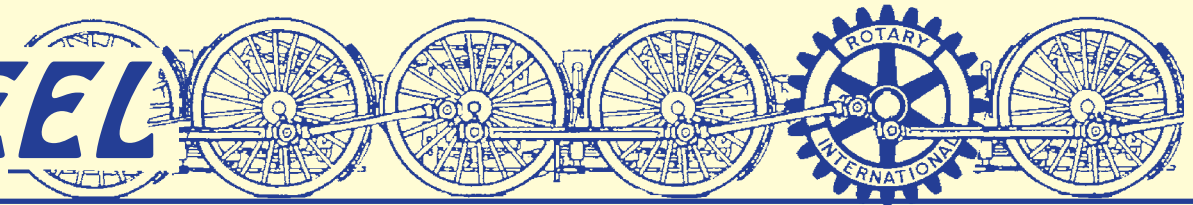


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



June 21, 2024
Vol. 75, No. 43
Editor:
Alan Dunham

The Way It Was:

The end of another terrific Rotary Year.

In the Beginning

For his last time as **President, Phil** opened the Meeting at the Jonas Center on the College of Marin Indian Valley Campus at 12:15.

Pledge of Allegiance

Bill McDill led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States

Thought for the Day

Jim Spilman gave several patriotic 'Thoughts for the Day' in honor of the 249th birthday of the U.S. Army and this being the last meeting before the 4th of July. Quotes were from: **Ronald Reagan, John F. Kennedy, Harry S. Truman, Abraham Lincoln** and **Erma Bombeck**.

Visiting Rotarians

Visiting Rotarians included: **Jean** from the San Francisco Airport Club.

Guests

The guests that signed in today included **Sadie Remak** with **Marisa**, **Sophia Lubey** with **President Phil**, **Roberta Dunham** with **Alan** and **Jerred D'Amico** with spouse **Sasha**. There were several guests who were not signed in so here is my best effort: **Vicky McDill** with **Bill**, **Diane Spilman** with **Jim**, **Randall**

Lee with **Jackie**, **Kathy Ketron** with **Russ**, **Joni DeGabriele** with **Chris**, **Diane Kaljian-Combs** with **Marcus Combs**, **Laurie Dougherty**, **Dan Dougherty**, **Norma Dougherty**, and **Shayla Dougherty** with **Phil**.

Community Care

It was reported that **John Reuscher** is under the weather and **Tom Rickey** is at MCH for a procedure.

Announcements

Dictionaries

Peter Pelavin shared a poster prepared by the third grade classes at Lu Sutton thanking Rotary for the Dictionaries.

Paul Harris Pins

Jorg Puhr-Westerheide presented **Marisa Remak** with a Rotary Foundation Pin with three rubies.

World Community Service

Robert Marshall gave an update on the Ecuador and Beans for Babies Projects.

VFW Auxiliary

Eliza Roesler invited members to an information meeting at 4:30 on July 10 at the VFW Post at 844 on Sweetser Ave. in Novato. Visit vfwauxiliary.org for more information.

News Paper

Alexa Witter, widow of former member **Lloyd Witter** mailed a copy of a 1980 newspaper highlighting our Rotary Club. **Phil** brought it to the meeting for us to see.

Five Minute Talk

Jeff Slavitz gave his 5 minute talk prior to receiving his Blue Badge. He was raised in Southern California, and worked in the computer industry. He and his family have



lived in Tiburon for several years where he was active in City politics. His son had mental health issues which moved him to become active in Rotary's mental health programs. He enjoys Rotary for the friendship and support.

Special Presentations

District Conference

Phil thanked **Peian** for representing our Club. He presented Club Excellence Awards to: **Holly Axtell** - International Service; **Marisa Remak** - Youth Services and RYLA; **Jorg Puhr-Westerheide** - Rotary Foundation; **Peter Pelavin** - Community Services; **Lynn Dawson** - Membership and **Kyle Frazier** - Public Image.

Program

Our own **President Phil Dougherty** was the speaker. **Phil** shared his recent experiences as guardian for his Army veteran father **Dan Dougherty** on "Return to Normandy" an excursion celebrating the 80th anniversary of D-Day. They left on American Airlines from Sacramento to Dallas, then to Paris and finally the Normandy Beaches and the American Cemetery.

The Honor Flight consisted of 68 vets and a multitude of support staff. At each stop they were treated with hero welcomes including parades, speeches, music, great food, interviews, escorts, cadets, entertainment and more. A whirl wind exhaustive experience to remember.

The Winners

The Raffle Winner this week was **Jackie Cormier** and

The BIG WHEEL

P.O. Box 657
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The Four-Way Test

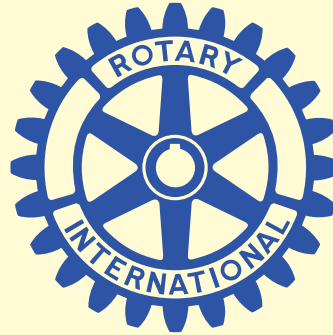
"Of the things we think, say or do:

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?"



E-MAIL or SNAIL MAIL?

If you would prefer to receive only the emailed version of the Big Wheel, please email Bill Vespa at zip@sonic.net. By going to delivery by email only, you will also lower our Club expenses.



Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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Upcoming Programs & Events

June

June 28 **Installation Dinner & Debunking**

July

July 5 **No Meeting**

July 12 **John Ringgenberg:** Scholarships

July 19 **President Tom Rickey:** Novato Rotary Yearly Outlook

July 29 **NPD Chief Naugle**

August

Aug. 2 **NPD Captain Sasha D'Amico:** Senior and Fraud

Aug. 9 **Rotary DG Steve Wright**

Aug. 16 **Jay Alexander:** Magic Show

Aug. 23 **John Eldridge:** President COM

Aug. 30 **No Meeting**

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 Puhr-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

Rotary memorabilia winners included **Ryan Lee**, **Bill Vespa**, and **Keith Axtell**.

Thanks

Ryan Lee was thanked for operating the audio visual equipment this week.

President Phil thanked his parents, **Peter Oser** his sponsor and the Club members for all their support for his year as President.

July SPECIAL DATES

- 7-8 Carl Dawson
- 7-9 Jacqueline Janssen
- 7-11 T.J. Neff
- 7-12 Burt Hoffmann
- 7-15 Jeff Slavitz
- 7-19 Jacqueline Janssen & Mike Morrissey
- 7-22 David Gabriel
- 7-25 Karen & Bruce Palmer
- 7-25 Peter Pelavin
- 7-27 Christina Stroeh & Brody Stewart-Stroeh
- 7-29 Marsha Molloy
- 7-31 Sara Gabriel



Books For Africa

In Rotary year 2022-3, long time member of Novato’s international committee, **Al Angulo**, wanted to send books to children in Tanzania, Africa. Working with **Marilyn Nemzer** of the Global Book Exchange, money was collected from a variety of sources – including Rotary Club of Novato – to ship a container of books. This was over 29,000 books for children and young people. Books were sorted and packed by volunteers. The container was shipped to Rotarians in Tanzania who were excited about giving

out these books to schools and children. But that did not happen. Despite unpacking and inventorying all the books at the Tanzania government’s request, the Rotarians were not allowed to distribute the books. Fortunately, an alternative was found. **Melissa Prandi**, Rotary Club of Mission San Rafael, has started an educational non-profit in Uganda. She agreed to work with Rotary clubs in Uganda to get the books distributed in Uganda to schools and children. So – off went the container on another truck

to the country of Uganda. However more money had to be raised to cover all the new expenses. Rotarians here and in Tanzania jumped in to cover the costs.

And once again, the 20,000 plus books had to be unpacked inventoried for the government of Uganda.

Finally in May, we received this message: GREAT NEWS!! AFTER NEARLY TWO YEARS OF TRULY UNBELIEVABLE & OVERWHELMING

OBSTACLES – OUR BOOKS ARRIVED IN KAMPALA, UGANDA, YESTERDAY.

Our thanks to all the Rotarians who gave money to our Endowment to allow us to do projects at home and in other countries. And a big congratulations to the Global Book Exchange and all those Rotarians here, in Tanzania and in Uganda that worked so hard to get this project completed.





Dan (99) and Norma (98) join Phil, Laurie and Patty for Phil's last meeting as President. Dan, Phil and Patty make three of the four generations of Rotarians in the family.