



THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025 FOURTH STREET THEATRE

*The Magic
Of Rotary*

SAM CHO PORT OF SEATTLE UPDATE AND THE IMPACT OF TRADE POLICIES ON WASHINGTON



Sam Cho was elected to the Port Commission in 2019 and Commission President in 2023. Cho is the son of immigrants who immigrated from South Korea to the United States through the Port of Seattle in the 80s. He is the youngest and first person of color to become Commission President since the founding of the Port in 1911.

Driven to help shape the economy of the future, Commissioner Cho's career has spanned from government and emerging startups to established companies in the tech and sustainability space.

Commissioner Cho currently serves as Director of Strategic Initiatives in the Office of Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell. He also held positions as an analyst at the U.S. Department of State, as a Legislative Assistant to both a Washington State Senator and a member of the United States Congress and served as a political appointee under President Barack Obama. Prior to his election to the Port, Commissioner Cho was the founder and CEO of Seven Seas Export, an international trading company that exported over 2.5 million pounds of eggs to various countries throughout the Asia-Pacific.

Commissioner Cho earned his Master of Science in International Political Economy from The London School of Economics and his Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from American University.

His priorities as a commissioner include creating economic opportunity, promoting environmental sustainability, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and ending human trafficking.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Curt Wilson
Inspiration – Tressa Shockley
Sergeant-at-Arms – Bob Udell
Program – Ken Marble

FUTURE PROGRAMS

May 15th – Dana Cowley Gribble, Hanford
May 22nd – Rotary Academic Scholarships
May 29th – Retired General Jim Mattis
June 5th – Hannah Wilson, Yakima Free Clinic

PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, May 9, 2025, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

Esther Magasis
Director of Human Services
Yakima County
Classification: Government, Human Services
Proposed by: Jim DeGrasse
Endorsed by: Brad Hansen

APPRECIATION TO THE FOUNDATION AWARDS COMMITTEE

Applause and appreciation to the Paul Harris Foundation Committee for their efficient and meaningful presentation of this year's Paul Harris Fellowship awards! Compliments to Darrell Blue, Rick Fairbrook, John Adkison, Sharri Greene, Jim Berg, and Scott Beyer for your attendance at our meetings and your professional preparation.

You successfully delivered these acknowledgement awards to wonderful Rotarians who contribute to the global goals of Rotary. Awesome job!

Nancy Leahy
2025 Foundation Committee Chair



GRANT THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Rotary Club of Yakima,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$4,000 towards the purchase of new chairs! Our current chairs are starting to cause bodily harm, so our members will certainly thank you! These chairs are used constantly throughout the year – starting with our annual meeting in January, free or low-cost presentations through the year, and finishing with the musical performances at Luminaria!

Your support helps us create a more welcoming and functional space for the community to gather, learn, and celebrate in the heart of nature.

*Warm Regards,
Colleen Adams-Schuppe
Executive Director, Yakima Area Arboretum*

YAKIMA ROTARY PRESENTS A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN THE YAKIMA VALLEY

Thursday, May 15

Wapato Filipino Community Hall

211 West 2nd Street, Wapato

Doors Open 4:30pm – Food Served 5:00pm –

Program 5:30pm

Filipino families have been part of the social and economic fabric of the Yakima Valley for more than a century. Join us for a presentation on their culture and local history and enjoy some of the best Filipino food in the Northwest!

Register by Thursday, May 8th to make sure they have enough food for those attending.

A voluntary \$20 contribution is not required but would be welcome to help cover the cost.

REVIEW

Our greeters this week were Zeb Ruff, Yvette Inzunza, and Alex Ditto. The inspirational message was provided by Sharon Miracle who shared a fishing prayer. President Jim welcomed our guests and recognized Rob Phillips and Mike Hummel. Rob Phillips was highlighted in the latest Washington State Alumni Magazine for his career as an author. Mike Hummel was recently recognized by his firm as the Rookie of the Year in the PNW territory. President Jim also promoted the upcoming Rotary Trust Golf Tournament on July 21st at the Yakima Country Club and the Rotary Hike on Saturday on the Cowiche Canyon Uplands Trail; meeting time is 9am. Vocational Scholarships are OPEN.

Quinn Dalan had the honor of introducing her friend Megan Murphy. Megan was born and raised in Yakima and is the daughter of Dr. Mike Murphy and Diane Murphy. If you recognize Mike's name, it's because he was a past president of our Rotary club; because of that Megan was given a Paul Harris Fellow along with the family dog. She attended Claremont McKenna College in California and received her juris doctorate from the University of Colorado School of Law. When she returned to our community, she began her career as a deputy prosecuting attorney at the Yakima County Prosecutor's Office. After 5 years, she joined the firm of Thorner Kennedy Gano & Murphy. In January 2025, she was appointed as a judge to the Washington State Court of Appeals Division III. She is a past president of the Yakima County Bar Association, a founding member of Yakima Chapter of Washington Women Lawyers, and a current Town Hall board member. She loves animals with two dogs, a cat and a chicken; they all take walks together. She is smart, kind and recently she completed 7 marathons on 7 continents in 7 days. We are so excited to have her as part of our club!

Rotary business was wrapped up with an invitation by David Rogers to attend the next Rotary Historical Perspective. We are going on a field trip to Wapato to visit the Filipino Community Hall on May 15th (read article for details). Chase Powell raised money for Rotary Charities for our first sergeant-at-arms in three weeks that included a donation from Craig Mendenhall celebrating the start of his business 50 years ago.

If you like fishing, you couldn't help but love our program speaker Jarod Higginbotham. Born and raised in Yakima, he grew up with a fishing rod in one hand and a love of the outdoors in his heart. Jarod is doing his dream job as the

National Sales & Marketing Director, Head of Quality Control, and Head of Education at Yakima Bait Company. He does television, radio and podcasts all over the country and at 6ft 10inches, 350 pounds, he has been described as the world's largest 9-year-old. He loves to have fun that includes dressing in character at airports – Chris Farley and Elton John are just a few.

Yakima Bait is located in Granger, Washington and just celebrated 90 years. It was founded by RB Worden in 1934 as Worden's Floating Spinner Company. In 1941, it was renamed to Yakima Bait Company. It is still owned by the same family today. In the mid 1940's Howard Worden, son of RB, built a weighted spinner with a willow leaf blade and a hackle tail. Called the "Retreat Special" it began selling around the region. Howard felt it needed a new name; after watching hydroplane races in Seattle, it was changed to "Rooster Tail." It is their bread and butter; it's what makes them money. They have sold around 200 million. As the company expanded, they acquired other companies and added products. In the 1950's the Spin-N-Glo was introduced for trout, salmon, steelhead, and walleye. The most significant acquisition was Poe's in 1993 that included a factory in Mexico. The most current acquisition was the Spin-N-Fish in 2019. Jarod took his boat to Wisconsin for a salmon tournament using the Spin-N-Fish and took third out of 500 people. It got national attention. Where do they ship their product - all over the world.

Education and teaching someone how to fish is the favorite part of his job. With rod in hand, we got our own salmon fishing seminar with the full set up of items and what they do from round beads to t-beads, weights, flasher, Yakima Bait Cut plug, spinners and two bait recipes – sweet or sassy.

It was a celebration of a company in our own Valley and FUN – just like he promised. A true ambassador for the sport of fishing, his humor, passion and energy couldn't help but make you smile.



President Jim DeGrasse & Bruce Heiser – Jobs for Youth Career Fair



THANK YOU TO OUR ROTARY AUCTION SPONSORS!

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