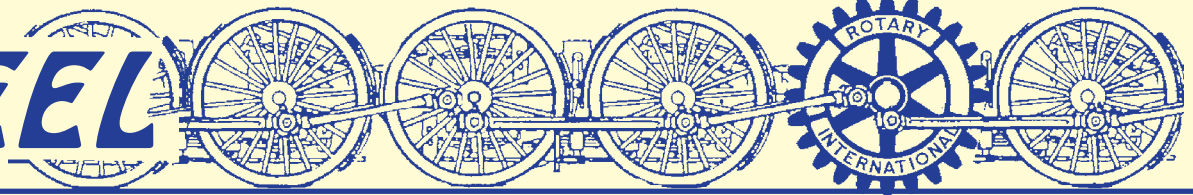


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**January 10, 2025**  
**Vol. 76, No. 20**  
**Editor:**  
**Chuck Stayk (Dean H.)**

## Call to Order

**Prez Tommy** rang da bell and reminded us it's the things we do and who we are that makes us great.

## Pledge & Thought

**Mark Bosch** led us in the pledge and gave us the thought for the day: "The man is a success who has laughed often and loved much; Who has filled his niche and loved his task; Who leaves the world better than he has found it; Who looked for the best in others and gave the best he had." **Robert Louis Stevenson.**

## Visitors & Guests

**Tony Villanueva** was here. **Tony** could join **John C.**, **Dean H.**, and **Marty W.** in our four spoken vowels Club. **John Christman** from Mill Valley was here. Oops! I forgot to mention that **Tony** was from San Mateo Rotary. There was a guy here from Novato Sunrise, but he didn't sign in.

**Jim Spilman** intro'd **Diane** (TLOHL). While **David Gabriel** intro'd **Stan Green** and his daughter, **Carrie Gabriel**. **Alan Dunham** intro'd my and **Delyn's** neighbor, **Roberta Dunham**.

## Special Dates & Anniversaries

**Roy Pfeifer**, **Shawn Campas** and **Marty Wickenheiser** all celebrate birthdays this week. No wedding anniversaries were announced. Years in Rotary membership were **John Ringgenberg** with 23, then **Tom Bales** with 41 and the old guy **Ben Borok** with 49 years! Oops! Also **John Reuscher** with 23 years.

## Announcements

### Western BBQ

**Peter Pelavin** announced that Western BBQ event tickets are now available for \$75 each. If you want to make a donation to the Endowment, please buy the \$200 Gold Rush package which includes an event ticket, \$125 donation to the Endowment and entry in a drawing for a week in Cabo!

**Tiffany Fischer** is looking for homemade pies, cakes, or fancy cookie donations for the Western BBQ Pie Auction. Please call her on 415-847-2862 if you would like to bake a cake, pie or cookies.

### Novato Speaker Series

**Lynn Dawson** reminded us of the Novato Speaker Series on the evening of January 23, here at the Jonas Center. The speaker is well known and will speak about Astronomy.

### Friday January 17th Speaker

**Gloria Dunn-Violin** told us not to miss next Friday, there's a great speaker, **Steve Bender**.

### Gold Bricking

**Jim Spilman** told us we can lay bricks today at City Hall and/or pull weeds tomorrow at Loma Verde.

### Super Bowl Pool Signups!

**Chris Degabriele** is looking for signups for the Super Bowl Pool. \$20 a square and you could win \$1,000!

### To Be or Not to Be

**Ron Harness** announced our Rotary District is offering a PRLS (Potential Rotary Leaders Seminars) speaker training class. See **Ron** for details.

### Donation Update

**Larry Harrison** told us \$1,300 in gift cards were donated for veterans in 2024.

### Lastly...

**Prez Tommy** told us there were several errors in last week's Big Wheel, I and **Bill Vespa** deny this of course. No matter how true it may be. By the way, **Bill Vespa** is looking for more editors. Call or email him.

## Trivia

**Prez Tommy** presented his trivia this week which was mainly about **Jimmy Carter**. Here are the answers:

1. He's the only past president to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
2. Watergate and the Vietnam War helped get him elected.
3. **Jimmy** initiated two new U.S. departments: Energy and Education
4. The main reason **Jimmy** left the Navy after an eight year career was to take over the family peanut farm after his father's death.
5. On **Jimmy's** second day as U.S. President, he pardoned the Vietnam Draft evaders.

*Continued on page 3*

# TGIF

**Friday January 24<sup>th</sup> • 5:00 - 6:45 pm**

*(stamp club comes at 7!)*



**Novato Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**844 Sweetser Ave., Novato**



*No host bar - Bring Cash and reminder the VFW bartender is provided and just works for tips*

*Nibbles will be provided by the Club*



**Great time to mingle and mix with Rotarians!**

*See you there and thanks to Tiffany Fischer for assisting in setting this up!*

**Questions? Contact Suzanne Bales 415-250-4859**

# The BIG WHEEL

P.O. Box 657  
Novato, CA 94948

## 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?"

## Prof. Alex Filippenko, PhD Exciting Results from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope!



**The Bill and Adele Jonas Center  
Thursday, January 23 • 7 pm to 8:30 pm**

Alex Filippenko is an elected member of both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, is one of the world's most highly cited astrophysicists. His scientific accomplishments, documented in nearly 1200 research papers, have been recognized with numerous prizes. He was the only person to have been a member of both teams that revealed the accelerating expansion of the Universe, a discovery that was honored with the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics to the teams' leaders. He is a frequent user of the Hubble Space Telescope and JWST. Winner of the highest teaching awards at UC Berkeley and voted the "Best Professor" on campus a record 9 times, in 2006 he was named the Case/Carnegie National Professor of the Year among doctoral institutions. He has produced 5 video courses with The Great Courses, coauthored an award-winning astronomy textbook, and appears in more than 120 television documentaries.

**Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15**



### E-MAIL or SNAIL MAIL?

If you would prefer to receive only the emailed version of the Big Wheel, please email Bill Vespa at [zip@sonic.net](mailto:zip@sonic.net). By going to delivery by email only, you will also lower our Club expenses.

## Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



**Empathy**  
ESTATE PLANNING

[www.empathyestateplanning.com](http://www.empathyestateplanning.com)

## Upcoming Programs & Events

### January 2024

Jan. 17	<b>Steve Bender:</b> Embracing the Future While Respecting the Past
Jan. 23	<b>Novato Speaker's Series:</b> Prof. Alex Filippenko, Ph.D. - Exciting Results with NASA's James Webb Space Telescope
Jan. 24	<b>Social event</b>
Jan. 31	<b>Meeting</b>

### February

Feb. 7	<b>TBD</b>
Feb. 8	<b>Western BBQ &amp; Dance</b>
Feb. 12	<b>Board Meeting at Jonas Center</b>
Feb. 14	<b>Social Event</b>
Feb. 21	<b>Fire Marshall L Osgood: Wildfire Prevention</b>
Feb. 28	<b>NPD Canine Program</b>

### March

Mar. 7	<b>Scott Plakun: Rotart - DEI</b>
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## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2024/2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

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*Vice President*

**Peian Harness**  
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**Stacie Vance**  
*Assistant District Governor*

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**Peter Pelavin**  
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*Jonas Center Liaison*

**Dean Heffelfinger**  
*President, Nova-Ro Corp.*

**Peter Oser**  
*Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment*

**Phil Dougherty**  
*Past President*



6. **Jimmy** helped eradicate the Guinea worm in Africa.
  - 7 In 1999 **President Bill Clinton** honored **Jimmy** with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
  8. **Jimmy** negotiated the Panama Canal Treaty, the Egypt & Israel Peace Treaty, and the Strategic Arms Limitation talks.
  9. The engineering building at the Naval Academy and a Seawolf Submarine are named after **Jimmy**.
- Thank you, **Jimmy Carter**. **Prez Tommy** then asked three additional questions and here are the answers.
10. **President Abraham Lincoln** on January 1, 1863, New Year's Day, issued the Emancipation Proclamation.
  11. On New Year's Day, 1934 the first prisoners arrived at Alcatraz Island.
  12. On New Year's Day 1890, the first Rose Parade was held.

## Speaker

**Moses Jacob** introduced our speaker, **Stephanie Edgerton** a field sales representative for See's Candies! **Stephanie** has worked for See's for 12 years. Before See's, **Stephanie** worked for M&M/Mars candy company for 10 years. **Stephanie** told us about the history of See's Candies. **Mary See** started homemaking candy for her husband's hotel in Ontario, Canada. After her husband's death, **Mary's** son moved the **See** family to Los Angeles and opened a store in the early 1900's. See's Candies also opened a factory in San Francisco in the 1930's.

## Raffle

**Eliza** won the raffle!



**Rotary**  
Club for Global Action



**RCGA Club meeting**

**Tuesday, January 21st**  
**9 AM PT**  
via Zoom  
[www.rotaryglobalaction.org/calendar](http://www.rotaryglobalaction.org/calendar)

**Robbie Gaines**  
will be our guest to share about his experience on deployment in Asheville and discuss how disaster relief organizations can best work together to ensure a smooth recovery process for the impacted community



**30th Annual**

Proceeds Support Community and International Service Projects

**Rotary**  
Club of Novato





# Western BBQ & Dance

**LIVE MUSIC**  
Featuring  
Dennis Hagerty  
and Blind Date

**BIG SKY AUCTION**

**Bill & Adele Jonas Center**  
**IVC Campus**  
1800 Ignacio Blvd, Novato

## Saturday, February 8, 2025

5:30 - 6:30 - BELLY-UP to the Bar  
6:30 - Dinner  
Auctions through the Evening

**CU**

**PIE AUCTION**

### Gold Rush Ticket Package

Purchase one \$200 event ticket package and get a single entry in a drawing for one week at the Playa Grande Resort in Cabo!  
Additional event tickets may be purchased for \$75 each, subject to availability.

Tickets are Available From Novato Rotary Club Members  
Last day to purchase tickets is January 31, 2024!

Please make checks payable to:  
Novato Rotary Endowment  
P.O. Box 657 • Novato, CA 94948

**NO Tickets at the Door!**





*Spilman and Crew at Loma Verde School*



*PE Lynn & John Christman  
(PP from Mill Valley club)*



The Speaker is Stephanie Edgerton. She described the History of See's Candy and filled our tables of assortments. Oh my!



*Ron, Tony Villanueva (DG for 2027-2028), Larry, Jim*