



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic
Of Rotary*



ADULT HOLIDAY PARTY 4pm to 6pm



Get ready to spread holiday joy as we gather together to celebrate the season at our annual adult holiday party this Thursday.

Delight in a festive drink from a no-host bar, savor an assortment of delicious bites, and join in the fun with BINGO. Expert bingo callers, Charlie Robin and Scott Wagner will be overseeing our games and prizes that include wine and gift baskets. Music will include instrumental holiday songs by our own members.

Wear your favorite holiday attire, bring your festive spirit, and get ready for fun, fellowship, and festive cheer. We can't wait to see you there.

Tis the Season to be Jolly, Fa La-La La-La, La-La La-La!

FUTURE PROGRAMS

December 26th – No Meeting

January 2nd – No Meeting

January 9th – Mick Hoffman, WIAA

January 16th – Dr. Melissa Hill, Higher Education in the Yakima Valley

BUD APPLGATE PHF AWARDEE SID MORRISON

On Thursday, December 12th, Sid Morrison was presented with this year's Bud Applegate Paul Harris Fellow Award. With the current Board of Directors on one side and Past Presidents on the other, Bob Hall shared Sid's remarkable story that includes membership in Yakima Rotary since 1956. Sid was born on May 13, 1933, to Charlie and Ann Morrison who moved to Yakima in 1922 from South Dakota. He graduated from Toppenish High School where he served as student body president. When he was 12 years old, he was a page in Olympia and received an autograph calendar by the Governor hand delivered with one simple statement "never get involved in politics."

After graduation from WSU and his completion of his Army tour of duty, he said his move to the legislature in 1956 was a natural outgrowth of his activities in agriculture and Rotary when his fellow Rotarians urged him to run. In 1967 he took the lead and became state representative for the 15th District. In 1975 he was offered the senate seat, serving another 5 years. He went to Washington D.C. for the 4th Congressional District until 1993. He was recruited as the Director of the State of Washington Department of Transportation until 2001 at which time he accepted the chairmanship on Energy Northwest. He started and joined others to form the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance. Along the way he also served on the board of the Central Washington State Fair. His involvement spans 60 years of service. His words of wisdom that we all need to hear are "It's amazing what you can do when you don't care who gets the credit." It was a beautiful presentation with more than one standing ovation. We are so grateful to and for him!



ROTARY BELL RINGING



REVIEW

We are blessed to have a diverse and vibrant arts culture in our community that enhances and enriches our quality of life. One of those blessings is the Warehouse Theatre. It took center stage this week as Vance Jennings shared their story. 1947 was the year of *A Streetcar Named Desire*; the first flight of Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose; the Roswell Incident; a UFO sighting near Mt. Rainier; the signing of Jackie Robinson with the Brooklyn Dodgers; and the debut of the song *Near You* by the Andrew Sisters. The really big news that happened that year was the first "community theatre" in Yakima. The Yakima art association embarked on the task of developing a medium for local drama that began with the production of the Pulitzer Prize winning *Icebound* by Owen Davis performed at the Women's Century Club in penthouse style where spectators surrounded the players. The newspaper review commended the Little Theater Group stating that they paved the way for successful community theater in Yakima. The first leaders of the Group were Hal Millen, Mrs. H.C. Hines and Mrs. Jack Gilliam. The next play was held in the J.M. Perry Institute. In 1951, Elon Gilbert donated a building at 5000 Sunset Drive to the City as long as it was used solely and exclusively for theatrical and artistic purposes. The City said yes, the Allied Arts came together mostly driven by the Little Theater Group and remodeled several times. The address changed to 5000 West Lincoln. It became the home of productions that included the *Odd Couple*, *Our Town*, and the Complete Works of William Shakespeare rap style (that all included our own Kurt Labberton). In October 2013, the Company had completed a casting call for the holiday presentation of *A Christmas Carol* featuring 23 community members when a bulging wall brought it to a halting stop with an "unsafe to occupy" notice by the City of Yakima – they were back to where they started with no home. Tony Akin rented his space, rehearsal was tight, and the show

went off without a hitch. In 2014 and 2015, they used the 4th Street Theatre with the productions of *Into the Woods* and *Absinthe*. In July 2017, Tony Akin wanted to sell his building; the asking price was \$1,150,000. The Yakima Community came to the rescue. The Warehouse Theatre raised \$1 million in 5 months. Tony agreed to carry a 5-year note for \$150,000; it was paid off in 2.5 years. On February 9, 2018, WTC became official owners, 71 years and 3 days after the first performance in 1947.

The year 2020 and beyond has been about forging partnerships. In 2022 they held the Best Christmas Pageant Ever – The Musical at East Valley High School Performing Arts Center. They just completed the Sound of Music on that same stage. Coming next summer for 3-weeks is a partnership with YVC for an intensive "pre-professional project" for 13–19-year-olds that will include putting on *The Phantom of the Opera* at the end. Upcoming projects include an upgrade to the light grid, LED stage lighting, and increased shop and storage room. After 77 years they are still thriving – the future is bright! Through it all the key part has been and will continue to be is COMMUNITY.

What else happened? Jolene Seda served as our greeter; Sharon Miracle shared holiday inspiration tips that included embracing traditions, giving back to community, and celebrating diversity; President Jim welcomed our guests and recognized Peter Finch for his family's annual musical fundraiser on December 22 to raise money for Habitat for Humanity; and Brad Hansen with the simple feat of "jazz" hands raised a lot of money for Rotary Charities as sergeant-at-arms.



THANK YOU TO OUR ROTARY AUCTION SPONSORS!

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Morgan Stanley



Quinn & Aaron Dalan



Bronze

