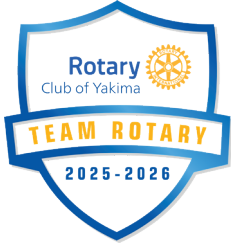


THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 YAKIMA CONVENTION CENTER

*Unite For
Good*



NEW MEMBER MEETING TEAM ROTARY



Since President Sheri began her year last July, we have had the honor of welcoming 23 new members to Team Rotary. As each one was introduced they brought with them a wide range of professional expertise and community involvement, representing fields such as law enforcement, nonprofit leadership, banking, healthcare, insurance, wealth management, real estate, medicine, government, restaurant, manufacturing, small business ownership, education, and communications.

This week we will be celebrating them through what has now become a favorite club tradition. The entire meeting program will be led by our new members, who will take on every role for the day from greeters to music, inspiration, sergeant-at-arms, speakers, and president which will be Mitchell Acosta.

One of the greatest strengths of our club is the opportunity to build meaningful connections every Thursday and beyond. If you have not had a chance to meet our newest members, this program provides the perfect opportunity. New members contribute fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, enthusiasm, and valuable resources that strengthen and grow our organization. Through regular fellowship and collaboration, we deepen relationships, expand our understanding of one another, and increase our collective impact on our community and beyond.

ROTARY ACADEMIC SCHOLAR UPDATE

Dear Rotary Club of Yakima,

This is Joshua Jaiyeola (Ike Class of '23) I want to sincerely thank you for the scholarship you awarded me. Your generosity and belief in my potential truly meant a great deal to me and helped support my academic journey during an important time in my life. This May, I graduated from The University of Arizona's WA Franke Honors College in Tucson with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with an International Relations Emphasis, and a Bachelor of Arts in Law with a minor in Human Rights Practice. This fall, I will be attending Law School to pursue my JD and possibly a dual degree in International Studies/affairs. I am deeply grateful for your investment in students like me and for the positive impact you continue to make in the community. Thank you again for your kindness and support.

Sincerely, Joshua Jaiyeola



GRANT THANK YOU LETTER

Dear Friends,

Thank you for continuing to partner with us on our walk to empower those we are blessed to serve. This partnership, which has now reached three decades, has provided untold benefits for the thousands in rural Ethiopian communities, helping to ensure brighter futures for now three generations of families.

Your most recent gift, which will see its impact doubled thanks to the generosity and kindness of the Jackson Kemper Foundation, will play a crucial role in the purchase of books for two libraries for our primary and secondary students at Medhane-Alem School. For these children, it is essential to develop the habit and passion for reading, using books for research as well as exploration, and helping to close the resource gaps that they face. Indeed, books will open up the world for our children in Yetebon and inspire them to be future professionals in fields like education, health, engineering, agriculture, business, and more.

Your partnership plays a pivotal role in the advancement of our efforts to help transform the communities we serve. For that, I'm truly humbled. On behalf of the many children that will see direct benefit of your kindness, please accept my sincerest appreciation for your generosity.

Have a blessed day! Bete Demeke
Project Mercy, President and CEO

REMEMBERING DONNA MOULTRAY



A member of Yakima Rotary for 29 years, Donna Moultray passed away on April 20, 2026, at the age of 95. She was born on May 1, 1930, in Seattle, Washington. When she was in high school her family moved to the Yakima Valley, settling in Sunnyside. She went back to Seattle for a while before returning to Sunnyside and went to work at Moultray's in the Planters Hotel where she met Edward Moultray, whom she married. They moved to Yakima and opened Moultray's Four Winds, later becoming the owners of the El Cid Restaurant and M&M Catering at the Convention Center. After retirement from M&M, Donna became the food manager at the Fairgrounds.

She provided meals for entertainers such as Bob Hope, Anne Murray, Red Skelton, Beach Boys, and Sr. Elton John. She fed governors, senators, legislators, as well as dignitaries from Canada, Mexico, and Korea to rave review. Greg Stewart, her friend of 48 years, described her as gracious, positive, compassionate and charming. She never flustered at any request from specific vegetarian meals to being asked to sort out only the brown M&Ms in a candy bowl; her answer was always yes. She loved Rotary, cooking for us every Thursday, and donating her services to support Rotary Charities. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. She will be missed by many and never forgotten.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – All New Members
Song of the Day – Mike Mittelman
Inspiration – Kaitlyn Gotlieb
Sergeant-at-Arms – Jake Church
Program – Megan Nobbs & Randy Bonds
Attendance – Elisabeth Tutsch
Card Draw – Charlie Eglin, Billy Bacon

FUTURE PROGRAMS

June 18th – To Be Determined
June 25th – President Sheri Bissell's Recognition
July 1st – No Meeting – Happy Fourth of July
July 8th – President John Cooper

REVIEW

It was another great Rotary day. Before you even got into the room, the lobby was full of activity with the selling of card draw tickets. With no winner once again, there are only 2 cards left with \$6,195 in the pot. As always, a special thank you to our volunteers who made the meeting a success. Drew Harris served as our greeter. Marisol Fast chose our song of the day, *El Noa Noa* by Juan Gabriel. It reminds her that life is richer when shared with people who have walked beside you through every stage of life. Jan Luring followed with a beautiful message of gratitude that ended up being weaved into the rest of the meeting – I loved that! President Sheri welcomed our guests, shared the America 250 event coming up on June 13th, and gave a eulogy for long-time member Donna Moultray (see above).

Membership continues to thrive as Kyle Curtis had the honor of introducing our newest Rotarian, Dr. Chris Gilmer. The fourth president of Heritage University, Chris is a national recognized higher education leader who previously served as president and in leadership positions at West Virginia University Potomac State College, West Virginia University at Parkersburg, and Tougaloo College. He holds a PhD in English and has remained active as a faculty member throughout his career. At Heritage, he listens to his community and engages in a unique and wholesome way with students and stakeholders. He enjoys cooking, reading, writing, and cultural events. He loves the first lady of country music, Tammy Wynette, and has seen every episode of the Waltons. He is also a past president of the Rotary Club of Parkersburg. He is going to be a great member of Yakima Rotary; we are so happy to have him as part of our Club!

What happened next was a great testament to the power of our members as A.P. and Drew Harris gave a report on the Jobs for Youth with gratitude to everyone who has supported the program so far. We have secured finances and placements for 50 years; twice as many as last year. With the original name of the program as 100 jobs for 100 youths a challenge was issued for donations at the tables. Sharon Miracle issued a challenge of \$100 a person with her own donation. Together with help from Quinn Dalan's sergeant-at-arms we raised \$1,892 to fund one and partial job for a student this summer. Another \$868 would result in two jobs. There's still time to donate – contact the Rotary office today.

Kyle Curtis had double duty, coming back to the podium to introduce our panel of speakers made up of Steve Altmayer, Esther Magasis, Jolene Seda, and Dr. Jamie Simmons to talk about a new medical detox program in Yakima made possible through the dedicated efforts of a community-led task force that reflected the county's commitment to expanding community and to address one of the hardest challenges facing our community today – addiction. One by one, each of them shared their perspective on how the project unfolded, where we are today, and what to expect in coming months. Steve has been involved with the issue of substance abuse for many years. He lost a very good friend to alcoholism almost 16 years ago; he was only 40 years old and never got to see his daughter's wedding or meet his grandchildren. His public cause of death was complications from diabetes, but his alcohol abuse made it impossible to manage his diabetes. How did a group of non-medical Yakima residents convince Triumph Treatment Services and Yakima County to establish a medical detox center in Yakima - by organizing an effective community task force, listening to advice, and acting to remove barriers. With help from Megan Tweedy, Steve and Megan asked for advice from people organizing a similar project in Benton County. They went to Esther Magasis at Yakima County; she agreed to be part of the task force and asked Commissioner Kyle Curtis to participate. They also went to Jolene Seda, the CEO at Triumph Treatment Services who had just hired Dr. Jamie Simmons as their Chief Medical Officer. They liked the concept but needed a feasibility study; that would cost money. The next stop was Heidi Pelletier and Sharon Miracle at the Community Foundation. The Foundation donated their own funds and reached out to other donors to find the funding.

The feasibility study confirmed a great need for services in Yakima. Triumph's board approved the concept for a detox center subject to funding. They met with local state legislators who were able to procure over \$300,000 in state funds for the first year.

Ester talked about the County's efforts through the Homeless Coalition to create a five-year strategic plan on housing and homelessness. It was a large community-wide effort that included 129 individual participants across 79 unique agencies and departments. The issue of a medical detox center was identified as a priority, one that needed to come without financial barriers, access point barriers meaning availability 24/7, and that individuals could come in any condition presuming that they were medically stable. When someone says they are ready to address addiction, you need to move quickly because tomorrow they might change their mind. Yakima County committed to a \$6 million investment to the project and the use of facility outside the fairgrounds that previously served as a correctional facility.

Jolene highlighted Triumph Treatment Services' 65-year history of serving our community; grounded in innovation, compassion and giving people hope in their recovery journey. It began in 1961 with a group of individuals who saw a need for recovery services. In the 1990's they saw a need for pregnant and parenting women who wanted to get into recovery and started the first parenting and pregnant women program in Washington. When Steve and Megan came to Triumph to talk about a medical detox center, it was very hard to say no. With the hiring of a Chief Medical Officer there was also no excuse to say no. They couldn't do it without support of community and, today they are honored and privileged to be able to move it forward. The services they provide are a continuum of care from substance abuse disorder treatment, mental health services, psychiatric medication management, medication assisted treatment, substance free housing services where people are supported with case management service, and wraparound peer support – all done with the help of Dr. Simmons who shared her gratefulness to work alongside Jolene and the rest of team at Triumph. Her reason for becoming a physician was to serve the individual at the worst moment of their life. The moment that someone decides to enter their recovery journey is often the worst moment of their life. Having the opportunity to help build a medical detox was also a factor in saying yes. What is medical detox? It is 24/7 medical supervision for somebody going through withdrawal services. It has an RN on staff 24/7 and provides a physician or ARNP available by telephone 24/7 who round every day to meet with the individual who's going through withdrawal. It's not making an appointment and coming in when you're told to come it. It is when you're ready you can walk in and get help. One of the things evident in the homeless coalition process was that EMS and law enforcement shared that they needed a place to bring individuals when they encountered them. The ER wasn't the right place, and they didn't want to take them to jail. They've been to the ER; it is too busy, too messy, and doesn't provide the right level of care. They are released back into homelessness. A person experiencing homelessness isn't going to be successful. Medical detox sits on the continuum between hospital level care and social detox; it is considered residential treatment with a focus on safety, stabilization, and engagement. Once somebody is through that acute stage of withdrawal, they can then leave detox and engage them in the next step of their recovery journey. The goal is to continue in treatment and recovery, not back into homelessness. In some cases, co-occurring illnesses are most likely prevalent. They're not just struggling with substances disorder; they're struggling with mental health disorders. Both need to be addressed for people to be successful. What's next? Triumph is working with the County on site planning, looking at the building, looking at building designs, and seeing what we need to do to make this work for a medical detox location. We've all been touched by mental health and substance use disorder either directly or indirectly. We need to do something. Thanks to the dedication of our panel and many others, this movement is going in the right direction.