



# Native Sons News

Fairfax Parlor #307

February 2024



## Fairfax Parlor Scholarship News

Applications for the 2024 Fairfax Parlor Scholarship are available from Kevin Courtz at [kbcscourt@aol.com](mailto:kbcscourt@aol.com) or (415) 717-4018.

Applicants must be high school students or continuing college students carrying 12 units with a current GPA of 2.5 or better. They must also be a Parlor member or related to one. The deadline for submitting applications is April 1, 2024.

Please contact Kevin Courtz for more info.

## Thank You for Paying your Dues

So far we've collected dues from 30% of our Parlor members. This is our first year offering electronic billing and we're hoping to make that the primary means of collecting dues in the future.

Please don't forget to include your charitable donations! Your gifts demonstrate the strength of our Parlor and our role in the community. Thank you!!

## Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> Luncheon

The way they hold their cooking utensils says it all – these fellas mean business. And the business of this Tuesday was Shepherds' Pie, and in the immortal words of Sean Connery, a descendant of Scottish pie-eating shepherds – *It was fan-tash-tic!*



### Parlor Shepherds

Tom 'Doctor No' Teixeira – Mr. Left

Joel 'The Man with the Golden Grub' Bantly – Mr. Right



## Parlor Chats with Matt

My vision for the future, aside from bringing the Parlor into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, will be focusing on the younger generation.

In a recent Parlor survey, over 40% of respondents said that family commitments prevented them from being more active.

I am committed to having more family-oriented activities and events for our members that have families. I believe that family is the most important thing in our lives. By focusing on family I believe we could see a rise in participation within the parlor

By planning more family events I believe it will help these brothers and strengthen their ties with us.

Together we can make this a reality.

In friendship, loyalty and charity,

Your President, Matt Marcucci

## FAIRFAX PARLOR CALENDAR 2024

- Sat Feb 3 – Crab Feed St. Rita's Hall 7pm RSVP
- Wed Feb 7 – Business Mtg 7pm Nominate Grand Parlor Delegates
- Tue Feb 13 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar: 11:30.
- Wed Feb 21 – Dinner Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Bar opens at 6.
- Tue Feb 27 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Wed Mar 6 – Formal Initiation + Bus, Election of GP Delegates
- Tue Mar 12 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Wed Mar 20 – St. Patrick's Day Dinner, St. Rita's Hall RSVP
- Tue Mar 26 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Wed Apr 3 – Business Meeting, 7pm Bar opens at 6.
- Tue Apr 9 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Sat Apr 20 – Lamb Feed, St. Rita's Hall 7pm RSVP.
- Tue Apr 23 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.
- Wed May 1 – Visiting Brothers Night, Dinner 7:30pm Bar at 6.
- May 19 – 23 – **Grand Parlor:** (no luncheon this week)

**And Let's Give a Giant Thank You to Russ Knudson for securing our cooks!**

### FAIRFAX PARLOR OFFICERS, 2024

- President – Matt Marcucci    1<sup>st</sup> VP – Bill Madsen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Eric Bowen    3<sup>rd</sup> VP – Chris Wand Sr.
- Jr. Past President – Burton Winn
- Financial Sec – Bill Addy    Treasurer – Stan Rowan
- Recording Sec – Kevin Courtz
- Newsletter Editor – Bill Madsen [ubmadsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ubmadsen@sbcglobal.net)
- Website Manager – Mark Fogg [FairfaxNativeSons@gmail.com](mailto:FairfaxNativeSons@gmail.com)

## Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> Luncheon

The pork chops weren't the only thing that were stuffed – everybody who enjoyed one of these salivation-inducing sensations came away feeling the exact same way – stuffed to the gills. Thank you, Brothers!



### Triple Bypass

(L to R) Ray 'The Reaper' Potter; Don 'Damage Control' Cronk, and Lou 'Any Last Words?' Langlamet

## February Birthdays

Feb 1<sup>st</sup>: Dan Kenilvort (20)  
Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>: James Hsu (4)  
Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>: Rod Berry (14) Nick Cereghino (1) Andy Saez (49)!! John Young (20)  
Feb 4<sup>th</sup>: Gordon Hasler (31) Brian Hughes (16)  
Feb 5<sup>th</sup>: Bob Nelson (49)  
Feb 6<sup>th</sup>: Paul Cingolani (2), Chuck Hermann (13), Kurt Pfeffer (15), Dennis Suhrke (16)  
Feb 7<sup>th</sup>: Norman Colteaux (21)  
Feb 8<sup>th</sup>: Bob Burrowes (35)!!  
Feb 9<sup>th</sup>: John Hanley (15)  
Feb 10<sup>th</sup>: Michael Orlando (6)  
Feb 12<sup>th</sup>: Griffin Holland (2)  
Feb 13<sup>th</sup>: Peter Brown (2)  
Feb 14<sup>th</sup>: Ronald Bevilacqua (3), Joe Garbarino (20), Ted Hayes (35)!! Richard Lamson (9), Frank Silvestri (RIP) Andrew Walker (18)  
Feb 15<sup>th</sup>: Anthony Lofrano (6)  
Feb 17<sup>th</sup>: Joe Daly (21)  
Feb 18<sup>th</sup>: Robert Wilson (2)  
Feb 20<sup>th</sup>: James Devitt (18), Mark Fogg (2)  
Feb 24<sup>th</sup>: Steve Gallagher (15)  
Feb 27<sup>th</sup>: Marty Campbell (42)!!  
Feb 28<sup>th</sup>: Glenn McClure (29)

## Grand Parlor Delegates to be Nominated at Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting

We'll be nominating delegates for Grand Parlor at our February Business Meeting.

Grand Parlor is May 19-23 in Rohnert Park this year. Fairfax Parlor is entitled to 8 delegates.

If you're interested in being nominated or nominating someone, be sure to attend our Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Lou Langlamet: Tales of a Traveling Marshal

You see a lot as a marshal, not all of it pretty. When I got the call from the Portuguese Hall of Novato that Saturday afternoon I knew something was up, and it wasn't my stock portfolio. I didn't hesitate, even though I.D.E.S.I is out of my jurisdiction I headed over there, but fast.

Sure enough, soon as I got there I saw a long line-up of hungry folks waiting for their crab feed, but the line wasn't moving. Old Celio came running out to meet me, his hands were shaking. "They haven't melted the butter yet!"

His voice was high and tight – always a bad sign. "And no one's put out bowls for the shells!"

"What the hell?!" I said, looking at my watch, "It's almost serving time!" I kicked in the door and ran to the kitchen, taking a quick look at the tables on the way. I cursed under my breath – they hadn't laid out extra napkins, either!

The door squealed as I stormed into the kitchen, the hinges needed oiling, but that would have to wait. The cook and his helpers looked up in surprise – they were watching a football game on a laptop – somebody had NFL Season Pass streaming! Insanity!

I slammed the cover down and grabbed Gustavo by his apron – I should have expected it – it was tied with the strings on the *outside*! "Godammit man! Pull yourselves together! You've got hungry men out there and only 5 minutes til the bell rings! Was that the Texans' game? That game's been over since halftime! What's wrong with you?!"

I know it wasn't my job, but I jumped in with them right then and there, and we managed to serve every single person in a timely and orderly manner. It was a close call – I haven't always been so lucky.

Next time: Lou discovers unrefrigerated chicken left on a counter for more than 30 minutes.

## A Visit with Joe Daly



John Payne, Russ Knudson and Joe Daly

On Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> Brothers Russ Knudson and John Payne visited Past Parlor President Joe Daly, who hasn't been able to get out to the Parlor lately. It's a wonderful thing for brothers like these to bring a bit of the Parlor to our friends that are homebound.

We miss Joe's calm and commanding presence, his friendly smile, and his top-shelf cooking. Take care, Joe!



## Codoni's Corner

*Pull up a chair, sit down, stop flapping your gums and maybe you'll learn something...*

### 75th Anniversary Coming!

#### The Fairfax 4th of July Festival

By Fred Codoni

In 1953, Fairfax Native Sons took over the Annual Fourth of July Festival which had been sponsored by Fairfax Celebrations, Inc. Rosemary Ravani of Fairfax reigned as queen of the 1953 Festival, which featured free fireworks and entertainment. The Marin Independent-Journal described the Festival:

*"Fairfax Park will open at 7 p.m. Friday with games, carnival rides and music. Fireworks displays will be presented at dark Friday and Saturday in the Fairfax Ball Field.*

*"Saturday will be Kiddies Day, featuring Chico Dell and his trained moneys. Candy, gum and balloons will be distributed free to all children throughout the day.*

*"During the three-day celebration, entertainment programs will feature stage, screen, radio and TV personalities. There will be no admission fee."*

Fairfax Parlor continued its participation in local and state parades. Most of the entries were comic, ranging from the original diaper brigade through hillbillies and old-fashioned scenes. In the 1954 Old San Rafael Fiesta Days Parade the mood turned more serious when a dozen Fairfax Natives dressed in white operating gowns marched alongside an ambulance carry four polio victims and collected \$742 from spectators for the March of Dimes.

In 1956, the Town of Fairfax commemorated its centennial. Once again, parlor members were in the lead, with Brother Dick Sloan and Native Daughter Agnes O'Connell portraying Lord and Lady Fairfax.

The Eight Annual Fairfax Native Son Festival in 1957 featured a "variety stage show" featuring "unforgettable" (?) acts such as Toy Yat Mar, the "Chinese Sophie Tucker."

Soon thereafter, Fairfax City officials decided to landscape and improve Fairfax Park, rendering it unsuitable for use by "private" organizations. The matter was debated for several years, with the anti-festival faction finally winning so, in July 1960 the eleventh and last festival was held. The local press described it as "a tremendous finale to the eleven-year tradition."

NEXT: Fourth of July Festival, 1953 and After...

### Visit Our Website: [fairfaxnativesons.com](http://fairfaxnativesons.com)

For newsletters, upcoming events, the Fairfax Parlor calendar, donations to our charities and more, visit our website and take a look around.

## Anyone's Opinion

### This One Happens to be Martin's...

Contributed by Martin Laney (Sonoma #111)

For years, I've read successive articles in the Native Son arguing against the perception held by some that the NSGW is a racist organization. I submit that our order is not racist. However, I also believe that the NSGW has been ham-handed in addressing the issue, which makes it understandable why the perception exists. It's this contradiction between the words and actions of the NSGW that I'd like to address.

Throughout our state, there are numerous commemorative plaques placed at historic sites and structures. I haven't seen them all, but I have seen quite a few. Each contains a dedication, typically to an individual person. The one name I've seen more than any other is that of former US Senator James Phelan, who is commemorated on the plaque outside the front door of NSGW headquarters in San Francisco, among others. Phelan was a powerful figure in California in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and a brother in the Native Sons. He was also a virulent and devoted racist. He was a major proponent of the Chinese and Japanese exclusion efforts originally championed by US President Chester A. Arthur. When he ran for re-election to the Senate in 1920, his campaign slogan was "Keep California White."

I've raised this issue with a number of brothers and Grand Officers over the last few years, and with one exception, my attempts to raise the issue have fallen on deaf ears. One of the main responses has been "You can't change history." That statement is true. However, individuals and organizations can freely decide which historical figures they choose to honor and commemorate. Which brings us to the question:

*"What are our values, and do those who we recognize and celebrate stand for our values?"*

Speaking only for myself, if James Phelan is someone the NSGW wants to celebrate, then all the protestations that we are not a racist organization are nothing but hypocrisy, and my statement in the opening paragraph as to the nature of our order is clearly mistaken.

Another common refrain in the articles in the Native Son is that if we are to be judged on our record, then we must be judged in the context of the present, and not the past. Well, here we are in the present, and we continue to commemorate James Phelan. Any objective observer would be perfectly justified to call us out on our hypocrisy.

I realize this may not be a popular perspective. But I believe it's a valid one. I'm tired of our collective platitudes and empty protestations. If we don't want to appear to be racist, it's high time to stop talking and start acting.

\* \* \*

*If you have an opinion you'd like to share with your Brothers, please email Bill Madsen at: [uubmadsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uubmadsen@sbcglobal.net)*



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