



THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024  
YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

Create Hope  
in the World

ESTER HUEY & WALLY WEBSTER  
JUNETEENTH



Ester Huey was born in the segregated South to sharecropper parents. In 1946 at the age of 10, she became part of the “Great Migration to the North” as her mother sought better economic and equal opportunities for Ester and her two siblings.

As a community mobilizer, friend, mother and African American woman, Ester has been an inspiration to untold children, adults, and families in our community. She lived through some of the most controversial and enlightening periods of America history, including the Civil Rights Act of 1963 that outlawed racial segregation. Only with the passing of Affirmative Action was she recruited into a job with Washington Mutual Savings Bank. In 1982, she moved back to Yakima to take care of her ailing mother. It was the beginning of her work in social services. She was hired by OIC. Together she and Henry Beauchamp worked together to build and expand OIC into the largest OIC in the U.S. She became the Executive Director of the SE Yakima Community Center, leading the center from near closure to a highly visible and successful service agency serving babies to senior citizens.

Throughout the years, Ester has been the recipient of numerous accolades and awards that include the YWCA Woman of Achievement in Community Service, Yakima County’s Person of the Year and the Ted Robertson Community Service Award. She also represented Yakima in the Olympic Torch Relay. Her greatest honor and accomplishment has been the role of mother raising 24 children and the 20-year campaign to bring the MLK Jr. Aquatic Center to fruition.



Wallace (Wally) Webster was born in a small town east of Mobile, Alabama called Theodore. After graduating from high school in 1962, he left, he made a quick stop in Oakland, California before moving to Pasco, Washington. He served in the United States Air Force from July 1965 to January 1969. He served in the Medical Service Corps as an Oral Surgery Technician, and later as an Operating Room Technician at Tachikawa Airforce Base in Tachikawa, Japan. Upon his Honorable Discharge, he became the Executive Director of the Benton-Franklin Community Action Committee (CAC) advocating for the quality of life of low-income and marginalized residents and administering programs such as Head Start, Legal Aid, and Community and Economic Development. From CAC, he went on to serve as the Employment & Training Manager for Boeing Computer Services Richland from 1976 to 1978 before a long and successful career with Bank of America where he retired in 2010. While at Bank of America, he was recognized as Branch Manager of the Year and received the 2001 Leadership in Excellence in Neighborhood Development award.

Mr. Webster received an Associate of Arts in applied science and an Associate of Arts in Business Administration at Columbia Basin Community College; and continued his education at Central Washington University earning a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and a Master’s degree in Organizational Behavior. He is a founding organizer of The ACCESS Project (Association for Collective Community Engagement on Safety and Security); immediate past chair and member of the Board of Trustees at Edmonds College; and board member of My Neighborhood News Network, Lynnwood Public Facilities District, Lynnwood Sister Cities Association, and Public Northwest Bankers Association. He is also a member of the Lynnwood Chief of Police Advisory Committee, the Snohomish County Multiple Agency Response Team, and the Steering Committee Volunteers of America Western Washington.

Invite a guest as we recognize Juneteenth through the life stories of Ester and Wally as they share their experience living in the South, their experiences living in Eastern Washington, and why Juneteenth is important to them.

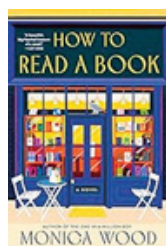
### **FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING**

Greeters – Stan Martinkus, Leanne Antonio  
Invocation – Sheri Bissell  
Sergeant-at-Arms – Tim Carlson  
Program – Eric Silvers  
Attendance – Rich Austin

### **FUTURE PROGRAMS**

June 27th – President Erin Black's Recognition  
July 4th – No Meeting, Happy Fourth of July  
July 11th – President Jim DeGrasse  
July 18th – Asher Niles, MasterChef Junior

### **JUNE BOOK CLUB SELECTION**



A heartwarming, feel-good book about a woman recently released from prison who finds comfort in a book club and the community of its members. What follows is a transformative journey of catharsis, redemption and new beginnings. Written by Monica Wood, *How to Read a Book* is an unsparingly honest and profoundly hopeful story about letting go of guilt, seizing second chances, and the power of books to change our lives.

Get your copy today – start reading – and save the date of Wednesday, July 10th from 5:00-6:00pm. The location for the next discussion will be at Dana Dwinell's house located at 1908 W. Chestnut.

### **YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THE LAST SECOND CHANCE SOCIAL OF THE YEAR!**

Wednesday, June 26th  
At David & Amanda  
McKinney's House  
5306 Bitterroot Way  
5pm – 7pm



### **REVIEW**

Our star greeter this week was Mary McFadden who wonderfully welcomed everyone as we arrived. Nancy Leahy's sergeant-at-arms was a one-of-a-kind roving musical presentation. She was amazing! After welcoming guests, President Erin announced the last Second Chance Social will be on June 26 from 5pm – 7pm at David & Amanda McKinney's home. Sign-ups were on the table. The Mollie Davis Golf Tournament is July 22nd at the Yakima Country Club. There are only a few spots left so get your team signed up. Next Erin congratulated Kellie Connaughton and thanked her for her leadership, dedication and commitment to the Greenway and the Yakima Valley as she steps in her new role as Director of Development and Special Events. Last week Erin announced we had lost two long time members. This week Kellie Connaughton provided a eulogy for John Place, and Preston Froula, Tom Froula's nephew, provided a eulogy for Tom. They were both wonderful members of our community and will be missed.

Mike Hummel introduced two very special speakers to the podium, fellow Rotarian Laura Crooks and her husband Todd who shared the project they started after the loss of their son Chad to mental illness and suicide – Chad's Legacy Project. Laura began with mental health statistics. According to the 2023-2024 reports from the CDC and the National Institute of Mental Health 20% of Americans experience some sort of mental illness each year (over 50 million people); 25% of Washingtonians are affected by mental illness; 1 in 6 children age 6-17 experience a mental health disorder; suicide is the second leading cause of death for children 10-14 years old. The most common diagnosed mental illnesses are anxiety, major depressive episode, post traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, borderline personality disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and schizophrenia.

Their story began like any other family (almost). When Chad was 3 years old the family welcomed triplets. A close-knit family, they grew up enjoying yearly trips to the beach and spending time together. Chad loved entertaining his siblings. He was an incredibly smart and artistic young man who started to struggle a bit in high school. This continued at college, and he came home to take a break. During his time at home, he pulled his mom aside and shared he had started to hear voices and seeing creatures who were following him. He was scared and didn't know what to do. They called the Crisis Center and eventually Chad was diagnosed with schizophrenia after a major psychotic break. In the early morning of January 21, 2016, three police officers knocked on their door to let them know that Chad had taken his life. This tragedy started Laura and Todd's call to action.

Todd shared from that day they began forming the 3 pillars of what would become the foundation of Chad's Legacy Project. They are: eliminating silos and enabling innovation; access and coordination

of care; and battling stigma through education. What is stigma? A set of negative and unfair beliefs within a society or group of people. It is born from a state of being uninformed. There are two places where stigma lives, public stigma and self stigma. When someone starts to suffer from mental illness and feel the stigma, it makes it difficult for them to reach out for help. The average delay of care is 5 years. Mental illness can be lethal if unchecked which is why they decided to focus on mental health education.

After 6 years of legislative efforts, they chose to do it themselves and partnered with the School Mental Health Assessment Research & Training Center (SMART) at the University of Washington. The result is Chad's Legacy Project, the first on-line Mental Health Instruction program library ([mentalhealthinstruction.org](http://mentalhealthinstruction.org)) that provides teachers the best path to mental health curricula and programs. It takes curriculum and puts it on a comparison platform, so teachers are able to find the programs that meets the needs of their students. First published in 2021, Phase 1 was the start of the library, Phase 2 created a professionally developed site providing more tools for teachers and was rolled out in 2023 at the Advancement for School Mental Health National Conference. The site is now nationally recognized as the national resource for mental health literacy programs for the entire country for students in 8th through 12th grade. Phase 3 will expand to include 3 more categories: suicide prevention, substance misuse, and social emotional learning. They are hoping to launch in December. The SMART Center has implemented 20 different planning tools including cultural adaptation aids and evaluation tools. Once teachers have the curriculum they can use the tools for implementation. Since December, the mental health instruction has been accessed in 22 countries. The U.S. and Canada account for 1,600 hits to date. They are currently looking for program developers who would like to submit a program or curriculum into the library. As submissions are made and vetted, they will be added to the library. They are also looking for sponsorship contributions toward the expansion and future maintenance.

What else have Laura and Todd accomplished in their spare time? The creation of the Washington State Mental Health Summit; a program to train and certify peer counselors; and mental health first aid training support. They are currently working on mental health advance directives. Implementation work passed the House and Senate collectively 144 to 1.

Thank you Laura and Todd, for opening your hearts and sharing Chad's story and Chad's Legacy Project. The impact of turning your tragic loss into positive change that will help countless people in our state and around the world is truly inspiring.



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