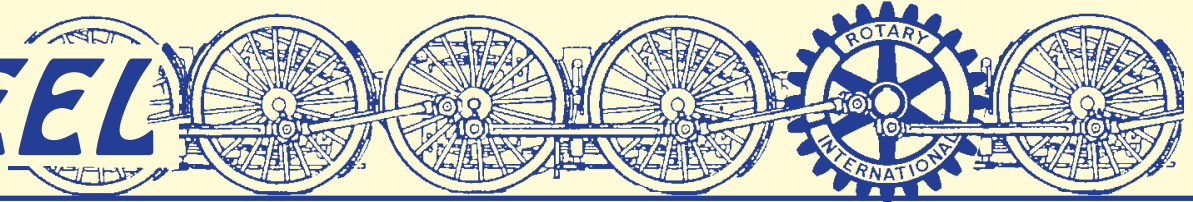


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



August 15, 2025
Vol. 77, No. 7
Editor:
Bud Light (Dean H)

Call to Order

Prez Lynn got our attention by ringing da bell.

Pledge

Keith Axtell led us in the pledge.

Thought for the Day

Holly Axtell provided us with a thought for the day. One of the things she loves about Rotary is traveling all over the globe. "Join Rotary and see the world". She told all the new members to, "Take advantage of Rotary's travel opportunities: Rotary International Conventions, Presidential Conferences, Project International Fairs, Project trips to Guatemala, Nepal, Egypt. Be open to these adventure opportunities."

Visiting Rotarians

From the San Rafael Club came **Matt Taddich**. Also, from San Rafael Harbor fame one of our speakers, **Melissa Prandi**. Also, our other speaker, **Sylvia Barry** from Novato Sunrise.

Guests of Rotarians

Russ Ketron brought his bride, **Kathy**; who beat your arm **Kathy**? **Russ**? **Alan Dunham** brought his U.C. Berkeley girlfriend **Roberta**. **Marty Wickenheiser** intro'd **Matt Taddei**. **Jackie Lee** brought husband, **Randall**. While **Jim Botko**

brought **Kathy Botko**. **Edna Scheller** came with her granddaughter **Shelayna Levo**. **Leslie Prado** came with **Rene Prado**. **Alana** and **Matt Chiang** were **Grace Wong's** guests.

Red to Blue

Jackie Lee got her blue badge today by meeting all the requirements and running three marathons (not really).

Announcements

Community Care

Don Violin is not doing very well. He certainly would appreciate your cards. As we told you before, **Bruce Palmer** would also appreciate our cards.

Bye Bye Bobby

P.P. Robert Marshall announced to the Club that he and **Camille** are moving to Whidbey Island in Washington State! **Robert** plans on maintaining his membership in our Club and continue with the H2Open Doors water project. We'll sorely miss him.

Happy Time

There is no Rotary meeting on Friday, August 22, it is Happy Hour Day. From 5pm-7pm, we are gathering at **Christina Stroeh's** house with the other three Rotary Clubs to bring our own picnics and listen to a singer from Beach Blanket Babylon perform in **Christina's** amphitheater.

Yippee!

Let's celebrate; **Peter Oser** has been in Rotary 40 years. He was happy to pay a fine.

Let's Relax

Today is National Relaxation Day. **Maggie Shao** led us in a series of slow motion exercises. Half of us were ready to take a nap.

Featured Rotarian

Each weekly meeting, **Prez Lynn** is asking a "New" Rotarian or an "Old" Rotarian to go to the mike up front and tell us about themselves. Today we heard from **Pat Chiota**, who just joined our Club on May 30, 2025. **Pat** and her husband, **Rick Payne**, live in Singapore eight months a year and in Larkspur four months. They've lived in Singapore for the last 27 years and Larkspur for 10 years. **Pat** states that Rotary's actions and goals align perfectly with her and **Rick's** goals of living their double life in Singapore and Larkspur. In 2006 a terrible tragedy struck them when their 21 year old daughter was fatally struck by a truck in Santa Barbara while on her bike training for a Triathlon. This changed their life focus to honor their daughter **Kendra's** legacy.

Pat and **Rick's** lives, along with the cherished life of **Kendra** are now changed to lives of service, developing friendships and strong community connections in both worlds of Singapore and Marin. They're living joyfully and meaningfully with gratitude. Their priority is education and development of under-resourced girls here and in the Asia Pacific region. Rotary aligns perfectly, with lots of fun and fellowship. In December, **Pat** and **Rick** are in India at the Tribal Girls School and then to Eastern India at Pace Learning Center for Girls.

***Pat and Rick**, Rotary thanks you and please feel very welcome.*

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



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Rotary



Districts 9101, 9103, 9104,
9111, 9112, 9126, 9127,
9141, 9142

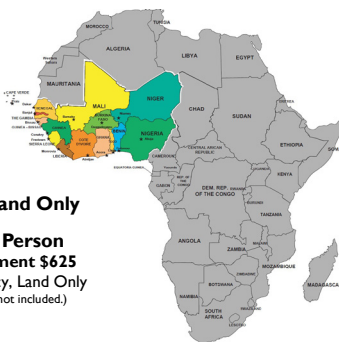
November 4-13, 2025

Lomé, Togo

Includes polio
immunization
activities!

8 Days • Land Only

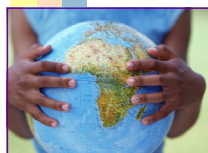
\$1,899 Per Person
Single Supplement \$625
Double Occupancy, Land Only
(Round trip airfare not included.)



This week-long trip is a hands-on experience in working with the local Rotary clubs to participate in community service project, project site visits, friendships and learning how to support the Rotary projects of West Africa.

We spend two days in the field connecting with the local communities.

We 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 Unite for the Good of Africa.



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Upcoming Programs & Events

August

- 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

September

- Sept. 5 **Pickle Ball** - Krishna Raichura
- Sept. 12 **Miwok Park** - Picnic Meeting
- Sept. 19 **Intelligent Justice** - Rick Grossman
- Sept. 26 **TBD**

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Marisa Remak
Secretary

Chris DeGabriele
Treasurer

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Gloria Dunn-Violin & Randy Baker
Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)

Holly Axtell
International Service

Jorg Puhr-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

Speaker

Melissa Prandi and **Sylvia Barry** were our guest speakers today. Along with **Eric Schmutz**, who was here via zoom. They talked about rotary's relationship to the United Nations (U.N.). Before the U.N., in 1940, Rotary organized a post war peace conference in London.

When the United Nations was formed in 1945, there were 49 Rotarians involved in the organization. There are still many Rotarians involved in the U.N. and celebrating the 80th Anniversary. **Eric Schmutz** couldn't be here today. He is in Split, Croatia. (I'd rather be in Split, also.) Via zoom, **Eric** told us there are 23 Rotarians who sit on U.N. Councils and are very active! Then **Eric** reminded us the next R.I. Convention will be in Taiwan, June 13-17, 2026.

Other Announcements

The National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) is holding a walk on October 4, see **Jeff Slavitz** for details. Ignacio Rotary is holding its BBQ, Brews and Comedy on September 20, right here at the Jonas Center.

Raffle

Jackie Cormier took home the 25 bucks.

NEW MEMBER NOTICE

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

- **Matt Chiang: Hospitality Manager**

If there are no objections by:

Thursday, August 28

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

Friday, August 29

Marisa Remak
Secretary



On Saturday, August 23rd, the Rotary Clubs in Novato will be jointly hosting a food packaging event for the "Rise Against Hunger" relief organization. The event will take place from 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM at the Druid's Hall (801 Grant Avenue, Novato) and we need additional volunteers for this event.

What better way to spend a couple hours on your Saturday morning?! So please consider signing up for this event. The link for volunteer sign-ups is <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/Rotary8/23/25> . See you there!

Chris Siefkas
415-297-9007

Celebration of Life

Gregory Molloy

August 24, 1948 - June 13, 2025

Greg (husband of RCN member Marsha Molloy) was a Past District 5150 Governor and member of the Terra Linda Rotary Club.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Marin Yacht Club
24 Summit Ave, San Rafael
August 24, 2025 at 3:00PM

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 24, 2025

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**A Benefit Supporting Our Mission to New Delhi, India
Our Twentieth-First 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**



Holly Axtell gave the "Thought for the Day"



P.P. Robert Marshall is moving to Washington State.



Maggie Shao (l) led the group in relaxation exercises, in honor of National Relaxation Day.



President Lynn made sure Chris DeGabriele (above) and Peter Pelavin (below) had a "fine time".



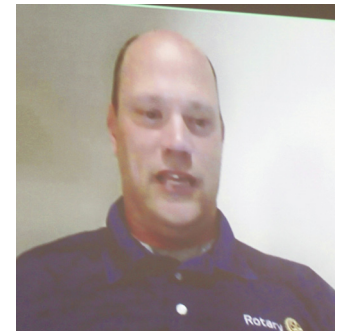
Jackie Lee hands her Red Badge to President Lynn, swapping for a Blue Badge.



Sylvia Barry was one of three speakers.



Melissa Prandi (looking at Eric Schmautz on screen) was also a speaker.



Eric Schmautz spoke via zoom from Split, Croatia.



New member Pat Chiota was the Featured Rotarian.



President Lynn recognized P.P. Peter Oser for being a Rotarian for the past 40 years. Peter happily paid his fine.



Jeff Slavitz announced the upcoming NAMI Walk.