



## April 2025 Newsletter

Dear Sunflower Hill Friends,

The arrival of a bit of warmer weather means it's time to clear out most of our brassicas in the garden and add them to the compost pile. Garden beds are being refreshed, weeds are being pulled, and wood chips are being spread across the land. Meanwhile, our greenhouse is bursting with summer crops ready to plant —tomatoes, peppers, herbs, and flowers! Our chickens are also enjoying the season, laying more eggs, which were available at the March Farmer's Market at Irby Ranch.

As the season shifts, we're embracing these changes and preparing the garden for a bountiful summer ahead!

With gratitude,  
The Sunflower Hill Team





## Together for Autism: 30 Days of Impact and 50% Matching!

This April, in honor of Autism Awareness Month, we are excited to announce our partnership with the Community Health and Education Foundation (CHEF).

Throughout the month, **CHEF will generously match 50% of all donations**, up to \$20,000.

Donate today through the CHEF link and help us unlock an extra \$10,000!

Donate thru CHEF for 50% match!



## Tips for Change at SideTrack Bar + Grill

Join us for **Tips for Change** at **Sidetrack Bar & Grill** on **April 15, 2025!**

Our amazing guest waitstaff will be serving up delicious food and drinks—all to support Sunflower Hill. **100% of tips** will benefit our programs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Come dine for a great cause!

Spots are filling up quickly—book your table today!

Reserve your table!



## Grace Pointe in the News

Last month, we presented our Grace Pointe project to the Dublin City Council. Read [The Independent's article](#) to learn more about our plans for this new community and the council's fabulous feedback.

[Read The Independent Article](#)



## Volunteers in the Garden

We are so grateful to our garden volunteers for their hard work last month, especially to our corporate and community garden groups! A big thank you to **Pleasanton Rotary** for prepping the ground and building a compost bin, and to **Haskell** for clearing out the sensory garden to make way for exciting new additions!

There's still time to sign up your team. Bring your company to the garden!

[Learn about Corporate Volunteer Days](#)



## Irby Ranch Tours

Thursday, June 19, 2025 at Noon

Friday, August 1, 2025 at Noon

Friday, October 17, 2025 at 12:30 pm

Join us for an exclusive one-hour tour of Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch in Pleasanton! Please note that **our Irby Ranch Resident waiting list is closed**, and we are not currently accepting additional resident applications.

Spaces for the tour are limited, and registration is required.

[Register for an Irby Ranch Tour](#)

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## Sunflower Hill Mardi Gras Gala Sponsorships

Saturday, September 27, 2025

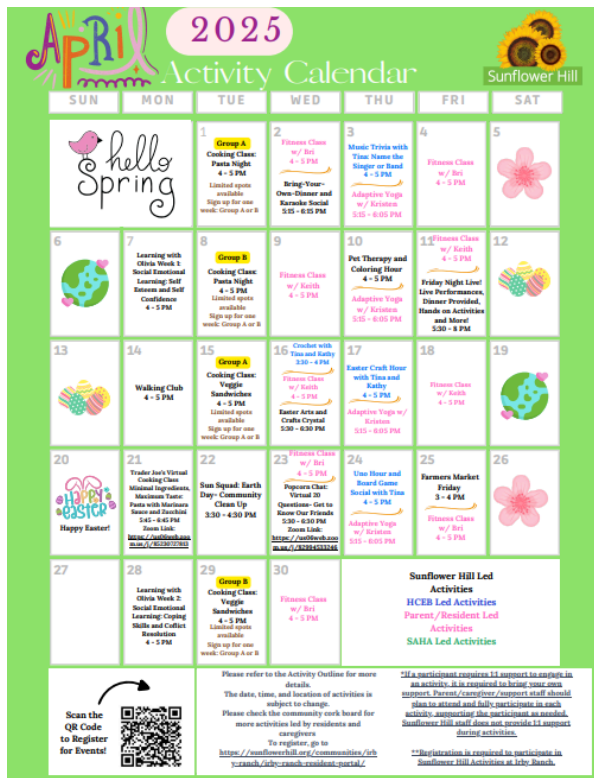
6-10 PM

Shannon Community Center, Dublin, CA

Our annual gala will feature a Mardi Gras theme -- and we'd love to have you join us for a night of glitz, glamour, and giving! Become a sponsor and help us make this event unforgettable while supporting a great cause.

Don't miss your chance to be part of the celebration! Secure your sponsorship today.

Become a Gala Sponsor



## Irby Ranch Activities

We had an amazing time during our March 2025 activities! One of the biggest highlights was our first-ever *Friday Night Live* event. The evening featured delicious food catered by Strizzi's in Pleasanton, a fun take-home art activity where participants painted a succulent pot and planted their own succulent, an energizing kickboxing class led by Coach Nancy from PuzzlePiece Athletics, and we wrapped up the night with a lively dance party.

We also hosted two virtual cooking classes where we made pepperoni and olive pizza and classic cheeseburger sliders—both were big hits! In our *Learning with Olivia* sessions, we focused on kitchen basics, with an emphasis on safety in the kitchen.

April registration is now open!

Register for Irby Ranch Activities



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# COMMUNITY MEMBER *Spotlight*

**JACOB  
ELFIN**

Irby Ranch  
Resident



Around 2011, I remember sitting at a Starbucks with several other parents, discussing how to create a community for adults with special needs, similar to senior living. Several years later—thanks to the dedication, hard work, and passion of many, including my wife, Lynn Monica, co-founder of Sunflower Hill Garden and former board member—Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch became a reality.

We were incredibly fortunate that my son Jacob, who has a rare genetic condition called Trisomy 9, was able to get a two-bedroom apartment at Irby Ranch. He shares the apartment with his wonderful roommate, Scott. I joke that they are like Oscar (Jake) and Felix (Scott) of The Odd Couple.

With the help of his support system, Jake has become more independent and has a life that includes a day program, helping at several non-profits, and participating in SFH-led social programs, as well as RADD and Special Olympics. His mom Julie and I have him on alternate weekends. One day, he told me, “Dad, I have so many friends at Sunflower Hill.” I could have died and gone to heaven.

Not only has this improved the quality of Jake’s life, but it has also transformed ours. I know I speak for all parents of children at Sunflower Hill—having a place for him to live with a support system, activities, and friends provides invaluable peace of mind for us. We are so grateful.

Jon Elfin

*Current Advisor and Finance Committee Member, Former Board Member*

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Donate to Sunflower Hill

**Our Contact Information**

Sunflower Hill

P.O Box 11436

Pleasanton, CA 94588

925-800-1042

<http://www.sunflowerhill.org>

[info@sunflowerhill.org](mailto:info@sunflowerhill.org)

