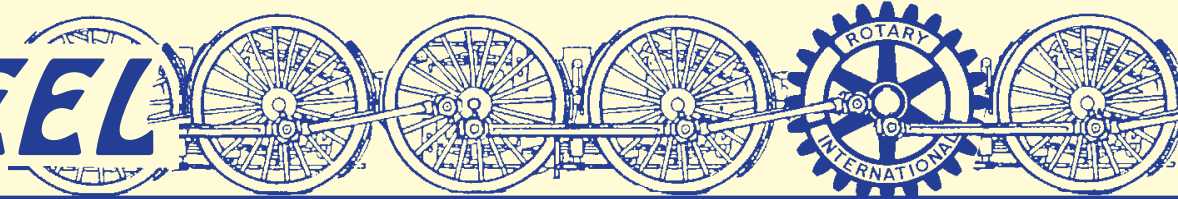


The BIG WHEEL

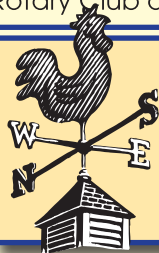


Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



May 23, 2025
Vol. 76, No. 33
Editors:
Ed Youkate (Dean H.)

Call to Order

Pres Tommy opened the meeting with his motto: "This club personifies service above self. We don't wait, we do. We don't ask why we ask, why not?"

Pledge and Thoughts for the Day

The pledge was led by **Past Prez Christina Stroeh** along with a Thought for the Day which I consolidated. "Super power of teachers is love; compassion for all humans, willing to help stop ugliness and darkness. Teaching is not selfless; it is the most gratifying calling and a lifelong mission of love." A second thought for the day was provided by **Marisa Remak** and presented by **Prez Tommy**: "Service above self is not only the motto of Rotary. It's a teacher's reality. Quietly, steadily, teachers give of themselves for others. This is not for test scores, but for the individual lives of each student. Teachers awaken these lives. Teachers are building communities."

Visitors and Guests

We had a visitor from Novato Sunrise P.E. **Susan Royce**. As for guests, not only did we have all of the teachers and principals, but **P.P. Russ Ketron** brought **Eileen Stafford** and **Rafelina Maglio** brought **Margaret Devore** who helped **Rafelina** with the teacher of the year awards. **Peter Pelavin** brought **Andy Czajkowski**, who is soon to be a new member.

Celebrations!

Birthdays

Beth Rowett had a birthday last Wednesday.

Wedding Anniversaries

Joy Fillman and **David Browne**, 31 years. **Camille** and **Robert Marshall**, 31 years.

Membership Anniversaries

Chuck Hildebrand, 33 years!

Teacher of The Year Awards

Rafelina Maglio opened the awards ceremony by introducing **John Carroll**, who is the Superintendent of Marin County Office of Education. **Mr. Carroll** then introduced **Tracy Smith**, Superintendent of the Novato Unified School District.

Our Teacher of the Year Awards Presenter was **Tracy Smith**.

Lysett Dossick, Kindergarten teacher at Lu Sutton Elementary School

Lysett has taught K & TK for nine years. She celebrates each child's progress no matter how big or small. She's been on the TV show "Grey's Anatomy". **Lysett's** Principal is **Karen Freemantle**.

Samantha Robles, Kindergarten teacher at Lynnwood Elementary School

She has taught Kindergarten for six years. **Samantha** celebrates accomplishments, big and small in her classroom every day. She personally loves board games and Escape Rooms and is exceptionally good at them! **Samantha's** Principal is **Lauren Menchavez**.

Alyssa Pappas, first grade teacher at Olive Elementary School

Every day **Alyssa** does her personal best. She exemplifies integrity, is honest, fair, trustworthy and respectful of each student's needs. She loves Diet Coke! **Lori Hiura** is **Alyssa's** Principal.

Mark Loeffler, fifth grade teacher at Rancho Elementary School

Mark's positive outlook makes him a joy to work with on both his grade level team and in the larger school community. **Mark** plays with a band called "Wicked Uncle" and performs throughout Marin County. **Catherine Nam** is **Mark's** Principal.

Whitney McHarris, seventh grade teacher at Sinaloa Middle School

Whitney is a joy for her fellow teachers to work with, in addition to her students adoring her. She finds fun ways to drive her student's learning. **Ellie Marsh** is **Whitney's** Principal.

Melissa Diaz, teaches 10th – 12th grades at Marin Oaks High School

Melissa crafts and implements her own innovative curriculum. She builds an authentic relationship with each of her students. **Dr. Kessa Early** is **Melissa's** Principal.

Caitlin Cobbs, teaches 9th – 12th grades at Novato High School

Caitlin works individually with every student to make sure each of them has a loving environment for where they are in life. She steps up also to assist other teachers. **Allie Green** and **Michelle Cortez** are **Caitlin's** Principals.

Adam Williams, teaches 9th – 12th Grades at San Marin High School

Adam has been a teacher for twenty-three years. He sees the potential in every student. He frequently shows up early, and generally with enthusiasm. **Andy Boone** is **Adam's** Principal.

Tara Kellett teaches 4th grade at Hamilton School
Tara has taught 4th grade at Hamilton School for eight years. She always has a trivia question for her students to help develop their minds and get them ready for the day. **Tara** also works with the entire staff for the entire school development. **Bryan Clement** is **Tara's** Principal.

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.novatospeakerseries.com

NEW MEMBER NOTICE

The application for membership of the following was (were) approved by the Board of Directors and the Membership Committee:

- Shelayna Levo: Property Management
- Andy Czajkowski: Financial Advisor

If there are no objections by:

Thursday, June 5

he/she/they will be inducted on or about:

Friday, June 6

Peian Harness

Secretary

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



Empathy
ESTATE PLANNING

www.empathyestateplanning.com

Upcoming Programs & Events

May

May 30 **Tribal Girls' School in India**

June

June 6 **Lisa Clarke, PhD** - Sustainable Marin Schools

June 11 **Board Meeting at Jonas Center**

June 13 **Claire Hartman** - City of Novato

June 20 **Christina Stroeh & Joni DeGabriele**
The Rotary Grammys

June 27 **Debunking**

July

July 11 **RCN Board** - 2025-26 Strategic Plan

July 18 **Scholarships**

July 24 **Novato Speakers Series:** Keena Turner The Secret Behind the 49er Super Bowl Championship Run

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2024/2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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International Service

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The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

Eliza Roesler
Youth Service

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Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Dean Heffelfinger
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Peter Oser
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Phil Dougherty
Past President

Brenda Pfeifer, third grade teacher at Loma Verde Elementary School.

Brenda serves as a mentor for new teachers and student teachers. **Brenda** identifies students individually and prioritizes their individual relationship. **Brenda** served in the U.S. Air Force (So did I!). **Brenda** is **Roy Pfeifer's** wife! **Tehniat Cheema** is **Brenda's** Principal.

Grace Consentino is a 7th & 8th grade teacher at San Jose Middle School

Grace is focused on her students' culture, background, experiences, strengths, and areas for growth. She is also supportive of colleagues in Union Business (good!). **Grace** is an active gardener and lover of nature. **Whitney McEachern** is **Grace's** Principal.

Beth Ardzooni teaches 6th – 8th grades at Good Shepherd Lutheran School

Beth teaches history and makes it come alive. She is loved by her students because they know that she cares about them deeply and holds them to high standards. **Scott Root** (our member!) is **Beth's** Principal.

Jenna Maiorello teaches fourth grade at Pleasant Valley School

Jenna is a forever student at Pleasant Valley. She builds strong connections with students and families by creating an inclusive and welcoming environment. She is also a baby sitter for a fellow staff member. **Tony Quan** is **Jenna's** Principal.

Kimberly Gallagher teaches fourth grade at San Ramon Elementary School

With a smile on her face, **Kim** goes above and beyond her job expectations to do what is best for her students. **Kim** is preparing to bring a new student into the world. She's pregnant and due June first! **Kimberly's** Principal is **Amanda Langford**

Deena Reyes teaches first grade at Marin Christian Academy

Deena courageously took over teaching the first grade in January due to another teacher's maternity leave. She has maintained her other job as Director of Curriculum and Staff Development. **Deena** believes in all her students and their ability to achieve great things. **Deena's** Principal is **Christopher Mychajluk** (our member!)

Mark Lanza teaches 5th & 6th grades at Our Lady of Loretto School

Mark always seeks to enhance his teaching practices by engaging in professional development opportunities. **Mark** looks for feedback from his students as he is looking to refine his teaching methods. **Mark** also seeks to improve his poker skills by playing on Friday nights. **Kendra Antonio** is **Mark's** Principal.

Dawn Holiday teaches at Marin Christian High School She has been teaching high school psychology for twenty one years. As an MFCC, **Dawn** is able to bring real world applications to her psychology class. Students love her class and many want to pursue psychology as a field of study in college. In addition to **Dawn**, two of her sons and her husband also work at Marin Christian. **Dawn's** Principal is our member, **Christopher Mychajluk**.

The "Oath"

Past Prez Frank Bruno led the teachers in the oath that they would spend their checks on themselves.

The Raffle Winner

Was me!!!



Rotary CALGARY 2025

MAGIC ALL AROUND
21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA

Register today at convention.rotary.org

May SPECIAL DATES

6-6	Katie & Scott Chase
6-9	Tiff Fischer
6-10	Rhonda & Art Crofts
6-11	Jorg Puhr-Westerheide
6-12	Roberta & Alan Dunham
6-13	Toni & Gary Bramon
6-15	Sonia Seeman
6-17	Judith Keeler & Moses Jacob
6-17	Brenda Pfeifer
6-19	John Cutrufelli
6-20	Lynn & Carl Dawson
6-20	Susie Pfingst-McCurdy & Craig McCurdy
6-22	Kathie & Brad Williams
6-23	Chris Harrison
6-24	Rebekah Shapiro Gonzalez
6-25	Michelle & Steve Ghirardo
6-25	Bruce Palmer
6-26	Donna & Frank Falzon



Past President Frank Bruno led the teachers in the oath to spend the money they received on themselves.



President Tom ended our Rotary meeting that begins Memorial Weekend regarding our deceased military service members: "Remember, their last breath was for saving our country."



RCN 70th Birthday!

Peter and Peggy Rubens hosted The Rotary Club of Novato 70th Birthday Celebration. As the heat of the day was cooling we gathered on the spacious patio with a spectacular view of Novato below and mountains beyond the Bay. The food was an exceptional variety and various Water's, Wine and Pop on ice. Penny



Utility Box Clean-up

Novato Mayor Tim O'Connor had Ribbon Cutting to announce the completion of Novato Leadership Street Beautification Project. Novato Rotarian Tom Young led the Committee effort of a Novato Leadership Project to clean up 7 electrical utility boxes along Grant Ave. The Rotary Club of Novato Community Service Committee with Chairman Jim Spilman offered help with the utility box preparations prior to the Artist painting.

We scraped a few years of grime and stickers to sand and paint a primer coat on each box that was followed by volunteer Artists each chosen by the Leadership Committee to paint the boxes based on the selected Artists entry suggestion.

Drew Bendickson, Mgr of Novato Parks, Recreation and Community Services contributed to the 9 month effort along with many other City Workers and others contributing to the end result. Penny



Mark Bosch secures the top rail on a planter box.

More North Bay Children's Center Planter Boxes



Mark Bosch, P.P. Marty Wickenheiser and P.P. Jim Spilman.



The Rotary Club of Novato was well represented at the Rotary District 5150 District Conference in Santa Rosa. From the left are P.P. Jim Spilman, P.P. and P.D.G. Russ Ketron, President Tom Rickey, P.P. Christina Stroeh, Al Shirley, Delyn Kies, P.P. Ron Harness, P.P. Marty Wickenheiser, P.E. Lynn Dawson, Mark Bosch, Kathy Ketron and P.P. Peian Harness.

Rotary District 5150 Conference 2025

The Rotary Club of Novato was awarded for: Community Service, International Service, Youth Service, Public Image and Membership.

RCN P.P. Larry Harrison was the District Conference Committee Chair. Joni DeGabriele and Roy Pfeifer performed on stage with music conducted by P.P. Christina Stroeh, helping to support the event.



Keith Axtell (C) was presented the prestigious Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service by Rotary Foundation Chair Gary Chow (L) and DG Steve Wright.



P.P. Larry Harrison (L) the District Conference Committee Chair. Steve Wright is the Rotary District 5150 Governor.