

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*Create Hope
in the World*



BRYNN JACOBS & MOLLIE THOLA FIRST TEE OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON

The First Tee of Central Washington serves youth from ages 5 to 18 with 4 program locations in Yakima County as well as programs in Wenatchee Valley. They are currently serving 400 kids throughout Central Washington, as well as providing programming and outreach to 5 different schools including the local Community Center for underserved youth. The First Tee has created partnerships with new golf courses in the Valley, secured 5 additional acres to their SOZO site for expansion in 2024, and will be getting support (and a lot of entertainment) from Professional Golfer, Commentator and Author Gary McCord, next February right here in Yakima!



Brynn Jacobs has been in Yakima since 2009 and is the Executive Director for the First Tee of Central Washington. She joined the organization in February of this year, hit the ground running, and has already helped make an impact with her passion! Brynn started her professional career in Yakima as a Law Enforcement Specialist in the Detective Division for the Yakima County Sheriff's Office. She left that position to care for her twins and then she had a second set of twins! YES... 2 sets of twin girls 2 years apart! Once her children were older, and "mom life" wasn't as crazy, her focus turned to volunteer work. She is an active member, and current President of the Junior League of Yakima and loves being involved in community projects!



Mollie Thola has been an LPGA Teaching and Club Professional for over 25 years and has been the First Tee Program Director since 2013. She is from Spokane where she turned professional and began her teaching career. She has been an Assistant Golf Professional, Head Golf Professional, and an Independent Teaching Professional. She quickly found her niche in the golf industry through teaching players of all ages and abilities. Teaching is Mollie's passion, and she enjoys serving the youth in Central Washington through the First Tee programs!

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Marisol Fast, Matt Shuel
Music – Charlie Robin
Invocation – Sharon Miracle
Sergeant-at-Arms – Brad Hansen
Program – Sheri Bissell
Attendance – Rich Austin

FUTURE PROGRAMS

November 23rd – No Meeting
November 30th – JD Olney Shellenberger,
Native American Heritage Month
December 7th – Chon Marquez, Rod's House
December 14th – Rotary Adult Holiday Party

ROTARY BOOK CLUB INVITATION



You are invited to join the Rotary Book Club for their next discussion night on Wednesday, December 13th from 5pm to 6pm at the John I. Haas Innovation Center. Their book selection is "Let us Descend" by Jesmyn Ward. It looks like a good one!

ROTARY MEZCAL TASTING & SOCIAL

December 7, 2023 – 5:30pm to 7pm
Larson Gallery

This is an exclusive event for Rotarians and guests only and includes a guided tasting of two pours of Mocel's small batch mezcales along with light appetizers. RSVPs are due by Friday, November 17th.



ROTARY BELL RINGING

Rotary Bell Ringing is coming fast! This year's dates for YAKIMA ROTARY WEEK are Monday, December 4th through Saturday, December 9th. We will be filling shifts at four locations: Wray's 56th, Rosauers, Fred Meyer Grocery Entrance, and Fred Meyer North Entrance.



Shifts are from 10am to noon; noon to 2pm; 2pm to 4pm; and 4pm to 6pm. Sign-ups are underway. A link was sent to everyone by email to choose their date(s), location, and time. There are a total of 96 shifts to fill.

Invite a family member, friend, or fellow Rotarian to join you. One small gift of your time will have a huge impact on someone in need.

REVIEW

It was an amazing program featuring the story of a Holocaust survivor through his written and spoken words. Tom Heller, a legacy speaker for the Holocaust Center for Humanity, shared the story of his father, Paul who survived six years in concentration camps.

Paul Heller was born in 1914 in Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic). His father was the town doctor; both his mom and dad died in the Holocaust. Growing up he was the only Jew in his class; he described not being aware of antisemitism. After graduation from high school, he went to Prague to follow in his father's footsteps and study medicine. In March 1939, the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia. Many of his friends seeing what was happening in Germany had already gotten out. In August, he had all the required documents to leave and a plane reservation. On September 1st he was arrested and subsequently transferred to Buchenwald where he worked in the stone quarry for the next 3.5 years. In April 1943, he was transferred to Auschwitz; the largest concentration camp where 1.1 million people ended up being murdered. By 1943 the Germans were in bad shape and started to see defeats and decided to make use of their prisoner's skills. In June 1943, a new work camp was opened up. With two years of medical school, Paul was transferred to Jaworzno to work in a clinic where he remained until January 1945. In January 1945, the Russians were coming from the east. The Germans decided to evacuate all the camps in the east. His dad was evacuated to Gross-Rosen, 156 miles away. In January weather, they marched by foot. Twenty-four hundred people out of 3,000 perished in the 2 weeks it took to arrive. Covered in lice and sick, he spent a week

at Gross-Rosen before being shipped back to where he started in Buchenwald, arriving on February 8th. On April 11th, the U.S. Army liberated Buchenwald. The Germans had abandoned the camp. On April 15th, Edward R. Murrow visited Buchenwald to report what he had seen and interviewed his Tom's dad. It broadcast in London and the U.S. – it was the first notice that his friends that after six years, Paul was alive.

For 6 weeks after liberation, Paul stayed and cared for Buchenwald survivors at Blankenheim Castle. With no papers, he was issued a civilian identification card and with considerable struggle and a bit of luck he was able to get to Paris to secure a passport and visa that allowed him to move to England. In 1946, he immigrated to the U.S. Tom's mother, who his dad had met while studying in college and was one of his friends to make it out before the invasion of Czechoslovakia, was there to meet him. They were married on August 3, 1946. Paul became a U.S. citizen on December 7, 1948. He had a 42-year career working his way to Professor of Medicine and Head of the Department of Hematology at the University of Illinois and became internationally known for research leading to advances in the treatment of sickle cell anemia and other blood diseases.

Tom never quizzed his dad too much on what good he did or the horrors he dealt with. His dad guarded his emotions, People can do powerful things when they "other" and hate. We are seeing it played out on both sides of what is happening today. One can do horrible things when one allows oneself to hate. We must fight against it.