



# OMNILORE NEWS

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## 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  
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## FIVE COURSES TO BE OFFERED DURING SUMMER MONTHS

Despite light anticipated attendance during the summer months, five study-discussion groups will be offered by OMNILORE for the summer session which begins this month.

**Seven Ideas That Shook The Universe**, based on the book of the same name by Nathan Spielberg and Byron D. Anderson, will be offered on alternate Tuesdays afternoons beginning June 15. Coordinator will be John Taber.

Will Graham and Ethel Allen will lead **Just for Laughs! Humor in American Culture** which will explore the writings of American humorists, visual humor in films, audio humor during the days of radio, and humor in American politics. Meetings will take place on alternate Thursday afternoons beginning June 17.

The American Experience from a **First Generation Perspective** will be probed by first generation Asian-American and Hispanic-American contemporary authors on alternate Thursday afternoons beginning June 24. Co-coordinators will be Ellen Bradford and Lindie Banks.

Emil Raulin and Robert Brennan will lead study discussions on **The World's Religions**, based on the book of the same name, on alternate Thursdays beginning June 17. Standby coordinators will be Tom and Ceil Woods.

Rounding out the summer offerings will be **Potpourri**, to be led by Mike Scordan and Joan Pattiz, which will explore a new topic each meeting. The meetings will take place alternate Thursday afternoons beginning June 24.

## COMMITTEE OF THE MONTH TELECOMMUNICATONS COMMITTEE

The Elderhostel Institute Network, in response to a number of requests for a video on learning in retirement institutes, has put out a call to established affiliates such as OMNILORE to submit any video production about the affiliates to the national office for inclusion in a forthcoming national production. "OMNILORE IN ACTION," the local video currently being produced by Bob Saunders, chairman of the Telecommunications Committee, is nearing completion and will be shown on the Torrance Community Television Cable Network

(Paragon Cable), Channel 59, some time this summer. It will be submitted to Elderhostel Institute to be considered for inclusion in the national production.

Bob would like to hear from OMNILORE members who:

- Wish to help complete the current production or volunteer to participate in future video productions
- Have taken pictures of the OMNILORE society's past activities (prints, slides or videos)
- Own a video camera or still camera and like to take pictures
- Would like to learn how to make a video for T.V.

Interested persons are asked to call Bob at 540-1089.

## PROCESS OF GROWTH

an editorial by Burt Cutler

**OMNILORE'S** come a long way in a short time. It's incredible to look back on our three-year history to our first tentative meetings in members' houses, then moving to meetings in local libraries and in the Conference Room of the Malaga Cove S&L - to our present convenient facilities.

After devoting two years to "getting it right" - establishing a working modus operandi - we've quickly jumped to a membership of over 70 people. Big organization problems. 1000 thanks to Ethel Allen. Under her mother - goddess protection, we're actually keeping up with the growth and are even experimenting with adding additional services and outlets for the membership.

With all this accent on growth, it will be helpful to frequently stop and ask ourselves wither we go, and why, and how. So the purpose of this editorial is to step back a pace and discuss the **process**. This is written primarily for the benefit of newer members, but since we're all relatively new with this endeavor, it could conceivably be worthwhile for older members as well. Boiled down, **OMNILORE'S** about one main thing; personal, intellectual growth (since everything today is acronyms, we'll call it PIG). Here's some reflections on various ways that you can maximize your efforts and really "PIG out":

### 1. Basic Class Preparation

Let's look at members A, B, C, and D. Generally we select a common reading for each meeting, so it 's standard for member A, and for all members, to have read the assignment. To improve your understanding it's commonly recommended by study groups such as Great Books, Great Issues - and **OMNILORE** - to become a B member; read the material twice. Member C makes it a common practice to add an extra 10- 15 minutes effort to also read appropriate selections in a good encyclopedia. The Presenter has passed out an outline and bibliography several weeks prior to giving the presentation. Member D may occasionally decide that the Presenter's topic is of special enough interest to personally read one or more of the referenced books or articles or to look at any additional reading or video material.

Now **OMNILORE** is a typical umbrella organization, and within it there'll be a heck of a lot more A, B, and C members than D's. We're all equal and we're all welcome . . . but who knows? Once the thought is there, you

might occasionally want to "PIG out" and increase the depth of your preparation, and therefore the depth of what you get out of it!

### 2. Preparing Questions

Very early in our **OMNILORE** development, we found that with a very minor extra effort of perhaps 5-10 minutes a week, we could substantially add to the flavor of the PIG by jotting down one or two questions about the common readings. The presentations of questions has value both for you and for the day's Discussion leader . . . . Try to make question-preparation an automatic part of your reading process.

### 3. The Presentation

How should you prepare your presentation? In any way you want to! There is no "right way" It appears that we're all fulfilling our basic responsibility by reading a number of sources in depth and preparing a short summary for our presentation.

Please remember to always pass out an outline and reading references one or two sessions ahead of your presentation. Should you also pass out a written summary? Some people pass out their entire "pitch" for members to read, either ahead of time or sometime during the meeting. Is that a good method? Yes. Do you have to do it? No. I personally don't do that because I try very hard not to have a detailed presentation to read from - or I'll read it. If there's one universal goal in presentation preparation, it's to strive to decrease your reading time and to increase your seemingly off-the-cuff presentation.

There are a couple of "pros" in our group whose presentation is smooth, easy - they're constantly looking at the participants instead of their papers. they're often interrupting themselves to ask a leading question. I wish it were that easy for me! But there's something to learn from these people - we obviously all can become, with practice, more of a pro . . . Work at it. As you do each successive presentation try to continuously decrease the reading time and to increase the give-and-take time.

One technique I occasionally use works well for me. I may begin by passing out a written quiz. It breaks the ice and helps the group members to remember facts, events, time relations, etc. If I do this, I try to not embarrass the members by revealing their scores!

Another technique is to reduce your presentation to notes on 4" x 6"

cards. There's much more tendency to read an 8 1/2" x 11" paper word for word. By using the 4" x 6" cards one is forced to ad-lib, hopefully resulting in a more free-flow, somewhat more extemporaneous presentation.

But whether you read it or ad-lib it, the single best improvement you should shoot for is to interrupt your presentation with some well thought out questions. I aim for about five questions. Any questions are helpful - whether from you or from the group members because it makes the whole process less of a lecture format.

### Where do we get coordinators?

Probably the biggest problem in **OMNILORE** - one that really threatens its existence - is the difficulty in convincing members to become Coordinators. Perhaps this is because members think that the Coordinator should be an expert on the subject. We do have some experts and some who are very knowledgeable about some subjects - but most of us are enrolling in the classes to learn and grow. You can maximize your growth by being a Coordinator. The Coordinators job is not difficult. True, there is significant preparation to be done during the organization process; selecting the common reading, ordering the books, breaking down the assignments. This is something every Coordinator must do. From then on, different people use different strokes. The Coordinator suggests some presentation topics and helps members to make their own selections . . . That organization and setup process is maybe 80% of the entire responsibility.

The other responsibility is to moderate the meetings. The Coordinator shouldn't be a speaker but a "facilitator". That is not a monumental task, but it is a task. Spread it around. Ask the Assistant Coordinator to be responsible for half the meetings. Or perhaps a better method recently suggested is to ask one member each week if he/she will chair the next meeting. Anyone can manage one meeting - it's a minor experience, but it can help many members to recognize that they can indeed handle the Coordinator's job.

I plead with you - the only thing threatening **OMNILORE** is the reluctance of most members to Coordinate. Do it. Volunteer. **OMNILORE** needs YOU!

Welcome to all new members. I hope that you'll personally find **OMNILORE** to be an enriching and fulfilling experience.

## OMNIOLORE PROFILES

### Gen Carlisle - Treasurer

Genevieve Carlisle -- affectionately known as Gen -- was born on a homestead in Pompey's Pillar, Montana, a mesa on the shores of Yellowstone River (named for a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition) located on a high prairie 30 miles east of Billings.

After the homestead burned down during her infancy, the family moved to Billings where her mother started the first hospital and her father took a position as school teacher. When she was seven years old, the family moved to Red Lodge where she grew up and graduated from high school.

Gen received her bachelor of science degree in biology from the University of Chicago shortly before World War II and moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico where she ran the student employment program and worked for the dean of women. When the war broke out, she took a position at Kirkland Air Force Base in Albuquerque and worked there until she married John G. Carlisle, a marine biologist who was serving in the Army Air Force.

The Carlises travelled throughout the war years. John was a first lieutenant in charge of air sea rescue operations.

After the war, Gen and John moved to California and John became employed by the State of California as a marine biologist in the Department of Fish and Game. His position, testing electric screens for salmon took them into rural country near Mendota, where they made their home in a trailer on the San Joaquin River and Gen taught school to the children of migratory farm workers. Gen's career did an about face when John's transfer to Pebble Beach (to conduct experiments) resulted in her taking a job as a teacher of the children of the rich and famous at a private school in Pebble Beach.

In 1947, John transferred to the Fish and Game laboratory at Terminal Island, and the couple built a home in the Hollywood Rivera.

Gen gave up teaching to become a businesswoman. She operated a laundrette in Redondo Beach for four

years before buying a building supply business, which she ran for seven years. When she sold the business, she returned to teaching and taught at Rivera Hall, a private school in Redondo Beach, for three years.

All three Carlisle daughters were born after the family moved to the South Bay.

For over 40 years, Gen has been involved in the Great Books Program; and is currently serving as treasurer of the Los Angeles Great Books Council. A member of the King Harbor Yacht Club, she has been involved in sailing, tennis and bridge groups for over 30 years.

John died in April, 1992.

A close-knit family, the three daughters, seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren all reside close by and see one another daily. Since the mid-fifties, Gen and her daughters and their childhood friends, who now have families of their own, have always gone camping as a group at the same campsite, at the same time each year. This year they look forward to having 40 people representing three generations at their August camping reunion.

### REMOTE ACCESS

#### PALOS VERDES LIBRARY CATALOG VIA YOUR PC

If you have a PC equipped with a communications modem, you can access the Library Catalog from the comfort of your own home.

Any ASCII terminal Device  
Asynchronous Communications

The dial-in numbers are:

- (310) 377-1886

Communications Software

Settings are:

- 1200 baud
- 7 data bits
- 1 stop bit
- odd parity
- full duplex

For further information, call the reference librarian at (310) 377-9584 ext. 226.

### WANTED ELDERHOSTEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Many Omniloreans are avid Elderhostel-goers. As such, they are both constantly on the alert for recommendations of Good Elderhostels and are also a source of recommendations. What we would like to do, is to pass along your recommendations to those on the lookout.

If you have a recommendation of a favorite Elderhostel, please contact Ronnie Saunders, 540-1429, or put the information in the Communications Committee mailbox in the Classroom Kloset.

Recommendations should include: name and location of the Elderhostel, type of accommodations (private bath, motel or dormitory, etc.), and the reason you particularly enjoyed the Elderhostel.

Your recommendations will appear in this newsletter on a regular basis.

### RESTAURANTS RECOMMENDED

In answer to a request in the last newsletter for names of restaurants near the Knob Hill campus, the following recommendations have been made:

- ◆ The Wooden Shoe, 1511 S. Pac Coast Hwy - American
- ◆ Thai Ways, 707 S. Pac Coast Hwy - Thai Cuisine
- ◆ Thai Thani, 1109 S. Pac Coast Hwy - Thai Cuisine
- ◆ Millie Riera's, 1700 Esplanade - Seafood

If you know of any others let us know and we will print them in an upcoming newsletter.

*OmniLore News.*

*Comments and input can be sent to*

*OMNIOLORE CSUDH*

*P.O. Box 7000-236*

*Redondo Beach, Ca. 90277*

*Phone (310) 540-6011*

## CALENDAR

June 3	Board of Directors' Meeting
June 11	Spring Session Ends
June 14	Summer Study/Discussion Groups Begin
July 1	Deadline for Fall Study/Discussion Suggestions
July 12-23	Distribution of Fall Ballots and Registration Forms
July 15	Board of Directors' Meeting
July 15	Deadline for August Newsletter
July 30	Deadline for Fall Study/Discussion Registration
August 9-20	Fall Coordinators meetings with Curriculum Committee
August 19	Board of Directors' Meeting



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**Division of Extended Education**  
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