

# FAIRFAX PARLOR NEWS

MAY 2026

## Welcome Our Visting Brothers

Native Sons from all over California have been invited to our Annual Candidates Night/Visiting Brothers Night to be held at our clubhouse on Wednesday, May 6.

Appetizers and no-host cocktails will be from 6 p.m. to 7:30, with dinner at 7:30. This year's menu will be mixed green salad, pasta, seasonal vegetables, ribs and dessert.

Price is \$30 per person, with reservations from Kevin Courtz, 168 La Perdiz Court, San Rafael 94903, (415) 717-4018.

Let's have a good turnout to show our visitors our fine hospitality.

The attached flyer gives full details of this traditional candidate event.

### No May Business Meeting

Because of Visting Brothers Night, there will be no business meet in May. The next business meeting will be June 3.

## Sellout Crowd Loves Lamb Feed

In his will, our late Brother Vince Schunk left Fairfax Parlor money to build bocce ball courts in the vacant space at the far end of Canon Club property. Several years ago there was a plan for construction, but nothing was done. Now the plan has been updated to 2026.

Behind the furthest tennis courts there is room for two or three bocce courts, and a very pleasant place to view them. Brother



*Chef Mike Shea passes dinner plates to Grand First Vice President Kris Nelson and Brother Ray Potter.*



*Calm before the storm. Native Sons enjoy drinks before the crowd rushes in for the Mark Chapman Lamb Feed. From left, Kevin Courtz, Matt Marcucci, veteran bartender Tom Teixeira and Don Cronk.*



*The Lamb Feed was a bit crowded with 80 or more people, but no one seemed to mind.*

## 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 June 13 parade and staff our beer booth on June 13 and 14.

We're hoping to make more of a profit than we have seen in recent years when the booth fees from the town, ABC and the Health Department, plus the town's 40% of the profit has almost eliminated a profit.



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# BOCCE Courts Update

In his will, our late Brother Vince Schunk left Fairfax Parlor money to build bocce ball courts in the vacant space at the far end of Canon Club property. Several years ago there was a plan for construction, but nothing was done. Now the plan has been updated to 2026.

Behind the furthest tennis courts there is room for two or three bocce courts, and a very pleasant place to view them. Brother Mark Fogg proposes a pair of simple country bocce courts, cut out from the existing black top, bordered by railroad ties, with oyster shell playing surfaces and crushed marble walkways bordered by native species, with deck chairs and tables for the basic build.

All members are invited to contact Mark at [san.francisco.fogg@gmail.com](mailto:san.francisco.fogg@gmail.com) who hopes to hear from you to see your proposals, comments and opinions.

Illustrations by Mark Fogg



## Delegates Preparing for Grand Parlor

The 149th Grand Parlor will convene at the San Luis Obispo Embassy Suites on Monday, May 18. Fairfax Parlor delegates are Past Grand Presidents Fred Codoni and Bob Rogers, Grand Trustee Burt Winn, and delegates Joel Bantly, Matt Marcucci, Ray Potter, Fred Schwab, Tom Teixeira, Kevin Courtz, Lou Langlamet and Don Cronk. Chris Wand, who was eligible to attend by virtue of his office (parlor first vice president) is unable to attend.

We will also be sponsoring a hospitality room for Brother Winn, who is campaigning for re-election as grand trustee. Every Native Son in good standing is urged to attend the Grand Parlor whether or not they are a delegate.

## Nelson to be NSGW President

Kris Nelson of Petaluma-Nicasio #183 will be installed as grand president of the Native Sons of the Golden West at the conclusion of the 149th session of Grand Parlor May 21.

Brother Kris has been active in Native Son's affairs for almost all of his years of membership and truly deserves that honor of presiding over our Order. He is well known in Fairfax Parlor, attending most of our meetings and often preparing his famous Gumbo Feed for Fairfax.

His term will extend through the 150th anniversary of the Native Sons of the Golden West which is also the year we celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America.

## Please Get Your Lucky Calendars!

There are still more than six months worth of prizes awaiting you who buy Native Sons Lucky Calendars! Everyone loves these colorful calendars. Profits from their sale go to help defer the per capita tax. With our shrinking membership, the Grand Parlor may have to discontinue the calendars unless members purchase more. Your help is needed to save the annual Native Sons calendars!

## Membership News

Welcome to new members Amanda Barone, Alyssa Brooks and John Coffey, obligated at our April 1 meeting.

We have applications from Connor Littooy, Trevor Hubbard, Kristin Bakowski and Colin Kelly.

## 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."

We plan to include local dignitaries and, if possible, work with the Fairfax Historical Society.

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We are saddened by the death of two of our members in April.

**Rick LaFranchi**, a native of Petaluma, joined Fairfax Parlor in 1985. He was 74.

**John Pesce**, a native of San Francisco, joined Fairfax Parlor in 2006. He was 88.

## OPINION

**Fred Codoni PGP**

### Financial Secretary Needed!

It's our shame and disgrace that, after over 75 years of having our dues notices, dues payments and other financial receipts handled in parlor by the late Financial Secretary Gene Ardito and Bill Addy after Gene's passing, Fairfax Parlor had to hire a paid accountant to bill the dues.

Fairfax has 400 members. We are the largest parlor in the Native Sons of the Golden West yet we are probably the only parlor that can't handle its dues!

I'd take it over myself, but I have many duties within the Native Sons and within our parlor just can't assume more.

I wonder what our friends in other parlors think when we can't handle our business in house.

One of you needs to step up now!

## Canon Club Items

Canon Club has never looked better! The landscaping is great, there are new covers on the pool, pickleballers are playing, and we're actively seeking new members.

Recently Canon sponsored a banner strung across Sir Francis Drake Blvd. on the east end of town, touting our great facility.

On the problem side, the aging electrical panels installed when the clubhouse was built in the 1970s must be replaced. Cost is estimated at least \$50,000.

## Remember Canon Club's History

In 1998, Fairfax Parlor Native Sons voted to purchase the ailing Deer Valley Country Club from Ms. Judith Neeley. At that time her club membership had declined as Ms. Neeley did not have the funds to replace what had become a decaying facility. The pool water was cold because PG&E had shut off the gas. The deck was red-tagged because a needed restoration had been stopped for non-payment of the contractor. Weeds were growing through the surface of some of the tennis courts, while the lower courts were subject to flooding.

Almost since its inception in 1949, Fairfax Parlor members had wanted a clubhouse of their own. In the early 1970s, the parlor bought land on SF Drake Blvd. with plans to build a clubhouse. Interest in the project lagged and the parlor eventually sold the property for about \$70,000.

Parlor member and former Fairfax councilman and mayor and former member and chairman of the Marin County Board of Supervisors Brother Peter Arrigoni was in the investment business and offered to invest the money. He chose one of the Investment Company of America Funds which, by 1998 had grown to over \$1 million.

Facilitating purchase of Deer Valley were Brother Arrigoni, Bob Rogers (at that time parlor president), Mike Anthony, Tony Starelli and Fred Codoni. The club opened for business on July 1, 1998. A board of directors (later the "Canon Committee") was selected.

Fairfax Parlor volunteers managed the club while they were working to repair the facility. For several years, all receipts were expended on the repairs to the point that the facility was in good condition. No brother was paid.

Canon Club is the pride of Fairfax Native Sons—it's the best investment we've ever made!

# BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to our brothers who celebrate in April. (Second number is years in Order)

- Barney Chapman - 1st (30)
- Mark Biggins - 3rd (2)
- William Mitchell - 4th (26)
- Kevin Courtz - 7th (50)
- Jared Tanamachi - 7th (10)
- Don Kavanaugh - 8th (6)
- Lou Leoncini - 8th (31)
- Ron Santa Cruz - 9th (30)
- Stan Loar - 9th (10)
- Paul Fradelizio - 14th (30)
- Mike Martin - 15th (36)
- James Codoni - 15th (31)
- Don DeSurville - 17th (55)
- Larry Dickinson - 17th (33)
- David Greenblat - 19th (22)
- Ralph Daigle - 19th (2)
- Gene Giuliani - 20th (39)
- Mark Barone - 20th (18)
- Grant Cox - 20th (10)
- Steve Donnellan - 22nd (41)
- Vincent Sheehan - 22nd (31)
- Scott Smith - 24th (27)
- Harley Miller - 26th (30)
- John Guy - 27th (24)
- Steve Warner - 28th (45)
- John Moore - 28th (31)
- Chris Wand - 28th (3)
- Chris Baumsteiger - 31st (41)
- Don Souza - 31st (27)

## CALENDAR 2026

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

- Wednesday, May 6 – No meeting. Visiting Brothers Dinner, 7:30 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.

## Scholarship Contest News

The following five applications were received for this years' Scholarships.

1. Kayla Johnson sponsored by Nels Johnson (Grandfather)
2. Nicole Murphy sponsored by Sean Murphy (Father)
3. Vince Tarantino sponsored by Pasquale Tarantino (Grandfather)
4. Caroline Orihuela sponsored by Mario Orihuela (Father)
5. Lucia Tassone sponsored by Joe Tassone (Father).

We have not awarded the scholarships yet.



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**Poor in The City**  
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**WAND**

We were Beatniks, therefore we had an excuse to be poor, or we were poor, and thus had an excuse to be Beatniks. Other people had luck, possessions, a life and security. It was like they were born with a blessing. In America, the uncursed, who had been here only part of his life, could rise up to be somebody buy an apartment house, live beautifully, the perfection of all human history ever, right here in this time.

In the richest neighborhood of San Francisco we lived on the little things, castoffs from other people that assumed magnificence. Our house was full of great antiques with all kinds of activities going on, but there was no money. The threads around the holes in my socks were coated with mud made of sweat and dirt.

Waiting at a bus stop and watching kids ride by in cars let me imagine the worlds of plenty they were bound for. They would have a TV, possibly even color, food, thick white socks with red and blue bands like the French flag, the car to ride in, a house their parents owned and they lived in one of the marvelous normal places out Union Street or in Marin.

**No Utilities**

Often there was no gas and electricity. Ma used a monkey wrench to turn the gas back on at the meter a couple of times, but then the gas man came back and disassembled the meter and inserted a plug in the pipe while I stood behind him and asked questions that he ignored. The electricity was disconnected at the pole. No matter how much I insisted she could do it, Ma wouldn't climb it and mess with that. We had to use candles, burned scrap lumber in the fireplace for heat and cooked potatoes wrapped in foil in the hot ashes.

Ma's friend Marylyn lived in a second-floor apartment overlooking the crossroads of North Beach Columbus, Broadway and Grant. It had great light for painting. Her parents owned property. After ringing the bell, a climb up steep white-carpeted stairs led up into a clinging odor of artist's oil paints and the aroma of some kind of odd cooking oil. The rear windows faced Chinatown across rooftops. The action was in front where I could observe the streets below.

**Polar Bear Skin Bed**

I stayed overnight at Marilyn's a couple of days a month. My bed was her polar-bear skin rug in the front room overlooking Columbus. Its stuffed head, with glass eyes and big fangs, made a great pillow. After she turned off the clamp lamp on her easel and tiptoed out of the room, I stared at the ceiling reflecting flashing lights and the Condor Club sign across the street. Constant noise from down below, traffic, shouted street greetings and the raspy voice of George the barker luring tourists into the strip club blended into a smooth river of sound that flowed into a deep lake of the night.

In the roaring morning I stepped out onto the quivering steel balcony, letting in traffic noise, coffee roasting, car exhaust and fried food from the fish & chips below. The outdoor smells overwhelmed the subtle French perfume Marylyn wore.



**The Commute Begins**

Bread was delivered first. Then the commute began as buses wallowed among cars headed down to the new parking lots of the Financial where buildings had been torn down. The building at the end of Columbus Avenue had been called The Montgomery Block. Mark Twain had written there. Many of Ma's friends once had tiny studios in it where they worked and lived as Beatniks did. A stream of secretaries and guys in suits filled the sidewalk walking downhill into the rising sun reflecting off the worn pavement.

Calm until the lunch hour and then a frenzy of people getting out of cabs, pizza boxes being carried and merriment in the street as long lunch hours unwound and guys got plastered before staggering back to work in offices and brokerage houses. Sometimes I'd go up the street to Molinari's to fetch a sandwich. You picked a bread roll out of a bin, ordered the sandwich, handed the bread to the guy who sliced the mortadella, salami, or coppa, letting it fall into the same palm of the hand he took my coins

with. It really bothered me that they never washed their hands.

**Painting for Hours**

Ma and Marilyn painted for hours on their individual easels in the living room, while I suffered boredom seated at the table against the window looking down at the street. At the tip of the triangular-shaped block where Grant met Columbus was a ground floor liquor store. People emerged respecting the common knowledge that cops didn't bother you if you drank out of a brown paper bag hiding the booze. In the bay window of the hotel above the liquor store, a life sized cardboard woman in a red evening gown from a liquor advertisement stood looking down at the street. A bearded guy wandered around the tiny room behind the cardboard woman muttering to her.

In the evening, parking lots the Financial District emptied as rush hour started. Bumper-to-bumper traffic came up Columbus or clogged Broadway on the way to the Embarcadero Freeway. I marveled at the new cars with all the features I read about in car magazines at the laundrymat. People walked up the other side of the street in warm sunlight toward North Beach and the Marina or turned up Grant Avenue.

I recognized the noteworthy individuals who walked their regular route, like the woman who told me that she was a ballet dancer from Georgia. There was the skinny blonde in her buckskin skirt and jacket with fringes on her boots. Ten years later she had become a sad old lady with bad teeth, wearing the same set of worn and dirty clothes.

On weekends, the street crawled with fresh faces I had never seen before. As the Beatniks aged, younger people arrived. They sported whatever was the style, the multicolored blanket, the Mexican serape, floppy hats, Levi jackets, the army field jacket, sandals, love beads, medallions, and political buttons. All this, plus the posters they bought, mocking the past by putting images together in a manner that took away their mythic power. It was a way of showing how different they were from everyone back where they came from and how much they were like the other different people who came here.

From a massive unpublished memoir.

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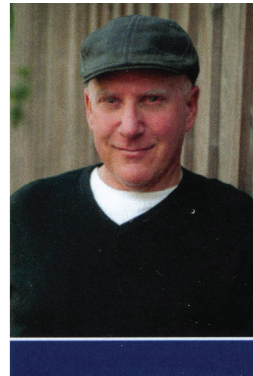


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