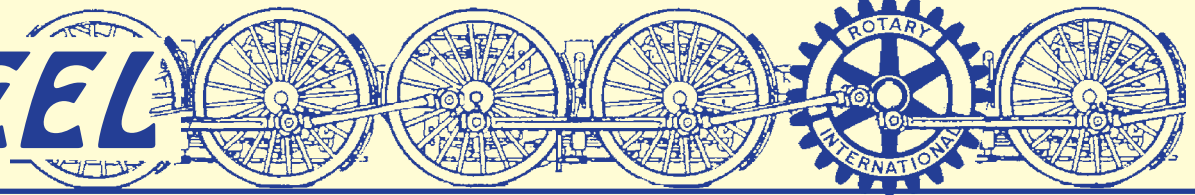


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



September 15, 2023
Vol. 75, No. 11
Editor:
Peian Harness

In the Beginning...

President Phil rang the bell to start the meeting followed by **Penny** who led the Pledge.

The “Thought for the Day” was given by **Peter Oser**:
“I’ve missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I’ve been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.” – **Michael Jordan**.

Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarians: **Bill Walker** from Novato Sunrise; and **Larry Levy** from Ignacio Club.

Visiting guests: **Sonia** introduced **Sandra Marker**; **Peter Oser** introduced **Jackson Coster**; **Tommy Lee** introduced his son **Ryan Lee** & caregiver **Jessica**; **Roberta Dunham** was with **Alan**; **Toni Bramon** showed up wearing a sling and is recovering well from a surgery; **Lynn Dawson** introduced **Sasha D’Amico** from the Novato Police Department; and **Russ** introduced **PP Anne Wade**.

Announcements

Dine & Donate

Prez Phil mentioned a Novato “Dine and Donate” program for community members to enjoy your meal at few selected local restaurants, with a percentage of proceeds going to Rotary District 5000 for the “Maui Fire Relief Fund” and our Club will match up to \$1,000. The flyer with details was emailed to Club members. Please help to spread the word and remember to mention to the restaurants of this program when you dine in.

Burgers, Brews & Comedy

Larry Levy invited everyone to come to his Club’s annual fund raising event – Burgers, Brews & Comedy on September 23 at the Jonas Center. Your admission ticket includes dinner and entertainment from four top comedians.

Brick Laying Project

Jim Spilman recognized **Penny** for contributing an article and photos to the Marin IJ for the Club’s brick laying project at the Novato City Hall.

Community Service Meeting

Jim also reminded us the next Community Service Committee Meeting is on coming Wednesday at Round Table Pizza (5pm for social, 5:30 meeting starts).

Climate Action Team

Ron Harness took the stage and did a presentation of projects that the Climate Action Team are involved in. The long list of projects include:

- North Bay Childrens Center’s new facility, landscaping and gardening.
- Novato School video contest (ex. No littering).
- Zero Waste Project at Rancho elementary school.
- Pacheco Valley Planetary and Butterfly Rehab.
- Tree planting at IVC & Hamilton.
- Battery recycling at Vintage Oaks Shopping Center & San Rafael Civic Center.

The CAT Committee is also involved in several international projects:

- Nile River cleanup using Rotary Global Grant Funding with 200 tons of waste removed!
- Bali Waste Management Training Center for beach cleanup and education of young people.

The Committee Chair is **Gloria Dunn-Violin**. Please reach out to her if you would like to be on that committee to make our world a better place!

District Coastal Cleanup Day

Prez Phil reminded us about the District Coastal Cleanup Day on September 23 from 9AM to noon. He encouraged all Club

members to come out and help to clean up our town!

Did You Know?

Prez Phil then recognized **Al Angulo**. **Phil** stated 3 facts about **Al** with only one being true. **Al** performed the urology analysis of our 1st astronaut! **Gloria** won the quiz and brought home the prize!

Program

Lynn Dawson went on the stage to introduce our speaker. **Lynn** first emphasized the importance of youth certification for Rotarians so we can conduct any youth program. Also, due to COVID, we have not done our Job Shadowing Project for a long time; instead, there is a similar project called “Magnolia Project” and our speaker today is **Gianna Biaggi**.

Gianna founded Magnolia Project through a High Tech High - New School Creation Fellowship in 2021. She is a social entrepreneur, former teacher and administrator.

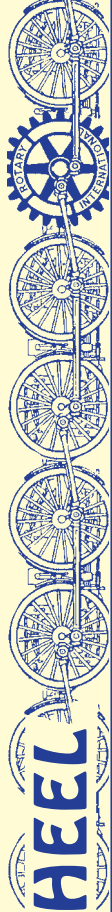
She has a B.A. from Kenyon College, an M.Ed. from the High Tech High Graduate School of Education, and a Career Technical Education credential in Education, Child Development and Family Services.

Gianna mentioned there are 30% of students absent since COVID in Sonoma County and around 16% in Marin county. Magnolia Project provides mentoring to students in need. They use the model 1. Pre-work still building 2. Off campus experience mentor (intern/externship) 3. Pathway such as externship with 3-5 days job shadow or internship with 1-3 weeks work experience.

This program serves 215 students from five districts and three counties. Includes 17 industries and more than 180 businesses partners. Magnolia program is going to host three events for 55 12th grade students in Oct. and Nov. this year.

Gianna invites Rotarians to help to spread the word. Their annual budget is \$50k and 15k are from Novato Unified District. So, donations are welcomed.

They are looking for mentors and more business partners!



P.O. Box 657
Novato, CA 94948

"Create Hope in the World"

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?"



featuring Dr. Michael Blodgett, Ph.D.

The Bill and Adele Jonas Center
September 28 • 7 pm to 8:30 pm

Michael Blodgett grew up in Los Angeles and after graduating High School, enlisted in the Army as an Intelligence Analyst. He served with the 9th Infantry Division and Special Operations Command. He received his BA in Political Science from UCLA and went to graduate school at UCSB where he received his Ph.D. in History. He taught history at CSUCI until 2020, when he accepted his current job with the Air Force as an historian for the 349th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base.

Introduced to Communism early—his grandfather, interestingly enough, was a Communist. He studied Communism and American diplomatic and military history with a focus on the Cold War and taught these subjects at CSUCI. He has a keen interest in global radicalism and terrorism, and had developed classes on these subjects for CSUCI. In addition to his work with the Air Force, he independently lectures on subjects including American international relations

Tickets: Adults \$25 • Students \$10

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

September 2023

- Sept. 15 **Gia Biaggi:** The Magnolia Project
 Sept. 22 **Michael Dybeck, Executive Director of the Marin Council of Boy Scouts:** Talk about the Girl and Boy Scouts - **OFF-SITE MEETING** at Christina Stroeh's Home)
 Sept. 29 No Meeting (TGIF at the Dunham's)

October 2023

- Oct. 6 **Coy Smith, CEO of the Novato Chamber of Commerce** will talk about their activities in the Community
 Oct. 13 **Mike Robbins, Leadership Speaker.** Mike is an influential and outspoken expert on the future of leadership.

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2023/2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Jim White
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Membership

Sonia Seeman
Jonas Center Liaison

Peter Oser
President, Nova-Ro Corp.

Rob Haff
Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment

Peian Harness
Past President

Please contact **Gianna** if you are interested (gia@magnolia-project.org).

After Q&A, **Prez Phil** thanked **Gianna** for her wonderful presentation.

Also, **Phil** reminded us next week's club meeting will be held at **Christina Stroeh's** in her backyard! So don't come to Jonas Center or you will miss all the fun.

The Winner

Finally, the raffle winner was **Tommy Lee's** son – **Ryan Lee**.



**Rotary District 5150
Marin Stigma Busters**

October 7, 2023

@ McInnis Park
San Rafael, CA



Join us! Walk or donate!

Team page: namiwalks.org/team/59711
Team Captain: [Jeff Slavitz](#), Rotary Club of Novato





#Together4MH

Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



www.empathyestateplanning.com

Rotary Photo Album



Ron Harness gives global summary of Rotary environmental projects.



Tommy Lee with son Ryan and helper Jessica.



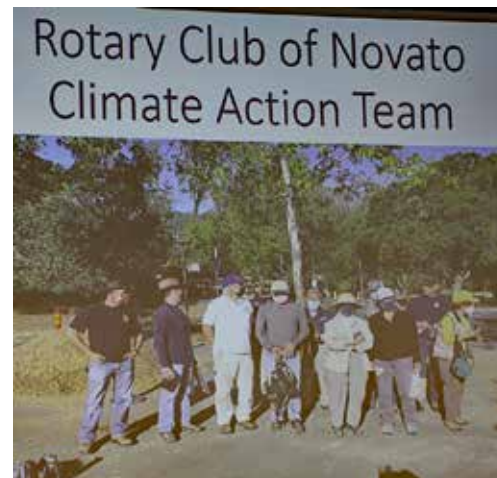
Sonia introduces work partner Sandra Marker from Novato City Administration past.



Lynn Dawson introduces Sasha D'Amico, Captain of NPD.



Recycle of trash from river in Bosnia Herzegovina.



RCN Climate Action Team.



Gianna Biaggi, founder of Magnolia Project that partners with local schools to connect students with the real world.



Rotary Community Service Chairman Jim Spilman and Past President Ron Harness at the saw wheel.



Organizer of the City Hall Patio Brick Project Elayne Miller, former three times Mayor Jeanne MacLeamy, and Rotarian help lay bricks.



Rene Prado and Ron Harness.

Novato City Legacy Expands Brick by Brick

Photo and Story by Penny Hansen

Elayne Miller organized the City Hall Patio personalized Brick Project in 2008 during the major renovation of City Hall and adjoining administrative complex.

\$100 per brick set in place by volunteers from primarily Rotary Club of Novato members and any one else willing to bend on their knees for exacting dusty work supervised by **Miller** and the other experienced troopers. The bricks show names and dates and brief messages.

Novato third grade students study Novato History and take a field trip to City Hall and brick Patio. The Bricks have been organized beginning with Administrators, Citizens of the Year, Organizations and families.

Go to the City of Novato to buy a Brick at Novato City Hall for application.



Rotarian Kyle Frazier removing a blank brick for named brick dedication.