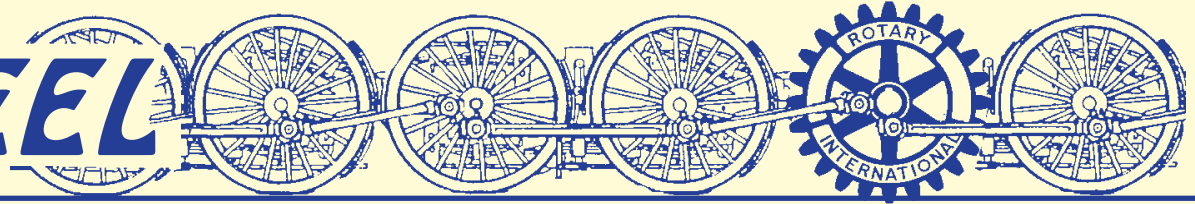


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**February 21, 2025**

**Vol. 76, No. 25**

**Editor:**

**Maggie Shao**

## In the Beginning

A note for an abbreviation used in today's Big Wheel - PP for Past President - our club has many and want to recognize their past and continued service.

### Pledge & Thought

**Prez Tom** struck the gavel and **PP Reggie Winner** led us in the pledge and gave us the thought of the day from **A.A. Milne** (author of Winnie the Pooh books): "One of the advantages of being disorganized is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries." Remeber to appreciate the little things.

### Guests and Visitors

**PP Alan Dunham** brought his wife **Roberta**. **PP Phil Dougherty** introduced wife **Laurie**. **Marisa Remak** brought two of her kids, **Sadie and Ryan**, he is going to Corvallis in the Fall he'll be rowing at Oregon State. **PP Peian Harness** introduced **Beth Rowett**, she has already submitted her application to become a RCN member.

### Birthday and Anniversaries

Three birthdays on Feb. 22: **David Gabriel**, **PP Franz Falzon** and **Penny Hansen** - Penny will be celebrating her birthday at **Babe Silva** Baseball Field for community project, more info later in the newsletter. A couple of wedding anniversaries to recognize: **Marisa** and **Mike Remak** marking

24 years on Monday (unfortunately celebration is forthcoming as **Mike** is in New York for work). **Sonia Seeman** and **David Hernandez** will be celebrating their anniversary going to LA to attend the LA Philharmonic and **Gustavo Dudamel** conducting one of **Mahler's** symphonies. Membership Anniversaries: **Suzanne Bales** (47 years), **Jim Bates** (10 years), & **Moses Jacob** (39 years).

## Sunshine Report

**PP Gary Bramon** updated us on **Toni's** good recovery 6 weeks after shoulder surgery, she's doing well and **Gary** is very proud of **Toni**.

## Announcements

### Western BBQ

**Peter Pelavin** apologized for missing the Western BBQ (due to illness) but wanted to acknowledge the hard work of everyone who helped to put the event together.

### Tree Planting

**Gloria Dunn-Violin** is inviting anyone able to help with beautification and tree planting projects in cooperation with the other Novato Rotary clubs and City of Novato on the corner of Reichert and DeLong on Tuesday, March 4, 8am to noon. A followup volunteer event will be on Saturday March 8. Contact by email [gloriaviolin@yahoo.com](mailto:gloriaviolin@yahoo.com).

### Babe Silva Field Bleacher Renovation

**PP Jim Spilman** is looking for volunteers for a community project at **Babe Silva** Baseball Field at Rancho Elementary renovating the bleachers on Saturday March 1 starting at 9am. **Penny Hansen** and **PP Marty Wickenheiser** raised their hands and can use more help!

## Big Wheel Update

**Bill Vespa** announced that the last 2 Big Wheel editions went out by email. Please let Bill know if you are not receiving the Big Wheel by email and also if you know of any friends or family that may also want to be on our email list.

## RYLA Information

**Maggie Shao** highlighted an item from District 5150's newsletter regarding upcoming RYLA information sessions for high school students: pick a date to sign up: February 24 - 7:00pm or March 24 - 7:00pm and for those interested in becoming a RYLA Facilitator (both **Maggie** and **Jackie Courmier** were 2024 RYLA facilitators) info on the training and support provided to facilitators. Pick a date to sign up: February 27 - 7:00pm or April 1 - 7:00pm.

## District Assembly

**PP Peian Harness** invited everyone to sign up and attend District 5150 Assembly at Redwood High in Larkspur. We want to make a loud noise when **President Elect 2025-2026 Lynn Dawson's** name is announced. Great breakout sessions and lunch are provided.

## Friday Lunch Meeting Meals

**President Tom** brought up the lunch catering complaints and general decline of quality and variety of food provided for our meetings. In the first few months of **Dee's Catering** lunches were great and gradually the quality went down. Apparently **Dee** handed over our lunch catering to a team member and that led to the decline without her oversight. Changes are on the way including menu approval

*Continued on page 3*

# 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?"

## Eric Schmitt

### America's Role in Conflicts Around the World

**The Bill and Adele Jonas Center**  
**Thurs., April 24, 2025 • 7 pm to 8:30 pm**

Eric Schmitt is a senior correspondent for The New York Times who covers national security issues. He is co-author of "Counterstrike: The Untold Story of America's Secret Campaign Against Al Qaeda." For more than three decades, he has covered military and national security affairs for The Times, and has made two dozen reporting trips to West Africa, Pakistan, Iraq & Afghanistan. He has a bachelor's degree from Williams College and attended Harvard University's Executive Program on National and International Security. He earned a Knight Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University.

Mr. Schmitt has shared four Pulitzer Prizes. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Reared in the San Francisco Bay area, Mr. Schmitt now lives with his family in Fairfax, Va.

**Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15**  
**[www.novatospeakersseries.com](http://www.novatospeakersseries.com)**



## Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



**Empathy**  
ESTATE PLANNING

[www.empathyestateplanning.com](http://www.empathyestateplanning.com)

## Upcoming Programs & Events

### February

Feb. 28 **TGIF: Star Restaurant**

### March

Mar. 7 **Scott Plakun: Rotary - DEI**  
Mar. 12 **Board Meeting at Jonas Center**  
Mar. 14 **Ladies Shred - Skateboarding: Lilija**  
Mar. 21 **Meeting or Social Event TBD**  
Mar. 28 **Colonel Kearny: On Ukraine**

### April

April 4 **John Dean: Managing Risk - Ask Rotary**  
April 9 **Board Meeting at Jonas Center**  
April 11 **Lauren Vuong: Viet Nam to US**  
April 18 **No Meeting**  
April 24 **Novato Speaker's Series: Eric Schmitt - America's Role in Conflicts Around the World**  
April 25 **No Meeting**

## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2024/2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Tom Rickey**  
*President*  
**Lynn Dawson**  
*Vice President*  
**Peian Harness**  
*Secretary*  
**Al Shirley**  
*Treasurer*

**Stephanie A. Urchick**  
*R.I. President*  
**Steve Wright**  
*District Governor*  
**Stacie Vance**  
*Assistant District Governor*

### DIRECTORS

**John Reuscher**  
*Logistics & Facilities*  
**Jeff Slavitz**  
*Public Image & Awareness*  
**Peter Pelavin**  
*Community Service*  
**Roy Pfeifer & Gloria Dunn-Violin**  
*Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)*  
**Holly Axtell**  
*International Service*  
**Jorg Puhr-Westerheide**  
*The Rotary Foundation (TRF)*  
**Eliza Roesler**  
*Youth Service*  
**Patty Dougherty**  
*Membership*  
**Sonia Seeman**  
*Jonas Center Liaison*  
**Dean Heffelfinger**  
*President, Nova-Ro Corp.*  
**Peter Oser**  
*Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment*  
**Phil Dougherty**  
*Past President*

2 to 3 weeks ahead for the rest of this year and potential caterers are being considered for the future. **Dee** will be attending our meeting on March 7th to meet with us and address our concerns.

### Marin IJ

**Pres. Tom** gave us a teaser to read the Marin IJ this coming Sunday, it'll be worth waiting for.

### Car Wash

Date for the Car Wash benefitting the Teacher Recognition Luncheon will be on Sunday April 27th.

### Thank you from Homeless Veteran Families

One last item is recognition of **PP Larry** and **Chris Harrison's** many years of hosting a Christmas event to collect toys and now Target gift cards for homeless veterans and families. **Tom** read some of the thank yous from recipients: "Can't thank you enough, I got a wagon to do laundry, get groceries, and go to the food bank"; "Love getting slippers For Xmas"; "Love getting books" "A little bit extra to get by"

## Heroes and Helpers

**Penny Hansen** introduced the YouTube video **Mike Morrissey** made on Dec 7, 2024 of the event the Novato Police and Fire Departments sponsors (and RCN donated \$1000) for families and their kids shop for Christmas presents at Target. To see the video click on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=949Wkoi-wMg>

## Program

**Captain Sasha D'Amico** introduced **Fire Marshall Lynn Osgood** who will be presenting on Wildfire Prevention. **Lynn Osgood** has had a long career since she joined Napa Fire in 1995 and rose through the ranks in Marin County and Novato as Fire Inspector, Deputy Fire Chief, and currently Battalion Chief. The three main Goals are: 1) Bring good fire back to Novato 2) Windfire prevention Projects such as chipper days and fuel reduction

events 3) Utilize New Technology for Prevention. **Fire Marshall Osgood** presented sobering facts of recent fires like the Dixie Fire, Camp Fire, Maui Fire and most recently the LA Fires since 2017 and the heavy heavy devastation to infrastructure, homes, financial burdens, and fatalities. The way we can prevent fires is through Adaptation that equals Survival and Resiliency. Using a Holistic Approach to reduce Home Ignition such as creating less flammable homes: better roofing, metal gutters vs plastic, reducing fuel loads around the house (e.g. wood for fireplaces away from house, get rid of flammable plants like rosemary and juniper near homes, replace wooden gates with metal gates within 5 feet of home). There was so much great information from **Lynn Osgood** including available grants for homeowners; create vegetation free zones around home, local resources like Fire Mitigation Rangers. *Ed. Note:* After the meeting **Peter Pelavin**, offered this advice, "As an estate planner, we have recently been contacting our clients to remind them that when a person or couple put real property into the name of a trust, they must contact their homeowner insurance company to let them know and have either the trust or the trustees named as additional insureds. We have found out that quite a few of our clients were not aware of this despite specific directions to do this."

**Lynn** was presented with watercolor notecards painted by **PP Alan Duham** and she picked two tickets for the raffle.

## Twofer \$25 Raffle

Two \$25 Raffle Winners this week, **Ross Millerick** & **PP Brad Williams**.

# TGIF

Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> • 5:00 - 7:00 pm



**Star Restaurant**  
**1700 Novato Blvd., Novato**



*(We will be in the back area of the restaurant for this TGIF)*  
**No host bar, wine and beer plus variety of non-alcoholic beverages, Club will provide appetizers**



**See you there!**

**Questions? Contact Suzanne Bales 415-250-4859**



## MAGIC ALL AROUND

21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA



Register today at  
[convention.rotary.org](https://convention.rotary.org)





*Gloria Dunn-Violin makes an announcement about a planting project while Jim Spilman, Bill Vespa, Maggie Shao and Peian Harness wait their turn.*



*Sasha D'Amico welcomes our speaker, NFD Battalion Chief Lynn Osgood.*



*NFD Battalion Chief Lynn Osgood explains the need for wildfire Mitigation and Vegetation Management.*

## ShelterBox Honored at Buckingham Palace.



*Rotary Club of Novato member Jim Carriere made a quick trip to London on behalf of ShelterBox. Jim is pictured here shaking hands with King Charles. ShelterBox USA President Kerri Murray (center), was Honored at the event. Kerri spoke at our Club last April.*



*Jim Carriere answered questions and shared a bit about the RCN with King Charles' sister and Honorary Rotarian, Princess Anne. ShelterBox USA President Kerri Murray, (left) looks on.*