



August 2025 Newsletter



Garden Explorers Summer Camp participants pictured with Dr. Becky Nanyonjo, Executive Director of Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB)

Dear Sunflower Hill Friends,

We hosted our very first **Garden Explorers Summer Camp** in July—and what an incredible week it was! Campers soaked up the sunshine while enjoying hands-on activities like making flower bouquets, meeting our friendly chickens, decorating tote bags with veggie stamps, and racing through water balloon relays. We capped off the fun-filled week with a special animal visit from Lindsay Wildlife Museum and a pizza and popsicle party!

We appreciate the Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB) for their support. A heartfelt thank you to all our campers, staff, and volunteers for making our first camp such a joyful and memorable experience!

Many thanks to the **Danville San Ramon Rotary Club** for their generous \$500 grant to purchase a Jang seeder for our garden! This new tool will help us plant seeds more efficiently, saving both time and effort.

We sincerely appreciate our Sunflower Hill community—your ongoing generosity and support make everything we do possible.

With gratitude,
The Sunflower Hill Team



Mardi Gras Gala: Sold Out!

Our Mardi Gras Gala is officially **SOLD OUT!** We're so grateful for the incredible support from our community.

We are looking forward to recognizing our [2025 Sunflower Hill Rainmaker Award recipients](#), **Melissa Hernandez** and **Lynn Monica!**

If you'd still like to attend, we encourage you to join our [waiting list](#). As we confirm current reservations, we do expect some tickets to become available—and **we'll be reaching out to those on the waiting list first** as spots open up. Please

contact us at info@sunflowerhill.org if you have any questions.

[Join the Waitlist](#)



Livermore Valley Wine Auction

We are honored that **Sunflower Hill** has been chosen as one of the beneficiaries of the [31st Annual Livermore Valley Wine Auction](#). Join us on **Saturday, September 20, 2025**, from **2–5 PM** at Wente Vineyards for an elegant outdoor garden party featuring exceptional local wines, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, and lively live and silent auctions—all in support of underserved members of our community.

Thank you to the **Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation** for all they do to uplift nonprofits in our region! Sip wine, support local organizations, and soak up a beautiful day in Livermore — get your event tickets now!

[Purchase LVWA Tickets](#)



Garden News

Summer is in full swing in the garden! We've begun harvesting tomatoes, eggplant, and cucumbers each week, delivering them to our community partners. Our campers even got to take home CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) boxes filled with a variety of fresh vegetables and fruit to enjoy with their families.



Welcome, John!

John Slover has been a dedicated volunteer at Hagemann Ranch and the Sunflower Hill Garden for more than five years, generously sharing his time and energy. He is also an active member of the Livermore Heritage Guild, which manages the Hagemann Ranch. In his new role, John will be lending a hand several times a week with garden maintenance — mowing, weed whacking, planting, and harvesting. We're thrilled to officially welcome him to the garden team!

AUGUST 2025 Activity Calendar						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunflower Hill Led Activities HCEB Led Activities Parent/Resident Led Activities SAHA Led Activities			Scan the QR Code to Register for Events!		1 Fitness Class w/ Bri 4-5 PM	2 Watermelon
3 Learning with Olivia Week 1: Using Technology for Everyday Life 4-5 PM	4 Meet and Greet and Show and Tell with Adams 4-5 PM	5 Fitness Class w/ Keith 4-5 PM	6 Disney Trivia Around the Courtyard 4-5 PM	7 Adaptive Yoga w/ Kristin 5:15-6:05 PM	8 Fitness Class w/ Keith 4-5 PM	9 Flower
10 Virtual Paper Chat Virtual Karaoke Night 4-5 PM via Zoom	11 Community Room Closed for Acoustic Installation	12 Cooking Class: Protein Bites 4-5 PM	13 Irby Ranch Farmers Market 9:30-4:30 PM	14 Adaptive Yoga w/ Kristin 5:15-6:05 PM	15 Fitness Class w/ Bri 4-5 PM	16 Watermelon
17 Learning with Olivia Week 2: Using Technology for Everyday Life 4-5 PM	18 Virtual Cooking Class: Chicken and Vegetable Stir Fry 4-5 PM via Zoom	19 Bring Your Own Dinner + Story Time and Social Stories with Adams 5:15-6:15 PM	20 Fitness Class w/ Keith 4-5 PM	21 Art and Fun with VIP Team: Decorate a Pot and Plant Flowers 4-5 PM	22 Dance Hour and Board Game Social with Time 3-4 PM	23 Watermelon
24 Pet Therapy and Coloring Hour 4-5 PM	25 Cooking Class: Quick Pickling 4-5 PM	26 End of Summer Ice Cream Bar and Movie 5:30-7 PM	27 Fitness Class w/ Bri 4-5 PM	28 Creative Movement with Time Taught by Kelly and Sallie from VIP 4-5 PM	29 Fitness Class w/ Bri 4-5 PM	30 Friday Night Live Live Performance, Dinner Provided, Hands on activities and more 5:30-8 PM
31	Please refer to the Activity Outline for more details. The date, time, and location of activities is subject to change. Please check the community cork board for more activities led by residents and caregivers. To register, go to https://sunflowerhill.org/programs/irby-ranch/ .			*If a participant requires 1:1 support to engage in an activity, it is required to bring your own support. Parent/caregiver/support staff should plan to attend and fully participate in each activity, supporting the participant as needed. Sunflower Hill staff does not provide 1:1 support during activities. **Registration is required to participate in Sunflower Hill Activities at Irby Ranch.		

Irby Ranch Activities

Friday Night Live

Join us on Friday, August 29, 5:30-8:00 PM, and enjoy a fun evening with dinner and engaging activities! Cost: \$25 — [Reserve your spot now!](#)

Farmers' Market at Irby Ranch

August 13 & August 29, 3:30-4:30 PM
Cost: Free

We're excited to host two Farmers' Market events this August at Irby Ranch — here's your chance to grab fresh, seasonal produce straight from the Sunflower Hill Garden! Shop a delicious selection of fruits, veggies, and herbs harvested by our program participants. Everything is grown with care, right here in our garden. Bring your own bag if you have one! [Sign up today!](#)

Register for Irby Ranch Activities



Sunflower Hill Shirts & Hats

You can purchase exclusive Sunflower Hill shirts and hats—perfect for showing your support in style. **Every purchase supports Sunflower Hill** and helps fund our programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Shop now and wear your sunflower pride!

Shop at the Sunflower Hill Shop



We're delighted to announce that this year's **Sunflower Hill Spirit Award** recipient is **Jennifer Crandall!**

"Jennifer exemplifies the heart of our community through her consistent and enthusiastic participation in our programs," shared Olivia Christensen, Sunflower Hill Programs Manager. "She's always ready to jump in, try something new, and uplift those around her with her energy and positivity. Whether she's encouraging a friend to join an activity or simply sharing her excitement, Jennifer helps foster a warm and engaging environment wherever she goes. We are truly thankful for her bright spirit and the joy she brings to Sunflower Hill!"

We asked Jennifer about life at Sunflower Hill:

What do you like to do at Sunflower Hill?

The things I like to do at Sunflower Hill are activities like cooking classes, yoga, movie night, get-together parties where we share food and get together and visit.

How do you feel when you are at Sunflower Hill?

Sunflower Hill makes me feel happy, safe, and welcoming. Everyone is nice and we all help each other. What makes me smile at Sunflower Hill is saying "hello" to everyone and helping each other when needed. I like the staff, they always make me feel special and make me smile.

How has Sunflower Hill changed your life?

Sunflower Hill has changed my life because it has allowed me to live by myself and take care of myself. I know that there are people here who will help me if needed, but Sunflower Hill is first place that has allowed me to live independently.

Congratulations, Jennifer! We look forward to celebrating with you at the Gala!

Donate to Sunflower Hill

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