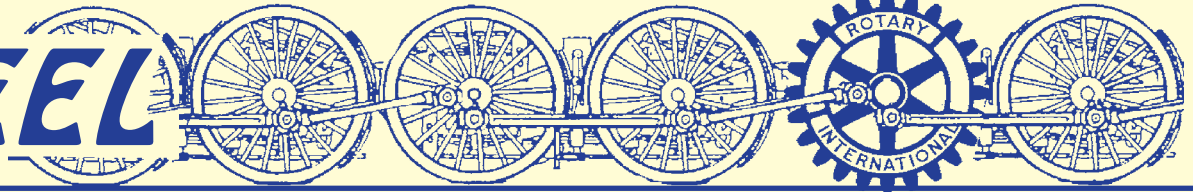


# The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**July 12, 2024**  
**Vol. 76, No. 1**  
**Editor:**  
**The Winner**

## In the Beginning...

As the clock ticked to 12:15 pm, newly inducted **President Tom Rickey** welcomed members, guests and scholarship recipients, rang the bell. He asked **Marisa Remak** to give the Pledge and 'Thought for the Day' which she did in an expeditious manner! In recognition of the educational aspect of the meeting she quoted **Steve Jobs**, "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life." She also quoted **Sir Ken Robinson** with "If you're not prepared to be wrong, you will never come up with anything original."

## Visitors & Guests

As there were no visiting Rotarians, **President Tom** moved on to guests of Rotarians which included **Sadie Remak** with mother **Marisa**, **Hannah Simon** with Granddad **Dean Heffelfinger**, **Randall Lee** with wife **Jackie**, **Suzie McCurdy** with **President Tom's** sponsor **Dr. Craig McCurdy**, **Kathy Botko** with husband **Jim**, **Toni Bramon** with husband **Gary**, **Roberta Dunham** with husband **Alan**, and **Andy Pansini** also with **Gary Bramon**.

**President Tom** reminded us that the 70th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Novato is this year and explained how this year's Rotary International theme – The Magic of Rotary - came about!

## Announcements

### Celebration of Life

**Marty Wickenheiser** reminded everyone that a Celebration of Life party in memory of long-time member **Paul Scheller** will be held at Druid's Hall at 1 pm on Sunday, July 21.

### H2Open Door Project

**Rob Marshall** announced an H2Open Doors water project and trip to Ecuador in January 2025. It will be 7 days of service. If you are interested, please see **Robert** for details.

### Blood Drive

**Jim Spilman** thanked the Club members who had given blood in the recent Blood Drive.

### Brick Laying Project

**Jim Spilman** invited all to join him to lay bricks at City Hall from 2-4 pm on July 26.

### RYLA

**Maggie Shao** and **Jackie Cormier** will be attending RYLA along with 190 young participants from July 29 through August 29.



### Relay for Life - July 20-21

**Craig Anderson** announced that the annual Relay for Life will be held at Olive Elementary School on Saturday, July 20 starting at 12:00 and ending Sunday, July 21st at 10:00 am. He invited all to come and walk a lap with

him and donate to fight cancer if you wish. Make your checks out to American Cancer Society and get them to **Craig**.

### PRLS Seminar

Also on July 20 will be a Basic PRLS (Potential Rotary Leaders Seminar) class at the Bay Model in Sausalito. Details on the District 5150 website.

## New Rotary Year

**President Tom** took a moment to tell us a bit about his plans for the upcoming year. One of his main emphases will be on public awareness of the Club and the Jonas Center facility. He is also planning to bring back **Marty's** Moments to acquaint us all, especially new members, with some interesting aspects of our members. The Club will be purchasing T-shirts to help identify us as members and an upgraded shirt may be available. He also plans friendly competition between lunch tables. He then introduced **John Ringgenberg**, chair of the Scholarship Committee.

## The Meeting

**John Ringgenberg** thanked the members of the Scholarship Committee for all their hard work in helping to award over \$70,000 in scholarship to this year's recipients.

Presenter **Gary Bramon** started off the festivities by introducing **Taylor Lopic**, 2024 winner of the **John Stuber** Memorial Scholarship. **Taylor** will attend SRJC in the fall, then plans on UCSC and law school on the way to a law degree and a career in child advocacy.

**Andy Pansini** reminisced about Past President and long time Novato Rotarian **Peter Fulchiron** and his service to community health. Andy presented three **Peter Fulchiron** Community Scholarships to **Anabi Marin Vasquez**, **Dulce Godinez Cojom** and **Kaylei Weston**. All three are planning careers in the health care field.

**Burt Hoffmann** then stepped up to the podium to give some background on **Bill** and **Adele Jonas**, grocery purveyors of Roger Wilco Grocery stores, and their contributions to Novato which include a generous donation to COM for the Jonas Center. Burt then called up **Aileen Marrufo** and **Noela DeFrenza**, both recipients

# The BIG WHEEL

P.O. Box 657  
Novato, CA 94948

## The Four-Way Test

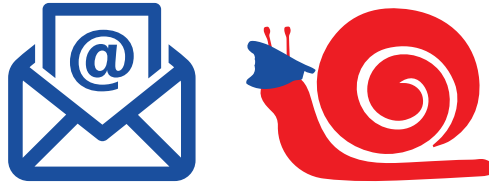
"Of the things we think, say or do:

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?"



## Come Walk with Us! RELAY FOR LIFE July 20-21

Come join us at the Relay for Life at Olive Elementary School on Saturday, July 20 starting at 12:00 and ending Sunday, July 21st at 10:00 am. Walk a lap and donate to fight cancer if you wish. Make your checks out to American Cancer Society and get them to **Craig Anderson**.



## 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



[www.empathyestateplanning.com](http://www.empathyestateplanning.com)

## Upcoming Programs & Events

### July

- July 19 **President Tom Rickey:** Novato Rotary Yearly Outlook
- July 29 **NPD Chief Naugle**

### August

- Aug. 2 **NPD Captain Sasha D'Amico:** Seniors and Fraud
- Aug. 9 **Rotary DG Steve Wright**
- Aug. 16 **Jay Alexander:** Magic Show
- Aug. 23 **John Eldridge:** President COM
- Aug. 30 **No Meeting**

### September

- Sept. 6 **Meeting**
- Sept. 13 **Jeff Saperstein and Dick Spotswood:** Israel
- Sept. 20 **Meeting / Location TBA**

## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2024/2025 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

- Tom Rickey**  
*President*
- Lynn Dawson**  
*Vice President*
- Peian Harness**  
*Secretary*
- Al Shirely**  
*Treasurer*

### DIRECTORS

- John Reuscher**  
*Logistics & Facilities*
- Peter Rubens**  
*Public Image & Awareness*
- Peter Pelavin**  
*Community Service*
- Roy Pfeifer & Gloria Dunn-Violin**  
*Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)*
- Holly Axtell**  
*International Service*
- Stephanie A. Urchick**  
*R.I. President*
- Steve Wright**  
*District Governor*
- Stacie Vance**  
*Assistant District Governor*
- Jorg Puhrr-Westerheide**  
*The Rotary Foundation (TRF)*
- Eliza Roesler**  
*Youth Service*
- Jeff Slavitz & Patty Dougherty**  
*Membership*
- Sonia Seeman**  
*Jonas Center Liaison*
- Craig Anderson**  
*President, Nova-Ro Corp.*
- Peter Oser**  
*Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment*
- Phil Dougherty**  
*Past President*

of 4-year **Bill & Adele Jonas** Rotary Scholarships. **Sara Serrano**, who was not available, was the recipient of the 2-year **Bill & Adele Jonas** Rotary Scholarship.

The **Frank & Donna Falzon** scholarship in memory of **Ryan Zirkle** was awarded to **Rowan Tjernell** who was not able to attend.

**Past President** and **Past District Governor Russ Ketron** presented the \$16,000 **Kenneth A. Berg** Rotary Scholarship to **Surahbi Chinta** who will be attending UCLA in the fall and studying medicine. He also presented the **Russ** and **Kathy Ketron** Scholarship to **Alexandra Fox** who will be joining **Surahbi** at UCLA.

Chair **John Ringgenberg** retook the podium to introduce **Jackson Yaeger** and **Jessica Mendieta Alvarado**, the winners of the **Morrissey Family** Scholarships. He then presented **Shaun Kim** who knits caps for newborns in

his spare time, with the **Ringgenberg** Rotary Scholarship. **Shaun** will attend UCD (Go Ags!) in the fall.

**Sonia Seeman** took the stage to introduce the winners of the Rotary Club of Novato Special Awards. **Basima Hawwash** will be studying nursing at Dominican University in the fall. **Adrian Avina** will attend COM, then UC Berkeley to focus on young adolescents. **Kenny Corrales** is already an accomplished mural artist.

**Maggie Shao** wrapped up the presentations with the scholarships from the Rotary Club of Novato, 2nd place to **Analiese Engler** who will go to UCSB. The Rotary Club of Novato scholarship, 3rd Place was awarded to **Kelise Pasahii** who will study aviation at Emory-Riddle University in Prescott, AZ.

**Maggie** continued with the Rotary Club of Novato Honorary Mention scholarships to **Nithya Sunku** who will attend UCD

this fall and study math and computer science **Sahasra Kalluri** who will study economics at UCLA.

**Russ Ketron** congratulated all the students and reminded them that one of the best avenues to see the world and participate at another level is to become involved with Rotoract, Rotary International's program for 18–21 year-olds.

**President Tom** announced the winning ticket for the 25er raffle which was won by **Past President Brad Williams**. **Tom** closed out his first meeting with a ring of the bell!



## Rotary Travel Opportunity

Join Rotarians in traveling to the West Africa Project Fair in Ghana – October 2024.

Howard Tours will be traveling to Ghana for the 2024 Rotary West Africa Project Fair and Family Health Days Program. Howard Tours specializes in Rotary travel. You can find this tour, and other Rotary tour offerings, at [www.howardtours.net](http://www.howardtours.net)

This tour was specially created in partnership with the West African Rotarians and The Rotary Action Group for Family Health & AIDS Prevention (RFHA) to offer a chance to witness Rotary's impact on West Africa.

The West Africa Project Fair is an ideal venue to learn about, and find, opportunities for bona fide international service projects. The Fair is designed to develop connections between the African and North American Rotarians to generate greater support of the projects of Africa.

This week-long trip is a hands-on experience in working with the local Rotary clubs to participate in a full day at in Family Health Day activities, project visits, friendships and learning how to support the Rotary projects of West Africa.

Spend two days in the field connecting with the local communities, including: immunizations of the children of Ghana, and a second day of visits to Rotary club project sites.

Attend The West Africa Project Fair, which showcases Rotary projects from 15 West African nations. It will be a time to learn, experience and see how you and your club can be a part of "Doing Good" in Africa.

This unique journey is designed to give an extraordinary experience in travel and Rotary friendship. The size of the group is limited.



*Rotary Club of Novato Scholarship Recipient Meeting*

