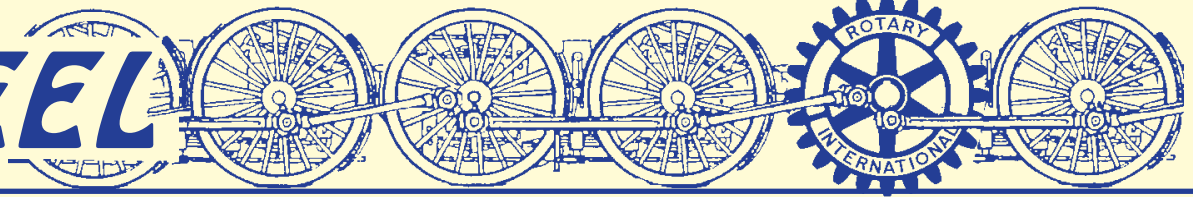


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



March 7, 2025
Vol. 76, No. 26
Editor:
Alan Dunham

The Way it Was

Enjoy the green hills.

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

Jeff Slavitz led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Thought for the Day

Jeff Slavitz also gave the Thought for the Day as follows: "Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character, it becomes your destiny."

Visiting Rotarians

Visiting Rotarians included: Our speaker **Scott Plakun**, Past President of San Francisco #2 and **Ingrid Martinez**, Shop Keeper of the Sonoma Club.

Guests of Rotarians

Guests included: **Randell Lee** with **Jackie Lee** and **Beth Rowlell** with **Delyn Kies**.

Recognitions

Birthdays

President Tom recognize the following members for their March Birthdays: **Dave Kapranos** on March 6, **Alan Dunham** and **Keith Axtell** on March 10.

Rotary Anniversaries

President Tom recognized the following Rotary Anniversaries: **Frank Bruno** 30 years, **Peter Pelavin** 3 Years, **Ron Harness** 15 years and **Phil Dougherty** 23 Years.

Best of Marin

In the recent Best of Marin Edition of the Marin Independent Journal, readers recognized the Rotary Club of Novato as the Best Service Club in Marin and The Jonas Center at Indian Valley Campus as the Best Meeting Place and Convention Space. Congratulations!

Paul Harris Recognition

Jorg Westerheid presented **Dave Gabriel** with a pin with another blue sapphire.

Announcements

Sunshine Report

Neither **Reggie Winner** or **Marty Wickenheiser** had reports. Good news!

Book Signing

Christina Stroeh mentioned she and **Sadie Remak** will be signing her recent companion book to the film Queen Bee titled Queen Bea's Field Guide for Fairies and Friends. Written by **Lais Fonseca** and **Christina Stroeh**. Signing will be March 8 from 11-1pm at the Novato Copperfield's.

Western BBQ & Dance

Peter Pelavin thanked all who contributed in many ways to the BBQ which netted \$51,000.

Polio Plus

Russ Ketron gave a complete update on the status of giving and eradication. Our District is one of the top contributors worldwide and Pakistan is the site of the few remaining cases.

Novato Speaker Series

Phil Dougherty reminded us of the upcoming event 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".

District Assembly

President Tom encouraged all members to attend the District Assembly Saturday, March 22 from 7:30-2:00 at Redwood High School in Larkspur. Sign up on the District 5150 web site. Our Club pays our registration. Note that after the meeting and breakout sessions there is a delicious BBQ prepared by the Rotary Club of Foster City. **President Elect Lynn Dawson** will be recognized. Let us all be there to welcome **Lynn** and show her our support and cheer her on to another Fabulous Novato Rotary Year. Bring whistles and noise makers.

Tree Planting

Gloria Dunn Violin asked us to save Saturday March 15 from 8:00-12:00 for Tree Planting at Reichert and Grant. This is a project of the Environmental Sustainability Committee. She also thanked those who helped so far.

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



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Upcoming Programs & Events

March

Mar. 12 **Board Meeting at Jonas Center**
Mar. 14 **Ladies Shred - Skateboarding:** Lilija Merrill
Mar. 21 **TGIF - Trek Winery**
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 - A New World Order Under Donald Trump
April 25 **No Meeting**

May

May 2 **Meeting (Cinco de Mayo)**
May 9 **Meeting or Social Event TBD**
May 14 **Board Meeting at Jonas Center**

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2024/2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

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Stacie Vance
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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

Bleacher Refinishing

Jim Spilman thanks several members who helped refinish the Bleachers this past Saturday and Sunday at Babe Silva Field including : **Marty Wickenheiser, Delyn Kies, Marcus Combs, Tom Rickey, David Gabriel, Marisa, Sadie and Mike Remak, and Randy Baker** plus **Interact President Layton and Jackie Bonner, Mike Ring, Bruce Goines and Sylvia Barry** from Novato Sunrise.

Food Distribution

Save Saturday, April 15 for food distribution at the North Marin Community Services. More to come.

Car Wash

Save Sunday April 27 for this year's Car Wash.

Special Presentation

Insurance Warnings

Rotarian **Peter Oser**, local Insurance Agent gave a very detailed report on several recent changes to Homeowners Insurance partially caused by the many fires in California. His Recommendation, " Don't Sign Anything."

Program

Gloria Dunn Violin introduced our speaker **Scott Plakum**. He is a member and Past President of San Francisco #2 Club. He spoke of how their Club started a committee about DEI (Diversity Equality and Inclusion) which has evolved to a District 5150 Committee where he is now Chair. The title explains the purpose of the Committee. He shared how members are encouraged to find ways to share their unique talents and interests.

The Winners

Winners this week included **Don Violin** for cash and **Debbie Brusatori** for a decorated box from a local Bakery.

Next Week's Program

Lilja Merrill, founder of Ladies Shred/Together We Shred is an advocate for skateboarding in Marin. Her organization uses skateboarding activities to provide social and other opportunities for girls from under served communities.



Rotary

FarWest PETS

March 8, 2025



Mitone Griffiths (left) will be the 2025 - 2026 District 5150 Governor; Ron and Peian Harness will be 2025 - 2026 District 5150 Assistant Governors; and Lynn Dawson will be the 2025-2026 Rotary Club of Novato President. Congratulations!

TGIF

Friday March 21st • 5:00 - 7:00 pm




Trek Winery
1026 Machin Ave., Novato

*You buy a drink and
Rotary will provide some appetizers*



Please RSVP to
Suzanne Bales
suzanne@dimensionsintravel.com





MAGIC ALL AROUND

21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA



Register today at
convention.rotary.org



A nice crowd in attendance for our meeting.



Foundation Director Jorg presents David Gabriel with a new PHF pin.



Our Speaker Scott Plakum.

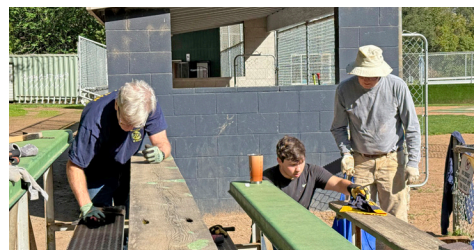


Don Violin was the lucky winner this week.



Past President and local Insurance Agent, Peter Oser, cautions us about recent changes to homeowners insurance.

Babe Silva Field Bleacher Restoration Project Supporting Youth Baseball



TGIF

February 28, 2025 at Star Restaurant, Novato



Beautification Project Reichert and Grant, Downtown Novato

