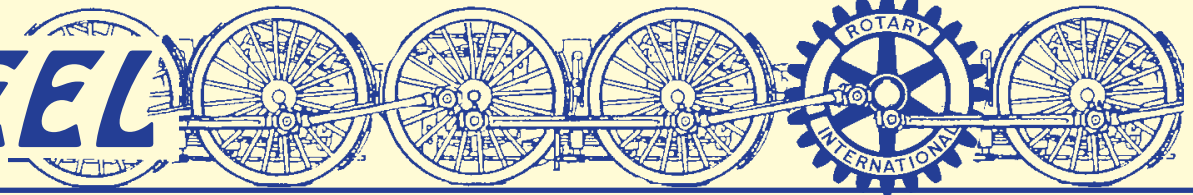


The BIG WHEEL



Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



September 19, 2025
Vol. 77, No. 12.1
Editor:
Maggie Shao

In the Beginning

President Lynn rang the bell at 12:15pm and had **David Gabriel** lead the pledge. He shared that the pledge written in 1892 by a Socialist minister, **Francis Bellamy**, who wanted to foster national unity and a supporter of youth education, The pledge embodies Liberty, Justice and Democracy and to embrace those values as we say the pledge. Thought for the day presented by **Delyn Kies** inspired by a sign on a tree here in Novato. ADVICE FROM A TREE *Stand tall and Proud *Go out on a limb *Remember your Roots *Drink Plenty of Water *Be content with your natural beauty *Enjoy the View. The Ice-Breaker topic for discussion among your table was "What Was Your First Job?"

Visitors & Guests

Daniel Mikkola from Rotary Club of Ignacio dressed in pirate swag. **Kathleen Defever**, president of Tiburon-Belvedere Rotary came to support fellow lawyer and our speaker today, **Rick Grossman**. Rotary spouses; love of **Jim Spilman's** life **Diane**, **Russ Ketron's** first wife **Kathy**. **Peter** and **Millie Chiang** came to support **Matt Chiang** (being inducted today) Incoming soon to be members: **Hannah Simon** - **Dean Heffelfinger's** granddaughter, **Evan Blacksea** introduced by **Mike Morrissey**, **MaryJane Waxler** introduced by **Jim Spilman**, **Lynn Dawson** introduced **Laura Joss** and **Gary Lam**, **Melinda Durfee** introduced **Marie Rios**.

Announcements

Nami Walk

Jeff Slavitz thanked **Jim Spilman** for creating a flyer for the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) walk on Saturday October 4 starting at 9am at McInnis Park, 350 Smith Ranch Rd, San Rafael. Please join and support this good cause.

Career Fair

Daniel Mikkola from Ignacio asked to Save the Date, October 10, 2025 from 8am to 3pm for EMPOWER TOMORROW - Career Exploration. at the IVC campus. This program helps students explore potential careers and connect with businesses. For more information email: dmikkola@nusc.

Tidal Marsh Clean Up

Jim Spilman inspired by an email from the American Legion that stated: engage in community service, care for your mental health, and engage in physical activity and what better way than to volunteer Saturday September 27, 2025 from 9am to 1pm for Bahia Tidal Marsh clean-up Event at Night Heron Park in cooperation with Bahia Lagoon Committee.

Write On!

Maggie Shao took a quick survey of "Who reads the Big Wheel Bulletin?" and 80% of hands went up. Her ask was for help with writing up the newsletter and to contact **Bill Vespa** your interest in providing volunteer service to our Club. *Ed. Note: Thank You, Maggie!*

Coastal Clean-Up Day

Randy Baker hopes you will show up at Scottsdale Pond on Saturday, September 20 at 9am for Coastal Clean-Up Day, this is California's largest annual volunteer event

Community Cares

Past President **Dean Heffelfinger** visited with **Don Violin**, was in good spirits, **Dean** asked club members to send cards and make phone calls to help support **Don** and **Gloria** at this crucial time.

Induction of New Members

Ron Harness helped with inducting two new members, **Matt Chiang**, **Grace Wong's** nephew and sponsor, and **Gary Lam** sponsored by **Lynn Dawson**. Rotary's Service Above Self is a way for each member to be a liaison to the community and to live up to the ideals of the 4-Way Test. **Gary Lam** spoke on his interest in World and International projects and it just happens that today is **Gary's** birthday. **Grace** shared that **Matt** was born and raised in Novato, cares about this community, and by being in Rotary will become an even better person.

Featured Rotarian

Dr. John Christman of TOPO Chiropractic shared 5 minutes - "The Life of Me". He is originally from the Washington DC area, the youngest of three boys, and his passion outside of his wife **Lisa** and 2 year old son **Julian**, is getting outdoors, backpacking, kayaking, and showing photos of epic trip to Alaska. He became a chiropractor because of his own low back injury in high school that was helped greatly by this modality. He moved to the West Coast and had his practice in Mill Valley, where he was also involved in Mill Valley Rotary, and was president of the club in 2018. In 2022 he moved his practice to Novato and was grateful to be selected by the

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?"

TGIF

Friday, September 26th, 4:30pm

**Peter Ruben's
At Home Care Givers**
750 Grant Avenue, #100

Please bring an appetizer/finger food to share
Drinks provided by the Club

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



Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor

Limited Sponsor Opportunity!

Show your support of the RCN and target people that share your commitment to supporting Rotary.

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

Upcoming Programs & Events

September

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** -
Nov. 14 **TBD**
Nov. 21 **Club Social**
Nov. 28 **No Meeting**

ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2025/2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Vice President

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Holly Axtell
International Service

Jorg Pühr-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

Chamber of Commerce as Small Business of the Year in 2024. He sings in a band for fun. **Peter Oser** will present on another day in the interest of time for the featured speaker.

Program

Rick Grossman started a non-profit called Intelligent Justice. His motivation after decades in the courts litigating for many clients, evolved into his dissatisfaction with the court system. The system was not an economically viable system for resolving disputes. The current system is much more biased to lawyers profiting while clients not so much, thereby not really getting true justice for clients. This system is an adversarial system giving incentives to lawyers duplicating procedures and taking anywhere from 3 to 5 years to resolve. Intelligent Justice looks to resolve disputes through comprehensive adjudication, in half the time and at half the cost. Comprehensive Adjudication utilizes recognized legal experts, pre approved by all parties to thoroughly identify and analyze all relevant law and evidence - and swiftly provide a legally enforceable decision resolving the dispute. For more information go to <https://intelligentjustice.org/>

Raffle

\$25 Raffle Winner this week, **Lucky Gary Lam** (it's his birthday!

Reminder

Friday, September 26, 2025 at 4:30pm our social will be held at **Peter Ruben's** At Home Caregivers new office at 750 Grant Ave, #100. Drinks will be provided by the club and please bring appetizers/finger food to share.

Annual Non Spaghetti Feed



Friday, October 24th, 6:00 PM
at The McDills'
18 San Luis Court, Novato

Vicki and Bill McDill will be opening their home for the Annual Non Spaghetti Feed. Everyone should bring a finger-food to serve 4-6 people and their good humor, so we can enjoy the fellowship and celebrate Spring. Spouses and significant others are encouraged to come and join in the fun.

Hosted by Bill & Vicki McDill

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

OCTOBER

Special Dates

10-10	Zenetta & Mark Bosch
10-10	Gloria Dunn-Violin & Don Violin
10-11	Michele & Bill Vespa
10-12	Lori Frugoli
10-18	Dean Heffelfinger
10-24	Joni & Chris DeGabriele
10-25	Sara & David Gabriel
10-25	Christopher Mychajluk
10-26	Marsha & Gregory Molloy
10-26	Homa Rassouli
10-30	Ashley Baker
10-30	Ed Ross



Penny Hansen's daughter, Rana Eger, supporting Rotary fundraising at Oktoberfest in Munich.

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Two new members were inducted, Gary Lam (c) and Matt Chiang (r).



Transfer member Dr. John Christman, former Mill Valley Rotary President, with his bride, Lisa.



Jeff reminds us about upcoming NAMI event.



Jorg announcing Treasure Island Fleet Week Rotary Foundation event.



Sasha D'Amico introduces our speaker, Rick Grossman



Jim Spilman encourages splishing and a splashing in Bahia Lagoon removing old boat pier.



Speaker Rick Grossman describing a better way to settle Legal arguments with an Arbitrator.



Maggie is asking, "Who reads the Big Wheel?" Opportunity to be Editor of the Big Wheel for a month.