

*"On the Frontier
of Agelessness"*

presented by

Mrs. Elizabeth Dempsey, C.S.

*Sunday, May 20
at 2:30 pm*

*First Church of Christ, Scientist
1814 B Street, Hayward*

child care will be provided

Open House immediately following at Fern Lodge
18457 Madison Avenue in Castro Valley

Annual Meeting Speaker



Elizabeth Dempsey, C.S.

Mrs. Elizabeth Dempsey, known by her many friends as Betty, has been a Journal-listed Christian Science practitioner since 1977. A long-time resident of Castro Valley, she is a member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Hayward, where she has served as Board President, First Reader and Sunday School Teacher. She is well acquainted with the activities of Christian Science nursing and is a dedicated supporter of nurses and facilities.

Mrs. Dempsey's faithful service on the Fern Lodge Board of Directors for over 12 years included holding the offices of President, Vice President and Treasurer. Consistently an inspiring and guiding influence behind the growth of Fern Lodge, Betty has always brought with her a cheerful smile and helpful encouragement for patients and staff alike. Her subject, "On the Frontier of Agelessness", will address issues vital to us all. She will highlight the pioneering nature of the challenge Christian Science brings to the belief of age.

Questions to Consider

- * Is it too soon (or too late) to claim ageless identity?
- * Can you start to comprehend eternity here and now?
- * Do you really believe that man is neither younger nor older than God?
- * Are years **any** measure of man?
- * Will immortality be gained through aging?
- * What have birth and death to do with life?

Volunteer Workshop

On Saturday, June 9th from 11:30-3:00 a half day **workshop** for **volunteers** will be held at Fern Lodge. This seminar is being given for both those presently serving in our volunteer program and for those interested in learning about volunteer activity. The afternoon will focus on three areas:

Learning How to Communicate with Patients/Helping Patients to Communicate with One Another

Elizabeth Dempsey, C.S.

Assisting the Nursing Staff

Joy Zeller, Assistant Superintendent of Nursing

Patient Activities

Elizabeth Stapler, Coordinator for Volunteer & Patient Activities

Luncheon will be served from 12:00-1:00 on the front lawn. Hands on activities and round table discussions will follow the afternoon talk.

For further information and reservations please call: Elizabeth Stapler at 886-2448

DIRECTIONS TO FERN LODGE AND TO FIRST CHURCH HAYWARD FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

East Bay:

Nimitz or MacArthur freeways.

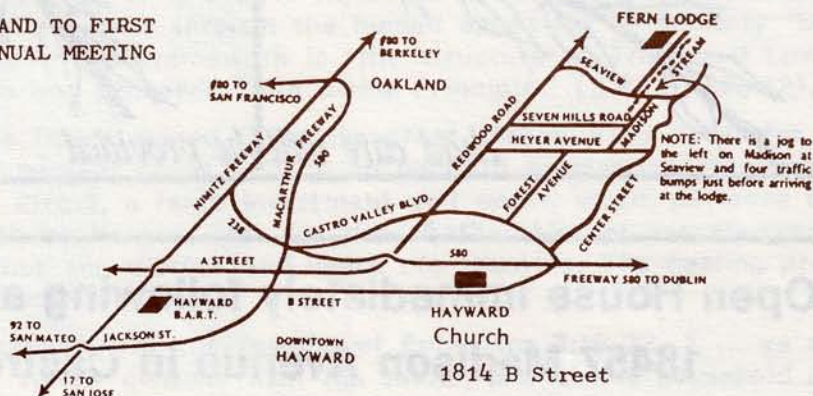
from Peninsula:

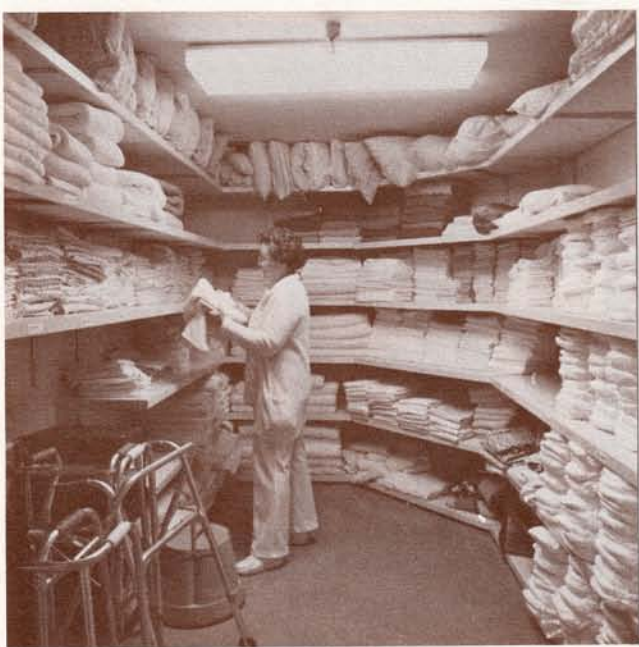
San Mateo Bridge through Hayward to B St.

from East:

Route 580 or Crow Canyon Rd.

BART: Hayward Station

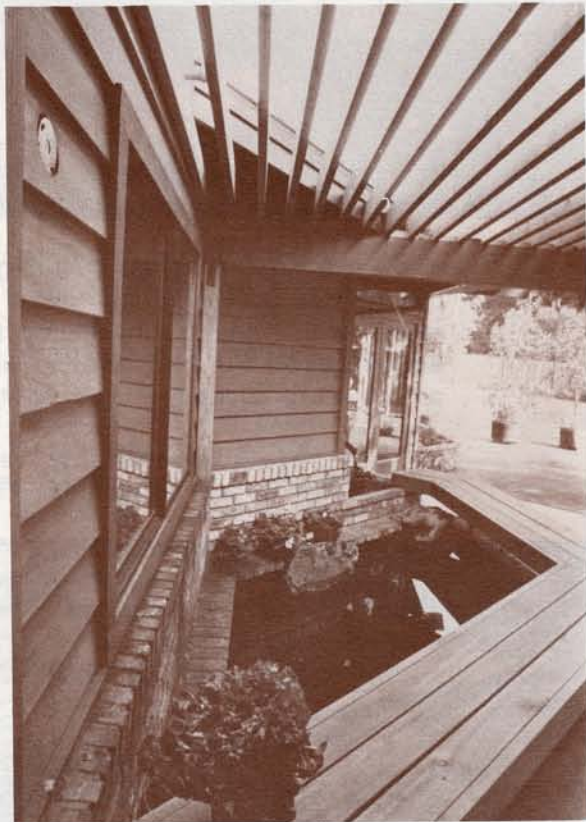




What is an open-door?
 Is it a receptive thought?
 An unselfed sharing?
 A free way from sense to Soul?
 All rightly framed together with integrity,
 obedience, patience, steadfastness?

Christ Jesus, our Exemplar, declared:
 I am the door - enter ye in.
 Surely the Christ is seen in receptivity,
 unselfish and unselfed love,
 well defined by the words above...
 A clear cut way
 for the weary wanderers to freely enter in
 and find their heaven - home,
healed of disease and sin.

Demarest B. Morrow



Fern Lodge, Inc.

18457 Madison Avenue, Castro Valley, Ca. 94546-1699

415 886-2448

April 1984

Dear Friends,

Are we looking upward and seeing life's freshness and God's constant renewal with each new day? We have a choice to make whenever we think about Christian Science nursing. What do we think about Fern Lodge? Do we allow mortal mind to push our thinking into the hopelessness of--"that is where old people go to live and eventually die?" Or do we acknowledge the presence and power of the Christ to overcome disease, disability and death, while we prayerfully declare that age and incapacity are nothing but illusions?

We should diligently strive to "put off the old man with his deeds; and put on the new man." Then we can rejoice in progress and the newness of life that is taking place everywhere, certainly at Fern Lodge, daily.

Our just-finished building project, pictured on these and the previous pages, has answered our need for a Hillside living room, a practitioners room, a classroom, increased storage and a Century bath tub. We have added space for two additional patients, making our current capacity 32, and we are already filled to this new capacity.

We are so grateful to tell you that this total project was paid for by your generous donations. Thank you all so much!





Now our decorating committee of Board and Staff members is working to coordinate furnishings. As funds become available we will purchase furniture for our new rooms, and we plan to renew the well-worn furniture, drapes and floors in all of our guest rooms in both houses.

Next we look forward to the day we can increase our capacity to meet the growing demands for nursing care in our community. We are receiving the money from the sale of Laurel Haven and are investing it until it can be used. When the Laurel Haven Board of Directors voted to sell they gave the proceeds to Fern Lodge with the condition that the funds be used **only** to construct a larger facility to care for 12 to 15 additional patients. As of this writing we are working on preliminary plans, but we do not yet have the property on which to build. When we are able to start construction we think that we will have funds to cover about one-half of the total cost.

Fern Lodge is reaffirming the commitment to provide care for Christian Scientists who are in financial need, since our waiting list indicates that about 75% of those who need care are unable to afford it. Thanks to the support of private patients and generous donations from the field, we have been able to give benevolence to over 60% of our patients.

We will continue to keep you informed of our progress and plans so you will be aware of the results of your support. Most importantly we are seeing the healing results of God's presence and power, and we will share fruitage with you regularly.

Sincerely,

Jane S. Schweitzer

Mrs. Jane Schweitzer
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: Jane Schweitzer, Oakland; Vice President: Raymond Bishop, Walnut Creek; Secretary: Druid Farmer, Concord; Treasurer: Wilbur Wood, Oakland; Directors: Charles Arden, Walnut Creek; Eugene DeBolt, Danville; Sylvia Feldman, Castro Valley; Frances Griffith, Walnut Creek; Kathryn Grover, Pleasanton; Alan Jones, Oakland; Joseph Landisman, Berkeley; Blair Lindsay, Oakland; Ronald Macdonald, Oakland; Judy Prono, Livermore; Greg Walsh, Fremont. Administrator: George Strong, Castro Valley.



Robin Looney

May 1st seems to be a very special day in nursing for Robin Looney. On May 1st she will have completed her seventh year at Fern Lodge as a practical nurse, "I've grown with Fern Lodge as it's grown!" May 1st in 1975 Robin began in Christian Science nursing in a nurses aide program at Upward View, Phoenix, Arizona. Again, May 1st 1976, Robin began On-Job-Training at Laurel Haven Sanatorium in San Mateo, California. She began her practical nursing career at Fern Lodge on May 1st, 1977 and has served faithfully since then, helping Fern Lodge through some difficult periods. We have been especially grateful to Robin for her willingness to serve as Night Duty Supervisor for the last three years.

In May Robin will leave Fern Lodge to begin second year nurses classroom training at Arden Wood. She plans to continue second year training there, and return to Fern Lodge for third year OJT as a trainee.

The idea to continue training had been prayerfully considered for some time, "I looked into several other possible careers and was never really happy. Finally, one evening while on night duty I realized that if this is what God wants for me then just being happy doesn't matter. It dawned on me that I wanted to be obedient. This changed my thought, everything fell into place, resulting in a wonderful new feeling of joy and happiness about nursing."



Mindee Spear

"A Christian Science nurse's love of God and prayerful study should be balanced with other interests..." says Mindee Spear, the second graduate nurse to receive third year On-Job-Training at Fern Lodge (the first was Patricia Alvarez, our current On-Job-Instructor). Mindee, who rides western horseback and studies voice, values a complete sense of life for the Christian Science nurse.

Steps toward nursing as a career came as a result of "an increased ability to listen to God and an awakening to what God is all about." Christian Science class instruction was a major factor in this awakening, "you become more aware of the Christ and how it illumines whatever you are doing. It's like a laser beam of light illumining thought."

Mrs. Spear attended a visiting nurse annual meeting, and there a nurse told her, "you already are a nurse" and that we all are Christian Science nurses sharing and expressing the Christ-like qualities.

Starting in September of 1980, Mrs. Spear served at Arden Wood in San Francisco with the Housekeeping Department while waiting for a nurse aide course. At Arden Wood she went on to first and second year classes and On-Job-Training. Her third year OJT site was Fern Lodge. Congratulations and best wishes Graduate Nurse, Mindee Spear!

Our sincere thanks go to the Friend of Fern Lodge who arranged for the donation of a natural gas powered emergency generator. This equipment, worth several thousand dollars, will enable Fern Lodge to have adequate light and heat in the event of an electrical failure.

Scenes Around Fern Lodge



Some Inspirational Thoughts On March 15, 1984

by a friend of Fern Lodge

Fern Lodge is a haven to share
Ideas of love and joy and skill.
A place in which to banish every ill
Through tender loving care.

The Fern, its fronds have spread
Outreached to gather those in need.
The prayers of all concerned, indeed,
Have been directed and are led.

Now the walls have been renewed
And boundless thanks we give
To the Giver of bounty, in whom we live
Our lives, with thanks and praise imbued.

This is the time to show by healing gifts
and acts,
How grateful we are for the great love
Shown to Fern Lodge, from God above.
And we must be ready to face the facts!

ART TO LOAN?

The addition to Fern Lodge has given us a vast amount of empty wall space, ideal for displaying paintings, tapestries, prints and other works of art. We would like to have regularly changing exhibits. Do you have some special things you would like to loan us for one or two months?

Please contact George Strong at Fern Lodge, (415) 886-2448





Inspiration From Our "Open House"

Each day is a day of rejoicing and March 15 was an especially holy day for us at Fern Lodge. Our "Ribbon-cutting" ceremony was held in the newly completed Hillside living room, and we joined in prayer and praise for God's healing presence. Thanks to each of you who joined us in spirit for our happy day, your contributions were felt and are appreciated. We would like you to read some of the thoughts which were shared.

- * "Completion of this building project does not mean that Fern Lodge is finished. The development of Fern Lodge is continuous and the new construction is symbolic of an unfolding ability to nurse ... and to express the love and care God gives His children everywhere."
- * A staff member told of his study of the story of Nehemiah building the wall of Jerusalem. When the wall was complete, the work didn't just stop. People were brought in to live in Jerusalem and the houses of the city were rebuilt. We should continue in the same way to keep improving within our walls and to make room for those who need Fern Lodge.
- * Another employee shared gratitude for the evidence of individual growth in staff members which has accompanied the growth of Fern Lodge.
- * One of our guests gave thanks for the growth she has experienced during her stay here. she is thankful for the nurses and other staff members of Fern Lodge and "for the good that goes out from here."
- * From a friend in Oakland we received the following: "Yesterday I rejoiced all day, being absolutely convinced that all you happy people were moving in accord with our heavenly Father's divine, orderly plan. I could see divine Principle calmly manifested: no accidents because Love is in control; no weariness for Spirit's vigor is unlimited; no turmoil where God's routine is uninterrupted. By the end of that glorious day, I was assured that every 'servant of the Lord' and every 'guest of God' was gratefully aware that: 'The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.' Proverbs 10:22."
- * And another contributor from Berkeley wrote: "your letter of February 28th has shined through me ever since I received it. It is a Love-reflected-in-love message to us all, pure and radiant. Thank you. You have seen **through** the human appearing of a lovely 'human' provision, to the spiritual idea whose framework is 'the structure of Truth and Love' and whose functioning 'rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle.' (S & H, 593:12)."
- * A member of the Fern Lodge Board shared these thoughts: "Thank YOU GOD for bringing us to this day. This building project could well be an outward illustration of our spiritual progress. It has taken time, effort, a large investment and much, much, patience and love. We are constantly faced with challenges, and You dear Father-Mother are always here to lift us up and help us see that sin, disease and death are illusions. The healing presence and power of the Christ is here."

The meeting at Fern Lodge was closed with the reading of Ephesians 3:19-22, " ... ye are no more strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God... ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."