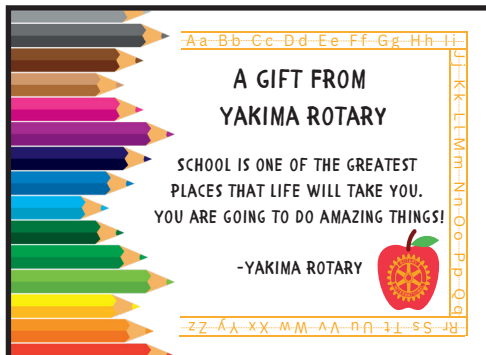




THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

Create
Lasting
Impact

COMMUNITY SERVICE BACKPACK PROJECT ADAMS ELEMENTARY



Providing backpacks for a local elementary school has quickly become one of our favorite Rotary traditions. This week, the Community Service Committee is pulling us together as a team to assemble backpacks filled with school supplies for every student at Adams Elementary.

Working side by side, we'll pack 675 backpacks with essential classroom supplies, including pencils, glue sticks, folders, rulers, pencil pouches, dry-erase markers, and other grade appropriate materials. Older students will also receive items such as notebooks, binders, graph paper, composition books, colored pencils, and pens.

The project wouldn't be complete without supporting the teachers as well who will receive items from a special wish-list to support and supplement their individual classrooms.

Before we begin, we'll enjoy a boxed lunch and hear from the leadership at Adams Elementary to talk about the impact this project has on their students, teachers, and school community. Come prepared for fun, fellowship, hands-on service, and making a meaningful difference for the students and their families as they head back to school.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Leanne Antonio, Lisa Sargent

Inspiration – Bob Romero

Attendance – Jake Hambly

FUTURE PROGRAMS

August 13th – District Governor Jill Leonard

August 20th – Clements See, The Importance & Impact of
High School Technical Skills Training



Don't miss out on Yakima Rotaract's 6th annual Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser. There will be food onsite, a complimentary drink of your choice and fun competition!

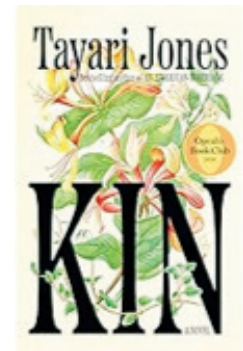
The date, time and location are Saturday, September 12, 1pm-3pm, at Bale Breakers. Check-in starts at 12:30pm. Sign-ups are underway for teams, individual players and sponsors. All the proceeds go to the Scholarship Tuition Program.

For more information scan the QR code or email yakimarotaract@gmail.com.

YAKIMA ROTARY BOOK CLUB'S NEXT READ

This month's Book Club selection is *KIN* by Tayari Jones. A moving novel about mothers and daughters, friendship and sisterhood, and the complexities of being a woman in the American South; it is an exuberant, emotionally rich, unforgettable work from one of the brightest and most irresistible voices in contemporary fiction.

Save the date of Tuesday, August 25th for the next discussion. Time and location are 5pm at the home of Noel Moxley. Grab your copy, find a cozy spot, and start reading.



REVIEW

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make it a great Rotary day! Greeting at the door were Jane Sobottka and Joel Ylvisaker. The meeting began with an original song recorded by fellow Rotarian Joe Biondi. He is exceptionally talented! Dana Eliason made a pitch for the Rotary auction, sharing that we have a great group of individuals, organizations, and companies who have stepped up to be event sponsors – more work is needed. If you'd like to be a part of making this year's A Night in Paris auction the best, sponsor sheets are available by contacting Dana or the Rotary office.

Since the first meeting of the year, there has been a slide in the Chronicler with one of President John's favorite quotes "Life begins at the end of your comfort." In that spirit, President John gave us something a little bit different to do with a meet and greet at our tables. With 5 to 10 minutes set aside, we were given five questions: If you could spend a day with any person, past or present, who would you pick and why? Do you have any hidden talents? What's been your best Rotary experience so far? If money was no object, what would you be doing right now? And what's the weirdest food you've ever eaten? The fun part was everyone picked a number out of a bag for their table assignments – what a great way to meet someone new. Nancy Leahy finished Rotary business with Yakima Rotary Club achievements sergeant-at-arms.

Our program speaker was our very own fellow Rotarian; Dr. Tim Teusink. Tim and his wife, Muriel served in international medical and educational missions for four decades; as a physician and surgeon in Haiti for 4 years in the 1980s, a surgeon in Rwanda for 6 years in the 1980s & 90s (3 years in a war zone), teaching AIDS and care in Ethiopia for 16 years, and being based in France teaching medical ethics around the African continent for 6 years. He loved working in surgery and medicine, as he got older it became apparent that with a focus on education, he could work 20 to 40 years abroad teaching others to continue. He really enjoyed teaching ethics and being an assistant professor at the Korean Hospital Medical College in Addis Ababa. Working with medical students makes you feel young.

One of his greatest joys is seeing the impact that Rotary has around the world involving new generations of Rotarians including here in Yakima. The founders of Rotary over a century ago could never have imagined the impact and transformational work they started. Rotary is a family tradition; his uncle was a Rotarian and past district governor in Michigan.

He was first introduced to Rotary in India in 1979 as a medical student. It was wonderful to see people and a culture divided by religious, political, and secular issues getting along and having a common goal. Tim joined Yakima Rotary in 1983 and was sponsored by Dr. Doug Corpron, his mentor and a former medical missionary to Thailand.

His most active Rotary involvement was 16 years in Ethiopia, home to 21 clubs and 16 Rotaract clubs and belonging to a huge district encompassing Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, and South Sudan. The Rotary Club of Addis Ababa West of which he belonged was the largest in the country. Many of the members were studying abroad when there was the communist takeover. Unable to come home, they began working for international organizations such as the UN and Africa Union Department bringing back leadership qualities that greatly enriched the club when able to return to Ethiopia. Meetings were dynamic and included visits from RI Presidents. Tim served as their club president 2010-11. More than half the club are women, just like Yakima. It's impossible to imagine Rotary without women. One of his most enjoyable things was being involved in Rotaract.

There have been some amazing Rotary projects in Ethiopia. The Glen Olsen Memorial Hospital with Project Mercy in Yetebeon, Ethiopia was the recipient of a \$450,000 Rotary International matching grant project that started with Yakima Rotary. Today, Yetebeon is home to primary and secondary schools, freshwater wells, schoolbooks, improving child nutrition with milk, and the establishment of a center for children with autism. Visiting medical teams came; one of the most impactful as a surgeon was working with teams to repair cleft lips and palates. PolioPlus is huge. The Rotary Foundation is an amazing organization doing so much around the world with peacebuilding and conflict prevention, disease prevention and treatment, water sanitation and hygiene, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, community economic development, and the environment.

It was an amazing program that included personal stories of a lifetime of Rotary experiences with some that made us chuckle. Also shared was a saying from the Rotary Club of Orange, France and an African proverb. I'll end with them. "Every minute of every day, Rotary feeds someone, shelters someone, vaccinates someone, does surgical intervention on someone, comforts someone, and gives drinkable water to someone." And "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." That is Rotary!





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