



Dear New Owners

This house, this land, is a sanctuary. It has been my beloved home for 23 years now, and this neighborhood, my place.

Perched at the rise in the road, set back from the fray by layers of leaves and beauty, I have had a full, wonderful life here.

Intricately sewn into this very special, quintessentially Oakland neighborhood by the long-time residents surrounding, this house has seen lots of life before me. The Baskins raised their four sons here, and stayed for more than 30 years. I took over the reigns with my partner in 2000, and have loved this place deeply and put all my best energies here - planting, repairing, decorating, cherishing this place and my good fortune in being here. There has been much music, many a BBQ and Mardi Gras celebration. There have been peaceful fires on the patio late at night, drifts of mariachi music from nearby quinceaneras a block or two over on a summer's eve, and the soft whir of hummingbirds and butterflies in the day. What a solace this place has been!

I could tell you about logistical things... the joys of having truly local establishments minutes away... homegrown Farmer's Joe's grocery with its abundant organic produce... eateries, yoga studios. I can remind you how easy it is to hop on 580, 880, or 13 almost equally, or use the Bart down the hill at Fruitvale. How nice it is to pop up hill to Redwood Park for trails, or the MLK Shoreline for bird watching! Even the airport is close enough to be super convenient while not being a bother. You will find these things and more out in your own explorations, no doubt.

But the real prize is the neighborhood and its people. Nowhere have I lived where neighbors have been so warm and real, whether they are the close ones next door, or the passers-by walking dogs, escorting kids or grandkids to school, or strolling in their Sunday best. I will miss all of them dearly.

What life will be like for you here will surely be of your own making. As for me, I couldn't have loved a place more, and by all means it has responded in kind. May you experience this sweetness yourself if this is your place: the berries and the fruits will bear for you, the hummers will tilt their heads when you discuss with them, and you will know peace under this roof as I have. It's a special spot. You'll see.