



Native Sons News

Fairfax Parlor #307

March 2025



Feb 8th Crab Feed

Fred Schwab and his stellar crew put out a terrific feast on a cold February night. The sell-out crowd made for a boisterous and jovial atmosphere.



L-R: Fred Schwab, Kevin Courtz, Sean Aguilar, Dominic Trimble, Connor Trimble and Chris Jackson

It was easy to spot the veteran campaigners – they had their own butter-warmers and custom crab-crackers. Fine food, fine friends, fine times!



Many thanks to Fred for his fine cooking, his assistant Sean Aguilar, and Kevin Courtz for organizing *everything*.

And let's not forget the other helpers: Stan Rowan, Joel & Cathy Bantly, Lou Langlamet, Don Cronk, Dan Freeman, Chris Wand, Chris Reilly, Carol & Chris & Mike Courtz, and Vivian Asleson. Special thanks to Matt Marcucci and Tom Teixeira for set-up and bartending.



FAIRFAX PARLOR OFFICERS, 2025

President – Bill Madsen	1 st VP – Eric Bowen
2 nd VP – Chris Wand Sr.	3 rd VP – Diego Garcia
Treasurer – Chris Reilly	Financial Secretary – Rick Holland
Recording Secretary – Kevin Courtz	
Newsletter Editor – Bill Madsen	ubmadsen@sbcglobal.net
Website Manager – Mark Fogg	FairfaxNativeSons@gmail.com



Message from The President

Brothers and Sisters,
I give you:

Native Son of the Month: Kevin Courtz



What *doesn't* he do?
Without Kevin there would be no dinners – he organizes everything around them from renting facilities, leading set-up and clean-up crews,

collecting fees, organizing raffles and greeting all guests.

He works tirelessly and quietly for the Parlor and the Club in so many capacities that it's no embellishment to say that without Kevin there would be no Parlor. He's the glue that holds us all together. Make a point of thanking him the next time you see him and then buy him a drink – he's earned it!

Canon Club Discount for Parlor Members

After months of work and hundreds of man-hours spent in meetings and email chains and sub-committee meetings we finally passed our eligibility requirements for the Club discount for Native Sons.

Here's the breakdown. Everyone who has a discounted rate for the Club will continue to have it through 2025. But if you want to continue receiving the discount after that you'll need to meet the following criteria:

30% Discount:

Attendance at four NSGW events during the year (including at least two business meetings).

60% Discount:

- Volunteering for a Chair/Officer position
- Cooking: Lead cook for 2 lunches or 1 dinner.
Assistant cook for 4 lunches or 2 dinners
- Organize a fund-raiser or community event
- Chair a committee or work party
- Edit the newsletter
- Manage the website

Other forms of participation will also be considered and approved by the Parlor Officers on a case-by-case basis.

Please remember: To qualify for the discount you have to meet the participation requirements **every** year.

Parlor News

Fairfax Festival Beer Tent We're Back In!!

On 2/19/25 Kevin Courtz organized a meeting with Larry and Holly Bragman (Chairs of the Festival Committee) to discuss beer sales at the Fairfax Festival.

Kevin invited other beer-sellers - the Marin Firefighters and the Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center to participate. Joel Bantly and Bill Madsen also attended.

It was a productive meeting – Kevin fostered a calm and collegial discussion and the Festival Committee members listened and responded in kind. They empathized with our concerns and are looking for ways to defray some of the costs that have taken away from our charitable fund-raising.

The bottom line: We **will** be serving Beer this year. To that end, if you don't have your ABC alcohol serving certificate please visit: <https://abcbiz.abc.ca.gov/>

The on-line class takes a couple of hours and the Parlor will reimburse you for the cost of the certificate.

Parlor Improvement Project

By Eric Bowen and Bill Madsen

In the Feb. newsletter and at our last Business Meeting, we discussed potential improvements to our outdoor space, focusing on the area next to the pool. We also discussed the longer-term goal of constructing bocce courts. Our hope is that these improvements will bring in younger members and create a comfortable social area where all our members can hang-out and relax.

With input from Parlor members and multiple contractors, the best approach seems to be to start with "infrastructure" improvements (grading, drainage, fencing, etc.) to prepare the area for future development (landscaping, shade structures, decks, etc.)

To gain a better understanding of our property boundaries we voted at the Feb. Business meeting to pay for a survey. With that done, we're now looking to fund the infrastructure phase of our improvement project, which we will be discussing, and hopefully approving, at the March Parlor Business Meeting.

After consulting with our Parlor and Club tax expert, Brother Julian Chavez, it appears that the best approach is to run these expenses through the Canon Club, so that we reduce the Club's tax burden.

As such, the proposal that we will be discussing at our March Business Meeting (Wed. - 3/5/25), is to loan the Club \$30,000 to begin these infrastructure improvements, with the goal to have them completed in time for summer.

Please come on Wednesday to share your thoughts on this important and exciting project.

FAIRFAX PARLOR CALENDAR 2025

Wed Mar 5 – Business, 7 pm *Voting for GP Delegates*

Tue Mar 11 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.

Mon. Mar 17 – **St. Patrick's Day Dinner** – St. Rita's Hall **RSVP**

Tue Mar 25 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.

Wed., Apr 2 – Business Meeting, 7pm Bar opens at 6.

Tue., Apr 8 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.

Wed., Apr 16 – **Lamb Feed** – 7 pm (cook: Mike Shea) **RSVP**

Tue., Apr 22 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.

Other Parlors Events

Wed Mar 12 - **Cajun Gumbo** Petaluma-Nicasio #183, 7pm

RSVP 707-849-2240, Hermann Sons Hall, Petaluma

Sat Mar 22 - **Pappy Flanagan Corned Beef and Cabbage Feed**

Napa #62, **RSVP** 707-224-3213, NSGW Hall, Napa 6pm

February 11th Luncheon

I think I've used up most of the superlatives to describe Joel Bantly's many superlative meals. Suffice it to say that these enchiladas and the side of cole-slaw were really, really, really, really good. Really. Really really good.



Los Tres Amigos

L-R: Lou Langlamet, Tom Teixeira, and Joel Bantly

February 25th Luncheon

A very tasty Chicken and pasta with plenty to go around! With a spinach and mushroom salad it was a hearty and healthy meal– these guys really care about us!

And look at them – they're having a great time doing it!



Living Legends

L-R: Rick Seramin, John Payne and John Beckerley

Weekend in the Redwoods

by Lou Langlamet 'The Wandering Marshal'

My deputy Irene and I had been anticipating Weekend in the Redwoods for some time. We had a great time last year and were glad to be going back. We loaded up the trailer and hitched it to the truck, I checked the connection three times – the forecast was calling for heavy rains and winds gusting up to 80 mph – it's no fun watching your trailer passing you as you're chugging along the interstate – so safety first...

We got an early start Friday morning after a quick check for road closures. None – so far so good. North to Fort Bragg then over the mountain to Willits and up to Eureka, the pass was gusty but the trailer stayed behind us all the way to the campground – so we set up camp in good spirits, rested a bit, and then we were off to Fortuna for the icebreaker at the River Lodge Conference Center.



Ahh, there's nothing like a little liquid libation, chips and dip, home-made sausage, pulled pork and smoked crab - what a feast! So enjoyable to see our friends from different Parlors and mingling with the Grand Officers.



Early Saturday morning saw us in McKinleyville at the Minor Building dedication. It was built in the late 1800's and used as a dance hall, and various offices, from law to surveying, now agriculture supply. Burt Winn did us proud.



From there we took off to the Eureka Parlor for a wonderful lunch of shrimp ceviche, crab on crackers, with choice of two soups plus dessert. We just had enough time to get to Clendenen's Cider Works for the dedication.



I was honored to take the part of Jr. Past Grand President saying the opening and closing prayers for the ceremony. The cider works started in the late 1800's. Afterwards, we were treated to some wonderful hot spiced cider.



A little rest and then off to the official Initiation of ten new brothers, with Fred Codoni taking the part of Grand 1st VP. I arrived a couple minutes late so had to use the official knock and password, good practice.



Now to the Banquet Hall for a social hour and a chance to peruse the Silent Auction, having the opportunity to bid on over 50 items. Dinner was really impressive with beautiful Prime Rib or Raspberry Pork with all the trimmings and deserts. Normally everyone heads home on Sunday but we decided to stay an extra day to explore the Eureka area for crabbing spots. Next adventure is 49'er Days in Jackson, we will be staying at the hotel for this one. it should be fun.

Canon Club News

USTA Tennis Returns to Cañon

by Chris Clark

After a long hiatus, United States Tennis Association (USTA) league play has made a welcome return to The Cañon Swim and Tennis Club. On recent Saturday mornings, the lower courts have come alive with the sounds of fierce competition—grunts, groans, and the occasional tumble—as players battle it out in spirited matches. This resumption not only brings competitive tennis back to the club but also serves as a valuable way to attract new members and grow the tennis community at Cañon.

No one seems to remember exactly when the club last fielded a USTA team, but according to longtime club committee head Chuck Cate, it included one year with a particularly successful run. “Yes, I was on that team. We went undefeated. Frankly, I can’t remember the year!” Regardless of the exact timeline, Cañon is back in action, currently competing in the Men’s 40 & Over 3.5 division.



Great form! Brothers Russ Knudsen and Sean Murphy in action.

Matches are being played both at Cañon and at various clubs across Marin, bringing with it equal parts competition and camaraderie. The team roster consists largely of Native Sons, a connection that strengthens the club’s sense of community. A highlight of the return has been the post-match commiserating with opposing teams on the club deck—an opportunity to swap stories, celebrate hard-fought matches, and enjoy the social side of the game.

Cañon Coach Erick Johanson is enthusiastic about the club’s re-entry into league play. “I’m excited about it. It’s been a while since we had a USTA team, and it’s great to see Cañon back on the map. This should definitely attract more members interested in team tennis. The next goal would be to form a women’s or mixed team. Let’s keep moving onward and upward!”

Next up, Cañon will enter a Men’s 55 & Over team for the spring season—an opportunity for seasoned players to stay in the game while (hopefully) being a little easier on the body! Meanwhile, the club continues to be a hub for local tennis, serving as the home court for the Archie Williams High School boys’ and girls’ teams. With the return of USTA play and an enthusiasm for competitive tennis, the future of Cañon’s tennis program looks bright.

Voting on New Members & Delegates

At our March 5th Business Meeting we’ll be voting on Grand Parlor Delegates and on three new members: Elizabeth Fagan sponsored by Russ Knudsen, Mande Lopez sponsored by Stan Rowan and John Colwell sponsored by Bill Madsen.

Parcel Tax Renewal

By Tyler Graff - RVSD Superintendent

On May 6th, a ballot measure will be put before the voters of San Anselmo and Fairfax - a parcel tax renewal and revision to support our local schools and educators.

If passed, the revised parcel tax would cost the average homeowner an additional \$268 and would generate 3 million more dollars, allowing us to provide meaningful salary increases to retain and attract teachers.

Without this measure, there will be cuts and potential staffing layoffs, and salary increases would be paused, making it harder to retain our talented teachers.

The proposed parcel tax structure rate is \$0.52 per building square foot and would last 9 years (through 2034).

Examples:

1,100 sq. ft.= \$527 annually (less than current rate)

1,384 sq. ft.= \$720 annually (next year’s rate)

1,901 sq. ft.= \$988 annually (average district home)

Inflation Adjustment: 3% annual increase (same as now)

Senior Exemption: Remains available

Unimproved Parcels: \$95 flat annual fee

To learn more about the parcel tax and our budget, please [watch this video presentation](#). If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at tgraff@rossvalleyschools.org

March Birthdays

Mar. 1st: Robin Hadley (4), Richard Ronsheimer (57!!!!)

Mar 4th: David Corwell (16)

Mar 9th: Guido Costella - (48), John Sergeant (18)

Mar 12th: Russ Damos (29)

Mar 13th: Michael Monestier (17)

Mar 14th: Ronald Nuno (26)

Mar 16th: Russell Boehm (17), Chris Reilly (12)

Mar 18th: Gene Horton (47!!)

Mar 20th: Jeff Brusati (40)!! John Malone (13), Gyani Richards (9)

Mar 21st: Patrick Connelly (30), David Gartin (5), Joseph Tassone (20)

Mar 22nd: Kyle Miller (2)

Mar 23rd: Ed Bacci (29)

Mar 24th: Lee Faustine (54!!!!)

Mar 25th: Brendan Clifford (2), Doug Hailer (21), Jason Seale (3)

Mar 26th: Mike Abbalo (30)

Mar 27th: Mike Bauman (45!!), Dave Cala (36!),

Matthew Marron (30!), James McElroy (20)

Mar 28th: Ed DeMaestri (50!!!), Ron McCamish (55!!!), Colin Spake (3)

Mar 30th: Sean Aguilar (12), John Bidwell (1), Stephen Goff (2)

Mar 31st: Steven Horgan (14)

Cont'd: The Fish That Needed To Get Away:

A NATIVE SON OF THE GOLDEN WEST STORY

By Russ Knudson

Chapter 22: Paper and Mud

Chester was amazed and enlightened with a new perspective for the Chinese people. This disfigured Asian Laborer and the

Chinese people as a whole did what they had to do to survive as underdogs in this new land using thousands of years of ancient teachings and culture.

Ingrained into his heart and soul by this prideful and protective laborer was the deepest of respect for these Asian people who looked different. The miracle of being brought back from the dead by Thomas "Koji" Fong showed Chester that people from different parts of the world all shared a humanitarian belief in each other, where lending a helpful hand to those in need was always the right thing to do.

"I trust you Chinaman Laborer. You have my word... NO TALKIE ABOUT KOJI," said Chester. "Go ahead and burn the map... I know you'll tell me true what them Chinese markings are."

Chester had a couple of wooden matches... he gave one to the Laborer... the match was lit, struck off of a small dry flat stone that Chester kept in his Levi's.

The Laborer took the match and lit the paper map from the bottom and a flame inched upwards burning its entirety. All that was left was charcoal paper in a little pile on the ground. Chester and the Laborer pushed the charcoal paper into the mud with their boots... mud and charcoal paper united... no one would find evidence of the Koji whereabouts.

Chapter 23: Freedom

The Laborer spoke,

"The Chinese markings.... inside pond on map... 'HOME OF SPECIAL FISH'. Koji Thomas Fong find him in dry creek bed during hot days. Big Fish in little pocket of water... water soon be gone... fish gonna die... Koji pick up fish... fish can't breathe... Koji run fast to pond... put fish in pond... fish no move... Koji push fish around... fish get water in gills... fish start to breathe... fish live! Fish swim to bottom of special pond... pond made by me and other Chinese who build mound for railroad tracks ...water from rain always keep pond full... now fish happy." The Laborer stopped for a few seconds.

"Is there more Laborer?" asked Chester.

The Laborer nodded. "Yes, there is more... Fish come back to top of water... fish can speak... fish speak to Koji." The Laborer stopped to see if Chester believed him.

Chester looked in to the Laborer's eyes, "That fish spoke to me... I believe you...keep telling me the story... it is truth."

The Laborer continued, "The fish tell Koji...I am Freedom Fish! I Mighty! I Powerful! No one catch me! No one tame me. This country of freedom I live! Best country in world!

Indian live here in freedom want more freedom!
European live here in freedom...want more freedom!

Black man slave.... now have freedom... Black man still need more freedom.

This country have freedom... but sometimes you must fight for freedom I am Freedom Fish. No one catch me... I always fight for freedom... I live in pond... Me Happy Fish.

Koji say.... when Koji save fish from dry creek...fish say, "GRANT YOU ONE FAVOR...ANY FAVOR."

The Laborer stopped, "That end of story... That what Chinese symbols say... That what Tom Koji Fong write on paper... paper no more... what you think now, European?"

"Well Laborer," replied Chester, "My name is Chester by the way... this here Koji is owed a favor... it should be a big favor maybe you and I can figure out a great favor for Koji. I'd like to help Koji get that favor... he done saved me... granted me a new freedom... granted me a great favor... looks like this Koji feller... is a favor granter... a favor should be returned!"

Chapter 24: Plain Sight

The Chinese Laborer looked at Chester, "Maybe you think about protecting Koji... Koji live in pretty forest... Koji live alone... Koji like solitude... no one bother Koji... Koji do what Koji want... My name Bruce Lee...thank you for the coin Chester."

Chester was processing this amazing story about a Chinese Robin Hood, a powerful Freedom Fish and his own new-born life. Chester Courtz was determined to do what's right and change his selfish lowly ways.

Chester was thinking about returning a favor to Koji.

Bruce Lee waited patiently for Chester's thoughts. "Well Bruce, I'm a' thinkin' how I can help Koji... I got an idea... where Koji be, they ain't nothin' much goin' on as far as civilization goes, but that's gonna change people ridin' that train gonna see land too perty not to move to.

"There's a guy named Taylor livin' in some woods doin' business along the rail line. Koji got him a few hidin' places in them there Taylor Lands, I'm sure... he gonna' need a lotta places to hide if he don't wanna get found...so the Taylor area is good.... but people gonna walk all over them woods... it be so perty! Don't know how long he can hide in them thar Taylor woods... but... there was a guy named Fairfax livin over 'there but he be dead... his wife still livin' ... her name Ada Fairfax... she gotta nice spread meadows and creeks and trees... real perty land maybe I'll talk to her and see if Koji a' wanna live there Koji is a hard worker... he got skills too... he could help take care of the property... its a big property... Koji can hide on the property... hide in plain sight! He good with disguises... right! Koji can be himself on the Fairfax property as it be private property... if he wants to venture about or come to Frisco he can wear a costume or disguise... or whatever. The law don't go lookin' in plain sight for a bank robber. They look in the countryside... look for clues.. look for people that may have seen a suspicious person who may be an outlaw... an outlaw on the run... maybe headin' north or headin' south.u.Mexico way....the law won't look in plain sight on that Fairfax property... watcha think Bruce?"

To be continued...

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