



THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2024
YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic
Of Rotary*

**PRESIDENT JAMES DEGRASSE
(JIM, JIMMY, J-DAWG)**



Jim (James, Jimmy, J-Dawg) grew up in Yakima, Washington attending Robertson Grade School, Wilson Junior High, and Eisenhower High School graduating in 1981. He started his college education at Yakima Valley College and transferred to the University of Washington by the end of his freshman year, where he earned a degree in Finance from the Foster School of Business in 1985. After college he received a call from his father telling him of an “opportunity” for the family business (Triangle Auto Supply) to acquire a new store in Spokane. Jim joined the family business and after a few years in Spokane moved to Kennewick to help with the branch operations there. In 1992, he returned to Yakima as a

buyer for all three stores.

The family business was started in Yakima in 1921 by his grandfather Merch, continued on in the second generation by his dad, John, and was purchased by Jim and his brother, Todd in 2003. The business expanded in 2011 with the purchase of the local NAPA store. The DeGrasse brothers were running three parts stores (Triangle, NAPA and eCommerce) when things changed (for the better) in 2021. Just as they were getting ready to expand, another “opportunity” presented itself and after 100 years in business the DeGrasse family sold their operations.

Jim has served on numerous boards including serving as president of the Yakima Schools Foundation and the Yakima Tennis Club. He was also actively involved with the PTA and Booster Clubs as his girls grew up. Jim joined Yakima Rotary in 2003 as a third generation Rotarian joining his grandfather (joined 1934) and father (joined 1960). Jim served on the Board of Yakima Rotary from 2010 to 2013 in the role of Treasurer. He was the co-chair of the Rotary Auction in 2012. Today, he serves on the Yakima Trust board as Treasurer.

While Jim has a lot of passions (mostly tennis and cars) he is very passionate about Rotary. He’s served as committee chair on 8 different committees, recruits his whole family to help with Operation Harvest every year, has hosted two Youth Exchange students, and has been on three World Community Service Projects (Mexico, Belize and Honduras).

The greatest joy for Jim is his family. He met his wife, Dawn when he moved back to Yakima in 1992; they married in 1996. They have two beautiful daughters Madeleine (Maddie) and Jacqueline (Jackie). Dawn graduated from WSU and has been a public-school teacher for over 30 years. Yes, that means they have a split house – Cougs and Dawgs! He is inspired by Dawn and her unwavering devotion to education. He feels that Rotary is his way to give back to his community and help make a difference the way Dawn does every day for her students.

FOR THURSDAY’S MEETING

Greeters – Rotary Board
Music/Sergeant-at-Arms – Doug Rich
Inspiration – Kurt Labberton

FUTURE PROGRAMS

July 18th – Asher Niles, MasterChef Junior
July 23rd – Yakima Rotary Trust All Club Celebration
July 25th – No Meeting
August 1st – Judge Ruth Reukauf



2024 MOLLIE DAVIS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Yakima Rotary Trust is pleased to announce the 2024 Mollie Davis Scholarship Recipients. Forty-one students were chosen to receive this year's scholarship, awarded to graduating high school students and college students who are residents of Yakima County. The list of recipients is as follows:

Davis High School

Giselle Avila
Leilani Johnson
Jacqueline Salazar
Timothy Sheahan
Mia Toscano Heredia

Eisenhower High School

Michelle Acevedo Haro
Mariah Cornejo
Kayla King
Allyah Morfin
Jared Rodriguez
Jason Taylor

Grandview High School

Jedida Alvarez
Jeanette Martinez
Juana Rabadan
Aiden Rodriguez

Granger High School

Serrennity Lorton

Highland High School

Isaac Jensen
Yacir Perez

Homeschooled

Jonathan Carvajal

LaSalle High School

Justus Barker
Isabella Roberts

Mabton High School

Ashleyn Reyna

Naches Valley High School

Landon Benetti
Richard Shirrod

Selah High School

Amya Hart
Jocelynn Orozco
Bianca Peña
Bianca Villegas

Sunnyside High School

Ronaldo Alvarez
Jocelyn Campos
Lory Estudillo Quiroz
Valeria Lopez
Ruth Wise-Maldonado

Toppenish High School

Ashlley Barrera
Miranda Estrada
Judith Robledo

Wapato High School

Favian Gil
Thompson Parrish

Washington Virtual Academy

Alissa Machado

West Valley High School

Hudson Deyette
Natalie Guerrero-Rivera

Sixty-six percent of this year's scholars are first-generation college students. Mollie Davis left an educational gift of over \$20 million to fund two and four-year college scholarships benefiting residents of Yakima County. Since 2010, 573 scholarships valued at more than \$10 million have been awarded.



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