

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Create Hope
in the World*



A PANEL DISCUSSION ON YAKIMA COUNTY'S INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE CRISIS

Intimate Partner Violence/Domestic Violence is at the root of many of the issues facing our community. This panel discussion provides a unique opportunity for community members to gain insights into the comprehensive approach being taken to combat Intimate Partner Violence in Yakima. By understanding the collaborative efforts of Law Enforcement, Domestic Violence Agencies, and the Courts, Rotarians can explore ways to actively contribute to making a positive difference in the community. Your presence and participation are crucial in fostering a safer and more supportive environment for all.

PANEL:

Lisa Wallace, Yakima Police Department FTAP Coordinator—Facilitator
Hon. Sonia Rodriguez True, Yakima County Superior Court
Hon. Jared Boswell, Yakima Superior Court
Joe Brusic, Yakima County Prosecutor
Chief Mathew Murray, Yakima Police Department
Cheri Kilty, YWCA Yakima Chief Executive Officer

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Music – Nancy Leahy
Invocation – Sharon Miracle
Sergeant-at-Arms – Doug Rich
Program – Cheri Kilty
Attendance – Margaret Filkins

FUTURE PROGRAMS

January 25th – Debbie Horton & Grant Tobias, Johnny Cash, The Official Concert Experience
February 1st – Raymond Santana, Black History Month
February 8th – New Member Meeting
February 15th – Blair Day, Efforts to Create a State Commission for Wellbeing of Boys & Men

MOLLIE DAVIS SCHOLARSHIP IS OPEN

SCHOLARSHIP

Yakima Rotary Trust
Making Our Community A Better Place To Live.

The Yakima Rotary Trust is pleased to announce the

Mollie Davis Scholarship Program

Renewable Scholarships up to

\$7,500 / \$30,000

a year and / overall

Awards are based on financial need, academic achievement and leadership

Each qualified applicant must be:

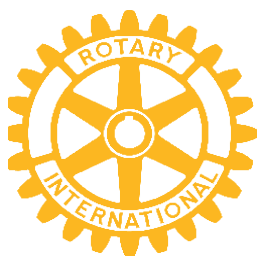
- A US Citizen
- A resident of Yakima County (You may be away attending college)
- A high school senior, a high school graduate, a GED recipient or a current postsecondary student
- Enrolled in fulltime undergraduate study at an accredited two or four year college or university and pursuing a first associate's or bachelor's degree

The application period is
January 15 to February 28, 2024

To begin your applications, please visit our website at
yakimarotarytrust.org

Mollie Davis
SCHOLARSHIP
YAKIMA ROTARY TRUST

SAVE THE DATE - ROTARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE



Our Rotary District 5060 Conference is set for May 2 - May 5, 2024, at the Lakeside Resort & Conference Center in Penticton, BC. Situated between two lakes, Penticton has over 15 acres of premium sandy beaches paired with a refined urban center, orchards and vineyards, and diverse accessible trails perfect for outdoor adventure. The conference will feature world-class speakers that include Music Director & Conductor Rosemary Thomson and Documentary Film Producer Alison MacLean; breakout sessions; socials; and live entertainment. Friday is reserved for fun activities of your choice such as golf, trail cycling, brewery and wine tours, and pickleball. Mark your calendar and register today at rotary5060.org.

REVIEW

Thank you to those who help make Thursday the best day of the week. Steven Gustafson and Joshua Shockley served as our greeters. Doug Rich shared a fun, lighthearted Muppets music video that included snow and what looked a lot like bell ringing. Tressa Shockley followed with a video by Simon Sinek sharing what makes the highest performing teams in the world. The answer was service. President Erin welcomed our guests and invited members to participate in this weekend's MLK Jr. Basketball activities that include the basketball tournament on Saturday and Sunday and the community Peace March on Monday. Rotaract member Kyle Rasmussen shared his experience attending the Rotary COP28 conference in Dubai at the end of November, beginning of December. Representing both Yakima and our District, he was one of 12 Rotaract volunteers selected to participate from around the world. He met amazing people and learned a lot about sustainability programs and technology. One moment that stood out for him was an excursion to the desert with 40-50 other Rotarians and Rotaract members. The group represented 35 countries; they had a bonfire, ate food, and talked. He already loved Rotary; he loves it even more now. He is excited to help Rotaract grow and partner with Rotary clubs to build programs related to the environment and create positive change. Brad Hansen wrapped up Rotary business by raising over \$200 for Rotary Charities.

Rick MacDermid had the honor of introducing our program speaker, Todd Kleppin. Todd is the co-founder of FORGE Youth Mentoring, a chapter style franchise whose goal is reaching kids and connecting them to caring and committed adults. He asked questions, shared how our society has changed and how mentoring changes lives.

In today's mobile society, change is the landscape of everything. We see different aspects of divorce, early death, and single parent homes. In 1960 there was a change in America that freaked out the medical community and those working in the social services. That change was an increase in the number of children born to unwed mothers from 3% to 6%. Today the average number of children born to unwed mothers in Yakima is 40%. It is 55% in Union Gap; 80% in other communities close to us; and even a few small communities of 100%. A study commissioned in 2013 completed by the Commission on Children at Risk shared that we are seeing high and rising rates of depression, anxiety, attention deficit, conduct disorders, suicidal thoughts, and other serious mental, emotional, and behavioral problems among U.S. children and adolescents. While it is 10 years old, things have only gotten worse since then. Why is this happening? The study identified two issues (1) a lack of connection to multi-generational community and (2) a lack of moral and spiritual meaning – not religious but a moral compass helping them see right from wrong.

Based upon research completed by Harvard University, the solution is simple and one thing – connecting kids to positive adult role models. The results are powerful. It's not rocket science. It is about getting them the attention they need to help them to see, discover, and pursue their potential. Kids don't know what, they don't know. By introducing them to things with the help of a mentor they have the chance to dream, plan, hope, and reach for something great. As humans we are wired to have relationships with people. Just last year, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a statement naming the crisis epidemic we face in America – isolation and loneliness across all age brackets.

Mentoring brings lasting change. **Mentoring** builds trust and helps kids build their identity. When they get to know you and see how their mentor lives, they grow in their understanding of life. Their world is their neighborhood. He gave the example in their Long Island New York program where 90% of the kids they serve have never been to the ocean. They are surrounded by the ocean; it is 10 minutes in any direction of where they live. Kids don't do things because they don't get the opportunity to do things. When you don't get those opportunities the expansion of your world is not happening. **Mentoring** grows kids to become involved citizens and future leaders. 90% of kids who are mentored want to become mentors. **Mentoring** builds social capital by meeting new people through their mentor. 46% participating in a mentoring program are less likely to use drugs; 52% are less likely to miss school; 33% are less likely to commit acts of violence; 55% are more likely to go to college; and 130% are more likely to take on a leadership role in their community.

With the help of a video, we heard about FORGE and the positive changes to both the mentor and mentee. Our own Rick MacDermid shared his experiences serving as a mentor for his mentee, Ivan. It was hard to put what it means in words. He began mentoring Ivan at 12; today he is 16. Ivan started out very shy and quiet. Some of the things they have done have included working on Operation Harvest, helping build the Rotary playground on the Greenway, and volunteering at the Rotary Food Bank. They meet once a week or every two weeks for at least an hour. They play cards, go out to eat, or go to the skate park. They've toured the courthouse with Judge True and will soon be touring Perry Tech with Tressa Shockley. Rick is learning as he goes. As an organization, FORGE recruit kids ages 7-18; screen, recruit, and train mentors; create matches based upon common interests; and provide activities and free coupons for local activities. The time commitment they ask is 4 hours a month. Mentors are given all tools they need to be successful. It was another great program that I hope inspired someone to be that one person to help change a life or to step up as an experience partner.