



OMNILORE NEWS

Volume 11 Issue 2

March 2002

OMNILORE NEWS

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

Board of Directors

President	Blanche Herring
VP - Academics	Rose Shields
VP - Administration	George Clark
Treasurer	Gordon Kehmeier
Recording Secretary	Nancy Sinclair
Past President	Emil Raulin
Member-at-Large	Jay Edie
Member-at-Large	Nina Landis
Member-at-Large	Helen Leven

Standing Committee Chairs

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

Forum Chairs

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
	Carol Kerster
	Bob Saunders

FANTASTIC FUTURE OF STEM CELLS REVIEWED

By Carol Kerster

With the announcement that she uses her hands a lot, and that she likes to interact with her audience, Dr. Carol Ann Itatani engaged the full attention of the 125 *Omnilore* members and friends who attended the January 30th Forum at the Los Verdes Country Club,

But it was her illuminating and informed presentation on the topic of *Stem Cell Research* that held their attention. Using an overhead projector to illustrate what seemed a limitless wealth of knowledge, Dr. Itatani defined and described the potential uses for hematopoietic stem cells, which are contained in the bone marrow, and are partially differentiated and embryonic stem cells, which are found in fertilized eggs, and can be induced to regenerate many kinds of tissues and organs to their normal functions.

Stem cells currently are being tested for use on patients with Parkinson's Disease and diabetes. In the former they affect the production of L-dopamine; in the latter, insulin. Additionally, treatments for some cancers, blood diseases, birth defects, and spinal cord injuries are also being researched and tested.

The issues of transplant rejection, tissue matching, cloning, and of course, the ethics involved, elicited many questions from the audience, all of which were responded to with candor and clarity. Dr. Itatani specifically cited the Catholic Church's opposition to any use of embryonic stem cell research, and the necessity of government funding versus privatization for continued work.

Her belief in the "fantastic potential" of stem cells was evident, and it seemed, so was that of the audience.

Downtown Walk Set for April 19th

On Friday, April 19th, *Omnilore's* Hiking Group will hold its annual tour of downtown Los Angeles' historical, architectural and artistic features.

Participants will catch a 9 a.m. Metro from the Artesia Station on the Blue Line.

After a three-mile walk and a no-host lunch, the group will head for home at about 2:30 p.m. Included in the outing will be a few resting places and bathroom stops.

Persons interested in participating are asked to call either **Nancy Shannon-Sinclair** at 513-0287 or **John Taber** at 831-4768 for details.

DON'T MISS – IN THIS ISSUE

◆ President's Message	Page 2
◆ Who is the Real Lord of the Rings?	Page 2
◆ Profile – Diana Cutler	Page 3
◆ Forum Luncheon Registration Form	Page 3





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Blanche Herring

To present or not to present, that's *not* the question. That's what we do! In our Study/Discussion Group (S/DG) each of us has the opportunity to research a topic and then we get to share our findings in a presentation to other *Omniorians*. The term *present* has a number of meanings. The one I use now means *gift*. Our presentations are the gift we give to our fellow members. They provide us with the chance not only to explore in-depth a particular subject, but they also give us the opportunity to share with our friends information and insight into a topic we might otherwise not have come across.

I see an *Omniole* presentation as the gift we give each other. The gift of time and of knowledge. There is a generous spirit

in *Omniole* which reaches out to others in warmth, and sharing. We share our experiences, our thoughts, our friendship, and our research discoveries.

When Bertrand Russell said, in writing about education, "If the object were to make pupils think . . . there would be . . . more discussion, more occasions when pupils were encouraged to express themselves . . .", he could well have been speaking of *Omniole*. For isn't that what we do? We read, we discuss, and most certainly we express ourselves. This is what makes our organization so special.

The next time you're with other members of *Omniole*, take a moment to look around and notice what an enthusiastic and interesting group of people you are part of. Really a very impressive gathering of individuals with

diverse back-grounds: educa-tors; business people; writers; scientists, medical and mental health professionals; librarians; musicians. You name them, you'll find them. These different back-grounds bring richness and new perspective to our studies and presentations — qualities not normally found in ordinary educational environments.



We may each have come together initially for different reasons, but what we have all found is the gift of shared experiences and viewpoints of remarkable people, and we do this in discussion groups, considered by a Nobel Laureate to be the very best, most productive atmosphere in which to learn. This, indeed makes *Omniole* very special.

Are Presentations Mandatory?

By Rose Shields, VP Academics

At the beginning of trimesters the issue of presentation arises. A presentation is mandatory in all classes *except* the instructor-led course at CSUDH.

Built into the rest of the S/D groups is an obligation to fulfill the requirement of making a presentation. *Omniole's* operating rules state our standard S/D group format includes peer teaching and learning and presentations by all S/D group members.

There are some possible alternatives/exceptions. One is the instructor-led course. In addition, each trimester the Curriculum Committee *may* accept one or two topic descriptions that suggest no presentations. As with any topic suggestion, the committee judges its suitability.

Please note that a no-presentation group exists *only* if the topic write-up specifically so states.

The bottom line in *Omniole* is:

- ◆ No — Tests
- ◆ No — Grades
- ◆ Yes — Presentations

- Remember -
daylight savings time starts April 7th!

Who Is The Real Lord Of The Rings?: Wagner Vs. Tolkien

By Bette Henning

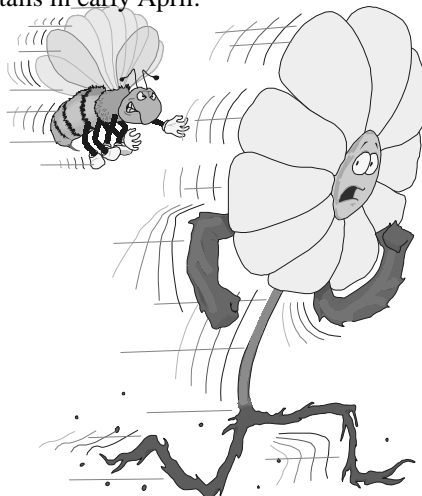
A contest between these musical and literary giants will be the topic of the forum luncheon to be held Wednesday, May 1st.

John Spear, Los Angeles Opera Community Service affiliate, will offer a revealing surprising probe into the subject at the 11:30 a.m. meeting at Los Verdes Country Club, 7000 West Los Verdes Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes.

Spear, an opera lover and authority for over 40 years, also had an impressive career in real estate, serving as president of the Long Beach Real Estate Association and California Real Estate Association.

He received his Ph.D. at the University of Washington and attended UCLA's graduate school, majoring in political science.

The meeting will include an appealing luncheon with dessert and beverage at a cost of \$15 per person. Reservations may be made using the form on page 3 of this newsletter. Look for a mailing with further details in early April.



Whoooooops!

When we published poems by *Omniole* members **Hal Fenton** and **Colleen Welch** in our last newsletter, we neglected to mention their source. Forgive us Hal and Colleen! Poems by both these *Omniorians* appeared in the *Omniole*-published book, *Writers Workshop: Fact and Fantasy*, published in 1996.

We are delighted to report that the Creative Writing Group still has books available for purchase. Persons interested in buying copies are asked to call either **Ellen Bradford**, 791-0391, or **Myrna Browning**, 325-2548.

OMNIOLORE PROFILE – DIANA CUTLER, FORUM CO-CHAIRMAN

When young stay-at-home mom Diana Cutler decided to become an at-home entrepreneur, little did she dream that her cottage industry would some day grow into an international business.

A native New Yorker who had spent ten years of her childhood in Philadelphia before returning to her home town, Diana went to work as a secretary after graduating from high school. During her three years with a furniture trade magazine, she learned to do everything from proofreading to writing advertising copy to generating mailing lists.

When California cousin Burt Cutler was stationed at Fort Monmouth late in World War II they spent weekends attending cultural events in Manhattan and taking in the Broadway shows. By the time he was mustered out of service at the end of the war they were engaged and making plans to marry in California where Burt was slated to complete his studies at Stanford University. While Burt finished college, Diana worked as secretary to the physical therapy department at Stanford Medical Center.

After graduation, they moved to Los Angeles where Burt went to work as an engineer and Diana became the mother of two children, a son and a daughter.

In 1962 when the children were pre-teens Diana and Burt decided to go into business with another couple. The men would make the financial decisions and the two women would work out of their homes. The business, called *Teaching Aids Institute*, involved putting out a picture book accompanied by a record called *Let's Learn to Read*. Diana and her partners wrote the book; and for the recording, Diana's sister, **Omniorian Nina Landis** played the role of teacher and Diana's children and neighborhood children played the roles of students in a classroom on a recording that they made in a professional studio.

Once they had a product their next challenge was marketing. Learning from their difficulties in marketing directly to parents, Diana and her partner quickly learned that teachers were their ideal market. They sent samples of their product with an invitation to use it for a month to teachers in the Southern states. Half of the teachers bought it, and the product was a success. As the business grew they added other products and moved the business from their homes to an office.

When Diana's younger child was 15 ½ years old, she found there was a third baby on the way. Her younger daughter was born in 1967. Two years later

the Cutlers bought out their business partners.

In 1970 Burt left the aerospace industry and joined the business. Many new educational products were introduced, the customer base was broadened, and the products were marketed internationally.

After owning homes in Baldwin Hills and Ladera Heights, the Cutlers moved in 1977 to their present home in Rolling Hills. When Burt retired Diana remained in the business. She retired five years ago.

Since her retirement, Diana, who had been interested in drawing and painting watercolors in her youth, rediscovered art and took classes and began painting again.

At the same time, she became active in **Omniole**. For the past two years she has been co-chair of the Forum Committee. In addition, she has served as coordinator for study/discussion groups in *American Detective Short Stories*, *Jewish Short Stories*, and *One-Hundred Best Novels*. She is currently co-coordinator of *Hemingway Short Stories*.

Diana has seven grandchildren. Her son and older daughter live in Southern California and her younger daughter lives in Northern California where she is studying to be a nurse practitioner.

HATS OFF!

By Nancy Shannon-Sinclair

Hats off to **Nancy Wells** for her management of the **Omniole** Hiking Group notifications for the last two years. She assisted with the continuity of the hiking notices and dues collection and helped make the transition to the e-mail notification system for those members on e-mail. Nancy accomplished this in addition to her own personal demanding schedule.

Thank you, Nancy!

In Memorium

Omniorian Julianna Schneider died January 24th. A graduate of Immaculate Heart High School and College, she retired from J. C. Penney after 30 years as a corporate buyer. Julianna was an avid traveler and a gourmet cook.

A good rule for going through life is to keep the heart a little softer than the head!



OMNIOLORE Luncheon Forum Reservation Form

WHEN: Wednesday, May 1st, 2002 – 11:30 a.m.

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

Reservations are required by April 23rd, please!

Please make ____ reservations for the **Omniole** Luncheon-Forum:

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

_____ Phone #: _____
(Please Print)

Luncheon Is \$15 Each

Enclosed is a check for: \$15 Other

Please make checks out to **CSUDH**, Forum Committee, c/o Diana Cutler and put in the Forum Committee's 10 Middleridge Lane S. box or send to: Rolling Hills, CA 90274

OMNIOLORE CALENDAR

2002

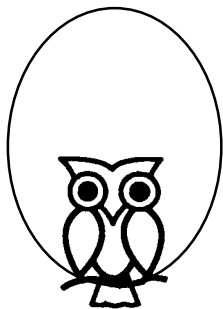
March	4	Forum Committee Meeting - 11:45 a.m.
	12	Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m.
	14	Board of Directors Meeting - 12:00 Noon
	15	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
	17	St. Patrick's Day
	28	1st Day of Passover
	29	Good Friday
	31	Easter
April	1	April Fool's Day
	1	Forum Committee Meeting - 11:45 a.m.
	7	Daylight Savings Time Begins
	9	Membership Committee Meeting - 12:15 p.m.
	11	Board of Directors Meeting - 12:00 Noon
	15	Input Deadline for May Newsletter
	19	Hiking Group - 10 a.m.
	22	Earth Day
	29	End of Spring Trimester
May	1	Spring Forum - 11:30 a.m.



IMPORTANT

Please Note: Calendar changes and additions may be made in one of two ways:
Either phone George Clark to reserve a room, or mark the corkboard calendar in
Room 7 and notify George Clark via e-mail.

George Clark's contact information: (310) 546-2343 – GLCSr@aol.com



Omniole, CSUDH
Division of Extended Education
PMB 236
P.O. Box 7000
Redondo Beach, Ca. 90277-8710