



OMNIOLORE NEWS



Volume 33 Issue 2

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June 2024

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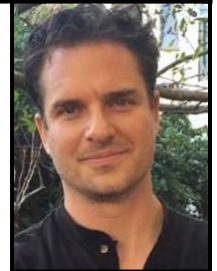
June 28th Forum Speaker:

Omnilore Presents

Attorney Carter Dillard Speaking on

How Animal and Children's Rights are Related to Climate Change
by Susan Strauss

The Forum of June 28th will feature as the key-note speaker Attorney Carter Dillard, who is a man that wears many hats. First, he is an animal rights activist wherein he is the director of litigation and senior policy advisor of the Animal Defense Fund. Secondly, he is an activist for children's rights. He is the policy advisor for the Fair Start Movement and has served with the Department of Justice in the realm of family policies around the world. His focus is improving children's welfare by changing "what parents want to what children need." He wrote a book called Justice in a Fair Start in Life. Third, Carter Dillard is a climate change mitigator, working for the Department of Homeland Security. He has been deemed a whistle blower and a "solutionary."



Carter Dillard

Our guest has been invited to speak at the United Nations World Civic Forum, has appeared on Fox Business News, and has been quoted as an animal law expert in the New York Times and the International Herald Tribune. And now he is happy to share with Omniloreans his perspectives of animal and children's rights and how these issues are related to climate change.



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The Forum luncheon will be held:

Friday, June 28, 2024: Social Hour, 11:00 a.m.; Lunch, Noon

The theme is Celebrating America, so bring those flags hats, July 4th costumes, etc.

We're meeting at: the **Mary & Joseph Retreat Center**, 5300 Crest Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275.

Menu: 4th of July favorites including: Grilled Tri Tip Steak, Corn on the Cob, Grilled Vegetables, Potato Salad, Fresh Garden Salad, Rolls and Butter, and Cherry Pie à la Mode for Dessert. Vegetarian Option: Cauliflower Steak and Portabella Mushrooms.

The cost is \$40 per person. Use our new online payment system or use the Reservation Form accompanying the Forum flyer.

Reservations must be received by June 21st

Questions? Call Susan Strauss (310) 749-6263

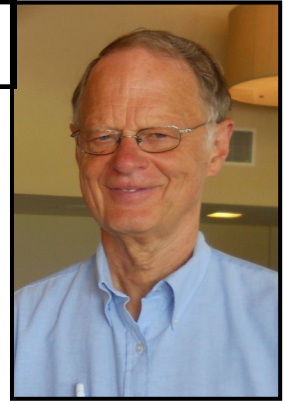
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OMNIOLORE NEWS is published three times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Please contact the editor with your contributions.

Editor Joan Kolic
Staff Shera Dolmatz, Jim North

MESSAGE FROM OMNIOLORE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dennis Bosch



Dennis Bosch
President
Omnimore LIR, Inc.

Summer Picnic Planned: An Omnimore committee is planning a summer picnic at Charles Wilson Park, where the focus will be on socializing and group fun. If you are like me, you know other Omnimoreans from your involvement over time in S/DGs and learning activities. Yet there are so many other members to meet. By sharing food and fun at this potluck, I'm hoping each attendee will meet at least two other Omnimoreans with whom they've not previously interacted. Look for date and details in an upcoming membership-wide email.

Consider Joining Other Lifestyle Activities

- ✓ **Movies with Friends,** Email Adrian ampruetz@gmail.com
- ✓ **Writing Workshop:** Email Joan at koljn7831@gmail.com or Deborah at hawk.writes@gmail.com
- ✓ **Field Trips.** Email Leslie at lcriswell3@gmail.com

Lease Extended at Same Cost: We have received confirmation from BCHD that we will be able to extend our lease on classrooms L8 and L9 through December 31, 2026.

Help Build Membership for Fall Trimester: One goal that requires every Omnimorean to focus on is increasing our membership. More members give us additional choices in study/discussion groups, and offer a more stimulating environment. Invite a friend or neighbor to one of two Information Orientations planned soon to learn what Omnimore is all about, what's required, and how to register for the Fall Trimester: June 20 at 10 am. via Zoom & July 11 at 1 pm via Zoom.

Registration for Fall Trimester Runs June 5 to June 18: As we enter the 2024-2025 trimester cycle, please respond to Johan's emails with your list of S/DG choices -- and please consider serving as a coordinator or co-coordinator. Your leadership and participation are essential to our learning success!

All Welcome to our Bi-Monthly Walking Group: You don't have to be a member to enjoy the walks scheduled on the second Friday of even-numbered months. Walks usually begin at 10 a.m. On June 14 we will walk the shaded, flat path of the Manhattan Beach Veterans Parkway. Contact walking-group@omnimore.org

Omnimore Walking Group – Terranea Bluff Trail, Rancho Palos Verdes, April 12, 2024

by Dennis Bosch

The Terranea Bluff Top trail leaves from the Pelican Cove parking lot and leads through the Terranea Resort to a cave on the beach.



Above: Pelican Flyover
Seated: Scott Zimmermann,
Anne Destabelle, Deborah
Hawkins, Joy Jurena
Standing: Mercedes Ortiz,
Jim Howard, Sally Moite



Adrian Pruetz: Movies with Friends 2024



For the Winter/Spring trimester, the Lifestyle S/DG *Movies with Friends* focused mostly on independent films that premiered at major film festivals and were nominated for a Best Picture or Best International Feature Film Oscar: *The Holdovers* (Telluride Film Festival); *American Fiction* (Toronto Film Festival); and *The Teacher's Lounge* (Berlin Film Festival). This trend continues in the Summer trimester, with the May movie, *Io Capitano* (Venice Film Festival). Independent films like these have themes and issues that make us think, and lead to robust discussions. Those discussions are a key part of the *Movies with Friends* experience.

Movies with Friends meets once a month in Room L8 of BCHC. The monthly movie is announced around the first of each month. As space is limited, seats must be reserved by emailing the coordinator, Adrian Pruetz, at ampruetz@gmail.com.

Omniole Profile: Ralph Ford

by Shera Dolmatz

Ralph Ford is an avid amateur astronomer and astro photographer who has contributed these talents and experiences to Omniole.

He graduated from Lennox High School and decided to serve his country by joining the U.S. Navy. He is a Viet Nam veteran.

After his military service, he obtained his BS degree from Cal State – Rancho Dominguez in anthropology and obtained a teaching credential. He earned a master’s degree in computer-based education.

While working his way through college, Ralph met his wife, Sara, at the Hawthorne YMCA. After finishing their college degrees, Ralph and Sara taught science in the Manhattan Beach School district.

They lived in Manhattan Beach where they raised a son, Robert, and a daughter, Rebecca. Rebecca is following the family tradition and teaches astronomy at Mira Costa High School. Robert has ventured into marketing and sales. Ralph enjoys his three grandchildren.

Ralph discovered his life’s purpose as a teacher. He loved the sciences and was able to instill that love in others. He taught for the Manhattan Beach School District. He currently teaches physical education at South Bay Adult School.

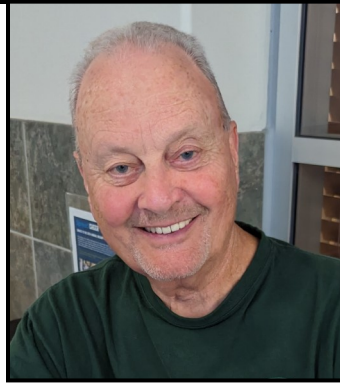
While teaching, he received an Earthwatch teacher fellowship and spent two weeks at Dinosaur National Monument in Utah digging for Apatosaurus Dinosaur bones.

He became interested in astronomy through his wife’s love of science fiction. The Christmas of 1977, Ralph purchased a Sears telescope for his wife. Together, they observed the wonders of the night skies. Ralph was hooked on observing the heavens.

He has traveled to see the 1991 total solar eclipse in Hawaii and the 2017 Oregon total solar eclipse. He recently traveled to see the annular solar eclipse on October 2023 in New Mexico.

This spring, he and his family travelled to see the Aurora Borealis in Alaska.

Ralph is generous with his time and shares his love of science



with the community. He brings his telescopes to the bimonthly Madrona Marsh astronomy events. In February, he shared his Omniole presentation on astrophotography with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Village. His presentation was the first given by Omniole to the Village as part of a new outreach program called Local Scholar Lectures. This event was organized by Barbara Case and attended by 30 community members.

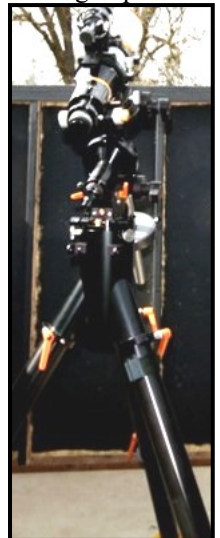
Some of Ralph’s astronomy pictures can be seen on Flickr at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tbird0322/> This site has chosen several of his photographs as picks of the day. He has also had a photograph in a NASA journal.

Ralph loves to camp and view the clear dark skies with his telescopes. He owns three high powered telescopes: a GT 71f/5.9 Apo Refractor Telescope, a Takahashi Mewlon 210 Reflector and a 125mm Stellarvue refractor telescope. He joins other astronomy enthusiasts at viewing spots at Mt. Pinos, Redrock Inyo Kern Road, Chuchupate Trailhead, and the Armboy Crater, which he quips “is the darkest place in California with restrooms”.

Astronomy can be extremely exciting. He has had many adventures while observing the night skies. Once cows invaded his telescope viewing area and another journey home was interrupted by a stalled cattle run. Once he had a bear visit as he was viewing the skies at Kennedy Meadows in Inyo National Forest.

He joined Omniole in 2015 and is currently a part of the Management Council as a Member-at-Large.

Omniole has been a very worthwhile experience for Ralph. When asked what he liked the most about the organization, he replied, “the opportunity to learn really interesting things and interact with intelligent and articulate people.”



The GT71 on a very large Equatorial Mount

Omnioleans - About the Town

by Joan Kolic

The LAC Field Trip Group enjoyed a wide variety of activities in recent months.

On February 15, Omnioleans took a scenic walk to view the wide diversity of southern California plants at Descanso Gardens in La Canada-Flintridge. The Gardens feature a Classic Japanese garden which inspired quiet contemplation. Also viewed was an ancient forest with prehistoric plant life. Descanso Gardens also features the largest collection of camellias that were assembled by Japanese American Growers. We also viewed a display of CA plants able to withstand drought conditions.

On March 23, all enjoyed a performance of *The Piano Men* at the Norris Theatre which included the music of Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder, Elton John. The evening was capped by dinner at Good Stuff.

The group went on April 10 to the Westchester Playhouse where they enjoyed the play *Steel Magnolias*. This community theatre featured heartwarming performances by talented actors. Afterwards all went to dine at Truxton’s Restaurant to celebrate Judi Carter’s 80th birthday.



Visiting the Westchester Playhouse. from Left: Rhonda Ingelman, Jean Steinmetz, guest, Judi Carter, Susan Strauss, guest, Joan Kolic, guest, and Irene Berlin.

Omniole Profile: Wendy Morgan

by Shera Dolmatz

Newly minted Omniole Wendy Morgan has accepted the position of Treasurer with Omniole LIR. Omniole is in great hands as Wendy has had a tremendous career in finance and business administration.

Wendy is not new to volunteer work. She is also the Treasurer of the El Segundo Auxiliary of Children's Hospital Los Angeles. The auxiliary raises funds for the Children's Hospital downtown.

Additionally, she makes time to mentor others. She volunteered for KBUGS, an organization which provides one-on-one mentors for 8th grade students in STEM/STEAM.

She also mentors a team of college students for the Women's Founders Network, a group of women giving the opportunity to female entrepreneurs to compete for funding. Wendy's focus is to mentor volunteer college students on due diligence analysis to assist in determining which company receives the awards.

Wendy was born in Flushing, New York, and arrived in LA as a five-year-old after a short stint in Cincinnati, Ohio. She spent her childhood and teenage years in the heartland of the San Fernando Valley, in the towns of Encino and Sherman Oaks.

Wendy says that "I am a Valley Girl" and will speak in a Valley Girl accent on request. This self-proclaimed Valley Girl is anything but the stereotype, in fact, she may be the antithesis. Wendy attended Van Nuys High School where she was a captain of the drill team. After high school she attended the University of California, Santa Barbara for a year before transferring to the University of California, Los Angeles. She earned her bachelor's in economics at UCLA, and continued her education at USC with a Master of Business Administration specializing in finance and accounting.

Come the big November football game between UCLA and USC, she says she is a Bruin at heart and her allegiance goes to the Blue and Gold.

Wendy is no stranger to being either the only or practically the only female in the room. At USC there were only three girls in a class of 60. When offered one of her first jobs in Public Accounting, she had a portion of the offer renege because a manufacturing executive took exception to working with a woman.

During her career it was very common, if not standard, to be the only woman in the board room. She experienced some opposition as a female in a predominately male profession. Fortunately, Wendy rose in the profession despite these obstacles. This achievement was recognized in 2018 when she received the Los Angeles Business Journal's Middle Market CFO of the year award.

As Wendy's career developed, she specialized in the food industry, which offered a wide variety of options. She worked with companies specializing in imported cheese, smoked salmon, shallots, snails, and caviar to companies that bought boxed beef to make hamburgers, sausage, and pork chops for mostly institutional facilities such as nursing homes and large restaurant chains. Her last position was

working for the largest Hispanic cheese manufacturer in the United States serving over 33,000 stores.

She was the architect of buy-outs, mergers, and acquisitions. She has been called in to straighten out the books of companies in financial crisis or legal trouble. She travelled extensively for her job to Europe and throughout the United States.

Her curriculum vitae is impressive. She began as an auditor and grew through the ranks to become a controller, vice president of finance, and chief financial officer for numerous companies. She had positions at Ernst and Young, DiGiorgio, Gourmet France, Harvey Sawyer Meat and Provisions, Naked Juice, and Gold Star Foods. She retired in 2020 from Cacique after working there for over 10 years.

Throughout her impressive career, Wendy raised a daughter, Elizabeth, and now has three grandchildren, a six-year-old grandson, Jack, and twin four-year-olds, a girl, Charlotte, and a boy, Theo. They live in Ohio. In 2020 during COVID, Wendy purchased a house, sight unseen in the Buckeye State so that she could be closer to her daughter and grandchildren.

Wendy's friends, Gloria Martin and Carol Wingate introduced her to Omniole. "For many years the two would talk about classes they were taking. So, when I retired, I thought that I would join."

Wendy really enjoys Omniole, "I have met some great people and have formed lasting friendships. I enjoy the books that I read."

As an avid cook Wendy gravitates to food classes, such as the Poison Squad and the Secret Life of Groceries. She loves good food and good wine so it's not a surprise that she especially enjoyed the wine class, a class where students sampled wine in each other's homes.

When not taking food classes Wendy loves to cook. She likes to BBQ and makes a lot of salmon and sea bass. She subscribes to numerous food magazines and quips that when she travelled for work, she would leave her magazines for the flight attendants who would make sure that she had wine on her travels.

Wendy loves to travel. She has been on numerous cruises. She went to Italy, Israel, and England with her whole family, and to Ireland, Scotland, and England with friends. She has travelled much of the U.S. and spent time in China and Europe during her working career.

Wendy thinks that the best part of retirement is "freedom." I get to choose what I do." Her retirement philosophy is "this is the best time; you get to enjoy yourself. Have fun and play with your grandkids."





Notes from the Editor

by Joan Kolic, Omniole News Editor



Media Mogul and founder of CNN, Ted Turner, was asked what he would like to see on CNN? He succinctly replied, “News!”

I think that is what we want to see in the Omniole Newsletter – news about Omniole and its members. There is so much that is unique about each one of us that we can share.

We grew up in a more innocent time. We could walk to school and play safely outside in the neighborhood without supervision. We shared school spirit and enjoyed the extracurricular activities. We had special friends to whom we could tell our secrets. We danced under sparkling lights at our Prom. Do you recall a magic moment or special memory? If so, please share with us.

Have you been on vacation? California has so many scenic parks and places to visit. Tell us about the great theatres and museums you have seen.

Share your overseas adventures. What was it like to ride in a tram across a mountain gorge? Did you have any memorable conversations with a local that somehow changed your perspective?

Are you involved in a civic or social activity? Omnioleans want to know, and many of us want to help. There is so much that needs to be done in our community.

Our upcoming newsletters will feature the amazing volunteer work that many Omnioleans do.

Special thanks go to the contributing editors, Shera Dolmaz and Jim North. I am also grateful to those Omnioleans who have provided stories for this newsletter – Mike Fitzsimmons, Michael Feygin, Dennis Bosch, Adrian Pruetz, Karol McQueary and Cindy Eggert who always has such wonderful books for us to read.

Special appreciation to Johan Smith who has an encyclopedic knowledge of Omniole. We can always count on her to recall Omniole events as well as the history of all of our members. In addition, she is skilled in editing to ensure our articles fit into the allocated space.

‘Everyone has a story to write that everyone wants to read.’ Please let us hear your voice and your story in our Omniole newsletter.

Jim North: Just For You!



We try our best to do everything we can to live a happy productive life. But honestly, do we ever plan a time just for ourselves? To get that phone out of our lives and turn off all of the other attractions that command our attention and time.

Can you even remember the last time you sat down in the backyard and felt a spring breeze brush your cheek with a promise of better times to come? Don’t

gain a sense of serenity and balance. Our brains identify tasks and signals the things that need to be done. It also can suspend that type of activity and work for you in a more meaningful way. A time just for you to recognize the awesome journey of your life. The men and women who preceded you and the decisions and sacrifices made to give you a better life. Your personal efforts to achieve that same goal for your children and their children. And so it goes on through days, months, and years. No equipment necessary, just the willingness to isolate yourself from distractions and let that inner voice only you hear begin a meaningful conversation.

kid yourself, because all human beings need a time like that to

Mike Fitzsimons: Eclipse!



I was blessed to be able to view the recent total solar eclipse with my wife, mother, and friends aboard the Discovery Princess off the shore of Mazatlán, away from any clouds. We booked the cruise almost two years ago and it was wonderful. There were experts onboard providing background, late night stargazing, and interesting tidbits. Our starboard side of the ship won the coin toss and could see the eclipse from our balconies. The upper decks of the ship were filled with those on the port side. The Emer-



ald Princess was nearby and the ships’ photographers took shots of each other’s ship. Steve Wozniak, one of the founders of Apple, was onboard and gave a talk on the last day.

Left, Mike snaps a selfie with his family and friends on their deck; above, a friend’s picture that shows what Mike saw during totality.

Song of a Soul

by Michael Feygin

Let the Sunshine In!

by Joan Kolic

Being lazy, instead of writing my own poem, I have written the following prompt to Chat GPT: Please, write a poem using the following ideas:

“I heard the soul of a newborn singing a melody. It was filled with desire to live. Initially, the song was quite primitive. It consisted of just one note: me, me, me... Periodically the souls of its parents joined into a small ensemble. In a few years the souls of various people (probably friends, teachers and strangers) harmonized with it. However, for the most part the young soul was following the melodies of others. As the soul matured its voice became more confident. It started composing its own music. Sometimes it would gather an orchestra which projected its sounds into a great distance. Later on, the soul learned that the entire Earth vibrated with music of its own. The soul learned to sing in harmony with it. Eventually the soul joined the chorus of the entire Universe!”

Within seconds Chat GPT came up with this impressive result:

*In the depths of silence, a soul was born,
With a desire to live, its spirit adorned.
A primitive song, a simple plea,
A single note resounded, "Me, me, me..."*

*Joining its parents in ensemble rare,
In tender harmonies, loves, sweet affair,
A chorus of voices, old and new,
Guiding the young soul, as it grew.*

*Years passed, and melodies intertwined,
Friends, teachers, and strangers combined,
Yet the soul yearned to find its own voice,
To compose a music that'd make hearts rejoice.*

*With newfound confidence, it took the lead,
Gathered an orchestra, a symphonic breed,
Its notes projected, a sound so pure,
A melody traveling, forever to endure.*

*As time unfolded, a revelation so grand,
The Earth's very soul, a song in every strand.
The soul discovered a harmony's art,
And sang in time, with the world's beating heart.*

*Enchanted now, by the cosmos' dance.
The soul joined the Universe's trance.
A celestial chorus, together they sung.
In unity, with the stars, moon and sun.*

*No longer a soul, but part of the whole,
Boundless in spirit, connected to ALL,
A journey of melodies, from birth to the sky,
A symphony of life, that will never die!*

Rainy days and Mondays always get me down' is the lyrics to a once popular song. The nearly constant cloudy days and rain depresses me. To escape my lethargy, I watch mindless TV shows or indulge in calorie filled snacks. These do nothing to lift my spirits.

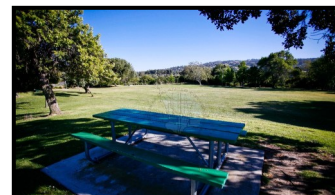
Experts advise that to find small moments of joy in dark times, we should concentrate on adding a little spark of joy in our lives by doing little things. These activities will enhance our well-being, strengthen the immune system and combat stress.

Here are a few ways to achieve small moments of joy every day:

- ✓ Write a joy bucket list – write down all the things that made you happy. Put it where you can read it when you are feeling low.
- ✓ Think about ways to schedule pleasurable habits into your day. Savor the anticipation of them – that's part of the magic.
- ✓ Find a way to express gratitude. Call a friend or someone to share your appreciation for something they did.
- ✓ Try to accomplish one thing that you will be proud of each day.
- ✓ Connect with others through a quick phone call or invitation for a walk.
- ✓ Exercise or dance to your favorite song – get the endorphins flowing.
- ✓ Help someone. Look for an opportunity to give back, even in a small way.
- ✓ We can find joy in giving or being part of a cause.
- ✓ Smile at a person when you are taking a walk or grocery shopping. You never know, that may be the only smile the person sees all day!
- ✓ Appreciate who you are. You have accomplished so much in your life!

Save the date . . .

Omnilore is planning a potluck picnic on **August 2nd** at Wilson Park. Details to be released soon!



Some Chuckles from Children's Science Exam Answers!

Q: What is the fibula?
A: A small lie.

Q: What does "varicose" mean?
A: Nearby.

Q: What are steroids?
A: Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs.



Q: What does the word "benign" mean?
A: Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

Q: Name the four seasons.
A: Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.



In Memoriam - Hal Hart



Hal was born in Salt Lake City on April 7, 1945. He grew up in Valparaiso, Indiana, attended Carleton College (math major) and then grad school in Brown University's applied math department. At Brown, while taking a new course, Hal "fell in love" with the new field of computer science and transferred to Purdue which offered the

first CS degrees in the country. That's where he met Ruth, both earning Masters in CS and then marrying in 1969 after Hal flunked his draft induction physical. Five years later they both decided they liked the hands-on work of software engineering and decamped to Southern California where they spent over 30 years at TRW. Hal made his mark as a software technology manager — which meant research, technology insertion, and quantitative process management plus representing TRW at standards meetings and government-industry working groups, on a Federal Advisory Committee and a NATO working group, and in international software professional society activities.

Hal and Ruth joined Omnilore in March of 2005. He is best known for running the Shakespeare classes which he started doing in 2007. He became interested in our website and took it over around 2011, about a year after we lost our original webmaster, Myron Pullen.

Besides his extensive work with Omnilore, Hal was a dedicated volunteer with Habitat for Humanity where he helped build over 100 houses for qualifying low-income families as a crew leader. He and Ruth also discovered geocaching and roamed around the South Bay and over six continents playing the GPS-enabled outdoor adventure game (think of a hike with extra benefits, he explained). As the years went by, he stopped active participation in tennis, softball, jogging, and basketball, although he was a devoted golfer and walker until the end.

Hal passed away quietly at 8:57 pm on Tuesday, March 5th, following almost six weeks of hospitalization, almost all of which was spent in the ICU. (Thank goodness for Medicare!) He played golf three days before walking into the ER complaining of headaches and difficulty sleeping. A CT scan showed two brain lesions which were bleeding and required an external drain to be inserted. A post-mortem autopsy showed the lesions were lymphomas. Hal was not a patient patient, especially for the first couple of weeks. He kept trying to get out of bed, had to be restrained, and asked all visitors to help him remove the restraints. Even after the drain was replaced by an internal shunt, he appeared to be improving and was transferred out of the ICU for several days, before a third bleed turned out to be fatal. He would have celebrated his 79th birthday in April. Besides Ruth, he is survived by daughters Erika and Alison.

Ruth says, "We will be holding a Celebration of Life for Hal from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Monday, September 30th at the Los Verdes Golf Course, one of his favorite places to be."

Hal Hart was the heart of our Omnilore Shakespeare class. He was so knowledgeable about Shakespeare's life and plays, the history of the era in which he wrote his plays, the War of the Roses, the Kings and Queens of the time, etc.

We all had roles, reading different characters from many plays. Hal was larger than life, vibrant, playing King Lear, or Macbeth or Othello. He was dramatic and so much fun, dressing up in a costume- a Shakespearean era hat, a crown, a sword, whatever fit the role. A couple of times he played a woman and had us all in stitches with an oversized dress. And once he had two roles which were on stage at the same time, and again he had us in stitches playing them both, changing hats, changing his voice, etc. We enjoyed his acting so much!

Hal was the webmaster, creating wonderful informative web pages for our class, and he created the hybrid class, no easy task. Several members of the class would not have been able to continue without being able to zoom; others prefer the classroom setting.

Hal was so gracious and generous with his time. He would deliver the books with our plays to those of us who didn't have them.

Our class grieves his passing. "He was a man, take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again." Hamlet, Act 1, Scene 2.

Mary Jo Gura, Co-coordinator

First and Last Impressions of Hal Hart

My first interaction with Hal was a time of great anger, exasperation, and frustration! You will recall that Omnilore used to meet, at one time, at the Franklin Center off Inglewood Blvd. Coming from the south, you would typically take Anza Blvd. north to 190th; make a right turn; and at the end of the block, turn left and head north for several blocks; the center was on the right. During that short jog between Anza and Inglewood boulevards, a driver in a green or yellow SUV cut me off - not once but twice. I had to break hard twice. My thought was to honk my horn and give him some unmistakable sign of my anger that he could see through his rear-view mirror. I thought to myself: "If anyone deserved to be given 'the finger' or 'the bird', this was the person". The gesture failed - I knew what it looked like, but never having had to execute the maneuver, my fingers failed me. All I was able to do was make what probably appeared to be a weak, half-mast salute. What I did notice as the car sped off was the distinctive bumper sticker - it read "Feynman Lives". I thought to myself that he was a maniacal driver, but he couldn't be a completely wretched, hopeless human being.

Continued on Page 8

Hal Hart Tributes *(cont'd)*

First and Last Impressions of Hal Hart Cont'd

and *Cressida*. Many of my Shakespeare experiences involve the Shakespeare class and Hal, and I am very grateful for his steadfast, capable leadership and hard work to make these possible. Hal has simply been the heart and brains of the Shakespeare class, and he will be sorely missed.

He was Omnilore's Webmaster, but Hal has also helped many Omniloreans (past and present) as a kind of techie-at-large for years. He has always come through with help and solutions to our seemingly continuous and endless tech issues.

No, most certainly not a wretched human being. Once again, an appropriate hand gesture comes to mind - a (grateful) heart, but I can't seem to manage this gesture either.

Semper gratias

Vale, Hal

Vera Minami

Our Most Exceptional Bardolater

How can we ever say thank you enough to Hal Hart?? For many many years, Hal has served as our consummate creative and forceful Omnilore Bardolater Theater Director. He devoted his redoubtable energies to being with us as our confidence-building and encouraging coach, our genuinely supportive teacher, and as a sensitive guide for all our Shakespearean play-acting efforts. He was always at our side in performances, and, absolutely bar none, was himself an outstanding artist — a marvelous most energetic actor — speaking Shakespeare's lines in our plays with gusto and flair and conviction, seeking and finding underlying truths, and at the same time, leading and directing the groundling lot of us.

Hal connected us to background, psychological and emotional meanings of characters and plots through his insights and on-stage showmanship. No one will ever forget Hal's portrayal of the Bard's villains and heroes after seeing him in his famous rowdy costume hats taking on the role of Falstaff or Henry VI or Macbeth. Or, of course, the unforgettable memories of Hal in spooky sheets parading as Hamlet's father's ghost. (Too bad if you missed that.) He was fearless, intense, honest, sometimes a comedian as well as being a very talented actor.

As a director, Hal showed us where and how we should act to understand how Shakespeare captured stories of Elizabethan life and how we could catch a glimpse of important history and age-distant reality, and how we might perform roles accordingly, every measure for measure, and we followed Hal's spirited examples. He could do all this because he really knew his stuff, and we knew that and trusted his lead. We gained so much from his openness and respect for all of us as players, how he always recognized with tolerance and acceptance whatever we could bring to class. Hal was a most exceptional true teacher, sharing the joy of reading Shakespeare.

Thank you, Hal —thank you again. You will always be our most gentle taskmaster and dearly loved compatriot in the Arts. You will always be with us to warm the Shakespeare we carry in our hearts.

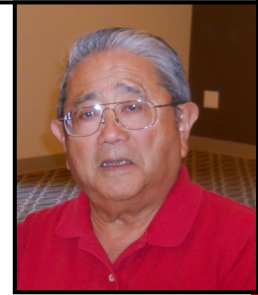
Mary Watson

He was such a vital person, knowledgeable and interested in many different areas, and had so much to contribute to our meetings and organization.

Rhonda Ingelman

In Memoriam - Eiichi (H.E.) Kamiya

H.E.'s family was from Okinawa. His father was born in 1908 and came here with his family in about 1910. He returned to Okinawa to go to school and then moved to Hawaii before seeking a permanent home in the U.S. At that time, the largest native Japanese populations were in California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, and Texas.



On April 5, 1936, Kamiya was born in Long Beach, where his father headed a Japanese language school. In the relocation camp, he became a fire inspector and director of the Red Cross. Returning to Southern California after the war, his father temporarily packed coats at a clothes factory, but moved into insurance and real estate sales.

Despite growing up in a barracks in Japanese relocation camps in rural Arkansas, H.E. Kamiya's earliest memories are of a sort of "carefree Tom Sawyer time" with friends, exploring the woods and fishing in a nearby bayou. He would crawl under fences to fish and hunt when guards weren't watching. He made a bamboo fishing pole and a slingshot for hunting.

After their return, the family lived in Boyle Heights and Gardena. Having placed their goods in storage in 1942, they found many valuables had been stolen. Kamiya attended Gardena Elementary, Junior High and High Schools. At GHS (class of '54), he was student body president, despite being part of a five-percent minority. He liked all aspects of school—academics, sports, the choir, a ham radio club.

Kamiya went to UCLA to major in engineering. He graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering, but working at Northrup, he moved into systems analysis as soon as possible. He particularly enjoyed operations research, developing creative new ideas and seeing how they worked. He himself held a couple of patents as a result.

His wife, Donna, was an aerospace secretary, whom he married in 1965. They moved to Rancho Palos Verdes in 1977 where they raised two children, Eric, now a Concord insurance man, and Malynn, a teacher at Miraleste Intermediate School. They frequently babysit for their six grandchildren.

Retiring in 1995 from Northrop, he worked an additional four years at the Rand Corporation as a military policy analyst, playing "war games" to figure out future alternatives. He joined Omnilore in September 1999 and took

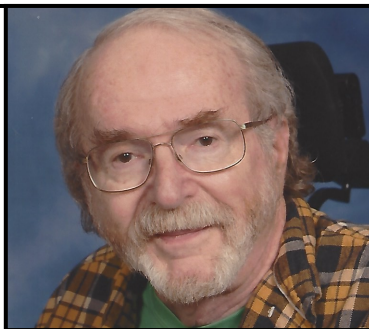
In Memoriam - Norman David Stockwell

Norman was born on April 6, 1941, in Detroit, Michigan. When his father joined the Border Patrol, in typical Federal fashion he was assigned to the southern gulf region. The family moved to New Orleans, LA where he spent his childhood.

Norm graduated from John McDonough High School in 1958. He married Helen Shepard, friend and sweetheart since kindergarten, after graduation. They were a team for 66 years, raising four kids and helping them graduate high school, college and form their own families.

Norm earned a BS in Science from Tulane University in New Orleans. A physics major, he was employed while in college at Tulane's language lab and biophysics lab. He was accepted into Rice University in Houston, TX, and moved his new family west. After receiving his MS and PhD in Physics from Rice University, he was offered a job in San Bernardino, CA by The Aerospace Corporation. The young family moved west again. He enjoyed the work and when the company closed the San Bernardino facility, he moved the whole family, now with four children (Sherry, David, Walter, and Sue) to the Los Angeles area to be closer to work. He and Helen bought a home in Redondo Beach.

When he was in his 40's, he was diagnosed with SMA (spinal muscular atrophy). Signs had appeared when he was 18 (couldn't play the piano anymore) but none of the experts could diagnose the condition. This disease was later explained as MS, but at a very slow rate that could last a lifetime. Gradually Norm moved into a wheelchair, as he slowly lost control over his legs and feet.



This mysterious disability did not slow down his enthusiasm and interests. Ham radio was a favorite hobby of his, so much so that all four of the children as well as Helen have their licenses. He built model airplanes and flew them off the Palos Verdes cliffs with his older son, David. He enjoyed picnics, camping, and driving (with hand controls) in the mountains. Kings Canyon was a favorite destination.

During his career, Norm worked with groups focused on helping disabled people in the workforce and promoted hiring in business and industry; he showed through personal example that disabilities would not impede work in the business world.

He finally took disability retirement at the advice of his doctors while working at TRW in his 50's. He used his time and energy enjoying his seven grandchildren. He organized and ran spiritual retreats with their church, and with Helen, drove across the country, visiting relatives and friends in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Maryland. They enjoyed the cross-country travel and found dark areas in which to view the glorious Milky Way.

In September 1999, Norm and Helen joined Omnimore, where he participated in study groups up until his passing on Tuesday, March 5th when he succumbed to the effects of spinal muscular atrophy. Norm was smart, loving, compassionate, creative, gentle, kind and curious about how things worked; a great father, husband, friend, partner, and caring about others. Many people inside and outside of Omnimore have expressed that they will miss him.



I enjoyed being in Omnimore with him.

Rich Reilly

Dear Helen: Our hearts go out to you. Your love for each other was so apparent and so lovely for us all.

Love, Dayla and David Sims

Continued from Page 8—H. E. Kamiya

three classes each trimester until the last few years when he cut it down to two per trimester. He took courses which, as an engineer, he never experienced, ranging from opera to textiles, poetry, and creative writing; in fact, he was known for his Haiku poetry. He also liked history, but not courses in which members argue.

H.E. passed away suddenly on Friday, March 1st while in the hospital due to not feeling well for some time. The doctors determined he had had a heart attack while there that no one had noticed. This had sufficiently damaged his heart so that he was unable to recover. He would have celebrated his 88th birthday this April.



H.E. Was in our writing workshop last year, and he was a poetic jewel. He will be greatly missed.

Deborah Hawkins

My friend in poetry.

Delores Gilmore



H. E. Kamiya contributed so much to Omnimore with his talents. He added greatly with his knowledge, thoughtfulness and imagination. I will miss seeing him at Omnimore events. My deepest sympathy to his wife and his family.

Nancy Shannon

H.E. was an outstanding individual and great contributor to Omnimore. I wish his family peace and the comfort that comes from warm memories.

Art Irizarry

So sorry to hear about H.E. So many wonderful presentations! Such an asset to Omnimore. No question that he'll be missed. Very sad,

Dale Korman

How Does an Organization Like Omnilore Succeed?

by Karol McQueary, Vice-President, Academics, and Happy Omnilorean for 10 Years.

I love Omnilore! I love the variety of S/DGs, the interesting and informed people I meet, and the chance to get together and discuss what we have been learning. I love that there is an Information and Orientation session so that prospective Omniloreans understand both the benefits and obligations of being a part of this great organization. The benefits are many, but the obligations are equally important. Without the time and effort of many people, Omnilore would cease to exist, and that is why we want everyone to think not only of their own interests, but of how they can contribute as well.

There are many positions on the Board and Management Council that need volunteers, but just as important, there are a number of committees that you can be a part of. Here are some: Forum, Lifestyles, Membership, Newsletter Proofreading and/or Article writing, Technology (S/DG FTP “techies”, Classroom Equipment, Website Maintenance, and Zoom “techies”).

Committees spread the workload so that it doesn't fall on one person. They also can turn out to be a lot of fun – a group working together for a common purpose.

Here are some additional ways to serve: step up to be a Coordinator or Co-Coordinator for an S/DG. Our Head Coordinator is there to assist and has organized the job so that it goes smoothly. Start by being a “Co” and learn by assisting the Coordinator.

Another great way to make sure we continue to have a rich variety of prospective S/DGs is to suggest a topic. Have you found a book or resource that you think would make a great topic? Suggest it to the Curriculum Committee Chairperson – write a short review and list a few possible ideas for presentations. You can volunteer your services as a possible Coordinator too, but remember that Coordinator assignments are not guaranteed, but are determined by the Head Coordinator.

So, if you are a newbie in your first year of Omnilore, just enjoy and get to know our organization. After that, look for ways that you too can volunteer (say “yes” when someone asks you if you would be willing!) and help keep Omnilore the great organization it is.



Karol McQueary

Making The World a Better Place

by Joan Kolic

On May 7, Carolyn Pohlner, Omnilore VP of Administration, was honored by the Torrance Commission on Aging as a recipient of the ‘2024 Older Americans Award’ for her outstanding service to the Torrance Community. Carolyn has a generous and selfless heart as reflected by the numerous organizations she has joined that help those in need. She has a knack of encouraging philanthropic donations by area businesses to donate to those organizations that help people in need. She has helped to deliver food to homebound, disabled and needy clients and seniors through the Torrance – Lomita Meals on Wheels program. Carolyn noted that most times, she was the only person that the senior might see that day. They are so happy to see her smile and hear her friendly words. The meal she delivered was often the only food that person might have that day. Due to her busy schedule, she now calls for substitutes to fill in when the person scheduled is unavailable. She noted that sometimes she requests her husband, Frank, to help with the meal deliveries.

She serves as recording secretary for the Torrance Historical Society to preserve the history of Torrance. She occasionally assists as a docent explaining the memorabilia that makes the city unique, as well as the exploits of the city's favorite son, Louis Zamperini.

She is incoming President of the Torrance Women's Club and has coordinated their various activities, including a fashion show, which raised \$9,300 for scholarships. She oversees the efforts by the Torrance Women's Club to collect food for Torrance Volunteer Center's food pantry for disadvantaged children on weekends. For many children, their only meals might



Carolyn Pohlner

be what they receive from the subsidized breakfast and Lunch programs in school. These efforts ensure that the children do not go hungry on weekends. Having done this for the past two years, Carolyn decided to become a member of The Affinity Group, the fundraising arm for the Torrance Volunteer Center, and has participated in several food drives.

Carolyn is a member of Las Vacinas, a philanthropic and social group of women whose mission is to raise monies for South High School scholarships and funds for local South Bay charities. Carolyn has served on their board as Fundraising Chair, President, and now incoming Philanthropy Chair. Over the years, Las Vacinas

has raised thousands of dollars for college scholarships as well as a charitable donation to El Camino College Warrior Food Pantry, which assists often overlooked college students. This food pantry helps these El Camino College students, as one out of three are facing food insecurities, living in their cars, or crashing on a friend's sofa while they struggle to pay their college expenses.

She also serves as a lifetime member on the Board of South Bay Literacy Council which provides ESL tutoring for adult students and enables literacy for those who want to learn to read.

As Membership Chair, Registrar, and as an S/DG Coordinator, Carolyn has served Omnilore for many years. She is currently VP of Administration.

Carolyn has been a force for good in our community. As Deborah Hawkins remarked, “She is one of the most passionate, creative and competent people I know.” Thank you, Carolyn, for making the world a better place.

OLIR Outstanding Presentations - Spring Trimester 2024

by Carolyn Pohlner

The following Omnimore Presentations were cited by two or more S/DG members from that course as being recognized as particularly excellent:

AMA - 50 American Artists You Should Know - In Classroom Only

Jean Steinmetz - *Dale Chihuly* (PowerPoint), 3 Recommendations

GNC - Generations - In Classroom Only

Susan Maehl - *Sex, Gender in the new Generation*, 2 Recommendations

LNZ - Science and Art of Longevity - Zoom/Hybrid

Ace Rosen - *Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology* (PowerPoint), 2 Recommendations

MOV - The Best Movies You Never Saw

Rick Pruetz - The German film, *The Lives of Others* (PowerPoint), 2 Recommendations

MYC - Best Mystery Stories of the Year - In Classroom Only

Jim North - *A Bottle of Perrier*, 2 Recommendations

Kent McDonald - *The Landscaper's Wife* (PowerPoint), 2 Recommendations

Frankie Goldstein - *Smoking Gunners*, 2 Recommendations

OWI - Oscar Wilde: A Colorful Life

Mercedes Ortiz - *Wilde in America: Oscar Wilde and the Invention of Modern Celebrity* (PowerPoint) Entire Class Recommendation.

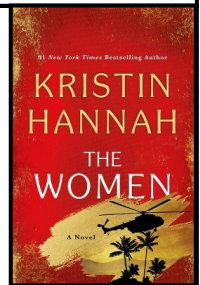
As one of my duties as Head Coordinator, I attend Evaluation Committee meetings to discuss the results of surveys completed by S/DG members as well as the surveys sent to new members and coordinators and co-coordinators. These end-of-term surveys are a window into how well our S/DGs function, and how satisfied our members are with their learning experience. We'd like to see an increase in the number of members who complete the survey. The next end of term survey will be in August. It only takes a few minutes to answer the questions, and we really value your input.

Coordinators and co-coordinators will be recruited for our Fall term from approximately July 10 through 17. If you are called regarding one of these positions, please consider accepting it. All S/DGs must have both a coordinator and co-coordinator in order to remain on the schedule. The next Coordinator Information Meeting will be held July 31 at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom.

Have You Read...?

by Cindy Eggert

Omnimoreans who participated in the Book Discussion SIG will remember the two Kristin Hannah books that were read and discussed – **The Nightingale** about two sisters in WW2 French Resistance and **The Four Winds** about one mother's fight to survive the 1934 drought and depression. In her latest book - **THE WOMEN**, the author delves into the personal cost of being part of an unpopular war amid the angry protests of family, friends, and many of the population.



In this novel, we meet twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath as green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight and watch as she is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets—and becomes one of—the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost. Fifteen years before the term PTSD is even coined, the impact of the war has taken its toll on Frankie before she has even turned 25.



But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America with angry protesters. There are no 'Welcome Home' parades. Only a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

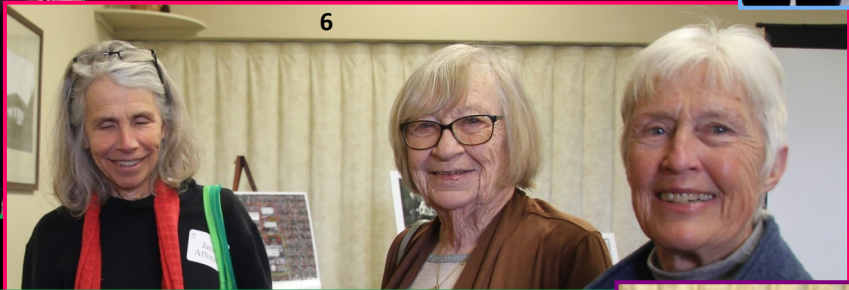
The novel looks at how deep friendships are forged under fire to last a lifetime.

Some Smiles from the February Forum



1. Adrian Pruetz & Dennis Bosch; 2. Anne Destabelle, Susan Strauss & Nancy Bell (Guest); 3. Wendy Morgan & Gloria Martin; 4. Denise DeVenuto; 5. Leslie Criswell & Judi Carter; 6. Jane Affonso, Marge Thelen & Joyce Karel; 7. Joan Kolic; 8. Carolyn Pohlner; 9. Barbara Case, Jane Smolens (Guest) & Selma Wheaton, with Frank Pohlner in the background; 10. Bill Gargaro & Steve Miller

Thanks to Denise DeVenuto, Susan Strauss and Dennis Bosch for these pictures!



Report on the February 28th Forum Speaker:

February Forum, 2024: A Gala and Homage

by Susan Strauss

“**L**aissez les bon temps rouler”. That is exactly what Omnilorians did at the February 28th Forum. The attendees dressed in Mardi Gras garb, ate New Orleans style food, and enjoyed each other’s company. In short, they “let the good times roll!”

The décor was fashioned with a Mardi Gras theme. The tables were decked in gold and purple tablecloths with center pieces, beads and candy strewn about. A costume contest whereby all the participants chose the best costume revealed that a guest, Christine Collette won first place, with Susan Strauss close behind in second place.

The highlight of the Forum was the keynote speaker, Chuck Currier. He is known as Mr. Mira Costa, a title bestowed upon him as he knows so much about the school and particularly its history. He, in fact, wrote a book entitled *The History of Mira Costa*. While researching for the book he came upon a man named Francis Uyematsu, and from then on, he delved



Chuck Currier

deeply into the man’s life, including his importation of camellias to the United States and his internment at Manzanar. Chuck showed a short documentary and with passion was able to pay homage to Francis as an example of a person with courage and indomitable spirit.



*Costume Winners:
1st place—Christine Collette (guest)
2nd place—Susan Strauss, above.*



About Having a “Special Person” in My Life Once Again

by Barbara Case

In the last few months of this year, my life took an enormous leap into happiness. I found a new romantic partner – someone to share my life with again. As most of you know, my husband of some 50 years passed at the beginning of the Pandemic. Eventually, the sharp edges of my grief ebbed and I was successful in surrounding myself with supporting girlfriends and activities. I thought my new life as a widow was full and rich, even if I was alone... well, I did add a cat.

I did not actively seek another romantic relationship. Perhaps in the back of my mind, I’d thought that I might meet a boyfriend through Omnilore. But it soon became obvious that virtually all of the very charming men in our organization – men who had befriended me (and yes flirted with me) over the years were married ... or else otherwise already involved in significant relationships. The very few men who were available, showed no interest.

I met my new partner by one of those incredible twists of fate. I’d just joined the PVP Village (a local organization dedicated to helping seniors who all live in a small radius in, and around the Palos Verdes Peninsula) to “age in place” – you see, that was a major decision I’d just made. Actually, it was Omnilorean Bob Bacinski who was the person who caused me to start thinking about that decision! He’d recently decided not to “age in place,” but rather to move to one of those marvelous “country-club” like three-level senior care communities. He was eagerly urging me to consider doing the same thing – either there, or at another similar facility. He tried hard to “sell” me on all the advantages, including the “social advantages.” It seemed like a good idea. I spent considerable time investigating and researching the issue, including attending a number of marketing events. But in the end, I decided that what made the most sense to me, was to “age in place.” That’s when I discovered PVP Village and joined.

It was at the very first activity that I attended through that organization that I met Peter. I think the first thing that attracted us to each other was that we’d both just gone through the loss of a beloved spouse of 50 odd years ... and remarkably, that our losses had occurred at approximately the same time. Then we also discovered that we were both cerebral, enjoyed having academic discussions, loved science, were hobby gardeners, took delight in writing fiction, had cats, supported liberal political causes, etc., etc. One lunch date—ostensibly to “discuss his novel”—and we soon found ourselves totally smitten and besotted with each other. We’ve been dating constantly ever since.

So, fate does happen in marvelous ways. It brought Peter and I together – a widower at 79, and a widow at 77. We might not have that much time together – at our age, the future is always uncertain – but we will make the very best of what time we do have. Right now, life couldn’t be more wonderful!

Editor’s Note: This story had it’s beginnings last November, continuing during the ensuing months. The latest from Barbara is, “I’m now very happy to report that Peter and I are engaged and plan to marry before the end of the year.”



- | | |
|---------------|--|
| June | 13 Management Council Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., Via Hybrid |
| | 14 Walking Group—10 a.m. (Veterans Parkway Trail) |
| | 20 Introducing Omnilore Meeting—10:00 a.m., Via Zoom |
| | 28 Summer Forum —11:00 a.m., Mary & Joseph Retreat Center
(see article, page 1; reservation form with Forum flyer) |
| July | 11 Introducing Omnilore Meeting—1:00 p.m., Via Zoom |
| | 11 Management Council Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., Via Hybrid |
| | 31 Coordinator Information Meeting—10:00 a.m., Via Hybrid |
| August | 2 Summer Potluck Picnic, Wilson Park |
| | 8 Management Council Meeting—12 Noon-1:30 p.m., Via Hybrid |
| | 9 Walking Group—10 a.m. |
| | 15 Input Deadline for September 2024 Newsletter |

OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2024



Summer

2024 Forums
Winter—February 29th
Summer—June 28th
Annual Mtg.—October 31st

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

Jim North: GRANDMA!



I almost missed it. A minor blurb in the Washington Post about a scientific study of female Orca whales and menopause. Why do some healthy females stop reproducing and enter a menopausal state, living additional decades in their life span?

Observers concluded that these select few assume an additional elevated role, as grandma Orca to the pod. What's that you say? GRANDMA! Mother Nature is a wise and crafty lady. Grandma becomes the protector and sometimes provider to her offspring's offspring. Orca pods hunt in an organized pattern with assigned members performing specific tasks to gather the greatest amount of prey and driving them into a deadly trap and feeding frenzy. Grandma shares in the hunt and then provides food and nourishment to neglected juveniles. As apex predators, adolescent male Orcas are constantly aware of Grandma's presence and her care for the juveniles. They just know you don't mess with GRANDMA! Some-

times prey just can't be found. Grandma assumes leadership of the pod and directs it to another location locked in her ancestral mind. WELL DONE, GRANDMA!

We can learn so much from nature if we just take the time to think it through. Many local organizations welcome interested seniors to mentor their young charges in so many ways. Yes, I know, its the fourth quarter and the clock is running but how many great moments happen in the final period.

Something to think about!



The Next
Via
Zoom

INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETINGS:
Thursday, June 20th - 10 a.m.
Thursday, July 11th - 1 p.m.
Help Spread the Word! RSVP 424 304-2105

