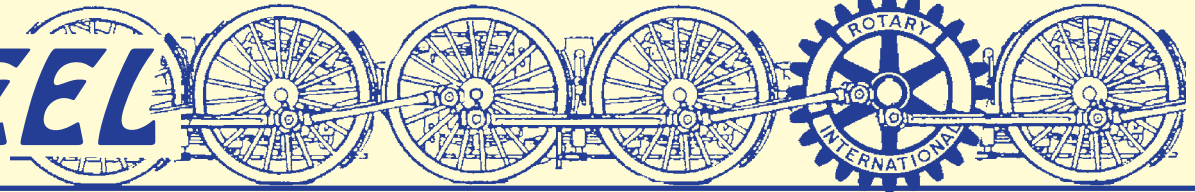


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**April 5, 2024**  
**Vol. 75, No. 34**  
**Editor:**  
**Suzanne Bales**

## In the Beginning...

**John Reuscher** led the Pledge and our newest Rotarian **Patty Dougherty** provided the thought of the day. In keeping with March Madness, **Patty** shared several **Tara VanDerveer** musings, the winning-est coach in NCAA basketball. Some thoughts: "Excuses are like belly buttons... everyone has one" and "The best ability is availability."

## Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarians (sorry sign in sheet disappeared): **Samantha Mahan**, Petaluma Sunrise and owner of Baskin Robbins in Petaluma and Novato.

**Steve** and **Colleen Wright** from Pacifica (**Steve** is incoming DG), **Alexandra** from Novato Evening

Guests of Rotarians included: **Vicki** with **Bill McDill**; **Larry Harrison** introduced his "woman" **Chris** (**Larry** was looking good, back from knee replacement surgery); **Pres. Phil** had first lady, **Laurie** in the audience.

## Announcements

**President Phil** mentioned that **Peter Pelavin** and **Lynn Dawson** manned the Rotary table at the Chamber of Commerce Business Fair.

**President Phil** thanked **Larry Mazzotta** for his work on the food drive with North Marin Community

Services. **John Cutrufelli** provided his company truck to help out.

Our Club Social at Mantra was well attended. The next one will be at Trail Head, San Marin on Friday April 26th.

## Tree Planting

**Gloria Dunn-Violin** discussed tree planting on April 26th. Volunteers will meet at the shopping center at Wilson and Novato Blvd at 10AM for coffee and donuts, and 10:30AM start to plant. The City will have already dug the holes. Brings shovels if you have them. No Rotary that day... so have at it!

## Los Robles Work Party

**Marty Wickenheiser** reminded us of a work party at Los Robles Mobile Home Park on April 20th, 9:30AM. Meet at the Club House. The theme is "Fire Wise".

## District Conference

**President Phil** reminded us of the District Conference on May 18th and 19th. **Phil** suggested driving up to Reno right after our Club meeting on the 17th. The Conference theme is "Better Together"

**Phil** reminded us to get those pet pics or videos to him now.

## Project Amigo

**President Phil** mentioned he is off to Mexico with Project Amigo. **Alan** and **Roberta Dunham** are also going, along with three members of the Chinatown Rotary Club. **President Phil** mentioned the town of Tequila is near by, sounds like work and fun will be happening!

## 5 Minute Talk

Red badger **Dr. Scott Root** delivered his 5 minute talk. **Scott** is Head



of School at Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Novato. **Scott** was raised in Idaho. He and **President Phil** have a bit of river over Idaho colleges. **Scott's** dad, a rancher and principal of a school was offered an educational job in Yemen so the entire family moved to Yemen. **Scott** did return to Idaho for high school. His exposure to different cultures had him teaching upper level math at the oldest continually running American school founded outside the US (1863), Robert College of Istanbul. **Scott** also did an educational stint in Geneva and Parma Italy. He moved his family, wife and two daughters, from Turkey back to Idaho where he finished up a masters.

He was offered a position to be Director of School Operations at Quality Schools. They ran schools abroad for primarily children of State Department employees. **Scott's** list of countries had me googling correct spellings! Among them Bosnia Herzegovina the Cascais and Balkans and most of the "Stans". **Scott** would visit each school doing his oversight duties. He did find time, too, to finish his Doctorate

**Scott's** daughter graduated from Dominican University. He and his wife liked Marin and decided to settle here. From his quest of knowledge of many cultures he is at peace with the world and delighted to be in this area. Welcome, **Scott!!!**

## The Program

Shelter Box was the topic of the day. **Kerri Murray**, Montecito Rotarian, has been president of Shelter Box, a non profit, for 9 years. **Kerri** always felt the need to make a difference but student loans had her concentrate on making her way up the corporate ladder in pharmaceuticals. **Kerri** shared a very personal story

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

of the birth of her daughter and repeatedly being told the baby would not survive. If her daughter did survive, she would probably never talk. Move forward 20 years and this same daughter was singing on American Idol.

**Kerri** after years in the business world, felt she could make a difference and had a tremendous skill set to bring to the non profit world. When she was working in Haiti after the devastating earthquake she saw Shelter Boxes everywhere. **Kerri** mentioned 75% of those affected by natural disasters or global displacement due to violent conflict are women and children. This is not a short term solution. In Cameron, Shelter Boxes have provided housing for 18 years and created a safe long standing community

An excellent example of Rotary's involvement with Shelter Boxes is the earthquake of Morocco. No one got in to offer aid EXCEPT Shelter Box because of long time ties with the Moroccan Rotary Clubs

Shelter Box was started by Rotarians. Rotarians are people of action, Shelter Boxes proves that!

## The Winner

**Nohemi Beissmann Mason** won the 25er!

## 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](mailto:gloriaviolin@yahoo.com) to let her know to expect you, give her your contact info, and with any questions.



**Home**

**mcf** Marin Community Foundation

# 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.**



# April

## SPECIAL DATES

- 4-1 Jan Hoffmann
- 4-5 Laelia Lee
- 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 Sandy & Jim Bates
- 4-25 Moses Jacob
- 4-27 Kathy Ketron





North Marin Community Services food drive.



North Marin Community Services food drive.



Dr. Scott Root gives his 5 minute talk.



President Phil.



Kerri Murray from Shelter Box.



TGIF Club Social at Mantra Wines



Celebration table at our Friday meeting.



TGIF Club Social at Mantra Wines

