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 13, 2026
Vol. 78, No. 16
Editor:
Maggie Shao

In the Beginning

President Peter opened the meeting with a bell strike at 12:15. **Laura Joss** led the pledge and the thought for the day, **Laura** ran today's weather forecast through the Four-Way Test. Is it the Truth? Yes, it's pouring. Is it Fair to All Concerned? Not unless you're a duck. Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships? Only if we stay dry in the Jonas Center. Will it Be Beneficial to All? Yes thank you for coming to today's meeting

Guests and Visitors

Visiting Rotarians: **Christina Aquino**, SF Mission Rotary Club, Polio Plus Society Chair and President Elect. **Dr. Scott Smith**, San Mateo Rotary Club, today's speaker and President Elect for 2027-2028. **Russ Ketron** introduced his lovely wife **Kathy**, and also introduced **Marc Lewis**, a community policy advocate. **John Reuscher** introduced two visitors from COM IT services, **Matthew** & **Marcus**. **Alan Dunham** brought his wife **Roberta**, also introduced **Kathy** and **Jim Botko**. **Laura Joss** brought her talented husband, **Skip**.

Community Care

Jo Hefflefinger is still in rehab and would love to get a card or phone call.

Announcements

Senior Expo

Melinda Durfee highlighted a Marin County Senior Expo that will be held at the Jonas Center on Tuesday, Jan 26, from 10am to 1pm. Anticipate having 50 vendor booths specializing in Senior Citizen needs.

Blue Star Moms

Larry Harrison wanted to remind us about the Target Gift Cards for Veterans, please have the amounts with $25 minimum and to write the $ value of the card for better distribution.

A Meeting You Can't Refuse

Rene Prado reminded the Fundraising Committee of the meeting right after our regular meeting in the adjoining room.

Icebreaker/Table Creativity Activity

3 random objects were placed on each table. **Prez Peter** challenged each table to creatively use the objects to come up with a useful product. Some of the creative products imagined included a mobile meal tool consisting of a fork, scissors, and binder clip: uses included cutting long noodles. Another table had a paper folding fan & post it notes that could become a travel guide with post it notes with restaurants, shops listed on the fan's folded pleats. Another table had a beaded coyote, packing tape and swiss army knife - the plan was to build a house using the knife to cut wood and packing tape to secure to house and foster the coyote named Impact (Rotary International President **Olayinka Babalola**'s current motto is 'Create Lasting Impact'). The winning table had an alternate power source using the objects as a fulcrum and brute force to send a battery flying into the air.

Program

Russ Ketron began reflecting on 1951 when he woke up screaming in pain. It was the first sign he had acquired polio. In 1986 Rotary became involved in Polio eradication, launching a goal of raising $125 million dollars following a successful vaccination campaign in the Philippines,



Rotary's very first Health, Hunger and Humanity grant to immunize 6 million children for polio prevention. **Russ** shared in 2006 in Salt Lake City Rotary Convention, where **Bill Gates Sr** joined the campaign against polio with each Rotary dollar matched by $2 by **Gates**. In total, the Gates Foundation has contributed $1 billion dollars toward Polio eradication. **Russ** then introduced **Dr. Scott Smith**, an Doctor of Epidemiology (Epidemiology examines whole communities and populations to protect public health), who happens to be the President Elect for San Mateo Rotary Club and well versed on infectious diseases (his focus happens to be malaria) to update us on the current status of polio. Four (4) common questions asked? 1) Is the current vaccine that has live polio can infect someone with polio? 2) Is there a new vaccine being developed w/o risk

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The BIG WHEEL
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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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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

November

Nov 20	**YuHui Chen** - 5150 District Governor
Nov 27	**No Meeting**

December

Dec 4	**Michael Jenkins - Body Kinetics Owner** Maintaining Fitness As We Age
Dec 11	**John Trauth** - Maintaining Optimism While Aging - Annual Club Meeting/Elections
Dec 18	**J.M. Reyes** - Buck Center Advances and Current Funding Status
Dec 25	**No Meeting**

January

Jan 1	**No Meeting**

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO
2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Jim Carriere
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Jeff Slavitz
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Lynn Dawson
Past President

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of live virus? 3) Is environmental sampling/surveillance a good indicator of the spread of polio? 4) What is Polio Plus.

Dr. Smith answered these questions with his presentation. There is a possibility from surveillance of water supplies that the virus is in contaminated water, and since the transmission of virus is through feces contaminating water, with sanitation in conjunction with immunization, is the key to prevent spread. Currently, the two spots having cases of polio are Afghanistan and Pakistan. Two big challenges regarding immunization is 1) Belief system of the safety and efficacy of vaccines - for example the current measles cases rising in the US is directly due to the belief that the vaccine is not safe. Troublesome because if "herd immunity" drops to below 95%, disease can be difficult to manage and control the spread. 2) Conflicts that disable widespread immunization, health care workers unable to reach certain populations. **Dr. Smith** continued about Polio Plus donations are not just for the immunization dose but also to fund surveillance to monitor spread. **Dr. Smith** also gave potential good news that a new vaccine developed at UCSF does not require live virus and may be the next best vaccine for polio.

Christina Aquino, President Elect of SF Mission Club and District 5150 Chair of Polio Plus Society, came up to the podium and quizzed the audience with a flying plush doll and when the music stopped, whoever held the plush had to answer the question. To join the Polio Plus Society, a Rotarian pledges $100 a year. Now there is a campaign called Purple Pinkie Challenge, for 8 weeks from Nov. 20 to Jan. 9, is a fundraising and build awareness event for Polio eradication. Purple Pinkie refers to the purple ink placed on children's left pinkie when they are immunized. District 5150 is combining fitness with pledges for the eight weeks, to see more info go to https://rotary5150.org/page/the-purple-pinkie-challenge-for-polio. Meeting adjourned after raffle winner announced.

Raffle

$25 Raffle Winner this week, **Marty Wickenheiser**

Marin Independent Journal

VOTE FOR US!

Rotary Club of Novato as the "Best Service Club"

Bill and Adele Jonas Center as the "Best Meeting Convention and Event Space"

IJ READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2027

Dee's Organic Catering as the "Best Caterer"!

Voting Ballot at

marinijreaderschoice2027.com

Voting Protocols:

- Only one ballot from one URL is allowed (this generally means one ballot per device)
- 10 categories must be voted on for the ballot to count
- It's best to complete your ballot at one time; refreshing, or leaving it, may result in timing out, and you may need to start over
- You will be asked for your email upon completing your ballot, we will not share your information

Voting Nov. 1 - 30, 2026



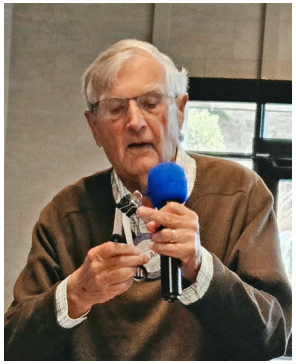
Laura Joss led the pledge and gave the thought.



President Peter Pelavin called us to order.



Melinda Durfee announces the Senior Expo.



Alan Dunham demonstrates his table's product.



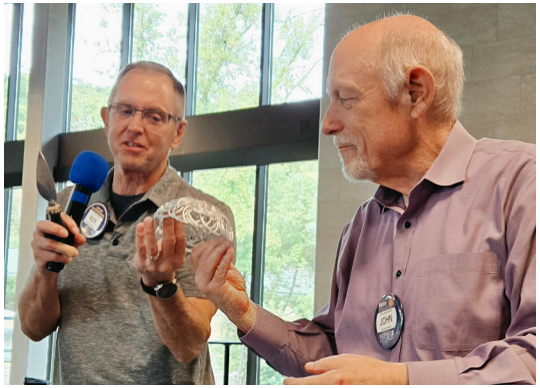
Roy Pfiefer and Gary Lam generating creative ideas.



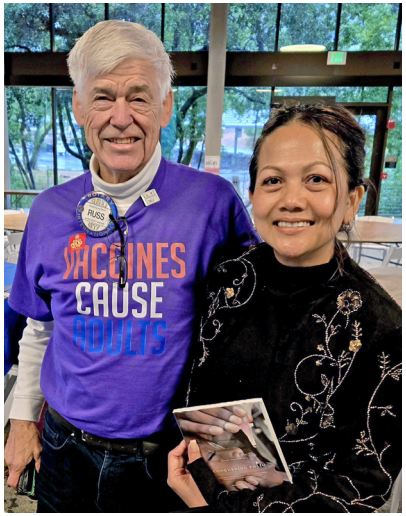
Rene Prado announces the Endowment Fundraiser meeting.



Larry Harrison is collecting Target Gift Cards for Blue Star Moms.



Roy Pfiefer and John Reuscher showing the table finished product.



Polio survivor Russ Ketron with Polio Plus Society Chair Christina Aquino.



Speaker Dr. Scott Smith talked about the global status of Polio.

WHO are the "Players" against Polio?

Entity	Total Donations	Annual Donations
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	$5 billion	Varies
Rotary International	$2.1 billion	Varies
United States Government	$2.0 billion	$253 million (FY 2022)
United Kingdom Government	$100 million	Varies
Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance	Data not found	Data not found



Lynn Dawson shows off her table's product.