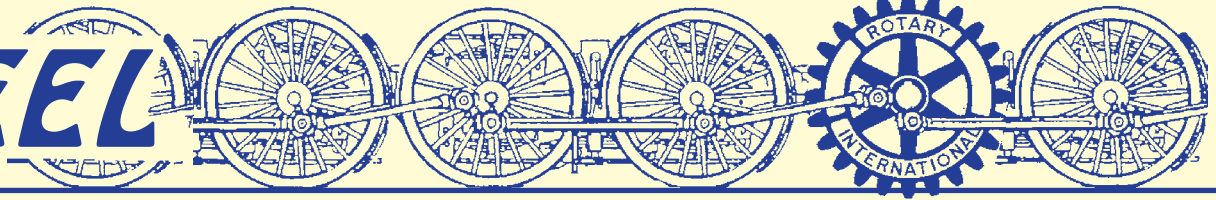


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



December 4, 2020
Vol. 72, No. 21
Editor:
The Jolly Old Elf

In the Beginning...

President Chris rang the Rotary bell at 12:31 and Zoom station KRCN was on the air once again. The meeting began with **Mike Morrissey** leading the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag proudly held aloft by **Al Angulo**. **Jim Spilman** inspired us with a 'Thought for the day': "We are each stronger than we think we are."

Guests & Visitors

President Chris welcomed guests who joined us today: **Roberta Dunham, Frances Borok, Sandy Bates, Jim Goss**, former and future member **Peter Reubens**, and our speaker, **Jeff Davidson**. If I missed anyone, my apologies — I'm not sure which is slower: my writing hand or my brain.

Sunshine Report

The only bright light of sunshine to report was that **Dean Heffelfinger** is getting better — and his shining face was among the multitude staring at us from the Zoom gallery. Welcome back, **Deano**.

Announcements

Work Party

The indefatigable **Jim Spilman** announced another Community Service Work Party at the VFW Hall in Novato, where they will be erecting a gazebo on Monday. **Jim** and his crew have been very busy this year with a variety of community service projects cleaning up or building up

around Novato. In a year filled with so many challenges and difficulties, they have brought much joy and improvement to our community. Many thanks to you and your team, **Jim**, for countless service projects well done.

Rotary Recognitions

Jorg Puhr-Westerheide took the Zoom spotlight to recognize three new major donors to the Foundation: **Peter Oser, Ron Harness** and **Mike Morrissey**. He mentioned a bunch of other Rotarians who achieved Paul Harris milestones but I didn't get those names. He also congratulated **Al Angulo**, who was a winner in the Paul Harris Foundation raffle — not sure of his prize but **Al** is certainly a winner.

Non-Polenta Feed

Captain Polenta (AKA **Craig McCurdy**) announced there will be a non-Polenta event this February (tentatively scheduled for February 6, 2021). Our annual Polenta Feed has been a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and team building within our Club, and it has also been the major source of donations to the Rotary Endowment Fund, from which we fund the many community, youth, District-wide and Rotary International projects each year. Along with so many other things in this Year of Covid, there will be changes to the format of our beloved Polenta Feed but an event will be held through which we can each donate to the Endowment and help our Club continue its leadership in providing service to those in need of help and encouragement. It will be an important year for this non-Polenta Feed so stay tuned for more information from **Craig** and his team in the weeks to come.

Breaking News!

There was an important breaking news story from our roving reporter, **Covey Quarantino**, who reported that a gang of unsavory characters, directed by their nefarious leader, **Emily Gates**, may be prowling the streets of Novato next Friday, December 11, between 1:00 and 3:00 PM, and particularly targeting the homes of Novato Rotarians, trying

Continued on page 3

REMINDER...

December 11 Meeting
5:30 PM

Election of Officers

This will be an important meeting since it will include the election of officers for our next Rotary year — and we all know what can happen if you don't vote!

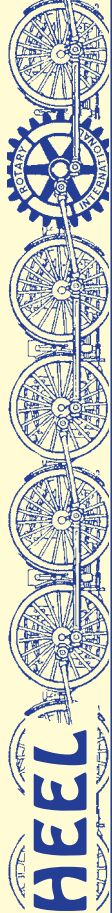
After the election of officers for 2021-2022, we will have a Zoom Happy Hour and time for some virtual fellowship.

"Evening Virtual Happy Hour"

December 11, 2020

Join us for an "Evening Virtual Happy Hour" to Celebrate BSM, Toys for Tots and the Holiday Season".

Our president and membership committee have some surprises in store for the membership!



P.O. Box 657
Novato, CA 94948

"Rotary Opens Opportunities"

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?"

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/

UPCOMING ZOOM MEETING
December 11
NOTE TIME: 5:30 P.M
Election of Officers
 followed by
Virtual Happy Hour

UPCOMING ZOOM MEETING
December 18
Club Member
5 Minute Talks

Club Members **Bev Poole, Al Angulo** and **Rene Prado** are real leaders and they will each give a 5 minute talk about their life, how they grew up, and their education. The all are very successful but grew up in different parts of the nation. They can tell anything they would like, and after each has given their five- minute talk, we can ask them questions that they can answer if they like. They will operate as a panel and we will get to know three of our members even better.

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Upcoming Programs

December	
Dec.11	Election of Officers and "Evening Virtual Happy Hour " to celebrate Blue Star Moms, Toys for Tots and this Holiday Season! Our president and membership committee have some surprises in store for the membership. Details to come!
	5:30 P.M.
Dec.18	5 Minute Talks: Club Members Bev Poole, Al Angulo and Rene Prado are real leaders and they will each give a 5 minute talk about their life, how they grew up, and their education. The all are very successful but grew up in different parts of the nation. They will operate as a panel and we will get to know three of our members even better.
Dec.25	Merry Christmas
January	
Jan. 1	Happy New Year
www.novatorotary.org	
ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2020/2021 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS	
OFFICERS Chris DeGabriele <i>President</i> Christina Stroeh <i>Vice President</i> Reggie Winner <i>Secretary</i> Jim Bates Debbie Brusatori <i>Treasurer</i> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 5px auto;"/> Holger Knaack <i>R.I.President</i> Mary Bates <i>District Governor</i> Carola Detrick <i>Assistant District Governor</i>	DIRECTORS Craig Anderson <i>Club Administration</i> Michael Morrissey <i>Public Image</i> Jim Spilman <i>Community Service</i> Phil Dougherty <i>International Service</i> Jorg Puh-Westerheide <i>The Rotary Foundation (TRF)</i> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 5px auto;"/> Shawn Campas Katie Chase <i>Youth Service</i> Christina Stroeh Sonia Seeman <i>Membership</i> Burt Hoffmann <i>President, Nova-Ro Corp.</i> Bill Vespa <i>Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment</i> Ron Harness <i>Past President</i>

to spread joy and happiness and good tidings to all. In the spirit of the stay-at-home order, we are each asked to remain at home to keep an eye (and an ear) out for this band of musical miscreants to make sure they remain on key and harmonious.

More Recognitions

President Chris regained control of the program and promptly recognized **Jim Spilman**, **Gary Bramon** and our newest member, **Kathy Cheek**, for December birthdays. They all seemed quite surprised to discover they have a birthday approaching. None of them had the slightest idea of what they would be doing to celebrate the days of their births — which may tell us something about these members and their long-term memories. Perhaps we need to increase our search for younger Club members.

The Speaker

Rather than risk interviewing any more Rotarians, **President Chris** turned the Zoom microphone over to **Gary Bramon** who introduced our speaker, **Jeff Davidson**. **Jeff**, a Marin resident and former Chief of the Mill Valley

Fire Department, is an avid hiker. He spoke to us about his 20-day adventure hiking the 500-mile Camino de Santiago from St. Jean-Pied-du-Port, in France, over the Pyrenees Mountains and across northern Spain to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain, where the remains of the Apostle St. James are said to be buried.

Jeff delivered a very interesting talk on his experiences during this journey, staying in albergues (or dormitories/hostels set up for hikers). He talked about the people he met, the food he ate, the experiences he had in towns and on the trail. I found myself so interested in what **Jeff** had to say and the pictures that he shared with us, that I didn't take very good notes. Just know that if you missed this meeting, you missed an interesting, informative and inspiring talk. In closing, **Jeff** told us one of the things he took away from this 20-day 500-mile hike was that if you can remove all of the distractions in your life, it's amazing what can be accomplished. Another point, written on a sign **Jeff** photographed during his journey: "Sometimes you find yourself in the middle of nowhere; and sometimes, in the middle of nowhere, you find yourself." Thank you, **Jeff**, for a very interesting talk.

The Winner

President Chris regained the microphone to bring the meeting to a close. **Alan Dunham** won the \$25-er. And **President Chris** closed by reminding us that next week's meeting will NOT be at lunch; it will begin at 5:30 PM. This will be an important meeting since it will include the election of officers for our next Rotary year — and we all know what can happen if you don't vote. After the election of officers for 2021-2022, we will have a Zoom Happy Hour and time for some virtual fellowship.

Don't Forget!

And don't forget to watch out for those musical misfits **Covey Quarantino** warned us about — they may be prowling around your property anytime between 1:00 and 3:00 PM on Friday. Call if you need help.

Heros & Helpers

Novato's "Heros and Helpers" Gift Giving at Target Store conformed to the Covid restrictions of the day - 48 hours later it would have been canceled as restrictions tightened. **Isaura Resendiz**, Case Manager of the Novato based North Marin Community Service, **Lauren Myr** of the Novato Police Department and contributing Rotary Club of Novato Community Service Committee Chairman **Jim Spilman** provided Christmas Gift Card cheer to selected families wearing masks, distancing and shopping restrictions.

It was Winter, 40 degree weather as the families huddled along the building. The waiting Children spoke individually to the uniformed men and women of the Novato Police Department, they also were greeted by a very jolly bilingual Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. Children were presented with a Target Gift Card and a red sack of surprises.

Families were given time slots of when to arrive to avoid over-crowding and groups of 10 entered Target Store per hour. For the sake of the children extra time and planning created a co-ordinated and safe effort by multiple agencies to allowed this annual event to proceed- during Covid with the hope of creating a positive personal interaction with our men and women Novato Police Officers

By Penny Hansen, Rotary Photographer



Rotary Zoom Meeting: December 4, 2020



Covey Quarantino announces roaming San Marin Chorus on December 11th from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.



Speaker Jeff Davidson talked about his 500 mile pilgrimage.



Dennis Hagerty and Christina Stroeh sing for the Virtual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

