



## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic  
Of Rotary*

### ROB PHILLIPS JOURNEY TO BECOMING A BEST-SELLING AUTHOR



Rob Phillips is an award-winning newspaper and magazine writer and the author of the critically acclaimed “Luke McCain mystery series,” featuring a fish and wildlife officer who, with the assistance of his faithful yellow Labrador retriever Jack, patrols the mountains, streams, and trails of the Pacific Northwest.

Since the beginning of COVID in early 2020, Phillips has written and published eight books, including seven novels in the Luke McCain series, along with a book about his life with dogs, titled “*A Dog’s Life Well Lived.*”

His Luke McCain series has sold nearly 70,000 copies around the world and the books have received thousands of four- and five-star reviews and ratings on Amazon and Goodreads. Phillips’ column, “*The Northwest Sportsman,*” has appeared almost every week for the last 33 years in the *Yakima Herald-Republic.*

Rob has been a member of Downtown Rotary for over 35 years. He and his wife Terri, live on a small cherry orchard in Naches Heights with a very spoiled Labrador retriever named Bailey.

#### FOR THURSDAY’S MEETING

Inspiration – Sheri-Lou Creson  
Sergeant-at-Arms – Kathy Miller Parrish  
Program – Kelly Gasseling

#### FUTURE PROGRAMS

October 3rd – Cheech Morin, National Hispanic Heritage Month  
October 10th – Vocational Scholarship Awards  
October 17th – Jon DeVaney, History of Politics  
October 24th – James Rothenberger, Private Equity in Agriculture

#### YAKIMA ROTARY CHARITIES GRANT DEADLINE

The first of three deadlines to apply for a grant from Yakima Rotary Charities for community organizations and our own committee generated projects is October 1st. The guidelines for giving include:

- A focus on children, youth, families, and quality of life projects in the broader Yakima community.
- Support for specific innovative programs or new aspects of existing programs. Rotary club grants are not for funding routine agency operating costs such as rent, utilities or payroll.
- A primary focus to initiate project development. At Rotary’s discretion and depending on an awardee’s outcomes, Rotary may choose to award funds to a previously Rotary-funded project for an additional period, providing that the additional grants will not exceed a total of three years of Rotary funding per project.
- Projects that provide an opportunity for participation of Rotary Club members are preferred.

The application and full criteria can be found at our website, yakimarotary.org under the Service Projects tab.

#### COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

There will be a meeting of the Membership Development Committee this Thursday, September 26th, immediately following Rotary.

If you are on the committee, please mark your calendar and plan to attend.



## SEPTEMBER SECOND CHANCE SOCIAL



Fall is officially here on Sunday. With beautiful days and cool nights, there isn't any better way to celebrate than by attending this

month's Second Chance Social on Wednesday, September 25th.

The location is Outskirts, owned by home-grown entrepreneurs and located on the edge of town between Selah and Yakima. The time is 5pm to 6pm. Set the alarm on your phone, grab a friend, and come by for great conversation with your fellow Rotarians. Hors d'oeuvres are on Rotary. Drinks are on you.

## PROPOSED NEW MEMBERS

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, September 27, 2024, the following candidates will be elected to membership:

### Liz Hobson

Executive Director

Yakima Valley Museum

**Classification: Museum**

Proposed by: John Cooper

Endorsed by: John Baule

### Lisa Sargent

Envoy Ministry Leader

The Salvation Army

**Classification: The**

**Salvation Army**

Proposed by: Rick Fairbrook

Endorsed by: Bruce Bacon

## REVIEW

It was a beautiful afternoon in Yakima with Rotary as part of it. We traveled to YVC for our meeting. As you walked through the door, greeters were shared by Melissa Brewer and her guest and co-worker Nate Hiblar. With fall just around the corner, Sheri Bissell shared her love of the season, football, and a journal moment of love growing up and making popcorn as a family. President Jim was busy with announcements. He recognized Camp Prime Time with their award of Non-Profit of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce with our very own Margaret Filkins, John Baule and Sheri Bissell; and Jan Luring for being inducted into the United Way of Central Washington's Hall of Fame. He also reminded everyone about the Sunfair Parade tomorrow, Second Chance Social on Wednesday, and the upcoming grant deadline for Yakima Rotary Charities.

Larry Mattson kicked-off in person sign-ups for this year's Rotary Operation Harvest on Saturday, October 12th. Hundreds of Rotary volunteers are needed both before and on the day of the event. Please be generous with your time and financial support. Maria Rodriguez came to the podium next to talk about National Hispanic Heritage Month. Hispanic Heritage was first recognized in 1968. What began as a weeklong recognition was extended to a full month of celebration 20 years ago by President Reagan. Its celebration is a culmination of various Latin American countries celebrating their independence. It is unique from other recognitions because it begins on the 15th of the month – why? It starts with independences of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, followed by Mexico and Chile. It is much more than independence; there is culture, dance, music, customs, traditions, and food. It is an opportunity to reflect on how Latinos have shaped our country that goes back as early as the American Revolution, and economic contributions. If Latinos were a separate country, they would rank 5th in economic output. They bring much to the communities they live in. As we continue to recognize their contributions throughout the month, we were encouraged to not judge from the outside but what's inside, to start conversations, and to learn. President Jim came back for an impromptu sergeant-at-arms and managed to raise a decent amount of money.

Jordan Matson did a great job of introducing this week's speaker, Jacqui Gordon Nunez. Jacqui was born in Ecuador and is the Director of Training, Education and Member Services with the WA State Tree Fruit Association. She shared with us her journey from Ecuador to Yakima, and her struggles as an immigrant, a woman in a male dominated industry, and as a Latina. She began with her home country. Ecuador was named after the equator, located in South America, roughly the size of Colorado, and bordered by Columbia and Peru. It is home to 18 million people; their currency is the U.S. dollar, and their official languages are Spanish and Quechua. It has four worlds in one: beautiful beaches, highlands (Andes), jungle, and The Galapagos islands. There are not four seasons. The sunrise and sunset are at the same time year-round.

Her journey to the U.S. started with an internship in 2011 through an organization called Experience International. They bring people from all over the world to experience work in the U.S and do a lot of work in the area of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and natural resources. They also process all the legal paperwork to allow interns

to be here temporarily. Jacqui obtained her internship with the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission. For a year she conducted data collection, analyzed fruit, and wrote a couple of articles for agricultural magazines. She met wonderful people and fell in love with Washington's nature. She also went through a cultural shock. There are four phases to cultural shock – honeymoon period, cultural shock, adjustment, and adaptation. Her cultural shock went from a lunch of soup, protein, rice and juice to sandwiches; from no personal space with hugs and kisses to handshakes; and from parties in the city to campfires with smores. Her visa required her to go back to Ecuador in 12 months and a requirement to stay twice as long before she could come back. She had made it to the adaptation phase in the 12 months she was here and had to go back to reverse adaptation. It was not all bad, she met her husband. She was awarded a research scholarship to complete her master's at Washington State University. She graduated in 2016; her husband was able to join her in the U.S.; and she was hired at the Washington State Tree Fruit Association.

Her journey has not come without struggles. One of the biggest was being an immigrant and trying to get legal status. She always worked here legally. After 9 years and going through every visa available, she and her husband were able to obtain their green card. It was a huge weight lifted off their shoulders. During that process, there were many times she felt that she wasn't wanted here. She is thankful that she had a village supporting her – Jon DeVaney and her work team, Jordan Matson, and the Board of the Tree Fruit Association; they believed she could contribute. She has done so by securing more than \$2 million in grants to help growers with educational efforts, creating training videos in English and Spanish, providing posters for regulatory requirements, and sharing her knowledge with over 4,000 agricultural workers through training workshops.

Today, there are hundreds of thousands going through the same cultural shock and a feeling of not being wanted where they are. In her first years of her job, Jacqui concentrated on including our Hispanic community. She was doing so with trainings in English and Spanish. She came to realize that there was so much more that makes up the culture of a person. She began integrating culture in her training sessions with food; relevant examples that include the how, what, and why; special holidays; and body language. One of her favorite programs she has been a part of is the creation of an Agricultural Leadership Program. She recognized there was nothing in place for agricultural workers that were promoted from the field to a leadership position and lacked the skills and knowledge of how to manage and lead people. The program teaches them the skills of management versus leadership, communication, emotional intelligence, goal setting, time management, delegating, conflict resolution, and stress management. It is changing lives.

Jacqui ended her presentation with questions to start a conversation. What is one thing that's sticking with you from today? How can you support cultural diversity in Yakima, in our groups? What can we do to support our farmers? And moving forward, is there anything we can do differently?

# SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER 16, 2024



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