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Editor:

As a resident of Orinda's government housing, I want to respond to the letter of Mr. Henry R. Pinney and invite him to visit us at Orinda Senior Village in downtown Orinda. He can call me from the directory at the entrance. I would like to show him around our building of 150 apartments. This soon-to-be 30-year-old government housing is our home. I would like to introduce you, Mr. Pinney, to some great residents who may have been a cook, teacher, caregiver, artist, doctor, researcher, banker, a valued housewife, nurse, clerk, factory worker or manager, Cal Berkeley or Stanford grad, etc.

We moved here to be near family members living in this area as we age or because we are disabled. We are of many nationalities and languages, work and life experiences, mental and physical abilities. This challenging diversity of residents live together, mostly happily, and often help and care for one another. We care about and have invested in our apartments, our building, and around our building. Together, we garden, care for many plants inside and out, bird watch and maintain hummingbird feeders and a Bluebird trail, run a thrift shop, publish a monthly in-house newsletter, exercise on equipment we helped pay for, play bingo and table tennis with equipment we paid for, plan a monthly outing, paint, write, help with grandchildren, etc.

Back of all the above is a local board that cares about Orinda Senior Village and the residents. They give of their time and talents to make possible what you will see when you visit us. We have a staff that works to keep it that way.

We are a community as diverse as Lamorinda. I do not know the statistics, but I doubt the names of our residents are on the police blotter any more often than those of other Lamorinda residents. We may use the paramedics more often! Like most Lamorinda residents, most of us know this is a great place to live and we want to keep it that way. We are grateful to live in Orinda Senior Village, in Orinda, and near to those we love as we are aging and living with disabilities. I look forward to showing you around our lovely government-subsidized Village in Orinda.

Mildred Salmon Orinda

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