

# OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 10 Issue 6 November 2001

## OMNILORE NEWS

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

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Diana Cutler

Bette Henning

Omnilore News is published six times annually. We welcome short feature articles and news stories. Please contact the editor with your contributions.

Editor Ronnie Saunders

Staff Members Diana Cutler

Peggy Houghton
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Bob Saunders

## **OFFICERS ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING**

**Blanche Herring** was elected President of *Omnilore* at the annual meeting held on Halloween, October 31st, at the Torrance Marriott Hotel.

Also Elected to serve as officers during the coming year were:

Rose Shields, Vice President, Academics George Clark, Vice President, Administration Nancy Shannon-Sinclair, Recording Secretary Gordon Kehmeier, Treasurer Jay Edie, Nina Landis and Helen Leven,

Members-at-Large

Named as chairpersons by President Herring were:

Grant Laney, Curriculum
Patricia Edie, Membership
Ronnie Saunders, Communications
Edith Garvey, Head Coordinator

Diana Cutler and Bette Henning, Forum



Blanche Herring

Following the business meeting, **Robin Elder**, owner of *Accessories to Murder*, a Redondo Beach bookstore, discussed how the suspense story evolved into a key place in today's literature.



Patricia Edie, Edith Garvey, Joanne Page, Nancy Shannon-Sinclair



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#### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

By Emil Raulin

This is my last message as Omnilore president. Blanche Herring, the new president, along with new officers and board

members will take office in November.

This has been a good experience for me and it has been a pleasure to be involved in something I believe in and enjoy. During the past two years I have felt that I board members was constantly working with other services. You can help by becoming a individuals who gave of their time and committee member or by offering to talents to keep our organization running help with mailings or phone calls. smoothly as well as exploring ideas as to You will get to meet and know how we can improve. I want to say thank someone who may not be in one of you to each of the board members as well your classes and you will get some as to the many other members who personal offered help when asked and to those who experience.



offered ideas and suggestions various times.

Omnilore is a volunteer organization and if you enjoy being a part of it, I encourage you to contact one of the chairmen or

and offer vour satisfaction from



Witches Diana Cutler, right, and guest.

# **Brainstorming Session Set for November 30th**

By Sam Rifman

It's that time again! The Curriculum Committee is pleased to announce the annual Think Tank (a.k.a. Brainstorming Session).

It will take place Friday, November 30th at noon in Room 7 at the Franklin Center. Purpose of the session is to challenge your thinking and design new courses that other Omnilorians will enjoy and profit from.

Bring a friend, a classmate, lunch if you choose to – but most of all – bring your ideas!

A free raffle ticket will be given to every attendee for our "grand prize" drawing, and additional tickets will be given to each member of a group that hands in a fully completed suggested-course form. Start thinking and begin making a list of core reading suggestions to supplement your study/discussion ideas.

The committee looks forward to seeing you all!

alking in Philadelphia with an American acquaintance, an English visitor expressed a wish to see President Washington. A few moments later, the president happened to pass the two men on the opposite side of the street. Pointing at the solitary figure, the American said, "There he goes." The Englishman was surprised. "Is that President Washington?" he ex-"Where is his guard?" claimed. The American struck his breast proudly. "Here," he declared.

## **Membership Committee Seeks Volunteers**

Has your participation in Omnilore added to the richness of your retirement? Would you like to extend the experience to others? Spreading the word of **Omnilore** is the goal of the Membership Committee. By hosting periodic open houses and responding to calls of inquiry, this group guarantees an infusion to the rest of us of new blood and ideas.

This is the time of year when we pass some responsibilities of the Omnilore Board to others and we thank those who have been so generous of their time and energy. A very special thank you to Joanne Page, who chaired the Membership Committee last year, and to all the committee members: Merle Culbert, Burt Cutler, Edith Garvey (who responded to all those phone calls), Bob Grove, Blanche Herring, H.E. Kamiya, Emil Raulin, Ronnie Saunders, Nancy Shannon-Sinclair and Marge Winston (who sent out get-well and condolence cards to our members).

If you are willing to help with this year's membership efforts, please contact Patricia Edie at (310) 822-8549. It is an enjoyable way to add to the Omnilore membership while meeting new people.

Welcome our newest member!

#### **Thomas Stansell**

30110 Via Riviera Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275 (310) 541-2793 T2@Stansell.com

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# OMNILORE PROFILE - PATRICIA EDIE, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Patricia Edie, co-coordinator of the Islam study/discussion group and new membership chair, made her mark in two fields – education and business administration – before taking early retirement in January 2000.

A native of Kent, Ohio, she moved to California with her parents and siblings at the age of 13 and settled in Hawthorne. After graduating from Marymount High School in Palos Verdes, she began working toward a teaching credential at U.C. Santa Barbara and Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. Married in 1963, she became the mother of three sons.

Patricia stopped attending college full time when she was offered a permanent teaching position on a provisional certificate in 1962. She taught third grade at St. Joseph's Parish School in Hawthorne during the day and attended college classes in the evenings for several years.

When her sons were beginning college, for economic reasons she took a summer job at Hughes Aircraft. When Hughes offered her a full time position in the Program Security Organization at a much higher salary than she made teaching, she decided to make a temporary career shift, thinking she could always go back to teaching. While at Hughes, she returned to school in the evenings through the University of Redlands, Whitehead Extension Program to finally complete her degree. In 1987 she received a Bachelor of

Science in Business Administration. Then, in 1991, she completed an M.B.A. with an emphasis in Organizational Development from Loyola Marymount.

In the aerospace industry, experienced a successful career supporting government programs at Hughes and TRW, where she was later recruited. During her 12 years at TRW she advanced to the position of Division Security Manager, reporting directly to the Vice President of Electronic Systems and Technology Division, and was responsible for security compliance on all special programs of two divisions. Yet she often wondered if her energies touched lives and made a difference like they did when she faced a classroom of 10-year-olds. At TRW she managed a staff of 27 people. As well as coordinating their activities, she also found herself taking an active role in their personal development, involved in training and mentoring. In 1997 she was recognized as a Woman of Achievement by TRW. When she learned that this award was the result of a nomination submitted by her entire staff, she realized that it didn't matter where she was working, she could always be a positive presence in the world and make a difference in the lives of others. Patricia believes that she is an educator at heart. In addition to providing training to her staff at TRW, for five years she has taught numerous courses in business management and communication as an adjunct professor for the University of Phoenix.

No longer married, she enrolled in a ballroom dance class in 1998 where she ran into Jay Edie, a longtime friend from her Hughes days. They married in 1999 and both decided to retire. For the past two and a half years they have been doing all the things they had put on the back burner during their working lives – travel, reading, hiking, taking classes. (They also find time to be involved with family and even babysit for a new little grandson.) They love life and see themselves back in the role of students. As a result, their lives continue to expand.

In their travels, they manage to return to Italy once a year where Patricia discovered, through the internet, 30 cousins living in a small mountain village where her grandfather was born. They are studying Italian so that they are better able to communicate with "la famiglia" on the web and at annual visits to Sicily for reunions.

Residents of Playa del Rey, the Edies discovered *Omnilore* when they attended an open house at the Torrance library that Patricia saw advertised in the local newspaper. At the conclusion of the open house, Jay turned to Patricia and said, "I think you have discovered a gold nugget here." Patricia is looking forward to introducing her 85-year-old mother to *Omnilore* — when her mother (who is the former National President of Catholic Daughters of the Americas) can squeeze it into her busy schedule.

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.



Benjamin Franklin thought the turkey would have been a good symbol for our nation. He said: "I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country; he is a bird of bad moral character; like those among men who live by sharping and robbing, he is generally poor and often very lousy. The turkey is a much more respectable bird and withal a true original native of North America."



Meredith Grenier, *Daily Breeze* reporter who covers all *Omnilore* annual meetings, with Ginger Engstrom, right.



Chef Raulin, outgoing President cooked up a great annual meeting!

# Islam Study/Discussion Group Visit to South Bay Islamic Center

By Jay and Patricia Edie

When the 14 members signed up for this trimester's Islam Study/Discussion Group, they had no idea how current their topic would become. It has been a tremendous challenge and opportunity for us to research and learn about the precepts of Islam and see how they apply to what is happening on the evening news. Wanting to have more than a theoretical understanding of the faith, we arranged for a "field trip" to visit a local mosque. Qari Ashraf Carrim, Imam and Religious Director of the Islamic Center of South Bay in Lomita, and his wife, Athia, graciously hosted the class on October 25th. providing a tour of the mosque and an opportunity to dialogue with them on the principles and history of Islam, the nature of their congregation and their experience living within the South Bay community.

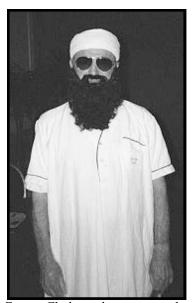
The visit to the mosque was very rewarding. The imam and his wife are from South Africa and most of the membership/congregation are from India or Pakistan, so we learned a great deal about how a non-Arab Muslim congregation operates in this South Bay setting. Athia, in particular, is well educated and very articulate, as well as being very progressive. For example, she said that she gets some disapproval

from the congregation because she shakes hands with men. She is an educator and devotes her time to working with the youth of their participating congregation and activities interfaith in the community. The imam is a gentle, softspoken man. He came to the South Bay from Australia three years ago when he was invited by this congregation to recite the Koran during Ramadan. He is a Oari, a title given to someone who has memorized the entire Koran, which he accomplished between the ages of 11 and 16.

The mosque itself is not much to look at, just a room with virtually no furnishings except for the mihrab, the niche that points in the direction of Mecca. We removed our shoes before entering, and the imam demonstrated and explained the various prayer postures. The floor was covered with a lined carpet to facilitate the lines formed in prayer. They have prayers five times a day, but it is the Friday prayer service that draws as many as 400 participants. They are in the process of expanding their facilities to accommodate everyone. We then moved to a conference room at the back of the Islamic Center property. After a little informal "presentation" on things about Islam

that we largely knew from our study and research, we had a good open discussion. It was very friendly and some of us seemed to have our perspectives shifted a bit. It is possible that the imam and his wife avoided a few tough subjects on which they were questioned, but those questions would have been difficult to answer briefly. The time passed too quickly and we ran beyond our two hours.

The imam's wife reminded us of our common humanity - shared between Moslems and people of other or no faiths. This is a fact that needs to be reiterated in view of some current aberrant religious behaviors. warmth and hospitality made us feel welcome and comfortable immediately. We were invited back anytime and we were assured that if any other members of Omnilore would like to come for a visit, it could be easily arranged. More than anything, they want to educate and integrate with the local community. We realize that while this experience may not be representative of the most "typical" Moslem community, it did show us that as in all religions, there is a variety of expressions and we cannot stereotype or categorize them as one. We think it would be great if the imam and his wife could speak with all of Omnilore.



George Clark made a newsworthy statement, appearing as Osama bin Laden's half-brother.



*Omnilore*'s own special court jester, Mary O'Neill!

If you would like a pocket guide of fish to avoid and fish safe to eat, call **Bette** Henning at (310) 373-1015.

ost successful football players not only accept rules and limitations but, I believe, they need them. Players are free to perform at their best only when they know what the expectations are, where the limits stand. I see this as a Biblical principle that also applies to life, a principle our society as a whole has forgotten: you can't enjoy true freedom without limits.

Louis L'Amour

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November	2 8 13	Chess Club - 1 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting - Noon	OMNILORE CALENDAR
	16	Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m. Curriculum Committee Mailing - Noon	2001
	16	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.	2001
	22	Thanksgiving	1 M
	30	Annual Think Tank - Noon	
December	3	Forum Committee Meeting—11:45 a.m.	
	7	Chess Club - 1 p.m.	
	11	Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m.	
	13	Board of Directors Meeting - Noon	O Pos
	14	Curriculum Committee - Noon	
	15	Input Deadline for Next Newsletter	100 / E
	21	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.	
	25	Christmas	
	31	New Nameplates Deposited in Classroom Closet	
	31	Trimester Ends	
		IMPORTANT	
Please Note: Calendar changes and additions may be made in one of two ways:			X
Either phone Ge		Clark to reserve a room, or mark the corkboard calendar in m 7 and notify George Clark via e-mail.	A Like
George Clark's contact information: (310) 546-2343 – GLCSr@aol.com			

## **Thanksgiving Tidbits**

n California, the first thanksgiving is said to have been celebrated in 1769 in the month of July. Mexico, at this time, wanted to keep the British and Russians from gaining control of the Pacific coast. So Mexicans were being sent to found colonies in California.

Of some three-hundred Mexicans who set out for San Diego in 1769, only a hundred and twenty-six ever reached it. By this time their food supply was very low and there was danger from hostile Indians. Had it not been for Father Junipero Serra, who came to the Mexicans' rescue, they might all have starved. So, on July 1st, Father Serra held a mass of thanksgiving for the survivors.

Special days of thanksgiving were set aside after victories during the American Revolution by the Continental Congress, and George Washington named a day of thanksgiving after the Constitution was adopted in 1789. However, it wasn't until after the Civil War that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November 1863 as Thanksgiving Day for the whole nation, largely in response to the compelling campaign by Mrs. Sarah Hale who had spent twenty years in its advocacy via letters to public figures such as presidents and state governors, via speeches and articles, and as editor of the magazine Godey's Lady Book. Her editorials during the conflict and at its end, stressing such a day would help heal "sectional feelings," appealed to the President who longed for this healing to begin, and he made his proclamation only weeks after reading her latest editorial.

he United States of America was the first nation in the world to make Thanksgiving a public, legal holiday. In 1941 a joint resolution of Congress provided that the "fourth Thursday in November in each year after the year 1941 be known as Thanksgiving Day, and it is hereby made a legal public holiday to all intents and purpose." American troops stationed all over the world during WWII brought curiosity and awareness of our national Thanksgiving Day to other countries, most pro-



The following members have updated their e-mail addresses as follows:

> **Robert Brennan** is now: DA\_Brenn@juno.com

Patricia & Jay Edie are now:

JayEdie@mediaone.net

Arlene & Paul Kave are now:AandPKaye@earthlink.net

Joyce Loranger is now:

JoyceL14@aol.com

Jeanne Page is now:aggerbeckpage@earthlink.net

Gordon Reiter is now:

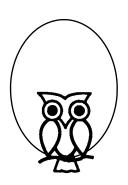
Reiter2X@aol.com

Alan Scharff is now: asScharff@home.com

Clarkia & Whit Wilson are now:

WilsonWS@earthlink.net

foundly in England, where officers were invited to address schools about this day's origins.



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