



TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026 ROTARY MARKETPLACE

*Create
Lasting
Impact*

YAKIMA ROTARY TRUST ALL ROTARY CELEBRATION



It has become an annual summertime tradition to celebrate the Yakima Rotary Trust. This week we will be doing just that as we skip our regular Rotary meeting on Thursday afternoon and gather with Sunrise and Southwest Rotary members to recognize the contributions of the Trust and their partnerships with all three Yakima Rotary Clubs. Those partnerships include playgrounds, the YMCA Aquatic Center, Rotary Food Bank, MLK Jr. Aquatic Center, a new ADA playground at Larson Park coming this spring, and the Rotary Marketplace. The Yakima Rotary Trust also administers the Mollie Davis Scholarship Program that since its inception has awarded 677 renewable scholarships valued at more than \$11 million. Their work is a point of pride in their mission to “Make Yakima a Better Place to Live.”

The All Rotary Celebration will begin at 5:30pm at the Rotary Marketplace and will include the dedication of the Trust’s newest project: FAVI, an interactive light installation created by internationally acclaimed artist Jen Lewin. Funded entirely by the Trust, FAVI comes from the Latin plural of favus, meaning honeycomb – a nod to Yakima’s agricultural heritage and inspiration behind its distinctive design.

Yakima Rotarians and guests will share an evening of fellowship, honey-inspired food prepared by the Lion Chef, lavender-inspired cocktails, and a short program followed by a Raise the Paddle. RSVPs are required.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

July 16th – No Meeting
 July 23rd – Scott Hold & James Rowland, Pippins Baseball
 July 30th – Tim Teusink, Rotary’s Impact Around the World: A 40-Year Perspective
 August 6th – Rotary Backpack Project



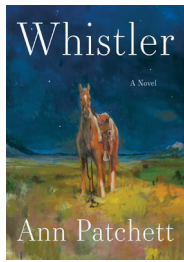
President John has a new email. You can reach him at johnacooper2018@gmail.com or on his cell at 360-319-6495.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL THEME

Rotary International President Olayinka H. Babalola’s theme for the 2026 -27 year is “Create Lasting Impact.” It encourages all of us, people of action, to work together to make a meaningful difference in our communities and around the world. In his presidential message, President Babalola shared, “the more you change your community and the world, the more you will change. Don’t just tell people about the projects you have participated in or the funds raised. Tell them how Rotary has shaped who you are. It is those stories that open doors, inspire new members, and remind us why we are here.”



ROTARY BOOK CLUB



Step Up today to be a part of the Rotary Book Club. Get a copy of *Whistler* by Ann Patchett and save the date of July 21st for their next meeting at the home of Dana Dwinell at 5pm. Their last book, *Five*, a unique suspense tale, was a 50-50 vote split on thumbs up or thumbs down – a delightful reflection on how diverse Rotarian readers are.

REVIEW

This week was a celebration of President John Cooper's first meeting of the year. As a University of Oregon graduate, no one should have been surprised to see a waddle of rubber ducks and green napkins adorning every table. Before he was allowed at the podium, Past President Sheri was still in charge for the first part of the meeting. She thanked the Board for serving as greeters, welcomed our guests, and called up Brad Hansen and Sy Ruiz for our inspirational message and sergeant-at-arms. Brad shared an inspirational message centered around teamwork, giving thanks, and taking risks when asked to serve. Sy Ruiz followed with a "getting to know President John Cooper one dollar at a time" sergeant-at-arms, all to raise money for Yakima Rotary Charities. With a loving introduction of President John by his daughter Alison that included the best story about a Survivor audition, a subsequent standing ovation, and the playing of the Oregon Duck fight song with a live band, the new year officially began.

The first question every new president gets asked is "What are you going to do in your year?" President John's answer came with asking his Board, committee chairs, committee members (all of us) to stand and changing that question to "What are WE going to do in OUR year?" Rotary International President Olayinka Babalola has chosen the theme of *Create Lasting Impact*. Yakima Rotary has a rich history of creating impact both locally and internationally. To support RI's theme, President John's chosen theme for the year is *Step Up* – challenging us to find opportunities within our club to step up and continue to step up to create lasting impact. How are we going to do that? Carrying forward from the last Rotary year, there will be a call for members coming shortly to help with the completion of playrooms at the new YWCA shelter. In August, we're bringing back our popular backpack project in partnership with Adams Elementary. We'll be stuffing backpacks with supplies for over 670 students and providing a wish list of items for every teacher as well. Fall will bring all three Yakima clubs back together

to walk in the Sunfair Parade and undertake one of our community's biggest service projects, Rotary Operation Harvest. The first part of the year will be capped off with the gala of all galas - A Night in Paris Rotary Auction on November 14, 2026. Next spring, all three Yakima Rotary clubs will again come together to fund and install a new playground at Larson Park. Joining in support with grants are the Parker Youth and Sports Foundation and our Rotary District. The playground will have the only flex swing in the park system which will enable kids in wheelchairs to experience a swing.

This past May, as part of our annual Scholarship Dinners, President John chose 2 topics for each dinner group to discuss. The first question was, what fun things can we do to improve engagement and build friendships at our weekly meetings? Key words that came back were mingle, ice breakers, mix up tables, field trips, and "a pet of the week." The whole intent is to build better fellowship and friendships - be prepared to see new things. The second question has roots in the 4-Way Test. It was, we have a few internal clubs like Book club, Bridge, and Investment club. If we were to form new clubs, what would you like? The largest Rotary club in the world in India with over 700 members succeeds with clubs within clubs of special interest. The words that came back were hiking, yoga, wine tasting and one big one Wellness. All three fit there. Others were business networking, family events, sports, and theatre. Don't be afraid to share additional ideas.

President John ended by asking us to think of the ways we as a group and individuals can Step Up to serve our community, world, and youth. People join Rotary because of purpose. They stay because they feel a sense of belonging. The activities and programs we do provide an opportunity to learn, meet other people, develop leadership skills, and to create lasting impact.





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