



THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Unite For
 Good*

LAWRENCE GOLAN NATIVE AMERICAN SYMPHONY & BALLET



Vibrant, inspired performances, imaginative programming and an evocative command of different styles and composers are the hallmarks of American conductor Lawrence Golan. He currently serves as Music Director/Conductor of the Yakima Symphony Orchestra (Washington), the York Symphony Orchestra (Pennsylvania), and the Lamont Symphony Orchestra & Opera Theatre at the University of Denver (Colorado). In addition, he is the Music Director Laureate of the Denver Philharmonic Orchestra.

Having conducted throughout the United States and in Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, El Salvador, England, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, Maestro Golan continues to develop relationships with orchestras nationally and abroad.

An accomplished violinist, Golan served as Principal Second Violinist of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra (1989-1990) and then Concertmaster of the Portland Symphony Orchestra for eleven years (1990-2001) before focusing his career on the podium. He has appeared as soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and continues to perform primarily to benefit the orchestras of which he is Music Director.

A native of Chicago, Lawrence Golan comes from a musical family. His father, the late Joseph Golan, was a member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for forty-nine years and Principal Second Violinist for thirty-five of those years. Lawrence Golan received his Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance and Master of Music in Violin Performance and Orchestral Conducting from the Indiana University School of Music and his D.M.A. in Violin Performance and Orchestral Conducting from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. In 1999 he was awarded Tanglewood Music Center's Leonard Bernstein Conducting Fellowship, and in 2002, Aspen Music Festival's Conducting Fellowship.

A staunch advocate for music education, Lawrence Golan has been Director of Orchestral Studies and head of the graduate conducting program at the University of Denver since 2001. There he has won eight ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music, three Downbeat Magazine Awards for "Best College Symphony Orchestra," and The American Prize for Orchestral Performance – Collegiate Division. His latest honor is the 2021 Distinguished Scholar Award from the University of Denver.

2027-2028 YAKIMA ROTARY PRESIDENT

This past Wednesday evening, the Yakima Rotary Board of Directors met and unanimously selected Bruce Bacon to serve as our Rotary President for the 2027–28 Rotary year. Bruce brings an impressive legacy of service to the role. Since joining Yakima Rotary in 1985, he has chaired or co-chaired ten committees, served on the Rotary Board from 2000 to 2003, and supported the Rotary Foundation and Rotary Trust as a multiple Paul Harris Fellow and a Rotary Trust Fellow. Adding to his legacy is that his family represents four generations of Yakima Downtown Rotarians. Bruce shares a remarkable life story with his wife, Rosanne, whom he's known since fifth grade. Together, they've built a wonderful family that includes four children and seven grandchildren. Congratulations to Bruce! We look forward to his leadership and vision as he guides the Finest Rotary Club in America into the future.



FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Sam McClung, Mitchell Acosta
Inspiration – Celisa Hopkins
Sergeant-at-Arms – Kathy Miller Parrish
Program – Dana Eliason
Attendance – Matt Crow

FUTURE PROGRAMS

February 5th – Jennifer King, A Celebration of Black History Month
February 12th – Jon DeVaney, State of Agriculture in Yakima Valley
February 19th – Blaine Tamaki, Day of Remembrance
February 26th – Megan Murphy, World Marathon Challenge

ROTARY ROASTERS

Tuesday, January 27th • Catalyst Coffee inside Single Hill Brewery • 7:00am

REVIEW

Last week was one an opportunity to celebrate some of our newest members, Esther Magasis and Cole Held, gave their classification talks. Beforehand we could hear their stories, there was Rotary business to take care of. Margaret Filkins and John Baule were selling squares for the Seahawks game on Sunday. Our song of the day was “Love Train” chosen by Joe Biondi for its message of peace to countries and people across the world. Amy Maib’s inspirational message was all about the word “inspiration” – loved it! Alyssa Ford and Mike Mittelman received their blue badges. Sy Ruiz raised funds for Rotary Charities with a great sergeant-at-arms. President Sheri shared one of the best announcements every year – the selection of a new president. Bruce Bacon was chosen as our newest Rotary President to serve for the 2027-28 year following President Elect John Cooper. He is going to do a remarkable job!

We also presented our first round of grant awards as Dan Sullivan presented checks to five local organizations. 509 Boxing Gym was awarded \$4,000 to expand and provide opportunities for children in our community to learn discipline and confidence through the sport of boxing. Nob Hill Elementary PTA was awarded \$4,000 to create a school garden to help improve academic achievement, social behaviors, and mental health. The Union Gospel Mission was awarded \$3,000 for the creation of a learning lab for their family shelter. The Yakima Free Clinic and PNWU both submitted requests to fund the purchase of equipment needed for the screening of diabetes. The Committee reached out to see if they would be willing to collaborate and share the equipment and resources. They said yes and were awarded a total of \$3,600; \$2,000 to the Yakima Free Clinic and \$1,600 to PNWU. The next deadline to apply for grants is February 1st.

Rotary has always known that we all have stories to tell; thus, the reason for a tradition going back over 100 years of asking members to give classification talks that give Rotarians an opportunity to connect, learn, and build friendships. Esther Magasis was first to share her story. Her mother was born and raised in Japan. Her dad was raised in Brooklyn by a refugee Jewish family. Growing up in Seattle, Esther would spend a month with family in Japan every. The childhood photos she shared were the best; as a young girl at the opening of Safeco Field, her dressed in costume as Arwen from the Lord of the Rings, with her grandmother in Japan, and her family in Israel. Her husband, Dylan was born and raised in Yakima. He went to Davis High School and came back to teach at Davis to show kids that you can go on from Davis, get four-year and master’s degrees, and come back to Yakima and thrive. Esther moved to Yakima in 2018 knowing she couldn’t take Dylan from here. Her mom has been an incredible person to live up to. She first came to the U.S. as an exchange student at Stanford. After graduation, she got a really good job at a firm in Japan and quickly found that her job was to making tea for men. When she asked why she worked so

hard, the answer was that she’d meet a husband at work and he’d have a really good job. She came back to America. When Esther was born, she was proud to have an American daughter who would be stronger and smarter than any boy she’d ever met. Esther had initially intended to go into television and film. After learning that it could be a life where, when the time came, she would be away from any future family for months at a time she pivoted to international business management, economics, and sociology – it was the exact mix for what she does today as Director of Human Services for Yakima County. She ended by sharing how important volunteering was to her, that the building she works in was once a Pizza Hut and morgue, that the most important thing she will ever do is be mom to her beautiful 1 ½ year old daughter.

Cole’s story came with a title: From the Bayou to the Mountains - how a young guy from the South ended up in Yakima and owning a cemetery. Cole had a good life starting out being raised with his sister in Louisiana. His first adversity came at the age of 8 with Hurricane Katrina. His dad came home and told him to grab everything he wanted because when they came back none of it would be here. It was two months before they were able to go back and see how it looked. Their home had moved over 200 yards, nothing was left, and to this day he still remembers the horrible smell. Eventually they rebuilt but nothing was ever the same; his family split apart. He went to LSU with the goal of becoming a doctor. After working at a Diabetes type 1 camp for kids one summer, he asked himself if he really wanted to take one more biology class and do this. He made a change to business marketing. A visit at job fair with a local funeral home and cemetery started a new journey and a quest to get a good job to pay off debt. The average pay for salespeople was \$70,000. He got interviewed, was hired and promoted to operations manager. He left the business after the hiring of a new supervisor who micromanaged him and decided to flip houses with his mom. The owner of the funeral home agreed to invest in the project. He and his mom flipped two houses side by side and lived in them at the same time. She taught him as they worked and he gained an appreciation for the small things in life. His next job was a new home from the ground up that included a break to get a minister’s license so he could remarry his parents. The home was completed at the end of Covid and sat on the market for 18 months where he had no paycheck at all. His investor (owner of the funeral home) presented a proposal for Cole to move Yakima and buy the cemetery he owned (West Hills Memorial Park); he was ready to retire. Cole thought, why not, he liked to help people. Business would always be constant. That was one year ago. His parents and sister have come to visit. The mountains close by allow him to embrace nature. While it has been challenging, it has made him a better person.

They did an exceptional job! THANK YOU for sharing with us!



Nob Hill Elementary

Union Gospel Mission

Yakima Free Clinic

PNWU

509 Boxing

President Sheri and Grant Recipients

JOIN US FOR THE

BLACK

HISTORY

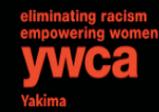
MONTH

CELEBRATIONS

February 4th and 5th

COACH JENNIFER KING

First Black Female NFL Coach



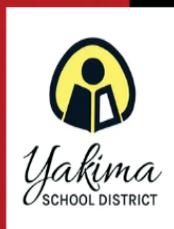
Dalan Family
Anderson Family



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Eric J Silvers, Agent



Dalan Family
Anderson Family

4 SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

TIME: School Schedule

LOCATION: Eisenhower High School and Davis High School
Closed to the public

FEB

4 OIC HBCC DINNER

TIME: 6:30PM - 8:00PM

LOCATION: OIC Henry Beauchamp Community Center
1211 S. 7th St, Yakima, WA 98901
Free and open to the Public

FEB

5 YOUNG LEADERS OF COLOR MEET & GREET

TIME: 11:00AM - 12:00PM

LOCATION: Yakima Chamber of Commerce
10 North 9th Street, Yakima, WA 98901

For young leaders of color, ages 18 to 40 years old

FEB.

5 ROTARY LUNCH

TIME: 12:00PM - 1:15PM

LOCATION: Yakima Convention Center
10 N 8th St, Yakima, WA 98901

If you would like to attend, the cost to attend is \$23.00, and lunch is included; email yakimarotary@yakimarotary.org to secure your spot.

FEB.

5 AN EVENING WITH JENNIFER KING

TIME: 6:30PM

LOCATION: Student Union and Recreation Center,
Ballroom CWU Campus.

400 E. University Way, Ellensburg, WA 98926
Free and open to the Public.

FEB.