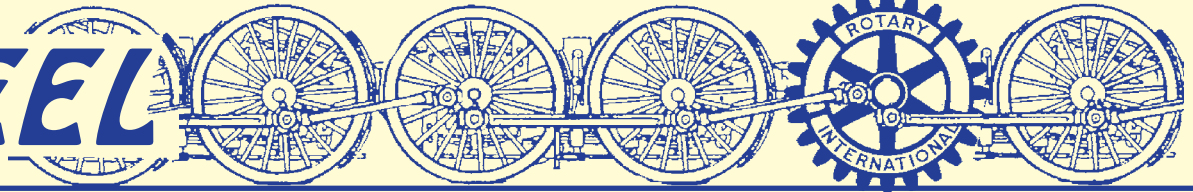


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



May 10, 2024
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Editor:
May Daey (Dean H.)

Prez Phil rang da bell then, to show us he knew it, led us in the Pledge to open our meeting at Homeward Bound.

Thought for the Day

Eliza Roesler told us that the late, great Robin Williams said, “You’re only given a little spark of madness. You mustn’t lose it.”

Visitors and Guests

There was only one visiting Rotarian today, the lovely Sylvia Barry of the Novato Sunrise Rotary Club. We had a whole bunch of guests today, including for the last time, Marcus Combs and, both to be inducted today. Marcus also brought his lovely wife Diane. Alan Dunham intro’d Roberta, while Jim Botko intro’t Kathy. By the way, other guests included Randall Lee and Sandy Markil, guests of Sonia Seeman. Prez Phil intro’d First Lady Laurie.

Two New Members

Prez Phil called up Marcus Combs and Kerry Bacho to be inducted into our Club membership by Christina Stroeh. She covered all the information they would need to get started and we gave both, Marcus and Kerry their own standing ovations.

Then Prez Phil helped us to know each of them a little more by asking us some questions about them. We learned that Kerry played on the men’s water polo team her last two years of high school and first two years of college. The men’s team! We next learned that

a not very bright tourist asked Marcus what the altitude of Alcatraz Island was. Congratulations Kerry and Marcus!

Five Minute Talk

Prez Phil explained to Kerry and Marcus this requirement for getting a Blue Badge, then invited a “Red Badger” to give her talk.

Blue Badge Talk: Jackie Lee

Prez Phil called up Jackie Lee to give her Five Minute Blue Badge Talk. Jackie grew up in Haiti and she has been in Marin for twenty-five years with her husband, Randall Lee. They met at the San Rafael Public Library in 2008. So, there are more than just good books there. Jackie is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Haiti On The Rise, a 501(c)3 group in Marin. Her group’s mission is to help alleviate suffering and improve the wellbeing of people in Haiti, who are constantly the victims of natural and/or human catastrophes. Jackie’s group helps in many ways that have changed or saved lives since they started nine years ago. They are currently building a two-story high school! They also give out about 150 scholarships each year.

Jackie has several degrees and speaks several languages, hola! Jackie and Randall are Marin Cursillo members, de Colores! She and Randall are also singers with the Lighthouse Gospel Singers. Give Jackie her Blue Badge!

Speaker

Sonia Seeman introduced our speakers, Mary Kay Sweeney and Paul Fordham. They are the Co-Executive Directors of Homeward Bound of Marin.

Mary Kay and Paul told us about the many projects

they have for Homeless people in Marin County. Homeward Bound has King Street for senior housing, in Novato, Mill Valley, Corte Madera and San Rafael. They also provide housing for families in Novato and several other locations.

They will soon (June 13th) have the grand opening of their 24 new apartments for veterans here in Novato. Homeward Bound provides a multitude of services for their residents including medical and Job training. Their Fresh Start Culinary Academy provides intensive culinary training (10 weeks) that has provided many chefs and restaurant managers in the Bay Area. Homeward Bound, for 50 years, has been a critical help in Marin County and we provide them a critical helper. Sonia Seeman has served on their Board for 20 years and is currently the Board Secretary. After the meeting, they took us on a tour of their new building which will be the new veterans housing.

Raffle

Nohemi won the raffle along with the back table pool. She may give it to our new member Kerry, her daughter.



The BIG WHEEL

P.O. Box 657
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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?"

Bay Area Music: From Johnny Mathis to the Grateful Dead

A Night with Tony Saunders



The Bill and Adele Jonas Center
Thursday, May 30
7 pm to 8:30 pm

Tony Saunders is a luminous figure in the world of music, celebrated for his exceptional talent as a two-time Emmy Award-winning bassist, composer, and producer.

His musical versatility is unparalleled, seamlessly genres from jazz, gospel, and R&B to pop, rock, and world music. The son of legendary Bay Area keyboardist Merl Saunders, Tony embarked on his musical journey early, securing his first Emmy at age 14 for his contribution to the PBS documentary Soul Is, and collaborating with his father and Jerry Garcia by age 17. His acclaim continued to grow with a second Emmy for his work on the TV show Digital Journey.

Educated at the prestigious Conservatory of Music in San Francisco, Saunders initially trained as a piano player before making a significant mark as a bassist, drawing inspiration from giants like James Jamerson and Stanley Clarke. His illustrious career boasts collaborations with music legends such as Eric Clapton, David Crosby, and Chaka Khan, as well as significant contributions as a producer, musical director, and composer, including for the stage musical Rock Justice.

Tickets: Adults \$25 • Students \$10



Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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Upcoming Programs & Events

May

- May 17 **Jamie Scardina - Marin County Sheriff**
- May 24 **Teacher Recognition**
- May 30 **(Thursday) – Novato Speaker Series: Tony Saunders: From Johnny Mathis to the Grateful Dead**
- May 31 **TGIF - Off-site Social TBD**

June

- June 7 **Rick Wells, Marin Builders**
- June 1 **Ody Andrianos, Alchemical Healing**
- June 21 **Phil's last regular meeting**
- June 28 **Installation Dinner & Debunking**

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Past President

Lunch Meeting
at
Homeward
Bound



President Phil introduces Homeward Bound Rotary Lunch meeting and Vet building with 24 apartments nearing completion.



With permission I entered the kitchen of restaurant crew who prepared our lunch.



Greetings from Homeward Bound from Austin directing traffic.



Past President Christina conducted the induction of two new Rotary members with sponsors welcomed.



Co-Chief Officers Paul Fordham and Mary Kay Sweeney.



Vets apartments almost done and we saw inside in Hard Hat.



Spacious unit for one with furnished kitchen, large bathroom and sitting room opposite. Room adjacent to the kitchen.



Tours of new Vet Apartments at Homeward Bound



Group one ready for inside tour.



Group one of Vet apartment tour after lunch.