Asian mom group becomes something more to fight AAPI hate

By Kendra Sitton

Stop AAPI Hate, a national coalition aimed at addressing anti-Asian American discrimination released data on March 16 about receiving a total of 3,795 reports of hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) across the U.S. between March 19, 2020 and Feb. 28, 2021.

That same night the data was released, the number of hate incidents would increase in a terrible way as a mass shooter killed eight people, including six Asian women, at spas and massage parlors in Atlanta.

Reports about other Asian women across the nation facing violence quickly made national headlines in the following days.

As the onslaught of news about attacks continued, a group of Asian mothers in San Diego turned to each other for ideas in how to combat racism and defend themselves.

Viva Kwan-Nguyen started the Facebook group Asian Moms San Diego 10 years ago when she first encountered that occurred early in the pandemic. She began the Asian mom group on Facebook a decade ago that is now pivoting to address recent hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

SEE ASIAN MOMS, Page 11

Wedding

Hillcrest filmmaker brings little-known Cold War history to the silver screen

By Kendra Sitton

Hillcrest filmmaker Cy Kuckenbaker will bring his short film “Tiger Oak + Echo” to this year’s virtual GI Film Fest.

The 19-minute short focuses on two brothers, the younger of whom makes the mistake of thinking he can become a man through violence.

In addition to her help with the project, Woo was the first person featured in Normal Heights. She assembled a team of volunteers for the project, starting with Jane Woo, who is the director of communications. Software engineer Osha Groetz is assisting on the technical side of the project. Experienced journalists Paul Krueger, JW August and Lynn Walsh are digging into the data to find disparities POC faced for the eventual book.

Since COVID-19 has disproportionately affected POC, and POC are underrepresented both inside newsrooms and in the stories those newsrooms tell, these stories are particularly important to publish.

Stories of San Diego was found by local news producer Lindsay Hoad, a disabled Black woman living in Normal Heights. She assembled a team of volunteers for the project, starting with Jane Woo, who is the director of communications. Software engineer Osha Groetz is assisting on the technical side of the project. Experienced journalists Paul Krueger, JW August and Lynn Walsh are digging into the data to find disparities POC faced for the eventual book.

As the onslaught of news about attacks continued, a group of Asian mothers in San Diego turned to each other for ideas in how to combat racism and defend themselves.

SEE STORIES OF SAN DIEGO, Page 12

Normal Heights journalist records POC COVID-19 stories

A team of journalists in San Diego is embarking on a new online community journalism project to ensure stories of the pandemic are preserved. The project, “Stories of San Diego,” lets people of Color (POC) in the region and beyond submit their experiences and photos from the past year to be compiled on a website for others to read. The stories will also be included in a book published in late 2021 and the entire project will be archived at San Diego State University’s digital library.

Since COVID-19 has disproportionately affected POC, and POC are underrepresented both inside newsrooms and in the stories those newsrooms tell, these stories are particularly important to publish.

Stories of San Diego was found by local news producer Lindsay Hoad, a disabled Black woman living in Normal Heights. She assembled a team of volunteers for the project, starting with Jane Woo, who is the director of communications. Software engineer Osha Groetz is assisting on the technical side of the project. Experienced journalists Paul Krueger, JW August and Lynn Walsh are digging into the data to find disparities POC faced for the eventual book.

Since COVID-19 has disproportionately affected POC, and POC are underrepresented both inside newsrooms and in the stories those newsrooms tell, these stories are particularly important to publish.

Stories of San Diego was found by local news producer Lindsay Hoad, a disabled Black woman living in Normal Heights. She assembled a team of volunteers for the project, starting with Jane Woo, who is the director of communications. Software engineer Osha Groetz is assisting on the technical side of the project. Experienced journalists Paul Krueger, JW August and Lynn Walsh are digging into the data to find disparities POC faced for the eventual book.

Since COVID-19 has disproportionately affected POC, and POC are underrepresented both inside newsrooms and in the stories those newsrooms tell, these stories are particularly important to publish.

Stories of San Diego was found by local news producer Lindsay Hoad, a disabled Black woman living in Normal Heights. She assembled a team of volunteers for the project, starting with Jane Woo, who is the director of communications. Software engineer Osha Groetz is assisting on the technical side of the project. Experienced journalists Paul Krueger, JW August and Lynn Walsh are digging into the data to find disparities POC faced for the eventual book.

Since COVID-19 has disproportionately affected POC, and POC are underrepresented both inside newsrooms and in the stories those newsrooms tell, these stories are particularly important to publish.

Stories of San Diego was found by local news producer Lindsay Hoad, a disabled Black woman living in Normal Heights. She assembled a team of volunteers for the project, starting with Jane Woo, who is the director of communications. Software engineer Osha Groetz is assisting on the technical side of the project. Experienced journalists Paul Krueger, JW August and Lynn Walsh are digging into the data to find disparities POC faced for the eventual book.
The Pacific Gate Collection

888 West E Street | 3901
$3,775,500 | 3BR + Den | 3BA | 2,315 SF

888 West E Street | 3102
$3,200,000 | 2BR + Den | 2.5BA | 1,806 SF

888 West E Street | 3101
$2,995,000 | 2BR + Den | 2.5BA | 1,770 SF

888 West E Street | 2005
$1,475,000 | 2BR | 2BA | 1,602 SF

Cristi Chaquica
Broker Associate
COMPASS
DRE 01259769
619.206.7000
info@FinePropertiesSD.com

Extraordinary San Diego Homes, Enviable Coastal Luxury
NEW LISTINGS COMING SOON! CONTACT US TO START THE CONVERSATION!

475 Redwood Street | #906
$1,995,000 | 2BR + Flex Space! | 2BA

3100 Sixth Avenue | #504
$899,000 | 2BR | 2.5BA | 1,325 SF

3415 Sixth Avenue | #4
$5,300/MO | 2BR | 2.5BA | 2,280 SF

Jeff Davidson | Broker Assoc. | DRE 01185106
Direct: 619.855.7300
Jeff@JeffDavidsonGroup.com

Fara Fashandi | Realtor® | DRE 01339461
Direct: 858.336.7311
Fara@JeffDavidsonGroup.com

Matt Merrill | Realtor® | DRE 02126877
Direct: 619.839.7122
Matt@JeffDavidsonGroup.com
Town hall calls for more density along El Cajon Blvd

By Kendra Sitton

A third Boulevard Business Improvement Association town hall was held on Thursday, April 8 to discuss improvements to the central hub on El Cajon Boulevard between the I-805 and I-15. Over 70 people attended the Zoom meeting which connected business owners and residents to discuss how to apply the BLVD 20/20 plan to the area.

“This is to start a discussion about how we create the kind of boulevard that both are neighbors to the north, Normal Heights, and to the south, City Heights, deserve,” said Tootie Thomas, the executive director of the Boulevard Business Improvement Association (BIA).

She noted that currently there is not much of interest on that section of the road other than the medians.

The entirety of the El Cajon Boulevard represented by the BIA accounts for four miles and 1,000 businesses. Focusing on a central hub allows the organization to add meaningful improvements to a targeted area. The BLVD 20/20 plan envisions a transit-oriented community on the boulevard that could be a model for other neighborhoods and cities.

The first town hall in 2018 focused on adding housing at all income levels. The second in 2019 focused on mobility resulted in a successful pilot program for a bus rapid transit (BRT) lane.

The first town hall in 2018 focused on adding housing at all income levels. The second in 2019 focused on mobility resulted in a successful pilot program.

Before the community gave feedback on plans, many experts spoke about the importance of the project and how it will improve San Diego as a whole.

Land-use expert Mary Lydon said that 20% of the City of San Diego population resides in a five-mile radius around El Cajon Boulevard. She noted that hubs are mixed-income, transit-oriented and mixed-use areas.

“A renaissance of main streets is happening and it’s good for the community,” Malick said.

Unlike other areas in which new housing and business developments are met with intractable backlash, El Cajon Boulevard is largely supportive of adding density. Increasing housing stock should allow for the area to remain mixed-income and add new low-income housing opportunities which can soften the effects of gentrification.

City Council members Stephen Whitburn and Sean Elo-Rivera both represent portions of the boulevard and spoke at the event.

“This has been an awful year for so many small businesses and people so I’m really glad that we’re here to talk about something positive,” Whitburn said.

Community members were able to fill out a survey during the Zoom call in response to questions as well as answer the chat.

Whether the dedicated bus and bike lane should become a permanent fixture of the roadway received resounding support for the pilot program.

Andrew Malick, CEO of Malick Infill Development, said El Cajon Boulevard is an example of progress from a suburban, car-oriented to a transit-oriented urban city.

“A renaissance of main streets is happening and it’s good for the community,” Malick said.

Brian Schoenfisch with the City of San Diego told participants about a new housing affordability toolkit added to the city website which should make finding housing programs and incentives easier for the general public.

He mentioned that there are many programs that push for added density but much of the general public do not know about them.

In the chat, many people were supportive of the added density and transit being proposed. A common question was whether any of the new tech businesses coming to San Diego could be incentivized to come to El Cajon Boulevard.

To watch the town hall in its entirety, fill out a survey on the future of the boulevard, or to learn more about the central hub, please visit theboulevard.org/centraltownhall.

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at kendra@sdnews.com.
Having fun with the amazing Sinclair Collection

By DELLE WILLETT

Last year in March of 2020 I wrote about a work-in-progress East Village project called the 14th St. Greenway. It called it the 14th St. Promenade. I wrote that the year after, the City of San Diego unveiled the first of 11 blocks of the Greenway project, on 14th St. between G St. and Market St. The 14th Street Greenway came to life about three years ago when the planning, design, and communications firm of MIG, under the leadership of MIG’s Rick Barrett, Principal-in-Charge and Project Manager, Kenya Huezo, worked for over a year on a Master Plan with Civic-kenya Huezo, worked for over a year on a Master Plan with Civic

In the process of developing a plan, MIG landscape architects held a series of workshops to hear what the residents of the area wanted. Said Barrett, “The one main thing that we heard from the public was, ‘Don’t make it a homogeneous solution over the 11 blocks from C St. to National Ave. Make it feel like San Diego.’”

In the planning process, Barrett and Huezo, a landscape architect with MIG, along with Kathleen Brand, had numerous meetings with the Bob Sinclair Family. For the MIG team, Barrett said, “The fun part was working with the amazing Sinclair Collection of industrial artifacts that Bob Sinclair had collected over the years that could be repurposed into the 14th Street Greenway streetscape for public enjoyment. This included a variety of machines from the 1930s and 1940s when the East Village was originally a makers’ district, historic East Village and downtown metal signage, historic utility manhole covers, and granite paving blocks.

Four pieces from Sinclair’s collection of historic machinery from East Village metal-working businesses are on display, dedicated to the industrial history of the former East Village, as well as to Bob Sinclair, who became part of the neighborhood’s history and legacy.

The 14th St. Greenway is along the east side of 14th St., between G St. and Market St. with an approximate 26-foot pedestrian area that includes a sidewalk and a strolling trail. There are two travel lanes for cars and parking only on the west side of the street. The west side of the street has standard 14’ sidewalks.

This new green space features improved LED lighting and curb ramps, a double row of Chinese Elm and Western Red Bud trees, along with landscaping featuring 270 plants, creating a safety buffer between pedestrians and vehicle traffic.

The Master Plan is based on three branded, context-driven districts that celebrate the past and bring the future of the neighborhood forward, creating an urban trail that is uniquely East Village. “Where history unites with today’s modern working neighborhood and continues to promote innovation, design, education and art,” reads the MIG Design Narrative. The plan includes the four-block Entertainment and Innovation District between J St. and National Ave., the four-block Park District between F St. and J St.; and the three-block Urban Discovery and Play District between C St. and F St.

All told, the 14th St. Greenway is a series of six interconnected greenways being planned along 14th St. in East Village. Once completely implemented, it will extend 11 blocks from C St. to Commercial St. Five other greenways will be located along 8th Ave., Cedar St., E St., Island Ave., and Union St. Later this year, the City of San Diego will construct a second and third block immediately to the south between Market St. and Island Ave., and within the East Village Green Park to the north.

Continuous elements unite the three districts and include plantings, outdoor furniture, recreation elements, dog stations, streetlights, paving, artwork, interpretive elements, bioswales and gateway elements.

The City of San Diego’s newly created Urban Division will oversee the implementation of the project along with future pedestrian greenways and other street-enhancement projects. The 14th Street Greenway, along with five other greenways, was included in the Downtown San Diego Mobility Plan, approved by the City in 2016. The long-term goal of the plan is to boost safety and fight climate change.

—Delle Willett has been a marketing and public relations professional for over 30 years, with an emphasis on conservation of the environment.
### TOP AGENTS in 92101

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Agent Name</th>
<th>Sales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gregg Neuman</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chad Dannecker</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Denny Oh</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Michael Chiou</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Francine Finn</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Jeffery Nix</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>John Husar</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>David Stone</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mike Althof</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Claudette Cooper</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Alan Hamrick</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Jorge Castellon</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Melissa Goldstein Tucci</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Gerry Burchard</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Michael Lange</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Franchesca Meram</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Ryan Ponce</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Mark Mills</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Jeff Grant</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Jeffrey O'Neal</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Michael Giampa</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Todd DeBoer</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Donna Egan</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>John Reeves</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Richard Combs</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Sarah Scott</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Eicim Gulec</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>David Spiewak</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Nicole Hazelton</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>DaniJela Ripley</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Brian Ruhl</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Kayoko Yoshioka</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Katie Gilbert</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Michael Brunnhoelz</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Jeannine Savory</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>David Rudd</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Monica Stone</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Sabrina Ortega</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>39.11 tied with 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Sales by Real Estate Agent in 2020

(Incl. buyer sales and listings sold, January 1 - December 31, 2020)

### REAL Marketing, Inc. Congratulates the Top Downtown San Diego Real Estate Agents in 2019!

REAL Marketing Inc. has helped real estate agents build their market share and client retention for more than 29 years across North America, specializing in increasing market share and improving customer retention. We are pleased to announce our team has helped Gregg Neuman and the Neuman & Neuman Team extend their lead in Downtown sales for the ELEVENTH consecutive year.

### Results for 2020

Total sales for the 92101 zip code decreased to 785 units last year, which is a 0.51% decrease from 2019. The average sales price increased 1.2% to $674,200, while the average days on market have decreased by 19.6% to 37 days.

Gregg Neuman of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties tops the list for an eleventh consecutive year with 109 total 92101 sales. While his sales represent 63% of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services California Properties’ sales in Downtown, he continues to outsell entire brokerages, including Pacific Sotheby’s Int’l Realty, Big Block Realty, Coldwell Banker Residential, Redfin Corporation, Hunter & Maddox Intl. Inc, Keller Williams SD Metro, and Douglas Elliman of California.

With a total of 168 sales according to data available from Trendgraphix, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties finished another strong year and also sustains their lead over all other Downtown brokerages.

Congratulations to all Top Real Estate agents in Downtown San Diego for another outstanding year.

### TOP 10 in 92101

Total Sales by Company

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Brokerage</th>
<th>Sales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Compass</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pacific Sotheby’s Int’l Realty</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Big Block Realty</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Coldwell Banker West</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Redfin Corporation</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hunter &amp; Maddox Intl. Inc</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Keller Williams SD Metro</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Coldwell Banker Residential</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Douglas Elliman of California</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The scale of homelessness in San Diego

By Brian Schrader

2020 was a tough year. Luckily the storm caused by COVID-19 has passed. That said, San Diego continues to struggle with a tragedy that has been with us since long before COVID-19—unpaid bills that will be with us for years to come. In January of 2020 roughly 7,700 San Diegans were homeless on an average night, and that number has grown sharply over the past year.

Ideally, no one should go homeless in San Diego or any other American City. It’s encouraging then to see the City of San Diego committing last year to spend $106.5 million to purchase hotels and other properties in order to house those without. Recently, the County has also committed money to help house the hundreds of homeless people in the County. The state undertook a large and largely successful effort to similarly convert vacant hotels into shelters during the pandemic. With all of this time, money, and resources going to eradicating the problem of homelessness in San Diego, it’s frustrating to see that we still haven’t solved the problem or that it’s gotten even worse.

Without a high-level view, it can be difficult for us ordinary citizens to judge the effectiveness of these programs. Is the $106.5 million the City of San Diego spends each year enough to solve the problem? If not, how about $200 million? Without an upper-bound it’s impossible to know.

It’s time for a different approach. Instead of analyzing how much money we’re currently spending, let’s consider the ideal case—where every home is housed—and try to estimate how much money we would need to spend in order to achieve that. Let’s identity a goal, and work backwards to a solution.

Assuming the city paid market rate for hotel rooms to convert that into housing for the homeless, the city would need to acquire roughly 6,500 hotel rooms to house everyone on the city’s Homeless list. At an average night, which would cost a grand total of approximately $1.06 billion. Obviously, this funding wouldn’t all come from city; some would need to come from the County and other municipalities in the area.

But this figure of $1.06 billion gives us some idea of the scope of the problem we’re facing. Such a program would require a 25% increase in city spending. An 16% increase in County spending. Either way, it’s an enormous increase.

But assuming the revenue could be raised, the program could be paid for over a decade at $106 million per year, which starts to look a lot more feasible. Conveniently that number is nearly identical to the figure that the city has proposed, but only for one year, or just 10% of the funds required by our estimation.

This isn’t to say that the city’s plans are misappropriated or badly designed: they’re not. They’re just insufficient to solve the problem at hand. $106 million is nowhere near enough money to help those in need here in San Diego, but it is a sizable down payment. We should applaud the city’s efforts to go big, but we need to go bigger still.

The causes of homelessness are plentiful, but chief among them are the simple facts that housing costs remain outrageously and affordable housing remains scarcer. In that same Wright’s estimation. "That in 2020 a person would have had to make $30 an hour to afford a one-bedroom apartment in San Diego." Housing is scarce, and therefore expensive; we need more housing. Purchasing hotels, while an effective policy now, cannot solve our homelessness crisis for many reasons. As we already discussed it: it’s an expensive idea, but 6,500 hotel rooms represents roughly 10% of all hotel and motel stock in the county. Purchasing that much stock would inflate the price of the hotel rooms, making the project more expensive, and cut sharply into the city’s tourism-centric tax revenue. We need bigger solutions: we need more housing.

Everyone in San Diego—and in California—deserves a place to call home, and converting unused hotels into housing is a great use of idle assets, but we cannot pretend it is an end-all solution. Once the program hits a point of diminishing returns, we will need other ideas. But now that we understand the magnitude of the problem, we can more effectively work towards a solution.

—Brian Schrader is a software developer in Normal Heights and writer at democracymandprogress.com.

May brings final state budget

By TONI G. ATKINS

May is the month when we celebrate our mothers and when we honor the memories of those who gave their lives in service to our nation. Memorial Day. This May is a little different, because who gave their lives in service to us for years to come. In January 2020, the County purchased $106.5 million to purchase hotels and other properties in order to house those without. Recently, the County has also committed money to help house the hundreds of homeless people in the area. The state undertook a large and largely successful effort to similarly convert vacant hotels into shelters during the pandemic. With all of this time, money, and resources going to eradicating the problem of homelessness in San Diego, it’s frustrating to see that we still haven’t solved the problem or that it’s gotten even worse.

Steven Bradford, on SB 2, our legislation to increase accountability for law enforcement officers who commit serious misconduct and illegally violate a person’s civil rights. The recent addition of Wright’s name to the tragic roll call of Black Americans unjustly killed by police is the latest example of why this bill is so badly needed.

As I said in a statement the day the guilty verdict was issued in the murder of George Floyd, "We, as a society – not just Black, Brown, Asian, or those who belong to other race or ethnic groups – are beginning to confront the reality that systemic racism is the real root of the problem. We have to continue to work to make things right with the understanding that there is a lot of work to be done.

Sen. Toni Atkins speaks about housing. (Photo courtesy Office of Senator Toni Atkins)
Celebrating the moms of Little Italy

A culture of food: Rovino’s creators have roots in the neighborhood

Tom Tarantino’s culinary traditions go back 30 years. His acumen in running a restaurant is coupled with his keen insight into how the right ingredients help to create a great meal, having learned the ropes in the grocery industry as well. Tom’s family hails from Porticello, Sicily. His grandfathers having settled in San Diego, they both became fishermen, taking advantage of the local burgeoning fishing industry.

Born in the birthplace of the Renaissance, Antonia left her beloved Florence at a young age and immigrated with her family to San Diego. Antonia’s adherence to faith and family would help to form the bedrock of her upbringing in the new land. Insofar as her cooking tradition, Antonia’s mother would prove foundational, and Antonia incorporates many of her mother’s recipes in the restaurant menu offerings.

Beginning with his namesake, grandfather Vincenzo (renowned for his barber shop on India Street), Vincenzo has strong family ties to Little Italy, and it was only natural that he would carry on tradition and become involved in a business venture. Vincenzo’s business background from San Diego State University has set the foundation for Vincenzo to bring his business expertise to Rovino and add an important ingredient to the overall partnership.

Now the proprietors have taken their collective expertise and have created Rovino the Foodery in the East Village. San Diego’s largest Italian retail market. Convivio is partnering with Rovino the Foodery to launch “Aperitivo con Amici” this month, celebrating the art and style of the Italian happy hour at Amici House (at the Little Italy Dog Park). Guests will enjoy a variety of appetizers from Rovino the Foodery along with its exquisite Prosecco and will also be entertained by live-music performances. Tickets will be available at conviviosociety.org. All proceeds help to support Convivio’s work in the community in promoting arts, culture, and heritage programs.

“Tom Couririni is the executive director and founder of Convivio and also serves as the Italian honorary consul in San Diego. Convivio cultivates community and fellowship, advances Italian cultural identity, and fosters multicultural awareness across myriad disciplines through education and research, social enrichment, and innovative programming. Visit www.conviviosociety.org or follow @conviviosociety on social media.
**The eastern edge of Park Villas**

*San Diego street names: Part 13 of the Series. Goodbye for now!*

Franklin Avenue. Exactly who Nash had in mind for these street names is not clear.

Nash may have wanted to recognize William Henry Webster, who first registered the San Diego Great Register of Voters at age 21 on Nov. 16, 1872. He was born in Maine, and his occupation was recorded as a “teamster.” This meant a person who drove a team of draft animals, usually a wagon drawn by oxen, horses or mules. Perhaps Webster was helpful to merchant Nash for making deliveries and bringing supplies.

Webster disappeared from available San Diego records after the 1879 voter registration list. He may have moved north. The 1879 Great Register for Humboldt County listed a William Henry Webster, age 27, born in Maine and working as a blacksmith in Rohnerville. Webster Avenue was changed to 33rd Street by Ordinance No. 5417 on January 13, 1914.

A local possibility for Franklin Avenue is Charles Franklin, who was mentioned in the San Diego Union’s October 13, 1869 issue as follows: “We had a call yesterday from Charles Franklin, who has just arrived here from a trip in the Eastern part of the [Arizona] Territory. He is anxious to raise a party sufficiently strong to prospect the country of the Pinal Apaches, where, he believes, gold is to be found. Mr. Franklin is a printer by trade, and formerly worked on this paper. He has for several years past resided in Zuni villages. He, with Messrs. Dodd and Coolie, met with many strange adventures while traveling through Apachedom, and but for their Coyotero friends would have been sacrificed by the Pinals. He pronounces Eastern Arizona one of the finest regions in the world.”

Franklin led an adventurous early life. He was born in Indiana but appeared in the Arizona Territorial Census in 1864 as being 21 years old and a printer. The Tucson, Arizona Weekly Citizen’s January 20, 1883 issue provided a biographical sketch of him as a new member of the Arizona Territory Twelfth Assembly. The article noted he twice drove bull teams across the plains from Fort Leavenworth to Santa Fe in 1862 and 1863, had served as a scout, and “has traveled through the Indian Country on foot and alone and has taken more chances and had more narrow escapes than perhaps any other man in Arizona.”

Nash may have heard Franklin’s tales of adventure and gold firsthand in 1869. Nash supported the San Diego Union newspaper from the first issue printed on October 10, 1868, when an advertisement for “J. Nash, Merchant and Commission Agent, New San Diego” appeared on page one. Nash might have set that type when he worked for the newspaper in its early days. Perhaps Nash wanted the daredevil prospector to remember San Diego if he struck it rich in Arizona, so named a street for him in Park Villas. In 1914, Ordinance No. 5147 changed Franklin Avenue to Felton Street. This name likely recognizes Charles Norton Felton (1832-1914), a wealthy San Francisco businessman and California public servant. He was born in Buffalo, New York, and became an attorney. Like many, he moved west. By 1860, he was a banker in Nevada City, California, a prominent gold mining town northeast of Sacramento. He moved to San Francisco and was listed in that city’s directories from 1863 until his death in 1914. Felton was Assistant Treasurer of the U.S. from 1868 to 1873. His elected positions included serving in the California State Assembly from 1880 to 1883, in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1885 to 1889, and in the U.S. Senate from 1891 to 1893.

---

**Quick tips to improve your home internet experience**

As more households are working and learning from home these days, here are some easy tips to help improve your internet experience.

**Use audio instead of video for virtual meetings.** Video calls can be a strain on your service. Consider video for must-see moments. Or turn the camera on only when you’re speaking.

**Doorbell cameras and pet cams.** When you’re home, lower the resolution on doorbell cams and pet cams. You can still effectively monitor the areas. And turn off pet cams if you’re at home.

**Get a 360 View.** Cox Panoramic WiFi gives you wall to wall coverage, including those dead zones in your home. If you have Cox Panoramic WiFi, use the Cox Panoramic WiFi app to:

- Manage devices on your home internet;
- Pause the wifi on other devices (like the kids’ iPad) when you’re on important video calls.

**Computer Virus Protection.** Computer viruses and malware can slow down your internet. Use the free Cox Security Suite Plus powered by McAfee to protect your home computer. Cox Panoramic WiFi customers can turn on Advanced Security in the Cox Panoramic WiFi app.

**Secure your wifi.** Password protect your home wifi to keep out unauthorized users.

**Location, location, location.** Your internet experience may be slowed down if your wifi router or modem is in a bad location. Remember to:

- Elevate your modem or router on a shelf or tall piece of furniture (wifi signals travel outward and downward);
- Avoid placing your router near a microwave, mirror or fish tank, which can affect the signal.

For more tips, visit [www.cox.com](http://www.cox.com).
It has been said that you don’t know what you have until you’ve lost it. This may be true about Downtown’s oldest standing structure, the Davis-Horton house, the only home in which San Diego’s Founding Father, Alonzo Horton, lived that is still standing. Mr. Horton’s five mansions have all been razed. His original dwelling place is still here and is serving an integral purpose as a living history museum, tourist attraction and community resource. However, this cultural and historic jewel is in grave danger of permanently shutting its doors due to losses suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic closing.

The Davis-Horton House Historical Foundation (GQHF), which cares and operates the House as a museum, has been unable to hold their largest fundraiser, Gaslamp’s iconic ShamROCK Block Party, for the past two years. The history of this house is long and storied. The home was originally built in Portland, Maine in 1850. It was then deconstructed, loaded on a ship, the Cybele, along with nine others and additional timber, and began its journey around Cape Horn towards San Francisco. It was to serve as housing for the many miners who had flooded to northern California in the hopes of making their fortune in the Gold Rush. The Gold Rush had its heyday in 1848–49, so by the time the little houses had completed their long and arduous journey, it was too late. The Gold Rush was winding down and the need for housing had dwindled markedly.

William Heath Davis, a local sea captain, merchant and businessman saw an opportunity! He had previously visited San Diego, a fueling station for the military and sleepy little pueblo. He surmised that with its beautiful natural harbor, San Diego would make a perfect shipping port and trading hub. He promptly bought the ten little houses — and the boat they came in on — and sent them down to San Diego. If one is going to start a town, you need affordable housing! In its first inception, the house was the home of officers stationed here as part of the Army of the Pacific. Unfortunately, Mr. Davis ran out of money, and his boomtown became a bust. Then, in 1867, Fate smiled on our fair city. Alonzo Horton, also from San Francisco, had heard of San Diego’s temperate climate, arrived at the foot of what is now Market street, and declared that San Diego was “heaven on earth” and the perfect place to build a city. He quickly paid George Pendleton, the County Clerk, $10 to call a public auction, and purchased 960 acres for $265, or roughly twenty-seven and a half cents an acre. Thus, was born San Diego, America’s Finest City! As the army had left, the little house initially located on State and Market, was available. Horton purchased the little house for his wife, Sarah Babe Horton, while he set about building the first of his mansions on State and G. He also began selling lots to populate his Newtown.

After the Horton moved out, the house was purchased by Anna Schep, a single mother and German immigrant. The house, by then, had been moved to 227 11th Street. Ms. Schepen opened the house as the first county hospital for the poor and indigent. She was paid a dollar per day per patient by the City. Although not a compassionate one, Anna ran the hospital efficiently and successfully for nearly thirteen years.

The next notable inhabitants of the home were Henry and Lina Lohman and their adopted son George Deyo, a deserted child who they took in and raised as their own. As the Lohmans were also German immigrants, they were sympathetic to the German cause during WWI, and allowed Karl Offer, a German officer and spy, to use their attic for a lockout post until he was arrested and jailed. Miraculously, the Lohmans escaped involvement, and upon their death, willed the home to George. George, in turn, took in a local boy, Edward Lanuza, and raised him in his home. Edward ultimately married, and he and his wife, Esther, raised their four children in the house with George.

It was George who first brought the structure to the attention of historical preservationists. The Davis-Horton House, the only survivor of the original 10 houses, was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. When George passed in 1977, he left the house to Esther Lanuza, who later donated the house to the City to become a museum.

When the restoration began in 1980, the house was moved to 410 Island Avenue, its current location, and because of the move, lost its national designation. However, the entire Gaslamp is now registered as a national historical district and the house is on the California registry. During the restoration, electricity was installed for the first time and 17 layers of wallpaper were removed, giving insights to the layers of history imbedded within the walls of this historic gem. Each room represents and era in the home and has been lovingly restored and furnished with period antiques.

The Davis-Horton House now serves as a museum and the home of the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation. Since 1981 the GQHF has played a vital part in preserving and protecting the history of the Gaslamp through education. Each year the museum welcomes thousands of visitors to the historic Gaslamp district, providing free programs for Title 1 schools and serving the community through lectures, historical reenactments with the Gaslamp Players, the annual free Fallbrook Festival for the children of San Diego, free open house events such as OH! San Diego, and is the cultural resource and historical archive of Gaslamp history. The Bum statue of San Diego’s own dog, a gift from our sister city Edinburgh, Scotland, graces the city pocket park surrounding the museum, and is a popular photo opportunity for both locals and visitors. An identical statue is located in Edinburgh, making this an especially popular destination for Scottish tourists.

The building is vital to the Historic Heart of San Diego. It is the historic heart of San Diego. We must all fight to keep it viable and save this invaluable resource from being lost.

Please help us with any donation of any amount at bit.ly/3x-IGxRf. If we do not reach our goal, we will be forced to close permanently in June. Help us save San Diego’s history! Find out more on how to help: Gaslampfoundation.org/savethegaslampmuseum.

—Sander Wilkheit is the historian and lead tour guide for the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation. She can be reached at swhitlik@gaslampfoundation.org.
Siena and Co’s new modest swimwear collection

By DIANA CAVAGNARO

Beach time is around the corner...are you ready? Catherine Huss is launching a new swimwear collection in June just in time for the summer. She saw a need for women who wanted to have more coverage. Huss began designing swimwear to give women more confidence. This first collection is a classic all black suit that is not too trendy. The sizes of this swimwear range from XS to XXL. She has designed three tops and three bottoms to mix and match along with a very feminine swim dress.

Huss said that she had always dreamed about working in fashion as she was growing up and took sewing classes in high school. Moving on to a private college in St. Paul, Minnesota, she went on to receive a Bachelor’s Degree in Apparel Designs and Catholic Studies. After graduation, she moved to Los Angeles and procured a job with a women’s clothing brand Leo and Nicole. She worked there for five years as a technical designer.

Because of her love for the beach and the ocean she decided to transplant to San Diego. She quickly found a job as a technical designer at Rylee & Cru. This company primarily makes clothing for kids. After working at this children’s line for one year, the pandemic struck and she found herself jobless. Having a lot of free time, she started designing on her own and which evolved into Siena and Co.

Huss said the brand name comes from her own name since her mother had named her after St. Catherine of Siena. When she was younger, she had travelled abroad and especially loved the town of Siena, Italy. She was inspired by this beautiful town and the Italian Riviera. It was serendipitous that it was the feast of St. Catherine of Siena on the day I was interviewing her.

Moving forward after launching her first collection, Huss’s goal is to expand with coverups, beach attire and resort wear. She aims to incorporate the evergreen palette of red, olive, and eggplant. Huss wants to ensure there is dignity for the models wearing the swimwear and ethical working standards in the factories that sew them. Everything is made here in the U.S. Huss is offering free shipping for life if you sign up on the website. To view this new Swimwear Collection visit siena-co.com.

—Diana Cavagnaro is an internationally renowned Couture Milliner based in San Diego. Learn more about our Hat Designer, Teacher & Blogger at DianaCavagnaro.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21, 2021 - 40th Annual Golden Scissors Fashion Show & Awards - More information forthcoming on social media: @sdmesafashion

May 22, 2021 - Ugochi Uwasa Charity Runway at The Inn, Rancho Santa Fe at 4-6 p.m. Donations will go to R. Roger’s School for classes with children with disabilities. For more information visit bit.ly/2RyJyP7.

May 23, 2021 - Bridal Bazaar - Bridal Expo & Wedding Expo from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Free advance tickets at BridalBazaar.com.

RAIN, WIND, AND FIRE...

“The three menaces to any chimney, fireplace, or stove.”

Every year there are over twenty thousand chimney / fireplace related house fires in the US alone. Losses to homes as a result of chimney fires, leaks, and wind damage exceeds one hundred million dollars annually in the US.

CHIMNEY SWEEPS, INC., one of San Diego’s leading chimney repair and maintenance companies, is here to protect you and your home from losses due to structural damage and chimney fires.

Family owned and operated and having been in business for over 30 years, Chimney Sweeps Inc. is a fully licensed and insured chimney contracting company (License # 976438) and they are certified with the National Fireplace Institute and have an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

For a limited time, readers of this paper will receive a special discount on our full chimney cleaning and safety inspection package with special attention to chimney water intrusion points in preparation for the rainy season.
moved to the city and wanted help from other parents raising bilingual children. In the past few months, the group has pivoted to take on thornier topics.

“No one this is more than just a regular mom group, we discuss about racism, and how do we respond, how do we explain this to our kids,” Kwan-Nguyen said.

When someone’s son faced discrimination, they decided they were able to offer advice on how to respond and give support.

One member, Raquel Cusi, knows self-defense and is planning classes across the county for members of the group. Many of the recent attacks have targeted Asian women and elderly people.

“Of course, you want to be prepared for a situation in which they may need to protect themselves and their children.”

Since the group reformed, a lot of new members have attempted to join the private group. Kwan-Nguyen carefully sets them before letting them join. Currently, there are just over 500 members.

“I want to create a safe and judgment-free zone for the members to share experience, especially right now with so many things that’s going on,” she said. “We have familiarity as minorities. We understand what it feels like for the other and most of us experienced this before so it’s nice to have a place where you can share specific thing without racism in the group, without being judged.”

Stop AAPI Hate was founded in 2020 amid growing racial motivated violence against Asian Americans tied to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I believe that we get blamed because of this coronavirus, because it’s coming from China. But you know, we are American. We live here we got nothing to do with that,” Kwan-Nguyen said. “But if we look like Chinese people, they don’t even care [that] they affect Asians, they don’t care if Korean or Vietnamese. They don’t see the difference.”

In the data Stop AAPI collected, there were 334 reports of hate incidents against children age 0-17 years between March 19, 2020 and February 2021.

A national report found Asian American children were returning to in-person school at lower rates than their peers. A U.S. Education Department survey shows that as of February 2021, almost 7 in 10 Asian K-12 students were still learning online only. While there are many factors affecting this disparity, it has been partially attributed to the increase in hate incidents in the past year.

Kwan-Nguyen does not want her children, a first-grade boy and a preschooler, to experience the same racism she has. Although she has not faced a violent attack, she has been called names and racial slurs in the past.

“It sounds small, just calling you names, but it hurts. That type of thing, it’s been a lot of Asian women’s experiences. I really think my experience is something that does lead to harm,” she said. “I believe it’s not okay and not acceptable in any way, verbally, physically, anything.”

Kwan-Nguyen, who lives in Chula Vista, called on the wider San Diego community to support Asian Americans living here. She suggested raising awareness on social media by sharing articles, something she noticed made a big difference during the Black Lives Matter protests last summer. She does not want this discrimination to continue being overlooked. She also asked people to intervene if they noticed a hate incident happening in front of them as well as to report it so hate incidents are not underreported.

“I think everybody can contribute and support to end the violence because it’s been going on for too long and way too many victims already,” Kwan-Nguyen said.

—Kendra Sitton can be reached at kendra@sdnews.com.

---

**ESTATE PLANNING FOR SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES**

Big: Dick McIntyre and Chris von der Lieth, Attorneys at Law

Safe deposit boxes, which are located in a financial institution’s vault, are typically used by individuals to store important items, such as jewelry, coins, and certain documents, like a will, declaration of trust, or title to a car. Most people do not fully understand the nature of the agreement between the institution and themselves for use of the box or the implications of naming themselves or others on the box.

A safe deposit box is rented under a lease agreement with a financial institution. So, although you may say that you own the box, you are really just renting it from the institution, usually for an annual fee.

Typically the number of named renters under a rental agreement is limited to four, and a maximum of two keys will be provided regardless of how many renters are listed. Under the simplest scenario, you would rent a box in your name. So long as you are alive, this is satisfactory, because as the sole renter, you will have unfettered access to the box and its contents.

However, if you die, the executor of your estate will have to either petition the local court for a probate administration to obtain a letter testamentary to gain access to your box or to deposit boxes elsewhere. If you have set up a living trust for yourself, and a key is placed in the box, your designated trustee would become the new renter of the box as your representative.

If there is a will or a declaration of trust, the institution can make a copy of it, and have the individual put the copy in the box and keep the original (in the case of a will, the original must be deposited at the local superior court). No other contents of the box can be removed under this procedure.

Perhaps by your will you have left your estate to your three children, but you named only one of them as a renter on the box along with yourself in order to provide that child access should you die or become unable to get into the box. This could result in some unfortunate consequences. Your child would have unfettered access to the box and could remove all contents, claiming likely that you intended the contents were his alone.

One remedy providing for both uninterrupted access to the box and assuming that in your estate you intended your personal effects should your child have access to the box and its contents. However, if you die, the executor of your estate will have to either petition the local court for a probate administration to obtain a letter testamentary to gain access to your box or to deposit boxes elsewhere. If you have set up a living trust for yourself and a designated trustee is named in the trust document, that person would then have access to the box and its contents.

The above statements are not to be taken as legal advice for the reader’s particular situation. If you are in need of legal advice, please contact a qualified attorney.

San Diego Downtown & Uptown News
May 2021
“I want people to be able to read stories of all people and be able to read it in the language that they know so they can get the full effect. It’s really important for everyone to be heard.”

Hood said she would be happy with even 100 stories but other members of the team think they can reach 1,000. One roadblock they are facing is that people are worried they do not write well enough to be published. Hood reassures them that there are editors available and multiple perspectives are needed. To help people struggling to write, Hood is adding five prompts so they can have specific things to answer.

“I want people to really write their own stories, if I do it, I’m accustomed to broadcast so I’ve just cut out a lot of really good things,” she explained. “It’s got to be from the person themselves.”

She also noted that she is limited when writing about cultures she may not understand or be a part of. Only members of that culture can do it justice.

The public can submit their stories in a variety of ways — they don’t need a computer or internet access to participate. People can text their story to photos to 619-727-5776, email their story to stories@storiestofsandiego.com or visit storiestofsandiego.com to learn more.

—Reach Kendra Sitten at kendra@sdnnews.com

Lindsay Hood (Courtesy photo)

pandemic when a white woman accosted Woo, her husband and child while they were in La Jolla, asking why Muslims behaved white people and not Chinese people. The woman escalated the situation and yelled at them when they asked her to leave them alone. Afterwards, the only bystanders to check in with them were African American.

“I was very alarmed and a traumatizing experience,” Woo said in the story. The format of the project allows people to tell their own stories in their entirety, rather than being shortened for broadcast. People can send submissions in their preferred language and there are editors available who can write the story in Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, Illicano and English.

Stories of San Diego

CONTINUED FROM Page 1
FEATURE

VICTORIAN GRANDE DAME OF 1899

Victorian Grande Dame of 1899 is ready for its next caretaker. With many original architectural details remaining including the elegant entry hall with built-in bookcases, moldings and gorgeous staircase, carved wood mantel fireplace with mirror and original pocket doors and moldings. Main home plus 2 rental units, Listed at $1,995,000

• Views of Downtown and the water
• 7,757 sq. ft. lot
• 3,620 sq. ft. living space
• 3 Car Garage + Ample Parking
• Possible Commercial and Residential

Maureen Tess-Fieberg
(619) 889-8377
DRE#: 01217712
REALTOR®
San Diego Downtown & Uptown News
May 2021

Filmmaker
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“It’s short and it hits,” Kuckenbaker said. He noted the film takes people somewhere “they’ve pretty much never been before.”

“Tiger Oak + Echo” is set in Lithuania, where Kuckenbaker served as a Peace Corps volunteer from 2000-2002 and has visited several times since. While many Americans may be unfamiliar with the historic uprising depicted in the film, Lithuanians, the fighters who spent years attempting to fight off Soviet troops have reached mythic status. The fighters, known as Forest Brothers, were not a part of an official military as they fought the much larger force of the Soviet Union after World War II during the Cold War.

Kuckenbaker described the fighters as being “like Robin Hood” and part of a compelling underdog story.

While Kuckenbaker is a local who works full-time as a film professor at San Diego City College, everything else about the film is international. It was filmed in Lithuania with an entirely Lithuanian cast and crew.

“The only American there was me,” he said.

The biggest challenge in this was finding a good producer who had the connections needed to book good film locations and organize the filming. Many of the best producers are uninterested in short film projects. Many producers were also seeking work on bigger productions in the country like Netflix’s hit show “Stranger Things.”

Kuckenbaker finished two other films as he waited to find the perfect producer after writing the initial script. The finished work, at a tight 19 minutes, could be adapted into a feature but he said he has yet to hear of any interest from funders on expanding the work.

“At this juncture I don’t think that’ll happen but that’s always a possibility,” he said.

Kuckenbaker is excited to participate in this year’s GI Film Festival. He typically showcases his work in other countries so he is enthused about the local aspect of this festival.

“I really like the local angle. I like participating in these local screenings. San Diego’s local scene has gotten stronger and stronger over the years. So, it’s really nice to be in my community, people sharing work and talking about it,” he said.

Kuckenbaker first moved here in 1993. Since then, his career has largely focused on other parts of the world even while he kept San Diego as his home base.

Kuckenbaker chose San Diego over LA even though his film school friends at the California Institute of the Arts. He disliked that in LA his friends talked about film 24/7 which he did not find interesting. In San Diego, none of the people he talks to on a daily basis are filmmakers.

“Tiger Oak + Echo” is set in Lithuania, where Kuckenbaker served as a Peace Corps volunteer from 2000-2002 and has visited several times since. While many Americans may be unfamiliar with the historic uprising depicted in the film, Lithuanians, the fighters who spent years attempting to fight off Soviet troops have reached mythic status. The fighters, known as Forest Brothers, were not a part of an official military as they fought the much larger force of the Soviet Union after World War II during the Cold War.

Kuckenbaker described the fighters as being “like Robin Hood” and part of a compelling underdog story.

While Kuckenbaker is a local who works full-time as a film professor at San Diego City College, everything else about the film is international. It was filmed in Lithuania with an entirely Lithuanian cast and crew.

“The only American there was me,” he said.

The biggest challenge in this was finding a good producer who had the connections needed to book good film locations and organize the filming. Many of the best producers are uninterested in short film projects. Many producers were also seeking work on bigger productions in the country like Netflix’s hit show “Stranger Things.”

Kuckenbaker finished two other films as he waited to find the perfect producer after writing the initial script. The finished work, at a tight 19 minutes, could be adapted into a feature but he said he has yet to hear of any interest from funders on expanding the work.

“At this juncture I don’t think that’ll happen but that’s always a possibility,” he said.

Kuckenbaker is excited to participate in this year’s GI Film Festival. He typically showcases his work in other countries so he is enthused about the local aspect of this festival.

“I really like the local angle. I like participating in these local screenings. San Diego’s local scene has gotten stronger and stronger over the years. So, it’s really nice to be in my community, people sharing work and talking about it,” he said.

Kuckenbaker first moved here in 1993. Since then, his career has largely focused on other parts of the world even while he kept San Diego as his home base.

Kuckenbaker chose San Diego over LA even though his film school friends at the California Institute of the Arts. He disliked that in LA his friends talked about film 24/7 which he did not find interesting. In San Diego, none of the people he talks to on a daily basis are filmmakers.

“Tiger Oak + Echo” is set in Lithuania, where Kuckenbaker served as a Peace Corps volunteer from 2000-2002 and has visited several times since. While many Americans may be unfamiliar with the historic uprising depicted in the film, Lithuanians, the fighters who spent years attempting to fight off Soviet troops have reached mythic status. The fighters, known as Forest Brothers, were not a part of an official military as they fought the much larger force of the Soviet Union after World War II during the Cold War.

Kuckenbaker described the fighters as being “like Robin Hood” and part of a compelling underdog story.

While Kuckenbaker is a local who works full-time as a film professor at San Diego City College, everything else about the film is international. It was filmed in Lithuania with an entirely Lithuanian cast and crew.

“The only American there was me,” he said.

The biggest challenge in this was finding a good producer who had the connections needed to book good film locations and organize the filming. Many of the best producers are uninterested in short film projects. Many producers were also seeking work on bigger productions in the country like Netflix’s hit show “Stranger Things.”

Kuckenbaker finished two other films as he waited to find the perfect producer after writing the initial script. The finished work, at a tight 19 minutes, could be adapted into a feature but he said he has yet to hear of any interest from funders on expanding the work.

“At this juncture I don’t think that’ll happen but that’s always a possibility,” he said.

Kuckenbaker is excited to participate in this year’s GI Film Festival. He typically showcases his work in other countries so he is enthused about the local aspect of this festival.

“I really like the local angle. I like participating in these local screenings. San Diego’s local scene has gotten stronger and stronger over the years. So, it’s really nice to be in my community, people sharing work and talking about it,” he said.

Kuckenbaker first moved here in 1993. Since then, his career has largely focused on other parts of the world even while he kept San Diego as his home base.

Kuckenbaker chose San Diego over LA even though his film school friends at the California Institute of the Arts. He disliked that in LA his friends talked about film 24/7 which he did not find interesting. In San Diego, none of the people he talks to on a daily basis are filmmakers.

“To be honest, It’s my home. We’re underdogs and you know I love being an underdog,” he said.

In addition, Kuckenbaker is excited about the GI Film Fest because the audience already understands the context of the military. The GI Film Fest is the largest military film festival in the U.S. San Diego is a fitting location with seven major bases.

In 2021, more than half of the lineup includes films made by or starring active duty military or veterans. 11 were made by female directors, eight were directed by first-time filmmakers, and another eight are student films.

To help bridge the military-civilian divide, each film selected tells a compelling and unique story. The GI Film Festival San Diego challenges notions about what it means to serve and goes beyond one-dimensional depictions of veterans, service members, their caregivers and families.

This year’s film fest takes place from May 18-23. Tickets are $10 per screening and many films include a panel with the filmmakers afterwards. There is also an option to watch the films on demand. Learn more at gifilmfestivals.org.

—Reach Kendra Sitton at kendra@sdnews.com.
Mother’s Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

fresh air. I recall we were walking down Little Italy and my daughter had a bubble wand which was making bubbles with the wind. As we watched bubbles float through the sky, to see neighbors come to windows, smiles and waves just helped us all feel still connected. I hope we are all able to move forward and be a bit more grateful, wiser and compassionate to each other after all of this. Also loving the new outdoor seating and hope it stays for the long-term. And let’s not forget takeout and home deliveries with drinks after a long day with kiddos. It’s nice to have custom cocktails, from our favorite local restaurants, as we relax at the end of the day. Truly looking forward to the day when all masks are down and we are all smiles.

To the moms of Little Italy: we love you and thank you for being such a bright light in our neighborhood each and every day. Buona Festa della Mamma, Happy Mother’s Day!

For the latest updates on Little Italy, please visit us at LittleItalySD.com or follow us on Instagram @LittleItalySD, Twitter @LittleItalySD and Facebook @LittleItalySD.

—Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy’s district manager since 2000. Reach him at chris@LittleItalySD.com.

Author’s note: This article concludes our trek across San Diego streets for now. The year-long journey explored the authors, scientists, heroes and pioneers behind various street names, including original names in the part of North Park mapped during the 1870s-nearly 150 years ago. I hope you enjoyed traveling through time while staying close to home.

This article also concludes six years of monthly PastMatters columns I have submitted as a volunteer historian to Uptown News. It has been a pleasure to share North Park’s history with you, and I sincerely thank the owners and editors of Uptown News for that privilege.

I am taking a sabbatical to prepare a new book to follow “History Snippets: PastMatters Stories of North Park” published in 2019. The second volume of History Snippets will feature an expanded version of the street name series, among other stories. You can find the first volume at Verbatim Books, an independent bookstore located in a historic building on 30th Street and North Park Way.

Pick-up & Delivery

OUR DINING ROOM IS OPEN!

Our new dining room is designed around the clock in this charming Italian renaissance chateau. We also promote the physical, social, and spiritual aspects of our residents’ lives. Our well-trained and considerate staff works around the clock to deliver this charming Italian renaissance chateau.

For the latest updates on Little Italy, please visit us at LittleItalySD.com or follow us on Instagram @LittleItalySD, Twitter @LittleItalySD and Facebook @LittleItalySD.

—Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy’s district manager since 2000. Reach him at chris@LittleItalySD.com.

Author’s note: This article concludes our trek across San Diego streets for now. The year-long journey explored the authors, scientists, heroes and pioneers behind various street names, including original names in the part of North Park mapped during the 1870s—nearly 150 years ago. I hope you enjoyed traveling through time while staying close to home.

This article also concludes six years of monthly PastMatters columns I have submitted as a volunteer historian to Uptown News. It has been a pleasure to share North Park’s history with you, and I sincerely thank the owners and editors of Uptown News for that privilege.

I am taking a sabbatical to prepare a new book to follow “History Snippets: PastMatters Stories of North Park” published in 2019. The second volume of History Snippets will feature an expanded version of the street name series, among other stories. You can find the first volume at Verbatim Books, an independent bookstore located in a historic building on 30th Street and North Park Way.

Pick-up & Delivery

OUR DINING ROOM IS OPEN!

Our new dining room is designed around the clock in this charming Italian renaissance chateau. We also promote the physical, social, and spiritual aspects of our residents’ lives. Our well-trained and considerate staff works around the clock to deliver this charming Italian renaissance chateau.

For the latest updates on Little Italy, please visit us at LittleItalySD.com or follow us on Instagram @LittleItalySD, Twitter @LittleItalySD and Facebook @LittleItalySD.

—Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy’s district manager since 2000. Reach him at chris@LittleItalySD.com.

Author’s note: This article concludes our trek across San Diego streets for now. The year-long journey explored the authors, scientists, heroes and pioneers behind various street names, including original names in the part of North Park mapped during the 1870s—nearly 150 years ago. I hope you enjoyed traveling through time while staying close to home.

This article also concludes six years of monthly PastMatters columns I have submitted as a volunteer historian to Uptown News. It has been a pleasure to share North Park’s history with you, and I sincerely thank the owners and editors of Uptown News for that privilege.

I am taking a sabbatical to prepare a new book to follow “History Snippets: PastMatters Stories of North Park” published in 2019. The second volume of History Snippets will feature an expanded version of the street name series, among other stories. You can find the first volume at Verbatim Books, an independent bookstore located in a historic building on 30th Street and North Park Way.

Pick-up & Delivery

OUR DINING ROOM IS OPEN!

Our new dining room is designed around the clock in this charming Italian renaissance chateau. We also promote the physical, social, and spiritual aspects of our residents’ lives. Our well-trained and considerate staff works around the clock to deliver this charming Italian renaissance chateau.

For the latest updates on Little Italy, please visit us at LittleItalySD.com or follow us on Instagram @LittleItalySD, Twitter @LittleItalySD and Facebook @LittleItalySD.

—Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy’s district manager since 2000. Reach him at chris@LittleItalySD.com.

Author’s note: This article concludes our trek across San Diego streets for now. The year-long journey explored the authors, scientists, heroes and pioneers behind various street names, including original names in the part of North Park mapped during the 1870s—nearly 150 years ago. I hope you enjoyed traveling through time while staying close to home.

This article also concludes six years of monthly PastMatters columns I have submitted as a volunteer historian to Uptown News. It has been a pleasure to share North Park’s history with you, and I sincerely thank the owners and editors of Uptown News for that privilege.

I am taking a sabbatical to prepare a new book to follow “History Snippets: PastMatters Stories of North Park” published in 2019. The second volume of History Snippets will feature an expanded version of the street name series, among other stories. You can find the first volume at Verbatim Books, an independent bookstore located in a historic building on 30th Street and North Park Way.

Pick-up & Delivery

OUR DINING ROOM IS OPEN!

Our new dining room is designed around the clock in this charming Italian renaissance chateau. We also promote the physical, social, and spiritual aspects of our residents’ lives. Our well-trained and considerate staff works around the clock to deliver this charming Italian renaissance chateau.

For the latest updates on Little Italy, please visit us at LittleItalySD.com or follow us on Instagram @LittleItalySD, Twitter @LittleItalySD and Facebook @LittleItalySD.

—Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy’s district manager since 2000. Reach him at chris@LittleItalySD.com.

Author’s note: This article concludes our trek across San Diego streets for now. The year-long journey explored the authors, scientists, heroes and pioneers behind various street names, including original names in the part of North Park mapped during the 1870s—nearly 150 years ago. I hope you enjoyed traveling through time while staying close to home.

This article also concludes six years of monthly PastMatters columns I have submitted as a volunteer historian to Uptown News. It has been a pleasure to share North Park’s history with you, and I sincerely thank the owners and editors of Uptown News for that privilege.

I am taking a sabbatical to prepare a new book to follow “History Snippets: PastMatters Stories of North Park” published in 2019. The second volume of History Snippets will feature an expanded version of the street name series, among other stories. You can find the first volume at Verbatim Books, an independent bookstore located in a historic building on 30th Street and North Park Way.

Pick-up & Delivery

OUR DINING ROOM IS OPEN!

Our new dining room is designed around the clock in this charming Italian renaissance chateau. We also promote the physical, social, and spiritual aspects of our residents’ lives. Our well-trained and considerate staff works around the clock to deliver this charming Italian renaissance chateau.

For the latest updates on Little Italy, please visit us at LittleItalySD.com or follow us on Instagram @LittleItalySD, Twitter @LittleItalySD and Facebook @LittleItalySD.

—Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy’s district manager since 2000. Reach him at chris@LittleItalySD.com.

Author’s note: This article concludes our trek across San Diego streets for now. The year-long journey explored the authors, scientists, heroes and pioneers behind various street names, including original names in the part of North Park mapped during the 1870s—nearly 150 years ago. I hope you enjoyed traveling through time while staying close to home.

This article also concludes six years of monthly PastMatters columns I have submitted as a volunteer historian to Uptown News. It has been a pleasure to share North Park’s history with you, and I sincerely thank the owners and editors of Uptown News for that privilege.

I am taking a sabbatical to prepare a new book to follow “History Snippets: PastMatters Stories of North Park” published in 2019. The second volume of History Snippets will feature an expanded version of the street name series, among other stories. You can find the first volume at Verbatim Books, an independent bookstore located in a historic building on 30th Street and North Park Way.

Pick-up & Delivery

OUR DINING ROOM IS OPEN!

Our new dining room is designed around the clock in this charming Italian renaissance chateau. We also promote the physical, social, and spiritual aspects of our residents’ lives. Our well-trained and considerate staff works around the clock to deliver this charming Italian renaissance chateau.

For the latest updates on Little Italy, please visit us at LittleItalySD.com or follow us on Instagram @LittleItalySD, Twitter @LittleItalySD and Facebook @LittleItalySD.

—Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy’s district manager since 2000. Reach him at chris@LittleItalySD.com.

Author’s note: This article concludes our trek across San Diego streets for now. The year-long journey explored the authors, scientists, heroes and pioneers behind various street names, including original names in the part of North Park mapped during the 1870s—nearly 150 years ago. I hope you enjoyed traveling through time while staying close to home.

This article also concludes six years of monthly PastMatters columns I have submitted as a volunteer historian to Uptown News. It has been a pleasure to share North Park’s history with you, and I sincerely thank the owners and editors of Uptown News for that privilege.

I am taking a sabbatical to prepare a new book to follow “History Snippets: PastMatters Stories of North Park” published in 2019. The second volume of History Snippets will feature an expanded version of the street name series, among other stories. You can find the first volume at Verbatim Books, an independent bookstore located in a historic building on 30th Street and North Park Way.

Pick-up & Delivery

OUR DINING ROOM IS OPEN!

Our new dining room is designed around the clock in this charming Italian renaissance chateau. We also promote the physical, social, and spiritual aspects of our residents’ lives. Our well-trained and considerate staff works around the clock to deliver this charming Italian renaissance chateau.

For the latest updates on Little Italy, please visit us at LittleItalySD.com or follow us on Instagram @LittleItalySD, Twitter @LittleItalySD and Facebook @LittleItalySD.

—Christopher Gomez has been Little Italy’s district manager since 2000. Reach him at chris@LittleItalySD.com.
Pinnacle / $2,595,000

3 BED | 2.5 BATH | 4 CAR PARKING
1,999 ESF | $2,595,000

Located in the Marina District and centrally located to restaurants, entertainment, and the bay, this fully renovated condo boasts two beautiful decks, totaling 500+ SQFT, a wine cellar, a designer kitchen & more. It’s by far one of the rarest opportunities in downtown today. Includes 4 parking spaces & storage.

PIAZZA PALERMO / SOLD

Extensively renovated corner unit in Little Italy. Lives like a single family home with, oversized bedrooms, walk-in closets, full-size laundry room, large open floor plan with wood floors throughout, designer window treatments that open top-down or bottom-up, & respectively low HOA fees!

ALTA / IN ESCRROW

Full-service 5-star building, best vantage points in downtown make this south facing w/optimal views of the bay & Coronado incredible investment for the savvy downtown condo buyer. Full-size washer & dryer, 2 parking spaces & storage.

THE SAVORY GROUP

Voted “Best in Client Satisfaction” 2004 - 2020, San Diego Magazine

619.800.0289 | INFO@THESAVORYGROUP.COM | THESAVORYGROUP.COM

©2020 Coldwell Banker West. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker West fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Operated by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker Logo are registered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. DRE# 01481919