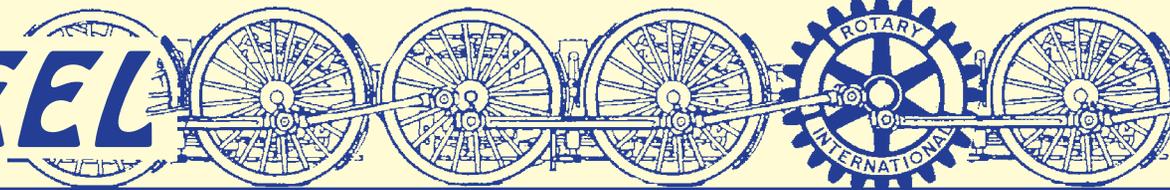


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**December 15, 2023**

**Vol. 75, No. 23**

**Editor:  
Bill Vespa**

## In the Beginning

**President Phil** called us to order at 12:15. He reminded us that it is “Good to be alive, good to be in Novato and good to be a Rotarian”. New member **Ryan Lee** led us in the Pledge. **President Elect Lynn Dawson** shared two thoughts with us. First, “The ending of a year is like closing a window. Even though it is shut, fresh light will still shine through. Take a moment to reflect and look back, but only for an instant, because new possibilities are just over the horizon. With the ending of a year, it’s time to think of the new possibilities in the future.” Secondly, if your New Year’s resolution is regarding your weight, remember this “A year from now, you will weigh more or less than you do now.”

## Visitors and Guests

Potential member **Eliza Roesler** was the guest of **Lynn Dawson**; **Jessica Dillard** accompanied **Tommy Lee**; **Alan Dunham** brought his first wife, **Roberta** and **PP Jorg** brought former **First Lady Linda**. There were no visiting Rotarians.

## Fun & Games

**President Phil** brought to our attention that there was a form on every table asking for various types of words (verbs, adjectives, plural nouns, etc). Each table was to work as a team to fill in the sheet.

## Sunshine

**Reggie Winner** is back! She reported that everything went well with her knee replacement and recommended that anyone considering a similar procedure should do it “sooner rather than later”.

## Fun and Games, Cont.

**Roy Pfeifer** circulated the room handing out part two of our game, another sheet of paper. This one had sentences with key words missing. Using the first sheet of words, each team completed the sentences and selected one person to read this Mad-Lib style Rotary New Year’s Resolution. It was a fun game that generated lots of laughs.

## Announcements

### SASys (Service above Self Awards)

**President Phil** awarded a SASY to **Jeff Slavitz**. **Jeff** is a relatively new member and has “jumped in with both feet” being a very active member and a great addition to our Club. Congratulations, **Jeff**, well deserved!

### Travels

**Jeff Slavitz** is going on a Rotary Polio Vaccination trip to India and then continuing on to visit Japan. **Mike Morrissey** and **Jacqueline** are going on a fairly extensive tour across India. Not to be left out, **Frank Bruno** shared that he just got back from a trip to Pittsburgh, CA.

### Qi Gong

**Maggie Shao** polled the group regarding whether to continue having **Qi Gong** after the meetings or change to before the meetings. There was no consensus - stay tuned.

### Our Speaker

**Prez Phil** introduced our Speaker, **Kerry Bacho**. **Kerry** is the daughter of member **Nohemi Beissmann-Mason**. She has participated in our Club’s Copper Canyon (Mexico) service project many times. **Kerry** has a passion to support immigrant families in Marin and Sonoma Counties, where her program is serving about 2,500 people.

“Chef” **Kerry** used a culinary theme for her presentation, donning a chef’s hat and apron while taking us on a tour of her “Literacy Kitchen”. **Kerry** manages the “Raising a Reader” project for the Parent Services Project in San Rafael. PSP was founded in 1980 by **Ethel Seiderman**. The PSP slogan is

“Families Learn, Kids Succeed”. PSP has several programs which include, Baby Gyms, Children Learning Through Play, Impact Technology and Raising a Reader.

**Kerry** shared that in Marin County, on average, 7-8 out of 10 students of color do not reach the 3rd grade reading level before starting the 4th grade. These students are at a disadvantage because starting in the 4th grade reading becomes fundamental to the learning process.

**Kerry’s** “Raising a Reader” program is an effective tool to improve literacy, focusing on Pre-School families. Many parents are reading at the 2nd grade level. It is recommended that each family has 80 books to help improve literacy. **Kerry’s** program provides 25 book bags containing four books each for each classroom. Students take the bags home where the family members read aloud to the family. The bags are returned and swapped until each family has read the 100 books.

Chef **Kerry’s** “Literacy Kitchen” Recipe uses the following ingredients:

- Raising a Reader - Red Bags of Classic and Fundamental Books
- Children Ready to Learn- **Kerry** doing “Little Red Reading Hood” in class story time and in class learning disguised as games.
- Parents Ready to engage in their child’s education. Many parents read at the 2nd grade level.
- Teachers
- “Parent Services Project”
- Funders – Marin Community Foundation, Bella Vista, Fullerton Family, The Mason’s.

**Kerry** showed us some examples of learning through games as we engaged in winter play with cotton “Snow Balls” and paper plate “ice skates”. Some of us had trouble returning our focus to **Kerry**, we were having too much fun. We also did a hands on STEAM project, deftly dropping a raw egg into a vase of water without breaking the egg.

*Continued on page 3*

# The BIG WHEEL

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## The Four-Way Test

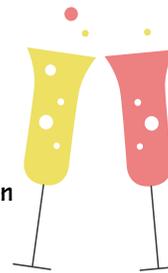
"Of the things we think, say or do:

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?"

## January

### SPECIAL DATES

- 1-1 Ben Borok
- 1-3 Joni DeGabriele
- 1-4 Peian & Ron Harness
- 1-5 Vicki McDill
- 1-6 Dennis Baldwin
- 1-9 Roy Pfeifer
- 1-10 Kathy Baldwin
- 1-12 Shawn Campas
- 1-14 Marty Wickenheiser
- 1-16 Ryan Pocock
- 1-17 Donna Falzon
- 1-18 Sasha D'Amico
- 1-23 Peter Oser
- 1-23 Darrell Scott
- 1-25 Nancy Carriere
- 1-26 Larry Mazzotta
- 1-27 Marisa Remak
- 1-28 Sandy Bates
- 1-30 Kathy & Russ Ketron



## Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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## Upcoming Programs & Events

### December 2023

- Dec. 21 **Novato Speaker Series:** Heidi Kuhn
- Dec. 22 **NO MEETING**
- Dec. 29 **NO MEETING**

### January 2024

- Jan. 5 **Kevin Briggs, Retired CHP:** GGB Suicide Prevention
- Jan. 12 **District Governor Laine Hendricks:** Club Visit
- Jan. 19 **Marcus Combs, Retired Golden Gate National Park Ranger:** How the Bay Area changed through the 1950's
- Jan. 25 **Novato Speaker Series:** Dr. Michael Pritchard and Mark Dale
- Jan. 26 **NO MEETING**

## 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 Puhr-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*

**Kerry** explained that she wants to grow the program, even taking it abroad. She circulated a fundraising menu with multiple courses ranging from a \$100 Appetizer to a \$2,500 Main Course or a “choose your own price Dessert”. **Kerry** took a few questions. **Kerry** can be reached at kbacho@parentservices.org. It was a very informative program, thank you **Kerry**! **President Phil** presented **Kerry** a speaker’s gift of **Alan Dunham’s** water color note cards.

### More Announcements

Next **Pres Phil** introduced **Jonathan Eldridge, Ed.D** the current COM V.P., soon to be President, replacing current **President David Wain Coon**. **V.P. Eldridge** stated that College of Marin turns 100 years old in 2026 and asked for suggestions from the community of what we want COM to look like for the next 100 years. He said COM has meet with NUSD to discuss the goal of all NUSD high school students getting college credits.

**Penny** announced she was set up to take photos of our newest members for our Club Directory.

**President Phil** reminded us that the Holiday Brunch is on Sunday 12-17 at Marin Country Club. He also reminded us that on 12-21 **Heidi Kuhn** will speak at the Novato Speaker Series. **Keith Axtell** explained that **Heidi** helped start “Mines to Vines” as a Rotary Club of San Rafael project. The project eventually drew the attention and participation of **Princess Diana**. It sounds like a great program, get your tickets!

On behalf of the Novato PD and Marin Community Services, new member, **NPD Captain Sasha D’Amico** thanked our Club for supporting “Heroes and Helpers”. They helped about 60 children get holiday gifts. **Sasha** also asked for volunteers to participate in a virtual workshop “Emerging Technologies Affecting Law Enforcement”, contact **Sasha** for details.

**Peter Rubens** announced the upcoming 2024 Western BBQ, our Club’s biggest fundraiser! Please support the event with monetary sponsorships, and donating live auction items. Look for details by snail mail and email.

### The 25'er

Yours truly took home the prize.

### In the End

We were adjourned and will meet again in the New Year on January 5, 2024. Happy Holidays!

## Rotary Photo Album



*Speaker Kerry Bacho talks about donated Red Bags with 4 books to rotate to students every week.*



*Tiffany's visitor Eliza accomplishes the Egg in the Water with one fell swoop.*



*Jeff Slavitz receives Service Above Self recognition.*



*Holly Axtell expertly tosses fake snowball on cue.*



*Skating on paper plates with Ryan flying by.*



*Brand new College of Marin Superintendent President Jonathan Eldridge, Ed.D left his luncheon in the next room to see all the commotion going on.*

ANNUAL ROTARY CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

