

May 1981

Fern Lodge ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 3, 1981, at 2:30 pm

**First Church of Christ, Scientist
1844 'B' Street, Hayward**

SPEAKER: Duane S. Gunnison, CSB
Walnut Creek

“How REAL is God to You?”

- ★ Audio visual color slide show ★
- ★ Off-street parking available ★
- ★ Child care provided ★

**Light buffet immediately following at Fern Lodge
18457 Madison Avenue in Castro Valley**

SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM CHURCH PARKING LOT

DUANE S. GUNNISON, CSB.

Received an MA in theology from Boston University as preparation for a Christian Science Chaplaincy with the United States Air Force. After a six year tour, he was called to The Mother Church. As assistant to the Manager of the Department of Branches and Practitioners, he travelled throughout the United States conducting the “Joy of Healing” meetings for prospective practitioners. He then became a teacher of Christian Science, and carries on a practice in Walnut Creek, California.



FERN LODGE, Inc. NEWSLETTER

18457 Madison Avenue
Castro Valley, CA 94546
(415) 886-2448

MAY 1981

A NON-PROFIT NURSING FACILITY FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS, ACCREDITED BY THE MOTHER CHURCH

Dear Friends:

We're pleased once again to invite you to our Annual Meeting. Although our Newsletter keeps you informed of our progress during the year, it's our gathering together each spring, this touching base with one another, that more quickly affirms our mutual interest in Christian Science Nursing.

There's been much growth at Fern Lodge since our last meeting, sparked undoubtedly by Naomi Price's pointed remarks. You'll see the resultant changes and the new volunteers at work during an audio-visual slide show following Duane Gunnison's talk.

Constant upgrading continues, thanks to the metaphysical support and benevolence of our much appreciated donors. We still need your support. We constantly grow in our concept of care, in recognizing what improvements better reflect our goal of providing an atmosphere that allows patients, nurses, and practitioners to prove their growing awareness of immortality. We are always looking for nurses who want to join our progressive staff. An innovation for Fern Lodge is service on a constantly available basis for acute and emergency cases.

Thanks to your continued donations, another five Hill-Rom electric beds have been ordered for Hillside House, the more intensive care wing. That leaves just four to go, approximately \$6,400 worth.

We are becoming more aware of the need for space (and here is where you might help us metaphysically for guidance) for storing nursing equipment and for a living room area in Hillside House, as suggested by The Mother Church inspection team, and for additional office space.

YOU MAY NEED TO KNOW:

- 1) That no portion of your contribution has been or will be used for fund raising expenses. Your entire gift is utilized for the improvement and operation of Fern Lodge.
- 2) That Fern Lodge is tax-exempt under both Federal and State law.
- 3) That your contribution is tax-deductible under Federal and State law.

We are heartened by the number of Branch Churches and Christian Science Teachers' Associations whose memberships have voted to contribute regularly or occasionally to Fern Lodge. One of your members may be a patient at Fern Lodge and would be encouraged by the support your Branch Church or Association can give.

Our gratitude to you all. We look forward to seeing you May 3rd.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Arden

Board of Directors

President: Charles Arden, Walnut Creek; Vice-President: Betty Dempsey, Castro Valley; Secretary: Hazel Wilson, Hayward; Treasurer: Harriett Eagerblade, Castro Valley; Directors: Raymond H. Bishop, Walnut Creek; Muriel Chisholm, Castro Valley; Sylvia Cook, Castro Valley; Eugene DeBolt, Danville; Frances Griffith, Walnut Creek; Robert H. Griffin, San Leandro; Alan Jones, Oakland; Ronald Macdonald, Oakland; Jane Schweitzer, Oakland.
Newsletter Editor: Arliss Harmon, Hayward.

ACCREDITATION BY THE MOTHER CHURCH



PICTURED at left are representatives of The Department of Practitioners and Nursing Activities, Anne Kennedy of Boston and Kenneth Cocks, Administrator of Sunland Sanatorium in San Diego, who inspected Fern Lodge in January for its accreditation renewal.

Strong points for Fern Lodge were an active volunteer group, and the excellent rapport between supervising staff, nurses and board. Kitchen and food storage areas got high marks, as did the remodelled baths and showers.

On the needful side were suggestions for new nursing chairs for Hillside House and thought toward supplying it with a living area. Also stressed was the importance of monthly fire drills.

YOUR PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

IF you have a special feeling about Fern Lodge, you can now elect to use the "designated donor option plan" of the Bay Area United Way. Fern Lodge is included on the option list because it qualifies with the IRS as a tax-exempt human service agency.

Which all means, that if you are required to give through a payroll deduction plan, you can specify Fern Lodge as the recipient.

MUCH HEARTFELT APPRECIATION
TO FIRST CHURCH, HAYWARD,
FOR DONATING ITS FIFTH
SUNDAY COLLECTIONS TO
FERN LODGE.

A MIGHTY THANK YOU TO THE
DONOR OF A \$1600 CHECK TO
BUY ONE MORE HILL-ROM
ELECTRIC BED FOR HILLSIDE
HOUSE, THE MORE INTENSIVE
CARE WING.

POSITION AVAILABLE

We need a full-time Accounting Clerk with some secretarial skills. Must be excellent with figures and numerically-oriented tasks. Also must be a Christian Scientist willing to grow with our organization.

If you are interested, please contact Bob McVey, Administrator at (415) 886-2448.

** If your address is incorrectly shown on this mailing, or if you anticipate a change of address, we would appreciate your letting us know.



NURSING — "A VITAL CHURCH ACTIVITY"

IN its ever-changing procedures for informing Christian Scientists about Christian Science nursing, Fern Lodge's Sixth ADVENTURE-IN-LEARNING blossomed into a unique two days for practitioners, Care Committee members and branch church members to become closely acquainted with the professional field of Christian Science nursing.

The reorganization of The Mother Church's Department of Care into the Department of Practitioners and Nursing Activities underlines their equal importance in the healing thrust of Christian Science.

It was to this that the group addressed itself as well as to the effectiveness and fulfillment of career nursing.

While we, too, learned and grew through contact with these extraordinary participants - always different, always rewarding - we think the participants' experience is best expressed in this letter from a practitioner to Board President Charles Arden. (See next column)

I wish to send "...MY STRONG AND GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE BEAUTIFUL EXPERIENCE THAT FERN LODGE PROVIDED THROUGH ITS SIXTH ADVENTURE-IN-LEARNING...IT DID INDEED GIVE ME A DEEPER PERCEPTION OF NURSING AS A VITAL CHURCH ACTIVITY...AND...AN APPRECIATION THAT THE NURSING QUALITIES ARE EXPRESSIONS OF THE QUALITIES OF GOD. I AM PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL...SINCE I HAVE JUST BEGUN THE EARLY STAGES OF A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PRACTICE. I DO WANT TO CONGRATULATE ALL OF YOU FOR WHAT FERN LODGE STANDS FOR, WHAT IT IS PROVIDING, AND ABOVE ALL FOR HOW IT GLORIFIES GOD...I ALSO WANT TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE FINE LEADERSHIP OF GEORGE STRONG NURSING SUPERVISOR AND INSTRUCTOR FOR THIS SERIES. HE GIVES SO MUCH OF THE TRUTH AND ONE FEELS THE GUIDANCE AND INTELLIGENCE OF MIND, AND THE DIRECTING OF DIVINE PRINCIPLE IN HIS WORKSHOP. PLEASE CONVEY TO HIM MY THANKS."

HIRED ON T

JEWEL MITCHELL, a Christian Scientist, made anything at all at San Francisco to work at Fern Lodge. It also meant a long commute and a long hour commute to work "somewhere" as a practitioner. She had experience at the "Mother Church" as a full-time assistant nurse's trainee.

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DINNER FOR "ADVENTURERS" AND BOARD

SPRIGHTLY-BRIGHT-JOYOUS-LOVING-HARDWORKING. All these are most likely to be applied to cook-extraordinaire MERLY OTT. Board Members and "Adventure" participants were treated to a specially prepared dinner of her native Philippine food (note menu below) at the close of the two-day session.

Married to businessman William Ott, Merly's first job in the United States was at Verdant Vales School (for young Christian Scientists) as a kitchen helper. So impressed with her was the chef, that he trained and encouraged her to take over when he left.

Later, while her husband was working at Arden Wood, she applied there, too, and got the job of Dinner Cook. When they moved to Walnut Creek, an ad in the Christian Science Monitor attracted her to Fern Lodge as Food Service Manager and Head Cook.

Merly never lets the job confine her to the kitchen. She insists on helping to serve, talking to the patients and making mealtime a joyous occasion. It was this kind of enthusiasm that attracted husband Bill and niece Carol to help with preparing and serving the Philippine dinner.

MENU (in Tagalog)

Zisling soup with rice

Sotanghon (transparent
noodles)

Pork Barbecue

Lumpia (egg roll)

Adobo chicken & prawns
with sticky rice

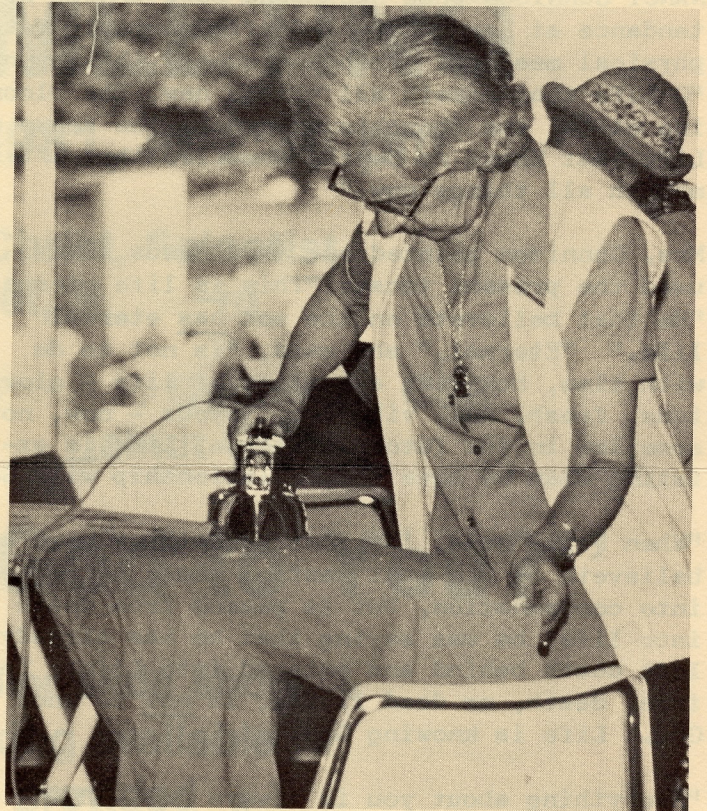
Ice cream and Buco
(coconut) & chocolate



VOLUNTEERS ANSWER MRS. PRICE'S CALL

OUR ardent, enthusiastic Annual Meeting speaker, NAOMI PRICE, last May put on the line the necessity for each church member to contribute to, and metaphysically support, its local care facility. Her emphasis on the close-at-hand opportunity it affords for giving active support to the church's healing mission through practical, active volunteer service, stimulated a surge of most welcome added volunteer workers at Fern Lodge. Even one part-time nurse has been inspired to come on her off-duty days.

Pictured here are some of the varied talents and interests that filled a need: taking patients for automobile rides or a wheelchair trip around the grounds, ironing, reading to the group and dining with them afterward for informal visiting, bringing Bluebirds to entertain and visit with the patients, shopping, one-to-one reading or reading occasionally for Sunday or Wednesday services, showing movies or slides, teaching or speaking about a hobby or showing a collection.



QUARTERLY METAPHYSICAL SPEAKER: Nancy Gunnison, CS

"WHAT'S new? Everything's new!" said NANCY GUNNISON when she spoke to a record attendance at Fern Lodge's Staff Quarterly Metaphysical meeting. Then she quoted this hymn, "O Life that maketh all things new, The blooming earth, the thoughts of men;...The sense of Life that knows no death, The Life that maketh all things new."

Mrs. Gunnison pointed out that Jesus always used the present tense: "This is life eternal," "He that believeth on the son has eternal life." "Eternal," she said, "is not to do with time, but with a quality of life - glorious, fresh, new, vigorous, joyous - now, not sometime in the future...Eternal Life is existing when we have this relationship with God."

"When Jesus said, 'He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death into life' he was saying that he has already left death behind and entered into Life. Therefore, death, or dead living, is not to know God. Life is knowing God."

"Everything about you is always new. How practical it is to allow that quality of newness to become tangible to you..."

"Why should anyone who is a giver for us of God's infinite resources ever feel unneeded? The sun never feels unneeded, beautiful flowers never feel unneeded, they shine and bloom because it's their nature. They don't know how not to shine or bloom. That's how divine Soul has designed us to be - we don't know how not to pour forth the glory of God."

"Have you ever thought of how every ending is just a new beginning? The crucifixion wasn't an ending, it was the beginning of the resurrection. The resurrection wasn't an ending, it was the beginning of the ascension. There's never a moment when we're all finished, all through. We may think we've finished raising children, finished a career, but that's not an ending, it's just the beginning of a new view of divine goodness and love. We should expect to see these new views all along. Not the same views, the same loved ones, the same job, etc., but new views..."

"Be aware of all the beauty around us, practice this awareness, develop the capacity to



have wonder about everything. To one who is filled with eagerness and interest, delight and wonder, the world is wonder-full! This is recognizing the evidence of divine Love."

Explaining how to find newness and freshness in the old, loved, most often quoted passages from the Bible, Mrs. Gunnison used these two as examples:

"'I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.' (Jer. 31:3) Substitute other God-like qualities, such as, 'I have satisfied thee with an everlasting satisfaction, therefore with satisfaction have I drawn thee.' Or use, 'I have taught thee, equipped thee, prospered thee, beautified thee, regulated thee, redeemed thee, enlightened thee with an everlasting light, therefore with light have I created thee.'"

"Or, as Paul said, 'I can do all things through Christ which strengthenest me.' (Phil. 4:13) Try substituting, 'I am inspired through Christ which inspires me', 'I am quickened or comforted, powerful, substantial, refreshed, stable, wise, soft, content, pure, secure, I am new through Christ which renews me.'"

"So, when you're asked, 'What's new?'" Mrs. Gunnison suggested, "How about answering, 'I am!'"