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Safe, Affordable, Accepting – The Definition of ‘Home’

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Plus, there is the humanity factor. “Our kids are in the middle – not high functioning like children with Asperger’s, but they don’t have behavioral issues. Many also have no physical disabilities so they can contribute to society. They just need supportive housing with a vocational track,” says Houghton. “We’re trying to work with cities to let them know that this type of housing helps fulfill California’s low-income requirement but without negative impacts because our kids don’t drive and have either aged out of school or have other education options.”

Right now, in Orinda alone, there are 100 individuals with developmental delays who need or will need affordable, supportive, safe housing. And that need is clearly a long-term one for Orinda because 42 percent of that 100 are age 14 and under. Plus, there are

275 others needing help in Lafayette with another 100 in Moraga.

“My wife and I have explored every adult living option possible since our son was 14,” wrote Orinda resident Tobin Travarthen, whose son recently aged out of school. “He desperately wants to be like everyone else. He wants to make his own way.” They have found ways to get him from a day program, but “the conflict of letting go and wondering if he will catch the right train or the right bus and get off at the right location gnaws at us. Will he be able to push the button to cross the street of a busy highway while navigating drivers and drivers who are not aware of his situation? The irony is this fear could happen to the parents of any teenager looking down at a phone instead of paying attention. But, for adults with special needs, a large dose of empathy and

compassion is also needed to get them to their destination.”

These are just a few of the reasons why Sunflower Hill leaders hope to create an intentional community that offers individuals with developmental disabilities “a community within a community” – safe, affordable housing provided in tandem with meaningful work opportunities and the freedom to join in community activities or not – in an atmosphere where the residents will feel supported and valued, and be inspired to develop true friendships.

While each Orindan has his or her own idea of what makes a house a home, common ground in the ongoing housing element debate appears to reside in the words of Maya Angelou: “The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.”

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<p>MORAGA \$1,395,000 4/3. Terrific Sanders Ranch home. Single level with nice backyard with patio, lawn and gardens. Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	<p>ORINDA \$1,950,900 4/4. New Construction, Lot 7! Visit OrindaOaks.com. Buyer may select finishes. Front landscaping and fencing included.</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE \$1,399,000 4/2.5. Updated, Mt. D vu's, pvt/gated, ofc & bonus rm, lrg mstr suite, 3-car gar, light, xtra pkg. Tom Stack CalBRE#01501769</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE \$1,395,000 3/2.5. Amazing space for indoor/outdoor entertaining w/sweeping views! Near town, Bart, & schools! Brooke Korkut CalBRE#01958174</p>	<p>MORAGA \$825,000 3/2.5. 3+ Master Retreat, 2.5 BA, Family Room w/fireplace, Fantastic Views, Appx 2486 sqft. Hank Hagman CalBRE#00771832</p>	<p>ORINDA \$1,095,000 4/2.5. Nestled among the oaks in OCC. Vaulted ceilings, hdw floors, walls of windows. Views! Bo Sullivan CalBRE#00954395</p>
<p>ORINDA \$1,029,000 4/2.5. Gorgeous contemporary. Spacious rooms. Back yard oasis with pool. Valley view. Rick & Nancy Booth CalBRE#01388020/01341390</p>	<p>ORINDA \$995,000 4/2. Opportunity in Orinda! 2463 sqft on 1.43 acre lot, also included is adjacent 1.22 acre lot. Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	<p>MORAGA \$749,000 3/2.5. Charming townhome. Desirable floor plan w/high end European wndws, H/W flrs, updated kitchen, approx 2109 SF. Quinn Berg CalBRE#01872891</p>	<p>ORINDA \$799,000 4/2. First time on the market in 50+ years. ~ Mid-Century two story home with stunning VIEWS! Maureen Wilbur CalBRE#01268536</p>	<p>LAFAYETTE \$2,550,000 5/4.5. High end custom home w/wine cellar, gourmet kitchen, outdoor patio w/built in BBQ, putting green & more! The Beabelle Group CalBRE#00678426</p>	<p>ORINDA \$1,300,000 4/2.5. Fabulous half acre property is ideally located near downtown. Numerous upgrades throughout & open floor plan. Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE#01390784</p>
<p>MORAGA \$1,015,000 3/2. Lovely Ranch Campo, Cul-De-Sac, Hardwood, Upgraded Bath, in Laundry, Grass Lawn, Pavers. Jason Evans CalBRE#01887768</p>	<p>MORAGA \$1,489,000 5/3. Beautifully appointed home in popular Moraga Place. Updates and attn to detail throughout. Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE#01390784</p>	<p>MORAGA \$728,000 2/2. Fantastic MCC Single Level! Totally remodeled, 1262 sf, great location, beautiful upgrades, like new! Kirsten Buckley CalBRE#01922658</p>			