



THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Imagine
 Rotary*

RALPH SCHMIDTKE SIMON & GARFUNKEL, A TOURING PERSPECTIVE



Ralph Schmidtke has spent over 35 years making a living in the music industry. He loves music and his ears are his best friends as he cannot play a single note.

Having worked for 16 years for Capitol Records in Canada, Ralph transitioned to the live sector in 2003 when he joined Annerin Productions which led him to working with *Rain - A Tribute to The Beatles*, allowing him to co-produce a show that may still be the most successful tribute to The Beatles performing today. In the fall of 2016, he was invited to see *The Simon & Garfunkel Story* and

felt the same way when he saw *Rain* for the first time.

With his partners he formed a co-producing group of Maple Tree Entertainment from the United Kingdom, Right Angle Entertainment in the United States and Quatro Entertainment in Canada to bring the show to North America for the 2017 touring season. This collaborative group has since worked together on *The Life and Music of George Michael* and *The British Invasion- Live on Stage*.

Quatro Entertainment has also forged Co -producing agreements with other projects and continues to seek out other interesting titles to develop.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

- Music – Theresa Adkison
- Greeters – Kaylene Stiles, Kurt Labberton
- Invocation – Leanne Antonio
- Sergeant-at-Arms – Mike Johnson
- Program – Charlie Robin

FUTURE PROGRAMS

- January 19th – Trevor Greene, State of Yakima Schools
- January 26th – Tom Tochtermann, Animal Protection in Africa: Extinction is Forever
- February 2nd – Jesse Wineberry, The Making of MLK Jr. Holiday in Washington State
- February 9th – Jeff Antonelis-Lapp, Mt. Rainier & Climate Change

BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS

Nominated candidates for the position of Board Director to service a three-year term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026 have been selected. The three nominees are Ryan Anderson, Rebecca Pennell, and Rich Austin. A vote by the membership will take place at our January 12th meeting.



RYAN ANDERSON



REBECCA PENNELL



RICH AUSTIN

MLK JR. TIMELINE OF EVENTS

“Together We Can Be THE Dream”

- **January 9th – 13th**
20th Annual Lee Paggett Food Drive
Drop off non-perishable food at Davis or Eisenhower High School. Food boxes are outside the main office.
- **January 10th**
Movie Night at OIC Henry Beauchamp Community Center MLK Room
6:00pm – 8:30pm | 1211 S. 7th Street, Yakima
Join us for a free movie night featuring *Selma*. Doors open at 5:30pm and a small discussion about the movie will follow. To register go to <https://bit.ly/OICGameNight2023>.
- **January 12th**
Let's Do It Radio – Do it all in the Mall
6:00PM | Topic: *Together We Can Make It Happen*
Tune in to listen to Keeping it Real with Sargent Parks
Email: Letsdoradio@gmail.com | Call in Number: 1-845-241-9989
- **January 13th – 14th**
MLK Jr. Basketball Tournament at OIC Excel Youth Center Gym. Volunteers & Sponsors Needed.
- **January 13th**
MLK Food Distribution at Henry Beauchamp Community Center
9:00AM – 12:00PM | 1211 S. 7th Street, Yakima
- **January 15th**
MLK Commemoration Service at Greater Faith Baptist Church
3:00PM | 816 S. 16th Street, Yakima
- **January 16th**
City of Toppenish MLK Jr. Peace Walk at O'Riley
Assemble at 9:30AM | Commence at 10:00AM
Peace Walk starting at O'Riley's parking lot ending at Toppenish Middle School
- **City of Yakima MLK Jr. Peace Walk at 5th and MLK Blvd.**
Assemble at 11:30AM | Commence at 12:00PM
Peace Walk starts at the corner of N. 5th on MLK Blvd to the Yakima Convention Center
- **MLK Jr. Celebration at Yakima Convention & Event Center**
1:00PM | 10 N. 8th Street, Yakima
- **MLK Jr. Soup Kitchen at Henry Beauchamp Community Center**
2:00PM | 1211 S. 7th Street, Yakima

REVIEW

The new year began wonderfully with a full house, great speakers, and the unveiling of the results from our Rotary auction. The meeting started with greetings at the door by David Heintz and Jolene Seda with lots of Happy New Year's shared. In honor of National Bird Day, our music choice was the song *Blackbird* by The Beatles and beautifully performed by high school student Emma Stevens in her native Indigenous language, Mi'kmaq. Jan Luring provided our invocation that included timeless pieces of advice, thankfulness for the differences in each of us, and how through Rotary, those differences come together in a common bond. President Rick presented Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) recognition items to Jim Berg, Darrell Blue, John Adkison and David Rogers. A Paul Harris Fellow is awarded to individuals who donate \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation. Jim, Darrell, John, and David are all multiple PHFs. Anthony Peterson was next with an invitation to participate in the many opportunities available in our community to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. (See full list in this edition of the Tooter)

It is hard to believe that it has been over a month since we held our Rotary Auction in November. After being carefully guarded President Rick, with much fanfare, recognized all those that participated, and shared the final results. Chairs Kevin Good and Nicole Donegan were called to the podium. One by one President Rick asked our event sponsors to stand and be recognized followed by the item chairs, donors, volunteers, attendees, and every person who supports Rotary through their membership. With a standing house and “the envelope please”, the final result was revealed as \$386,000. It was a record amount raised and a truly amazing night. THANK YOU to everyone! Ralph Thompson kept it going with a fun and profitable sergeant-at-arms where I'm pretty sure I heard one of my favorite phrases “Go Cougs” more than once.

Jedean Corpron had the honor of introducing our featured speaker, Christine Coté to talk about a true gem in our community, Perry Technical Institute. Christine who is the President of Perry Tech began by thanking our Club for the support of their students through our Vocational Scholarship program; over just the last five years we have awarded Perry student over \$110,000 in scholarships. Perry Tech was established in 1939 when Harriet Perry lost her husband at a very young age and decided to start a trade school for young boys.

The mission at Perry is to educate, empower, and equip students for lifelong careers in industry. The programs they offered range in length to complete from 5 weeks to 2 years. Their current enrollment is 715 students. They have a retention rate of 84%; upon graduation 92% find employment in the field in which they were trained. Christine is often asked how they decided to start a new program. The last few programs have started from someone in industry asking about a needed skill. The last program created for Professional

Truck Driving came about after someone in the fruit industry shared that they were struggling to find drivers and asked if they thought about having a program. About a year later in October 2020 they started their first Professional Truck Driving Program. 79 students graduated; 82% are truck drivers today. That number would be over 90% if you count those that have other jobs. The success rate for the CDL is over 99%.

Seventy percent of students come from the Yakima Valley. 83% stay in Washington state; of that 70% stay in Yakima Valley. One of their most recent projects was the renovation of their old auditorium which is named the Jim Honeyford Student Center. The second floor is entirely focused on everything that has to do with student success including interview rooms, admissions, and a student store. On the horizon they are in the design phase for a new building for the electrical program. It is their largest program; if someone walked in today and wanted to enroll, they could not get into it until March 2024. They are also in the process of creating a Software Development and Data Analytics Program with a focus on agriculture and medicine and are interested in starting an electrical lineman program as well.

Tony Nirk came up to join Christine. He is the Department Head of the Instrumentation and Industrial Automation program. Students come from all over to enroll in the program that include Alaska, Florida, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, and New Mexico. The program started in 1946 with learning how to repair instrument clusters in WWII airplanes. One of the key components when talking about the program today is artificial intelligence. For our talk, he focused on 5 areas: inventory management, predictive maintenance, industrial robotics, computer vision and predictive analytics that included real world examples like the technology needed by Amazon for their inventory; the need for people to design, engineer, and repair robotics, and computer vision technology used in apple processing systems. Their job placement from the program is 98%. The success they have can be measured by the companies that hire their graduates. One of their graduates is working at SpaceX as one of four technicians responsible for over 2,000 launch instruments; Intel Corporation visits Perry every quarter to give tech talks and interact with students; and after a recent tour, a Boeing Vice President shared it is most likely the best program in the world.

The program ended with Perry Tech's Win A Home raffle. Christine shared students from Perry's Construction, Electrical, HVAC, and Plumbing programs built the home. Proceeds support student scholarships through their Foundation. Raffle tickets are on sale until January 31. We are so lucky to have a gem like Perry Tech in our community.