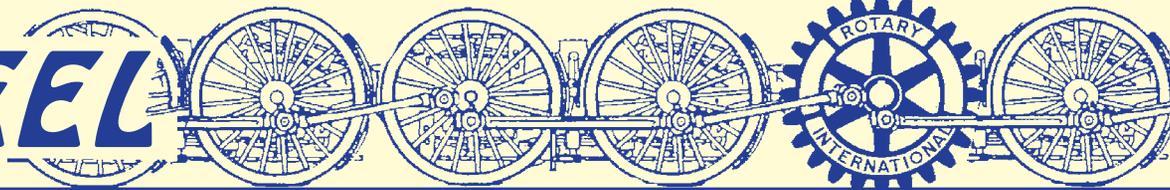


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**December 10, 2021**  
**Vol. 73, No. 15**  
**The Jolly Old Elf**

President Christina rang the bell promptly at 12:15pm and the meeting began with Chris DeGabriele leading us all in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Gary Bramon followed with a story about his recent trip to Washington, D.C. While there, he visited Arlington Cemetery to pay respects to General Colin Powell and noticed a woman standing at that same gravesite for a long time. In conversation with her, Gary told us she had served with General Powell during the Desert Storm military action. She was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds she received while working at the Pentagon when it was attacked on 9/11. Gary's thought from this story: We should take some time in our lives to visit a military cemetery to pay respect to, and thank, the countless men and women who are buried there after their service to the US.

And with those poignant thoughts, we sat down to Sam's delicious turkey dinner and some friendly conversations with fellow Rotarians and guests. At 12:30 our attention was called back to the podium and the meeting continued.

## Guests and Visitors

Visiting Rotarians were introduced: Lisa Wilhelm, from Rotary Club of San Rafael; Susan Royaz, Past President of Mill Valley and now with Novato Sunrise Club; and David Gabriel, also with Novato Sunrise and one of our speakers. Guests of Rotarians included



Don't forget to wear your "Ugly Sweater" for our Annual "Ugly Christmas Sweater" Contest!



Barbara Bagileo, with Debbie Brusatori; Tony Lazzarini, stuck with PP Larry Harrison; and Kathy Ketron, wife of our PP and PDG Russ. Also a guest at our meeting, though not listed among the Guests of Rotarians was our PP Ann Wade, introduced by Nohemi Beissmann-Mason.

## Announcements

### Sunshine Report

Moses Jacob's brother passed away suddenly. Moses is in Miami at the services.

### Holiday Thanks

Past President Larry Harrison stood to thank Club members for coming to the annual Toys for Tots Christmas Party at Larry's and Chris' home. This year they collected 92 gift cards of over \$2600 in value and 35 toys, with the help of Tony Lazzarini of the 5150 Car Club. The cards and toys were given to Blue Star Moms for families of homeless veterans.

Larry also announced he had contributed a Paul Harris Award in Tony's name for all the work he does to help the less fortunate. And our Rotary Club extends a hearty and heartfelt thank you for Larry and Chris Harrison for all of the hard work they do and their many contributions to our Club.

### Cookies and Birthday Recognition

Two large plates of homemade cookies from our Cookie Queen, Reggie Winner, were presented to

Gary Bramon - I'm not sure why. Reggie also made cookies for the Club's enjoyment — many thanks to Reggie! A brief video honored Club members whose birthdays are in the month of December: Pat Eklund, Rob Haff, Jim Spilman, Gary Bramon, Tom Bales, Chris DeGabriele and Maggie Shao.

## Club Business Meeting / Election of Officers

An annual part of our second business meeting in December is to elect officers for the Rotary Club when the final curtain falls for the current cast of characters. In November the Club's Past Presidents met to discuss candidates and offer a slate of officers for the Rotary year of 2022-2023. Past President Phil Brown came to the podium to facilitate the Club's election of officers.

### *The Past Presidents' nominees for next year:*

Club Treasurer - Reggie Winner  
Club Secretary - Phil Dougherty  
Club President - Peian Harness  
Club President Elect - Phil Dougherty

PP Phil Brown called for any other nominations from the floor and when none appeared, it was moved and seconded that nominations be closed. The vote for officers was taken and the nominees were unanimously elected to a standing ovation. This is a fine cast of characters waiting in the wings. Congratulations especially to our new President Elect Elect, Phil Dougherty! Break a leg!

Continued on page 3



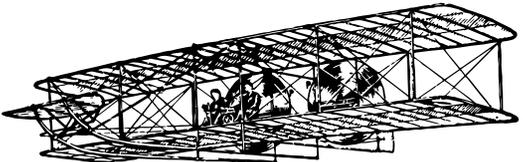
P.O. Box 657  
Novato, CA 94948

**"Serve to Change Lives"**

### 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 Club Meeting  
December 10**  
Bill and Adele Jonas Center

**Wright Brothers Day  
The History of Aviation**  
Speaker Rick Duste

**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/](http://Rotary5150.org/clubs/rotary-club-directory/)

**The Big Wheel** (USPS 417-510), Published three times a month, for The Rotary Club of Novato, by Zenith Instant Printing, Inc., 1419 Grant Ave., Novato, CA 94945. Subscription price \$50.00 per year. Periodical postage paid at Novato, CA 94947. **POSTMASTER:** Please send address changes to The Rotary Club of Novato, P.O. Box 657, Novato, CA 94948-0657

## Upcoming Programs

**December**

Dec. 17 **Wright Brothers Day / The History of Aviation:** Rick Duste

Dec. 24 **No meeting**

Dec. 31 **No meeting**



[www.novatorotary.org](http://www.novatorotary.org)

### ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2021/2022 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

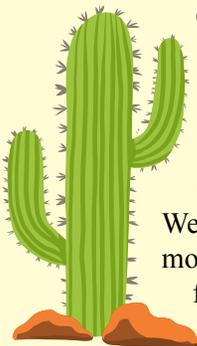
<p><b>OFFICERS</b></p> <p><b>Christina Stroeh</b> <i>President</i></p> <p><b>Peian Harness</b> <i>Vice President</i></p> <p><b>Phil Dougherty</b> <i>Secretary</i></p> <p><b>Reggie Winner</b> <i>Treasurer</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Shekhar Mehta</b> <i>R.I. President</i></p> <p><b>Danielle Lallement</b> <i>District Governor</i></p> <p><b>Terri Carillo</b> <i>Assistant District Governor</i></p>	<p><b>DIRECTORS</b></p> <p><b>Craig Anderson &amp; Jim Bates</b> <i>Club Administration</i></p> <p><b>Marisa Remak</b> <i>Public Image</i></p> <p><b>Jim Spilman</b> <i>Community Service</i></p> <p><b>Gloria Dunn-Violin</b> <i>Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)</i></p> <p><b>Holly Axtell</b> <i>International Service</i></p> <p><b>Jorg Puh-Westerheide</b> <i>The Rotary Foundation (TRF)</i></p> <p><b>Lynn Dawson</b> <i>Youth Service</i></p> <p><b>Sonia Seeman</b> <i>Membership</i></p> <p><b>Robert Marshall</b> <i>President, Nova-Ro Corp.</i></p> <p><b>Jay Wayne</b> <i>Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment</i></p> <p><b>Chris DeGabriele</b> <i>Past President</i></p>
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## Western BBQ & Line Dance

**Chris DeGabriele** took a microphone to remind us all of the upcoming Western BBQ & Line Dance (formerly known as the Polenta Feed). There will include the usual fun and festivities, plenty of fellowship, a fantastic dinner of barbecued chicken, pulled pork and all the trimmings, a pie auction (homemade specialties, of course), fabulous auction items, live music and line dancing (with an instructor), raffle prizes, and more. All that for merely \$45 — a definite bargain and a good cause.



Most importantly, this is the main fundraiser for our Rotary Endowment, which funds community projects like the Gazebo in Pioneer Park, support for North Marin Community Center, SF-Marin Food Bank, Wounded Warriors, Blue Star Moms, relief for



victims of wildfires and tornadoes and other disasters, clean water for hospitals in Guatemala, orphanages in the Philippines, shelter boxes in Haiti, micro-loans in Ecuador or education for low income and at risk teens in Colombia. So buy your tickets for the Western BBQ. Better yet, donate a little more and become sponsor. It is always a fun event. Get your tickets and invite friends and neighbors to join you. You'll be glad you did.

## The Speaker

Our speaker, **Larry Bauer**, President of the Marin County Grand Jury Association, was introduced. He spoke to us about the function and importance of the Grand Jury as a “watchdog” for monitoring the activities of governments and government agencies within the County, including the County government, City governments and all special districts within the County. The Grand Jury consists of 19 sitting Jurors

and 11 alternates, and, as a function of the Judiciary, is mentored by a local judge. The Grand Jury is empowered to investigate any issue they deem important; the results are almost always published in a public report. Recent issues have included website transparency of Marin County public agencies, First Responder Programs



Larry Bauer.

for seniors, use of body cameras for police departments, improvements in foster care services and the Marin County \$300,000 “slush” funds. **Mr. Bauer** was joined by Novato Sunrise Rotarian **David Gabriel** who has served on a Grand Jury and spoke of how rewarding and fulfilling the experience was to him. Applications to serve may be obtained from the Grand Jury office (at the Count offices in San Rafael) or via their website. The application deadline for the next Jury panel will be April 22, 2022.

## In Closing...

### The Winner

The meeting was drawing to a close: **President Christina** thanked the speakers and had them pull the little red ticket which made **Bill McDill** \$25 richer.

### Annual Ugly Sweater Contest

She reminded us that next week will include the annual “Ugly Christmas Sweater” contest, so bring out that obnoxious gift from **Aunt Mabel** that you’ve been hiding in the bottom drawer all these year — it’s time for the real you to shine! With that, the bell clanged once again and the curtain went down. That’s a wrap!

## Rotary Photo Album



PP Larry Harrison thanks 5150 Car Club President, Tony Lazzarini for Donation to Blue Star Moms.



Gary Bramon receives Reggie’s baked cookies for bringing in members to the Club.



Frank Bruno announces his granddaughter’s birth and the Ugly Sweater Contest.



*President Christina welcomes us.*



*Production crew with creators Christina Stroeh and Phil Dougherty and Danielle Lallement.*

# *A Winter Wonderland*



*Dream Rotary, Dream produced by Christina Stroeh and Phil Dougherty.*



*Event Hostess Marsha Molloy and President Christina, Entertainment Director.*



*Dennis Hagerty flies in from Colorado for a big hug.*



*Kathy and Jim Botko.*



*The Remak family.*