

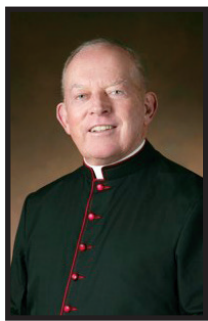


THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic
Of Rotary*

A CONVERSATION WITH MONSIGNOR JOHN ECKER 93 YEARS OF A LIFE WELL-LIVED

At 93 years old, Msgr. John Ecker is a true legend, pastor, and friend of all the community with a great sense of humor and a lifetime of experiences. His story spans decades of significant life and historical events that include answers to the following questions:



- How did he get from his childhood home in Boston to Yakima?
- Why did he minister with families early in the Aids epidemic?
- What are some of your most memorable heart breaking and humorous stories from Vietnam?
- How did he meet and save Rotarian Russ Mazzola in Vietnam?
- What was it like to recover the astronauts upon their return to earth landing in the ocean?
- Where does he go for his vacation fun? You will be surprised!!!
- Why has he been such a leader of the ecumenical movement in our Valley?

These discussions and more are what you can expect this week!! Bring a guest to hear about compassion, history, humor, and stories you've never heard before.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Larry Hull, Liz Hobson
Inspiration – Sy Ruiz
Sergeant-at-Arms – Mike Hummel
Program – Rick Pinnell
Attendance – Matt Crow

FUTURE PROGRAMS

March 27th – Chelsea Severn, White Pass Foundation
April 3rd – Lonnie Gienger, Multifamily Investing,
Building a Legacy of Harmony & Peace
April 10th – Adam Ratliff, Snake River Dams

PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Monday, March 24, 2025, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

Dan Gaulke
President/CEO
Yakima Federal Savings & Loan
Classification: Federal Savings & Loan
Proposed by: Leanne Antonio
Endorsed by: Kelly Gasseling

MARCH SECOND CHANCE SOCIAL



When: Wednesday, March 26th | 5:00 PM-6:00 PM
Where: Bale Breaker Brewing

Come unwind with us at Bale Breaker Brewing for this month's Second Chance Social. **HOP** on board for a midweek break and enjoy a relaxed, fun atmosphere at one of the true gems in our community. Snack on delicious bites provided by Rotary and sample Bale Breaker's amazing beverage menu (on you). A midweek break awaits!

A SUMMER EXTRAVAGANZA UNDER THE STARS AT FEATHERLAND RANCH

On September 6th guests will be treated to an unforgettable summer celebration set against the stunning backdrop of Joy & Scott Wagner's Featherland Ranch. Under the stunning fall sky, the night will come alive with great food, music, and dancing. The feast will include mouthwatering barbeque, savory sides, and well-stocked bar. Sold as an auction item, the number of tickets was graciously increased. The cost is \$300/couple. We're also looking for Rotary chefs willing to showing off their culinary skills and barbeque prowess. Rotary will reimburse the cost of the meat or fish.

Grab your partner, mark your calendar and contact the Rotary office to sign up today.

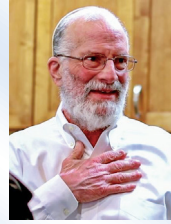


Yakima Downtown Rotary

presents

A Historical Perspective on Judaism Through the Years to Yakima Today

Tuesday, March 18, 2025
5:30-6:30pm
Yakima Valley College
Conference Center, Room D
1704 Nob Hill Blvd.



With antisemitism more regularly in the news in recent months, join Rabbi Jay Shupack and members of Yakima's Jewish community for an interactive discussion that cuts through stereotypes and tropes to provide a historical perspective on Judaism today in America and in the Yakima Valley.

Yakima Downtown Rotary's *Historical Perspectives* series brings our community together to explore historical events and circumstances which have helped to shape matters of race and racial justice in American society in the 21st century, and to shed light on how those aspects of the past continue to have resonance in today's efforts to fulfill the spirit of Rotary's Four-Way Test here at home and around the world.



Presented by the Racial Justice Committee
of Yakima Downtown Rotary

REVIEW

President Jim opened last week's meeting to a full crowd at the YVC Conference Center. Inspiration provided by Laura Crooks was a poem entitled *The Madness of March*, celebrating the excitement of college basketball. After thanking our greeters Sharon Miracle and Curt Wilson, President Jim announced this month's Second Chance Social on March 26th at Bale Breaker; sign-ups for an evening "Under the Stars at Featherland Ranch" on September 6th; and he raised money for Rotary Charities as sergeant-at-arms. Nicole Medina extended an invitation to Southwest Rotary's upcoming auction "Camp Rotary" on Saturday, May 31st, at Spring Creek Homestead. Bunker Frank shared a reminder about the upcoming Historical Perspective on Tuesday, March 18th from 5:30 -6:30pm at the YVC Conference Center, Room D (see flyer for details).

Kelly Gasseling had the honor of introducing our speaker Yakima Police Chief Shawn Boyle, who spoke about the work the men and women of our police department do on a daily basis. He began by sharing his background and his journey to become Chief. He grew up in Massachusetts. He served in the Army for 5 years; a stint at the Firing Center is what initially brought him to our community. He began his career as a corrections officer in 1996, became a police officer in 1997, and worked his way up through the ranks. Doing so has given him valuable insight into ways to improve training and the culture of what they do today. His philosophy is that communication leads to trust, trust leads to commitment, and teamwork leads to success. It has to come from the bottom up.

The YPD has a budget of \$37 million; \$31 million goes to salaries and benefits, and \$6 million covers operating costs. Yakima ranks 51st in the nation for officers per 1,000 people - placing us dead last. The national average is 2.4 officers per 1,000; Yakima has 1.1. The Department is budgeted for 1.4 officers per 1,000. They are allocated for 142 commissioned employees. 137 are funded; of that they have 7 vacancies. If they don't hire laterally, it takes approximately 1 year of training to learn just the basic skills. Currently there are 27 people that are not deployable due to various circumstances including family leave or injuries. Seventeen people are in some form of training either at the academy or in-field training cars. The 56 professional staff members include corrections officers, services, building maintenance, community services officers and administrative.

The Crime Intelligence Unit is made up of two analysts and a supervisor who handle administrative analysis, strategic analysis, and tactical analysis. In 2024 they completed 325 analytical requests. Patrol units include Uniformed Patrol, Traffic Unit, Proactive Enforcement Unit, Special Projects Sergeant, K9 Unit, Honor Guard, and Community Service Officers. There are currently 8 patrol officers and a supervisor at any given time working from 6:30am to 8:20pm. From 8:20pm-2:40am there are 14 officers and 2 supervisors; it is when they experience the highest call volume, many calls require 2 officer responses. From 2:40am-7am they have 6 officers

and a supervisor. One critical incident can drain resources. That's when they rely on partnerships with other local agencies including surrounding police departments, State Patrol, and the Sheriff's office. The total number of calls last year was over 54,000. The average officer responds to 6.7 calls per day. Due to budget cuts back in 2019-20 the Traffic Unit only had 1 investigator and a supervisor who were responsible for investigating serious injury and fatal collisions. The result was the number of fatalities went from 2-3 per year to 9. Last year, retired Chief Murray re-staffed and increased traffic patrol. The result was only 2 fatal incidents in 2024, none involving impaired driving. Two officers are dedicated to impaired drivers; they are funded through a grant. The number of arrests for impaired driving increased from 340 to 605 last year. That translates to more cases going through the court system and impacts on the workload of the court system. The ProAct Unit addresses quality of life issues especially in the downtown area. It is comprised of 3 officers and 1 sergeant. Last year they arrested 368 people on felony warrants, 202 on misdemeanor warrants, recovered 44 firearms and made 1,123 arrests. They are trying to stop the flow of fentanyl in the downtown area. The K9 Unit is currently at two. Community service officers include Animal Control, who addressed 14,756 issues last year, and Parking Enforcement responding to 12,875 issues last year.

The Major Crimes Unit staffs 3 people. In 2024, there were 13 homicide cases. Eight of the cases were cleared. Yakima rate for solving is well above the national average. The cost associated with homicide cases is between \$4 - 11 million per case. The Drug Enforcement team works with the DEA. They had 17 federal indictments in 2023-24, 568 drug cases, and 228 arrests. The Property Crimes Unit reviewed 2,871 cases from February 2024 to current and worked 794 assigned cases. Forensics went out to 111 crime scenes to process information. The Special Assault Unit is one of the busiest, dealing with sexual assault and domestic violence cases. The Gang Unit had 58 validated gang cases in 2024. There were 79 presumed or presumptive cases. 87 of the gang incidents involved a gun. 62% of the cases involved juveniles; in the confirmed gang cases 45% involved juvenile offenders. Current laws do not allow police to interview juveniles. Attorneys tell their clients not to talk, which impedes investigations.

The program ended with Chief sharing his key priorities: continued improvement to internal morale and job satisfaction, recruitment and retention, fostering community engagement, reducing overall crime through proactive policing, increasing visible patrols downtown (including bike patrol), and ensuring that community members feel safe. It was an insightful glimpse as to what is required to operate our police department, the unwavering dedication of the hardworking men and women who strive every day to keep our community safe, and why it is important to fully fund law enforcement.



THANK YOU TO OUR ROTARY AUCTION SPONSORS!

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