

STEVEN P. DINKIN A Path Forward

# GRATITUDE, THIS HOLIDAY WEEKEND, FOR PETER SEIDLER

“The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.”

This quote has been attributed to both writer Samuel Johnson and advice columnist Ann Landers — but whoever said it, we can agree: Peter Seidler measured up.

Seidler, who owned the San Diego Padres, passed away on Nov. 14. He purchased the team with Ron Fowler in 2012 and bought out Fowler's stake in 2020. To the delight of Padres fans, Seidler invested in the team: Its \$258 million payroll last season was the third highest in Major League Baseball. He also invested in Petco Park, which USA Today named best MLB ballpark of all.

The tributes to Seidler have been heartfelt. Many people will remember him, however, not for his ties to baseball but his second calling. Seidler worked tirelessly to improve the lives of people experiencing homelessness, some of whom sleep on the sidewalks near Petco Park. He served as an executive committee member of the Lucky Duck Foundation and co-founded the Tuesday Group,

advocating for homeless San Diegans and funding high-impact programs to alleviate their suffering.

Lucky Duck called Seidler “the heart and soul of our organization” and committed to “carry forward his deep commitment and passion for aiding our most vulnerable neighbors.”

I met Seidler in 2018, when the National Conflict Resolution Center honored him with our Philanthropy in Peacemaking award, along with Dan Shea, for their efforts to combat homelessness. We were inspired to see two business leaders taking up the cause — not with platitudes, but with practical solutions.

Even still, San Diego has seen that dogged determination alone can't solve our homelessness crisis. October was the 19th consecutive month in which the number of newly homeless (1,159) exceeded the number of people who found shelter (855), according to the Regional Task Force on Homelessness. That unfortunate math means hundreds more people spent this Thanksgiving week-

end in their cars, in shelters, or on the streets.

The RTF report shows 28,815 “active clients” in the Homeless Management Information Services database, which tracks activities within our region's homeless response system. One-third of the clients are seniors (age 55 or older), the largest cohort in the system.

Just last week in the Union-Tribune, Blake Nelson reported on the perilous conditions that our unhoused neighbors face. Some 550 of them have lost their lives since January, according to preliminary data from the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office. It's the third year in a row that deaths have topped 500. The causes included drug overdoses; illnesses, like COVID-19; and encounters with trucks, trains, and trolleys.

The sobering statistics never deterred Peter Seidler. He persevered, as leaders do. And there have certainly been some successes, as Nelson cited: rental assistance for older adults facing eviction; an improved housing

voucher program for members of the military; the opening of San Diego's second safe camping site.

There may also be breakthroughs on the horizon. A grass-roots idea called Sunbreak Ranch is getting some traction with San Diego civic leaders and citizens.

Sunbreak would provide a safe space where individuals experiencing homelessness can reside in tents, with access to bathroom facilities.

There would be designated and protected areas for families, seniors, people with dogs, and others as needed, and a range of services available, including transportation; round-the-clock security; medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment; and vocational training.

The idea only flies, however, with cooperation from the federal government. Sunbreak's visionary, George Mullen, wants to site Sunbreak Ranch at MCAS Miramar on 2,000 acres of federal land, to be leased for \$1 per year.

He imagines the tent city being built by U.S. military and security services, using surplus equipment

from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

Mullen acknowledges the importance of philanthropy to launch the initiative, but describes the estimated startup cost (\$275 million) as minimal when compared with the amount of money being spent to solve the issue of homelessness in our community.

Then, of course, there is the matter of the proposed location: NIMBY-ism (not in my backyard) may prove to be the biggest hurdle of all.

With Thanksgiving in the rearview mirror, it's time for a Christmas wish. Mine has two parts: a World Series victory for the Padres and a meaningful decline in the number of unhoused San Diegans. There would be no better way to honor the memory of Peter Seidler.

I'm glad to have known him.

Dinkin is president of the National Conflict Resolution Center, a San Diego-based group working to create solutions to challenging issues, including intolerance and incivility. To learn about NCRC's programming, visit [nccronline.com](https://nccronline.com).

## CHURCH

FROM B1

Soon, the congregation will have a new home in Santee.

During its Nov. 8 meeting, the Santee City Council members voiced concerns about the number of parking spaces at the new church, which will be built on an empty lot across the street from the Carlton Oaks Plaza shopping center.

“Just 19 spaces makes me a little nervous,” Councilmember Ronn Hall said. “My office used to be in that center, and they're booked. I've been in that center and for me to find parking sometimes was hard, so I just don't want to interfere with them.”

During the meeting, Miller agreed to try to make an overflow parking deal with a neighboring school.

The yearslong effort to build the new church took on new meaning when the Russian invasion of Ukraine launched in February 2022.

In April 2022, the conflict brought 19,016 Ukrainian refugees seeking entry to the United States at the Mexican border through San Diego, which accounted for 90 percent of all Ukrainians seeking entrance at U.S. ports of

able for rent to the general public.

Before approving the plan, several Santee City Council members voiced concerns about the number of parking spaces at the new church, which will be built on an empty lot across the street from the Carlton Oaks Plaza shopping center.

“Just 19 spaces makes me a little nervous,” Councilmember Ronn Hall said. “My office used to be in that center, and they're booked. I've been in that center and for me to find parking sometimes was hard, so I just don't want to interfere with them.”

During the meeting, Miller agreed to try to make an overflow parking deal with a neighboring school.

The yearslong effort to build the new church took on new meaning when the Russian invasion of Ukraine launched in February 2022.

In April 2022, the conflict brought 19,016 Ukrainian refugees seeking entry to the United States at the Mexican border through San Diego, which accounted for 90 percent of all Ukrainians seeking entrance at U.S. ports of



BRITTANY CRUZ-FEJERAN FOR THE U-T  
Children at the Ukrainian Catholic church play growing crops in Ukraine in a play titled “Holodomor.”

entry, according to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, a data research organization at Syracuse University.

That was the same month President Joe Biden announced United For Ukraine, a streamlined, humanitarian effort to allow Ukrainians fleeing the war to enter the United States. The federal government reports that as of April 2023, more than 300,000 Ukrainians have entered the United

States since the start of the invasion.

Over the last year and a half, Miller said that several parishioners — many of whom were either born in Ukraine or have relatives still living there — have had family members captured or killed by Russian troops. Several parishioners immigrated to San Diego after having to hide in bomb shelters or witness bombs exploding in their home cities.

“They have come because

of the fear of loss of life or through economic desolation,” Miller said. “The main cathedral for our church is in Kyiv, and they were holding services in the crypt because of the bombardments. A lot of our churches were destroyed.”

The development process to build a new, permanent location for the church has been under the leadership of the Rev. Yurii Sas, who has served as the parish administrator since 2018. Sas moved to the United States seven years ago, and after first serving a congregation in North Dakota for two years, he was presented with a unique proposition.

“The bishop called me again and said, ‘Father Yurii, you are still young, we have another wonderful parish for you in San Diego. No church, no rectory, no money, but a lot of opportunities to build a new church,’” Sas said.

Two years into leading the church, the pandemic happened and he started presiding over services in a parishioner's garden in La Mesa so the congregation could continue worshipping

safely outdoors while waiting to return to St. Augustine. Sometimes, that meant dealing with extreme heat.

“During these five years, we were working very hard. We became stronger and our faith and our hope,” Sas said.

When it was time to develop a new location for the church, Miller was happy to use his expertise working in real estate to take the lead on the effort. He said the new church will be the place where he watches his 17-month-old daughter and newborn son grow up and, maybe someday, see them get married, raise families and have their children baptized.

Miller said the community is grateful it was able to hold services at St. Augustine, but he looks forward to moving into the new church.

“It will feel like a little piece of Ukraine,” he said. “I'm trying to think about when I'm singing one Sunday, how am I going to hold my squirrely toddler in that building, what's it going to feel like?”

lauren.mapp@suniontribune.com

Escanea el código QR para leer la edición electrónica del U-T en Español



Y visita [utenespanol.com](https://utenespanol.com) para ver noticias actuales

DEL JUEVES 23 DE NOVIEMBRE AL VIERNES 1 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2023



# The San Diego Union-Tribune



EN ESPAÑOL

## LEY ESTATAL CREARÍA VIVIENDAS DE RENTA MODERADA

Crea incentivos para los promotores similares a los de renta baja

PHILLIP MOLNAR

En los últimos años, California ha conseguido con bastante éxito que los promotores construyan viviendas para personas con rentas bajas, pero una nueva ley se propone hacer lo mismo con el segmento medio del mercado.

A mediados de octubre, el gobernador Gavin Newsom firmó la ley AB 1287, que permite a los promotores construir más viviendas a precio de mercado si incluyen viviendas de renta media. Sobre la base de los ingresos medios de la

zona actual, que sería la vivienda reservada para las personas de San Diego que ganan \$77 200 a \$98 100 al año.

Hasta que la ley no entre en vigor en enero, no se sabrá si los promotores la aceptarán. En la última década ha habido en el Estado Dorado varios proyectos de ley de vivienda bienintencionados que trataban de estimular el desarrollo residencial, pero que se quedaron cortos o fueron prácticamente ignorados.

“Una cosa que hemos hecho bien, no es que hayamos resuelto el problema, es incentivar la construcción de viviendas en el sector de bajos ingresos”, dijo el asambleísta David Álvarez (D-San Diego). “El sector intermedio siempre ha sido un enigma”.

El proyecto de ley de Álvarez llega en un momento en que los legisladores de California están prestando nueva atención a la parte media del mercado, que a veces se llama “el medio perdido”. La idea es que el estado tiene muchas viviendas caras para los ricos y muchos incentivos a la vivienda para los residentes más pobres, pero la parte media del mercado queda al margen.

La ciudad y, en menor medida, el estado, han conseguido aumentar la oferta de viviendas subvencionadas para personas con bajos ingresos exigiendo a los promotores que las incluyan en los complejos de departamentos (o pagando una cuantiosa cuota) y permitiendo aumentar la densidad si in-

VER LEY • 2



HOWARD LIPIN PARA EL U-T

El edificio de departamentos 525 Olive de Bankers Hill es un ejemplo de promotor que añade densidad a un proyecto.



## EQUIPO DE LA MLS ALQUILA ESPACIO EN LITTLE ITALY

San Diego Football Club ya tiene su sede en lujoso edificio en Kettner

JENNIFER VAN GROVE

San Diego Football Club, la franquicia más reciente de la Major League Soccer, acaba de alquilar 15 mil pies cuadrados de espacio de oficinas para una sede corporativa en el edificio de lujo 2100