



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023 YAKIMA VALLEY COLLEGE CONFERENCE CENTER

*Create Hope
in the World*

NIKKI TORRES A CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Nikki Torres is a first-generation Latina, the daughter of Mexican immigrants who grew up working in agriculture alongside her parents. She has been a resident of Pasco, Washington for over 40 years and is currently working for Western Governors University as a strategic partnerships manager.

She is a past Pasco City Council Member and past President of the Tri-Cities Hispanic Heritage Chamber of Commerce. Other Boards she has served on include Visit Tri-Cities, Tri-Cities Community Health, Kennewick Police Foundation, and the Colima Pasco Collaboration Friendship Association. Her community volunteerism includes Junior Achievement (4 years), the Dia De Las Muertos Fun Run raising money for scholarships, the Hispanic Heritage Mural at Port of Kennewick, and Copa de la Diversion aka Fun Cup in celebration of Hispanic Heritage contributions.

She was appointed to the childcare collaborative task force for Washington state and is currently serving on the Board of Columbia Industries. Last November she was elected to serve in the Washington State Senate representing the 15th Legislative District.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Davis, Eisenhower & West Valley Students
Music – Isarely Flores
Invocation – Tressa Shockley
Sergeant-at-Arms – Kelly Gasseling
Program – Sonia Rodriguez True
Attendance – Jennifer Bliesner
Marble Draw –

FUTURE PROGRAMS

October 12th – Megan Tweedy, Opioid Fentanyl Crisis
October 19th – Bale Breakers Social 4pm-6pm
October 26th – Classification Talks
November 2nd – Tammy Buyok, MultiCare of Yakima

MARBLE RAFFLE DRAW

It just keeps getting better and better for Rotary Charities and one future lucky winner. There was no winner on Thursday. With only 3 marbles left in the pot, the carryover is \$3,115 which will be added to this week's sales.

If you have the winning ticket and pick the clear marble, you'll win half the pot with the other half going to Rotary Charities.

Thank you to our sponsor:

TERRIL, LEWIS & WILKE
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ROTARY OPERATION HARVEST



ROTARY LIGHTING PROJECT DEDICATION

Last year's Rotary project with our Club, Southwest Rotary, and Sunrise Rotary was the installation of lighting at the skateboard parks and basketball courts at Chesterley Park, Randall Park, and the Yakima Sports Complex on Fair Avenue. The lights have been installed and it's time to **CELEBRATE**.

You are cordially invited to attend a **RIBBON CUTTING**
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6th
FAIR AVENUE Basketball Courts and Skatepark
6:30pm

We'll be grilling brats & hotdogs with chips & drinks.
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

REVIEW

This week we were back at the Convention Center for a great program presented by Rosalinda Mendoza. Rosalinda is the CEO of Mocel Mezcal which she co-founded with her sister, Elizabeth. Rosalinda and Elizabeth were born and raised in Yakima to farmworker parents who immigrated to the U.S. from Michoacan. Growing up and going back and forth from Yakima to Michoacan they recognized the many things both communities have in common: beautiful landscapes, lots of agriculture, and their most precious resource – their people. As they got older and could drink, they would bring bottles of mezcal back to Yakima to share with their family and friends. They noticed how hard it was to find mezcal from Michoacan. They looked for an importer but there wasn't really one; the brands that were there didn't represent the land and heritage that comes with mezcal. With the question asked of why not us, they decided to start Mocel.

Starting a business and jumping into entrepreneurship is really, really hard. There are a lot of things that go into it. When you are a child of immigrants, you feel this deep sense of responsibility and gratitude for all the sacrifices of your parents. Rosalinda was doing very well at IBM. The decision included a lot of internal discussions. She was a safety net for her family. At the end of 2019, she quit her job. 2020 and Covid happened; it was rough. But, after a lot of hard work, they launched their first batch in January 2022. It sold out! Early this year, they released their second batch.

With a quick lesson on the difference between mezcal and tequila we learned it is based upon three things; the place from where it comes, the plant used, and the process used to make the spirit. There are 5 regions that tequila can come from; there are 9 regions for mezcal. Tequila is only made from blue agave; mezcal is made from all sorts of different types of agaves. The process for tequila is similar to whiskey with lots of stainless steel; the process for mezcal takes one back hundreds of years in time. The process for making mezcal begins with the agave

harvest, cooking the agave in an underground volcanic oven for about 5 days, mashing it by hand and putting it underground in wooden vats for fermentation, and then distilling it twice in a wooden still. The flavor is absolutely incredible.

This year they entered the biggest competition in the

world: 2023 San Fransisco World Spirits Competition against over 6,000 spirits from around the world. They were awarded a rare double gold meaning that every single judge gave them a gold medal. The majority of their sales are online, but you can find them in one of the top restaurants in Seattle, local restaurants here in Yakima, and they have recently expanded into Oregon and California. The question-and-answer session that followed was superb. Look for a future tasting at Larson Gallery. For those that didn't know, Rosalinda participated in Rotary Youth Exchange as an outbound student to Germany and received an Academic Scholarship from our club. That's pretty great!

What else happened? With the help of Charlie Robin and Bob Hamilton we made a Happy Birthday recording for Jack Bloxom – it was his 90th birthday. Kurt Labberton shared 3 short poems celebrating the changing of the season. President Erin welcomed our guests, shared how fun it was walking in the Sunfair Parade, and extended an invitation to attend the upcoming ribbon cutting for our Rotary Lighting Project at the Yakima Sports Complex. Eric Silvers brought Seahawk posters for everyone. Randy Beehler made one last pitch for Operation Harvest and Moriet Miketa raised money for Rotary Charities with a Fair themed sergeant-at-arms. National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated annually from September 15 to October 15. One of the ways that we recognize the contributions of our Hispanic and Latino community is to have members share their stories and what it means to them. Magaly Solis became our first presenter for the month. Magaly is the Executive Director of La Casa Hogar. The mission of La Casa Hogar is to offer connection and education opportunities to the Latino community in Yakima. She celebrated the founder of La Casa Hogar, a powerful Latino woman by the name of Ninfa Gutierrez. She shared that over the history of the organization many other powerful Latino women have worked to improve the lives of hundreds of families. Three of them were with us – Mireya Chavez, Angelica Reyes, Cecilia Gonzalez – combined they have given 53 years of service through Casa Hogar. Because of their work hundreds of Latino community members have gotten a driver's license, completed their GED, learned English, and become U.S. citizens. It was a wonderful acknowledgment! As members of our business community, we were invited to celebrate and acknowledge our own staff members and learn about rich history of our Latino community.