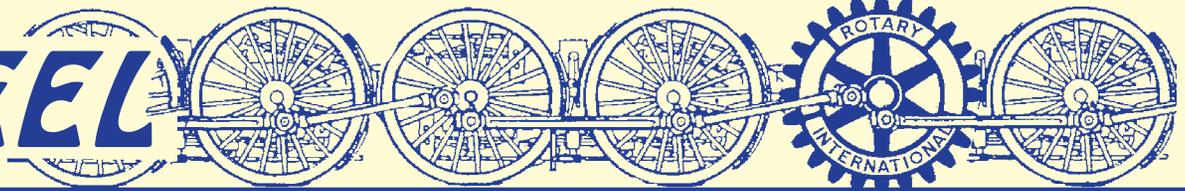


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**January 19, 2024**  
**Vol. 75, No. 26**  
**Editor:**  
**Maggie Shao**

## In the Beginning

President Phil opened the meeting at 12:15. Dave Kapranos led us in the Pledge. Thought for the Day was provided by Jim Bates remotely from Greenville, North Carolina who is visiting family. The beautiful sunsets in NC reminds Jim of a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson "Every sunset brings the promise of a new dawn".

## Guests and Visiting Rotarians

Chris DeGabriele in Green Bay Packers attire brought wife Joni, also dressed in green. I guess there must be a big game happening? A lot of people were wearing red and gold apparel with 49ers logos. Prez Phil brought his first lady, Laurie, his eldest daughter Shayla visiting from Hawaii, and their other daughter and business associate and potential Rotary member, Patty. Alan Dunham introduced his first wife, Roberta. Bill McDill introduced his favorite wife Vicki. Tiffany Fischer introduced Eliza Roesler, and Marty Wickenheiser introduced Jackie Courmier. We did have some visiting Rotarians, they belong to our Novato Rotary Club, we just haven't seen them in a while, Dave Kapranos, Mike Morissey, and Brad Williams.

## Sunshine Report

Good to see some folks at today's meeting - Craig Anderson is doing well after minor surgery, Gary Bramon is doing well, and Peian Harness has returned from Taiwan (apparently Ron is still sleeping due to jet lag). Donna Falzon is in the hospital with kidney stones - send her good wishes for speedy recovery.

## Announcements

### Project Amigo

Prez Phil hosted a Zoom meeting for a service project work week, April 7th to 14th. The roots of Project Amigo has a long history with our Club and what a great opportunity to continue that relationship - about a dozen folks have shown interest in this trip. Don't hesitate to ask Phil for more information or to sign up for Project Amigo, providing incentives, scholarship and educational support to children and youth in rural Colima, Mexico.

### Lynwood Elementary

Jim Spilman wanted to thank the volunteers from last weekend. Got a lot done but still need to

★ 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

**\$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](http://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

Continued on page 3

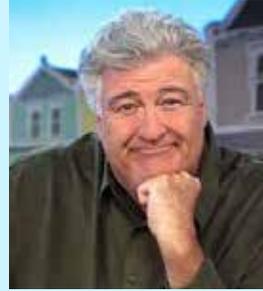
# The BIG WHEEL

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



**Empathy**  
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## Upcoming Programs & Events

### January 2024

- 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 Morrisey:** Drones: A New Perspective  
Feb. 22 **Novato Speaker Series:** Felecia Gaston will discuss the History of Marin City

### March 2024

- Mar. 1 **Dr. Jill Cobb, CME,** Novato Community Hospital. She runs the Physician Wellness Program for Sutter.  
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

### OFFICERS

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*Vice President*

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**Laine Hendricks**  
*District Governor*

**Stacie Vance**  
*Assistant  
District Governor*

### DIRECTORS

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*Club Administration*

**Kyle Frazier**  
*Public Image*

**Peter Pelavin**  
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**Gloria Dunn-Violin**  
*Environmental Sustainability  
(NR-CAT)*

**Holly Axtell**  
*International Service*

**Jorg Puhr-Westerheide**  
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**Lynn Dawson**  
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*Jonas Center Liaison*

**Peter Oser**  
*President, Nova-Ro Corp.*

**Craig Anderson**  
*Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment*

**Peian Harness**  
*Past President*

finish but due to rain forecast, the next weekend for volunteering will be postponed to Jan. 27-28. Look out for the signup genius email link. An immediate need was to move some lumber right after the meeting, thanks to **Burt Hoffman** for volunteering.

### Upcoming events:

#### Western BBQ

We are only 3 weeks away. Tickets are for sale and sponsorships are still available. For \$1500 sponsorship you get 4 tickets, with \$750 sponsorship you get 2 tickets. 11 Live Auction items including Tahoe Donner condo rental, Crab feed for 10, Bruno Bocce Ball Extravaganza, Crayfish Dinner for 10, three hours of computer technical consulting, autographed 49ers memorabilia, and more! **Ryan Lee** showed a slide of the photo booth picture, you get three poses to commemorate your costume and event. If anyone has Western-themed props to use in the photo booth, please let **Ryan** know.

#### Magnolia Project

**Burt Hoffman** introduced **Gianna Biaggi**, director of Magnolia Project, We had a brainstorming session to gather business contacts as mentors for this great project. The students have 11 weeks of preparatory classes, then 2 weeks of immersive experiential learning at the business from 9am to 1:40pm that equals 60 hours over the 2 weeks. Mentors and businesses are asked to do an online brief training about working with youth/students - the majority of the preparation is done by Magnolia Project staff. We spent about 5 minutes at each table and got about 20+ names to follow-up with as potential mentors.

### Program

**Gary Bramon** introduced our speaker for today, **Marcus Combs**. Marcus is an alum of College of Marin, and worked for 35 years (now retired) with the National Park Service at several SF Bay Area significant parks including Treasure Island, Old Mint, Fort Point, Marin Headlands, and Alcatraz. **Marcus** has served

in many roles and locales within the Park Service. First classified as a generalist, that included law enforcement, fire fighting, rescue and interpretive public talks. As his career continued he specialized as an interpretive ranger, providing information and education and message of what valuable historical and natural resources are worth protection and conservation. His talk centered on “What does a Park Ranger Do?” As an interpretive ranger he used the example of Alcatraz as what a Park Ranger does to tell the story, the theme is Isolation - as a fortress, then as a federal prison, then returned to Native Americans. The goal is to connect the public to this theme of isolation, and the objective is to appreciate the value in its history. Some questions after the talk - explain the Presidio is a Living Trust that allows cooperative management and private use within the Presidio like Lucas Film. **Marcus** also said the Golden Gate National Recreation Area has expanded from Olema Valley to Half Moon Bay in large part to protect the corridor for bird migration.

### The Winner

Winning number for the raffle was **Prez Phil**, amid some jeers that it was rigged **Phil** said he would rollover the \$25 from today’s meeting to the next meeting to entice everyone to come to the next meeting and the raffle will be \$50!

### Qigong

Editor’s Note - Please join the Qigong practice led by **Maggie Shao** on the first meeting of the month. Trying out a different timing, Qigong practice on Feb 2 at 11:30am before lunch, rather than after the meeting.

## February SPECIAL DATES

- 2-3 Ryan Lee
- 2-4 Gloria Dunn-Violin
- 2-5 Jim Carriere
- 2-9 Tom Frazier
- 2-12 David Browne, M.D.
- 2-12 Ron Harness
- 2-12 John Ringgenberg
- 2-14 Jean Brown
- 2-14 Diane & Peter Oser
- 2-14 Susie Pfingst-McCurdy
- 2-17 Russ Ketron
- 2-17 Rafelina Maglio
- 2-19 Don Violin
- 2-22 Frank Falzon
- 2-22 Penny Hansen
- 2-24 Marisa & Mike Remak
- 2-28 David Hernandez & Sonia Seeman





*Ryan Lee offered a photo booth for added fun at our Western BBQ.*



*Peter Rubens describes donations for the bidding at our Western BBQ.*



*Burt Hoffmann and Gianna Biaggi of Magnolia Project matching high school students one to one with mentor working in our community in 60 hr, 2 week program. The Rotary Result was a table full of mentors gathered.*



*Marcus Combs Park Ranger of Golden Gate National Park. He is retired has timely comparisons over a 50 year history as a Park Ranger regarding visitor environmental values. His example was in the past asking visitors to "pick up trash" to today-"help preserve the natural habitat." The territory of the Golden Gate National Park includes 82,000 acres that includes Marin, SF, San Mateo, Alcatraz, Muir Woods and Marin Headlands.*



*Gary Bramon did a head count with 60 in attendance.*