



THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021 SEE THE PROGRAM ONLINE AT YAKIMAROTARY.ORG

*Rotary
Opens Up
Opportunities*

TOBIAS LEVEY FORTERRA



Tobias Levey is Forterra's VP of Real Estate Transactions and is passionate about all things related to land. Between 2018 and 2020, the Transactions Team through 67 transactions, completed the conservation acquisition of 10,000 acres of wild, working forest, and farmlands. They are also working on designing and engineering a prototype cross-laminated timber multifamily affordable housing unit. This year into 2022, the Team is targeting an additional 10,000 acres for conservation as it continues the deployment of Forterra's Strong Communities Fund, one of Washington's cutting-edge approaches to Social Impact Capital.

Levey worked previously at Bio City Development Company, a land developer of purpose-designed, ecologically efficient satellite cities in the Middle East and Asia. Since returning from overseas, he has participated in developing two of the country's first pure mass timber buildings. He is a graduate of Duke University and the Sorbonne and was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Delhi.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Chris Rankin, Paul Schaake
Music – Kate Loeb
Invocation – Patti Powers
Sergeant-at-Arms – Bob Udell
Program – Cheri Marusa
Rotarians Are Going Places – Mike Hummel

FUTURE PROGRAMS

April 1st – Kate Evans, Success of the Cosmic Crisp Apple
April 8th – Jon DeVaney, Protecting Washington's
Food System & Workforce
April 15th – Yakima Police Chief Matt Murray, Community Policing
April 22nd – Eric Pettigrew, Seattle Kraken National Hockey League



GET TO KNOW THIS

Rotary



Club of Yakima

Rotarian

Amanda Ryder

ORIGINALLY FROM: Southern California

CURRENTLY READING: Harry Potter, alternating with The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead, current issues of The Week and The New England Journal of Medicine.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST FEAR: Scary clowns and climate change.

FAVORITE ROTARY MOMENT: Attending the Zhubei Rotary meeting in Zhubei, Taiwan with our host daughter's family.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU WERE SMALL: Big!

NEXT ON MY TRAVEL LIST (POST-COVID): Chicago!

BIGGEST PET PEEVE: "Poor grammar/incorrect homophones (it's vs. its) and mean people.

ROTARY DESK PROJECT



The Youth Service Committee will be building up to 200 desks that will be donated to 3rd and 4th grade students attending Adams Elementary. Having a dedicated place at home to study and be creative helps improve a child's studies and performance at school.

We need volunteers to help with the project on **Saturday March 27th** (folks with carpentry skills in particular) and **Sunday March 28th** (anyone to help with packaging). Start time each day is 9:00 a.m. and the location will be at the McCormick Air Center. Contact John Cooper john@visityakima.com or Jordan Matson jordan.matson@matsonfruit.com to sign-up to help and receive details. You can also find their cell phones in the club directory if you wish to contact them that way.

- REVIEW -

During our pre-meeting banter, Courtney Beckler was highlighted in our *Get to Know this Rotarian* segment. Her fun fact was that she has trained monkeys. That came with questions where we learned that she was married to an animal trainer. As one of our greeters, Courtney also welcomed everyone to Rotary along with Garrett Matzke. Sporting John Lennon glasses and a 60s hairdo, Nick Helms presented a 4-part trumpet medley of Beatles tunes. It was awesome! Tom Froula shared a prayer of gratefulness for our club, members, and leadership in these challenging times. It was with sadness that President Jennifer Bliesner announced the passing of fellow member Jim Abbenhaus on Tuesday with a moment of silence. He was a member of Rotary for 50 years. He will be missed. With the link to the meeting there was a reminder of a volunteer opportunity for the community vaccination clinic that is open at the Fair Grounds. The volunteer contact was listed – sign-up to help if you can. In keeping with the program theme, Sterling's sergeant-at-arms was about Rotary and classifications.

Erin Black had the honor of introducing Tressa Shockley, Marisol Summers, and Priscilla Trevino as our program speakers. One by one they gave their classification talk, sharing who they are, where they come from, their passions, their interest, and their careers.

Tressa Shockley joined Rotary in 2019 and is the Foundation Director for Perry Technical School. The joys of her life are her two boys who are 11 and 9. They attend West Valley schools which is where she graduated from. She has become a better person by becoming a parent – she has learned to go with the flow and always strives to set a good example, set expectation, discipline them when needed, and love them unconditionally. In sharing who she is, she used a recent DISC assessment that she participated in through her job. The very first assessment she took was back in the second grade. It was a class experiment to determine if she was dominant right-brained or left-brained. She had always been a hard worker but never felt she was accomplished at any one thing. It explained a lot about her as she grew up; she never felt that she was especially good at anything, mastered something, or that something was particularly unique to her. She always had to give her “all” to everything. She did come to realize that she was good at working with people and understanding the psychology of what makes them tick. Her strengths lie in the “I” category according to her DISC analysis. She is an influencer. Her key strengths are her outgoingness, enthusiasm, high spirit, and optimism. If you give her an idea, she will run with it. She is the one you want on your team if you want to get things done. Professionally, she is good at bringing people together and finding common ground. Raised in a Christian home, her family was involved in philanthropy and helping others; that became the groundwork for the passion she needs in what she does. In her 21 years of work employment, she has been in leadership roles as a manager or director that included working as the Membership Director of the YMCA before her current position. She needs variety and multiple elements to keep her engaged. Her role as Perry Tech Foundation Director has pushed her comfort level but has been an incredible fit serving the students and institution with fundraising. They award almost a half million dollars annually in scholarships. Tressa is a self-described doer, giver, and loves do-it-yourself projects. Being a part of service organizations has been a wonderful outlet to serve others and meet social needs.

Marisol Summers shared her journey to Yakima. A member of our club since 2016, she shared that she was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Her dad was an entrepreneur; her mother was not able to attend college but wanted all her children to get a degree. Initially Marisol wanted to study food science, but the degree was not offered at the college she attended. Instead, she studied chemistry. She received a Rotary Goodwill Ambassadorial Scholarship and came to the U.S. to study food science at U.C. Davis, CA. After graduation she had to choose between going

back to Mexico and getting married to her boyfriend or going to work for a fruit company in California. She chose the fruit company and was transferred to their research and development department in Buffalo, NY. Her career was taking off and she had purchased her first house. Her mom passed away, leaving her to reassess her life. It was time to start a family. She met a man from Yakima, they got married, she began a career at John I. Haas and had two wonderful children. In the back of her mind, she always had a desire to start her own business. She took the leap and started Mayan Sun, a food powder company. In 2012 she was hit by a truck while road biking and ended up with “a lot of metal” in her leg. A few years later her marriage and business ended. She went back “home” to John I. Haas as the Director of Quality and began dating Dave Fast who is now her husband. Two years ago, she suffered a heart attack with no warning signs that left her dead for 10 minutes. Dave's quick response saved her life. She now follows a plant-based, whole food diet and has taken advantage of the Covid lockdown time to take on-line cooking classes that embrace her new diet. Her health crisis has led her to embrace change, not take life for granted, and make the decision to retire to start a new life chapter.

Priscilla Trevino is the newest of three, having been introduced in October. She was born and raised in Sunnyside with three brothers. As the only girl she often heard the word “yes.” During her last two years of high school, life changed when her mom was diagnosed with cancer and wound end up needing extensive home care. A retired nurse, who was a stranger, came into their home at no charge to help and teach Priscilla how to care for her mom. Her actions inspired Priscilla to serve and help others. Her mom life has taught her many things that include being kind and showing compassion matters, that your status in life doesn't mean more than the impact you can make to those around you, trying something new isn't about winning and that if you want to do well at something you have to put in the work. Her father passed away prior to her high school graduation. He taught her that there is no obstacle she would face that she could not overcome – giving up was not an option. Her initial plan after graduation was to leave home; she chose to stay and attended YVC instead. In 2003, she attended the Art Institute of Chicago – Seattle where she earned an Associates of Arts in Marketing. She completed an internship with Nordstrom, and she continued to work for them as a business manager gaining valuable knowledge including what excellent customer service looks and sounds like. She went on to work for American Eagle, The Body Shop, and as a bank manager for Bank of America. She was a top manager for American Eagle, a top performer for The Body Shop, and as a branch manager had perfect audits. She and her husband Tom have known each other since grade school. Their family includes a lovable dog named Barkley. They love the outdoors and spending time with family and friends. She is passionate about serving community and is involved with several organizations including La Casa Hogar, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Rod's House. In 2019, Priscilla became the Executive Director for the Yakima Schools Foundation. She is responsible for advancing growth and development within the Yakima School District. She is passionate in her belief to provide programs and support to all children. She has strengthened their fundraising efforts and is working on redesigning Excellence in Education. The work of the Foundation is about making our schools better for kids and in turn better for our community.

We are blessed to have these amazing and inspiring women as part of our community and Rotary family.

The meeting ended with Rotarians Are Going Places featuring Dottie Hildebrand and the Union Gospel Mission's newest thrift store called Summit Thrift coming soon to 5606 Summitview Avenue.