

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024

YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Create Hope
in the World*



CELISA HOPKINS AND RUSS & NANCY MAZZOLA WALKING THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

The **Camino de Santiago** famously known as the Way of St. James is no ordinary journey! This iconic pilgrimage, steeped in medieval charm, draws people from all walks of life to the stunning Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela nestled in Spain's northwestern corner in the heart of Galicia. Its routes are a network of many different paths, all leading pilgrims to the city of Santiago de Compostela. Each route has its own history, heritage, and charm with a route for every interest and ability.

Our members **Celisa Hopkins and Russ and Nancy Mazzola** will tell you why they did this walk, what they learned on the walk, and the trials and tribulations of such a journey. Both Celisa and the Mazzola's started at different locations.

In May 2015, over the course of 11 days, **Celisa** walked 156 miles of the Camino de Santiago with her mom, sister, and a family friend. What started out as a walking adventure abroad, quickly became a life-changing experience that provided many unexpected lessons about what really matters, how to be in relationship to others, and how little we need to be content.

Russ and Nancy Mazzola walked the Camino Frances from St. Jean de Pied, France 790 km to Santiago, Spain. The tranquility of the trail, the opportunity for reflection, and the travelers they met made their pilgrimage a highlight of their lives.

It's not just a walk; it's an odyssey of the spirit!



FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – LaDon Linde, Jolene Seda
Music – Charlie Robin
Invocation – Kurt Labberton
Sergeant-at-Arms – Kelly Gasseling
Program – Rick Pinnell
Attendance – Connie Falan

FUTURE PROGRAMS

January 11th – Todd Kleppin, FORGE Youth Mentoring
January 18th – Cheri Kilty, Sonia Rodriguez True & Yakima Police Department, Intimate Partner & Domestic Violence
January 25th – Johnny Cash, The Official Concert Experience
February 1st – Raymond Santana, Black History Month

ROTARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Yakima Rotaract is looking for partners to serve as volunteer judges at the **DECA Conference** taking place in Yakima on Monday, January 8th at the Yakima Convention & Event Center. Between 400 and 500 business and marketing students will be competing in role plays and prepared presentations to earn a spot at the State DECA Competition in March. Judges are needed for the 30 different events. Judging orientation will begin at 8am followed by student competitions from 8:45am – 12:30pm.



The annual **MLK Jr. Basketball Tournament** needs volunteers and sponsors. Volunteers are needed to referee and work at the concession stand. Sponsors are needed to help with the cost for the kids to play. The dates, times, and location are Saturday, January 13th from 8am to 8pm and Sunday, January 14th from 8am to 8pm at Lewis & Clark Middle School, 1114 Pierce Street. Children kindergarten through 8th grade will be playing. The cost is \$13 per student for entry and a meal.

If you would like to serve as a judge for the DECA Conference, please contact Rotaract President Marc Cisneros at yakimarotaract@gmail.com. If you would like to sponsor a child or volunteer for the MLK Basketball Tournament, please contact the Rotary office. Sign-ups for both will also be on the table at our January 4th meeting.

GRANT THANK YOU LETTERS

Yakima Rotary,

I would like to sincerely thank you for awarding my grant project. I am so excited to be pursuing this dream of promoting literacy in our community through this lending library. I'm grateful for your support.

*Sincerely,
Lisa Monson*

(Yakima Rotary Charities awarded a \$1,000 grant to construct a lending library at Marcus Whitman Cowiche Elementary, giving students and their families 24-hour access to books)



Dear Yakima Rotary Charities:

Hope looks like having your whole family back together for a special occasion, reuniting with your children, or building healthy relationships for the first time. Your donation on 11/30/23 in the amount of \$6,000 towards the Genesis Building campaign helps Triumph make hope and new life possible for families across Washington State.

Your generous gift is helping us purchase furnishings for the mental health clinic and early learning center to open the building and begin offering expanded mental health services to the community. Once open, the Genesis Building will provide services that help stop the cycle of generational addiction, address the issue of lack of access to mental health services in Yakima, and provide an essential space to deliver a trauma responsive healing environment. At capacity, nearly 9,000 mental health appointments will be available for all community members (not specific to substance use disorder) and up to 80 women and children in the residential programs will benefit from the expanded kitchen and dining area.

Triumph is built on 60 years of cultivating relationships with a heart for our community by providing mental health services, substance use treatment, housing, case management, and peer support. Thank you for being a part of this legacy.

*In gratitude,
Jolene Seda
Chief Executive Officer*