

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

June 5, 2025

Next Meeting (June 12, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Cajon Pork Loin at the Lake House
Program Topic — Panel Presentation on Community Pride, Connection & Belonging

What's Coming

June 12 – Panel Presentation on
Community Pride, Connection &
Belonging

June 19 – Summer Festivals

June 26 – Tim Arter The Year in Review

July 3 – Passing the Gavel to the new
President

Upcoming Birthdays

June 14 Euginnia Seyferth

June 15 Dick Witham

Caring Connections Fund



[Click this link to donate \\$10 on your birthday](#)

Greeters This Week

Dimitri Poland

Cynthia Maynard

Reflector This Week

Kathy Moore

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern

RIM Reporter – Roger Morgenstern

RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

Reflection



Kathy Moore provided the Reflection.

Muskegon Rotary Board

Tim Arter, President

Dave Alexander, President-Elect

Roger Morgenstern, President Nominee

Ginny Sprague, Past President

Kristi Nagengast, Treasurer

Jane Clingman-Scott, Secretary

Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator

Directors:

Aaron Maike

Tom Palmer

Brandon Turnbull

Esther Ricco

Marty Sytsema

Lisa Tyler

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

Visitors & Guests



Kat Hyder introduces her guests Dan Hunt and Erik Alm.



Chad Lawie introduces his guest and his wife, LeeAnn Lawie.



Rob Taylor introduces his guests, two of his long time friends Darryl Trembath and Doug Mercer.



Kathy Moore introduces her colleague Nancy Bramer.



Greg Borgman shows he has a great relationship with his guest and pastor, Father Jared Cramer, by cracking a joke at his expense!



Jeremy Garcia shows that honesty is the best policy by clearly stating that his guest, wife and business partner Melanie Garcia is the brains of the operation!

RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Jackie Farrar

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie, Sue Samaniego, Ginny Sprague

Photographers: Mark Alpher, Wyatt Huggett, & Roger Morgenstern

Contributors: John Noling, Mike Vogas, & Doug Wood



Rachel Fawcett introduces her guest Chris Dean, a longtime board member of the Boys and Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore who is assisting the organization with administrative transition activities.

New Member



President Tim formally inducts **Dwana Thompson** as a new Rotarian as her sponsor, **Jim Fisher**, looks on.

Dwana Thompson serves as the EEO and Employee Relations Director for the City of Muskegon, where she has dedicated over 18 years to supporting city employees and the broader community. Her work spans compliance, risk management, workplace safety, equal opportunity, ADA coordination, employee wellness, policy development, and DEI initiatives in partnership with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).

When asked what she does, Dwana often says her primary role is “taking care of employees.” She is the co-facilitator of The Leadership Collective (formerly the Inclusive Leadership Academy), a collaborative effort between the City of Muskegon, Muskegon Community College and

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the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. The program, housed within MCC’s continuing education department, is designed to prepare people for leadership roles on community boards, committees and other decision-making bodies.

Dwana is also deeply engaged in civic and community service. She serves on the MLK Unity Breakfast Committee, the Julia Hackley Fund at the community foundation, the board of directors at Baker College, and as Audit Committee Chair for the Muskegon Heights Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. In addition, she is a member of the Steward Board and sings in the Inspirational Mass Choir at Phillip Chapel AME Church.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Michigan University, Human Resources certifications from Michigan State University and DEI training from Cornell University.

This Week’s Program:

Fresh Coast Alliance

Presenter: Joy Sparks

Introduced by: Melissa Horton



Melissa Horton introduces our program.



Our program presenter, Joy Sparks executive director of Fresh Coast Alliance.

Joy Sparks says she's spent plenty of time working "the school to prison pipeline" as an inner-city teacher in Muskegon County. She's also worked in the prison system and now as executive director of the Fresh Coast Alliance, is focused on making sure those facing addiction issues or getting out of prison get on the right path to a bright future.

Addiction and incarceration are issues familiar with many Rotarians, judging by an informal survey Joy conducted as she kicked off her program last week. She said Fresh Coast Alliance is "a faith-based organization right here in Muskegon's Sheldon Park Neighborhood to put people on the road to recovery."

The organization, which has an approximately \$1 million budget with funding sources ranging from individuals to organizations from the public and private sector, owns five houses within walking distance of their office at 1128 Roberts Street.

Men and women live, typically, in these "safe and sober recovery homes" for three months and attend counseling and educational sessions at the Roberts Street "hub." Fresh Coast Alliance works with numerous community organizations, such as Goodwill Industries on job placement for their clients. The alliance also works with Unity Festival, with a Christian music artist performing a free concert at the Muskegon Correctional Facility each year.

Fresh Coast provides 18 hours of free programs each week and even owns a therapy practice, Sparks said. "We offer hope by replacing bad habits with positive habits."

It also offers community meals twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

She said while Fresh Coast Alliance is faith based "I like to say we're going to show you Jesus every day but I'm not going to beat you over the head with it."

The statistics Sparks provided, both nationally and locally, show the problem they're working to address.

- America loses more than 100,000 men, women and children a year to overdoses.
- In Muskegon County, more than one life a week is lost to an overdose, with 86 in 2023.
- More than 2,000 men and women are released to Muskegon County from jail and prison each year. These individuals are up to 80 times more likely to overdose in the weeks immediately following the release.

She said the high drug abuse and prison recidivism numbers "is why we do what we do."

Looking at the numbers, Sparks said 2024 was a busy year addressing those issues:

- 500 men and women participated in their reentry and recovery programming;
 - 134 days of shared community meals "served with love;"
 - 70 men and women were housed in their five homes and
 - 135.5 pounds of coffee brewed "because recovery and reentry run on coffee."
- She joked to Rotarians "feel free to go to Sam's Club and drop off a big container of coffee."

She loves the quote from well-known author Johann Hari, "the opposite of addiction isn't sobriety, it's connection." She said Fresh Coast Alliance makes that connection with its programming, the five recovery homes and community meals.

She calls the Muskegon Correctional Facility, one of two state prisons in our county, "my happy place." As an example, she talked about Jason, once an inmate at the facility and now a member of her staff. "He was incarcerated the last time for 10 years and could have gone back to his old job as an electrician in Grand Rapids and picked up his old habits...now he is quickly realizing that Muskegon is a special place."

Sparks pointed out the T-shirt Jason was wearing in her slide presentation. In all capital letters, it proclaims "Jesus loves Felons, Drunks, Addicts and Prisoners." She joked "I like to wear that to the airport...I get some funny looks."
 "But we mean it...we're changing lives."
 For more information, visit www.freshcoastalliance.org

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E2: Keith Guy – Muskegon High School



The latest episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast features Coach Keith Guy in "More Than a Game."

As Athletic Director and Head Basketball Coach at Muskegon High School, Keith shares how he's led generations of students to success through discipline, trust, and heart, both on and off the court.

He sits down with Nancy Crandall to talk about the challenges and rewards of mentoring young people, why relationships matter, and what it takes to build a culture that lasts.

Listen to the full episode here:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17281876-keith-guy-muskegon-high-school>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



President Elect Dave Alexander invites fellow Rotarians to join him June 14 at a neighborhood cleanup of the linear "Ambrosia Corridor" in the city of Muskegon. The former "interurban" rail right of way is now owned by the State of Michigan and would be an incredible future urban greenway. Please meet at 10 a.m. at the intersection of Amity and Myrtle. Afterward, come on down to Rake in downtown Muskegon to learn more about the Shoreline Trails and Greenways Plan.



Rotary ReWine

ReWine meetings are every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month
 5:00-5:15pm Social time
 5:15pm Meeting start time
 At Core Plaza (Vault)
 Contact Kaytie Drake
 at kaytieely@aol.com for more information



Tim Lipan from the social committee encourages everyone to come on down to Historic Marsh Field on Tuesday June 10 for Muskegon Rotary Car Load Party at the Muskegon Clippers baseball game. See the detailed e-mail our own Kim Boersema sent out on June 3 for all the details. See you there!

Microforest Mondays

8:30 -10:30

Forest is growing!

Fun weeding!

Refreshments

Even an hour if you can spare

Marquette Ave at US 31

See John or Doug Wood for more information

Rotary In Action Martha Fohlbrook



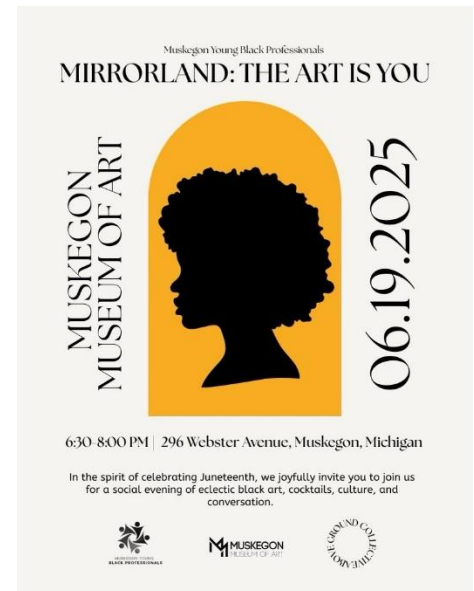
Our Rotarians in Action segment this week featured new Rotarian **Martha Fohlbrook**, the first member of her family to become a U.S. citizen. A native of Venezuela, she is now a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch. "When I was both a student and an immigrant at the same time when I started here was both challenging and rewarding." She said she looks forward to working with the youth of our community, especially those who have come to Muskegon from other countries, such as herself, to tell them they can make their dreams a reality. To watch her very compelling video, [here](#).



Learn about degrees, certificates and skilled trades, enjoy tours, prizes, food, free and discounted tuition info, and \$50 gift cards.

Tuesday, June 10, 5:30-6pm at Grand Haven Campus, 16777 Lincoln St.

DEI Corner



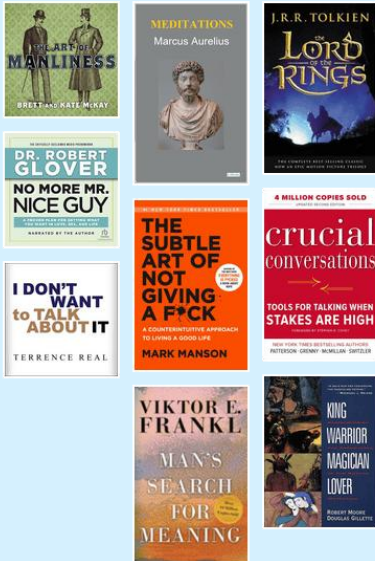
According to a White House proclamation, Juneteenth is a federal holiday commemorating one of the most important moments in American history: the end of the Civil War and the emancipation of Black Americans.

MADL top recommended reads



[Click here](#) to see the full list

June is Mens Health Month
To see a full list of recommended reads [Click here](#)



NM Early Act 5th graders at the final meeting of the year!

Four NMHS Interactors who have led them this year had games, fun, and ice cream for them!



They carried out two projects and are excited to be in middle school next year!

The high school students were organized and did a super job of leadership this year

Early Act North Muskegon

