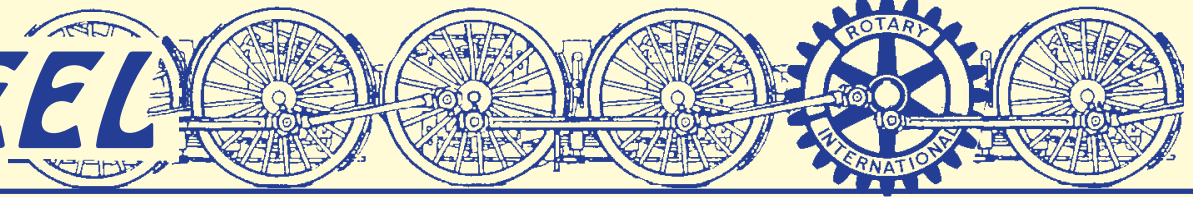


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



March 28, 2025
Vol. 76, No. 28
Editor:
Alan Dunham

The Way it Was

Spring has sprung.

In the Beginning

President Tom Rickey opened the Meeting at the Jonas Center on the College of Marin Indian Valley Campus at 12:15.

Pledge of Allegiance

John Ringgenberg led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Thought for the Day

John Ringgenberg quoted **Emerson**: "To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To appreciate beauty; To find the best in others; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child or a lovely garden; To know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived; This is to have succeeded!"

Visiting Rotarians

Gary Chow, PDG, DRFC, Health Education, San Francisco; and **Steve Wright, DG**, Collection Management Retired, Pacifica.

Guests of Rotarians

Darlene Purcell and **Christina Kerkaof** with **Al Angulo**, **Beth Rowlett** with **Lynn Dawson** (Introduced by **Gloria Dunn Violin**), **Kathy Botko** with **Jim Botko** plus **Barry Smail**, history buff introduced by **Moses Jacob** and **Zoila Garcia** introduced **Christina Stroeh**.

Recognitions

Birthdays

President Tom recognized **Debbie Brusatori** and **Steve Ghirardo** for their current birthdays.

Rotary Anniversaries

The following Rotary Anniversaries were acknowledged: **Jeff Slavitz** 2 years, **Larry Mazzotta** 10 years, and **Gloria Dunn Violin** 17 years.

Announcements

Community Care

Phil Dougherty reported that **Marsha Molloy's** husband **Greg** fell, injured his left side and was taken to ER.

Winners

President Tom announced he had gifts for the two winning tables from last week.

Planting Beautification

Gloria Dunn Violin thanked the volunteers for helping with the 4 Club Planting Project at Grant and Reichert including our members; **Patty Dougherty**, **Phil Dougherty**, **Mark Bosch**, **Delyn Kies**, **Joy Fillman**, **Dennis Baldwin**, and **Don Violin**.

Novato Speaker Series

The upcoming event is on April 24 at 7pm at the Jonas Center. The Speaker is **Eric Schmitt**, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist with the New York Times. He has changed his topic to "A NEW WORLD ORDER UNDER DONALD TRUMP"

Food Distribution

Save Tuesday, April 15 for food distribution at the North Marin Community Services. Two shifts: 8:30am to unload and pack and 1pm to 3pm to distribute.

Car Wash Fundraiser

John Cutrufelli passed around a sign-up sheet for the Sunday, April 27 Car Wash.

District Assembly

President Tom thanked the 33-35 members who attended the recent District Assembly to cheer for **President Elect Lynn Dawson** being introduced and attended the instructional breakout sessions.

Northbay Children's Center

There will be an Open House /Work Day on Saturday, April 19 from 9am to 12noon at the North Bay Children Center. The Joint Marin Rotary Clubs project is to build planters boxes for their Garden of Eaten. Our CAT committee donated \$4,000 toward this project. See **Gloria** for details.

Utility Box Preparation

Meet at the Novato Gymnastic Center at Seventh and Grant on Wednesday, April 2 from 8am to noon to prepare utility boxes for artists to apply their designs. Bring gloves and mask.

Recognitions

Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service:

PDG, DRFC Gary Chow noted that the District can nominate one member to receive this annual award. This year **Keith Axtell** is the nominee. **Keith** has been a Rotarian since 1996 and has been involved in many activities in leadership roles especially World Community Services. Congratulations. Well deserved.

More Rotary Foundation Awards

DG Steve Wright explained several Foundation annual giving categories. Our donors mentioned were **Phil Dougherty**, **Allen Shirley**, **Peter Oser**, **Jorg Westerheide**, **Larry Harrison**, **Chuck Hildebrand** and others.

Program

Moses Jacob introduced our speaker **Colonel Brendan Kearney** (Marine) who discussed the Ukraine/Russia

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

A New World Order Under Donald Trump

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



Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



Empathy
ESTATE PLANNING

www.empathyestateplanning.com

Upcoming Programs & Events

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 - A New World Order Under Donald Trump
April 25 **Meeting:** The IVC Farm
April 27 **Car Wash:** Teacher's Fundraiser

May

May 2 **Cinco de Mayo Celebration & Int'l Projects**
May 9 **Social Event TBD**
May 14 **Board Meeting at Jonas Center**
May 16 **No Meeting - District Conference**
May 23 **Teacher Recognitions**
May 30 **Tribal Girls' School in India**

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

conflict, our efforts to bring about a ceasefire and Zelensky's awkward meet-up at the White House. Some take aways: **Putin** thought it would be a short battle, Ukraine developed its military after Russia occupied Crimea in 2014, the best thing was to bring NATO back, and **Putin** will be replaced.

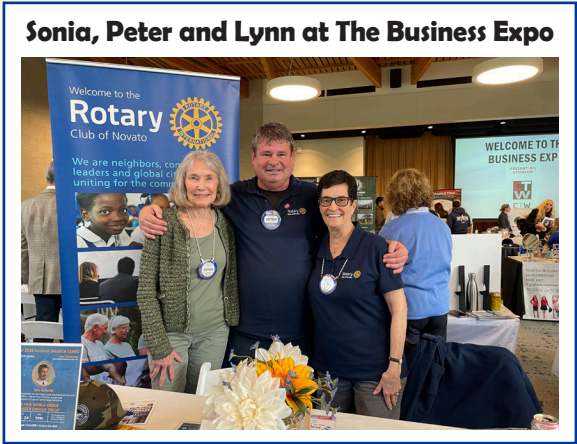
The Winners

Winner this week was **Kathy Botko**.

Next Week's Program

Next week, Friday April 4, **John Dean**: Managing Risk.

(ED Note: A very full meeting with lots of information. Sorry if I missed important details.)



NEW MEMBER NOTICE

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

- **Beth Rowett: Hospital Executive, Retired**
- **Ingrid Martinez: Gift and Gallery Owner**

if there are no objections by:

Thursday, April 3

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

Friday, April 4

- **Linda Morgan: Bookkeeping**

if there are no objections by:

Thursday, April 10

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

Friday, April 11

Peian Harness
Secretary

SUPPORT NOVATO TEACHERS

Pre-Paid Donation
\$10 per Ticket
Good for
Drive-Thru Express Wash
\$16 Value

Annual

CAR WASH

Sunday, April 27th
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NOVATO CAR WASH
(across from Marin Community Clinic
and Marin County Ford)
6981 Redwood Blvd.

All Proceeds
Support Novato Teachers

Visit novatorotary.org or use
this QR Code below
for tickets or more info

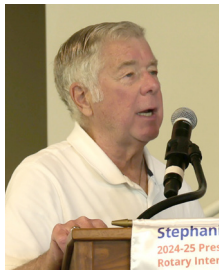
MAGIC ALL AROUND

21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA

Register today at
convention.rotary.org

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
4-23	Sandra & Jim Bates
4-25	Moses Jacob
4-27	Kathleen Ketron





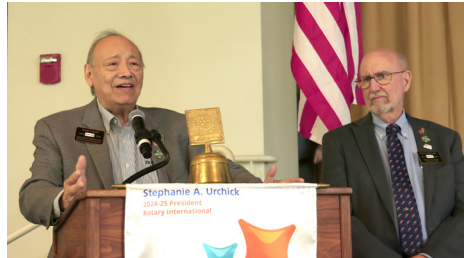
*Our speaker,
Retired Colonel
Brendan Kearney,
USMC.*



*Gloria Dunn-Violin makes an
announcement. Randy Baker and Larry
Mazzotta wait their turn.*



*John Cutrufelli
needs Car Wash
volunteers.*



*PDG, DRFC Gary Chow and DG
Steve Wright made a visit to recognize
Rotary Foundation Donors.*



*Al Shirley, Peter Oser and Jorg Puh-
Westerheide are recognized for their
Foundation Contributions.*



*DG Steve Wright and PDG, DRFC Gary Chow
announced that Keith Axtell will be presented
with the Rotary Foundation Citation for
Meritorious Service.*



*Past President Phil
Dougherty, Chuck Hildebrand
and Larry Harrison were
recognized as donors to the
Rotary Foundation.*



Beautification Project Downtown Novato

*This was the third and final
planting of the four corners at
Reichert and Grant Avenues.
The crew included the Novato
Rotary clubs, VFW, Tree Team
and the City.*



Utility Boxes Downtown Novato

*The Utility Boxes near 7th and
Grant Avenue were prepared so
artists can apply their designs.*





TGIF
Trek Winery/
PODS
Brewery
3-21-25