



## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic  
 Of Rotary*

### JON DEVANEY PARSING POLITICS



As the 2024 election cycle reaches its peak, you may be feeling dismayed by the state of our politics and the tone of our nation’s political discourse. This week’s speaker, Jon DeVaney is a member of our club as well as a past Congressional staffer, Presidential appointee, and current advocate in Olympia and Washington D.C., on behalf of the state’s apple, pear, and cherry growers.

He will offer a hands-on assessment of the how and why our system and the people in it function the way they do, and how we got there. Perhaps more importantly, he will offer some advice on how to have more productive and civil conversations across political lines.

Even if you generally try to avoid political conversations, at some point you may need to understand and interact with an elected official - or your in-laws.

#### FOR THURSDAY’S MEETING

- Greeters - Monica Caoile, Drew Harris
- Inspiration - Paul Trotter
- Sergeant-at-Arms - Bob Udell
- Program - Jordan Matson
- Attendance - Jake Hambly

#### FUTURE PROGRAMS

- October 24th - James Rothenberger, Private Equity
- October 31st - Jared Higginbotham, Yakima Bait



#### ONE DAY. ONE FOCUS: ENDING POLIO

World Polio Day is a time for Rotary members, public health advocates, and all who want a world free from polio to come together, recognize our progress in the fight to end polio, and talk about the actions we need to take in order to end polio for good.

#### SCENES FROM LARGE CLUB CONFERENCE IN MEMPHIS



## LIVE AUCTION ITEM HIGHLIGHT

### PALM SPRINGS, TENNIS & SUN



Enjoy southern California sunshine AND world-class tennis! Four people will stay for 6 nights at the Corpron Family's Desert Getaway, located 30 minutes east of Palm Springs in Indio's popular Del Webb Community of Shadow Hills. This 2,100 sq. ft. home includes a master bedroom with en-suite, two guest bedrooms with shared bath, open concept great room with gourmet kitchen, dining room, and sunroom. Situated between the 3rd and 4th holes of the executive par 3 North Golf Course, you will have views of 2 greens, a lake with fountains, and San Jacinto Mountains all from the private patio well-appointed with outdoor furniture and BBQ. Guests will have access to two outdoor pools, hot tubs, exercise facilities, pickleball, tennis, and bocce courts, and golf course privileges. Plan to include the dates of March 6 & 7, 2025 in your itinerary because this package includes box seats on Court 2 (the most fun court) at the highly sought after Parabus Open Tennis Tournament, as well as a \$500 gift certificate at the famous Nobu Restaurant overlooking the Court.

## REVIEW

The presentation of our annual Rotary Vocational Scholarships is one of the most rewarding programs that we have each year. The very first Vocational Scholarships were awarded 30 years ago. That year two scholarships were awarded in the amount of \$1,000. This week, twenty-two exceptional students were recognized as the 2024 Yakima Rotary Vocational Scholarship recipients with awards totaling \$44,000. Chairs of the Vocational Scholarship Committee Ricky Adams and Celina Sanchez, joined by past chair Tony Farina, had the honor of presiding over the presentation of the scholarship awards. Our recipients were pursuing 13 different programs – HVAC, Construction & Carpentry, Plumbing, Welding, Electrical, Instrumentation; Automation & Robotics Technology, Automotive Technology, Early Childhood Education, Information Technology & Communication Systems, Agricultural Sciences, Dental Hygiene, Radiologic Science, and Nursing. One by one, with family and friends present, each recipient came to the podium to receive their award.

Four students were chosen to share their own personal stories. Their narratives included a previous photographer embarking on a new career with a hope to inspire others considering a career change later in life; a mom with 4 children pursuing a degree in Early Education to help create an environment where children can thrive and be taught to be lifelong learners; a high school graduate currently at Perry Tech, who found out he is a hands-on learner and decided after a stint at university, a traditional 4-year college was not for him; a wife and mother with 4 children at home who believes that with hard work anything is possible. Previously a nursing assistant, during Covid, decided that she wanted to pursue a nursing degree. Each one expressed their gratitude for the scholarship that will allow them to continue their studies without financial worry and the vote of confidence for the journey ahead.

It was inspiring to see their joy, hear their dreams and know that we are playing a small part in their future success.

What else happened at Rotary? Dana Eliason had the honor of introducing our newest member, Joe Biondi. Joe succeeded Dana when she retired as the Senior Director of Donor Development at Heritage University. Growing up in Houston in a family of 6 children, Joe played Texas High School football. He attended Strake Jesuit College Prep, briefly attended the University of Houston before working in a warehouse and then offshore in the Gulf of Mexico before heading to Texas Tech in Lubbock. It was there that he met his first love, radio. A family member was instrumental in coaching Joe as a 'wet behind the ears' disk jockey. Joe eventually left Lubbock, went to Austin, then Beaumont, and finally to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Joe finished his time on the air in 1992 and entered the advertising sales side of radio. Joe and his wife Carol, have 2 daughters. This year, Joe and Carol made the permanent move to Yakima to be closer to their daughter and son-in-law, and granddaughter. Their other daughter is also close by and is a nurse in Vancouver, Washington. He's been in a band over 30 years and has opened for the likes of 3 Dog Night, Bo Diddley, and Paul Revere and the Raiders. He's won national awards for radio creative and voice work. Service to others has been a part of his life since his early years. His favorite saying is "My life isn't about me". We are so happy to welcome Joe to Rotary!



*2024 Rotary Vocational Scholarship Recipients*



SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER 16, 2024



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