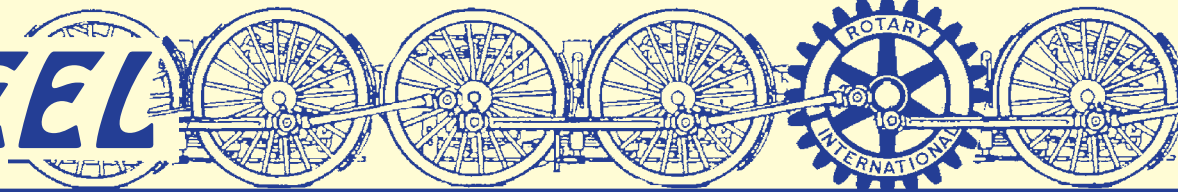


# The BIG WHEEL

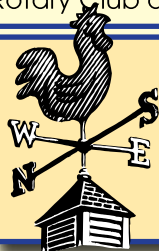


Rotary Club of Novato

Chartered April 26, 1954

The Golden Nugget of the North Bay

In The Valley of Gentle Seasons



**September 8, 2023**  
**Vol. 75, No. 10**  
**Editor:**  
**Curious Gopher (Peian)**

## In the Beginning...

It was a nice Summery day at IVC/College of Marin and today we met at the classroom close to the Organic Farm.

**President Phil (AKA Professor Phil)** rang the bell to start the meeting with a quote: *“Great to be alive, great to be at Novato and great to be a Rotarian.”*

He also warned the people that sat in the back of class to pay attention and be on their best behavior!

**Don Violin** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by **Pres. Elect Tom Rickey** who gave us two Thoughts for the Day that are related to gardening: *“A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.”*

Alfred Auston: *“The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature.”*

## Visitors & Guests

Visiting Rotarians: none today.

Guests of Rotarians: **Russ Ketrone** introduced his favorite wife, **Kathy**; **Linda** was with **Jorg**; **Roberta** was with **Alan**; **Dean** introduced our Club's 1st female president, **Anne Wade**; and finally **President Phil** introduced the star of the class, his wife **Laurie**.

**Prez Phil** made special remarks about **Roy Pfeifer** and **John Reuscher** who wore the same shirts and are both “Honored Employees of RCN” for helping setup the meeting.

## Announcements

### District Social Event

**Ron** who is Chair of the District International Committee invited Club members to a District Social Event on September 16 at the Corte Madera Community Center (498 Tamalpais Dr.) from 4-6 PM. This is a chance to socialize and to learn/share International Projects. This is a free event with wine and hors d'oeuvres.

### District Coastal Clean-up

**Gloria Dunn-Violin** mentioned there will be a District Coastal Clean-up event on September 23 from 9AM to noon. Meet at Scottsdale Pond. Tools will be provided and bring your own water.

### After the Meeting Walk

**Jim Bates** invited us to walk after the Club meeting which will start from Oct.

### Sunshine Report

**Reggie Winner** shared that Lowell Smith is back home after being in hospital for a while. Funny cards are welcome to cheer him up!

**Reggie** also reminded us that **Jay Wayne's** Memorial Service is on Saturday, September 16 at 10AM at the Presbyterian Church of Novato.

**Gary Bramon** mentioned that **Diana Tomasini** welcomes cards and well wishes **Diana** has engaged in lots of Club activities while she was an active member. Let's send her cards and keep her in our thoughts and wish her well!

### Thank You!

**Jim Spilman** took the mic to thank Club members who show up for Community Service Projects: **Ed Ross, Ron Harness, Bill Vespa, Ryan & Marisa Remak** for installing cabinets for San Marin High School; Also **Ron, Al Shirley, Alan Dunham, Kyle Frazier, Rene Prado** and **Penny Hansen** for helping the brick install at the city hall.

**Jim Spilman** also mentioned that the street piano needs a

storage space. **Marty** immediately volunteered **TJ's** hanger. Problem Solved!

**Gary Bramon** also promoted the speaker series and encourages Club members to buy tickets early!

### Paul Harris Awards

**Jorg** presented Paul Harris awards to several Rotarians at the meeting.

There are 4 new Paul Harris Fellows: **Dennis Baldwin** and **Shawn Campas** from last year and **Peter Pelavin** and **Jeff Slavitz** from this year.

And there are 11 multiple PHFs in alphabetical order:

**Nohemi Beissman-Mason, Ben Borok, Debbie Brusatori, Lynn Dawson, Chris DeGabriele, Burt Hoffmann, Moses Jacob, Larry Mazzotta, T.J.Neff, John Ringgenberg, and Tom Young.**

The Club gave a big applause to thank them for their dedication and generous donation.

**Prez Phil** also thanked **Jorg** for taking on the chair position for Western BBQ event in 2024! Way to go **Jorg!** We will look forward to the event!

## Program

**Gloria** introduced our speaker **Thelina Gapinski (Tealy)**. **Tealy** is IVC's lead gardener, and has worked at IVC since 2016. **Tealy** received a degree at UC Davis and considers working at the farm as her dream job.

**Tealy** told us that the College of Marin has 5 acres of farm land and they provide a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program to provide weekly fresh fruit/vegetable boxes from May to October. The cost is \$700 for the full season.

They also provide a farm stand on Saturday that sells produce. For excess food, they give away to students or community members in need.



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/](http://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:** Talk about the Girl and Boy Scouts - **OFF-SITE MEETING** at Christina Stroeh's Home)

## Rotary Big Wheel Sponsor



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## ROTARY CLUB OF NOVATO 2023/2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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*Vice President*

**Sonia Seeman**  
**Jim White**  
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**Chris DeGabriele**  
*Treasurer*

**Gordon R. McNally**  
*R.I. President*

**Laine Hendricks**  
*District Governor*

**Stacie Vance**  
*Assistant District Governor*

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*Club Administration*

**Kyle Frazier**  
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**Rob Haff**  
*Chair, Novato Rotary Endowment*

**Peian Harness**  
*Past President*

Tealy further introduced an ASP (aerated static pile) system used for composting which is more efficient (done is 6 month) and uses less labor (no need for turning).

Tealy also works on bee hives that will produce honey in the near future.

The plants on the farm are watered with a drip system using water supplied from City of Novato.

Tealy grew up at West Marin. She took class at COM in 2016 and was inspired by **Wendy Johnson** who started the farm at COM.

There is no college class now but they offer community classes – like olive harvest/tasting class, cut flowers, bee

class, etc.

After the brief Q&A, Tealy took us out to the farm for a tour.

At the end of the tour, we all returned back to the classroom where everyone got some tomatoes to take home!

### The Winner

The raffle winner was **Marty Wickenheiser**.



## Annual Bocce Ball Tournament Fundraiser for Rotaplast

Our Team (Ron, Peian, Vickie, Don) and the cooks (John C., Marsha, Jim and Sandy Bates) with Co-Founder PDG Peter Lagarias and John.

John provided fantastic appetizers and a scrumptious lunch of Sausage, Chicken Wings, Marinated Tomato/Mozzerella Balls, Pasta, Meatballs, Salad and bread. It was a beautiful day with about 15 Clubs participating. The Rotary Club of Tiburon-Belvedere went home with the Trophy!



Jorg and Phil present Paul Harris Awards.



## 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](https://namiwalks.org/team/59711)

Team Captain: [Jeff Slavitz](#), Rotary Club of Novato



#Together4MH





*A short jaunt up the trail.*



*We drove to the end of the street at the IVC Commercial Chef Kitchen and adjoining classrooms at the entry of the Organic Farm.*



*A surprise ceramic veggie foundation post.*



*Thelina explained the rules for growing specific types of corn.*



*Thelina Gapinski Tealy, speaker and tour guide of the IVC Organic Farm.*