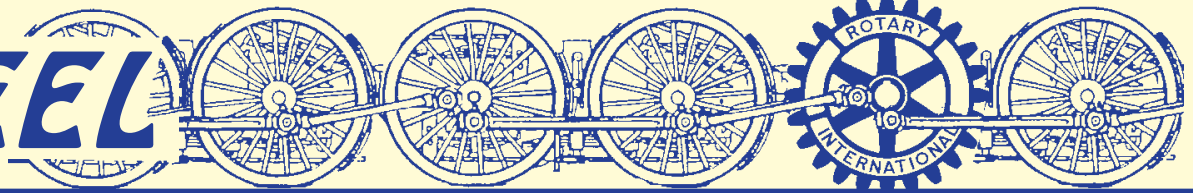


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



October 18, 2024
Vol. 76, No. 13
Editor:
The Winner

In the Beginning

President **Tom Rickey** welcomed all and rang the bell. **Marcus Combs** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and then provided us with an updated quote from an 1883 edition of the New York Mirror: *“A little bit of silliness is treasured by the wise person.”*

Visitors and Guests

Once again, no visiting Rotarians, except for **Marilyn Nemzer** from the rotary Club of Tiburon Sunset but we had numerous guests of Rotarians, many of whom were interested in membership. Once again, **Jim Spilman** hosted **Ross Millerick**; **Russ Ketron** brought his wife, **Kathy**; **Peggy Rubens** accompanied husband **Peter**; **Bill McDill's** current wife, **Vicki**, was there; **Marilyn Nemzer** has as her guest **Li Del Pan**; **Al Angulo** had two guests, **Darlene Purcell** and **Linda Mahan**; and **Jorg Westerheide** hosted wife **Linda**.

Birthdays

It was finally **Dean Heffelfinger's** actual birthday and in our usual off-key manner we serenaded him with a rousing version of “Happy Birthday”!

Community Care

Reggie reported that she had heard from **Jean Brown** that **Past President Phil** Had fallen and was in the hospital. She said that he is awake and aware, but they will keep him until they determine what caused the fall. Cards would be appreciated!

Announcements

Robert Marshall gave us all one more shot at the remaining open spot on the H2Open Doors project trip to Guatemala in January. If it isn't claimed by a Novato Rotarian, he will open it up to others in District 5150.

Blood Drive

Marty Wickenheiser reminded us about the Rotary Blood Drive in San Rafael on November 14, and the fire Safety Clean-up at the Los Robles Mobile Home Park.

Shelter Box

Larry Harrison, who wants all to know where our money is going, gave us an update on Shelter Box. Operating not only internationally, but also here in the U.S. when there is a need, Shelter Box gave a \$100K grant to Rotary Zones 33 & 34 to help victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton on the East Coast.

Friday at the McDill's!

Bill McDill thanked the membership for all the cards, prayers, calls, visits and general good wishes while he was recuperating from recent back surgery. He says he is feeling better than he has for a long time. He also invited one and all to the Non-Spaghetti Feed at **McDill's** home, next Friday evening at 5:30 pm. Just bring an appetizer for 6-8 to share and plan to enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow Rotarians and have a good time. No one will ask you for money or expect you to give a five-minute life history! His explanation of the event's title was from Medieval Ages and involved two cubic yards of spaghetti.

Novato Speaker Series

Phil Dougherty reminded all that the first episode of the Novato Speakers Series is coming up, Thursday evening at 7:00 pm at the Jonas Center. **Paul Liberatore** from the IJ will interview **Maria Muldaur** – who, by the way, is

the same age as **Dean Heffelfinger!** She will be singing along with answering questions.

Getting Political

Burt Hoffmann, who confessed to knowing the rules, nonetheless announced he was blatantly breaking the “no politics” rule to encourage members to vote against Proposition 33 on the November ballot, as it would very negatively affect Nova-Ro.

2025 District Conference

President **Tom** said the deadline for the discount on registration for next Spring's District Conference in Santa Rosa is fast approaching. He is encouraging as many members as possible to attend since it is in our “backyard”.

Annual Non Spaghetti Feed



Friday, October 25th, 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

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?"

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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Maria Muldaur with Paul Liberatore

*Midnight at the Oasis - Maria Muldaur
in Concert and in Conversation with
Paul Liberatore*

**The Bill and Adele Jonas Center
Thursday, October 24 • 7 pm to 8:30 pm**

Novato Speaker Series presents Maria Muldaur in concert and conversation with Paul Liberatore. Maria Muldaur is an American folk and blues singer who was part of the American folk music revival in the early 1960s. She recorded the 1973 hit song "Midnight at the Oasis" and has recorded albums in the folk, blues, early jazz, gospel, country, and R&B traditions.

Well-respected rock journalist known for his work around the world, Paul Liberatore is an author and rock music columnist who currently reports and writes for the Marin Independent Journal of the Bay Area News Group, covering both daily news stories and a weekly column on the lively local rock music scene. Paul also writes a popular news feature column as Lib at Large.

Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15



Upcoming Programs & Events

October

- Oct. 24 **Novato Speaker's Series:** Maria Muldaur with Paul Liberatore - Marian Muldaur in Concert and Conversations with Paul Liberatore
- Oct. 25 **Non-Spaghetti Feed at the McDill's**

November

- Nov. 1 **Frank Falzon:** Lighter Side of Homicide
- Nov. 8 **ESCOM:** G. Gonsner & L. Weingartner
- Nov. 13 **Board Meeting at Jonas Center**
- Nov. 15 **Social Event TBD**
- Nov. 22 **Jay Alexander:** Magician
- Nov. 25 **No Meeting-Thanksgiving**

December

- Dec. 6 **Club Member Craft Talks**
- Dec. 11 **Board Meeting at Jonas Center**
- Dec. 13 **Tech Education N. United:** Dan Mikola
- Dec. 15 **Christmas Brunch at Marin Country Club**

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2024/2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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Jonas Center Liaison

Craig Anderson
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Peter Oser
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Phil Dougherty
Past President

Club Website

We got a sneak peak of **Ryan Lee's** drone's introduction to the redo of our Club's website. Once again, those of us of a certain age were wowed by the technology of this new member.

Who's Dat Rotarian?

President Tom gave three clues:

1) This Rotarian was a 4H horse project leader – **John Ringgenberg** guessed **Sasha D'Amico**, got a raspberry and quickly offered up a \$100 donation to the club for his miss.

2) **Ed Ross** was given the following clue: While swimming in the Cayman Islands, this Rotarian ran into a school of sharks; **Ed's** guess of **Suzanne Bales** saw him spinning the Wheel of MisFortune which directed him to wear something red to the next meeting!

3) The third and final clue was directed at **Al Angulo**: this Rotarian was born in Omaha, NE. Al earned a trip to the Wheel of MisFortune, with the guess of **Dennis Hagerty**, a much-beloved former member. His spin cost him \$20.

This week's mystery Rotarian was Penny Hansen.

COM Partnership

President Tom announced that COM has agreed to help us promote the Novato Speakers Series and a COM staff member has agreed to join our club.

Program

Our speaker, **Marilyn Nemzer**, was introduced by **Moses Jacob**, as a 32-year Rotarian, who also served six terms on the Marin County Board of Education.

Marilyn lives in Tiburon with husband **Ken**, two sons and two dogs. The overarching theme of her life has been education – her own and for children. She ran the Global Book Exchange at Hamilton and San Rafael from 2000 until 2022 and shipped more than 100K books to 45 countries! Today she told us about the two-year odyssey of a shipment of books to Uganda.

She started us off by explaining that literacy is a great equalizer for children. At what is now known as The Book Exchange of Marin, about 2K students from the County are invited to their warehouse and encouraged to select 19 books apiece to take home. Teachers are also encouraged to take back books to their classrooms. She singled out our **Al Angulo** as being a huge help for the last 25 years. The two-year shipping project started in February of 2022. The Exchange had put together a 40-foot container filled with books, destined for children in Africa. They raised the money to ship the books which took almost a year. It was off and arrived in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania where they first had to prove that all the content of the books were safe for the children. Then the officials demanded that they make a list of every single book title. After 10 months, they were still waiting for government approval to deliver the books to the schools in need. Finally, after endless WhatsApp messages, the government would not allow the books in the country.

Rather than shipping the books back to the U.S. which would be counterproductive, to say nothing of the cost of shipping, with the help of Rotarians in Uganda and Tanzania, it was determined that the 40K books could be trucked over land to Uganda.

The truck broke down about 10 miles from the Ugandan border and they had to wait four days for repairs. With the serendipitous Rotarian gods watching over them, San Rafael Rotarian **Melissa Prandi's** project in Uganda was able to help the books get delivered and distributed to very happy children and schools!

Thanks For Coming

President Tom thanked all who attended!

The Winner

The \$25er raffle was won by guest and prospective member **Randy Baker**.



Rotary

Club of Novato

BIG WHEEL EDITORS NEEDED

Contact **Bill Vespa** at
zip@sonic.net

*Support the most interesting
Rotary Club ever!*

*Help share the meeting
with family, friends
and members unable to attend.*

NEW MEMBER NOTICE

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

- **Randy Baker: Teacher, Retired**
- **Chris Siefkas: Oil distributor**
- **Ross Millerick: University Administrator**

if there are no objections by:

Thursday, October 31
he/she/they will be inducted on or about:

Friday, November 1

Peian Harness
Secretary



Roy Pfeifer taping wire trip hazard.



Marcus Combs adds floral joy pre-meeting.



Marty W. shares a Craig Anderson health update.



Bill McDill reprises the non-Spaghetti Dinner saga.



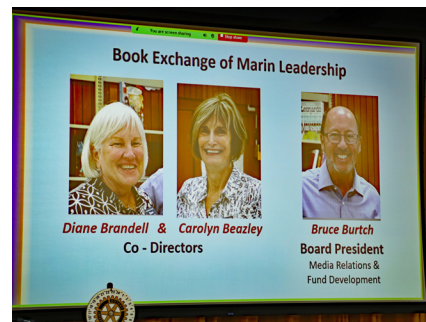
Burt Hoffmann describes election rental consequence for Nova-Ro tenants.



Captain Rob Marshall of the 2025 fabulous cruise has 1 final ticket to adventure.



Our Speaker Marilyn Nemzer; spreading books globally since 1989.



Book Exchange of Marin Leaders



Peian Harness, Jorg Westerheide, Grandchild Jaxon, Linda Westerheide, Ron Harness and Mark Bosch aboard the USS Hornet.

5150 District Foundation Event 2024



Ron Harness and Mark Bosch on the USS Hornet flight deck.