



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic
Of Rotary*

ADAM BEACH NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



Adam Beach is a celebrated Indigenous actor and advocate who is recognized for his powerful performances and commitment to social justice. Beach was born in Manitoba, Canada, and gained prominence through roles in films such as “Smoke Signals” and *Flags of Our Fathers*.”

Beyond his acting career, Beach is well-known for being a passionate advocate for Indigenous rights, using his platform to raise awareness about issues facing Native communities. Through his work, Adam inspires future generations, emphasizing the importance of representation and cultural pride.

FOR THURSDAY’S MEETING

Inspiration – Patti Powers
Sergeant-at-Arms – Bob Romero
Program – Kyle Curtis
Attendance – Mary McFadden

FUTURE PROGRAMS

November 28th – No Meeting, Happy Thanksgiving
December 5th – TBD
December 12th – Vance Jennings, Warehouse Theatre
December 19th – Rotary Christmas Program

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING



**VOLUNTEER
BELL RINGERS
NEEDED!**

Ring a bell...help change a life

The holidays are coming fast. Before you know it, Rotary Bell Ringing will be happening. This year, our club is taking a full week of ringing at four locations, all day long, starting on Monday, December 9th and ending on Saturday, December 14th. Shifts will run from 10am to noon; noon to 2pm; 2pm to 4pm; and 4pm to 6pm. Locations are Wray’s 56th, Rosauers, Fred Meyer Grocery Entrance, and the Fred Meyer North Entrance. Sign-ups have been out on the tables – you will see an on-line link by email shortly.

SAVE THE DATE: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



December 4th is the date for this year's first Historical Perspective put on by the Racial Justice Committee. It is taking place from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the YVC Conference Center Room D. The speaker will be WSU Professor Robert Franklin. His specialty is the history of the Hanford Site and its impact on the social fabric of the region, including co-editing and co-authoring a book that explores the circumstances surrounding the Tri-Cities 'sundown towns.'

For our presentation, he will be providing a brief general history of racial segregation in the United States, talk specifically about the Tri-Cities and central Washington during the last century, and move to a broader discussion to include other participants' personal recollections of segregation and desegregation from throughout the South and other parts of the country. You won't want to miss!

REVIEW

Last week's meeting was a celebration of Veterans Day. Greeters Sharon Miracle and Zeb Ruff welcomed all of us. A beautiful rendition of "America the Beautiful" by Doug Rich and Charlie Robin started the meeting. President Jim welcomed guests, reminded everyone to sign up for Rotary Bell Ringing from December 9th to 14th, and announced an upcoming Historical Perspective event on December 4th at the YVC Conference Center that will feature Robert Franklin, a Tri-Cities WSU History Professor talking about the history racial segregation during the formation and early years of Hanford.

Two weeks ago, John Cooper introduced our new member, Liz Hobson. Last week, he completed her introduction, providing more insight into her background and achievements. Liz married her husband in 2012 in Santa Fe. They moved to Boise in 2017 where she served as the director of the Idaho State Museum and played a crucial role in reopening the museum after four years of renovation. Yakima became her home this year when she was selected to be the Executive Director of the Yakima Valley Museum. Inspired by a strong sense of community, Liz is dedicated to sharing the stories of our area and making the museum a welcoming space for everyone. Please be sure to introduce yourself to Liz and welcome her to Rotary. Jim Berg wrapped up Rotary business with an auction history quiz for sergeant-at-arms session.

Brad Hansen introduced our featured speaker Superior Court Judge Elect, LTC Chris Herion who shared with us his family's rich history in the military, how it has influenced his views of Veterans Day, and service of others who enable us to enjoy the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution.

Chris' family has lived in Kittitas County for 16 years. He moved there when he took a position with the Kittitas County Prosecutor's Office after serving as a JAG officer. His Valley roots are deep. His grandfather George moved to Toppenish in 1931 from Chicago. His grandmother also lived in Chicago where, as a 19-year-old secretary, was one block away from the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. George worked as a forestry land manager with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, managing horses on the Reservation and forestry around Status Pass. In 1941, he attempted to enlist in the military but was denied due to age, marital status, and his essential role in the Federal Government. His disappointment fueled a lifelong support for veterans that included prioritization for jobs.

After the war, George worked for a private lumber company in Klickitat and spent many summers with Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas at the foot of Mt. Adams. Chris' father was born in Yakima in 1944. Both Chris's dad and grandfather remembered veterans returning from war carrying heavy burdens. Stars were displayed in windows of homes to indicate that a family member was serving or had died while serving. Chris's father attended St. Martin's and Seattle University, where he met Chris's mother. Influenced by his own father, an Army Air Corp veteran, he enlisted and joined the ROTC. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant and served briefly in Vietnam before returning to Klickitat. He retired from service in 1991, just before Desert Storm.

Growing up in a military family, Chris saw military life firsthand and traveled extensively. Initially planning to follow his father's path, Chris joined the Marines in 1996 and later attended law school. After 9/11, he rejoined the military as part of the JAG Corps, defending and prosecuting soldiers while upholding the rule of law worldwide. He found that the rule of law often does not exist overseas. Tribal instincts prevail in many countries that include Iran and Iraq. With insurgency operations in Afghanistan and Iraq over and the end of regional wars, our military focus has shifted over to large-scale combat operations with peer-to-peer adversaries that involve drones, robots, and cyber-attacks. Despite these changes, human behavior remains constant, and the rule of law is central to how warfare is practiced and how we live.

He showed his own copy of the U.S. Constitution, highlighting its importance as the foundation for the rule of law, due process, equal protection, and how the recent election was an exercise of the Constitution. As a newly elected judge he reaffirmed his non-partisan commitment sharing the unity and selflessness found among soldiers regardless of their political views. He ended with a reference to Camp Rilea in Astoria, a National Guard training facility with Koski Hall, filled with photos of WWII Medal of Honor winners, almost all of whom sacrificed their lives to save others.

It was a wonderful way to recognize those that have served, to reflect on their sacrifice and valor, and be reminded of the important of embracing the principles they defend.



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