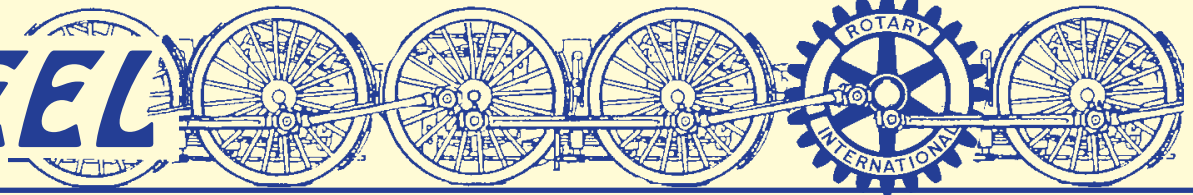


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



October 10, 2025
Vol. 77, No. 15
Editor:
Homer Runn (Dean H.)

Call to Order

Prez Lynn rang da bell at Homeward Bound.

Pledge

Past Prez Alan Dunham led us in da pledge, of allegiance that is.

Thought For The Day

Past Prez Gary Bramon provided the "Thought for the Day": **Gary** told us "No one chooses to be homeless. Life circumstances sometimes force people to the streets. There should not be a single person of wealth while others of us live on the streets. That is the real tragedy."

Visiting Rotarians

We were graced with a visit by an **Assistant Governor, Adele Della Santina**, of the Belmont Redwood Shores Rotary Club.

Guests of Rotarians

Past Prez Bill McDill intro'd his much better half, **Vicki**. **Past Prez Larry Harrison** intro'd the lovely **Chris**. **Past Prez T.J. Neff** intro'd his brand new fiancé, the very lovely **Heather Thompson**. **Mike Morrissey** brought his very lovely and charming wife, **Jacqueline**. To be inducted today, **Laura Joss** intro'd her husband, **Skip Meechan**. **Past Club Treasurer Jim Botko** brought his very charming and clever wife **Kathy**. Also, guests for the last time,

to be inducted today, **Evan Blacksea (Jacqueline's son)**. **Mary Jane** (look at those shoes) **Waxler**, **Marie Rios** sponsored by **Melinda Durfee**, and of course **Laura Joss** who along with **Mary Jane** is sponsored by **Prez Lynn**.

Ice Breaker

Prez Lynn, for her Ice Breaker asked, "If you could have an unlimited supply of one thing, what would it be?" I chooz Love.

Announcements

Community Care

John Ringgenberg has returned recovered; welcome back **John**! **Debbie Brusatori** has a head wound and would appreciate your cards and calls. Sadly, **Don Violin** has passed away. Many of you don't know that **Don** was President of the Rotary Club of San Rafael in 2011-2012. **Don's** celebration of live service will be Friday, October 24th at Valley Memorial Park at 1:00pm.

Flood Control

Past Prez Jim Spilman has a flood control project at Loma Verde Elementary School.

Monkeying Around?

Larry Mazzotta is doing something with Monkeys. I don't know what.

Lost & Found

Jim Spilman has a lost shoe and looking for a limping Rotarian.

Non-Spaghetti

P.P. Bill McDill announced the Non-Spaghetti Feed is the evening of Friday, October 24th at his house. Bring an appetizer or dessert.

World Polio Day

October 24th is also World Polio Day. I remember **Don** and **Gloria** went to India and delivered the Polio Vaccine to young children.

Holiday Brunch

Prez Lynn announced that our Holiday Brunch will be on Sunday, December 21st this year.

A Dinner You Can't Refuse

Prez Lynn also announced that our Major Fundraiser will be on Saturday, February 7, 2026. We put away the BBQ and are moving up to a very nice Italian Dinner (Will there be some polenta?). We might even have **Frank Sinatra** there, in spirit.

Welcome New Members

Past Prez Peian Harness introduced our four new members, **Evan**, **Mary Jane**, **Marie** and **Laura**. **Peian** explained the importance of the Four-Way Test and the importance of Service Above Self. She included with Service Above Self that it incorporates your heart, your creativity, and a good sense of humor. **P.P. Peian** also emphasized having fun!

Know Your Fellow Members

Vice Prez Peter Pelavin told us his story which included playing baseball in High School, and graduating from UCLA, where he played tennis, took up rowing and biking. **Peter** is an attorney and is mainly involved in estate planning along with wills and trusts. Peter had a son, who is now a daughter..

Speaker

Sasha D'Amico introduced our speaker, **Carrie Sager**, COO of Homeward Bound. When **PDG Russ Ketron** stood up and told the members that **P.P. Dean Heffelfinger (Me)** held my my very first meeting as President of Homeward Bound on July 15, 2000. **PDG Russ** then got the whole audience to give **Dean** a hand. Thank you, **Russ**.

Penny told us the history of Homeward Bound, whose main purpose is to get homes for the homeless. They've been around for 50 years and currently serve

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?"

Annual Non Spaghetti Feed



*Note Time
Correction*

Friday, October 24th, 5:00 PM
at The McDills'
18 San Luis Court, Novato

Vicki and Bill McDill will be opening their home for the Annual Non Spaghetti Feed. Everyone should bring a finger-food to serve 4-6 people and their good humor, so we can enjoy the fellowship and celebrate Spring. Spouses and significant others are encouraged to come and join in the fun.

Hosted by Bill & Vicki McDill

Mike Robbins

Embracing Change: Thriving Through Uncertainty

Thurs., October 23, 2025
7 pm to 8:30 pm

Join Mike Robbins, sought after keynote speaker and bestselling author, for a thoughtful, engaging, and interactive talk on how to navigate change and achieve deeper trust, better collaboration, and greater results.

With decades of experience from pro baseball to Silicon Valley, and an expert in teamwork, leadership, and emotional intelligence, Mike's clients include Google, Microsoft, Genentech, eBay, the NBA, Charles Schwab, Wells Fargo, GAP, and the San Francisco Giants

Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15
www.novatospeakerseries.com



Upcoming Programs & Events

October

Oct. 17	World Photography - Jim Codington
Oct. 23	Novato Speaker Series - Mike Robbins
Oct. 24	Non-Spaghetti Feed- at the McDill's Home
Oct. 31	No Meeting

November

Nov. 7	Guide Dogs for the Blind -
Nov. 14	TBD
Nov. 21	Club Social
Nov. 28	No Meeting

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor

Limited Sponsor Opportunity!

Show your support of the RCN and target people that share your commitment to supporting Rotary.

Limit of two sponsors!

Size: 1/4 column

Frequency of publication: 3x or 4x per month

Distribution: Over 130 like minded recipients

Open Rate: 68%

Cost \$600 per year, \$15 per issue (Prev. 3yr avg.)

Contact Bill Vespa: zip@sonic.net

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Lynn Dawson
President

Peter Pelavin
Vice President

Marisa Remak
Secretary

Chris DeGabriele
Treasurer

Francesco Arezzo
R.I. President

Mitone Griffiths
District Governor

Judy Johnson
*Assistant
District Governor*

DIRECTORS

John Reuscher
Logistics & Facilities

Phil Dougherty
Public Image & Awareness

Marcus Combs
Community Service

Gloria Dunn-Violin & Randy Baker
*Environmental Sustainability
(NR-CAT)*

Holly Axtell
International Service

Jorg Puhr-Westerheide
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

Ross Millerick
Youth Service

Patty Dougherty & Sonia Seeman
Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Peter Oser
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Brad Williams
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Tom Rickey
Past President

1,000 people. This is via affordable housing projects. They also have job training programs and have been very successful with their culinary training programs. They're working on providing dorms for the youths. They have been very successful with housing for veterans.

Raffle

P.P. Bill McDill took home the \$25!

SAVE THE DATE!

SUPPORT NOVATO TEACHERS

Rotary
Club of Novato



Pre-Paid Donation
\$10 per Ticket
Good for
Drive-Thru Express Wash
\$16 Value

Annual CAR WASH

Sunday, November 16th
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



NOVATO CAR WASH
(across from Marin Community Clinic
and Marin County Ford)
6981 Redwood Blvd.

All Proceeds
Support Novato Teachers



2025

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND THE UN CELEBRATION TO BE HELD IN SAN FRANCISCO



Please join us in a day of celebration commemorating 80 Years' partnership between Rotary International and the United Nations, Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the War Memorial Veteran Building, San Francisco where the United Nations Charter was signed in 1945.

Rotary International was one of 42 organizations the United States invited to serve as consultants to its delegation at the San Francisco Conference where 49 Rotarians helped draft the UN Charter. During the last 80 years, 5 Rotarians served as presidents of the UN General Assembly as Rotary has continued to strength our partnership.

The event is to commemorate UN Charter's 80th anniversary, to celebrate Rotary's historic and ongoing relationship with UN, and to inspire renewed commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

We are pleased to have Special Guest Speakers, Rotary International President, Francesco Arezzo, Rotary General Secretary, John Hewko, and others soon to be announced.

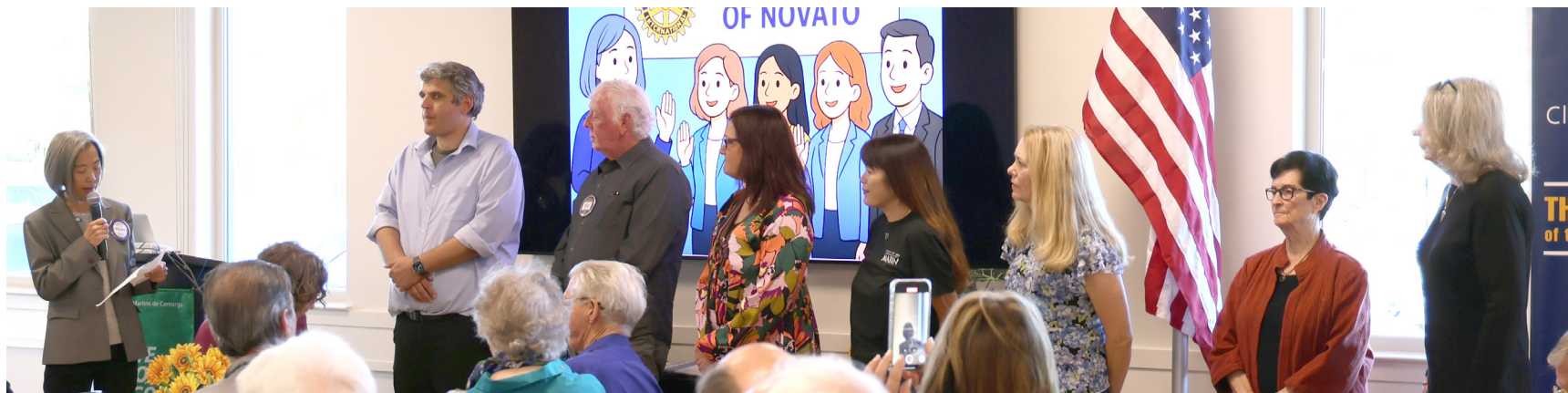
We are inviting Rotary and Rotaract volunteers, Senior UN Officials and Staff, Philanthropic and civil society organizations, civic leaders, Interactors, youth groups and students to join us.

>>> To Register - Go to www.Rotaryun80.org <<<

This event is a multi-district event sponsored by Rotary International and the Rotary Club of San Francisco. Eric Schmautz of the Rotary Club of San Francisco is the Event Chair.

Questions, please email District 5150 Event Contact Sylvia Barry at sylvia.barry@mindspring.com

Past President Peian Harness inducts Evan Blacksea, sponsored by Mike Morrissey; Marie Rios, sponsored by Melinda Durfee; Laura Joss and Mary Jane Waxler, both sponsored by Lynn Dawson.



President Lynn announces upcoming events.



Reggie Winner wore a festive Halloween sweater.



Our Speaker was Carrie Sager, COO of Homeward Bound.



Sasha D'Amico introduced our Speaker.



Chris Siefkas just returned from a trip to Europe. While in travel, he learned that Rotary is everywhere when he found this marker at the westernmost point of continental Europe which is in Portugal.