

FAIRFAX PARLOR NEWS

APRIL 2026

Grand Parlor Delegates Elected

Chosen as delegates to the 149th Grand Parlor in San Luis Obispo May 17-21 were **Joel Bantly, Matt Marcucci, Ray Potter, Fred Schwab, Tom Teixeira** and **Chris Wand**. **Don Cronk** was chosen as first alternate. Joining them will be automatic delegates by virtue of their offices are Past Grand Presidents **Fred Codoni** and **Bob Rogers**, Grand Trustee **Burt Winn** and District Deputy Grand Presidents **Lou Langlamet** and **Kevin Courtz**. Fairfax Parlor will have the largest delegation at the Grand Parlor meeting.

Annual Lamb Feed is April 15

One of Fairfax Parlor's best events is our Annual Lamb Feed, this year renamed the "Mark Chapman Lamb Feed



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Dinner" in honor of our late brother who ran the feed for many years.

This year's lamb dinner will be at our clubhouse on Wednesday, April 15. No-host cocktails are from 6 p.m. to 7:15, with dinner at 7:15. Guests are welcome

Price is \$35 each; reservations are available from Kevin Courtz at (415) 717-4018, kcbcourt@aol.com. Send checks, payable to "NSGW Fairfax Parlor," to Kevin at 168 La Perdiz Court, San Rafael 94903.

Natives, Guests, Celebrate St. Pat

About 90 Native Sons and guests enjoyed our March 17 Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner at St. Rita Hall. The evening started with a performance by an energetic group of Irish dancers, followed by cocktails and dinner.

So many brothers were involved that there's not enough space to name them all so we'll just mention chief cook Fred Schwab, bartender Tom Teixeira and Parlor Secretary Kevin Courtz. Kudos also to those who had to carry the supplies down the hall stairs as the elevator is still out of order.



Brother Joel Bantly takes "Wearin' of the Green" seriously! Bartender Tom Teixeira is at right.



Irish dancers entertained at our March 17 St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Feed.

Scholarship Applications For 2026 Contest Available Now

Applications for our 2026 Scholarship Contest are ready at the parlor office and can also be obtained from Kevin Courtz at (415) 717-4018, kcsbcourt@aol.com. Eligible to apply are relatives of Fairfax Parlor members as well as relatives of widows of Fairfax Parlor members.

Deadline for applying is April 15.

You can donate to the Fairfax Parlor Scholarship Fund when you pay your dues, or send a check, payable to "Native Sons of the Golden West," adding "Fairfax Parlor Scholarship Donation" in the memo section of the check.

Meet Your Neighbor Breakfast

It's not too late to get your reservations for the 73rd Annual Meet Your Neighbor Breakfast on Saturday, March 28, at Santa Rosa Parlor's Hall at 3318 Stony Point Road in Santa Rosa.

This is an annual gathering of Native Sons and Daughters and spouses from Marin and Sonoma Counties. Bring a gift for the raffle benefiting NSGW and NDGW charities.

Reservations from Mitch Laing (707) 975-1541, nsgw28mitch@gmail.com.

Picnic at Town & Country Club

Brother Russ Knudsen is heading a committee planning a picnic at Brother Michael Macintosh's Town & Country Club. The club is one of the most historic sites in Fairfax, dating back to the 1800s as home of Charles Snowden Fairfax and Pastori's Hotel and Restaurant. It was last active as the Marin Town and Country Club (1944-1972) with thousands of Bay Area people enjoying the sports fields, swimming pools and Saturday evening dances "under the redwoods."

The celebration will include a dedication. The picnic will be in September, with the actual date still to be determined.



If there had been a prize for the most unusual costume at our St. Patrick's Day dinner it would most certainly have gone to Brother Lou Langlamet, who wore a green shirt with a necklace of old shotgun shells.

Financial Secretary Needed!

The position of parlor Financial Secretary is now open and we need to fill the position as soon as possible.

The major duty of a Financial Secretary is billing and collecting dues. Most of the work is in the first three months of the year.

Recent efforts to use e-mail billing have had only moderate success; a new incumbent will have the choice of continuing electronic billing or using printed, mailed bills.

The late Brother Gene Ardito held the position for more than sixty years, doing everything by hand in ledger books. After his death, Brother Bill Addy and Fred Codoni converted everything to Quickbooks.

Please consider volunteering for this vital position. You'll have help from other parlor officers and members.

Flag Bearers Wanted for Parade

Our brothers at Petaluma-Nicasio invited us to join them in carrying our flags in the Petaluma Butter and Egg Days Parade on Saturday, April 18

Meet on Fourth Street between F and G Streets at 11 a.m. Wear your parlor vest. Information from Kris Nelson (707) 332-2376, Krisnelson183@gmail.com.

Parade, Beer Booth June 13-14

We're preparing for the Annual Fairfax Festival where we will carry the Stars and Stripes and the Bear Flag in the annual parade on June 13 and staff the parlor beer booth on June 13 and 14. Details in May and June newsletters.



Busy eating and talking, these Native Sons should appreciate the tables decorated by Cathy Bantly and Lynn Poirier.



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BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to our brothers who celebrate in April.

(Second number is years in Order)

Nikko Lubinski – 2rd (1)

Hugh Pettit – 4th (five months)

Kevin Codoni – 3rd (22)

Michael Franzoia - 3rd (21)

Gerald Doherty – 3rd (20)

Rick Holland – 6th (15)

Rocky Shone - 8th (60)

Mario Batz – 9th (20)

David Franzoia – 12th (28)

William Graves – 12th (36)

Jim Bliss – 13th (18)

Steve Bogel – 14th (44)

Len Gaskell – 15th (27)

Ben Colteaux – 15th (20)

William Menke – 15th (8)

Julian Chavez – 18th (29)

Terry Lofrano – 18th (4)

Marty Marcucci – 20th (24)

William Madsen – 20th (22)

Jim Von Bima – 23rd (27)

Scott Barrett – 23rd (19)

Craig Lieber – 23rd (13)

Brian McCarthy – 24th (25)

Jeremiah Johnsen – 24th (1)

Frank Gallardo – 26th (58)

Michael Codoni – 27th (41)

Donna Amo -30th (1)

Calendars Still for Sale

If you buy a \$20 NSGW Lucky Calendar on May 1, you will still have seven months of chances to win between \$20 and \$750!

Calendars are available at the parlor office as well as at business and dinner meetings.

CALENDAR FOR 2026

(All events are at Fairfax Parlor's Hall, 135 Mitchell Drive, Fairfax, unless otherwise noted. All events are subject to change.)

Wednesday, April 1 – Business meeting 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday, April 14 – Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, April 15 – Lamb Feed at our clubhouse.

Tuesday, April 28 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, May 6 – No meeting. Visiting Brothers Dinner, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday, May 12 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Sunday, May 17 to Thursday May 21 – Grand Parlor, San Luis Obispo.

Tuesday, May 26 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, June 3 – Business meeting, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday, June 9 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Saturday-Sunday June 13-14 – Fairfax Festival.

Wednesday, June 17 – Dinner at the Parlor 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday June 23 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, July 1 – Business meeting, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday, July 14 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, July 15 – Dinner at the Parlor, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday, July 28 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, August 5 – Business meeting, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday, August 11 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, August 19 – Dinner at the Parlor, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday August 25 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, September 2 – Business meeting, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday, September 8 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, September 16 – Dinner at the Parlor, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday, September 22 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, October 7 – Business meeting, nominations for parlor officers for 2027, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday, October 13 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, October 21 – Dinner at the Parlor, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6. Old Timers' Night.

Tuesday, October 27 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, November 4 – Business meeting, election of officers for 2027. 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday, November 10 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, December 2 – Business meeting, installation of officers for 2027, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Saturday, December 5 – Parlor Christmas Party, St. Rita Hall.

Tuesday, December 8 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, December 16 - Annual Christmas Pot Luck.



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GROWING UP IN THE CITY

By Chris Wand

The rich and the poor mixed on Broadway. Enrico's Cafe was where the action was. Guys wearing expensive European suits drank in back at the bar with cops who wore cheap ones from Penny's or Sears. Sometimes the mayor sat at a table in the area open to the sidewalk, eating great food and drinking, and more drinking, sitting with important people who overlapped between movie star and politician, whose faces I had seen in the newspaper, always with pretty women at their side.

Everybody could see everybody else looking at them and ignore them. Weekends, a line of traffic from the suburbs exited the Embarcadero freeway a few blocks away. At Osgood Alley, drivers saw a go-go dancer in a bikini dancing the Frug or the Monkey inside an elevated glass box that she reached by climbing a ladder.

Cars paraded along Broadway, engines revved, people walked back and forth looking at everyone. It was the perfect scene for we locals who stood out among tourists. Sometimes a hot car like a Shelby Cobra or a Ferrari would park in the red zone in front of Enrico's. The cops never gave it a ticket. The parking lot attendants next door had wads of cash in their pockets.

Holding Court at Enrico's

Sitting in the back of Enrico's by the potted plants, Ma and I would stretch out a sandwich and cup of coffee for hours, as we watched, never letting the waiter take our plate or her cup.

She'd talk at length to people she invited to our table. Inevitably, someone nearby would drink enough, stand and loudly recite a poem by Robert Burns, or sing an opera song just perfectly, the kind of thing the educated who attended a great university could do. People listened in admiration. It was perfect. These performers probably thought that they would go on doing this, that it would happen again, but I sensed that this was their one moment of glory, that they would always remember, before they too were forgotten like so many people who came and went from The

Scene.

Time Moves Slowly

Time moves slowly for a kid. North Beach changed, but at such a slow pace that you had to remember what it had been like years before. More servicemen were on leave from Vietnam, easy to spot in or out of uniform, with hair oil and normal American clothes, even shorts on men, which showed them to be from somewhere with a summer. To control these soldiers and Marines the M.P.s must have been tougher than the city cops who just pulled their paddy wagon up on the traffic island at Columbus and Broadway and sat there.

People paraded their image of themselves up and down Broadway under the warm flashing lights on the club marquees, looking for something, some way to connect with others, practically wearing paths in the sidewalk. America was the best country in the world, California was the best place in America, and San Francisco's Broadway was the best place within the best city. Here I was, too young, too poor to participate. I had been here all my life and deserved what it offered more than these outside people did. All I could do was to walk up and down Broadway in my combat boots, Ben Davis pants, Levi jacket, and watch and fantasize, bathed in the golden dream light of teenage expectations of a time when I too could sit in Enrico's and order anything, and as much of it as I wanted.

Era of the Topless Dancers

Sometimes I could get a glimpse of topless dancers in the clubs through the red entrance curtains when some sailor was ushered in. Wanting more, I discovered that you could peek between the fire exit doors next to the stage and watch as housewives from Hayward or San Mateo were announced on amateur night, then see them dance in the red glare of stage lights to crashing banging clumsy live instruments played by bored musicians.

Once when watching the topless show through my cupped hands at the door crack of the Galaxie Club next to Mike's Pool Hall, Hells Angels backed their bikes up to the sidewalk nearby.

With a twist of the throttle they blasted Broadway, blue flames coming out of exhaust pipes. One of them walked over to me, stood there looking at me looking back at him with my hands still cupped on the crack. I thought he was going to kick my ass for what I was doing. Instead he picked me up with an under-the-arm bear hug, dropped me on my feet, slapped me on the back and laughed approvingly. This made me feel like Jesus had just shaken my hand. Later, club owners wrecked everything by hanging curtains inside to block the view.

Can't Miss the Tourists

Tourists were easy to spot in shorts, and emergency warmth Fisherman's Wharf sweatshirts, teeth chattering, needlessly waiting for the "Walk" sign after cars had gone by. The daughters were pretty and suntanned from impossibly far away wealthy towns like Lodi, Antioch or Stockton. Occasionally I'd see a camper on a pickup truck with incredibly lucky kids lying on their stomach looking out the front window of the elevated section above the cab. The whole world of wonder rolling by; mobility, machinery and freedom; a beautiful gliding boat on a Middle Class sea extending up and down the West Coast.

Every summer afternoon a grey tidal wave of fog blew in over the Presidio pushing people indoors. Evenings were wet and windy as the sky closed in. Locals had to partially undress when inside smoky bodyheated coffee houses and restaurants like the Spaghetti Factory with old broken chairs hanging from the rafters and people jammed up next to you at your table sweating, drinking red wine and shouting to be heard. We never set foot in some places, like The Saloon, at Grant and Fresno Alley, founded in the 1860s, or white tablecloth places like Vanessi's. They were just there and had always been and became part of the landscape. I walked by and saved them for myself someday, when I will go in, or maybe I never will, out of habit or because they are gone.

From an unpublished photo illustrated memoir.

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Mark Chapman LAMB

FEED DINNER

**WEDNESDAY -APRIL 15TH, 2026
Native Sons Hall - FAIRFAX**

6:00-7:15PM – No-Host Cocktails/HORS D’OEUVRES

7:15PM- Dinner: BBQ LAMB DINNER

COST: \$35/person/Guests Welcome

Contact: Kevin Courtz , 415-717-4018

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