

**P3 / PRESIDENT'S LETTER**  
The Star of Bethlehem Home surprises our Prez.

**P4 / DAYSTAR MINISTRIES,**  
Inc. is founded at 4500 Minnetonka Blvd.

**P5 / MONTEREY COHOUSING**  
adds townhouses and a new concept.

**P8 / DISPATCH LOOKBACK**  
Editorial cartoons from the 1950s warned of inflation.



# REeCHO

## PARK HISTORY TODAY

Collect. Preserve. Share.

Volume 22.1

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### EDITOR'S NOTE:

We welcome a guest columnist, Ms. Leila Tite, a resident of Monterey Cohousing, who shares the latest third of the varied history of the Star of Bethlehem Home, built almost 100 years ago on Minnetonka Blvd.

And, we are seeking photos and articles of SLP Hockey and hockey players, both school and other, that our readers or their relatives might be willing to donate for our archives. Contact us on our website if you have materials to donate.

## STAR OF BETHLEHEM HOME

Mary Baker Eddy founded the Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston in 1875. By the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the sect had found enthusiastic adherents across the globe. In Minneapolis, Mrs. Emma Thompson and her daughter Abigail, who had both studied under Eddy's tutelage, organized their city's 2<sup>nd</sup> Church of Christ, Scientist, the 1<sup>st</sup> Church presumably being already oversubscribed.

In 1901, a new limestone edifice was erected at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and South 11<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1921, the Christian Scientists had constructed a permanent building at the state fairgrounds after several years of meetings in a tent. Throughout the 1920s, lecture halls around the Twin Cities were filled with large audiences eager to hear about the possibilities of spiritual healing, the local newspapers printing the lengthy transcripts of the lectures in toto.

By 1930, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Church had grown to the point that it erected a nine-story administrative tower and reading room next door, (known later as the Ivy Tower), with grand plans to construct the Midwest's largest religious auditorium on the site.

The Great Depression nixed that plan, but Abigail Thompson in 1924 had convinced fellow Leamington Hotel resident, Mrs. Anna L. Simmons, originally of Glencoe, MN, to leave her million-dollar estate to the church and dedicate it to construction of a "rest sanatorium" with 12 guest rooms for

the treatment of disease through prayer alone - the Star of Bethlehem Home on Minnetonka Blvd. in St. Louis Park.

Our website notes the building was designed by Frederick Mann, head of UM's School of Architecture, and that in 1933, Miss A.D. Thompson remained as President. The home was prominently sited atop a hill a hundred feet back from the street and would have probably remained one of the Park's most well-known landmarks had it not been obscured by construction of an apartment building along the street in its front yard in 1986.



The aerial photo from 1940, shows the prominence of the Star of Bethlehem Home as sited in 1924 at 4500 Minnetonka Blvd. Set atop a high spot on the north side of the street, it would have been easily visible to any drivers heading east or west as well as to any streetcar riders traveling the route. The Manhattan Park streetcar stop was at the intersection with Monterey Avenue, with a small brick waiting pavilion on the north side of the street.

The Christian Science movement continued to boom; by 1965, there were eight churches of Christ Scientist in Minneapolis alone. The Park had gotten a CS congregation in 1951 when it took over the former Brookside Community Church at 4241 Brookside Avenue where it remained until 1989. (That building still qualifies as the Park's oldest church building, currently occupied by St. Dunstan's Anglican Church.)

>>CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



blood, bones, and other material elements." We were instructed to repeat as needed for whatever ailment came along, from canker sores to cancer. The trick lay in the application: allow no hint of doubt, neither aspirin nor vitamin, a dogma so dire it was taken to absurd lengths...As a result, by the 1970s – a high-water mark for the church's political power, with many Scientists serving in Richard Nixon's White House and federal agencies – the church was well on its way to accumulating an incredible array of legal rights and privileges across the US, including broad-based religious exemptions from childhood immunisations in 47 states, as well as exemptions from routine screening tests and procedures given to newborns in hospitals. The exemptions had consequences: modern-day outbreaks of diphtheria, polio and measles in Christian Science schools and communities. A 1972 polio outbreak in Connecticut left multiple children partially paralysed; a 1985 measles outbreak (one of several) at Principia College in Illinois killed three.

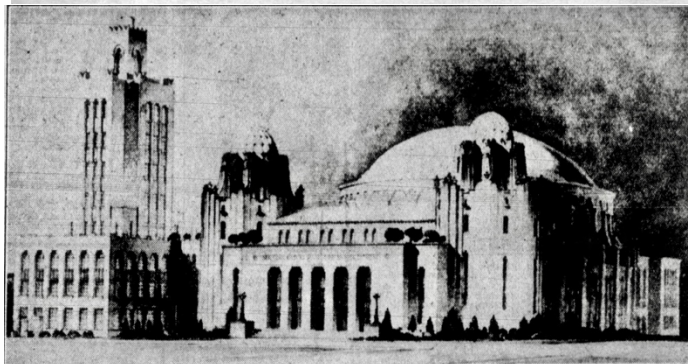
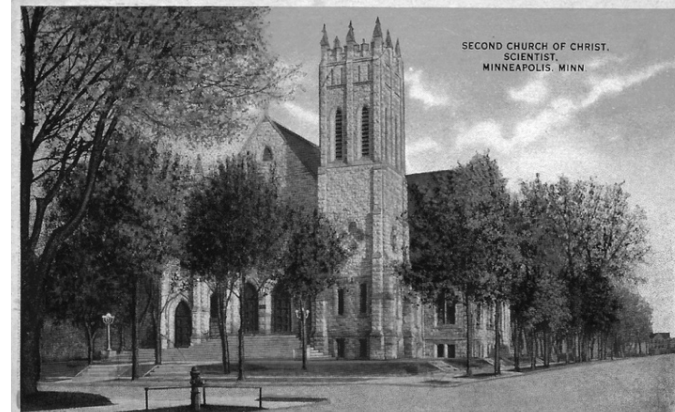
According to the Pew Research Center regarding religious exemptions to civil child abuse and neglect statutes, "exemptions came into being as a result of federal requirements that no longer exist; they grew out of CAPTA, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act which was signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1974...the requirements...for states to receive federal funding specified that a religious exemption must be added to the state's child protection laws. In 1983, this requirement was removed."

Minnesota had such an exemption on its books in the 1980s. On May 9, 1989, the Christian Scientist parents of 11-year-old Ian Lundman of Independence, MN, (who was attending the Park's Metropolitan Open School at the time), treated his juvenile-onset diabetes with nothing but prayer, following the advice of a St. Louis Park CS minister who unsuccessfully prayed for recovery from 35 miles away until Ian finally died.

The coroner classified the death a homicide, and the Hennepin County Attorney convened a grand jury that returned indictments for second-degree manslaughter against the parents and the clergyman. Eleven months after Ian's death, the indictments were tossed and the charges dismissed by a district judge based on a 1983 Minnesota statute protecting, "parents who in good faith rely on spiritual means or prayer," for medical treatment, a decision eventually affirmed by both the Minnesota Court of Appeals and the Minnesota Supreme Court. The legislature clarified the statute in 1990, slightly modifying the right of Minnesota parents to kill their minor children in the name of religion. It's unclear whether that clarification has ever been tested.

Christian Scientists H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, of Watergate fame, ran Nixon's White House. Movie and TV stars Carol Channing, Ginger Rogers, Doris Day, Mickey Rooney, Milton Berle, Robert Duvall, Joan Crawford, and Val Kilmer were reportedly practicing Christian Scientists. But in 1965, the Star of Bethlehem Home closed its doors for reasons unknown to us. Perhaps horror stories about occupants of the "rest home" had begun to leak out, as they did elsewhere. The facility's "nurses" had no medical credentials and were there mainly to exhort guests to stick-with-it and gut-it-out through untreated pain at the end of life.

>>MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 4



Mary Baker Eddy, top, inspired disciples such as Abigail and Emma Thompson in a virtual explosion of church-building from 1890 to 1910. The mother and daughter team flanks an interior photo of the 1901 Minneapolis' 2<sup>nd</sup> Church of Christ Scientist, just above a postcard view of the building's exterior at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. So. And 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The church built the Ivy Tower as an office/reading room in 1929 and proposed the largest auditorium in Minneapolis next door, a project killed by the Great Depression.

In 1999, Caroline Fraser, a refugee from Christian Science, wrote a book, "God's Perfect Child," describing her own father's agonizing death via the sect's anti-medical dogma and providing a general overview:

*The teachings were radically simple. The founder and leader of the church, Mary Baker Eddy, taught that disease was unreal because the human body and the entire material world were mere illusions of the credulous, a waking dream. Those who awoke and knew the "Truth" could be instantaneously healed...Eddy's definition of man was even more stark: "Man is not matter; he is not made up of brain,*



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In this issue, we share about the Star of Bethlehem Home, which is now the home of the Monterey Cohousing Community. I didn't know anything about the original or current building before reading our article, yet I lived within a half mile of it for nearly 10 years! It is yet another example of the many hidden stories of our city that continue to fascinate me.

It is also a great reminder that we love getting story ideas and submissions from our members like we did for this story. Please reach out if you have an idea for an article!

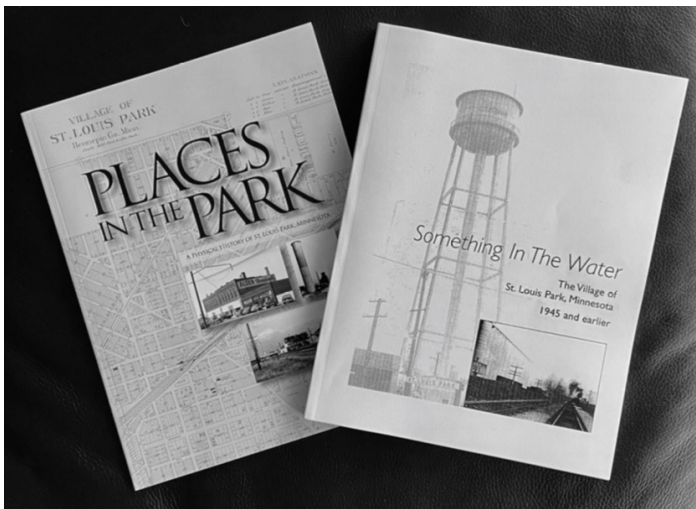
Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership (or became a new member) for 2023! If you haven't yet sent in your donation, please do so soon so we can keep sending you the *Re-Echo*. Our newsletter consistently offers new stories about our city and its citizens; plus, you can be reminded that history tends to repeat itself, as our editor, Bill, often points out through the *Dispatch Look Back* segment.

In honor of spring, I leave you with the opening passage from our book *Something In The Water*, which remembers early non-native settlers of our city nearly 170 years ago as recalled by the Laycock and Rye families:

*It was the spring of 1854 when William Laycock brought his wife, Mary Ann, to see the place he had selected as a site for their home. It was an acreage with beautiful oaks on an attractive high point in what later became St. Louis Park. Local residents now call the place Oak Hill, and the approximate location of the Laycock cabin was at Highway 7 and Pennsylvania Av. One of the attractions for an 1854 pioneer was that a good supply of water was available from nearby Brown's Creek which would, in a few years, be known as Minnehaha Creek.*

With Park Pride,

Ted





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PARK HISTORY TODAY

Founded in 1971, the St. Louis Park Historical Society collects, preserves and shares the history of St. Louis Park. The *ReEcho: Park History Today* is an official publication of the Society.

**Editor**  
WILLIAM BEYER

**Writers**  
TED EKKERS

**Contributing Writer**  
JEANNE ANDERSEN

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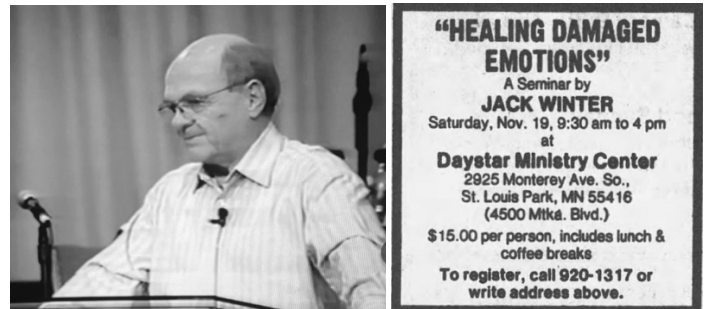
The views from Minnetonka Blvd. have been blocked by apartment construction over the years, making the place nearly invisible from the street. The rear terrace was enclosed as a screened porch in the 1930s (MHS photos). Four generations of Harriet Berry's family celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Home in 1960.



## DAYSTAR MINISTRIES

The Star of Bethlehem property was sold in 1965 to Jack and Dorothy Winter. In December 1975, Jack and Dorothy, along with Howard and Florence Strom, all residents of Martinsville, Indiana, formally incorporated Daystar Ministries, Inc. in Minnesota.

Like its sister organization in Martinsville, Daystar was a Christian, communal living setup, with all possessions of the participating families pooled for the common good and glory of God. Jack and Dorothy had spent 11 years as part of a similar religious commune, (the Bethany Fellowship, which continues to exist today), located in Bloomington, MN.



A formidable sermon-giver, Jack was back in town from his international travels in 1983, lecturing at the place he established Daystar, as noted in an ad in the StarTribune from 1983. He was also there to sell off the front part of his property along Minnetonka Blvd to an apartment developer.

A Crookston, MN native, Jack must have been some kind of dynamic and charismatic preacher, because Daystar expanded rapidly, with hyper-energetic Jack opening branches in a dozen cities across the U.S. and carrying his message of salvation to Korea as well.

Charismatic Christians are a fairly recent movement among Protestant and Catholic denominations, supposedly surfacing around 1960, although some scholars see Pentacostals, who emerged around 1900, as the true beginnings of the movement. According to Pew, charismatics number around 25% of all Christians, worldwide. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett is reportedly a charismatic Catholic. The term "charismatic" might even be applied to Mary Baker Eddy, but Christian Science appears to be on its way to a rapidly declining number of adherents, and it seems few wish to claim the Eddy legacy.

The building on Minnetonka Blvd. housed administrative offices for Daystar, but also operated as a home for wayward souls, alcoholics, drug addicts, unwed mothers, and various combinations thereof. Residents at the home shared chores, and attended classes in healing, Biblical praying, and relationships. In 1969, Park Insurance agent Lee Nystrom, who claimed to have practiced "white collar witchcraft" for years, credited Daystar with performing a successful exorcism of demon spirits from his body. In 1977, Daystar's Director, Larry Ballard, was promoting an anti-homosexual, pray-away-the gay doctrine in lectures around town.

>>CONTINUED PAGE 5



Our website tells of Stephanie Battleson, who lived in the building with her father and sister in the 1970s. "To me it was a magical place with secret passages and that old creepy elevator and the dumb waiter in the kitchen. My dad had a work shop on the first floor. I think he lived on the third floor (not quite sure). It was a very unique place to live and I loved it. We would play in the hallway on the first floor – my sister (Sarah) would roller skate while I rode my tricycle. At times Sarah would play the piano in one of the rooms on the first floor. We would watch movies in the study I believe. We really had some great memories over the years in this home."

Jack and Dorothy incorporated J.D. International, Inc. in Minnesota in June 1986. In December of that year Daystar Ministries paid the new corporation \$420,000 for the property; the mortgage likely left a big hole in Daystar finances as Jack and Dorothy moved on to bigger things.

Jack Winter died in Pasadena, CA in 2002. Some of his followers branched into multiple successor organizations. The name "Daystar" is itself a popular handle attached to multiple religious corporations around the country, from Texas to Oregon. Coming full circle, it is also the name of a Christian Science archive in Oklahoma.

Daystar Ministries tried to sell the property to an international youth hostel group in 1989, but NIMBYs objected, and the issue dragged on. Daystar eventually lost the property to their bank in foreclosure, and it was finally sold to Monterey Cohousing in 1992.

## COHOUSING IN THE PARK

By Leila Tite

A book titled Cohousing: A Contemporary Approach to Housing Ourselves was published in 1988 by architects Charles Durrett and Kathryn M. McCamant. It described a novel way for people to work together to develop homes that offer both privacy and community with the values of an old-fashioned neighborhood—safety, independence, mutual concern. It held the promise of real answers for people who wish to live intentionally and stop to look at where and how they live and at their impact on the environment.

The next year, the Twin Cities Cohousing Network (<https://www.tccoho.org/>) was founded. A group of burning souls began the process of site selection. They were looking for an urban location suitable for development. The first site they looked at turned out to be unworkable. Even though the members lost their initial investment, they became more determined to find something that would work. One of them found an ad for the 1924 Star of Bethlehem Home in St. Louis Park, which was being sold by the owner. They put in an offer for the building in December of 1991. Their offer was rejected in favor of American Youth Hostel Association AYH5, which planned to turn the building into a youth hostel. The co-housers knew that the youth hostel project would have to clear several hurdles, so they decided to proceed on the assumption that the site would again become available.

They kept the earnest money that had been assembled, hired an architect, developed a business plan and began to talk with lenders so that they could move quickly if the property did become available again. During that time they familiarized themselves with local development resources. The many housing cooperatives for seniors in the area became a valuable resource, both for information about cooperative living and decision-making and for early identification of professionals who might be available to work with them. The similarities between CoHousing and the well-established model of senior housing with congregate dining helped them present the project to bankers, lawyers and the St. Louis Park City Planning Department in a way to which they could easily relate.

On October 16, 1992 they got the phone call they had been waiting for: the AYH's purchase agreement had run out. There was only one catch: the owner wanted to close on the property before the end of the year. Thus began a mad flurry of finishing up legal documents and incorporating as a cooperative, securing an acquisition loan of \$234,000 from a local bank friendly to cooperatives, and finding supplemental financing for the rehabilitation activities in the form of a \$70,000 line of credit with a local coop development organization. Being ready for the opportunity paid off. They closed on the property December 18, 1992. The Star of Bethlehem Home became Monterey Cohousing Community.

### What's Cohousing?

The defining characteristics of cohousing as described by Charles Durrett and Kathryn McCamant include:

- Co-developed, co-designed, and co-organized with the group. There is a genuine and authentic participating process.
- Extensive common facilities that supplement and facilitate the daily living. Common facilities are perceived as an extension of each household's own private house. Each household has a separate kitchen. Participation in community activities is optional.
- Designed to facilitate community interactions. Parking for cars is typically on the outskirts so that people are more likely to meet and interact.
- Completely resident managed.
- No hierarchy in decision making.
- No shared economy.

For more information about cohousing, see the Cohousing Association of the US at <https://www.cohousing.org.>

The lenders required a 30% equity position, so the twelve households active at that point invested a total of \$100,000 in the form of down payments by residents and 8% loans from the nonresident households. The first mortgage payments were due in February of 1993, so the eight households planning to move in had to sell their homes quickly and get out of their rental units. They all moved in and learned to live together while the renovations were happening.

>>>CONTINUED ON PAGES 6, 7

In order to keep the project affordable, they decided to do much of the rehab work themselves. The 26 sleeping rooms and 14 bathrooms were remodeled into 8 separate apartments. The apartment units range from small two-room units of less than 500 sq. ft. each to a three bedroom unit of over 1,500 sq. ft. The building also includes 6000 square feet of common space: an elegant formal living room, a cherry-paneled library, three fireplaces, an existing institutional kitchen and large dining room, plus an exercise room, children's room, laundry, shop facilities, and a large 3 season porch. The site is at the top of a 2 1/4 acre wooded hillside that slopes down to Fern Hill city park and playfields.

In 1996, 7 new townhomes were built on the property. This brought the total number of households to 15. A tunnel connects the townhomes to the 2925 main building, so that everyone can come over for community meals and meetings during inclement weather. During the spring, summer and fall, community meals happen in the courtyard between buildings.

Most of the original founders have moved on, but there are still 4 households remaining from the original pioneers. It hasn't always been easy. One of the founders says "Cohousing is a graduate level class in human nature."

The cooperative values that are still important to cohousing members are self-help, self- responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. Members believe in honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others. This helped everyone in the community deal with the social isolation imposed on us by the COVID619 pandemic.

Loneliness and social isolation were already on the rise before COVID. They can be as much of a risk factor for premature death as smoking and sedentary lifestyle, according to a 2020 report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine NASEM6. Getting to know your neighbors and working collaboratively towards common goals helps to get people motivated to be of service to others on a manageable small scale.

Cohousing isn't for everyone. For those who are willing to undertake the journey to become more self- aware and learn how to compromise with other people who may have different values or lifestyles to achieve mutually beneficial goals, it can be a rewarding experience. See the Monterey Cohousing Community website at <https://montereycohousing.com> for more information.



Left and top: Shared dining and food prep are core activities of the Monterey cohousing experience as photos from 2018 and 2019 show. Above, members from eight households assembled at 7am to send off a youngster to the first day of kindergarten in 2018.





Above: A group picnic celebrates construction of the townhouse addition in 1996 and the construction of a play structure in 2021.  
Below: A wedding celebration in October 2017 against a backdrop of flaming maples (take our word for it).





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## DISPATCH LOOKBACK

As we read daily in our local newspapers, the scourge of inflation is the topic du jour. A sampling of *Dispatch* editorial cartoons from 1953, 1955 and 1957 show what old news it is. The Fed is frantically raising interest rates, trying to appear to be *doing* something. A few years back former Fed governor Daniel Tarullo admitted: "We do not, at present, have a theory of inflation dynamics that works sufficiently well to be of use for the business of real-time monetary policy-making." Which is Fed-speak for, "We don't have a clue, but we're happy to kill as many jobs as it takes to keep the bankers happy."

