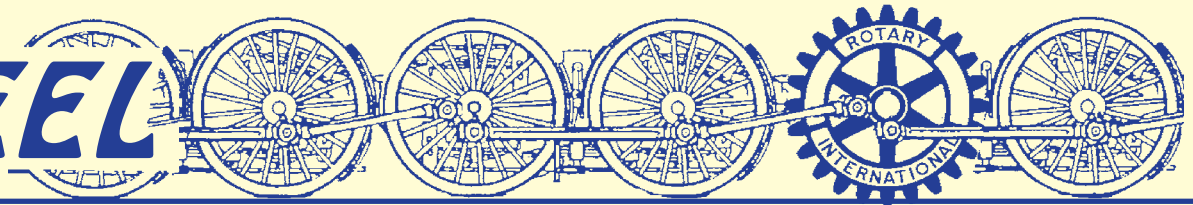


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**May 24, 2024**  
**Vol. 75, No. 40**  
**Editor:**  
**May Flowers (Dean H.)**

## Call to Order

**Prez Phil** Rang Da Bell.

## Pledge

**Peter Pelavin** led the Pledge.

## Thought

**Lori Frugoli** provided “Teacher” Thoughts for The Day:

❶ “Teaching is the greatest act of optimism”; ❷ “The older I get the smarter my teachers become”; ❸ “Teachers can make such a profound impact in our lives and should be honored as heroes, they’re working for so little money under such difficult circumstances, usually for the love of the service to the children”; ❹ “Many of us love who we are due to certain teachers”; ❺ “Not all Superheroes wear capes, some have teaching degrees”.

**Prez Phil** added that this Teachers Award meeting is one of his two favorite meetings of the year. He said, “We dig what you do”.

## Presentation Time

**Prez Phil** turned the meeting over to **Rafelina Maglio** who introduced the M.C. for the Teacher Award Presentations. Our M.C. for the day is **Dr. Tracy Smith**, Superintendent of the Novato Unified School District. **Tracy** began introducing the Awardees:

**Cynthia Goldman** of Hamilton School TK-8, has been teaching Kindergarten and 2nd grade for 23 years. **Cynthia** is involved in many more academic activities far beyond her teaching. She is a leader.

**Kim Duncan** of NOVA at Hill Education Center has taught grades 6-12 for 17 years. **Kim** is a role model with her profound love and dedication to every student. She tirelessly advocates for each and every one of her students, both professionally and personally.

**Danielle Miller** has been teaching 5th grade and Kindergarten at Lu Sutton for nine years. **Danielle** personalizes her teaching by putting kids in small groups. She is always looking for professional development & activities helping to develop leadership skills in her students. She loves Broadway musicals!

**Valerie Merritt** has been teaching 2nd grade for 23 years at Olive School. **Valerie** sets high standards for her students by combining exceptional organization with thoughtful consideration for herself and her students. Her unwavering belief in her students leads them to succeed.

**Jennifer Jones** has taught Kindergarten & 1st grade for 16 years at Marin Christian Academy. **Jenny** has a remarkable passion for her students to become lifelong learners and readers! Her students grow all year long academically, socially and emotionally. She’s also an amazing cook!

**Matt Holiday** has taught grades 9-12 for three years at North Bay Christian Academy. He’s pursuing his Masters in Theology. **Matt** is respected and closely appreciated for his tactical and thoughtful comments. **Matt** is a former graduate of this school and is learning to speak both Greek and Hebrew languages.

**Alex Kinnee** teaches 9th grade Individual Determination and 11th grade U.S. History at Novato High. She provides well planned and implemented lessons based on his students assets and abilities. She also educates her colleagues in the social department studies that can be used in all classes. She loves to wear crazy head bands for each and every school spirit.

**Lisa Heslip** of Pleasant Valley School has taught Kindergarten and 1st grade for 22 years. **Lisa** helps students set personal learning goals and helps them to use skills that will help them reach those goals. **Lisa** loves sunflowers and drives a Volkswagen Bug convertible!

**Debbie Robles** has been teaching for 27 years and is teaching the 5th grade this year at Rancho School. **Debbie** brings creativity and leadership into her role. She goes beyond to get the best out of each student to help them reach their “Plus One”.

**Maria Grima** of San Ramon School has taught TK and Kindergarten for eight years. She is a kind and gentle teacher, setting clear routines and expectations for her students. **Maria** always has a calm and gentle attitude with all she meets. Plus, she is always cheerful!

**Valerie Healy** is undoubtedly the most experienced of all our awardees. **Valerie** has been teaching preschool for 38 years!

**Valerie** teaches at Good Shepherd Lutheran School and leads the school’s National Association for the Education of Young Children. **Valerie** advocates for an exceptional preschool program, suggesting new policies which improve preschool to grade 8. **Valerie** loves Winnie the Pooh and Disney!

**Nicole Katsulis** teaches science and yearbook for seven years at Sinaloa Middle School. **Nicole** maintains a positive attitude, even when students may challenge her patience. **Nicole’s** classroom is open for lunch so students have an extra sage space to hang out. **Nicole** is willing to take a pie in the face for school events.

**Alla Khaykin** teaches math to 6th and 7th grades at San Jose Middle School. **Alla** is a member of the Instructional Leadership Team. She consistently analyzes

**TEACHER**  
*is a work of*  
**HEART**

# 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?"

## 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 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 14 **Ody Andrianos, Alchemical Healing**

June 21 **Phil's last regular meeting**

June 28 **Installation Dinner & Debunking**

## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2023/2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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**Craig Anderson**  
*Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment*

**Peian Harness**  
*Past President*

and refines her lessons to best support all students. **Alla** is a Fashionista! Go Girl!

**Scott Lamont** of San Marin High was not the name in the program. But he's retiring pretty soon. He's an avid trail runner and sports enthusiast.

**Adrienne Thompson** has taught 3rd grade four years at Lynwood School. She works to support students needs in all areas. She is working on her bilingual skills. Habla Espanol? She is also a Yoga instructor.

**Brigid Oswald**, last but certainly not least. **Brigid** teaches 1st grade and is also the Vice Principal at Our Lady of Loretto School. When the Principal is away she fills in there as well, very effectively. She loves hiking , gardening and is a great baker!

After all the teachers got their checks, they gave the oath to spend them only on themselves.

## The 25'er

The raffle was won by **Marty Wickenheiser!**

### NEW MEMBER NOTICE



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

- **David Gabriel: Comm. RE Fin. & Dev., Retired**

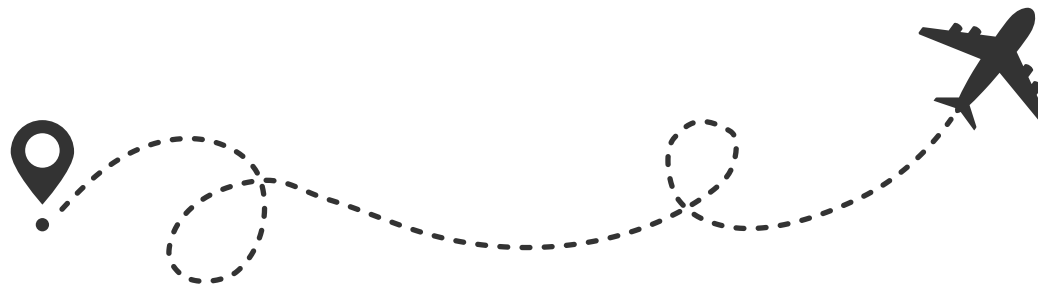
If there are no objections by:

**Thursday, June 6**

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

**Friday, June 7**

*Sonia Seeman / Jim White*  
Co-Secretaries



## Want to experience the International side of Rotary? Here are some current Rotary Travel opportunities.

Howard Travel has a trip to South Africa. Howard Tours strictly does Rotary travel and is located in Oakland, CA. Here is their information. Go to their website at [www.howardtours.net](http://www.howardtours.net) to see a complete description of the trip.

This adventure will provide enduring memories and emotions... but that will be just the beginning. In addition to a international adventure, those who join us will:

- *Explore the sights, sounds, and history of South Africa.*
- *An opportunity to see the "Big Five" of Africa's wildlife.*
- *Hand over Tutu Desks to the deserving children of South Africa.*
- *Build friendships with fellow Rotarians.*

This trip to South Africa will offer you an unforgettable experience - from the wildlife to the urban life, you will see the range and beauty of South Africa. You will also provide service to others while getting to meet and know the South African Rotarians. The tour has about 20 spaces left.

Please note, if you have any questions, please contact Howard Tours via email as the office is operating with limited staff from now until June 10th. [Info@HowardTours.net](mailto:Info@HowardTours.net).

And – Next Rotary year check out this website at [Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org) to learn about Rotary Project Fairs around the world. <https://my.rotary.org/en/exchange-ideas/project-fairs>





*Rafelina Maglio introduces the Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Tracy Smith of the Novato Unified School District.*



*Rotary Club of Novato Teacher Recognition 2024.*



*Lori Frugoli DA gave the Thought for the Day.*

*Dr. Tracy Smith, Superintendent of Novato Unified School District, introduces each selected Teacher representing 14 Novato Schools.*



*Jim Spilman pledges teachers to personally enjoy their reward.*