



OMNILORE NEWS

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OMNILORE NEWS

a publication of The OMNILORE Society,
a Learning in Retirement Organization
affiliated with The Division of Extended
Education of California State University
Dominguez Hills

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Vice president	John Taber
Treasurer	Gen Carlisle
Secretary	Peggy Houghton

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Joyce Zima

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OmniLore News is published six times
annually. We welcome short feature articles
and news stories. Contact any of the staff
members with your contributions

Staff Members

Ginger Engstrom
Ronnie Saunders

ANNUAL MEETING HELD

Officers Elected Dean Palmer Speaks

The membership of OmniLore attended its first annual meeting at the Velvet Turtle in Torrance on October 29th.

As Ethel Allen enters her first full year term as president of **OMNILORE**, the following slate of officers was unanimously elected to join her: John Taber as vice president and president elect; Peggy Houghton as secretary; Gen Carlisle as treasure and Burt Cutler and Joyce Zima as board members at large.

After enjoying a marvelous lunch we were treated to an excellent speech given by Dr. Richard Palmer, Dean of Social & Behavioral Sciences at Cal State Dominguez Hills. His topic was the Political Challenges in our Transition to the 21st Century. (See below.)

This talk gave all of us much food for thought and possibly some future **OMNILORE** study/discussion group topics.

Kudos to Margaret Koch and her committee for providing us with a memorable first annual meeting.

Synopsis of Dr. Palmer's Talk

Dr. Palmer's premise was that the United States will face major challenges in the years ahead in the five following arenas; international, generational, environmental, ethnic diversity and gender balance and the political process itself.

In the international arena, he called for a change in the way we look at the world, noting that the new order will be marked simultaneously by greater interdependency and greater indifference.

He expressed concern about the legacy of debt the older generation is leaving to future generations as well as the growing imbalance of the nation's resources being expended on the elderly as compared to the nation's youth. Dr. Palmer pointed out that California -- the nation's trendsetter -- has shifted demographically; tilting towards two diverse groups; the traditional elderly and a younger group of diverse ethnicity from cultures that have not pursued higher education. "At what point" he asked "will the younger generation begin to see the elderly as a burden?"

He also pointed out that challenges brought about by ethnic diversity and gender imbalance will be felt both in workplace inequalities and in changes pertaining to family law. Increases in hate crimes and school choice voucher proposals are forerunners of the challenges that lie ahead in this arena.

Among the signposts of environmental / population challenges touched on by Dr. Palmer was the imbalance of the eco-system, population growth and the growth of the NIMBY (not in my back yard) syndrome.

In discussing the challenge of the political process itself, Dr. Palmer emphasized the growing chasm between the public and their elected officials who pursue their own interests. In calling for change, the dean urged government to take a lesson from industry and scrutinize and review the political process by setting goals and seeking ways to attain them.

"It is critical that citizens bring about new ways of looking at the world" he concluded.

MOMENTS TO REMEMBER

Members of the recently concluded class on "The World of Islam" will never forget the report on Saudi Arabia given by member Hank Steddom, who formerly lived and worked there.

Dressed in authentic robes (dash) and red and white head scarf (ghutra) fastened by the black ring known as the egal, Hank described the appearance of the Arabian going to Haj, the pilgrimage to Mecca. According to Hank, beneath the gutra, the Arabian pilgrim wears a crocheted cap over his shaved head.

In addition, he described the role of women in Saudi Arabia and interpreted the difference in their lifestyle from ours.

Virginia Levanas

ALIROW UPDATE

The ALIROW biennial meeting to be held in Asilomar (near Monterey) this Spring will take place May 23-25 not in April as originally announced.

Welcome to OmniLore News.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep our membership informed of the activities of the Omnilore Society and our affiliate organizations ALIROW and Elderhostel Institute.

This is your newsletter: let us know what you would like to see on these pages. We need your comments on both content and format to make this a quality product.

Mail can be sent to

OMNIOLORE CSUDH
P.O. Box 7000-236
Redondo Beach, Ca. 90277

Phone messages may be left at (310) 540-6011

NEW STUDY DISCUSSION GROUPS TO START IN JANUARY



Five new study-discussion groups will get under way next year. Topics selected by the membership for the Spring schedule include:

The Roman Way will meet on the first and third Tuesdays. This class will focus on significant achievements of Republican and Imperial Rome and is required for anyone who wishes to participate in the Elderhostel program being held in Rome, Italy June 20 to July 3.

Ethics in Present Day America will meet the second and fourth Thursday. Core reading material will be drawn from the Josephson Institute of Ethics that offers a wide variety of publications and audio-visual materials.

Western Intellectual Tradition will meet the first and third Wednesdays. Core reading will be Western Intellectual Tradition by Jacob Bronowski and Bruce Mazlish.

Environmental Concerns will meet the second and fourth Tuesdays. Core reading will be Vice President Gore's new book, The Environment and the Human Spirit.

Modern American Writers will meet the first and third Thursday. Core reading will be Contemporary American Literature edited by Perkins and Perkins.

All classes are scheduled for 2:00 P.M. As in the past, books may be purchased at 10% discount at the Walden Bookstore near Robinson's in Del Amo.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New to Omnilore this fall are

Marvel Burke

Edith Garvey

Nat & Selma Marcus

... and joining us for the spring session

Mimi Breitman

Gloria Miller

Warren Pietro

WELCOME TO OMNIOLORE

COMMITTEE OF THE MONTH

Keeping **OMNIOLORE** running requires the work of not just the officers, but of several committee chairmen and their hard working members. Committees are always on the lookout for interested volunteers. To help you discover the spot or spots where your interests match the organization's needs we will, from time to time, spotlight the various committees; their functions and activities.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Unlike membership committees in most organizations, **OMNIOLORE'S** membership committee's focus is not on recruiting. (We attract new members by word of mouth) Instead committee members are involved in keeping the community aware of our existence, organizing the annual meeting, encouraging members to associate outside formal classroom sessions, and planning social events. Committee member Celcia Carroll has been responsible for making sure the coffee supplies in the Classroom Kiosk are kept up.

In addition, according to chairman Margaret Koch, the committee is responsible for communicating with new members and remaining alert to community events of interest to our membership. Also serving on the committee is Hank Steddom. Anyone interested in serving as a member of the Membership Committee is invited to contact Margaret Koch at (310) 273-9979

OMNIOLORE PROFILES

Ethel Allen - President

Little did she dream as a youngster growing up in New York City deriving joy from playing her trumpet that some day her joy would come from nourishing the minds of retired adults 3,000 miles away in Redondo Beach, California. But that is exactly what happened to Ethel Allen. As a member of the tiny study discussion group that evolved into **OMNIOLORE** early last year, she helped launch the organization and nurtured it during its formative months. Ethel was officially elected president at its first annual meeting on October 29th.

Love of the trumpet and of learning took her down the music education path in New York where she received her bachelor's degree in music history at Hunter College. She earned her masters in musicology from Smith College and her doctorate in music education at Columbia.

Prior to marrying Ray Allen, a research fellow at Rockefeller Institute in New York, Ethel taught at New Jersey State Teacher's College in Jersey City, N. J. She also played the organ while directing the church choir in Union City, N.J.

Marriage to Ray and the travels connected with his career plus the joys of motherhood, put her career on hold in 1961 when she and

Ray moved to Los Angeles. While Ray was affiliated with UCLA Medical School, the Allens became parents of a daughter, Suzanne, now 29 and a son Timothy, now 28.

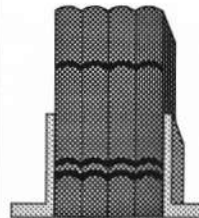
A series of career advancements for Ray, a pathologist, took them in turn to Rochester, Minnesota, Phoenix, Arizona, and Jackson, Mississippi, before they returned to California in 1975 when they settled in Palos Verdes.

While raising her children, Ethel taught in a private school in Phoenix and took up a second career as a travel agent. During her eight years in the travel industry, the Allens traveled extensively throughout Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Greece, England and the United States.

Since her arrival in Palos Verdes, Ethel has been a member of the Palos Verdes' Symphony Band, serving one term as president. In addition, she has been a docent at the Point Vincente Interpretive Center, has been a member of the Palos Verdes' Branch, AAUW and has been active in the Great Books Foundation, currently serving as co-chairman of the local group. As past chairman of the Greater Los Angeles Great Book Activities, she is currently assistant chairman for the Greater Los Angeles Association.

NEEDED: LIBRARIAN, MATERIALS, IDEAS!

With the **OMNIOLORE** Library about to make its debut in the Classroom Klost three voids need to be filled! Most importantly **OMNIOLORE** is looking for a librarian to take charge of the materials. In addition, the board needs your input on policy pertaining to the use of the library as well as reference books to become part of the libraries permanent collection. All books that you contribute (and we especially would like past core readings) will be given a bookplate bearing your name.



CONTRIBUTOR'S CORNER

OmniLore*

Are there things you'd like to know?
Would you like your mind to grow?
Has specializing narrowed you?
Would you like some humor, too?
Then what you need is OmniLore;
It can do all this and more.

Because he knew that life holds more
The more you learn, the more you know,
Burt Cutler started Omnilore.
Mike, Ray, and Ethel helped it grow.
Lois, and Tom and Will did too,
And now there's room for me and you.

Mechanics, art, and music too,
Plato, megatrends, and more,
Many readings old and new.
They almost always seem to know
What will help us best to grow
The founders all of Omnilore.

Come learn with us at Omnilore;
Bring your friends and spouses, too.
It will help you all to grow
Just as we do more and more.
Don't do only things you know;
Take a chance on something new.

John urged us to try the new
In bulletin two of Omnilore.
We who tried his math all know
That you will get real pleasure, too
As you expand horizons more
And find what fun it is to grow.

Ethel's causing me to grow;
This verse form to me is new.
Of many things she teaches more
As president of Omnilore.
So please be sure that you come, too.
You'll find rewards with us, I know.

Please come grow with Omnilore
Learning new and old things, too,
And find new friends who're fun to know.

by Peggy Houghton

*A response to Ethel Allen's sestina challenge.

We would like the Contributors's Column to be a regular feature of the Omnilore News. If you have anything that you would like to share with our membership; a poem, cartoon, column or quotation, please drop your contributions in the communications file box in the Classroom Klost.

CALENDAR

January 14th	Board of Directors Meeting
January 14th	Swearing in of New Officers
January 15th	Fall Session Ends
January 15th	Deadline for February Newsletter
January 18th	Spring Session Begins
February 11th	Deadline for Summer Study/Discussion Suggestions
February 11th	Board of Directors Meeting
March 15th	Deadline for April Newsletter
March 16-26th	Distribution of Summer Ballots and Registration Forms
March 25th	Board of Directors Meeting



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