In the Beginning…
The Club gathered off site, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall. What special way to celebrate Veterans Day.
Nine scouts from Troop 200 led the Pledge and presented the colors. They and scout members of our Club also recited the Scout Oath of being trustworthy, loyal, and kind, among other attributes. Our own Tiffany Fischer in full Marine gear stated the ‘Thought of the Day’: “Some people spend a life time of wondering if they made a difference. The Marines don’t have to worry about it!”

President Phil acknowledged Gary Bramon for arranging the meeting at the VFW and John Cutrufelli for being the contractor during a major much needed overhaul to the building.

Visitors & Guests
Kyle Fraizer introduced dad Tom, moving over from the Petaluma Club to our Club, and Tom’s girlfriend Suzanne. Tommy Lee introduced caretaker Jessica and son Ryan, who is in the application pipeline for joining our Club.
John Cutrufelli invited Rick Saber, a member of VFW and Knights of Columbus. Rick discussed 24 units opening up May 2024. This is run by Homeward Bound and will focus on vets. Rick also mentioned he is post commander of VFW and issued the invite to stop on by and he will buy a drink for you.

Announcements
Sunshine Report
Marty Wickenheiser said Reggie Winner is recovering well from knee replacement surgery. She appreciates the cards. Sadly, Jim White’s sister has passed away.

Speakers Series
Gary Bramon reminded us of speakers series. Heidi Kuhn December 21st. Tickets are on sale now!

Veteran’s Day
President Phil provided a reminder of what Veterans Day is all about. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month the war to end all wars terminated. Well, we all know that didn’t last!
President Phil shared his personal family history of a dad that helped liberate Dachau. Phil’s uncle gave his life in WWI, dying in the Argonne Forest. A family relative was at Pearl Harbor and a cousin involved with the Bataan Death March. The sacrifice of a few!!!
Vet Roy Pfeifer reminded the Club that his wife Brenda is also a vet.
Ryan Lee mentioned his brother was a Marine and grand dad Wendall (long time Novato Rotarian) was also a vet. Ryan mentioned he failed operation golden flow. Had to be at the meeting to understand.

Speaker
Roy Pfeifer introduced speaker Brian Sobel. Brian has been in the communications industry. He is involved with the History and Discovery channels as well as KQED. Brian mentioned the last WWI vet passed on in 2011 and there are fewer than 120,000 WWII vets left. Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan reflect the largest number of vets.
Brian is the son of an Army officer. Born into a military family Brian lived in Japan and Germany for years. He lived through the tense cold war years. He discussed an ambiance of families knowing their warriors might not return home.
Brian’s book The Fighting Pattons, covers father and son, Major General and General. The military family history goes back to the revolutionary War. One Patton was killed during the Civil War, on the confederate side. The Patton father and son cover 79 consecutive years of service, starting with the chasing of Poncho Villa is 1916! And yep that was on horseback.
Upon retirement, they younger Patton retired to Green Meadows Farm. He brought vets of all ranks to visit the farm. And yes, all ranks. If you served you were honored.
Brian also discussed later wars such as Viet Nam. Lt. General Hal Moore was involved in fighting the North Vietnamese Army. The US had 400 while, Viet Nam had 3,000 troops. Over 300 US troops were lost and yes “Broken
The Four-Way Test

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?

P.O. Box 657 
Novato, CA 94948

The Four-Way Test

Heidi Kühn

The Bill and Adele Jonas Center
Thursday, December 21
7 pm to 8:30 pm

Heidi Kühn’s social justice story replaces land mines with grapevines

Heidi Kühn’s vision for a humanitarian mission to eradicate the world’s former war zones of the scourge of land mines and transform those minefields into vineyards and sustainable crops came to her in an unscripted moment of clarity she still calls an “epiphany.”

Enjoy pre-show music from Don Forbes and his band Don Forbes and Reckless.

Tickets: Adults $25  •  Students $10

November 2023
Nov. 17  Bill Bradfield: “The Four Freedoms” and other Norman Rockwell masterpieces
Nov. 24  Happy Thanksgiving! No Regular Meeting & No Speaker Series due to holiday

December 2023
Dec. 1  Hawi Yema: Ethiopian Refugee
Dec. 8  Officer Kyle Baker: Human Trafficking
Dec. 15  Kerry Bacho: Reading Program
Dec. 17  Holiday Brunch - Marin Country Club
Dec. 21  Novato Speaker Series: Heidi Kühn

Upcoming Programs & Events

The Four-Way Test

Heidi Kühn
The Bill and Adele Jonas Center
Thursday, December 21
7 pm to 8:30 pm

Heidi Kühn’s social justice story replaces land mines with grapevines

Heidi Kühn’s vision for a humanitarian mission to eradicate the world’s former war zones of the scourge of land mines and transform those minefields into vineyards and sustainable crops came to her in an unscripted moment of clarity she still calls an “epiphany.”

Enjoy pre-show music from Don Forbes and his band Don Forbes and Reckless.

Tickets: Adults $25  •  Students $10

The Four-Way Test

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?

P.O. Box 657 
Novato, CA 94948

The Four-Way Test

Heidi Kühn

The Bill and Adele Jonas Center
Thursday, December 21
7 pm to 8:30 pm

Heidi Kühn’s social justice story replaces land mines with grapevines

Heidi Kühn’s vision for a humanitarian mission to eradicate the world’s former war zones of the scourge of land mines and transform those minefields into vineyards and sustainable crops came to her in an unscripted moment of clarity she still calls an “epiphany.”

Enjoy pre-show music from Don Forbes and his band Don Forbes and Reckless.

Tickets: Adults $25  •  Students $10

The Four-Way Test

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?
Arrow” was called. This meant troops were overrun. It was a lesson that stayed with Hal Moore.

Brian said it is the love of their buddies that drives these soldiers to make the sacrifices they do. Check out the movie “We Were Soldiers Once... And Young.”

Some last thoughts. Don’t go into war without an overwhelming force. If you don’t know what you are fighting for, then you will be unsuccessful. That is a quote from the Revolutionary War.

Alex de Toqueville, touring America in 1831, stated America is great because America is good. When America ceases being good it ceases being great.

Thank you Brian for inspiring stories.

25er

The 25er was won by Holly Axtell. Wow, Keith won a few weeks ago. Maybe this means they are working on a dinner out!

Closing with our own unsung heroes. Thank you Roy and John Reuscher for helping with set up and take down.

Harrison's Holiday Party
To honor veterans, Brian Sobel speaks to the Rotary Club of Novato about American military history and the importance of honoring our veterans for their service to our nation. We met in the back patio of Marin county’s last remaining VFW Post 7816, at 844 Sweetser Avenue in Novato. The Post is led by Commander Rick Saber, a retired US Navy and civilian aviator.

Sobel is the author of “The Fighting Pattens,” which tells the story of the famous General George S. Patton, Jr., and his son, who also became a general. Sobel has been writing articles, and speaking about military subjects on radio and television for many years.

As a participating member of his community Sobel served ten years on the Petaluma City Council and was a board member of the Golden Gate Bridge and Transportation District. He is also currently serves on the board of directors of the Bank of Marin, where he was chairman of the board for seven years. Sobel has a personal knowledge of military history with a down to earth approach as a skilled and impassioned speaker.

By Penny Hansen