



TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024 - MASONIC TEMPLE HOTEL MAISON TAPESTRY COLLECTION

*The Magic
Of Rotary*

YAKIMA ROTARY TRUST ALL ROTARY CELEBRATION

This week there will be no regular Rotary meeting at noon. Instead, Rotarians from all three Yakima Rotary clubs will be gathering together for the annual Yakima Rotary Trust All Rotary Celebration. This annual event is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of the Rotary Trust and their partnerships with Yakima Rotary, Southwest Rotary, and Sunrise Rotary; partnerships that have included park playgrounds, the Rotary Food Bank, YMCA Rotary Aquatic Center, Rotary Marketplace, and the MLK Jr. Aquatic Center currently under construction. They also administer the Mollie Davis Scholarship Program that has since 2010, awarded 573 renewable scholarships valued at more than \$10 million. Their work is a point of pride in their mission to “Make Yakima a Better Place to Live.”

The celebration will begin at 5:00pm at the incredible and newly refurbished Masonic Temple Room on the 6th floor of the Hotel Maison Tapestry Collection by Hilton. Rotarians and guests will have an extraordinary opportunity to enjoy Rotary fellowship, food and drinks. Parking will be open at The Tower across the street.

Space is limited. If you would like to attend and have not already RSVP'd, please contact Robin Beckett of the Rotary Trust at robinbeckett@yakimarotarytrust.org to find out about availability.



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

FUTURE PROGRAMS

July 25th – No Meeting
August 1st – Judge Ruth Reukauf
August 8th – Don Carrell, Kwik Lok
August 15th – School Supply Service Project

COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE



This is notice that there will be a meeting of the Social/Sports Committee immediately following Rotary on Thursday, August 1st. If you are on the committee, please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

YAKIMA ROTARACT NEEDS YOU

Yakima Rotaract is hosting their fourth Annual Cornhole Tournament fundraiser on Sunday, August 4th from 1pm-5pm at Bale Breaker Brewing Company. There are openings for 12 teams and 3 sponsors. The cost for a team is \$40 (2 individuals) and includes two free drink tickets. Sponsorship levels are open at the \$500 level, \$200 level, and \$100 level. You can sign up with the provided QR code.

The festivities will also include food, raffle, and prizes. Proceeds go to support their Scholarship Program. Please be generous with your time and treasure.

YAKIMA ROTARACT'S FOURTH ANNUAL
**CORNHOLE
TOURNAMENT**
\$40/TEAM
FIRST DRINK FREE!
REGISTER HERE
BEER FOOD PRIZES FUN
AUGUST 4 @ 1 PM
HOSTED AT
**BALE BREAKER
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YAKIMA ROTARY VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP



Applications are being accepted for the 2024 Vocational Scholarship. The Vocational Scholarship Committee has a total of \$42,500 to award. Applicants must be enrolled at a post-high school vocational institution or in a 2-year terminal vocational program at a community college. Completion of the program must result in a degree or certification in the vocation. Students working towards a 4-year bachelor's degree do not qualify.

Applicants will be scored on a written application, two letters of recommendation, their commitment to their chosen field of study, need, and school and community engagement. The due date is Tuesday, August 20th. If you know of someone who would benefit from this scholarship, please direct them to our website at yakimarotary.org or have them contact the Rotary office today.

Open to recently graduated high school students, students currently enrolled at Perry Tech or YVC, and those planning to attend this fall.

REVIEW

Our meeting this week was a day of great company, great food, and great fun! Last week, President Jim shared the importance of bringing guests. The response from you was huge! So much so, we had to expand our space to accommodate the crowd. Lunch was catered by Shawn & Asher Niles with a menu of pulled pork sandwiches with Asher's Brown Butter BBQ sauce, coleslaw, pickles, fresh green salad, and Peanut Butter Pie with Cherry Compote. It was delicious! Fun started the moment we walked into the building with Alex Ditto and Clark Permann serving as our greeters. It continued with Sharon Miracle's inspirational moment featuring A House Called Tomorrow written by Alberto Rios. President Jim's announcements included presenting President Elect Sheri Bissell with the President-Elects pin, an invitation to put together a team for Rotaract's upcoming Cornhole Tournament on August 4th, and encouragement to vote Yakima as the USA Today's Best Wine Region. You can find a link at visityakima.com. Bob Romero's food themed sergeant-at-arms raised almost \$250 for Rotary Charities and was the perfect set-up for Jennifer Bliesner's introduction of Asher & Shawn Niles. They put on a great show!

Asher was toddler when Shawn participated as a contestant on season 8 of MasterChef. That experience was the start of Asher's journey; as soon as he got older, he wanted to be on MasterChef too. As dad, Shawn has loved watching Asher grow up cooking. The way that Asher did things was unique. As a young child he would get up on the counter and smell spices. If they smelled good, he wanted to use them – if they didn't, he put them back. You have to be 8 years old to participate in MasterChef Junior. A phone call from a friend resulted in calling a producer on the phone to ask if they were still accepting applications. They said yes; it would be a great story. It was not a fun process. All day, every day, they would be asked to film a video or participate in zoom calls. That included pulling over on a car trip through the Columbia Gorge to film a video on the way to a cabin with grandma in the car. That was the step that was a call to come to LA. That did not mean that he would be on tv. There were 40,000 kids who applied. Asher was one of 24 kids chosen to go to LA. They were split into two groups of 12 to participate in cooking challenges creating whatever they were told. Waiting for his turn meant doing schoolwork in between. When the kids were told they had been chosen there was excitement and joy, but sadness at the same time because friends they had made wouldn't be moving forward. They were told nothing during the process. Questions were answered with wait, you'll find out. After being chosen filming began. Asher won the second episode themed Under the Sea. Gordon Ramsay said an amazing thing to Asher. When Shawn was on MasterChef, he was told

he was born to cook - Gordon called Asher a genius. Gordon was awesome and super nice. People say he's mean, says bad words, and throws meat. Once you get to know him, he's a big teddy bear. Shawn never had any negative interaction with him when he participated.

Asher's most asked about dish he prepared during the show was his dessert. The judges loved it. The last episode he participated in was "Keeping up with Gordon" featuring duck a l'orange. When Gordon brought his dish around for them to review, Asher didn't include orange slices on his plate. Asher's duck wasn't cooked the way that Gordon Ramsay liked – it was cooked perfect for the way Asher likes it. It was hard to leave, he wanted to make it into the finale. There was a reason his journey stopped – if he had won, he wouldn't have been able to do all the things that he's done since. The winner is required to sign a strict contract. The kids who participated have remained friends. As a parent, Shawn witnessed the kids celebrating each other and supporting each other when they struggled. They were not competing against each other; they were competing against the challenge.

Upcoming events include a meet and greet at the 40th Avenue McDonalds with Asher that includes fun things like rock painting. They will be at the Fair highlighting their new spice line called "Fat's the Flavor." In October, they'll be traveling to Texas to work with MasterChef Mike Newton, and in November Asher is going to be part of World Food Championship Junior. They are also relaunching Urban Kitchen Yakima to serve kids 10-18 in learning culinary skills and are joining in a partnership with the Salvation Army to provide opportunities for underserved families to experience dignity, hope and relationships through food.

Asher shared his joyful personality with us. The community support for him meant a lot to him. He shared how glad he was that he did the show, and that he can't wait to do it again one day as an adult. I can't wait to see what the future holds!



President Jim and Shawn & Asher Niles



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