

Series: How I Came to Live in Morgan Hill



Our Fourteen Years in Morgan Hill

by Peggy Martin



It was January of 2005 – Craig and I were excited about remodeling a portion of our South San Jose home. A new entry-way was to be created, and a kitchen upgrade that I had been looking forward to for more than a decade. We were also about to embark on our second trip to Europe, this time to Ireland and London. Our trip was fast approaching, and I wanted the remodel completed before leaving!

We were about to sign the project agreement with our contractor when a long-time Morgan Hill business associate of Craig's said, "You have got to come look at the home across the street from us; it is up for sale. You will fall in love with the panoramic view of the valley and Lake Anderson." I must say I was not anxious to go look at a home in Morgan Hill. Our schedules were busy and moving was not in my vision.

We were very familiar with Morgan Hill as Craig's dad and step-mother lived there. Dorothy Martin (Craig's step-mother) was known as the Music Lady. She taught piano and voice lessons.

Craig wanted to look at the home and liked the idea of moving. As we turned onto East Dunne, I thought we were driving straight up to heaven – it seemed on that first trip up the hill we kept driving and driving. We finally arrived at our destination of 3475 Oakwood Court in the Jackson Oaks neighborhood of Morgan Hill. I knew as soon as we saw the home and the view that we would be moving.

A lot of activity took place in January and February of 2005. Our home was up for sale. I was packing boxes and giving lots of items away. By the time we were on the airplane going to Ireland, our home had not yet sold, we had purchased a dining room table and buffet for our new formal dining room, and we had paid a \$28,000 non-refundable contingency fee on our new home. I was a nervous wreck. I had contemplated staying home, but Craig – always the optimist said, "Let's go and our home will be sold while we are away." He was correct; I was relieved.

We moved to Morgan Hill on May 5, 2005. The date is easy to remember – a true Cinco de Mayo celebration. We named our new home, Heavenly Manor and created a plaque that hangs near the entrance to our home. We were inspired and happy.

We have been blessed with a wonderful family. The oldest member of our family is now age 98 and the youngest is 2 ½. When our family gathers in our home, it is a cherished time and goes by far too quickly. I have been given a legacy by our parents and my desire is to continue that legacy to our children, grandchildren and future generations. In dedication to our grandchildren, a redwood tree was planted on our property. Their names are engraved on a plaque. As our grandchildren have grown, so has the tree.

From a professional perspective, these have been growth years for our Financial Planning practice. I have received education in Senior Living, Advanced Financial Planning Concepts and a Master's Degree in Financial Services. I so enjoy working with individuals and families to assist in creating financial independence and documenting their legacies.

My passion is Community Service. The Morgan Hill Community has many ways in which to serve.

I became a member of AAUW Morgan Hill in 2008. I have held a leadership position with the branch since 2010; currently as co-President. I am very committed to this branch because of our mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

It was very rewarding when AAUW Morgan Hill selected me as the scholarship recipient for Leadership Morgan, Class of 2014 and then their Philanthropist Honoree in 2015.

With this encouragement, I was motivated to do more for my community, which lead me to the Morgan Hill Community Foundation. I currently serve as their treasurer. I have learned so very much by being involved in this organization. I have met a lot of other very dedicated individuals that serve many of our local non-profit organizations.

I love our Morgan Hill Community. My wish is to touch one heart and help her or him to achieve their life vision.

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