

Fall 1985



FERN  
LODGE  
FOCUS



# Fern Lodge, Inc.

18457 Madison Avenue, Castro Valley, Ca. 94546-1699 415 886-2448

THANKSGIVING 1985

Dear Friends,

As we again approach the Thanksgiving season, we find much to be grateful for at Fern Lodge. For one, there is your continuing support, metaphysical and financial. Over the past year, for example, your loving and generous donations have provided \$130,000 of benevolence to patients unable to pay the full cost of care. About 60% of our patients are supported by welfare funds through the State's Medi-Cal program. These funds cover about 65% of actual costs, and the shortfall must be made up through benevolence. Fern Lodge is unique as a nursing facility in readily accepting patients on Medi-Cal, and our willingness to do so results in a continuing need for benevolence. Recognizing this need, we established a Benevolence Endowment Fund. As the principal in this Fund accumulates, the interest will be used for benevolence.

We are also grateful for our dedicated nursing staff at Fern Lodge. As noted in our Spring newsletter, we had an urgent need for more nurses and aides this past winter. The Board formed a special committee to spearhead our efforts in recruiting nurses. The evolution of this committee reflects the unfoldment in our thought regarding this claim of lack. As we all worked to cherish Christian Science nursing more fully, we found both nurses and aides to meet our present needs, and we found the focus of our work shifting from recruitment to renewal. One outcome was our establishment of a sabbatical leave program, which grants one-month leaves with pay to nurses with long service records. Such leaves express our gratitude for their dedicated work and recognize their need for periodic spiritual refreshment. More recently, the committee's focus has changed again to "the joy of serving God," and this is where we find ourselves working today. We are grateful for the progress made in meeting our staffing needs for the summer, and we look for continued unfoldment. We are also thankful for your loving offers of assistance when we needed to find temporary housing for some of our nurses.

Along with cherishing our staff, we are grateful for the healing work that goes on at Fern Lodge. In Miscellaneous Writings (370:12-15) Mrs. Eddy states that, "In different ages the divine idea assumes different forms, according to humanity's needs. In this age it assumes, more intelligently than ever before, the form of Christian healing. This is the babe we are to cherish." We are thankful for each individual step of progress made by the patients at Fern Lodge and for the healings that have enabled some to return home. Our expectations are for healing in every instance.

Sincerely,

*Ray H. Bishop*

Ray H. Bishop  
President

YOU MAY NEED TO KNOW that your contribution is tax-deductible because we are a non-profit tax-exempt nursing facility under both Federal and State law. Your entire gift is utilized for improvement and operation of Fern Lodge, and no portion of your contribution has been or will be used for fund-raising expenses.

A Non-Profit Nursing Facility for Christian Scientists Accredited by The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Massachusetts.

President, Ray Bishop, Walnut Creek; Vice-President, Judy Prono, Livermore; Secretary, Demarest Morrow, Danville; Treasurer, Wilbur Wood, Oakland; Directors: Charles Arden, Walnut Creek; Eugene DeBolt, Danville; Sylvia Feldman, Castro Valley; Frances Griffith, Walnut Creek; Alan Jones, Oakland; Blair Lindsay, Oakland; Don Rogers, Berkeley; Jane Schweitzer, Oakland; Ed Spencer, San Mateo; Greg Walsh, Fremont; Joan Winburn, Fremont. Administrator, George Strong, Castro Valley; Director of Nursing, Camille Lindsay, Livermore.



## How Are Your Donations Used?

A mental atmosphere of spiritual expectancy--not waiting for healing, but looking out from ever-present wholeness--is necessary to support the practice of Christian Science. People come to Fern Lodge to be nursed by God's caring qualities while they pray for spiritual regeneration, and it is the mental atmosphere we maintain which encourages their prayers. We are grateful to the nurses on our staff who each day bring their expectancy of spiritual growth to share with the patients here. Their selfless dedication does more than can be said to ensure the effectiveness of Christian Science healing.

Fern Lodge extends sincere thanks to each of the donors whose gifts enable us to maintain a well-staffed, efficient facility. The Fern Lodge Board of Directors recently established a policy for apportioning donations to meet fairly the challenges facing us today.

One-third of donations will help establish our Endowment Fund for Benevolence. Proceeds from this fund will assist patients who have financial need.

Another third of donations will go to a new employee benefits program. We hope to start a retirement program soon, and then we can give lasting recognition to staff members who do so much for the Christian Scientists who come to Fern Lodge for nursing.

The remaining third of your donations will be used to support our daily operations, and especially to help compensate for the fixed payment from the State under the Medi-Cal program.

We feel that the donations we receive and the good uses to which we put them are evidence of the loving care God gives to all His ideas. The spiritual discernment of human needs results in the outpouring of gratitude, which supplies the means to meet those needs. This gratitude does much to maintain the mental atmosphere of spiritual expectancy which sees healing.

## Medi-Cal News

We get regular calls asking about Medicare and Medi-Cal. Fern Lodge is not a Medicare provider. For information about this program please call Arden Wood Benevolent Association in San Francisco (415/681-6121).

Fern Lodge accepts patients on Medi-Cal. This is a State program which provides for those unable to pay for needed nursing care. Medi-Cal is available for people of all ages, but one requirement is a financial need. Assistance is generally available only to those with less than \$1,500 in assets. When patients are approved for Medi-Cal, they are assigned a monthly Share-of-Cost based on their income. Medi-Cal then supplements this share, but only to a total of \$50.21 per day for all room, board, nursing services, and nursing supplies. Although this Medi-Cal payment helps, it still falls short of covering the actual cost of care at Fern Lodge, which averages over \$78 per day. This daily difference comes to about \$870 per month for each patient on Medi-Cal.

About two-thirds of the applications to Fern Lodge are from Christian Scientists who qualify for Medi-Cal. Some who are able to pay the cost of care when they first come, soon require financial help to continue their stay. The result is that about 60% of our guests are supported by Medi-Cal. While we are grateful for the opportunity to serve these deserving Christian Scientists, we are consequently faced with a monthly shortfall of \$15,660, which must be made up substantially by donations from you, our generous supporters in the field.

### Expansion Update

The request for a variance to allow us to begin our proposed expansion was denied by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Although we are unable to expand our facility at this time, we are looking to see how we can expand our conception of Christian Science nursing at Fern Lodge. We will keep you informed as our plans unfold.





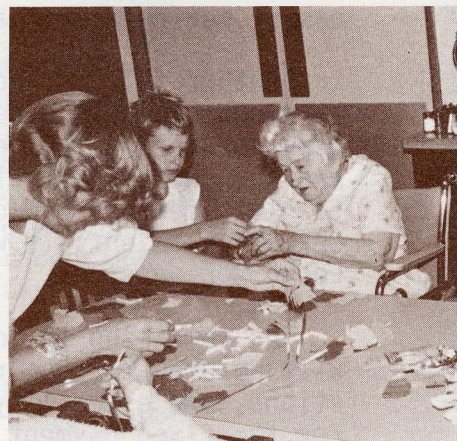
Swing your partner! Ballet Folklórico enlivened our Fiesta.

## Summer Fun

Heidi, Barbara, Adam, Kristi, Scott, Seth, Nathan, P.J., Jeremiah, and Kate are some of the happy children we came to love this summer.

Under the resourceful and capable supervision of Colleen Rands, children of Fern Lodge employees had the opportunity of a special summer program while their parents were on the job.

Laughter, singing, and joy characterized the activities and adventures of our little friends. Colleen had a knack for helping them have a really good time! The children became a special part of our Patient Activities Program when they joined our guests to play musical instruments, sing, and dance. Now they are back in school, but we hope they will visit us again soon.



Thanks to the Walsh family for the leis for Co



Elizabeth Stapler, Activities Director, leads the Fern Lodge Rhythm Band.



The Sunday Singers afternoons a





Colleen lifts Katie for  
a better view.



ly for their help with  
nelia's party.



ave brightened many  
Fern Lodge.

## Thanks to Arden Wood

At this joyous Thanksgiving season, Fern Lodge is thanking God for the support we get from Arden Wood. Although Fern Lodge and Arden Wood differ, the focus in each is on healing, and healing is taking place in both facilities.

Arden Wood and Fern Lodge work closely together. Their loving support is heartfelt. We are very glad to participate with the School in providing the training which prepares nurses to work at our facilities and in the field. We are grateful that Arden Wood sends taped articles from current issues of the Sentinel and Journal for us to share with our guests. And we are deeply thankful for Laurel Haven and Arden Wood's kind help in providing Fern Lodge with Laurel Haven's funds so that we may move toward more fully meeting the need for Christian Science nursing in the area.

Arden Wood, we're glad you're there!

AND I SHALL BE  
(Ps.1:1-3)

God's  
dear idea  
like a tree planted  
by those everflowing overflowing  
abundantly sustaining waters of His blessing  
harmonious whole holy  
and I shall leaf forth burgeoning  
with fresh inspiration gaining the advanced idea  
daily delighting in God acting each moment  
in the divine law of His love  
praying-knowing-being  
rejoicing with the psalmist  
understanding  
that what  
ever I do  
if done  
with God  
it shall prosper  
prosper  
just like  
that tree  
planted by those rivers of water.  
I shall be blessed and bear fruit.

Kathryn Ainsworth Grover



# We Love You Cornelia Gray

"WE LOVE YOU CORNELIA" was the inspiration behind a Hawaiian Luau this summer. Cornelia Gray has nursed at Fern Lodge from its early days. Her unique qualities of genuine goodness and exuberant, healing joy have warmed and nursed all who have been privileged to know and work with her.

Staff, guests, volunteers, and many friends joined in the fun of changing Fern Lodge into a Hawaiian paradise for the day. Bright parrots and pastel fish splashed colors from trees and roofs, while pineapple and coconut center-pieces beckoned to a splendid Hawaiian pot-luck buffet. The pungent smells of Plumeria and oriental barbecued pork filled the air, along with gentle, swaying sounds from Hawaiian musicians and dancers.

One very special gift from the Fern Lodge staff was a pin engraved to acknowledge Cornelia's many years of faithful service to Christian Science nursing. George Strong, Administrator, said that he is very grateful to have learned much about the Christianity of nursing from her loving example.

We all still are learning from her and hope to be blessed by her for years to come. WE DO LOVE YOU CORNELIA!



Lydia Holden sang and danced as she presented a lei to Cornelia.



HAPPY DAY! Cornelia Gray was honored for 30 years of nursing service.

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## Fruitage From Practitioner Meetings

This fall we have held two meetings at Fern Lodge with the goal of improving the support which Christian Science nursing gives to the healing mission of Christian Science. Each meeting has been attended by a group of 8 to 10 Journal-listed practitioners, with the Administrator, Director of Nursing, and Assistant Director of Nursing participating on behalf of Fern Lodge. During the discussions we focused on how nurses and practitioners can support, encourage and experience better healing. Lively, loving communication has resulted, promoting a fuller sense of unity in our mutual commitment to prove the influence and power of God in our lives.

The healing thoughts which have been brought out at these meetings will help guide our progress at Fern Lodge. One such thought was that we must live out of our problems, not die out of them. Another insight was that practitioners and nurses need to speak together as metaphysicians and equals.

We plan to continue with these meetings until we have invited all of the local Journal-listed practitioners. What a Blessing is being bestowed on us!



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## Healing Insights From Our Aides

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There is an urgent need for loving Christian Scientists to follow the mission of nursing--to cherish it and to live the nursing qualities God supplies. One way you can express your support for this ministry is to be trained as a nurses aide. Nursing is joyous and satisfying work, as the following thoughts from the aides at Fern Lodge will show.

EVELYN SPELMAN: "I have long cherished a description from Mary Baker Eddy and Her Books (pp 187-188), by Dana Orcutt, which says 'Mrs. Eddy was first and foremost a woman, and a very human woman...I might say that she was dignified, but not aloof; friendly, but not intimate; kindly, but not demonstrative; determined, but not stubborn.' These qualities, which seem so essential to Christian Science nursing, are being practiced and very much felt at Fern Lodge. I especially appreciate the respect that is shown for the individuality of each staff member and guest. Autonomy and independence are fostered, and ideas and suggestions are welcomed. In such an atmosphere healings are natural, expected events."

DEBORAH WOODFORD: "The doors of my life are opening up to me because my Father-Mother God knows where I am and He needs me. As His child, my heritage is perfect place and purer purpose. God precisely directs and controls every detail of man. The flow of man's life is spiritual; it is movement towards growth. I have learned through this Aide training to accept each opportunity to heal as God-given, God-directed and God-maintained."

EARNIE KELLEY: "My experience while training as a nurses aide has been a great help in broadening my understanding of Christian Science, which I am sure will be of help to me in whatever I am doing. I am also learning to work and pray at the same time. Before I felt that to really pray there was a need to sit down and be quiet, but in nursing this is not always possible or practical, so I am learning to be more consistent; my bed-making is a time for prayer. Truly there is much more to be learned, and this class has helped me gain a better insight as to what care in Christian Science is about, witnessing only the truth of man's real selfhood."

JOHN NOBLES: "Last summer a call came from a relative to assist in nursing her husband. I felt privileged to have been asked. The night time schedule afforded many quiet hours for study; I realized much growth in my understanding and practice of Christian Science. Helping others gave a feeling of satisfaction. I was rededicating myself, my life, to the cause of Christian Science. I was convinced that nursing was to be my career. When I came home, I applied to be an aide trainee at Fern Lodge. Why have I chosen Christian Science nursing as a career? I feel that I did not choose it, but that God chose me. When God calls, man answers."

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## Out-Patient Day Care Service

Fern Lodge is glad to serve the healing mission of Christian Science by providing a place where those who need nursing can stay while they work and pray for spiritual regeneration and health. But we realize that often it is best if people can remain at home. We are seeking ways to help ensure that Christian Scientists have the help which best meets their needs, and we are prepared to offer assistance to those who can be at home. Of course the Visiting Nurse Service is ready to help with in-home service of an hour or two each day, and the Visiting Nurse will give instruction in nursing motives and methods for family members and home aides. We are grateful for this dedicated healing work done by the Visiting Nurses.

Recently we heard of a need for care during the day for someone who is able to stay at home evenings and nights. Fern Lodge may be able to help in a case like this by offering drop-in day care. This service could be for up to ten hours a day, scheduled weekly or as needed.

Day care service will be subject to the ability of the Fern Lodge nursing staff to provide the necessary care, and arrangements for each case will have to be made in advance between Fern Lodge and the family. The cost of day care will be \$25 per day, which will include meals and regularly scheduled patient activities. Additional nursing care will be charged at the current Fern Lodge rate of \$14 per hour. If you are interested in further information please contact Camille Lindsay, Director of Nursing, at 415/886-2448.





Frau von Haller and Charlotte Madison  
from Berlin, Germany

## Why Christian Science Nursing? Annual Meeting Address

by Charlotte Madison of Berlin, Germany  
Visiting Christian Science Nurse

"With the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus forces us to help our fellow man in a practical manner, so it is not astonishing that the early Christians started nursing. Christian nursing in the first century constituted a historical prototype for Christian Science nursing, in that Christians at this early period recognized that proper nursing care was compatible with Christian healing as Jesus practiced it.

"Christian Science nursing is part of the healing ministry of Christian Science and is authorized in the Manual of The Mother Church.

Mrs. Eddy wrote a special by-law as the standard to govern the preparation and recognition of the Christian Science nurse. The whole of Christian Science nursing is to let our work start from the premise of this by-law and never stray from it. The standard is high and calls for total commitment. It means going to the mountain top of revelation and looking through the microscope of Spirit to see matter disappear...this view lifts nursing out of caring for material needs only, into true nursing--a spiritual, mental activity.

"The nurse is proving a 'demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice' by practicing what she knows of the true relationship of God and man. By the quality of her thinking as she does her daily task, she is demonstrating to those with whom she comes in contact that she understands the unreality of disease, the oneness of Mind, the ever-presence of Love, the energy and beauty of Soul, the consistency of Principle, the joy of Life.

"God is Mind, and when we turn to Him for guidance, He supplies us with all wisdom, courage, strength and ability to go forward. We need never be afraid of failure through being obedient to God's demands.

"Taking proper care of the sick means that the nurse, when confronted with the appearance of error in its many disguises, refuses to accept what she or he sees as being true about the patient. Acting on the refusal to believe sense testimony, the nurse entertains the Truth for her/him self in the privacy of her/his own thinking. May I share a prayer with you that was prayed at the second European Christian Science Nurses Conference in 1978?

'I see myself as God's own child,  
as perfect in His sight.  
I see my brother man as well,  
a perfect child of light.  
Then, to complete my prayer,  
I see Him seeing me aright;  
I see Him see me see him  
as perfect in Love's sight.'

"The atmosphere surrounding the patient ought to be pure, vigorous, redeeming, witnessing. A Fern Lodge staff member enters a room with thought so uplifted he or she never sees an old, sick or discouraged mortal. Instead, he is aware of the man of God's creating--a joyous, free being.

"All of you have a knowledge of Christian Science and are aware that it is the most valuable gift you will ever have. This gift teaches expectancy of further unfoldment and growth in understanding and ability daily. So there is never a point in time at which we cannot strive for greater usefulness and better service to God and our fellow man."