



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic
Of Rotary*

SHAQUEM GRIFFIN A CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Winner of the NFL Game Changer, Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year, and AAC Defensive Player of the Year Awards, Shaquem Griffin made history as the NFL's first ever one-handed player. Now he inspires others to overcome adversity and persevere.

Shaquem Griffin was born just minutes after his twin, Shaquill. Both boys went on to become remarkable athletes in high school and college at the University of Central Florida (UCF) and both played in the NFL after being drafted by the same team - but Shaquem did it all with just one hand.

At birth, Shaquem experienced a rare condition called amniotic band syndrome and his hand ultimately had to be amputated when he was four years old. His family refused to treat him any differently than his brother, and from the time he could say the words, his motto has been "please don't tell me what I can't do."

Shaquem's collegiate accomplishments include first team All-American Athletic Conference linebacker, AAC Defensive Player of the Year, National Champion and Peach Bowl MVP. After a historic performance at the NFL Combine, he was selected as a linebacker by Seattle, playing for the Seahawks from 2018-2020. His most memorable on the field highlight was sacking current NFL MVP Aaron Rodgers during the playoffs in 2020. He signed with the Miami Dolphins for the 2021 season.

Shaquem is now working as a consultant for the NFL Legends Community where he helps former NFL players understand the different benefits and resources available to them. He also works as a public speaker giving motivational speeches to colleges, fortune 500 companies, and football programs.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Davis, Eisenhower & West Valley students
Music – Melany Peterson
Inspiration – Anthony Peterson
Program – Eric Silvers
Attendance – Elisabeth Tutsch

FUTURE PROGRAMS

February 20th – Andi Hochleutner & Dr. Foti Panagakos,
Classification Talks
February 27th – Darcie Roberts, Local Fine Art
March 6th – Vicki Baker, Yakima City Update
March 13th – Craig Marks, CEO Prosser Memorial Hospital

YAKIMA ROTARY ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS OPEN!



The 2025 Yakima Rotary Academic Scholarship process is underway. A total of nineteen scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each will be awarded. The program is open to graduating high school students attending Davis, East Valley, Eisenhower, Highland, LaSalle, Naches Valley, Riverside Christian, Selah, and West Valley high schools, along with home-schooled and Running Start students within those districts.

Applicants will be evaluated on academic performance, community service and leadership within the school environment, community service and leadership outside the school environment, a personal essay on the importance of community service, two letters of recommendation, and financial need. Applications must be post-marked or emailed to the Rotary office by Friday March 7th and can be found on our website yakimarotary.org under the Youth tab.

REVIEW

Past President Erin Black did a great job leading the meeting and team of Rotary volunteers helping along the way. Joel Ylvisaker and Curt Wilson served as our greeters while Margaret Filkins and Quinn Dalan sold squares for the Super Bowl Board fundraiser. President Elect Sheri Bissell shared a winter inspirational message. Past President Erin welcomed our guests and announced that the application process for our Academic Scholarships is open. Doug Rich led us in Happy Birthday for Harry Helliesen who celebrated his 90th birthday this week; we recorded it to share with him at home. Bob Udell, keeping in the program theme of golf raised money for Rotary Charities as our sergeant-at-arms.

John Adkison reintroduced Rick Murray as our newest member. Rick grew up in Glendora, California and graduated from Cal Poly University with a goal of becoming a high school teacher and coach. God had another plan for him and after a time of prayer and discernment, he entered Fuller Seminary where throughout his training he worked at his home church as a college/career director. After graduating in 1980 he served as an associate pastor in San Carlos, CA at Trinity Presbyterian and later a lead pastor in Dublin, CA at John Knox Presbyterian Church. In 1993 he moved to Yakima to serve as senior pastor and head of staff at the First Presbyterian Church of Yakima. During that time, he belonged to our club, served on the YMCA board, and was a member of the Board of Trustees at Whitworth University. A calling in 2006 saw Rick and his family move to Texas and California to serve churches in Austin and Santa Ynez. He retired in 2019 after 39 years of service. He continued to be a part of the teaching team at Coastland Church in Buellton, CA before making Yakima his home once again in 2023. He and his wife Kathy have 2 sons, and three grandchildren. When not busy with family he enjoys reading, hiking, golf and fishing. Welcome back!

Our featured speaker was Southwest Rotarian David Kearby who came to talk about the Rotary Club of St. Andrews International Golf Tournament. A love of golf and Rotary provided Dave the opportunity to participate in this annual event held exclusively for Rotarians and their guests. Over 20 countries were represented; everyone he met asked him to spread the word – more Yanks were needed. He began by dispelling two myths: you don't need to enjoy golf to be interested in this event and you don't need to be good at golf. At the end of the day, it is about two things golf and St. Andrews. St. Andrews is a beautiful village. It is famous for the filming of Chariots of Fire. It is a city of love; the future king and queen William and Kate met at university there. Mary Queen of Scots loved to visit; it was home to one of the most beautiful cathedrals in the region. There was also contention. In the 1500s, after John Knox leader of the Scottish Reformation, spoke at a cathedral, the local parishioners had it cleansed. St. Andrews is also known as the "home of golf" with golf having been played in some form since the 15th century. The two individuals, old Tom Morris and young Tom Morris are credited with being the grandfather and father of golf. Old Tom Morris was a greenskeeper and caddie instrumental in designing St. Andrews; his son, young Tom Morris is the father of the professional golf world. Old golf courses were made up of well-to-do businesspeople who weren't great golfers. They would wager with other golf clubs and enter their best caddie in tournaments and make money - young Tom Morris was a caddie. There

are upwards of 7 courses around St. Andrews. The Old Course is the one that gets the attention; getting on it is a very difficult thing or expensive to do. Up until recently, one of the things hopeful golfers did was stand in line the night before and hope that their name would get drawn to be thrown into a random group to play the course. The other way is to pay a lot of money to be a part of a golf group or stay at the Old Course Hotel at \$1,000 a night.

Playing St. Andrews Old Course was a bucket list item for Dave. He found out about the Rotary tournament through a book called "Golf in Scotland." Four chapters were dedicated to how to get on the course at St Andrews. One way was "being a Rotarian and entering the annual Rotary International Event in June." For 68 years the Rotary Club of St Andrews has hosted the Rotary International Golf Tournament on the Old Course. Besides the British Open there is no other outside golf tournament allowed on the Old Course except for the Rotary International Golf Tournament. Dave and his wife, Sharon along with Cal Anderson and his wife signed up to participate. Rotary does things excellently! For 4 days, the New Club with a view of the 1st and 18th fairway at St. Andrews, bar, restaurant, and fellowship was set aside for Rotary. There were 250 golfers and with guests and spouses over 400 people participated. An opening reception was held on Sunday with a welcome by the City of St. Andrews Pipe Band on the 18th fairway. The main competition qualification rounds were held on Monday and Tuesday on the Eden Course and Old Course. The Top 45 qualified for the Championship played on Wednesday and Thursday on the same courses. The next 45 golfers played in the St. Andrews Quaich Competition on the Jubilee Course. If you don't make either one of those there is a Charity Golf Tournament on Wednesday on the Dukes Course and a Fellowship Foursome on Thursday at the Straththrum Course. There are two separate competitions for lady golfers; they can also elect to play in the main competition. There is an 18 hole Putting Competition open to everyone on Tuesday as well. Sharon and Cal's wife participated.

To even the playing field, the Stableford Scoring system was used; players earned points per hole. Golfers are assigned playing partners randomly. The 1st tee on the Old Course is right off the walkway – teeing off in the afternoon means a lot of tourist and people walking around. Teeing off on the Eden Course included an introduction of "teeing off for the United States of America David Kearby." An app allowed them to see their scores throughout the day. He and Cal also participated in the tradition of leaving something of value on the grave of young Tom Morris grave for good luck (it didn't help). Dave and Sharon posed on the historical Swilcan Bridge which is over 700 years old and spans the creek on the 18th fairway. They visited the St. Andrews Golf Museum, ate haggis, and shopped. There is a lot of thrift shopping. The tournament concluded on Thursday night with a fellowship dinner and awards ceremony at the Hall of Champions at the Old Course Hotel. The night ended with the singing of Auld Lang Syne. The golf was great, but the making of new friends and fellowship was the most memorable part of the experience. This year's event in June marks 69 years – next year will be 70. Interested in finding out more; go to the website for St. Andrews International Golf Tournament and sign up to get on their mailing list.



THANK YOU TO OUR ROTARY AUCTION SPONSORS!

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Morgan Stanley



Quinn & Aaron Dalan



Bronze

