

Pacific Institute

presents

Learning to Listen The Language of Dementia and Alzheimer's

Tuesday

April 27th, 2004

**Open House at Hayes Valley Care
from 4:00pm**

Refreshments and Snacks provided

Presentation at 5:00pm

It is the prevalent view that our physical and psychological symptoms represent illnesses. Understood as illnesses we ask for professional help in the 'removal' of these symptoms. Another attitude views symptoms as meaningful, as important expressions of the individual perhaps even planetary psyche. As such symptoms are forms of communication which we can try to understand rather than ignore – which often happens through our well-intentioned means of helping and 'curing'.

Is there a way of learning to listen to the voice of a symptom? Could it be, for example, that the many forms of dementia, including Alzheimer's, are attempts to speak in a language as of yet unfamiliar to us? Could it be that more than a dis-ease for the person so afflicted, a person's symptom represents a message of sorts, wanting to express something important we must hear and understand? How would such a change in attitude and perspective influence the way we 'treat' people with dementia and Alzheimer's?

Please join us for a lecture and discussion.



**Nader Robert
Shabahangi, Ph.D.**
Pacific Institute, President

Pacific Institute is dedicated to serving the adult and elderly population of San Francisco.

The *Pacific Institute* Gerontological Wellness Program at *Hayes Valley Care* is a comprehensive care program emphasizing the emotional, mental and spiritual dimensions of aging. Licensed mental health professionals and interns work in concert with *Hayes Valley Care* to address the diverse challenges of being human.

Please **RSVP** by

April 23th, 2004

Hayes Valley Care is a beautiful care home for the elderly in the heart of San Francisco, close to the Opera House and Symphony Hall.

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(corner of Hayes Street)
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