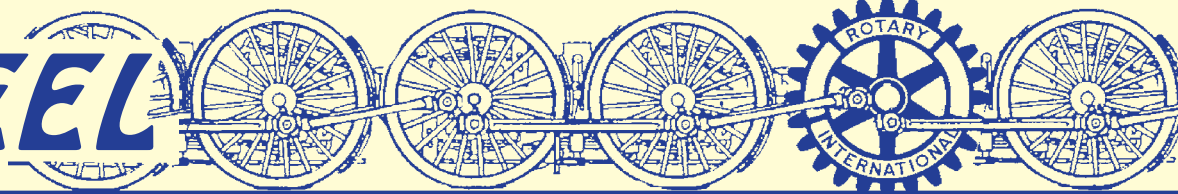


# The BIG WHEEL

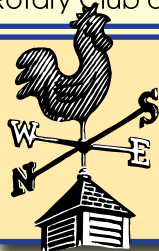


Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**March 15, 2024**  
**Vol. 75, No. 32**

**Editor:**  
**Alan Dunham**

## The Way It Was: The First Woman in Rotary

### In the Beginning

**President Phil** opened the meeting at the Jonas Center on the College of Marin Indian Valley Campus at 12:15.

### Pledge of Allegiance

**President Phil** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

### Thought for the Day

**Suzanne Bales** gave the 'Thought for the Day' in Honor of our speaker, the First Woman President of a Rotary Club: "Women are like tea bags. We don't know our strength until we are in hot water."

### Visitors & Guests of Rotarians

Visiting Rotarians included: **Anne Sands**, River and Horses Classification and Annual Fund Coordinator for District 5150 of the West Marin Rotary Club; **Jeff Moss**, Law Classification and Secretary of the Terra Linda Rotary Club; and **Carlos Afre** of the Ignacio Rotary Club.

Guests included **Kathy Ketron** with husband **Russ**, **Roberta Dunham** with husband **Alan**; **MJ Koontz** and **Janelle La Fond** with **Lynn Dawson**; **Suzanne Prine** with **Tom Frazier**; wife **Frances** and daughters

**Donna Borok Moss** and **Tamara Borok** with **Ben**; and wife **Michele** and son **Tony Vespa** with **Bill**.

### Special Recognition

A slide show and decorated cake were presented in celebration of **Ben** and **Frances Borok's** 70th Anniversary. An entire table was dedicated to **Ben** and his wonderful families. Blessings and good wishes to a Novato family who have given so much to our Rotary Club and our Novato Community at large.

### Community Care

**Reggie** reported that **Larry Harrison** is recovering from a knee replacement and "has turned the corner." He welcomes phone calls.

**Keith Axtell** is recovering from COVID that he contracted on a recent cruise.

### Special Presentation

**President Phil** presented **Jorg Westerheide** with his famous bull and lasso with thanks. **Jorg** is charged now with housing him. He also announced a contest to name the bull that may become the mascot for our Annual Western BBQ and Dance Fundraiser. **Jorg** is close to reporting the bottom line for this year's fundraiser.

### Announcements

#### Pet Video

**President Phil** is still awaiting videos and photos of our pets for a pet video he is producing.



### Police Visits

**Sasha D'Amico** announced that members of the Novato Police Department will be meeting with students on Monday at 3:00 pm at New Life Christian School for a "pop up" police station. Members of the community are invited to attend.

### Scholarship Committee

**John Ringgenberg** and his Scholarship Committee will be meeting at Nova-Ro III on Thursday, March 28 at 3:00 with school counselors.

### Club Directory

**Bill Vespa** reminded members to update their contact info in ClubRunner. **Bill** will email a document, created by **Marisa Remak**, that shows how to update your profile.

### District Assembly

**President Phil** encouraged all members to attend the District Assembly. Those wishing to car-pool meet at the Safeway parking lot on Diablo Boulevard at 7:00 on Saturday, March 23. Register on our Club website. Club pays registration. **President Elect Tom Rickey** will be recognized. There are many training sessions for your area of interest and a delicious BBQ, plus a Project Fair where you can see what **Rob Marshall** has done in Guatemala. Let us all be there to welcome **Tom** as our upcoming President and show him our support and cheer him on to another fabulous Novato Rotary year.

### TGIF

**Suzanne Bales** invited all members and guests to attend the TGIF on Friday, March 29, yep, Good

# 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?"



### Featuring Chris Waugh

*Vice President, Chief Innovation Officer*

### The Bill and Adele Jonas Center Thursday, March 28 7 pm to 8:30 pm

As Sutter Health's first Chief Innovation Officer, Chris Waugh applies his extensive experience in human-centered design to guide the integrated network's innovation strategy. Human-centered design is a creative approach that seeks personalized solutions to meet individual needs — understanding people and their behaviors, identifying trends and exploring solutions that improve a person's healthcare experience — in order to make healthcare more usable and accessible for patients, doctors and nurses. Before joining Sutter Health, Waugh held entrepreneurial leadership roles at IDEO, a globally regarded Bay Area design and innovation firm, and was vice president of design at One Medical Group in San Francisco where he helped create a culture of innovation. Waugh graduated from Fort Lewis College in Colorado, with bachelor's degrees in international business and French.

**Tickets: Adults \$25 • Students \$10**

## Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



**Empathy**  
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## Upcoming Programs & Events

### March

Mar. 22 **Dick Spotswood:** Marin IJ

Mar. 28 (Thursday) **Novato Speaker Series - Chris Waugh**

### April

April 5 **Kerri Murray:** President of Shelter Box USA

April 12 **Marlene Capra**

April 19 **Club Assembly**

April 25 (Thursday) **Novato Speaker Series - Lauren Vong & Laurie Reemsnyder**

April 26 **No Meeting – Club Social**

## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2023/2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Phil Dougherty**  
*President*

**Tom Rickey**  
*Vice President*

**Sonia Seeman**  
**Jim White**  
*Co-Secretaries*

**Chris DeGabriele**  
*Treasurer*

**Gordon R. McNally**  
*R.I. President*

**Laine Hendricks**  
*District Governor*

**Stacie Vance**  
*Assistant District Governor*

### DIRECTORS

**Roy Pfeifer & John Reuscher**  
*Club Administration*

**Kyle Frazier**  
*Public Image*

**Peter Pelavin**  
*Community Service*

**Gloria Dunn-Violin**  
*Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)*

**Holly Axtell**  
*International Service*

**Jorg Puhr-Westerheide**  
*The Rotary Foundation (TRF)*

**Marisa Remak**  
*Youth Service*

**Lynn Dawson**  
*Membership*

**Sonia Seeman**  
*Jonas Center Liaison*

**Peter Oser**  
*President, Nova-Ro Corp.*

**Craig Anderson**  
*Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment*

**Peian Harness**  
*Past President*

Friday, from 4:30-6:00pm at Mantra, 881 Grant Avenue, Novato. There will be a no-host bar for beer and wine. Come visit with your fellow Rotarians. If you wish to stay beyond 6pm, Mantra does offer music.

### Rotary Cruise

**Carlos Afre** invited members, their families and guests to The Rotary Foundation 2024 Cruise. This year the Cruise is from August 14-21 and includes the "Best of Holland and Belgium." Call 800-258-8880 for more information and reservations. Proceeds benefit Polio Plus and \$500 will be donated to The Rotary Foundation in your name.

### Novato Speaker Series

**Chris Waugh**, Vice President, Chief Innovation Officer from Sutter Health is the next speaker for the Novato Speakers Series on Thursday, March 28.

### More Special Presentations

District 5150 Annual Fund Coordinator **Anne Sands** presented awards to the following: **Peian Harness** for the Club being in the Top 10% EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year) during her year as **President**, **Robert Marshall** for his DDF Grant programs, **Jorg Westerheide** for 100% Foundation Participation and **Russ Ketron** for his work with Polio Plus. (Only 4 new polio cases reported in the world this year)

### Program

**Lynn Dawson** introduced our speaker **Sylvia Whitlock**, the first female President of a Rotary Club. She shared the history of women being allowed in Rotary. It started when she was School Principal in the small town of Duarte in Southern California. The Superintendent was a Rotarian and invited her to join in 1978, 5 years before women were allowed to officially join. There were many law suits leading to a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1987 which ended gender discrimination. Her book "Women Also Serve" was on sale after the meeting.

### The Winner

The Winner this week was **TJ Neff**.

### Next Week's Program

**Dick Spotswood** of the Marin IJ will be speaker at our Meeting on March 22, 2024.



*Ben & Frances  
Wedding Day  
March 14, 1954*

## Happy 70th Anniversary Frances & Ben!

*Ben and Frances with Tony and Bill Vespa,  
after Ben made Tony our Club's youngest  
PHF recipient in 2006.*





*Sylvia Whitlock, the First Woman Rotary President with 11 years of determination for Supreme Court ruling.*

*Sylvia Whitlock tells her personal Women in Rotary History from day 1.*



*Russ Ketron Polio Plus and Tribute banners to 100% donation to Rotary Foundation, top 10% globally.*



*Speaker Sylvia Whitlock with admirers.*



*Jorg grabbed his bull and lasso for greener pastures.*

