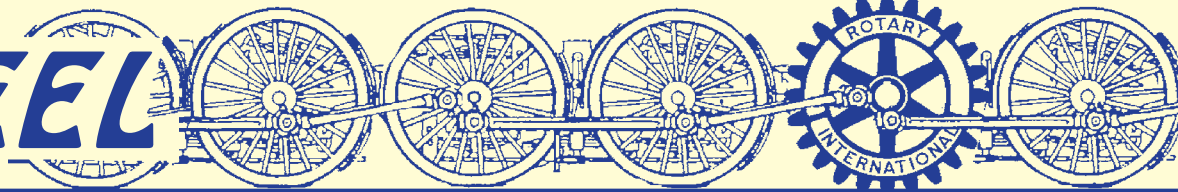


The BIG WHEEL

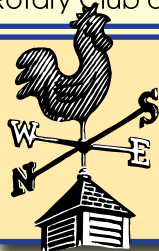


Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



July 15, 2022
Vol. 74, No. 2
Editor:
Suzanne Bales

Editor's Note: Due to supply chain issues, The Big Wheel will be printed on ivory paper until yellow is available.

In the Beginning...

Past President Frank Bruno opened the meeting. **Frank** was looking very handsome in his Rotary dress shirt, jacket and even a tie! Don't forget the perfect touch, his Rotary pin. He upped the dress code ante for the rest of us!

Maggie Shao offered both the Pledge and the 'Thought for the Day,' with "All it takes to be different and feel differently is to think and act differently. Make happiness and living a happy life your goal"

Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarians: **Cheryl Paddock** from Rotary Club of Ignacio.

Guests included: **Russ** with **Kathy Ketron**; **Marisa Remak** with daughter **Sadie**; and **Larry Harrison** with prospective member **Rebekah Shapiro Gonzalez**.

Visitors here because of the Scholarship Presentation included our dear **Peter Fulchiron's** posse's, wife **Cindy**, daughter **Yvonne Schmidt** and **Andy Pansini**. **Gary Bramon** introduced **Alina Moran** and her sister **Isabella** who attends San Marin. More on **Alina** later.

Sunshine Report

Jim Spilman is home and doing much better.

Scholarship Awards

Back to the nattily attired **Mr. Bruno** running our Scholarship Award Program.

Frank explained the scholarship program is 25 years old and started with members kicking in 50 cents even a dollar additional to their lunch cost to help fund the program. The first program awarded a total of \$500 in scholarships while today our Club is awarding a whopping \$76,000 in scholarships to 22 recipients. The high schools involved are San Marin, Novato, Marin Oaks and Nova.

Scholarships recognize those attending a 4 year college and also recognize the value of a community college and those looking for a vocational or trade school education.

The committee meets with every applicant and takes this privilege very seriously.

Some of the scholarships involved are: **Morrissey** Family; **Frank** and **Donna Falzon** Scholarship in memory of **Ryan Zirkle**; **Bill** and **Adele Jonas**; **Russ** and **Kathy Ketron**; **Ringgenberg**; **John Stuber**; **Kenneth Berg**; **Peter Fulchiron**; and the Rotary Club of Novato.

The plans and aspirations of these winners was something special to hear.

Gary Bramon had guest **Alina Moran** speak of what it meant to be a past recipient of a **Bill** and **Adele Jonas** Scholarship. She graduated from San Marin six years ago, graduated from SF State and managed nursing school, working 8-12 hours hospital shifts and still managed to get all her classes. **Alina** mentioned how much this scholarship helped her focus on school and achieve her goals.

Thank you to Club Members that volunteer for the Scholarship Committee: **Frank Bruno**, Chair, **Gary Bramon**, **Steve Delahunty**, **Warren Glass**, **Arlene Henry**, **Burt Hoffmann**, **Rafelina Maglio**, **Ryan Pocock**, **Jorg Puhr-Westerheide**, **John Ringgenberg**, **Sonia Seeman**, **Maggie Shao**, and **James Spilman**.

Announcements & Recognitions

Sky Diving to End Polio

Frank found himself with a half hour of time left so **Rob Marshall** stepped up to share his skydiving experience with a few select Rotarians. They raised over \$250,000 to end polio.

Maggie Shao took off a bit off the clock by sharing her bungee jumping story at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe (at the time the highest bungee jump in the world.)

Marin Community Services

Visiting Ignacio Rotarian **Cheryl Paddock** is the North Marin Community Services Executive Director. She briefly discussed what Community Services does, including \$2 million in rental assistance

Happy Birthday

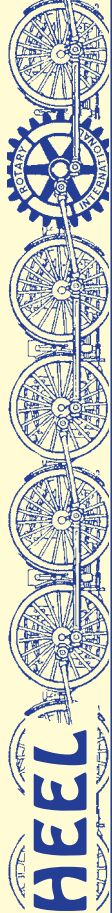
Burt Hoffman was recognized for a July 12th birthday and no, no jumping out of planes to celebrate.

The Winner

Sonia Seeman won the 25er.

The End

With a few jumping in to fill the last half hour of the meeting, a relieved **Past President Frank** banged the gavel and called the meeting closed!



P.O. Box 657
Novato, CA 94948

"Imagine Rotary"

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?"

Upcoming Rotary Club Meetings Bill & Adele Jonas Center

July 22
John Geoghegan:
Flying Dirigibles



Big Wheel Editors **NEEDED**

for the
Month of July and Beyond
Contact Bill Vespa

Support the most interesting
Rotary Club ever!

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

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/

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Upcoming Programs

July 2022

- July 22 **John Geoghegan:** Flying Dirigibles
July 29 **Club Board of Directors:** Club Assembly

August 2022

- Aug. 5 **Norm Gershenz** from SaveNature.org: Youth Exploring Nature, Hands-on Insect Discovery Lab
Aug. 12 **Lori Frugoli & Shelly Scott**
Aug. 19 **Jack Gedney** from Wild Birds Unlimited: Natural History of Notable Novato Backyard Birds
Aug. 26 **Dora Zuñiga** - Donor Director from Project Amigo: Project Amigo Yesterday and Today

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2022/2023 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Peian Harness
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Phil Dougherty
Vice President

Tom Rickey
Phil Dougherty
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Reggie Winner
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Jennifer E. Jones
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Club Administration

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Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)

Holly Axtell
International Service

Jorg Pühr-Westerheide
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

Lynn Dawson
Youth Service

Chris DeGabriele/Larry Harrison
Membership

Sonia Seeman/Christina Stroeh
Jonas Center Liasons

Dean Heffelfinger
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Rob Haff
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Christina Stroeh
Past President

Rotary Responds: Support for Ukraine

The Rotary Foundation and Rotary clubs around the world have hurried to provide funds, supplies, and services to Ukrainians displaced by the war.

The Rotary Foundation has raised more than \$15 million in contributions that are already helping provide people in Ukraine with essential items such as water, food, shelter, medicine, and clothing. Donations made to the Disaster Response Fund after April 30 will be available to all communities around the world that need assistance recovering from disasters.

A Family that Stands by You

Soon after Russia invaded Ukraine, Iryna Bushmina fled her home in Kyiv and journeyed to Vienna, Austria, staying with Rotary members along the way. Their generosity inspired Bushmina, a member of the Rotaract Club of Kyiv-City, to organize a larger-scale relief effort — and now, she works with Rotaract Europe to find shelter for thousands of refugees through a website called United for Peace.

“I used to just say that Rotary International is a big family. Now I really believe it,” Bushmina says. *“And I am convinced that this is a family that will stand by you.”*

Music for Peace

Olena Bondarenko Hiraishi grew up in the city of Dnipro in eastern Ukraine. Her father is Ukrainian, and her mother is Russian. At the age of 21, she moved to Hiroshima, Japan, where she met her husband, Masashi, a member of the Rotary Club of Hiroshima Southwest. When the war against Ukraine broke out, Satoshi Saginaw, then governor of District 2710, invited her to talk with the Hiroshima Southwest club. Bondarenko Hiraishi connected the Japanese club with Rotary leaders in Ukraine to assist in the relief work.

Rotary Clubs Unite Across Continents

Rotary members in North America, South America, and Europe have collaborated with a U.S.-based association of Ukrainian health care workers and used their connections to collect and ship more than 350 tons of critical medical supplies to Ukraine. As of May, five cargo planes packed with medical supplies such as tourniquets, blood-clotting gauze, negative pressure wound therapy equipment, and medications have been flown from Chicago to Europe, where members have helped deliver them to Ukraine.

“It is Rotary doing what Rotary does best. It networks, pulls people together, and gets the job done,” says RI Director Pat Merryweather-Arge, who has helped coordinate the shipments.

North American and Argentine Rotary clubs combined their resources to purchase medical supplies and worked with pharmaceutical companies and medical equipment manufacturers to arrange donations. For example, a hospital in Peoria, Illinois, sent an ambulance and networked with others to have seven ambulances shipped to Ukraine.

Supplies streamed into a warehouse operated by the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America near Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport. Rotary clubs in Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Iowa collected supplies to ship to the warehouse.

“It’s amazing what one Rotarian talking to another Rotarian can accomplish,” says Marga Hewko, immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Chicago.

Rotary Clubs in Ukraine are Leading Relief Efforts

Ukraine has 62 Rotary clubs and seven satellite clubs — about 1,100 members in total, as well as 25 Rotaract clubs that combined have more than 300 members.

The Rotary Club of Cherkasy purchased medical supplies and medicine and delivered them to local hospitals. Members of the Rotary Club of Kharkiv International have traveled to border countries to help refugees adapt to their new situations and have worked, through their project Yellow Help, to evacuate families near war zones.

The Rotary Club of Kyiv Synergy collected 350 boxes of medical supplies from Italy and distributed them to areas within Kyiv and Sumy.

The Rotary Club of Kyiv-Sophia prepared hot meals and delivered them to residents of Kyiv and its suburbs of Irpin and Bucha. Members purchased hygiene products and medicine and delivered them to young mothers and the elderly.

Her youngest son, who studies the violin, also joined the effort — through music. He and a pianist friend performed at a series of chamber music concerts in the spring, and the proceeds have gone to support Ukrainians.

“I think music is a universal language that can be understood by people from any country,” she says. *“My son says he will play it with the utmost prayer for peace.”*

Lessons from a Hurricane Hot Spot

“Maria, Dorian, Michael...” Padraic E. “Pat” Mulvihill is rattling off a list of the hurricanes he’s responded to as a disaster relief coordinator for his Rotary district (6970) in northeast Florida. The storm-tested logistics networks he has helped set up are what have made Rotary members in the Jacksonville, Florida, area so effective at responding to

“It’s amazing what one Rotarian talking to another Rotarian can accomplish,”

Marga Hewko, immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Chicago.

the war against Ukraine, including helping find housing for around 140 refugees.

“We have the institutional knowledge already in place and the infrastructure,” explains Mulvihill, a semiretired business executive who has served as an infantry officer, paratrooper, and Green Beret in the U.S. Army Reserve.

His district’s Rotary clubs have raised more than \$95,000 for Ukraine relief efforts. They have channeled food, protective equipment, and EMT supplies to Ukraine. They even organized a day at the Jacksonville Zoo for the children of refugee families.

Rotary Relief Efforts in Europe

Poland has taken in more than 3 million refugees, and Rotary clubs all over the country created a central account for contributions. The Rotary Club of Olsztyn collected and managed donations for more than 150 Ukrainian refugees, most of whom are unaccompanied children whose parents stayed in Ukraine. Four cars full of supplies including food, clothes, toiletries, and toys were donated to a local refugee center hours after it began accepting refugees.

Also in Poland, members of the Rotary Clubs of Zamosc and Wolsztyn partnered with other organizations to collect supplies and equipment. Members of the Rotary Club of Gdansk Centrum have provided accommodations and jobs for four refugee families.

In Germany, the Rotary Club of Berlin Platz der Republik, supported by the Rotary Club of Berlin International and the Rotary E-Club of Wall Street New York, has developed a housing-specific platform called Spaces for Ukraine. Nearly 400 refugees have found homes through the site, and 925 host families have registered.

In Hungary, the Rotary Club of Kisvárdá coordinated contributions and mobilized members to donate necessities and deliver the items to where they’re needed. Rotary members in Romania and Moldova used WhatsApp to organize shelter for refugees. In Slovakia and the Czech Republic, clubs partnered with a railway and cargo company to transport some 2,300 refugees to safety.

This story originally appeared in the July 2022 issue of Rotary magazine.



Scholarship recipients with Scholarship Committee.



Peter and Cindy Fulchiron Community Scholarship presented by their daughter Yvonne Schmidt.



Sky Dive for Polio - Rob Marshall describes the tandem barrel roll.

