

FAIRFAX PARLOR NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

It's Time for Crab!

There's still time to get your reservations for Fairfax Parlor's Annual Crab Feed which will be held on Saturday, February 7, at St. Rita Hall in Fairfax. In addition to fresh cracked crab, there'll be an amazing array of appetizers, with Caesar salad, French bread, pasta and dessert! Everyone is invited.

No-host cocktails are at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7.

Price is \$70 per person. Reservations by February 4 from Kevin Courtz, 168 La Perdiz Court, San Rafael 94903, kcbscourt@aol.com. Make checks payable to "Native Sons Fairfax Parlor #307."

The names of members Stephen Hunt, Stephen Johnson, Matt Towers, Jason Sanders and William Glueck were drawn from our **Green Jar** at the January 7 meeting. Since none of these brothers were not present, the money goes into the pot for the next drawing. Half of everything collected for the Green Jar is donated to our Charitable Foundation.

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

Our Annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, at St. Rita Hall. This is a change from our normal third-Wednesday dinner as the church hall is being used every Thursday in Lent for soup suppers and lectures. This event is open to everyone: Native Sons and their ladies and prospective members.

Manuel Barretta 1944-2026

Brother Manuel "Manny" Barretta died January 20. Manny was born in San Francisco on July 31, 1944 and entered Fairfax Parlor on December 1, 1971. He served as parlor president in 1978 and recently has been active in raising money for our Scholarship Fund. Services are pending.

Mark Chapman 1961-2025

Brother Mark Chapman died December 25 after a long illness. Mark was born in San Francisco on July 25, 1961. He joined Fairfax Parlor on March 3, 1985 and served as parlor president in 1997.



Mark's association with Grand Parlor began in 1995, when he was delegate to the 118th and 119th Grand Parlor. He served as grand trustee at the 134th, 135th, 136th and 137th Grand Parlor Annual Sessions.

A memorial service for Brother Mark will be held at St. Rita Church, Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and Marinda Drive, Fairfax, at 11 a.m. Thursday, February 12. A reception will follow at Deer Park Villa, 367 Bolinas Road, Fairfax.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

(All events are at Fairfax Parlor's clubhouse, 135 Mitchell Drive, Fairfax, unless otherwise indicated.)

Wednesday, February 4 - Business meeting, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6. Nomination of Grand Parlor delegates.

Saturday, February 7 - Crab Feed, St. Rita Hall.

Tuesday, February 10 - Lunch at the Club, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30. Open to all Native Sons and prospective members, \$10. Reservations are not required.

Wednesday, February 18 - Dinner at the Club, Chef Tiffany Knef, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6. Open to all Native Sons and prospective members

Tuesday, February 24 - Lunch at the Club, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30. Open to all Native Sons and prospective members, \$10. Reservations are not required.

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.

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.

Fairfax Parlor Financial Secretary Mark Fogg advises all dues notice will be sent by e-mail or US Mail by February 1.

Delegate Nominations

We will nominate delegates for the May 17-21 Grand Parlor session in San Luis Obispo at our February 4 meeting. We are entitled to five delegates at large; automatic delegates by virtue of their office are Past Grand Presidents Fred Codoni and Bob Rogers, Grand Trustee Burt Winn and parlor vice-president. Normally, Fairfax Parlor reimburses delegates for hotel charges but delegates pay their registration fees.

Santa Rosa Monthly Dinners

Santa Rosa #28 invites all Native Sons, their ladies and guests to dinner on the second Tuesday of each month at their clubhouse at 3318 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa. Reservations are required; call or TXT (707) 291-3646.

February 10 - Parlor President's Pasta Dinner

March 10 - St. Patrick's Corned Beef Dinner

April 14 - Spring Feast

May 14 - Mothers' Day Prime Rib Dinner (\$25)

June 9 - Fathers' Day Steak Barbecue (\$25)

Weekend in the Redwoods

The Humboldt County parlors invite everyone to attend the Annual Joseph Oeschger Weekend in the Redwoods on February 13 and 14, 2026.

Events will be held locally and at the River Lodge Conference Center, 1800 Riverwalk Drive in Fortuna.

The weekend begins on Friday at the Center, with an "Ice Breaker" hosted by Ferndale Parlor, starting at 5 p.m.

On Saturday there'll be dedications, tentatively set by Humboldt Parlor to be at the Timber Heritage Museum in Samoa at 9:30 a.m. and by Ferndale Parlor at James Meade in Fortuna at 1 p.m.

Next will be a grand officer initiation at the River Lodge about 5 p.m.

The annual banquet at the River Lodge begins with social hour at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30. There'll be a silent auction. One brother will receive a 50-year pin. Cost is \$75 per person. Send checks to Ferndale Parlor #93, P.O. Box 278, Ferndale, CA 95536.

Host hotel is Best Western Country Inn, 2025 Riverwalk Drive, Fortuna. Call (707) 725-6822 for reservations. Rates are the same as last year.

Opinion

Fred Codoni

Once again, our parlor mourns the death of members and friends who were an integral part of Fairfax Native Sons. This month we've lost three members, a former member, and the wife of a former member.

Each loss removes from our presence a valuable Native Son, a loss that cannot be filled but whose support of our activities will be remembered for many years.

As our parlor membership ages, we can expect more losses by death. —that's just the sad part of life. Fortunately, we continue to recruit new, active members.

Mark Chapman was a parlor president and also served four terms as a grand trustee. Mark was born in San Francisco but lived in Fairfax his entire life. He will be remembered for many deeds, especially his work presenting Fairfax Parlor's Annual Lamb Feed. Mark's father Barney is a parlor member.

Manny Barretta, a native of San Francisco, served on The City's Police Department and had lived in Fairfax for most of his life. A parlor president in 1978, he remained active and is remembered most for his involvement in the parlor's Scholarship Contest and Fund.

Alan Anderson came to us with the closing of his parlor, Mt. Tamalpais #64. He lived in Penryn and was unable to attend meetings, but he always professed his love for the Order.

Bill Cuneo, a former member, joined Fairfax Parlor in 1999 and always supported our activities although his major interest was in St. Rita Church. A native of San Francisco, he lived in San Anselmo and entered our parlor on August 5, 1999.

Lawrie Burrafato was the widow of Gary Burrafato, who died in 2009 at age 59. She attended many of our events and was a generous donor to our Beer Booth Fund.

Let's never forget these special people. May they rest in peace.



The Native Sons of the Golden West Charitable Foundation honored Brother Fred Codoni with a plaque naming him "Person of the Year" for 2025. Foundation Treasurer Bob Santos (right) presented the award at Fairfax Parlor's January 13 lunch, citing Brother Fred for his continuing support of the Foundation, especially during his years as editor of *The Native Son*.



Want (or need) a Native Son Belt Buckle? Grand President Gary Padgett will give you one if you bring in two or more new or reinstated members during the membership year, which ranges from May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026.

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, February 4 – Business meeting, 7 p.m., nominations of Grand Parlor delegates. Bar opens at 6.

Saturday, February 7 – Crab Feed, St. Rita Hall, 6 p.m.

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

Wednesday, February 18 – Dinner at the Parlor, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday, February 24 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday; March 4 – Business meeting, 7 p.m. Election of Grand Parlor delegates. Bar opens at 6.

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

Tuesday, March 17 – St. Patrick's Day Dinner at St. Rita Hall, 7:30 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday, March 24 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

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, location to be announced.

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 12-13 – 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 - Christmas Potluck.



Welcome to Larry Tasjian and Jeremiah Johansen, obligated at our January 7 meeting. Also at that meeting we welcomed back Jim Riley and Steve Gallagher, who reinstated their membership.

Railroad Program in Sebastopol

Brother Fred Codoni will be presenting a program on the history of the Petaluma & Santa Rosa Railroad at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts at 2 p.m. on Sunday February 22.

The program contains photos of the early horsecar lines in Santa Rosa and Petaluma, the Petaluma & Santa Rosa Railroad's freight and passenger service, the railroad's paddlewheel steamboats that ran between Petaluma and San Francisco and concludes with the abandonment of the railroad.

The Center is located at 282 S. High Street in Sebastopol. Admission is free. Information from WSCHC.ORG.

BIRTHDAYS

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

Dan Kenilvort – 1st (23)

James Hsu – 2nd (7)

John Young – 3rd (22)

Nick Cereghino – 3rd (3)

Brian Hughes – 4th (19)

Matthew Fassberg – 4th (2)

Bob Nelson – 5th (52)

Deborah Benson – 5th (2)

Kurt Pfeffer – 6th (18)

Bob Burrowes – 8th (38)

John Hanley – 9th (18)

Al Silvestri – 10th (58)

Griffin Holland – 12th (4)

Bert Coverdale – 13th (39)

Peter Brown – 13th (5)

Ted Hayes – 14th (38)

Andrew Walker – 14th (21)

Richard Lamson – 14th (12)

Frank Silvestri – 14th (77)

James Silvestri – 14th (58)

Chris Stempel – 14th (2)

Anthony Lofrano – 15th (9)

Jeff Gleason – 15th (3)

Robert Wilson – 18th (4)

Steve Johnson – 19th (17)

James Devitt – 20th (21)

Mark Fogg – 20th (4)

Dan Neal – 23rd (1)

Larry Tashjian – 23rd (1 month)

Marty Campbell – 27th (45)

Nels Johnson – 27th (2)

Glenn McClure – 28th (32)

Lunch Schedule

February 10: Ukulele Dan, With Kevin and the Hawaiian Chieftans and advice from the Piano Man, “Bamboo Bob” Burrowes.

February 24: Pat Martinez and his drunken band of merry men.

March 10: Mike “Arizona” Shea.

March 24: Barbecue Joe (but only on Tuesdays).

April 14: Joel Bantly and our worthy bartender Tex.

April 28: Louis and Donald (the Baker and the Beast).

Contributions A Fine Tribute

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, Fairfax Parlor’s Scholarship Fund each year gives several scholarships to relatives of parlor members and widows of parlor members.

With the deaths of Manny Barretta and Mark Chapman, a very appropriate way to honor their memories would be to make a donation in their names to the Scholarship Fund.



“Lucky 2026 Calendar”

The 2026 Native Sons of the Golden West Lucky Calendar features full-color photos of thirteen California Lakes. For just \$20, you receive not only a beautiful way to track the months, but also a chance to win prizes ranging from \$20 to \$500! You can win more than once since winning tickets are returned to the drawing—people in the past have won many times!

Every Sunday though Friday the prize is \$20. Every Saturday, winners receive \$75. On the last day of each month it’s \$150 and on Flag Day and New Year’s Day the prize is \$250. Winners whose tickets are drawn on Admission Day and New Year’s Eve take home \$500.

Displaying these calendars at home or at work gives non-Native Sons information on our Order and may even result in new members.

Calendars are available from Brother Lou Langlamet at any parlor meeting, lunch or dinner, or you can get them from the Grand Parlor office at (415) 392-1223.

Also available from Brother Lou are a variety of Native Son-related items, such as hats, license plate frames, even Native Son’s suspenders!



Native Sons gather around the new bar at our clubhouse. Joel Bantly built the bar and named it “Herman’s Pub” for Herman Fruchtenicht, Fairfax bartender’s “patron saint,” who looks over current faithful perveyers of beer, wine and mixed drinks from the wall. Tom Teixeira is Herman’s talented successor. Brother Mark Fogg is at left and Brother Lou Langlamet is at right, talking to Brother Tom.

Firecracker Summer 1967

2 of 700 unpublished pages

By CHRIS WAND

I started hanging out with guys I knew from Francisco Jr. High who lived in the Ping Yuen Housing Projects. Ordinarily they wouldn't associate with me, but we'd been introduced by Teddy, an old friend of a friend. The kids respected him. Teddy ran a shady business out of an apartment house on Stockton near the Sinaloa nightclub. I don't know if he felt sorry for me, or if Ma asked him so I'd have something better to do other than hanging out with kids in the Haight, which I'd recently discovered, but Teddy put me in with the gang and they took me to meet Doctor Chuck who was, I think, a real doctor.

He ran Chinatown firecracker sales. He was grateful for the big roll of green barrel bomb fuse, enough for 1,000 M-80s, which I gave him after getting a year earlier at the Red Devil fireworks factory in Lynwood on a farcical trip to Disneyland. I met some of the dreaded guys who worked for him at the Bataan Pool Hall, in Manillatown, across from Portsmouth Square. They weren't so bad after you got to know them, once the Doctor endorsed you. His office was in a theater. There was a continual sound of movie soundtracks broadcast out to the street. The firecracker business was very lucrative. They were legal for religious purposes, like scaring away evil spirits when opening a new store.

Around July Fourth and Chinese New Year, lots of tourists came to Chinatown to buy bricks of firecrackers, M-80s or cherry bombs. A local would take their cash. A few minutes later a different guy delivered the goods to them from where the products were stored upstairs in another theater. Doctor Chuck said that it would be less noticeable to have a kid like me run errands for him. He told me to dress like a tourist from the suburbs or the Sunset. Instead of a blue Derby jacket and Converse tennis shoes with colored shoelaces like we wore, he gave me money to buy a stupid Fisherman's Wharf sweatshirt, white Levis and des-

ert boots.

Pay was \$20 a day. A regular errand was to take sealed manila envelopes to various offices at city hall or around Market Street. Afterwards I had lots of time to go into Woolworth's basement, a jungle of burnt sugar and cheap clothing smells where even poor people could buy things. At the lunch counter you could get a hot dog and a soda in a white paper cone cup held in a metal holder. After lunch I could go to three movies for a buck. I was getting paid to do what I would be doing anyway.

A few weeks later, plainclothes cops caught me delivering bricks of Black Cat firecrackers to a kid in Hang Ah Alley. The one with the pockmarked face wearing a vulgar orange checked suit-coat said "Those are illegal, we're taking 'em." He reached, I spun around, pulled away and hugged the firecrackers. "These are for religious purposes! You think only Chinese people can practice that? First Amendment, you ever hear of that? Huh!" I surprised myself with my anger. The cops looked at each other, burst out laughing, and walked away.

A few days later a couple of cops wearing nylon windbreakers sat in 65 Ford Galaxy across the street from our house listening to an entire ball game. For a week after that, I accessed our little house through the garbage door of the flats around the corner. They never came back.

I liked hanging out with the guys, although I never knew what they were saying in Cantonese if they were laughing at me or setting me up. It was nerve-wracking. We all ate at the Jackson Cafe. It was half American roadhouse, half funky Chinese restaurant. Rice plates cost two dollars, steak and mashed potatoes, apple pie and Chinese pastries always available. The back wall had a mural of Yosemite. The artist who painted it made Half Dome look like a giant ham.

Following the recommendations of Charley from Bataan Pool Hall, I checked out a tea room on Pacific below Grant. It was the most honest place I had ever seen. Everything the cheapest quality. It had a commercial

expediency with no pretenses. On one side of a crumbling vinyl floor hallway, dirty glass walls with posters and signs scotch-taped on them subdivided the length of the hallway into little fluorescent lit commercial cubicles, each with a human attendant who sat whittling away the hours of their life in a travel agency, money exchange or unknown business. A barred screen door covered with black dirt, like fir, let grey daylight through at the end under the exit sign. Burned peanut oil smell came from the tea room across the hallway. The bathroom, was a horror show.

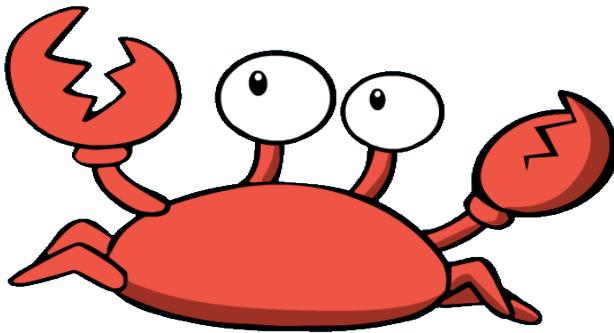
But Charley was right. The tea and pastries were exquisite. I sat on a rusty chromed chair, the torn vinyl seat patched with an LBJ bumper sticker peeling away at the corners. I was stared at. It was a foreign country. If a problem arose, I could run a short block and escape back across Broadway into North Beach. Just two blocks away was the warm and welcoming Beatnik hearth of Cafe Trieste through which millions of travelers had passed, none of whom knew of this secret world.

Just as I started understanding some Cantonese, Doctor Chuck told me that they didn't need me anymore. He thanked me with the first fifty-dollar bill I had ever seen. Ma was really glad to get it, as we were behind in the rent, as usual.

Twenty years later, I slipped the lock and went upstairs to Doctor Chuck's office. It was full of boxes of toilet paper and cleaning supplies for the theater. Nobody knew anything about him. Teddy had disappeared into the great gulf of time as well.

There are many prospective members in our area who would enjoy being a member of Fairfax Parlor—they just don't know much (if anything) about us.

We're sure you know one or more of them. Bring them to a lunch or dinner so they can see who we are and what we do and they'll probably consider joining!



NATVIVE SONS OF THE GOLDEN WEST
Fairfax Parlor 307

ANNUAL CRAB FEED

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2026
SAINT RITA'S HALL - FAIRFAX**

6:00-7:00PM – Horsdeurves & No-Host Cocktails

7:00PM- Dinner: Caesar salad, French Bread, Pasta
Fresh Cracked Crab & Dessert!

COST: \$70/person

Reservation Deadline: February 4, 2026

Contact: Kevin Courtz at 415-717-4018
and/or send payment to:

Kevin Courtz, 168 La Perdiz Ct., San Rafael, CA 94903
kcbscourt@aol.com

(checks payable to : Native Sons Fairfax Parlor 307)

Mark Lewis Chapman

Christmas Day saw the passing of a forty-year member of

Fairfax Parlor 307, Brother Mark Chapman

The countless good works done by him for the Parlor

include his stepping up five times as delegate to

The Grand Parlor, and later

serving four terms as

a Grand Trustee

We shall miss him and offer our

deepest condolences to his wife Mary

and his brothers in the parlor

-Mark Fogg

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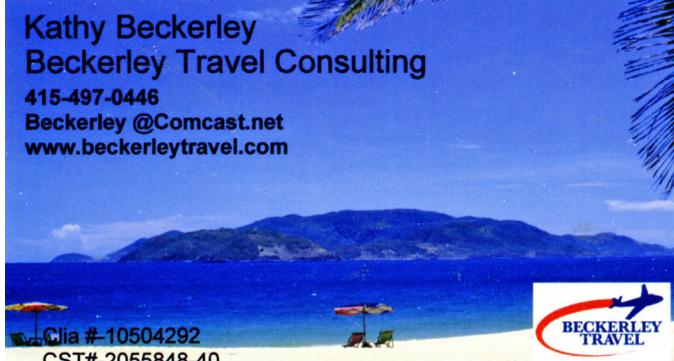
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Kathy Beckerley
Beckerley Travel Consulting
415-497-0446
[Beckerley @Comcast.net](mailto:Beckerley@Comcast.net)
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20 Bolinas Road
Fairfax, CA 94930

David Simonini
Attorney



Law Offices of David M. Simonini

679 Bridgeway
Sausalito, CA 94965
davesimonini@gmail.com
415 289-0242

415.261.8413



WAYNE
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