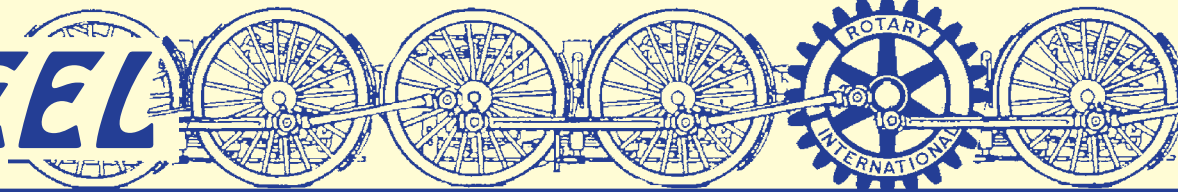


The BIG WHEEL

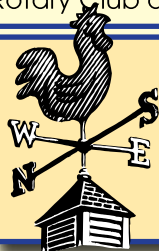


Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



May 3, 2024
Vol. 75, No. 37
Editor:
Bill Vespa

From the parking lot I heard the sounds of a fiesta. The Tommy's Salsa Food Truck was parked near the Bill and Adele Jonas Center and I could see people out onto the patio at the entry to the building. It was the perfect day for a semi-outdoor early Cinco de Mayo Celebration.

Call to Order

President Phil called us to order at 12:30, giving us extra time to get food from the Tommy's Salsa truck. **Phil** reminded us that "It is good to be alive, good to be in Novato and good to be a Rotarian".

The Pledge

John Reuscher and **Roy Pfeifer**, in their matching shirts, lead us in the Pledge.

Thought for the Day

Rene Prado gave the thought for the day. Cinco de Mayo celebrates the victory of Mexico over the French, at the battle of Puebla, in 1862. France would eventually withdraw from Mexico requesting American neutrality, but the US replied that the withdrawal should be unconditional. As a result of France's defeat and withdrawal from Mexico, the US became the top global power.

Visiting Rotarians and Guests

Rotarians visiting were: **Rhonda Pierce** from the Rotary Club of SF; **Liz Mark** from SF Chinatown and **David Gabriel** from Novato Sunrise. Guests today were: **Chris DeGabriele** with **Joni**; **Lynn Dawson** hosted almost member **Marcus Coombs**, **Daniel Gabriele** brought his wife **Cindy**; **First Lady Laurie** with **President Phil**; **Gary Bramon** brought **Toni** and **Linda** was with **Jorg Puhr-Westerheide**.

Announcements

Prez Phil showed off a new collapsible "4-Way Test" display.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Prez Phil asked for anyone who had a birthday or anniversary in May to stand. It initially appeared that there were none. But eventually **Chuck Hildebrand** mentioned **Veronica's** birthday, then **Sonia Seeman** stated **David's** birthday and **Jorg** announced the he and **Linda** have a May anniversary.

Community Care

Reggie Winner is recovering at home after a procedure and doing well. **Russ Ketron** said **Kathy** had Knee Surgery and is recovering at home.

Open Studio

Marty W. announced that **Mike Morrissey** will be showing his photography with Marin Open Studio 5/4-5 & 5/11-12. <https://marinopenstudios.org/open-studios-event/marin-open-studios-2024-tour-guide/>

Wilson Tree Planting Project

Gloria Dunn-Violin thanked the 10 Novato Rotarians (**Joy** missed the picture) who showed up to plant 13 trees on Wilson Avenue, in Novato. It was a joint project with the City of Novato, the City "Tree Team" and members of three Rotary Clubs in Novato.

Rotary Club of Novato International Project Fair

World Community Services Chair, **Holly Axtell** explained that the RCN started doing International projects before many Clubs in our District. The WCC has 20 members, some have served for decades. **Holly** said that when we partner with Rotary clubs in other countries, our International projects are their Community Service projects. Most of the projects are not "Hands On" and use District Designated Funds (from our donations to the Rotary Foundation) and Novato Rotary Endowment funds (primarily from our donations to the Western BBQ).

Keith Axtell stood in for **Ron Harness** to talk Global Grants. **Keith** explained that Global Grants can match up to 80% of the DDF funds our Club receives. Examples of projects using Global Grants are a joint project with the Rotary Club of Lviv, putting Mobile Emergency Clinics in Ukraine (the ongoing war has made getting routine health care very difficult). Also, a joint project with the Rotary Club of Quito, providing filter systems that make clean drinking water for 5,600 people in Tupigachi, Equador.

President Phil spoke on our Novato Rotary Endowment funded projects. **Peian Harness** helped start Bogota after School programs, providing a safe space away from street crime for about 85-90 children who learn music and art. Boystown in Davao, Philippines is a long standing project, which **Bill McDill** helped make a success. It provides shelter, rehabilitation and job training for boys to get out of poverty. Copper Canyon is a program that **Nohemi Beissmann-Mason** helped get started and provides scholarships to the Tarahumara people in Chihuahua, Mexico. The San Felipe Cancer Center is a project in Mexico providing early screening to women. On behalf of **Robert Marshall**, **President Phil** spoke about H2Open Doors in Guatemala. The project provides clean water through installed filter systems. **John** and **Robert Marshall** have set-up a non-profit for this project. Along with the water project there are two other projects. One provides re-usable hygiene kits for girls and women. The other is RACHEL (Remote Area Community Hot-spot for Education and Learning) which brings computers into schools. Project Amigo is another long standing project for our Club. In the rural agricultural community of Cofradia de Suchitlan, Mexico it was difficult for children to get educated. Students often dropped out before finishing high school because of the need to work. From the meager beginnings of bringing gifts, arts and crafts, the program now provides educational, physical and mental support, transportation, university housing and career counseling for students. It requires parents to sign-off that they will support the students' education. There many

Continued on page 3

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 10 **Lunch at New Beginnings – Learn and tour new homeless veteran apartments**
- May 17 **Jamie Scardino - Marin County Sheriff**
- May 24 **Teacher Recognition**
- May 30 **(Thursday) – Novato Speaker Series: A Night with Tony Saunders**
- May 31 **TGIF Social**

June

- June 14 **Ody Andrianos**
- June 28 **Debunking**

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 Pühr-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

former Project Amigo students that have become lawyers, doctors, engineers, etc.

After his report, **President Phil** called on a two people that independently traveled to support International Rotary projects. Roy Pfeifer went to Project Amigo with members of other Rotary Clubs. **Jeff Slavitz** went to India to participate in Polio Plus. He met with a multi-national Rotary team. **Jeff** showed a short slide show showing highlights of administering the oral Polio vaccine and famous locations in India. **Jeff** said India was full of culture and found it interesting to experience the cultural differences.

Alan Dunham told how the RCN started doing International service. In 1989, **Alan** and **Darrell Scott** saw the need to get involved with International projects. The first three were sending money to a Rotary Club in Chihuahua, Mexico. Providing funds to cover open fresh water wells in Mactan, Philippines where Rotary member **Maurice Baldwin** (**Dennis**' father) was living. The third project was Project Amigo, in Mexico. **Alan** said that **Ted** and **Susan Rose** got stuck in Cofradia in 1984 and they fell in love with the children. They returned with gifts and eventually that became Project Amigo, which now has a \$1.5MM budget.

President Phil encouraged us all to get involved with International projects. **Rene Prado** stood up to say it was fitting that Project Amigo was a Rotary project in Cofradia, which translates to brotherhood in English!

And the winner is...

President Phil read the winning number. The happy winner, **Tommy Lee**, said it had been 25 years since he last won the pot.

Phil closed the meeting and wished us a happy Cinco de Mayo.



Planting Trees on Wilson Avenue

May SPECIAL DATES

- 5-5 Veronica Pietras
- 5-8 David Hernandez
- 5-13 Phil Brown
- 5-15 Kathy & Dennis Baldwin
- 5-16 Laelia & Ryan Lee
- 5-17 Joanna & Kyle Frazier
- 5-18 Linda & Jorg Puhr-Westerheide
- 5-18 Edna & Paul Scheller
- 5-21 Marilyn Smith
- 5-22 Camille & Robert Marshall
- 5-25 Linda & Darrell Scott
- 5-27 Robin & Frank Bruno
- 5-27 Katie Chase
- 5-27 Raye-Lee & George Estes
- 5-27 Reggie Winner
- 5-31 Frank Bruno





New format for our belief, thank you John.



International Projects was fun and informative.



A wonderful carefree party atmosphere and a complete International Project summary.



Fiesta at Jonas RCN International Project Fair



Chair of International Projects Holly Axtell gives a brief 45 year history of involvement.



We ate indoors and out and enjoyed the May 5 decorations.



Keith Axtell describes Global Grant process.



The finale of the International Projects depth and finance of helping the world ends with Jeff and Nancy Slavitz Polio Vaccination trip to India.

