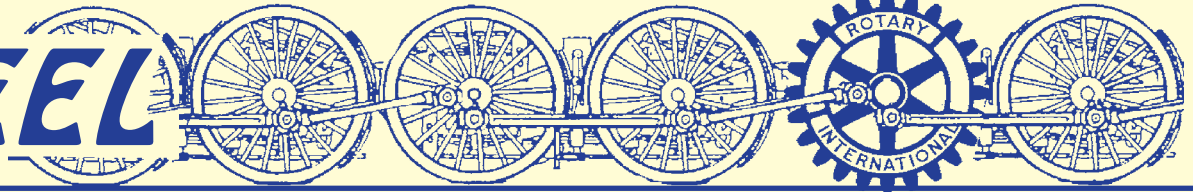


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



April 12, 2024
Vol. 75, No. 35
Editor:
A. Pril (Dean H.)

In the Beginning...

Past Prez Peter Oser called the meeting order. **Prez Phil** is down in either Colima or Cofradia, Mexico. He's down there with **Alan & Roberta Dunham**. I know they're having a great time working with the kids and drinking plenty of cerveza (Modelo?).

Pledge

Sonia Seeman led us in da Pledge, of allegiance, that is.

Thought for the Day

Jim Carriere gave the thought(s): "Success is going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm." (**Winston Churchill**) and "This is a grave affair. One which resonates like a symbol of the suppression of our most precious democratic values." (French citizens after hearing nude beaches would be closed due to a visit from the Saudi Royal Family.)

Visitors & Guests

Peter Oser's cousin, **David Gabriel**, from the Novato Sunrise Rotary Club visited us. **Marisa Remak** brought her daughter, known to us as "Queen Bee". **Eliza Roesler** brought her mother, **Debra**.

Sunshine

Robert Marshall is getting better.
Jim White has COVID.

Announcements

Tree Planting Party

Gloria Dunn-Violin invited all of us to come out and plant trees. (See details on page 3.)

Lynwood School Thank You

Jim Spilman shared a large Valentine card from Lynwood Elementary School, thanking us for the work we did at their school, then he invited us to come an lay bricks.

Marin Community Foundation

Holly Axtell announced the Marin Community Foundation will be meeting at Hamilton. (See ad on this page.)

Polio Plus

PDG Russ Ketrone told us it's time to donate to Polio Plus and there were only 120 cases of Polio in the world, last year. He also said the Polio vaccinations help cure



MCF Open House

April 24, 2024, 5:00 - 7:00pm

The Marin Community Foundation and Rotary Clubs of Marin County would like to welcome you to an Open House at MCF.

Join us to learn more about MCF's history, current strategic priorities and how we work with community members.

Heavy appetizers and refreshments will be provided.



Please RSVP by April 17, 2024.



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?"

Survival, Gratitude, and the Human Spirit:

*A Night with
Laurie Reemsnyder and Lauren Vuong*



The Bill and Adele Jonas Center
Thursday, April 25 • 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Join us for an enlightening evening featuring two extraordinary speakers whose life stories are testaments to the power of resilience, compassion, and the human spirit.

Lauren Vuong's parents were wealthy landowners in southern Vietnam facing persecution under communist rule. Like hundreds of thousands of others from the mid-1970's to the early 1980's, Vuong's family decided to leave the country. Crowded onto a small boat with 57 other refugees, Vuong, seven-years-old, left in secret with her family in 1980.

Laurie Reemsnyder has made significant contributions as a photography teacher in Vallejo and Marin Catholic since 1999. Her early career involved seven years at the International House of Rhode Island, where she supported refugees, immigrants, and international students. Laurie's extensive work with the International Organization for Migration involved overseeing the relocation of over half a million refugees through SFO over two decades.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to be inspired by two remarkable journeys that bridge history, survival, and the transformative power of human connection at the Novato Speaker Series.

Tickets: Adults \$25 • Students \$10

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



Empathy
ESTATE PLANNING

www.empathyestateplanning.com

Upcoming Programs & Events

April

- April 19 **Club Assembly**
April 25 (Thursday) **Novato Speaker Series - Lauren Vong & Laurie Reemsnyder**
April 26 **No Meeting – Club Social**

May

- May 3 **Fiesta at Jonas – RCN International Project Fair**
May 10 **Lunch at New Beginnings – Learn and tour new homeless veteran apartments**
May 17 **TBD**
May 24 **Teacher Recognition**
May 30 (Thursday) – **Novato Speaker Series**
May 31 **TGIF 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

seven other diseases.

Blue Badge Talk

Eliza Roesler gave her Blue Badge speech. **Eliza** was born in Georgia. Both of her parents were in the military and both retired as Lt. Colonels. **Eliza** has been involved in Rotary since high school. **Eliza** was in Interact and went to RYLA, she is a leader. She graduated from Santa Clara University with a degree in Neuroscience & Biology, Cum Laude! She is a clinical associate for Aging Solutions. Congratulations, Eliza!

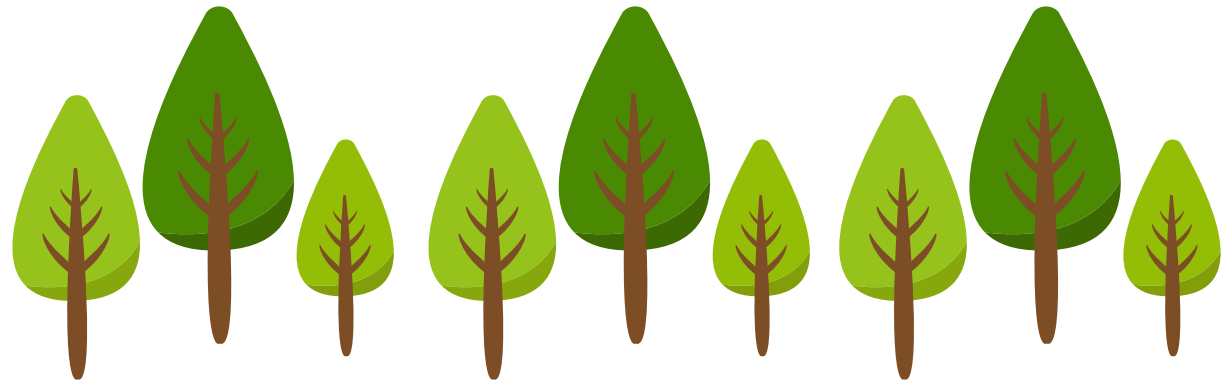
Speaker

Marisa Remak intro'd our speaker, **Marlene Capra** (no relation to **Frank**). **Marlene** told us all about human trafficking of youth in the Bay Area.

Marlene says that 55% of exploited youth are attending school while being exploited. **Marlene** explained that human trafficking is not just about sex, but also about getting young girls to do all kinds of jobs. How are these mainly young girls (teenagers) put into human trafficking? It's done by force, fraud and coercion. If you are concerned about a young person you know, or you want to volunteer with **Marlene** through her SpeakSafe organization, call her at (415) 608-1350 or email her at hereforyou@speaksafe.org.

Raffle

The 25 bucks was won by **Peter Oser's** cousin, **David Gabriel**. The fix was in!



Planting Trees on Wilson Avenue

Novato Rotary, the City, the Novato Tree Team and members of other Rotary clubs will combine forces to plant 13 trees on Wilson Avenue on April 26 from 10 AM to 1 PM. Show up at 10 AM for coffee and donuts, and prepare to get to work at 10:30 AM, when instruction will be given on how to plant the trees. Fortunately, the City is going to have all the holes dug in advance, so our job will be to put the trees in the holes, feed them, stake them, and fill them up with dirt. Irrigation will also have been taken care of by the City in advance.

Please park in the shopping center parking lot on the corner of Wilson Avenue and S. Novato Blvd.

Do you bring gloves, your own water, sunscreen, a hat, and if you have them, shovels. Since we will be working on a street, the city will provide vests.

Please email Gloria Dunn-Violin at gloriaviolin@yahoo.com to let her know to expect you, give her your contact info, and with any questions.

NEW MEMBER NOTICE

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

- **Mark A. Bosch - Engineer, Retired**
- **Marcus Combs - National Park Service, Retired**
- **Kerry Bacho - Early Literacy Manager**

If there are no objections by:

Thursday, May 3

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

Friday, May 4

Sonia Seeman / Jim White
Co-Secretaries





Russ Ketron reminds us of the Polio Salk vaccine licensed in April of 1955.



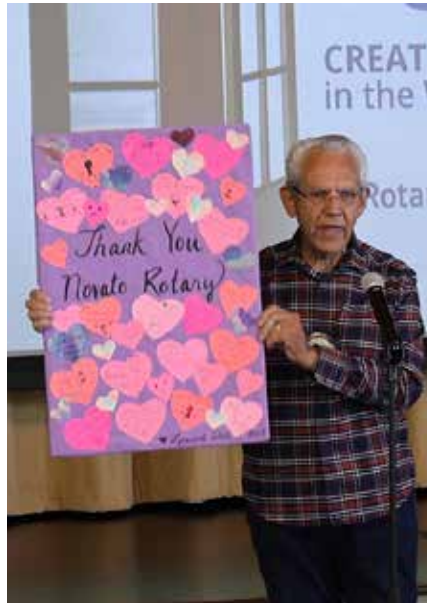
Peter Oser, President 2008-2009 carried the meeting with Phil in Colima, Mexico with the Dunhams and Dennis Hagerty.



Speak Safe Marlene Capra teaching educators to recognize exploitation in students.



Eliza Roesler gives her 5 minute talk.



Community Service Chairman, Jim Spilman, displays a thank you from the students at Lynwood Elementary for the benches and planters.



Project Amigo Trip

Rotary is a strong supporter of Project Amigo. It's an incredible program that empowers disadvantaged children in the state of Colima, Mexico to achieve their highest potential. They provide scholarships for formal education, school supplies, access to educational assistance centers, homework clubs, enrichment activities and healthcare services not otherwise available to them. Rotarians from Novato Rotary, SF Chinatown, and Wet Mountain Rotary in Colorado, visited Project Amigo this past week to participate in their programs.

