

Visitors & Guests



Ammy Seymour introduces her guests and work colleagues Maddie Monroe and Amber Wallace.



Parker Aerts welcomes back fellow Rotarian **Stephanie Tushek**, who has returned from maternity leave following the August birth of her daughter!



[Click here](#) to see some of the memories of the community work done this year with this video produced by **Mike Vogas!**



Greg Borgman and his guest **Ron Kolberg**.



Marty Sytsema introduces our student guests: West Michigan Christian High School seniors Kasey Folkema and Annabelle Dykstra and their counselor, Christina Martin.

RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman

Jackie Farrar, & Ginny Sprague

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger

Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie,

& Sue Samaniego

Photographers: Wyatt Huggett, &

Roger Morgenstern

If interested in joining the RIM team, [click here](#) to email the editors. 😊



Pete DeBoer's guest **Rory Thibault** obviously finding humor in Pete's forehead being high enough to reflect the projector!

Rotary ReWine Schedule

1st and 3rd Thursdays each month
5:00-5:15pm Social time
5:15pm Meeting start time at the Core Plaza (Vault)

Support the fundraiser at **Red Robin** on **Tuesday, January 13th!**

RSVPs are due by **Wednesday at 5pm** for the Thursday meeting.

Contact **Kaytie Drake** at kaytieely@aol.com to RSVP (total # of people including any guests you are bringing) or if you have any



Carla Flanders with her guest **Jennifer Diamond**.

Spotlight Video

From Our DEI Committee



Where are you from? A video by Ken Tanaka Japan was our spotlight video this week from our DEI Committee.

Watch the two-minute video [here](#).

This Week's Program: Snurfer Returns to Muskegon



Snurfer: A Muskegon Legacy

SNURFER'S HOMECOMING

Bringing Snurfer Back Home to Where It All Started 60 years ago

- The Legend
- The Homecoming
- The Celebration

Presenter: Mike Jenkins
Introduced by: **Pete DeBoer**
RIM Reporter: **Jackie Farrar**



Production took place at Brunswick Corporation from 1966 to 1972 and almost one million boards were sold globally.



Our speaker Mike Jenkins holds up an original Snurfer slightly modified by a North Muskegon resident many years ago.



The Celebration

Snurfer 60th Anniversary

- Location: Brewers Lounge at Pigeon Hill
- Date: January 24, 2026
- Time: 2:00pm – 5:00pm

You don't want to miss this celebration!



Speaker Mike Jenkins with a vintage Snurfer and a special edition of Pigeon Hill beer to mark the Snurfer's 60th birthday!



Snurfer: The Legend

The Spark

Jake Burton Carpenter, a Snurfer enthusiast, added bindings to the design in 1979 – founding what we now know as **Snowboarding**. Becomes an official Olympic sport in 1998 – Winter Games, Nagano, Japan.

The Legend

Sherman Poppen a well-known Muskegon man decided to fasten a pair of skis together in his garage in 1965 to entertain his daughters. The name "Snurfer" was created by his wife Nancy, she combined the words "Snow and Surf" to create the iconic name Snurfer.

The Homecoming

The Jenkins brothers Mike and Rick acquired the company and relocated operations to the Muskegon area with help from a couple of locals. The boards are hand crafted locally and they are currently working on marketing them.



Snurfer: The Homecoming

The Local Legends

Since being here in the epicenter of where it all started, the stories have motivated us even more and confirms that we brought Snurfer back home where it truly belongs.

"I got it for Christmas from my parents when I was 11. Obviously, it saw a lot of use with my friends who had them. Mostly was used in the dune areas of Ferrysburg, Spring Lake Township, and Grand Haven." - Ron

"I used to ride my Snurfer with the original inventor, Sperm and his daughters." - Adam



Ammy Seymour, center, and her Harbor Hospice colleague Amber Wallace, left, chat with our speaker, Mike Jenkins about a 2-5 p.m. Jan. 24 event at Pigeon Hill's Brewers Lounge to celebrate the Snurfer's 60th birthday and auction off new Snurfers to benefit Harbor Hospice's Leila and Cyrus Poppen Hospice Residence. Snurfer inventor Sherm Poppen, and his sister Leila Poppen Reynolds, were the lead donors to the residence more than 20 years ago.

Jill Boterenbrood



Jill Boterenbrood serves as the Director of Events and Partnerships at Hope Network, a nonprofit based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she has been employed with distinction since 2014. With a creative eye and a strong foundation in relationship-building, Jill brings intention and artistry to experiences that connect people to purpose and mission. She holds a degree in Fine Art Photography and Liberal Arts, having studied at Grand Rapids Community College and Cornerstone University. A graduate of Coopersville High School, Jill lives in Eastmanville, Michigan, where her creative life continues beyond work through photography, oil painting, reading, and tending to her rose garden. She treasures time spent with her family and her dogs, grounding her professional passion in a life rich with creativity, community, and care. Jill is sponsored by **Kat Hyder**.

Inductions



Thomas Fought, Ben Carson, & Jill Boterenbrood – Newest Inductees with President Dave Alexander

Thomas Fought



Tom has more than 15 years of service in the Army, both active duty and reserve, with experience in military intelligence, Army honor guard, and force protection. Most recently, he qualified as an Army Historian through the Army's Command and General Staff College, reflecting a deep commitment to leadership, service, and community. Beyond his military service, Tom is

actively involved across Michigan in emergency management, veterans' programs, gun safety education, Stop the Bleed training, human-trafficking awareness, and historic preservation. He also operates a company focused on nonprofit and community safety and security, supporting organizations dedicated to public service. Professionally, Tom works for the federal government as an IT Program Manager in Battle Creek, with a background in public safety and crime prevention. He holds a bachelor's degree in business and computer science and is currently completing his MBA. At home, Tom and his wife Kristen are raising three young children, a role he considers his most important. Thomas is sponsored by **Greg Borgman**.

Ben Carson



Ben was born and raised in Muskegon. He graduated from Muskegon High School, earned his associate degree from Muskegon Community College, and went on to complete his bachelor's degree at Michigan State University. His professional journey has been a unique one. He began his career as a middle school science teacher where he developed a strong appreciation for education, patience, & community involvement. He later became a small business owner, running My Barefoot Wedding, a company that specialized in beach weddings along West Michigan's beautiful shoreline. Today, he works as a realtor, helping people find homes and build their future in the area he's always called home.

Outside of work, he has a strong love for animals. He and his wife, Jenna, have a dog and two cats, and he's also an avid aquarium hobbyist with four fish tanks at home. He enjoys staying active and is a big sports fan, with baseball, football, and golf being his favorites. When the weather allows, he loves spending time on the lake boating. One of the many reasons he appreciates living in West Michigan. He and Jenna currently live in the Lakeside neighborhood, and he's excited to be joining Muskegon Rotary. He looks forward to building relationships, serving alongside fellow members, and giving back to the community that has played such an important role in his life. Ben is sponsored by **Greg Borgman**.

Announcements

President Dave Alexander let members know that the Muskegon Rotary Board of Directors will be meeting at a different location as a chance to support the ReWine Fundraiser.

Carim Calkins reminds



members to eat at Red Robin on Jan. 13. Let them know you're there in support of Muskegon Rotary's

ReWine Club and 20% of the proceeds will go toward ReWine's efforts to support our upcoming service projects in Honduras and El Salvador!

ReWine Satellite Club **Dine to Donate** **Fundraiser!**

Get ready to enjoy some great food—and support a great cause! Join the ReWine Satellite Club as we rally support to help our Interact and Rotaract clubs grow, lead, and make an impact. Your participation fuels service projects that uplift local communities, supports international service trips, and builds essential leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. Together, we can empower these amazing young leaders and champion the work they're doing—near and far!

Fundraiser will be held on:

Tuesday, January 13, 2026
(All Day) at Red Robin
5785 Harvey St, Norton Shores
(20% of your food purchase will go towards this fundraiser)

Eat in person or order online. For orders to count towards the fundraiser, supporters must:



Red Robin® will give

**20% OF FOOD SALES*
BACK TO**

**ROTARY SATELLITE CLUB OF
MUSKEGON – REWINE**

Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to your server to have your sales counted.

FUNDRAISER DETAILS

5785 Harvey St., Norton, MI 49444
January 13, 2026*

If ordering online, please follow these instructions:

- 1 Start your order at redrobin.com/order and select the restaurant above.
- 2 In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (To-Go Only)" and click on that item.
- 3 Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
- 4 Add your meal items and check out.
- 5 Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pick-up, we can bring it to your car too!

*Fundraiser during restaurant operating hours. Visit redrobin.com and find this location to view hours. Donation based on all eligible net dine-in and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering (at select locations), 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, retail, tax and gratuity. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.

Red Robin

- Show the fundraiser flyer, email, or social post to your server in the restaurant, or
- Add the fundraiser to your cart ("Fundraiser To-Go") if you're ordering online (find this at the bottom of the menu categories on our online ordering homepage or mobile app).

Thank you for your support! Contact **Esther Ricco** or **Kaytie Drake** for additional questions.



MLK Unity Breakfast

Rotary’s Board of Directors and DEI Committee have two tables at the MLD Unity Breakfast Jan. 16, 7:30am at the convention center. Rotary may still have some tickets available. We will fill both tables so see **President Dave Alexander** or **Andy Beulow** if you are interested.

Lakeshore Literacy Summit



Melissa Moore shares that details are coming together for a Lakeshore Literacy Summit.

On Friday, March 27th, the Muskegon Rotary Club, in partnership with the Grand Haven & Spring Lake clubs, will be hosting the Lakeshore Literacy Summit. The event will take place at the Trillium from 8:30 - 12:00. More information will be coming soon. If anyone is interested in joining our club's Literacy Committee to help coordinate the summit and future literacy-focused club activities, please contact Melissa Moore at melissa.moore@readmuskegon.org



Tim Lipan shares with members an upcoming evening social event Jan. 29 at the Delta Hotel, which replaces our noon lunch meeting that day. Information has been e-mailed to members and a Sign-Up Genius will be forthcoming! Tim also shared the social committee's other events planned for 2026.

Rotary Evening Happy Hour Thursday, January 29, 2026 - 5:30pm – 7:00pm

- **Who:** This is a private event for Rotarians and their spouses and significant others.
- **What:** Join us for a special Muskegon Rotary Social Event that will take the place of our regular weekly meeting.
- **Where:** Delta Hotel Banquet Rooms (same place as our regular meetings)
- **When:** Thursday, January 29, 2026, 5:30pm – 7:00pm.

Light appetizers & cash bar

A Performance by “Mr. Green Thumb” from WZZM TV turned stand Up comedian - Rick Vuyst. Well known as the “thank you very mulch guy”, Rick will share his stand-up comedy routine and take questions around 6pm that evening.

Sign-Up Genius Link coming soon. Contact Tim Lipan if you have more questions at Lipant@comcast.net.



Kris VanderStelt, who worked alongside **Kevin Donovan** for years as fellow volunteers for the Michigan Irish Festival, shares thoughts about Kevin's community involvement and provides upcoming funeral service information:

Visitation:

📅 **Friday**, January 16, 2026

🕒 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

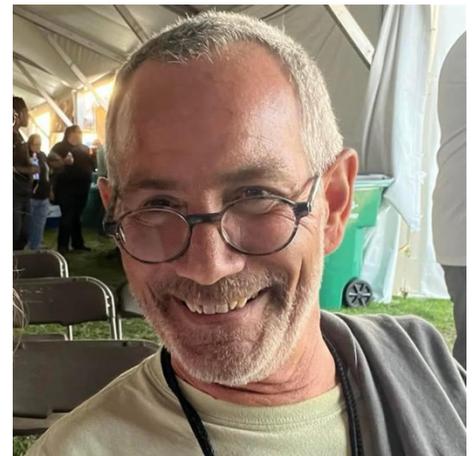
📍 **Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel**
6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores
MI 49444

Celebration of Life Service:

📅 **Saturday**, January 17, 2026

🕒 11:00 AM ET

📍 **Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel**
6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores
MI 49444

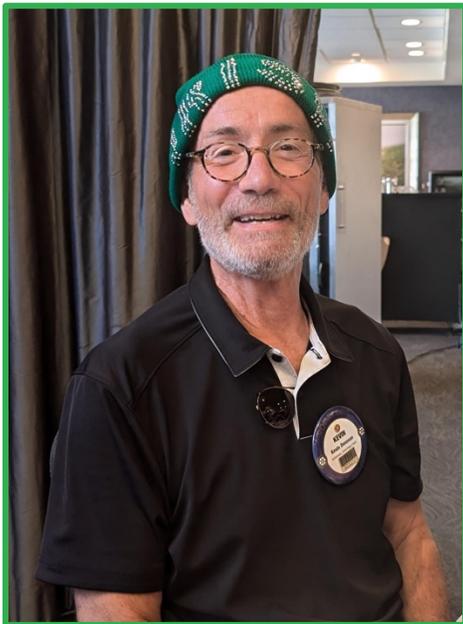


Kevin Joseph Donovan

Nov. 6, 1957 – Jan. 5, 2026

Link to his obituary:

<https://www.sytsemafn.com/obituaries/kevin-donovan-4/obituary>



Giving kids their first books

In Spanish, "chispa" means "spark," which is exactly our goal: to inspire and empower Honduran students with access to books.

Chispa Project works to create school libraries and spark a passion for learning that will grow and be nurtured through a community-driven approach. Since 2016, over 70,000 books have been delivered to more than 100 schools and organizations.

What's next? Read about the NEXT CHAPTER for 2025, as the Honduran school year starts in February. We have 10 new libraries planned, and we'll continue supporting our 2025 schools for another whole year to enhance the sustainability of their Chispa libraries.

Honduras Service Trip

This year's Chispa Project Library Build Honduras trip is June 21-28. The cost (minus airfare) is \$850 per person. This is the third year our Club and others, including the Grand Haven Club, have assisted Chispa in creating new libraries in Honduras. Contact **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** if you are interested.



Please welcome back Ed Hunt. Ed is a previous Rotarian and will rejoin our Club soon. Ed is a retired banker.



Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E50: Norman Young – Man Cave



This week, we sit down with community leader and fatherhood advocate Norman Young, founder of Man Cave and the seven-week curriculum A Father's Love. Norman shares how his Dad Detector Test helps dads uncover strengths, face blind spots, heal from past trauma, and move from fear-based parenting to a purposeful, love-centered approach.

Man Cave is making an impact across Muskegon County through free weekly cohorts, alumni connections, and partnerships with schools, recovery centers, and local nonprofits. If you've ever wondered how to strengthen fathers, families, and communities, this conversation delivers insight, hope, and practical next steps.

Listen to learn how to join a cohort, bring Man Cave into your organization, or support this growing movement of empowered fathers shaping Muskegon's future.

Episode link:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/18367595-norman-young-man-cave>

CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS



"He treasured his role as the Sergeant at Arms for the Muskegon Rotary Club."

You are missed already,
rest in peace Kevin.



Salvation Army Major Lynetta Poff and her newest employee, young toy poodle Velvet, accept a \$235 check from the Muskegon Rotary Foundation from **President Elect Roger Morgenstern**. With the help of **Assistant Sergeant at Arms Kevin Donovan**, who good naturedly collected fines from members at our Dec. 11 meeting, the Club raised the money for the local charity. Thank you to everyone who contributed!