

VOLUME 54 OCTOBER 2026 NO. 10

Da Cunha for Fairfax Council!

Our own Brother Matt Da Cunha is a candidate for Fairfax Town Council in the November 3 election.

Matt joined Fairfax Parlor on June 6, 2023, and has been active especially as a member of our "famous" cooking crews.



A retired fireman, Matt seeks to bring a fresh face to the council and, if elected, will join Fairfax Parlor Brothers Mike Ghiringelli and Frank Egger on the council

There are several ways you can help Matt's drive to victory:

•**Lawn Signs**. Lawn signs are available. Order from his campaign website: www.mattforfairfax.com.

•**Volunteer!** Matt's looking for volunteers to canvass your neighborhood, host "meet & greet" and tabling events. If you want to volunteer, please visit his campaign website (above).

•**Follow Campaign** on instagram: @mattforfairfax.

•**Endorsement**. Your endorsements for our campaign matters. If you want to include your name as an endorsement on webpage, please let him know.

•**Marin IJ Endorsement**. You can submit an endorsement statement as a Letter to the Editor by emailing it directly to the Marin Independent Journal at opinion@marinij.com. Here are some of their guidelines; Keep it short (300 words or less), state your local connection, include contact details, and be direct and civil.

•**Numbers Game**. Matt said "The election is going to come down to numbers. Specifically, how many people I can make contact with so I can tell them who I am as a candidate for Fairfax Town Council. My community of contacts is not as large as OUR community of contacts. REQUEST: This is my personal request to all of you. I am asking you to talk to the other Fairfax residents that you know and tell them about my campaign. If they are not registered, please encourage them to do so. If they are registered to vote, please spread the word about me. And, if they are on board, please reply to this email with their name, address, phone number and email address. You can also have your friends and family email me at: mattdacunhaforfairfax@gmail.com or have them send their information to us through our website, www.mattforfairfax.com.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DUES PAYMENTS.
SEE PAGE 3

Old Timers' Night October 21

All Native Sons and prospective members are invited to Fairfax Parlor's Annual Old Timers' Night at our hall on Wednesday, October 21.

If you're a 25-year-or-longer member of Fairfax Parlor, or a parlor past president, we will honor you with a free dinner. Others pay $25. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7:30. Please make your reservation with Kevin Courtz, kcbscourt@aol.com or (415) 717-4018. See the flyer on page 7.

Nomination of Officers 10-7

At our October 7 business meeting we'll be nominating officers for the 2027 term. Current parlor officers normally succeed themselves, but we need nominations for third vice president and parlor financial secretary.

Nominations will be re-opened at our November 4 business meeting, with installation of new slate at our December 2 business meeting.

Benson for Town Clerk

Brother Debora Benson is a candidate for the office of Fairfax town clerk. Be sure to vote for her!

Endorsing Matt da Cunha

At our October 7 business meeting we will consider formally endorsing Brother Matt da Cunha for the election to the Fairfax City Council.

For many years, we believed that our non-profit status would be affected by political activities, but have recently discovered that this not the case, as quoted below from the IRS code:

"Political activity is not considered a fraternal activity. But engaging in political activity does not, in and of itself, give rise to revocation of exemption. Therefore, a fraternal beneficiary society, so long as it is primarily engaged in fraternal activities and the provision of benefits to its members and their dependents within the meaning of IRC 501(c)(8), may engage in some political activities, including intervention in political campaigns on behalf of, or in opposition to, candidates for public office, without jeopardizing its exempt status. See GCM 34985 (Aug. 10, 1972). Nevertheless, the organization would be subject to tax on its political expenditures under IRC 527(f)."

Attention, Chili Lovers!

Santa Rosa Parlor #28 will host parlors from District #14, Sonoma and Marin Counties, in a Chili Cook-Off Contest Tuesday October 13 at Santa Rosa's Hall, 3318 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa.

This competition is open to brothers from local parlors and might also include a few ringers... uh, special guests. All brothers are invited to bring family and friends to judge the chili. This is open to all!

After tasting and voting we will serve hamburgers and hot dogs with typical sides to go with the chili provided by our competitors.

The $20 fee for non-competitors includes everything and as always dinners at Santa Rosa Parlor include beer, wine, soda and water for a small donation.

Competitors contact SDDGP Mitch Laing at nsgw28mitch@gmail.com for full info and to register your entry. Please contact via email or call (707) 975-1541 by October 1.

Call or TXT Parlor Rep Deb Eynon at (707) 291-3646 by Friday, October 9, to reserve your seats. Remember to bring other brothers, friends and family as the more judges we have the better the outcome!

See the flyer on page 4.



Grand President Kris Nelson's belt buckle symbolizes California with its grizzly bear, sunrise and quail. "FLC" = Nelson's and the Native Son's long-time motto of "Friendship, Loyalty and Charity." Get one for sponsoring two new or reinstated members.



This photo spans the entire 151-year history of the Native Sons of the Golden West. Standing next to painting of founder General A. M. Winn is his great-great-grandson, Fairfax Parlor member and Grand Trustee Burt Winn.

St. John's Changes Direction

For many years the Native Sons of the Golden West has partnered with three hospitals in the care of children born with cleft palates and other craniofacial anomolies. We have donated millions of dollars to these institution and have been rewarded with heartfelt thanks.

One of the hospitals benfitting our donations was Providence St. John's in Santa Monica.

We have been informed that St. John's has decided to transition away from pediatric cleft lip and palate surgeries and the multidisciplinary services associated with this care, ending the Native Sons' relation with it.

Charitable Foundation Chair Paul Lapachet said "While this chapter is coming to a close, our commitment to to this important mission is not. The Foundation remains committed to helping children with cleft lip and palate receive the care they need.

"The Foundation's Board will undertake a careful process to identify and evaluate a qualified Southern California program to be our next clinic partner. We will not simply select a replacement organization. We intend to take this opportunity to review the Foundation's mission and strategic objectives as they relate to clinic donations.

"The process will take some time, but we believe it is important that we make the decision throughtfully and responsibly."

Fairfax Parlor News has been published monthly since 1972 for members and friends of Fairfax Parlor #307, NSGW. Announcements and advertisements are welcome; deadline for each issue is the 20th day of the previous month. Mail to Fred Codoni, nsgwfpc@comcast.net / (415) 459-7082.

IMPORTANT DUES NOTICE

As you may already know, Fairfax Parlor's transition from U. S. Mail to on-line dues notice can be called nothing but a disaster.

Bills were sent on-line to those who have e-mail and by U. S. Mail to those without e-mail. However, 50-year members and former Mt. Tam members received them, despite not having to pay. Others paid but there is no record of their payment. For the first time in its history, Fairfax Parlor does not have a financial secretary, one of the most important cogs in the handling of parlor finances. Work is being done to correct all the problems, but our records show that we have *no record* of payment for those members listed below.

If your name is on the list and haven't paid your 2026 dues, please send a check for $90 to Fairfax Parlor at 135 Mitchell Drive, Fairfax 94930. If you have paid your dues but your name is on the list, please notify the parlor at the above address, attaching cancelled checks or other items proving payment.

Fortunately, we understand future billing will be U. S. Mail for all members. Each member will also receive a bill if her or she is exempt from paying dues but suggesting they might wish to send a donation to one of our charities: Scholarship Fund, Cleft Palate Fund, Historic Preservation Fund.

We don't want to lose any of you, so please consider paying your 2026 dues or let us know you have already paid.

Abballo	Michael
Baker	Daniel
Barrett	Scott
Batz	Mario
Baumsteiger	Chris
Birkenseer	Jeff
Bodle	Tristan
Bonderud	Robert
Bonfiglio	Richard
Brown	Peter
Bruce	Robert
Carr	Elmer
Chapman	Bernard
Clerk	Wayne
Coverdale	Bert
Crane	Michael
Crowley	Brian
Cunningham	Geoff
Danz	William
Dineen	James
Doherty	Gerald
Escabar	Mark
Fassberg	Matthew
Fausone	Vince
Fiore	Mark
Foell	Richard
Fong	Derrick
Garon	Jeff
Geary	Ethan
Geraghty	Paul
Giuliani	Eugene
Glueck	William
Hanley	John
Hayes	Jack
Hayes	Ted
Herrerias	Paul
Hughes	Daniel
Hunt	Stephen
Hutchinson	Will
Jue	Michael
Kenilvort	Daniel
Lamson	Richard
Lee	Kyle
Linscott	Robert
Maloney	James
Marron	Michael
Menke	William
Miller	Kyle
Moresco	Ronald
Neil	Daniel
Ng	Gene
Oates	Rodney
O'Neil	Ryan
Parmenter	Ross
Paterson	Vince
Pizza	Jack
Reeds	James
Richards	Gyani
Rosa	Robert
Santa Cruz	Jeff
Schmidt	Chris
Seale	Jason
Siegenthaler	Mark
Simmons	Judd
Snow	James
Sousa	Michael
Souza	Paul
Strempek	Chris
Terhume	Kenneth
Towers	Matthew
Tregner	Tim
Wadleigh	Chris
Wheler	James
Woodward	Latham
Zischke	*David*



It took five cooks to produce the food for the October Luau at our clubhouse. Left to right Ron Maresca, Mark Biggin, Ethan Sparrow, Nick Cereghino and Peter Berkhout. Thanks, brothers!



Take pride in your parlor by wearing merchandise crafted specially for Fairfax Parlor by Brother Joe Tassone.

There's a patch (above) that you can apply to any garment, plus regular and trucker ats in several colors and 100% cotton shirts, also in several colors (see page 9).

You can order at a parlor meeting or by contacting Brother Joe Tassone at tassonejoe@hotmail.com.

An NSGW Family Tradition

By DON LEGNITTO

Louis Legnitto was an immigrant from Italy arriving at Ellis Island at 13 years old in the mid 1800s. With other immigrants, he worked on the trans-continental railroad, building the tracks west. He finally made his way to San Francisco where he started a produce market at 1856 Union Street. Later, he started the California Garage at 1776 Green Street which the family owned until the 1970s. At least one of his San Francisco-born sons, Frank A. Legnitto, was an active member of the California Native Sons of the Golden West organization, Presidio Parlor No. 194.

World War I started in 1917 for the US against Germany. Louis and his sons were patriots and strong supporters of the war effort, donating money the best they could. Against his mother's wishes, Frank enlisted in the army and went off to war. At the time, there were some motorized vehicles but very few tanks tanks or heavy artillery. Thus, the US relied mainly on rifle, cannon and machine gun artillery. The big guns were drawn by horses. Frank served in Company D, 347th Machine Gun Battalion, 91st Division in France where, sadly, he was killed in action (KIA) at the age of 26.

Details of his death vary but after the war, we were told by a fellow soldier that during a battle, the horses got spooked and reared up. Frank immediately jumped up to stop them from running off with the machine gun. He was accidentally shot and killed by his



own fellow soldiers firing behind the line.

Louis and his family were so devastated at the loss of their son, that when the government wanted to bury Frank in the San Francisco Presidio cemetery, His mother, Celestina, said "No" stating, "you took my son away from me, you cannot have him forever." Louis and Celestina bought a family cemetery plot for the family in San Francisco where Frank resides with his mother and family to this day.

Still today there is a California Native Sons commemorative memorial monument in Golden Gate Park labeled the "Doughboy Marker" bearing his name along with fellow NSGW soldiers who also died on WWI. Unfortunately, they cast his middle initials as "T" instead of an "A."

Frank's younger brother Albert, who also lived in San Francisco with his wife Louise (Traverso) had two sons, Frank and Ernest. Moving from San Francisco to Fairfax, this generation of Legnittos also became members of the Native Sons and served in Fairfax



Plaque on the Doughboy Statue in Golden Gate Park

Parlor until their deaths.

Ernest had three sons, Steve, Don and Bob, who also became members of Parlor #307. Don's son, Christian, remains a member of Fairfax Parlor today and represents a fourth generation of Legnittos participating in the history of the Native Sons of the Golden West.

We are not the only family with generations of Native Sons but it is a bit unusual to go way back to WWI.





Food Treats in North Beach
By CHRIS WAND

There were three kinds of places; paper napkin joints, cloth napkin cafes and tablecloth restaurants. When money wasn't tight, or a design client finally paid her a decorating commission, we'd eat in North Beach. Mike's Pool Hall, Vanessi's, Little Joe's, Swiss Louie's, La Pantera, Zim's, the Gold Spike and the Basque restaurants had different kinds of food. You become part of a place after you hear about it as a regular promised destination, go to it lots of times as a kid and you get used to the smells and the things you see there.

The Basque Hotel had a dark windowless dining room off Romolo. The owner spoke French to his wife. There was usually a friendly skinny old man with bags under his eyes sitting alone at the bar. The owner's wife cheerily called him "Nevada." I knew that's wasn't his real name, he made that up, she's was just making him feel better about his imaginary self. Nevada nursed his drink for hours and told the owner's wife tall tales. As it got late, he did not ride out into the snowy range, but retired to his little room upstairs. One evening we went to have dinner. The bar was empty.

Workingmen Come to Eat

Every workday evening a tide of workmen flowed up into North Beach from the docks and factories. Their clothes told you where they were from. The warehousemen who worked around Sansome Street and longshoremen who worked for the various stevedores on the docks usually wore little blue and white ILWU Union buttons on their plaid work jackets. They wore white snap-brim Lundberg Stetson hats that you never saw anywhere but around the docks. The bottom of their faces were sunburned. The Warehousemen were pale from being inside.

I saw railroad men from the State Belt Line wearing King of The Road overalls and engineer's hats in the diesel engine cabs when they pushed lines of cars along The Embarcadero. Later when I saw them eating in North Beach, they had changed into a suit coat and a starched white shirt but wore Levi's and black engineer's boots.

Workmen always wore short jackets with zippers or Eisenhower Jackets as Ma called them. Men who worked at the nightclubs wore nice shiny suit jackets with a handkerchief in the pocket and polished shoes. The wise guys that hung out on Broadway, walking from bar to bar, or hung out in parking lots, wore long coats with big pockets. You never knew what was under those long coats and they kept their hands in their pockets a lot.

Don't Talk to Everyone

Ma told me to not talk to the greasy guys and weirdoes. I had talked to one when I was young. He wouldn't leave us alone after that and I was too little to protect her. Guys like that sat sideways in their chairs when they drank beer and stared at the floor and never smiled, until a woman with lots of lipstick walked in, then they'd light up like a dog about to be fed, go challenge her with their words and sometimes put their hands on her body and she would hit them.

A guy like that attacked me in Mike's Pool Hall. He started screaming that I was Jimmy Cagney. He punched me in the shoulder hard a couple of times. Ma, holding me in her arms, turned sideways to protect me and yelled at him. Some men threw him out on his face onto Broadway and his head almost got run over by the back wheels of a truck.

The Pool Hall had great roast beef torpedo sandwiches that bled juice onto the French roll. I really liked the sardine sandwiches. The cook would put his cigar down on the counter, break the key off the can of sardines, unwind the top, pour the oil out onto the partially sliced open French roll and then lay the fish down in a row into the slot. On top of this he put big rings of purple onions. The bread had a hard ridge on top that ripped into the top of your mouth, but the part by the fish and the oil was soft. People played pool at Mike's, they ate and drank lots of beer. We'd sit there for hours with time measured out by the click of the balls.

There were subtle little differences in the way the men talked and acted. Those there all day were naturally rough and had exaggerated funny habits. Beatniks imitated them, trying to be part of the scene, but it didn't work. The old men wouldn't talk to the Beatniks and only talked to each other in their kind of Italian or grunted English.

Swiss Louies and Others

Swiss Louie's was a fancy place down the block at Kearny with white tablecloths. You had to dress up to go in there. They would not serve Beatniks. I ate there once when Ma couldn't find a babysitter. Across the street was Vanessi's. It was a Joe's-style restaurant meaning you sat on stools at a counter and watched them cook right there in front of you. Lots of secretaries from the Financial District that my mother knew ate there. I liked to spin around on the red leather stools until I got dizzy and fell off.

A woman used to come into different places around North Beach at night. She had a twisted mouth and looked like a dwarf we had seen in a Fellini movie. She sold gum, cigarettes and roses from a tray hooked to her belt. A strap around her neck supporting the tray in front. She walked up to tables and said "Buy a rose for the lady?" She smiled when I first saw her, but over the years, her face was more wrinkled and her back more bent by the strap around her neck. She was becoming a human serving tray and she no longer smiled.

Some afternoons, at Bon Gusto Pastry Ma bought me a hard, flat, orange rope-like pastry with glazed sugar shaped like a butterfly. While we sat there and Ma had coffee I could study the paintings up on the walls and high ceiling of little angels flying around making pastries and deserts. It was a Sistine Chapel of baby angels, using wooden paddles to lift cakes and cookies out of honey comb shaped ovens in the sky. I never figured out who painted them but they were really good.

Sign Up a New Member Today!

The strength of Fairfax Parlor is in its members. We rely on them for being parlor officers, cooking, helping with projects. We need to replace those who, unfortunately, have died or moved away.

If you sign up two or more new (or reinstated) members, Grand President Kris Nelson will reward you with a handsome belt buckle.'

Membership applications are available at the parlor office or at nsgw.org.


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NATIVE SONS OF THE GOLDEN WEST
Fairfax Parlor 307

Old Timers Appreciation Dinner

WEDNESDAY,OCTOBER 21, 2026

CANON SWIM & TENNIS CLUB - FAIRFAX

6:00 PM-Cocktails/Appetizers

7:00 PM-Dinner-Ribs,Salad, Vegetable and Beans,Dessert

Open to all Fairfax Parlor 307 Members

All 25 Year Members and Older and Past Presidents Free Dinner
All others $25.00/person

Please RSVP to Kevin Courtz
415-717-4018 or
kcbscourt@aol.com
by 10-18-2026
Attendance Limited to 70

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to our brothers

born in October

(Second number is years in Order)

Mike Marron - 1st (35)
Paul Herrerias - 2nd (28)
John Pesce – 3rd (20)
Ron Granucci – 5th[h] (30)
Dave Rohner – 6th (53)
Frank Egger – 7th (62)
Charley Monte – 10th (69)
Dan Trimble – 11th (39)
Claudio Casartelli – 12th (8)
Randy Tavenner – 12th (49)
Michael Crane -12th (2)
Chuck Trimble – 14th (35)
Pete Batanides – 14th (34)
Shane Smith – 14th (23)
Ted Van Midde – 14th (22)
Otis Guy – 14th (19)
John Vermeulen - 16th (19)
Paul Robinson - 17th (10)
David Biggio - 17th
Dan Hanley – 18th (42)
Willie Danz – 18th (10)
Chris Clark - 18th (4)
Christian Siegenthaler - 19th (11)
Shane Winslow - 21st (10)
Liz Fagan - 21st (1)
Mike Curry – 22nd (52)
Bill Addy – 23rd (22)
Reggie Vance – 25th (23)
Paul Souza – 26th (45)
Jeff Price – 26th (2)
Joe Morrison Sr. 27th (11)
Wade Acres – 27th (1)
Bob Arrigoni – 29th (63)
Scott Lafranchi – 30th (17)
Paul Coleman – 31st (11)

FAIRFAX PARLOR CALENDAR FOR 2026

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

Wednesday, October 7 – Business meeting, nominations for parlor officers for 2027, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday, October 13 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, October 21 – Dinner at the Parlor, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6. Old Timers' Night. Tuesday, October 27 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, November 4 – Business meeting, election of officers for 2027. 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Tuesday, November 10 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30. Wednesday, December 2 – Business meeting, installation of officers for 2027, 7 p.m. Bar opens at 6.

Saturday, December 5 – Parlor Christmas Party, St. Rita Hall.

Tuesday, December 8 - Lunch at the Parlor. Bar opens at 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:30.

Wednesday, December 16 - Christmas Potluck, 6 p.m.



We Provide Storage for Scouts

By JOEL BANTLY

Brother Sean Aguilar approached me at the beer booth and asked me to come over to the Scout booth to talk to their leaders. Their names are Hew Roberts, troop leader, Jennifer Frish, committee chair and Mary Beth Wentzall. I spoke with Hew at the fest and he was requesting some help with the storage of scout gear underneath the deck. At the July parlor meeting the subject was discussed and approved. Now we have something to brag about!

Photo shows Brother Joel presenting the key to the locker to one of the Scouts from what is now called "Scouting America."

FAIRFAX PARLOR MERCHANDISE



Hats above also available as regular adjustable hats.



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