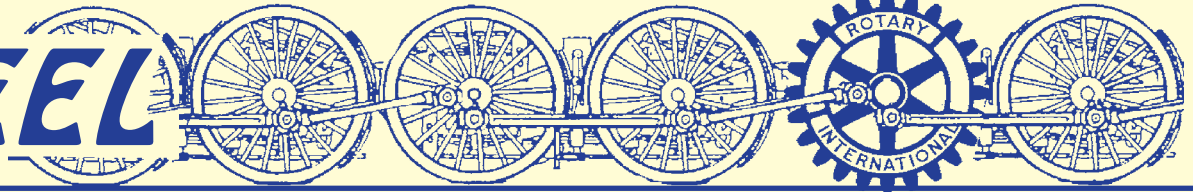


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



January 12, 2024
Vol. 75, No. 25
Editor:
Maggie Shao

In the Beginning

President Phil opened the meeting at 12:15 and thanks to Dee's Catering we had a delicious lunch of tofu stir-fried with veggies, turkey meatloaf, mashed potatoes, brussel sprouts, fresh green salad, fresh fruits, warm peach cobbler and chocolate chip cookies. **Dean Heffelfinger** led us in the Pledge and **Ryan Lee** provided the 'Thought of the Day,' he and his wife are inspired to be grateful and this quote from **Eckhardt Tolle** embodies that feeling of gratitude "Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance".

Guests and Visiting Rotarians

Visiting Rotarians today were **District 5150 Governor, Laine Hendricks**, our speaker from San Francisco 2 and **Stacey Vance**, Assistant Governor from San Rafael Evening. **Prez Phil** introduced first lady **Laurie Dougherty** and his eldest daughter **Shayla**. **Lynn Dawson** introduced **Lisa Byman**, who is visiting local Rotary Clubs to get involved in community service. **Rob Marshall** introduced **Eliza Roesler**, she is in the process of applying to our Club, and **Marty Wickenheiser** introduced guests **Fritz Bullman** and **Jackie Cormier**. **Jim Botko** brought his beautiful bride **Kathy**.

Sunshine Report

Marty W. reported that **Craig Anderson** is out of the hospital and doing well after surgery to remove "bad stuff" from ear to his neck.

John Reuscher spent the holidays with **Michael Reuscher** (Michael having already survived two double lung transplants and currently in need for a kidney transplant.) **John** is grateful for all those who have donor stickers on their drivers' license.

Jim Spilman talks daily with **Gary Bramon**, who is recovering from bronchitis and doing better.

Announcements

H2Open Doors

Rob Marshall enthused to report the shortfall of funding was reinstated and increased from \$5,000 to \$8,000 and the additional \$3,000 will be used to buy computers for Rotary RACHEL Project.

World Community Service

Holly Axtell wanted to remind us about the \$500 grant. This grant is available to help support projects that Rotary Clubs you may visit or know when we travel abroad that have projects that need some funding, this may also lead to further collaboration on potentially larger global grant projects

Lynwood Elementary School Project

Due to rain forecast, **Jim Spilman** has amended work project for installing benches for Sunday and Monday (MLK Holiday) Jan 14-15, and the following Saturday and Sunday, Jan 20-21.

Upcoming events

Magnolia Project

Burt Hoffman and **Prez Phil** had a meeting with **Gianna Biaggi**, director of Magnolia Project, to foster Rotary's business connections to offer middle and high school students vocational and experiential learning. **Gia** will be at our next Friday meeting with a table to find mentors and businesses to support this project. Sitting at my table, **Captain Sasha D'Amico** shared that the Novato Police will host two students for this program.

29th Annual
Proceeds Support Community and International Service Projects

Rotary Club of Novato

Western BBQ & Dance

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

Saturday, February 10, 2024

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

LIVE MUSIC
Featuring
Dennis Hagerty
and Blind Date

BIG SKY AUCTION

PIE AUCTION

\$65 per Person
Tickets are Available
From Novato Rotary Club Members
Please make checks payable to:
Novato Rotary Endowment
P.O. Box 657 • Novato, CA 94948

Tickets may also be purchased at
novatorotary.org or use QR Code below

NO Tickets at the Door!

Event Proceeds Fund the Novato Rotary Endowment a 501(c)(3)

All CDC, State and Local COVID Guidelines will be followed

Western BBQ and Dance

Bill Vespa wanted to acknowledge **Jim Carriere's** Live Auction Item of Crayfish Feed for 10, and anyone else with similar auction items, please let him know. **Larry Harrison** was at the meeting selling \$65 tickets for BBQ, Buy those tickets! You'll have a chance to lasso a bull! Bavarian Cowboy **Jorg Puhl-Westerheide** showed off his bull he built for the event and after a demo, asked for volunteers to try it out. Our speaker **Laine Hendricks**, a seasoned horse woman in her cowboy boots, managed to rope one horn after 3 tries. **Peter Pelavin** and **Rene Prado** also came up to try their roping skills.

Continued on page 3

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?"



Featuring
Dr. Michael Pritchard & Mark Dale

The Bill and Adele Jonas Center
Thursday, January 25th
7 pm to 8:30 pm

Prepare for an unforgettable evening! Purchase your tickets today for the Novato Speaker Series, showcasing Mark Dale, a passionate activist fighting the opioid epidemic, and Dr. Michael Pritchard, a nationally acclaimed keynote speaker celebrated for his unique talent in blending humor and inspiration. The compelling narratives of Mark and Michael will leave you feeling motivated, uplifted, and sporting a heartwarming smile. Seize the opportunity to be part of this exceptional event – secure your tickets now!

Tickets: Adults \$25 • Students \$10

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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Upcoming Programs & Events

January 2024

- Jan. 19 **Marcus Combs, Retired Golden Gate National Park Ranger:** How the Bay Area changed through the 1950's
- Jan. 25 **Novato Speaker Series:** Dr. Michael Pritchard and Mark Dale
- Jan. 26 **NO MEETING**

February 2024

- Feb. 2 **Professor John Quigley:** Palestine & International Criminal Court History
- Feb. 9 **Karen Beale:** Society of Women Engineers
- Feb. 16 **Mike Morrissey:** Travels Picture and Stories

March 2024

- Mar. 1 TBD
- Mar. 8 **Davis Perkins:** Marin artist and smokejumper
- Mar. 15 **Sylvia Whitlock:** First Woman In Rotary
- Mar. 22 **Dick Spotswood:** Marin IJ

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2023/2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Tom Rickey
Vice President

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Jim White
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Stacie Vance
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Roy Pfeifer & John Reuscher
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Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)

Holly Axtell
International Service

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Marisa Remak
Youth Service

Lynn Dawson
Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Peter Oser
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Craig Anderson
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Peian Harness
Past President

Program

We played the game “Guess Who” who was riding horses from a young age and competed on horse trials at NCAA College Championship. Our **5150 District Governor, Laine Hendricks** - we welcomed her by singing her bio to the tune of the Beatles “Penny Lane”. **Laine** came up and said her cheeks were sore from smiling from our Club standing and singing together.

At our place setting, we had two Rotary Pins, The Create Hope pin, **RI International President Gordon McNally’s** theme to place emphasis on Mental Health and Wellness, sharing his own family’s loss of his brother’s struggle with mental health that led to his suicide. As Rotarians, we want to Create Hope by asking “How Are

You” and really listening. A slide was projected with a quote from **Yoko Ono** “Healing Yourself is Connected to Healing Others”.

This brings us to the other District Pin with the word **CONNECT** and **Laine** explained the symbolism of the GGB representing the 3 districts, San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo in District 5150. Three distinctly different skin tones of hands are clasped, a rainbow watch on one wrist, representing diversity and inclusion, and the essence that the time is now to Connect.

Two parts to Connect, first Look Within, what brings you joy coming to Rotary? Audience participation offered shout outs of “fellowship, service, happy, friends.” Secondly, Look Around to your fellow members. **Laine** used the analogy of cats and dogs. We wouldn’t ask a cat to fetch, jump in a pool,

rollover, sit or stay - nor would we expect a dog to purr and be solitary. For our members we need to recognize what is comfortable for them and to match Club activities that are aligned with their talents and desires.

DG Laine also encouraged us to cross that GGB and participate in District events. Check them out on the webpage, <https://rotary5150.org/> to register for a really epic event with a multi district meeting, Sacramento, Sierra Nevada and 5150 in Reno, Nevada at the Grand Sierra Resort May 17-19, 2024. A special opportunity (doesn’t happen often) is that **RI President Gordon McNally** will be there for this event!

The Winner

Rebekah Shapiro Gonzalez won the \$25 Raffle.

Rotary Photo Album



Our DG explains the new Connect Rotary logo showing symbols of diversity.



Our DG Laine Hendricks joined Rob Marshall in raising donations for Polio prevention.



On behalf of our Western BBQ & Dance, members tried roping a cow.



Lynwood Elementary School Project



Mother Marisa and daughter Sadie Remak measuring redwood slats for planters.



Lynwood Elementary School landscape beautification by the Community Service Committee of Rotary Club of Novato.



Layton of San Marin High Rotary Interact Club sizing the lumber.



Attorney Peter Pelavin ropes calves and drills post holes for the school project.



Jim Spilman Chairman of Committee Service, Phil Dougherty, and John Cutrufelli General Contractor Rotarian.



Al Shirley and Ed Ross sawing.



Early Sunday Rotary work stations at Lynwood Elementary School yard beautification.