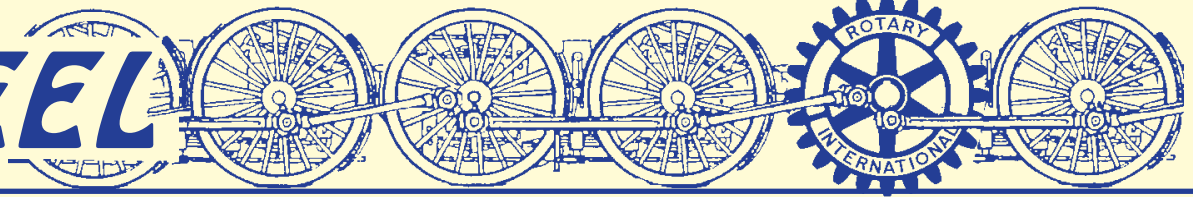


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



May 30, 2025
Vol. 76, No. 34

Editor:
Maggie Shao

In the Beginning

An abbreviation used in today's Big Wheel - PP for Past President.

Prez Tom asked our **President Elect Lynn Dawson** to lead the pledge and inspire us. **Lynn** has been thinking a lot about leadership as incoming president. **Lynn's** thought for today was, "Rotary leadership isn't about having all the answers. If it were, I'd be in trouble. It's about showing up, listening well, laughing often and remembering why we are here - to make a difference in our community and the world. Being President of a Rotary Club is like hosting a dinner party-every week-for a year-with very 100 very opinionated relatives. It's a chance to create something special, to build fellowship, generate ideas, and yes, Be INSPIRING!"

Visitors and Guests

We had three visitors from the Rotary Club of Burlingame/Hillsborough **Jerry Wings** - a 34 year member and today's presenter (**Jerry** knows Marin, he was the architect for Marin County Club), and **Bobba Venkatadri**, Co-chair of International Service, and **Paul Watermulder**. **Ross Millerick** introduced colleague **Nitashi Singh Sonugra**, her Rotaract Club President. **Sonia Seeman** introduced us again to **Zoila Garcia**, **Lynn Dawson** introduced **Dee Coleman** (our caterer joined us for lunch today) **John Christman** intro'd himself. We had spouses of members: **PP Russ & Kathy Ketron**, **PP Alan**

& **Robert Dunham**, **Jim & Kathy Botko**, We also had Zoom participants: **PP Peian Harness**, **Delyn Kies**, **PP Phil Brown**, **Jackie Oriscar Lee**.

Birthday and Anniversaries

PP Frank Bruno had a birthday and celebrated a 46th Anniversary with **Robyn**. Other birthdays include **Reggie Winner** and **Katie Chase**. **Dan Dougherty**, **PP Phil's** dad and **Patty's** granddad, turned 100 on May 30, please send good thoughts and prayers to him and family as **Dan** is currently in skilled nursing/hospice.

Announcements

Homeward Bound

Sonia Seeman announced the Grand Opening on Thursday June 5, 3:30-5:30, of the Gilardi Training Center part of Homeward Bound campus.

Personal Growth

Ed Ross invited men over 40+ years old every other Thursday for a personal growth group, no religion or politics, just fellowship.

Marin Commission on Aging

Peter Rubens asked those 59 years and younger to raise their hands, only 4 people in the room did. His work with the Marin Commission on Aging Annual Informational Meet & Greet at the Club Restaurant at McInnis Golf Course on Wednesday June 4, 2025 4 to 6pm.

Scholarships

John Rignenberg recognized that the 2025 Scholarships were announced last week, a total of \$73,000 for 31 students, **John** was at the Senior Awards night by himself at Novato High, **Randy Baker** at San Marin, and **Maggie Shao** at Marin Oaks.

Art & Wine Festival

Prez Tom Rickey announced upcoming events where you can participate, the Novato Art & Wine Festival and June 19th Blood Drive.

RI Magazine Award

Mike Morrissey won first place in the Rotary International Magazine and is featured in this month's issue. **Mike** acknowledged **Penny Hansen**, who "nagged" him to enter by giving her a large metal print of the winning photo, prayer flags at birthplace of **Siddhartha** in Lumbini, Nepal.

Time to Pay Up

To fulfill his debt to the Wheel of Misfortune, **Jorg Puhrr-Westerheide** sang a song celebrating Oktoberfest noting Bavaria 200 years ago was a sovereign nation and next to the King's residence in Munich was a brewery.

Induction of New Members

PP Jim Spilman introduced **Ingrid Martinez** (sponsor **Sonia Seeman**) and **Pat Chiota** (sponsor **Keith Axtell**). **Ingrid Martinez** formerly was a member of our Club and changed to Sonoma Rotary Club, and now is rejoining as well as opening her boutique featuring local art and gifts, Changing Seasons. **Pat Chiota** has spent many years in Singapore and is a mediator. **Jim** reminded us all to be involved and have a passion for service is the core for meaningful Rotary membership.

Program

Jerry Wings presented on an International Project that his club initiated and has grown to include a Global Grant as well as DDF from other Rotary Clubs in District 5150 (including our Novato Rotary Club), and private contributions. **Bobba Venkatadri** is originally from Andhra Pradesh state, on the southeast coast in India. **Bobba** knew that education, especially for girls, is essential to break the cycle of poverty. Their Rotary club started a Digital Education program to provide computers. The program included training teachers, providing

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.novatospeakersseries.com

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



Empathy
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www.empathyestateplanning.com

Upcoming Programs & Events

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 4	No Meeting
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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Vice President

Peian Harness
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Holly Axtell
International Service

Jorg Puhrr-Westerheide
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

Eliza Roesler
Youth Service

Patty Dougherty
Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Dean Heffelfinger
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Peter Oser
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Phil Dougherty
Past President

computers, providing stable Internet sources, and monitoring progress of programs. As this program has been in place, attendance, pass percentages have all improved with the improvements provided by this project. This project has grown to include three locations: Unguturu School, Vissannapeta Tribal Welfare School, Busarajupalli Tribal Welfare School. The way out of poverty and into the opportunities of today's world is through education. Many young tribal girls are either sold as young brides or into servitude as their impoverished families have little choice. The initial goal was to raise \$90,000 and that has grown to over \$719,00 with a large private donation from Dr. Reddy Labs, a multinational pharmaceutical company based in India, which contributed a large amount for infrastructure such as STEM classrooms, toilets, and dormitories. A 12 minute documentary film was screened showing the upgrades of kitchen, dining halls remodeled to clean and well-lit spaces, monkey mesh installed to prevent the monkeys from causing havoc, computer labs equipped with desks and computers all to provide a safe, healthy, environment to learn and encourage and empower young girls with education, One student highlighted wanted to become a cardiologist, because a young family member died because of heart failure, this student is determined to help her community and provide healthcare for those who cannot afford it. Final quote of the film is "Education Is the greatest equalizer between rich and poor".

The Raffle Winner

\$25 Raffle winner this week, **Maggie Shao**

Rotary CALGARY 2025

MAGIC ALL AROUND

21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA

Register today at convention.rotary.org

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:

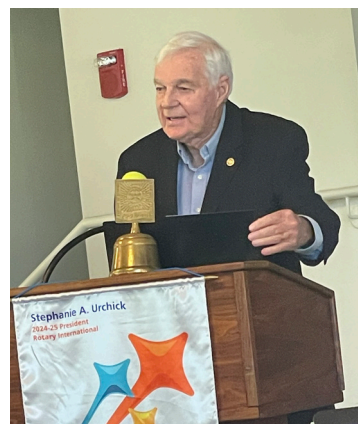
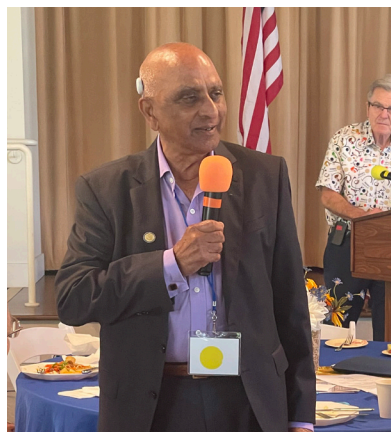
Friday, June 6

Peian Harness

Secretary

June 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



Visiting Rotarians from The Rotary Club of Burlingame. Paul Watermulder (L), Bobba Venkatadri (C) and Jerry Wings (R) who also was the speaker for their Club's Tribal Girls' School project in India.



President Tom, Sonia Seeman, Ingrid Martinez, Keith Axtell, Pat Chiota and Jim Spilman (L to R).



John Ringgenberg reported on \$71k in high school scholarships awarded.



Peter Rubens announced an upcoming Marin Commission on Aging meet and greet.



Jorg Westerheide paid his debt to the "Wheel of Misery" by singing an October fest song.



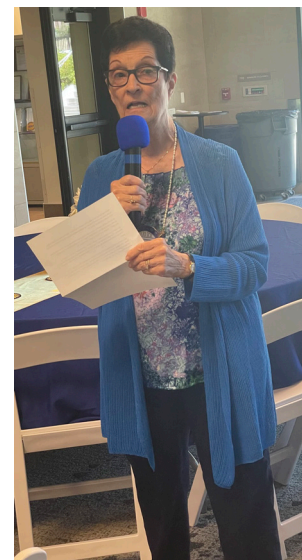
Sonia Seeman makes a Homeward Bound Announcement.



Ed Ross announces a Personal Growth Group meeting.



Mike Morrissey talks about winning a Rotary International Photo Contest.



PE Lynn Dawson led the pledge and gave a thought for the day.



Prez Tom asked for both, Art & Wine Festival volunteers and blood donors.