



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Imagine
Rotary*

JESSE WINEBERRY A CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH THE MAKING OF THE MLK JR. HOLIDAY IN WASHINGTON STATE



Former State Representative Jesse Wineberry is an Alum of the University of Washington School of Business, Seattle University School of Law, and Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Wineberry's business degree took him to Wall Street where he worked for Chemical Bank, then America's 6th largest bank. Wineberry's next job was with ABC News in Washington, D.C. and at 23, was featured in People Magazine as the youngest Budget Controller in television network news history. Wineberry managed a \$12 million annual broadcast budget covering global news in the Nation's Capital.

But after traveling the world with ABC News, Wineberry returned home to study law at the University of Washington. In 1984, local ministers and community activists recruited Wineberry to run for office. At 29, Wineberry became the first law student elected to the Legislature.

During Rep. Wineberry's 5 undefeated terms in Olympia, he built a "Silver Rights" agenda devoted to equity, entrepreneurship, and economic development. The Speaker of the House named him Chairman of the powerful House Committee on International Trade, Technology and Economic Development and his fellow legislators elected him House Majority Whip. Wineberry successfully passed many landmark pieces of legislation into law which still continue today, such as the \$100 million Linked-Deposit Loan Fund for Minority and Women Owned Businesses; YouthBuild Apprenticeship Program; the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs; the Employer Supported Child Care Act; and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King State Holiday.

However, Wineberry's most notable accomplishments occurred after leaving elective office. In 2018, community, business and religious leaders asked Rep. Wineberry to Chair Initiative 1000 (I-1000), a bi-partisan statewide effort to overturn Initiative 200 (I-200), the 1998 ballot measure blamed for killing Affirmative Action in Washington state. Wineberry led I-1000's statewide signature drive which gathered a record 395,938 signatures the most signatures ever filed by an initiative to the Legislature in Washington's 130 year history.

On April 28, 2019, the Legislature passed I-1000 into law, ending Washington's 21 year Affirmative Action ban until November 5, 2019 when voters through Referendum 88, rejected the Legislature's actions by 1 percent.

In 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Wineberry co-founded the Washington Equity Now Alliance (WENA), a non-profit, anti-racist organization dedicated to eliminating systemic inequities in our laws. WENA's in-depth legal research revealed that a 1998 Governor's Directive 98-01, not I-200, actually killed Washington's affirmative action programs. WENA launched a year-long statewide education campaign urging Governor Jay Inslee to sign an Executive Order rescinding Directive 98-01 and restoring race and gender conscious affirmative action. On January 17, 2022, Governor Inslee signed Executive Order 22-02 rescinding Governor's Directive 98-01, making Washington the first state in American history to reverse a previous ban on Affirmative Action.

Attorney Wineberry is a member of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association and in 2016 was inducted to practice before America's highest court ... The United States Supreme Court. Wineberry is the proud father of Jesse, Jr. and Mia. Jesse and his wife, Richelle, an attorney and Multiple Sclerosis (MS) survivor, are both active in the National MS Society.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – West Valley, Eisenhower, Davis & East
Valley students
Music – Trinity Bradley
Invocation – Anthony Peterson
Sergeant-at-Arms – Theresa Adkison
Program – Eric Silvers

FUTURE PROGRAMS

February 9th – Jeff Antonelis-Lapp, Mt. Rainier & Climate Change
February 16th – Karen Troianello, My Life with Title IX
February 23rd – Bete Demeke, Project Mercy
March 2nd – Imagine Rotary

HAVE YOU COMPLETED THE IMAGINE ROTARY SURVEY?

Your feedback is essential for providing the Imagine Rotary Study Group input as we continue the process of looking for ways to make positive changes to your Rotary experience. A link was sent by email on Monday. You can find the link in the body of the email with this week's edition of the Tooter. It will also be sent one more time next week. Deadline to respond is February 1st.

REVIEW

We had the honor of having Tom Tochterman as our speaker to share his passion and work on conservation and saving endangered species through Rotary Action Groups (RAGS) and his own NGO, Rhino Mercy. Rotary Auction Groups are chartered by the Rotary International Board of Directors. They are differentiated from Rotary Fellowship Groups whose focus is on fellowship through hobbies and special interests. There are currently 27 RAGS; each one has to focus on one or more of Rotary's Areas of Focus.

Tom is the chair of RAGES (Rotary Action Group Endangered Species). The mission of RAGES is to advance the reach of Rotary by providing the means for Rotary clubs, districts, and members to get engaged with conservation issues. Their motto is healthy landscapes lead to healthy communities. Examples of their work shared included Rotarians from New Zealand and UK who put together resources and stakeholders in Borneo to create both Pygmy Elephant and Orangutan sanctuaries; a Rotary club in South Africa that provides equipment to anti-poaching units in a private game reserve located on the eastern cape of South Africa; two primate projects from Canada called the Mountain Gorilla Society of Canada focused on education and Ape Action Africa that is helping villagers in Cameroon to understand the economic value of conservation; and a project in Guatemala that established a youth citizen science program to teach the importance of pollinators.

One of the factors that contribute to the endangered of species both flora and fauna is environmental crime. Of the four top criminal industries around the globe, environmental crime comes in at number three behind drugs and counterfeiting. Human trafficking is the fourth. Wildlife crime accounts for about 10% of environmental crime at a cost of around \$25 billion. Ground zero for large mammal consumer market is SE Asia. The black-market value of rhino horn pre-COVID was \$25,000 to \$90,000 per kilo. On average there is about 8.5 kilo on each horn for a white rhino. In comparison an elephant tusk is worth \$3,000 per kilo. The reason for the difference is numbers. Kruger National Park in South Africa is ground zero for rhino poaching; it is the only place left with any substantial population of rhino.

Tom's involvement and creation of Rhino Mercy started when he took his family on a photographic safari in 2009. He immersed himself in the Africa experience spending months in the bush every year. In 2012 he organized Rhino

Mercy with a mission to support boots on the ground, support education and research, seek ways to adapt technology in wildlife crimefighting, support food security initiatives, and create public awareness that extinction is forever. He created a coalition with a local NGO, Transfrontier Africa. Central to their efforts to save the rhinos is the first of its kind, all-female anti-poaching unit called Black Mambas. One of the most asked questions he receives is why women? Wildlife crime is a multi-generational problem. Changing that meant focusing on youth; to get to youth you go to the mothers. They recruited 36 young women from villages adjacent to Kruger Park. They cover 30,000 acres. Unarmed, their duties include daily foot patrols on boundaries, vehicle patrols at night, roadblocks and vehicle checks, and public outreach. They are teachers, leaders, and proud defenders of the wildlife treasures that surround them. In 2016, they received the highest possible environmental award from the U.N., the Champions of the Earth.

In addition to their anti-poaching campaign, they also dedicate resources through the Bush Babies Youth Education Program teaching 1,200 students in 13 rural schools to create a sense of environmental patriotism at a young age and the need to protect endangered species. This past year they also took on the task of feeding 860 kids every day for lunch; many of them were leaving at lunch to find something to eat and not coming back. At the end of the first full academic year, attendance went to 100% all day long.

Other happenings during the program included the introduction of Steven Gustafson as our first new member in 2023. It was a one-of-a-kind introduction by Matt Morgan. Steven was born and raised in Colorado and is a huge Broncos fan. He played college football until he broke his leg. He is a Vice President, Commercial Loan Officer with Heritage Bank. President Rick presented a blue badge to Sara Watkins and made announcements about the upcoming tour of Perry Tech, the opportunity to participate in free African Drumming classes, and to complete the membership survey if you haven't already done so. Our line-up of volunteers helping with the meeting were Chuck Stillwaggon as our greeter, Charlie Robin who led us in the National Anthem, Doug Rich who provided our invocation, and Rich Austin who raised money for Rotary Charities as sergeant-at-arms. It was a great day with a great program that showed how Rotarians all around the world are making a difference for good.