



**October 24, 2025**  
**Vol. 77, No. 17**  
**Editor:**  
**Bill Vespa**

**No Meeting on**  
**10/31**



**Rotary**  
District 5150

## **PEACE BUILDING THROUGH ROTARY**

Promoting peace is one of Rotary International's Seven Areas of Focus. This interactive workshop will introduce you to the concepts of positive peace and how you can utilize the many resources available to create environments where peace can be built in your communities. You will learn about:

- The difference between positive peace and negative peace
- The 8-Pillars of Positive Peace and how to apply them to your club projects
- The Rotary Positive Peace Academy and how you can become a Peacebuilder for your club
- Networking with other Rotarians who have a passion for peace

**WHO CAN ATTEND:** Anyone who is interested in learning practical skills to promote peace in their communities.

**WHEN:** Saturday, November 15, 2025, from 8:30am to 12noon  
(Continental breakfast served)

**WHERE:** Rotary Terrace Community Room, 312 Miller Avenue, South San Francisco  
Metered parking (\$1.50/hour) is available across the street in the multi-level parking lot. Parking is also available two blocks away, north or west, and is meter-free.

**TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE:** Register on the [www.rotary5150.org](http://www.rotary5150.org) website or click on this link: <https://rotary5150.org/event/peacebuilding-through-rotary>

Michelle Clein – District 5150 Peace Programs Chair – [mc@michelleclein.com](mailto:mc@michelleclein.com)  
415-686-8544 Cell/Text

## 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



## Christian Thwaites

### Driving Ukraine

**Thurs., January 26, 2026**

**7 pm to 8:30 pm**

Christian has volunteered to deliver front line vehicles to Ukrainian military and aid organizations the last two years.

In his talk, Christian will share his volunteer mission insights, life in Ukraine, personal stories about the Ukrainians and volunteers he met, Ukraine's resilience amid war scenarios, and thoughts about Russia/Ukraine economy and their journey towards peace.

**Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15**  
[www.novatospeakerseries.com](http://www.novatospeakerseries.com)

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

## Upcoming Programs & Events

### October

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 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](mailto:zip@sonic.net)

## SUPPORT NOVATO TEACHERS

Rotary  
Club of Novato



# 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 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 Puhrr-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*

# 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?"

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

### Membership

First Tuesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.  
Contact Patty Dougherty at pattydou97@gmail.com for meeting location.

### World Community Service

First Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.  
Contact chair Holly Axtell axtell@aol.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

First Thursday of the Month at 6:00 p.m.  
Contact chair David Gabriel at dhgabriel@gmail.com for meeting location.

### Environmental Sustainability

First Tuesday of the Month at 6:00 p.m.  
Contact chairs Gloria Dunn-Violin at gloriaviolin@yahoo.com or Randy Baker at vernalfalls1@gmail.com for meeting location.

### RCN Board

Third Tuesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.  
Contact President Lynn Dawson at lynnldawson@comcast.net for meeting location.

### Community Service

Third Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.  
Contact chair Jim Spilman at james\_v\_spilman@msn.com for meeting location.

### Nova-Ro Board

Third Thursday of the Month at 8:30 a.m.  
Contact chair Peter Oser at peteroser205@gmail.com for meeting location.

### PR/Communications Committee

Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.  
Contact chair Phil Dougherty at rotary2phil@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 Brad Williams at acur8cpa@icloud.com for meeting location.

## 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!**

