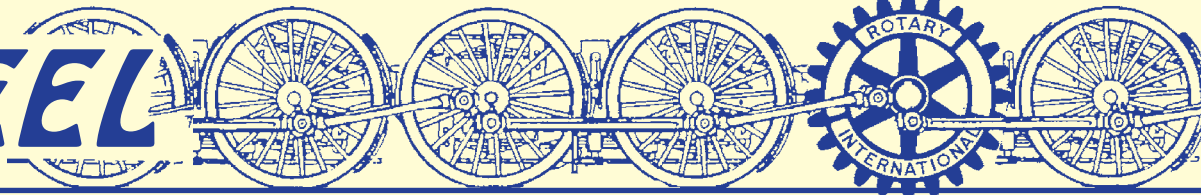


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**February 19, 2021**

**Vol. 72, No. 31**

**Editor:**

**Alan Dunham**

## In the Beginning

**President Chris DeGabriele** opened our meeting at 12:30 from the virtual broadcasting station of KRCN from the virtual lounge of the Jonas Community Center on the Indian Valley Campus of the College of Marin.

The Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag was led by **Rafelina Maglio**.

**Tony Garza**, whose family is experiencing the freezing weather in Texas was inspired to share his "Thought for the Day": "Friends, Family and Friends that become Family," help others in time of need.

## Raffle Rules

**Jim Spilman** explained the Raffle rules for two winners.

## Visitors & Guests

**President Chris** welcomed and thanked the following visitors for attending. This a partial list of visitors as no actual list is available: **Linda** and **Vic Pector**; **Madeline Kellner**; **Kathy** and **Scott Boyle**; **Duncan McSwain**; **Nick Zoa**; **Roberta Dunham**; **Vicki McDill**; **Gloria Dunn-Violin**; **Jo Heffelfinger**; and visiting Rotarian **John Reuscher** of the Novato Sunrise Club.

## Sunshine Report

**Larry Harrison** is working hard in rehab recovering from his shoulder replacement surgery.

**Donna Falzon** is doing pretty well recovering from her injuries after a tough year.

## Special Reports

### Polenta Feed

**Craig McCurdy** reported that the Polenta Feed Non Event netted a total of \$27,300 after expenses of \$90.00 in credit card fees. **Craig** thanked a number of donors and singled out **Jim Spilman** for help with the computer programs used and **Bill Vespa** for donations of printed materials.

### Thank You Letter and Valentines

**President Chris** acknowledged a Valentine Card from North Marin Community Services and several touching thank you letters from veterans and their families for the Target Gift Cards our Club sponsored through Blue Star Moms.

### Annual District Assembly

**Ron Harness** invited us all to register and attend a virtual Annual District Assembly to be held on March 20. There will not be training sessions, however there will be Committee Reports. There is no fee to register. **Ron** will participate in the World Community Services Committee Report. Register through the District Website at: [www.rotary5150.org](http://www.rotary5150.org). More later.

### Special Recognition

**Marty Wickenheiser** was recognized as the Community Service Volunteer of the Year by the Marin Board of Realtors. Well-deserved as we all know of her willingness to volunteer for many programs sponsored through our Rotary Club's Community Services Committee, many of which she initiates.

### Birthdays

The following members were recognized for their birthdays: **Ron Harness** said he celebrated last month in Taiwan where he and **Peian** were able to dine indoors at

a sushi restaurant; **Jean Brown** shares her birthday with Valentine's Day and received flowers, chocolates and calls from family members; **Don Violin** was celebrating his birthday with the Club as it is on the 19th, plus calls from his son and grandson; **Penny Hanson** is in isolation so hopes to have calls from her two daughters on her upcoming birthday.

## Program

**Gary Bramon** introduced our speaker **Sanja Kulenovic**, author of the book "Siege of Sarajevo-One Family's Story of Separation, Struggle and Strength." **Sanja** was born, raised, educated and married in Sarajevo. She and her husband were honeymooning in Pasadena in 1992, where she had previously been an AFS high school exchange student. When Sarajevo was put under siege they were unable to return and became refugees. She shared many stories of the city's history, diverse cultures, and struggles during the siege "where each new day was a new nightmare." She shared her personal experiences as a "stranded faceless refugee" trying to communicate with her family. Her and her family's communications are the basis of her book which took her 10 years to complete. More information can be found on her website at [www.sanjakulenovic.com](http://www.sanjakulenovic.com). Her book is readily available on Amazon, Kindle and through many book stores. Many of our members have read the book and have felt the pain that she and her family suffered.

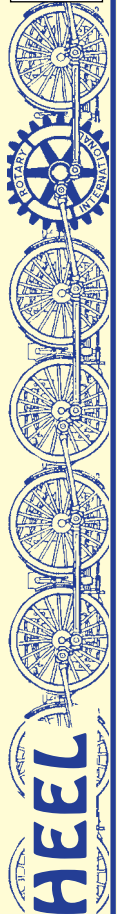
Her final point was we are going through a pandemic and the residents of Sarejevo were going through a siege.

## Raffle Winners

Big winners were **Debbie Brusatori** and **Kathy Cheek**.

## Next Week's Program

Next week's program will be Novato Police Sergeant **Alan Bates** speaking of "Novato Response Team." There will be plenty of time for questions.



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 26

**Novato Police Sergeant Alan Bates**

**Novato Police Sergeant Alan Bates** will talk about the job that he and his officers do on a daily basis. We will have an opportunity to ask questions and there are many questions to ask. An opportunity to learn about the procedures and how they handle things as homelessness, family arguments, and perhaps defunding - such a hot topic. We have seen him in two other settings and it was worthwhile for us to learn about.

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## Upcoming Programs

**February**

**Feb. 26** **Novato Police Sergeant Alan Bates:** Alan will talk about the job that he and his officers do on a daily basis. This is an opportunity to learn about the procedures and how they handle things as such as homelessness, family arguments, and perhaps defunding such a hot topics.

**March**

**Mar. 5** **Lori Frugoli:** Our own member, Lori Frugoli, is in her first term as the Marin County District Attorney. This position, like many of our political positions, has been controversial and difficult with the public not sure what they want. There has been a part of the public that wants more tolerance in sentencing; the three strikes law has been challenged; and free speech issues have been criticized. Lori will be sharing information on the launch of the Marin County Gun Safety Collaborative and Veterans Court. Lori will talk about many of these issues and will be prepared to answer your questions.

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

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

<p><b>OFFICERS</b></p> <p><b>Chris DeGabriele</b> <i>President</i></p> <p><b>Christina Stroeh</b> <i>Vice President</i></p> <p><b>Reggie Winner</b> <i>Secretary</i></p> <p><b>Jim Bates</b> <b>Debbie Brusatori</b> <i>Treasurer</i></p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p><b>Holger Knaack</b> <i>R.I. President</i></p> <p><b>Mary Bates</b> <i>District Governor</i></p> <p><b>Carola Detrick</b> <i>Assistant District Governor</i></p>	<p><b>DIRECTORS</b></p> <p><b>Craig Anderson</b> <i>Club Administration</i></p> <p><b>Michael Morrissey</b> <i>Public Image</i></p> <p><b>Jim Spilman</b> <i>Community Service</i></p> <p><b>Phil Dougherty</b> <i>International Service</i></p> <p><b>Jorg Puh-Westerheide</b> <i>The Rotary Foundation (TRF)</i></p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p><b>Shawn Campas</b> <b>Katie Chase</b> <i>Youth Service</i></p> <p><b>Christina Stroeh</b> <b>Sonia Seeman</b> <i>Membership</i></p> <p><b>Burt Hoffmann</b> <i>President, Nova-Ro Corp.</i></p> <p><b>Bill Vespa</b> <i>Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment</i></p> <p><b>Ron Harness</b> <i>Past President</i></p>
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# March

## SPECIAL DATES

- 3-6 Dave Kapranos  
3-9 Rhonda Crofts  
3-10 Alan Dunham  
3-11 Maryann & John Elloway  
3-12 Leslie Prado  
3-12 Linda Puhr-Westerheide  
3-14 Frances & Ben Borok  
3-14 Joy Fillman, PhD  
3-16 Brad Williams  
3-23 Robert Marshall  
3-24 Steve Ghirardo  
3-28 Roberta Dunham  
3-30 Robin Bruno  
3-30 Vicki & Bill McDill  
3-31 Debbie Brusatori  
3-31 Diane Oser  
3-31 Gilda & Dennis Hagerty



## The Rotary Club of Novato

**THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
NON-EVENT SPONSORS!**

**NON**  
**Western  
Polenta Feed  
& Dance**



**Mike Morrissey  
Alan Dunham  
Bank of Marin  
Kathy and Russ Ketron**

**Anixter & Oser  
Aero Heating  
Laurie and Phil Dougherty  
Sandy and Jim Bates**

**Alten Construction  
Bales Orthodontics  
Bay Builders  
Nohemi Beissman-Mason  
Toni and Gary Bramon  
Jean and Phil Brown  
Katie Chase Insurance  
Steve Delahunty  
Cindy Fulchiron  
Ghirardo CPA  
Dennis Hagerty  
Marin Landscape Materials  
Peian and Ron Harness  
Hennessy Funds  
H & J Tire  
Patti's Presents  
Craig McCurdy OD  
Maureen and Jay Wayne  
Linda and Jorg Westerheide  
Kathie and Brad Williams**



# Rotary Photo Album - February 19, 2021



Where is Sarajevo?



Guest speaker Sanja Kulenovic, author of "Siege of Sarajevo-One Family's Story of Separation, Struggle and Strength:



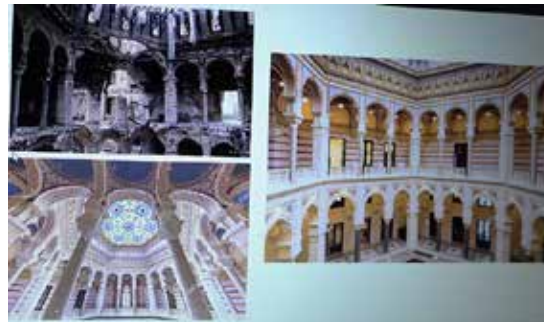
Gloria and Don Violin tell story of dinner and gunfire while in Sarajevo.



Bombing during symphony.



1984 Winter Olympics bobsled run.



Opera house renovated.

Wednesday

Dear Phil,

As President of the Project Amigo Board of Directors I would like to thank the Novato Rotary so much for your very generous donation. As you know, your Club was one of the first to support Project Amigo and your continuing support means so much.

I am happy to report that, despite COVID, the organization is thriving. Thanks to an amazing staff and supporters

like you we currently have 42 junior high students, 61 high school students and 58 University students. We are also sponsoring 3 students in vocational school. Our retention rate for the students is over 92%. Our over 70 university graduates are employed and giving back to their local communities.

Once it is safe to have visit visits again we hope that some of the members of Novato Rotary will want to come down.

Sincerely,  
Ja Simo

Thank you letter for donations made by Club members to Project Amigo.