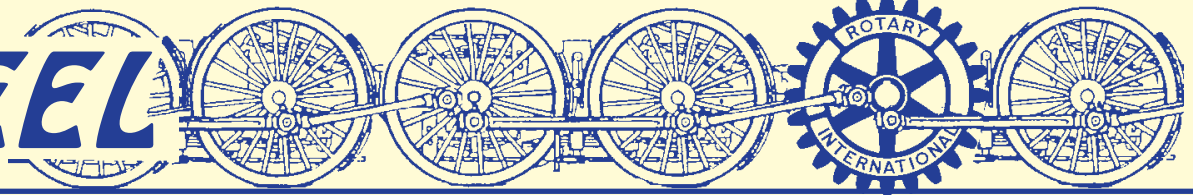


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



June 20, 2025
Vol. 76, No. 37
Editor:
By The Winner

Beginning the End

President Tom Rickey welcomed members and their guests and asked **Moses Jacob** to give the pledge and Thought for the Day.

With a blend of history and philosophy, he gave us two quotes. From **Yuval Hareri**: "Ignorance by itself is not too dangerous. If you combine it with power, this is a toxic mix. This is the curse of history: people try to save the past instead of saying the future. We cannot go back to the past and correct the wrongs that were done in previous years or decades. We need to look to the future and find some way for future peace."

From **Friedrich Nietzsche**: Is man merely a mistake of God's? Or God merely a mistake of man?" Let it be noted that **Moses** did not have an answer to this conundrum.

Visitors and Guests

Guests, guests, we had great guests! **Gretchen Simon** with her daughter **Hannah Simon** were guests of proud Dad and Grandad **Dean Heffelfinger**. **Chris DeGabriele** introduced **Katherine McGeorge**, a friend of **Joni's** and his, as well **Paul Smith** and wife **Joni DeGabriele**, both part of the program. **Sadie Remak** and **Reese Anderson** were hosted by **Marisa Remak**. **Reese** will be a RYLA counselor this summer with **Marisa's** daughter **Ashby**. **Gary Bramon** presented 2nd Lt. **Matt Chiang**, as well as his wife **Toni**. **Alan**

Dunham introduced his wife of 65 years, **Roberta**. **Kathy Botko** accompanied husband **Jim**. **Moses Jacob** brought his wife **Judy Keeler**; and finally, **Al Shirley** introduced **Kristen Lin**.

Birthday and Anniversaries

Almost done **President Tom** wished **Rebekah Shapiro Gonzales** a very happy birthday next Tuesday and on Wednesday, birthday wishes for **Bruce Palmer**. Celebrating their 55th anniversary in Calgary at the RI Convention are **PE Lynn** and **Carl Dawson**. **Craig** and **Suzie McCurdy** celebrated their anniversary a week early at Olema House and will celebrate this weekend with family. **Brad Williams**, whose lovely bright yellow shirt matched the microphone, accepted congratulations for his and his bride **Kathy's** 56th anniversary. He was not sure what he was getting from Costco as a gift for **Kathy**, but he reassured us that he had already purchased a new car stereo for himself. **President Tom** congratulated **Frank** and **Donna Falzon** for their 65th anniversary.

Announcements

Jim Bates reminded us of the Installation of Officers/Debunking next Friday, June 27, 2025, at 5:30 pm, at the Jonas Center. He is collecting checks for **Marsha**. Checks should be made out to the Rotary Club of Novato.

Dean Heffelfinger reminded all of the 2025 Relay for Life, which will be held July 19, 2025, at Olive School, starting at noon on Saturday and running overnight until 10 am Sunday morning. He encouraged all to donate what they could to this important fundraiser. Make your checks out to the American Cancer Society and give them to **Dean**.

President Tom also reminded all that there is a PRLS (Potential Rotary Leadership) class at the Bay Model in Sausalito on July 19.

Hup!

Auctioneer Extraordinaire **Jim Spilman** went to work auctioneering two Giants tickets, donated by **Bill** and **Vicki McDill**. They are for club level, Giant's vs the Nats game at 1:05 pm on Sunday, August 10, 2025. After lively bidding, **Ingrid Martinez** was declared the winner, and she will be donating \$300 to the Novato Rotary Endowment.

Marty's Moment

We were treated to a new "Marty's Moments" video produced by **Mike Morrissey**. **Marty Wickenheiser** interviewed **Past President Bruce Palmer**. **Bruce** is the son of our founding member **Clark Palmer** and Club member **Joyce Palmer**. His first memories of Novato Rotary were from the age of six, watching his dad and other club members plan for that year's Debunking. He felt that his mom may have had more of a role in the beginnings of our Club because her father, **Bruce's** grandad, had started a Rotary Club in OH. **Bruce** participated in Rotaract during his time at Novato HS. He was in the military and then joined his dad and **Past President Dave Jones** in a Novato law practice. His Rotary Moment came at the RI Convention in Nice, France and he came home and embarrassed himself with his French pronunciations as he narrated his photos and report to the club. His father had a wonderful ear for language and gave him grief over his garbled mess!

Red to Blue Badges

Blue Badges were announced for **Sasha D'Amico**, **Eliza Roesler** and **DeLyn Kies**, but only **Jackie** and **DeLyn** were present to receive theirs from **President Tom**.

Continued on page 3

The BIG WHEEL

P.O. Box 657
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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



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Upcoming Programs & Events

June

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
July 25 XXXXX

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2024/2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Peian Harness
Secretary

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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

Who's Dat Rotarian

One last time, Who's Dat Rotarian – totally flummoxed the entire club.

Despite good guesses by **Dean H.** and **Gary B.** no one knew who:

Got the highest performance rating in the State for playing the saxophone;

Ran Bay to Breakers ten consecutive years;

Was related to one of the characters in a trailer from the movie "Jobs".

The answer was **almost-past-president Tom Rickey**.

And Onto the Program...

We were treated to a wonderful musical program by **Joni DeGabriele** and **Christina Stroeh**. They were beautifully accompanied by pianist **Paul Smith** from College of Marin. The theme of the program was Love.

Joni said that husband **Chris** has been in the Rotary Club of Novato, and she feels that members have gone along with her in her musical. In honor of this, they started off with a great rendition of "Sentimental Journey". They followed up with "Sisters" from the movie White Christmas. Dampening the eyes of many of those in attendance, they proceeded with "For Good" from Wicked. The two had also sung this at the recent District Conference. Adding to the fun and wonderful voices, they called **Ingrid Matinez** to the stage, and she joined them in a rollicking rendition of "That's Amore". The second time around they encouraged the audience to share the fun. As a finale, they sang "How We Love", a beautiful song, wonderfully sung!

SASY Time

President Tom awarded his last SASy (Service Above Self) Award to a producer, editor, make-up artist and videographer (with a soon-to-be-released video on first responders) our member **Mike Morrissey**!

The Raffle Winner

The 25er went to a very well-deserving **Sonia Seeman**

Greetings from the 2025 RI Convention in Calgary!



Rotary Club of Novato P.E. Lynn Dawson (left), Mark Bosch and his wife Zenetta.



Rotary Club of Novato's Rob Marshall (left) with Jack Barker and John Marshall, both from the Rotary Club of Ignacio at the H2Open Doors booth in the Convention House of Friendship.

NEW MEMBER NOTICE

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

- **Tom Christman: Chiropractor**

If there are no objections by:

Thursday, July 3

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

Friday, July 11

Peian Harness

Secretary

Rotary
Club of Novato



**YES, BIG WHEEL EDITORS
ARE STILL
NEEDED**

*Support the most interesting
Rotary Club ever!*

*Help share our meetings
with family, friends
and members unable to attend.*

*All you need to do is supply typed
notes of the meeting. NO Formatting!*

**Contact Bill Vespa at
zip@sonic.net**



Past President Peter Oser presented Jackie Cormier (l) and Delyn Kies with Blue Badges.



A "Marty's Moment" interview with RCN Past President Bruce Palmer.



Jim Bates announced that he was collecting Debunking reservations for Marsha Molloy.



It was almost Past President Tom's last meeting and he dressed for the occasion.



Christina and Joni were joined by Ingrid Martinez to lead us in a sing-a-long of "That's Amore".



Christina Stroeh (l) and Joni DeGabriele entertained us with a wonderful singing performance. COM Emeritus faculty member, Pianist Paul Smith accompanied them.