

FAIRFAX PARLOR NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025

Christmas Dinner December 13

All Fairfax Native Sons, 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 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, 169 La Perdiz Court, San Rafael 94930. Be sure to specify menu selection(s).

Information from kcbscourt@aol.com.

Flyer is attached.

Turkey Feed in Petaluma

Petaluma-Nicasio Parlor #183's Annual Turkey Feed will be held on Wednesday, November 12, at Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Everyone is invited: Native Sons, their ladies and guests.

Price of \$25 per person with RSVP and \$30 without. Dinner includes turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, salad, cranberry sauce and rolls.

Social hour is from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by dinner.

Reservation deadline is November 6. Contact: Kris Nelson (707) 332-2376 / krisnelson183@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

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

Wednesday, November 5 – Business meeting, 7 p.m. Election of parlor officers for the 2026 term. Bar opens at 6.

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

Wednesday, November 12 - Petaluma-Nicasio Parlor #183 Annual Turkey Feed, Hermann Sons Hall, Petaluma. See article in this newsletter for details.

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 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 pot luck dinner. Details in December newsletter.

Selecting 2026 Parlor Officers

At our November 5 business meeting we'll be selecting Fairfax Parlor officers for the coming year. We have nominations for all positions, except third vice president. Please consider volunteering for this job—it's not difficult, but it is essential for our parlor to have all positions filled.



A full house celebrated Old Timers' Night at our hall on October 15.

VIEWS FROM VISITING BROTHERS' NIGHT



Old Timers' Night guests included several visiting brothers. Grand President Gary Padgett is second from right.



Brother Tom Teixeira was busy pouring.



Brother Fred Schwab was chief cook.



Brother Charlie Monte joined Fairfax Parlor in 1957!



Brother Joe Tassone shows new Fairfax Parlor emblem.



Grand President Gary Padgett presents a 50-year membership pin to Brother John Payne.

Your Vote is Important!

We hope all Fairfax Parlor members will vote in the November 4 election. For many, there is only a State proposition on the ballot. If you live in the Town of Fairfax, there are two other issues. Every voter has received a vote by mail ballot, making it easy to vote and mail the ballot. However, the County Registrar of Voters has advised that the U. S. Post Office cannot guarantee when mailed ballots will arrive. So either mail early or take your vote to one of the County drop boxes scattered throughout Marin.

Every vote is important! Exercise your Constitutional right to cast a ballot!

Pulltabs Are Valuable!

Believe it or not, the tiny pulltabs on aluminum cans have value. For years, members of the Native Daughters of the Golden West have been collecting and selling them, with funds going to support the Ronald McDonald House charity.

Pulltabs are easier to collect than tin cans, but it needs plenty of them to equal a pound.

Fairfax Parlor has joined the Daughters with collecting these tabs, so we ask each member to save them and bring them to a meeting or a meal so we can give them to the Native Daughters. Every tab is worth saving!

Two More Lunches in 2025

There are only two more Tuesday lunches this year—on November 11 and December 9. We don't have the menus yet but the December meal has traditionally been clam chowder. Whatever the menus, we know our cooks always produce great food!



Another pictures from Old Timers 'Night: DaveFranzoia, Joel Bantly, KevinCourtz and DanFoppe(Petaluma-Nicasio#183.

Sebastian (Seb) Saia 1933-2025

Brother Sebastian (Seb) Saia died October 8. Seb was born in San Francisco on June 13, 1933 and joined Fairfax Parlor on January 18, 1997. He died one day after Jean, his wife of 68 years, died. Memorial services are pending.

West Marin History Detailed

Marin County Historian Dewey Livingston has produced a large volume detailing the history of West Marin County, from the Indigenous peoples through today. Here's a review of the work.

Point Reyes and Tomales Bay, A History of the Land and its People. By Dewey Livingston. Soft cover, 575 pages. \$40.

Reviewed by Fred Codoni

There's plenty of history in Marin County, including of the area around Point Reyes Station and Tomales Bay. Beginning with countless generations of Coast Miwok Indigenous people, through the advent of Spanish soldiers and missionaries, to the establishment of dozens of dairy ranches, to the modern era, Dewey Livingston has chronicled all of them in his definitive work on Tomales Bay.

Not simply a dry history, but an eminently-readable chronicle that's hard to put down despite its hundreds of pages. Many of today's Fairfax Parlor members can trace their roots back to those early settlers. In addition to the many Swiss and Portuguese who made up the majority of Marin's dairymen, there were people from many countries who came to make their fortunes through hard work and judicious purchases of land.

Livingston's book describes the major change brought by the arrival of the North Pacific Coast Railroad from Sausalito to the Tomales in 1875. No longer would the farmers and the ranchers have to haul their products to Tomales Bay for water transport to their main market of San Francisco; now the City was only a few hours away by rail.

One of our favorite chapters is "Prohibition: Booze Flows at Point Reyes." Prohibition didn't stop West Marin's residents from enjoying alcoholic beverages—it just changed the way they received their spirits. The area was a hotbed of illegal booze, which arrived by boat and was moved inland in several ways, including hiding it in a hearse with a real body in the casket."

Dewey Livingston has been West Marin's leading historian for decades, and has penned many accounts of this fascinating area. This, however, is his masterpiece. Every Marinite should have a copy in his or her library. The book is available at Marin bookstores, including Wayfinder Books at 9 Broadway in Fairfax.

Scholarship Donations Welcome

Fairfax Parlor has a Scholarship Committee that receives funds and disburses them to deserving students who are related to Fairfax Native Sons or widows of Fairfax Native Sons.

In these days of huge expenses for college, recipients are very thankful for the monetary assistance we provide.

If you'd like to donate to the fund, perhaps in the name of a deceased parlor member, send checks, payable to the "Fairfax Parlor Scholarship Fund," to 135 Mitchell Drive, Fairfax 94930.

Sending Us Photos

We're always pleased to get photos for our newsletter, but we need jpegs attached to an e-mail. We can't work with PDFs of photos.

Know Marin County?

Perhaps Tamalpais High School's most famous graduate was Eunice Mary Quedens. Why?

Answer on page **xx**.

TALES OF THE CITY

Brother Chris Wand has vivid memories of growing up in San Francisco. He shares his story with us. -Ed.

By CHRIS WAND Part Two

Saturday mornings I rolled down the awning by cranking the big metal handle in the black axle grease-coated mechanism, just like I had seen grocers do all my life; set out the rack of contact paper on one side of the entryway; swept the sidewalk and tried to look dignified when girls walked by, as my formerly free Saturday wore on, feeling absolutely trapped and shackled in place. After the brief lunchtime freedom of going to the Marina Supermarket, ordering a sandwich with all the meat that I wanted and new style hippie wheat sprouts on it, eating it at Funston playground on Chestnut Street, it was back to the grind of the job.

The pay was \$1.75 an hour, good money, enough to help pay the rent. Ma was delighted. After taxes, I made one dollar and fifty cents every hour, enough to buy a whole barrel of oil, a figure that I had read in the *Wall Street Journal*, which was mysteriously delivered to our doorstep every day, along with a Christmastime gunny-sack of coal from the Lazarri Fuel yard on Mason Street in North Beach.

Who Paid?

We never determined who paid for the newspaper or the coal. I suspected that it was an older guy who worked for the World Bank. He used to come by the house a lot to see Ma. I could always tell when he'd been there, because empty Wente Grey Riesling bottles would be in the garbage. Once he showed up, pulled a ten dollar bill out of his wallet and asked me in front of Ma: "Do you think ten dollars would be enough to go on the train to Redwood City to visit Marine World?" "Nah, more like twenty" I said. "But I think I'll just stay home." He looked dismayed when I went into my room and closed the door.

Christmas Coal

The Christmas coal burned really hot. When I threw a bunch of it into a wood fire, it put out so much heat that the paint on the chimney enclosure started smoking. I had to throw water on it, which ran out and made a mess on the seagrass carpet that smelled like hay and cost a dime a square from Cost Plus where only foreign-made stuff was sold. The key to our kitchen

door had long been lost. At Rat-to's, I bought a new key cylinder, the part of the lock that a key turns, and installed it. It was made by Schlage Lock Company in San Francisco. I was very proud of having repaired something in our cottage. For the first time in my memory, we had real keys to our house and could unlock the kitchen door from the outside, rather than just pulling it shut after us when we went out. No more going to the far side door, the pantomime of reaching into our pockets, using an imaginary key to turn a lock in case someone was watching from the end of the alley, then surreptitiously shouldering aside the furniture piled up against the other side of the door which had no lock on it.

Pleasant at Work

At work it was pleasant being around people in the Marina who seemed normal and not Hippies or fake Beatniks, like in North Beach. On Chestnut Street the men talked about hunting, new cars, their fishing boats and moving to houses in Marin with big yards and better weather. Bart, the manager, described steaks he'd eaten, animals he'd shot, where he played golf and jobs he did in the Army.

A woman, of indeterminate age, came in to gossip with Marie. Her blonde hair was done like Marilyn Monroe. I never saw her without the simple dark glasses she wore. She was smooth in her plainness, yet beautiful in her stillness. I studied the way her hair curled up behind her ear, and relished a few sweet words she answered me when I dared ask where she lived. I thought about her life, and her family. I wondered what it would be like to be invited into her palazzo-like house on Marina Boulevard with a view of the yacht harbor and the Bay. She seemed so dignified, so neat and so quiet. I yearned to hold her and be held by her.

All Kinds of Stories

Richie my supervisor frequently repeated stories about girlfriends and other calamities that befell him, the Haight where he lived, like the time he triggered the ire of the Hells Angels that threatened to beat him up if he did something or another. I couldn't decide if he was just a workingman who looked and acted like a hippie,

or if he was a hippie who worked. I had started seeing guys dressed like him with long hair all over the city working at jobs like motorcycle messenger for Copy Cats, delivering blueprints to architects' offices on a Harley with a sidecar, gardeners, and clerks in grocery stores. Perhaps it was just fashion, and they weren't what they appeared to be.

Once Marie and I were in the back room alone. I asked, "Tell me about your husband and what was really important to you," I asked. "We built this store together," she replied after a long pause, "I didn't know how important everything was until he was gone." That made me really sad, and for the first time I thought about mortality, really loving a woman and how precious life was.

She stood very still. Suddenly everything stopped and for a wonderful few seconds, I looked into her eyes and felt like I was seeing just her and she was seeing just me. Nothing else mattered.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
NOVEMBER

Number in parentheses is years in Order, whether in Fairfax Parlor or a transfer from another parlor.

Mark Escobar 2nd – 27

Kevin Geraghty 5th – 44

Michael Allen 5th – 21

Chuck Cate 8th – 21

Matt Cunha 8th – 2

Anthony George 9th – 3

Carl Augusto 9th – 45

Wayne Stranton 10th – 9

William Wilhelm 10th – 50

Michael Macintosh 11th – 12

Tiffany Knef 17th – 1

Mike Courtz 20th – 47

Jim Arrigoni 21st – 18

John Payne 22nd – 51

Jeff Birkenseer 23rd – 7

Victor Clark 24th – 7

Peter Berkhout 24th – 2

Philip Anderson II – 18

Lou Langlamet 27th – 12

Don Legnitto 27th – 34

Monte Stephens 28th – 18

Ron Potter 29th – 28

Russ Knudsen: Protecting the Environment

Following are 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. I'm really interested in your book, your project and...what I'd like to know is: what's motivating you and what's the goal of what you're trying to do?

Russ. As far as my story writing goes, I was encouraged about three years ago by my daughter, who I used to do real estate with. She encouraged me to start writing stories because she knew I had pretty good writing ability because I would write note cards to a lot of our clients in the world of real estate, and they were very personal.

They weren't your standard, hey, you want to sell your house or hey, you want to buy a house kind of thing? They're very, very personal, and we would always get callbacks from the clients about the nice card they received. And so that's that's kind of where it started.

She just basically said, hey, dad, why don't you, start writing stories? And so I said, okay, I like that. You know, I like to write. And then I asked myself, okay, what am I going to write a story about?

How Can I Help the Environment?

So I heard this phrase, clean water, clean land, clean air. And I said, okay, I like that phrase. I'm going to write a story about clean water. And then I had to ask myself, what am I going to write about? A lake? a river? drinking water?...

And then I saw an article in the Sunday paper about a company in Sausalito that goes out to the Great Pacific garbage patch. Every summer they collect as much debris as they possibly can and bring it back in because the oceans are full of plastics and they congregate

in certain areas and ocean cleanup is a very important environmental issue right now.

And I said, okay, that's what I'm going to write my story about...cleaning up the Great Pacific garbage patch, but who's gonna do it? And so, I said to myself, well, I'll just have an animal be the hero in the story. And she was giv-



Charlie Monte and Russ Knudsen.

en the name by my youngest because I told my youngest, I'm going to write a story about an otter that goes out to the Great Pacific garbage patch and brings it in. But I don't know what to name the otter, and right away, out of her mouth, she goes, Bobby, Bobby Otter. And I go, okay, that sounds good. "Bobby Otter and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch."...

Starting in Point Reyes

I just started right here in Point Reyes, and from there, the story worked into this whole adventure of Bobby Otter and her friends removing the Great Pacific garbage patch with the goal of waking up humanity to take better care of the ocean.

So, that's where it all started...

Burt. Tell me what the goal was and what it's about...

Russ. Okay, so the goal was to have a fun story with a lot of characters, going through different adventures to finally get to the garbage patch and remove

it. And to provide awareness and education on the need for ocean cleanup. And the Great Pacific garbage patch, you hear that it's two, three times the size of Texas. It's a lot of plastic.

And that's part of the awareness, the education, and I want people to read the book and understand what's going on out there and just try to do a little bit on their part to keep the oceans clean. Don't let your plastic stuff float in the air, put it in the recycling bin where it goes, where it's supposed to go.

Sales Support OVI

And I also decided to donate money from every book sale to that company in Sausalito known as Ocean Voyages Institute. Every time I sell a book, I put money aside and I've given them almost \$1,000 to this day as a donation, and I will continue to do that every time I sell a book...

I don't plan on making a lot of money out of this. Although I do hope that Bobby Otter becomes as famous as Mickey Mouse. And I really mean that not so much because I want to become a famous writer or make a lot of money like Walt Disney did. I just want to raise more money and awareness for the oceans to clean them up. So, I'm just doing a grassroots effort at the moment to get Bobby Otter out there.

And we'll see where it goes.

But I do have aspirations to follow in the footsteps of what Walt Disney initially did with his character of Mickey Mouse and, well, you know what that has become.

It's huge.

We'll have more of the interview in a future issue of the Fairfax Parlor Newsletter. Meanwhile, you can support Russ' cause by purchasing his book.

ANSWER

Eunice changed her name and became the renowned actress Eve Arden.



*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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