

FAIRFAX PARLOR NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

Christmas Dinner December 13

All Fairfax Native Sons, their ladies and their guests are invited to Fairfax Parlor's Annual Christmas Dinner at St. Rita Hall on Saturday, December 13.

Appetizers and no-host bar are from 6 to 7:30 p.m., with dinner and live music following at 7:30. Price is \$70 per person, with appetizers salad, side dishes, dessert, wine and choice of Rack of Lamb, Salmon or Filet Mignon.

Send check, payable to "NSGW Fairfax Parlor #307," to Kevin Courtz, 168 La Perdiz Court, San Rafael 94903. Be sure to specify menu selection(s).

Information from kcbscourt@aol.com.

Flyer is attached.

Officers to be Installed Dec. 3

Fairfax Parlor officers for 2026 will be installed at our December 3 business meeting. Brother **Eric Bowen** will serve as president for the coming year; others are First Vice President **Chris Wand**, Second Vice President **Frank Maresca** and Third Vice President **Tiffany Knaf**. **Mark Fogg** has volunteered to be Parlor financial secretary.

Christmas Pot Luck Dec. 17

Join your brothers and their ladies in celebrating Christmas with our Annual Potluck at our clubhouse on Wednesday, December 17, starting at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share. Open bar will be provided by the parlor. Reservations are not required—just come and enjoy.

Scholarship Applications Coming

Applications for Fairfax Parlor scholarships will be available in January. Scholarships are given to relatives of Fairfax Parlor members and relatives of widows of members.

You can make donations to the fund now by sending checks, payable to "Fairfax Parlor No. #307, NSGW" with "Fairfax Parlor Scholarship Fund" in the memo section. Mail to the parlor at 135 Mitchell Drive, Fairfax 94930. Information is available at a parlor meeting or from Kevin Courtz, (415) 717-4018, kcbscourt@aol.com.

Candidates Await Interview

We have the following people who wish to become members:

Hugh Petit, Carol Mauldin and Robert Gray, sponsored by Chuck Trimble.

Tim Smith and Larry Tashjian, sponsored by Fred Schwab

Wade Akers, sponsored by Tom Teixeira

Henry Choi, sponsored by Kevin Courtz

Marty Wells, from Internet

Sponsors should attend the meeting; before the meeting they should contact their candidates and ask them to attend.

CALENDAR

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

Wednesday, December 3 - Business meeting, installation of officers for 2026. Bar opens at 6 p.m., meeting starts at 7.

Tuesday, December 9 - Lunch. Beer, wine and soft drinks available for purchase from 11:30 a.m. Lunch at 12:30. Price is \$10. Reservations are not required.

Saturday, December 13 - Fairfax Parlor Annual Christmas Dinner, St. Rita Hall. See article and flyer in this newsletter for details.

Wednesday, December 17 - Annual Christmas Pot Luck-Dinner.

Wednesday, January 7 - Business meeting, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, January 13 - Lunch at the club. Beer, wine and soft drinks available for purchase from 11:30 p.m. Lunch at 12:30, cost \$10. Open to Native Sons and prospective members.

Wednesday, January 21 - Dinner meeting, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6. Open to Native Sons and prospective members. Reservations requested; information in January newsletter.

Tuesday, January 27 - Lunch at the club. Beer, wine and soft drinks available for purchase from 11:30 p.m. Lunch at 12:30, cost \$10. Open to Native Sons and prospective members.

Wednesday, February 4 - Business meeting, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Saturday, February 7 - Crab Feed, St. Rita Hall. Details in January newsletter.

We Have a Parlor Historian

Grand President Gary Padgett has asked each parlor to appoint a member as "Parlor Historian." What better choice for Fairfax than Brother Russ Knudsen. He will no doubt be collecting historical data of our parlor and our town, speaking at our meetings and publishing articles in our newsletter.



Happy cooks of our November 11 lunch. Photo by Dan Freeman.

Lou and Irene Travel

Brother Lou Langlamet and wife Irene participated in three recent events.

Lou reports "A great Petaluma Veterans Day Parade and dedication of Rex Hardware. Supporting the events were the Native Daughters with two vehicles and daughters to help carry the flags, Grand Officers, Petaluma Nicasio Parlor, Sonoma Parlor, Napa Parlor, Santa Rosa Parlor, San Francisco Parlor Fairfax Parlor. Denyce and Fred, a veteran of Korea, drove with the Corvette Club's "Vets in Vettes." We had enough people to carry both American and California flags. I was able to get Irene, a cousin and his wife, a nephew and his son to help carry the flags. Too bad our Tuesday Lunch conflicted with these events but we were represented by Kevin and Joel who came to the dedication after lunch.



Waiting for the Petaluma Veterans' Parade to start.



Dedicating the Rex Hardware Store in Petaluma. Photos by Langlamet.

"We had another great turkey dinner by Petaluma-Nicasio Parlor #183 on November 12. Reservations started out slow, then grew and finally last-minute additions brought it up to 120+. A very nice turnout supported by Grand Parlor officers, 6+ parlors, including Fairfax with a good group of 20+ attending. Really nice buffet table and dinner with smoked turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, green beans, bread and dessert. There was a full bar and a nice raffle with 30+ prizes. It was a great day to be a Native Son, and the rain let off until we got to our cars, just a light drizzle."

Dues Notices After Holidays

You will be receiving invoices for your annual Fairfax Parlor dues after the first of 2026. We believe we have solved the problems which occurred last year. The notices will reference our charities and ask for voluntary contributions to one or more. Former members of Tamalpais Parlor and Fairfax Parlor members with 50 or more years in Native Sons will receive an invoice with nothing due but a request for a voluntary charitable contribution.

Super Bowl Pool Coming

Fairfax Parlor will once again be having a Super Bowl pool, with squares at \$30 each. Proceeds will benefit our Cleft Palate Fund. Contact Kevin Courtz at kcbcourt@aol.com / (415) 717-4018.

New Year's Eve at Napa

Napa #62 will hold its Annual New Year's Eve party at the parlor's hall, 937 Coombs Street in Napa. Price of \$80 per person includes dinner (choice of Prime Rib or Salmon) and dancing to J Silverheels Band. Reservations are available from George Adams (707) 481-4295 or Lisa Adams (707) 481-4298 by December 24.

Parlor Cheesemakers in News

Brothers Rick and Scott Lafranchi and their Nicasio Valley Cheese Company were spotlighted in the winter 2025 issue of *Via*, the magazine of the California State Automobile Association. In the article, Brother Rick tells the story of how a multigenerational pilgrimage to his grandfather's home in the Swiss-Italian Alps inspired the family's transition from milk production to making cheese.

"Our relatives served us these traditional regional cheeses, and they were unlike anything we'd experienced before," Rick said. "We took some home and everyone who tried them thought they were pretty special."

Recruiting Swiss cheesemaker Maurizio Lorenzetti for authenticity, Brothers Rick and Scott (and non-parlor member Randy) began production in 2010 at their facility at 5300 Nicasio Valley Road, just off the Nicasio Square, and now have a dozen fresh and aged cheeses. One variety, "Nicasio Square," won first place in the farmstead category.

In the article, Rick said they milk their herd of Holsteins each morning, and the milk is at the creamery and into production in less than four hours. "The freshness makes the difference," he said.

Nicasio Valley cheese is available at markets throughout Marin, including Fairfax Market and Fairfax Good Earth Market and Andronico's and United Markets in San Anselmo.

Recipes Wanted!

Fairfax Parlor has one of the best cooking crews in all of the Native Sons! They have recipes for all types of cocktails, appetizers, salads, entrees and desserts. Now we can share those recipes with all Native Sons in a cookbook being prepared by Past Grand President Duane Gavin of Redwood #66. Send your recipes to Duane at 115 G Blossom Circle, San Mateo, CA 94403 or by e-mail to redwood66ms@yahoo.com.

Russ Knudsen: Protecting the Environment

Following are more excerpts from Brother Burt Winn's interview with Brother Russ Knudsen concerning Russ' interest in helping the environment, especially through his book *Bobby Otter and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch*.

Burt. Have you been writing for a long time?

Russ. Writing was always easy for me. I mean, I just had no problem writing, but I didn't think of it as a way of life, or as some people use the word, passion. I've just always have loved to write. And now I'm serious about getting as many stories out there as possible with the Bobby Otter story being

1st and foremost

The other two stories that are part of the trilogy are also environmentally important. And believe it or not, most of the stories that I've written have some type of impact on the planet, you know? I wrote a story called "Respect the Horse," about the wild Mustangs we have throughout the country. From an environmental standpoint, I look at that mainly as the wild horses feel like they represent America—the freedom, because that's why we started. We wanted our freedom and these wild horses almost represent humanity. And so I wrote a story about that. But once again, it hasn't been published. This Bobby Otter is the first story to be published.

Most of my stories have some type of environmental impact somewhere, or theme, if you want to say that. And, I think I've started a new genre of story writing, and I call it environmental adventure stories. Yeah, environmental adventure stories, this genre that I kind of want to make part of a mission statement or, if I ever start marketing myself, I'm gonna let people know I write environmental adventure stories.

Burt. So how does this tie in with your spoken word events?

Russ. You're talking about the story nights that I have here.

Burt. Yeah, I call those spoken word events. It's a little gig, you know?

Russ. The story nights I do here are strictly at Canon. And it's like I'm practicing to be a storyteller. So that eventually, if my environmental adventure stories become, well-known and people want me to come and speak about them, I'll feel confident I can present myself well, because when you get up in front of the public, there's a little bit of anxiety and nerves. It can be a little nerve-racking when you do that. But the more you do it, the easier it becomes for you.

I'm doing it here, I'm telling these stories here, to help me with my confidence in that I know I can, I know I can hold a crowd, make it fun for them and make it a good learning experience as well.

Burt. I'm curious, now, how do you come up with the ideas for your stories like the globe spinning and the things

hanging from the ceiling and all that kind of thing? People seem to really enjoy it.

Russ. Well, the first three stories that I wrote here, it's funny, I do, I like the idea of trilogies. So my first three stories that were titled were, "Three Stories for Three Sisters." The three sisters were members here. One of them is Marty Rosen, Bloom's wife; R.J. Franco's wife; and Richard Doores, his wife. Those were the first three stories.

Now, in the story these men have to take care of their wives. They cannot take care of themselves. They are physically in a position where they're almost bedridden; if they get out, it's a struggle for them. But in these three stories, the men are the heroes. These are three heroes, heroic men. There are three stories for three sisters, and the three sisters basically means their wives.

So I wrote a story about each of the men. And I just made up stuff. And they went over pretty well. And, they all did have environmental stuff with them.

The one about R.J. Franco, that one was called "R.J. Franco and the Bongo Boys," because he's a drummer. He's a teacher. I guess from an environmental standpoint, the spiders in that story, which were down in his basement, they'd spin webs.

Burt. Right, I remember they would, and what those webs were, it was music.

Russ. It was like musical notes because that they were always practicing down in the basement, and the spiders were digging it, and they would they would make their webs as if a musician was writing down a composition for music. But they did it in the spider web. I wouldn't necessarily call that an environmental, something that has environmental impact, but the spiders are part of the environment and music is important to our world for humans and for animals.

Burt. I guess you did say there's a little bit of environmental impact there because the spiders are recording the music for the future spiders.

TO BE CONTINUED

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to our brothers who celebrate in December.

Chris Wadleigh – 1st – 28 years

Mars Rivera – 1st – 15

Ron Hecht – 1st – 60

Kyle Lee – 1st – 1

Tom Yasuda 3rd – 24

Art Haake – 7th – 28

Steven Jones – 9th – 8

Kramer Herzog – 9th – 2

Mike Shea – 11th – 33

Geoff Johnson – 12th – 32

Thomas Jacobs – 13th – 45

John Colwell – 14th – 8 months

Greg Wittenmeier – 15th – 46

Robert Bruce – 15th – 23

Jason Sanders – 16th – 23

Gregory Rehs – 16th – 20

James Brainard – 18th – 21

Mario Orihuela – 18th – 6 months

Larry Galetti – 20th – 23

Donald Cronk – 20th – 1 year

Chris Vaccaro – 21st – 39

Dan Baker – 21st – 18

Fred Codoni – 22nd – 53

Matthew Towers – 23rd – 24

Kathleen Flores – 23rd – 3

Dan Potter – 25th – 7

Brian Crowley – 26th – 6 months

Jeff Granat – 26th – 1

Doug MacLean – 27th – 43

Paul Renn – 27th – 8

Derrick Fong – 29th – 32

Kevin Kramer – 29th – 5

Richard Thompson – 30th – 26

Sally Beauford – 30th – 1



*NATIVE SONS OF THE GOLDEN WEST
Fairfax Parlor 307*

ANNUAL XMAS DINNER

**SATURDAY, December 13th, 2025
SAINT RITA'S HALL - FAIRFAX**

6:00 -7:30PM - Appetizers & No-Host Cocktails

**7:30PM- Dinner - Salad, Side Dishes, Dessert, Wine and
Choice of Rack of Lamb, Salmon, or Filet Mignon**

COST: \$70/person includes live music!

Reservation Deadline December 9th, 2025

Open To Fairfax Parlor Members/Spouses/Guests/Only

Contact: Kevin Courtz at 415-717-4018

Send payment with *menu selection* to:

Kevin Courtz, 168 La Perdiz Ct., San Rafael, CA 94903

kcbscourt@aol.com

(checks payable to : Native Sons Fairfax Parlor 307)

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