



THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

Create Hope
 in the World

AMBER STRUNK LIGO HANFORD OBSERVATORY



LIGO, the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, was designed to open the field of gravitational-wave astrophysics through the direct detection of gravitational waves. Although it is considered one observatory, LIGO comprises four facilities across the United States: two gravitational wave detectors and two university research centers. Hanford, Washington is home to one of the gravitational wave detectors.

Education is a part of what LIGO does. In 2019, the Washington State Capital Budget included \$7.7 billion to build a STEM Exploration Center that would provide an opportunity for close to 10,000 Washington students and public visitors to explore science in-the-making. In June 2022, the LIGO Exploration Center officially opened to the public.

As Education and Outreach Lead for LIGO's Hanford Observatory Amber Strunk enjoys sharing the fascinating physics, engineering, and technology necessary to detect gravitational waves with the public. She received a BS in Physics from Fort Hays State University before pursuing a master's in education from Arizona State University. Amber taught high school physics for seven years before joining the extraordinary team at LIGO.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Clark Permann, Linda DiLembo
 Music – Linda Kaminski
 Invocation – Celisa Hopkins
 Sergeant-at-Arms – Kathy Miller Parrish
 Program – Mike Hummel
 Attendance – Margaret Filkins

FUTURE PROGRAMS

June 13th – Laura & Tood Crooks, Chad's Legacy Project
 June 20th – Ester Huey & Wally Webster, Juneteenth
 June 27th – President Erin Black's Recognition
 July 4th – No Meeting, Happy Fourth of July

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Rotary Club of Yakima Scholarship Committee,

I wanted to take the time to personally thank you for selecting me as a recipient. I am very honored and appreciative for the opportunity that this award will give me. Thank you once again!

Sincerely,
 Jacob Russell
 East Valley High School

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Courses are included as part of your Rotary membership. Go to rotary.org/learn to find out how you can participate.

WACKY WEDNESDAY SECOND CHANCE SOCIAL

A great time was had by all who participated in our first ever Wacky Wednesday Second Chance Social. No one knew where they were going until the day before or who would be there when they showed up. Over 50 people participated at six different locations: Zesta Cucina, 2nd Street Grill, Yakima Steakhouse, Outskirts, Cowiche Canyon Icehouse, and Waterfire. Thank you to Sean Kinney and Dana Eliason for organizing!



REVIEW

This week's meeting turned our normal noon meeting to a fun late afternoon event featuring great conversation, appetizers, drinks, and Comedian and Hypnotist Justin James. Rotary volunteers graced the stage – some were hypnotized, some were not. We saw a display of musical talents playing imaginary violins and drums; a gallop around the stage; an inability to remember their names; and dancing. Filming wasn't allowed but there were plenty of pictures beforehand.





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