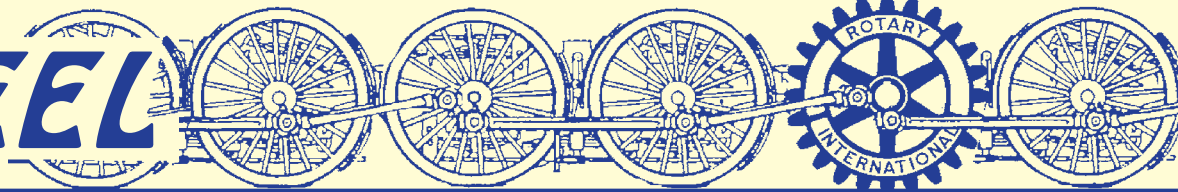


The BIG WHEEL

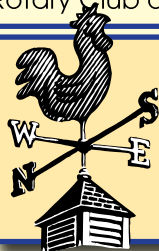


Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



August 5, 2022
Vol. 74, No. 5
Editor:
Maggie Shao

In the Beginning...

Chuck Hildebrand had our Rotary members join him for the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Peian gave us some thoughts to ponder. First thought: A Rotarian saw a problem and cried out, "Why doesn't someone do something about this?" And then I realized -- "I am someone." Second thought from **Albert Einstein**: "Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere."

Guests and Visitors

Guests: **Katie Chase** brought her two sons, **Parker** and **Owen**; **Lynn Dawson** introduced **Ellen Henderson**, a friend and neighbor of our president; **Russ Ketron** introduced his wife **Kathy**; **Bill McDill** introduced his favorite wife **Vicki**; **Chris DeGabriele** introduced **Anna George**, a retired pediatric nurse and potential Club member to our meeting; **Jorg Puhr-Westerheide** introduced his wife **Linda**, and two granddaughters from afar, **Rene** from Austria, **Juliette** from Germany.

Visitors: **Al Shirley** from the Rotary Club of Marin Evening visited us today.

Sunshine Report

Marisa Remak is home resting from COVID infection. A little challenging for her taking care of the kids as **Mike**, her husband is traveling, so send her your best.

Editor's Note: Due to supply chain issues, The Big Wheel will be printed on ivory paper until yellow is available.

Announcements

Climate Action Team Service Project

Jim Spilman asking for help for the Climate Action Team project that involves installing three sections of split rail fence adjacent to the bridge entering the Novato Fair (Safeway) Shopping Center on Saturday, August 13, 2022 from 9am to 1pm.

Relay for Life

We need your help at the Relay for Life. **Craig Anderson** invited all members to join him at Hamilton School, 5530 Nave Drive, for the Relay for Life American Cancer Society Fundraiser on August 6 -7. **Craig** shared that this past week he lost two friends to cancer, especially sad for him was a childhood best friend that he has continued to see about once a year in the last 20 years. Help raise money and awareness for cancer.

Novato Advance Rotary Supplement

Penny Hansen announced it's that time of the year for committee chairs and project leaders to send in the accomplishments for this last year for the Annual Novato Advance newspaper Rotary supplement. **Penny** asked very nicely to please write out everything, no abbreviations or acronyms in your updates, so she doesn't have to guess what you are writing about. The Novato Advance has been a supporter of Rotary Club of Novato.

Upcoming Events

Peian Harness announced upcoming events

- August 6 at 12:15pm - Visit RYLA BBQ lunch in Scotts Valley, contact and RSVP to kvbaltasar@gmail.com
- August 27 - Save the date District 5150 First Social

Mahjong and Game night, this social is open to all Rotarians and potential Rotarians: it's a great opportunity for fellowship, friendship and to kick back. More details to come. RSVP to **Ron Gin**

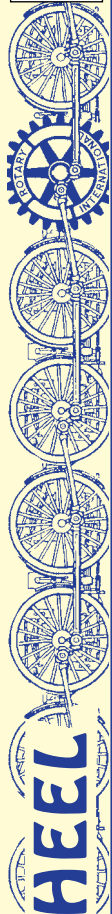
- August 28 at 9am - 2pm. Rotaplast Fundraising Bocce Ball Tournament. \$45 and contact **Peter Lagarias** (415) 460-0188. Rotaplast International's mission of providing reconstructive surgeries for cleft lips/palates for children worldwide. Saving Smiles, Changing Lives.

The Speaker

Starting off we had a little Baklava auction as an impromptu fundraiser. **Maggie Shao** had two trays of Baklava to auction off. Thanks to **Jim Spilman** for helping with the auction and prompting the bidding. Thanks to **Peian Harness** and **Moses Jacob** for the winning bids (hope they enjoy the baklava) with proceeds going to our presenter's organization SaveNature.org.

Maggie introduced our speaker, **Norm Gershenz** who is the CEO and co-founder of SaveNature.org and Director of the Insect Discovery Lab. The Organization's mission is both education and conservation, preserving thousands of acres of rain forest, coral reefs, and desert habitat around the world. He created and developed the first Adopt-An-Acre program in the US. **Norm** was affiliated for 18 years with the San Francisco Zoo. He has handled boas and bobcats, elephants and pandas, snow leopards and koalas. Realizing that endangered animal species are only a signal of endangered habitats and ecosystems. SaveNature.org has received the World Wildlife Fund's Conservation and The Nature Conservancy's Outstanding Contribution to Conservancy Awards. **Norm** is also a

Continued on page 3



P.O. Box 657
Novato, CA 94948

"Imagine Rotary"

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?"

Upcoming Rotary Club Meetings

Bill & Adele Jonas Center

August 12
NO MEETING

August 19

Jack Gedney

Wild Birds Unlimited

Jack Gedney will be presenting on Notable Novato Birds. His column On the Wing runs every other Monday in the Marin IJ. He is a co-owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Vintage Oaks Center, Novato and author of the book "The Private Lives of Public Birds."



Where to Make Up

Contact the Club you wish to attend for dates, time and virtual meeting code. The District website lists the Clubs and websites for contact info at:
Rotary5150.org/clubs/rotary-club-directory/

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Upcoming Programs

August 2022

- Aug. 12 **NO MEETING**
- Aug. 19 **Jack Gedney** from Wild Birds Unlimited: Natural History of Notable Novato Backyard Birds
- Aug. 26 **Dora Zuñiga** - Donor Director from Project Amigo: Project Amigo Yesterday and Today

September 2022

- Sept. 2 **NO MEETING**
- Sept. 9 **Jonas Anniversary** (9/9 TGIF at Dunham's)
- Sept. 16 **Jim Wilder**
- Sept. 23 **NO MEETING**
- Sept. 30 **Mark Chhabria** from Marin County Sustainability Team: Local Resources for Home Energy Efficiency & Electrification

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO

2022/2023 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Peian Harness
President

Phil Dougherty
Vice President

Tom Rickey
Phil Dougherty
Co-Secretaries

Reggie Winner
Treasurer

Jennifer E. Jones
R.I. President

Gary Chow
District Governor

Terri Carrillo
Assistant District Governor

DIRECTORS

Fred Anderson
Club Administration

Marisa Remak
Public Image

Jim Spilman
Community Service

Gloria Dunn-Violin
Environmental Sustainability (NR-CAT)

Holly Axtell
International Service

Jorg Pühr-Westerheide
The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

Lynn Dawson
Youth Service

Chris DeGabriele/Larry Harrison
Membership

Sonia Seeman/Christina Stroeh
Jonas Center Liasons

Dean Heffelfinger
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Rob Haff
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Christina Stroeh
Past President

gourmet insect chef, expert birder, and can spot a beetle while driving down the road at 50mph.

The presentation started with a short PowerPoint presentation highlighting the medicines and incredible diversity and beauty on this planet earth, and educating our children through Youth Exploring Nature and the Insect Discovery Lab which engages and educates our youth in the wonders of nature. The Insect Discovery Lab annually holds 800 programs and reaches 38,000 students in the Bay Area. Youth Exploring Nature is a newer program to address Environmental Literacy, Education Equity, and Hands On reaching out to under-served students.

Norm demonstrated the impact of hands-on learning by introducing living arthropods including a lubber grasshopper that displays warning colors in orange and red to potential predators that indicate that they don't taste good and perhaps are toxic if you eat them.

Jordan Manchester, Education Specialist and **Maggie Shao** assisted by presenting some of the amazing arthropods to the tables so folks could pet or hold a grasshopper, millipede, or hissing cockroach. **Norm** then brought out a Malaysian phasmid (stick insect) that measured a good 6 to 8 inches long with the most curious face, one that inspired **George Lucas** as a model for aliens in his films. This insect has a couple of ingenious ways of avoiding predation, one is being still and looking like a leaf or twig, another behavior of curling up its abdomen and looking like a scorpion. We were taken to the continent of Africa, where the giant African millipede (also 6 to 8 inches long) is found. This vegetarian insect that eats and scavenges along the ground and soil curls up into a ball when threatened, and you can't make heads or tails of where the millipede starts. The feel of the many legs, 4 legs per segment, and with 50 or more segments, the audience experienced the feeling of 200 plus tiny legs undulating across your palms. **Katie Chase** was brave and showed her sons **Owen** and **Parker** how to pet or hold some of these amazing creatures. The island of Madagascar, maybe better known for the animated movie, is home to our last visitor, the hissing cockroach. The cockroach 'hisses' when threatened by pushing air through the spiracles (breathing tubes along the side of

the body) which sounds like a snake and can warn predators to back off. Folks in the audience provided lots of ohhs and ahhs and folks pulling out their phones snapping headshots of our arthropod guests today.

This program demonstrated today is available for birthday parties, classroom visits and through the Youth Exploring Nature program, SaveNature.org hopes to come back to Novato and visit some of the elementary schools. Also, you can Adopt-An-Acre to help preserve and conserve our disappearing natural ecosystems. Check out their website at SaveNature.org.

The Winner and the End...

This week's raffle winner was **Peter Oser**.

NO MEETING AUGUST 12

Due to scheduling conflict, our presenter for August 12, **Lori Frugoli** will not be able to present but will present later this year. There will be no meeting on August 12.

August 19 Meeting

Our speaker for August 19 is **Jack Gedney**. He will be presenting on "Notable Novato Birds." His column "On the Wing" runs every other Monday in the Marin IJ. He is a co-owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Vintage Oaks Center, Novato and author of the book "The Private Lives of Public Birds"

Big Wheel Editors
NEEDED
 Contact **Bill Vespa**
 Support the most interesting
 Rotary Club ever!
 Help share the meeting with family,
 friends and members unable to attend.

SAVE THE DATE!



Come learn Chinese Mahjong & Texas Hold'em

Saturday Aug 27, 4:00pm - ?

Rotary Terrace
310 Miller Ave., South San Francisco

This is the "FIRST Non-Rotary District Rotary Event" ... sort of (thank you DG Gary for the space and support)

Don't play?

Come and enjoy the fellowship and have some food.

COST?

NO ROTARY COST • NO DONATIONS,
NO ROTARY PLEDGING • IT'S FREE!
(Well, unless you want to play for money???)

BYOB and POT LUCK

Bring your card tables, Mahjong tiles, poker chips and let's shuffle!

OPEN TO ALL ROTARIANS!

(bring a potential member!)

Come and have some fun!

We will observe COVID protocols - please bring a mask, unless eating or making a bet!



RSVP to Ron Gin: rongin1@gmail.com

Grass Roots Social Team
RI Convention '23 Promotion Team
Zone New Club Development Task Force 2021-2023
District Finance Chair, 2019-2023
Past District Governor, 2017-2018
Rotary Club of San Francisco Chinatown



Madam President Peian guides us into a new year of promise with love and business precision.



Diana Tomasini holding a giant millipede.



Maggie Shao, a world traveler handles bugs with gentle hands for Katie Chase and sons.



Past President Chris DeGabriele explains to member prospect - we do not usually serve bugs for dessert.



Left to right: Jorg's wife Linda; granddaughters Rene Falk, 13, from Vienna, Austria and Juliette Raganath, 15, from Weinheim, Germany, and Grandpa Past President Jorg Puhr-Westerheide.



The Puhr-Westerheide family viewing nature up close.



Speaker Norm Gershenz with a bug friend.



George Lucas was inspired by this bug head.