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And the Candidates Are...

By *Sophie Braccini*

There will be two seats open on the Moraga Town Council during the November general election - seats that are currently occupied by Mayor Ken Chew and Council Member Dave Trotter, who are both running for re-election. Three challengers would like to take those seats away: Seth Freeman, Dennis Wanken, and Eleni Wanken. A little about them, in alphabetical order:



Ken Chew (Incumbent)

Currently serving as mayor, Ken Chew was elected four years ago. He is a native of Malaysia and came to the United States as a student. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1986, in Civil and Environmental Engineering. He works for the California Department of Transportation in Oakland, where he is in charge of project management control. He and his wife raised two sons in Moraga. Prior to running for Town Council he served on the Moraga Planning Commission.

Seth Freeman

Seth Freeman is the CEO of EM Capital Management, LLC, located in Moraga. The firm is an international financial advisor and fund manager, specializing in alternative and innovative investments with an emphasis on emerging markets and distressed assets, and restructuring opportunities. Freeman's children go to Campolindo High School. He is a graduate of Saint Mary's College.



Dave Trotter (Incumbent)

Dave Trotter was elected to the council 4 years ago, and served as mayor last year. Trotter is an attorney and partner at Bowles & Verna LLP, a law firm in Walnut Creek. His practice includes civil litigation, land use planning, environmental and real estate law. He was a planning commissioner for approximately 6 1/2 years, from September 1991 to March 1998. He and his wife raised 4 children in Moraga.



Dennis Wanken

Dennis Wanken ran for Town Council two years ago. He has been a Moraga resident for 17 years. He holds a BA from the University of Baltimore and a Masters degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from Saint Mary's College. Both his children graduated from Miramonte High School. He has been a program director for early childhood facilities in Oakland and Danville for 25 years and is a consultant for the I.R.S. He served on the Moraga School Board from 1997 to 2002.



Eleni Wanken

Eleni Wanken was born in Greece and immigrated to the United States as a child with her family. She has lived in Moraga for 17 years. She holds a B.A. in French from the California State University in Hayward, a Masters in Early Childhood Education from the same institution, and K-8 and High School Multiple Subject teaching credentials. She is a former Acalanes Union High School District board member. She taught for 10 years in the Hayward Unified School District. She continues to be a small business owner along with her husband, Dennis Wanken (see left).

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