



# Native Sons News

Fairfax Parlor #307

April 2025



## Tuesday Lunches

These guys. March 11<sup>th</sup>. Massive meatballs. Not the guys, the food. Most excellent. The guys. And the food.



L-R: Don Cronk, Matt Marcucci, Lou Langlmet and Ray Potter

### Two Weeks Later

These guys. March 25<sup>th</sup>. The pork was roasted, and so were the cooks. The glasses in their hands tell the story. They were having a high time, and so were we. Pat's a great cook, and now he's going to be in the regular rotation, which is great news for everyone that likes to eat!



L-R: Rex Hale, Kevin Kramer, Mark Hayes and Pat Martinez.



Everyone that likes to eat

## Message from The President



### Native Son of the Month: Chris Reilly



As an old-time firefighter, Chris is used to charging into crazy situations, which probably explains why he agreed to become the Parlor Treasurer.

But that wasn't enough for him. He agreed to help out on the Canon Club Management

Committee as well. And also the 5-Year Plan Committee. Clearly, he's a bit of a glutton for punishment.

But of course that's exactly what we need here in our Parlor. More guys like Chris who aren't afraid of a little hard work. So lets raise a glass and toast his contributions. And maybe try and follow his lead... Thanks Chris!

(And a shout-out to Stan Rowan for all his hard work.)

### Passing of Jack Streckfus

It is with sadness we announce the passing of Brother Jack Streckfus, a 78-year member of the Native Sons. He died November 13, 2024 at the age of 96.

He was born and raised in San Rafael, attending St. Anselm's High School which eventually became Marin Catholic.

Jack worked at T & B Sports for 42 years. He also served in the Naval Reserve. Jack joined the Mt. Tam Parlor of the NSGW in 1946 and used his experience playing Bocce to become a founding director of the Marin Bocce Federation.

May he rest in peace in the Grand Parlor on high.

## FAIRFAX PARLOR CALENDAR 2025

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 St. Rita's Hall **RSVP**

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

Wed., May 7 – Visiting Brothers Night Dinner 7pm Bar opens at 6.

Tue., May 13 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.

May 19 – 22 – **Grand Parlor:** (Stockton)

Tue., May 27 – Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Bar opens at 11:30.



# St. Patty's Day Corned Beef Dinner

Photos by Chris Wand

Chris's pictures say it all...



Thanks to Fred Schwab for cooking, and his helpers Chuck, Conner and Dominic Trimble – they put out a great meal. Tom Teixeira for bartending, Chris Wand for all his help and his great photos, Carol Courtz, Lou Langlamet, Matt Marcucci, Don Cronk, Joel and Cathy Bantly, and Burt and Lynn Winn for set up, clean up and decorating the hall, and Stan Rowan for logistics. Also thanks to: Chris Reilly for helping with registration and ticket sales, Fred Codoni for announcements and acknowledgements. And, as always, Kevin Courtz for coordinating everything. Plus, our 50/50 Raffle made \$160 for Burt Winn's Grand Trustee Election Fund. As you can clearly see, it was an amazing evening!



## 49er Days

by Lou Langlamet 'The Wandering Marshal'

Friday morning I gathered up my sidekick Irene and headed up to Jackson for 49er Days in Jackson, California, sponsored by Excelsior Parlor #31. Checked the weather; snow in the higher elevations with rain below that, not a problem for our rig. The wind was heavy but the rain was light and we made it in 2 1/2 hours – which seems pretty quick when you consider how long it would have taken the 49er's by horse and wagon.

Hungry from our travels we grabbed a bite to eat and checked into our hotel. We met Burt and Lynn Winn and helped set up our hospitality suite to support Burt in his campaign for Grand Trustee. Not many people realize how much effort goes into running for positions in Grand Parlor. It's a lot of work, but the upside of hosting a hospitality room is you get to meet a lot of interesting people and you've got the best seat in the house - close to the bar.



When we arrived...

After setting up we were off to the parlor for the get-acquainted reception – a great place (with a great bar) to see old friends and meet some new ones. You could hear the glasses clinking and ice cubes tinkling amid the ebb and flow of many cheerful conversations as we all swirled around the room getting re-acquainted and sampling the many hors d'oeuvres.



Five minutes later...

Grand President Steve Mc Lean honored us with a tour of Excelsior's parlor building: Top floor meeting hall, 2nd floor bar and recreation, and their bottom floor dining hall – a really beautiful old building.

Saturday breakfast at the hotel and off to Dedicate Mel and Faye's Restaurant, an interesting and colorful place dating back to the 1950's. (And the food was really good!)



All this coincided with the local Dandelion Days festival, so there was a lot going to see and do. We peeked and poked around until it was time for the dedication of St. Sava's, the first Serbian church in California. Afterwards we were honored with a tour of the beautiful church and its grounds.



After all the bustle, it was nice to settle down with cocktails at the Excelsior Parlor, followed by a fantastic Prime Rib dinner. And then, our favorite part – manning the bar at Burt Winn's hospitality room.

### Check Out These Other Events

Apr 13<sup>th</sup>: 9:30am ND & NS Marin-Sonoma Co. Breakfast:  
Meet Your Neighbors Social **RSVP:** Mitch Laing 707-975-1541

Apr 19<sup>th</sup>: Petaluma-Nicasio #183 in Butter & Egg Day Parade, Petaluma. More Info: Kris Nelson - [krisnelson183@gmail.com](mailto:krisnelson183@gmail.com)

May 26<sup>th</sup>: Noon NSGW & NDGW Memorial Day Observance, WWI Doughboy Statue, Golden Gate Park, SF  
(Parking & Shuttle from Stow Lake Boathouse)

Aug 2-10<sup>th</sup>: Lotts Lake Work Party Week, Lotts Lake, Plumas County. More Info: Dan Foppe - [dnrtermite@gmail.com](mailto:dnrtermite@gmail.com)

Sep 5<sup>th</sup>: NSGW and NDGW California Admission Day Event, Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco

# Grand Parlor News

## Letter to Grand Parlor Supporting Brother Burt Winn as a Candidate for Grand Trustee

Worthy Grand President and Officers,

The officers and members of Fairfax Parlor #307 are proud to present Brother Burt Winn as a candidate for re-election to the office of Grand Trustee of the Native Sons of the Golden West at the 148th Grand Parlor in Stockton, CA.

Burt is a six-year member of the Native Sons. Now our Senior Past Parlor President, he has attended every Grand Parlor since joining the Order, first as a member, then Chairman of the Board of Control, and now as Grand Trustee.

Burt's a regular contributor to both our Fairfax Parlor newsletter and Grand Parlor's 'The Native Son', writing stories that weave California history into travelogues visiting many of our various Parlors and the projects and events they host and participate in. It's a great way to spread the word about happenings, celebrations and dedications, and let people know who we are. Fairfax Parlor takes great pride in Burt's work as a Grand Trustee, traveling throughout the state performing Official Visits and helping with Dedications.

Burt's not only interested in Native Son history, he's a part of it. He's the Great-Great Grandson of NSGW founder General Albert M. Winn, and has honored him for the past two years with the General Albert Maver Winn Birthday Memorial.

Burt loves to volunteer (which is why we love Burt). He's dedicated a great deal of his time over the past 6 years to both our Parlor and Grand Parlor, participating and performing in the community at musical events (he's a lifetime musician) as well as working many elections as an election worker in Marin County.

Burt embodies all the qualities of a true Native Son and Fairfax Parlor enthusiastically endorses him for the Office of Grand Trustee, an office to which he brings honor and experience. As we all say, "Win with Winn."

Please vote for Burt Winn for Grand Trustee.

The Officers and Members of  
Fairfax Parlor #307

## This Could be Your Article

What do you have to say? (Keep it short)

### April Birthdays

Apr 3rd: Kevin Codoni (21), Gerald Doherty (19),  
Michael Franzoia (20)  
Apr. 6th: Richard Holland (13)  
Apr. 8th: Raymond Shone (59)!!!  
Apr 11th: Herman Fruchtenicht (43) RIP  
Apr. 12th: David Franzoia (27), William Graves (35)!  
Apr. 13th: James Bliss (17)  
Apr. 14th: Stephen Bogel (43)!!  
Apr. 15th: Len Gaskell (26), William Menke (7)  
Apr 18th: Julian Chavez (21), Terry Lofrano (3)  
Apr 20th: Bill Madsen (21), Marty Marcucci (23)  
Apr 23rd: Scott Barrett (18), Craig Lieber (13), Jim Von Bima (26)  
Apr 24th: Brian McCarthy (24)  
Apr 26th: Frank Gallardo (56)!!! James Guthrie ()  
Apr 27th: Michael Codoni (40)!!

### FAIRFAX PARLOR OFFICERS, 2025

President – Bill Madsen      1<sup>st</sup> VP – Eric Bowen  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Chris Wand      3<sup>rd</sup> VP – Diego Garcia  
Treasurer – Chris Reilly      Financial Secretary – Rick Holland  
Recording Secretary – Kevin Courtz  
Newsletter Editor – Bill Madsen [uubmadsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uubmadsen@sbcglobal.net)  
Website Manager – Chris Wand [chrisnativesons@proton.me](mailto:chrisnativesons@proton.me)

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

### A NATIVE SON OF THE GOLDEN WEST STORY

By Russ Knudson

#### Chapter 25 - 27

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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