

The RIM Newsletter

Rotary

InMotion



Club 16 (2809) District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916
<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>

*Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*



Celebrating the people, events, and actions of the Muskegon Rotary Club

April 2, 2026

**April 9, 2026, 12 – 1:30pm — Honey Glazed Pork Loin at the Delta
Program – Muskegon Community College 100th Anniversary**

What's Coming

April 16—Pure Muskegon Acquisition of the Sappi Property
April 23—Muskegon County Composting Grant
April 30—Muskegon Area Arts & Culture Coalition

Upcoming Birthdays

April 10 Jay Griffith
April 11 Eric Seifert
April 11 Nicholas Green
April 13 Erin Kuhn
April 14 Brad Hastings



Caring Connections Fund
[Click here to donate](#)

Stage Manager This Week

Ammy Seymour

Greeters This Week

Lisa Tyler

Reflector This Week

Bill Loxterman

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Emily Morgenstern
RIM Reporter – Sue Samaniego
RIM Editor – Ginny Sprague



March Madness
Brave Rotarian
Men and Women's
Bracket Winners on
Page 5.

Reflection



Jonie Smith provided the reflection this week with inspirational quotes from Lin-Manuel Miranda. To hear the Reflection and the rest of the meeting, watch the Muskegon Rotary YouTube video:

Muskegon Rotary April 2nd
YouTube Video: [Mtg 4/2/26](#)

Muskegon Rotary Board

Dave Alexander, President
Roger Morgenstern, President-Elect
Lisa Tyler, President Nominee
Tim Arter, Past President
Kimberly Taylor, Treasurer
Jane Clingman-Scott, Secretary
Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator
Directors:
Esther Ricco Brandon Turnbull
Melissa Moore Samantha Scott
Arlen-Dean Gaddy Dimitri Poland
Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga Lisa Kraus

Please email Club Board Members through this [link](#):

Visitors & Guests



Andrew Zahrt and his guest, Lauryn Doctor, Family Financial Credit Union.



Scott Roodvoets and his guest, Dani Zizak, a marketing executive who is moving on to retirement.



D.J. Hilson and his son, Trevor Hilson, who will graduate in May with a Journalism degree with a Sports Broadcasting emphasis.

Visitors & Guests continued



New Rotarian, Kippy Ellis, introduces her first guest, Yvonne Manus.



Kat Hyder, a son to be Mom, introduces her husband, Brock Hyder, owner of Aurora Renovations,



Jim Fisher introduces **Stewart Kohnberg**, a Rotarian visiting from North Carolina and the founder of The Music 4 Hope Foundation.



Alex Fonseca and guest, Christi Burmeister, Solid Rock Housing



Denise Sabo with her guest, neighbor Marty Burns, investment consultant.



Retired Pastor and Educator, Earnestine Lockett, joins her Rotarian daughter, **Kendrah Robinson**.



Dave Medendorp brought guest Aaron Byrne, a business consultant.

RIM Reporting Team

Editors: Susan Besteman, Jackie Farrar, and Ginny Sprague
 Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie, and Sue Samaniego
 Photographers: Wyatt Huggett, Brock Johnson, Emily Morgenstern, and Roger Morgenstern

Student Guests



Marty Sytsema introduces Holton HS student guests, Salutatorian Mason Schroop and Valedictorian Monica Mullins, with counselor Amy Fairchild.



Bob Garretson introduces special guests, Muskegon HS Lady Big Reds, 2026 Division A State Champions: L-R Coach Maurice Sain, Head Coach Bernard Loudermill, Dy'Nasti Bell, Co-Captain, Cece Bonner, and Co-Captain Mariah Sain.

President Dave's Muskegon Minute

President Dave referenced last week's program on La Colombe's upcoming plant expansion, which will bring 350 food production jobs to Norton Shores. Then he asked the question, where will the workers and their families live, given the need for 3,000 new housing units by 2028.

Stay tuned for a program on county housing initiatives in the next few months.

This Week's Program



Presenter: **Erik Alm**

Introduction: **Alex Fonseca**

Reporter: **Roger Morgenstern**



Board President of Solid Rock Housing, **Rotarian Alec Fonseca** introduced today's speaker.

Solid Rock Housing provides an important piece of the affordable housing puzzle in Muskegon County. The non-profit began in 2019 when it grew out of the Muskegon Habitat for Humanity chapter. Today, it is a standalone organization that "strengthens communities by providing affordable household goods and critical home repairs for Muskegon County families," Executive Director Erik Alm told our club. "Our mission is simple: to keep people safe in their homes.

Many homeowners can't afford basic home repairs." He said Many Muskegon County homeowners cannot afford critical repairs or basic household necessities. When essential systems fail, families often have nowhere to turn. He said the Muskegon community's need is clear:



Erik Alm, Executive Director Solid Rock Housing Support

- Many Muskegon homeowners cannot afford emergency repairs
- Affordable household goods are out of reach for some families
- Small repairs can prevent bigger housing crises

Solid Rock accepts donations from individuals and contractors to stock its two depots, one at 4345 Airline Road in Norton Shores and the other at 280 Ottawa Street in Muskegon. The depots are open to the public and offer discounted prices on new and used household items, from wood trim to light fixtures, appliances and even individual electrical switches and light bulbs. "One man's junk is another man's treasure," Alm said. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ul-5R4vZAx4>

"If you took Home Depot and Lowes and paired them with Goodwill, and they had a baby, you'd have our depot," Alm joked.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/24673971880228>

The revenue from the depots helps fund Solid Rock's other primary service, providing essential home repairs to homeowners with limited incomes. Alm said the repairs do not exceed \$3,000 and are available to homeowners with at 80 percent or less of Muskegon County's median household income levels as set by the federal government. Homeowners are asked to repay a portion of the repair costs, based on their income levels. Solid Rock works with local contractors to get the work done. He said the repairs are generally limited to "essential items" such as hot water heaters and other plumbing related work, furnaces, and electrical wiring.

Solid Rock also does a lot of recycling of building materials that can't be resold at the depots. Alm said last year their eight-member staff recycled 35 to 40 tons of materials.

Moving forward, the organization's focuses are:

- Strengthen operations to keep its depots strong and sustainable
- Protect affordability by keeping prices affordable
- Sustain recycling by keeping usable materials out of landfills
- Expand repairs by serving more families

Solid Rock has two depot locations: 280 Ottawa Street, Muskegon 4345 Airlie Road Norton Shores To learn more about Solid Rock visit www.solidrockhousing.org



Rotarian in Action Jackie Farrar

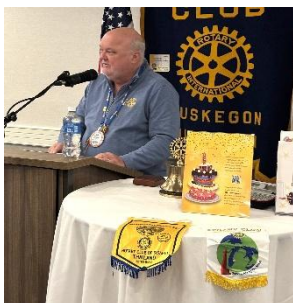


Jackie Farrar shares how the Muskegon Rotary RIM newsletter comes to life through teamwork, innovation, and a deep commitment to service. From volunteer reporters and photographers to weekly video recaps, the newsletter has evolved into a powerful way to keep members connected and informed.

Jackie highlights how streamlined storytelling, improved processes, and expanded leadership have strengthened the publication since 2019. Most of all, she reflects on Rotary's guiding principle of *Service Above Self* and encourages members to engage, connect, and find meaningful ways to give back to the Muskegon community.

Watch the video-
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykSOmVqmYSQ>

Announcements



President Dave made several announcements.

1. ReWine meets at the Vault this evening
2. Please sign up to volunteer once a month at Kids Food Basket. He is also seeking a Volunteer Coordinator to work with the agency to make this happen. There will be other volunteer opportunities at the Muskegon Rescue Mission and McLaughlin Grows to help address food insecurity in the Muskegon community.
3. We have a **Party in the Park** on **Friday May 29**. Andrew Cutler is gearing up one of our largest fundraisers, but he needs a co-chair. Please consider helping lead this important event. See Roger Morgenstern or Dave if you can help and get involved.
4. Please consider attending the **District 6290 Spring Learning Assembly** on Saturday, April 18, from 9 am to 3 pm, at Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids.
5. **Pours for Community** events begin on **April 15**, and our **Food Truck** is **April 22**.



Roger Morgenstern asked members to mark their calendars for the joint service project with the Grand Rapids Rotary Club, scheduled for the morning of May 9th at the Muskegon Microforest.



Carla Flanders is seeking volunteers to co-chair positions in finance, volunteers, sponsorships, or silent auction for Harvest Fest 2026. See Carla to learn more and help with this vital fundraiser.



Kelly DeVos is seeking volunteers to serve evening meals at the Muskegon Rescue Mission once a month on either Monday or Wednesday evening from 6 to 7:30 pm. Volunteers will need to complete waiver form. Contact Kelly or President Dave to sign up



Meredith Smillie thanked all 56 March Madness Brave Rotarians for their participation. She then announced the Final Four Brave Rotarians for the coming weekend. When we meet on April 9, we will know the lucky winners of the Men's and Women's tournaments. Meredith will also draw the names of two more Brave Rotarians from the 54 other contestants

MARCH MADNESS BRAVE ROTARIAN CONTEST

Down to the Final Four! Congratulations to these teams and Rotarians. One step closer.

Men's Bracket

Illinois (**Jeff Dana**) vs
UConn (**Sue Samaniego**)

Michigan (**Tara Foreman**) vs
Arizona (**Jeff Fortenbacher**)

Women's Bracket

Texas (**Kaitlin Hermanson**) vs
UCLA (**Tara Foreman**)

UConn (**Meredith Smillie**) vs
South Carolina (**Marty Sytsema**)

Congratulations, Tara Foreman!
**Men's and Women's
Tournament Champions!**



Nancy McCarthy shows Curtis Chin's book for the April 13 presentation.



District 6290 Chief Administrative Officer **Kathy Hegedus** (on right) was thrilled to announce our own Muskegon Rotary **Tennille Woodward** accepted the position of District 6290 Treasurer beginning on July 1, 2026.

**Feeding America Food Truck
Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Community United Methodist
Church Parking Lot**

United Way Day of Caring April 24, 2026



<https://www.unitedwaylakeshore.org/day-caring>

GREAT MICHIGAN READ AUTHOR EVENT WITH
CURTIS CHIN

BOOK SIGNING AFTER THE EVENT

Join us for an evening with Curtis Chin, author of *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant*, as part of the statewide Great Michigan Read tour presented by Michigan Humanities.

Chin's memoir traces his experiences growing up Chinese-American in Detroit—balancing humor, heart, and the lively world of Chung's Cantonese Cuisine, his family's restaurant that fed people from all walks of life in 1980s Detroit. His story captures the complexities of coming out as a gay Asian-American, his years at the University of Michigan, and his later work writing for film and television.

APR 13 | 6:30pm

The Corner (280 W. Muskegon Ave)

Doors open at 6pm with tastings from local Chinese Restaurants available until the event begins. Books will be available for purchase courtesy of the Book Nook.



Save your seat with this QR code



This author event with Curtis Chin is part of the Great Michigan Read spring tour. The 2025-26 Great Michigan Read is presented by Michigan Humanities. Additional support is provided by national, statewide, and local partners, including the Library of Michigan and MSU Federal Credit Union.



Eric Seifert led the raffle drawing this week and included an extra drawing in memory of Muskegon Rotary Sergeant-at-Arms **Ed Hendrickson**, who passed away on Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Ed's obituary follows on page 6.

Edwin LeRoy Hendrickson

Oct 12, 1939 – Mar 31, 2026



The world lost a true Renaissance man on March 31, 2026, when Edwin L. Hendrickson took his last breath at the exact stroke of midnight

For a man still known by many as Muskegon's "Clock Doctor," Ed's last moment on Earth was a fitting goodbye — spiritual, intensely meaningful, beautifully poignant.

Ed's story begins in Muskegon on October 12, 1939, born to Lester and Ruby (Goodwin) Hendrickson. He was 86 at the time of his death. His pursuit of higher education took him first to Muskegon Community College, then Michigan Technological University, where he earned a degree in chemical engineering. Later, he added an MBA from Central Michigan University to his education.

For 31 years, Ed worked for Dow Chemical Co., first as a chemical engineer and eventually in human

resources, jobs that sent him around the world. He was quick to tell people he "loved every minute of it."

When he retired, he and his wife, Debra Brown-Hendrickson, and their son, Braedin, came home to Muskegon in 1995. One of the first things he did was start a business, the "Clock Doctor," repairing antique and ailing clocks. It was a new venture, but he'd been repairing clocks since he was eight years old.

But that was Ed — ever curious, always trying something new. "My love of creating overcomes the fear of failing," he once said.

He taught himself how to make violins — by the way, the proper title is "luthier" — but he didn't make just one violin and stop. In all, he created 75 violins. And because Ed is Ed, he donated 35 of them to the Muskegon Middle Schools, so young, aspiring violinists had their own instruments to take home and play.

There seemingly was no end to his talents or interests. In his hands, wood turned into music. Thoughts became poetry. His inquisitive nature prompted endless experiments and inventions. He taught himself to play the piano, paint watercolors, and restore a series of Victorian homes.

He loved to play golf. He was a dedicated, devoted Rotarian, a 50-

year member who lived out the organization's motto "service above self." He served as the sergeant-of-arms for the Muskegon Rotary Club. He taught classes in bread baking and, on occasion, was known to share a special pie crust recipe.

Ed is survived in death by his wife; Debra Brown-Hendrickson; children Constance (Greg) Cronacher; Edwin Dale (Jill) Hendrickson, Braedin Hendrickson; brother Bruce (Julie) Hendrickson; sisters Verna (Tom) Harris, and Joyce (Jim) Fuja; 2 granddaughters and 3 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date. In lieu of flowers, Ed asked people to "actually love one another, to be kind, to treat each other well."

Arrangements through the Walburn Chapel of Sytsema Funeral and Cremation Services, 1547 W. Sherman Blvd., Muskegon, MI 49441.

Please consider signing the family's online guestbook and share memories at <https://sytsemafh.com>

75 Violins - News Story ["It's raining violins' Man donates 75 violins to Muskegon Public Schools"](#)



Wed April 15, 5-7:00 pm

794 Kitchen & Bar

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

Monday, April 20, 5-7:00 pm

Unruly Brewing

Friday, April 24, 4-6:00 pm

Wonderland Distilling

Tues., April 28, 7:30-9:30 am,

Community House **

Thurs., April 30, 5-7:00 pm,

Muskegon Brewing

** Please note the **April 28** event is a **morning coffee hour** at the Community House.

Thank you to all our sponsors!

[Click here to see the video.](#)

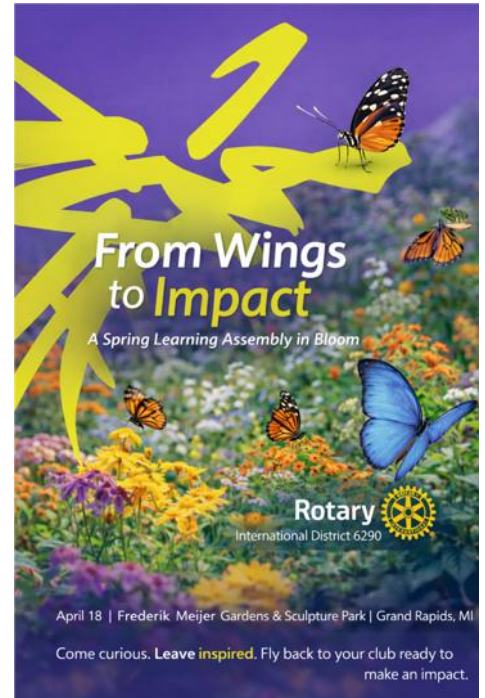
Spring Learning Assembly at Fredrick Meijer Gardens

Beginning **April 1**, the registration fee for the **Spring Learning Assembly** will increase to **\$40**. If you've been thinking about attending, now is the time to secure your spot at the current rate.

Your early registration is more than just a commitment to attend—it plays a critical role in our planning. From room setup and materials to meals and session flow, your timely response helps us deliver a seamless and impactful experience for everyone.

We're excited to bring you a day filled with learning, connection, and inspiration at Frederik Meijer Gardens. Let's make it a day that truly helps us **Create Lasting Impact**.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)



Bring the World to Your Table! The Muskegon Rotary Club Youth Exchange Program has released a special cookbook: *Around the Table, Around the World*.

This collection features international recipes from our inbound students and the families hosting our Muskegon County students abroad.

All proceeds help support our outbound exchange students traveling to Denmark (from Muskegon Public Schools) and South Korea (from Oakridge Public Schools) this year.

Cookbook Options:

- \$5 Digital Copy
- \$10 Printed Copy (Local Pickup)
- \$15 Printed Copy (Shipped)

Perfect for Mother's Day or anyone who loves trying recipes from around the world!

Order your copy here: <https://bit.ly/2026RYECookbook>
Or scan QR Code.

ORDER NOW

AROUND THE TABLE, AROUND THE WORLD COOKBOOK!

rotary youth exchange Rotary Club of Muskegon



Dom Bunker, chair of the Youth Exchange Committee, has been notified of our first Inbound student, a young man from Germany, and we await notification of two more. Please consider welcoming one of these students as a **host family!** Contact Dom for more information: [Click Here](#)

Braver Angels Workshop



Bernard Brown from your Rotary Peace Builder Committee asks if we are ready for tough conversations from opposing viewpoints/ideas?

If some practice or additional ideas may be helpful, the Braver Angel Workshop, “Bridging the Political Divide,” Part 2, is scheduled for May 1, 1-4 p.m., at the Chamber/GMED offices 380 W. Western Ave., Suite 202. This workshop is the second half of the workshop held in the spring of 2025. This workshop will focus on open discussions and finding common ground. Contact **Cathy Brubaker-Clarke** if you would like additional information.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

Community Yard Sale— May 15-17th

Rotarians, outbound youth exchange families, and friends are invited to donate items for a community yard sale on May 15th-17th at the United Way building parking lot. More details to come, but please start thinking about items you may be able to contribute.

Rotary District 6290 Volunteer Opportunities

<https://ridistrict6290.org/sitepage/open-district-volunteer-roles/>

1. Spring learning center will be at Frederick Meijer Gardens on April 18. Sign Up—[CLICK HERE](#)
2. Saturday, May 16 is the Epic Day of Service (nationwide). Rotarians will partner with local communities and other organizations to complete service projects in their area.
3. Saturday, June 6, Crystal Mountain induction of new District Governor, **Julie Schumaker**

Listen, watch
**Rotary
District
6290**

Volunteers Needed! Adopt-A-Highway



Our next pickup for the Muskegon Rotary stretch of highway on I-96 will be on Saturday, April 18.

Volunteers will meet promptly at 8:45 am for a short safety talk, then head out on the road to pick up trash. We will finish no later than 11:00 am or sooner with more help. We also need two drivers to drive along with the volunteers picking up trash.

If you can help, contact **Esther Ricco**, riccoe@gvsu.edu, and she can provide you with more details.

Please be a part of keeping our adopted stretch of highway clean and taking action to protect our environment!



Muskegon Rising

MUSKEGON COUNTY RECYCLING EVENT

Saturday April 25th, 2026
from 9am-1pm



RAIN OR SHINE*

FREE TO COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY

BUSINESS WASTE AND REGULAR TRASH NOT ACCEPTED*

~~SCRAP TIRES~~ **NO TIRES WILL BE ACCEPTED**

Due to a delay in the EGLE Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant, NO tires will be accepted at this event. Please see www.muskegoncounty.net/1954 for more information on future tire events.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Including mercury, petroleum products, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, acids, bases, CFL and fluorescent light bulbs, and oil base paint products. Must be in containers no greater than 6 gallons; NO drums of any kind. Latex paint will not be accepted!

ELECTRONICS

Including computers, peripherals, TV's, and other electronic devices.

Visit: www.muskegoncounty.net/777 for a link to a full listing of accepted electronic items.

*Please note: CRT TV's WILL be accepted for this event

*Severe weather may cause a halt or shut down of the event as determined by the event coordinator.

*Event staff reserve the right to limit any collected materials and refuse apparent business waste.



VISIT: WWW.MUSKEGONCOUNTY.NET/777 OR CALL: 231-724-6001



Funding for this event:
Muskegon County Solid Waste, Muskegon County Sustainability Office
Michigan Department of EGLE Scrap Tire Clean-Up Grant

