



OMNIOLORE NEWS

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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.

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By-Law Changes Approved and 1999 Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

At the business meeting preceding the OmnioLore Annual Luncheon and Forum the membership adopted the by-law changes presented to them last month. The position of University Liaison was deleted from the Board and an additional Member-at-Large and Head Coordinator position were added. In addition the bylaws were changed to more clearly state the process and composition of the Nominating Committee.

The following officers were elected for the 1999 year: Burt Cutler, President; Lindie Banks, Vice President, Academics; Gloria Jacobs, Vice President, Administration; Ellen Bradford, Secretary; Emil Raulin, Treasurer; Robert Grove and Etta Tourkin, Members at Large.

Burt Cutler, President, acknowledged the outstanding work done by the outgoing Board of Directors and the Membership, Forum (Colloquium), Curriculum, and Communication Committees. He acknowledged all study/discussion group coordinators, all members who offered suggestions for our S/D groups, and the entire membership for its involvement -- stating that they are the evidence of a successful program.

Spring Study/Discussion Groups Shaping Up

OmnioLore members have selected the following twelve S/D Groups which will begin the week of January 3 and run to the end of April. You will receive your S/D Group confirmation in the mail in the very near future. If you have any questions about the curriculum or your registration please contact Jim O'Neill at 539-0415.

Name	Time	Coordinator
Creativity A B	1st & 3rd Monday a.m. 1st & 3rd Wednesday a.m.	Merle Culbert Leonard Williams
Darwinian Revolution	1st & 3rd Monday p.m.	George Crane
Foreign Policy	1st & 3rd Monday p.m.	Walter Skiba
The History of Gastronomy	2nd & 4th Thursday a.m.	Mary O'Neill
Giants of Science	1st & 3rd Tuesday p.m.	Emil Raulin
History of Los Angeles	2nd & 4th Monday a.m.	Doris Schier
Understanding Islam A B	1st & 3rd Wednesday p.m. 2nd & 4th Monday p.m.	Lloyd Money James O'Neill
The Drama of Life	2nd & 4th Wednesday p.m.	Alfred Bernstein
Rome Versus China	1st & 3rd Thursday p.m.	Burt Cutler
Understanding the Stock Market	1st & 3rd Tuesday a.m.	Terry Savage
World of Spies & Espionage	1st & 3rd Tuesday p.m.	Cecilia Carroll
Creative Writing	2nd & 4th Thursday p.m.	Gordon Kehmeier

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What Makes a Successful Study/Discussion Group?

Editor's note: Every now and then a course stands out for being so successful that class members don't want it to end. That is exactly what happened recently with the study discussion group. DRAMA OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE.

Not only did the class decide to have an encore semester, but after that they decided to hold a couple of reunions. To find out their formula for success, the group was asked to analyze their experience. Results are reported in the following story by class member Bette Henning. If you have had a similar experience in Omnilore, please share it with us!

Drama of the American Jewish Experience

by Bette Henning

The universality of the immigrants who journeyed to America, and how their succeeding generations evolved into the country's pulse, was the theme of "Drama of the American Jewish Experience"—extended to two semester by popular demand. When the participants of these study/discussion groups were queried about why the class succeeded there were quotes like "there were no ego problems", "all of us did our homework" and "it applied to any culture—one didn't have to be Jewish to relate and find meaning in the plays" and "we worked hard on our preparation".

The first semester was devoted to the earlier 20th century playwrights, their concern with life in the new world; adapting to the ways of the land; meeting with its peculiarly new world problems. The second study session dealt with the later years — assimilation, protest and conflict with the "old ways" as the succeeding generations became more Americanized.

Participants were caught up (it was apparent in the thrust of their analyses of these plays) with the myriad of family relationships and interactions that took place as these closely related groups evolved from naive newcomers to sharp, sophisticated Americans through and through.

Presentations were shared by two individuals who divided each play into biography/background of the author and class-wide participation in reading important scenes—all sprinkled with salient discussions. The two-person arrangement had a

CRITICAL THINKING EXPLORED AT ANNUAL MEETING

by Ellen Bradford

"Opinion, Belief, or Fact?"

Cash Baxter, theater director, well-known speaker, and teacher, challenged Omnilore members to make hard decisions on a number of provocative statements at their annual meeting and forum held Thursday, October 22 at the Torrance Hilton Hotel. Their decisions proved his thesis that critical thinking begins with brain-storming because there was no general agreement.

Baxter's talk, entitled "Why the Owl Hoots," or "Enhance Your Skills Through Critical Thinking," was inspired by Omnilore's owl logo: and he complimented the group for having interest and involvement in an organization dedicated to intellectual challenges.

Baxter claimed that the owl was a wise choice for Omnilore, for that bird has serious purpose in mind and does not twitter or chirp aimlessly as other birds do. The hoot expresses something more important. And serious thinking can grow by realizing that there is more than one way to look at things. This comes with enhanced listening skills, imagination, and realizing that, as Helen Keller said, "Life is a daring adventure or nothing."

Mr. Baxter has had an illustrious career in the theatre as a director/producer in New York, Houston, and Tokyo. He has also had great success as a painter and a teacher. This delightful and entertaining speaker was selected by the Forum committee under the chairmanship of Patricia Morris and introduced by Ginger Engstrom, Vice President, Academics.

positive, contagious stimulation effect, with one picking up where the other left off.

The coordinators excelled in keeping the pace an active one with skillful, tactful direction on the paths the interchanges of ideas should take. There was a heart-warming bonding among the class members.

Capping off the semester was an all-Jewish menu pot luck. Highlight was traditional Jewish honey-ginger sticky cookies made authentically by Jim O'Neill. Asked about his prowess in this unfamiliar area he commented modestly: "I just followed the recipe."

Museum Alert

Those of you who are American history buffs will enjoy the George Washington Exhibit currently on display at the Huntington Library in San Marino which will be on until late spring. If you go before mid-January, you'll be able to take in a smaller but excellent display of Jack London memorabilia. Call Lindie Banks (310) 316-6681 for additional information.

CHESS CLUB FORMED

Formation of the Omnilore Chess Club has been announced by Mary O'Neill, club coordinator.

The club will meet the first Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at Knob Hill with the exception of holidays. The next meeting will take place Friday December 4. Participants are invited to bring a chess set if possible.

Purpose of the group, according to Mary O'Neill, is to enhance skills, make friends and battle wits with beginners and advanced chess players.

For additional information, call Mary at 539-0415.



NEW SERIES OF COURSES UNDER CONSIDERATION

by Mike Scordan

Our highly successful seven-part Development of Western Philosophy series is concluding with this fall's study of 20th century thought. The effort by everyone was substantial; but the rewards in mental discipline and understanding are permanent.

For some time now, I have been considering a series of courses on the development of Christianity. I haven't worked out the details yet, but the first course will cover Judaism from its beginnings up to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. Christianity will probably require seven to nine courses over the following few years. None will be offered during the summer trimester. Prior courses will not be a requirement for taking succeeding courses

This series will not be a dialogue, diatribe or debacle between believer and non-believers. The purpose is to determine what we can learn about the growth and development of the ideas that came to make up the Christian creed: Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox. It is not to justify pre-existing prejudices one way or the other.

However, before progressing further, I need to know if enough people are interested. So, if you seriously intend to sign up for the course in the development of Judaism, please phone me at 375-5419. This is not a commitment on your part, but a statement of intent.

If I receive a minimum of 15 calls I will proceed, and try to have it ready for the fall trimester of 1999. If not, it will certainly be available for the spring trimester in 2000. This course will probably be more difficult than the average Omnilore offering, but will be easier than our philosophical endeavors. So if it for you, let me hear from you.

Brainstorming Session for New S/D Topics

Come tell us your ideas for new Study/Discussion Groups.

A brainstorming meeting to come up with new study topics for future OMNIOLORE classes will be held at the Knob Hill classroom Thursday, November 19 at 12 noon.

Under the leadership of Jim O'Neill, curriculum chairman, participants will divide into working groups which will produce a variety of topics.

Results of a similar discussion at a Hot Topics session last Spring evolved into a number of course offerings over the past couple of semesters.

We really need your ideas! Please come with or without your brown-bag lunch and share your ideas with other OMNIOLOREANS.

If you cannot attend this session but still have some topic suggestions, please write them up on the form enclosed with this newsletter and drop them in the Curriculum box.

10 Ways To A Better Life

1. Make peace with imperfection.
2. Remind yourself that when you die, your "In basket" won't be empty.
3. Be the first one to act loving or reach out.
4. Ask yourself the question "will this matter a year from now"
5. Smile at strangers, look into their eyes, and say hello.
6. Choose being kind over being right.
7. Everyday, tell at least one person something you like, admire, or appreciate about him/her.
8. Turn your melodrama into a mellow-drama.
9. Think of what you have instead of what you want.
10. Live this day as if it were your last. It might be.

Omnilore Contact for Prospective Members

If you have a friend who wants to join Omnilore, you don't have to call four or five people to find out how he/she may receive registration papers. Edith Garvey (310) 539-8839 will mail all the necessary information to prospective members. Just give her a call and leave your friend's name, address, and telephone number.

New Keeper of The Keys

Gloria Jacobs, in her new job as Vice President of Administration, will be responsible for maintaining our inventory of keys to the Knob Hill facility. If you are a coordinator for one of the Fall S/D groups please make sure you return your key to Gloria as soon as possible after the last session. Also any coordinators for the upcoming spring session that need keys contact Gloria (310) 378-3206.

== IN MEMORIAM ==
== VIRGIL ERICKSON ==

OMNIOLORE was saddened to learn of the late summer death of member Virgil Erickson. Those of you who attended the same study groups as Virgil remember him as a dedicated and enthusiastic participant. Although he was legally blind, he was able to keep up with the subject being presented and to add significant comments and information. He had obviously read avidly and widely during his sighted years and was able to recall from an excellent memory. Virgil was always cheerful and always kind and will be missed by his many friends in Omnilore.



OMNILORE PROFILE

Merle Culbert, Membership Chairman

Why would a woman planning for a career in foreign service give up plans for a lifetime abroad to go to work in the aerospace industry?

-- In a word, love. When Merle Culbert received her degree in international relations and politics from U.S.C. and Bob Culbert received his degree in engineering from the same institution, she decided that after dating Bob for six years she would rather spend the rest of her life as his wife than pursue a career an ocean away from him.

So she switched hats and went to work at Douglas Aircraft as a mathematician in an aerodynamics engineering group. A year and a half later she transferred to the Douglas Missile group, a small guidance group in Santa Monica where her work duties taught her an important lesson about life: "Errors are very important." Her advice? "Assess your error, re-calculate, and keep making corrections until you hit your target."

When she became pregnant in 1958, Merle left aerospace and spent the next nine years staying at home and raising two daughters.

Her volunteer experiences at her daughters' school library lead to her next career and her next life lesson: "Always keep your options open." With the encouragement of school

officials, she opted to switch her hat as a library volunteer for that of a professional librarian.

Thanks to the emotional support of husband Bob who frequently had to play Mr. Mom from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Merle received her masters degree in library science in 1968 from UCLA. Degree in hand, she returned to the Manhattan Beach City School district and became the district's third librarian. She remained with the district for 26 years until her retirement.

As enrollment declined her duties expanded. In addition to supervising library aides at four elementary schools, she began to spend half her time at junior high school libraries.

When the district set up a media center four years before her retirement, Merle became responsible for the purchase and supervision of all district audio visual materials as well as textbook acquisition. When the district later became a K-12 (kindergarten through 12th grade) district, Merle supervised the media staff.

As head of the Title IV B program, which involved securing funding for technical equipment — including the district's computer — Merle set up a technology plan for the district which included computer labs.

Shortly before her retirement Merle earned two certificates from Cal

State Long Beach--one in training and one in communications.

Following her retirement Merle served on a blue ribbon committee in Manhattan Beach which was charged with deciding what to do with the local library when the county opted to close it. After the city bought the building, Merle was appointed to another committee to decide what to do with the building.

Libraries have continued to play an important role in Merle's retirement activities. She serves as a volunteer for the Friends of Redondo Beach library in their bookstore three hours a week and she has been a member of the Manhattan Beach library commission for several years.

In addition, she has served as secretary to the board of an organization called Leadership Manhattan Beach, formerly affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce, which trains citizens to become more active in the community.

Prior to being named membership chairman for Omnilore, Merle served two terms as member-at-large on the Omnilore board.

A former calligrapher, Merle's current hobby is reading. She has three grandchildren--two grandsons in Thousand Oaks and a granddaughter in Lakewood.

WE WANT TO KNOW!

We want to know if you know of any member in our midst who is having difficulty of any kind. Omnilore members want to respond with offers of help, transportation, a phone call, flowers or whatever. Please notify Merle Culbert, Membership Chairman at (310) 545-7994.



REMINDER

If you are the last group to leave either of the classrooms, please remember to:

- ⇒ Put away coffee pot and fixings
- ⇒ Shut off all lights
- ⇒ Close all windows
- ⇒ Lock Doors
- ⇒ Turn off heat

Don't assume another group is coming in!

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 CALENDAR 1998/99

November	5	Board of Directors' Meeting Swearing in of New Officers Review of Annual Budget
	11	Veterans Day
	26	Thanksgiving
December	10	Board of Directors' Meeting
	15	Deadline for January Newsletter
	18	Fall Session Ends
	21	Holiday Recess Begins
January	1	Spring Session Begins Summer S/D Topic Forms Distributed
	14	Board of Directors' Meeting
	15	Distribution of Spring Roster Addenda Topic Suggestions for Summer Trimester Due
	27	New Member Deadline for Spring Membership Fee



IMPORTANT

Please Note: All changes and additions to the Omnilore Calendar must be cleared with the Vice President, Administration, Gloria Jacobs (310) 378-3206 in order to avoid conflicts in scheduling or use of rooms.



Omnilore, CSUDH
Division of Extended Education
P.O. Box 7000-236
Redondo Beach, Ca. 90277