



# OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 3

May 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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*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
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## OMNILORE FORUMS

By Diana and Burt Cutler

**F**orums add an extra flavor to our standard study-discussion (S/DG) format. It took awhile for *Omnilore* to establish this extra flavor. During the first year, 1990, with a maximum of 12 members all energy was focused on efforts to find a place to meet and develop our program; first in members' homes, then in various libraries, then for a year in an S&L Boardroom (when there was no conflict with S&L board meetings), and finally at the Redondo Beach Community Center when we allied with CSUDH.

At about that time we instituted 'Colloquiums,' where invited speakers came to lecture every three or four months. These were usually held at 10:00 a.m. in the P.V. Library Community Room, the seating arranged in rows as per normal lectures. The 25-40 attendees devoured coffee/tea and cookies—but hey, it was free!

Four years ago while some of our board members were visiting with nearby Learning-in-Retirement organizations, we heard from SAGE (Cal State Northridge) that they had recently changed their colloquium-equivalent to a luncheon format.... The improved ambience and social interactions immediately attracted two-three times the audience.

Sounded good to us. We tried it, and sure enough we have since become accustomed to attendance of 80-110 members and friends. (It really is wonderful to occasionally copy the development of fire rather than having to invent it all over again!) We also changed the name to 'Forum' at that time since everyone had difficulty pronouncing colloquium. Our Forums are a great opportunity for members to chat with the many friends that they may not see in their S/DGs during the year.

As the importance of the Forum activity became more and more obvious, our by-laws were changed to include the Forum Chair as a member of the *Omnilore* Board.

In previous Forums we've heard speakers discuss subjects from science to geography to art history to music to politics, etc., etc. In our August Forum two guest speakers will discuss the separation of church and state. So save the date for this provocative program on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Details of speakers and subject, reservation form and luncheon fare will be in your next newsletter.

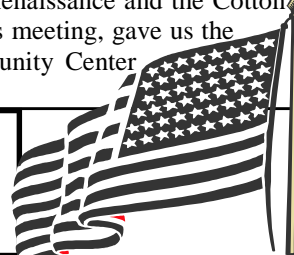
Meanwhile, the Forum Committee is always open to suggestions of both new subjects and interesting speakers. If you have any suggestions, please either call

### An Evening with Langston Hughes

Those of us who attended the excellent lectures at CSUDH as a part of the *Omnilore* program received a university newsletter that told about an *Evening with Langston Hughes* on April 4th. Eight of us enjoyed the presentation that included poetry readings, a Jubilee chorus singing some of Hughes' poetry that has been set to music, speakers who were knowledgeable about the life of this poet, and a look back with an extraordinary vocalist from the Harlem Renaissance and the Cotton Club. Our thanks to the fine people who organized this meeting, gave us the information and shared the evening at Carson Community Center with us.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

By Blanche Herring

In my first two newsletter messages since taking office, I have talked about ways in which I see *Omnio-lore* as being such an exceptional organization and I've spoken about what makes it so notable. This quality of being special is reflected in a number of ways, among which is the Study/Discussion Group (S/DG). I've been thinking about some of the advantages we enjoy through this form of learning. You will no doubt think of many more, but here are a few that come to mind.

The first advantage I see in *Omnio-lore* is the Presentation, which provides us the opportunity to share our research and observations with others. You may recall I likened this to a gift of time and knowledge we give each other.

Another advantage to our organization is that we don't take tests. Because of this, we don't always need to study material which has only one answer or conclusion to be drawn. Since we're not being graded, we have the wonderful opportunity to study open-ended issues which may have no pat answer or readily apparent solutions, or no solution at all. Such study promotes the "discussion"

aspect of our format, and allows us to stretch our minds beyond that of merely memorizing facts in order to pass a test. This manner of learning was part of the approach to success in education espoused by William Glasser, M.D. in his 1969 book, *Schools Without Failure*.

Another plus to the S/DG is that the format in which we study allows us to research and discuss several disciplines in a single session. For example, in a recent meeting eight of us talked about New York City: its history, its architecture and its immigrant population. Needless to say, this discussion was multi-faceted and very lively. We each left with a great deal to mull over.

Yet another advantage to the S/DG is that we select our own curriculum. This allows us to include current subjects as well as a variety of other topics. The assortment of topics we study is so diverse that no matter our academic background, we are linked by mutual interest and we all benefit from the experience.

Another benefit I see in the S/DG is that we have the opportunity to learn in a seminar-type environment which is something not ordinarily found in

undergraduate college work. Also, we enjoy the obvious advantage of learning in a relaxed situation because we don't deal with the competition or attendant stress which comes from exam-taking.



As I see it, the greatest benefit we realize from our S/DGs is that we learn and grow in an environment rich with new ideas and stimulating discussion. These enable us to keep our minds active, expand our thinking and stretch our imaginations and ability to think through complex subjects, all the while extending our knowledge by frequently touching on subjects we might not otherwise have come across.

Studies have shown that keeping the mind active is a good prescription for a productive life, especially for those in their so-called "retirement" years. All one needs to do is look at *Omnio-lore* members to prove these studies true. Someone once wrote, "The primary purpose of a liberal education is to make one's mind a pleasant place to spend one's time." Certainly, we in *Omnio-lore* have been blessed with a most pleasant place to spend our time!

**Hooray For Coordinators!**

By Edith Garvey

The spring trimester has just finished, and weren't we lucky to have such great coordinators as **Enid and George Muse, Edith Van Bellehem and Ed Rea?** What would we have done without our fine volunteers, **Patricia and Jay Edie, Dan Stern, Diana Cutler and Michael Scordan?** **Hal Fenton, Bob Saunders, Jim O'Neill and Terry Savage** did their usual excellent work. We couldn't have our S/D groups without the likes of **Myrna Browning, Emil Raulin, Elaine and Robert Grove, and Sam Feinstein.** Our thanks go to the dynamic leadership of **Les Berg, Estelle Feinstein, Dorothy Fahrney, Marilyn Denno, Alfred Bernstein and Manuela Matute.** Last, but not least, we're grateful to **John Taber** for organizing the series of lectures at CSUDH.

If you were lucky enough to be in any of these groups, don't forget to say thanks to these coordinators who accepted their roles so willingly and gave their time so generously. *Omnio-lore* appreciates each of you!

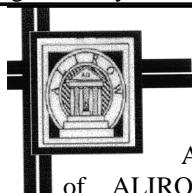
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**Computer Whiz**

Do you know your way around a computer? Would you like to see greater communication developed within *Omnio-lore*?

If you've answered "yes" to these questions, know how to build a website and are willing to develop one for *Omnio-lore*, contact **George Clark**, Vice President of Administration at GLCSr@aol.com.



**ALIROW  
News**

All affiliated members of ALIROW (Association of Learning In Retirement Organizations in the West) are invited to receive and

send information about ALIROW by subscribing to ALIROW@topics.com online. This is a free group with messages going to everyone on the subscription list.

To submit a message you must send an e-mail to:  
ALIROW-subscribe@topics.com

## OMNIOLORE PROFILE – TOM RISCHÉ

You can take the boy out of the classroom, but you can't take the classroom out of the boy! Or at least it would seem so for new *Omniorian* Tom Rische, former teacher and journalist, who retired from teaching for Torrance schools more than a decade ago but who has spent the past ten years writing a book on the history of the Torrance school district which will be published this summer.

Born in Lincoln, Nebraska 72 years ago, Tom is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Nebraska where he majored in journalism.

An only child, Tom was the son of a building supply salesman descended from a family of woodworkers who have made cabinets in Germany for hundreds of years.

While in junior high school, Tom and his parents spent two years in Clovis, New Mexico where the Nebraska boy underwent culture shock.

Tom got an early start in his journalism career in the fifth grade when he was elected editor of the school paper at Prescott Elementary School. For members of his family he spent his after-school hours putting out *The*

*Dribbleville Times*, in which he wrote humorous little stories reproduced with carbon paper copies for the limited circulation to relatives.

In high school Tom was editor of a joke column in the school paper, served on the annual staff, and was involved in drama.

During his college years he not only edited the college paper, but he also worked part-time for a local newspaper. Upon receiving a \$1,000 scholarship in his senior year he decided to head west where he enrolled at UCLA for a masters degree in history, joined the Theta Xi fraternity, and met Jerry, whom he married in 1956. He left UCLA to take a job on the *Torrance Herald*, a community weekly, as a general assignment reporter. He later became city editor.

Tom left the newspaper in 1958 when Dr. J. H. Hull, Torrance Superintendent of Schools, who had seen Tom cover board meetings for the local paper, offered him a job as information coordinator for the Torrance Unified School District. After remaining in the public relations job for three years, he began teaching journalism, sociology, English, history, and photography at South High School, Torrance, and studying for his teaching credential. He received his masters degree from USC in 1976 and later received his Ph D. in educational sociology. He taught from

1962 to 1985. All the while he was teaching he continued writing, and after he retired he did occasional free-lance articles for the *Daily Breeze* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

In addition to working on his book, Tom edits the *Retired Teachers Newsletter* for the South Bay Chapter of California Retired Teachers and a newsletter for a Los Angeles retired teachers' chapter. He also edited the newsletter of the Self-Esteem Task Force's Los Angeles County Chapter—a publication geared towards young people.

In addition to his writing activities, Tom has been involved in the Torrance Historical Society, served on the YMCA executive board, helped publicize the People for Parks campaign in Torrance, and was involved in community cable television.

He has been a life-long bicycle enthusiast and has taken bicycle trips in Russia, France and along the Danube.

He and his wife, Jerry, who also taught for the Torrance Unified School District, spent their summers traveling for many years. They have visited all 50 states and 50 countries outside the states.

Tom has one son, Bruce, 36, a computer trouble shooter whom local readers had the pleasure of reading about for several years in the *Torrance Herald* when Tom wrote a column called *Letters to My Son*.

### Membership Update

Please add the following new members to your roster:

**Sue Wortz** - 374-3250

1812 Harkness Street  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

**Roberta Carney** - 548-4213

27980 S. Western Avenue - #311  
San Pedro, CA 90732

The following are new or changed e-mail addresses:

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

**Burt & Diana Cutler:** burtc@cox.net

**Jay Edie:** JayEdie@attbi.com

**Patricia Edie:** JPEdie@attbi.com

**Dottie Fahrney:** Quixote204@cox.net

**Harold Fenton:** halfenton@juno.com

**Don McRell:** DMcRell@cox.net

**Frank Ludwig:** JoLudwig@cox.net

**Terry Savage:** terrysavage@cox.net

**Alan Scharff:** asscharff@cox.net

**Midge Solomon:** Midgegs@cox.net

Please delete the name of **Virginia Tracy** from your roster. **Sandy Felando** has an address correction:

153 Calle Mayor

### Elderhostel Charter Program

*By Edith Garvey*

I have just learned, through the Internet, of seven Elderhostel programs just for ILR (Institute for Learning in Retirement) members. *Omniole* is a part of ILR; therefore, our members are entitled to attend these charter programs.

Since these programs are designated for ILR only, you will be attending with others who belong to organizations such as *Omniole* throughout North America. You may learn more about the programs and how to register by visiting <http://eh.elderhostel.org/ein>.

One program that looks interesting is being offered in Savannah, GA from January 12-17, 2003 on the culture, history and architecture of this city as well as its participation in the Civil War. If you're interested in this program, there will be more information on the Internet and a chance to ask for more details. If you're not using a computer, call me (539-8839).

Remember that registration and transportation is up to each individual; *Omniole* is not sponsoring these programs. I'm passing along this information, as it might be of interest to some of you who enjoy Elderhostel.

OMNIOLORE  
CALENDAR

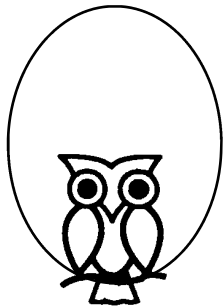
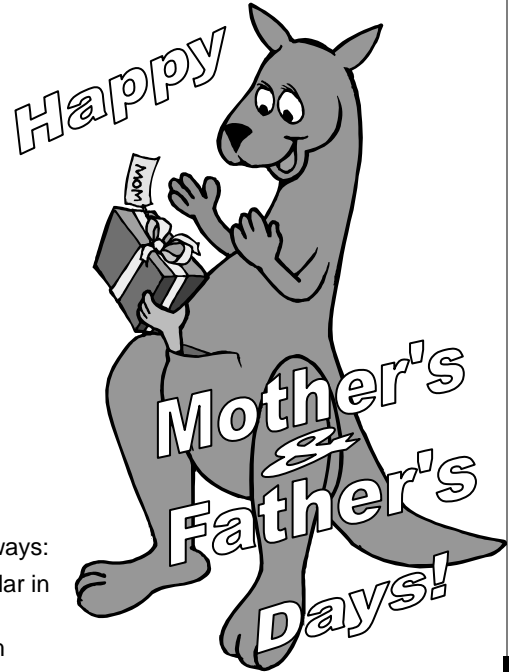
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May	1	<b>May Day</b>
	1	Spring Forum - 11:30 a.m.
	1	Summer Trimester Begins
	2	<b>National Day of Prayer</b>
	5	<b>Cinco de Mayo</b>
	6	Forum Committee Meeting - Cancelled
	9	Board of Directors Meeting - 12:00 Noon
	12	<b>Mother's Day</b>
	14	Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m.
	16	Think Tank, Room 8 - 10 a.m. to 12:30
	17	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
27	<b>Memorial Day</b>	
June	3	Forum Committee Meeting - 12:00 Noon
	11	Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m.
	13	Board of Directors Meeting - 12:00 Noon
	14	<b>Flag Day</b>
	15	Input Deadline for May Newsletter
	16	<b>Father'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



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