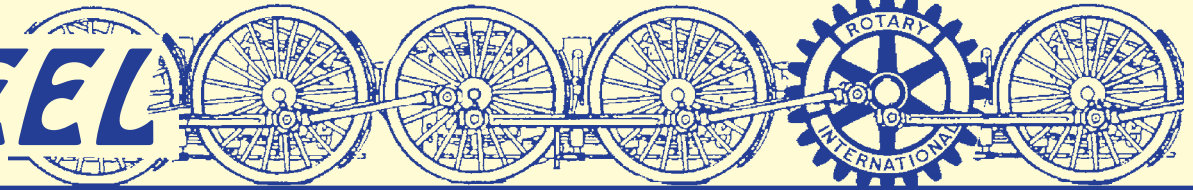


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



December 1, 2023
Vol. 75, No. 21
Editor:
Maggie Shao

In the Beginning

President Phil Dougherty opened the meeting "Where it's great to be alive, great to be in Novato, and great to be a Rotarian." **Roy Pfeiffer** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and **Larry Mazotta** gave us some positive thoughts: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service to others." - **Gandhi**; "The best preparation for tomorrow is to do today's work superbly well." - **Wm Osler**; "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched--they must be felt with the heart." - **H. Keller**.

Guests and Visitors

We had many visitors today. Bill McDill brought his current wife, Vicki; TJ Neff introduced Ceta; Chris DeGabriele brought Joni (both celebrating December birthdays); Tommy Lee introduced wife Tara and other family members (sorry didn't catch their names) for Ryan's induction; Gary Bramon across the room brought wife Toni and also his co-presenter from last meeting, Bill Bradfield, and Mark Bosch who will be helping out with the Novato Speaker Series. Marty Wickenheiser brought 3 guests, her neighbor Jackie Cormier, Dave & Camille Jampolsky from Tiburon.

Sunshine Report

Reggie Winner is up and walking up to 1 mile and doing fine, not driving yet, but is doing well.

Announcements

H²OpenDoors

Rob Marshall has just achieved the required budget of \$34,500 for Guatemala H²OpenDoors water project- that

project will include reading glasses distribution, feminine hygiene kits as well.

Books & Art Around Town

Alan Dunham asked for volunteers for Novato's Tree Lighting event at the Books & Art Around Town Booth from 4pm to 7:30pm on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Brick Laying Project

Jim Spillman asked for more volunteer brick layers next Friday after the meeting at 2pm at City Hall for engraved commemorative bricks (\$100 donation) - bring work gloves, knee pads and a smile.

Car Wash Follow-Up

Peter Pelavin followed up the Car Wash with asking those who did not receive car wash tickets to let him know for next year.

Dictionary Distribution

Marty Wickenheiser anticipates help needed, especially from new Rotarians being inducted today, with Dictionary distribution.

Superbowl Board

Frank Bruno says there are 41 squares at \$20 each, still available on Superbowl raffle, this fundraiser generates \$1000 for Western BBQ and \$1000 in payout for winners.

Scholarship Committee

John Riggerberg, Scholarship Committee Chair, is preparing for next year with a meeting for all those interested on December 14.

Project Amigo

President Phil announced there will be a Zoom informational meeting Monday, January 8 at 5:30pm for anyone interested in the April 7-14th Project Amigo service trip to Colima.

Induction of New Members

Ron Harness presented our 5 new members (unfortunately **Thomas C. Frazier** was not able to join us today) and their sponsors. **Jackson Coster/Peter Oser; Sasha D'Amico/Lynn Dawson; Ryan Lee/Bill McDill; Scott Root/ Suzanne Bales.**

Ron mentioned to these new members how Rotary is the vehicle for service above self, to society and community and together we

can accomplish these ideals. New members are encouraged not only to attend Club meetings, but also to get involved in committees, volunteer projects, and social events. Also the Club is a space for fellowship and reminds us of the 4 Way Test. **Ryan Lee** believes he is one of the only third generation Rotarians with Grandfather **Wendell Lee** and Dad **Tommy Lee** preceding him. **Captain Sasha** is happy to join our Club with support and well wishes from fellow police officer **Mike Howard**. **Scott Root** knew of Rotary when working in Azerbaijan. Some fun facts about our new members: **Scott Root** held the time record for 1 mile at his Idaho high school until just recently, **Jackson Coster** spent a semester at Sea traveling to 13 different countries, **Ryan Lee** was in a Reggae Rock Band that played big venues and released albums.

Holiday Brunch

Holiday Brunch at Marin Country Club, RSVP to **Marsha Molloy**, mjmolloy@pacbell.net.

Program

Gary and Tony Bramon went to Tiburon for lunch one day and stopped in at YEMA store on Main Street and met **Hawi Awash**, she and her husband **Yema Khalif** opened this store in Feb. 2020 and **Gary** was so fascinated by their story he invited **Hawi** to come and tell her inspiring story. **Hawi** was born in Ethiopia, and at age 2, she and her family became refugees in Kenya during the Eritrean-Ethiopian war. **Hawi** and her family spent 6 years in a refugee camp, not a legal resident therefore unable to go to school or receive many social services. Sponsored by an aunt who lived in Minnesota, her family immigrated to the US - her memory of the trip includes eating and savoring french fries for the first time! Minnesota offered schooling and snow and opportunities and she traveled to LA at age 13 to perhaps model or act. That taste of California stayed with her and when she wanted to go to college she hoped to go to Southern California but ended up at Dominican in San Rafael, because

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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

Upcoming Programs & Events

December 2023

- 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
President

Tom Rickey
Vice President

Sonia Seeman
Jim White
Co-Secretaries

Chris DeGabriele
Treasurer

Gordon R. McNally
R.I. President

Laine Hendricks
District Governor

Stacie Vance
*Assistant
District Governor*

DIRECTORS

Roy Pfeifer & John Reuscher
Club Administration

Kyle Frazier
Public Image

Peter Pelavin
Community Service

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

Holly Axtell
International Service

Jorg Pühr-Westerheide
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

Marisa Remak
Youth Service

Lynn Dawson
Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Peter Oser
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Craig Anderson
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Peian Harness
Past President

it was a small school and somewhat close to family friends in San Jose, to satisfy her parent's worry and concerns. **Hawi** was incredibly active as president of the Black Student Union as well as many campus activities. At Dominican, she met **Yema**, who came from Kibera, one of the largest slums in Kenya. **Yema** had this opportunity to go to college in the US and soon they married, and then started the YEMA brand. Both **Hawi** and **Yema** use profits from their brand to educate and provide scholarships, they feel it's so important to pay it forward, because they both have received opportunities and want to do the same for others, especially underserved populations like those in Kibera, Kenya. An incident of racial profiling occurred at their shop unfortunately and both **Yema** and **Hawi** are using this incident as an opportunity to bring awareness that prejudice and assumptions based on

your appearance and skin color still exists. **Gary** referencing **Ruby Bridges** painting by **Norman Rockwell** from 1960 of her attending school guarded by government agents, that progress in civil rights and is at a snail's pace even 60 years later. **Hawi** was accompanied today with her beautiful 10 month old twin daughters, **Yohana** and **Bersabeh**.

The Winner

Toni Bramon won the \$25 Raffle.



ROTARY WORK PARTY
Setting bricks at Novato City Hall
December 8, 2023 • 2 - 4:30 pm
Contact Jim Spilman for details

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

29th Annual
Proceeds Support Community and International Service Projects

Rotary Club of Novato

Western BBQ & Dance

LIVE MUSIC
Featuring Hagerly and Blind Date

BIG SKY AUCTION

Bill & Adele Jonas Center
IVC Campus
1800 Ignacio Blvd, Novato

Saturday, February 10, 2024

5:30 - 6:30 - BELLY-UP to the Bar
6:30 - Dinner
Auctions through the Evening

PIE AUCTION

\$65 per Person
Tickets are Available From Novato Rotary Club Members
Please make checks payable to:
Novato Rotary Endowment
P.O. Box 657 • Novato, CA 94948
Event Proceeds Fund the Novato Rotary Endowment a 501(c)3

Tickets may also be purchased at novatorotary.org or use QR Code below



NO Tickets at the Door!

All CDC, State and Local COVID Guidelines will be followed



PROJECT AMIGO
TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY!!
RCN Service Week!
April 7 - 14, 2024 • Colima, Mexico
Contact Phil Dougherty if interested.

Informational meeting planned for January – stay tuned!





Speaker Hawi Awash, Ethiopian Refugee.



Frank Bruno explains the Super Bowl Pool Benefits.



Rotary Books and Art Around Town at the Novato Tree Lighting.



New Member Induction.



December birthday celebration table.