

# Sunflower Hill



February/March 2018 | [sunflowerhill.org](http://sunflowerhill.org)

March 15, 2018

## Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch Update

### Future Site of Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch



A Residential  
Community  
for Individuals  
with  
Special  
Needs



In late February, Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch received another solid vote of support with [approval of A-1 Bond Funds](#) from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

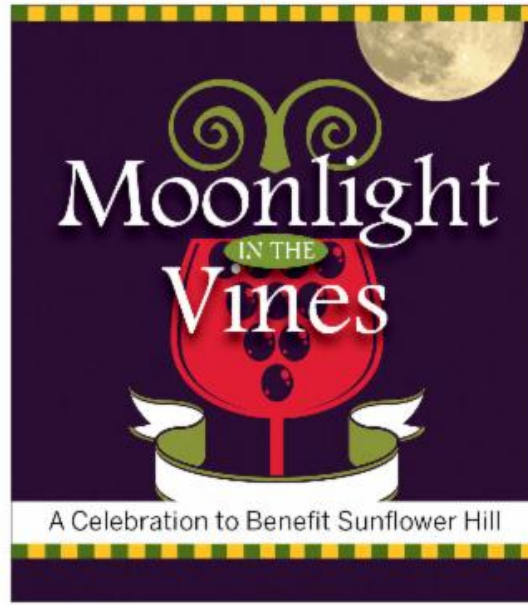
This special allocation, along with the continued commitment from the City of Pleasanton, enabled Sunflower Hill and partner [Satellite Affordable Housing Associates](#) to take the next step and submit our official application for tax credit financing with the State of California. If awarded, Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch could break ground by December 2018.

[Meritage Homes](#) has already started grading for their subdivision, [The Homestead at Irby Ranch](#) which will surround the Sunflower Hill parcel. Look for their first model homes in Fall 2018!

This Year's Moonlight in the Vines is Set!

# Join us at Moonlight in the Vines!

A Celebration to Benefit Sunflower Hill



**Saturday**  
**July 28, 2018**  
5:30pm - 10:30pm

Wente Vineyards  
5050 Arroyo Road  
Livermore

Call 925.989.2271 for  
more information.  
[www.sunflowerhill.org](http://www.sunflowerhill.org)



Join us for an evening of **fun and surprises** under the stars at Wente Vineyards in Livermore. Enjoy live music with Dream Posse Band, dancing, fabulous food, award winning wines, silent auction, live auction, heads & tails, and much more!

All proceeds to benefit Sunflower Hill and help further our mission of creating an intentional community for individuals with special needs.



**Early bird ticket prices (until June 30) are \$150 per person and includes dinner and 2 glasses of wine or beer.**  
**Table of (8) \$1120. Table of (10) \$1400**  
**Ticket prices increase after July 1st.**

A variety of sponsorships are available.

**Please see website for details and to purchase tickets: [www.sunflowerhill.org](http://www.sunflowerhill.org)**



A Sustainable Special Needs Community

Sunflower Hill is an IRS recognized 501c3 non-profit organization. Tax ID# 80-0897595

Sponsorship opportunities available. Check our website for more details. For more information email [info@sunflowerhill.org](mailto:info@sunflowerhill.org) or call 925.989.2271

Sunflower Hill's annual gala, Moonlight in the Vines, is set for: **Saturday, July 28, 2018**. Once again, we will be holding this exciting event at the beautiful Wente Vineyards in Livermore!

To find out more information on our big event, as well as purchase sponsorships, tickets and tables, please go to our [website](http://www.sunflowerhill.org).

We hope you can join us for dinner, dancing, great food & wine, silent & live auctions, and more. Can't wait to celebrate with all of you under the stars!



## Welcome Abby Lourenco!

Our Sunflower Hill Gardens Farmer, Lina Valenzuela, is currently on maternity leave. Helping to fill the gap in the interim, we would like to introduce our new Assistant Farmer, Abigail Lourenco.

Abby is a recent graduate from UC Davis who is excited to get her hands dirty as Assistant Farmer at Sunflower Hill Gardens! She studied agricultural development, and has experience farming abroad in Ecuador and Uganda, and in garden-based education here in California. Abby loves photography, backpacking, cooking, and (of course) gardening! She is thrilled about the opportunity to grow with the Sunflower Hill team. We are excited to have Abby join the garden team!



## Raising the Barre to Benefit Sunflower Hill!

**DANCE  
FOR A DIFFERENCE**

SUNDAY, APRIL 15 AT 3:00PM  
BANKHEAD THEATER, LIVERMORE

PRESENTED BY  
**Raising  
the Barre**

BENEFITTING  
SUNFLOWER HILL

Working to create a  
sustainable residential  
community for individuals  
with special needs.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS: VISIT THE BANKHEAD THEATER BOX OFFICE OR LVPAC.ORG

Raising the Barre, ConDanza and the [TDA Professional Company](#) are presenting a Dance Concert, Dessert Reception, and Silent Auction to benefit Sunflower Hill! Here are the details:

Dance for a Difference

Sunday, April 15 at 3:00 p.m. at The Bankhead Theater

Presented by Raising the Barre, ConDanza and the TDA Professional Company

Benefitting Sunflower Hill

Dance Concert, Desert Reception, Silent Auction

Tickets can be purchased [here](#)

Why Sunflower Hill was the chosen beneficiary:

"A member of our dance community lost their son suddenly earlier this year. One of our dance instructors recently attended a Sunflower Hill event and brought the organization and its mission to the attention of Raising the Barre. The brave boy who we lost was a very special person, who one day could have benefitted from Sunflower Hill. Raising the Barre chose to partner with Sunflower Hill to honor his memory and celebrate his life."

We are incredibly honored to be the beneficiary for such a special event. We hope you can join us for a wonderful afternoon of dance!

## Sunflower Hill Gardens Update

The Sunflower Hill Gardens programs and winter crops continue to thrive and we have begun to prepare for the spring planting!

The horticulture programs started up again with 11 High School Adult In Transition classes and 3 Adult Day Programs participating from the Tri-Valley area, and additional groups asking to visit. In January we received great feedback from the participating groups which rated the garden program 4.67 out of 5!

The Danville Rotary helped to build a trellis for the raspberry plants and the Cornerstone Fellowship

International Group helped to install a root barrier and transplant the plants. In addition, individuals from the Pleasanton Boys Team Charity and Pleasanton/Livermore National Charity Leagues have been volunteering regularly in the garden helping with a variety of projects.



The winter crops have done well and are being harvested, with current produce available being: lettuce, spinach, kale, kalette, beets, chard, radicchio, cabbage, broccoli, herbs, and coming soon-leeks. We have begun sowing seeds in the SFH Greenhouse as well as turning over the cover crop and rebuilding the beds for the spring planting.

The Sunflower Hill Gardens Team was honored as one of the community organizations to receive recognition from the Board of Education of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. This recognition was for the support and job training that our SFH

Gardens Programs provide to the adults in their transition program!

We had a great turn out in the 'Winter in the Gardens' Family Workday. Our next Family Workday is the ['Spring Planting'](#) on April 14, 9:30-11:30 a.m. If this will be your first visit to the garden, please please fill out and submit our online forms [here](#). Sunflower Hill Gardens is located at 455 Olivina Avenue in Livermore.

## Las Positas Adaptive Horticulture Program is Back!

The next Adaptive Horticulture Program is coming up in Spring 2018! For information and applications, check out the flyer below and/or please contact Frances DeNisco at [fdenisco@laspositascollege.edu](mailto:fdenisco@laspositascollege.edu) or (925) 424-1467.



*Come grow with us at Las Positas College!*

# SPRING 2018 ADAPTIVE HORTICULTURE

SPRING PROGRAM for Students with Special Needs

*Vocational Training \*Horticultural Therapy\* College Experience*

**Tues & Thurs April 3 - May 24, 2018**

**FREE**

4:00 pm-6:00 pm

Horticulture 203 - ADAPTIVE LANDSCAPE & GARDEN MAINTENANCE

This is an 8 week horticulture and vocational training class. Lessons and lab activities are adapted for students with mild to moderate disabilities. Students will demonstrate basic skills used in plant identification, nursery and garden center operations, plant propagation, and sales presentation. The group will be working in the Sunflower Hill Gardens for part of the program.

## *Student Requirements*

- ☞ Must be at least 18 years of age.
- ☞ Program is designed for individuals with mild to moderate disabilities who can participate in an indoor and outdoor classroom setting with support at a 1:4 ratio.
- ☞ Interest in pursuing employment in the horticulture, landscaping, or viticulture industry.
- ☞ Access to transportation to and from Las Positas College.
- ☞ Access to home and agency support needed for successful program participation.

For information and applications, please contact **Frances DeNisco**, [fdenisco@laspositascollege.edu](mailto:fdenisco@laspositascollege.edu) (925) 424-1467.



This program is presented in partnership with Pleasanton Adult and Career Education, Regional Center of the East Bay, Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program, and Sunflower Hill Gardens, a sustainable residential community for individuals with special needs, located in Livermore and Pleasanton.

Find out about Horticulture occupations here: <https://www.onetonline.org/find/quick?s=horticulture>.

<http://www.laspositascollege.edu/careereducation/gainfulEmployment.php>

3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore, CA 94551-7623 | [www.laspositascollege.edu](http://www.laspositascollege.edu) | PH 925.424.1000



PLEASANTON  
ADULT AND CAREER EDUCATION



Thank you Pleasanton Weekly and Holiday Fund Donors!

Thank you again to the [Pleasanton Weekly](#), Jeb Bing, Gina Channell, and Jeremy Walsh for including Sunflower Hill in the PW Holiday Fund again this year! We are incredibly honored to be included alongside the other valuable nonprofits that continue

do much needed work in our community. And thank you to all the donors to the Holiday Fund as well as to [Rotary Club of Pleasanton, CA](#) for hosting the luncheon again where the checks were distributed.



Recipients of the 2017 PW Holiday Fund, with Jeremy Walsh, Gina Channell & Jeb Bing from the Pleasanton Weekly

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