

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

March 6, 2025

Next Meeting (March 13, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Italian Meatloaf at the DELTA
Program Topic – West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development

What's Coming

March 13—Shoreline Regional
Development Committee
March 20—Muskegon County Projects

Upcoming Birthdays

March 17 Eileen Stoffan
March 19 Cathy Brubaker-Clarke

Caring Connections Fund



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

Greeter This Week

Nancy McCarthy & Walter Mrotz

Reflector This Week

Kathy Moore



RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – CeCe Riley
RIM Reporter – Meredith Smillie
RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

3/6/2025 Muskegon Rotary
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

Visitors & Guests



Guest Brittany Dupont introduced
by Tiffany Dupont



Claire Root-Benson brought Lisa
Vanlonkhyzen as her guest



Dave Alexander with his guest
Martha Fohlbrook



Eric Ratkiewicz, guest of Dave
Mendendorp



Katrina Hyder introduced her
guest, Dan Heimler



Greg Borgman & Josh Karafa were
guests of Roger Morgenstern



Enrique Guitierrez was a guest of Tom Palmer

No Student Guests This Week

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 Maiké | Tom Palmer |
| Brandon Turnbull | Esther Ricco |
| Marty Sytsema | Lisa Tyler |

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

ReWine meetings are every 1st & 3rd Thursday each month at 5:15pm.

Contact **Kaytie Drake** at kaytieely@aol.com for more information.

March 20 – Meet at Core Plaza

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

This week's program: St. Cecilia Music Center



Presenter:

Introduced by: **Melissa Horton**

RIM Reporter: **Meredith Smillie**

Melissa Horton introduced **Tiffany Dupont Novak**. She is the development director for St. Cecilia Music Center in Grand Rapids.



Michigan that promotes music education and performance. St. Cecilia is the only building constructed by women in the United States. They are a predecessor of the Grand Rapids Opera and the Grand Rapids Civic Theater also has roots from the St. Cecilia Music Center. In 1971, saw St. Cecilia Music Center building was listed on the National Historical Society.

St. Cecilia Music Center was completely funded by the community and unique fund raisers to the building constructed. Many historical events have been held at St. Cecilia Music Center, including the first women's suffrage conference held outside of the US Capitol.

History

24 Ransom Avenue

Presenting Series

School of Music

St. Cecilia Music Center
CHAMBERJAZZFOLK

Our Mission

Since 1883, the mission of St. Cecilia Music Center has been to promote the appreciation, study, and performance of music in order to enrich the human spirit and enhance the quality of life for the residents of West Michigan.

St. Cecilia Music Center has been in existence since 1883. Nine musically talented women gathered to form a society to “promote the study and appreciation of music in all its branches, and to encourage the development of music in the community.” St. Cecilia Music Center was founded by women who wanted to start their own club, as they were not permitted to join men's clubs. They Center grew quickly. St. Cecilia Music Center is the oldest society in

Local suffragist Emily Burton Ketcham hosts; Susan B. Anthony, Lottie Wilson Jackson, and others speak at St. Cecilia's.

St. Cecilia Music Center went through a renovation to ensure that the building was barrier free and accessible to all patrons in 1993. Although the building has had renovations, it predominantly remains very similar to the original

building including a Tiffany-stained glass window featuring St. Cecelia, the patron saint of music. Tiffany shared that many people believe that St. Cecelia's is haunted. She shared that many ghost hunters have stayed overnight in their search. The ghost hunters were unable to get in the dressing rooms, but their

equipment was going crazy. Once the ghost hunters obtained access, and turned off the light and running toilet, everything calmed down. Tiffany shared that she believes that the ghosts are friendly and protect St.



musicians to West Michigan to perform in an intimate venue.

St. Cecelia's also hosts over 3,000 music students via their School of Music each year. Students of all ages love to perform at St. Cecelia School of Music via

ensemble performances and summer camps. St. Cecelia's also works with local school districts to introduce students to string instruments via the Stings to Students program. By introducing music to students, St.

Special Rotary Ticket Discount!

RCM2425 and can be used for \$29 tickets to any Chamber concert at: <https://www.scmcgr.org/>



Rotary In Action

Tres Johnson

Pours for Community Host at Wonderland Distillery



Tres Johnson has been working with the Muskegon Rotary for several years on our Pours For Community fundraisers. He enjoys giving back to the community, as does Wonderland Distilling. They are hosting one our events again this year.

See the full video — [Click Here](#).



SCMC TODAY: Presenting Series

"Best live performance I've ever experienced."
- Amos Lee concert attendee

SCMC's Presenting Series annually engages more than 7,000 individuals throughout West Michigan and features diverse jazz, folk, and chamber music artists. This series is unique to the region, bringing in-demand, Grammy award-winning musicians to West Michigan to perform in an intimate venue.

Cecelia's. The Presenting Series includes chamber, jazz, folk music and orchestras. St. Cecelia's continues to host internationally known artists and includes a meet and greet after the performances for audience members to meet performers. SCMC's Presenting Series annually engages more than 7,000 individuals throughout West Michigan and features diverse jazz, folk, and chamber music artists. This series is unique to the region, bringing in-demand, Grammy award-winning

Cecelia's demonstrates the positive impact that music has on students.

For the full interview: [Click Here](#)

77%

of Strings to Schools parents saw an increase in their child's confidence, and 77% noted that their student was a better team player after participating.



92%

of Strings to Schools students surveyed associated music with positive feelings of "happiness" or "fun." 65% of students made a new friend in Strings Class.



"Many of my students experienced their first live concert in this type of setting. For some that may be the only time they experience this in their childhood. The students were exposed to new genres of music and horizons were expanded."

New Member Inductions

Kathy Covington



Kathy E. Covington is a dedicated leader with a deep commitment to serving her community. A lifelong resident of Muskegon Heights, Kathy has spent her career advocating for families, improving healthcare access, and fostering meaningful change in the areas of child support enforcement, family court services, and community health.

With 37 years of experience in the legal and public service sectors, Kathy previously worked with the 20th Circuit Court Friend of the Court, where she focused on child support enforcement and child custody. Her extensive knowledge assisted families to navigate legal processes and family challenges.

In September 2024, Kathy took on a new leadership role as the CEO at Muskegon Family Care (MFC), a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). Under her leadership, MFC continues its mission to provide quality healthcare and support services to the community. She is committed to strategic growth, stakeholder engagement, and ensuring accessible healthcare for all.

Beyond her professional career, Kathy has been involved in community service. She has served on various boards, including the Domestic Violence Advisory Committee, and

the Muskegon Rescue Mission. She is also a member of the Women's Division of the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce

and has played an active role in mentoring and recruiting young professionals.

Kathy's dedication to service aligns perfectly with the Rotary Club's values, and she is honored to join this organization. She looks forward to working alongside fellow Rotarians to create a lasting impact in Muskegon. Kathy is sponsored by **Jenny McNeill**.



then was promoted to director of quality, risk, safety, accreditation and patient experience, and finally, the role she's in today:

director of community health and well-being (The Health Project) for Trinity Health Muskegon, Shelby and Grand Haven. In this role, she and her team are charged with implementing the Community Health Needs Assessment, where housing/homelessness, childcare and access to healthy food are the top three identified needs in our Muskegon-area community.

Michelle got her BS in Occupational Therapy at Western Michigan University (go Broncos), her MBA in Healthcare Management and her Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership and Development from Cornerstone University. She's also a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ).

Michelle is excited to join Muskegon Rotary to deepen her connections with community members and leaders. She hopes this will enhance her understanding of the needs of our community to better serve both the community and our patients. Michelle is sponsored by **Emma Peterson**.

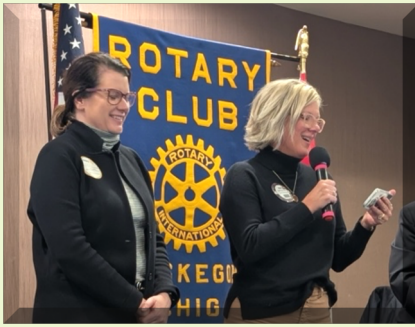
Michelle Gravlin



Michelle lives in Norton Shores near Hoffmaster State Park and has been married to Joe for 34 years. She enjoys reading, cooking, going for walks and boating in the summer. She is very close to her 3 adult children and loves to spend Saturdays with her daughter going for coffee and hitting all the local grocery establishments. She and her husband, Joe, serve as ministry small group leaders and Michelle also serves with the kindergartners at Harvest Bible Chapel in Spring Lake. Michelle has had a 20+ year career with Trinity Health. She started as an occupational therapist, was in a couple different management roles,



Euginnia Seyferth



Euginnia Seyferth is a dedicated real estate professional with a passion for helping first-time home buyers navigate one of the most important decisions of their lives. As an agent at Nexes Realty, she is committed to delivering exceptional service, clear communication, and meticulous attention to detail. With professionalism at the forefront, Euginnia ensures a seamless experience for both buyers and sellers, guiding them with confidence every step of the way. Before transitioning into real estate, Euginnia built a distinguished career in philanthropy, fundraising, and event management. With 19 years of experience, she held leadership roles at the Vail Valley Foundation and Ski & Snowboard Club Vail, where she managed donor portfolios, exceeded fundraising goals, and executed high-profile events. Her ability to foster relationships and drive success made a lasting impact on the communities she served.

A native of New Hampshire, Euginnia attended New Hampton School (GO Huskies!), where she excelled both academically and athletically. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Sport Management from Colby-Sawyer College (Go Chargers!). A lifelong athlete, she was honored with inductions into both the New Hampton School Athletic Hall of Fame and the Colby-Sawyer College Athletic

Hall of Fame for her achievements in alpine skiing, soccer, and softball. Euginnia's journey has taken her from New Hampshire to Colorado, and now to North Muskegon, Michigan, where her husband, Brodie, grew up. She and Brodie are raising their two sons, Fisher (6) and Brooks (3), who keep them active with hockey, football, and plenty of outdoor adventures. When she's not working with clients or spending time with family, Euginnia enjoys giving back to her community, staying active, and continuing to grow in her industry. Euginnia is sponsored by **Heidi Sytsema**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

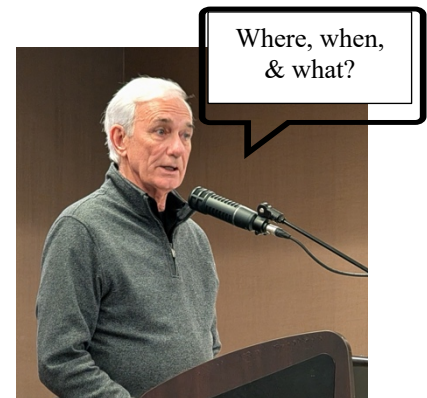


Rotary After Hours – Muskegon Area Career Tech Center
Tuesday, March 18, 2025
5:30pm – 7:00pm

Who: All Rotarians, Interact, Rotaract and their family and friends.

What: Rotary social event at the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center with an opportunity to network with fellow Rotarians and learn about one of the jewels of Muskegon County. The Muskegon Area Career Tech Center offers 17 areas of relevant hands-on career training, academic credit, and free college credit, for high school juniors and seniors in Muskegon County.

Classes include: Allied Health Auto Collision/Refinishing Auto Service Technology Bio Tech & Engineering Computer Aided Design (CAD) Construction Trades Cosmetology Criminal Justice Electrical/Computer Technology Environmental/Veterinary Sciences Graphic Production Hospitality & Food Management Health Science Academy Software Design & Development Teacher Academy Machining/Engineering Technology Welding Technology



Where: Muskegon Area Career Tech Center - 200 Harvey St, Muskegon, MI 49442

When: Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 5:30pm – 7:00pm.

What Do I Receive?

- Culinary students will be serving their prepared appetizers
- Brief remarks about the Career Tech Center
- Tours of the facility
- The Criminal Justice students will be manning the parking lot, doors, and helping guide us.
- Water and soft drinks.

How Much? FREE

How to sign up: No registration necessary but it would be helpful to sign up on sign-up genius.

Follow Us Here:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/18LzMXivhf/>

Questions: Contact Tim Lipan at Lipant@comcast.net or 231-740-0982.

Braver Angels

March 21 is the Braver Angels Red Blue (and Purple!) workshop titled "Bridging the Political Divide," organized by our Peacebuilders Committee. This workshop will move forward to the next step with helping conservatives and liberals rebuild trust and engaging in productive conversation. Contact **Nancy McCarthy** to sign up for this workshop on March 21st at 9am-Noon.

International Friendship Exchange



Dave Alexander, President Elect, Announced on behalf of **Kristi Pawlak** and the Rotary Youth Exchange Committee, that we are looking to host a group of Rotarians from another country (keeping it as a surprise). They will be visiting from June 12th through June 19th and will need host families. Eight women and one gentleman. If you are interested in helping to host or in other ways, contact Dave or Kristi.



March Madness Brave Rotarians Contest!

We are ready to kick off our March Madness Brackets. Well....almost... Selection Sunday is on March 16.

Meredith

Smillie will have brackets available shortly after. Thank you to those participating! Two gentle reminders for contestants:

1. Payment:

If you have not already submitted payment, Meredith will accept cash, a check made out to The Rotary Foundation, or the below QR code if you would like to use a credit card:

Muskegon Rotary Foundat
ion Brave Rotarians



2. If you have not specified a bracket, now is your last chance to let me know. If you do not specify, Meredith will choose for you when she does the random draw on Sunday evening.

Again, thank you so much for your participation and support of the Rotary Foundation.

Brave Rotarians

Pours for Community



We are looking for **hosts and new member**

hosts for our upcoming **Pour Events** and would love your support!

What is Pours?

Pours is one of Muskegon Rotary's key fundraising events, helping us "**pour the money back**" into the community and beyond. Funds raised support local and international causes, including literacy programs, youth leadership, community projects, and global humanitarian efforts.

Upcoming Events & Locations Needing Hosts:

- **Thurs. 4/17 – 794 Kitchen & Bar** (Host Needed)
- **Mon. 4/21 – Unruly Brewing** (Host Needed)
- **Thurs. 4/24 – Community House** (Host Needed – AM & PM Slots Available)
- **Fri. 5/2 – Wonderland Distilling** (Host Confirmed)
- **Tues. 5/6 – Muskegon Brewing Company** (New Member Host Needed)

We are specifically looking for **Rotarians and new members** to step up as **event hosts** to welcome and engage attendees. If you're interested, please contact **Dimitri Poland** at dimitri.poland@braeburnwealth.com.

Thank you for supporting Rotary and our mission!

Joint Community Service Project with the Grand Rapids Rotary Club



Roger Morgenstern asks Rotarians to sign up for our next joint service project with the Grand Rapids Downtown Rotary Club. We'll be doing work at Kids Food Basket in Grand Rapids.

Date: Sat., 03/29/2025

Time: 9:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m. EDT

Location: Kids Food Basket, 1300 Plymouth Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Work involves packing KFB sack suppers and/or prepare food, creating single servings out of KFB's bulk food purchases. We have 50 spots available for adults and children ages 16 and older accompanied by an adult who will be working in the Food Warehouse from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. We will then have a fellowship/social hour at a nearby local establishment still being determined.

Since this is also a friends and family-friendly event, KFB can host and accommodate an additional 20 Rotarians and young children (ages 4 to 15) who will be sitting in the KFB Lobby Area (just outside the Food Warehouse) decorating KFB lunch/supper bags with loving messages and drawings. All bags, markers, crayons etc. are provided by KFB.

Rotary Club of Muskegon

Join your fellow Rotarians from Grand Rapids and Muskegon, and bring along your families and friends for our

Joint Community Service Project
at Kids Food Basket
&
Social Gathering/ Fellowship
with the Rotary Club of Muskegon

Saturday March 29

9:30-11:30am Service Project

12-1:30pm Social Gathering

WHERE

- Kids Food Basket (Grand Rapids Location)
- 1300 Plymouth Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505

WHO

- This is a fun and family-friendly Volunteer Opportunity, so bring along your family and friends!
- 50-60 Volunteers Needed

SERVICE PROJECT: 9:30 - 11:30 am

- All Rotary Volunteers should arrive by 9:15am at KFB.
- Create/pack healthy and nourishing meals for kids :-)
- Two Meal Production Shifts are available:
 1. Create single serving lunches out of bulk food purchases
 2. Pack Sack Suppers (mostly dry goods)

SOCIAL GATHERING: 12:00 - 1:30 pm

- Lunch and Social Hour at a nearby family-friendly restaurant (Location TBA soon!)

FUN & FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES @ KFB

- Bring your family (*great for younger kids and teens!*) and get creative while having tons of fun!
- Decorate Paper Lunch Bags with your artistic designs and loving messages for the kids receiving lunches (All materials - bags, crayons, markers etc. - are on site.)

REGISTER HERE!

KFB requires volunteers to sign up directly using the QR code on this flier. An account needs to be created for each Rotarian. After scanning QR Code with your phone, select the "Get Started" button on the top right of your screen to create your account. When selecting a work site, select "Kent County Onsite Events" and our March 29 Service Project will then appear. If

a Rotarian brings a guest (i.e., spouse, partner, colleague, neighbor, child, grandchild, friend), **they should register themselves and add the number and names of their guest(s)**, and the kid's age (if possible). Please contact KFB for any questions at volunteer@kidsfoodbasket.org. Any questions about the event, please contact Roger Morgenstern, rogmorgen@gmail.com.

N

CRIP CAMP

Inclusivity in Focus: A Crip Camp Screening

Inclusivity in Focus: “Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution” Screening

APRIL 15 @ 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Public Screening of *Crip Camp* at the Frauenthal Theater to Spark Dialogue on Disability Awareness and Inclusion

Brad Hastings

announced a transformative evening of film, conversation, and community engagement is coming to Downtown Muskegon. On April 15, 2025, at the

Frauenthal Center, a coalition of agencies that provide services to the disability community will host a screening of the award-winning documentary *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*. This film chronicles the origins of the disability civil rights movement, highlighting the activism that paved the way for disability civil rights legislation and continued advocacy for accessibility and inclusion today. We will begin with a reception in the lobby at 5:30 p.m., offering attendees an opportunity to connect with local organizations, enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and access a cash bar. Nonprofit exhibitors will share information and resources that are available to the Muskegon community. The screening of *Crip Camp* will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by a



facilitated discussion featuring members of the local disability community. This post-film conversation will encourage attendees to reflect on the film's

themes and explore ways to advance inclusion and equity in our communities. Learn how disability inclusion can help foster innovation, enhance your reputation, and create real, positive impacts in your community. This event is about more than just watching a film—it is about fostering dialogue, raising awareness, and inspiring action. *Crip Camp* tells a powerful story of advocacy and resilience, and we hope it will spark important conversations about disability rights, accessibility, and opportunities in Muskegon.

Thanks to funding from the Community Foundation for Muskegon County and the Consumers Energy Foundation, this event is free and open to the public. Community members, advocates, employers, educators, and policymakers are encouraged to attend and engage in this important discussion. Registration and accommodation requests can be made through the Disability Network West Michigan website and are highly encouraged. For more information, please visit the event page [HERE](#)!

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E9: Ken James - Muskegon Community College



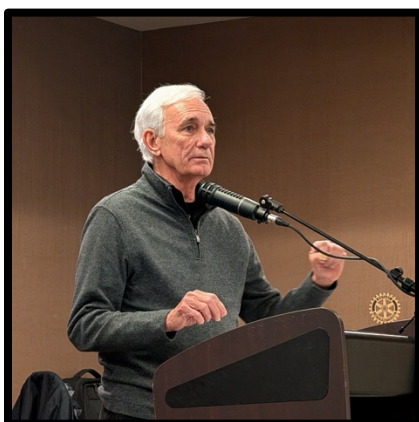
In the latest episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, Ken James, Muskegon Community College's first Chief Diversity Officer, shares how MCC fosters diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging on campus and in the Muskegon community.

Ken discusses student support programs, faculty training, and community partnerships that eliminate barriers to success. With over 30 years of DEIB experience, Ken highlights the power of dialogue and intentionality in driving meaningful change.

Listen now to learn how MCC and Ken are making an impact.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/16734723-ken-james-muskegon-community-college>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)



Tim Lipan invited all Rotarians to the District 6290 Empowerment and Leadership Summit, which will be held here in Muskegon on May 3-4, 2025 (See Flyer attached)!

It's a great time for fellowship with Rotarians from across the district, panel discussions (including how to create a large, signature event, how to inspire financial giving, leadership and succession planning, etc.), and breakout sessions (fundraisers that work, vision facilitation, engaging youth in our community, etc.).

There will also be great food (four meals included) and entertainment with a dance party and the internationally known illusionist/magician, Franz Harary. All of this for only \$175!

Register as soon as possible for this incredible event!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE Empowerment & Leadership Summit AGENDA](#)

Let's make a difference together!
🌍❤️ and create some magic!



Immerse yourself in powerful learning experiences

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 6290
EMPOWERMENT &
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
MAY 3 – 4, 2025
MUSKEGON, MI**

- Celebrating outstanding clubs and their impact
- Best practices for planning and executing successful projects
- Creating a strong club identity and community presence
- Leadership Development workshops
- Inspiring stories of The Rotary Foundation's Impact

**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Women History Month

Staff-created list

Celebrate Women's History Month from March 1 to March 31, 2025. Women's History Month began as a smaller "Women's History Week" on March 7, 1982 and was later petitioned by the National Women's History Project to become a month-long celebration. The month of March officially became Women's History Month in 1987 and gives us the opportunity to acknowledge the historical contributions of women in the United States. International Women's Day is observed on March 8th. Learn more about Women's History Month.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view MADL's recommended reads for March!

