



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic
Of Rotary*

YAKIMA ROTARY VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Scholarships make education accessible by easing the financial burden on students. Vocational training plays a crucial role in providing opportunities for individuals of all backgrounds pursuing specialized trades and crafts. Vocational scholarships help ensure a steady supply of skilled workers to fill jobs crucial to our economy.

Yakima Rotary has been providing Vocational Scholarships to students for 30 years. Of all the programs we fund, none have a greater impact on those chosen.

After a process that included submitting a written application, letters of recommendation, and a personal interview, the following 22 students have been selected as the 2024 Vocational Scholarship recipients.

Michael Ahmann – Perry Technical Institute: Instrumentation, Automation & Robotics Technology
Arisela Alcala – Yakima Valley College: Associates of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education
Alexander Ayala – Perry Technical Institute: Electrical Technology
Nathan Beauchene – Perry Technical Institute: Instrumentation, Automation & Robotics Technology
Johnathon Cardenas – Perry Technical Institute: Electrical Technology
Israel Castaneda – Perry Technical Institute: Electrical Technology
Cristian Castillo – Perry Technical Institute: Automotive Technology
Misty Christensen – Yakima Valley College: Dental Hygiene
Wyatt Clements – Perry Technical Institute: Instrumentation, Automation & Robotics Technology
Isaac Colyar – Perry Technical Institute: Instrumentation, Automation & Robotics Technology
Cody Eager – Perry Technical Institute: Welding Technology
Josue Gonzalez Montiel – Perry Technical Institute: Information Technology & Communication Systems
Sean Masterson – Perry Technical Institute: Instrumentation, Automation & Robotics Technology
Jose Miranda – Perry Technical Institute: Welding Technology
Diego Nunez – Perry Technical Institute: Construction & Carpentry Technology
Emilse Osorio – Yakima Valley College: Associates of Applied Science in Agricultural Sciences
Justino Peral Sanchez – Perry Technical Institute: Electrical Technology
Dulce Quintana – Yakima Valley College: Radiologic Science
Nancy Salazar – Yakima Valley College: Associates of Applied Science in Nursing
Alexis Saucedo – Perry Technical Institute: Information Technology & Communication Systems
Ivan Tapia – Perry Technical Institute: HVAC & Refrigeration Technology
Andrew Vigil – Perry Technical Institute: Plumbing Technology

This Thursday you'll have the opportunity to meet each of them, hear their stories, and celebrate their hard work and dedication in their chosen fields of study.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Celina Sanchez, Dave Heint

Inspiration – Josh Shockley

Program – Tony Farina, Celina Sanchez & Ricky Adams

Attendance – Nicole Franson

FUTURE PROGRAMS

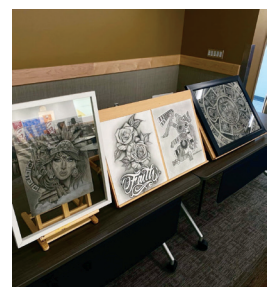
October 17th – Jon DeVaney, History of Politics

October 24th – James Rothenberger, Private Equity in Agriculture

October 31st – Jarod Higginbotham, Yakima Bait

BEAUTIFUL ART

It was a busy meeting last week with Cheech Marin as our guest speaker. What many of you may have missed was artwork on display in the back of the room by Adriana Juarez, a local artist of Chicano and Mexican-American themed art.



ROTARY OPERATION HARVEST PUT IT ON THE PORCH



PROPOSED NEW MEMBER

Unless written objection is received in writing by the Board of Directors by Tuesday, October 15, 2024, the following candidate will be elected to membership:

Alyssa Ford

Director of Marketing & Communications
Yakima Union Gospel Mission

Classification: Resue Mission

Proposed by: Steven Gustafson

Endorsed by: Ryan Beckett

REVIEW

Last week as part of our continued celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, we had a full house of Rotarians, guests, and community members come together to hear actor, director, writer, musician, art collector, and humanitarian Cheech Marin share his story. We began with an inspirational message provided by Celisa Hopkins with a poem by renowned Chicano poet Sandra Cisneros. President Jim welcomed our guests, Steven Gustafson made a pitch for Operation Harvest, and Mike Hummel encouraged us to start buying our auction tickets.

Kathy Miller Parrish introduced our newest member, Vicki Baker. In 1982, Vicki's parents opened the first Grocery Outlet in Washington in Union Gap. Vicki has served on state, county and nonprofit boards for many years – she is always giving back. For 14 years, she and Dennis stocked pantries in every new Habitat for Humanity home. Vicki is also a past member of Southwest Rotary. When Norm Childers passed away in 2000, Vicki was appointed to take his seat as Yakima County Commissioner just in time for Covid. When her term ended, she became Deputy Director of Yakima Council of Government and in July of this year was named Yakima City Manager. She and Dennis are parents to one daughter; Vicki is also a third generation Oregon State Beaver. Welcome to Downtown Rotary! We are so excited to have her as part of our club!

Rodrigo Renteria-Valencia had the honor of introducing and moderating a conversation with Cheech. Cheech grew up half his life in an all-black neighborhood and half in an all-white neighborhood. He described himself as funny - funny got him out of a lot of jams. He never used humor to make fun of others; he used it to make fun of the situation. He got along with everyone. He also came from a funny family. Cheech's generation of cousins were the first to go to college. They were told from a young age they were going no matter what. Their concerns were not about survival but how to get there. Cheech was the youngest in his cousin group. His cousin Louie was a genius; he received the first doctorate in Chicano Studies from Harvard University. With his older cousins paving the way as examples, he never saw fences in front of him.

He began learning about art at a young age. His cousin Louie would assign cousins to learn about different topics. His assignment was art. Every Saturday he would go to the library to check out art books. The librarians soon started having them ready for him; he read them all. It also helped being raised Catholic and going to Catholic schools. Liturgical art was one of the first arts. It also helped going to museums to see paintings in person. You can see representations in books - it wasn't

the same as seeing them in person. He admitted touching a few when the guards weren't watching. He shared the story of Bill Gates reaching out to touch a painting when visiting his museum in Riverside. He came in to see three paintings and ended up spending the entire day - it was witness to the power of art.

The Chicano Art Museum is the first museum dedicated to Chicano art. It elevated Chicano art and provided legitimacy. All the elements came into place to make it happen. Cheech had a collection, he had celebrity, and there was a town willing to give him a building that used to be a library. When Riverside made the offer he wasn't sure he wanted to give his collection to them. He asked for a sign. He got it one day when the mayor was giving him a tour. He asked how big the space was. It was 66,420 square feet. The 420 was his sign. In its first year it was voted one of the top 50 shows in the world. He's very proud of it!

Cheech identifies as Chicano. Why? Chicano was originally an insult from Mexicans to other Mexicans. Mexicans who left to live in the U.S. were no longer truly Mexicanos. They were something else, something smaller, something less. Depending on where you lived, your proximity to the border, and how old you were, it became less of an insult and more of an identification. His father always called himself a Chicano. When Cheech was trying to find himself and heard Chicano explained he was comfortable with that. Chicano has gained tremendous recognition in higher education. There is still a long way to go. Chicago has the largest conglomeration of Mexicans and Chicanos outside of LA. He has faith that everyone is going to get along. Art is one way to do that.

What else did we learn? With question and answers he shared he got his name from his uncle who'd come over to meet him when he was born. His said he looked like a pork rind (Chicharron). Everyone in the family had a nickname - that became his. He won the first Celebrity Jeopardy. The reason why went back to his childhood and playing their own college bowl with his cousins.

As part of the program, Rodrigo also shared his own story of being asked the question posed to him on how to identify students - Hispanic, Latino, Mexican. There is no formula. We are all raised to put people in boxes. We don't have to label people, instead we should listen and allow people to identify themselves. It was fun, entertaining, and inspiring. A special thank you to Erin Black for organizing and CWU, OIC of Washington, and the Central Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce serving as our sponsors.

SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER 16, 2024



THANK YOU TO OUR ROTARY AUCTION SPONSORS!

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