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New Representative to Agency on Aging

By Sophie Braccini



Keith Katzman in his Moraga home.
 Photo Sophie Braccini

There are a few people in Moraga who can be regarded as experts on senior issues. One of them is George Fisher, co-founder of the Moraga Movers. So when he talks about seniors, the Town Council listens.

"Moraga had not had representation on the Contra Costa County Area Agency on Aging for quite some time," said Fisher. "My wife Julie and I went to the meetings and

thought it was important that Moraga be represented, so I asked the council to name someone." The council asked George or Julie to be that representative, "but we thought that someone younger would be more advisable," responded George. "There is a lot of work to be done and you want someone with energy." Then Fisher met someone he immediately considered to be the ideal candidate, in the person of Keith Katzman, a man barely in his 50s but with a strong desire to be an advocate for Moraga seniors.

"It may all come from my grandfather, whom I was very close to," said Katzman. "He lived close by, and I was lucky to have him in my life way into my adulthood. We had a very strong relationship. So I have always paid attention to the needs of seniors in their everyday lives — their need to be safe in their homes, to have quality care, transportation available when they can't drive anymore, a welcoming community that offers accessible services." When Fisher mentioned the county position that needed to be filled, Katzman immediately applied.

According to its website, CCCAAA's mission is to provide leadership in addressing issues that relate to older Californians, to develop community-based systems of care that provide services which support independence within California's interdependent society, and which protects the quality of life of older adults and persons with functional impairments, and to promote citizen involvement in the planning and delivery of service.

The care part of the services consists of an Adult Day Care or social weekday program; ombudsman services; a family caregiver provider program, which addresses the specific needs of family members who provide care to an elderly relative; home visiting services to frail seniors by volunteers; and an in-home services registry. CCCAAA also supports different non-profits that service seniors, such as Senior Helpline Services that provides free transportation to seniors who can't drive, but can walk with a cane or walker, Meals on Wheels and Senior Outreach Services.

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