



OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 8 Issue 5

September 1999

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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Omnilore 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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CAROLE SHIELDS TO SPEAK AT TENTH ANNIVERSARY GALA OCTOBER 21



Carole Shields, national president of People For the American Way will be guest speaker at OMNILORE's gala tenth anniversary celebration next month. The event is set for Thursday, October 21 at 11:15 a.m. at the Torrance Hilton Hotel.

Shields, who has served as president of the 300,000 member organization since 1996, will discuss "Threats to Religious Freedom." Founded by Norman Lear, Barbara Jordan, and other civic and business leaders in 1980 to combat the rising tide of intolerance, People for the American Way has monitored the religious right and campaigned for nearly 20 years to protect the unique values and institutions that underpin American democracy: separation of church and state, freedom of conscience and expression, civic participation, equality, justice, tolerance and diversity.

Prior to serving as president, Shields was a board member of PFAW for six years. During that period, she was also vice chair of the Public Health Trust of Dade County, Florida, which administers the nation's busiest hospital. She also served on the board of the State of Florida's Health and Rehabilitative Services and the Dade Children's Partnership.

Her professional history includes service at several philanthropic foundations, including the Kettering Foundation, the Lilly Endowment and the Davis Foundation. She currently serves on the Dade Community Foundation board and the Forum for Medical Ethics and Philosophy at the University of Miami. She has served for three years as panelist for the White House Fellows competition.

CHARTER MEMBERS TO BE HONORED

Highlight of the business meeting preceding Shield's talk will be election of officers (see proposed slate on page 2) and honoring of the 10 founders who organized OMNILORE in January 1990. Recognition will also be given to active board members from 1997, '98 and '99 as well as three volunteers who have each served in demanding jobs for five or more consecutive years.

A social hour will precede the noon luncheon.

Persons planning to attend are asked to fill out the reservation form at the back of the newsletter and either drop it off with their check in the treasurer's box in the cabinet of Room 7 or mail it to Omnilore, Attention Treasurer, PMB 236, Box 7000, Redondo Beach, CA 90277-8710. Please make checks payable to FRIENDS OF OMNILORE (not Omnilore).

DEADLINE ON RESERVATIONS IS OCTOBER 14

SPACE IS LIMITED—act now to assure your seating

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Burt Cutler

Our July recruitment drive was quite successful, bringing in some 30 new members. When added to 20 that joined earlier

this year, and the 30 last year, half of our membership now consists of "newcomers." WELCOME ABOARD!

Now for both the new and older members, I'd like to comment about the very few operating procedures that make OMNILORE unique and special.

A member questionnaire last year revealed that the majority clearly want to maintain our presentation format as opposed to a "no-limits—anything goes" option. For example, the question was asked "should we offer the kinds of classes typically available in community adult-education centers?" Overwhelmingly, the answer was NO.

The presentation-discussion format has been our orientation since the first meeting ten years ago. Last year, as a result of the clear agreement confirmed by our membership, the Board of Directors decided to express in writing the presentation-discussion format as the basic policy and part of the official Procedures of our organization. This year's Board unanimously confirmed that policy. We also reaffirmed another policy, that small groups should be maintained to facilitate discussions.

At about the same time we eliminated the "over age 50" entry requirement; if you have interesting and interested friends who are under 50, they'll surely be welcomed.

Now if we just had one single rule or policy in OMNILORE, there'd of course be 10-20 members that would question or oppose it. And when we have three or four policy procedures, perhaps a third of our membership would question or oppose at least one of them. Our free and open society encourages us to question or disagree. I'm a doubter and questioner myself. But every organization

needs some structure to avoid chaos and anarchy. So I entreat you to follow the GENERAL WILL (see, I did learn something, albeit very little, from our S/DG "Philosophy for Dummies").

With some trepidation we also offered some alternatives to the minority who wish to "open up" our process; the Curriculum Committee was authorized to consider (but of course not automatically accept) several alternative topic descriptions in the next few years:

ALTERNATIVE 1. Let's say that one of our members, Mary Jones, is a former professor of music or a knowledgeable scientist. I purposely refer to S/DG areas that could be critiqued as "the blind leading the blind." Now Mary is willing to do a special S/DG; in each session she'll examine one of Beethoven's nine symphonies (or she'll do an entire course on Einstein's Theory of Relativity). Or any of you can get an acquaintance — who might be, for example, a Caltech prof or retired from the USC Music Dept — to do these lectures. Each session would also include extensive discussions. Clearly this would entail an extraordinary effort for the leader, so it's not surprising that thus far there've been no takers.

ALTERNATIVE 2. A topic suggestion that specifies little or no presentations can now be considered. As with any topic suggestions, the Curriculum Committee uses their judgement as to the acceptability. They would probably not accept a writeup that said "This core book is so interesting, let's just maximize the discussion time by not having presentations." That flies in the face of what Omnilore is all about. We obviously learn an amazing amount when we do research for a presentation, and that's why we do this thing.

But what if the scope of the S/DG is to read eight 400 page books, one for every meeting, and each person has responsibility for leading a dis-

ussion of one of the books? Should a presentation also be required? Too much, huh? In the past such an S/DG that specified "no presentations" would not have been accepted. And, who knows, after experimenting with this option for a couple of years we may decide that it presents more problems than it solves. We'll see.

"The 100 Best Novels," our first no-presentation S/DG, has drawn a very large crowd. Was it the attraction and snootiness of "Knowing the Best" or was it the "no-presentation" format that was the basis for the popularity? To me, a hopeful indication is that, even though it was not required, two of the "Best 100" groups expressed the need for a nominal 15-minute presentation regarding the author, the relevancy of the times, and how the critics weigh in.

Now let's say that some future group has a pre-meeting and one of the people — either a member or a coordinator — says "let's not do presentations." Sorry, no dice. According to the Omnilore operating procedures discussed above, that's not something that an S/DG group

(President's Message Continued on page 4)

Proposed Slate of 2000 Officers

The Omnilore Board of Directors would like to present to the general membership the following slate of officers for their consideration.

President	Emil Raulin
VP-Academics	Ralph Brown
VP-Administration	Robert Groves
Secretary	Les Berg
Treasurer	Julian Reinheimer
Member-at-Large	Bette Henning
Member-at-Large	Blanche Herring
Member-at-Large	Mary O'Neill

The general election will be held at the Annual Meeting on October 21. Other nominations can be submitted from the floor at that time.

**SEPTEMBER HOT TOPIC
CHINA**



All Omniloreans are urged to gather up facts, intuitions and opinions about China...and bring them to Room 8 at 1:45 Friday Sept. 17. Three moderators, Dan Stern,

Rose Shields and Walter Skiba will start our Hot Topic session with their own 3-5 minute summary, followed by a spirited discussion. Some of the many questions to be considered are:

- What's really happening in China?
- Are we nurturing a friend?
- Are we helping to create a Frankenstein?
- What would happen if we disallowed the tremendous imbalance in trade?
- Should we be taking sides in the Taiwan-China "conflict"?

Come and participate! We'll try very



**Museum Explorers Visit
UCLA's "Threads of Light"**

As arranged by Ellen Bradford, interested "Museum Explorers" attended the exhibit of Chinese embroidery from the Suzhou Embroidery Research Institute at the UCLA Fowler Cultural Museum.

Thirty works of embroidery art demonstrated the incredible techniques of texture, color, and light that are the tradition from the famous center at Suzhou--traditions since the 11th Century. This is the first exhibition outside of China to focus on SERI's work.

"Each piece seemed almost more gorgeous than the last," said one visitor. "The white peacock spread before vivid red flowers or the butterflies with a three-dimension look that could be viewed from both sides of the silk base were just incredible. And they were only two of a whole gallery of beauty."

The exhibit will continue until September 5, Wednesday through Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. and Thursdays to 8 p.m. Admission is free.

**TIP OF THE MONTH
PRESENTATION POINTERS**

For your next presentation, when you pass out your outline at the previous meeting, include some well-thought-out questions. During your presentation mix questions with specific answers — who, what, when, etc.— with general discussion questions — why, how, explain, relate, compare, etc.

The whole purpose of the pre-discussion handout is to:

- ⇒ Stimulate interest in your topic
- ⇒ Encourage study
- ⇒ Give ideas of what to study
- ⇒ Suggest reference sources

Finding answers can be challenging and fun. Many people who won't give an outline a second look will spend hours on questions. (By the way, be sure the reference sources will be readily available to the students. Don't list all the books you have checked out at the library!)

—Ralph Brown, chief coordinator

Omnilore Welcomes New Members

Preesenting...



Thirty-one members joined OMNIOLORE in the last two months. It is our pleasure to welcome the following (whose addresses and phone numbers will appear in the new roster to be published next month). If you find yourself in a fall class with one of these people say Hi and Welcome!

- Mary Barling
- Marvel Burke
- George Clarke
- Marilyn Dalton
- Roger Debelak
- Dorothy Dixon
- Marieann Donaldson
- Eleanor Edwards
- Enid Egbert
- Barbara Gerber
- Trudy Hawkins
- Carol Jeffery
- Glenna Josephson
- Fran Kaveney
- Sharon Leake

- Anna Jane Lescoe
- Marion Littlefair
- Audrey Lundgren
- Fred Marpe
- Joanne Page
- Mary Perez
- Christine Rhodes
- Sam Rifman
- Helen Stockwell
- Norman Stockwell
- James Sweeney
- Diane Tomczak
- Al Vorhaus
- Louise Vorhaus
- Mitch Wisneski

Change of Address: Lindie Banks' new address is 220 The Village, #303 Redondo Beach, Ca 90277 (310) 937-7996

**WANTED:
OMNIOLORE PICTURES**

Do you have any pictures you have taken at OMNIOLORE activities or classes? If so, we would like to borrow them for our upcoming tenth anniversary. Please put them in the communications box in room 7, addressed to Bob Saunders, and they will be returned to you after copies are made.

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, a phone call, flowers or whatever. Please notify Rose Shields, at (310) 537-1437.



What Makes a Successful S/D Group?

Editor's note: Following is an analysis of another S/D group "Understanding the Stock Market" This is part of an ongoing series. If you have had a similar experience, please share it with us! Maybe we can figure out how to make all of our S/D groups outstanding.



UNDERSTANDING THE STOCK MARKET

Terry Savage, Coordinator

Many Omnilorians who have never attended one of our sessions believe we sit around conducting unfocused gab about our stock market experiences or lack thereof. Not true. Our structured course centers on specific aspects of investing, including the vocabulary and strategies of investing wisely.

The course is for the beginner and the advanced. We try to learn enough not to make stupid mistakes; we try to learn patience; we learn how to do scholarly research so that our investing pays off; we try to eliminate common misunderstandings and find a balance between fear and greed. We learn to clarify our "risk tolerance." For many of us, it is true we have found a new hobby, but for others who are just beginning to manage their own investments, the class is a "comfort zone."

Some past presentations have included how to take a company public; bonds vs stocks; on-line analysis; how to read and benefit from various financial reports. This semester Elliott Politi reported on O'Shaughnessy's 1998 book "How to Retire Rich," basing his presentation primarily on risk strategies. Etta Tourkin asked each member to invest \$500,000 Monopoly money for growth and to report at the end of the semester on the growth of the portfolio and how decisions were made. Enid and George Muse focused on how to utilize the daily Wall Street Journal; Arlene Emenaker enthralled us all with Warren Buffet's Rx for wealth: Buffetology. Terry Savage discussed buying Internet StocksDon't.

And of course, we always have newcomers. Join us. Do you think the members who no longer take the course have made their fortune and can now sit back and gab about their success?

Fall Study-Discussion Groups Set to Start in September

Omnilore members have selected 14 courses to be offered this fall. Due to heavy enrollment in four of the courses, more than one section will be offered in The Hundred Best Novels, Emotional Intelligence, The Development of the Jewish Religion, and New Ideas in Science. Study/Discussion groups will meet from September through December. Sessions are scheduled as follows:

- VITAL PRODUCTIVE AGING, second and fourth Monday afternoon
- EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, (section 1) first and third Monday afternoon; (section 2) second and fourth Wednesday morning
- THE "100 BEST" NOVELS, (section 1) second and fourth Tuesday afternoon; (section 2) second and fourth Monday afternoon, (section 3) first and third Thursday afternoon
- THE GREAT COMPOSERS: LIVES AND WORKS, first and third Thursday afternoon
- THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JEWISH RELIGION, (section 1) first and third Monday morning; (section 2) second and fourth Tuesday morning
- MEDIEVAL EUROPE, first and third Thursday morning
- THE ESSAY, second and fourth Monday afternoon
- GREAT LETTER WRITERS, second and fourth Thursday morning
- NEW IDEAS IN SCIENCE, (section 1) second and fourth Thursday afternoon--Room 7; (section 2) second and fourth Thursday afternoon--Room 8
- THE ENIGMA OF TIME FROM STARDUST TO US, first and third Wednesday afternoon
- STOCK MARKET, first and third Tuesday morning
- THE WORLD--American Revolution through the WW1, second and fourth Wednesday afternoon
- WRITERS WORKSHOP, first and third Monday afternoon

President (Continued from page 2) can or should decide. According to our Procedures, if there's to be a no-presentation format it should be spelled out as such in the topic write-up. When you sign up for an S/DG in OMNILORE you should have assurance that it will conform to our standard modus operandi.

I can tell you many horror stories from other learning-in-retirement groups that have "opened it up" and have quickly and completely lost the peer-led format, because it's so natural to take the easy path....if we do it we can lose our precious identity.

Hopefully I've shed a little light on the Omnilore process. In the future, many of you will become active, participating in the standing committees such as Membership, Communications

and Curriculum--and some will serve on future Boards of Directors whereby you can help determine Omnilore's directions.

Let me wish you all an enjoyable educational experience in the winter semester, and I hope to greet all of you at our gala Annual Meeting.

OmniLore News

Comments
input can be



and
sent to

OMNILORE CSUDH
PMB 236
P.O. Box 7000
Redondo Beach, Ca. 90277-8710
Phone (310) 540-6011

OMNIOLORE PROFILE**Rose Shields**

From the time she was born, Rose Shields' father, a letter carrier in Gary, Indiana, wanted to raise his daughter in his home town, New Orleans. But due to government regulations on employees switching cities, she didn't get there until nine years later. She liked it so much that she chose to study for her bachelor's degree at Dillard University in New Orleans and stayed on afterwards for six years as a math and science teacher at a private school.

When the school closed Rose accompanied the director and his wife to Los Angeles where she went to work for the county as a social worker for the probation department. She stayed there for 30 years until her retirement in 1990, working her way up the ladder to supervisor and then department director. In addition, for six years she taught science and math for adult education classes.

During her almost 20 years as director she worked in Crenshaw, Rio Hondo, Torrance, and the San Gabriel Valley. At one point she was assistant to the division chief.

While working in juvenile halls in Downey, downtown Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley, she frequently got up at 4 a.m., in order to put the juveniles on buses to their various courts at 6 a.m. Following the 1974 earthquake in the San Fernando Valley, Rose—who was

responsible for the division which included several buildings of juvenile boys — reopened the San Fernando Valley division.

Rose's responsibilities in area offices such as Torrance involved overseeing deputies who conducted investigations for both superior court and municipal court. Her staff was responsible for pre-sentencing reports, investigations, and supervising those on probation.

As a member of upper management, Rose worked at one time simultaneously with Torrance, South Central, and Los Angeles in conjunction with the Rand Corporation on a special project involving violent offenders.

But life was not all work for Rose. She and her husband Adrian raised four children; and Rose was involved in several outside activities. Her interests ranged from belly-dancing to playing the recorder. She appeared in recorder concerts at the Getty Museum and the Huntington Museum and did belly-dancing performances at senior citizen homes. In addition to the recorder, Rose mastered the viola de gamba, a six-stringed instrument, and belonged to the Viola de Gamba Society in Culver City. She served as a literacy mentor, studied Chinese knotting, belonged to two investment clubs, and worked on the campaign to get

Carson incorporated as a city. After studying computers in classes in El Segundo, she joined Senior-Net, a computer organization for seniors which communicates with seniors on a national network. She is also a member of the South Bay Computer Club.

Her activities were slowed down in 1995 when she contracted pneumonia, beat the odds and survived, but became oxygen dependent.

Having joined Omnimore just two years before the bout with pneumonia, Rose now focuses her spare time on reading, studying and Omnimore; she's served as coordinator of two discussion groups — one on Creativity and one on Vital Productive Aging -- and as a member of the Membership Committee.

At the present time her husband, Adrian, who is also retired from the probation department, is completing his term of office as president of the Galloping Gourmets, and advanced Toastmasters group. They share pride in the accomplishments of their children-- their oldest son who works as program director for troubled children in Portland, Oregon; their middle son, who works in Burbank as a carpet cleaner distributor, their youngest son who is a loan officer for Washington Mutual in Seattle, and their daughter, who is a policewoman in Atlanta.

**KEYS**

Please, please, please, if you are no longer a coordinator or co-coordinator, please contact Gloria Jacobs, 378-3206, to arrange for returning your keys and receiving your \$10 deposit back. Others need the keys.

**MIMI BREITMAN'S "STEPS OF STONE"**

Mimi Breitman has been a member of the Omnimore Writer's Workshop since its inception. With the inspiration and encouragement of her Omnimore friends, she wrote a book about her STURM UND DRANG years. The title of the book is STEPS OF STONE, describing the pilgrimage of a sixteen year old from Nazi-occupied Vienna to war-torn London and final arrival in New York.

The price of the book is \$10.00 and Mimi is donating \$20.00 to Omnimore for every 10 books sold. Orders are

gratefully accepted by phone or mail. Call Mimi at (310) 541-4333 or write to her at 6542 Ocean Crest Drive, B303, Rancho Palos Verdes, Ca. 90275.

Editor's note: At our last Forum our speaker challenged us with the question "Who Owns History?" After reading this delightful narrative of Mimi's early years, it is obvious that she owns at least a part of it. This slim volume made me laugh, cry and rage and I would love to know what has happened to all the characters in the book since that turbulent time. I urge you to get a copy and read it.



OMNIOLORE CALENDAR 1999

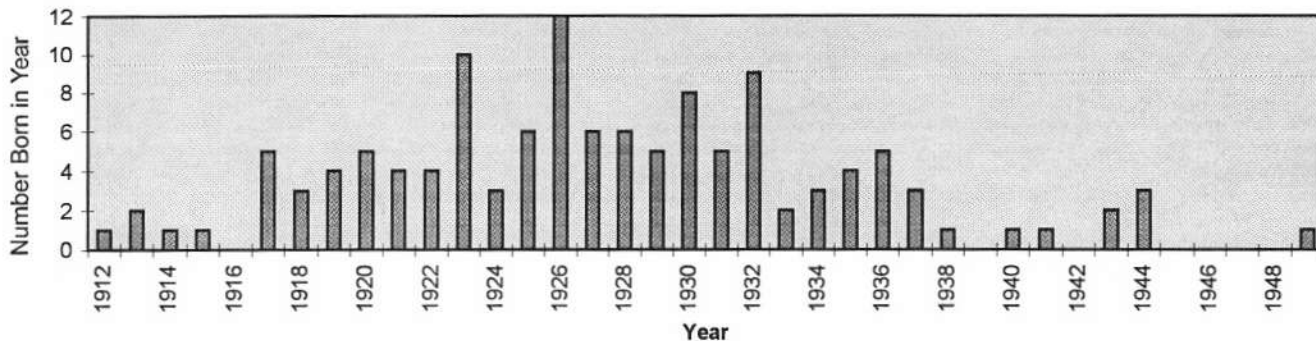
September	1	Fall Session Begins	
	1	Deadline for Spring S/D Group Topic Suggestions	
	6	Labor Day	
	9	Board of Directors' Meeting & Publication of Agenda for Annual Meeting and Nominating Slate for Year 2000 Officers	
	28	Spring S/D Group Registration Forms Distributed	
October	14	Board of Directors' Meeting	
	15	Deadline for November Newsletter	
	15	Deadline for return of Spring S/DG Registration Forms	
	21	Annual Meeting Luncheon - election of Officers	
	30	Spring S/DG schedules announced	
November	11	Veterans Day	
	11	Board of Directors' Meeting	
	18	Review and prepare Annual Budget	
	25	Thanksgiving	

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.

WHEN WERE WE BORN?

Omnilore Birth Year Distribution



Some of us, who have nothing better to do, thought it might be fun to analyze the age spread of the members of Omnilore. The above chart does not represent all members; only the 126 active members that we had data on at the beginning of 1999. However we believe that it is typical of the entire membership. Note that we have some people that were born before WW1 and Women's Suffrage and others that were born after WW2. However the bulk of our membership was born between 1920 & 1932. What does this prove? Nothing really, except that that you're never too young or too old for our wonderful organization!

OMNIOLORE ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: Thursday, October 21, 1999 @ 11:15a.m.
WHERE: Torrance Hilton Hotel (rooftop Horizon Room)
21333 Hawthorne Boulevard, Torrance

Reservations are required by October 14th, but please help our planning by reserving right now!!

ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

Please make _____ reservations for the Omnilore Luncheon and Annual Meeting

NAME: _____ Phone # _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ for _____ people at \$20.00 per person

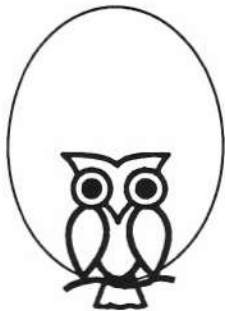
Lunch selection: Asian Chicken Salad _____ Eggplant Parmesan _____

I cannot attend. Please send an absentee ballot to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ Phone # _____

Please make out checks to Friends of Omnilore
Send to: Omnilore: Attention Treasurer
PMB 236
P.O.Box 7000
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