



OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 2 Issue 4

AUGUST 1993

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

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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

200 PEOPLE ATTEND ALIROW CONFERENCE

More than 200 persons attended the recent ALIROW Conference and Elderhostel Institute Development Workshop at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove. In addition to representatives from the one hundred and eleven Western Regional institutes which currently comprise the Elderhostel Institute, members of 20 groups from the Southwest currently in the throes of organizing also attended.

Keynote speaker Marty Knowlton, co-founder of Elderhostel, who is currently starting a nationwide series of Centers for the Future (including one in Orange County and one at UCLA), discussed "Advanced Learning for the Retired Community — a Growing Need and a Valuable Resource." Knowlton pointed out that although our age group owns 85% of our nation's wealth, we do not have 85% control of it. He stated that not only does our generation need to take an active role in society's search for solutions to the problems of rapid change, but we also need to take an active interest in the next generation as well.

OMNILORE member John Taber co-chaired a conference on technology. Attendees stated that no Learning in Retirement group can function without a computer. They expressed interest in active telecommunication planning and tele-conferencing among LIRs via computers and Internet. The

group concluded that unless we are technology-literate, we will wind up in rocking chairs.

Ethel Allen, OMNILORE president, co-chaired a session on starting a Learning in Retirement group with Jim Verscheuren, director of Elderhostel Institute. Ethel pointed out that an LIR group succeeds in direct proportion to the involvement of the members. The success of OMNILORE, which had been pinpointed by the conference as a prototype for success in a newly formed group, is a direct outgrowth of both membership involvement in curriculum planning and the cooperative approach with the university, Allen stated.

Several of the meetings centered around curriculum. The thrust of these sessions was that curriculum planning is the heart of the program. Demonstrations of how to conduct successful discussion groups were held for training coordinators by members of the Plato Society. It was pointed out that the most dynamic activity occurs when members are actively involved.

Within days after the conclusion of the conference, President Allen received a letter from Jim Verschueren, director of Elderhostel Institute Network, congratulating OMNILORE on its truly remarkable accomplishments in such a short time. He stated that some of the groups investigating the Learning in Retirement concept will use OMNILORE as a model as they proceed.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - OCTOBER 28th ANNUAL MEETING

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! OMNILORE ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting will take place



Thursday, October 28th
at the Velvet Turtle
3201 W. Sepulveda Boulevard
Torrance, Ca.

Details and reservation forms will appear in the next issue of the OMNILORE News.

Mark the date on your calendar!

TRAINING SESSIONS TO BE HELD

Have you ever said to yourself "Some day I would like to be a coordinator"? And have you ever had second thoughts because you didn't know what it would entail or if you would be qualified?

Well, put your doubts aside. Open enrollment for would-be coordinators will get under way this fall with training sessions to be conducted by the curriculum committee.

If you would like to be a coordinator or would like further information about the coordinator's role, contact curriculum chairman Ray Allen, 373-7993.

REMEMBER

The more you become involved
the more you will get out of

OMNILORE

OmniLore News.

Comments and input can be sent to

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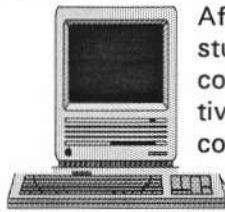
FALL TOPICS UNDER CONSIDERATION

As this issue of the OMNILORE newsletter goes to press, the curriculum committee is in the process of deciding which of the nine suggested study/discussion topics will be offered this fall. Descriptions of the nine candidate subjects have been distributed to the membership. In selecting the final topics the committee will consider both the number of persons interested in each topic and the amount of preparation that went into each proposed topic. The committee has pointed out that the more fully developed a proposal is, the more successful its outcome in the classroom will be.

The nine proposals under consideration are:

- ◆ Paradigms Lost : Images of Man in the Mirror of Science
- ◆ Nineteenth Century French Literature
- ◆ The Separate Republics of the Former U.S.S.R.
- ◆ Heroism in America
- ◆ A Brief History of Time
- ◆ Jane Austen
- ◆ China, Part I (prerequisite for a study/travel experience to be held in June 1994)
- ◆ Modern American Writers
- ◆ Wars of the Roses

OMNILORE PURCHASES COMPUTER



After months of studying various computer alternatives the OMNILORE computer committee has purchased a Macintosh Performa 430 desk-top computer. Serving on the Computer Committee which investigated equipment were John Taber, Peggy Houghton, Ethel Allen, and Ginger Engstrom.

The committee sought a computer which would interface with the equipment at Cal State Dominguez as well as one that would be easy for ALL members of OMNILORE to learn. Before making the final decision, they consulted consumer reports and computer journals. They compiled a list of our particular computer needs and discussed them with the experts in the South Bay Mac Users Groups (SBMUG).

The computer will initially be used to automate OMNILORE's record-keeping and communication tasks including the OMNILORE newsletter.

The Macintosh Performa 430 has

4 megabyte of memory, a 120 megabyte hard disk and is equipped with a 14" color monitor, 24 baud modem and a high quality ink jet printer. We currently have Claris Works installed which features a basic word processing program as well as spread sheet, data base and graphics capabilities.

The purchase price of \$2000 includes on-call assistance for the first year. Teresa Stevens of Dominguez Hills is currently installing the OMNILORE roster and other pertinent administrative records.

In the future, training sessions will be offered and the computer will be available for use by the membership. This will be an excellent opportunity for all of the OMNILORE membership to familiarize themselves with one of the more popular models of computers.

Look for further information on training classes and computer scheduling in future issues of the newsletter .

OMNIOLORE PROFILES

Margaret Koch

Born in Mainz, Germany, Margaret Koch was a teenager when the imminent approach of World War II turned her life around. She left her homeland and her parents in May, 1939 to head for England with a children's transport. A year later her parents escaped to the United States by way of Russia, Siberia, and Japan. They settled in Los Angeles in late 1940.

Margaret spent four years on her own in England, attending boarding school the first two years and then supporting herself after graduation as a secretary in Cheshire. She was reunited with her family in late 1943 in Los Angeles, and has lived here ever since.

Her secretarial experience stood her in good stead during her early years in her adopted country. During the four years prior to her first marriage, she was employed by the Camp Fire Girls of America and at Temple Sinai.

For a time Margaret was a full time housewife and mother, but when the youngest of her three children was two years old, she decided it was time to go to college. She received both her bachelors degree and masters degree at Cal State Northridge, where she specialized in counseling and guidance education.

While working on her advanced degree, she was employed by the Los Angeles Unified School District as a personnel analyst for non-teaching personnel. She later held positions in personnel selection and in writing grant applications. In addition she has authored a book on retirement.

Her retirement dinner in 1987 was a special occasion for more than one reason. In addition to receiving recognition for her service to Los Angeles Unified School District, it was also the occasion of her first date with Robert Koch, who is in the hearing

aid business. She married Robert in June, 1991.

Retirement life has been full for Margaret. In addition to playing the recorder in a group in Santa Monica, she is a board member for her condominium association, is engaged in T'ai Chi at Santa Monica Emeritus College, plays bridge, and is membership chairman for OMNIOLORE.

Grandparents to a total of eight grandchildren, the Kochs recently celebrated their second wedding anniversary by traveling to Portugal, Spain and France.

At the invitation of the city of Mainz, the pair will return to Margaret's birthplace this summer where she will join several of her former classmates (whom she has not seen since 1939) to discuss the Nazi era with German teachers, students and social scientists.

CALENDAR

August 19	Board of Directors Meeting
September 6	Labor Day
September 9	Board of Directors Meeting
September 20	Fall Study/Discussion Groups Begin
September 20	Deadline for for October Newsletter
October 7	Deadline for Spring Study/Discussion Topics Suggestions
October 7	Board of Directors Meeting
October 11-22	Distribution of Spring Ballots and Registration Forms
October 11	Publication of Agenda for Annual Meeting
October 28	Annual OMNIOLORE Meeting

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Warren Pietro will serve on the grand jury for the year which began July 1st. After he completes his year of duty, he will return to OMNIOLORE as an active member.



MEMBERS VOLUNTEER FOR COMMITTEES

Response to the request in last month's newsletter for volunteers to join the Communications Committee was most gratifying. Joining Ronnie Saunders and Ginger Engstrom, on the committee are: Vi Graham, Pat Greene, and Helen Malini.

POET TREE BEARS FRUIT

At the request of those who met for the first annual Poet Tree, your editor has been requested to include the following original poem in the hopes that members will be encouraged to contribute original poetry for inclusion in a Poet's Corner in future editions of the OMNILORE Newsletter.

WORD PAINTER'S SONG

by Ronnie Saunders

Would that I could paint with brush
A canvas image of sunset's blush —
Portray in oils the wealth of art
I've stored away within my heart.
If only I could with my hand
Show barren empty arid sand,
I'd paint for all the world to see
The best and worst I've stored in me.

—No artist I, I paint in word
All that I have seen and heard.

If all the music locked inside
Would burst right out — no longer hide —
Sweet unsung songs plucked on my harp
Would alternate with flat and sharp
Of piano tunes within my brain
Whose plaintive strains would soothe my pain.
But violin would be my choice
To best convey my heart's sad voice.

—Musician not, I use for bow
Mere words to strum of all I know.

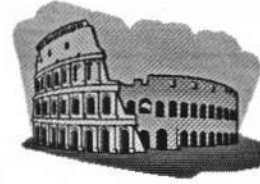
Would that I could show in dance
My heartfelt longing for romance —
On chisel harskly on some cold stone
My grief in knowing I'm not alone
In wanting somehow to express
My joys, my sorrows, brief happiness,
To share my moods in ways that try
To reach the hearts of those as I.

—Yet know I now, I can be heard
If I'll but wield my pen and word.

At last I know it's not the tool,
Or medium, or man-made rule
That counts when message must be said,
Or painted, danced, played, or read.
It's the sharing of the thought you've had
That makes it good — or makes it bad.

—Would that I may always share
The thoughts I have with those who care.

REPORT FROM ROME

Five
OMNILOREANS

who participated in the spring study -discussion group the Roman Way Part I completed their studies on a field trip to Rome conducted by the Elderhostel Institute June 21 through July 3.

Joining participants from five other Learning in Retirement groups from the United States were: Don and Loraine Nagy, Ray and Ethel Allen, and Joyce Loranger of OMNILORE. Their twenty-eight classmates represented Northwestern University, Illinois; Harvard University, Massachusetts; Dartmouth University, New Hampshire; Auburn University, Alabama; and the New School, New York.

During an intensive two-weeks devoted strictly to on-site study and field trips, the group studied Ancient Art, Early Christian and Medieval Art, Renaissance and Baroque Art and English and American Expatriate Writers in Rome.

Faculty members were not only outstanding in their expertise, but "erudite, enthusiastic, energetic, and stimulating" as well, according to the South Bay fivesome. The group was housed in a small hotel run by a monastery within sight of the Roman Forum, Circus Maximus, and the Palatine and Capitoline Hills.

The "OMNILORE Five" will report to OMNILORE members at an illustrated slide show and brown bag lunch meeting to be held during the next few weeks. Dates will be announced by study/discussion group coordinators.