



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Create Hope
 in the World*

CHON MÁRQUEZ ROD'S HOUSE



Chon Márquez, raised in Sunnyside, Washington, is the youngest of four siblings. As a first-generation college student, he embarked on his educational journey in 2005, ultimately earning his degree from the University of Washington in 2010.

With a passion for social services, Chon has dedicated the last 11 years to making a positive impact, spending the most recent three years at Rod's House. Now back in the Yakima Valley, he is eager to give back to the community that played a pivotal role in shaping his identity.

Beyond his professional pursuits, Chon finds solace in hiking, believing that a connection with nature is essential for a balanced life. And yes, he's a firm believer that pineapple does belong on pizza. Above all, Chon values family, grounding himself in the relationships that define him.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Jan Luring, Chase Powell
 Music – Linda Kaminski
 Invocation – Celisa Hopkins
 Program – Laura Crooks
 Attendance – Connie Falon

FUTURE PROGRAMS

December 14th – Rotary Adult
 Holiday Party
 December 21st – No Meeting,
 Happy Holidays
 December 28th – No Meeting,
 Happy New Year
 January 4th – Celisa Hopkins & Russ
 Mazzola, Walking the Camino de Santiago

ROTARY BELL RINGING



Rotary Bell Ringing week starts Monday. There are only 13 shifts left to fill. WOW! There is A link to sign-up online went out this afternoon. Please click on it and share a gift of time to help those in need.



REVIEW

The month of November ended with a beautiful celebration of Native American Heritage Month shared through our music, invocation, sergeant-at-arms, and a great speaker. Our music was provided by Bree Black Horse who shared one of her favorite activities, pow wow dancing. An enrolled member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, she shared a video of her dancing the Northern Women's Traditional style dance. The music, dance, and her handmade dress were exquisite. Our invocation featured Davis Washines, a citizen of the Yakama Nation, who in his native language provided a blessing on our gathering and work that Rotary does in our community. Our very own Trevor Greene who is a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation of Oklahoma, raised money for Rotary Charities with a quiz on Native American history and tribes.

It was also a great day for membership with the introduction of two new members. Sonia Rodriguez True introduced Joshua Shockley. Josh was born in Prosser and raised in Carlsbad, New Mexico graduating from high school in 2001. He married his high school sweetheart; together they moved to Denver, Colorado for her to attend school at the University of Colorado while Josh worked in the title insurance business. Her dream of becoming a doctor then took them to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for medical school. They had their first child in her first year of medical school and their second child while she was in residency at OU Children's Hospital. A desire for a change of scenery brought them back to the Pacific Northwest. After a couple of years, they had their third child. His wife, Courtney, is a pediatrician at CWFM and an associate professor at PNWU. Josh had the opportunity to be home with the kids and continue a hobby of day trading that in 2022, he changed into a business, starting a proprietary trading firm called Summit Trading Group LLC.

John Baule introduced Curt Wilson. Curt was born in Sunnyside and raised in Olympia where his father was a state patrolman. An athlete in high school, Curt attended WSU where he competed in high jump for the men's track team. For over 30 years he led visual communications and creative teams in print and digital media where most recently he was employed by the State of Washington where he held marketing and communication supervisory positions. He also coached collegiate track and field part time at PLU until 2021. In July 2023, he was hired as the Executive Director of the Downtown Association of Yakima and is looking forward to implementing his vision for our downtown. When not working, he enjoys sculpting, painting, and home improvement projects. He spends quality time with his three daughters, one son, and grandson. He loves hiking, fishing, golfing, live music, and a competitive game of cribbage. We welcome both of them to Rotary and are so happy to have them as our newest members!

Leanne Antonio presented our first two grant awards for the year. The first grant was presented to Marcus Whitman Cowiche Elementary in the amount of \$1,000 for materials to create a community lending library on school campus. The library will be constructed by a local church youth group with teachers at the school keeping it stocked with English and Spanish books. The second check in the amount of \$6,000 was awarded to Triumph Treatment Services to purchase furnishings and equipment for their mental health treatment rooms on the second floor of the new Genesis building. Congratulations to both!

Rick Fairbrook and Charlie Robin followed with two invitations to sign-up for Rotary Bell Ringing Week beginning on Monday and to participate in Rotaract's annual Seahawks viewing party fundraiser set for December 10th at The Sports Center.

Rebecca Pennell had the honor of introducing our featured speaker, JD (Jon) Olney Shellenberger. Jon is an archaeologist, an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation, and descendant of the Wintu Tribe. He discovered his Wintu roots several years ago after finding a photo of his great-grandfather Alexander Blodgett on Ancestry.com. His grandfather was wearing a prison uniform and imprisoned for assaulting a Bureau of Indian Affairs agent who had come to their home in 1901 to take his five children away to boarding school. In addition to being an archaeologist, Jon is also an artist and the owner of Native Anthro.com, an online retail store.

He began his presentation by sharing that the land we live on now was once home to 3,000 to 5,000 Yakama people that lived from Gap to Gap as a continuous village. Jon came from a farming family on both sides of his family. He is the first kid in 500 years on his father's side not to be able to grow a crop. His dad came from Irish farmers. The Shellenberger name was adopted during the Civil War. The young boy who came from Ireland did not like seeing people being blown up, so he went west and adopted his sister-in-law's name; she was German. He also comes from the Olney family from White Swan.

His life as an archologist includes his current work at Ft. Simcoe searching for unmarked graves is about uncovering legacy and cleaning the tracks of his ancestors trying to find answers to what happened in their history that has been hidden. Covid was tough for his people; they lost lots of relatives. During that time Facebook became a way to bring happiness through virtual pow wows with ½ million people sharing their dance and art online. As a designer of clothes, hats, and shoes it was hard to make his products; he couldn't get anything manufactured. His wife suggested he draw for people and sell his prints – it saved his business. He draws things that inspire him; his kids are a huge inspiration. His number one passion is bead working; he has been a bead worker since the age of 12. His grandparents were very important to him. His grandfather was really hard on him learning to do bead work. He has also been dancing since he was 12 as well. He is a grass dancer which is a Plains healing dance stemming from medicine dance ceremonies. His family is also well known as moccasins makers amongst his people. His life has been about his culture, beadwork, and dancing, all wrapped into his vision of the world through art. Art and anthropology are important. There is a thin line in his culture between anthropology and art and museums.

A special thank you to Rebecca Pennell for arranging and planning the meeting. It was a wonderful look at a beautifully rich heritage and culture of dance, native languages, history, and art.

