



## ***FERN LODGE FOCUS — SEPTEMBER 2014***

“Love makes all burdens light” — a letter from the Administrator

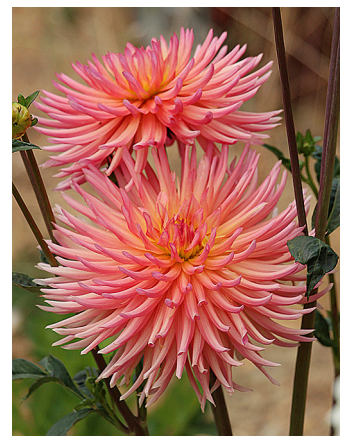
Fern Lodge is built on a foundation of Love. I have been a grateful witness to the sturdy nature of that foundation since I first came to Fern Lodge in 1975. Those who tell of their gratitude for Fern Lodge see, hear and feel evidence of the truth of Mary Baker Eddy’s statement, “Love is impartial and universal in its adaptation and bestowals. It is the open fount which cries, “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters” (*Science and Health* 13:2).

The impartial and universal nature of Love’s adaptation leads Fern Lodge to accept as patients individuals who have a broad range of nursing needs, physical and mental. We are gratefully willing to help in any way we can, as long as the needed aid is consistent with the theology and practice of Christian Science.

Love’s bestowals also are unlimited. Fern Lodge has maintained through the years a policy of providing Christian Science nursing for those who have legitimate needs for as long as nursing is needed and without regard for an individual’s ability to pay the full cost. Many patients at the facility receive assistance through the state Medi-Cal program, which provides funds that cover less than two-thirds of our costs.

It’s important to recognize that Fern Lodge asks for financial support on behalf of deserving Christian Scientists who need Christian Science nursing. We operate the facility in accord with the *Church Manual* reminder of God’s requirement, to act with “wisdom, economy, and brotherly love.” The cost of care at Fern Lodge is reasonable, especially among Christian Science nursing facilities, and if those we serve could pay the cost, we would not need donations for operation. We welcome patients from far beyond the Bay Area, because in many cases no Christian Science nursing services are available to them in their home communities.

Divine Love touches everyone at Fern Lodge. Not long ago I had a brief chat with George Roe, who has been the Fern Lodge Head Cook for several months. I welcomed him back from his vacation and asked how it went. He told me that he had a wonderful time but that he was really glad to be back at work at Fern Lodge. He then added something that made me smile; he said that in all his years of working he never had been glad to be back at work from vacation. He told me that Fern Lodge is a very special place, and I agreed wholeheartedly.



Continued on page 2

## “LOVE MAKES ALL BURDENS LIGHT” (CONTINUED)

Earlier this year I the son of one of the patients told me that he had never seen his mom as happy as she is at Fern Lodge, and another family member poked his head into my office and said, “This place is amazing.” More recently the family of a patient who had been at Fern Lodge for several years praised and honored the whole Fern Lodge staff for their loving-kindness and Christian care. Some of these family members are not Christian Scientists, and they had resisted having their mother come to a Christian Science nursing facility. They joined in gratitude for the wonderful care their mother received and said that Fern Lodge was exactly the right place for her.

In these perceptions of Fern Lodge that were shared with me, Christian Science healing is the most important factor. Our mission is to heal. It really is that simple. Each of those who told me how much they appreciated Fern Lodge had been touched by first-hand evidence of healing—healing of fear, healing of physical challenges or limitations, healing of inharmonious relationships, healing of undesirable character traits.

Here are a few of the healings we have been privileged to witness in recent months. A patient who had been bedridden now is able to walk and to care for her self. A patient came to Fern Lodge and was completely healed of a rash on her body. We are glad to report that another has steadily been overcoming a severe mental challenge. Patients have overcome the tendency to be angry, resistant or resentful and have embraced their study of Christian Science more fully.

All that is accomplished at Fern Lodge is done through prayer. Prayer in Christian Science affirms the presence and authority of God, divine Love, as the only motive power in our lives. This prayer corrects human misperceptions of man as ill or injured, or limited by age, or afraid or self-centered, judgmental, critical or overly sensitive, and this prayer gives us glorious glimpses of man in God’s

image and likeness. The following passage from our dear Leader, Mary Baker Eddy, inspires our work at Fern Lodge:

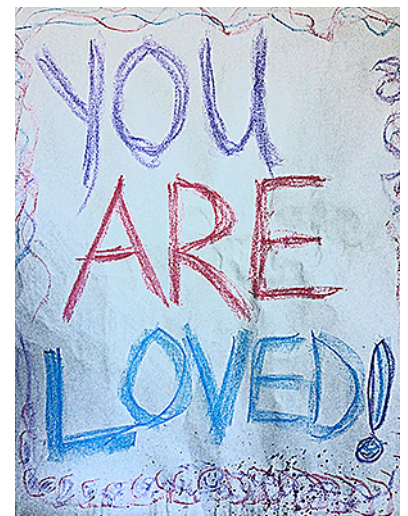
“Three times a day, I retire to seek the divine blessing on the sick and sorrowing, with my face toward the Jerusalem of Love and Truth, in silent prayer to the Father which ‘seeth in secret,’ and with childlike confidence that He will reward ‘openly.’ In the midst of depressing care and labor I turn constantly to divine Love for guidance, and find rest. It affords me great joy to be able to attest to the truth of Jesus’ words. Love makes all burdens light, it giveth a peace that passeth understanding, and with ‘signs following.’ As to the peace, it is unutterable; as to “signs,” behold the sick who are healed, the sorrowful who are made hopeful, and the sinful and ignorant who have become ‘wise unto salvation!’” (*Miscellaneous Writings*, page 133).

I am deeply grateful to Mrs. Eddy for the clarity and purity of her writings and her example, and I also am grateful each day for the individual patients, families, staff and volunteers who make Fern Lodge a place of healing.

With gratitude and affection,



George Strong  
Administrator



FLOCK poster



## FERN LODGE ONGOING CREATIVE KINSHIP — FLOCK



Fern Lodge is a family! It includes patients, volunteers, and staff. The FLOCK program grew from our understanding of how important it is for our family to have children here at Fern Lodge. Beginning in the summer of 2013 with the help of interns Sousha Wexler and Noelia Ley, we started providing childcare for the children of employees during their school summer breaks. In 2014, with support from the Fern Lodge Board of Directors and our generous donor friends, we strengthened our commitment to this idea, and we hired Rachel McClintick (pictured at the upper right) to direct the program. Rachel brought with her a background in early child development, a plan for creative play, and a loving personality that was a blessing to all. The summer days were filled with the joyful sounds of children. Their presence delighted our patients, and their expression of LIFE and SPIRIT brought energy and joy to our facility that were seen and felt by everyone. We are sincerely grateful to everyone involved for helping make this a reality. We'll see you next summer!





## SUMMER INTERNS —

*Each summer Fern Lodge has the opportunity to work with undergraduates and recent graduates in our internship program. This program has been a blessing to students and patients alike. This summer we were able to take five people into our internship program. We wanted to share with you some of their thoughts about working with us this summer. In addition to Sam and Noelia, who are featured here, we would like to thank Sousha Wexler, graduate, Malcom Scholz, graduate, and Ashley Alarcon, college senior, for being part of our family this summer. We deeply cherish what all our interns bring to the work being done at Fern Lodge.*

### SAM WILLIAMS, GRADUATE

Fern Lodge has been a great demonstration of supply to me. Upon moving to California, after graduating college, the Fern Lodge administration made everything simple. That proved true for the whole time I worked over the summer. Anything I had to say was heard. Any idea I had was considered. If nothing else, Fern Lodge is an understanding organization.

Fern Lodge is a good place for a young Christian Scientist to come and find out more about the world. I worked as a gardener and maintenance worker for Fern Lodge this summer. I gained a lot of know-how when it comes to the world outside of college. Coming to Fern Lodge gives you a wider understanding of life outside of school. It helped me learn this as well as getting some very practical skills, whether it was carpentry or brick work. Fern Lodge has been the right place for me. There is a good sense of brotherhood and sisterhood between the interns, helping to lift each other up during our time here.



Rachel, Sam and Malcom at work preparing the dining room for a new floor



Sousha and Janet prepare decorations for the Fourth of July party



Ashley Alarcon playing a flute recital for patients and staff

NOELIA LEY, COLLEGE SENIOR

I have been an ongoing intern at Fern Lodge for about two years. Helping patients, people in general, is my passion. Over my time here, I have witnessed healings from multiple patients whom I had the pleasure to work with.

For two weeks I was assigned to help nurses feed some of the patients. I decided to give it a try and do it with a loving and unselfish attitude and put away my fears of trying something new. My mom, who is a Christian Science nurse at Fern Lodge, once told me that seeing patients with infinite love is a result of holding in thought: we treat one another as we would like to be treated.

One patient I worked with did not seem very responsive initially when I would ask him questions or talk to him while feeding him. One morning, Robin Barben, our activities director, asked me not only to feed him but also read the Christian Science Bible Lesson to him. I kept doing this every morning, also reading additional books like: *Step by Step* and the *Christian Science Manual*. Later on, he started to respond to what I was reading as I was feeding him in the morning and, little by little, he started making jokes too. This sense of humor helped me see the progress the patient was making.

I've appreciated learning from these amazing patients who have contributed to the Christian Science movement and to the world. I would like to conclude by expressing a huge sense of gratitude to God for all the experiences with the patients. What is being demonstrated is breath-taking. These experiences are the main reason why I come back to Fern Lodge. We are fortunate to have places like Fern Lodge that focus on true healing.



Noelia Ley and Ashley Alarcon  
Principia College students

*Here's an additional comment from our activities director, Robin Barben, on the healing Noelia shared:*

I witnessed such a blessing as one of our interns, Noelia Ley, was feeding breakfast to a patient, who was experiencing difficulty at times finding comfort. He was not relating to our attempts to include him in our Activities Program. As I walked by the table at which Noelia and this patient were seated, I heard the lesson being read by Noelia with a deep feeling of earnestness, patience, and compassion. I was suddenly aware of a deep silence, and a deep peace permeating the nursing floor. God's presence and Love were so palpable that it touched me deeply.

Later in the morning, that same patient attended our movement class, and for the first time felt inclined to be a part of it. He moved with us cheerfully, that day and every day since. And in the Bible Study activity that followed, this patient listened deeply, thoughtfully, expressing his own renewed understanding in applying Christian Science to his present challenges. In these activities, he no longer talks about getting back to a previous time or place, but has been listening to what is happening in the present moment. A few days later, he gave a testimony in church expressing an even deeper aspect of his true thinking, for which I am so grateful.



## FERN LODGE ACTIVITIES

### Fern Lodge Benefit Concert given by Julia Wade in the Menlo Park Christian Science Church



Above: Julia Wade sharing her gift of harmony, hope, and love. We are deeply grateful for her donation of the proceeds to benefit the healing work at Fern Lodge.

Left: Elizabeth Schwartz, Fern Lodge Treasurer, reported on Fern Lodge's mission.



Left:  
Again this year the Fern Lodge Board members served the staff a summer ice cream social. As the photos show, we all had a wonderful time!

Below:  
Alex Scholz played a delightful piano concert for patients and staff. He volunteered in many helpful ways during his month-long visit to Fern Lodge.



## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING EDUCATION — SUMMER PROGRAM



This summer God guided me to take the Level 1 Christian Science Nursing Arts class at Fern Lodge. This was such a beautiful blessing! On a daily basis I got to be surrounded by the

true spirit of Christian Science nursing. God showed me that this is a complete, spiritual idea of deep compassion.

The open, family-style atmosphere is so conducive to everyone at Fern Lodge being a healer. Patients, nurses, and other staff members may become friends and understand each other's needs, and so each of these groups plays an active part in the healing. Fern Lodge views nursing as a natural expression of God and so never limits its expression to a job title or even a denomination.

The course was thoughtfully and prayerfully presented by their Director of Christian Science Nursing Education, Sharon Strong. From the first day of class I felt Sharon express those beautiful qualities of nursing and I felt soothed. I could feel fear I had about the experience draining away.

Something that is so special to me about Fern Lodge is the way the patients express that tender care of nursing to one another. I witnessed this expression

daily as one individual would comfort another through words, food, companionship, and prayer. Cooks, housekeeping, maintenance, and office staff did the same. I was so humbled when I witnessed God expressing Christian Science nursing through those who did not even call themselves Christian Scientists.

One moment stands out especially when a long-time employee, Hilda, stopped cooking to read the Bible Lesson to a patient who was in distress. She was being so tender and infinitely patient with this individual and you could see the patient feeling loved and peaceful. It was so beautiful. The fact that Hilda can express this quality of the Christian Science nurse so perfectly, truly showed me the infinite nature of Christian Science nursing. It convinced me that this is not a skill I will learn in a classroom, instead it is something God is revealing in me as I humble myself and listen to His love.

I witnessed so many healings and some of the most precious moments in my life this summer at Fern Lodge. I saw healings of anger, seizures, bitterness, complaint, confusion, broken bones, poison oak, stubbornness, back pain, etc. And God blessed me with feeling these shifts in thought happen around me. I saw the look in people's eyes when fear melted into the feeling of being unconditionally, eternally loved. I am profoundly grateful to have gotten to serve at Fern Lodge.

— Ashley Douglass Wright  
September 2014



### SOUTH AMERICA UPDATE

Pictured at left are Alejandro Scholz and his wife, Sandra Luzio, from Santiago, Chile. Sandra took part in the Fern Lodge Christian Science nursing course in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2010. This May she came to the United States to be with their son Malcom when he graduated from Principia College. After the graduation, the family came to Fern Lodge for a month. Sandra attended an advanced Christian Science nursing course, while Alex did valuable volunteer work and played piano for patients and staff. Malcom assists in maintenance and translates Fern Lodge employment and education material into Spanish.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FERN LODGE ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday afternoon, November 2, at 2:30 P.M.**

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**

**3045 Cowper Street • Palo Alto, CA**

**BRAD STOCK**

**will speak on the topic**

***MARY BAKER EDDY: A LIFETIME OF SERVICE***

Brad Stock is uniquely qualified to speak on this topic for Fern Lodge. He graduated from Principia College and earned a PhD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Early in his career Brad taught at Principia College, and then he worked at The Mother Church as Manager of the Church History Department and as a special researcher to the Christian Science Board of Directors. Brad moved from Boston to Columbus, OH, where he served for eight years as Administrator of Glenmont, a Christian Science nursing facility. Four years ago Brad returned as a professor to Principia College, where he now teaches courses in the history of Christian Science and the life of Mary Baker Eddy.

The Fern Lodge Board and Administration will share reports of progress and plans for the future.

***Fern Lodge Focus* — September 2014**  
**18457 Madison Avenue**  
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