



OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 3 Issue 1

January 1994

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

Executive Committee

President	John Taber
Vice president	Burt Cutler
Treasurer	Gen Carlisle
Secretary	Lorraine Nagy

Members at Large

Whit Wilson
Edith Garvey

Committee Chairs

Curriculum Committee

Michael Scordau

Membership Committee

Margaret Koch

Communications Committee

Ronnie Saunders

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
Pat Greene

OMNILORE TO HOST SOUTHERN REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF ALIROW

ALIROW, the Association of Learning in Retirement -- Western Region, will hold its biennial Southern Region executive council meeting at Cal State Dominguez January 15, with OMNILORE serving as host member to an estimated 40 visiting council members.

This marks the first time the regional meeting has met in the South Bay, according to Selma Smith, regional president. The meeting will take place from 10 a.m. to noon.

Serving on the OMNILORE host committee are: Ethel Allen, Lois Buchanan, Gen Carlisle, Eva Diggle, Will & Vi Graham, Pat Greene, Margaret Koch, Ronnie & Bob Saunders, John Taber and Joyce Zima. Persons wishing to assist or to observe the council meeting are invited to contact any host committee member.



NEW OFFICERS ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING

John Taber was elected president of OMNILORE for the coming year at the annual meeting held October 28th at the Velvet Turtle, Torrance. He will assume office at the January 1994 board meeting.

Serving with him will be: Burt Cutler, vice president; Lorraine Nagy, secretary; Gen Carlisle, treasurer; and Whit Wilson and Edith Garvey, members at large.

Guest speaker at the luncheon meeting was Linda Groff, political science professor of future studies at Cal State Dominguez, who discussed "Trends, Models, and Paradigms of Change," which dealt with preparing for life in the 21st century.



SIX TOPICS TO BE OFFERED FOR SPRING SESSION

Interest in topics proposed for the Spring semester, set to get under way the third week in January, was so strong that for the first time OMNILORE will be offering six study-discussion groups.

GROUP	Coordinator	Meeting Time
The Celts	Whit Wilson	Monday Afternoons
Alexander the Great	Ed Baur	Tuesday Afternoons
War of the Roses	Robert Brennan	Tuesday Afternoons
Creativity	Rose Shield	Thursday Mornings
English Literature of the 19th Century	Jane Carricart	Thursday Afternoons
Preparing for the 21st Century	Margaret Koch	Thursday Afternoons

OMNILORE LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

In her farewell address at OMNILORE's annual meeting, outgoing president Ethel Allen saluted the achievements of OMNILORE during its first year and pointed the path to future progress.

She defined the purpose of the group as offering the membership significant involvement in college level educational programming as well as the opportunity to be directly involved in all aspects of the program.

In meeting this challenge, she pointed out, members chose 24 courses from among suggested college level courses offered by the group between February 1992 and September 1993 and developed their own syllabus, selected readings and shared the responsibility of presenting new material and leading discussions.

In addition, she stated, the membership served not only as the student body, but as faculty and administration as well; serving on committees, serving as coordinators or co-coordinators of study groups and doing research and giving group presentations.

"Each of you," she said, "has taken part in evolving protocols and procedures, setting standards in keeping with our ideals, and

has helped design a curriculum both challenging and inviting. Three quarters of you came new to the OMNILORE challenge, and over the past year and a half been working to acquire the creative skills necessary to enable each and every member to fully participate in the self-directed learning institute."

Where do we go from here?

--According to President Allen, we need to: determine our optimum membership size and to improve our new-member orientation procedures; to help one another improve the quality of our presentations as well as hone our discussion skills; to continue work on creating and streamlining administrative protocols; to enhance the camaraderie of our community by providing more opportunities to share experiences with members of other groups; to expand our social programs; and to offer more informal group excursions to theater, concerts, museums and the like. In addition, she pointed out, we need to find appropriate ways to deepen our relationship with the university. With that in mind, she concluded, we hope to offer some colloquia next year on topics of interest to our general membership.

JOHNNY APPLESEED FUND NEEDS YOUR HELP

When OMNILORE began its successful start here just two years ago this Spring, much of the credit for helping it get started went to the Elderhostel Institute Network, whose Johnny Appleseed Fund was set up to help institutes for learning in retirement nationwide.

Comprised of 20,000 members in 130 Institutes for Learning in Retirement, the Institute serves as a vehicle to insure that the movement thrives and grows. In addition to providing assistance to organizations in the formation stage, the institute helps established groups such as ours to exchange ideas through its Network News and through State and Regional conferences. It also sponsors study/travel programs such as the recent study tour of Rome in which five of our OMNILORE members participated.

In order to continue serving the needs of persons interested in learning in retirement, the Elderhostel Institute Network needs continued support. You will probably have received a letter from the Johnny Appleseed Fund by now. Please contribute what you are able to when you receive their request. Should you wish to contribute at any time, you may mail contributions to:

THE ELDERHOSTEL INSTITUTE NETWORK, 125 Technology Drive, Durham, N.H. 03824. For additional information, you can call (603) 862-0725.

CONTRIBUTORS' CORNER

The following limerick was contributed by last summer's study-discussion group on humor as a light hearted tribute to OMNILORE:

*There once was a guy who retired
Yet found life wasn't all he desired.
He wished there were more,
So he joined OMNILORE.
He's reborn to the extent he required.*

Preesenting...



Three new OMNILORE members have joined our ranks this Spring.

Lucy Coffman
Patricia Curtis
Sarah Dittrich
Dick Hughes
Robert Lerner

John Vehrencamp

Welcome to OMNILORE!

OmniLore News.

Comments and input can be sent to

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Who Decides Which Study Topics Will be Offered?

Editorial by Ray Allen
Curriculum Committee Chair

Who decides which study group topics will be selected for classes? Who decides on who will be in which classes? The answer to each of these questions is simple: YOU decide! Individually and collectively, YOU decide!

At the beginning of each term each member is requested to submit proposals for Study/Discussion topics; this is your opportunity. What subject have you always wanted to learn more about? Something as remote as the Incas of Peru, or as near at hand as folk remedies passed down in your own family? You need only to state the title of you topic and briefly describe how you think your study group might approach the subject. It is important to recommend a pertinent reading source, and if possible, a "core" reading to cover eight to ten sessions. Try to make your topic seem as appealing as possible; it will be competing with others.

When your topic is listed (as it will be), it is offered as a possible course of study to all members for the upcoming term. If enough members select the topic (usually a minimum of seven or eight members), then the topic is offered. The only other thing which may determine your taking the subject would be a conflict with your schedule. this circumstance arises only rarely.

In a few instances classes have been over subscribed. In a class of more than sixteen or seventeen members, it is difficult to find time enough for each member to give a presentation. With this number of participants, it is generally better to divide the class into two smaller groups.

The study topic listings are distributed with the accompanying registration form. You are requested to designate your first, second and third choices for the topic offered. This is because at least one third of the courses in the listing will not attract enough members for the group to succeed. Thus some member will be assigned to classes of second or third choice. Only once has a member failed to get their first, second or third choice. In that instance the three topics chosen were not offered as courses.

OMNILORE PROFILES

Lillian Toscas

Lillian Toscas had to make the biggest decision of her life at the age of 21. Born in Detroit, Michigan, but living in Coatbridge, Scotland from infancy, she was advised by the American consulate in Scotland at age 21 that she could no longer continue to hold dual citizenship; the time had come to decide whether she opted for American or Scottish citizenship.

It wasn't an easy choice. She had led an idyllic childhood in Coatbridge, just 30 miles from Edinburgh and 15 miles from Glasgow. Her parents had supplemented her excellent academic education with a love of books, music and rich conversation in the home, frequent visits to the Carnegie Library, the art museum in Glasgow



The committee has strictly held to the policy of offering only those Study/Discussion topics suggested by the members. This is a critical point. The committee does not select what they (or anyone higher) think would be interesting or beneficial. The S/D Topics must come from the membership at large. The impressive quality, range and diversity of subjects offered thus far is proof that this is a superior way to determine curriculum. Finally, listed subjects which do not gain enough subscribers are not offered again unless they are specifically requested. Occasionally requests are received for a course to be repeated. Of course, then, it is re-listed with the notation that it is being repeated.

Curriculum committee members from Learning in Retirement Institutes from over the U.S. strongly emphasize that the curriculum must originate from the members, and that high quality study-discussion sessions must also originate from, and be maintained by the members. Individually and collectively, THIS IS YOU!

and Sunday symphony concerts. The ballet, theater and piano, elocution and singing lessons rounded out the lush cultural environment which had represented her Scottish upbringing. By the time she was 21 she had completed high school, had taken a college preparatory program at a convent school, and had tried her hand at office work.

All through her childhood her mother had raised her with a love of the United States. Frequent visits from an aunt and uncle from Connecticut had reinforced that love. So when the time came for her to make her big decisions, Lillian chose to claim her birthright as an American, kissed her family good-bye, and took off for Connecticut where she spent her first few months in this country with her aunt and uncle.

When she moved to Pasadena to live with other relatives she took a position in a brokerage house and met and married George Toscas, editor of the magazine "International Photographer" which deals with film and video techniques. (Currently, George also serves as assistant to the president of the Cinematographers Union.)

After marrying George, Lillian lived in West Hollywood and Beverly Hills before buying a house in Torrance in 1961. Lillian worked for the Bank of America in Beverly Hills before settling down to a full time homemaking and motherhood. While her two daughters were growing up, Lillian was involved as a volunteer tutor at St. Lawrence School. She enrolled in El Camino College and went on to Cal State Long Beach to pursue a liberal arts major with an emphasis on literature, graduating with a 3.9 grade point average.

Her volunteer stint at tutoring served as a springboard for her decision to pursue a teaching credential in secondary English. She served as a full time substitute at Bishop Montgomery and as a substitute for the Torrance Unified School District before retiring. Currently her hobbies are reading, piano, embroidery, crossword puzzles and volunteer work at school.

CALENDAR

January 13	Board of Directors Meeting
January 14	Fall Session Ends
January 15	Martin Luther King Birthday
January 17	Spring Session Begins
February 10	Deadline for Summer Study/Discussion Topic Suggestions
February 10	Board of Directors Meeting
February 15	Deadline for March Newsletter
March 14-25	Distribution of Summer Study/Discussion Ballots and Registration Forms
March 24	Board of Directors Meeting
March 27	Passover



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