



**THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024 – THE CAPITOL THEATRE  
4TH STREET THEATRE - 14 S. 4TH STREET  
4pm to 6pm**

*Create Hope  
in the World*

**JUSTIN JAMES  
COMEDY HYPNOTIST**



You are in for a treat this week as we move away from our traditional meeting for a fun-filled late afternoon social event featuring Comedy Hypnotist Justin James at the 4th Street Theatre. From Seattle, Washington James is The Bash's #1 booked comedy act performing over 300 shows each year where he has hypnotized over one hundred thousand volunteers that leave his audience wowed and amazed.

A true entertainer, Justin delivers a beautifully choreographed clean show of improv hilarity from the moment it begins. People will argue with shoes, become top pop stars, and there will be special appearances by Gummy Bear, Metallica, and more. You will be able to see the show or be part of the show – your choice.

Invite your spouse, significant other, or friends to join you. Social hour will begin at 4pm with the show starting at 5pm. Hors d'oeuvres will be served along with wine, beer, water, and iced tea.

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

June 6th – Amber Strunk, LIGO Hanford Observatory  
June 13th – Laura & Tood Crooks, Chad's Legacy Project  
June 20th – Ester Huey & Wally Webster, Juneteenth  
June 27 – Recognition of President Erin Black

## 2024 VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS NOW OPEN!

A 4-year college degree isn't for everyone. Vocational education, often referred to as career and technical education, provides a unique path from school to career through a combination of academics, hands-on-training, and career preparation. For the past 30 years, Yakima Rotary has been supporting this non-traditional approach through the award of Vocational Scholarships.

This year the application process has changed from early spring to the fall to align with the needs of vocational students and the timing of their programs. Today marks the start of the application process. Recipients must be enrolled or planning to enroll at a post-high school vocational institution or in a 2-year terminal vocational program with the completion of the program resulting in a degree or certification. Students who are currently enrolled or planning to attend YV-Tech, Perry Technical Institute, YV-Tech, Yakima Valley College, or another post-secondary vocational school are eligible to apply. Graduating high school students from Davis, East Valley, Eisenhower, Highland, LaSalle, Naches Valley, Riverside Christian, Selah, and West Valley High schools, homeschooled and Running Start students in those same districts are also eligible.

Criteria for the scholarship is based upon commitment to one's career, school and community engagement, evidence of passing grades and progress, financial need, and communication skills. Students working towards a 4-year bachelor's degree do not qualify for this scholarship. The deadline to apply is August 20th. The application and additional information are available at [yakimarotary.org](http://yakimarotary.org). Please help us get the word out by sharing with your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.





## MOLLIE DAVIS GOLF TOURNAMENT

to benefit the Yakima Rotary Trust  
Yakima Country Club  
10:30am Registration & 11am BBQ Lunch  
Shotgun Start at Noon

Join us on Monday, July 22 for the best golf tournament in town! The format is “Best Ball” with cash prizes following play. The cost is \$750/team and includes two carts, drink coupons, and green fees.

Contact Robin Beckett at [robinbeckett@yakimarotarytrust.org](mailto:robinbeckett@yakimarotarytrust.org) to reserve your team today. Space is limited.

## SCHOLARSHIP DINNER PICTURES



## REVIEW

We have some remarkable students in our community. This week was a chance to celebrate 19 graduating seniors as our 2024 Academic Scholarship Recipients. Every school was represented; Davis, Eisenhower, Selah, West Valley, East Valley, Naches Valley, Highland, LaSalle, and one homeschooled student.

With members of the Academic Scholarship Committee lined up to congratulate them, Committee Co-Chair Mary McFadden called each one up to the podium to share where they plan to go to school, their area of study, something unique about themselves, and one thing they treasure about Yakima.

This year we saw more diversity in the colleges than ever before with 16 different colleges. Three will be attending the University of Washington, two will be attending Gonzaga with the others attending WSU, CWU, George Fox, Harvard, Corban University, Neumont College of Computer Science, Spokane Falls, Wenatchee Valley, Seattle Pacific, University of Hawaii, Eastern Oregon, Grand Canyon University, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Iowa. Their chosen fields of study ranged from Business, Engineering, Biology, Political Science, Software Engineering, Fire Science, Human Physiology, Kinesiology, Math, Nursing, Marine Biology, History, International Economics, Christian Ministry, and Music Education. Their uniqueness was highlighted through their talent and adventurism that included music, travel, snowboarding, walking the Camino De Santiago, being a “lab-baby twin”, playing sports, working for the government, a swimmer who swam from one country to another, and knowing American Sign Language. The most striking comments came from what they treasure and will miss about Yakima; it was our sense of community, the humility of the people, it’s natural beauty and four distinct seasons, diversity, and that people are willing to do the best they can for the community.

They are inspirational young men and women who will reach their educational goals and go on to be great assets in any community they choose to live in – we hope they come back here. What else took place? As part of her invocation, Lila Mowatt shared a powerful message about Israel and how tough it is to be a Jew in America today. There are colleges she wouldn’t want her daughter to go to right now because of safety concerns. Her daughter ex-

perienced her first antisemitic death threat. Hate is not taught in her household. Israel has a right to exist in peace and safety. Being pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian are not mutually exclusive. The vast majority of Israelis support a Palestine state with a sharing of Jerusalem as a capital. May is Jewish American Heritage Month; as a sign of light in these dark times, she ended by offering a prayer from the Book of Psalms.

Tony Farina gave an update on changes to our Vocational Scholarship program. To better align with students who have chosen a vocational education and the timing of when vocational programs begin, a decision was made to move the application process from early spring to fall. The application process is going live today. The deadline to submit the application is August 20th with awards being presented in early October to allow time for interviews.

President Erin had the honor of introducing Rodrigo Renteria-Valencia as our newest member. Rodrigo was born and raised in Mexico City and moved to the U.S. in 2006 to pursue doctoral studies in cultural anthropology at the University of Arizona. His research conducted in different parts of the Americas included understanding the relation between people and the landscape they inhabit. Upon completion of his PhD, he secured a tenure-track position as an assistant professor in Anthropology at Central Washington University, where he currently serves as the interim associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research. One fun fact about him is he has a passion for carne asada; it is not only delicious, but fascinating. So much so, that he co-wrote an academic article on it. He also believes that service is transformative; and believes in what Rotary does. He is going to make a great addition to our club!







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