



MORAGA

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New Town Treasurer commits to third term for Moraga



Photo Vera Kochan

New Town Treasurer Robert Kennedy

By Vera Kochan

Robert Kennedy was unanimously chosen during the April 24 town council meeting to serve as town treasurer for a nonconsecutive third term following a recommendation by the Audit and Finance Committee. Kennedy initially served as treasurer from 2006 to 2009, and once again from 2011 to 2013. Kennedy has been a Moraga resident for 22 years. As a student at UC Berkeley he majored in engineering, but never pursued a career in that field. "When I graduated

I went straight into accounting," he said, adding, "Even though engineering and accounting are two different occupations, both are numbers oriented."

Kennedy felt that he had a lot to offer the town when he began his first term as treasurer. "For two years, in 2004-06, I served on the Contra Costa Civil Grand Jury, and learned a lot about how local government operates and is financed. In 2006, the town of Moraga was looking for a town treasurer, so I applied and was able to bring some of my Grand Jury experience to help the town."

Some specific duties involving the treasurer include serving as chairperson of the AFC, working with the administrative services director to establish an agenda and following up on specific tasks as directed by the AFC or town council.

According to the AFC charter, the committee is to be "the town council's principal agent in ensuring the independence of the town's independent auditors, the integrity of management, and the adequacy of disclosures to the public." The committee is also responsible for reporting the town's financial state-

ments, maintaining financial records, reviewing budgets and financial management procedures including investment strategies and cash handling procedures.

Having been Moraga's treasurer twice before, Kennedy has become a veteran at the job, stating, "I bring a certain amount of institutional knowledge and experience to the town."

With so much time invested in keeping Moraga financially on track, Kennedy was asked if he ever considered running for office. He answered with a chuckle, "Not at this time!"

Behind the scenes of Moraga Library events



Local author Daniel Hanel

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Most patrons appreciate the variety of events that the

Moraga Library has to offer, but aren't aware of the process behind providing interesting programs for young

and old alike.

Adult Services Librarian Michael Goldman and Youth Services Librarian Nirit Schnitzer are the folks responsible for the library's extracurricular and always free activities.

Goldman has scheduled upcoming events such as Gentle Yoga; a Chinese brush painting workshop in honor of Asian Pacific Islander Month; the monthly book club meeting; a folk singer; and last week's local guest author Daniel Hanel.

The Contra Costa County libraries are a great resource to Goldman for mining event ideas. Librarians from the other cities make recommendations to each other regarding worthwhile speakers or artists. While he likes to book local talent as much as possible, Goldman says, "My

choices aren't closed to only locals. I like to offer something that the community can relate to."

Hanel's presentation was more of a detailed historical mystery lesson. Born in Richmond, California, and currently living in Brentwood, the high school science teacher said, "Writing a novel was a bucket list item." His intriguing mystery series, "In the Shadow of Mt. Diablo," is a spellbinding account of local folklore where, according to Hanel, "past meets present, with a parallel story line, where fact meets fiction."

Hanel's first book in the series, "Mystery of the Great Stone House," recounts the life and murder of wealthy and influential Brentwood historical figure Dr. John Marsh. His second novel, "Death at the Healing Wa-

ters," uncovers a WWII secret at the Byron Hot Springs Resort. Hanel's most recent novel, "Ghosts of Black Diamond," takes the reader back to the historical 19th century coal mining town once located in the Mt. Diablo foothills.

Many of the library programs are sponsored by The Friends of the Moraga Library.

For the younger library-goers, Schnitzer says, "I like a mix of performers and crafts - something that's inspirational. For the preschool and kindergarten age groups I offer something funny or musical." Some Moraga Library events for children include Comic book drawing and Kindergarten Countdown (talking and singing) which are coming in May.

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 <p>Town Council Wednesday, May 22, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p>Planning Commission Monday, May 20, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p>Park and Recreation Commission Tuesday, May 21, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p>Moraga School District Board Meetings Tuesday, June 11, 7 p.m. Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga www.moraga.k12.ca.us See also AUHSD meeting page A2</p>
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