



# OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 1

January 2002

## OMNILORE NEWS

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

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Diana Cutler  
Bette Henning

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

Editor	Ronnie Saunders
Staff Members	Diana Cutler Peggy Houghton Carol Kerster Bob Saunders

## STEM CELL RESEARCH TO BE TOPIC OF JANUARY 30TH FORUM

Dr. Carol Ann Itatani, award-winning professor of microbiology at California State University, Long Beach, will be guest speaker at an *Omnilore* forum luncheon to be held Wednesday, January 30th, at the Los Verdes Country Club, 7000 W. Los Verdes Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes at 11:30 a.m.

Her topic will be *Stem Cells: Modern Miracle or Moral Menace?* Her talk will probe the basics of what stem cells are, their potential uses and ethics involved in their use and application.

Author of two books and several articles in publications dealing with stem cell research, Dr. Itatani holds awards for Meritorious Performance and Professional Promise as well as Outstanding Teacher and Faculty Member.

Cost of the luncheon will be \$15. Reservation deadline is January 21st.

A reservation form is on page 5 of this newsletter. Checks should be made out to CSUDH and sent with the form to: Forum Committee, c/o Diana Cutler, 10 Middleridge Lane S., Rolling Hills, CA 90274. Checks/forms can also be placed in the Forum Committee's box in the classroom.

The menu will include salad and rolls, Santa Maria tri-tip (marinated, broiled and served with barbeque sauce), vegetables and roasted potatoes, desert and beverages. Vegetarian plates are available on request. To order a vegetarian plate, please call Diana Cutler (310) 541-8973 or Betty Henning (310) 373-1015.

Directions to the country club will be sent with a flyer to be mailed in early January.

## Information Meeting Planned for Prospective Members By Patricia Edie

Share your experience!

Plans are underway for an Information Meeting (Open House) to be held at Torrance Library in early February, date to be determined.

Begin thinking of those among your acquaintances who might enjoy sharing in our continued learning as an *Omnilore* member. *Omnilore* statistics show that a large percentage of our new members come to us through member referral. The Information Meeting is an opportunity to hear a brief explanation of our program, interact with some current *Omnilore* members, ask questions and even sign up on the spot should they choose to do so.

Specific date and time information will be announced by the study/discussion group coordinators at class meetings in January. If you want more information, please call Patricia Edie at (310) 822-8549.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

By Blanche Herring

You all have my lovely setting, with a provocative appreciation and gratitude for the confidence you've expressed by electing me this year's president, and it was with your encouragement that I began what looks like an exciting and busy year. My thanks to each of you for your continuing support. Needless to say, following **Emil Raulin** and the presidents who preceded him, will be a challenge. The standard they have set is high. It's my hope that I've learned from these stellar lights and perhaps can put some of what I've gleaned to good use. We'll see.

These first several weeks of the *Omniole* Board have been stimulating, to say the least. Our team of officers has come together with energetic enthusiasm. A great beginning for the 2001-2002 term! Everyone seems to have hit the ground running: Plans are under way for a provocative Forum season; the Curriculum Committee has provided us with our Spring Study/Discussion Group schedules and they've already held Think Tank III; coordinators are in place for our new trimester; plans are underway by the Membership Committee for a New Member Information session; and you have just received your first *Omniole* Newsletter for 2002! All of this seems to happen quite magically, doesn't it? But have you considered just how these activities actually come about? Ever wonder what goes on behind the scenes? Who makes it all happen? Most of what we see are the results: A Forum luncheon in a

lovely setting, with a provocative speaker; a well-ordered schedule of Study/Discussion Groups where each of us, more often than not, is given our top choices; coordinators who appear at our first S/DG meeting prepared to help the process run smoothly. And how about the *Omniole* Newsletter which arrives like clockwork six times a year!

The ease with which things just seem to happen is deceptive. It becomes easy to take for granted all that makes *Omniole* so special. I did just that until my curiosity led me to exploring some of what I considered mysterious. My sojourn began when I joined the Communications Committee. Then I tried my hand at coordinating my first S/DG. From there I found myself attending more events: an Orientation, a Think Tank; a Coordinator's Workshop. Every time I participated, I learned a little more about *Omniole* and the outstanding people who make up our organization. In the business world, they'd be known as the Movers and Shakers. It was amazing to me to observe firsthand some of the many tasks it takes to put together a project which, on the surface, seems to magically materialize.

For those who might not yet know how our curriculum topics get chosen, what has to happen before a new member information or orientation meeting is held, what it takes to put together a Forum, how to coordinate

or what the process is for putting out an *Omniole* newsletter, I invite you to start discovering how it all gets done: Contact a committee chairperson and sit in on one of their meetings; offer to help with a mailing; or attend an event and help at the door. There are dozens of magic tricks that eventually evolve into the wonderful *Omniole* experience. Imagination is something *Omniole* have plenty of, so think up a way to uncover some of the seemingly magical happenings of *Omniole*. You'll be amazed at what you'll learn, and better still, you'll have a great time doing it!



When I accepted the nomination, I heard comments from many of you. One which stands out in my mind is, "What got into you?" I've had some time to think about that, and realize that I've reaped numerous benefits from my association with *Omniole*, and that it's now time to give something back. Many have paraphrased Saint Francis of Assisi, so why should I be any different in saying I'm still gaining far more than I'm giving. You, too, can enjoy such benefits.

Again, you're invited to find out for yourself about some of the magic that makes *Omniole* tick. You'll be amazed at what you'll learn and what you'll gain from the experience. Of course, you'll see that it really isn't magic after all, but the work of energetic dedicated *Omniole* who make it all happen.

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**Classroom Hearing Enhancement Offered!**

Do you sometimes have trouble hearing presentations?

If you've found the sound level in our classroom to be too low, it can be enhanced by using a **Sonic Earz** amplifier. The Board has purchased two of these devices which may be borrowed by signing for use in meetings held at the Franklin Center.

These sound enhancement devices are stored on the top shelf in the equipment cabinet located in Room 7. All you need to do is return them to that cabinet after each use.

**Post-Holiday Resolutions**

It is manifest that many fast  
To offset excesses of past repasts  
The ghost of pastries past  
Can last and last and last.

Greg Vore



Time To Remember . . .

Do you know any *Omniole* in need of cheering up? Let **Nancy Shannon-Sinclair** know, and she will send a get-well card or extend our sympathy to families of bereaved. You can reach Nancy by phone at (310) 513-0287, or by e-mail at NancySincl@aol.com.

## OMNIOLORE PROFILE – GRANT LANEY, CURRICULUM CHAIRMAN

When Grant Laney was a little boy growing up in Phoenix, Arizona, there was a pretty little girl, Patti, living across the street; but they never met. Through the years their parents met frequently at the home of mutual friends; but Grant and Patti never crossed paths. It wasn't until he was a student at Arizona State University that Grant's fraternity brother introduced him to a couple who turned out to be Patti's parents—and Grant finally met Patti. After working together for a couple of years on a committee arranging the college's annual homecoming dance, Grant Laney and Patti Boerger fell in love, became engaged, and set a wedding date for December 1955.

Wedding plans were put on hold when upon graduation in June 1955 Grant, who had served in the ROTC at college, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force. After working a summer job with a surveying crew for an engineering firm, he was called to active duty that September. While serving in Korea, Grant courted Patti by phone, rescheduled the wedding for October 6, 1956, and completed wedding plans by telephone.

The wedding took place while he was on leave between assignments. The newlyweds bought a new green and white Chevy Bel Air and drove across the country to Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Florida on the Gulf Coast. The first of their four children was born there. Upon his release from military service in August, 1957 the Laney's drove to Los Angeles County where they stayed with Patti's brother's family while Grant, who had a B.A. degree in mathematics, looked for a job in software programming in the aircraft industry. He was hired by Douglas Aircraft which was located at the time in their original hangar on the grounds of Santa Monica Airport.

During the four years that he worked at Douglas, Grant—who had taken no computer science courses in college—received on-the-job computer training during the day and studied electronics engineering at night. After receiving the equivalent of a bachelors degree in electronic engineering and passing the graduate record exam, Grant began taking graduate courses in electronic engineering—only to discover that he actually preferred programming to

engineering. He worked in programming in various capacities from the fall of 1957 through the summer of 1998 when he retired from N.C.R.

In their retirement, Grant and Patti (a retired teacher) have been volunteer tutors at a Catholic school in Watts. Patti tutors grades K-1 and Grant tutors upper grade math. In addition, he tutors private students in math.

In 1976 Grant and Patti participated in a marriage encounter weekend. After the weekend ended, the Laney's were invited to conduct marriage encounter weekends. Together with a priest and two other couples, they conducted 50 marriage encounter weekends until the early nineties.

After purchasing a new piano a couple of years ago, Grant began practicing the Rachmoninoff second concerto in preparation to play the piano solo accompaniment to an orchestra recording on special CD's called Music Minus One.

The Laney's have four grown children—two sons and two daughters.

A book should serve as the ax for the frozen sea within us. *Franz Kafka*

### Hats Off To Walter!

Long overdue kudos go to **Walter Skiba** who has been responsible for picking up and delivering *Omniole* mail for the past three years. In addition, he served as distributor of the *Omniole* newsletter for several years, and has been *Omniole's* resident carpenter and handyman. Every *Omniorian* has profited from his labors.

### Discount Offered Omniorians

Robin Elder, the guest speaker at *Omniole's* annual meeting on Halloween, is offering a 10% discount to all members who visit her shop, *Accessories to Murder*, 903 Pacific Coast Highway, Redondo Beach.

This charming store features an array of mystery books as well as gift suggestions and decorative pieces.

*Bette Henning*



Hail and Farewell  
*By Hal Fenton*  
**My brother was born five years before  
 But I am older than he.  
 He came on wings of the searching sun,  
 Fingers tearing the dawn.  
 He left on wings that were man-made things,  
 Though his day had just begun.  
 Shall I come to you with a new thought  
 Talk of the snow on the sand.  
 Of stars in the sea, rocks in the sky,  
 And what is to come after we die.  
 Shall I tell of the tumbling tear,  
 Of spirals that perpetuate,  
 Of the day when I was allowed to see,  
 A picture of infinity.  
 These things he and I knew,  
 We learned them together.  
 But now I am older than he,  
 And I no longer know.**

**Formula For The Forum**  
By Bette Henning

It's like planning a wedding four times a year!

When *Omniole* members come to a Forum Luncheon to enjoy the meal, chat with friends and listen to a stimulating, knowledgeable, provocative speaker, they have little insight into the amount of planning involved. It seems to run almost effortlessly—outside of a minor complaint like food temperature or a big head in front of you when you're trying to view the podium. However, planning for an afternoon is started months before the event.

At a meeting of the seven-member Forum Committee, dates are set with class schedules in mind, to incur the least amount of regular meeting dates. The co-chairs then meet with the Catering Department of the luncheon site to set the dates, menus—and even color themes for the linens. In fact, at this writing, the dates and menus have been tentatively set for the whole year.

Since the speaker is the focal point of the

luncheon meeting, finding the right speaker is the most important task. The committee seeks to have a balance of subjects (the “one-from-column ‘A’”, “one-from-column ‘B’” premise) with an eye to satisfying the varied interests and leanings of *Omniole* people.

Then comes the “detective work,” finding someone who knows someone to fill the bill. The phone calls can be myriad!

Having found the right speaker, agreed on a time, thrust of subject and honorarium, the publicity begins. Flyers are designed and printed and mailed out. Information is disseminated to the newsletter and newspapers.

The actual luncheon itself requires purchasing and executing decorations, serving at registration tables and handling the last-minute ombudsman incidents that occur. When it's over, committee members heave a sigh—for in a week or two the next luncheon looms near!

**Roster Change**

Grace Gregory's phone number  
Should read: (310) 891-3647

Peggy Houghton's phone number  
Should read: (562) 997-1943

**Spelling Corrections**

Joanne Page  
Myron Pullen and Jalé Pullen  
Arthur Wertheim

**Welcome Our New Members!**

**Marie-France Brush**

904 Camino Real—#102  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277  
(310) 316-8804  
mariefrance@zernet.net

**Jean De Angelis**

1620—23rd Street  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
(310) 545-7536  
SignoraJ@aol.com

**Sheila Hoff**

28205 Ambergate Drive  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275  
(310) 377-7668

**Frank Ludwig**

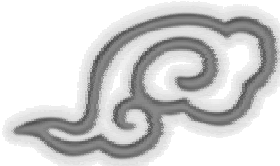
29443 Whitley Collins  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274  
(310) 377-4989  
JoLudwig@home.com

**Stuart L. Watson**

1110 S. Catalina Avenue #303  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277-4936  
(310) 316-1366  
SWatson830@aol.com

**Nature**

By Hal Fenton



The ocean laughs when the wind goes wild,  
It will show its teeth and roar.  
The beaches grin as the waves creep in,  
And over and back for more.

The sky will chuckle, when huge dark clouds  
Try to cover its view,  
It shouts and shakes and cries for joy.  
Till the clouds run off, and all is new.



In the New Year, may your right hand  
always be stretched out in friendship,  
but never in want. *Irish Toast*



**Which New Year Will You Celebrate?**

You can make your choice among:

- 2002 For Christians
- 1423 For Moslems
- 2547 For Buddhists
- 4639 If you are in China
- 2053 If you are in Nepal
- 5763 If you are in Israel
- 1924 If you are in Bali



OMNIOLORE  
CALENDAR  
2002

January	1	<b>New Year's Day</b>
	2	Start of Spring Trimester
	3	Forum Committee - 12:00 Noon
	8	Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m.
	9	Curriculum Committee Meeting - 12:00 Noon
	10	Board of Directors Meeting - 12:00 Noon
	18	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
	30	Winter Forum
February	4	Forum Committee Meeting - 12:00 Noon
	12	Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m.
	14	Board of Directors Meeting - 12:00 Noon
	15	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
	15	Input Deadline for Next Newsletter
	18	<b>President's Day</b>



IMPORTANT

Please Note: Calendar changes and additions may be made in one of two ways:  
Either phone George Clark to reserve a room, or mark the corkboard calendar in  
Room 7 and notify George Clark via e-mail.

George Clark's contact information: (310) 546-2343 – GLCSr@aol.com

Caretaker

By Colleen Welch

Whose garden,  
Blossom, bloom and bud?  
Whose this beauty  
That I care for like a child,  
Tend, feed and water, trim and scold about  
Bad friends, (the weeds).  
I say it's mine  
And sometimes share  
Its bounty with my home  
And neighbors.  
But when I'm in the garden  
On my knees,  
Surrounded by its beauty,  
Oh, I know  
Whose Place it is.



Chess Club Goes Dark

As of December 1st, the *Omniole* Chess Club has cancelled meetings at the Franklin Center location due to low attendance. Thanks to those who enjoyed the past chess challenges from **Mary O'Neill**, coordinator.



**OMNIOLORE Luncheon Forum Reservation Form**

WHEN: Wednesday, January 30th. 2002 – 11:30

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

Reservations are  
required by January 21st,  
please!

Please make \_\_\_ reservations for the **Omniole** Luncheon-Forum:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

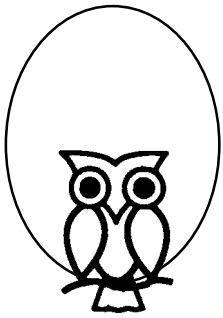
\_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

**Luncheon Is \$15 Apiece**

Enclosed is a check for:  \$15  Other

Please make checks out to **CSUDH**,  
and put in the Forum Committee's  
box or send to:

Forum Committee, c/o Diana Cutler  
10 Middleridge Lane S.  
Rolling Hills, CA 90274



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