

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Create Hope
 in the World*



BLAIR DALY EFFORTS TO CREATE THE NATION'S FIRST COMMISSION ON BOYS & MEN



Blair Daly is the founder of Washington Initiative for Boys and Men, which does advocacy journalism and grassroots political organizing focused on boys and men's issues. Blair grew up in Bellevue. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Washington, and for his day job he works on transportation projects and programs for the City of Kirkland.

His bachelor's degree is from Whitworth University, where he majored in political science and played drums in the jazz band. He loves baseball, basketball, and ping-pong.

Joining Blair will be Jamie Holter, a fellow core member of his advocacy team. Jamie is a Seattle-area mom of two sons in their twenties. She coached boys' soccer for many years where she became known as the "boy wrangler." She is a graduate of the University of Washington and currently works for King County in Strategic Communications, Planning, Engagement, and Operations.

Sponsors of SB 5830 / HB 1270
 Establishing the Washington State Commission on Boys and Men

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FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

- Greeters – Chase Powell, Rosylen Oglesby
- Invocation – Sharon Miracle
- Program – Jennifer Bliesner
- Attendance – Margaret Filkins

FUTURE PROGRAMS

- February 22nd – Chris Wickenhagen, Kathy Geil & Sheriff Bob Udell, Yakima's New Local Crime Lab
- February 29th – Mark Cheney, Steven Sanchez, Javier Arce & Peter Finch, Registered Apprenticeships in the Yakima Valley
- March 7th – Raul Martinez, Diverse Lands, Unified Vision: The Expansive Reach of DNR
- March 14th – Noe Alvarez, Spirit Run

SECOND CHANCE SOCIAL



After a break this winter, one of our most popular social events is back! What better way to drive away the winter humdrums than to unwind and enjoy an appetizer (on us) and a tasty drink (on you) at one of Yakima's favorite locales.

Mark your calendar for this month's meet-up on February 28th from 5pm to 6pm. Location to be determined.

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP SEASON!

The 2024 Academic Scholarship Program is Open!

Applications are now being accepted from graduating high school students attending Davis, East Valley, Eisenhower, Highland, LaSalle, Naches Valley, Riverside Christian, Selah, and West Valley high schools, along with homeschooled and Running Start students within those districts.



Nineteen (19) scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$2,500 each. Applicants will be evaluated on academic performance, community service and leadership in the school environment, community service and leadership outside the school environment, an essay on the importance of community service, two letters of recommendation, and financial need.

Applications can be found at yakimarotary.org under the Youth tab. They must be postmarked or emailed to the Rotary office by Friday, March 8, 2024. Please help spread the word!

REVIEW

Our club is made up of incredible individuals representing all aspects of our community. That was on full display as our newest members took over the meeting from beginning to end. It all started with Acting President for the day, Anthony Peterson who did an outstanding job navigating through presentations and finishing on time. Drew Harris began the meeting by acknowledging all our new members and sharing our meeting format. In addition to filling the roles of greeters, music, invocation, and sergeant-at-arms, three new members would be sharing what they did for a living and what being a Rotarian meant to them. One of the reasons Drew joined Rotary is because of his love for our community and his work to make it better. Rotary aligned with those same values.

Raul Martinez chose a Spanish song by a Mexican artist, Juan Gabriel called *Abrázame Muy Fuerte*. Music in Spanish invokes so much more emotion. Accompanied by a Symphony and Mariachi, the song is a moving love song that pleads for everlasting endurance in the face of separation. LaDon Linde followed with our invocation and message about how differences of opinions are a part of life. How we treat each other matters; how we speak to and about each other matters. As individuals we have the ability to model how to manage differences of opinion with respect and dignified dialogue.

Having a new member introduction fit in perfectly as Dr. Mike Lawler introduced Dr. Fotinos Panagakos (he goes by Foti) as our newest Rotarian. Described as an overachiever, Dr. Foti has a bachelor's degree, 2 master's degrees and 2 doctoral degrees. He is also a major in the U.S. Army Reserves and runs marathons for fun. He spent 13 years at New Jersey Dental School after being in private practice and went on to join Colgate Palmolive for a number of years before going back to academia. He moved to Yakima in May 2022 to head up PNWU's new School of Dentistry which is slated to open in Fall of 2025. He is a national leader in dental education and never stops working. Welcome to Rotary! Rotary business was wrapped up with the team of Sarah Watson and Andi Hochleitner raising funds for Rotary Charities with a Super Bowl themed sergeant-at-arms that was all things Taylor Swift!

Our featured speakers were Shawna Masters, introduced by Lila Mowatt; Magaly Solis, introduced by Enri Garcia-Sanchez; and Raul Martinez, introduced by Arthur Salido. Shawna became the new Executive Director of the Yakima Schools Foundation almost a year ago. She began by sharing that being a part of Rotary has made a tremendous impact on her; she is grateful for the people she's met and to be a part of a group that making an impact on our community. The mission of the Yakima Schools Foundation is to enhance educational programs within the School District by raising money to fund immediate needs that support current classrooms and programs. Grants are awarded to staff through a grant process to fund curriculum enhancements, technology, field trips, arts, leadership, and literacy activities. As the Executive Director, one of her goals is talking to community members and teachers within the district. That is being achieved by going to school staff meetings to share who they are, and how they can help. It's made a difference already. They raise funds through monthly events at local businesses breweries and restaurants who donate a portion of the day's profits to the Foundation. They also hold an annual fundraiser called Hoptemberfest, and on May 14th are bringing back Celebrate Our Youth dinner event.

Magaly Solis is the Executive Director of La Casa Hogar. She was born in Guerrero, Mexico, the middle of 5 children. Growing up, she and her siblings were assigned different tasks and chores. At the age of 9 her mom promoted her purchase groceries at the local Mercado every day. The walk to the market was easy, the walk back was uphill; it was a struggle with bags. The first time she went, she came back and told her mom she didn't give her enough money; it was not enough for buy everything on the list. Her mom told her she would figure it out. She had to learn quickly how to manage money, shop prices, and to negotiate. When some of their neighbors learned that she was doing "Instacart" they asked her to if she could shop for them too. It led to managing 4 to 5 lists and carrying more bags up the hill. It made her feel like she was making a difference and created a passion for community service. Four years later at the age of 13, their hometown situation changed; a wave of violence made it no longer safe to go to the market or anywhere. Her family fled and arrived in Mabton 1 week later. She was enrolled in school with no time to grieve the life and trauma they had left. She focused on her education but felt isolated. Attending an event at La Casa Hogar celebrating Latino women that changed everything. She was recruited as a volunteer and a few months later was offered a position overseeing the citizenship program. Today she is able to create a community with resilient immigrant women and men. It is an honor to serve with her staff and volunteers. When a fellow Rotarian suggested that she and Enri join Rotary they had her doubts; after talking to other Rotarians, they joined because Rotary is a place dedicated to community service where connections can be built.

Raul Martinez is the External Affairs Manager at the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. He shared that the collective spirit that energizes our community, with ordinary people achieving extraordinary things, resonates deeply with him. He enjoys learning about anyone and anything. His resilience is a product of his family; a father with an unwavering dedication to his work for over 3 decades combined with his mother's rich heritage and traditions. Growing up in Yakima has given him a unique perspective on the diversity and potential within our community. His home was not just a place to live; it was where he learned to be who he is today. At an early age his dad would take him to work on rentals; he gained tangible skills and learned how to finish a task. He serves on many community boards; each has offered unique insights into the challenges and opportunities facing our communities and allowed him to leverage his skills to contribute to our collective prosperity. His role at the DNR is as a strategic advisor. Their focus right now is working on legislative priorities; he's been able to be involved in 85 bills. He shared a story of his grandfather. His grandfather was leaving to visit Mexico and realized he had not voted yet. As they left, Raul's sister took him to vote; it was his final act upon American soil. His passion for public service and policy is fueled by personal experiences. There is never a day where he isn't tired of doing something. As a fellow member he looks forward to what we can achieve together.

