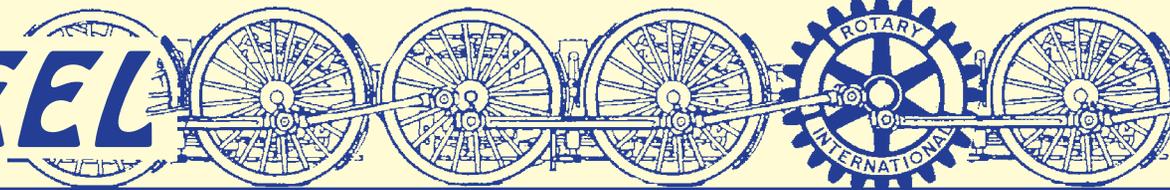


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**April 19, 2024**  
**Vol. 75, No. 36**  
**Editor:**  
**Peian Harness**

## In the Beginning...

**President Phil** is back from Project Amigo in Mexico and rang the bell on time to start the meeting.

Our newest blue badger, **Eliza Roesler**, led us the Pledge.

Instead of giving a 'Thought for the Day,' **Peian** arranged a surprise birthday celebration for our **President Phil**. Led by **Peter Pelavin**, **Eliza** and **Tiffany**, the Club sang to Beatle's song "When I'm Sixty Four" (guess how old **Phil** is going to be in 2 days?).

The song also came with a yummy birthday cake!

## The Meeting

Today's meeting was a Club Assembly and started right on time at 12:30.

## Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarian: **John Marshall** (**Robert's** brother) from Ignacio Club.

Guests of Rotarians included: **Marcus Combs**, **David Gabriel**, **Kerry Bacho**, **Mark Bosch** all with **Lynn Dawson**, and **Joshua Carter** with **Ryan Lee**.

## Community Care

**Reggie** is in the hospital. No calls or visitors.

**Kyle Frazier** can't come to the meeting today since he is taking care of his father, **Tom**, who is also in the hospital. Please send them cards to wish them speedy recovery!

## Project Amigo Trip

**President Phil**, **Alan** and **Roberta Dunham** and three other Rotarians from Chinatown Rotary Club spent a week at Mexico. They were visiting "Project Amigo" which is a NGO helping kids in Colima, Mexico to go through the education system.

During this trip, **Alan** also celebrated his birthday by sticking his face in a cake, hitting piñatas and making guacamole! More to come at our May 3rd meeting.

## Club Assembly

During today's Club assembly meeting, **President Phil** called on each committee chair to give us an update.

## Membership

Committee Chair **Lynn Dawson** reported that we have a very good year with 15 new members joined/joining our Club (this might be record breaking). The total membership adds up to 99 members now and **Lynn** is asking the Club to work on the final stretch to get us to 100!

## Public Image

**President Phil** stepped in for **Kyle Frazier** and reported that **Kyle** is doing a great job posting Club events on social media like FB, Instagram.

## Foundation

**Jorg Puhr-Westerheid** reported we presented 23 new Paul Harris pins this year, one member as a Bequest Society member and several Major Donors in our Club. Plus, one member recognized as becoming a member of the Arch Klumph Society.

(Check out "[www.rotary.org/en/donate/recognition](http://www.rotary.org/en/donate/recognition)" for details of Rotary International's Donor Recognition.)

## CAT (Climate Action Team)

**Gloria Dunn-Violin** shared many projects which included: Tree planting at various locations in Novato, Sustainable project 4 school, restore a butterfly habitat, NBCC garden of Eden, Ukraine mobile ambulance project, and restore coral reef in Panama. **Elisa** also reported she will help to promote CAT using social media.

## Community Service

**Peter Pelavin** reported their projects included: Rotary Annual Car Wash (100% proceeds go to local teachers), Novato Speaker Series, dictionaries for school kids, scholarships, NAMI (support mental health issues), School Fuel, Heroes and Helpers (funds for youth in need to purchase holiday gifts for their family members with the Novato Police and Fire Departments), Books and Art Around Town, holiday tree lighting, street piano on Grant Ave. and many more.

## Youth Service

**President Phil** stepped in for **Marisa Remak** and mentioned their projects included: Nature Bridge (outdoor program for 5th graders), Magnolia Project (job/intern mentoring for middle and high school kids), sponsoring San Marin Interact Club (lots of students helped out at our Western BBQ and Dance event), and RYLA (a five day youth leadership program).

**Phil** also mention RYLA is looking for volunteers and the event dates are July 29 - August 2, 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](http://www.empathyestateplanning.com)

## Upcoming Programs & Events

### April

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

April 26 **No Meeting – Club Social at Trailhead**

### 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 **Jamie Scardino - Marin County Sheriff**

May 24 **Teacher Recognition**

May 30 (Thursday) – **Novato Speaker Series**

May 31 **TGIF Social**

### June

June 28 **Debunking**

## 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*

**Endowment**

Committee Chair **Craig Anderson** reported that there are three categories of endowment under their management: The Jonas Fund, Scholarship Funds, and Club Endowment Funds.

The funds are invested with Stifel and are reviewed monthly by committee members.

**Nova-Ro**

**Peter Oser** reported Nova-Ro I, II and III provide affordable housing for seniors age 62 and above. There are three locations in town with 126 units which include studios or 1 BR apartments. The reserves are invested with two firms – Stifel and Hennessy.

This project has received two awards from United States Presidents.

**Administration**

**John Reuscher** and **Roy Pfeifer** are pillars of this committee. They help to set up and take down at each meeting, also the social and off site Club events!

We can't thank you enough!

Before adjourning the meeting, **President Phil** reminded us of the schedule for the last two months of his year:

- No meeting next week, instead there will be a social at Trailhead from 4:30 PM.
- May 3rd Club meeting will be presentation from the International Committee and takes place on Jonas Center's patio.
- May 10th meeting will be at Homeward Bound New Beginnings Center with a tour of new veterans housing.
- May 17th: Marin County Sheriff
- May 24: Teacher's Recognition
- May 30th: Novato Speaker Series
- Jun 28: Debunking

**The Winner**

Finally, the winner of the raffle was **Holly Axtell!**

**NOTE DATE CHANGE**



**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 **SATURDAY, APRIL 27** 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](mailto: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



**Happy Birthday Phil!**



**Rotary Work Party**



At Los Robles, Peter Pelavin, Jim Spilman, Tiffany Fischer, Marty Wickenheiser worked to reduce wildfire risk. In addition to helping control the vegetation, Marty collects hazmat materials (like paint cans above) to deliver to Marin Sanitary.

**Brick Laying at City Hall**



**Club Assembly Presentations**

