions, and its ability to provide compelling learning experiences, and appreciation for cultural diversity has been recognized by the Smithsonian Institution, which has selected it as a Smithsonian Affiliate.

In addition to her introduction to MOLAA Marcy will dedicate part of her discussion to the Latin American tradition, Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). And this brings us to the October Annual Meeting, which falls not coincidentally, on Friday, October 31!

This is the time of our annual business meeting (short) and election of officers, our usual Los Verdes Country Club luncheon (tasty), and our gala Halloween celebration, featuring, (drum roll)...COSTUMES (as wild as you like). This is your chance to express your inner self, outer self, or whatever, through a costume of your choosing; there's no theme for costumes this year, so just go for it, send in your registration form (see page 5), or in the soon-to-be mailed probably-orange-colored flyer, and look forward to a great afternoon with fellow Omniloreans.

Presentations 101: The Workshop

Thursday
September 18th
12 Noon Room 7



Are you a new member to *Omnilore* and a little uncertain about what to do about your first presentation? Perhaps you have been a member of *Omnilore* for a while and want to polish your presentation skills. In either case, we have some help for you. On Thursday, September 18, 2008 from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., you are invited to join **Presentations 101: The Workshop**. It's all

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Rick Spillane

How would you describe Omnilore: as a learning community; a self-governing, self-sustaining program within the CSUDH Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI); partners in learning; peer taught active discussion groups; or just friends learning together? We are of course, all of these, but we are so much more. Past and present members have volunteered their time and talents to build one of the best learning in retirement groups in the country.

The recent passing of **Emil Raulin** brought to mind qualities that continue to typify Omnilore members. He was intellectually interested in many areas, but was never pretentious and always

willing to help other members. While calming heated discussions, he still contributed his own insights. Emil was an active member of Omnilore, taking on many responsibilities during his time such as President, Coordinator, Chairperson, writing for the newsletter and other roles as needed by the organization. I will always remember being a coordinator and having Emil come to me and request that he do his presentation early in the course as he wasn't sure he would have the strength later in the course.

Remember the contributions made by Emil and many other members, past and present, who have built and maintained

this organization the next time you are asked to volunteer for an Omnilore position. As in many organizations, a large proportion of the work is done by a small group of people. I have been saddened to see vital organizations disband when that small, but important group of volunteers move on. Ensure this doesn't happen to Omnilore by contributing some of your time when asked to be a coordinator, or write for the newsletter, or join a committee. Make some contribution; it is sure to reward you as well as this great organization.



WHY DO WE WRITE OUR MEMBERSHIP CHECKS TO CSUDH? *by George Clark*

Many members of Omnilore do not understand our relationship with the university. They have heard that Omnilore is affiliated with CSUDH or that the university sponsors Omnilore, but those words don't convey the full depth of the relationship. Omnilore is a Program of the College of Extended and International Education of CSUDH. As such, Omnilore is an official activity of the university. We are all registered students at California State University at Dominguez Hills.

One of the privileges that come with being a student is use of the University library. The identification card we get as a member of Omnilore can be taken to the library, where a sticker will be attached, allowing each of us to use their excellent library. I have spent many hours there doing research. The CSUDH library is also connected through the Internet to other university libraries, but although I have browsed a bit in that system, I haven't really used it.

Another privilege of being a registered student is student discounts. Software manufacturers often offer lower prices to students, so Omnilore members can take advantage of sizeable discounts. For example, Microsoft Office Professional costs about \$500.00, but I bought it at the university bookstore for under \$20.00. That was a few years ago. It would probably be more now. I recently made an online purchase of MathType, an addition to Microsoft Word that allows putting equations and symbols into documents. The regular price is \$97.00, but students get a \$40.00 discount.

CSUDH is developing other senior learning programs in parallel with Omnilore. The \$30.00 fee the university has added to our membership fee this fall will provide access for Omnilore members to these other programs. We will all benefit from these additional educational and social opportunities.

I'm very excited about the courses for OLLI members that we have lined up on campus this fall. Everyone who has registered for peer-led **Omnilore** classes is a member of the OLLI@CSUDH. Here are some of the highlights.



Jim Bouchard

**OLLI Courses
Offered this Fall**

by Jim Bouchard
Director, Lifelong Learning Institute
College of Extended & International Education



On Tuesday, September 16, at 1 p.m. we will have our fall OLLI Open House. This meeting is open to the public and introduces lifelong learning at CSUDH. The Open House will include a sample lecture from a CSUDH professor. Our fall lecture series begins on Wednesday, September 17, at 10:30 a.m. in the Extended Education Auditorium. The series is titled *Baroque Music – A Prelude to the Modern Age*, and there will be 7 lectures. The series is free to OLLI members.

We have also scheduled several instructor-led courses which are available for an additional nominal charge of \$20. You can register and pay for these courses by phone, calling the Extended Education registration office at 310.243.3741. One of the courses is *Introduction to Laughter Yoga*. We are getting a lot of interest in this course. We also have a course titled *How Can We Live With Expensive Oil and Global Warming?* taught by **Omnilorean Jay Edie**. This four-meeting course begins on Monday, October 5, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. By registering for this course, you will raise your awareness of changes in our world that will have profound effects on all our lives, and for which we had best prepare. Also you will have a chance to meet some fellow OLLI members who may be new to lifelong learning. For a listing of all OLLI@CSUDH courses offered in the fall, please visit our website at <http://www.csudh.edu/extendeded/lifelong/>. An OLLI catalog with course information will be mailed at the beginning of September. **See you in the Fall!**

OMNIOLORE PROFILE – LUKE & LUCIA DZWONCZYK

by Mary Oran

Picture Bermuda – a lovely beach setting- a young woman on vacation from New England. Offshore is a U.S. Navy repair ship - a young sailor comes ashore; the rest they say, is history. The date was August, 1954; in September, 1956 Luke and Lucia were married. They spent their first years in Syracuse, NY while Luke was attending Syracuse University. After receiving his BSME degree, Luke began working for General Electric in the Utica area. The final move was to Marlboro, MA in 1966 where Luke was employed by Raytheon as a resident off-site engineer at the MIT Instrumentation Laboratory (later renamed the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory).

Lucia began work with the NY Telephone Company, Utica branch, as a Business Office Representative. She transferred to the Syracuse branch after their wedding. After the move to MA, Lucia attended Framingham State College at night and earned a degree in education. She taught in the Marlboro School System while the children were in high school and college. Their three children (two girls and a boy) were in college at the same time – MIT, Tufts, and Brown! One daughter worked at JPL on the Galileo Project; another is an administrator at UT Austin. The son, a former teacher at Stanford, is now CEO of Vello, a Silicone Valley company. There are seven grandchildren, three of them presently in college - Carnegie-Mellon, Berkeley, and Bates.

They first had learning-in-retirement experiences at Boston College, Worcester and Lowell. In 1994 the Dzwonczyks moved to Lompoc, CA. Their nine years on the Central Coast, surrounded by flower fields and wineries were enjoyable ones. In Lompoc, they took the initiative and coordinated Adult Peer Learning experiences with the Lompoc Library. In 2003 they moved to the Palos Verdes Shores community in San Pedro to be closer to family, and immediately signed up for Omnilore! They also became involved in many activities at Palos Verdes Shores. Avid readers, they lead the PVS Book Club. Lucia writes articles for the PVS newsletter; Luke keeps the community's little library in order. While Lucia enjoys writing short stories, Luke puts his pen to poetry. He is also an artist and a golfer; Lucia counters by being a knitter and a swimmer!

Both of them enjoy meeting people with diverse backgrounds. They are definitely eclectic in their interests, enjoying a variety

of S/DGs as well as the lecture series. Traveling is also an important part of their lifestyle. They have participated in several Elderhostels, explored western Canada with our Omnilore group, and have been to Europe several times. They are always looking for new and different things to do. They are the perfect “fit” for Omnilore!

When asked to contemplate a special memory, event, or time in their lives, Lucia responded with a “marriage story.” Like so many couples when first married, they were struggling to make ends meet, living in an attic apartment with everyone's donations. On their walls they placed copies of Van Gogh's paintings, cut from a magazine. One of the paintings was his “Café at Night” painted at Arles. Years later, when they were traveling, they found themselves in front of that famous Café in Arles. Lucia said “I was overcome with memories and emotions of all that transpired to bring us to this place in time.”

Luke referred to when he was a 19 year old sailor on the USS Benewah returning from Newfoundland in 1953. It was a memorable voyage, and one that Luke expresses in poetic form:

A North Atlantic Storm

The good ship Benewah pitches up, then plunges
deep deep down we fall, look wide-eyed straight out
a quaking porthole onto high boiling angry water
higher than the green giant's beanstalk. Wow!

Our frightened ship is slapped up hard by the sea,
she bounces, then wait...bunks of sailors slap down
hard on canvas, a conga drum synchrony
of strapped-down percussive bodies. Whomp!

The propellers churn and wallow and swallow air,
one steam line parts, a hissing bull-whip yard of steel,
the bridge pendulum measures the violence at 45;
we pass Nova Scotia twice today. Look to starboard!

Terrified? No way! We were too young and dumb
to know our captain, himself once a young and dumb
Bataan death march survivor, sat and shat and slept
on the captain's chair for two days to save us.

I wish I could meet him now.

From the shores of Bermuda to the shores of the Pacific, and with Arles and Nova Scotia in between, we're so glad they landed with us!

Continued from page 1: Presentations Workshop

about making our presentations better and enjoying livelier discussions. If you can't attend the workshop and want some help pulling your presentation together check the list of Presentation Mentors on the bulletin boards. You will find the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of *Omnilore* members who have volunteered to work with other members on making presentations. Just give one of them a call or fire off an e-mail to make arrangements for advice and to make a new friend.

SEEKING GOLF PLAYERS

Just two years ago a group of six of us regularly played golf together--primarily at Harbor, occasionally at other nearby courses. Unfortunately, due to the vagaries of declining health—bad backs, shoulders, ankles-- we're down to only two consistent players, **Burt Cutler** and **Bob Bacinski**. The majority determines the day and tee-time on a week-to-week basis. It's a given that everyone will miss some sessions due to health, travel and other conflicts. We enjoy our discussions as much as the futile attempt to hit the white ball. If you're in Tiger's bracket, please don't call; otherwise do let us hear from you (we have no sexual bias). Burt (310) 541-8973
Bob (310) 530-6519.

DEAN'S CORNER



Notes from CSUDH

by Margaret Gordon

Dean, Lifelong Learning Institute
College of Extended & International Education

The CSUDH campus community is ready for the back-to-school rituals of fall semester. The official opening day for fall semester campus classes is August 30, with most classes starting the following week. If you have been thinking about following a regular university course, your membership in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSUDH will be useful.

Eligibility to enroll in campus courses through the Open University program for a significantly reduced fee is one of the membership benefits of OLLI@CSUDH. Open University allows individuals to enroll in regular campus classes without being admitted to the University in a degree program. Transcripts, application and other documentation are not required. The regular Open University fee is \$170 per unit, but OLLI at CSUDH members pay only \$90 per course, for a savings of \$420.

The process is easy. You simply pick up an Open University registration form from the Extended Education Registration office, bring the form to the first class meeting, and ask the instructor to sign the form. Then return the signed and completed form to the Extended Education Registration office. Instructor permission is required to participate in a course and Open University students are accepted on a space-available basis.

You will be enrolled on an audit basis and receive an "AU" on transcript for the course. Enrollment as an auditor means a student does not take tests or complete graded assignments. At the discretion of the instructor an auditor may be required to participate in classroom activities.

Many courses in the fall class schedule are available to Open University students – such as History 318 *Russia Under the Tsars*, Philosophy 301 *Socrates Plato Aristotle*, Asian Pacific Studies 331 *Japanese Comics/ Animation*, Political Science 334 *American Foreign Policy*. You are invited to view the Fall 2008 Open University Class Schedule online by visiting the Extended Education web site <http://www.csudh.edu/extendeded/>. At the home page, scroll down to the column on the right side and click on "Fall 2008 Open University Bulletin (pdf)".

The College also looks forward to OLLI@CSUDH courses and activities that start in September, with an Open House event on the 18th and the Osher Lecture Series' first lecture on the 17th. I hope to see you on campus.

New Website Features

by the Website Working Group (WWG)

Have you ever gone to the Omnilore Website and had difficulty finding a specific piece of information? Well, thanks to the expertise of member **Barbara Case**, help is now just a click away! Two new capabilities have been added to the website.

The first, a Site Index Search, allows you to search and browse Omnilore's web pages. A very prominent link for it can be found on the top left-hand corner of the Omnilore homepage (<http://www.omnilore.org/>) immediately under the blinking owl logo that takes you to **Search and Browse Omnilore Web Pages**. This page provides two functions:

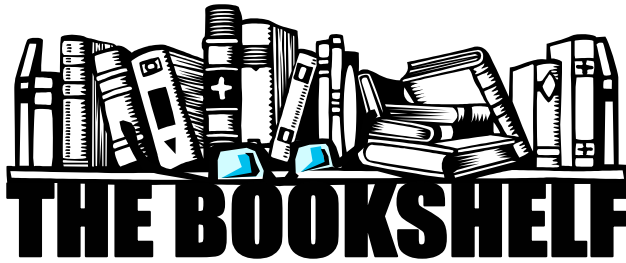
- 1) it serves as an A to Z index to important information distributed throughout the public and members only website areas; and
- 2) it provides a search box that searches any keyword(s) that you choose within the **public** areas of the Omnilore website (if we allowed it to search the members only areas too, then private information like telephone numbers and email address might be revealed to the general public.)

One of the nicest features of the new search box is that it searches for your keywords *inside* the newsletters. For example, recently there was a profile of our Membership Chairperson, **Howard Korman** and his wife **Dale Korman**. Typing the search keywords "Howard Korman" in the search box brings up a link to the newsletter article where his name appears, as well as many other documents on the Website where you find the name. Try it out; it's a lot of fun to use.

The second feature is a spiffy new user-friendly format for our Omnilore "**Procedures Manual**." The easiest way to locate it is by using the **Search and Browse Omnilore Web Pages**, noted above and clicking on "Procedures Manual" in the alphabetical index. You will be asked to type in the Omnilore ID and password because the manual is located in the members' only section of the website.

The online Omnilore *Procedures Manual* is an effective tool to help members understand the organization's essential duties and responsibilities. Omnilore is a volunteer organization and could not work without the dedicated efforts of many invaluable volunteers. We hope that all members will consider taking their turn at contributing to the organization by volunteering to serve as one of the many elected and appointed officers at a future convenient time. By looking at the "Procedures Manual" you might find a position that you think you would enjoy. Also, having the "Procedures Manual" online is a great boon to the many officers and Board members already serving in those positions.

Please take the time to explore these new pages. During your explorations, if you see any way that either of these pages can be improved, or if you have any constructive ideas about any part of the website, please make your comments to any of the Website Working Group (**Barbara Case, George Clark, Jay & Patricia Edie, Blanche Herring, Mary Oran and Myron Pullen**).



by Mary Oran

This “Book Shelf” article is like no other. For the first time, all of the recommended titles come from fellow *Omnioleans*; no personal recommendations from me. Hooray!

Our fiction entries begin with *Birdsong* by British author **Sebastian Faulks**. This novel is representative of the clear, descriptive prose that runs through all of his fiction. A captivating story of love, heartbreak and renewal set against the horrors and devastation of World War I, it shows the agony and despair of the soldiers in the trenches of Belgium and France. A descendant of one of the soldiers is searching for answers to a terrible event that occurred. The vivid descriptions and the captivating story line both contribute to a wonderful reading experience.

Mister Pip by **Lloyd Jones** offers a remote Solomon Island as the setting. Most of the men have left the island, but one white man, married to a native woman, remains, and he reopens the school and offers to teach the children. He reads them *Great Expectations*, which captures their imagination and ultimately changes some lives for the better. The power of books! The wonder of the human imagination! This is captured in this special story.

Based on a true story that took place in the late 1800s in northwestern Mexico, *The Hummingbird’s Daughter*, by **Luis Alberto**

Urrea, provides a panoramic description of the place and time. It is the story of a mestizo girl who is believed to have magical healing powers. It is both a scholarly and riveting tale.

For nonfiction, two history books received kudos.

Savage Kingdom: the True Story of Jamestown, 1607 and the Settlement of America by **Benjamin Woolley** is a fast-paced narrative that set the historical record straight. Jamestown’s founding, the daily struggles of the first settlers, the Virginia Company, and the natives of the area are presented. The author details the numerous difficult and life-threatening episodes that formed the beginning of the settlement and covers the economic influence of the area as America grows. **Ned Sublette’s** *The World That Made New Orleans: From Spanish Silver to Congo Square* presents the development of New Orleans from European colonization through the Louisiana Purchase and beyond. While this is a comprehensive history of the city, it is also much more. The unique culture developed by the slaves as well as Cuban, Caribbean, and Haitian influences resulted in an alternative path for African-American culture. The *Boston Globe*, in describing Sublette’s book, said “The best argument yet for why we need to save New Orleans.”

Next is a book with two subtitles, depending on which edition one has. *Murder in Amsterdam* by **Ian Buruma** is subtitled “The Death of Theo van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance” in one edition, and “Liberal Europe, Islam, and the Limits of Tolerance” in another edition. The Dutch-

born author who is now an American journalist, returned to his native country after van Gogh’s death to explore why it had happened. He found much more than a terrorist act. The book is a provocative critique of national identity, civilization, and the culture of the west. Does tolerance have its limits? That’s one question **Buruma** confronts.

How fascinating the brain is; a few centuries ago it was thought of as a 3 pound glob. Now we know better! In *An Alchemy of Mind: the Marvel and Mystery of the Brain*, **Diane Ackerman** devotes her usual clear, lyrical writing to a subject we can all relate to – how our brain works. Covering such topics as consciousness, language, mental differences between genders, passion and emotion, and self-identity, **Ackerman** presents scientific material in a poetic manner.

All those nonfiction offerings are serious reading, so we will close with a more light-hearted suggestion. **Wendy Northcutt’s** *The Darwin Awards* are fun books that show the follies and foibles of mankind. Consider some of the subtitles and you will get the idea: “The Descent of Man,” “Felonious Failures,” “Unnatural Selection,” “More True Stories of How Dumb Humans Have Met Their Maker,” and “Evolution in Action”. Get the idea? If you’re in the mood for some hearty laughs, these books are perfect!

(Our thanks to **Joyce Barham, Patricia Edie, Margaret Ellis, Edith Garvey, C. H. Gray, Chuck Herring** and **Jim O’Neill** 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: **Friday, October 31st, 2008 – 11:00 a.m.**

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

Reservations are required by October 27th, please!

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

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

(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
2008

- September**
- 1 **Labor Day**
 - 9 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 - 11 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 18 Presentations 101: The Workshop - 12 Noon - 1:30 p.m. - Room 7
 - 19 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 - 22 **First Day of Autumn**
 - 25 Computer Talks - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
Topic Notification by E-Mail
 - 30 **Rosh Hashanah**
- October**
- 9 **Yom Kippur**
 - 9 Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon - 2 p.m. - Room 7
 - 13 **Columbus Day Observed**
 - 14 Membership Committee - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 8
 - 15 Input Deadline for Nov.-Dec. 08 Newsletter
 - 17 Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
 - 23 Computer Talks - 12 Noon - 1 p.m. - Room 7
Topic Notification by E-Mail
 - 31 Annual Meeting & Luncheon - 11 a.m.
Los Verdes Country Club
 - 31 **Halloween**



IMPORTANT:

Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with
Lynn Taber - (310) 831-4768 - ledwards_92648@yahoo.com

Omnilore Welcomes New Members

by Howard Korman

Looking forward to the fall trimester, the Membership Committee held two "Introducing Omnilore" meetings this summer. Twenty four people attended; of those, 14 enrolled before the start of the new trimester.

Many Omnilore members helped by encouraging friends to get involved in Omnilore, and their assistance is much appreciated.

The Membership Committee would also like to thank the Daily Breeze, the Easy Reader, and the Beach Reporter for their publicity that inspired several people to attend. In addition we post flyers in libraries for the meetings. If anyone has any further suggestions for publicizing future meetings, feel free to contact me at 310 373-2442.

Let's welcome all our new members to the classes they have enthusiastically selected. The following is a list of new Omnilore members who have joined since spring 2008, or who joined since September 2007 and were not listed in previous Omnilore Newsletters.



- Jim Adams**
Rancho Palos Verdes
- Margaret Alexander**
Redondo Beach
- Joann Bally**
Redondo Beach
- Ben Berris**
Rancho Palos Verdes
- Anne Coniglio**
Torrance
- Alan Conrad**
Palos Verdes Estates



- Cindy Eggert**
Hermosa Beach
- Susan Estes**
Rancho Palos Verdes
- Rita Ginsburg**
Rancho Palos Verdes
- Sharon Holmes**
Redondo Beach
- Anita Kehmeier**
San Pedro
- Dave Knauer**
Rancho Palos Verdes



- Catherine Meehan**
Manhattan Beach
- Tony Muccitelli**
Lawndale
- Joan Springer**
Palos Verdes
- Elaine Vandermay**
Redondo Beach
- Mary Varieur**
Redondo Beach
- Joanne (Scotty) Wuerker**
Palos Verdes Estates

TRAVEL REPORT

At the August meeting, the Omnilore Board voted to discontinue Omnilore-sponsored travel activities. Several reasons were instrumental in the decision, including liability and CSUDH issues.

Since 2003 Omnilore has sponsored nine separate trips to explore the benefits of combining travel with study discussion groups to enhance learning opportunities. A key feature of these trips was customization to the specific needs of Omnilore and the associated S/DG. Starting with a tour of the western portion of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and continuing with the recently completed trip to France, almost 100 Omniloreans, spouses and friends have averaged approximately two trips apiece. Later trips have included California, The South, two Shakespeare festivals, Western Canada, Santa Fe and the Hudson River. **John & Lynn Taber, Carol & Tony Lopilato** and **Marilyn Landau** undertook extensive efforts to plan, implement and lead these trips.

While the Board vote means that Omnilore will not be sponsoring future trips, it is alright if individuals or special interest groups sponsor travel activities. Perhaps other Omniloreans who believe that learning and camaraderie can be enhanced through travel will undertake the effort needed to be successful. Past planners and leaders would be glad to share their experience if asked.

The force behind the previous successful trips was **John & Lynn Taber**; they deserve credit and thanks for the many hours they have devoted to ensuring wonderful travel/learning adventures.