



Elsa Gordon      Diseased: June 2013

Elsa Leiter Gordon was born and raised in Chicago where her father was an internist who taught at the University of Chicago Medical School. She started nursery school at the University, went through the Laboratory elementary school and entered the University college at age 16. Except for two years at Hunter College High School in NYC, she is a product of the U. of Chicago where she went on to medical school and where she met and married her husband, Leon Gordon. They both interned at Philadelphia General Hospital. He then trained in general surgery at Montefiore Hospital while Elsa began pediatrics residency at New York Hospital.

The family moved to California in the 50s where her husband continued his training in general surgery at Stanford Medical Center in San Francisco and Elsa pursued psychiatry at Langley Porter UCSF. Next came a surgery practice in San Jose for Leon while Elsa continued in child psychiatry at Stanford. She became the first child psychiatrist in San Jose. Along the way they had four children!

The couple built a home in Los Gatos where Elsa helped establish a multidisciplinary clinic which continues after 35 years. Although she retired in 1995, she continues to be active on the board of the Cleo Eulau Center in Palo Alto whose mission is to help at-risk youths to rebound from adversity to become capable adults.

Two of her children are doctors, and three of her ten grandchildren are aiming for medical careers. The Gordons built a second home at Lake Tahoe in 1959 where they still enjoy family reunions. They also enjoyed trips to Turkey, the Suez Canal, China and Antarctica. Leon died in 2000. Elsa cherishes the company of her Manx cat named Sapphire.