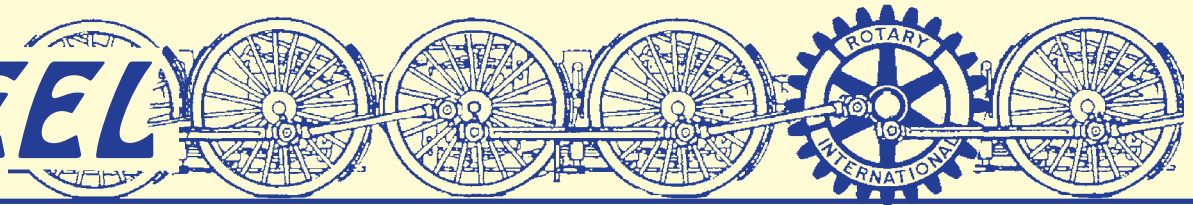


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**October 13, 2023**  
**Vol. 75, No. 14**  
**Editor:**  
**Suzanne Bales**

## In the Beginning...

**President Phil** got us up for the Pledge, led by **Phil Brown** and **Jorg Puhr-Westerheide** provided the thought of the day. **Jorg** referred to International President of Rotary, **Gordon McInally's** theme of the year. "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness. Let us, my fellow Rotarians, continue in creating hope for the world!"

We had no visiting Rotarians. Guests of Rotarians included: **Roberta** with **Alan Dunham**; **Peter Oser** again brought prospective member **Jackson Coster**; **Peian Harness** introduced **Anne Wade**, past president of Rotary; **Keith Axtell** introduced **Jacqueline Lee**, with Haiti on the Rise; **Maggie Shao** introduced **Sean Finn**.

**President Phil** called on **Marty Wickenheiser** and **Reggie Winner** for Community Care.

**Reggie** announced member **Diana Tomasini** had passed away. She was a great and long time friend of the **Bramons**.

**Reggie** called on **Rob Haff** to announce his good news. He is out of the quagmire of Silicon Valley Bank and now is with Bank of Marin and yes, he can even walk to work!

**Marty** stated **Mike Morrissey** cracked his knee cap on day two of his trip to Mongolia. He soldiered on and is now seeking medical advice.

**Peter Pelavin** and **Roy Pfeifer** were called up to turn in their red badges and receive the blue badges. Way to go!!!

## Announcements

**Peter Pelavin** mentioned a car wash meeting. Contact **Peter** if you wish to be in on the meeting.

**Holly Axtell** mentioned the World Service Committee awarded a \$500 grant presented by **Rob Marshall** to purchase eye glasses for Guatemala. **Holly** reminded us these grants are open to any member to pursue. The max is \$500.

**President Phil** is organizing a Project Amigo trip to Colima. He is hoping for up to 20 participants. The trip coincides with spring break, April 8-15th for the high schools.

All kinds of socials going on:

**McDill** Non-Spaghetti Feed this Friday, 6pm. Bring appetizers to share.

The following Friday the 27th the mixer will be at Mamita from 4:30pm to 7:00pm. Club buys the appetizers, members buy the drinks.

**PP (President Phil)** reminded us of the Marin County Salute to Rotary. Contact [DStone@marinscope.com](mailto:DStone@marinscope.com) if interested in purchasing ad space.

## Picture Time

**President Phil** roused all the rotarians to the steps outside the building. There were mutterings of tallest on the bottom of the stairs or was that tallest to the top of the stairs. Many were wearing Rotary attire, including Ron Harness with a Rotary themed Hawaiian shirt... had to see it in person. Speaker **Dr. Smith** stepped up to take the group picture. What great multi tasking!!

## The Speaker

**Lynn Dawson** introduced our speaker, **Tracy Smith**, Superintendent of Novato Unified School District.

**Dr. Smith** mentioned our long time friend and Rotarian **Jan La Torre-Derby**. She is the reason why **Dr. Smith** pursued her career in education. **Dr. Smith** is thankful for the support of Measure A and G.

**Dr. Smith** has many local connections. While she grew up in Santa Maria her parents went to Drake. Samuel P. Taylor was a relative (darn lost that land to pay back taxes) and Trumbull

family in Novato. She visited the Marin relatives often and knew this beautiful place was where she wanted to live and work. She graduated from UC Berkely with a Spanish major. She has been principal in San Rafael, Ross Valley and Miller Creek. She also worked in Sonoma, Rincon Valley.

It has been interesting times, to put it mildly, to work through COVID and the Kincade fires.

She proudly announced all teaching positions are filled and good numbers with support staff.

Enrollment is slowly increasing. Transitional kindergarten, age 4 is operating. The universal meal program, meaning any student can have breakfast and or lunch is up and running as well as universal extended care TK through 6th grade...no cost. This program also offers enrichment programs such as art, sports, and music.

She briefly touch on using a portion of the general fund to investigate work force housing.

All in all **Dr. Smith** feels the District is in a positive place and the students are well cared for.

## 25er

**Keith Axtell** won the pot.

## In Memoriam Diana Tomasini

April 16, 1949 – October 9, 2023

# 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

## Buddy Biancalana, 1985 World Series player interviewed by Chris Gargano



**The Bill and Adele Jonas Center  
Thursday, October 26 • 7 pm to 8:30 pm**

In this exclusive event, legendary player Buddy Biancalana, from the 1985 World Series Champion KC Royals, will be interviewed by the charismatic Chris Gargano.

Chris, a graduate of San Marin High and Buddy, a graduate of Redwood High will discuss leadership, overcoming obstacles and creating a manifest to fulfill expectations. Both have had success in the sports world and have developed a program that young, middle age and seniors will use to be high performers.

Come and be part of an evening filled with nostalgia, laughter and fascinating anecdotes with Buddy Biancalana and Chris Gargano!

**Tickets: Adults \$25 • Students \$10**

## Annual Non Spaghetti Feed



**Friday, October 20th, 6:00 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**

## Upcoming Programs

### October 2023

Oct. 20 **Non-Spaghetti Feed at the McDill's**  
Oct. 27 **No Meeting**

### November 2023

Nov. 3 **Mark Dale**, Founder of Families for Safe Schools and Co-Founder of RX Marr and OD Free Main.  
Nov. 10 **Brian Sobel**, Consultant for Sobel Communications and author of "The Fighting Patton's"  
Nov. 17 **Bill Bradfield** discusses Norman Rockwell, an American icon  
Nov. 24 **Happy Thanksgiving!**

### December 2023

Dec. 1 **Hawi Yema**, Ethiopian Refugee

## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2023/2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Phil Dougherty**  
*President*

**Tom Rickey**  
*Vice President*

**Sonia Seeman  
Jim White**  
*Co-Secretaries*

**Chris DeGabriele**  
*Treasurer*

**Gordon R. McNally**  
*R.I. President*

**Laine Hendricks**  
*District Governor*

**Stacie Vance**  
*Assistant  
District Governor*

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**Roy Pfeifer & John Reuscher**  
*Club Administration*

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

**Holly Axtell**  
*International Service*

**Jorg Puhrr-Westerheide**  
*The Rotary Foundation (TRF)*

**Marisa Remak**  
*Youth Service*

**Lynn Dawson**  
*Membership*

**Sonia Seeman**  
*Jonas Center Liaison*

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

**Rob Haff**  
*Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment*

**Peian Harness**  
*Past President*

## Rotary Photo Album



*Interactors creating battery recycling boxes for San Marin High School*

### Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



# Empathy

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# SUPPORT NOVATO TEACHERS



Pre-Paid Donation  
**\$10 per Ticket**  
Good for  
Drive-Thru Express Wash  
\$12 Value

Annual

# CAR WASH

Sunday, November 12th

8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sponsored by

**NOVATO CAR WASH**

(across from Marin Community Clinic  
and Marin County Ford)

**6981 Redwood Blvd.**

All Proceeds

Support Novato Teachers

Visit [novatorotary.org](http://novatorotary.org) or use  
this QR Code below  
for tickets or more info



2023

This is our House.  
Join us!



*RCN Speaker Dr. Tracy Smith, Novato's new Unified School District Superintendent is focusing on post-pandemic student emotional and educational needs.*



*President Phil awards full membership from Red to Blue to Roy and Peter.*



*Holly Axtell reports on International donation to Robert Marshall's Guatemala School water filtration project.*

*The Guatemala school targeted for a clean water filtration system from Rotary.*



*Keith Axtell introduces Randal and Jacqueline Lee, Executive Director of Haiti On the Rise Scholarships for Haitian youth.*