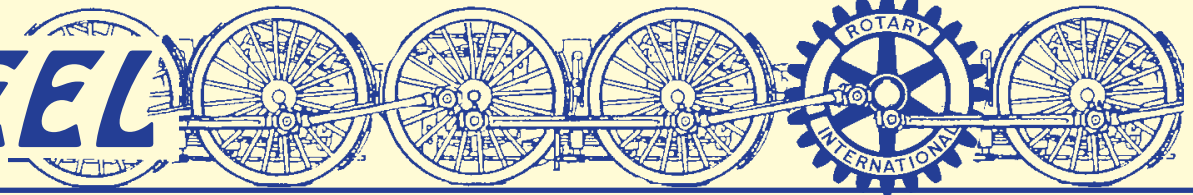


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



October 17, 2025
Vol. 77, No. 16
Editor:
Bill Vespa

Call to Order

President Lynn called us to order.

Pledge

Chris Siefkas led us in the pledge. We were also shown a picture of **Chris**, in the western most point in Europe located in Portugal, next to a monument commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Rotary International. It is a reminder that Rotary is truly Global.

Thought For The Day

John Cutrufelli stated that inspiration equates to encouraging actions. **John** then gave us his own personal inspirational thought. "May peace be with you. Let's live by the three-Fs. Family, Friends and Food. Spend time having a meal with your family or friends and become closer with them and find peace within."

Visiting Rotarians

Noel Sutter visited from the Rotary Club of Central Marin.

Guests of Rotarians

Curtis Aiken was **P.P. Phil Dougherty's** guest; **P.P. Dean Heffelfinger** brought his daughter, **Gretchen Simon**, son-in-law **Ethan Simon**, and granddaughter, **Hannah Simon**; **Kathy** was with her husband, **P.D.G. Russ Ketron**; **Jim Botko** was

accompanied by his wife **Kathy**; **Beth Rowett** hosted **Brad Sharp** from the Civil Grand Jury Assoc. as her guest; and new member **Laura Joss** brought, her husband, **Skip Meehan**.

Announcements

Community Care

Russ Ketron reminded us of the passing of **Don Violin**, and there will be a "Celebration of Life" at Valley Memorial Park on October 24th from 1p.m. to 4p.m. **Russ** said he thought **Don** would be laughing at the fact that of the 33k raffle tickets sold for the District Foundation event, he posthumously won two prizes!

It was also announce that former Novato Mayor **Mark Milberg** passed away and there would be a gathering to honor Mark at Novato City Hall from 4p.m. to 6p.m. on October 24th.

Car Wash

Marcus Combs announced the upcoming Car Wash fundraiser for Novato Teachers on November 16th. Look out for your tickets in the mail and the SignUpGenius link **Phil's** weekly email blast.

School Track Flood Control

P.P. Jim Spilman made a request for volunteers to help with the Loma Verde School Track flood control project.

A Simple Gesture

Mark Bosch announced Thanksgiving and Holiday Food Drives. A Simple Gesture is an organization that provides shelf stable food for the food challenged. In Marin County there are 19k people in need. Fresh foods are in good supply. The biggest need is for shelf stable foods. Go to <https://www.asgeventmanager.com/c/NovSG0129> and for every new sign-up with A Simple Gesture, \$10 will be donated to the Novato Rotary Endowment by Redwood Credit Union.

Novato Speaker Series

P.P. Phil Dougherty reminded us of the upcoming NSS speaker **Mike Robbins** on October 23rd, 7p.m. at the Bill and Adele Jonas Center.

Thank you!

Ross Millerick thanked the volunteers for helping make last week's NUSD's Empower and COM's 100th Anniversary events successful.

Trivia Time

In honor of National Pasta Day, **President Lynn** had a 10 question trivia contest, each table was a team. The answers were: Italy consumes the most pasta in the world. There are about 600 shapes of pasta. Vermicelli means "little worms". Farfalle means "Butterflies". North Dakota produces the most pasta. Carbonara uses Pancetta or Guanciale. It is believed that the Arabs brought pasta to Italy, before Marco Polo went to China. Linguine means "Little Tongues". A dish made of layers of pasta, cheese, meat and sauce is Lasagna. Cooking pasta Al dente means cooking it until the texture is "to the bite". I believe the winning table got nine of the ten correct.

New Member Induction

P.P. Dean Heffelfinger inducted his granddaughter, **Hannah Simon**. **Dean** said **Hannah** appreciates Rotary's positive changes, and the opportunities to grow in ways we can't on our own. She is excited about the leadership opportunities and embraces Rotary's ideals. **Dean** described a member's obligations to live "Service Above Self" and live the Rotary objective of The Four-Way-Test, as well as participate in meetings, projects and social events. **Hannah** said she is proud to be a generational member of Rotary and that she has "Grown Up in Rotary". **Patty Dougherty** presented **Hannah** a new

NEW MEMBER NOTICE

The application for membership of the following was (were) approved by the Board of Directors and the Membership Committee:

- **Edgar Mendoza: Banking**

If there are no objections by:

Thursday, November 13

he/she/they will be inducted on or about:

Friday, November 14

Marisa Remak
Secretary

To Sign-up For a Car Wash Shift
Click Here!

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



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

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 Fall. Spouses and significant others are encouraged to come and join in the fun.

Hosted by Bill & Vicki McDill

Upcoming Programs & Events

October

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	Pet Friendly Club Social - Golden Gate Bistro
Nov. 28	No Meeting

December

Dec. 5	Center for Domestic Peace -
Dec. 12	Annual Meeting & Speaker - Melissa Prandi
Dec. 19	TBD
Dec. 21	Holiday Brunch - Marin Country Club
Dec. 26	No Meeting

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
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Judy Johnson
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Phil Dougherty
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Marcus Combs
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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

member kit and then **Hannah** got a standing ovation. Welcome **Hannah**!

Speaker

Speaker Chair, Sasha D'Amico introduced our speaker, **Dr. Jim Codington**. **Jim** has been a Wilderness Wildlife Guide, on Amazon Expeditions, and went to Veterinary School. He became a Veterinarian, and he practiced and lived in Novato for over 40 years. He has worked with multiple Conservation organizations. In the last 10 years he has done serious wildlife photography all over the world. His photographs have been shown at the De Young Museum. **Jim** is also an author.

There were some technical issues getting the slide show started. So, **Jim** started by telling us of his encounter with a Polar Bear which attempted to board his 16' boat. The boat's engine had died, leaving the boat stuck next to an ice flow. It turns out that Polar Bears are more aggressive than Grizzly Bears. **Jim** was pondering whether he would rather jump in the water wearing all his camera equipment and drown or become the next meal for the bear. Fortunately, the engine finally started and **Jim** returned home to tell the tale. Just as **Jim** finished the Polar Bear story, the tech gremlins decided to let us see the slide show.

We know that "a picture is worth a thousand words", and there is no way to represent **Jim's** images here. In addition to a hand held cameras, he uses drones to take video and still images, including 360 views. **Jim's** images include Northern Lights, landscapes with amazing textures of fog, water, rock formations, natural vegetation and the geometric angles and color contrasts resulting from agriculture. He also photographs old barns and other architecture. But the majority of **Jim's** images are of wildlife.

Jim is very comfortable with wildlife and living a rustic life in the bush. He works closely with and befriends indigenous people, wanting to learn their stories. **Jim** will wait hours to get a photograph and will take a thousand photos to get one good wildlife image. He travels to faraway places like Iceland (The land of 10k waterfalls), Greenland, Serengeti

Desert in Africa, Costa Rica, Northern Canada and Northern Mongolia. He also does trips closer to home some locations are Alaska, Washington State, Petaluma and Point Reyes. There is not enough room here to list the species of animals **Jim** has photographed, the list is "Auk to Zebra".

Jim is very conservation minded and wants to increase awareness of global warming, and endangered species. **Jim** donates proceeds from his books to conservation organizations. If you would like to see some of **Jim's** work visit <https://jimcodington.com/>

Reminders

No meetings on 10/24 or 10/31. Our next meeting is on November 7th.

Raffle

P.P. Brad Williams took home the cash!

In Loving Memory
DONALD DAVID VIOLIN
FEBRUARY 19, 1933 — OCTOBER 4, 2025



Friday, October 24, 2025
1-4 PM

Valley Memorial Cemetery
650 Bugeia Ln, Novato, CA 94945

We will be gathering to share some of our favorite memories, our stories, to laugh, to cry, and to remember a very special person who is greatly missed.

In lieu of flowers, you can make a donation to Novato Rotary or VFW Post 7816.

November

SPECIAL DATES

11-2	Tom Rickey
11-11	Diane Spilman
11-11	Bill Vespa
11-11	Grace Wong
11-14	Lynn Dawson
11-15	Marilu Mazzotta
11-15	Brody Stewart-Stroeh
11-18	Jean & Phil Brown
11-18	Tara Lee
11-25	Bill McDill
11-26	Frances Borok
11-27	Marie Rios
11-28	Holly Axtell
11-28	Rene Prado
11-30	Al Angulo
11-30	Holly & Keith Axtell

Pet Friendly TGIF

Golden Gate Bistro
7380 Redwood Blvd, Novato

Friday, November 21st
5:00p.m. Social Hour
No Host Bar, Food Provided

Share your training secrets or why you own that rare breed.
Bring those puppy snapshots!



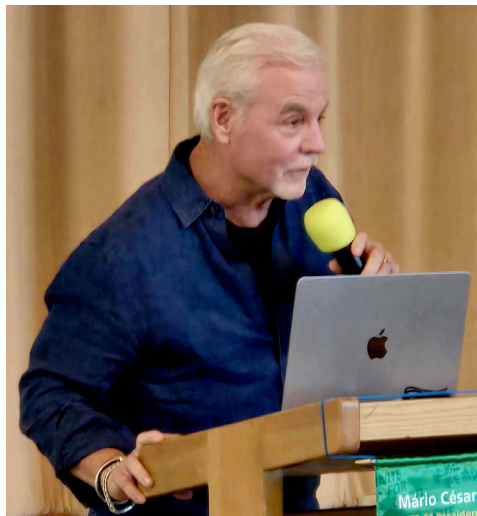
It was National Pasta Day. John Cutrufelli and Gary Bramon at the Pasta Station in the buffet line.



Sasha D'Amico introduced our speaker.



As Chris Siefkas led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. A picture of Chris in Portugal next to a Rotary Anniversary Monument was projected on the screen.



Our speaker was retired Veterinarian, Dr. Jim Codington. Jim is now a Nature and Wildlife photographer. He showed us some amazing images.



John Cutrufelli gave us his own Inspirational Thought for the Day.



Ross Millerick thank those who volunteered for the NUSD Empower and COM 100th Anniversary Events.

P.P. Dean Heffelfinger inducted his granddaughter, Hannah Simon.



Patty Dougherty presented Hannah with a new member packet

