



President's Message

Society shifts gears for our “virtual” era

Sadly, County and City restrictions on gatherings continue to prohibit our ability to host meetings — and will force the **cancellation of our traditional September Bar-B-Q dinner**. We hope you will support a local restaurant by sidewalk dining or ordering take-out in lieu of our usual Fall fiesta.

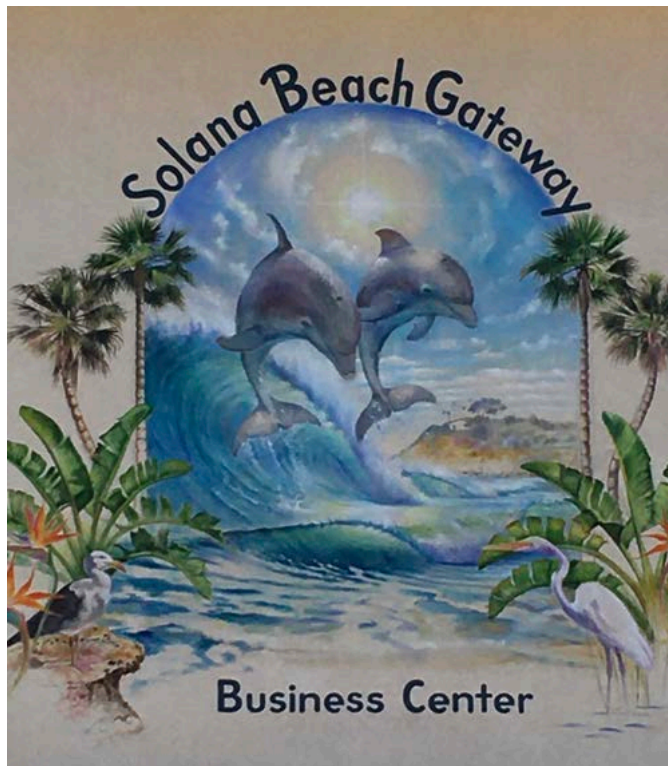
Your Board of Directors has been busy working on work-arounds to keep our members informed and, we hope, feeling connected.

- We sent monthly newsletters throughout the summer, including updates on how our the City is responding to the pandemic, most recently to hand out free masks this past weekend and free food on Aug. 31. (See page 4).
- **Programs Chair** Carol Childs is working with the League of Women Voters on a virtual presentation and Question and Answer session where we can learn about November ballot measures.
- The **Crafts Group** is cataloging its inventory of hand-made treasures and planning for an online Holiday Boutique in November, while volunteers update our **Society website** to improve performance and security for our “virtual” era.



Mayor Jewel Edson and Asst. City Manager Dan King at Fletcher Cove Aug. 29.

Local artists also have been busy brightening bricks and mortar around town with lively new murals, including the one pictured here. Artist Kevin Anderson recently completed this first of four huge beach scenes that will wrap around the office building at Lomas Sante Fe and Solana Hills. Do you remember visiting King Albert’s Restaurant before the Gateway Business Center was built on the site in 1981?



Learn more about the project and other new murals on the following pages.

I am sad to add that my Dad won’t see them. Monte Bowen DeGraw — free spirit, gifted artist, nature lover, tireless traveler, loving husband and father — passed away on August 5 at 91. But he lives on through his own fabulous artwork, much of it depicting the many places he travel to and loved.

Monte and my mom, Janice Taylor, met while he was working at Bryce National Park. They married in 1952, settled in Solana Beach in 1956 and created an idyllic childhood for me and my four siblings, Dirk, Greg, Nicole and Michael.

Both of our parents were teachers, giving them flexibility for travel all over the world. We had adventures coast to coast, lived in Scotland, traveled through Europe, skied the Alps and visited the world’s great art museums and architectural works. The “Monte tours” were fantastic.

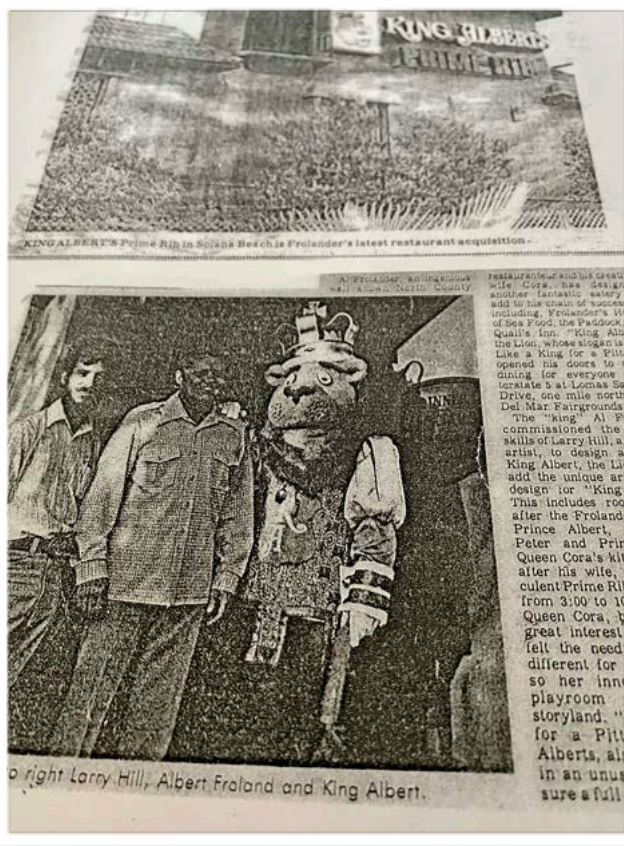
Last month, we took dad home to his beloved Utah mountains and canyons . . . Another memorable “Monte tour” for our close family there and here.

Michele Stribling

“Gateway” Business Center to Greet Visitors with Wrap-Around Art and a Sustainable, Educational Garden

After a 40-year career in the restaurant business, Cora Frolander is seeing her second American Dream story come true.

With her daughter, Coral, and four sons, the 86-year-old matriarch of the family that served millions of meals and created thousands of jobs at 10 area restaurants has moved on from decorating dining rooms to renovating the office building her family owns at 740 Lomas Santa Fe Drive.



Cora and Coral Frolander

The Frolanders bought the land where Jolly Ox restaurant used to stand from the Ecke family, and converted the restaurant to King Albert’s (named for patriarch Al) shortly after. King Albert’s “where you can eat like a King for pittance,” was famed for its prime rib dinners and seafood buffet Sunday brunches. The whole family was involved in the business, which also included Al’s Waffles and The Paddock in Encinitas, as well as several coffee shops, Quail’s Inn on Lake San Marcos, the Coral Bar in Carlsbad and the Back Gate in Oceanside at an entrance to Camp Pendleton. “We worked 365 days a year,” Coral recalled. “I was doing dishes standing on a box in the back of a coffee shop when I was a kid.”

Now the “kids” and their mom share duties to update the business center that has come back into the family ownership at the end of a 40-year land lease to Glendale Federal Savings and Loan Association and its successor companies. Cora recalled

the day the Vice President of Glendale Fed called to ask if the S&L could place a temporary building on the site to draw business in San Diego. The couple nixed that idea. “If your going to do it, do it the right way.” Cora and Al told the banking execs. They worked out a deal for the long-term land lease and loans to replace their beloved restaurant with the 26,000 square foot building completed in 1981.

But the first American Dream began long before that, shortly after Al’s stint as a World War II Marine when he and Cora met while working at a Sperry’s instrument factory in their native Long Island, New York. Al was the only son of a Swedish immigrant; Cora the daughter of a Irish-German lineage. She was 19; he was 24 and had an entrepreneurial streak. When the owner at his side job at a local deli offered to sell him the business, Cora balked, but Al bit. The New York start-up business included a second-floor apartment where the couple produced five children in four years. Then, they grew weary of the weather.

“So they loaded us up in a 35-foot trailer and drove to California,” Coral said. The family landed first in Fullerton, then Santa Ana, then Oceanside. During the summer, Al commuted to the county fair to sell waffles for 75-cents a day. That led to Al’s Waffle house on Hwy. 101 in Encinitas, and the family business was back in business again.

“It was the American Dream,” Cora said.

(Continued on next page)

New South Cedros Mural Greet Rail Travelers with . . .

Colombian-born artist [Sandra R. Escobar](#) was working with a Bogota-based ad agency as a graphic artist, but longing to flex her more painterly muscles, as well as her mountain-bike racing skills. So she bought a ticket to California with plans for a six-month competition and sight-seeing tour of the U.S., portfolio in hand.

That was eight years back. Now married to a fellow cycling enthusiast and settled in Irvine, the artist is switching her package-design job for Chihuahua Cerveza to part time and putting her lively paintings “out there” in hopes of gaining attention and garnering commissions.

So far, the strategy has been a success. Escobar’s recent 21-foot-tall mural “[Six Feet Apart](#)” was featured in a [Union Tribune](#) article about Love City Heights’ efforts to brighten-up University Ave. during the pandemic. The owner of the commercial and office buildings at 200 North Cedros, saw the story, loved her lively style, and hired Escobar to paint an exterior wall across from the train station and its inside corner. Already, Da Kiss has won her another Solana Beach client!

“I told my husband, maybe we need to move to Solana.”

(More on page 5)



Gateway Business Center, continued. . .

American Dream Two is to transform a bland office building into a welcoming space for tenants and visitors alike. Cora always was the decorator for the family’s restaurants, creating a Del Mar track theme for The Paddock and jester and princess costumes for the staff at King Alberts. The office project gives her a huge palette.

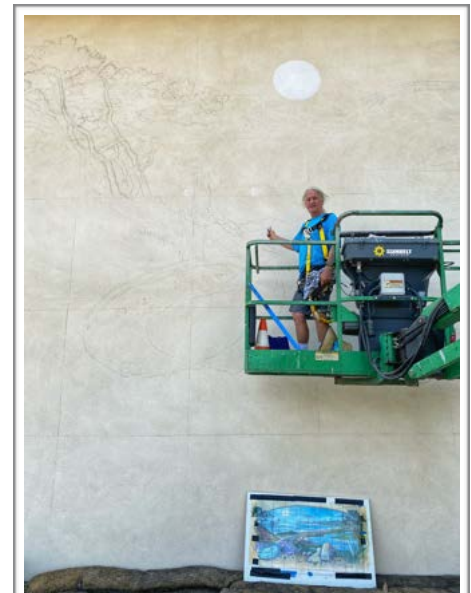
Kevin Anderson’s leaping dolphins mural is only the first of four planned to grace exterior walls, three of which face Interstate 5. Cora visited Anderson’s “magic tunnel” project — [a colossal 72-foot-long, 270-degree mural](#) in a pedestrian tunnel in the Civita community in Mission Valley — and was entranced. The family hired him to create murals on the building, the second of which is in the works.

Anderson helped choose the stucco for the exterior and has adjusted his painting technique for the surface. “I have to be really careful with each brush stroke,” he said. “This surface doesn’t allow for mistakes.”

The second mural, now underway, depicts the view north along the coast from Harbaugh Seaside Trails. Anderson works from a cherry-picker filled with brushes and paint cans and dons a climbing harness for safety. During these hot summer days, he waits until the east-facing facades are in deep shade. Ideas for the final two pieces still are being discussed with the family. In all, Anderson estimates it will take up to six weeks to complete all of the walls. Nevertheless, “It’s probably the best job of my life,” said the painter, who grew up only a few blocks away on Glenmont Drive.

Cora’s dream-come-true will be to re-landscape the property with extensive water-wise plantings that will blend into the beach-scene murals. Anderson introduced the family to John Revell, who now is managing site work, including a new east-side access road, an outdoor patio and barbecue area for tenants, and improved drainage. Revell already is overseeing boulder placements to add depth and texture, and is working with Cora, Coral and Gardens by the Sea Nursery in Encinitas on the landscape plan. Expect to see a lot of water-wise species.

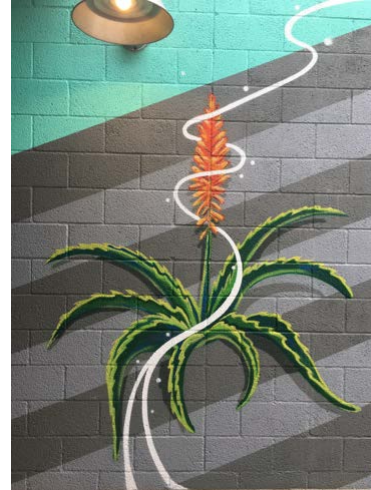
“I am in love with succulents,” Cora said. “They are beautiful, diverse, don’t take a lot of water. I love them. But I was always working inside a restaurant and I never learned their names!” To ensure that building tenants and visitors get botanically educated, the mother-daughter team plans to include identifying signs among the plantings. Cora and Coral have promised to invite the SeaWeeders for a tour with the garden is completed!



Artist Kevin Anderson helped choose a stucco that gives his murals an “airbrushed” look

Local Artists Brighten Walls at 330 Cedros

Skye Walker teamed with fellow artists Tierney Moses and Mark Warren Jacques to bring new art to the new 330 Cedros development. Anticipating that the development would attract a diverse collection of tenants and residents, the trio collaborated to create a diverse yet harmonious collection of images to the complex completed early this year.



Walker's paintings include a huge, ruby-throated hummingbird and blooming aloes.

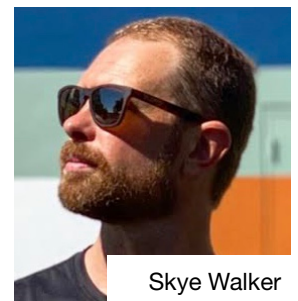
Moses, now working in Mexico, lined the north wall with cacti and a brooding portrait.



Jacques' second-floor interior walls depict stylized landscapes.

Walker, who serves as an art consultant to 330 Cedros developer RPG, pulled the other artists into the project after completing an 18-month, 30-mural, cross-country artwork odyssey in 2017-18.

"There is a lot of talent in North County San Diego," he commented. "It is an honor to paint here and contribute to the community."



Skye Walker

Artist makes her own chips to pick color mix (continued from page 3)



Sandra R. Escobar

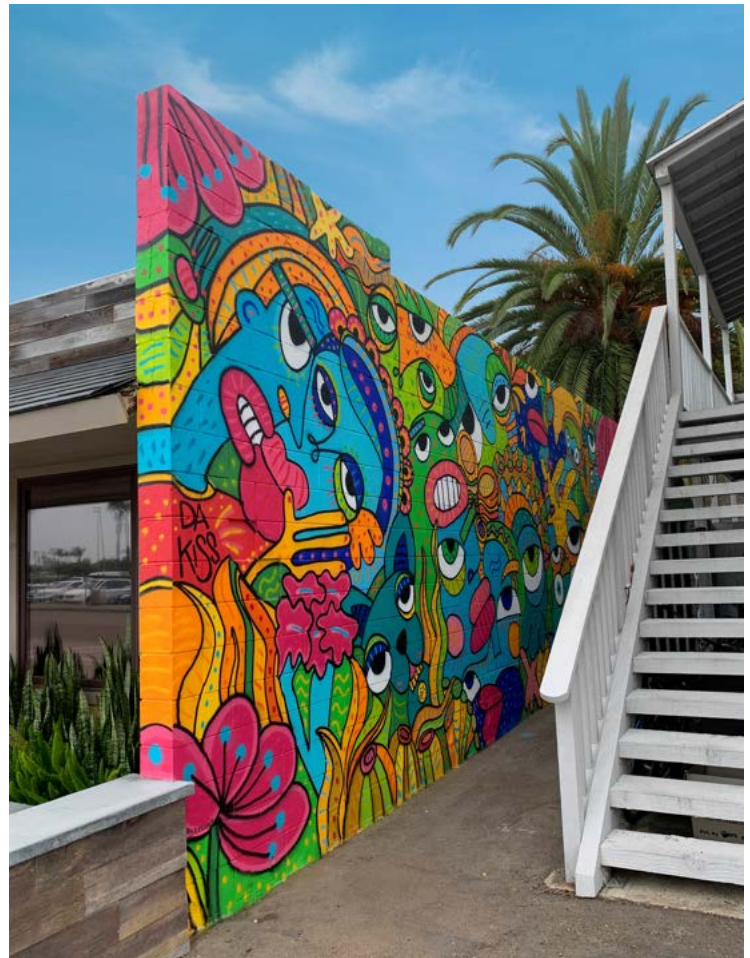
Escobar uses spray paints for her murals, but picking the vibrant color mix is a bit laborious.

“I buy every color of spray paint there is, and then I make my own sample chips — because the color you see on the can is never the color that comes out of the can.”

She fans the chips over a sketch of her characters (Da Kiss includes the buyers’ dog) and plays with different combinations to determine the overall color scheme.

“I create these characters who are all smushed together . . . Not like now, with social distancing. But because we want to be together, and . . . life goes on!” All told, she said, Da Kiss took about 30 hours to finish.

“I love that you come out of the train station and it kind of welcomes you to the city.”



Mask up Solana Beach!

The City bought 3,000 Solana Beach seal-branded face masks and the Chamber of Commerce pitched in to buy 1,000 more for free-giveaway to visitors to local business or other venues where masks are required due to Covid-19 precautions.



The washable, two-layer masks were made by Max Threads in Los Angeles. You’ve probably seen additional reminder signs around town about masking requirements. Large banners also are planned at Fletcher Cove, over the railroad tracks on Lomas

Santa Fe, and on the railings at the north intersection of Lomas Santa Fe and Stevens Ave.

Solana Beach Civic & Historical Society is a non-profit charitable corporation 501 (c)(3)
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