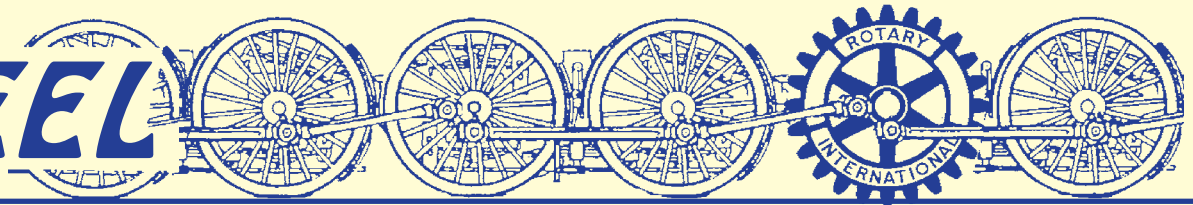


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



December 2, 2022
Vol. 74, No. 16
Editor:
The Jolly Old Elf

In the Beginning...

President Peian Claus rang the bell promptly at 12:15 and brought the crowd to order (well... most of the crowd), and so we enter the month of December — a time of joy, celebration and wrapping up the year. **Nohemi Beissmann-Mason** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and offered the inspirational thought that spontaneous and random acts of kindness to others won't always completely change a life for the better, BUT IT HELPS! Let's remember that in our daily interactions with others.

And with **Nohemi's** Thought for the Day, we returned to our tables to enjoy a delicious Italian meal prepared by Rotarian **John Cutrufelli** and **Chef Sam**. At 12:30, the Rotary bell was rung again and we were called back to order by **President Peian**.

Visitors & Guests

We had no Visiting Rotarians who would admit to it, but we had four important Guests of Rotarians at the meeting: **Barbara Bagileo**, a guest of her cousin, **Debbie Brusatori**; **Vicki McDill**, favorite wife of **Bill**; **Diane Spilman**, the love of many of us but the special love of her husband, **Jim**; **Kathy Botko**, with husband, **Jim**; and **Roberta Dunham**, wife of long-time member, **Alan**.

Sunshine Report

In terms of members' well-being, it was reported that **Past President Paul Scheller** should be getting released soon from Smith Ranch Rehabilitation center after his nasty

fall a few weeks ago. On a sadder note, it was announced that **Glenn Thorsson's** father recently passed away, at age 99. I'm sure both **Paul** and **Glenn** would appreciate cards or brief notes of support.

Announcements

Planting Parties & Climate Action

Moving into other announcements about Club activities, **Gloria Dunn-Violin** announced some planting parties to provide a proper environment for Monarch butterflies on Tuesday and Thursday, from 9 to 5pm — I'm not sure where or when, so contact **Gloria** for more information.

While she controlled the microphone, **Gloria** put on her Climate Action Team hat to talk about the accumulation of plastics in the oceans of the world. This stuff doesn't decompose into food for ocean life, it doesn't magically evaporate into the air or bind together to form beautiful islands. The only thing this plastic waste will do is kill sea turtles, whales and dolphins, and other sea life by entangling them in plastic fibers or entrapping them in a massive plastic waste pile. So think about this as you consume plastic wrap, plastic bottles and utensils, and consider how you dispose of them.

Annual Car Wash Fundraiser

John Cutrufelli reported that our Annual Car Wash fundraiser for Teacher Recognition made around \$3,600. Thanks to the Rotarians and friends who helped out by drying cars as they came out of the car wash.

Dictionaries

Marty Wickenheiser reminded us that Dictionaries have arrived and we can soon begin distributing them to 3rd graders in Novato. Teams will be forming to visit each elementary school. It is a very special time with the 3rd graders and if you have never joined a team to visit our schools, you should contact **Marty** — it is a wonderful experience and you'll be glad you were a part of it.

Western BBQ & Dance

Chris DeGabriele reminded us the annual Western BBQ fundraiser is coming up and we will need help from every Club member in sponsoring this event. This is the major fundraiser for the Novato Endowment, which funds all of the humanitarian and service projects of our Club: from scholarships to Project Amigo, Blue Star Moms and the SF-Marin Food Bank, Shelter Box and H2Open Doors. Each of us is needed to help sponsor this important event. Make your \$200 sponsorship check payable to Novato Rotary Endowment and give it to **Brad Williams**, **Chris DeGabriele**, **Rob Haff** or **Jay Wayne**. In a show of support for the Western BBQ, 17 Rotarians pledged sponsorships at today's Club meeting following **Chris's** announcement. We expect to get the same support from every member of our Club this year so the Club can continue our service projects. Bring a check to **Chris** or **Brad** or **Jay** at the December 9 meeting to be able to take the charitable deduction for 2022.

Annual Harrison Christmas Party

There was a reminder that **Larry** and **Chris Harrison** will host their annual Christmas Party to support Toys for Tots on Friday, December 9, beginning at 5:30pm. Please bring gift cards which can be used to buy age-appropriate gifts for under-privileged children.

Annual Holiday Brunch

Also, **President Peian** reminded us that the Club's annual Holiday Brunch will be on Sunday, December 18, 11:00am, at the Marin CC. Tickets are \$55 per person — send your check to **Marsha Molloy**. While on the topic of Rotary meetings, Peian reminded us that the District Conference will be in Monterey, April 28-30, and the Rotary International Convention will be in Melbourne, Australia, May 27-31... both are fun events.



P.O. Box 657
Novato, CA 94948

"Imagine Rotary"

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?"

**Big Wheel Editors
NEEDED**

Contact Bill Vespa

**Support the most
interesting Rotary Club ever!
Help share the meeting with
family, friends and members
unable to attend.**

Where to Make Up

Contact the Club you wish to attend for dates, time and virtual meeting code. The District website lists the Clubs and websites for contact info at:
Rotary5150.org/clubs/rotary-club-directory/

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Upcoming Programs

December 2022

Dec. 9	RCN Club Past Presidents: RCN Annual Meeting & PEN Announcement
Dec. 16	NO MEETING (12/18 Holiday Brunch)
Dec. 23	NO MEETING
Dec. 30	NO MEETING

January 2023 - Happy New Year!

Jan. 6	Jan Lynn & Andy Dudnuck: Performing Jazz, Standards, and Pop Tunes
Jan. 13	NO MEETING
Jan. 20	John Reuscher: John's Reel
Jan. 27	Lori Frugoli & Shelly Scott: General Presentation

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2022/2023 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS
Peian Harness <i>President</i>	Fred Anderson <i>Club Administration</i>
Phil Dougherty <i>Vice President</i>	Marisa Remak <i>Public Image</i>
Tom Rickey	Jim Spilman <i>Community Service</i>
Phil Dougherty <i>Co-Secretaries</i>	Gloria Dunn-Violin <i>Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)</i>
Reggie Winner <i>Treasurer</i>	Holly Axtell <i>International Service</i>
Jennifer E. Jones <i>R.I. President</i>	Jorg Puhr-Westerheide <i>The Rotary Foundation (TRF)</i>
Gary Chow <i>District Governor</i>	Lynn Dawson <i>Youth Service</i>
Terri Carrillo <i>Assistant District Governor</i>	Chris DeGabriele/Larry Harrison <i>Membership</i>
	Sonia Seeman/Christina Stroeh <i>Jonas Center Liasons</i>
	Dean Heffelfinger <i>President, Nova-Ro Corp.</i>
	Rob Haff <i>Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment</i>
	Christina Stroeh <i>Past President</i>

The Speaker

With that, **President Peian** introduced **Rob Haff**, Chairman of the Novato Rotary Endowment, who gave us a brief introduction to the three funds in our Endowment: Scholarship Fund, Jonas Center Fund and “Permanent” Fund, from which each Club President is allocated a budget for Community, Environmental and International Service Projects. The Endowment is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, which means that contributions to the Funds can be tax deductible. At this time, we have approximately \$2.5 million in the three funds, over \$1.2 million resides in the Permanent Fund from which our many local, regional and international service projects are funded. The major fund-raiser for the Permanent Fund is our annual Western BBQ, so you should know that your donations and sponsorships to the BBQ will be tax deductible. Other ways to contribute to our Endowment are through charitable trusts, bequests, life insurance proceeds and other avenues. For more information, contact **Rob Haff** or any member of the Endowment Board of Directors.

Rob described one easy way to contribute to our Endowment through your purchases from Amazon. By setting up your Amazon account through “Amazon Smile,” Amazon will contribute a small portion of your qualifying purchases to the charity of your choice (e.g., Novato Rotary Endowment). Go to smile.amazon.com and log in with your existing Amazon username and password. You will be prompted to select a charity. Use the charity search bar, to find “Novato Rotary Endowment.” Once this is set-up, your purchases will automatically provide a contribution to the Endowment at no extra cost to you. This can be for a Basic or Prime Amazon account, for a personal or business account. With all of the shopping being done through Amazon this holiday season, this is yet another chance for each of us to contribute to the Endowment in a way that’s easy, automatic and painless.

Thank you, **Rob Haff**, for a very informative presentation of the Endowment. It is such an important part of this Club — the funding through which our many service projects help the less fortunate. **President Peian** thanked **John** and **Sam** for another wonderful lunch, thanked **Rob Haff** one again for his important presentation, and thanked us all for being a part of this great Rotary Club.

The Winner & a Movie!

The magic random number generator went to work and **Past President Jorg** was the lucky winner of this week’s \$25 check (which I’m sure is going to be put into his sponsorship of the Western BBQ).

The Rotary bell was rung and the Jonas Center was quickly converted into a movie theater where **Frank Bruno** shared a film on the treatment of Italians in the United States during World War II.

Rotary Club of Novato



A Winter Wonderland

BRUNCH & ENTERTAINMENT



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

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

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 10th



Club Secretary Phil Dougherty donates his prize Safari tickets to the highest bidder (Chris DeGabriele).



Maggie Shao wins environmental prize of wooden utensils.



Chairman of the Novato Rotary Endowment Board, Rob Haff explains funds.



Gloria Violin of the Environmental Sustainability Committee talks about plastic in the ocean.

ROTARY DISTRICT 5150 EVENT
AT THE BILL AND ADELE JONAS CENTER

