



THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Create Hope
in the World*

LAURA & TODD CROOKS CHAD'S LEGACY PROJECT



After losing their son to mental illness and eventual suicide, Todd and Laura Crooks turned their grief into action. Creating Chad's Legacy Project shortly after his death, they have been instrumental in influencing education and care delivery in Mental Health throughout Washington by bringing others together to make seemingly impossible things happen.

While they both have day jobs (Todd is a Real Estate Broker for Keller Williams and Laura is the CEO for Yakima Children's Village), they have used their "extra" time to try and ensure other families don't go through the same experience, that young people have the resources they need to get help when they need it wherever they are in our state, and that those living with mental illnesses have hope for the future.

They will also present the Mental Health Library created as a national resource for teachers and educators that has been accessed by people from all over the world, and which our Rotary Club has provided some initial seed money to support!

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Mary McFadden, Drew Harris
 Sergeant-at-Arms – Nancy Leahy
 Program – Mike Hummel
 Attendance – Jennifer Bliesner

FUTURE PROGRAMS

June 20th – Ester Huey & Wally Webster, Juneteenth
 June 27th – President Erin Black's Recognition
 July 4th – No Meeting, Happy Fourth of July
 July 11th – President Jim DeGrasse

CELEBRATING A GRANT FROM YAKIMA ROTARY

In November Yakima Rotary presented a grant in the amount of \$1,000 to Marcus Whitman Cowiche Elementary in Highland to create an Outdoor Community Book Lending Library. The library was designed by local architect Ryan Monson, the funds from Rotary paid for the materials, and a local church youth group put it together. With the installation completed, it is time to celebrate.



A ribbon cutting and introduction of the Lending Library is taking place on Thursday, June 13th at 9:30am. The students will sit on the grass at the front of the school where the library is located. Afterwards the students will go inside for an assembly kicking off Yakima Regional Library's Summer Reading Program. Yakima Rotarians are invited to attend. The ribbon cutting will be short (10-15 minutes). You can come for just that piece or stay for the assembly as well.

PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, June 14, 2024, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

Alex Ditto

Associate Financial Advisor

Edward Jones

Classification: Financial Advising

Proposed by: Mary McFadden

Endorsed by: Tina Moss

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Yakima Rotary Club,

I want to take this moment to personally thank you for honoring me as a recipient of this year's academic scholarship. It is my goal to graduate college completely debt free and this financial aid is a cornerstone to accomplishing this. Your endorsement of my peers and I is incredibly valuable as your board consists of countless generous, thoughtful and influential community members from the Yakima Valley. It would also be impossible to ignore a personal effect your chapter's philanthropy has imparted on me; my job as a lifeguard at the Rotary/YMCA Aquatic Center has taught me discipline, responsibility, and collaboration with my coworkers, skills made possible via your generous contribution to the facility. I am endlessly grateful for your support financially and the way you empower students to lead and create change.

Hannah Rees

REVIEW

Thank you to those that helped make the meeting a success. Clark Permann served as our greeter. In honor of the 80th anniversary of D-Day, Linda Kaminski led us in God Bless America. Celisa Hopkins invocation was a reminder to look for the small kindnesses every day. And Kathy Miller Parrish raised money for Rotary Charities with a Yakima themed sergeant-at-arms quiz.

President Erin welcomed our guests, presented a blue badge to Kaylene Stiles, and gave recognition to three of our members. Rich Austin was presented with the Ed & Shirley Pepple Service Award for his contributions to state basketball tournaments; Connie Falon is now a Chartered Retirement Plan Specialist and the Founder/CEO at Compass Financial Network, LLC; and Nancy Leahy is the recipient of the Fred Redmon Service Award. She also shared the sad news of the loss of two of our long time Rotarians, John Place and Tom Froula. We joined for moments of silence in honor of both. The next announcement was one of joy as President Erin presented a check in the amount of \$50,000 to Ester Huey for the MLK Jr. Aquatic Center. Along with a check from the Yakima Rotary Trust presented by Kellie Connaughton and donations from Yakima Sunrise and Yakima Southwest, the total contribution by Rotary is \$100,000. Ester shared her deep gratitude for Rotary's support. In 2005, Miller and Eisenhower pools were closed. Since that time, Ester has gone to the city council 14 times to advocate for a new pool to serve the eastside of Yakima. Today, because of the support of this community, a new pool will open the summer of 2025. Addy Logsdon joined Ester at the podium. With the Rotary donation, the team has met their original goal of \$3 million and is working on securing an additional \$500,000 in community donations. Envelopes were on the table for those interested in contributing. Donations are being accepted through the Yakima Valley Community Foundation.

Mike Hummel had the honor of introducing Amber Strunk as our program. Amber is the Education and Outreach Lead for LIGO's Hanford Observatory. LIGO, also known as the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, is a whole new way to look at the universe. Einstein predicted the existence of gravitational waves in 1916 in his general theory of relativity. They are ripples in space-time caused by some of the most violent and energetic processes in the Universe. If you jump, nothing pulls you back to earth, you are following an invisible line back to earth. As earth moves around the sun the warp moves with us. As we drag through space time, space time wiggles. They are looking for those wiggles. The information gathered gives insight about gravity, binary neutron stars, and binary black holes.

The LIGO at Hanford is a twin to one located in Livingston, Louisiana. Both locations have two long L-shaped detectors (described as arms) 2 ½ miles long. As orbit sends the ripples off and travels through space, you can see the waves stretching and squashing, getting longer and thinner, and shorter and wider. The arms detect the shift by looking at the X and Y axis in a circle and look for change.

A laser uses a beam splitter and splits the light with half going down one arm and half the other arm. When it comes together it has wave interference. The light cancels itself out. There are different telescopes for different types of light, because of the electromagnetic spectrum and gravitational wave spectrum. LIGO can detect waves from stellar mass anywhere from 5 to 150 solar masses. The sun is one solar mass, meaning 150 times bigger than our sun. Neutron stars are incredibly dense, about 2 times the mass of our sun. One tablespoon weighs as much as Mt. Everest. To date they have seen 180 black hole collisions. LIGO is expecting to see the unexpected. Their first detection was 2 black holes orbiting and colliding 1.3 billion light years away. It was a cataclysmic cosmic event. In 2017, two neutrons started colliding, they were able to narrow their search down to 50 galaxies in the entire universe. Technology has advanced to the point where they are seeing detection once every three days.

LIGO is part of a collaboration with 1600 members, over 120 institutions, in over 20 countries. After 15 years, one of those groups, the Pulsar Timing Array team has confirmed they have seen waves. Why so long? The period of the waves they are looking at takes years to decades to go from one crest to another. What does the future hold? The construction of two more detectors, one in the U.S. and one in Europe; and the launch of a LISA space detector in 2035.

LIGO is much more than research; it is also about education. In 2022 the newly constructed LIGO Exploration Center began welcoming Washington state students and visitors. Their outreach mission is to inspire a sense of wonder, to engage curiosity and to encourage diversity of the future of STEM workforce. Over the last two weeks 200 students came through the Center. They expect to see 10,000 students over the next couple of years. This is all done free of charge. It was a fascinating look at the world of astrophysics.



*President Erin Black, Ester Huey, Eric Silvers, & Addy Logsdon
MLK Jr. Aquatic Center Check Presentation*



THANK YOU TO OUR ROTARY AUCTION SPONSORS!

Platinum

GILBERT
ORCHARDS
ESTD ★★ 1897

Gold



LEGENDS
CASINO • HOTEL

Silver



Quinn & Aaron Dalan



Morgan Stanley



Bronze



TERRIL, LEWIS & WILKE
INSURANCE, INC.



BAKER



BOYER



GLACIER SALES, INC.

Want to be a SPONSOR and get your logo added to the group?
Contact John Cooper at john@visityakima.com