

LETTER FROM THE SELLER

915 Polk St., Albany

Dear Prospective Buyers,

Albany was home before we knew it was home. We didn't know we'd spend our evenings watching big sky sunsets on the top of Solano Avenue, half a block away, on what feels like the roof of the Bay Area. We didn't know we'd walk most every day to Souvenir Coffee and become good friends with the staff on their journeys inside. We didn't know we'd spend days at Tilden Park with our neighbors, walking through the woods, shooting the breeze. We didn't know we'd throw birthday parties and see so many on our block come into our backyard, looking for cupcakes and beer. We just found a perfect two-bedroom house on a gently sloping hill, gave it a shot, and the rest was the best surprise we could have hoped for.

We saw a lot of two-bedroom homes in Albany and North Berkeley before discovering 915 Polk Street. Some of those homes were bigger, and on larger lots, but none had so much light, thanks to our home's south-facing windows, and none had as private-feeling of a backyard. Persimmon tree branches, purple and green plum buds, and cherry tomatoes on cages hanging in the sun below the bedrooms felt a bit surreal for us coming from a small San Francisco studio. The weekend afternoons in the living room and bedrooms became restful. The evenings in the backyard became energizing. On our smaller lot, inside our cozy structure, we never felt cramped - the basement worked perfectly to store more than we ever needed (bikes, tools, gardening equipment, a pottery wheel, and even a bunch of stuff my sister couldn't fit in her home a few miles away in Berkeley).

After buying the home, we immediately got our hands dirty. We built new redwood planter boxes and stuffed them with as many veggie seeds as possible. We replaced some of the bricks along the driveway path, making sure to leave some of the old relics stamped from the '40s and '50s. We replaced the home's foundation, adding seismic bolts, because, well, we'd lived through the Loma Prieta earthquake. After our first few months, we discovered Albany really does have the charm of a small town with accessibility to big city vibes. Close to Bart, UC Berkeley, Oakland, and, surprisingly, the Sierra Nevada's, and the North Coast, it was that blend of a bit of it all that makes Albany the place that it is. It is diverse. It is welcoming to all generations. It tries new ideas, like parklets along Solano Avenue for pedestrians. It really is a place to make home.

As you can see by now, we love Albany as a place, and found our home was more than we could have wished for. We hope you enjoy these things, too, and go on to find more gems that we didn't catch.

Best,

Devin and David