Addy Logsdon is a travel enthusiast and delights Yakima with her travel stories in the Yakima Magazine. Ever since she left the country for the first time in 1996, she has been pursuing different angles of life and living through travel.

From backpacking Europe, studying abroad twice, living in Paris and teaching English for the French government, a family sabbatical in Chile with her husband and three small children, gorilla trekking in Uganda, trips to Cuba and Hong Kong, she has traveled the world and keeps going back for more.

Join us on Thursday for her presentation on the JOYS of travel and the WHY that keeps her passport filled with stamps.

GRANT THANK YOU LETTER

Dear Carolyn,

On behalf of Safe Yakima Valley and OIC of Yakima and Kittitas Counties, I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for Yakima Rotary Charities’ generous donation to sponsor two deserving youth with job opportunities for the 2023 summer. As you are aware, the “100 Jobs for 100 Kids” program celebrated its 18th year in March and has been a tremendous success for Safe Yakima, OIC, the Chamber of Commerce, and Rotary. Your organization’s generosity will allow two Yakima area youth to polish their resume skills, interview skills, and job skills to set them up for future successes.

Please pass along our sincerest appreciation to all your fellow Rotarians. Together, we are making a difference!

In gratitude,
Alicia Stromme Tobin
Executive Director, Safe Yakima Valley
SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU NOTE

Yakima Rotary,

I am writing to thank you for naming me one of your Academic Scholarship recipients. I sincerely appreciate the recognition and your support.

Thank you again. I promise to focus on my studies so I can give to others like you have so generously given to me.

Sincerely,
Jack Pietrusiewicz

Thursday came with another full house where we got to experience the remarkable voice of Latrice Shepherd who, accompanied by Eric Silvers, sang Wake Up Everybody; an inspirational message from David Lynn; the recognition of Rick Linnewehe as this year’s Bud Applegate PHF Awardee; a Father’s Day themed sergeant-at-arms from Bob Romero; and hear and learn about the heartbreaking tragedy of Mark & Kym Hilinski.

The celebration of Rick Linnewehe was done by Jim Berg. The characteris- tic of achieving great things is not just a professional achievement and service to community. Bud Applegate was a long-time Rotarian and attorney in our community who established an endowment to award a Paul Harris Fellow each year to one person in recognition of a lifetime of service. With a scholarship gift of $1900 to The Rotary Foundation in their name. It is the equivalent of a lifetime achievement award. A complete surprise to Rick, Jim shared that Rick and his wife Linda met at Cal State San Jose in the early 60s, married in 1965, and later had two children. They moved from California to Yakima in 1972 where he accepted a position at Memorial Hospital, later ascending to president and CEO, and remaining in that position for 37 years. He joined Rotary that same year. Of all his professional achievements and hospital recognitions under his leadership that Jim listed, perhaps the most important one shared was his open-door office policy for the benefit of all doctors. The list of community achievements included service to KCST in Seattle and Yakima, Heritage University, The Memorial Foundation, United Way, Capitol Theatre, and Yakima School District Levy Committee to name a few. With the presenta- tion of a plaque, PHF pin, and a standing ovation, Rick shared that 2023 has been a special year. This year marks 50 years of a love affair between him and our community and living in Yakima. It is also his 80th birthday; being named the recipient of his award was a fabulous gift.

Jennifer Blesner had the honor of introducing Mark & Kym Hilinski. Mark and Kim lost their son Tyler in 2018. At the time he was a backup quarter- back at Washington State University and poised to be named QB1. Instead, he died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound at his off-campus apartment. In his memory, Mark travels with Rotarians to colleges and universities across the nation to share Tyler’s story in an effort to help others. They are doing work that no one else is doing.

One of the comments that Kym often receives is that she is strong and how can she keep telling it over and over again. Her answer is love. When some- one you love passes away; you don’t stop loving them. Talking about Tyler is how she shows her love for him. They share his stories to put a face on mental illness and clear the path for student athletes so they will reach out and ask for help and won’t leave this world the same way Tyler did. When Tyler died, they had three choices; stay at home with their heads in the sand and ignore that he died by suicide, run away to an island somewhere, or form a foundation to honor Tyler and support the mental health of athletes. They chose to found Hillinski’s Hope. Their mission of Hillinski’s Hope is (1) to student athletes is to raise awareness. We don’t talk about mental health. The same way we talk about physical health; they need to be treated at the same level. (2) to beat down the stigma attached to mental illness. It is really strong in the athletic community. These kids have been playing sports since a young age. They are taught to be strong and grind through tough prac- tices, games, and injuries. You can’t grind through mental illness struggle. (3) to fund and create programs that support the mental health of student athletes. When they talk to athletic directors and coaches, they share pro- grams they have created that include Hillinski’s Hope Game Plan and mental health modules that teach them how to take care of their mental health.

They always ask, if you have suicidal thoughts, what’s your plan? Tyler was surrounded by love. If Tyler wasn’t able to ask for help, there had to be someone in every room. They tell them if they don’t know how to take the first step to use Tyler’s story. They have received messages from kids, who have called their parents to tell them they heard Tyler’s story and are struggling too. They ask students to check on each other and look for signs of depression. You don’t need a tragedy to ask for help. There is help; there is hope.

While I am sad to leave Yakima, I look forward to entering Gonzaga’s engineering program this fall. Your financial assistance will help me pay for my educational expenses and allow me to concentrate on my studies.

Thank you again. I promise to focus on my studies so I can give to others like you have so generously given to me.

Sincerely,
Jack Pietrusiewicz