

VOLUME 54 NOVEMBER 2026 NO. 11

Christmas Dinner is December 5

Fairfax Parlor's Annual Christmas Dinner will be held at St. Rita Hall on Saturday, December 5.

The evening begins with a selection of delicious appetizers, followed at 7:30 by dinner of salad, side dishes, dessert, wine on the table and choice of Rack of Lamb, Salmon or Filet Mignon. Live music will be provided.

Price is $75 per person, with reservations required from Kevin Couurtz. Send checks with entree selections to Kevin at 168 La Perdiz Court, San Rafael 94903. Reservation deadline is December 2.

This event is open only to Fairfax Parlor members, their ladies widows and guests.

Catering will be by Debbi Ghiringhlli.

For infomation, contact Kevin at (415) 717-4018 or kcsbcourt@aol.com.

Flyer is attached.



Brothers Kevin Courtz and Joel Bantly slurp some chili at Santa Rosa Parlor's Chili Cookoff October 13. Story and photos on page 2.

Great Turkey Feed Coming!

One of the premier events of Bay Area Native Sons is set for Friday, November 13: Petaluma- Nicasio #183's Turkey Feed. The feed will be in the large room at Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Social hour is at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7:30. Price is only $25 for a full Thanksgiving dinner. This event is open to everyone: Native Sons, ladies, guests. Reservations are available by calling or texting Brother Dan Foppe at (707) 849-2240, Kris Nelson at (707) 332-2376 or Joe Chapman (707) 481-6222. See the attached flyer.

Only One Lunch in November

Because it's so close to Thanksgiving Day, we will not have a lunch on Tuesday, November 24. All Native Sons and prospective members are invited to lunch on Tuesday November 10. Beer. Wine and soft drinks are available for purchase starting at 11:30, with dinner at 12:30. Price is $15. Reservations are not necessary.

Our last lunch for 2026 will be on Tuesday, December 8. It will be our traditional clam chowder feed.

Two Native Sons on Ballot

We're proud to have two Fairfax Parlor Native Sons running for Town offices.

Fairfax Native and retired fire fighter **Matt da Cunha** seeks a seat on the Fairfax Town Council, while **Deborah Benson** is running for Town Clerk.

Deaths in our Parlor

We lost two long-time members recently. **Bruce Bourne**, who joined Fairfax Parlor in 1985, after briefly being a member of the long-gone Redding Parlor and **Dave Garbarino**, who joined Mt. Tamalpais Parlor in 1970 and became a member of Fairfax Parlor with the merger with Mount Tam.

May they have eternal rest in the Grand Parlor on High.

Padgetts Win Chili Cook Off

By MATT MARCUCCI

The competitors for the first annual chili cook-off at Santa Rosa Parlor were Dan Foppe, Gary and Sean Padgett, Dean Zellers, Larry Schork, Lou Langlamet and his wife Irene, Joel Bantly, Kevin Courtz and myself. Winners were Gary and Sean Padgett.

Fairfax was well represented with myself Joel Bantly, Kevin Courtz and Sean Aguilar. Others were Tim Tullius and Bob Teal, and brothers who I was not familiar with and don't remember their names.

It was a wonderful evening filled with great camaraderie, brotherhood, great conversation and most of all great chili. After the chili tasting we got to vote. After the voting we had hot dogs and hamburgers. Dessert was ice cream sandwiches and other ice cream bars.



PGP Gary Padgett and son Sean's chili was voted the best in Santa Rosa's contest.

Membership News

Welcome to Brother Matthew Gabel, obligated at our October 7 meeting. Matt was born in Greenbrae, sponsored by former member John Saran (who moved out of state) and Kevin Courtz.

At our November 4 meeting, we'll be interiewing Mike Rubini (from Internet) and Patrick Santoro, sponsored by Michael Crane.

Parlor Officers to be Elected

Nominations will re-open for 2026-2027 Fairfax Parlor officers at our November 4 meeting. We still haven't a candidate for parlor financial secretary, one of the most important jobs in the parlor. For those contemplating volunteering as financial secretary, here are his duties.

•Receive all monies coming into the parlor and record each in the financial secretary's book.

•Transfer receipts to parlor treasurer.

•Prepare and mail dues notices to each member. The goal for completing this job is January 31.

•If dues payment is not received by February 28, rebill members who have not paid.

•Make reports as required.

Official Visit Fairfax November 4

Grand First Vice President Brice Walker will make his official visit to Fairfax Parlor on Wednesday, November 4, before our regular business meeting.

Each year, a team of grand officers tries to visit each Native Son parlors to check the parlor books and offer information about the state of the Order. Please be sure to welcome Brother Brice.

Here's Why to Vote Early

The complaints about the long time it takes to tally all the votes in a general election result from one cause: last-minute receipt of vote-by-mail ballots by the county registrar.

All of us have received vote-by-mail ballots and have plenty of time to fill them out and mail them, drop them off at a local box or bring them to a polling place. If the Registrar of Voters office receives vote-by-mail ballots days before the polls close, they will be counted at that time. Vote-by-mail ballots received by the registrar at polling places on election day or a couple of days earlier will be counted later, since verification requires matching signatures with county records—that takes time. For example, in the June election, the polling place at San Anselmo's Log Cabin counted several hundred mail in ballots that were placed in the outside box or in the polling place ballot box on election day.

It's simple: if you mail or drop off your ballot early, it will be included in election-night results. If you drop it off at the polling place or at an outside ballot box on election day, it cannot be processed immediately, so it will not appear in the election night count.



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.

Old Timers' Feast October 21

Fairfax Parlor 25- and 50-year members and parlor past presidents enjoyed a great meal and great Native Son comradeship at our Annual Old Timer' Night at our clubhouse on October 21. Thanks to all who worked to prepare the evening's events, especially Head Chef Fred Schwab.



Charley Monte is our longest-serving member of Fairfax Parlor with 69 years in the Order! His dad was one of our founding fathers.



Brother Fred Schwab has been cooking for Fairfax Parlor for many years. For our Old Timers' Night, Fred prepared an excellent meal of salad, ribs, green beans, baked potato amd dessert. Great job Fred!



Brother Mike Courtz (left), a 48-year member, came all the way from Dunsmuir to enjoy the evening with Brother Marty Marcucci.



Brother Steve Warner found a new friend, Lexi Pacheco, executive assistant in the Native Son's headquarters in San Francisco



Our master bartender Tom Texeira (right) has plenty of liquor and mix to serve and Brother Dave Franzoia is happy to help him use some of it.



Grand Trustee Brother Burt Winn (left) shares a moment with Brother Bob Burrowes at Old Timers' Night.

FAIRFAX PARLOR CALENDAR FOR 2026

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

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.

Friday, November 13 - Turkey Feed, Petaluma-Nicasio #183, Hermann Sons Hall, Petaluma

Thursday, November 26 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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.

Membership News

Greetings to Brother Matthew Gabel, who was initiated at our meeting on October 7. Matt hails from Greenbrae and was sponsored by former member John Saran (who has since relocated out of state) along with Kevin Courtz.

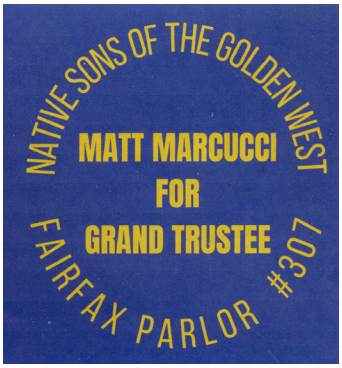
At our November 4 meeting we'll be interviewing Mike Rubino (from Internet) and Patrick Santoro, sponsored by Michael Crane.



Brother Mitch Laing (right) poses with newsletter Editor PGP Fred Codoni. Photo by Larry Schork; others by Fred Codoni.

Matt's Activities

Brother Matt Marcucci will be a candidate for Grand Trustee at the May Grand Parlor in Petaluma. Here's a list of his recent visits.



•September 5 -NSGW-ND-GW Admission Day luncheon, South San Francisco.

•September 8 – Vallejo Parlor business meeting.

•September 9 – Petaluma-Nicasio Parlor business meeting and official visit.

•September 10 – Excelsior Parlor (Jackson) HPF donation of $10,000 to the Kennedy Mine.

•September 12 – Board of Grand Officers meeting, 414 Mason

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The Wharfside

By CHRIS WAND

Ma got a big design project in 1966. The Haslett warehouse at Beach and Hyde was being remodeled into offices. Her first check allowed us to finally afford a phone. We sat around the house trying to think of a name for the project. I suggested "The Chandlery", or the "Ships Store," as appropriate, since it was next to Fisherman's Wharf. She thought "Wharfside" was better, so a large gold-leafed sign reading "The Wharfside" was placed high on the brick wall facing the cable car turn-around. That sign would last for at least forty years and the rest of her life. She worked with contractors, who at first gave her a hard time because she was a woman, but they came to respect her judgment about design and color after they saw the results of her decisions. A friend designed the lighting. The railroad siding along the Beach Street side of the building was replaced with a walkway and row of pine trees. Ma yelled at somebody on our new phone when she found out that concrete and plaster construction rubble had been dumped in with the soil around the new trees. "It'll be too alkaline—it'll hurt the trees!"

More Work

The warehouse brick and wood columns were sandblasted, interior walls were added, and big photo murals of men working in the warehouse in ancient times, fifty years before, were mounted on the walls in the lobby. Ma's word was final on the design of these things and it felt good to be there. I tagged along and watched the wool rugs go in, the final coats of paint, the stencils for new businesses being painted on glass doors. I dared to sit in a big swiveling leather chair at a manager's desk and pretend that I worked there.

Attractive women in their twenties with English accents were preferred and hired as receptionists on the Ferryboat Klamath, converted into design studios at Pier 5, in architects offices and at the Wharfside. They adored me with hugs and welcomed kisses and the golden curtains of their hair brushed my face. I expected that they would continue to adore me after I was a little boy and would be awaiting me in the future.

Del Monte Plant Gets New Future

Next door, the old Del Monte fruit-packing factory had been remodeled into another project, The Cannery. Shops and restaurants selling different kinds of high-quality merchandise and food moved in, in contrast with the t-shirt shops further down the Wharf. Except for occasional poetry readings, the Beatnik Scene faded away into a literary movement after a few years as people lost interest in it and had babies. The Hippie ethos was covering everything like a waterfall of honey.

City's Population Changes

People were moving into the city from all over America. They needed some way to make money. Musicians, comedians, mute people who painted their faces white, jugglers, everyone had some gimmick. There were no beggars, just performers and actors who set up around the cable car turntables, working for coins. Ben Johnson's Tavern opened in the Cannery. The women that worked there dressed in Old English costumes that showed the top of their busts. The Great Dickens Christmas Fair was held with troubadours and wonderful homemade things for sale at the Cannery. It seemed like the Renaissance, or Merry England, or some California version of it, was coming back and taking over parts of San Francisco in the way people dressed in bright costumes, the way they acted, played and thought.

Life Got Better

For the next few years people we knew slipped into the easy confidence of the world getting better all around them. Boisterous ideas prevailed. Incomes went up, jobs got better, wallets fatter. The City set up new institutions like free health clinics, schools improved, kids got more innovative school classes. Mustangs were joined by Cameros and Cougars. New shops were installed that sold high quality unique things not seen before, like British cookware, Asian fabrics and French foods. At the new Ghirardelli Square, we bought a set of inexpensive day-glow colored acrylic boxes at Takahashi Imports in which to store little things. Deserted areas around the base of Telegraph Hill attracted interesting new businesses like a rock music station, KSAN, architect's offices that took advantage of the big windowed empty warehouses, Danish Furniture Importers and a surplus store selling military oddities from Central Europe.

Northpoint Center and More

The Northpoint Center opened on the site of the Simmons Mattress factory. These new businesses and public places made a big impact on our lives as we had new destinations. An annex with studios and classrooms was built next to the Art Institute. Ma's friend Alexis was on the board of directors. He insisted they locate the cafe on the roof with a sweeping view of the bay, instead of in the basement, as planned. Ma and I could sit in the cafe for hours looking out at the million-dollar view of ships in the bay, Marin County and Telegraph Hill.

British Cars Invade

Eventually, there would be a series of restored buildings all over our part of The City. Great shops sold things that we usually could not yet afford, but might someday. English cars were coming into vogue. Menzies Imported Cars out on Geary sold them, as did the British Motorcar Company by the Cannery. On Union Street, frequented by the rich that lived up the hill, you'd see people standing around British made Triumphs, M.G.s, and Austin Healys parked in front of restaurants. They admired the wood interiors and the well-made leather seats of the cars. People drank exotic new style coffee drinks served in the warm dark interior of the Coffee Cantata and were happy and healthy.

We had a temporary economic boost. Seeing other people having it good made me feel good. There was new color, improvement and a sense that things were finally on the right track in the city that I now knew very well, and the country. It was clean, bright and mixed with the architectural past, fun and it seemed a trend that would go on forever. In shops around Union Square, the false ceilings were removed and beams exposed, the fluorescent lights replaced with big glass globes and spotlights. The Hippie designs for living were incorporated into square products that cost a lot, like women's clothes. I looked forward to growing up in this environment. Crowded streets were becoming an exciting circus and if I stayed home even for a few hours I felt like I was missing out on something in San Francisco.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to our brothers born in November

Mark Escabar - 2nd (28)
Kevin Geraghty - 5th (43)
Michael Allen - 5th (22)
Martin Thisner - 7th (1)
Charles Cate - 8th (22)
Matt da Cunha - 8th (1)
Anthony George - 9th (2)
Carl Augusta, Jr. - (46)
Wayne Stranton - 10th (10)
William Welhelm - 10th (51)
Michael Mackintosh - 11th (13)
Tiffanny Knef - 17th (2)
Michael Courtz - 20th (48)
Jim Arrigoni - 21st (19)
John Payne - 22nd (52)
Jeff Birkenseer - 23rd (8)
Peter Berkhout - 24th (3)
Phil Anderson II - 25th (19)
Lou Langlamet - 27th (13)
Don Legnitto - 28th (35)
Ron Potter - 29th (29)



NATIVE SONS OF THE GOLDEN WEST
Fairfax Parlor 307

ANNUAL XMAS DINNER

SATURDAY, December 5th, 2026
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: $75/person includes live music!
Reservation Deadline December 2nd, 2026
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)

NATIVE SONS OF THE GOLDEN WEST

PETALUMA-NICASIO PARLOR #183

Thanksgiving TURKEY FEED



NOVEMBER 13TH, 2026

LOCATION:
HERMANN SONS HALL
860 WESTERN AVE.
PETALUMA, CA



6:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR

7:30 PM DINNER

$25.00 PER PERSON

RESERVATIONS LIMITED TO 200

Please get your reservations in early!

RAFFLE

KIDS GAMES

CONTACTS:

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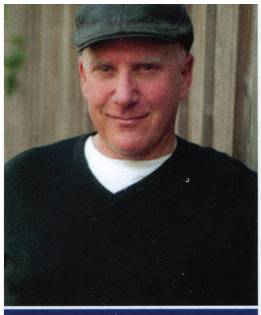


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