



OMNILORE NEWS



Volume 32 Issue 4

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September 2023

DON'T MISS — IN THIS ISSUE

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MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Elected Officers

President	Frank Pohlner
VP - Academics	Rick Spillane
VP - Administration	Dennis Bosch
Treasurer	Phil Solomita
Secretary	Michael Goergen
Recording Secretary	Karol McQueary
Past President	Steve Miller
Member-at-Large	Shera Dolmatz
Member-at-Large	Joan Kolic
Member-at-Large	Adrian Pruetz

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership	Carolyn Pohlner
Forum	Leslie Criswell
Communications	Claire Damecour
Curriculum	Ruth Hart
Evaluation	Rick Spillane
	Dennis Bosch
Technology	Rick Spillane
Head Coordinator	Denise DeVenuto

Appointees

Registrar	Carolyn Pohlner
SDG Scheduling	Ruth & Hal Hart
Room Scheduling	Sharon Bohner
Laptop Administrator	Rick Spillane
Equipment	Hal Hart
Supplies	Carolyn Pohlner
Office Manager	Marie Glerup
Member Advocate	Gloria Martin
Webmaster	Hal Hart

Omnilore Presents:

Dr. Bradley Bobbs, speaking on "*Why a Laser?*"

by Leslie Criswell

"Why a Laser?" explains how lasers work, and what's so great about them that makes them leave lightbulbs in the dark. It also includes an interactive demo/game to show how a laser can read. This talk serves as a prequel that enhances understanding of the talk "Lasers I Have Loved: Tales from the thrilling life of a laser physicist."

This talk is designed to explain physics in a way that is understandable to any adult, regardless of science or math background (or lack thereof). While aimed at adults, it is also suitable for exceptionally inquisitive teens.



Dr. Bradley Bobbs

Replete with cartoons, jokes, trivia, cultural references, and historical and personal anecdotes, this talk has been found by past audiences to be very entertaining as well as enlightening.

Dr. Bradley Bobbs holds a PhD in Physics from UCLA and a BS in Physics from Harvey Mudd College, and is currently Senior Scientist for the Laser Ultrasonics Group at Intelligent Optical Systems in Torrance. He has a long career researching laser and electro-optical physics in the Los Angeles area, and has been Adjunct Professor of Physics at Moorpark College and California Lutheran University. He is also known for his passionate poetry recitations, portraying Edgar Allan Poe, as well as his comical poetry recitations, parody songs, and stories. Dr. Bobbs is a resident of Redondo Beach.

The Forum luncheon will be held:

Tuesday, October 31, 2023: Social Hour, 11:00 a.m.; Lunch, Noon

We're meeting at: the **Mary & Joseph Retreat Center**, 5300 Crest Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275. **Buffet:** Pork Roast with sauteed apples and sauerkraut, winter vegetables, mashed potatoes, autumn salad (green salad with roasted butternut squash, cranberries and pecans), pumpkin crunch custard. Vegetarian option is artichoke mushroom tofu strudel. The cost is \$40 per person. **Try our new online payment** system (<https://omnilore-ecart.squarespace.com/>) or use the Reservation Form on page 8.

Reservations must be received by October 19th

Detailed location, driving/parking instructions are in the email version of the Forum flyer, as well as an online payment link.

NOTE: There will be no postal delivery of additional Forum flyers (except for those who have paid for mail deliveries). So, if you're sending in your reservation "the old-fashioned way", please make yourself a copy of the form now and use that for your mailing.

Any questions, please call Leslie Criswell (310) 809-4365 (but please leave a message in case she doesn't answer, so she knows to call you back).

OMNILORE NEWS is a publication of OMNILORE Learning-In-Retirement, Inc., a tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation.

OMNILORE NEWS is published four times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Please contact the editor with your contributions.

Editor	TBD
Staff Member	TBD

MESSAGE FROM OMNIOLORE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Frank Pohlner

As my term as President of Omnilore Learning-In-Retirement Inc. draws to a close, this will be my last column. I am deeply honored to have served as the first president of Omnilore as a nonprofit corporation. My fellow Board of Directors members, **Dennis Bosch**, **Rick Spillane**, **Phil Solomita**, **Mike Goergen** receive my highest admiration and gratitude for the time, effort, and expertise that they expended in getting the new organization up and running.

The Management Council, which consists of committee chairpersons and administrative positions has been incredibly supportive of adapting new processes and procedures in bringing Omnilore LIR to life. Please look at their names in any Newsletter sidebar and thank them when you see them.

When we became a nonprofit, we hired Johan Smith as a part-time employee. As most of you know, Johan is an indefatigable force of nature who is a linchpin of the Omnilore organization.

We started out our tenure by signing a very favorable lease on our classroom space and raising over \$50,000 to guarantee our start-up costs. We purchased new classroom computers, Zoom equipment and two 81-inch televisions to enhance the classroom experience and allow the choice of in-classroom or Zoom classes. The results of our membership survey this past spring showed that 87% were agreeable to Zoom-only or Hybrid Zoom classes. This is even though the vast majority agreed that in-classroom activities were the most rewarding. Just 13% would only support in-classroom-only S/DGs. The Board of Directors has decided to designate a percentage of our S/DG's as "in classroom only" to accommodate them.

To provide the in-classroom experience and more fully utilize our classroom space in the evenings and weekends, I proposed our new Lifestyles Activities Program. This is a program of S/DG's and other activities that may be less academic but still provide a stimulating and socially engaging experience. The *Films with Friends*, *Writer's Workshops* and *Field Trips* have been very popular. More are on the way.

A longtime goal of mine was to bring the ease and labor reduction of having the payment of fees, Forum tickets and donations available online. Through the efforts of **Al Ortiz**, **Elyse Gura** and **Larry Yuzuki** this was made possible. Over 75% of you paid online! This saves an incredible amount of time in handling and processing checks and the bookkeeping involved. Thank-you everyone.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Meeting and Forum on October 31st. For details see the Forum Flyer sent earlier. Don't forget that you can buy tickets online. See the link on our website: Omnilore.org or go directly to our website store.

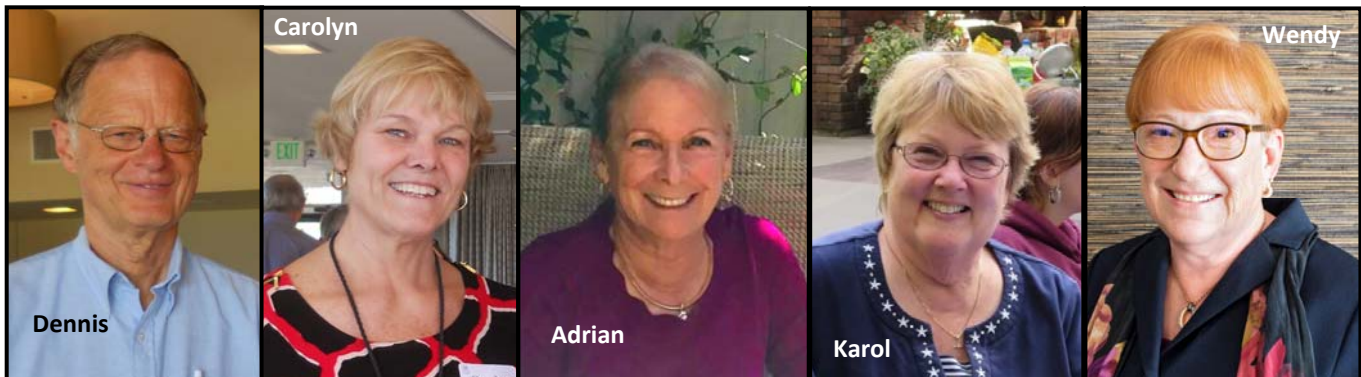
These years of my tenure have been both challenging and rewarding. We will welcome a new Board of Directors at the annual meeting who will face a new set of challenges. The Nominating Committee has recruited an outstanding slate of officers for our Board of Directors. They are: President – **Dennis Bosch**, VP of Administration – **Carolyn Pohlner**, VP Academics – **Karol McQueary**, Treasurer – **Wendy Morgan**, Corporate Secretary – **Adrian Pruetz**. If you would like to volunteer to help, please complete the Member Participation Form previously sent to you (please mail to Carolyn Pohlner, Membership, 20528 Vaccaro Avenue, Torrance, CA 90503-2238).

I look forward to working with the new Board as Past President.

Looking to the future of Omnilore LIR Inc., Frank Pohlner



Frank Pohlner
President
Omnilore LIR, Inc.



Omnilore Profile: Adrian & Rick Pruetz

by Shera Dolmatz

The Pruetzs enjoy an active life of bicycling, gardening, cooking, traveling, conducting research for an upcoming book, or caring for their five grandchildren.

Both Adrian and Rick grew up in the Midwest before arriving in the Southland in 1984. Adrian's job offer to be an intellectual property lawyer for Morrison & Foerster is what enticed the couple to move their family out West.

Adrian describes herself as a city girl from Chicago, Illinois and Rick considers himself a country boy from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She laughed that she visited the countryside when she was a girl and saw cows and horses from the vantage point of the car's interior.

Adrian fondly recalls growing up with a large extended family and walking to school with her cousins. Her mother was one of nine children, and her father was one of five. As a teenager, she worked in her parent's grocery store as a checker.

Rick recalls his childhood as a Happy Days environment, with pleasant winter days ice skating, swimming in the summer, and playing the trombone in his high school marching band. He spent a lot of time outdoors and credits a canoe trip as a child to the Boundary Waters as a formative experience which laid the foundation for him as a "nature lover and tree hugger."

At 13, Rick was a caddy at a country club. This job qualified him for a full scholarship to the University of Wisconsin, Madison as an Evans Scholar. At the university library a mutual friend introduced Adrian and Rick. Their first date was to a PDQ Bach performance.

Rick earned a bachelor's degree in communications and was only a semester into a graduate degree in mass communications when drafted into the Army during the Vietnam War. Rick says that his service was easy, and he hypothesizes, with a glint in his eye, that because he was a college graduate the military kept him away from the younger recruits.

The couple married then Rick was stationed in Texas, Atlanta and Korea. While in Korea, staff reduction enabled him to be discharged from service early where he could finish his interrupted master's degree at Northwestern.

After obtaining his masters, Rick wrote and produced TV commercials for Montgomery Ward and then for an advertising agency. Ultimately, Rick left his advertising career, pursued an advanced degree in urban planning at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and became a city planner. He was a city planner for many years in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

After the family's move to California, Rick worked as the city planner of Burbank. "It was a great position because it is a big enough city to have an airport and industry, but small enough that the city planner could do some hands-on planning."

Eventually he left Burbank to start his own company as an urban planning consultant, which is still going strong 20 years later. The company helps cities and counties preserve landmarks, farmlands, and places of historical significance. Rick is semi-retired and still juggles numerous jobs along with



his active schedule.

In addition to planning, Rick is an author. He has already written eight books, ranging in topics as varied as the economic benefits of bicycle trails to a golf joke book. His books are available on Amazon, and one also on Audible.

Rick is also the Vice President of the Board of Ecocity Builders, a nonprofit which provides guidelines for city planning departments to have a balanced relationship with nature. The group just completed a project for Morocco.

Adrian was two years behind Rick in school. She had completed three years at the University of Wisconsin when Rick was drafted, and after her stint as a

military spouse, she finished her degree in English at Loyola University in Chicago. Adrian wanted to work in business. She landed a job at a big Chicago bank doing auditing. While working at the bank she pursued an MBA. However, she did not feel that she had really found her niche.

During this time Adrian's brother was thinking of becoming a lawyer. Adrian helped him study and her own professional career as an attorney was launched. She obtained her JD in 1982 from Marquette University Law School and became a trial lawyer.

In the beginning she did not specialize and worked on intellectual property (IP), product liability, civil racketeering, and business cases. Eventually she specialized in IP. Adrian worked for several firms including Quinn Emanuel where she was the head of the IP practice. While at Quinn Emanuel her daughter began to clerk for the firm, then was hired as an attorney and she too specialized in IP law.

Eventually mother and daughter left to create their own practice in 2007 and then moved together to Glaser Weil in Century City. Adrian feels lucky she and her daughter were able to work together for fifteen years.

Among Adrian's most interesting clients were biotechnology firms Roche and Genentech, electronics firm Vizio, Nike and Mattel. Adrian reports, "I have a great Barbie collection." She also mentioned that "Ken is considered an accessory and many parents have found poor Ken face down in a sand pile."

The couple has two children. A son, Jay, who is a pediatric cardiologist and has three children; and a daughter, Erica, an IP lawyer with two children. All children and grandchildren live in Los Angeles.

The couple has been in Omnilore for five years. Adrian was the catalyst for joining, prodded by her daughter to cultivate friends and enjoy life after a busy working career. Listening to her daughter's advice, Adrian joined a women's group and several of those women were Omnilore members including Bonny Kamen, who convinced her to try Omnilore. Since Adrian was considering taking classes, Omnilore appealed to her.

Adrian knew that when she retired from her busy career, which took a lot of mental energy, that she would want something with an academic bent and

Continued on Page 4.



Omniloreans—Fall Reflections

We've had a rough few years and our recovery is still a little slow: How are you looking at the holidays this year? What has changed and what has become more precious?



Who will be our next newsletter editor? Stay tuned!

Jim North: Ho! Ho! Ho!



Somewhere in the vast Pacific Ocean, the natural elements of a formidable wave are taking shape and moving in our direction. The crest of this life-changing force begins to peak in early November and comes crashing down the day after Thanksgiving. Alas! THE HOLIDAY SEASON HAS ARRIVED!

Some folks find this time of the year very stressful and challenging, as they try to achieve the fantasy created by merchants, television, and social media. You are impacted by special holiday pricing and advertising from all media. The message is clear that you should get on the band wagon before it's too late. Bah Humbug! Yes indeed, it is a special time of the year and a special time in your life. A time not to spend money you don't have, but a time to re-examine your relationship with yourself, and the ones you love. The setting is right to find the good in people,

wish everyone a happy holiday, and find the courage to forgive and forget, bring an unexpected gift to your neighbor.

So, my friends, find the real joy in this special time of the year and spread that joy!

Mary Gluck: Renewed Friendship

I haven't been involved in Omnilore as much as I was in the past, but I feel like sharing this. As you may know, Dan Gluck was my second husband. I have always been a good friend to my first husband, Bill, the father of my children, and his wife who died a couple of years after Dan passed away. So, Bill and I are spending lots of time together and it's wonderful! We have so many good memories from our younger days!



Dale Korman: Lesson Learned



After being a homeowner for 53 years, the hard decision to sell was formally set to motion. Never having done this on my own, I relied on the expertise of the realtor to take care of the details. However, the inspection uncovered numerous problems that were totally unexpected to be significant. Lesson learned from this experience is that while you are residing in your home, never allow yourself to put off fixing that which is in need of taking care of. Once the house is on the market, it is too late to start repairs. Otherwise, there are consequences.

Regretfully,
Dale Korman

Continued from page 3: Profile

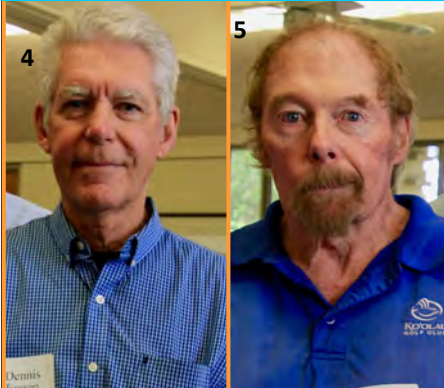
the ability to explore topics that her busy career kept her from delving into. Now she says that "Omnilore is a cornerstone of retirement for me."

When asked what she likes most about Omnilore, she replies "academics and interactions with people who have interesting things to say." She also appreciates that the group is constantly evolving, such as Omnilore recently gaining its own nonprofit status and creating an online payment system.

Both Rick and Adrian enjoy the movie classes. Rick says, "my first class was a movie class, and I was hooked." Now, Adrian is spearheading the new Lifestyles movie class.

Adrian feels that the best part of retirement is, "being able to control your life, to decide what you are going to read and do. I really enjoy retired life." Rick, semi-retired, agrees with Adrian about the freedom of retirement, "the ability to control your life and schedule is a freeing feeling."

Some Smiles from the July Forum



1. Elizabeth Brown, Dennis Bosch & Susan Strauss;
2. Leslie Criswell & guest, Peggy Costello (PVP Village);
3. Ruth Hart & Karol McQueary; 4. Dennis Eggert;
5. Hal Hart; 6. Phil Solomita; 7. Lynn Taber, Patricia Edie & Cindy Eggert; 8. Margie Teitell, Rhonda Ingelman & Carolyn Pohlner; 9. Gail & Connie Siegel;
10. Marc Shapiro (guest) and Teresa Shapiro; 11. Jeanne Wilson & Denise DeVenuto; 12. Roger Schamp & Faye Schwartz.

Thanks to Denise DeVenuto for these Wonderful Pictures!



Omniole's Lifestyle Activities

by Leslie Criswell

Omniole's New Lifestyle Activities S/DG's are off to a good start this year. Come join us to meet new friends, learn and socialize. If you cannot reach the contact person, email Susan Strauss at suzycrat@yahoo.com
Current offerings are:

LAC-WRI - Writers' Workshop - share stories, stretch your creativity and develop your writing skills.
2nd and 4th Mondays, 4-6 p.m.
(hybrid available)
Room L8, BCHC
Contact Joan Kolic at koljn7831@gmail.com

LAC-VAG - Vagina Obscura - read and discuss Rachel Gross' *Vagina Obscura*.
2nd and 4th Thursdays, 4-6 p.m.
Room L8, BCHC
Contact Susan Strauss at suzycrat@yahoo.com

LAC-MOV - Movies With Friends - private showings of critically acclaimed movies.
Monthly, alternating Tuesdays or Thursdays, 5-9 p.m., Room L8 at BCHC. Space is limited, so your advance "reservation" is required once you are notified of the specific date each month.

Contact Adrian Pruetz at ampruetz@gmail.com

LAC-TRIP - L.A. Area Field Trips - brainstorm, plan and join in on monthly field trips.
3rd Tuesdays meetings, 4-6 p.m.
Room L8, BCHC
Contact Leslie Criswell at lcriswell3@gmail.com



A recent field trip to Chen Gallery in Torrance. From left: Shera Dolmatz, Karol McQueary, Leslie Criswell, Barbara Case, Judi Carter, Joan Kolic, Jean Steinmetz and Adele Gleichman.



Coordinators and co-coordinators will be recruited for our Spring 2024 term during the week of October 30 through November 6. Please consider accepting one of these positions, because not having both positions filled can cause an S/DG to not go forward. We do everything we can to prevent that from happening. So, please do your part by volunteering to coordinate or co-coordinate an S/DG. I think you'll agree that it is not fair to have the same members take on these positions repeatedly,

while others brush off the requests from recruiters. I'm always available to help new coordinators, and volunteering to be a co-coordinator is a great way to get your feet wet.

The Coordinator Information meeting will be held November 29 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. For new coordinators, a more detailed version is included, which will address most questions. Also, templates for class schedules and pre-meeting agendas are available on our website under Forms & Templates.

Recruiting coordinators is a team effort. If you'd like to help out, please email me at dendev88@gmail.com. It just takes a couple hours of your time making phone calls and typing up your results.



Denise DeVenuto
Head Coordinator

Report on the July 31st Forum Speaker:**Forum Speakers Ms. Jennifer Addington and Dr. Sara Deen
Spoke on *The Power of Words, Book Banning and Its Implications****by Leslie Criswell*

Jennifer Addington, Director of the Palos Verdes Library District and Dr. Sara Deen, PVUSD governing board member, provided us with engaging food for thought in their presentation, *The Power of Words, Book Banning and Its Implications*.

Both are personally well acquainted with the recent uptick in local and national book banning campaigns that target public schools and public libraries, fueled by our current nationally polarized environment.

These institutions now face concerted challenges by well-organized groups whose agendas seek to politicize what happens, and what doesn't happen, in our libraries and classrooms. Active censorship is happening right here in Southern California, and is cause for concern.

Our speakers identified the most frequent topics being target-



*Jennifer Addington
Director
Palos Verdes
Library
District*



*Dr. Sara Deen
PVPUSD
Governing
Board
Member*

ed by these current book challenges: gender identity and how our country's history with racism is addressed in textbooks and on library bookshelves.

Banning books that some groups find objectionable, from educational curricula and school and library bookshelves, can easily hamper creativity and intellectual freedom, suppress open sharing of knowledge and ideas and stifle informed public discourse. We've seen instances of censorship throughout history, and it's never pretty.

Both Ms. Addington and Dr. Deen are advocates of equitable and excellent education for every student, and libraries where collections of materials with diverse points of view can be found -

regardless of where readers begin life, who they are, or how they learn best. Adequate and comprehensive resources are necessary to allow for this to happen.

**The
Next
Via
Zoom**

INTRODUCING OMNILORE MEETING:**Thursday, October 19th - 1 p.m.****Help Spread the Word! RSVP 310-370-2494****Jim North: Wait...What!**

In the very near future shopping for groceries will have a new twist as A/I engineers this human undertaking.

Your conveyance, whatever it may be, will be guided to a holding space after it deposits you to the doors of the establishment. The doors part and you are greeted by name and your PIN. A personal robot KIM will greet you again and ask you how you are doing and how's the family.



KIM will escort you to a special area where your order of prepackaged grocery items is situated on a device called BOB. This device scans your basket and advises you that your ground coffee level purchases are inadequate for your projected needs and an additional pound was added to your order. The device then comments on the lack of fiber you have purchased over the last month and quotes the latest statistics from M.D./A-I, as required by law, a

copy of this report is sent to your personal DOC/A-I and your A-I life insurance carrier for additional action.

Happy A/I approaches and offers you a moist towelette for you

face and a spritz of a universal, non-allergenic, unsweetened, cologne. You are quoted the Vegas odds on the evening's NFL game and an opportunity to join, with a guaranteed win. Your conveyance arrives and before the conveyance door lifts, you are notified that your driver's license has expired and a substitute driver called ANGEL will drive you to your original starting point. A notice of this situation will be reported to DMV for further action. WHAT...WAIT!



September 1 Fall Trimester Starts
 4 Labor Day
 14 Management Council Meeting—12 Noon, Via Zoom
 23 Fall Starts
 15-17 Rosh Hashanah
 24-25 Yom Kippur

October 9 Columbus Day
 12 Management Council Meeting—12 Noon, Via Hybrid
 19 Introducing Omnilore Meeting—1:00 p.m., L8
 31 Burt Cutler Memorial Annual Meeting and Forum
 —11:00 a.m., Mary & Joseph Retreat Center
 (see article, page 1; reservation form, page 8)

November 9 Management Council Meeting—12 Noon, Via Zoom
 10 Veterans Day
 23 Thanksgiving
 29 Coordinator Information Meeting—10 a.m., Via Zoom

December 14 Management Council Meeting—12 Noon, Via Zoom
 15 Input Deadline for January 2024 Newsletter
 25 Christmas

OMNILORE CALENDAR 2023



2023 Forums
 Winter—January 31st
 Spring—April 28th
 Summer—July 31st
 Annual Mtg.—October 31st

IMPORTANT:
 Calendar changes and additions
 are scheduled with Sharon Bohner
Calendar@omnilore.org

Have You Read....?

by Cindy Eggert and Patricia Edie

In **REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES** by Shelby Van Pelt, you'll meet Marcellus and Tova – the two main characters in this fictional novel who spend time together in a small aquarium along the northern Pacific coast near Puget Sound. Both of these elderly souls are watching time pass and coping with their lives to the best of their abilities. When a string of events occur that brings new characters into their lives, their solitary existence becomes intertwined in delight-

ful and unexpected ways. The fact that one of them is an octopus adds to the adventure.

All those in the Book Discussion Group who read the real-life experience that author, Sy Montgomery, covered in her book **THE SOUL OF AN OCTOPUS** or if you watched **MY OCTOPUS TEACHER** are certain to enjoy the humor in this heartwarming story.



OMNILORE ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Please make _____ reservations for the **October 31, 2023: Omnilore Annual Luncheon** at \$40.00 each:

Name(s): _____

(Please Print)

(Please Print)

Vegetarian plate: #

Regular plate: #

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Enclosed is a check for: \$40.00 each

Total number of meals:

Please make checks out to **Omnilore LIR, Inc.**,
 and send to Leslie Criswell:

Forum Chair, Leslie Criswell
 27039 Sunnyridge Road
 Palos Verdes Pen., CA 90274-4030