



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

ROTARY FAMILY PICNIC YAKIMA TENNIS CLUB 5:00pm to 7:00pm

*Create
 Lasting
 Impact*



It's time to dust off your picnic spirit—the annual Rotary Picnic is back! This year we're heading to the Yakima Tennis Club for an evening packed with fun, fellowship, fabulous food, and plenty of summer memories.

There will be fun for all ages! Kids can play on the grass and playground, make a splash in one of the two swimming pools, have their faces painted, and take part in games and activities. Adults can relax, reconnect with friends, soak up the evening – or join the kids and play along.

Dinner will be a special treat, featuring **Lazy Dog and Easy Eats** food trucks with both adult and children's menus. Drinks will be waiting in the clubhouse, and no picnic is complete without dessert - save room for a shaved-ice treat.

The weather is looking beautiful. Round up your family and come enjoy an evening of sunshine, splashing, laughing, eating, and making new friends. We can't wait to see you there!



FUTURE PROGRAMS

September 24th – Diane Patterson and Hannah Wilson, Yakima Free Clinic

October 1st – Gerardo Ruelas, Costco

October 8th – Yakima Rotary Vocational Scholarship Awards

October 15th – J.R. Martinez, Celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month

ROTARY & SUNFAIR PARADE

Sign-ups are Underway! Grab your sneakers and join members from all three Rotary clubs to walk in the Sunfair Parade on Saturday, September 26th. Invite family and friends to come along as we hand out books to kids and promote Operation Harvest. Meeting time and location will be forthcoming.



ROTARY OPERATION HARVEST

Rotary Operation Harvest is Saturday, October 10th. This one-day, community-wide food drive requires hundreds of Rotarian volunteers from all three Yakima Clubs along with their families and friends to make it happen. Opportunities to serve include tasks both before and day of the event. They are:

1. Drop off bags BEFORE the event, between October 2nd and 8th. 100 + volunteers needed. Routes to be assigned.
2. Collect food on the DAY OF on Saturday October 10th, between 10am and 1pm. Routes take approximately 2 hours to complete. 100+ volunteers needed.
3. Work at collection site on the DAY OF on Saturday, October 10th, between 11:45am and 2pm. May involve unloading, sorting food, or picking up food from a route that may have been missed.
4. Staple flyers on bags BEFORE the event. Needs to be done by September 25th.
5. Donate to Operation Harvest, indicate amount to be billed to your Rotary account or use QR code to donate.

Sign-ups are underway! The goal is 100% participation! There are 2 QR codes here – one to sign-up on-line and one to make a cash donation.

Sign Up to Volunteer Here!



Donate to Operation Harvest Here!



REVIEW

Thank you to everyone who helped make our meeting a success. Charlie Eglin, Dre Moreno and Melissa Hill served as our greeters. Celina Sanchez provided a beautiful inspirational message, moment of silence, and prayer in remembrance of 9/11. Our club has so many great opportunities to participate in both fun and service projects. The Rotary picnic is this Thursday; we are marching in the Sunfair Parade, handing out books to kids, and promoting Operation Harvest on September 26th; and the actual date for Operation Harvest is on Saturday, October 10th. Details on the parade and Operation Harvest are above. Please be generous of your time. National Hispanic Heritage Month begins next week. Yakima Rotary is celebrating by bringing J.R. Martinez as our guest speaker on October 15th. J.R. is an actor, best-selling author, motivational speaker, advocate, and a U.S. Army veteran wounded in Iraq. He has been featured on many shows including Oprah, 60 minutes, Ellen, CBS Nightly New, Fox, and narrated the documentary series, *In America: Vets Wanted?* He is also the author of **Full of Heart: My Story of Survival, Strength and Spirit** and the winner of Season 13 of *Dancing with the Stars*. Save the date!

Marisol Fast and Nicole Donegan introduced our inbound exchange student, Puck. Puck is here from the Netherlands and is attending Eisenhower High School. She is already participating in high school volleyball (which she's never played), loves to ski, and can't wait to celebrate the holidays especially Halloween. You should all know by now that the Rotary auction is coming up on November 14th. President Elect Bruce Bacon shared one of the premier items you'll find on the auction: the chance to stay at one of four Costa Rica homes in October 2027. The pictures on the screen were spectacular. More details to come within the next week or two. Start thinking about the group of people you want to pull together to purchase. Brad Hansen ended Rotary business with a sergeant-at-arms done on the spot from notes made right there – I'll just say it's a gift.

President John had the honor of introducing his friend and colleague, Michael Novakovich as our program speaker. A frequent speaker on leadership, innovation, and organizational transformation, Micheal shared with us, something that he is deeply passionate about, Igniting Innovation. He did so with stories, examples, and tools to use. His first story began earlier in his career as the administrator of the Tri-Cities Cancer Center they were looking at data that showed an alarming rate of colorectal cancer in the Tri-Cities, a cancer that is preventable through screening. As an organiza-

tion they began using the principle of innovation called questioning. Their current messaging or status quo wasn't working – how were they going to talk about the importance of getting a colonoscopy. He looked outside of industry and discovered snarking (snarky marketing). They took the rap song Bottoms Up and created a video with a message to be healthy, get screened. It got people's attention and worked. It was about connecting the unconnected.

As a consultant Michael uses tools as prompts in his work. He shared four. The first was called 1,2,4, All. You give people one minute of silent reflection to write down as many ideas as they can. Next you pair them with one other person to share their ideas, listen, spark a new idea or build something on one of the ideas. That group grows to 4 for the same exercise, and then to all. The second tool was Devine Bovin to question the unquestionable – if you going to redesign, what would you do differently and why. His process asks participants to Start, Stop and Continue by folding a piece of paper like an envelope with three sections. Section one represents start – what must you start doing to achieve your mission, visions, goals. Section two represents stop – what must you stop doing? Is there something hindering progress or activities no longer necessary. Section three represents Continue – what do you need to continue doing to maintain success and foster future success. It is done anonymously giving people a safe space to share. The last tool shared was to tap into your Inner Indiana Jones. It is about observing and looking to see if there is utility beyond an intended purpose. How people are working around a system or process where something isn't working the way it was intended but someone found a work around.

Mike's program included an interactive exercise to pick an organization or company and ask three questions: what is already winning the attention, participation, and loyalty of people they want to attract? What are people showing up for? And what friction has the organization removed? The perfect example shared was Yakima Rotary as the organization. The things winning attention, participation and loyalty are the programs, professional connections, personal connections, our club diversity, the timing of our meetings fits into a lot of schedules, and an opportunity for retired individuals to stay involved. The friction removed was allowing women to join. It was fun! He ended with one question for us to take with us - what is one thing that you can do in the near term to ignite innovation whether it is in your business or club to positively impact your community.



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