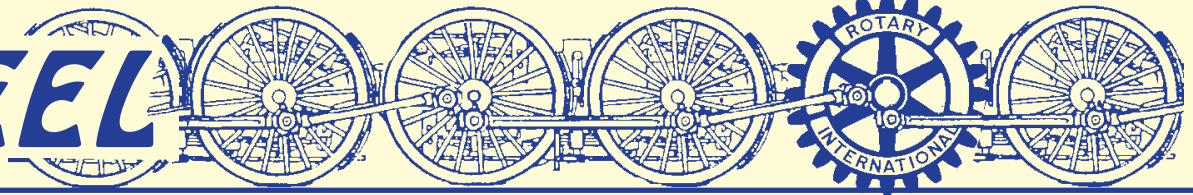


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



July 10, 2026
Vol. 78, No. 1
Editor:
Bill Vespa

Strauss' "Also sprach Zarathustra" (The 2001: A Space Odyssey movie theme) filled the room, the screen showed a countdown to ascent, and the room counted down in unison. At 'zero' **President Peter** rang the bell and launched his new Rotary year. Peter announced R.I. President **Olayinka H. Babalola's** theme for 2026-27, "Create Lasting Impact".

President Peter shared an inspirational thought. "We will never be as young as we are today, so seize the moment!"

Pledge

Delyn Kies led us in the pledge and shared a few thoughts. Today's program is about Club Committees and all the ways we can participate. So, **Delyn** gave some thoughts about volunteering: "*Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.*" - **William James**, a Philosopher and Pragmatist from the late 1800's. He was a Thinker Who Believed In Doing. "*How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.*" - **Anne Frank**. And last, but not least, who doesn't love a shout-out from **Jim Spilman** after volunteering on a project!

Visitors

None, not even from another planet...

Guests

Marisa Remak brought daughter **Sadie**. **Jim Spilman** brought "The Love of his Life", wife **Diane**.

Recognitions

There were a few birthday's highlighted by **Prez Peter**. **T.J. Neff**, **Burt Hoffmann** & **Jeff Slavitz** have early July birthdays. **Tom Young** have been a member for 15 years.

Community Care

Reggie Winner announced that **Frank Falzon** is not doing well. Please send cards or make a phone call

Announcements

COM Parking

Sonia Seeman announced that parking passes are now available, one per member. For our regular Friday lunch meetings you can park in lots 4, 5 and the upper lot near Jonas Center. But for all other events you need to have a parking pass to avoid a ticket from COM police.

Relay for Life

Dean Heffelfinger reminded us that the Relay for Life is happening at Olive School starting at 9am on Saturday July 18th. **Dean** said he would not be here after his bouts with cancer, if it were not for the American Cancer Society. Please donate, checks should be made payable to "ACS" and given to **Dean**. Please participate in the event, also help is needed setting up the booth tent on Saturday morning.

A Simple Gesture

Mark Bosch told us that the Simple Gesture organization is collecting non-perishable food. Please go to ASG.org to arrange for a donation pick-up.

Novato Speaker Series

Jim Spilman put on his Novato Speaker Series hat to announce that **Tony Lindsay**, the former lead singer for the **Santana** band will be performing and telling stories on Thursday July 23rd at the Jonas Center. Tickets are \$30, please attend and bring your friends & neighbors!

Blue Badge

Ed Ross traded his red badge for a blue badge. **Ed** thanked **Past Prez Lynn** for nudging him along. He also thanked **Sonia Seeman**, **Patty Avalon (Dougherty)** and **Rene Prado**, the new Membership Chair for their support.

Program

President Peter asked the Directors and/or Committee Chairs to come up, describe their activities and make a pitch for members to join their committee.

Membership

First up was **Rene Prado**, Director and Committee Chair of Membership. We have about 110 members. 16 of those are new, but our numbers are not growing. Please bring your fresh ideas about how to grow our membership. The committee meets on the first Tuesday of the Month at 5:30pm Location is NovaRo III Meeting Room upstairs, 31 Pinheiro Circle, Novato. Questions contact **Rene** at rene.prado@technicalquestion.com

Vocational Service

David Gabriel Director of Vocational Services spoke about the importance of CTE (Continuing Tech Education). CTE provides multiple pathways to a wide range of in-demand careers with competitive salaries. Available to high school students and adults. CTE programs partner with businesses, industry leaders, and post-secondary institutions to provide opportunities to succeed. Vocational Service meetings are 2nd Wednesday of the month, 5:30 p.m. Please confirm location with **David** dhgabriel@gmail.com

Novato Rotary Endowment

Jeff Slavitz is the Endowment Chair. The Endowment funds our service projects. There are three funds, The Permanent Fund, The Scholarship Fund and the Jonas Fund. Board positions are a 3 year term. Meetings are once a quarter. Contact **Jeff** at JeffSlavitz@gmail.com

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?"

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



845 Vallejo Avenue, Downtown Novato
www.handjtire.com
hjtire@vbn.com

Burt Hoffmann
John Da Silva

(415) 897-1185

- Tires
- Brakes
- Alignment
- Shocks
- Oil Changes
- Tuneup

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



Upcoming Programs & Events

July

July 17	Scholarship Presentations - Maggie Shao
July 23	Novato Speaker Series - Tony Lindsay
July 24	Off-Site Social - Henhouse Brewing Novato
July 31	Meeting at Jonas

August

Aug 7	Meeting at Jonas
Aug 14	Meeting at Jonas
Aug 21	Meeting at Jonas
Aug 28	Meeting at Jonas
Aug 31	Off-Site Social

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Peter Pelavin
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Rene Prado
Vice President

Marisa Remak
Secretary

Chris DeGabriele
Treasurer

Olayinka H. Babalola
R.I. President

YuHui Chen
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Judy Johnson
*Assistant
District Governor*

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John Reuscher
Logistics & Facilities

Joy Fillman
Public Image & Awareness

Jim Spilman
Community Service

Randy Baker
Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)

Jeff Slavitz & Holly Axtell
International Service

Jorg Puhrr-Westerheide
Andy Czajkowski
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

Ross Millerick
Youth Service

Rene Prado
Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Jim Carriere
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Chris DeGabriele
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Lynn Dawson
Past President

Public Image

Joy Fillman and **Phil Dougherty** are Co-Chairing the Public Image Committee. Public Image works at getting the Rotary Club of Novato known to the Community and inform members of what is happening. Come join the committee! Meetings are on the Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 5:00 p.m. Contact Co-Chair **Joy Fillman** at joyphd@gmail.com for meeting location.

Community Service

Jim Spilman is the Chair of Community Service Committee. There are basically three types of projects: Money only, Labor and Money or Labor only. If you have a project idea, bring it to the committee. Meetings are at Round Table Pizza. They socialize for 30 minutes, have beverages and pizza, before discussing business. Meetings are on the third Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m. Contact **Jim** at James_V_Spilman@msn.com for meeting location.

Environmental Sustainability

Laura Joss stood in for **Randy Baker**, the Director of Environmental Sustainability and Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee. Important aspects of the this committee are Nature, Bio-Diversity Loss, Global Warming, Clean Water, Climate Action, Life under water, life on land. They connect with high school students to test water for fish migration paths, assisted with the Hamilton Play area, Bay Area Ridge Trail System, promote awareness at Club meetings. Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the Month at 6:00 p.m. Contact Chair **Randy Baker** at vernalfalls1@gmail.com for meeting location.

International Service

Holly Axtell is Co-Chairing International Service Committee with **Jeff Slavitz**. **Holly** estimates that 25% of our members are on the committee. It is not a check writing committee. Projects are partnerships with Rotary Clubs in other countries. Meetings are on the First Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m. at Nova-Ro III. Contact Co-Chair **Jeff Slavitz** at JeffSlavitz@gmail.com.

Youth Services

Ross Millerick is the Director of Youth Services. This committee created the Novato Youth Leadership Program, modeled after the Chamber of Commerce's

Leadership Novato Program for adults. Our Club sponsors an Interact club at San Marin High and is working to establish and Interact Club at Marin Oaks. We sponsor four students per year for the RYLA camps. The Scholarship Committee also falls under Youth Service. **Maggie Shao** is the Co-Chair with **Delyn Kies**. The Committee requires an intense three month commitment in the Spring. Contact **Maggie** at maggieshaowellness@gmail.com

The Rotary Foundation

Jorg Westerheide is the Co-Chairing the Rotary Foundation along with **Andy Czajkowski**. One of the main goals of the Rotary Foundation is to eradicate Polio worldwide. Polio cases are dropping but still not completely gone. There were about 30 cses worldwide last year. One of the main ways to support the Foundation is through the EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year) program. **Jorg** and **Andy** will be sending out EREY letters soon.

Nova-Ro Corporation

Peter Oser stood in for **Jim Carriere**, the President of Nova-Ro Corp. Nova-Ro began as a Club Project and is now a separate entity from the Rotary Club of Novato. Nova-Ro offers affordable Senior housing. There are a total of 126 units in three complexes. Nova-Ro I was built in 1975, Nova-Ro II was built in 1985 and Nova-Ro III was built in 2003. If you have building management experience, please volunteer! The Nova-Ro board meets on the Third Thursday of the Month at 8:30 a.m. at Nova-Ro III. Contact **Jim Carriere** at james.carriere@gmail.com for questions.

Bar Committee

Mark Bosch heads up the Bar Committee, which is responsible for moving beverages to our socials and other events and back to storage. Please contact **Mark** at Mark.A.Bosch@gmail.com.

Other Committees in Need

President Peter made a plea for assistance with several other committees. Speaker Committee: There is currently no Chair. Please Help! Speakers are an important part of our weekly meetings. Social Functions Committee: Finds locations for our Club Socials. **Suzanne Bales** and **Marsha Molloy** have been handling this but help would be appreciated. If you have ideas please let **Prez**

Peter know. And last, but not least, our Fundraising Committee. This committee organizes the fundraising for our Endowment Fund, which in turn provides the funds for our many worthwhile projects. If you can help, contact **President Peter Pelavin** peterotary@outlook.com.

Closing Announcements

Relay for Life

Dean reminded us to bring checks for Relay for Life.

Scholarship Presentations

Maggie asked us to be sure to welcome the Scholarship recipients and their families at the meeting next Friday.

New Rotary Club in Marin City

Evan Blacksea said that there will be a new Rotary Club in Marin City. The first project on this club's agenda is bringing back the Marin City Flea Market.

R.I. Convention in Taiwan

Mike Morrissey, **Ron Harness**, **Evan Blacksea** and **President Peter** all spoke about the RI convention in Taiwan.

In summary, there were about 37k attendees. The keynote speaker was Malala Yousafzai, the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and an advocate for girls' education. **Malala** gave an inspirational speech about service to others through "creative action to make change". The R.I. Convention is the best way to see the Global Power of Rotary. R.I. Conventions offer great touring opportunities before and after the Convention. **President Peter's** departing ride to the airport in a Tech Cab was interrupted by a "Take Cover" phone emergency warning due to lightning in the area.

The 25er

Al Shirley took home the 25 bucks.

Rotaplast International



Bring Smiles to Children Around the World Bocce Ball Tournament and BBQ

Reservations or Tickets can be obtained below, at the event, or
by calling Peter Lagarias (415) 902-6208

Sunday – August 23, 2026

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

A Benefit Supporting Our Mission to Nagamangala, India Our Twentieth-Second Year of Bocce Tournaments

Marin Bocce Ball Court
550 "B" Street, San Rafael

Take Hwy. 101 to the Central San Rafael exit – proceed
west on 3rd then south on B

Registration Form

(\$48 per person includes lunch and drinks)

Name: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Rotary Club: _____

Number tickets: _____

Additional Donation: _____



PLEASE DON'T FORGET

The Relay For Life

**Olive Elementary School
620 Olive Avenue, Novato**

**Starts at Noon Saturday July 18 &
Runs until 10am Sunday July 19**

--- Learn, Support, Contribute ---

Pledges are welcome; Checks are welcome;
Good wishes are welcome; Help is welcome.

Give Dean Heffelfinger your check
made payable to:
American Cancer Society

Any Questions? See Dean H.

TCIF

Friday July 24th • 5:00 - 7:00 pm



**Henhouse Brewing
1301 Grant Ave., Novato**

*You buy a drink and
Rotary will provide some appetizers*