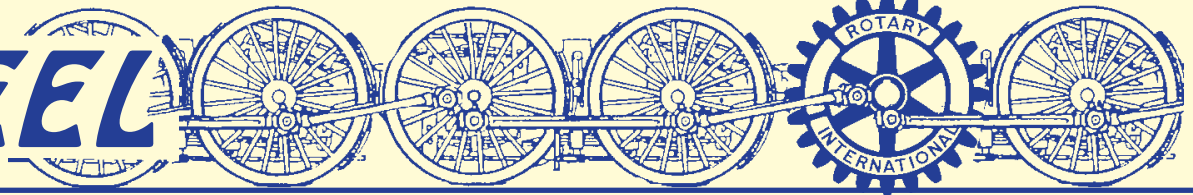


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



May 15, 2026
Vol. 77, No. 40
Editor:
Cal Ibrayte (Dean H)

Call to Order

Prez Lynn rang da bell.

Pledge

Randall Lee led us in the pledge.

Thought for the Day

John Christman provided us with a Thought for the Day. "We never know how far reaching something we may think, say or do today will affect the lives of millions tomorrow." , **B.J. Palmer** (Developer of Chiropractic, not our member **Bruce Palmer!**)

Visiting Rotarians

Alyssa Wilcock visited us from the San Rafael Rotary Club.

Guests of Rotarians

Delyn Kies brought **Pam Jukas**. **Chris Siefkas** brought his lovely wife **Susan**, who was inducted today! As was, **Pam Jukas!** **P.J. Nave** came as **Prez Lynn's** guest. **P.J.** is the grandson of deceased member **Rich Nave** and the son of prize fighter **Paul Nave**. In addition, **P.J.** was

also inducted today! Finally, former member, the lovely **Sandi Bowman** was intro'd by **Ross Millerick**.

Icebreaker

Prez Lynn's Icebreaker today was "If you could put whatever you wanted on a bumper sticker on your car, what would it be? **Pat Chiota** and yours truly both chose "Back Off!"

PACE Learning Center

Next, **Pat** made a presentation regarding an India Education Program that has been running for about 20 years and has proved greatly successful over that time. The project is the PACE Learning Center in Bengal, India and is a Rotary supported project. Human trafficking, abuse and lack of educating girls are the primary problems addressed by the program. PACE provides safe learning spaces, with computers, food and clean water for female students. It also provides financial help for those students that are too poor.

Three New Members!

Again the new members inducted by Past Prez **Jim Spilman** were: **Pam Jukas**, sponsored by **Delyn Kies**; **Susan Siefkas**, sponsored by **Chris Siefkas**; **P.J. Nave**, sponsored by **Lynn Dawson**.

By-Law Change

Prez Lynn announced a By-Laws change that her Board would be voting on. We'll be told about it at the first meeting in June.

Program

Randy Baker talked about his experience backpacking and the importance of having safe drinking water available at all times. The H2Open Doors project in Guatemala, provides safe drinking water for remote villages. We're providing financial support and installing and maintaining/filtration systems and associated PVC plumbing. **Randy** told us the air quality there was terrible and they all had to wear face masks. The air was bad due to the two volcanoes close by. Then Past Prez **Robert Marshall**, attending via Zoom, told us more details about this clean water project in Guatemala, which also included installing RACHEL computer systems at schools and feminine hygiene kits for young women and their mothers. The local people put on a pageant that included dancing and celebrating. There are 35 Rotary Clubs involved in the H2Open Doors project of which **Robert** is President and his brother **John** is Vice-President.

Raffle

Past member **Sandi Bowman** left twenty-five bucks richer!

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?"



Tony Lindsay A Soulful Evening with Tony Lindsay

Thurs., July 23, 2026
7 pm to 8:30 pm

Back by popular demand!

Tony and his band wowed us in season one! Join us for an extraordinary evening as we embark on a remarkable musical journey with Tony Lindsay, the legendary lead vocalist of Santana.

Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to witness a true icon in action, captivating audiences with his undeniable talent and unforgettable stage presence.

Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15
www.novatospeakerseries.com

Upcoming Programs & Events

May

May 22 **Social at Nova-Ro**
May 29 **No Meeting**

June

June 5 **International Services** - Holly Axtel
June 12 **Meeting at Jonas** - The Good Old Days: Polenta Feed! Polish your Boots!!
June 19 **No Meeting** - Campus Holiday
June 26 **Meeting at Jonas** - Farewell to 2025-26 & Induction 2026-27
June 27 **Debunking**

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Lynn Dawson
President

Peter Pelavin
Vice President

Marisa Remak
Secretary

Chris DeGabriele
Treasurer

Francesco Arezzo
R.I. President

Mitone Griffiths
District Governor

Judy Johnson
Assistant District Governor

DIRECTORS

John Reuscher
Logistics & Facilities

Phil Dougherty
Public Image & Awareness

Marcus Combs
Community Service

Gloria Dunn-Violin & Randy Baker
Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)

Holly Axtel
International Service

Jorg Puhrt-Westerheide
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

Ross Millerick
Youth Service

Patty Dougherty & Sonia Seeman
Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Peter Oser
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Brad Williams
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Tom Rickey
Past President

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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- Tires
- Brakes
- Alignment
- Shocks
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- Tuneup

The Rotary Club of Peninsula Starlight

Paint & Sip

Sat May 30th 4-7 pm

Step-by-step guide, all the supplies, & a glass of vino

\$10

2682 Middlefield Rd, Unit R,
Redwood City, CA

*Sip back and relax,
paint like nobody's watching*



The Rotary Club of Novato's Monthly Board and Committee Meetings

Membership

First Tuesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.

Contact Patty Dougherty at pattydou97@gmail.com for meeting location.

World Community Service

First Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.

Contact chair Holly Axtell axtell@aol.com for meeting location.

Youth Service

First Thursday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.

Contact chair Ross Millerick at ross.millerick@gmail.com for meeting location.

Vocational Service

First Thursday of the Month at 6:00 p.m.

Contact chair David Gabriel at dhgabriel@gmail.com for meeting location.

Environmental Sustainability

Second Tuesday of the Month at 6:00 p.m.

Contact chair Randy Baker at gloriaviolin@yahoo.com for meeting location.

RCN Board

Third Tuesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.

Contact President Lynn Dawson at lynnldawson@comcast.net for meeting location.

Community Service

Third Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m.

Contact chair Jim Spilman at james_v_spilman@msn.com for meeting location.

Nova-Ro Board

Third Thursday of the Month at 8:30 a.m.

Contact chair Peter Oser at peteroser205@gmail.com for meeting location.

PR/Communications Committee

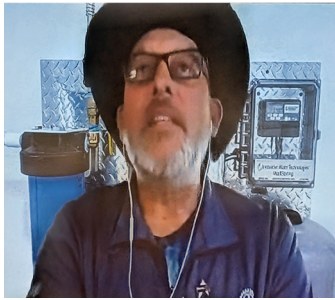
Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m.

Contact chair Joy Filman at joyphd@gmail.com for meeting location.

Novato Rotary Endowment

Quarterly (Jul., Oct., Jan. Apr.) on the Fourth Thursday of the Month at 8:30 a.m.

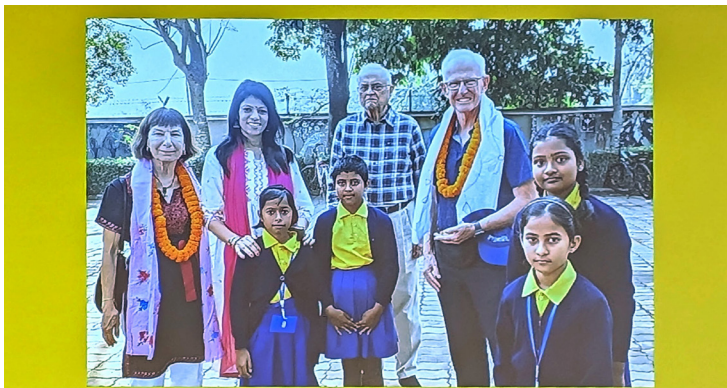
Contact chair Brad Williams at acur8cpa@icloud.com for meeting location.



Robert Marshall, President of H2Open Doors reported via zoom on the status of projects in Guatemala.

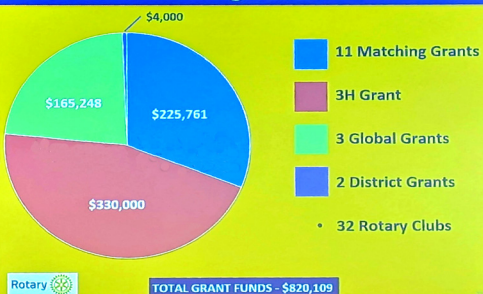


Past President Jim Spilman inducts our three newest members, P.J. Nave, Susan Siefkas and Pam Jukas.

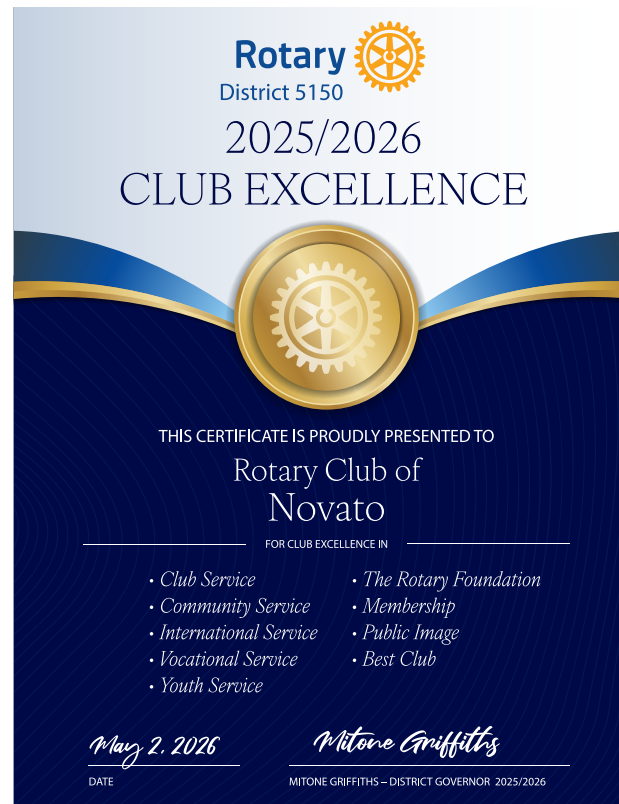


a presentation to request for support for the school, PACE Learning Centre, Kolkata, West Bengal, INDIA

All made possible with the support of Rotary Clubs across the globe. THANK YOU!



Pat Chiota reported on the PACE Learning Center Project in Bengal, India.



At the 2025/26 District Celebration, the Rotary Club of Novato received the Club Excellence Certificate, including Best Large Club (l). The RCN also received the Governor's Bell Award which honors clubs that go beyond expectations demonstrating bold leadership, exceptional service, and meaningful, measurable results (r).

