

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic  
 Of Rotary*



### VANCE JENNINGS WAREHOUSE THEATRE



Vance Jennings is the Executive Director of the Warehouse Theatre Company, a post he has held since 2018. A member of the company since 1991, he has been in numerous productions and directed many more.

Jennings is a retired 36-year career educator having spent all of those years at Naches Valley High School. He taught English and theatre at Naches for 28 years and spent the final eight years of his career there as the assistant principal and Teaching

& Learning Coordinator.



And, like many retirees, he says, "I've never been busier or had a bigger passion for what I'm doing."

#### FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

- Greeters – Jolene Seda, Jesse Sims
- Inspiration – Sharon Miracle
- Sergeant-at-Arms – Brad Hansen
- Attendance – Matt Crow

#### FUTURE PROGRAMS

- December 19th – Adult Holiday Party
- December 26th – No Meeting
- January 2nd – No Meeting
- January 9th – Mick Hoffman, WIAA

#### PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless a written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, December 13, 2024, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

**Rick Murray**  
 Retired Pastor  
 First Presbyterian Church (Grace of Christ)  
**Classification: Christian Ministry**  
 Proposed by: John Adkison  
 Endorsed by: Bob Hall

#### ROTARY BRIDGE IS BACK

Are you ready to shuffle the deck and deal out some fun? Whether you are a beginner, average, advanced, or you want to be a substitute, Rotary bridge is the right place for you. Discover the joy of bridge and learn the ropes in a friendly environment, hone your skills and take on new challenges, and show off your strategic prowess.

Sign-ups for those interested are underway with play starting in the new year. Contact the Rotary office to get your name on the list.



#### UNDER 35 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

There has been a lot of work on membership behind the scenes that has included exploring different membership models. The work involved looking at other large clubs, their membership categories, and reaching out to them. The result is the adoption of a new category for our club designed to appeal to younger community members under the age of 35.

It is a commitment to keep growing and learning, and an invitation to help young people make a difference. The membership includes lowered quarterly dues and meals from \$138 to \$75 and \$228 to \$171 for a period of 3 years, at which time they will revert to the same costs as our regular members.

## ROTARY BELL RINGING

We are down to the final countdown for Rotary Bell Ringing Week starting on Monday, December 9th. There are only 16 shifts left to be filled. If you'd like to help, you can register through the on-line link sent by email on Wednesday or contact the Rotary office.

### Wednesday, December 11th

Rosauers – 10am to noon; noon to 2pm  
Fred Meyer North – 2pm to 4pm; 4pm to 6pm

### Thursday, December 12th

Rosauers – 10am to noon; noon to 2pm; 2pm to 4pm

### Friday, December 13th

Fred Meyer North – 4pm to 6pm

### Saturday, December 14th

Rosauers – 4pm to 6pm  
Fred Meyer Grocery – noon to 2pm; 2pm to 4pm;  
4pm to 6pm  
Fred Meyer North – 10am to noon; noon to 2pm; 2pm to 4pm; 4pm to 6pm

## REVIEW

After a month that included a visit from Adam Beach to recognize Native American Heritage Month and the most glorious Rotary auction Under the Big Top, it was time to celebrate both with an update of the What's Good in Rotary.

Our weekly Rotary business started the day. Gary Lackey served as our lone greeter. Past President Kurt Labberton shared an inspiration message from his own life experiences encouraging us to choose what type of person we want to be in life, the person who is motivated to do things for others without any expectation or the person who keeps score. President Jim presented blue badges to Chris Hutsell and Zeb Ruff and recognized three other members - Jack Bloxom as our longest serving active member with 65 years of membership, Rick Pinnell for 50 years of membership, and Tressa Shockley who got engaged.

Steven Gustafson introduced Alyssa Ford as our newest Rotarian. Alyssa grew up in Yakima attending schools in East Valley before transferring to Naches Valley High School where she excelled in the Running Start Program and graduated with her high school diploma and associate's degree at the same time. While at YVC she met her husband Jason, a Las Vegas native. They moved to Las Vegas to support Jason's family and help his younger brother graduate high school. She was offered the job as David Copperfield's executive assistant but declined and found her calling in marketing and communications starting in the real estate sector. In 2020, Alyssa and Jason returned to Yakima to start their family; they are parents to a little girl. She took on leadership roles in Yakima real estate before transitioning into the non-profit sector. Today she is the Director of Marketing & Communications at the Yakima Union Gospel Mission where she is deeply committed to serving the under-represented in minority communities. We are so happy to have her as part of our Club!

Rick Fairbrook promoted Rotary Bell Ringing with a tutorial of how-to best dress for your volunteer shifts using Brad Hansen as his model. There are 16 shifts left that need to be filled. Gary Lackey was back to make a pitch for Rotary bridge, bringing back a fun social activity that had disappeared. Sign-ups are underway for anyone interested from beginner to expert and open to all three Rotary clubs, spouses, and friends. John Cooper wrapped it all up going back to the theme of Bell Ringing with two separate fundraising causes; fines and a separate collection to benefit the Salvation Army.

With the help of President Jim and Kelly Gasseling; Mike Hummel, Trevor Greene and Kyle Curtis served as our program speakers. Mike took the podium first to talk about the auction. He began with the awe of watching the tent being created. The idea for the theme of Under the Big Top began in 2020 with Quinn Dalan but was shut down because of Covid. When asked to be chairs this year, Quinn and Mike brought it back to life with the elevation of creating a tent and bringing in entertainment in the form of circus acts. In 2022, Mike Norton was thrown into the auction to help with logistics, timing, and behind the scenes. He joined Quinn and Mike Hummel making the perfect team. It also couldn't happen without a Hall of Fame: President Jim DeGrasse, the Rotary office, John

Cooper setting the stage for taking on the job of Sponsorships, Dana Dwinell for taking charge of the silent auction, Soni Alexander for taking charge of the live auction, the Yakima Convention Center team, and the troops of volunteers who showed up to decorate, donated items, donated decorations, and procured items. We have an amazing club! THE results were REMARKABLE: Gross Income was \$609,014 with record amounts raised for sponsorships and Raise the Paddle. Today, net income is right around \$430,000. Both are record amounts – to see the generosity of our members and community is truly humbling. THANK YOU!

Trevor and Kyle gave a recap of our visit with Adam Beach that included a presentation at Davis High School with students throughout our Valley, and a trip to the Cougar Den in White Swan. Trevor shared the impact on the students who gathered to hear Adam speak. In our educational system there is an over-representation of educators that don't reflect our demographics. It is important for students to see themselves in others. As a Native American, who grew up in White Swan, he had only one teacher that was of Native American descent; that was at the doctorate level. When you have someone who represents you in education it contributes to a positive self-image, increased engagement in the classroom, a sense of belonging, a role model who demonstrates possibilities, and a cultural effect. Imagine if you were a youth who loved movies, art and music and was looking for representation. Adam Beach brought all of that to a full auditorium of student from Yakima, Toppenish, Wapato, and the Yakama Tribal School – who went crazy for him. That would not have happened without Rotary. For Kyle, the Adam Beach opportunity would not have happened without Rotary as well. What we saw when Adam spoke to our club was a very vulnerable, genuine, humble, and open person. That stood out for him. Kyle brought Adam to White Swan to meet the locals at the Cougar Den. Celebrating its 32nd year in business, partnering to bring Adam to Yakima was a perfect fit. There was a line that was wrapped around the building. Adam greeted 350 people in an hour and a half. The takeaway for him was, as Rotarians, we pride ourselves on the impact we make in the community. A lot of times they are visible like the Rotary Marketplace and Aquatic Center. There are other downstream impacts that go very far and are very meaningful that we'll never see or hear about. Adam Beach was exactly that; the impact on students was lifechanging. He shared with Kyle that we have something really remarkable in our community – a sense of unity. He has traveled around the country and in Canada to speak to hundreds of communities. There is nothing like Yakima where you have a whole Rotary program dedicated to Native American Heritage Month to bring speakers and go out of the way to show a sense of community. We should be proud to operate as a community of partners and a community of one.

His time here also included a gathering with a small group of Rotarians and Yakama Elders where he encouraged connections to help end the epidemic of youth suicide. We ended with a short 7-minute video that was produced by the White Swan Student Media Club that I encourage you to watch from the link provided in the body of the email for this week's newsletter.



# THANK YOU TO OUR ROTARY AUCTION SPONSORS!

## Platinum



## Gold



## Silver



Morgan Stanley



Quinn & Aaron Dalan



## Bronze

