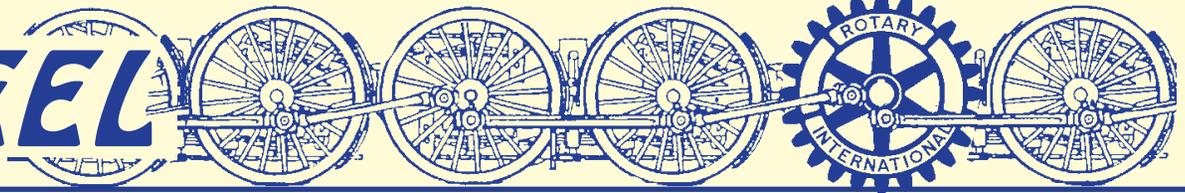


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



November 7, 2025

Vol. 77, No. 18

Editor:

Pilgrim Mayflower (Dean H.)

Call To Order

Prez Lynn rang da bell.

Thought For The Day

Rene Prado provided a thought: "Dogs are a real link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent. To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden where doing nothing was not boring, it was peace." - *Milan Kundera*

Visiting Rotarians

There ain't any.

Guests of Rotarians

Past Prez **Bill McDill** intro'd his favorite wife, **Vicki. Edna Scheller** was the guest of her granddaughter **Shelayna Levo**. PDG **Russ Ketron** intro'd his bride **Kathy**. **Ross Millerick** brought **Gianna Biaggi** from Magnolia Project. While **Laura Joss** intro'd her daughter **Lindsay**.

Sad News

Prez Lynn announced that Past President **Phil Brown** passed away Wednesday night at home. P.P. **Phil's** service will be held at Valley Memorial Park on Friday, November 21 at 10:00a.m. Members should be attending **Phil's** service.

Activities

During our time to enjoy eating our lunch, **Prez Lynn** suggested we tell each other at our tables about pet dogs or cats we had and unique stories about them. I had a cat who was grey and the color of cigarette smoke, so we gave him a dog's name, "Smokey". Past Prez **Robert Marshall** had a pet that "Hit the Roof" it's name was "Scarlet" (O'Hara?). **Joy Fillman** had an Australian Shepherd. Did the dog herd sheep?

Announcements

Past Prez **Larry Harrison** requested donations for the Blue Star Moms program of providing Target gift cards for military families where the spouse is overseas. **Larry** will be collecting those gift cards for the next three weeks. **Larry** donated \$500, as did **Lori Frugoli**.

Member's Biographies (Background Talk)

Shelayna Levo told us about herself and some of her family. **Shelayna** is a Property Manager. She is the granddaughter of one of our very esteemed members – the late Past President **Paul Scheller**. That means she is also the granddaughter of **Edna Scheller**. By the way, **Shelayna** put on a great surprise 90th birthday party for **Edna**.

Presentation

Prez Lynn called up Youth Services Director, **Ross Millerick**, and **Gianna** from Magnolia Project. The Rotary Club of Novato presented Magnolia Project with a check for \$2,200 to help 7th – 12th Grade students get apprenticeships and work experience.

Speaker

Sasha D'Amico introduced our speaker, **Jane Flower** who is the Youth Outreach Specialist of Guide Dogs for The Blind. **Jane** is legally blind and has a guide dog herself. Her dog's name is "Pilaf".

Jane talked about growing up blind and how difficult it was making friends as a blind person. She also said she frequently ran into things. **Jane** is on her third guide dog. She said guide dogs usually last about nine years. She said in college she made friends easier.

Raffle

Delyn Kies is twenty-five bucks richer!

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!

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

Limited Sponsor Opportunity!

Show your support of the RCN and target people that share your commitment to supporting Rotary.

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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

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



To Sign-up For a Car Wash Shift

Click Here!

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



Upcoming Programs & Events

November

Nov. 14	Birthday Party & RCN Nominating
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	Unwrapping AI: The Gift That Keeps on Learning
Dec. 21	Holiday Brunch - Marin Country Club
Dec. 26	No Meeting

January

Jan. 2	No Meeting
Jan. 9	Novato Rotary Endowment Presentation
Jan. 16	Club Assembly

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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(NR-CAT)*

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International Service

Jorg Pühr-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



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 website or click on this link: <https://rotary5150.org/event/peacebuilding-through-rotary>

Michelle Clein – District 5150 Peace Programs Chair – mc@michelleclein.com
415-686-8544 Cell/Text

In Memoriam

Phil Brown

May 13, 1931 – November 5, 2025

Service at Valley Memorial Park
Friday, November 21st at 10:00 a.m.

Rotary



Club of Novato

YES, BIG WHEEL EDITORS ARE STILL

NEEDED

***Support the most interesting
Rotary Club ever!***

***Help share our meetings
with family, friends
and members unable to attend.***

***All you need to do is supply typed
notes of the meeting. NO Formatting!***

**Contact Bill Vespa at
zip@sonic.net**



Lori Frugoli and Larry Harrison donated \$500 each to buy gift cards for Blue Star Moms.



Sasha D'Amico introduces our speaker Jane Flower.



Our speaker, Guide Dogs for the Blind Youth Outreach Specialist Jane Flower, her Guide Dog "Pilaf" and Guide Dogs For The Blind Special Events Manager Debi Morgen.



Left to right: John Cutrufelli, Jim Spilman, Mark Bosch, Craig McCurdy, Lisa Clarke (CEO of Sustainable Marin Schools), Stefan & Ross Calkins. Not pictured Jorg Westerheide, Larry Mazzotta, Curtis Aikens, John Christman, and Randy Baker



Loma Verde Track Project Phase 2

On Saturday, October 18 the volunteers listed above worked on the flood control at the Loma Verde track. Sustainable Marin Schools provided the excavation and grading plans. John C. operated the excavator and created a new bio-swale above the track. Ross C. used the skip loader to grade the area below the bridge (area #3). On Sunday, October 19, 41 volunteers worked on the area #3, adding soil, covering with bark and planting plants. This was a collaborative project with Loma Verde parents, children, teachers, Sustainable Marin Schools and RCN.