



OMNILORE NEWS

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OMNILORE NEWS

A publication of OMNILORE, a Learning in Retirement Organization affiliated with The Division of Extended & International 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. Please contact the editor with your contributions.

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OMNI BOO! Annual Meeting a Halloween Treat

Barbara Dye Speaks on Land Preservation

by Carol Kerster

For both progressives and conservatives (as defined by Reverend Morehouse at the last Forum Luncheon), the October Annual Meeting should be highly appealing. The topic, *What's Next for Land Preservation on the Palos Verdes Peninsula*, addresses an issue we can all support with enthusiasm, regardless of political persuasion. And lest we fear that only residents of the Peninsula will be concerned, our speaker, **Barbara Dye**, Executive Director of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, assures us that the entire region will benefit from preserved lands.



Barbara Dye

As a member of the board of this organization from its founding in 1988 through 1997, and returning as Executive Director in 2002, Ms. Dye has extensive experience on issues of land preservation. She led a successful effort to create a 1200 acre nature preserve in the middle of Los Angeles County and, as Environmental Project Manager for Trump National Golf Course in Palos Verdes, she was responsible for habitat and trail installation and for condition compliance. In addition to having served as Field Representative for Congresswoman Jane Harman, Ms. Dye is the author of two books. This accomplished leader is a fitting speaker for our very special October meeting.

This Annual Meeting, at which we elect officers for the next year, will be held at the Los Verdes Country Club on Tuesday, October 31st, at 11:00 o'clock. A list of nominees will be sent to all members a month prior to the elections.



Lighthouse Above Elevated Marine Terrace
Palos Verdes Peninsula

As is our tradition, we celebrate Halloween by wearing costumes (optional), vote on our new leaders (desirable), and have a jolly old time (hopefully). Your presence at this event can be assured by using the reservation form on page 7 of this newsletter, or the one (sure to be orange) which will reach you through regular mail in due time. However you register, do join your *Omnilore* colleagues on Tuesday, Oct. 31st.

DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

◆ President's Message	Page 2
◆ The Sounding Board	Page 2
◆ The Resource Link	Page 2
◆ Shakespeare Festival Report	Page 3
◆ Brown Bag Science	Page 4
◆ Illuminations	Page 5
◆ Bulletin Board	Page 6
◆ The Bookshelf	Page 7
◆ Oct. Annual Meeting Res. Form	Page 7



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Richard Johnson

Several members have brought to my attention problems with our equipment when making a presentation. Having, in the past, similar problems I can empathize with you. Lately however, I can assure you that our equipment is working well. It is necessary to become familiar with the equipment before using it. This extra effort will be well worth your while in enhancing your presentations. You can call **Robert Beach** on (310) 375-0898 or **Joe Carrier** on (310) 540-4971 to arrange a time to get familiar with the equipment shortly before you need to use

it, or if there is someone in your group that can help, arrange to meet him or her at least a half hour before the start of your meeting.

I attended the July Forum and was so impressed with the luncheon and the speaker, that I felt badly for the *Omniole* members who were missing it. The Reverend Morehouse, although a liberal minister, gave a quite evenhanded presentation on how a liberal (he preferred the term progressive) could understand and talk to a

conservative and vice versa. This would certainly be appropriate for some of our S/D groups. He made his points clearly and all who were there benefited from his thoughts and remarks. If you have yet to try one of our Forum Luncheons, I strongly recommend it. It is a great chance to meet and chat with friends who might not be in your current discussion group as well as to listen to an interesting talk and enjoy good food while overlooking the blue Pacific.



Resource Link

by your Website Working Group



Many times, in giving our presentations, we research to find statistics and up-to-date facts about nations. Our *Omniole* website has just the right link for the needed material. After going to www.omniole.org, click on "More Information" in the far left column. Then, again in the far left column, click on "Links." Once you are in Links, scroll down to the Research heading and find NationMaster.com. Click on that and voila! - you have access to a vast compilation of data that includes the CIA Factbook, UN information, country profiles, flags, encyclopedias, and material on health, language, sports - too much to list, actually! In the "Stats in the News" section, one can find oil consumption statistics; under "Education Statistics," one can find the rate of school years completed by nation. (The U.S. ranks #14, at 15.2 years.) What country's residents are most satisfied by their quality of life? (El Salvador's residents are more satisfied than the Germans.) Warning: You could spend hours exploring all the nooks and crannies on NationMaster; better give yourself a time limit!

The Sounding Board Echo Echo Echo

Easy Access to Sounding Board

by Patricia Edie



Every *Omniole* has an opinion and many of them are on display in the *Omniole* Sounding Board. Now we have *made it easier* for you to see the ongoing discussions on the Sounding Board.

The Sounding Board is just two clicks away from the home page. Select **More Info**, then on the next screen, select **Sounding Board**. Voila! There it is. Anyone, even non-*Omniole*ans, can view the discussion forums and read what is being said. If you want to participate by stepping on your own soapbox and posting a reply or even starting a new discussion with a question, you must first register as a participant.

Registering is easy.

- ◆ Click on the word, *Register* located on the upper right hand corner of the Initial Sounding Board page,
- ◆ *Accept the conditions for participating* in the next screen,
- ◆ *Complete each field that has an asterisk* in the last screen. (only 4)

Choose an easy user name and password. Your email address remains hidden from viewers unless you choose, in the preferences, to show it.

Each time you want to write something on the website, you first log on with the user name and password you have created. A *timesaving tip*: When logging in, check the box next to "Log me in automatically each visit" and you never have to log in again!

Omniole Trip to Ashland Shakespeare Festival

by Harriet Allyn and Marilyn Landau

On June 19th, fourteen *Omniole* members gathered in Ashland, Oregon for the Shakespeare Festival. The group stayed at the Ashland Springs Hotel, which was very conveniently located in the center of town and within walking distance to all the plays and to many interesting shops and restaurants. Near the hotel is beautiful Lithia Park, where many enjoyed walking.

On the first night the group met for a delicious dinner in Larks, the restaurant in the hotel.

On Tuesday morning the group was taken on an informative backstage tour about the history of the Festival, the different theaters, the sets, and the actors. Many attended the prefaces where the plays were discussed prior to show time. The group saw *The Winter's Tale*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. In addition to these Shakespeare plays, some also saw *Cyrano De Bergerac* and *Intimate Apparel*. All were well acted and very enjoyable.

The Allyns who were on the trip have a good friend, Amy, who lives in Ashland, and on Thursday morning, Amy invited the group to a special treat. Her good friend, Lue Douthit, who happens to be the Director of Literary Development and Dramaturgy of the entire Shakespeare Festival, graciously agreed to meet with the group at breakfast and talk about the Festival. *Omnioleans* experienced a very special discussion with a brilliant woman who is at the top of her profession. She discussed selection of plays, choosing of actors, behind the scenes workings, answered questions, and was truly incredible in her command of the English language, and her ability to relate ideas and concepts and use of reflective thinking.

In addition to the plays members of the group participated in other area activities. Some went on a wine tour, some drove to Crater Lake, some went to see the Oregon caves, and some even went river rafting! Many also went on Nature Walks. Everyone agreed that the trip was a rousing success. So we are talking about doing it again, possibly next summer. If you are interested in going on the next trek to Ashland, please email your interest to **Marilyn Landau** at Marilynjl@aol.com.



Standing with hat: John Stevens, John Taber, Lynn Taber, Nina Landis, Harriet Allyn, Herb Allyn (behind her), Myron Pullen and Carol Lopilato.
In front: Tony Lopilato, Marilyn Landau, Midge Solomon, and Jalé Pullen



Our Hotel, *The Ashland Springs*

At Dinner Our First Night:

Midge Solomon
Herb & Harriet Allyn
Carol Lopilato
John Stevens
Myron Pullen

Bottom:
Lynn Taber



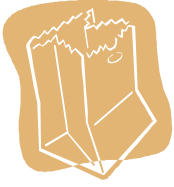
How Did We Do?

From the 83 members who responded to the email feedback survey of the Spring 2006 S/DGs, on a scale of 1 to 4 (4 being best), the following scores were given:

- ✓ Overall Score: 3.4 with 67 saying the course met their expectations
- ✓ Quality of Presentations: 3.3
- ✓ Quality of Discussion: 3.4
- ✓ Quality of Text: 3.2

Special kudos were given to top scorers: **Jazz** and **The Supreme Court!**

Your Curriculum Committee



Room 7
12:15 to 1:15 PM

Brown Bag Science

(Science for the Non-Scientist)

by *Burt Cutler*

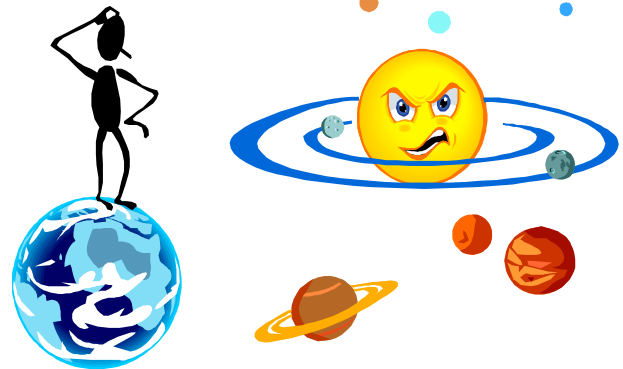
Bring Your Lunch - If You Like!



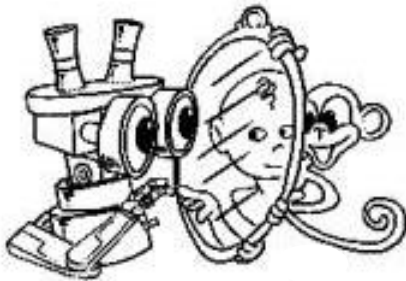
During the next several months Brown Bag Science will especially accent fascinating discussions about aspects of science with broad appeal to the entire membership. Do be sure to mark your calendars and participate in these *Omniole* extras!

September 21st

Dick Johnson has agreed to share with us some of his studies on cosmology. He'll tell us what's in the universe, some unusual things we've found in space, how far away they are, how the universe started, how old it is and how we know all these things--and why we care! And he promises to tell us about these things in a manner that will appeal to the least-scientific-programmed *Omniole*! So come and enjoy with us!



October 19th



Jim O'Neill promises to deliver just a few of his (in)famous one-liners while he informs us about a particularly interesting brain function, "mirror neurons." While neuroscientists were studying which motor neurons fired when a *monkey* reached for a raisin, they were surprised to find that when a *human* researcher reached for a raisin -- watched by the monkey -- the *same* monkey motor neurons fired! An aha moment. Jim will describe how we humans use motor neurons to learn, to appreciate smiles, to feel the meaning behind a smile. At last you'll learn why it is that when one person yawns others tend to yawn, why when several people laugh, we tend to join the laughter.

Development of a large number of human mirror neurons could account for our ancestors "great leap forward" 50,000 to 30,000 years ago. Be sure to come hear why mirror neurons may be the "DNA of neuroscience."

Any *Omniole* who wishes to suggest yourself (or others) for a future BBS please contact either **Burt Cutler, John Stevens, Dan Stern or Tom Vincent.**



Jim Bouchard

The Golden Thread

by *Jim Bouchard*

Director, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
College of Extended and International Education, CSUDH



Where did the summer go? That's the question I usually ask when I find myself sitting at the fall convocation (August 21 this year), the meeting at which President Lyons welcomes faculty and staff back for the new academic year. With a prediction of triple digit temperatures today, it's hard to imagine that fall is just around the corner!

As you probably know, our on-campus fall lecture series will be derived from our televised OLLIonline series. This fall, our series is titled **The Golden Thread: Masterpieces, Artists and Their Times**. We will explore those qualities of a work which determine whether a painting, a composition, a film, or a building is a "masterpiece." The artists covered will include Picasso, Michelangelo, Beethoven, Thomas Moran, and others. Of these topics several will be selected for the six live lectures on campus.

By the time this goes to print, we should have reached our goal of 100 OLLIonline members (that's 80 in addition to our original 20 members!). Let me express my thanks for your support of OLLIonline, and for your tolerance of my relentless (and hopefully not too annoying) marketing effort. The Dean, the Associate Dean, and myself, as well as many *Omniole*s, have put a great deal of work into making learning-in-retirement for homebound seniors a reality. Should we succeed in continuing this program, it will be because of the support and generosity of *Omniole*. I look forward to seeing everyone this fall!



I'm Impressed!

by Jim O'Neill

I am impressed by the zeal of *Omnioleans*. Everyone fully prepares for every meeting. They read the material twice, noting key points, and using the questions handed out by the presenter. They also take the time from their busy schedule to research other material. On the rare occasion, when someone has not prepared, my charitable disposition is inclined to attribute this to some trauma - sex change operation, heart attack, or ingrowing toenail. At the pre-meeting, it is awesome how many are prepared to help the coordinators by volunteering to present early.

But what really excites my admiration is the presenters. They never fail to hand out questions or discussion points two weeks before the scheduled date. If, as sometimes happens, the material is not delivered until the day before the presentation, we never assume this person is totally disorganized, nor do we speculate about their priorities. It is forbidden under Parliamentary Procedures to assign a

motive to any speaker, but adherence to this rule removes most of the fun. So let us continue to speculate on motives: "He doesn't give a darn for the class." "When she's not talking, she's not listening."

Omniole presenters never hog the whole hour by droning on incessantly. Gone are the days when one presenter started by saying, "I know I am supposed to only talk for twenty minutes and then open for questions, but nobody pays any attention to these rules!" Our presenters actively encourage lively participation at all times. It is as rare as a meteor striking, but it can happen that the presenter has not prepared - doesn't have a clue about the subject. We must assume some distraction - granddaughter getting pregnant, grandson jailed for auto theft - to account for the dreadful performance.

Coordinators are the key to successful courses. It takes my breath away how they fulfill their task. They evaluate the suggested common reading and may decide on a more suitable text. They draw up a schedule. If the schedule contains dates which don't exist or clash with holidays, this may be forgiven as a sign of incipient Alzheimers. At the pre-meeting they carefully note members' wishes.

As the classes continue it is inspiring how everybody realizes that each member, apart from the presenter, may only have two minutes to contribute to the discussion. The coordinator is forever alert to anyone with their hand up, and calling upon them to speak. Rare indeed is the coordinator who does not realize that people want to talk.

All members leave every meeting feeling better, wishing it had lasted longer, and inspired to make life better for everyone they know.

We should all be impressed!



by Patricia Edie

Some *Omnioleans* have discussed their enjoyment of *The Kite Runner* on our website Sounding Board. Next month, September 2006, Barnes & Noble University is offering it as one of the books in their moderator-led book groups. You can find out more about it by clicking on "Online Reading Groups" about half-way down the page at:

<http://university.barnesandnoble.com/>

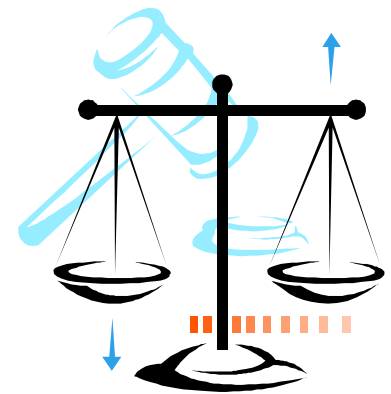
If you have never tried a Barnes & Noble University Class, this might be the time to do so. They are usually free (this one is) and you can participate at your convenience right from your computer.

Membership Committee Doings

by Kathleen Fitzgerald

The Membership Committee held two "Introducing Omniole" meetings in August in anticipation of the Fall trimester. Twelve attendees signed up and several others have expressed an interest in joining at a later time. Let's welcome them into the new S/DGs. As is so often the case, attendees came after hearing about *Omniole* from friends. Please keep telling people about *Omniole*. You are our best sales representatives. We have lots of those business-size cards with all the information and you can take as many as you want.

Thanks to all the members who participated in the orientation sessions and did such a great job. Special thanks to **Ralph Brown** and **Burt Cutler** who, although not members of the Membership Committee, stepped in to help, and to **Joe Carrier** who, while still on the mend from hip surgery, came in anyway to help with registration.



Help for Omnioleans

Mike Scordan recently won a Small Claims Court judgment in the S.W. Division of the Los Angeles County Judicial District. If anyone is considering filing a Small Claims action and wishes to contact him, he will be happy to give you his input. Mike spent 25 years as a Suit Negotiator for State Farm Mutual in Los Angeles. He is NOT an attorney.

Phone: (310) 375-5419

E-Mail: SatNam.Kant@verizon.net

Future Class Ideas!

The fall classes have just started, and the Curriculum Committee is about to work on the winter courses. Now is the time for you to submit your ideas for courses you would like to see offered. What have you always wanted to study? When you are in a bookstore, what topics grab your attention? Put those thoughts on paper or online and give the Curriculum Committee your ideas.

For information about the Hiking Group, contact Nancy Shannon at NancySincl@aol.com or John Taber at JETaber@lafn.org

Library Resources

Dick Johnson has arranged for a Librarian from the Peninsula Library to address our Computer Talk group on October 26th at 12 noon. Her name is **Susan Sarno** and she will talk about how to get a Peninsula library card online and then how to access the large data base that the Peninsula Library maintains and what is in it.

General Meeting

Remember: The Annual General Meeting is Tuesday, October 31st. It is at the LOS VERDES COUNTRY CLUB, beginning at 11 a.m. Be prepared to elect new officers and show off your costumes!



Visited www.omnilore.org lately? There are quite a number of changes to the website. Pop in and look around. Our webmaster is continually making it easier to use, and the content continues to change. Get in the habit of visiting regularly. The owls like company.

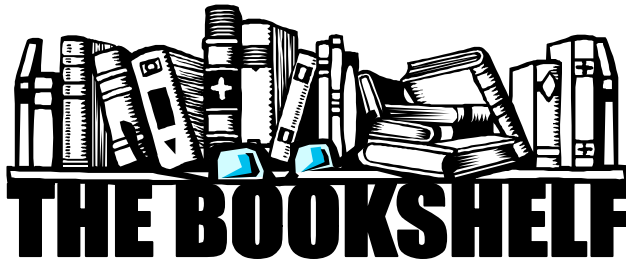


Lights, Camera . . . ACTION!!

Camera ready! In the cupboards of Rooms 7 and 8 are disposable cameras. The website would like pictures of S/DGs in action! During your session, get that camera and snap a shot of what's happening! The directions of what to do are with the camera, and are very simple. Let's click together!

Website Resources

Find a good resource on the Internet? Have a favorite online resource that you frequently refer to? Share it with **Omniole**. Submit it for inclusion in the Resource Links online at our **Omniole** website. Send the web address, along with a brief description of the site to **Blanche Herring** (chuckandb@earthlink.net).



by Mary Oran

Some *Omniole* members have suggested a diverse roster of reading materials this month. In the Fiction category, consider *The Red Carpet: Bangalore Stories*, written by **Lavanya Sankaran**. These short stories present the cultural changes taking place in India among the diverse residents. The conflicts of the new and old social orders and rift between generations are highlighted. The author paints this dynamic world with a subtle wit. Our contributor says “each short story is a gem.”

Canadian novelist **Richard B. Wright** penned *Clara Callan*. This is a Depression-era story composed of the letters and journal entries of two adult sisters and their older friend. The characters and the era come to life as the one sister, a schoolteacher, stays home in rural Canada, and the other, an aspiring actress, lives in New York, starring in radio sitcoms. While Wright is a popular novelist in Canada, he is little known here; give him a try!

For this month’s “classic,” consider the short dystopia *Anthem* by **Ayn Rand**. This dark portrait of the future, first released in 1938, presents the beliefs of

Rand in a one-night reading. It tells of a man who escapes from a society in which all individuality has been squeezed. After this one, you might want to read or re-read *Atlas Shrugged* and *The*

Fountainhead.

Our final fiction suggestion is *The Dante Club* by **Matthew Pearl**. This could be described as a literary suspense story. With Boston, 1865, as a setting, it centers on a group of men who meet to translate Dante’s *Divine Comedy* from the Italian. The protagonists are based on actual people, including Oliver Wendell Holmes, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and James Lowell. At the same time they are meeting, a serial killer is torturing/killing victims in ways that resemble the events in “The Inferno.” The group thus becomes involved in helping the police.

Our first nonfiction entry is also of a literary nature. *The Annotator*, by **Allan Keen & Roger Lubbock**, opens in 1940 with one of the authors, a London antiquarian book dealer, investigating a book just acquired from a country library. Thus begins a 10 year investigation into the book and the identity of the Elizabethan era person whose numerous annotations were in the book’s margins. After extensive research, the authors claim that a young Shakespeare had used the book to collect historical information for his plays! Intriguing! (A note of caution: It’s a 1954 publication and out of print, but

definitely worth looking for in libraries and used bookstores!)

Finally, we offer two humorous pieces to lighten your autumn. **Richard Lederer’s** *Anguished English* is a hilarious collection of goofs, gaffs, and just plain errors with the English language. Contributions are from many professions; if you find yourself correcting the news anchors when they slip with the language, this is a book for you!

The Da Vinvi Cod by **Don Brine** is a short parody of you-know-what. Jacques-Sauna-Lurker lies dead on the floor of the National Art Gallery of Fine Paintings in London. He has been murdered by a cod. Robert, Sophie, and Sir Teabag try to solve the mystery. And it all comes down to a cod.

(Our thanks go to Gloria Jacobs, Myron Pullen, Midge Solomon and Pat Stevens for contributing to our list. Please send your titles, with author name and a brief description, to msoran@sbcglobal.net. Please put “Omniole Books” as the subject. We look forward to hearing from you.)

“You cannot discover new oceans unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore.”

From a plaque on the bulkhead of the Wardroom of the
US Coast Guard Cutter Eagle

OMNIOLORE Annual Luncheon Reservation Form

WHEN: **Tuesday**, October 31st, 2006 – 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: **Los Verdes Country Club**
7000 W. Los Verdes Drive
Rancho Palos Verdes

Reservations are required by October 25th, please!

Please make _____ reservations for the **Omniole** Annual Luncheon at **\$17.50** each:

Name(s): _____ Phone #: _____
(Please Print)

(Please Print)

Enclosed is a check for: **\$17.50** Other

Please make checks out to **CSUDH**, and put in the Forum Committee’s box or send to:

Forum Committee, c/o Diana Cutler
10 Middleridge Lane S.
Rolling Hills, CA 90274

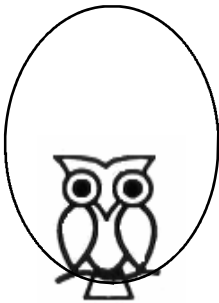
OMNIOLORE
CALENDAR
2006

- | | | |
|------------------|----|--|
| September | 1 | Fall Trimester Classes Begin |
| | 4 | Labor Day |
| | 11 | Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8 |
| | 12 | Membership Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Room 8 |
| | 14 | Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7 |
| | 15 | Hiking Group - 10 a.m. |
| | 21 | Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. - Room 7 -
<i>The Universe Around Us</i> - Dick Johnson (see article, page 4) |
| | 22 | First Day of Autumn |
| | 23 | Rosh Hashanah |
| | 25 | Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8 |
| October | 2 | Yom Kippur |
| | 9 | Columbus Day Observed |
| | 9 | Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8 |
| | 10 | Membership Committee - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Room 8 |
| | 12 | Board of Directors Meeting - 12 Noon to 2 p.m. - Room 7 |
| | 15 | Input Deadline for November-December Newsletter |
| | 19 | Brown-Bag Science (BBS) Series - 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. - Room 7 -
<i>Mirror Neurons</i> - Jim O'Neill (see article, page 4) |
| | 20 | Hiking Group - 10 a.m. |
| | 23 | Stock Market SIG - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Room 8 |
| | 26 | Computer Talk - 12 Noon to 1 p.m. - Room 7
<i>Accessing the PV Library Extensive Database</i> - Susan Sarno |
| | 29 | Daylight Savings Ends |
| | 31 | Annual Meeting & Luncheon - 11 a.m. - Los Verdes Country Club |
| | 31 | Halloween |



IMPORTANT:

Calendar changes and additions are scheduled with
Pat Stevens - (310) 548-3253 - mh_pt_stevens@peoplepc.com



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