



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**

*Create Hope  
in the World*

## **ROTARY FAMILY PICNIC COWICHE CREEK BREWERY 5:30pm to 8:00pm**

Let's have a  
**PICNIC!**

With beautiful days and cool nights upon us, it's the perfect time to skip our regular Thursday meeting for a Picnic. That is exactly what we are going to do this week as we travel to Cowiche Creek Brewery. Located in the farming community of Cowiche, the Brewery has lots of outdoor space to sit and grass for the kids to run and play.

Our specially designed menu will include green salad, pasta salad, fruit platter, veggie platter, meatballs, deviled eggs, shrimp w/cocktail sauce, and a meat and cheese platter. Adults will be given script for two drink tickets. Kids will also receive script for the soft drink bar.

The Yakima Fruit Tramps have been commissioned to provide live entertainment. Games will include cornhole and kids are invited to bring along soccer balls, footballs and/or frisbees.

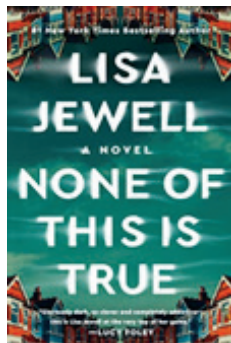
Invite your spouse, significant other, children and grandchildren to come along with you. If you have not already RSVP'd, please do so by calling or emailing the Rotary office so we can make sure there is enough food.



### **SEPTEMBER BOOK CLUB**

September's Rotary Book Club read is *None of This Is True* by New York Times bestselling author Lisa Jewell. Her story follows two women who meet in a pub and realize they are birthday twins. One of them (Alix) is a popular podcaster, the other (Josie) appears to be nothing more than a plain Jane. Along the way Josie becomes a subject for Alix's series. The more Alix learns, the more she becomes the subject of her own true crime podcast.

Now is the time to pick up your copy, start reading, and save the date of Thursday, September 28th for the next discussion at the John I Haas Innovation Center from 5pm to 6pm.



### **FUTURE PROGRAMS**

- September 14th – Darlene Wilczynski, Fed's Approach to Monetary Policy & Interest Rates
- September 21st – Lunch & Tour of Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences
- September 28th – Rosalinda & Elizabeth Mendoza, Mocal Mezcal
- October 5th – Nikki Torres, National Hispanic Heritage Month

### **ROTARACT PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT**

Yakima Rotaract is hosting a Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser at the Yakima Athletic Club on Saturday, October 7th from 1pm to 5pm. Proceeds will go to support their Back to School Project. It's the same day as Operation Harvest – you'll have plenty of time to collect food from a route in the morning and make it to the Athletic Club afterwards.



## ROTARY OPERATION HARVEST

Sign-ups are underway for Rotary Operation Harvest set for Saturday, October 7th. This one-day, community-wide food drive is celebrating 40 years! The food and cash donations we receive go to benefit nine local food banks in our community. It requires hundreds of volunteers from all three Rotary clubs to make it happen. There are many ways you can help both before and on the day of the event. They include:

1. Drop off bags on a route BEFORE Operation Harvest between Sept. 29th and Oct. 5th. (Routes will be assigned.)
2. Collect food from a route on Saturday, Oct 7th between 10am and 1pm. (Routes will be assigned; most take 2 hours to complete.)
3. Work a shift at the collection site (State Fair Parking Lot) on Saturday, Oct 7th unloading food, sorting, and/or serving as a backup driver). Shifts are 9:45am to 11:45am or 11:45am to 2:30pm.
4. Participate financially.
5. Staple flyers to Operation Harvest bags.
6. Display an Operation Harvest sign in your yard or business.
7. Ask a non-Rotarian to donate \$100.

You will find sign-up sheets on the table at Rotary. You'll also receive a link in your email to sign-up on-line. The goal is 100% participation.

## REVIEW

There is nothing better than walking into a room full of conversation and energy. That was the total vibe this week. It began with music provided by Doug Rich and Bob Hamilton leading us in America the Beautiful. Celisa Hopkins followed with a beautiful message about listening and leadership. President Erin welcomed our guests and congratulated Rich Austin for being named as one of the recipients of this year's Ted Robertson Award.

It was also a great day for membership with two new member introductions. Lisa Krous introduced Chase Powell. Chase is the son of long-time Rotarian Bryan Powell. Born and raised in Yakima and Selah, he grew up playing his favorite sport, baseball. He excelled at it and loved it so much he went on to play D1 for the University of Portland. After graduating with a degree in Business, he joined Central Washington Insurance Agency in 2009. Two years later he and his wife Maggie were married. Today they are parents to three kids. Chase coaches Little League and when not chasing his kids around with their own activities, he loves to play golf, work, and flips cars. Ryan Anderson then introduced Shawna Masters. Shawna was born in Tuscan, AZ; moved to Seattle at the age of 3; before moving to Yakima where she attended Yakima schools and graduated from West Valley High School. She worked in the dental industry for 10 years before making a shift to business administration, obtaining a degree from Southern New Hampshire University. She began working for Charter College first as a support specialist, moving to an Externship Coordinator, before becoming the manager of the program. In 2022 she completed a Master of Science in Management & Leadership from Western Governors University and was hired as the Executive Director of the Yakima Schools Foundation. Married with one stepdaughter, her hobbies include hiking, snowboarding, fishing, reading, and hosting trivia nights at Valley Brewing, Whistlin' Jack and Outskirts Brewing. We are so grateful to have both of them as part of our Rotary club!

Sean Kinney and Randy Beehler made announcements about the upcoming Rotary picnic and Operation Harvest. The picnic is on Thursday, please RSVP if you haven't already done so. Rotary Operation Harvest is Saturday, October 7th; volunteer sign-ups are underway. Kellie Connaughton wrapped up Rotary business with sergeant-at-arms. She had some help from Lisa Krous who challenged Bryan Powell to a matching donation for not being able to be there to introduce Chase.

Jon DeVaney introduced Congressman Dan Newhouse as our program speaker. With so much that could be talked about, Dan focused on three key issues: fentanyl; increased costs, especially for farmers; and China. Last year, fentanyl drug overdoses claimed the lives of over 100,000 people in the U.S.; to put that into perspective, just under 60,000 lives were lost in Vietnam. Thousands of pounds of fentanyl are coming over the southern border. Two milligrams (the size of 2 grains of salt) is enough to be fatal. If he had teenage kids, it would scare him to death to send them out to parties or gatherings. To help find a solution, legislation has been introduced to increase the penalty for people who knowingly sell fentanyl to those who may not know it

contains fentanyl to murder. Many of the precursors to fentanyl are coming from China into Mexico for manufacturing into pills. Dan shared he doesn't have the answers; what he has done is put together a working task force made up of people with expertise in all sorts of fields to come up with ideas to respond as a country, state, and community. If we could reduce demand, the pushers would have no one to sell to.

Besides his role as a Congressman, Dan is also a farmer. Farmers just like any other business are impacted by rising costs. Part of the reason for increasing costs falls on the shoulders of the federal government. Trillions of dollars have been spent outside of the normal appropriations process by both parties. In our state, the Cap-and-Trade System has increased the price of gas by at least .50 per gallon. Added costs are putting tremendous pressure on businesses. A lot of farms are folding under the increased costs. Farms are being bought by outside interest groups and venture capitalists. This changes our community; local businesses support their communities. Dan is a member of the Appropriations Committee who decides on the yearly level of spending. Spending is something that we all should be concerned about. The current national debt is north of \$32 trillion. Every American would have to write a check of \$100,000 to pay for it. With higher interest rates, the amount we pay for interest alone will be higher than what is spent on national defense - it is unsustainable. Dan is one of those trying to do something about it. People and communities get things from the government. No one wants to be cut off, but we are getting to the point where tough decisions will have to be made. Two-thirds of the spending budget is under mandatory spending. One-third is discretionary. That is where they are trying to make reductions. The two largest parts within the 2/3 budget are Social Security and Medicare. Both need to be addressed. For some people, Social Security is all they have.

Dan was appointed to the Select Committee on China. The Chinese Communist Party is the existential threat to the U.S. They are not our allies; their strategy is looking toward world domination that does not include us. Three years ago, Dan began work to prevent the Chinese Communist Party from purchasing agricultural land in the U.S. Several pieces of legislature have been put forth. Three years ago, there were 6 states had controls on foreign ownership of agricultural land; today 33 states have proposed legislation to prohibit the Chinese Communist Party from purchasing agricultural land. Over the last decade China's purchase of land has gone up by a factor of 10. We need to make sure they do not have control over our food supply chains. We are trying to go to war, we want to make sure we can compete.

When he gets back to D.C. Congress has decisions to make on government funding. There are appropriation bills that range from full funding, extending the funding levels of last year, or shutting down the government (nobody wins in that situation). With time left, a great question and answer session took place on all sorts of topics from taxes, women's rights, farm workers, and Rotary.