

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2024 NO MEETING

*The Magic
Of Rotary*



FUTURE PROGRAMS

December 5th – TBD

December 12th – Vance Jennings, Warehouse Theatre

December 19th – Adult Holiday Party

December 26th – No Meeting

SAVE THE DATE

Rotary Historical Perspective

Wednesday, December 4th

Yakima Valley College

5:30pm to 6:30pm

Featuring WSU Professor Robert Franklin
History of Racial Segregation, Tri-Cities “Sundown
Towns”, Participants Recollections of Segregation
and Desegregation.

2024 ROTARY OPERATION HARVEST RESULTS

The results are IN. This year’s Operation Harvest was a huge success thanks to Rotarian volunteers from all three Yakima Rotary clubs and community members. Here is what we accomplished:

100 Operation Harvest signs were updated with stickers for this year’s date of October 12th.

Yakima Federal Savings & Loan underwrote the cost of 15,000 paper grocery bags. Over 30 Rotarians along with their families, friends and residents at Landmark (thanks to Jane Davis) stapled Operation Harvest flyers on all of those bags.

55 Rotarians, again with help from family, friends, and coworkers, distributed bags on the doorsteps of households in Yakima, Selah, Moxee, Naches, and Glee. That same number of volunteers went back to those neighborhoods to collect food on Operation Harvest Day.

30 volunteers made up of Rotarians, Davis High School Interact students, and the OIC Dance Team worked at the collection site emptying cars and trucks as they came in, organizing the food, and reloading it into trucks from our local food banks.

The total amount of food collected was 65,100 pounds. In addition, 145 Rotarians, community members, the Yakima Rotary Club and Yakima Rotary Trust donated over \$75,000 in cash that will be distributed to the nine local food banks we support to purchase additional food and sundry items.

Thank you to everyone who participated! What Rotary is able to accomplish is truly remarkable!

REVIEW

One of the things that makes our club not only exceptional but unique is our acknowledgement of the many different cultures within our Yakima Valley. This week was one of those times as we recognized Native American Heritage Month with ceremony that included the beauty of Eagle Spirit Drummers, the dancing of the Umtuch family spanning every generation, and our guest speaker, Adam Beach.

Kyle Curtis had the honor of introducing Adam. An actor, advocate, and proud member of the Indigenous people, his presentation was deeply moving and full of emotion. He began by sharing that not until 1978 were Indigenous people allowed the freedom of their religion and dancing and singing that we saw in the opening of the meeting. Adam was born in 1972; being born Indian he was not allowed to be a part of that. Learning who he is through teachings, songs and ceremony has had a tremendous influence on who he is, what he does, and continues to do. He is hopeful that the younger generation will have the privilege of not being disregarded, and allowed to be who they are, where they are from, and continue their traditions.

Adam values who he is; it's gotten him out of the conflict of certain statistics that are put upon their people. In Hollywood when you look at the demographics of who people are, he is under a category of "other." It shows the difficulties of what they have to face. One of the things he had to learn was to accept the statistics and accept what other people think of them - they don't have to lead in the timeline they have created. He does not accept stereotypes and will not allow someone to say what he is capable of or not. He is as good as he is today, as he was yesterday, and hopefully better tomorrow. He encourages others to look at who they are and find the knowledge that exists, so they can understand them better, their difficulties, understand their challenges, and except who and what they are in regard to the land that we are on. It's not saying they own it, but they honor it. To honor them is to honor the land.

Seeking who he is means having to face the truth of the currents that try to push away his people wanting to be themselves. Every day he tries to find the strength to encourage the younger generation against policy, against denial. He wants to be that one person who uses his place to have a gathering such as he did with us, with hope that we can be a part of helping others recognize them and seek knowledge of who they are through literature and seeing in person the ceremonies and practices that have existed for thousands of years.

At 52, learning still brings trauma. He has a good balance with his friends and family to help him through. Shedding tears is not a weakness, but a way to release anger, stay positive, and find truth in himself. Talking to schools like he did earlier in the day allows him to shed light on the difficulties they face; it's what they've overcome that gives them strength.

The biggest struggle in his journey is why Indians don't want to be Indians in certain places. He is one of those that need to learn the language; questioning why his aunts and uncles never taught him.

There was a time when his generation had to work hard to fight. Today they are evolving into the next stage for a younger generation to continue. He wants to be a voice and awareness for those with suicidal thoughts, give them hope to seek help, and see the beauty of who they are.

In his family there are doctors, lawyers, teachers, gang members, and those in prison for murder. They live in all aspects of the world of being Indian; underneath they are trying to get their identity back. He often asks why elders are not committing suicide; that it is only the young ones. They are encouraging their communities so that elders can be in a position to communicate and teach the young ones.

When you decide to take responsibility to be a spokesperson of truth you have to face the reality. He is glad we have come to a place where we can sit together in a room like this and for one month be Indigenous. When he speaks, he speaks from his heart. He hopes that his story, who he is, and what his journey is to be will help a younger generation find their purpose and their past. He is working on building movie theaters in Canada. He and his wife have started their own production company and have seven movies they want to make. Within the movies they will have a film school running at the same time that will allow them to pay Indigenous students as they work.

Being with us encouraged him and gives him trust in others to participate in what he is doing. He was inspired on another level. It was important for him to meet with us and express emotionally. It enables him to see who he is now. It was a beautiful day that ended with a standing ovation. Moments such as those we experienced are a reminder of the profound impact words and actions can have on not only our own lives but others.

What else happened? President Jim recognized Rebecca Pennell on her confirmation as a U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington; and Molly Neal, Curt Wilson, and Josh Shockley on their one-year Rotary anniversary. Larry Mattson provided a report on the results for Operation Harvest, David Rogers extended an invitation for the next historical perspective on December 4th, and Quinn Dalan introduced our newest member Aryn Masters who transferred her membership from Southwest Rotary. At the age of 9 she did a school project on Ruth Bader Ginsburg; right then and there she decided she wanted to be a judge. That came true in January 2023 when she was appointed as a Municipal Court Judge for the City of Yakima. She attended the University of Oregon and obtained her law degree from Gonzaga University. Yakima became her home upon graduation (2008). Prior to her appointment as a judge, she worked as a City of Yakima public defender and a public defender for Yakima County. She is married to Jason; together they have 2 kids. She has done 4 half marathons, is a yoga and Pilates instructor, and loves Disneyland. She serves on the Board of CW Legal Aid where she is their current president, is involved in Safe Yakima and a member of Junior League. We are so happy to have her as part of our Club!





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