



OMNILORE NEWS



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May 2012

OLLI AT CSUDH OMNILORE

OMNILORE NEWS is a publication of OMNILORE, a Learning-in-Retirement Organization, a program of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the 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 Mary Golob
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“Genius of China” S/DG Visits The Chen Art Gallery

by Jim Slattery

Our spring trimester class: "The Genius of China: 3000 Years of Science, Discovery and Invention" visited the Chen gallery in Torrance. The Chen Art Gallery is a private, non-profit art museum built to exhibit the personal art collection of Dr. Tei Fu Chen, founder and chairman of Sunrider International. A world renowned herbalist and pharmacist, Dr. Chen devoted much of his passion over the past 25 years into amassing the finest private collections of Chinese art in the United States. Open to the public since December 2000, the Chen Art Gallery's collection is an impressive array of over 1000 artifacts spanning 5000 years of Chinese history from the earliest Neolithic Era pottery to Ming and Qing imperial palace collections. Permanent exhibit galleries include a display of an impressive Qing imperial throne room and an elegant Ming dynasty bedroom. In 2006, a changing exhibitions gallery was added to the museum to showcase Dr. Chen's recent acquisitions, delicate silk textiles, and scroll paintings. Tour information is available at www.chenartgallery.org



Theresa Yu, Jim Slattery, Debbie Davy (guest), Jade Neely, Mimi Lau, Mary Watson, Patricia Ellis (guest), John Vehrencamp, Tom Vincent, Denis Eggert, Cindy Eggert, Barbara Prassas, and Patricia Ialongo.

DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT*by Bill Gargaro*

Because it's May again, everything is bursting out with new growth, including opportunities for Omniloreans to participate in new forms of intellectual stimulation. I am referring specifically to the new Special Interest Group (SIG) that centers on Best Sellers. We have two ambitious members to thank for putting this together, Patricia Edie and Cindy Eggert. The response to this opportunity has been truly enthusiastic. This is such a great example of how to identify a need and form a SIG that I believe we should all consider our special interests and see if they are shared by others who would like to get together periodically to share both the interests and the stimulation that they would bring. For instance, all of us who have been abducted by aliens from outer space have many interesting experiences to share! Joking aside, this is a great way to extend the Omnilore experience; the facilities and equipment are often free and at the disposal of any SIG that

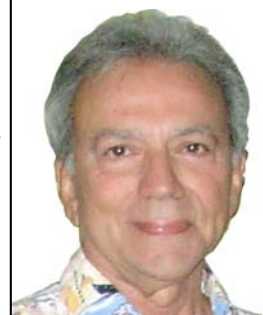
wants to take advantage of them.

I hope all of you Omniloreans are enrolled in all the classes (*aka* S/DGs) for the Summer trimester that you wanted. I also hope that many of you took a careful look at the registration process, which was a good first step to introduce a means of enrolling electronically, i.e., without requiring a printed catalogue of the course descriptions and offering a simple, electronic fill-in form for you to express your preferences, etc. This was just a first step, and a greatly improved means, based on the initial attempt, will be offered for enrolling for the Fall trimester. I am still promoting the idea of being as paperless and postage-less as possible to keep down our waste materials and to conserve our own (Omnilore) resources.

One of the features of our great website is the section on study/discussion group (S/DG) folders. This section has a

“folder” -- an electronic storage area – for each S/DG, to capture and keep all of the important data in an S/DG that members wish to save and share. Such a folder usually

contains the schedule, S/DG members' roster and contact information, and any electronic presentations from class time; these presentations are often created on PowerPoint or something similar, but the material could also be scanned-in text, pictures, etc., i.e., almost anything in a common electronic format. Utilizing and maintaining these folders is a great convenience for S/DG members, and I strongly encourage their use. There is almost always someone in the S/DG that knows how to transfer information into the folder, but, if not, there are instructions on the website itself. Also, many members can and will help, if asked.

**OLLI Summer Semester Events***by Jim Bouchard*

*Senior Program Development Specialist
Coordinator, Lifelong Learning, OLLI at CSUDH*



This summer will have some great OLLI courses and activities on campus at CSU Dominguez Hills. We will show 7 movies for the “My Favorite Movie” Series starting Wednesday, June 6. The OLLI Thursday morning book club read these books this spring and will view the films that were made from these books. The movies include “Alice Wonderland,” “The Help,” “The Good Earth” and “Imitation of Life” among others. The movies will be shown in the Extended Ed auditorium and will be followed by a discussion. This series is free to OLLI members and popcorn will be provided.

Macintosh instructor (and OLLI member), Bill Alexander, will continue with his Digital Photography classes. Bill will be taking new and past photography students on a field trip to photograph many familiar Los Angeles sites. Additionally, those who are interested can participate in downloading and touching-up photos in our Osher Mac Lab.

Emeritus faculty member Mary Cruise will lead a discussion group about “Astronomy.” Lectures that were recorded at the CSU Dominguez Hills television station will be viewed prior to the discussion.

And our CarFit event, which had been postponed this spring, will be held on June 22 from 9 am to noon. OLLI members must register to participate in this program, which was created in a joint effort by AAA and AARP and will be staffed by South Bay volunteers.

There are more courses and events—“How to Negotiate Anything” and “Personal Finance,” for instance. So, look for your OLLI catalogue in the mail in May.

I look forward to seeing everyone this summer!

The Next INTRODUCING OMNIOLORE MEETINGS: Help Spread the Word!

Tues. June 19th - Room 7

Tues. July 31st - Room 7



***Omniole News* Founder, Ronnie Saunders, Dies at 85** **Omniole's Lady of Letters Remembered**

For close to 67 years Ronnie has worn many hats in the field of journalism. She was a copy girl, a reporter, an editor, the Information Coordinator for the Torrance Schools, a FEMA information specialist, the public relations coordinator for various groups and finally the editor of the *Omniole News*.

"Ronnie and I met in 1992 when our first president, **Ethel Allen**, asked the two of us to start a newsletter for our fledgling organization," says fellow Omnioleian **Ginger Engstrom**. "Ronnie as editor responsible for most of the news gathering and writing; I as her assistant responsible for composition and final printing." Ronnie's prior experience as a journalist ensured that from the first the *Omniole News* would excel in quality and content.

Ronnie was born in 1926 in Brooklyn. She was first published at age 8 in the *Brooklyn Eagle* with poems and stories on the children's page. She entered Penn State at 16 and graduated at 19. Her first job was at the *Brooklyn Eagle* as a copy girl. She was considered too young to be a reporter (she was not yet 21). Ronnie stated that "This was an exciting time to be starting in the newspaper business; during this period Roosevelt died, the war ended and the country was changing."

Ronnie and Robert Saunders were married in 1946. After Bob's graduation in 1951, they moved to Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio where her first son Bobby was born. Ronnie became a stay-at-home mom but kept her hand in the business, writing an occasional column for the *Cuyahoga Falls News*. In 1954 they moved to San Diego, where her second son Randy was born. Relocating to the Los Angeles area and settling in Torrance in 1958, Ronnie worked for the *Torrance Herald* for over a year. She retired in 1960 to raise their children. At this time she became very active in the League of Women Voters doing PR for the local League. This activity led to many other jobs including some temporary stints on the *Daily Breeze* and as the *Torrance Press* Women's Editor. In 1963 she wrote the *History of Torrance*.

In 1964, all of this led to her dream job as the Information Coordinator for the Torrance Unified

School System. She ended up there for 19 years and "loved her job." She retired from this career in 1983. After that Ronnie did freelance PR work for the Little Company of Mary and served as a reservist for FEMA functioning on their disaster site PR staff, disseminating information on relief services available. Ronnie covered disasters throughout the country.

Ronnie was *Omniole* Communications Chairman from 1993-2004, serving on the Board of Directors with nine presidents. Her impact on the organization has been felt by all of us. Were you attracted to *Omniole* by the good press we received in the *LATimes* and the *Daily Breeze*? Ronnie was responsible for that great publicity.

Burt and Diana Cutler said, "The thing that makes a newsletter editor great is to insist on a byline for every contributor, and to change or edit as little as possible. Ronnie did this, and as a result, she put out a newsletter that was truly for and by the members of *Omniole*. She was the guiding hand that made our newsletter tops among the ones we received from other LIRs."

She retired as editor from the *Omniole News* in mid-2005 to attend to her increasing health issues. She passed away on April 1st due to complications of pneumonia as she was recovering from surgery after a fall that broke her hip. She died 11 days shy of her 86th birthday.

She loved *Omniole* because of the research, the people and the feeling she got that she was back in college. Ronnie has been quoted as saying that while "an Elderhostel is like a summer romance, *Omniole* is an ongoing love affair."



This tribute to Ronnie Saunders has been adapted from a profile written by Ginger Engstrom for the Omniole News in 2005 when Ronnie "retired" from active participation in Omniole.

In higher education circles today, discussion frequently centers on integrating “high impact practices” into the curriculum. This phrase refers to educational experiences, be they internships, study abroad or innovative programs that result in an observable transformation in performance and aspirations of students who participate.

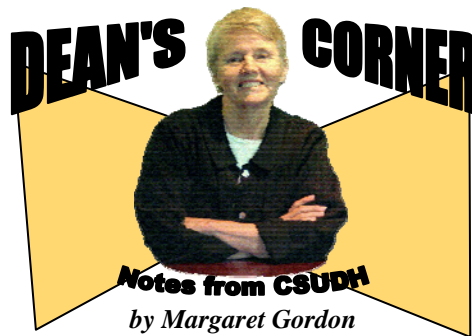
CSUDH OLLI is fortunate to have, as a cooperating partner, the Crenshaw High School Digital Media Team led by their instructor Ms. Daphne Bradford. As some of you know, Ms. Bradford and her high school student group have been teaching and tutoring OLLI members in how to use the Apple iLife suite of digital media products. Through a personal gift from Mr. Bernard Osher to the CSUDH OLLI, the OSHER Mac Lab in the Extended Education classroom building was dedicated in 2010. The intergenerational digital media workshops are held in the Osher Mac Lab each spring and fall.

This collaboration of high school student “experts” and OLLI learners highlights two high impact practices. Ms. Bradford and her Crenshaw High School Team of certified Apple digital media experts have established a vibrant intergenerational learning environment in the Osher Mac Lab. OLLI members are partnered with Crenshaw High tutors. The teenaged tutors are patient and supportive and the older adults are receptive and encouraged by a younger generation of media-savvy mentors. There is a high level of energy as the two groups connect and OLLI members create their photo albums and movies to share with friends and family. The experience connects generations, addresses the digital divide, and promotes civic engagement.

OLLI benefits from Ms. Bradford’s approach to teaching digital media technology and her dedication to her Digital Media Team. Their inspiring story is vividly



Daphne Bradford (standing left) observing Crenshaw High student (seated) advising OLLI member.



Dean, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
College of Extended & International Education
CSUDH

recorded in their book *Journey to the White House: An Education Blueprint for Change in Action*. *Journey* was written and produced by team members using new iBook software. Ms. Bradford and her Team tell stories about their road to a White House visit in a beautifully produced picture-book. *Journey to the White House* records how this group of teens, from a struggling south Los Angeles school, became “a shining example of what President Barack Obama’s Blueprint for Change in Education looks like” (Bradford, Forward). It is truly a feel-good read that shows how positive change can happen in high schools.

Journey is available for a donation at the web site of Daphne Bradford’s nonprofit organization <http://www.motherofmany.com/>

April Forum: The Future of Libraries

by Art Irizarry

Save Our Library signs may be a phenomenon of the moment, but not likely to be the future of libraries. Instead, libraries may rely on what Hollywood stars, homes and libraries of the past have done to remain viable - the makeover.

Addressing the Omnimoreans at the Spring Forum, Katherine Gould, director of the Palos Verdes Library District, said that she really did not have an answer as to what will be the future of libraries. But her presentation underscored her view, and the hope of many advocates, that libraries will continue their vital roles within communities, academia, and the corporate world.

Ms. Gould described how libraries initially had official, scholarly and religious functions as national, university and church-related institutions, but then took on civic and personal functions once Gutenberg made written works accessible. As a result, libraries became a resource for public education, economic development and individual growth. Ms. Gould mentioned that Benjamin Franklin created the first “social library,” a membership-based community entity which eventually transformed into rental and special interest group libraries, such as the Mechanics’ Institute of San Francisco. Such somewhat exclusive library services lost ground when the first public, tax-supported library was opened in Petersburg, New Hampshire in 1833 and the Boston Public Library became the first major urban setting library in 1854.

From then on, civic and private initiatives, such as Andrew Carnegie’s gifts and, currently, Bill Gates’ support, have made libraries an indispensable resource and helped them evolve into central institutions. Libraries have become intellectual and career development centers, social and recreational forces, cultural venues, as well as expanding their pedagogic, research and corporate roles.

Ms. Gould framed the possible future of libraries as an enhancement of their millennia-old heritage, adapted to meet new needs, tied to technological advancements, broadened to fill evolving functions, and accessible to all. She named core functions, such as preservation, access to information, self-enhancement at various levels, content creation, sharing of resources and the provision of shared space for individuals and the community as the components which make the library a basic tool, an essential institution now and for the future.

AED/CPR Training/ Certification Update

by Steve Miller

A hearty group of 15 Omniloreans met at 9:00 on Saturday, April 20, to take training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and the operation of our Automated External Defibrillator. Many of the group had taken this training two years ago when it was first offered after we acquired the AED, but for others it was their first exposure to CPR and AED operation.

Our instructor was again **Vince Dipane**, a Redondo Beach fireman and paramedic. He brought a training model of an AED and a manikin that each person used to practice CPR. He explained that the AED is used for two different heart arrhythmias. His thorough and interesting instruction left everyone more confident that they would be able to respond to this type of emergency. Omnilore has an AED in room 7 that would be used to restart a victim's heart after a heart attack.

In addition to the 15 members in the April training we have another 15 scheduled for AED/CPR training on May 31. Several others are on a waiting list and the Board may consider having a third training class. Obviously the more trained personnel we have the better chance we have to successfully respond to this type of emergency. Questions about the AED/CPR training may be directed to Steve Miller.

On a personal note, my wife Andrea and I spent three months in Arizona this winter where we played pickleball, a relatively new racket sport. During that period two players collapsed on the courts and their hearts stopped. Both were resuscitated by other players using CPR and an available AED. Both survived and according to knowledgeable observers likely would have died without this intervention. One player was 20(!) years old and the second was a 58 year old who had not yet started any vigorous play. So it does happen and it could happen at the Franklin Center.



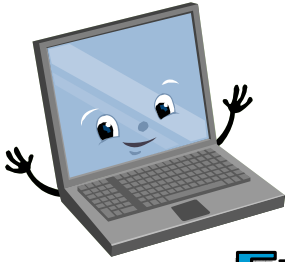
Judith Bayer, left, practices with Andrea Gargaro, with Gail Ruder observing. Connie Siegel stands in the background with Marcia and Al Kovalsky.



Vince monitors Steve Miller while Hal Hart, Marcia and Al Kovalsky, and Jim Slattery watch.



Vince ticks off relevant points while Bob Bragonier, Connie Siegel, Elayne Sidley, Steve Miller, and Mary Louise Mavian look on.

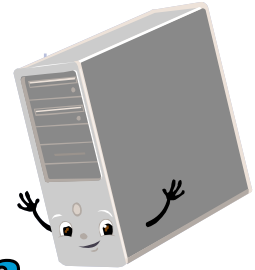


Computer Talks

May 24th - Noon to 1:00 - Room 7

Presented by Hal Hart (Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG)

Exploring Geocaching.com



May's Computer Talk will simultaneously explore the [Geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) website and cover some website browsing *tricks*.



Articles in the last July newsletter (http://omnilore.org/Information/Newsletters/News_July-Aug_11.pdf) and September's (http://omnilore.org/Information/Newsletters/News_Sept-Oct_11.pdf) introduced Omniloreans to the internet-based treasure hunting game named *Geocaching* where almost 2 million little containers are hidden all over the world, which can be located and found by use of a GPS or smartphone. Ruth and I are not the only Omniloreans who find the challenge of finding geocaches (*intellect required!*) -- and the modicum of physical activity needed for most finds -- is a wonderful addition to our notion of an active retirement; it is also an activity we can fit in on our travels around the country and the world. We've even started to hide some geocaches ourselves this year!

This computer talk will visit the website [Geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) which is the flywheel for the game. We will

- ➔ start by playing the 2-minute video introducing the game,
- ➔ learn how to register for a free account and about the different types of caches,
- ➔ do a web search for some nearby caches and research the history of other cachers seeking targeted caches,
- ➔ download cache coordinates to our GPS,
- ➔ explore web-based satellite mapping capabilities to assist searches,
- ➔ see how to *log* found caches, and
- ➔ be amazed at all the statistics the website calculates for you.

BLOG BLOG BLOG BLOG BLOG BLOG BLOG BLOG BLOG BLOG

June 28th - Noon to 1:00 - Room 7

Presented by Patricia Edie

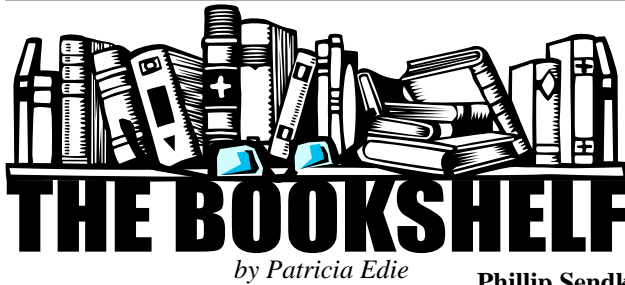
To Blog or Not To Blog...That is the Question

The Computer Talk for the month of June will focus on one of the creative outlets available to Omniloreans via the internet... Blogging! A blog is a web log, or an online public diary or journal that is written for others to read. Blogs are created for personal reasons, educational and informational reasons, business and corporate reasons. It used to be that you had to have a soapbox and an empty street corner to make your thoughts and opinions available to others. Now, in the comfort of their own

homes, bloggers are sharing writing, poetry, family stories, photographs, heavy-duty opinions and simple musings with family, friends and others who happen to stop by their blog.

Patricia Edie will cover the basics of how to explore this simple means of communication. Her hour-long presentation will cover what blogging is, why someone might want to blog, and how to create and update a simple blog.





by Patricia Edie

The following books are recommended by Omniloreans who found them worthwhile:

In the fiction realm:

The Odds: A Love Story by **Stewart O’Nan**. This is a marvelously original, bittersweet gem. Valentine’s weekend, Art and Marion Fowler flee their suburb for Niagara Falls, desperate to recoup their losses. Jobless, with their home approaching foreclosure and their marriage collapsing, they liquidate their savings and book a bridal suite at the ritziest casino for a second honeymoon. He has a "system" to win and recoup by risking it all at the roulette wheel. It’s a tender and honest exploration of faith, forgiveness and last chances.

The Expats by **Chris Pavone**. “This international thriller kept me frantically turning pages until the very end!” If you like to be swept along in an intricate plot

that continually reveals, this story of complex characters set in Luxembourg is the novel for you.

The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by **Jan-**

Phillip Sendker is a poignant love story set in Burma. When a respected New York attorney vanishes from a supposed business trip, his daughter travels to Burma to unravel the mystery. Written in a beautiful poetic style this novel has the right mix of romance, magic, heartache and inspiration.

Some non-fiction recommendations:

The Beginning of Infinity: Explanations that Transform the World by **David Deutsch**. Described as “a bold and all-embracing exploration of the nature and progress of knowledge,” the Omnilorean who recommended this book gives it a weighting of Brilliant - 75%, BS - 25%, claiming it is worth reading for the deep insights. It will cause you to ponder your worldview! From Physics to Philosophy to Politics and back, it is optimistic to the core.

Economics Does Not Lie: A Defense of the Free Market in a Time of Crisis by

Guy Sorman. In the 20th century, privatization and market capitalism have reconstructed Eastern Europe and lifted 800 million people - in China, Brazil, and India - out of poverty. In this book, noted French journalist Guy Sorman reveals that behind this unprecedented growth is not only the collapse of state socialism but also a scientific revolution in economics - one that is as of yet dimly understood by the public but increasingly embraced by policymakers around the globe.

Treat Me, Not My Age by **Mark Lachs, M.D.** is described as a must-have manual to take control of your health in a broken health-care system. Written by a well-known geriatrician, this book explains how to navigate the complex medical system to make the best decisions for yourself or a loved one. It sheds light through the cracks!

(Book suggestions from Omniloreans make this column work. Our thanks to **Jay Edie, Midge Solomon** and **Dan Stern** for contributing to our list. Please send your titles, with author name and a very brief description, to Patricia Edie, (jpedie@ca.rr.com). Please put "Omnilore Books" as the subject of your email. We look forward to hearing from you.)

WE’RE MOVING . . .

Marty and I would like to thank the members of Omnilore for eight years of thought-provoking discussions, stimulating presentations, and delightful Omniloreans. I know we learned so much from all the classes (S/DGs) we took. But we are moving to Rancho Bernardo (San Diego) and will not be able to commute to future classes. A million thanks to all of you for your friendships. I know we will miss Omnilore very much.

Pat Stevens

June Date Set for New “Introducing Omnilore” Meeting

by Linda Jenson

The Membership Committee has scheduled an *Introducing Omnilore* meeting for prospective members who may want to join *Omnilore* for the Fall trimester. The date is:

Tuesday, June 19th
10 a.m. at the Franklin Center in Room 7

Attendance at an *Introducing Omnilore* meeting is mandatory for new members, so please tell anyone you know who might be interested about this upcoming date. We know that most of our new members join as a result of referrals by current members. We have a wonderful organization with a great deal to offer, and classes that are very enjoyable and informative.

Help Spread the Word!



OMNILORE
CALENDAR
2012

- May**
- 1 Summer Trimester Begins
 - 5 **Cinco de Mayo**
 - 10 Board of Directors Meeting— 12 Noon - 2 p.m., Room 7
 - 13 **Mother's Day**
 - 18 Hiking Group—10 a.m.
 - 19 **Armed Forces Day**
 - 24 Computer Talk - 12 Noon - 1 p.m., Room 7
High-Tech Treasure Hunting - Hal Hart (see article page 6)
 - 28 **Memorial Day (observed)**
- June**
- 12 Membership Committee Meeting—12 Noon - 1 p.m., Room 7
 - 14 Board of Directors Meeting—12 Noon - 2 p.m., Room 7
 - 14 **Flag Day**
 - 15 Input Deadline for July-August 2012 Newsletter
 - 15 Hiking Group—10 a.m.
 - 17 **Father's Day**
 - 19 Introducing Omnilore—10 a.m. - 12 noon, Room 7
 - 21 **First Day of Summer**
 - 28 Computer Talk—12 Noon - 1 p.m., Room 7
To Blog or Not To Blog...That is the Question
- Patricia Edie (see article page 6)
- July**
- 31 Introducing Omnilore—10 a.m. - 12 noon, Room 7



2012 Forums

- Winter—January 30th
- Spring—April 30th
- Summer—July 30th
- Annual Mtg.—October 31st

IMPORTANT:

Calendar changes and additions
are scheduled with Lynn Taber
(310) 831-4768—johnlyntaber@gmail.com

In Memoriam

Will Graham



One of Omnilore's founding members, Will Graham, passed away last month just after celebrating his 96th birthday in March. Born in Buhl, Idaho, Will became a Southern Californian at the age of three, lived much of his life on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and spent 30 years working as a patent attorney for Northrop Grumman.

His survivors include his wife, Cecelia, also a recent Omnilorean, and a daughter. Will's first wife, Vi, a former Omnilorean, died suddenly while the couple was on a trip during the 1990s. He and Cecelia married in 2000.

Will was a popular Omnilorean whose colleagues enjoyed his wit and laughter.

**Omnilore Welcomes
New and Returning Members**

by Linda Jensen

WELCOME!

- | | |
|--|--|
| Barbara Brodsky
Redondo Beach | Joe Linkogle
Rancho Palos Verdes |
| Don & Sharon Childers
Redondo Beach | Sherry & Bill May
Palos Verdes Estates |
| Elyse Gura
Manhattan Beach | Paula Padilla
Redondo Beach |
| Beverly & John Janus
Manhattan Beach | Rita Schneider
Culver City |
| Tom Koehring
Palos Verdes Estates | Carol Simpson
Redondo Beach |

**Returning
Members**

- Harriet Apsel**
Torrance
- Dale Korman**
Torrance
- Ceil Woods**
Rancho Palos Verdes