

VOLUME 2012-2013, NO.35  
 FEBRUARY 22, 2013

**FOR THURSDAY'S MEETING**

Greeters – Greg Loudon, Kevin Phillips  
 Registration Desk – Mark Todd  
 Music – Eric Silvers, Bob Hamilton  
 Invocation – Don Shute  
 Classification Talk – Victor Nourani  
 Sergeant-at-Arms – Tim Carlson  
 Program – Connie Falon

**FUTURE PROGRAMS**

March 7th – State Representative Dan Newhouse, Immigration  
 March 14th – Frank Blethen, Newspaper of the Future  
 March 21st – Ana Anic & Alfredo Murgueytio, Rotary Youth Exchange  
 March 28th – Keith Brown, Naturalization Ceremony

**SOUTHWEST FUTURE PROGRAMS**

February 26th – Don Brunell, Association of Washington Business  
 March 5th – Martin Streich – PEXCO, Custom Plastic Extrusion

**SUNRISE FUTURE PROGRAMS**

February 27th – Dr. Bush Preacher, Heart Disease



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2013  
 YAKIMA CONVENTION CENTER**

**PEACE  
 THROUGH  
 SERVICE**

**LINDA SMITH  
 HUMAN TRAFFICKING**



Sex trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under the age of 18 years. Victims can be women, men, girls or boys. The majority are women and girls.

Linda Smith is a leader in the global movement to end sex trafficking of women and children around the world and in the United States. In 1998, while still a member of the U.S. Congress, Linda traveled to Falkland Road in Mumbai, India; one of the worst brothel districts in the world. The hopeless faces of desperate women and children forced into prostitution compelled her to found Shared Hope International (SHI) as a way to provide restorative care, shelter, and education and jobs training to sex trafficking survivors.

Linda is an advocate for a strengthened response at the federal level, and has been instrumental in helping states design legislative frameworks to protect the innocence of America's children. She has spoken out against trafficking of women and children in numerous Congressional hearings and in national and international forums; and participated in more than 300 media interviews. She has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, USA Today, Dan Rather Reports, ABC News, the Dr. Phil show, O'Reilly Factor and CBN. Her compassionate and uncompromising belief that every individual has dignity has carried her from advocating for permanent safe homes for children as a member of our state legislature, to the halls of Congress, and ultimately to searching out victims in red light districts around the world. Linda and her husband, Vern, reside in Vancouver, Washington and are proud parents of two and grandparents of six.

**SCHOLARSHIP DINNER HOSTS NEEDED**

With an announcement at the podium on February 7th and two notices in the Tooter everyone should know that the dates for the annual Scholarship Dinners are Monday, April 15th through Saturday, May 11th. Now all the Scholarship Committee needs you to do is choose a date to host a dinner that works best for you and set the number of guests you can accommodate.

In return you will enjoy the company of fellow Rotarians in an informal environment, learn something new, and make a new friend. Please call or e-mail Dana Dwinell or the Rotary office today!

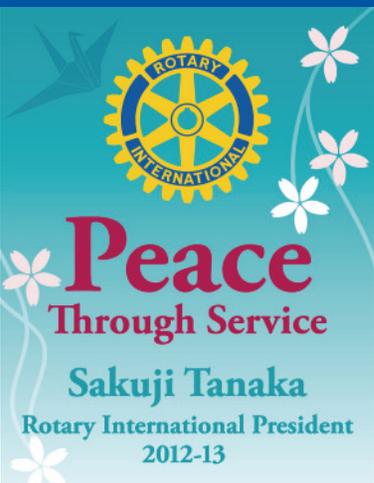
**INTERACT AND YOU**



On Saturday, March 2nd, the Eisenhower High School and West Valley High School Interact Clubs are joining together to host a dance for Senior Citizens. The dance will be held at the West Valley High School Commons from

6-8pm. Proceeds from the dance will be donated to People to People for Senior Nutrition Programs.

The Interact clubs are seeking Rotarian volunteers to help with refreshments and door prizes, and clean up afterwards. West Valley Rams are in the hunt for state Basketball playoffs limiting the number volunteers from West Valley. The IKE Interact Club only has about 15 active members, we will be spread thin. IKE has been soliciting donations for refreshments and door prizes. If you can help please call Stephani Kinney at 573-2806 or email her at kinney.stephani@yakimaschools.org



**SAVE THE DATE  
 ROTARY SKI DAY  
 FRIDAY, MARCH 22**



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROTARY!



On February 23rd, Rotary turns 108 and Rotarians around the world are celebrating humanitarian service; and Rotary's ongoing commitment to eradicate polio and finish the job. Worldwide, 222 polio cases were reported in 2012, a little more than one-third of the 650 cases reported in 2011. India marked its second year without polio in January; and overall, the annual incidence of polio has decreased more than 99 percent since the Global Polio Eradication Initiative was launched in 1988.

Rotary International is encouraging each of us to join in the celebration by using social media over the next week to share the message of Rotary to your friends, family and community. To support the fight against polio you can also donate \$108 to The Foundation to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

Mark the 23rd on your calendar and get your Twitter, Facebook Google+, blog and LinkedIn messages ready to go.



President Dave and Eric Silvers with Program Speaker Erin Jones and Vocalist Lynette Carter

## - REVIEW -

The annual recognition of February as Black History Month has become an annual event for our club. It is a true celebration which began this week with the beautiful voice of Lynette Carter who sang the Negro National Anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing" followed by a medley of America and God Bless America. Applause and rousing voices of appreciation resounded throughout the room. Honorary member Ester Huey followed with a wonderful prayer; and after the introduction of two new members and another beautiful song by Lynette, Adrienne Garner raised money for Rotary Charities as our sergeant-at-arms.

Our two newest members were Dominic Rizzi Jr. and Michael Liddicoat. Felix introduced Dominic and Jessica introduced Michael. Dominic was born in Chicago, Illinois and before being selected as our new Chief of Police in May, was with the Chicago Police Department for 25 years. He is one of seventeen police officers in his family spread throughout the country; sixteen of which have the last name of Rizzi and is a sports fan with a passion for baseball and his Chicago White Sox. Michael was born and raised in our community. His passion is the theatre making his job as the Executive Director of Allied Arts the perfect fit. He met his wife at the Warehouse Theatre; over the years he has spent so much time there that his nickname is Warehouse. We are so excited to welcome both of them to Yakima Rotary! Membership is the lifeblood of our club. Have you asked someone to join lately?

Ben Ramirez had the honor of introducing our featured speaker Erin Jones. Whether or not you heard her speak a year ago, you couldn't help but come away inspired by her story and dedication to helping young people meet their dreams. She began by sharing her unwavering belief that one person can absolutely make a difference going on to say that if everyone was their best at whatever they did independent of their circumstances, just imagine what our country would be.

Her own life story provided the background for her convictions. She was adopted at the age of 6 months by a white Scandinavian couple who had the courage to step outside of their boundaries and choose her. Her birth certificate listed her father as a 65 year old black man and her mother as a 20 year old white woman. Her father was 5'7"; her mother was 5'4". At 6' without shoes; someone in her lineage obviously had height on their side. Her birth father had 8 years of college, her birth mother none. A black man with that type of education was unheard of at that time. To help their children grow up in a place of acceptance her parents made the decision to take their family to the Netherlands when Erin was 5 years old. She attended one of the best schools in the world, the United Nations American School free of charge. It was a place that allowed her to meet U.S. Presidents and celebrities. Her first realization that she could make a difference in the world was inspired by being chosen at school to eat lunch with John Denver and the Princess of Monaco at the age of 9. The Middle East Crisis was in the news; she was going to solve it and began to study Egyptian and Arabic. The transition from eighth grade to high school prompted her to make another major life decision. Alcohol and drug use are much more relaxed in Europe. High schools have bars connected to them (not physically but in close approximation). On weekends students spend their time hanging out there. Knowing that her next three years of school would be very lonely, Erin made a pledge to never do drugs, smoke, or drink alcohol. She dedicated herself to sports and became the first freshman to make three varsity teams and be the captain of all three - it is easy to be good at something when you have all the time in the world to devote to it. Playing sports meant an opportunity to travel. Games would take place at 4:00pm, the coaches would drop off the team at a bar afterwards and come back to get them at 10:00pm. Erin never went inside, she chose to sit outside and read or study. The realization that she was in some wonderful cities, allowed her the courage to start using that time to walk and explore. She got to see the Eiffel Tower, the Coliseum in Rome and to meet Queen Latifah

and Ringo Starr. Along the way her dreams evolved. She wanted to become the female version of Martin Luther King and attend Harvard Law School.

In 1989 she made her way back to the U.S. to attend Harvard. She was in for a rude awakening; she came to the country that was not ready for her and to a place where segregation was the rule not the exception. One year at an Ivy League school where she was told she could do nothing and was only there to fulfill a quota destroyed her confidence. She felt she didn't matter and at one time contemplated suicide. At that time there were only two options to choose from on forms when it came to race - Black or Caucasian. She didn't fit either one; she didn't talk like other black people and she didn't look like white people. If she just picked black, she was denying a whole half of herself, her family. It was meeting one person that changed everything for her. While out walking one day she heard the sound of a basketball game in the distance. She followed the sound and came upon a group of nine men who needed one more to play; they asked the "big girl" to play, she had shoes, and said yes. The person who changed her life that day was one of those players, Dr. Julius Irving. It was the first time she felt at home. They played at the same time in the same place every day until the lights went out. They invited her to come back and she did. She learned about the lives of the young black men she was playing with. Their lives were broken by drugs; not one had finished school and except for Dr. J's sons; none of them knew how to read or write. The schools they had attended had teachers with no degrees, no libraries, and security guards. It became apparent to her that the greatest social injustice of that time was education. At the age of 19, she decided she was going to change that. She changed her major and began volunteering at an elementary school with 1,000 students where 400 of those kids came from homes with no running water or electricity.

Life and marriage moved her to Notre Dame where she entered into an education system that included the bussing of students; race riots were an everyday occurrence at her middle school. She was a basketball coach; for her, playing time for her students meant that they had to have grades. Her policy brought a visit from the principal who informed her that everyone played no matter what because those kids would be good at just one thing - basketball. It was criminal. No child whether black or white, rich or poor, should face inequalities. Zip code should not determine what type of education a child receives.

None of the challenges faced as a teacher made her waiver from her determination to change education. Being the parent of three teenage children is a constant reminder of why she does what she does. Her own children have challenges. Her oldest son has dysgraphia. She shared his first couple of weeks as a second grader. He was coming home telling his mother he was stupid every day. His teacher told Erin that for the first two weeks, she thought her son was stupid but now she thought he had a disability. Erin moved to another school district to get him the education he needed. Their daughter was adopted at the age of six; she had been abandoned by her sister-in-law. That little girl told Erin that she was never going to go to college because black people don't go to college. Last year that grown-up girl took her first AP test and is in her first year of Running Start. Her baby at 6' 4" looks like a linebacker and has Aspergers syndrome. He is highly functioning and extremely intelligent with an IQ of 145. He was recently invited to have lunch with the president of St. Martin's College where he was offered the opportunity to attend as part of their engineering program. Aspergers causes a person to lose their filter; so at his age of 16, he turned it down, saying he wanted to go to school to create video games. Erin was mortified, the president of St. Martin's understood. All of those examples are the reason why she works every day.

Every child needs someone who believes in them. We are all teachers, we are all educators. She asked us to be the mirror for a child's brilliance shining their dreams and abilities back on them. With one word each of us has the ability to save the life of a child.