



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022  
YAKIMA CONVENTION & EVENT CENTER

Imagine  
Rotary

DR. NEIL BARG  
THE YEAR OF THE VIRUS



Dr. Neil L. Barg officially began his role as the Health Officer for the Yakima Health District on August 1, 2021. His role as Health Officer is to provide subject matter expertise, help craft policy and health orders, and guide the Board of Health on its health strategies and concerns.

Dr. Barg is an infectious disease specialist in Yakima, WA and is affiliated with hospitals and universities in the area, such as Yakima Valley Memorial, Pacific Northwest University and University of Washington. He received his medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine and has been in practice for more than 20 years.

Dr. Barg has been practicing as an infectious disease consultant for the last 22 years in the Yakima Valley. He currently serves as the Director of Hospital Epidemiology and Director of Antibiotic Stewardship Program for Yakima Valley Memorial and is the Medical Director for New Hope Clinic at Yakima Valley Farm Workers. Dr. Barg is also a clinical professor of medicine for the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Washington. His previous positions included Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Michigan School of Medicine and Associate Professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

**FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING**

Greeters – Lars Hanson, Celina Sanchez  
Invocation – Leanne Antonio  
Sergeant-at-Arms – Mike Johnson  
Program – Bruce Bacon

**FUTURE PROGRAMS**

September 29th – Rotary Reunion  
October 6th – Phil English, Eli Juarez & Katie Hinckley, Successful Coaching: How Does it Happen?  
October 13th – U.S. District Court Judge David Estudillo, National Hispanic Heritage Month  
October 20th – Allie Frank & Asha Youmans, History of Publishing

**PROPOSED NEW MEMBERS**

Unless written objection is received by the Board of Directors by Friday, September 23, 2022, the following candidates will be elected to membership:

**Jennifer Ernst**  
Vice President for Instruction & Student Services  
Yakima Valley College  
**Classification: Community College Administration**  
Proposed by: Linda Kaminski  
Endorsed by: Noel Moxley

**Bobbi Carey**  
Licensed Loan Partner  
Homebridge Financial  
**Classification: Mortgages**  
Proposed by: Brad Hansen  
Endorsed by: Jordan Matson

**ROTARY OPERATION HARVEST**

We are just a few weeks out from Operation Harvest – WE NEED YOUR HELP.  
The biggest volunteer needs are:

- Deliver bags to assigned routes between September 30th and October 5th.
- Collecting food from a pre-assigned route the morning of the event.
- Cash donations that allow the food banks to supplement the food collected. You can bill your Rotary account or use the QR code provided.



If you signed up to staple bags, contact the Rotary office to pick up your bundle. If you have a couple of hours to work the afternoon shift from 11:30am – 2:30pm at the collection site there are slots available. Help us reach our goal of 100% participation!

WANTED - STUDENTS TO TRAVEL THE WORLD!

Rotary International District 5060 invites YOU to become a Rotary Youth Exchange student. Rotary is looking for students between the ages of 14 to 17 who would like to make a difference in the world. Students will spend a year living in a foreign country, attending school and learning a new language and culture.

Learn more at the Rotary Youth Exchange Information Night (parents are invited too) on October 4th at 6:30pm at the YVC Conference Center located at 1704 W. Nob Hill, Room D. Please RSVP by calling or texting Rebecca Pennell at 509-949-7943 or Jheri Ketcham at 509-307-9097.



"ALL PROCEEDS WILL HELP FUND ROTARY SPONSORED CHARITIES, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES."

8th ANNUAL  
**TOPPENISH ROTARY**  
TEETH HIGH, LET IT FLY  
**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

PRESENTED BY:  
PACIFIC POWER POWERING YOUR GREATNESS  
amcor

Registration begins at 7:00 AM  
8:30 AM Shotgun Start

**4-Man Scramble**  
Friday, September 23, 2022  
Black Rock Golf Course; Sunnyside, WA

Cost: \$350 / 4 Member Team  
This cost includes 18 holes of golf - golf cart - lunch

Prizes & Awards:  
Putting Contest (win a beautiful putter) sponsored by Kmuck Property, LLC  
Closest to the Pin Contest (win a Range Finder) sponsored by Campbell CPA LLC  
Longest Drive & Longest Putt Awards | Team Awards to 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place

Thanks To Our Sponsors:  
Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic  
General Store  
Gibbons Pharmacy  
PROTHMAN  
YOUNG FAMILY BUSINESS  
1000 SHOP TEXACO

All proceeds help to fund scholarships for students and other Rotary-sponsored charities, events and activities.

- REVIEW -

Bob Gerst had the honor of introducing Sr. Kathleen Ross and Dr. Andrew Sund to celebrate 40 Years of Heritage University. Together they shared Heritage's history and where they are today. Heritage was the first 4-year and master's degree institution of higher education in the Yakima Valley. It started as an outreach of Fort Wright College in Spokane where Sr. Kathleen worked. Two Yakima women, Martha Yallup and Violet Lumley, requested courses in Toppenish. Sr. Kathleen orchestrated the program for six years before the Board of Fort Wright announced that they would be shutting down. Violet and Martha began talking and came to Sr. Kathleen to say let's start our own college. Sr. Kathleen told them they would have to recruit community members, leaders with influence and money who would be willing to be a Board. Sr. Kathleen returned to Spokane. Violet and Martha recruited amazing community leaders and when they began meeting, they elected Sr. Kathleen as president without asking her.

Heritage began offering classes in a decommissioned Toppenish elementary school on July 1, 1982 with a total enrollment of 85 students. With an average age in the thirties most classes were at night so students could work during the day. They purchased three portables from the Wapato School District. With a need for even more space they found three good prefabs in Oregon at the Rajneesh Commune that had just been shut down. The cost to purchase and move them was \$34,000; it seemed impossible. Sr. Kathleen went to Mike Mercy asking for a donation; she was stunned when he gave her a check for the full amount. She was learning how supportive this community was. Community support continued with their first fundraiser, a silent auction at the Towne Plaza. John Noel gave them the space and everything they needed for free. It started a fundraiser tradition of a scholarship dinner that has raised millions of dollars over 30 years.

As Heritage grew, Seattle area leaders were added to their Board. One executive shared that they needed to raise \$5 million to build a real library, computer lab and academic skill and tutoring center. Jack Bloxom was recruited to lead their first capital campaign - their first real building was opened in 1993. As enrollment grew, funds were raised for a new student services building. With a focus on high academic quality, they gained visibility with national foundations that included the Carnegie Foundation. They were recognized by the Mellon Foundation of New York as one of a small group of bachelor's degree colleges with funding to help talented first generation student complete their degrees, go onto graduate school, earn doctorates, and become the next generation of college professors. In 2004 Heritage College became Heritage University. In 2008 a new arts and sciences center was opened. Heritage is only one of two universities nationally that is recognized by the federal government as both a Hispanic and Native American servicing institution.

Today, Heritage is very different than it was 40 years ago – different in size, the people who work there, the buildings and its spirit. It is no longer the dream, it is an established institution. What remains the same is their commitment to bring quality higher education that is affordable to the people of the Yakima Valley. The make-up of their students is 73% women, 27% male, 69% Latinx, 12% Native American, 18% Caucasian, and 1% other. 85% of their students come from what the federal government calls low income families. The programs they offer help people

get jobs. The major programs are social work, business and accounting, nursing, educational, criminal justice and psychology. They also have a liberal arts program for students that want to go to law school and science programs for those interested in medicine. This summer they had a program in partnership with our state law schools for recent graduates and current students interested in law schools in learn how to navigate the process from lawyers that look like them.

As the third president of Heritage, Dr. Sund's focus is to maintain growth in connection with making sure they are always in tune with the original mission and the people they serve. Examples include celebrating elders of the Yakama Nation and Mexican Independence Day. They also have graduates that have gone on to earn a Ph.D. and have come back to work as professors. It shows tremendous loyalty.

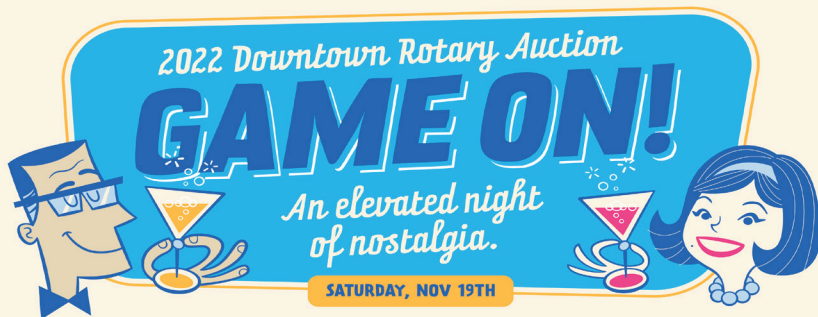
The pandemic changed the way they worked for two years. It was not easy for the population they serve. Internet connectivity in rural areas was difficult. Many students live in multigenerational homes, making it difficult to find a quiet place to study. Today students are happy to be back on campus.

Heritage is still growing with a new Early Learning Center opening soon, and two new projects coming - a new state-of-the-art science building and their own waste water treatment center. Why are they successful? Because they have a service that is valued by their students and community. They ended with two pictures; the first was a picture of their first sign attached to a tree, the second was an amazing aerial view of what the campus looks like today. Wow!

What else happened at Rotary? Sheri Bissell reminded us to sign up for Operation Harvest, Rob Phillips raised money for Rotary Charities with sergeant-at-arms, and Austin Beebe introduced our newest member Kaylene Stiles. Kaylene has been with the United Way of Central WA. for over 17 years and became the Executive Director six months ago. Born and raised in Yakima, she and her husband Craig, their 4 children and 3 dogs love spending time in nature and at their cabin. At age 17 she and her dad spent a summer traveling through England, Belgium, Germany and Holland. She has a real passion for service and our community. Welcome to Rotary!

Today began National Hispanic Heritage Month. To help us appreciate and celebrate the colorful cultures, rich histories and diversity, over the next few weeks we will hear from some of our members who will share their stories. The meeting began with Andy Lucero sharing his family's story. A financial advisor with Edward Jones, Andy previously spent 20 years in the U.S. Marine Corp. The oldest of five, he and his family immigrated to the U.S. when Andy was two. His father began working at a manufacturing company, bought a house and began living the American dream. A back injury caused him to lose his job and led to a new career in agriculture. He taught Andy many life lessons that included the value of money and the importance of saving for a rainy day, lessons that he brings to the table in his profession. The story of his father was of a young man who had a dream, achieved it, had to start over and persevered through many obstacles and adversity.





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For more information on how you can get your company's name added to the list,  
please contact John Cooper at [john@visityakima.com](mailto:john@visityakima.com).