



# OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 4

July 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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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

## SUMMER FORUM SET FOR JULY 31ST

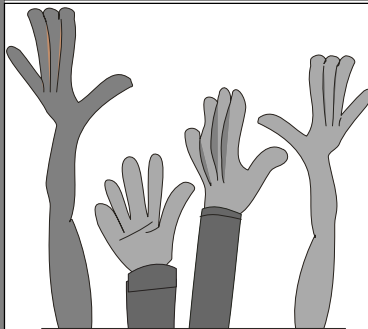
By Bette Henning and Diana Cutler

Two divergent religious advocates will weigh controversy and agreement in the issues of church and state in a forum on the topic *Government Vs. God?* - scheduled for Wednesday, July 31st, at the Las Verdes Country Club.

Speakers will be Rev. Alfred J. N. Henriksen, minister for 24 years of Pacific Unitarian Church, Rancho Palos Verdes, now retired, and Glenn A. Peterson, past chairman of the Citizenship Ministry for Rolling Hills Covenant Church, and proponent of "self-government in Christ."

Reservations are currently being accepted for the 11:30 event. The afternoon will include a full luncheon for \$15 per person, speakers and a question and answer period. Please fill out the reservation form on page 5 of this newsletter.

If you have any questions, please call **Diana Cutler** at 541-8973 or **Bette Henning** at 373-1015.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Expert in Computer Technology

**Wanted:**

Person with ability to create *Omnilore* Website

**Contact:**

**George Clark**—546-2343

### Volunteer Liaison

**Wanted:**

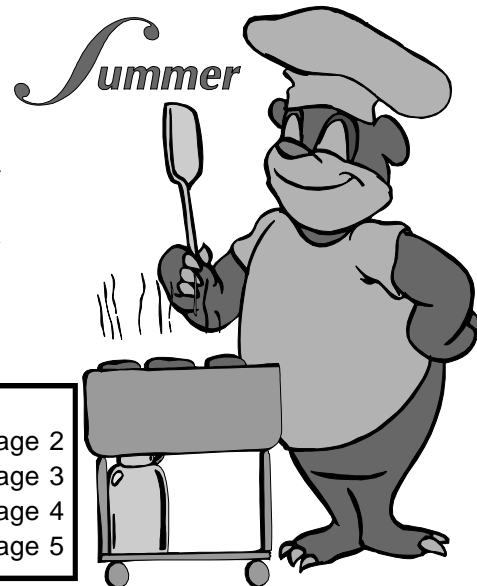
Someone to coordinate volunteers with *Omnilore* volunteer opportunities.

**Contact:**

**Blanche Herring**—212-5980

### Ideas Needed for Future Forums

The Forum Committee would be pleased to receive any suggestions from members for topics and/or speakers for future forum dates. Please send your ideas to the Forum Committee, OMNILORE, PMB 236, P. O. Box 7000, Redondo Beach, CA 90277-8710 or put in the Forum Committee box at Franklin Center.



### DON'T MISS — IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ President's Message Page 2
- ◆ Profile — Marie-France Brush Page 3
- ◆ The Mouse Hole Page 4
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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

By Blanche Herring

Recently when I had a call from one of our members saying he wanted to help in whatever way he could, I was once again reminded of just how special *Omnio* people are. While we're still working out the details, I know this new volunteer will become involved in a project of membership. This is not the first time I'd heard from *Omnio* friends saying they wanted to help. I've accepted their offers gratefully, knowing that without such assistance, our organization could not survive.

A few years ago, during a George Bernard Shaw study/discussion group, I came across a quote of his which I find quite relevant. Shaw said, "Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got a hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations." I do believe we all hold a splendid torch and that it is up to each of us to let it burn brightly. One of the ways in which we can do this is by sharing with others our gifts of time and energy, supporting each other by supporting *Omnio*, from which we gain so much.

As you know, we have a Board of Directors as well as Committee Chairs and committee members, all of whom handle various *Omnio* functions.

(While Board members are elected and Chairs are appointed, they are nonetheless volunteer positions.) But do you know about all the other volunteers who deal with many of the day-to-day issues essential to keeping our organization running smoothly? For example, are you aware that we have a Registrar, an *Omnio* Archivist and a Mail Distributor? We also have an Office Manager and a Member Liaison. If you investigate, you'll learn that some of these people are doing more than one job. In another article in this issue you can read about the responsibilities of these positions, as well as who is currently doing this important work for all of us.

Our membership has a number of others who give of themselves, beyond those listed above. We have sharers of all types: those who create with their computers, providing us with various materials for distribution; there are those who offer their manual skills to improve our equipment and our facilities; others provide technical expertise to assist those of us less inclined in that direction; we have those who mentor, making newcomers as well as longtime members more comfortable in their experience of *Omnio*. We have volunteers who see a need and, without being asked, quietly take care of it. Each *Omnio* project must be supported by people who are willing to share their knowledge and their skills and do what it takes to see that activity succeed. We have a core

group of such generous people in *Omnio*, people who are always available to support an endeavor. However, I'm convinced that there are others who have yet to share their time, energy and talents.



Being a volunteer is usually interesting, often enlightening, occasionally frustrating, and almost always satisfying. There are many ways to participate: you can join a committee; help with a mailing; assist someone who hasn't yet discovered that presentations are not only enriching, but can also be fun. How about trying your hand at coordinating a S/DG, or volunteering to be a co-coordinator? What about accepting nomination for a Board position, or agreeing to be a committee Chair? These are only a few of the many ways to join the volunteer force that keeps *Omnio* the exceptional organization we all enjoy.

Find a project that you can relate to; one where you can share yourself in whatever way works for you. Then speak to a Board member, or someone connected to that activity to see how you can contribute.

Volunteering will reap great benefits for yourself, as well as for others. Let your torch burn brightly as you discover the real joy of giving, and the wonder of sharing for the betterment of all concerned.



**Membership Update**

Please add the following new members to your roster:

**Patricia Bowdey** - 377-8757  
6 Surrey Lane  
Rancho Palos Verdes 90275-5258

✕  
**Leila Jennings** - 534-0810  
3116 Singingwood Drive  
Torrance, CA 90505

leilad8@yahoo.com

✕  
**Jim Jetton, Jr.** - 541-8418  
26964 Bolan Lane  
Palos Verdes Pen., CA 90274

JamesJetton@cox.net

✕  
**Charles Weiss** 372-4846  
123 S. Catalina Avenue—#118  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

The following are new or changed e-mail addresses:

**Sheila Banken:** PVGlen.Sheila@cox.net

**Jay Belsky:** toosisdad@cox.net

**Joseph Gross:** GrossJoe\_144@yahoo.com

**Sheila Hoff:** choff74523@aol.com

**Manuela Matute:** ManuelaMatute@aol.com

**OMNIOLORE PROFILE – MARIE-FRANCE BRUSH**

Born in France in December 1940, Marie-France Brush was the daughter of a Parisian grocer. Her earliest memories are of seeing well-dressed German officers throughout the occupied city and learning the German language as a pre-schooler listening to the radio. There was no French spoken on the official radio waves at the time of the occupation. She never forgot the sound of the explosion when the Germans bombed Citroen, across the River Seine from the apartment she and her family lived in.

Whenever there was an air raid alert she went with her family to the basement (which her neighbors called The Cave) until the all-clear sounded. The twelve families occupying the apartment house raised rabbits and grew potatoes in the cave to feed themselves when food was in short supply.

One day the Resistance blew up a German bus and German soldiers responded by lining up French passersby to shoot them. Marie-France had been lined up with her family, but when the commanding office looked at her blond braids, he said, "Don't execute that family. That little girl is German."

When Marie-France was five years old the war ended. American soldiers walked into Paris and distributed cigarettes and Wonder bread. When she approached a kind-looking American G.I. and asked him for chewing gum, he gave her a soldier doll instead.

To celebrate the liberation, every French household dyed a sheet blue, white and

red - the French colors - and hung it out the window to symbolize the French flag.

When Marie-France enrolled in the first grade, she attended a private school where she met an English girl, Jacqui, who did not speak French. They shared a croissant and began a friendship which has lasted a lifetime.

After attending both public and private schools, Marie-France transferred to Molier Lycee where she learned English. Following graduation from a private high school, she attended a technical college to train as a bi-lingual executive secretary. Upon graduating, she went to England for six months to become fluent in English.

When she returned to Paris she went to work for Sud Aviation which built the Caravelle, a precursor of the Concorde, as an executive secretary and translated communications from Douglas which purchased 300 Caravelles from Sud Aviation.

Six months after marrying Gerhard Finkenbeiner, a German engineer and inventor in Paris, she moved to the United States where her husband went to work for Itek in Lexington, MA. The couple lived in Bedford and had three sons. Her husband later did scientific glass blowing for Brandeis University while starting his own company.

In 1967 Marie-France went to work for Coolidge Bank in Cambridge as a new account executive. Four years later she divorced her husband.

Marie-France married Bernard Brush, a project manager for Raytheon in 1973, and moved with him the following year to Orange, CA.

In 1986 Marie-France went to work for Columbia Savings which was located in Newport Beach at the time. She left three years later to take a job as a new account representative for Great American Savings. Two years later Great American was purchased by Wells Fargo and Marie-France was promoted to the position of personal banking officer in the Balboa Island branch.

Her husband, Bernie, died in 1991. Marie-France remained with Wells Fargo until 1995 at which time she retired and moved to Northern California with her significant other. After leaving her companion, she returned to Southern California in 2000, moved into a condo in Redondo Beach, and began a career as a grandmother to four children in Torrance and three in Pennsylvania.

She joined *Omniole* last year and has been involved with the *Omniole* Hiking Club ever since. In addition, she is a member of the Sierra Club and enjoys traveling.

When 9/11 broke out, she was in the midst of a four-month trip to Europe, and although she was scheduled to return to the States on September 13th, she was unable to fly back until September 24th.

This extended stay in Scotland occurred in the midst of her first reunion with her first-grade English friend, Jacqui, with whom she was visiting for the first time in half a century.

**In Memorium**

Condolences to *Omniole* member **Midge Solomon**, whose husband, Fred, died June 13th of a massive heart attack.

Condolences also to former *Omniorian* **Etta Tourkin** whose husband, Bernard, died of a heart attack on May 25th. Etta's current address is:

4934 Lassen Drive  
Oceanside, CA 92056

**Others  
In Need  
Of  
Cheering Up?**



**Do you know of any *Omniorians* in need of cheering up? If so, 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 at 513-0287, or by e-mail at NANCYSincl@aol.com**

**Tell a Friend . . .**

If you know people who are looking for intellectual stimulation and enjoy provocative discussion, invite them to *Omniole*'s upcoming Information Meeting:

**Wednesday, August 7, 2002  
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Franklin Center—Room 7  
850 Inglewood Avenue  
Redondo Beach**

Any questions should be directed to Patricia Edie — 822-8549.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

By Blanche Herring & Carol Johnson

**E**ver wonder how some things in *Omnilore* just seem to happen and who actually *makes* them happen? Read on.

*Omnilore*'s Registrar, **Carol Johnson**, is one of those who helps keep our organization humming. New and Continuing Membership forms, along with accompanying checks are sent directly to Carol. She retains information for *Omnilore* records, then passes the originals to our Treasurer. It's Carol who sees that new members are "put into the system" and that continuing members stay there. She creates and maintains the *Omnilore* Membership Roster, providing periodic updates which include changes and additions. So, when you move to another residence, change your e-mail address or get a new phone number, Carol is the person to notify. In addition, Carol supplies the name cards for our Study/Discussion Groups (S/DGs). When members join late, coordinators should contact her for additional cards. These are but a few of the tasks done by our Registrar. To learn more, take a look at the complete description of this position in the *Omnilore* Notebook which is mentioned at the end of this article.

**Carol Johnson** also holds the position of *Omnilore*'s Virtual Office Manager. Her vast knowledge of computer technology serves us well. She provides computer expertise as necessary, such as preparing phone or e-mail address lists for S/DGs. She is also involved in the distribution of course selection results.

*Omnilore* Archivist **Bob Saunders** is responsible for the permanent record of our history. As you can imagine, this is a continually evolving job. Bob collects minutes of Board meetings, *Omnilore* News issues and various other pertinent materials which tell the story of *Omnilore*. He maintains these records, housed in the file cabinet of Room 7 at the Franklin Center. So, if you want to review minutes of a past Board meeting, learn what S/DGs were held during a particular year, or discover who was on the Membership Roster at a given time, this is where that information is held.

**Ross Harrington** is the person who sees that *Omnilore*'s mail gets to the Franklin Center. He periodically checks our post office box in Redondo Beach and brings the correspondence to the center for distribution. Those wanting to know more about *Omnilore* often send their inquiries by mail, so processing this and other materials in a timely manner is important to the smooth-running operation of our organization.

Brochures and flyers are distributed to libraries and other organizations throughout the area. This results in phone inquiries for more information about *Omnilore*. Member Liaison, **Edith Garvey**, responds to these calls, answering questions and providing materials to potential new members. You'll recognize that Edith also holds the position of Head Coordinator, another busy *Omnilore* job.

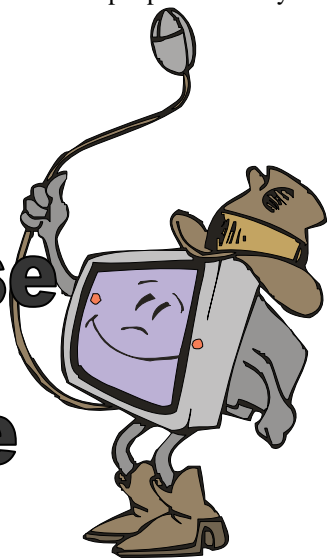
The details of these positions have only been briefly touched upon here. You can learn more about these and other jobs and those who do them, by looking through the reference copy of the *Omnilore* Notebook retained in the main closet of Room 7. You'll learn more about what some *Omnilorians* are doing. You'll discover what it takes to keep our organization running smoothly and the number of people necessary to do just that.

## Sick of SPAM? By Ginger Engstrom

There are few things you can do personally to help end junk-mail pollution. You should report all abuses to your ISP and reporting services like Spam Cop ([www.spamcop.net](http://www.spamcop.net)). On AOL just open the mail and forward it to [TOSSpam@aol.com](mailto:TOSSpam@aol.com). You can also go to "mail controls" and block e-mail from individuals and domain names. But if you block a domain name, such as one at yahoo.com, then you won't receive e-mail from anyone at Yahoo. If you use Outlook Express, you can try using the filters in "Message Rules." One tip may be to block mail that has "unsubscribe" in the message. While you're at it, you may want to add things like "porn," "hardcore," "xxx," "\$\$\$," and "One hundred percent guaranteed" so you can eliminate those possibilities too. Yahoo Mail, Juno and Hotmail have similar options. If you frequent newsgroups, include the words "deleteme" in your address, as in [uftcomdep@aoldeleteme.com](mailto:uftcomdep@aoldeleteme.com), when you sign up. Automated e-mail address harvesters won't be able to recognize the error, but individuals who want to contact you will notice the obvious deception.

Another option is downloading or purchasing third-party software. Products like Spam Hater (free download), Spam Killer, Inbox Protector and Spam Assassin, which work with POPS mail clients, like Outlook and Eudora. One interesting free product is Sneakmail (<http://sneakmail.com>), which allows you to create fake or disposable e-mail addresses that are aliases of your real one. Any responses you receive would go to the alias and then be routed to your actual address, so that the spammers won't know where you really hang your hat. Spam Motel ([www.spammotel.com](http://www.spammotel.com)). *Continued on Page 5*

# The Mouse Hole



*It has been suggested that since a preponderance of *Omnilorians* have computers, it might be timely to have a column in the newsletter pertaining to handy hints to improving computer usage. The Mouse Hole is our answer to this request. Our first contribution, *Sick of Spam?* by Ginger Engstrom follows.*

**PURSUIT OF WISDOM**

Little did **Sam Rifman** and **Alfred Bernstein** realize when they enrolled in the study/discussion group Pursuit of Wisdom that a presentation by one of their classmates would result in a life-altering experience that has been enriching their lives for the past few months . . . Here in their own words is what happened.

**Pursuit of Wisdom Pays Off!**

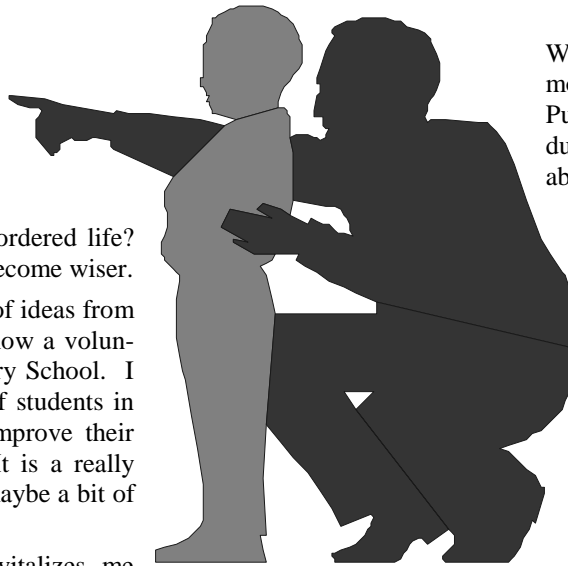
By Alfred Bernstein

By Sam Rifman

The goal of the Pursuit of Wisdom study/discussion group was “To appreciate and understand wisdom and apply these concepts to one’s own life.” Who would have thought that an old curmudgeon like myself could change his well-ordered life? I proved that it is never too late to become wiser.

Well, it happened as a direct result of ideas from my fellow group members. I am now a volunteer tutor in the WALTERIA Elementary School. I help individual and small groups of students in the first through third grades to improve their skills in reading and arithmetic. It is a really rewarding experience for me, and maybe a bit of help for the children.

The spontaneity of the children vitalizes me every time I tutor. Some children have even shown progress in their endeavors. My life has gained greater purpose and my heart is fuller.



What a surprise it was for me to find more than I was looking for in the S/DG Pursuit of Wisdom. Alfred and I learned during one class from **Naomi Cosgrove** about the opportunity to be a child advocate—but it didn’t work out. What did work out was a lead to RSVP, the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program. The helpful staff identified an opportunity for me to participate in a math clinic at Hermosa Valley. As a retired engineer, this seemed perfect.

But what was even better than playing a small role in assisting 6-8th graders with their math problems was the wonderful reward I got one day. One little girl asked me if it

was true I wasn’t being paid to help out. I told her I wasn’t being paid, but if she gave me a smile I would consider it reward enough. And so she gave me the most glorious smile anyone could hope to receive in this lifetime, a moment I will never forget! And so my pursuit of wisdom led me to a reward no dollar amount could ever encompass. Maybe others will find their payoff—as I found mine!

It’s hard to believe that there was a time when clothing and music were handed down to the next generation!

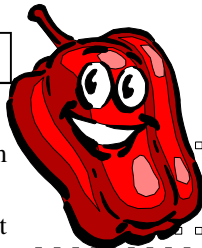
**Sick of SPAM?**

*Continued from Page 4*

com) is a similar product where spam checks in and never checks out.

You can also learn all there is about spam and how to trace who is actually sending you the unwanted e-mail. (See Death to Spam at [www.mindworkshop.com/alchemy/nospam.html](http://www.mindworkshop.com/alchemy/nospam.html)). If you receive spam that contains a web address, you can track the owner of that address at [www.netsol.com/cgi-bin/whois/whois](http://www.netsol.com/cgi-bin/whois/whois). Typing in the domain name without the www will obtain the name, address and telephone number of the owner. You also can support the fight against junk e-mail by visiting CAUCE, The Coalition Against Unsolicited Commercial Email ([www.cauce.org](http://www.cauce.org)) that is lobbying hard to outlaw spam.

*Editor’s Note: If you have suggestions for future subjects for THE MOUSE HOLE, please contact Ronnie Saunders at [Rsaunders@socal.rr.com](mailto:Rsaunders@socal.rr.com).*



**OMNIOLORE Luncheon Forum Reservation Form**

WHEN: Wednesday, July 31st, 2002 – 11:30 a.m.

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

*Reservations are required by July 23rd, please!*

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the **Omniole** Luncheon Forum at \$15 each:

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

Enclosed is a check for:  \$15  Other

Please make checks out to **CSUDH**, Forum Committee, c/o Diana Cutler and put in the Forum Committee’s 10 Middleridge Lane S. box or send to: Rolling Hills, CA 90274

## OMNIOLORE CALENDAR

### 2002

July	1	Forum Committee Meeting - 11:45 a.m.
	4	<b>Independence Day</b>
	9	Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m.
	11	Board of Directors Meeting - 12:00 Noon to 2
	19	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
	23	Forum Registration Due

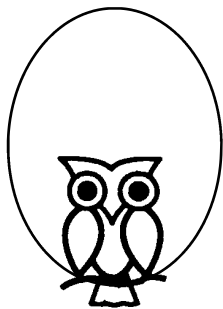
August	5	Forum Committee Meeting - 11:45 a.m.
	7	Information Meeting for Perspective Members - 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
	8	Board of Directors Meeting - 12:00 Noon to 2
	13	Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m.
	15	Input Deadline for September Newsletter
	16	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.



#### 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



**Omniole, CSUDH**  
**Division of Extended Education**  
**PMB 236**  
**P.O. Box 7000**  
**Redondo Beach, Ca. 90277-8710**