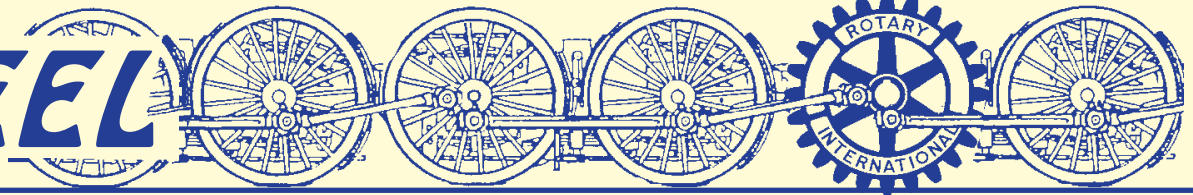


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



October 23, 2026
Vol. 78, No. 13
Editor:
Barnacle Bill Vespa

Call to Order

President **Peter Pelavin** called us to order.

Pledge & Thought for the Day

President Peter led us in the pledge. Then he presented us a short light hearted thought, "Never put off until tomorrow what you can put off until the day after tomorrow."

Guests & Visiting Rotarians

Our Speakers **Alison Healy** and **Nick Tarlson** were guests of our Club and the only visiting Rotarians.

Community Care

Past President **Reggie Winner** reported that **Jo Heffelfinger** is in the ICU at Novato Community Hospital. Pneumonia and Kidneys are giving **Jo** trouble. Keep **Jo** in your thoughts and prayers, send cards to **Jo** at the **Heffelfinger's** home, 135 Cabro Ct, Novato 94947.

Editor's note: I received an email over the weekend from long time member and current Honorary member **Darrell Scott**. **Darrell's** wife **Linda** is in rehab from back surgery at Stanford on October 12th. Keep **Linda** in your thoughts and prayers. You can send well wishes to lcscott@gmail.com or cards to **Linda Scott** at 1756 Maple Grove Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648.

Announcements

Novato History Museum Groundbreaking

President Peter reported that on Tuesday October 20,

RCN Past Presidents **Lynn Dawson** and **Gary Bramon** participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Novato History Museum.

Thank you!

Jim Spilman thanked and recognized all those who participated in building the A-Frame Playhouse at Hamilton Elementary School.

District Conference 2027

President Peter showed a short **Scooby-Doo** themed video promoting the upcoming District Conference on June 12, 2027 at the Westin St. Francis in SF. Save the date!

Program

Our speakers, **Nick Tarlson** and **Alison Healy**, came to talk about Rotary Fellowships. What are Rotary Fellowships? Rotary Fellowships are very much like College Clubs where members can get involved with people who share common specific interests. There are over 100 Rotary Fellowships ranging from vocations, to sports, to travel, to hobbies... go to www.rotary.org/get-involved/our-programs/rotary-fellowships for a complete listing. If you don't see a fellowship you are interested in there, you can start your own. Fellowships are international and less formal than Clubs. Annual membership fees generally are very small.

Nick is a past Fleet Commodore and **Alison** is the current Commodore of The International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians - San Francisco Fleet, www.iyfrsf.org. The International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians was formed 80 years ago in the U.K. and is the oldest Rotary Fellowship. There are 3,514 members in 114 Fleets worldwide. There are several yachting fellowship fleets near us including: San Francisco, Newport, Puget Sound, Seattle, Vancouver and Vancouver Island.

The cost to join the S.F. Yachting Fellowship Fleet is \$40, no boat required to join. Benefits include cruises,

social events, outings and special maritime tours such as a Bar Pilots tour, Cal Poly Maritime tour and Sausalito House Boats. A member of the S.F. Yachting Fellowship also has reciprocal privileges at 102 local yacht clubs (members of the PICYA). There are also opportunities to do community service, such as the Wheelchair Regatta. This event provides veterans, many of whom are confined to wheelchairs, with the rare opportunity to experience a powerboat cruise on the Oakland Estuary and San Francisco Bay along the San Francisco City front.

Alison is also the Chair and CEO of Ocean Alliances, www.oceanalliances.org, **Nick** serves on the Board. Ocean Alliances is an organization that supports historic tall ships sailing the globe for peace and cultural understanding. Tall ships can range up to 400ft in length and sail plans are usually variations of "square rigs" with yard arms supporting sails that run perpendicular to the ships direction, but may also include some sails that run fore and aft. Internationally, tall ships serve as a training platform for naval cadets which travel to foreign ports of call to create friendship and goodwill among all peoples. Tall ships provide opportunities for maritime education for youth, and at times perform rescue missions. The Ocean Alliances helps organize tall ship visits to the Port of San Francisco and helps cover port expenses, which can be \$100,000.

There was a Q & A session and testimonials by a couple of members encouraging Rotarians to participate in Rotary Fellowships. **President Peter** thanked **Nick** and **Alison** and presented them each with a set of **Alan Dunham** note cards.

Raffle

The raffle was won by President-Elect Rene Prado.

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?"

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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- Tires
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Patrick Martin

History of Mystery

Thurs., January 28, 2027
7 pm to 8:30 pm

Majoring in Psychology and Theater Arts, illusionist and comedian Patrick Martin worked his way through University studies by teaching sleight of hand to corporate executives. After graduation, he competed at an International Symposium of Magic and made magical history by winning two "Grand Prix Awards" for excellence in both stage and close-up magic. Known for the universal quality of his magic and humor, Mr. Martin has been featured at theater and music festivals throughout Europe, Indonesia and Japan. Patrick has performed on television specials in Europe, Japan, China, and in the United States, and currently can be seen on the popular series, "Masters of Illusion". He has entertained for numerous Heads of State, as well as at private parties for Jack Nicholson, 1st Lady Michelle Obama, Steve Wynn, and singer Katy Perry.

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



Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor

Nova-Ro

Independent Senior Living

www.novaro.org

Upcoming Programs & Events

October

Oct 30 Kym McNicholas - Peripheral Artery Disease

November

Nov 6 Julie Jacobson - NUSD
Nov 13 Dr. Scott Smith - Polio Update
Nov 20 Marlon McWilliams, PsyD - The Aging Brain
Nov 27 No Meeting

December

Dec 4 TBD
Dec 11 TBD
Dec 18 Speaker from the Buck Center
Dec 25 No Meeting

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Andy Czajkowski
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

Ross Millerick
Youth Service

Rene Prado
Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Jim Carriere
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Jeff Slavitz
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Lynn Dawson
Past President

The Rotary Club of Novato's Monthly Board and Committee Meetings

Membership

First Tuesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.

Contact Rene Prado at rene.prado@technicalquestion.com for meeting location.

World Community Service

First Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.

Contact chair Jeff Slavitz JeffSlavitz@gmail.com for meeting location.

Youth Service

First Thursday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.

Contact chair Ross Millerick at ross.millerick@gmail.com for meeting location.

Vocational Service

Second Wednesday of the month, 5:30 p.m.

Please confirm location with David at dhgabriel@gmail.com

Environmental Sustainability

Second Tuesday of the Month at 6:00 p.m.

Contact chair Randy Baker at vernalfalls1@gmail.com for meeting location.

RCN Board

Third Tuesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.

Contact President Peter Pelavin at peterotary@outlook.com for meeting location.

Community Service

Third Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.

Contact chair Jim Spilman James_V_Spilman@msn.com for meeting location.

Nova-Ro Board

Third Thursday of the Month at 8:30 a.m.

Contact chair Jim Carriere at james.carriere@gmail.com for meeting location.

Public Image Committee

Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.

Contact chair Joy Filman at joyphd@gmail.com for meeting location.

Novato Rotary Endowment

Quarterly (Jul., Oct., Jan. Apr.) on the Fourth Thursday of the Month at 8:30 a.m.

Contact chair Chris Degabriele at degabriele@novato.net for meeting location.

NOVEMBER

SPECIAL DATES

11-2	Tom Rickey
11-9	Susan Siefkas
11-11	Diane Spilman
11-11	Bill Vespa
11-11	Grace Wong
11-14	Lynn Dawson
11-15	Marilu Mazzotta
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
11-30	Skip Meehan



Speaker Nick Tarlson



Speaker Alison Healy



Colombian Navy Tall Ship Gloria parades with crew on the Yard Arms.



Tall Ship Stad Amsterdam under sail.



Novato History Museum Groundbreaking. (L to R) Jeanne MacLeamy, Susan Magnone, Jim Crumpler, Lynn Dawson, and Gary Bramon.



Non-Spaghetti Feed at the McDill's Home 10/23/26

