



## THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Imagine  
 Rotary*

### TREVOR GREENE STATE OF THE YAKIMA SCHOOLS

Dr. Trevor Greene is the Superintendent of Schools for the Yakima School District. He began in this role in 2019 and immediately began working with over 300 community members on a new strategic plan for the district. While navigating the intensities of the pandemic, the Yakima School District stayed true to its strategic plan:



- Yakima’s littlest learners now have an early learning center;
- all students and families have access to a new health and wellness center on North First Street;
- elementary schools launched dual language;
- more high school students are graduating with the seal of biliteracy on their diploma and have more college credit opportunities;
- Dr. Greene and the Yakima School District have proudly expanded student-focused relationships with the Yakama Nation, the business community, and the district’s faith-based partners, amongst others.

Before becoming Yakima’s Superintendent, Dr. Greene served students as a paraeducator, security guard, teacher, assistant principal, principal, and district administrator. In 2013, Dr. Greene was honored as the National Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary Principals (NASP). Last year he was nationally recognized as one of the nation’s 25 “Superintendents to Watch.”

Dr. Greene received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Brigham Young University, his Master’s degree from Central Washington University, his Superintendent credentials from Washington State University, and his Doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Washington. He is fluent in the Spanish language and is an enrolled member of the Muscogee Creek tribe.

Trevor is a proud member of Rotary Club of Yakima, a board member of the Downtown Association of Yakima, serves on the regional advisory board for the Washington Chapter of Teach for America, is a board member for Children’s Alliance, and was recently inducted into the Heads and Principals Association.

Trevor and his wife, Melanie, are celebrating 30 years of marriage. They have four children, with their youngest currently attending IKE. Melanie and Trevor love to dote on their grandchild and anxiously await the arrival of their second grandchild.

#### FOR THURSDAY’S MEETING

Music – Andie Webb  
 Greeters – Drew Harris, Tom Froula  
 Invocation – Rick Pinnell  
 Sergeant-at-Arms – Bob Romero  
 Program – Bunker Frank

#### FUTURE PROGRAMS

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  
 February 16th – Karen Troianello, My Life with Title IX

#### **PROPOSED NEW MEMBER**

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, January 20, 2023, the following individual will be elected to membership:

**Steven Gustafson**  
 Vice President/Commercial Loan Officer  
 Heritage Bank  
**Classification: Banking Services, Commercial Lending**  
 Proposed by: Matt Morgan  
 Endorsed by: Larry Hull

## ROTARY GRANT INVITATION

At the beginning of December, a grant award was presented for an After School Drum Camp for students at Gilbert & Garfield Elementary Schools. As part of the project, there will be free drum classes open to adults. The dates are February 7th, February 8th, and February 9th from 7pm to 8:30pm.

Taught by expert drum teachers from Seattle and San Francisco, each class features a different type of drumming. Registration to participate is open at [www.inglewoodchristianchurch.com](http://www.inglewoodchristianchurch.com). You can sign up for one, two, or all three.

AFTER SCHOOL DRUM CAMP, ENGLEWOOD  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND YAKIMA ROTARY  
PRESENT

**FREE LEARN AFRICAN DRUMMING**

**Susu Pampanin**  
Tabla/Doumbek-  
"North African Rhythms"  
**FEB 7th**

**Afua Kouyate'**  
Djembe-  
"West African Drumming, Dance  
and Song"  
**FEB 9th**

**Sheree Seretse**  
Marimba-  
"Zimbabwean Marimba"  
**FEB 8th**

**Workshops 7:00pm to 8:30pm**

**REGISTER NOW AT**

[www.inglewoodchristianchurch.com](http://www.inglewoodchristianchurch.com)

## REVIEW

It was a great musical day at Rotary this week. The sounds of Simon & Garfunkel played in the background as we arrived and were greeted by Kaylene Stiles and Kurt & Melissa Labberton. We began the meeting with another round of Paul Harris Fellow recognition item presentations to David Brown, George Brown, John Cooper, Dana Eliason, Connie Falon, Karen Ireland, Kurt Labberton, and Jordan Matson. Our music chosen by Theresa Adkison featured John Legends' *Glory* from the movie *Selma*; it was beautiful. In our invocation, Leanne Antonio expressed thankfulness for the gift of music and the talents of those who write the words and tunes, and those who share their voices to sing them. The music continued with Mike Johnson's sergeant-at-arms that began with a song and continued with a quiz of not Simon & Garfunkel, but Simon or Garfunkel.

President Rick and President Elect Erin Black were in charge of announcements. President Rick reminded us about the community activities happening this weekend that include the MLK Jr. Basketball Tournament Friday and Saturday and Community Peace Walk on Monday. President Elect Erin oversaw a vote on our new Board candidates who will serve a three-year term beginning July 1, 2023. The nominees were Ryan Anderson, Rebecca Pennell, and Rich Austin. With a call for a motion and second (of which there were many), there was a resounding vote of approval. Congratulations to each of them! The last announcement was to look for a club survey coming to your email next week.

Charlie Robin had the honor of not only introducing but interviewing our featured speakers Ralph Schmidtke and Dean Elliott, who were in Yakima as co-producers of *The Simon & Garfunkel Story* at The Capitol Theatre. Their stories started with where they came from. Ralph is from Canada. Dean is from England. Ralph has been in the entertainment industry for a long time. He spent 16 years on the recording side, starting in 1986 as a sales rep, before becoming director of sales and marketing for Western Canada. In 2003, he moved over to the live side when he became co-producer on the show *Rain - A Tribute to The Beatles*. After moving to a new company, he met Dean Elliott in the fall of 2016, where he saw him perform as Paul Simon in a dinner theatre in Edmondson, Alberta. When he got there, they were pulling in more and more tables to accommodate the crowd. He saw the same reactions (happy, sad, dancing, hugging) that he had seen from audiences seeing *Rain*.

Dean Elliott came from the performing side. He starred in the production of *Buddy, The Buddy Holly Story* in London, West End for three years, touring around the world. With a young family and wife, and the difficulties from being away from them, he decided to become a producer. He was looking to put together a how something like *Buddy*, it had to be something that he cared about. He was a massive fan of Simon & Garfunkel and loved the song *Sound of Silence* which was written by Paul Simon at the age of 16. Their music was timeless; there was no other career person or band whose final record was their most successful. There was a natural way to build a crescendo - *The Simon & Garfunkel Story* kind of wrote itself. He decided to tour in the UK but was always looking for the right team to bring it to North America. He was happy to find Ralph; his expertise brought it to the next level. Today they are moving into their sixth year as co-producers in North America and are proud of the team they've built. It's been amazing!

With time for questions from the audience who heard about paying for the use of Paul Simon & Art Garfunkel's music; the size of the touring group; the images on the screens during the performance; and finding the talent. They brought 16 to 17 people with them; 10 as part of the touring show with the remaining here to set up and work out any kinks in equipment. The images on the screens capture events happening at the time of Simon & Garfunkel, adding energy, drama, and emotions. Ralph and Dean personally participate in the selection of the talent.

What's coming next? Johnny Cash. They secured the rights from his estate, the rights from Sony Pictures and Sony Entertainment to use the songs he has written. The next step is going to Nashville to find a band and audition singers. They are putting it together for a producer from Amsterdam with a launch in the fall.

Yakima was chosen as the place to come, build the show, put everything together, and rehearse before going out on tour. Comments from those who attended the show on Wednesday were full of praise. What they said is a testament to how our community's investment in The Capitol Theatre's production center and 4th Street Theatre has brought us the best of Broadway in our own backyard.