



THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022

YAKIMA CONVENTION CENTER

Serve to
Change Lives

YAKIMA ROTARY ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

One of the most rewarding programs we provide are scholarships. Scholarships make higher education easier to access, help students focus on their studies, give students more choices for schools and careers, and encourage philanthropy.

Graduating from high school is a celebration of goals achieved, the beginning of a new journey to fulfill dreams, and the first step in becoming future leaders and citizens of the world. Every year, Yakima Rotary awards Academic Scholarships to deserving students in our community.

Applicants are scored on their academic performance, school and community leadership, a personal essay, letters of recommendation, and need. Twenty-nine students were chosen to go through an in-person interview. The following nineteen students were selected to receive the 2022 Yakima Rotary Academic Scholarship.

Davis High School

Jhoanna Badillo
Conor Lincoln
Florinta Lopez
Yahayra Ruiz-G
Melissa Vasconcelos
Daniela Vasquez Hernandez
Susan Wilmes

East Valley High School

Brookelyn Powell

Eisenhower High School

Hannah Hilton
Ruby Hopkins
Milena Urroz Sandoval

Highland High School

Marcial Romero Gomez

LaSalle High School

Melissa Nava
Genevieve Newstead

Naches Valley High School

Xander Hires

Selah High School

Conner Dailey
Katie Ramos

West Valley High School

Brooke Bauer
Nathan Ditto

Please join us this Thursday, as we honor and recognize their achievements. One by one they will share with us where they plan to attend college, their course of study, something that makes them unique, and one thing they will take away with them and treasure about Yakima.

FOR THURSDAY’S MEETING

Greeters – Clark Permann, Erika Rutter
Music – Eisenhower High School Choir
Invocation – Amy Maib
Sergeant-at-Arms – Matt Martinkus
Program – Ryan Alexander
Marble Draw – David Cobia, Nicole Donegan

FUTURE PROGRAMS

May 26th – Rick Pinnell, Returning from Vietnam
June 2nd – Dr. Mike Lawler, PNWU
June 9th – Mark Brown, Washington State Parks
June 16th – David Horsey, Political Cartoonist

MARBLE DRAW

The sales were brisk last week with a pot that totaled over \$2,000. With only 5 marbles left we had a winner. This week, the pot goes back to zero with all 10 marbles back in the bucket. Here we go again!



PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Monday, March 23, 2022, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

Raul Martinez
External Affairs Manager
WA State Dept. of Natural Resources
Classification: Government External Affairs
Proposed by: Carmen Mendez
Endorsed by: Sheri Bissell

MAY 26TH MEETING

Next week’s meeting is a history that most of us no nothing about, Returning from Viet-nam. As part of the program, we will be hon-oring local Vietnam Veterans and Gold Star family members and presenting an Unsung Hero Award.

We will be starting 10 minutes early. Mark your calendar and plan accordingly. We will have lots of guests. You are encouraged to invite a veteran and Gold Star family members as well.

ROTARY: WE WORK DIFFERENTLY

We see differently: Our multidisciplinary perspective helps us see challenges in unique ways.
We think differently: We apply leadership and expertise to social issues — and find unique solutions.
We act responsibly: Our passion and perseverance create lasting change.
We make a difference at home and around the world: Our members can be found in your community and across the globe.

- REVIEW -

It was so much fun to have Adams Elementary’s Marimba Band play for us this week. The applause and cheering from us went on and on! They were spectacular. Jan Luring followed with a prayer for those that experience hunger. President John welcomed our guests. An-nouncements were made by Deb Sterling and Soneya Lund.

Deb Sterling introduced Tom Gaulke as our newest Rotary member. Tom is CEO of Entrust Community Services. Entrust Community Services works in seven counties in Eastern Washington and is a leader in the field of employment of individuals with disabilities. Tom has 35 years of experience and has served on a number of state boards and commissions. He has been a long-time Toastmaster and is a Past President of Sunnyside Noon Rotary Club. He graduated from West Valley High School and Central Washington University and obtained a master’s in Business Administration from the Uni-versity of Phoenix. He and his wife, Dawn have been married for 30 years and have 3 boys and 6 grandchildren. Tom is an avid musician and enjoys hiking, camping, and wineries. We are so happy to have him as part of our Club!

In recognition of May as Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Soneya Lund shared her story that began with a reading of the City of Yakima’s proclamation recognizing the month and a greeting of hello in Korean. While there is so much that is beautiful in her culture; she chose to share about two foundational parts – color and food. Koreans place great value on color. Growing up her friends’ homes were adorned in muted colors. Not her home; it screamed in blue, yellow, red, white, and black symbolizing direction and the elements necessary for a healthy and prosperous life. Blue – east and wood; red – south and fire; yellow – center and earth; white – west and metal; and black – north and water. Like many other cultures, you would know that you were trusted and respected if you were invited to dinner. Every meal is a celebration, and everything is a celebration. It was a great presentation of a heritage rich with color, tradition, and family.

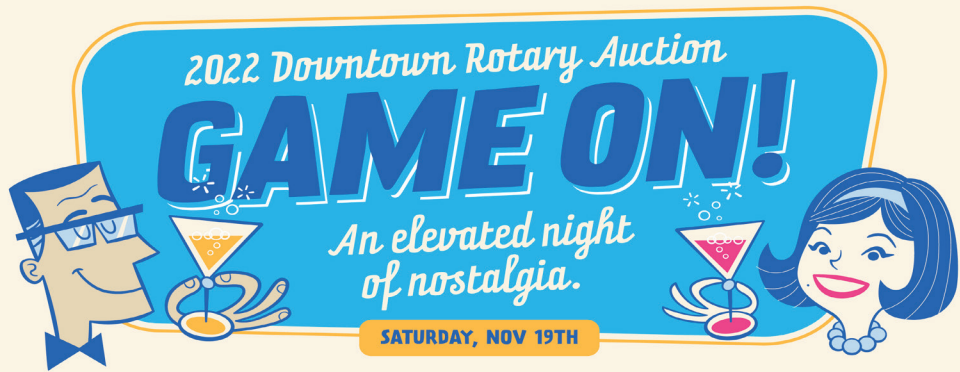
Sunny Cameron had the honor of introducing our program speaker, Thomas Reynolds the CEO of Northwest Harvest. Northwest Har-vest has a very long, deep, and valuable relationship with Rotary in Yakima and across the state of Washington. The Rotary Program Harvest Against Hunger has resulted in the contribution of the most fruits and vegetables of any group to them. Rotary volunteers are invaluable to them as well.

He began by sharing why he choose to come to Northwest Harvest. He found himself drawn to them for three reasons (1) Everyone he talked to, from the staff to board members, to volunteers were com-pletely focused on respect and dignity for every person experiencing hunger, (2) Their grassroots funding. The budget is not controlled by big donors or government entities; no one contributor contributes more than 1% of their annual cash budget. They have tremendous donations from farmers and growers across the state. The Yakima Valley is the most generous geographically, and (3) The level of strat-egy in what they do.

Yakima will soon be home to a new Northwest Harvest distribu-tion center to replace their distribution center in Kent. One of the things that the leadership team noticed was that due to the increas-ing generosity of people from Central Washington they were taking a lot of fresh produce from the Yakima Valley, putting it on trucks, moving and processing it in Kent, and in many cases sending it back to Central Washington. The process was inefficient, costly, and the traffic in Kent was hard to navigate. They began looking for some-thing different, Yakima was chosen for its easy access to highways, closeness to some of the most pristine farmlands in the U.S., and the core of volunteers who live here.

When completed, the new space will include 60,000 square feet of freezer space, 100,000 square feet of chill space, 40,000 square feet of ambient space, and a free grocery store. The free store will allow individuals to pick out exactly what they need. It will not compete with grocery stores as they won’t have a lot of great food. If some-thing specific is needed, you aren’t likely to find it there. It will compliment other food banks already in Yakima and its proximity to DSHS, will allow individuals to walk across the block to shop. There is a tremendous staff already here in Yakima. With the opening of the new facility, they will be hiring about 40 new employees starting in October and November.

The result of the new center and store will increase by the factor of 4 the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables to food banks across the state. Northwest Harvest wants to be good neighbors working to provide value and meaning. We are all one with gifts to share.



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please contact John Cooper at john@visityakima.com.