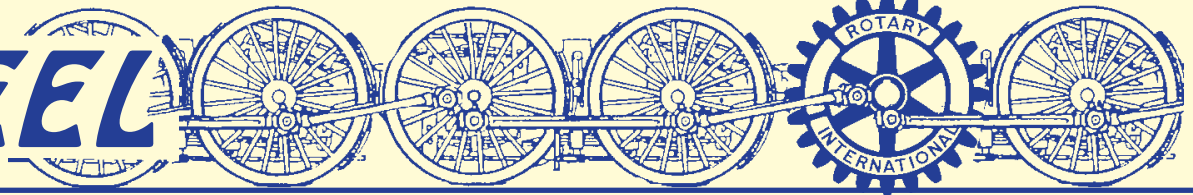


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



June 5, 2026
Vol. 77, No. 42
Editor:
A Winner

The Beginning

Par usual, President Lynn rang the bell, and herding cats, called us to order promptly at 12:15 pm. Leading us dutifully in the Pledge of Allegiance was Jeff Slavitz. Keith Axtell gave the Thought for the Day following the theme of the meeting today- International Service.

Major Object of Rotary

“The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace”

- “International Service is our primary way to promote peace and understanding, through our strong leadership and substantial funding and the eradication of polio from most countries in the world
- Global Grant Program: The primary way clubs can participate in international service. In 2024-25- 1,423 global grant projects approved in the world. Each over 30,000, over \$200 million in global grant projects in one year.
- District 5150: 33 Global Grant projects being implemented or recently completed there have been almost \$3 million in life-changing projects around the world.

Introductions

President Lynn welcomed members and visiting Rotarian Susanne Kerch from the Rotary Club of

Mission San Rafael. She then asked members to introduce their guests: Jim Spilman charmed us all once more with his loving introduction of his wife Diane. Young Tony Vespa, home for the summer from the University of Utah, was introduced by proud Dad Bill. Laura Joss, in honor of National Donut Day, brought along her husband Skip Meehan. President Lynn then welcomed back Patty Dougherty, who, following recent nuptials, will be known heretofore as Patty Avalon. Lynn encouraged all to enjoy their lunch and the camaraderie of those at their table.

Community Care

After calling all back to attention, President Lynn called on Marty Wickenheiser for a Community Care report. Marty passed along the sad news of Past President Anne Wade’s recent passing. Anne was the first female president of our club in 2002. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 18 at 2:00 pm at the Novato Best Western Hotel in Ignacio.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

It was Celebration Table Friday - usually the first Friday of each month and President Lynn recognized those with June birthdays, anniversaries and Rotary membership anniversaries with the proper recognition.

Bylaw Update

We then had one order of important business which was to approve a Club Bylaw change, so that it reflected our actual common procedure. It was a minor change to the new member information process. Each member had been emailed a copy of th actual wording and the motion (Dean Heffelfinger) and second (Moses Jacob) was passed by acclamation.

Blue Badge

President Lynn called up Laura Joss to receive her new official member Blue Badge and announced that Charlie Strickfadden has also qualified for his Blue Badge, but he is traveling.

Announcements

Evidently, incoming President Peter Pelavin told a very funny joke about a woman driving and diapers, but I am sad to say, your current bulletin editor totally missed it! It was a lead-in to his announcement previewing and prepping for us, an upcoming diaper drive which will start in August. He also announced that RYLA is still in need of a couple more adult facilitators for the training the end of July. And he encouraged any and all who might be interested in walking with the Rotary float in the annual Novato Fourth of July parade to get in touch with him. Also if you have ideas for Lunchtime speakers for next year, please let Peter know, or enter yet, agree to chair the Speakers Committee for 2026-27!

Mission San Rafael Fundraiser

The aforementioned visiting Rotarian, Susanne Karch, announced her club’s fundraiser, a Raffle Dazzle, with fabulous prizes and at only \$20/ticket or 3/\$50. The drawing is on June 18. Visit www.missionsanrafaelrotary.com under Events for info.

Transit Center Project

Jim Spilman called out Larry Mazzotta, Marisa Remak, Mark Bosch, Phil Dougherty and Randy Baker and acknowledged their participation in the erection of the signage for the Hamilton Transit Center.

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?"



Tony Lindsay A Soulful Evening with Tony Lindsay

**Thurs., July 23, 2026
7 pm to 8:30 pm**

Back by popular demand!

Tony and his band wowed us in season one! Join us for an extraordinary evening as we embark on a remarkable musical journey with Tony Lindsay, the legendary lead vocalist of Santana.

Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to witness a true icon in action, captivating audiences with his undeniable talent and unforgettable stage presence.

Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15
www.novatospeakerseries.com

In Memoriam Anne Wade May 29, 2026

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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- Tires
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Upcoming Programs & Events

June

- June 12 **Meeting at Jonas** - The Good Old Days: Polenta Feed! Polish your Boots!!
- June 19 **No Meeting** - Campus Holiday
- June 26 **Meeting at Jonas** - Farewell to 2025-26 & Induction 2026-27
- June 27 **Debunking**

July

- July 3 **No Meeting** - July 4th Holiday
- July 10 **Meeting at Jonas**
- July 17 **Scholarships**
- July 23 **Novato Speaker Series** - Tony Lindsay
- July 31 **Meeting at Jonas**

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Chris DeGabriele
Treasurer

Francesco Arezzo
R.I. President

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Judy Johnson
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Phil Dougherty
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Gloria Dunn-Violin & Randy Baker
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Holly Axtell
International Service

Jorg Pühr-Westerheide
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

Ross Millerick
Youth Service

Patty Dougherty & Sonia Seeman
Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Peter Oser
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Brad Williams
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Tom Rickey
Past President

Between 1980 and 1983 Hamilton Airfield served as a place of refuge and transition for more than 180,000 Southeast Asian refugees following the fall of Saigon, before they settled across the United States. Good job everyone!

Program

In an effort to bring club members up-to-date on the activities and projects of the World Community Service/International Committee, Chair Holly Axtell introduced several members of the committee to highlight for us several projects. These projects are undertaken with the help, both logistically and financially, of local clubs.

First up, was Pat Chiota, who gave a great description of the activities our club has helped support at the PACE Learning Center in India, via a Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation. A science lab at the school for girls had a dedicated room, but no equipment, so filling the need, with help from the grant, the school now has a complete biology and chemistry lab. Another issue was the lack of cutlery and plates for the cafeteria to feed the full 300 enrollment, so the students had to eat in shifts. Now thanks to the grant all the students can eat breakfast and lunch together, greatly simplifying the schedule. The grant also helped to fund sufficient two-person desks for 1st through 5th graders. Next round they will be providing sufficient desks for the upper classmates - 6th - 12th graders.

Keith Axtell continued with the Water Is Life project in Haiti. This project provided clean, potable water for 50 farming families. With money from our Endowment, they are now able to have a new well for irrigation, to hire an agronomist to aid with their crops, to provide financial assistance to the farmers and training for solutions for environmental issues. Both the International Committee and the Climate Action Team of our Club provided funds for this project.

Jeff Slavitz took the podium next to enlighten us about two Global Grants. He thanked Russ and Kathy Ketron for their support of Bridge of Love which provides technology and mobility for teaching disabled students. In addition, it provides support for troubleshooting the glitches that inevitably come with technology.

The second project is in Nepal, one of the poorest countries in the world, outside Kathmandu. This village had no access to safe, potable water, having to walk a mile each way to get water. The project will build a small reservoir close to the village and will sterilize and bring water to each of the homes via PVC piping. This project is ongoing and will hopefully be finished by the end of the year.

The last project was presented by Chris Seifkas. It is at the Children's Hospital of Cairo, Egypt. They are helping to replace two worn out medical devices which discover and diagnose a crippling disease in newborns - Inborn Errors of Metabolism. Early diagnosis and treatment are critical as sufferers are not able to use the food which they consume. This hospital is the only one in the whole of Egypt to have this technology to screen for this disease, so it is imperative that the machinery be up-to-date.

After answering a question about who actually does the physical labor for these projects - the local clubs insure that all paperwork and pertinent local contracts are taken care of - President Lynn thanked all who participated in the program and thanked Nohemi Beisseman-Mason for being the greeter today.

The End

To wrap up the meeting, Melinda Durfee won the 25er! Don't spend it all in one place!



You are cordially invited to attend the
Rotary Club of Novato
2026
Celebration of Lynn's Year
 AKA "The Debanking"
Saturday, June 27, 2026
 Bill and Adele Jonas Center
 No Host Cocktails & Appetizers: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. ∞ Buffet Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
 Debanking: 7:30

Reservations Required! NO Tickets Sold at Door!
RSVP Deadline June 23rd
 \$75.00 per person
 Guests Welcome

Please contact Marsha Molloy with your reservations:
 (415) 328-7745 or email: mjmolloy@pacbell.net

Choice of Entree:
 • Chicken Marsala
 • Fresh Oven Broiled Salmon
 • Polenta Marinara (Vegan and Gluten Free)



Pay with Square

Pay with Square QR and contact Marsha with your menu choice OR tear off and mail with your payment to:
 Marsha Molloy, 308 Becky Court, Novato, CA 94949
 Make check payable to: Rotary Club of Novato

Please indicate your choice of Entree:

Choice of Entree	Quantity
Chicken	_____
Salmon	_____
Polenta	_____

R.S.V.P to Marsha Molloy: (415) 328-7745 or mjmolloy@pacbell.net

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

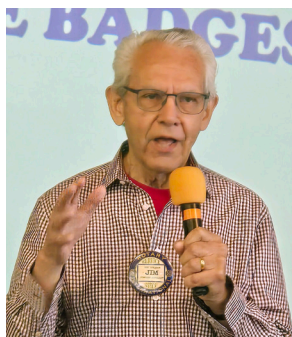
Rotary 



President Lynn calling for announcements.



President-Elect Peter made a few announcements.



Jim Spilman thanks those who helped with the Hamilton Transit Center Project.



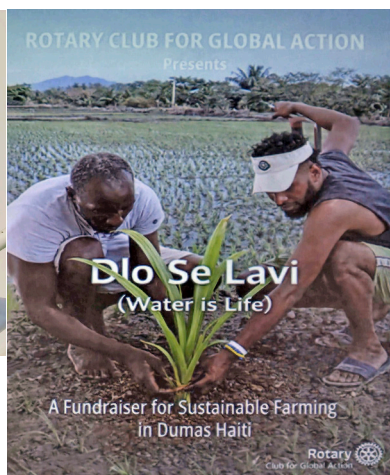
Gary Lam was the Featured Rotarian.



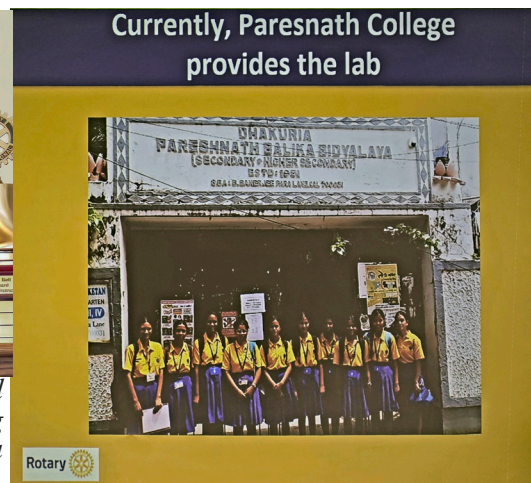
Susanne Karch, from Mission San Rafael, announced her club's fundraiser.



Keith Axtell, master of Global Grants, spoke about the "Water is Life" Project in Haiti.



Pat Chiota explained why the PACE Learning Center Project in India needs an on campus lab.



Jeff Slavitz talked about a water project in Nepal.

Editor's Note:

Chris Seifkas spoke about a project in Cairo, Egypt to replace and update machines that test newborns for a potentially deadly genetic defect called Inborn Errors of Metabolism.

Chris also thanked Keith for his patience & assistance with Global Grants and DDF applications.

Unfortunately, we did not have photos for Chris' portion of the presentation.



Mark Bosch said a "Side Car" project of H2Open Doors is "Beanies for Babies".

