



THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022 YAKIMA CONVENTION CENTER

*Serve to
Change Lives*

DEE SIMON HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE



Founded by local Holocaust survivors in 1989, the Holocaust Center for Humanity's mission is to teach the lessons of the Holocaust, inspire individuals and leaders of all ages to confront bigotry and indifference, promote human dignity, and take action. The Holocaust Center serves over 30,000 students, visitors, and community members a year. The Center's Seattle-based location hosts a library, a museum, an artifact collection of over 6,000 objects, and an expansive virtual and physical educational resource center. Programs include a Speaker's Bureau, teacher training, student field trips, Holocaust Teaching Trunks, and a weekly virtual Lunch-and-Learn program.

With rising antisemitism and racism, an increase in hate crimes, and campaigns of misinformation, Holocaust education is more critical now than ever. It is through the lessons of the Holocaust that students learn the dangers of hatred and intolerance, and the difference each one of us can make.

Dee Simon, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, has served as the Holocaust Center for Humanity's CEO since 2006. Since that time, she spearheaded the campaign to open a museum and has helped the Holocaust Center to exponentially expand its outreach and community presence. Dee serves on the board of the Association of Holocaust Organizations and is the 2022 recipient of the Pamela Waechter Jewish Communal Service Award.

HOLOCAUST
CENTER *for*
HUMANITY

Educate. Inspire. Take Action.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Trevor Greene, Bob Harrison

Music – Bunker Frank

Invocation – Tim Carlson

Sergeant-at-Arms – Amy Maib

Program – Bunker Frank

FUTURE PROGRAMS

April 14th – W.D. Frank, Central Washington Mountaineers

April 21st – Vocational Scholarship Awards

April 28th – Libby McRae, YVC Allied Health Programs

May 5th – Dan Peters, Raymond Carver

ROTARY MARBLE RAFFLE DRAW IS BACK

The Ways & Means Committee is bringing back the popular Marble Raffle Draw for the last three months of the year. How does it work?

Tickets will be sold prior to every meeting. At the end of the meeting one ticket from the day's sales will be drawn. The ticket holder will pick a marble out of a bucket that contains 9 blue marbles and one clear marble. If the clear marble is drawn, the ticket holder wins half the money in the pot. The other half goes to Yakima Rotary Charities. If a blue marble is drawn, the money carries over to the next week with one blue marble removed. This continues until the clear marble is drawn.

Once the clear marble is drawn, all the marbles go back into the bucket and the pot starts over at zero. It's easy, it's fun, and a great way to support Rotary. Don't forget to bring extra money to participate. We will also have a Square reader to charge your card for a small fee.





The FABULOUS FIRESIDE DINNERS!

May 15-25

One of the most popular things we do.

Fill out the sign up sheet at the next meeting
or Text / email Dana Dwinell 509-952-2711, dana@d2cmu.com

ROTARIANS AT WORK DAY

Every year on the last Saturday in April, Rotarians around the world gather to participate in community service projects within their communities. Yakima Rotary participates annually by going out in the community to beautify three locations: Rotary Lake, Rotary Welcome to Yakima Sign, and Sarg Hubbard Park.



The team of volunteers at Rotary Lake will be around the lake and bank areas. The team at Sarg Hubbard will be weeding and spreading bark at the flower garden, and the team at the Welcome to Yakima Sign will be weeding and cleaning around the sign. Sign-ups are underway. If you would like to participate and/or have access to a small boat that can be used at the lake, please contact the Rotary office today.

- REVIEW -

Thursday is really the best day of the week and last week's meeting capped off a fantastic month of activities and new members. It all began with greetings from Angela Gonzalez and Dave Heintz at the door. The ring of the bell brought Theresa Adkison to the podium to sing America the Beautiful. Dottie Hildebrand commented on the beauty of hearing the voices signing together before sharing a prayer for our new Rotary Marketplace project. Sarah Morgan followed with a thank you to everyone who participated in the first annual Lobster Dinner Drive-Through Fundraiser. Special recognition was given to Nicole Donegan and her team for the great logo and to WaterFire and Chef Derrin Davis for an excellent meal.

Austin Beebe introduced Celina Sanchez as our newest member. Celina was born in Chicago. At the age of 3, she and her parents migrated back their hometown in Mexico where she spent many happy days at her grandparents' ranch. They moved back to Illinois in 2005 and eventually moved to Yakima, where she graduated from Davis High School and went on to CWU where she obtained a degree in Safety and Health Management and a master's in Engineering Technology. Immediately following college, she moved to Seattle and spent 7 years working there as a safety manager for a large construction company. She recently came back to Yakima and joined the Associated General Contractors as their Central District Manager/Safety Specialist. She is married to her high school sweetheart; they are parents to two children and two fish. She loves to cook, paint, bike ride, dance, and hike. She has already volunteered her time for Rotary. Even before officially being introduced she signed up to serve as a mentor for a Rotaract member. We are so excited to have her as a part the Finest Rotary Club in America!

Rotary business concluded with an ask for volunteers from Bob Udell to help with Rotarians at Work Day scheduled for April 30th and a sergeant-at-arms from Mike Hummel praising the Eastern Washington football program.

Jordan Matson had the honor of introducing fellow Rotarian Jon DeVaney as our program speaker. Agriculture drives our local economy, making up 27% of all jobs in Yakima County. Over the last decade, 46.5% of all job growth took place in the ag sector. It drives employment in other sectors including transportation, manufacturing, and sales and marketing. An increasing share of farm labor jobs are being filled through the federal H-2A visa program. The topic of Jon's talk, he began by sharing that H-2A is about the hardworking people who make our food system work and our Valley's economy work. Agricultural is seasonal with an 80,000-job swing in the number of people employed from the winter months to the peak of production during harvest. It comes with challenges; recruitment, thinking about what kind of jobs are needed, how many people are needed, and when they are needed.

In the early 70s, eighty-eight percent of farm workers in our state were non-Hispanic white. That changed drastically in the later part of the 20th century. Today almost 70% of farm workers in the U.S. were born in Mexico. The terms farmworker and migrant used to be synonymous.

That has been changing as well, as many farmworkers have chosen to remain in their communities and not travel back and forth across the border. As they look for economic opportunities, they no longer stay in the same job. While it is hard for long-term recruitment, it is something that the industry supports. Through the Washington Apple Education Foundation over \$1 million in scholarships are awarded to students whose parents work in the industry. Eighty percent of those students are first-generation college students. Some of those students come back to the industry and some do not. Where are the workers in the future going to come from? They are not going to keep coming from Mexico on their own. In the 60's and through the 70's families in Mexico had an average of 7 kids. In the 80's, that number dropped to 2 or 3 children. In 2007, net migration from Mexico turned negative with more people returning to Mexico than coming. That has changed the dynamics of the agriculture industry. They are increasingly relying on who else is available and those that are already here by keeping the current workforce employable as long as possible (an older population) and a significant increase in female workers. That doesn't fix the problem.

Currently we have the lowest unemployment claims since 1969. An increasingly the gap in employment in agriculture is being filled by temporary foreign workers through H-2A. The growth of the program in Washington state has gone from 2,000 workers in 2009 to 30,000 in 2020. It is not just a Washington state model, nationally the number of workers increased from 50,000 in 2005 to over 300,000 in 2021. H-2A is jobs based, not people based. For every single job filled you must specifically recruit for a proved need first. It is a complex, bureaucratic process. It is a last resort option because it complicated and burdensome for agriculture producers to use. The program is designed to ensure that domestic workers are not disadvantaged. It requires that licensed housing, in and out-bound transportation, and in-country transportation be provided at no charge; and wages must be at or above those provided to permanent farmworkers. It is more expensive to use. Because of the cost and complexity, it tends to be used by larger producers that have HR departments or can hire a consultant to help them through the process.

What do the H-2A workers get out of the program. Mexico's minimum wage is \$8.64 per day; the mean monthly earnings for farmworkers in Mexico in 2019 was \$170. At the current wage of \$17.41 an H-2A worker earns more than sixteen times the hourly equivalent in Mexico and the minimum daily earnings in Washington (\$139.28) are close to those from a month of work in Mexico. In just a few sessions, workers can build new homes, start businesses, and change their lives back home.

While there is room for discussion on streamlining, the H-2A program is critical to the future of our agriculture workforce. If we don't have enough workers to sustain agriculture, our current ag workers already here are going to lose employment. Farms will get smaller, and we will have to outsource to offshore food production. Temporary workers support our local economy, and it is transformative to those who come. It was a great program!