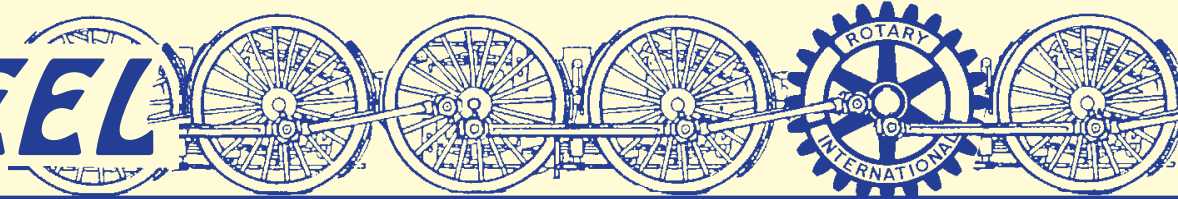


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**April 25, 2025**  
**Vol. 76, No. 31**  
**Editor:**  
**Dean Heffelfinger**

## Call to Order

**Prez Tommy** rang da bell. He reiterated that our Club: Personifies "Service Above Self". Doesn't wait, we do. Doesn't ask why, but asks why not?

## Pledge and Thought for the Day

**President-Elect Lynn Dawson** led the pledge and gave us a thought for the day...

- People aren't afraid of change, they are afraid of being changed.
- People aren't afraid of change, they are afraid of loss.
- Activity is not progress- Chewing gum is proof of that!

## Visiting Rotarians

None today.

## Guests of Rotarians

Once again, **Past Prez Christina** introduced **Zoila Garcia**.

## Celebrations!

### Birthdays!

Last Monday, April 21 was **Past Prez Phil Dougherty's** birthday. It was also **Mike Morrissey's** natal anniversary. Today (April 25) is **Moses Jacob's** birthday! My wife, **Jo**, celebrated 80 years!

## Wedding Anniversaries

Last Sunday, **Jim and Vicki White** celebrated 43 years. Also, last Sunday was **Leslie and Rene Prado's** 20th anniversary. This past Wednesday was **Sandy and Jim Bates** 10th year!

## Announcements

### Community Care

Sad news, former member **Dee Russo** past away as did **Toni Bramon's** 104 year old mother. For those who may have missed the announcement, **Ellarene Young**, the wife of the late **Past President Ben Young**, also passed away.

### Speaker Series Update

**Gary Bramon** announced the next speaker at our Speaker Series is the former 49er star, **Keena Turner**.

### Proclamation

**Gloria Dunn-Violin** told us the City of Novato gave us a proclamation for digging up and replanting the garden area in downtown Novato. To do this project, we got \$3,000 from a Rotary District Grant.

## Poetry Reading

**P.P. Christina Stroeh** needed to pay for missing a prior meeting's "Who's Dat Rotarian" question. She had a choice to pay cash, sing a song or present a poem. **Christina** decided to present a humorous poem she wrote about the perils of "raising a hand" to volunteer, without first understanding what was in store.

## Rotary Interrogation

**Prez Tommy** told us it was time to name that Rotarian again with "Who's Dat Rotarian?"

- Who talked to **Robert Redford** after swimming with them at Skywalker Ranch?
- Who went to Catholic Military Boarding school from grades 5 to 8?
- Who was also a Toastmaster?

It was **Jeff Slavitz** and it was answered on the first clue!

## Craft Talks

**Prez Tom** called up **Mark Bosch** who told us about his stage lighting business, where he created lighting for many shows in the big casinos of Reno. Then **Prez Tom** intro'd **Burt Hoffmann** who told us all about Nova-Ro which has three campuses, Nova-Ro I, II and III. Nova-Ro I was mainly built by our Club members under the leadership of **Ruben Kaehler**, **Paul Scheller** and **John Stuber**. **Burt** talked about how much it costs to build all three campuses and that Nova-Ro has no mortgages and a reserve fund that is for upcoming costs.

## The Raffle

**Sonia Seeman** took the 25 bucks.



# 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?"

## Keena Turner

### The Secret Behind the 49er Super Bowl Championship Run

**Thurs., July 24, 2025 • 7 pm to 8:30 pm**

In 1980, Keena was drafted in the second round by the San Francisco 49ers and played outside linebacker with the "Team of the Decade" until his retirement in 1990. His eleven-year contribution to the team resulted in four Super Bowl wins and a trip to the Pro Bowl. He championed the 49ers to victory as Captain of the 1984 team and was subsequently chosen by his teammates as the "Len Eshmont Award" recipient for his courageous and inspirational play.

Keena Turner, legendary #58 and 4-Time SUPER BOWL CHAMPION for the San Francisco 49ers, will join us to discuss sportsmanship, teamwork, the championship mindset and what it took to win and sustain dominance during his 11-year professional football career. Now, Vice President and Senior Advisor to the General Manager, Keena will field questions about his "Team of the Decade" and the future of today's Niners squad..

**Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15**  
[www.novatospeakersseries.com](http://www.novatospeakersseries.com)

## MAGIC ALL AROUND

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Register today at  
[convention.rotary.org](http://convention.rotary.org)

## Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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## Upcoming Programs & Events

### May

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

### June

June 6	<b>J. Clark PhD</b> - Sustainable Marin Schools
June 11	<b>Board Meeting at Jonas Center</b>
June 13	<b>Claire Hartman</b> - City of Novato
June 20	<b>Christina Stroeh &amp; Joni DeGabriele</b> The Rotary Grammys
June 27	<b>Debunking</b>

## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2024/2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

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*Vice President*

**Peian Harness**  
*Secretary*

**Al Shirley**  
*Treasurer*

**Stephanie A. Urchick**  
*R.I. President*

**Steve Wright**  
*District Governor*

**Stacie Vance**  
*Assistant  
District Governor*

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**Jeff Slavitz**  
*Public Image & Awareness*

**Peter Pelavin**  
*Community Service*

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(NR-CAT)*

**Holly Axtell**  
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*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*



## Rotary Photo Album



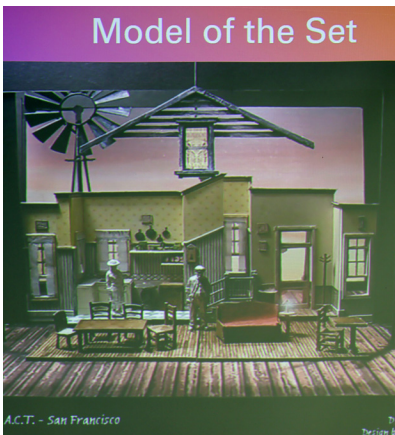
*Outdoor lunch line for the meeting at the IVC Farm.*



*Past President Christina Stroeh with her guest Zoila Garcia.*



*President Elect Lynn Dawson talks about the upcoming Rotary Club of Novato 70th Anniversary celebration, a family and friends event.*



*Mark Bosch doing a Craft Talk about theatrical stage lighting and the evolution from simple overhead to modern lighting methods. Mark used slides to demonstrate how lighting affects the mood of a set.*

## Downtown Utility Box Project Update

RCN member Tom Young and brothers from Pini Hardware along with the members of the Community Service Committee scraped and sanded and primed with white in preparation for a Novato artist to paint this utility box across the street from the original Pini Hardware on Grant Ave. Seven utility boxes in the downtown area were cleaned and painted with cheerful, colorful paintings.





## North Bay Children's Center

Saturday, April 19th planting and plant box construction at the North Bay Children's Center. A few people from each of several Marin Rotary clubs, including the Novato clubs, and one Interact club, came together for this first effort. The RCN had donated \$4,000 to this effort.



## City of Novato Proclamation Presentation



*Many City Employees and other organizations were involved including Veterans from Post 7816 in the "Four Corners" landscape clean up and planting on Grant Avenue.*



*After the proclamation presentation, there was discussion of potential future projects.*





## Annual Car Wash

The Rotary Club of Novato Teacher Fundraiser at the Novato Car Wash had a good member turnout. Chef John Cutrufelli provided freshly made pizza for those who were drying cars and earning tips for the teachers.

