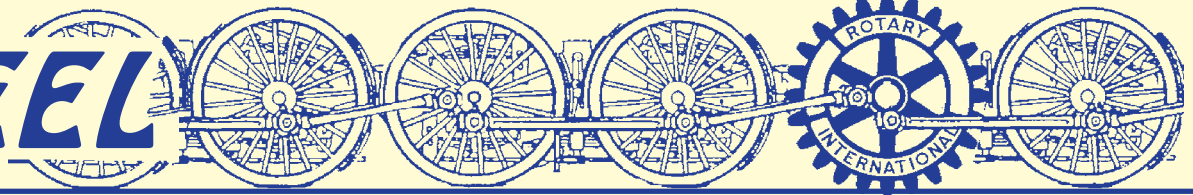


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**November 8, 2024**  
**Vol. 76, No. 15**  
**Editor:**  
**Staff Sergeant**  
**Dean L. Heffelfinger, USAF**

## Call to Order

Prez Tommy rang da bell.

## Pledge & Thought

**Past Prez Bill McDill**, who is also a veteran, an Army officer, led us in the pledge. **P.P. Bill** also quoted **George Orwell** who said, "People sleep peacefully in their beds at night because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf."

## Recognitions

**Grace Wong** celebrates her birthday Monday, November 11, which is Veterans Day and my grandson **Francis**' seventh birthday.

Next Thursday November 14th is **Lynn Dawson**'s birthday! **P.P. Phil Brown** and **P.P. Jean Brown** will celebrate their wedding anniversary on November 18th. Congrats!

The day before **Phil** and **Jean**'s day, **Christina Stroeh** celebrates her anniversary of joining the Club while **Rafelina Maglio** celebrates her Club anniversary on the 18th.

## Community Care

Thankfully, there were no names on medical care. **Phil Brown** still needs cards and calls.

We did have a moment of silence for **Craig Anderson**. May he rest in peace. There will be a memorial for **Craig** at the Jonas Center on Tuesday, November 26 at 1:00.

## Visitors and Guests

We had no visiting Rotarians, but we had some guests. **P.P. Peian** intro'd **Delyn Kies**, while **P.P. Larry Harrison** intro'd **Barbara Travis**. **Brian Durwood** was the guest of **Jeff Slavitz**. **P.P. Christina Stroeh** brought **Randy Baker** as a guest for the last time. **Melinda Dufee** was the guest of both **Sonia Seeman** and **P.P. Jim Spilman**. **Ross Millerick** was intro'd for the final time by **Jim Spilman**.

## Announcements

### Let There Be Blood!

Yes, our Rotary District 5150 Blood drive is Thursday & Friday November 14 & 15 at the San Rafael Elks Lodge Carriage House. Remember, you're not just giving blood, you're giving the gift of life. Because of a bone marrow failure illness, I took blood over 300 times in 2011 & 2012. Frequently, I thanked Rotary knowing that many pints came from Rotarians!

### Rotary District Conference

The Rotary District 5150 Conference will be May 15-18, 2025 in Santa Rosa. The early bird registration date is December 4th to save \$50!

### New Red Badgers

Two new members were inducted today. **Randy Baker** was sponsored by **Christina Stroeh** and **Ross Millerick** was sponsored by **Jim Spilman**.

### It's Tuesday I must be in Africa

**Mike Morrissey** told us about his latest trip to Africa. Exciting, especially the poisonous snake bite!

## Rotary Trivia Wheel

The two answers I got were the X-Ray (accidentally discovered) and Armistice Day, now Veterans Day.

## Speaker

**Suzanne Bales** introduced our speakers, **Gary Gonsler** (a former Novato Rotary Club member) and **Leonard Weingarten**. **Gary** is President of ESCOM and **Leonard** is Vice-President.

They told us all about the many, many clubs at College of Marin and Indian Valley College. There are at least 20 different clubs and many people have been in the clubs for twenty years! There are all kinds of clubs including "Bridge to Astronomy" and many of the people in the clubs are senior adults. For anyone interested in joining ESCOM, Emeritus Students College of Marin, please check out the web site <https://escom.marin.edu> to take advantage of the many free lifelong learning opportunities that are available.

## Raffle

The \$25 raffle was won by **Peian Harness**, but I won the back table pool of 10 bucks. Last week the \$25 raffle was won by **Keith Axtell** who said he's already spent it!



# 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



**Empathy**  
ESTATE PLANNING

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

## Prof. Alex Filippenko, PhD Exciting Results from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope!

**The Bill and Adele Jonas Center  
Thursday, January 23 • 7 pm to 8:30 pm**

Alex Filippenko is an elected member of both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, is one of the world's most highly cited astrophysicists. His scientific accomplishments, documented in nearly 1200 research papers, have been recognized with numerous prizes. He was the only person to have been a member of both teams that revealed the accelerating expansion of the Universe, a discovery that was honored with the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics to the teams' leaders. He is a frequent user of the Hubble Space Telescope and JWST. Winner of the highest teaching awards at UC Berkeley and voted the "Best Professor" on campus a record 9 times, in 2006 he was named the Case/Carnegie National Professor of the Year among doctoral institutions. He has produced 5 video courses with The Great Courses, coauthored an award-winning astronomy textbook, and appears in more than 120 television documentaries.

**Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15**



## Upcoming Programs & Events

### November

- Nov. 13 **Board Meeting at Jonas Center**
- Nov. 15 **TGIF at the Ron & Peian's Home**
- Nov. 22 **Jay Alexander: Magician**
- Nov. 25 **No Meeting-Thanksgiving**

### December

- Dec. 6 **Craft Talks by Club Members**
- Dec. 11 **Board Meeting at Jonas Center**
- Dec. 13 **Tech Education N. United: Dan Mikola**
- Dec. 15 **Christmas Brunch at Marin Country Club**
- Dec. 20 **No Meeting - Christmas Holidays**
- Dec. 27 **No Meeting - Christmas Holidays**

### January 2024

- Jan. 3 **Svetlana Whitener: Emotional Intelligence**
- Jan. 8 **Board Meeting at Jonas Center**
- Jan. 10 **S. Edgerton: SEE's Candy, A Taste of history**
- Jan. 17 **Steve Bender: Embracing the Future While Respecting the Past**

## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2024/2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Tom Rickey**  
*President*

**Lynn Dawson**  
*Vice President*

**Peian Harness**  
*Secretary*

**Al Shirley**  
*Treasurer*

**Stephanie A. Urchick**  
*R.I. President*

**Steve Wright**  
*District Governor*

**Stacie Vance**  
*Assistant  
District Governor*

### DIRECTORS

**John Reuscher**  
*Logistics & Facilities*

**Jeff Slavitz**  
*Public Image & Awareness*

**Peter Pelavin**  
*Community Service*

**Roy Pfeifer & Gloria Dunn-Violin**  
*Environmental Sustainability  
(NR-CAT)*

**Holly Axtell**  
*International Service*

**Jorg Puhrr-Westerheide**  
*The Rotary Foundation (TRF)*

**Eliza Roesler**  
*Youth Service*

**Patty Dougherty**  
*Membership*

**Sonia Seeman**  
*Jonas Center Liaison*

**Craig Anderson**  
*President, Nova-Ro Corp.*

**Peter Oser**  
*Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment*

**Phil Dougherty**  
*Past President*



**TGIF**  
at  
**Ron & Peian Harness House**

**Friday, November 15**  
**5:00 p.m.**

449 Fieldstone Drive • Novato

Beverages provided  
please bring an appetizer

**NEW MEMBER NOTICE**

The application for membership of the following was (were) approved by the Board of Directors and the membership:

- **Melinda Durfee: Community Programs, Program Coordinator, Facility Rentals**
- **Delyn Kies: Environmental Consultant, Retired**

if there are no objections by:

**Thursday, December 5**  
he/she/they will be inducted on or about:

**Friday, December 6**

*Peian Harness*  
Secretary



**Rotary Club of Novato**



*A Winter Wonderland*  
**BRUNCH**

*~*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**  
**11:00 A.M. SOCIAL • 11:30 A.M. BRUNCH**

**MARIN COUNTRY CLUB**  
**500 Country Club Drive, Novato**  
**\$65 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 8th**



Speakers ESCOM Directors Gary Gonser and Leonard Weingarten.



Mike jet-lagged exchanged Rotary flags.



Marty thanks members for Los Robles landscaping.



Larry Harrison directs gift cards to Barbara Travis of Blue Star Moms for vets.



Two new members with sponsors.



New member Mark at the semi annual Los Robles clean-up day.