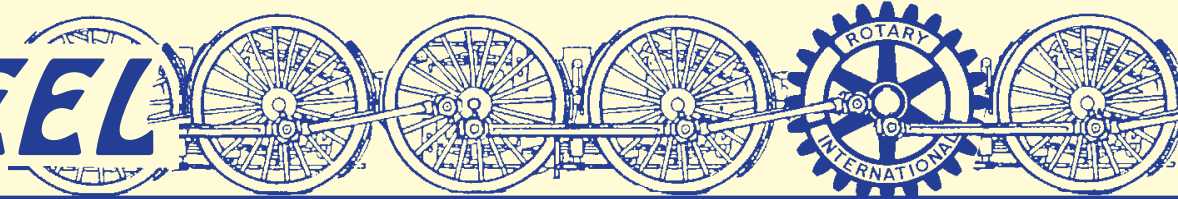


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



July 18, 2025

Vol. 77, No. 3

**Editor:
The Winner**

Call to Order

President Lynn Dawson, promptly at 12:15 pm, kicked off one of arguably the most favorite meetings of each year, and welcomed members.

Pledge & Thought

Randy Baker dutifully led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Thought for the Day. He started off by thanking the students here today for beginning what we hope is a lifelong journey of "Service Above Self". He then quoted **George Washington Carver**: "Education in the broadest of truest sense, will make an individual seek to help all people, regardless of race, regardless of color, regardless of condition." And then in his best **Yoda** imitation, he quoted "Do or do not. There is no try."

Visitors and Guests

There were lots of visitors to celebrate the success of the scholarship students! There was a whole table of **PP Peter Fulchiron's** kin to observe the awarding of the various Peter Fulchiron Memorial Scholarships. In attendance were wife **Cindy**, son **Corey**, daughter **Yvone Fulchiron Schmidt**, son-in-law **Brian Schmidt**, granddaughter **Margaux**

Schmidt and sister-in-law **Mary Teetsel**, **Cindy's** sister; **Roberta Dunham** accompanied husband **Alan**; **Gary Lam** was the guest of **President Lynn**; **Kathy Botko** was the guest of husband **Jim**; **Gary Bramon** brought **Matt Chiang**, nephew of member **Grace Wong**; past president of the Rotaract Club of UW was **Rob Oser**, son of **Peter Oser**.

President Lynn invited us to enjoy our lunch and talk amongst ourselves.

Announcements

Relay for Life

Dean Heffelfinger reminded us of the 2025 Relay for Life, which will be held this weekend, July 19, 2025, at Olive School, (620 Olive Avenue) starting at noon on. 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**. He will be collecting checks for several weeks.

Novato Speaker Series

Somebody whose name your editor did not write down, reminded us of the last speaker in this year's Novato Speakers series – retired 49er **Keena Turner**. He will be speaking on Thursday, July 24 at 7:00 pm at the Jonas Center. Get tickets at NovatoSpeakersSeries.com.

Upcoming Social Events

President Lynn announced two upcoming social events for our club. There will be Polo by Invitation on Sunday, August 10 at the Santa Rosa Wine County Polo Field. Save the date and enjoy a new experience with lunch!

There will also be an All-Novato Rotary Clubs event at **Christina Stroeh's** outdoor theater featuring **Shawna McNulty** on Friday, August 25. Mark your calendar. No lunch meeting that day.

*Editors note: On July 25, there is also **President Lynn's** welcome Reception/Italian Pool Party at **Lynn's** house (Bellini's and Pizza:)*

New Member Induction

President Lynn called sponsor **PP Gary Bramon** up to the podium for a very special event, **PP Peter Oser's** induction of a new club member, **John Christman**. **John** is a chiropractor and a former member of the Rotary Club of Mill Valley. He and his wife **Lisa** have an 18-month-old son.

Program

Scholarship Chairperson John Ringgenberg kicked off the program with heartfelt congratulations for the scholarship students and their families in attendance. The students today would be receiving the checks for their scholarships; their awards were announced at their respective high school awards nights in May and June. The club today is giving out more than \$70K in scholarship money.

John sincerely thanked all the members of his hard-working committee that had been meeting since January. The committee members are **Gary Bramon**, **Jackie Cormier**, **David Gabriel**, **Burt Hoffmann**, **Larry Mazzotta**, **Mike Morrissey**, **Ryan Pocock**, **Sonia Seeman** and special kudos to **Jim Spilman** who encouraged all the students to cash their checks promptly and save our Endowment Treasurer a passel of grief!

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?"

NEW MEMBER NOTICE

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

- **Gary Lam: Marketing Consultant, Retired**

If there are no objections by:

Thursday, July 31

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

Friday, August 1

Marisa Remak
Secretary

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

July

- | | |
|---------|--|
| July 24 | Novato Speakers Series: Keena Turner The Secret Behind the 49er Super Bowl Championship Run |
| July 25 | President Lynn's Welcome Social |

August

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Aug 1 | H2Open Doors - Robert Marshall |
| Aug 8 | San Marin High Robotics Team |
| Aug 15 | Rotary / UN - Eric Schmautz |
| Aug 19 | RCN Board Meeting - Marisa's House |
| Aug 22 | Social! - At Christina Stroeh's home with Shawna McNulty performing (4 clubs) |
| Aug 29 | 5150 DG Visit - DG Mitone Griffiths & AG Judy Johnson |

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Secretary

Chris DeGabriele
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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

He also underlined the exceptional support and cooperation of the high school college and career counselors: **Francine Cunnie**, Marin Oaks/NOVA; **Vivian Jensen**, San Marin High School and **Christina Silberman** of Novato High School.

John then introduced the first presenter **David Gabriel** who called up NHS student **Dhanya Subramanian**, an NHS grad, who received a Peter Fulchiron Community Scholarship to help her in her youth mental health studies. Next **David** introduced **Leslie Ixmata**, both an NHS and a RYLA graduate. She received the John Stuber Rotary Scholarship.

New member **Jackie Cormier** then took the podium to present **Marco Flores Sanchez**, who will be attending UC Merced in the Fall. **Marco** was a STEM ambassador and a graduate of SMHS. Next up for recognition was SMHS graduate **Lauren Fong**. She will be attending UC Santa Cruz and majoring in biotech or environmental sciences. She was awarded an Honorable Mention with a Novato Rotary Scholarship.

Jeff Slavitz was next in line for presentations. He introduced **Rivaldo Calderon Maldonado** from Marin Oaks/NOVA. **Rivaldo**, who plans to study to be an electrician's apprentice, was given a check from the Morrissey Family Scholarship. Next on **Jeff's** list was Marin Oaks/NOVA grad **Uriel Torres**, another Morrissey Family Scholarship recipient. **Uriel** also plans to attend the Electrician apprenticeship program at College of Marin.

Chair Ringgenberg retook the mic to call up **Trevor Krejdovsky**, who balanced multiple challenges while managing to graduate from SMHS. He will be attending Washington University in St. Louis with the help of a Novato Rotary Scholarship. **Ivy Hanson**, a NHS grad and the captain of the Girls' Water Polo team, was announced as the John Ringgenberg 2025 Rotary Scholarship recipient. She will attend WSU and focus on Sports Management.

Committee member **Larry Mazzotta** was next at the podium and presented Marin Oaks/NOVA grad **Celeste Ramos Lopez** with both a Peter Fulchiron Community Scholarship and a Novato Rotary

Club Special Recognition Scholarship. **Celeste** worked 30-40 hours per week while finishing up her high school career. She plans to study to be a certified nursing assistant. Another hard worker, **Melany Perez Lopez**, was introduced by **Larry**. **Melany** plans to attend College of Marin with a focus on public service aiming for a possible career in the military or the Novato Police Department. She was given a Morrissey Family Scholarship. A Novato Rotary Club Scholarship, both Honorable Mention and Special Recognition was presented by **Larry** to **Erin Lara Catzin**. She will be attending College of Marin in the fall with an eye toward design and construction.

Maggie Shao was the next presenter. **Maggie** introduced us to **Disha Divakar**, an SMHS graduate and member of the Marin County Youth Commission, as well as an intern at the Buck Institute. This busy young woman will be attending UCLA in the fall and plans to study medicine. She was awarded the \$16K Kenneth A Berg Scholarship which will provide her with a \$4k check each year. Another very busy young woman, **Ava DeRuvo**, was called up by **Maggie**. This San Marin grad will be attending UCD (Go Ags!) this Fall to study to be a family therapist. She was ASB President as well as played both soccer and lacrosse. **Ryan Wu** was next on **Maggie's** list. A SMHS grad, **Ryan** was awarded the 1st place Novato Rotary Club Scholarship. He will become a UCLA Bruin this fall. Roller-skater and SMHS grad **Tejasree Kancharla**, will also attend UCLA this fall with the help of Honorable Mention Novato Rotary Club Scholarship.

Former TLHS teacher **Randy Baker** introduced a most accomplished young woman, **Joy Chor**. In addition to being fluent in Cantonese, she is the principal cellist in the Marin Symphony Orchestra and also plays the electric bass. She will be attending Williams College in Massachusetts with the aid of a Novato Rotary Club Scholarship. Another linguist was introduced by **Randy**, **Lorena Alessandra Salvado**. She speaks four languages and was awarded the Bill & Adele Jonas four-year Memorial Scholarship. She also

plans to Attend UCLA. Last on **Randy's** list, but no less accomplished was **Eshal Zubair**, a SMHS graduate who plans to attend Dominican University this fall and study biotech. **Eshal** filled his time in high school as a tutor, a STEM ambassador and a member of the Anti-Racist Student Union. For this service, **Eshal** was awarded a Bill & Adele Jonas four-year Memorial Scholarship.

Other awardees who were unable to attend are, from Marin Oaks/NOVA: **Ellie Spelman** and **Gabrielle Spelman**; from Novato High School: **Jacob Egan**, **Sofia Gil Mbungua**, **Isa Rudman**, **Brianna Rykov**, **Tyler Smith** and **Bertha Velazquez**; and from San Marin High School: **Sophia Dempsey**, and **Kieran Sanctuary**.

Chairman Riggenberg thanked the presenters for a job well done and once again saluted the recipients of the 2025 scholarships.

Raffle

The 25er went appropriately to Scholarship Committee member **DeLyn Kies**. Don't spend it all in one place!

The Close

Promptly at 1:30 pm, before adjourning the meeting, **President Lynn** thanked today's greeters **Randy Baker** and **Nohemi Beisseman-Mason**

Welcome Reception Social

Italian
Pool Party

at President Lynn's Home
Friday Evening, July 25th
Bellini's & Pizza!

New Member Induction



Past President Peter Oser inducts our newest member, John Christman.



Scholarship Committee Chair John Ringgenberg was the M.C..



David Gabriel, one of the greeters for the meeting.



The Scholarship Awards are one of the most enjoyable meetings of the year. It was well attended as usual.

2025 Scholarship Awards



President Lynn congratulates the Scholarship recipients and thanks Scholarship Committee Chair, John Ringgenberg and the Scholarship Committee members for their efforts interviewing and selecting the scholarship recipients.