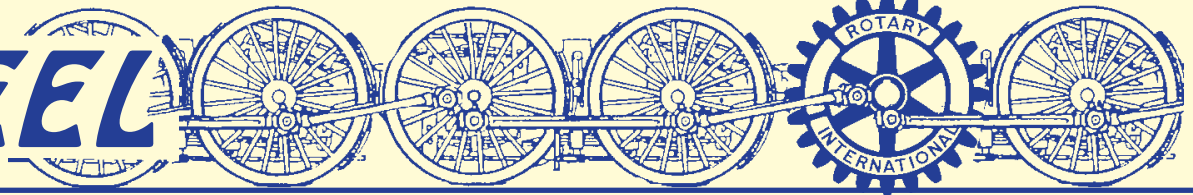


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



March 20, 2026
Vol. 77, No. 34
Editor:
Alan Dunham

The Way it was on First Day of Spring.

In The Beginning

President **Lynn Dawson** called the Meeting to order at 12:15 at the Jonas Center at Indian Valley Campus of the College of Marin.

Pledge of Allegiance

Laura Joss led us in our Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

Thought for the Day

Reggie Winner shared an inspirational thought.

Guests of Rotarians

Today's Guests of Rotarians included **Chris Harrison** with Husband **Larry**, **Jay Magtibay** with **Ton Rickey**, **Laurie Vogenson** with **Sonia Seeman** plus our speakers **John Cary** and **Margaret Ann O'Connor** of the Eames Institute.

Visiting Rotarians

There no Visiting Rotarians of record today.

Ice Breaker

March 20 is the "International Day of Happiness" so President Lynn used it as a theme for the "Ice Breaker" asking members to share "What Makes You Happy."

Community Care Report

Reggie and Marty reported that **Gloria** has lymphoma, is undergoing treatment and will be away for a few months, **Jim Spilman** is receiving physical therapy and **Toni Bramon** is recovering from back surgery.

Announcements

Club Social

March 27, No Meeting, Social at Adobe Creek.

No Meeting

April 3 (Good Friday) there is no Meeting.

Environmental Service

Randy Baker is our speaker on April 10. April is CAT/Environmental Service Month

Novato Speaker Series

April 23, Novato Speakers Series: Blue Angel **Commander Gil Rudd**

Meeting at the IVC Farm

April 24, meeting at the College Farm, **Gretchen Shubeck** (Novato Sustainability Coordinator) is our speaker.

Club Social

April 25, 4 Club Social.

District Celebration

May 2, District Celebration.

Rotary Video

A video was shown titled "What is Rotary" emphasized many facets including "Making Friends" and "Making a Difference."

Special Presentation

Jorg Pühr-Westerheide presented **John Reuscher** with his Paul Harris Major Donor pin.

Induction

Peian Harness inducted our newest member **Laurie Vogenson** sponsored by **Gloria** and represented by **Sonia**.

Program

John Cary, an Architect by training is the founding President and CEO of Eames Institute of Curiosity, a public charity focused on inspiring creative problem solving that positively shapes our world. His talk focused mainly on the future use of the Birkenstock building in Novato. His vision is to create a space that serves as a museum and has studios for the study and application of design and to "Cultivate Curiosity." Permitting, funding and construction is projected to be 2030. See EamesInstitute.org

Winning Number

Some lucky person.

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



UTILITY BOX Painting

Help prepare and prime 11 utility boxes in Novato during the week **March 30 - April 3rd**. The City already has 28 artist applications. March 30th is in about two weeks so we need to get Club members to help and sign up as soon as possible.

Here's the Sign Up Genius link:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A49ADAB2BA75-62867558-novato>

All volunteers will meet at the utility box located at Redwood & Olive Avenue at 9am Monday, March 30th for a quick training and team selection.

Upcoming Programs & Events

March

Mar. 27 **Club Social** - Adobe Creek Brewing

April

Apr. 3 **No Meeting**
Apr. 10 **CAT/Environmental Sustainability**
- Randy Baker
Apr. 17 **Novato Sustainability** - Gretchen Shubeck
Apr. 23 **Novato Speaker Series**
Apr. 24 **IVC Farm** - Gretchen Shubeck (Novato Sustainability Coordinator)
Apr. 25 **4 - Club Social**

May

May 1 **Youth Services** - Ross Millerick
May 8 **Teacher Recognitions**
May 15 **Meeting at Jonas**

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

NEW MEMBER NOTICE

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

- **Jay Magtibay: General Contractor**
- **Susan Siefkas: Treasury Management Services, Retired**

If there are no objections by:

Thursday, March 27

he/she/they will be inducted on or about:

Friday, April 3

Marisa Remak
Secretary

Volunteers Needed! Help 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

April Special Dates

- 4-1 Jan Hoffmann
- 4-6 Jim Botko
- 4-9 Jan & Burt Hoffmann
- 4-10 Scott Chase
- 4-10 Christina Stroeh
- 4-11 Tom Young
- 4-13 Jim Bates
- 4-19 Suzanne Bales
- 4-19 Vicki White
- 4-20 Jo Heffelfinger
- 4-20 Leslie & Rene Prado
- 4-20 Vicki & Jim White
- 4-21 Phil Dougherty
- 4-21 Mike Morrissey
- 4-22 Judith Keeler
- 4-22 Linda & Ross Millerick
- 4-23 Sandra & Jim Bates
- 4-25 Moses Jacob
- 4-27 Kathleen Ketron
- 4-30 Pat Chiota

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**

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



845 Vallejo Avenue, Downtown Novato
www.handjtire.com
hjtire@vbbn.com

Burt Hoffmann
John Da Silva

(415) 897-1185

- Tires
- Brakes
- Alignment
- Shocks
- Oil Changes
- Tuneup



Mark Bosch handled "roving" Microphones.



Randy Baker is looking for Utility Box Project Help.



Marisa Remak making an announcement



A rendering of the exterior of the Eames Institute of Infinite Curiosity which will be located in the former Birkenstock building in northern Novato.



Past President Peian Harness inducts our newest member, Laurie Vogenson. Sonia stood in for Laurie's sponsor Gloria Dunn-Violin.



Foundation Chair Jorg gave a Major Donor pin to John Reuscher.

Marin Men's Group



Ed Ross gave his five minute talk. One notable achievement for Ed was starting the Marin Men's Group.



President Lynn gave John Cary a set of Alan Dunham note cards as the speaker's gift.



John Cary, President and CEO of the Eames Institute of Infinite Curiosity.



Tiff Fischer (r) was part of the VFW Color Guard



Penny and Pres. Elect Rene



P.E. Peter, P.P. Jorg, P.P. Marty and Mike M.



P.P. Ron and PDG Russ

5150 District Conference
3-21-26
Redwood High School



Incoming Pres. Peter Pelavin and incoming DG Yuhui Chen



Part of the RCN Contingent having a great time!



Edgar and Pres. Lynn



Evan and Mark doing video interviews