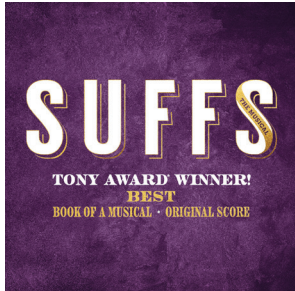




THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

Unite For
Good

SUFFS THE MUSICAL 1913 WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT



Annually the Capitol Best series provides a wide range of entertainment, the most popular of which are the touring musicals. While most musical theatre tours start on the east coast, taking advantage of all the resources concentrated in and around New York City and Broadway, a few start on the west coast. When that happens, the Capitol Theatre is one of the primary venues used by the touring companies to prepare their productions for the touring season. In the industry, these preparations are called a pre-tour tech.

On September 8th and 9th, the Capitol Best season will open with two performances of Suff's, a multi-Tony Award winning musical celebrating the women that fought for the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing a woman's right to the vote – the Suffragettes. Yakima will experience the first performances before the show premieres later in the week in Seattle. This is the first tour of this extraordinary musical, and Yakima gets it before everyone else.

Before it all happens, the company – cast, technicians, designers, directors, and producers – have already been in town for the past three weeks. This week at Rotary, we will have the opportunity to meet a representative of the company to share insights on the pre-tour tech process, the importance of this musical at this particular time, and a few other stories about the path to Broadway and beyond.

FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Aryn Masters, Enri Garcia-Sanchez
Inspiration – Amy Maib
Sergeant-at-Arms – Quinn Dalan
Program – Dana Eliason
Attendance – Rich Austin

FUTURE PROGRAMS

September 11th – Ret. Lt. Col. Ryan Yantis, Reflecting on the 9/11 Tragedy
September 18th – Rotary Picnic at Cowiche Creek Brewery
September 25th – Christan Conners, The Story of “Houdini Was” & Its Ripple Effect
October 2nd – Bryan Hoodie, Coaching & Assisting Disabled Athletics & Injured Vets

WANTED: STUDENTS TO TRAVEL THE WORLD

Yakima Rotary and Rotary District 5060 invites students between the ages of 16 to 17 to become Rotary Youth Exchange students for the 2026-2027 academic year living in a foreign country, attending school, and learning a new language and culture.

Where can they go? Argentina, Columbia, Brazil, Japan, Thailand, France, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Spain, Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Taiwan or India.

Want to learn more or share this opportunity with others? There will be a Youth Exchange Information Night for students and their parents on Monday, October 13 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Selah Civic Center, 216 S 1st Street, Selah.

Please RSVP by calling or texting Pattie Graffe at 253-973-2375 or Jheri Ketcham at 509-307-9097.



ANNUAL ROTARY PICNIC

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
FROM 5PM TO 7PM
AT COWICHE CREEK BREWING

BRING YOUR
SPOUSE,
SIGNIFICANT
OTHER, KIDS
AND
GRANDKIDS!

TACO BAR
ONE DRINK TICKET
PER PERSON
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



PROPOSED NEW MEMBERS

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, September 5, 2025, the following candidates will be elected to membership:

Kaitlyn Gottlieb

Major Gifts Planned Giving Manager
TVW-Washington's Public Affairs Network

Classification: Public Affairs Media

Proposed by: Erin Black

Endorsed by: Celisa Hopkins

Michael Mittelman

President

PNWU

Classification: Medical University Administration

Proposed by: Karen Ireland

Endorsed by: John Vornbrock

REVIEW

Team Rotary was on full display with the best group of all-star members helping to make Rotary the only place you want to be on Thursday afternoons. Steven Gustafson served as our lone greeter. Kurt Labberton shared an inspirational message on the importance of sending thank you notes to people who've made an impact on your life. Bob Romero did a great job raising funds for Rotary Charities as sergeant-at-arms. Gary Lackey presented the Rotary Bridge trophy to master bridge players Carter & Linda Fjeld. Andi Hochleutner reminded us to sign-up for the Rotary picnic on September 18th at Cowiche Creek Brewery and President Sheri made announcements that included saving the date for Rotary Operation Harvest on October 11th, the Sunfair Parade and a request for volunteers to help with a Generosity Feeds Event hosted by Yakima Southwest on September 13th.

Pattie Graffe had the honor of introducing our new inbound exchange student, Matej "Mat" Bouska. He comes from the picturesque town of Pisek located in the Southern Region of the Czech Republic, home to 30,000 residents with a rich history that goes back 1,500 years. Before coming to Yakima, he attended an aviation lyceum boarding school traveling home on the weekends. He loves drama club, debate, Indian food, skiing and anything to do with aviation, and follows American politics. He will be attending West Valley High School. His first host family will be Jerry and Jessica Garcia. Two other host families are needed. Contact the Rotary office if you are interested.

Adrienne Garner followed with the introduction of our newest member, Eugene Vigil. Adrienne met Eugene in passing at a Rotary meeting and again when he was assigned to her home for a scholarship dinner even before he submitted a membership proposal. He was born and raised in Washington, having lived in 8 cities across the Puget Sound and Eastern Washington. After several years as a general manager in the food industry, he transitioned into insurance. He is licensed in property, casualty, and health insurance and is passionate about supporting the agricultural community. Yakima, with its strong farming roots, is the perfect place to continue his journey which includes owning his own farm one day. Congratulations to Eugene! We are so excited to have him as part of Rotary!

Charlie Robin introduced our featured speakers, Dr. Geoff Jones from the University of Washington School of Medicine and Robin Pickering from Gonzaga University to talk about Health Partnerships in the Yakima Community. A family physician by trade, Dr. Jones shared that he trained in Spokane and currently practices in Newport. His job with UW is to develop and support clinical training for Eastern and Central Washington. They have several really good rotations here with MultiCare Memorial Hospital, Generations OB, the neurology clinic in town, and Central Wash-

ington Family Medicine Residency in Yakima and Ellensburg. Their partnership with Gonzaga University began ten years ago as UW was reforming in Eastern Washington; unique in that it is a public/private partnership. Their missions of service and community are the same. In 2008, they moved all their pre-clinical students to Spokane (20 in total) and expanded to 40 students in 2014. In 2015 they launched new curriculum; one year later in 2016 the UW-GU Health Partnership was formed growing to 60 students; and this year they expanded with the RIDE Program (Regional Initiatives and Dental Education). The UW is not just Seattle or Spokane. They have clinical training sites throughout Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho. A 2019 map showed that many UW graduates stayed in state for residency programs, practicing in Central and Eastern Washington. Many subsequently choose to practice throughout Central Washington.

As Chair and Professor of Public Health at Gonzaga, Robin shared that the Gonzaga School of Health Sciences offers Nursing, Public Health and Human Physiology programs. She used a great analogy to describe their role in the partnership through Public Health by imaging a bridge over a body of water. Someone sees a person in the water drowning, they jump in to rescue them and perform CPR; see another person struggling that they jump into save; only to see another person in the water. How can that be? The bridge above has a hole where people are falling through. In the public health world, they look up at the bridge to research and examine policies and systems in place that are creating health problems, such as diabetes, obesity, or other chronic conditions. At a certain point, the people pulling those out of the water (providers) become overworked. For long-term change, they look at the problems upstream. A shared example of their partnership is their combined research on Parkinson's disease that pair UW medical students with Gonzaga Physiology students.

With time for questions they talked about the WWAMI region, why residents go out of state, and programs designed for high school juniors and seniors. Together they are preparing the next generation of health care professionals believing strongly that they are Better Together.



President Sheri with
Exchange Student Mat Bouska



Master Bridge Champions Linda
and Carter Fjeld with Gary Lackey