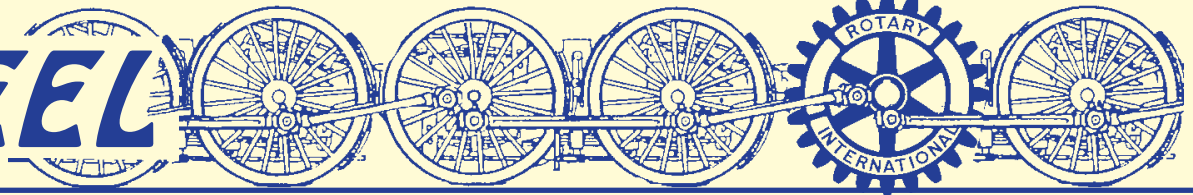


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons

**February 27, 2026**  
**Vol. 77, No. 31**  
**Editor:**  
**Goast Ryter (Bill V.)**



*Please Note:*

*Your Editor-in-Chief (Bill Vespa) failed to show and take notes for this meeting. Thank you to the following for providing information that I could use to write this issue: President Lynn, Chris DeGabriele, Jackie Lee, Marisa Remak, Jeff Slavitz, Ross Millerick, Prof. Reddie and Claude AI to summarize Prof. Reddie's presentation.*

*BTW- If you are interested in helping with writing the Big Wheel, please contact me at [zip@sonic.net](mailto:zip@sonic.net). We would love to have some new members writing for our Big Wheel Committee. Please give us old timers a break!*

## Call to Order

President Lynn rang the bell and welcomed us to the Jonas Center.

## Pledge & Inspiration

The pledge was led by **Marie Rios**. Our inspiration was from **Jackie Lee** and was about "Living in Peace" and "Living in the Light"

"Living in Peace" is about living harmoniously with ourselves and those around us. It's a way of life in which we respect and love one another despite our differences.

"Living in the Light" refers to the inner light we all possess. Its purpose is to help us embrace our true

selves without fear while remaining authentic, loving, compassionate, and kind. To live in the light is to let our own light shine upon others, helping theirs to brighten in return. As we allow our light to sparkle within ourselves, our families, and our communities, the world becomes more aware and ultimately a more peaceful, better place for everyone.

May that Peace and Light remain with all of you and your loved ones!

## Visiting Rotarians

No Visiting Rotarians today.

## Guests of Rotarians

**Moses Jacob** hosted **Barry Smail**; **Jim Botko** brought his wife **Kathy**; Our speaker **Andrew Redde** was the guest of **President Lynn**; **Jay Magtibay** was the guest of **Past President Tom Rickey**; **P.P. Jorg Westerheide** brought his wife, **Linda**; Soon to be member **Randall Lee** was the guest of his wife **Jackie**.

## Ice Breaker

President Lynn gave us the Ice Breaker subject of "Two Truths and A Desire". One person from each table shared with Club and got a 4-Way Test Coin as a gift.

## Community Care

**Gloria Dunn-Violin** could use some cards.

## Announcements

**The Next Meeting is Offsite!**

March 6th we will meet at City Hall.

## Food Packing

**Larry Harrison** reminded us to save March 31st to help with food packing at North Marin Community Services. Check with **Larry Harrison** for additional details. See the ad on page 2.

## Rotary District Assembly Volunteers

**Jeff Slavitz** is looking for volunteers to help at the District Assembly for set up on Friday, March 20 from 7 to 9 PM.

## Career Day

**Ross Millerick** needs volunteers for the SMHS Career Day.

## Member Directories

**Sonia Seeman** announced the arrival of the new Member Directories.

## Featured Rotarian

Our Featured Rotarian this week was **Marisa Remak**. **Marisa** grew up in Novato and graduated from San Marin High (where she taught Biology last year). **Marisa** has been involved with Rotary since becoming a member of Rotaract and has been a member of our Club since 2011. Throughout her time as a Rotarian, **Marisa** has been very active serving in multiple roles. **Marisa** is currently our Club Secretary. **Marisa** showed us a bunch of photos and spoke about her family, her Rotary family, and hobbies which include sewing, baking, and growing hot peppers.

## Speaker

President Lynn introduced our speaker, Professor **Andrew Reddie**. **Prof. Reddie** is an Associate

*Continued on page 3*

# Pack Easter Dinners with North Marin Community Services

**On March 31, 2026, join us to help pack food for 270 families so they can enjoy an Easter Dinner!**

We need six volunteers to help pack the food in individual bags beginning at 9:00a.m. and ending about 11:30a.m. We will need the same number of folks to hand out the dinners to the families at 1:30p.m. the same day. If you can sign up for one of the times needed, great. If you can help both times, even better. Please contact me if you have any questions and if you would like to help on March 31.

Larry Harrison  
415 250 5099  
Lharrison1636@gmail.com

# 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?"

## 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](http://www.novatospeakerseries.com)



## Upcoming Programs & Events

### March

- Mar. 6 **Meeting at City Hall** - City Leaders Panel
- Mar. 13 **West African Project Fairs** - Mike Morrissey and Evan Blacksea
- Mar. 20 **Meeting** - Eames Institute
- Mar. 27 **Club Social** - Adobe Creek Brewing

### April

- Apr. 3 **No Meeting**
- Apr. 10 **CAT/Environment Services** - Randy Baker
- Apr. 17 **Novato Sustainability** - Gretchen Shubeck
- Apr. 23 **Novato Speaker Series**
- Apr. 24 **No Meeting**

# 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](mailto: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**  
*Logistics & Facilities*
- Phil Dougherty**  
*Public Image & Awareness*
- Marcus Combs**  
*Community Service*
- Gloria Dunn-Violin & Randy Baker**  
*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*

Research Professor at UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy and founder of the Berkeley Risk and Security Lab. **Prof. Reddie** gave a sobering talk on the evolving nuclear landscape and Nuclear Security.

The core problem, as **Prof. Reddie** describes it, is that the United States now faces nuclear competition on two fronts simultaneously: Russia and China are both expanding and modernizing their arsenals, while threats from North Korea and Iran continue to grow.

Russia already has thousands of nuclear weapons and is developing new delivery systems designed to evade missile defenses. China is on track to more than triple its warhead count by 2030 and is building new missile silos at a rapid pace. Meanwhile, the U.S. nuclear arsenal - much of it built during the Cold War - is overdue for replacement, and modernization programs have been plagued by delays and cost overruns.

**Reddie** also highlighted key debates playing out in Washington: Should the U.S. build more types of nuclear weapons? Are missile defenses effective? And with traditional arms control treaties collapsing, how do nuclear powers prevent miscalculation or accidental war? Perhaps the most pointed question **Reddie** raised was the simplest: in a crisis, who actually has the authority to launch nuclear weapons - and are there enough safeguards around that decision?

**Prof. Reddie** can be reached at [areddie@berkeley.edu](mailto:areddie@berkeley.edu). More information about the Berkeley Risk and Security Lab is available at [brsl.berkeley.edu](http://brsl.berkeley.edu).



\$25 won by ??? **Claude** couldn't help with this.

**March**  
*Special Dates*

3-6	Dave Kapranos
3-9	Rhonda Crofts
3-10	Keith Axtell
3-10	Alan Dunham
3-12	Leslie Prado
3-12	Linda Puhr-Westerheide
3-14	Frances & Ben Borok
3-14	Joy Fillman
3-16	Brad Williams
3-23	Robert Marshall
3-24	Steve Ghirardo
3-28	Roberta Dunham
3-30	Robin Bruno
3-30	Vicki & Bill McDill
3-31	Debbie Brusatori
3-31	Diane Oser

**NEW MEMBER NOTICE**

The application for membership of the following was (were) approved by the Board of Directors and the Membership Committee:

- **Randall Lee: Non-Profit CFO**
- **Laurie Vogensen: Hospice Nurse, Retired**

If there are no objections by:

**Thursday, March 6**  
he/she/they will be inducted on or about:

**Friday, March 13**

*Marisa Remak*  
Secretary

**Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor**



845 Vallejo Avenue, Downtown Novato  
[www.handjtire.com](http://www.handjtire.com)  
[hjtire@vbbn.com](mailto:hjtire@vbbn.com)

*Burt Hoffmann*  
*John Da Silva*      (415) 897-1185

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- Brakes
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- Shocks
- Oil Changes
- Tuneup

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Contact Bill Vespa: [zip@sonic.net](mailto:zip@sonic.net)



*Jackie Lee gave us the Inspirational Thought.*



*Marie Rios led us in the pledge.*



*Barry Smail was the guest of Moses Jacob.*



Marisa Remak was the Featured Rotarian. Marisa showed many photos as she talked about her family, her Rotary Family and her hobbies,



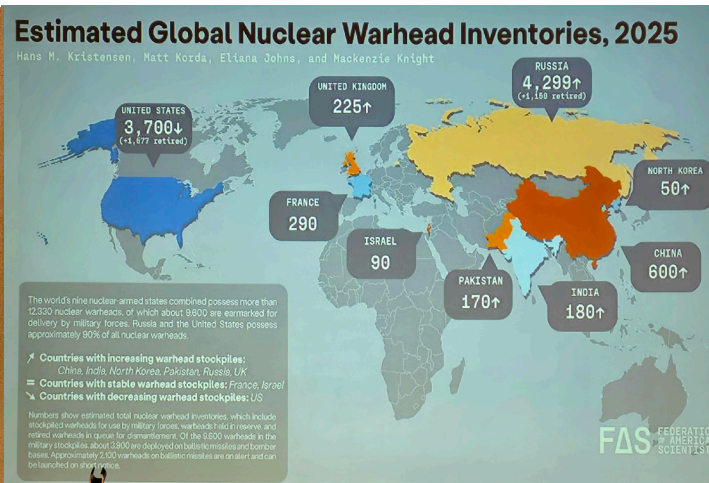
*Ross Millerick needs volunteers for the SMHS Career day.*



*Sonia Seeman announces the new Member Directories.*



*Jeff Slavitz is looking for help with the District Assembly set-up.*



*Prof. Andrew Reddie talked about the new challenging era of the Global Nuclear Arms Race.*

