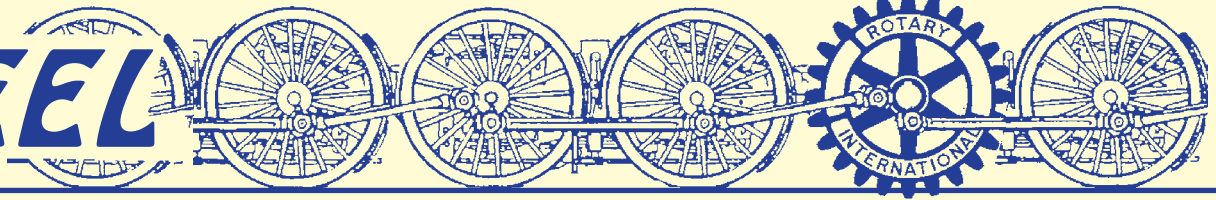


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



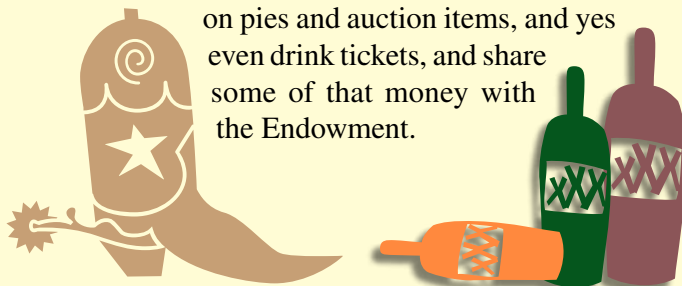
**January 29, 2021**  
**Vol. 72, No. 28**  
**Editor:**  
**Suzanne Bales**

## In the Beginning...

President Chris dinged the bell to open promptly on schedule. The lovely Jonas Center was his background, making us anxious for the day we can actually be present! Newer member Ed Ross led the Pledge while Peter Oser offered the 'Thought of the Day.' "Most of the things we put off until tomorrow needed to be done yesterday" and "A penny and a nickel aren't worth much, but the dime makes a good screwdriver."

## Non-Polenta Event!

Polenta cowboy Craig McCurdy extolled us to send in payment for the NON-Event, happening this February 6th at only \$50 per ticket. The evite has been sent. Please forward the evite to friends and neighbors. This is the biggest and **ONLY** fundraiser for the Novato Endowment so we all need to step up to the plate. Remember what you would spend on pies and auction items, and yes even drink tickets, and share some of that money with the Endowment.



## Paul Harris Awards



Next up, **Jorg Puhr-Westerheide**, Foundation chair extraordinaire. He had awards for the following members: **Nohemi Beissmann-Mason**, Paul Harris (PH) plus 5; **Homa Rassouli** (Jorg didn't have Homa's documentation), and **Phil Dougherty**, PH plus 6 and his first ruby.

## Marty's Moments

Next up, **Marty's Moments**, always a very special addition to our programs. **Nohemi Beissmann-Mason** was the featured Rotarian. This episode was filmed 4 years ago, and husband **Jerry** has since passed. **Nohemi** has been a Rotarian since 1999. **Nohemi** was born in Mexico City. She has one sister, 18 years older. **Nohemi** met her first husband **Ray Beissmann** while in Mexico. He was her conversational teacher from New York, with a Bostonian accent. When he first asked **Nohemi's** mother for her hand in marriage, the mother's response was absolutely no... she didn't want **Nohemi** moving to the United States. After **Ray** worked in San Francisco he came back again and this time the answer was yes and mother's approval was granted.

**Ray** started up his own business Rodex of California Pest, Inc. in 1975. Sadly, **Ray** passed away in 1985, leaving **Nohemi** with 12 and 16 year old girls, **Becky** and **Kerry**. There was no choice, **Nohemi** had to make the business work. She was the second woman owner in this industry. **Nohemi** sold the business in 1995 and stayed on as a consultant

*Continued on page 3*

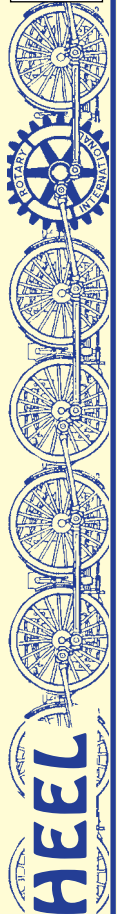
The Rotary Club of Novato

## NON Western Polenta Feed & Dance

Have you made  
your donation?

Send your check to:  
**Novato Rotary Endowment**  
**P.O. Box 657**  
**Novato, CA 94948**  
or visit  
[www.novatorotary.org](http://www.novatorotary.org)  
to pay with Credit Card





P.O. Box 657  
Novato, CA 94948

"Rotary Opens Opportunities"

### The Four-Way Test

"Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?"

**Where to Make Up**  
 Contact the Club you wish to attend for dates, time and virtual meeting code.  
 The District website lists the Clubs and websites for contact info at:  
[Rotary5150.org/clubs/rotary-club-directory/](http://Rotary5150.org/clubs/rotary-club-directory/)



**UPCOMING ZOOM MEETING**  
**February 5**

**"The Future of the Automobile"**

**Jon Haveman, PhD**

**Jon Haveman PhD:** "The Future of the Automobile". Jon will discuss, how our driving habits will change over the future. It is not limited to what kind of car we drive electric or gasoline it will affect our lifestyle. How we invest? Where we live? **Jon** and his non-profit organization National Economic Education Delegation (NEED) have a number of presentations to aid us in making choices money and living style. The talk on the automobile will give us a lot to think about. Jon will take the normal 1/2 hour but will spend more time after the meeting for those who want to learn more.

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## Upcoming Programs

### February

- Feb. 5 **Jon Haveman PhD:** "The Future of the Automobile". Jon will discuss how our driving habits will change over the future. **Jon** and his non-profit organization National Economic Education Delegation (NEED) have a number of presentations to aid us in making choices, money and living style.
- Feb. 12 **LOVE LETTERS** by A.R. Gurney and produced by our incoming president **Christina Stroeh**. This is a two person play will be the perfect time as valentines day is just two days away.

[www.novatorotary.org](http://www.novatorotary.org)

**ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO**  
**2020/2021 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

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Membership

**Burt Hoffmann**  
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

**Bill Vespa**  
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

**Ron Harness**  
Past President

for two additional years. It was during this time she met **Jerry Mason**. **Jerry** a pilot with a plane, and **Nohemi** did lots of traveling by air as well as lots of traveling in general.

**Nohemi** and **Jerry**, on a trip to Copper Canyon, Mexico saw a great need. They brought this need to our Club and support for Copper Canyon happened. With the first matching grant, potable water was brought to some of the small villages deep in the canyon. Multiple trips happened, but sadly because of drug cartels, the emphasis went from personal visits to scholarship emphasis. The Chihuahua Rotary Club has partnered with us and again and matching grants have been quite helpful. **Nohemi** is due another moment with **Marty** because she still has much to share!

## World Community Service

On to **Phil Dougherty**, World Community Service. **Phil** discussed International Projects funded. He also described the levels of where to find the money. Club money through Foundation interest and grants, then the magic money, Districted Designated Funds. The more our Club gives, the more Rotary International gives back. Some of the projects have been Copper Canyon Scholars, brought to the Club by **Nohemi**. This year we are providing \$3000 to cover scholarships and food.

Next with **Peian Harness** the lead, is Columbia. We help aid with a music program in Bogata. This after school music program helps keep kids focused and away from the drugs and gun violence of the street. We fund purchasing instruments and paying teachers.

On to Guatemala with lead **Marty Wickenheiser**. Hospital del la Familia sends through a foundation medical teams to deal with surgeries. We support keeping the hospital open with \$1500.

**Bill McDill** discussed Boys Town, Davao the Philippines. This is an off-shoot of a former program, the kidney transplant program. This assists indigent street kids while housing them, clothing them, and providing them with skills and training.

**Phil** also discussed a Uganda Water Project and Project Amigo in Mexico .

**Rob Marshall** is involved with a Guatemala Clean Water Project that also provides a water bottling system. These projects are completely funded, but in limbo due to Covid.

Also mentioned were Peru, building green houses and Ecuador led by **Holly Axtell**. This involves micro credits, setting up small businesses and then passing that money on to others.

**AlAngulo** is involved with Ojo De Agua, the theme of clean water and sanitation.

**Daryl Scott**, ex-Novato Rotarian bought our Club and his Lincoln Club into a project in Chapala, Mexico, again bringing clean water to the population.

Next up, **Jim Spilman** to summarize Community Service. Among the projects are a number of separate projects: VFW Hall (building a gazebo, a gate, a fence and outdoor carpeting); new blinds at Lynwood School's library; Novato Street Teams receiving 100 care packages, Brick Laying at City Hall (placing names of Novato Mayors and Citizens of the Year); Car Wash Fundraiser to raise money for our teachers; respecting our elders by helping Los Robles Mobile Home residents with upkeep; Blue Star Moms; replacing downtown tree lights with led lights; Helpers and Heros (treating under privileged kids to \$100 each to spend at Target during the holidays), North Bay Childrens Garden of Eden; Novato Youth Center Scholarships; Diaper Drive; Warm Wishes (backpacks for the homeless); scholarships for Novato High School Seniors; Summer Books (helping kids select books from the Global Book Exchange); and on and on...

Wow we need to be so proud of our Club and the volunteerism of all our members. I apologize for leaving out members involved with all these projects, but this bulletin would have gone on for pages. Last recognition is **Marty Wickenheiser**, 2020 Marin Realtors Community Service Volunteer of the Year. Well deserved **Marty**!!

## The Raffle

**Craig Anderson** walked away with the \$25. Whew!!!!

You've read the bulletin! Now's your chance to write it!

**Big Wheel Editors  
NEEDED**  
for the Months of  
**March, April, May, June  
& July**

**Contact Bill Vespa**  
Support the most interesting  
Rotary Club ever!

Help share the meeting with family, friends  
and members unable to attend.

What are you  
waiting for?



# Rotary Photo Album - January 29, 2021



*VFW Hall property improvements*



*PP Jorg honors Paul Harris recipients.*



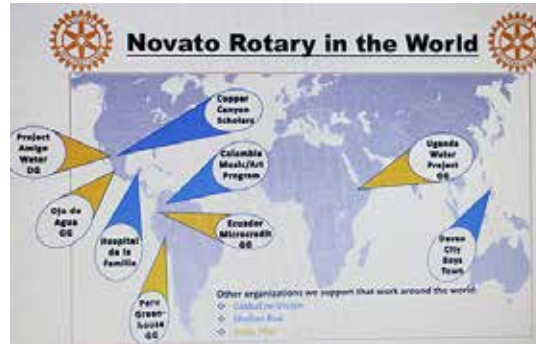
*Christmas Heroes and Helpers.*



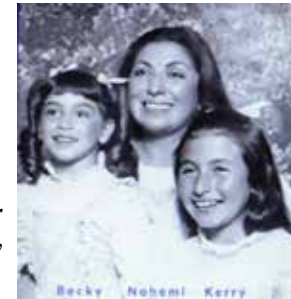
*Novato Olive Elementary window shades.*



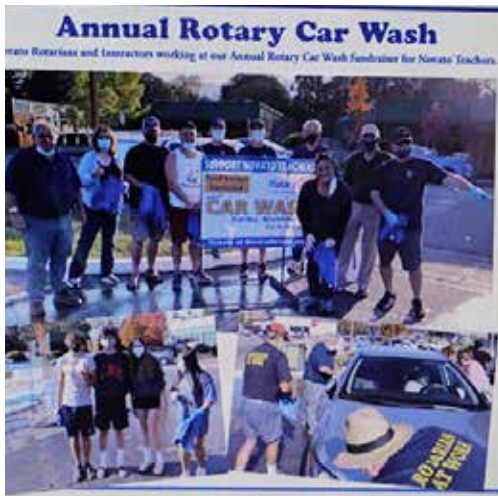
*After school Music Program.*



*Global scope of our International Projects.*



*Nohemi and her daughters Becky and Kerry.*



*Car Wash broke records.*



*Guatemala Water Project.*



*Marty's Moments with Nohemi Beissmann-Mason.*