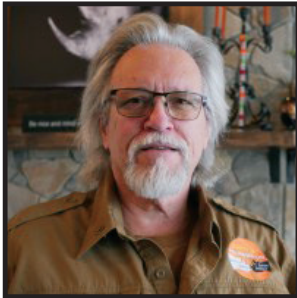




## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024 YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

*The Magic  
Of Rotary*

### DISTRICT GOVERNOR TOM TOCHTERMAN ROTARY DISTRICT 5060



Tom has been married to Julie since 1981. They have three adult children, two grandchildren and now enjoy the “empty nester” lifestyle. Tom is a fourth-generation Puget Sounder with family roots in northern Switzerland. Tom and Julie have owned a home in Chelan since 2004 and moved full-time to Chelan in 2017. In 2020 they moved up the lake to Manson. Tom’s hobbies include traveling, camping, motorcycling, and, generally, all outdoor activities.

Tom began his adult career as a military policeman (Security Specialist) in the United States Air Force and served between 1981 and 1987. He and Julie spent three years of service in Holland, followed by three years in Arkansas. Tom’s military career ended when he was recruited to join the family business, Tochterman Investment Company, in Bellevue, Washington. After spending 30 years in the family business, a commercial real estate asset company specializing exclusively in class ‘A’ office buildings in Bellevue, Everett, and Vancouver, Washington, he retired and transitioned to a new focus of philanthropy and nature conservation in Africa.

Tom is a graduate of UW Bothell with a BA in Business Administration, City University with a MA in Management and Leadership, and Walden University with a PhD in Management and a specialization in leadership and organizational change. Tom’s doctoral research focused on environmental leadership and, specifically, the influence of cognitive dissonance on natural resource consumption and ecosystem degradation.

Tom has a long history of volunteerism through professional associations and memberships, church activities, schools, youth programs and Rotary. Tom joined Rotary in 1989 with the Bellevue Overlake Club. He became a South Everett/ Mukilteo Club member when he relocated his office to Everett and moved his membership to the Rotary Club of Mill Creek to accommodate being able to spend more time in Chelan. Tom is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow; Past President of the Rotary Club of Bellevue Overlake; Past President of the Rotary Club of Lake Chelan; Past Assistant District Governor for three DG’s; served multiple terms as the District Interact Chair for District 5030 and District 5050; and was given Honorary member status of the Rotary Club of Kursk, Russia and the Rotary Club of Johannesburg – Rosebank, South Africa. Tom’s classification is Ecological Services. Tom is also co-founder of 911 Glass Rescue, a non-profit and affiliate of the Rotary Club of Lake Chelan.

#### BACKPACK PROJECT THANK YOU NOTE

*President DeGrasse (& Downtown Rotary members):*

*I express profound gratitude for your generous contribution to Hoover Elementary through the recent distribution of over 600 backpacks, complete with school supplies. This thoughtful gesture has significantly benefited students and families in our largest elementary school.*

*Your commitment to supporting education and alleviating the burden of school expenses demonstrates true community spirit and compassion. By choosing Hoover families for this meaningful gift, you have made a lasting impact on our school community, providing resources that will directly enhance the educational experience for our students.*

*On behalf of Hoover Elementary, thank you for your kindness, generosity, and dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of our students.*

*Trevor Greene, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Yakima School District*

### FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING

Greeters – Linda DiLembo, Bob Price

Inspiration – Tressa Shockley

Sergeant-at-Arms – Mike Hummel

Attendance – Matt Crow

### FUTURE PROGRAMS

September 12th – Rotary Picnic

September 19th – Jacqui Gordon, Journey from Ecuador to Yakima

### YAKIMA ROTARY FAMILY PICNIC

Have you RSVP'd for the Rotary Picnic? It is coming up on Thursday, September 12th. The location and time are Cowiche Creek Brewery from 5pm to 7pm. There'll be food, drink, live entertainment, and plenty of grass for the kids to run around.

Invite your family, bring a prospective new member or friend, and send in your reservation today.

### HAPPY ONE YEAR ROTARY ANNIVERSARY:

Andi Hochleutner	8/3/24
Chase Powell	8/31/24
Shawna Masters	8/31/24



### AUGUST SECOND CHANCE SOCIAL



### REVIEW

If you had a top 10 list for programs, Classifications Talks would be on that list! There is something uniquely special about our own members sharing their stories and life experiences. This week it was Lila Mowatt and Ralph Thompson's turn to be part of a club tradition that goes back over 100 years.

Lila was first, sharing that her dream was to become a professional dancer. Growing up in Beaumont, Texas she spent 6 days a week learning and practicing at a dance studio. It also helped that her mother was a dance teacher at Lamar University. As a teenager, she spent three summers at Perry Mansfield Dance Camp in Colorado. Her last summer going into her junior year, a counselor there encouraged her to consider Juilliard. It was all she needed to hear; after some quick research she found and enrolled at Interlochen Arts Academy, a year-round boarding school in Michigan. She loved it! She auditioned for Juilliard and NYU Tisch School of Arts in her senior year. She did not get into either school, but based upon her academics was offered and accepted admission at NYU. It was there that she learned more about her Jewish heritage. She spent her junior year studying abroad at Tel Aviv University. It was during the second Intifada; there were bag searches to enter buildings, accounts from friends who survived suicide bombings at outdoor cafes, and facility and students who left to serve in the Reserves. After graduation, she began her career in the non-profit space at Tulane University in New Orleans. In 2009 she made the decision to immigrate to Northern Israel close to the Sea of Galilee to live on a kibbutz. (One of the reasons she loves Yakima is because it reminds her of Northern Israel.) When asked why she chose to live there; as a Jew, it felt like home. She was fortunate to gain her Master of Arts at Haifa University alongside diverse groups of people including Arabs and Jews. What she found was that they all wanted the same things - safety and security, a good job, and leaving a legacy for their children. She moved back to the U.S. in 2012 landing in Seattle. She had a good job, two kids, and met her husband, Kyle. Covid brought a layoff in her job. In September 2020, FIRST Washington found her. In 2021, with a job opportunity in Yakima for her husband, they moved here; she was never more excited to leave the westside. FIRST Washington is a nonprofit dream. It provides a rigorous structure of giving kids K-12 valuable STEAM skills with 21st century skills like public speaking, advocacy, and fundraising. They have programs at West Valley Elementary School, LaSalle High School, Wapato and Mabton high schools and are excited to continue growth throughout our community.

Ralph's story began in 1945 in Seattle, Washington as the second of 6 children born to his parents, Ralph and Evelyn Thompson. He attended Seattle schools until he was 11 years old. It was a wonderful time to be in Seattle. They lived in the community of Wedgwood surrounded by other families. Almost all the fathers in the neighborhood were veterans of WWII; he never heard any of them speak about their war experience, including his father. The things that stood out from that time were Seafair, the Gold Cup Race, and the Seattle Rainiers. In 1955, the population in Seattle at that

time was 400,000; 250,000 were lined up to watch the Gold Cup Hydroplane Race that year. That same year the Seattle Rainiers won the Pacific Coast League Championship. His memories of Seattle were a peaceful, clean, delightful, and optimistic city. In 1956, his family moved to Yakima; both his parents were from the Yakima Valley. Some of his best times were riding bicycles with his cousin 17 miles out to Tampico, eating along the way. In 1961, he was hired by Wray Brown; a year later went to work for Roy Tufts for a 25 cent pay increase. Both were past presidents of our Rotary club. After graduating from Eisenhower, he began his educational journey at Yakima Valley Junior College where he ended up studying philosophy. From 1967 to 69, he spent 21 months in the Peace Corp living in eastern Nepal in the town of Terhathum. It was a 4-day trip on foot from the nearest road and a long way from anywhere. Very few people spoke English. In preparation, he had 3 months of training in Nepali language; and was taught basic surveying and building skills. He traveled in the field a lot; staying in villagers' homes and eating what was served. He had 5 parasite infestations; he went over weighing 175 pounds and came back weighing 135 pounds. The porters who traveled with them did so barefoot, carrying an average load of 80 pounds and earning 60 cents a day. Through pictures he shared the architecture, his home, examples of the knife men carried, and ring noses worn by the women. The stories that went along with them included waking one morning to a man and son in his home watching him sleep who wanted to see a white man; an infection on his Achilles that required a 35-mile trek to a doctor with a foot so swollen he had to duct-tape a sliced tennis shoe to his foot; and swimming across a river to a crowd of people who had never seen someone swim before. In addition to YVCC, he attended UW and Willamette University of Law. He practiced law for 18 years in Seattle before coming back to Yakima where he served as an administrative law judge and a County District Judge. Retired, he still serves on occasion as a pro tem judge.

Both Lila and Ralph did a beautiful job! Thank you for sharing!

If you want to know what else happened. President Jim opened the meeting with a great hello and recognition of Tammy Hanlon as our greeter. Clark Permann followed with a heartwarming story about helping a young mother he saw crying with 2 little boy and his instinct to reach out and help. Leanne Antonio presented two checks to our last grant recipients from the 2023-24 Rotary year. Yakima Rotaract received a grant in the amount of \$1,700 to fund a Pollinator Garden at West Valley Community Park and to Canyon Blooms Petal for Patients received a grant of \$10,000 toward the expansion of their facilities that will allow them to serve those in our community facing hardship and suffering, with the gift of flowers. President Jim recognized Nancy Leahy for being chosen as this year's Ted Robertson Award and three members celebrating one year in Rotary – Chase Powell, Andi Hochleutner, and Shawna Masters. Brad Hansen had double duty with sergeant-at-arms and introducing Lila and Ralph.

# SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER 16, 2024



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