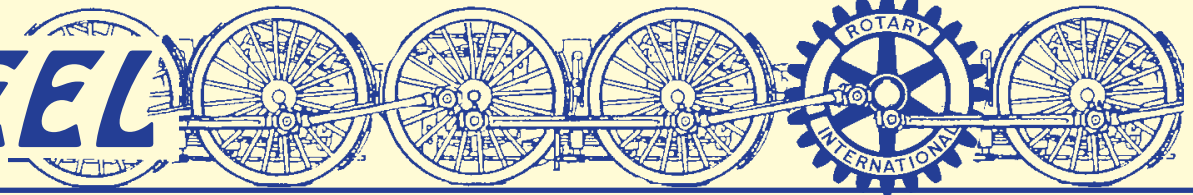


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



September 12, 2025
Vol. 77, No. 11
Editor:
Maggie Shao

Kathy Ketron, Larry and Chris Harrison, Alan & Robert Dunham, Mike Morrissey introduced **Evan Blacksea**. **Prez Lynn** introduced spouse **Carl** as well as soon to be inducted new members **Laura Joss**, and **Gary Lam**. **Edna Scheller** and **Vicki McDill** (where was **Bill**?) also joined us.

Announcements

No updates other than enjoy the picnic with your fellow Rotarians and guests.

In the Beginning

A beautiful day at Miwok Park for our picnic. **Prez Lynn** opened picnic and introduced **Penny Hansen** to lead the pledge as well as in song "God Bless America". **Russ Ketron** noted it's been 24 years since our club sang that song immediately after the 9/11 tragedy. **Prez Lynn** also wanted to thank and acknowledge everyone who helped set up picnic: **John Cutruffelli** and his stepson **Johnny** for grilling, **Marsha Molloy** for setup the potluck (utensils, plates, arranging dishes), **Mark Bosch** bringing coolers with beverages, **Phil Dougherty** for setting up games (cornhole, ladder toss) and to everyone for bringing side dishes, desserts to share. **Christopher Mychajluk** gave us the thoughts for the day from Paul Harris' last message from 1947 "We ceased to be content with isolationism and began Community Service, built upon the rock of fellowship and goodwill and that foundation and goodwill has never been shaken" another favorite quote "He who has a thousand friends, has not a friend to spare".

Visitors & Guests

From Rotary Club of Mission San Rafael, **Melissa Prandi** joined the picnic introducing **Curtis Aikens** who is discovering Rotary and possibly joining? **Dean Heffelfinger** introduced his granddaughter **Hannah** who has applied to join our club. **Marty Wickenheiser** introduced **Cleo Tocalino**, who with sisters' hosted in the past RCN Tocalino BBQ. Many Rotary member spouses joined us at the picnic; **Jorg & Linda Puhr-Westerheide**, **Russ &**

Rotary Photo Album

Annual Miwok Park Picnic 2025

Photos by Mark Bosch, Joy Fillman, Penny Hansen and Maggie Shao



Continued on page 3

NEW MEMBER NOTICE

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

- **Laura Joss: Project Specialist**
- **Evan Blacksea: Social Media - Digital Editing**
- **Marie Rios: Event Strategist, Producer & Speaker**
- **Mary Jane Waxler: Retired**
- **Hannah Simon: Marketing Executive**

If there are no objections by:

Thursday, October 2

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

Friday, October 3

Marisa Remak
Secretary

Rotary
Club of Novato



**YES, BIG WHEEL EDITORS
ARE STILL
NEEDED**

*Support the most interesting
Rotary Club ever!*

*Help share our meetings
with family, friends
and members unable to attend.*

*All you need to do is supply typed
notes of the meeting. NO Formatting!*

**Contact Bill Vespa at
zip@sonic.net**

Mike Robbins

Embracing Change: Thriving Through Uncertainty

Thurs., October 23, 2025

7 pm to 8:30 pm

Join Mike Robbins, sought after keynote speaker and bestselling author, for a thoughtful, engaging, and interactive talk on how to navigate change and achieve deeper trust, better collaboration, and greater results.

With decades of experience from pro baseball to Silicon Valley, and an expert in teamwork, leadership, and emotional intelligence, Mike's clients include Google, Microsoft, Genentech, eBay, the NBA, Charles Schwab, Wells Fargo, GAP, and the San Francisco Giants

Tickets: Adults \$30 • Students \$15
www.novatospeakerseries.com



Upcoming Programs & Events

September

- Sept. 19 **Intelligent Justice** - Rick Grossman
Sept. 26 **TGIF Social** - At Home Care Givers

October

- Oct. 3 **Community Service Report**- Jim & Marcus
Oct. 10 **Homeward Bound** - Off-Site Meeting
Oct. 17 **World Photography** - Jim Codington
Oct. 23 **Novato Speaker Series** - Mike Robbins
Oct. 24 **Non-Spaghetti Feed**- at the McDill's Home
Oct. 31 **No Meeting**

November

- Nov. 7 **Guide Dogs for the Blind** -

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Limited Sponsor Opportunity!

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Limit of two sponsors!

Size: 1/4 column

Frequency of publication: 3x or 4x per month

Distribution: Over 130 like minded recipients

Open Rate: 68%

Cost \$600 per year, \$15 per issue (Prev. 3yr avg.)

Contact Bill Vespa: zip@sonic.net

Rotary Photo Album



Starting at 10:30 Lynn, Al and I were slicing and dicing bags of veggies as Chef John C. was temporarily making an emergency supply run. Lynn sliced her finger, after bandaging finger, Al took control of tomatoes while Lynn helped Marsha and I unroll and tape the wind blown table cloths. I borrowed John's son's shovel to add additional coals in the BBQ pit. With much relief Chef John returned with more supplies and took control of the improvised help.

Soon others arrived and the serving tables filled with desserts and salads of every description.

A game area was set and enormous coolers with beverage and ice were brought in by hand from the parking lot because the Private use driveway near picnic tables was barred. Everyone pitched in.

We said the Pledge and sang "God Bless America" and for a few hours the weight of the world was absorbed in friendships.

Penny



