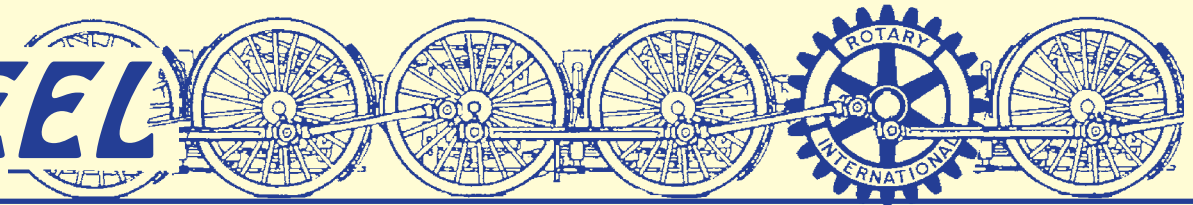


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**November 10, 2023**  
**Vol. 75, No. 18**  
**Editor:**  
**Suzanne Bales**

## 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

*Continued on page 3*

**Rotary Club of Novato**



*A Winter Wonderland*  
BRUNCH & ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17  
11:00 A.M. SOCIAL • 11:30 A.M. BRUNCH

MARIN COUNTRY CLUB  
500 Country Club Drive, Novato  
\$55 PER PERSON • KIDS under 12 EAT FREE  
BUFFET BRUNCH - NO HOST BAR

RSVP to: Marsha Molloy  
mjmolloy@pacbell.net or 415-328-7745

Mail check payable to: **Rotary Club of Novato**  
Mail checks to:  
Marsha Molloy, 308 Becky Court, Novato, CA 94949  
RSVPS and checks due by December 11th

# 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?"



## featuring 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**

## Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



**Empathy**  
ESTATE PLANNING

[www.empathyestateplanning.com](http://www.empathyestateplanning.com)

## Upcoming Programs & Events

### 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 Kuhn

## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2023/2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Phil Dougherty**  
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**Tom Rickey**  
*Vice President*

**Sonia Seeman**  
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*Co-Secretaries*

**Chris DeGabriele**  
*Treasurer*

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**Laine Hendricks**  
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**Stacie Vance**  
*Assistant District Governor*

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**Roy Pfeifer & John Reuscher**  
*Club Administration*

**Kyle Frazier**  
*Public Image*

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*Community Service*

**Gloria Dunn-Violin**  
*Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)*

**Holly Axtell**  
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**Lynn Dawson**  
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**Sonia Seeman**  
*Jonas Center Liaison*

**Peter Oser**  
*President, Nova-Ro Corp.*

**Craig Anderson**  
*Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment*

**Peian Harness**  
*Past President*

Arrow” was called. This meant troops were over run. 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 American 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





*VFW patio was enhanced with gazebo, storage and fencing by the loving hands of our members.*

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 counties 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*



*Guest Speaker Brian Sobel in Honor of Veterans gave us 30 years of Military history in 30 empassioned minutes.*



*New member Tom Frazier, with girlfriend Suzanne Prine and member Kyle Frazier.*



*Rick Saber VFW Post 7816 Commander.*



*Rotary President Phil Dougherty joins in honoring the flag.*



*BSA Troop 200 Assistant Scoutmaster Eric Zepeda.*