



# OMNIOLORE NEWS

Volume 7 Issue 4

July 1998

## OMNIOLORE NEWS

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

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OmnioLore 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 |
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## CULTURAL VALUES EXPLORED AT COLLOQUIUM

by Lindie Banks



The dichotomy in cultural values between the United States and other countries was explored by Dr. Susan Fellows at the June 3 colloquium in a lively discussion with 35 Omnilorians whose enthusiasm was rewarded by a dividend of an extra half hour question and answer session with the university lecturer at the Palos Verdes Library.

Stressing that she would not label either our values or those of other countries good or bad, Dr. Fellows challenged the group to consider what is important to North Americans.

Topping the list was control of our environment as opposed to leaving the question of physical environment to fate and tradition. In addition, our culture values change, and places value on equality and egalitarianism as opposed to basing the social system on hierarchy and status. Whereas our country was founded on rebellion, other countries value conformity. And while we place a premium on individualism and privacy, others put the groups' welfare first. We are competitors while others are cooperators; and where we prize the concept of self-help, others rely on birthright, Dr. Fellows pointed out.

Dr. Fellows contrasted our tendency to directness with the Oriental tradition of saving face. In addition, she stated, we tend to be work-oriented while many cultures place an emphasis on simply "being." Whereas we value practicality and efficiency, others are more attuned to idealism and theory. Our society tends to be materialistic and acquisitive while other cultures are more detached and spiritual. We tend toward skepticism while other countries practice acceptance.

Understanding our values and those of other countries will help us to adjust and cooperate with each other in the new millennium, Dr. Fellows stated. In her view, it is more important to understand our own values before those of other countries. "It's going to be impossible to stay insular," she said, pointing out that we make a lot of assumptions in labeling people who are different from us. "Too many of us regard people who are different as dangerous," she stated.

In conclusion, Dr. Fellows recommended reading Miss Manners' Guide to the New Millennium.



... and a very special thanks to the colloquium chairman Patricia Morris and her hard working committee for this great program.

### DON'T MISS — IN THIS ISSUE

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## The President's Message

by Burt Cutler



We've reached the half-way point in the 1998 year, so this is a good time to take stock of Omnilore's

progress. The 1997 "revolution" was unfortunate, and it was clearly a misfortune that some of our hard-working '97 board members chose to resign. However, I'm pleased to report that the new Board of Directors has been equally hard-working and has accomplished much to be proud of.

1. As I earlier reported to you, the incoming Board was shocked to find that the prior budget plans used incorrect assumptions, and it was necessary to deeply cut back on planned expenditures. Among other things, we drastically cut back on secretarial services, which meant that many of these functions had to be picked up by the members themselves. I thank everyone who has contributed to those savings. It appears that we'll squeeze through the year with a slight positive balance. It will be better than the feared negative balance but will pale in comparison to the five thousand dollar surplus that we had just several years ago.

Early on the Board determined that an increase in member dues was inevitable, if just to make up for the increased percentage, though still moderate, taken by CSUDH. We waited until May to determine the increase; our membership fees are a function of our membership totals which had fallen for the first time in Omnilore's history. I'm pleased to advise you that our membership is now up considerably, at almost 150, and I believe that our numbers will be further increased by September, the beginning of our fall semester.

As a result of this increase in membership, our '99 dues will have to be raised only very slightly, to \$90 for singles and

\$150 for couples. This moderate increase still keeps us the bargain of the year; compared with our two sister groups, PLATO (at UCLA) at \$400/yr. and SAGE (at Cal State Northridge) at \$200/yr. for singles.

2. With input from our general membership, several rule changes have been made and previously announced, giving us some additional flexibility in types of Study-Discussion formats, in the size of groups, etc.

3. We're continuing efforts to get increasing ethnic representation in our membership. I've discussed this endeavor with a number of other LIR groups and find that we're not unique; every LIR bemoans that they have very few, or in some cases zero black, Hispanic or Asian members. Omnilore seems more dedicated than other groups to put effort into changing that situation. While our Board is out beating the bushes, the most likely success will stem from some of you inviting your ethnic friends, acquaintances—or strangers—to join our wonderful organization. I encourage you to continue to reach out for diversity.

4. Wouldn't it be great if we could improve the quality of our presentations by 5, 10, or 25%? With that goal in mind, Ginger Engstrom and Elyse Boozer have enlisted the support of Ralph Brown to put on a "Member Presentation Workshop". This will take place in August, coupled with our S/DG pre-meetings. Ralph has spent a good deal of his life helping hundreds of adult organizations to do educational training. I'm sure that everyone will get something of value from these sessions (see page 3). I know that after participating in 30 plus S/DGs I've been able to add some much-needed sparkle to my last several "turns" due to exposure to some of Ralph's thought processes and techniques. All of us can benefit by participating in these sessions. I guarantee that you'll be happy that you did.

5. We're planning to do a similar training program for Coordinators to assure that they have all the tools to do a better job.

6. One of our Board members, Merle Culbert, is busy coordinating with all the Officers and Committee Chairs to concisely but thoroughly describe in

writing how their offices function. This will ensure optimum efficiency as new officeholders come into their jobs.

7. Two other Board members, Al Scharff and Ralph Brown, are reviewing Omnilore By-Laws and Operating Rules, and comparing them to other LIRs. They expect to recommend changes next month. After review by the President and by our Advisory Council (past presidents), any changes approved by the Board will be presented for approval by the general membership at our annual meeting. If any of you have changes to recommend, please give these suggestions to either Al or Ralph.

8. Our Annual Meeting will take place October 22nd. Mark your calendars now. We look forward to seeing you there.

## IN MEMORIAM

Fred Kiefer, past president of Omnilore, died suddenly on June 24th. Fred along with his wife Muriel were members of Omnilore for many years. All of us have benefited from the tireless work that he put into the organization.

Born in New York City, Fred graduated from Regis High in New York City in 1939. He volunteered for military service in early 1943 and served in the South Pacific as first lieutenant with a B-29 heavy bombardment group. He graduated from City College of New York in 1949 and eventually received his masters of science degree in biology and physics from New York University.

The Kiefer family moved to California in 1965 where Fred worked with the Aerospace Corporation for 26 years until his retirement in 1991. Throughout his life Fred had been active in various community affairs; the Boy Scouts, League of Women Voters, the Human Relations Council and the United Nations Association.

A memorial service to celebrate Fred's life will be held in the near future.

## Fall Study/Discussion Groups Shaping Up

Omnilore members have selected the following twelve S/D Groups which will begin the week of September 14 and run to December 18. You will receive your S/D Group confirmation in the mail in the very near future. The Curriculum Committee works hard to match everyone with their first choice. If you did not get your first choice it is either because less than eight members opted to take the class and it was dropped or you indicated on the form that you would not be available to take the class on the day and time when it was ultimately scheduled. If you have any questions about the curriculum or your registration please contact Jim O'Neill at 539-0415. The current schedule of S/D Groups is as follows:

| Name  | Time                     |
|---|--------------------------|
| The Forefront of Biology                        | 2nd & 4th Tuesday p.m.   |
| Clothes, The Mirror of History                  | 1st & 3rd Monday p.m.    |
| Europe - From the Dark Ages to World Domination | 1st & 3rd Tuesday p.m.   |
| Eyewitness to History                           | 2nd & 4th Monday a.m.    |
| A World of Ideas Part II                        | 1st & 3rd Thursday p.m.  |
| Indigenous Peoples of the World                 | 2nd & 4th Tuesday a.m.   |
| The History of Medicine                         | 1st & 3rd Wednesday p.m. |
| Contemporary Western Philosophy                 | 2nd & 4th Wednesday p.m. |
| The Plays of George Bernard Shaw                | 2nd & 4th Wednesday a.m. |
| Understanding the Stock Market                  | 1st & 3rd Wednesday a.m. |
| Famous Women                                    | 2nd & 4th Thursday a.m.  |
| Creative Writing                                | 2nd & 4th Monday p.m.    |

**FALL KICK-OFF MEETINGS TO BE HELD  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26th**

**THANK YOU!**

On August 26th Elyse Boozer, head coordinator, and the coordinators for the fall study/discussion groups will hold two kick-off meetings at the Peninsula Center Library, 650 Deep Valley Drive in Palos Verdes. These meetings will consist of the normal pre-meetings that most coordinators hold, coupled with a Member Presentation Workshop run by Ralph Brown.

Ralph, who many of you have already seen in action, will share with us a number of his techniques on how to enhance our presentation skills and make our hour or two "on the stand" more informative and fun. Recognizing that the purpose of our presentations is to stimulate the exchange of ideas through enlightened discussions, he will explore with us a number of alternative ways to run our discussion groups. Every one of you, new and long term members, those of us with sweaty palms and seasoned professionals, will come away with some nugget of an idea that will ease the challenge of putting together a well organized, interesting presentation.

The first session, which will include approximately half of our S/D Groups, will run from 9 a.m. to noon and the second one from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. After Ralph's talk and a few words from our fearless leader, each S/D group will break off with their Coordinators and hold their pre-meeting to allow everyone to get acquainted and discuss the scope of their class. You will be notified by your coordinator whether your S/D Group will attend the morning or afternoon session.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE NAMED!**

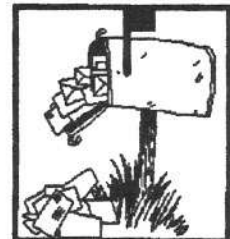
Ginger Engstrom has been named chairman of the nominating committee for the 1998-99 slate of officers. Serving with her on the committee will be Emil Rawlin and Vi Graham. Elections will take place at the annual meeting



The Curriculum Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank all those who submitted study topic suggestions for the fall semester. More than 50 were submitted. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.** Submit suggestions any time to Jim O'Neill, curriculum chairman.

**Omnilore News**

Comments and input can be sent to



**OMNILORE CSUDH**  
P.O. Box 7000-236  
Redondo Beach, Ca. 90277  
Phone (310) 540-6011



## OMNIOLORE PROFILE RUTH MONEY

When Ruth and Lloyd Money returned to California in 1985 to make the South Bay their permanent home after stints in Washington, D.C. and Paris, France, Ruth became involved in furthering her understanding of infant and family development. She enrolled in an intensive course at Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena where she studied under Magda Gerber, well-known infant therapist and specialist. As a result Ruth became very interested in the new phenomenon of people putting infants in child care centers. She was particularly drawn to the philosophy of respect for infants combined with a means of giving individual care to infants in a group setting which had been worked out by Hungarian pediatrician Dr. Emmi Pikler.

After becoming a consultant on infant child care centers, Ruth founded the South Bay Infant Care Center in Redondo Beach in 1988 as a demonstration program for this philosophy of respect. The non-profit organization, which was in operation until 1988, began caring for children at the age of three months and had the same caregiver stay with the infants for the next two years. One caregiver was involved

with each group of four children. In addition to providing child care, the center provided educational and networking support services for the families involved. Ruth set up an accreditation program for RIE (Resource for Infant Educators)-accredited centers based on what enrollees learned at the South Bay Infant Center. (RIE is the non-profit group developed by Magda Gerber.)

Ruth currently teaches at RIE headquarters in Silver Lake and conducts in-service training for employee-sponsored groups that provide infant programs. She conducts parent/infant observation classes and classes for professionals in infant development and care. In addition she is currently coordinating publication of a book for RIE based on Magda Gerber's writings and edited by another associate.

What did Texas-born Ruth do before she branched off into her infant-respect specialty?

The week after she graduated from Rice University in Houston, where she had majored in pre-med, she married Lloyd Money, who was teaching at the university. As his career took off, she accompanied

him to Washington, D.C., Houston, California and Paris. She became the mother of three children, became involved in nursery school cooperatives, and helped form the Torrance League of Women Voters.

In California she picked up a master's degree in psychology at Cal State Long Beach; and during Lloyd's second stint in Washington she received a degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of the District of Columbia.

She did research for the National Institute of Mental Health on early education projects for three years, taught in a pre-school for a year, and became director of a couple of pre-schools. In Paris, Ruth studied language at the Alliance Francaise and studied literature, politics, and geography at the Sorbonne.

After completion of her book, "Dear Parents: Caring for Infants with Respect," Ruth plans to travel to Russia with Lloyd in August. In the fall she and Lloyd hope to take their two grandchildren on the new Disney boat to Magic Island.

## OMNIOLORE WELCOMES 13 NEW MEMBERS

### Preesenting...



Omniole is delighted to welcome 13 new members who have enrolled for the Spring and Summer semesters. Please add these new enrollees to your roster.

|                         |          |  |
|-------------------------|----------|--|
| Sheila Banken           | 375-7365 | 409 Via Media, Palos Verdes Estates, 90274         |
| Richard Blum            | 372-2526 | 1020 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, 90266       |
| Irma Cohen              | 939-0946 | 1304 Park View Avenue, Manhattan Beach, 90266      |
| Robert & Mary Cooper    | 377-1808 | 2524 Via Anacapa, Palos Verdes Estates, 90274      |
| Robert & Elaine Grove   | 833-3039 | 1020 Via Navarra, San Pedro, 90732                 |
| Helene & Howard Macklis | 377-6189 | 6236 Scotmist Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes, 90275    |
| Joyce Mar               | 378-7237 | 229 Via Los Miradores, Redondo Beach, 90277        |
| Don Pitts               | 372-5985 | 234 29th Street, Hermosa Beach, 90254              |
| Gloria Spierer          | 373-2828 | 1509 Via Margarita, Palos Verdes Estates, 90274    |
| Joan Stemat             | 377-0890 | 29209 Stadia Hill Lane, Rancho Palos Verdes, 90275 |

### OTHER ROSTER CHANGES

In addition to adding the new members above, please make the following changes to your Omniole roster. Please change Marilyn Denno's address to 26582 Academy Dr., Palos Verdes Peninsula, 90274; phone number 544-7200, and please delete the following names; Ethel Allen, Frederick & Muriel Kiefer, John Vehrencamp and Joyce Zima.

### DAY TRIP SURVEY

Due to the poor response to the last proposed day trip, the colloquium committee has decided to survey OMNIOLORE members to find out whether or not they wish to participate in day trips and to explore their interest in some proposed destinations.

If you are interested in attending day trips, please fill out the following survey and mail to Patricia Morris, 5700 Ravenspur Drive #202, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275.

MEMBER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Getty Museum Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Norton Simon Museum Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Huntington Library Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Aquarium of the Pacific Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Merle Norman Antiquity Museum Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Santa Monica Flying Museum Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

KCET Studio Tour Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Other Suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### REMINDER!

Omniorians are reminded to leave the coffee area in our classroom the way we find it. Don't forget to pick up coffee stirrers, empty paper packets from sweeteners, and to wipe up spilled sugar. Thanks for your cooperation.



#### We Want to Know

... if you know of any member in our midst who is having difficulty of any kind. Omniole members want to respond with offers of help, transportation, a phone call, flowers or whatever. Please notify Michael Grinde, Membership Chairman at (310) 372-6122.

#### Visiting Cyberspace

Check out the following cyberspace addresses:

- \* PLATO - [www.unex.ucla.edu/plato/](http://www.unex.ucla.edu/plato/)
- \* CLE @ Cal State Fullerton - [cle.fullerton.edu/](http://cle.fullerton.edu/)
- \* ALIROW - [www.mc.maricopa.edu/lfling/alirow](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/lfling/alirow)
- \* PV Library - [muse.palos-verdes.lib.ca.us/](http://muse.palos-verdes.lib.ca.us/)
- \* Los Angeles Library - [www.lapl.org/](http://www.lapl.org/)
- \* Library of Congress - [lcweb.loc.gov/](http://lcweb.loc.gov/)
- \* Social Security Administration - [www.ssa.gov/](http://www.ssa.gov/)
- \* AARP - [www.aarp.org/](http://www.aarp.org/)



### Omniorians Visit Other Southern California LIRs

by Ginger Engstrom

Over the last several months Mike Scordan, John Taber, Ginger Engstrom and Burt & Diana Cutler have visited three other Southern California LIRs: Plato at UCLA, Sage At Cal State Northridge and CLE at Cal State Fullerton. The purpose of the visits was to see how these organization are run, how they select their classes and how they are attempting to solve the problems that all of us encounter from time to time. What we found out was that as Burt mentioned in his column in the March Newsletter, there are many, many ways to skin the LIR cat.

At Plato we met with Addison Kermath at their facility close to the campus in Westwood. The facility consists of classrooms, a lounge, a library/study room and a small kitchen. They also have two full time staffers. The dues for their approximately 380 members is \$400.

Academically they operate much like us, offering over 20 S/D Groups that meet every week for 14 weeks. Independent research and presentations are required by all participants and the emphasis of all classes is discussion among all participants. Some of their recent class offerings were: Persian Civilization to Modern Iran, Italian Renaissance Paintings, Modern Ethnic Conflicts, Great Lyricists of the American Theater, The Ethics of Modern Medicine, and the Geopolitics of Water.

Their colloquia are held four times a year and are mandatory for all members. Recent speakers have been Congressman Tony Beilenson, Chancellor Charles Young and columnist Patt Morrison.

They have only four standing committees: colloquium, curriculum, coordinators and membership. However, they have a large number of service committees that cover such subjects as computer instruction, historian, hospitality, presentation improvement, and newsletter publication.

You can visit their web site at [www.unex.ucla.edu/plato/](http://www.unex.ucla.edu/plato/).

At the Sage Society at CSUN we

# OMNIOLORE CALENDAR 1998

|      |                  |  |
|------|------------------|--|
| July | 4                | Independence Day   |
|      | 5                | Annual Enrollment Forms Distributed                                    |
|      | 9                | Board of Directors' Meeting  |
|      | 14               | Board Meeting (Approval of '98-'99 Calendar)                           |
| Aug  | 13               | Board of Directors' Meeting  |
|      | 13               | Spring S/D Topic Suggestion Form Distributed                           |
|      | 15               | Deadline for September Newsletter                                      |
|      | 26               | Fall S/DG Kick-off Meetings & Presentation Workshops                   |
|      | 28               | Summer Session Ends  |
|      | 28               | Annual Enrollment Deadline   |
| Sept | 7                | Labor Day  |
|      | 10               | Board of Directors' Meeting (Publication of Agenda for Annual Meeting) |
|      | <del>14</del> 14 | Deadline for Submitting Topic Suggestins for Spring Session            |
|      | <del>14</del> 14 | Fall Session Begins  |
|      | <del>18</del> 21 | Selection of Spring S/D Topics   |
|      | <del>28</del> 28 | Distribution of Proposed S/D Topics and S/D Registration Forms         |



**IMPORTANT**  
 Please Note: All changes and additions to the Omniole Calendar must be cleared with the Vice President, Administration Hank Steddom (310) 375-3981 in order to avoid conflicts in scheduling or use of rooms.

## Omnioleians Visit Local LIRs

*(Continued from page 5)*  
 met with Marilyn Weinstein and Sam Sokolow, current and outgoing presidents. Sage has their own facility at a local church and a part-time staffer who works two days a week. The dues for their approximately 150 members are \$200 a year; again much of it going for the facilities and staff. Academically they operate much like we do with some notable exceptions:

- \* They meet every week.
- \* They arbitrarily establish the times of the classes prior to the member's registration process as opposed to attempting to work around members' schedules.
- \* They offer a fair number of classes (four out of 17 in this summer session) that we would classify as book discussion groups that do not require outside research and presentations. All other classes, however, do require that all members give a presentation based on independent research. Their sum-

mer sessions include Human Rights, Comic Operas, Shakespeare Comedies for a Summer Day, Eleanor Roosevelt, Courtship and Marriage around the World, Money, Money, Money, Epidemics That Changed History, Dante's Inferno and Hot Topics (similar to our Potpourri.)

- \* If for any reason a member can not fulfil his/her assignment date, the member is responsible for finding a replacement. Members are also responsible for coffee and "goodies" on their presentation day.
- \* Sage holds four "forums" a year similar to our colloquiums. This last year they changed the format from a 2 hour morning session to a lunch, social hour and speaker at a local restaurant. Attendance at the forums jumped from approximately 30 to over 100 members.
- \* They are also interested in making their organization more ethnically diverse but have not been successful. They would like to hear

from us if we discover any successful methods.

CLE (Continuing Learning Experience) at Cal State Fullerton is a large (over 800 members) organization with their own impressive facility on the Cal State campus. This organization provides all types of classes from how-to instructional classes, bridge and chess clubs to some peer-led Study/Discussion groups and lecture-type courses. They have a full kitchen to facilitate social dinners and lunches, two impressive computer labs, a gerontology health center and two full time staff people. Because of their facilities and financial stability they are able to be many things to many people with diverse needs, interests and abilities.

You can visit their web site at <http://cle.fullerton.edu/>

Many thanks to Mike Scordan and John Taber for arranging these visits. They were all informative and interesting.