

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

May 1, 2025

**Next Meeting (May 8, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Soup and Sandwiches at the Lake House
Program Topic – Law Day**

What's Coming

May 6 – Law Day

May 15 – El Salvador and Honduras
Trip

Upcoming Birthdays

May 9 Susan Holkeboer
May 9 Amy Hosford

Caring Connections Fund



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

Greeters This Week

Dave Alexander
Martha Fohlbrook

Reflector This Week

Eileen Stoffan

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Mark Alpher
RIM Reporter – Sue Samaniego
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

Rotary ReWine

ReWine meetings are every 1st & 3rd
Thursday each month at 5:15pm at
the Core Plaza (Vault). Contact
Kaytie Drake at kaytieely@aol.com for
more information.

Reflection



Reflection by Eileen Stoffan

Visitors & Guests



Megan Byard-Karaba with guest Stephen
Pettifor



Marty Sytsema with Holton HS guests



Ken James with guest Derrick King



Nancy McCarthy with guest Jennifer Wakely

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](#):



Megan Byard-Karaba receives a Paul Harris Award



Lashae Simmons and Philip Croft guests of Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga

Paul Harris Fellow Award



Meredith Smillie and Randy Lindquist introduced a Paul Harris award



Judy Hayner introducing guest speakers Missy Horton & Bethann Egan



Missy Horton with guest Stuart Jones



This Week's Program:



Presenters: **Melissa Horton & Bethann Egan**

Introduced by: **Judy Hayner**



Melissa Horton, Executive Director at Lakeshore Museum Center
Bethann Egan, Executive Director of the USS Silversides Submarine Museum

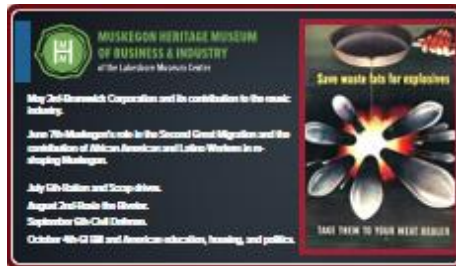
Eighty years ago, the world emerged from a global conflict that changed the course of history. World War II ended in 1945, but its legacy remains etched into the fabric of our nation, and Muskegon. Local factories produced war supplies. Our citizens served at home and abroad, and the West Michigan shoreline saw the movement of ships and goods critical to Allied victory.

Muskegon County is coming together to honor the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII. From May through September, museums and attractions across the region (8 or the 15 museums represented in



“Muskegon’s aMazing Museums” [M3]) will launch a series of exhibits, events and tours that pay tribute to the Greatest Generation and Muskegon’s role in the war effort.

The collaboration will offer rich, immersive experiences for all ages. Visit Muskegon has generously assisted with marketing and providing a landing site for all the events. You can reach this site by using the QR code on the title slide. Here is a taste of what is coming, but be sure to visit the site, because more events are being added!



The **Muskegon Museum of Business and Industry** plans to celebrate the contributions of local businesses during WWII through a series of themed community days that complement the exhibit, “Homefront Hero’s” at the Muskegon Museum of History and Science. Themes range from looking at the contributions of women in local factories, to looking at the impact of the great migration and companies bringing workers up from the south. Later in the summer they will also talk about what life was like for returning soldiers and the lasting impacts on business in our community.

Montague Museum will have a new display focusing on their military collection. Highlights are star flags, Purple Hearts, and getting an up-close look at rare wartime artifacts.



Muskegon Museum of History & Science is showcasing their Home Front Heroes exhibit, which explores the lives of ordinary citizens who did extraordinary things to support the war effort right here in Muskegon. Did you know that Continental Motors had between 10,000 and 11,000 workers here in Muskegon. They built nearly 1/3 of the engines that went into Sherman Tanks. What about CWC Muskegon was responsible for making 85% of the tank track used by all the Allies during the war. Muskegon formed its Civil Defense Corp program in July 1941, but after Pearl Harbor it ramped up and had 10,000 volunteers enroll in 10 days.

The exhibit looks at those factories that turned into wartime machines, civil defense, the red cross, rationing and victory gardens and of course propoganda posters and POW farm labor and camps. Come play in our victory garden or listen to the testimonials of what life was like from our oral histories.



The Muskegon Museum of Art is debuting a new immersive exhibit—Julia Child: A Recipe for Life. Long before Julia Child became a beloved

television chef, she served in the Office of Strategic Services or the OSS, which was the precursor to the CIA. Child was deemed too tall for military service, so she worked as a top-secret researcher and file clerk before being stationed overseas in what is now Sri Lanka and China. The exhibit will be a great experience to learn more about a beloved American icon.



The **SS Milwaukee Clipper** ran a triangle route during the war between Chicago, Milwaukee and Muskegon. It carried copper wire from Anaconda that was being sent to Allen-Bradley in Milwaukee, now a division of Rockwell. From Brunswick it took furniture, pool & billiard tables, and bowling equipment to the military. The Lakey Foundry shipped engine blocks and Shaw Walker shipped office furniture and filing cabinets. Tank engines and aircraft engines were shipped west on the Clipper from Continental Motors, and the Muskegon Milling Co. shipped flour West. The Clipper will offer Historical Tours that will take you through this history as you learn how this iconic ship carried people and cargo on a wartime triangle route. During WWII, the railroad industry played a huge role in transporting troops and military supplies. It was critical in moving large amounts of people and resources quickly and all at once.



The White Lake Area Chamber & Visitors Bureau in Whitehall houses the **White Lake Depot - Caboose Museum**, self-guided and free to all from Memorial Day through Labor Day. For the 80th anniversary, the 90702 Caboose will have additional historical facts throughout the museum. In addition to the history of the railroad industry in the White Lake Area, it will include facts and information about the railroad industry's impact on World War II.



On Saturday, May 24th the **USS Silversides** will be hosting the first ever Lights of Honor: Remembering Our Heroes event, lighting up the Muskegon Channel with 400 glowing luminaries - each one representing over 100 service members each - there are over 40,000 fallen service members from Michigan alone. We have the chance to stand together with those who served - and the families who continue to carry their memories now that they are gone.

This event will start with family-friendly fun at 4 p.m. Build your own Jumpin' Joe Beyrle paratrooper and step into the drop zone to see how he lands. Learn about the art of folding

our country's flag and what each fold means. Take a dive underwater with their remotely operated vehicles. Listen to the engines of the highly decorated WWII Gato-Class, the USS Silversides - Muskegon's submarine at 6 p.m. Stick around for a free night at the USS Silversides, watch the sunset from the deck, or come back and walk the glowing luminaries that will be set up along the pier after dark. It is sure to be a sight to remember.

Throughout the summer, USS Silversides will host many other events and programs including Behind the Scenes Tours of the USS Silversides, the first Sunset Sub Social, and the annual Victory Gala, a 1940s USO themed dinner in the Channel View Room at the museum.

On June 6, 1944, a vessel here in Muskegon, MI was on the beaches of Normandy. The **USS LST 393** is one of three ships still around that were at Omaha Beach. In honor of the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, the museum is hosting a special commemoration on June 6, 7, and 8 - complete with WWII reenactors, military vehicles, discounted tours, and the popular "Air Raid Muskegon" reenactment. A highlight of the event will be a keynote address by Medal of Honor recipient Jim McCloughan, a Vietnam War combat medic whose bravery echoes the sacrifices made by those who served aboard the LST 393. The museum is an incredible local treasure and a powerful reminder of the courage and resilience of our veterans. This summer's Movies on Deck will be WWII features, and they will do Fireworks on the deck on July 4th.

More than a collection of events, this summer brings a living tribute to the courage, sacrifice, innovation, and

resilience that defined a generation. With each exhibit, reenactment, and story shared, there is an opportunity to honor the legacy of those who gave so much - not only on the front lines, but here at home in West Michigan.

Please visit the event site for more information and details on all the to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII. By visiting these museums, volunteering your time, or simply spreading the word, you become part of this legacy. YOU help keep history alive - not as something distant, but as something that still shapes our communities, our values, our children, our future. Let's show that Muskegon remembers - and always will.



2025 WWII Anniversary Celebration:
From Arsenal of Democracy to Arsenal of Remembrance
*** May - September 2025 *** Plan your visit ***

<p>Muskegon Museum of History & Science Home Front Home Front February 13, 2025 - February 2025 The Home Front Home Front exhibit will explore the home front experience of the end of WWII by looking at the role of the home front in Muskegon's role in the war effort. See www.museumofhistoryandscience.org/home-front-exhibit</p>	<p>USS SilverSides Submarine Museum End of WWII 80th Anniversary In 2025, the USS SilverSides Submarine Museum will host a special series of events commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. These programs are designed to honor the courage and bravery of those who served on submarines and share their stories with new generations. www.silveridesmuseum.org</p>
<p>Muskegon Museum of Business & Industry Community Steps This summer, the Muskegon Museum of Business & Industry will celebrate the contributions of local businesses during WWII. Our exhibit will feature a film and events. www.museumofbusinessandindustry.org</p>	<p>USS Minnesota Clipper Clipper Years Summer 2025 During the war, the Clipper was a transportation to Canada, New Mexico, and back to Alaska. It was the only ship that carried a full crew of 1000. www.usnavy.org</p>
<p>USS LST 393 D-Day Commemoration The USS LST 393 is a very rare WWII artifact. It is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the only one of its kind in the world. www.usnavy.org</p>	<p>Muskegon Museum of Art Art & Design for Life June 1 - Sept 1, 2025 Join our artist Julia Clark in a new exhibit for the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII. Her work is a tribute to the war effort. www.museumofart.org</p>
<p>Muskegon Museum Historical Association See a rare collection of artifacts, documents, and photos as well as a Reg. newspaper, photos, and a movie. Don't miss it! www.museumofhistoryandscience.org</p>	<p>White Lake Depot The White Lake Area Chamber & Visitors Bureau will host a special exhibit for the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII. The exhibit will feature a film and events. www.white-lake.com</p>

Even QR code for more information about all of these events and exhibits or go to www.muskegon.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community House
Coffee Shop

New Member Social- Pours for Community

Join other new members and enjoy a cup of coffee.

Thursday April 24
7:30-9:30 am
or
5:00-7:00 pm

Rotary In Action
Roger Morgenstern

Roger Morgenstern will become the President of the Muskegon Rotary Club in 2026. He describes the planning that underlies the continuous improvement each President is able to bring the club based on studious preparation and on the job training. President Tim Arter has initiated a process to install deeper understanding of the President's responsibilities and strengths by including his successors in club planning, years in advance of their tenure.

To watch his video, click [here](#).

Dear Fellow Rotarians of Rotary District 6290,

Through the generosity of Rotary Charities of Traverse City, our Rotary District 6290 can offer again the PHF, 500 recognition point match program. Participating in this Foundation Annual Fund will further our Foundation Grants program. Every dollar contributed to the Foundation Annual Fund will count towards our available DDF.

I hope you will consider participating in this great program and support our Rotary Foundation Annual Fund.

For every \$500.00 cash donation to the Annual Fund, 500 points will be added from the generous gift of the Traverse City Charities, for a Paul Harris Fellow award. You may designate yourself or someone you know to assign the PHF award. If you are interested in participating, please contact Meredith Smillie at 616-566-9828 or msmillie@bethany.org

DEI Corner

Beyond Polarization
Making Conversations Possible
community conversation series

Join us in person for free workshops with Braver Angels, designed to help you navigate differences, build understanding, and connect over meaningful conversation (and food).

<p>D polarizing Ourselves May 29 1:30 PM - 7:30 PM White Lake Community Library</p>	<p>Skills for Disagreeing Better June 3 1:30 PM - 7:00 PM Hackley Public Library</p>	<p>Families and Politics June 4 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM MADL Nottin Shores Branch</p>
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For more information and to register visit www.braverangels.com/conversations



Jason Piasecki shared that a survey is coming regarding our website

"It's springtime and for many of us, it's an opportunity to freshen things up a bit. That's what the Club is looking to do with our website, www.muskegonrotary.org.

We want to hear from you...what you like about the website, what could be improved and maybe items that are missing or difficult to find. All feedback is encouraged and appreciated.

Please send your thoughts to Roger Morgenstern, rogmorgan@gmail.com. Thank you!

Neal Fitness Center – Discounts Rates for Rotary Members

Thanks to a community partnership, our employees are eligible for benefits at the Neal Fitness Center in Downtown Muskegon!



You qualify for discounted memberships and more!

- ▶ Discounted all-inclusive \$50/month memberships for individuals 18+ (reg. \$60/month), plus discounted programs
- ▶ Family Add-on Membership discounts: \$30/month for 12+, \$10/month for under 12.
- ▶ Discounted rental rates for both NFC and the Boys & Girls Club facilities including the pool, cafeteria, gym, art room, STEM lab, and more.



Membership is all-inclusive & offers

- Group Fitness Classes
- 6-lane Pool
- Weight & cardio machines
- Full Gym with indoor track
- Basketball, pickleball, racquetball +
- Special Programs and Events

Don't miss these opportunities:
Come in on a FREE Day Pass for an all-access visit!
Join our SPRING & SUMMER Promotion:
 Qualify for the discounted membership rates on NFC programs: Learn-to-Swim Lessons, Beginner Pickleball Clinic, etc. then get the initiation fee of \$50 waived if you join by Aug 31st!

Please bring a copy of this notification and your ID to get your Free Day Pass, the Spring & Summer Promotion, or sign up for membership.

We're here and happy to help.
 ☎ 231-375-7041
 email: info@nealfitnesscenter.com
 900 W. Western Ave. Muskegon MI 49442 www.nealfitnesscenter.com



Pours for Community

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

(sign-up is not necessary but appreciated for appetizer planning)

****Thurs. 4/17, 5-7pm**
– 794 Kitchen & Bar

**** Mon. 4/21, 5-7pm**
– Unruly Brewing

[Sign up for 4/21 here](#)

****Thurs. 4/24, 7:30-9:30am & 5-7pm** – Community House

****Fri. 5/2, 4-6pm**
– Wonderland Distilling

****Tues. 5/6, 5-7pm**
– Muskegon Brewing Company

Thank you for supporting Rotary and our mission!

Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E17: Troy Wasserman – Lumberman's Vault



Troy Wasserman from Core Development joins us to talk about the transformation of the Lumberman's Vault and what it means for downtown Muskegon. From food and drink to community and culture, this project is more than a building. It's a signal that our city is moving forward, together.

Listen now wherever you get your podcasts.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17068215-troy-wasserman-lumberman-s-vault>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

Rob Taylor talks about bikes and encourages everyone to take the online survey

Hello!
 Help Us Develop The Shoreline Trails and Greenways Plan. We're identifying where people want to walk, ride, or roll around Muskegon and northern Ottawa Counties.



ONLINE SURVEY



SCAN HERE

Please take the survey to share how you get around and where you want to see trail improvements.

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

Social Committee Save the Dates

May 21st Touring the Hackley Admin building 5:30 – 7:00

June 10th Clipper Car load Party "opening day" 5:30