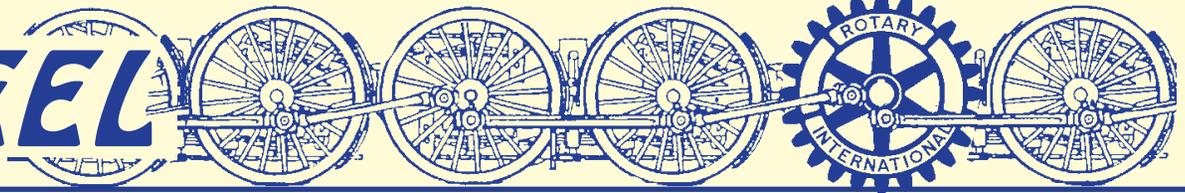


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons

**December 26, 2025**  
**Vol. 77, No. 24**  
**Editor:**  
**Happ E. Neuyer**



## Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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**ITALIAN SUPPER & MUSIC**

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO PRESENTS**  
**A DINNER YOU CAN'T REFUSE**

Bill & Adele Jonas Center • 1800 Ignacio Blvd., Novato

**Saturday, February 7, 2026**  
5:30-6:30 Purchase Signature Cocktails  
6:30 Dinner  
Auctions through the Evening  
Cocktail Attire Encouraged!

**Silent Auction**

**Live Auctions**

**Live Entertainment, Music & Dancing**  
Featuring  
**"Frank Sinatra"!**

**NO Tickets at the Door!**

Event tickets are \$100 subject to availability, purchase before Jan. 30, 2026

**Rotary Club of Novato**

THE NOVATO ROTARY ENDOWMENT IS A 501(C)(3)  
ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT COMMUNITY,  
YOUTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, VOCATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS.

# 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.

#### Limit of two sponsors!

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

## Captain Gil Rud

### From the Prairie to the Pacific: A Blue Angels Journey

Thurs., April 23, 2026  
7 pm to 8:30 pm

Captain Gil Rud will share his journey from rural North Dakota to the cockpits of U.S. Navy jet fighters, and ultimately captain of a flagship aircraft carrier, USS Constellation, responsible for the welfare of 5,000+ sailors.

His success as a naval aviator led to the ultimate reward- "Boss" of the world-famous Blue Angels, overseeing their successful transition to the F/A-18 Hornet.

Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15  
www.novatospeakerseries.com



## Upcoming Programs & Events

### January

Jan. 2	No Meeting
Jan. 9	Novato Rotary Endowment Presentation
Jan. 16	Club Assembly
Jan. 22	Novato Speaker Series - Christian Thwaites
Jan. 23	Club Social - Music at the Harness' home.
Jan. 30	Mental Health & Rotary

### February

Feb. 6	Brad Howard
Feb. 7	A Dinner You Can't Refuse
Feb. 13	No Meeting
Feb. 20	Chinese New Year
Feb. 27	Prof. Andrew Reddie

# 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

## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Lynn Dawson**  
President

**Peter Pelavin**  
Vice President

**Marisa Remak**  
Secretary

**Chris DeGabriele**  
Treasurer

**Francesco Arezzo**  
R.I. President

**Mitone Griffiths**  
District Governor

**Judy Johnson**  
Assistant  
District Governor

### DIRECTORS

**John Reuscher**  
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**Phil Dougherty**  
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Environmental Sustainability  
(NR-CAT)

**Holly Axtell**  
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

## Rotary Clubs: Pillars of Project Amigo

### Novato Rotary Club

Rotary Clubs are the cornerstone of all that we do at Project Amigo.

Today we would like to salute the Novato Rotary Club and its members who have played an important role in all that we do at Project Amigo. We are especially grateful for the dedication that Al Angulo, Joyce and Clark Palmer, and Alan Dunham played in the early years of Project Amigo. We are grateful that you were part of the first group of Rotarians visiting in 1989 to help with the Christmas Fiesta.

Mil gracias Novato Rotary Club for your continued partnership with our Scholars and their families. Your dedication inspires others, strengthens our programs, and ensures that the children of Colima continue to have access to education, hope, and a brighter future.

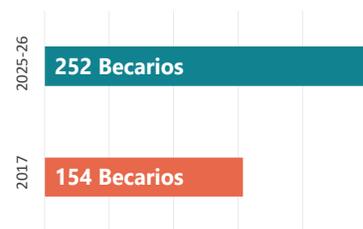


## Scholars Highlights

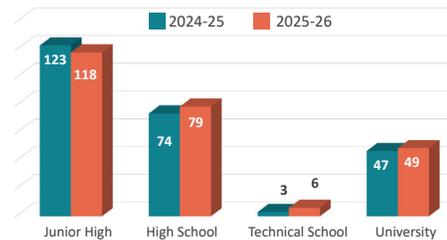


Total number of students on scholarship has grown in the last few years from 154 students served in 2017 to having 252 Becarios for the 2025-26 year and 20 additional children on a wait list. We are excited to have 49 students at the university level and a total of 197 at the junior high and high school levels. We celebrate the collaborative impact that has enabled 150 students to graduate from university to date!

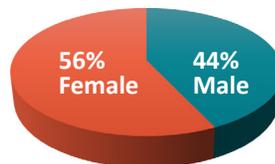
### Becarios During An Academic Term



### Becarios By Grade Level



### Enrollment Breakdown



# 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
- 1-24 Edgar Mendoza
- 1-25 Nancy Carriere
- 1-26 Larry Mazzotta
- 1-27 Marisa Remak
- 1-28 Sandra Bates
- 1-28 Mark Bosch
- 1-28 Lynda Morgan
- 1-29 Alane Chen & Matt Chiang
- 1-30 Kathleen & Russ Ketron



**Holiday Brunch**  
**12/21/25**  
**Marin Country Club**

