

The RIM Newsletter

Rotary In Motion



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 14, 2026

May 21, 2026, Meatloaf at the Lake House Program – Central America, Honduras, Muskegon Connection

What's Coming

May 21 – Central America, Honduras
Muskegon Connections

Upcoming Birthdays

May 22 Pam Babbitt
May 22 Greg Sischo
May 24 Alex Fonseca
May 24 Bob Scolnik
May 26 Cynthia Maynard
May 27 Marty Sytsema
May 27 Amy White



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

Stage Manager This Week

Ammy Seymour

Greeters This Week

Greg Borgman
Marty Burns

Reflector This Week

Susan Crain

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Susan Besteman
RIM Reporter – Meredith Smillie
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar



President Nominee Lisa Tyler headed this week's meeting with a regal entrance song.

Visitors and Guests



Jill Bonthuis with guest Karen Breitenbach, Marketing and Office Manager for Pioneer Resources.

Reflection



Susan Crain led the reflection.



Walter Mrotz with his guest (his grandson), Liam Mrotz, who just finished his second year at Michigan Tech.



Bob Scolnik with his guest, Lee Fonstein (President of Congregation at Temple B'nai Israel)

Muskegon Rotary May 14th
YouTube Video: [CLICK HERE](#)

May 21st, there will not be a Zoom option for our weekly meeting.



Past President **Tim Arter** welcomed our Mona Shores Early Act club members (20 students from Lincoln Park 5th Grade).



Advisors **Tim Zinger** and **Amy Recor** mentioned how dedicated these young leaders are with meeting once a month after school and during some recesses to plan out their community projects.



Shares information about the tutoring and teacher assistant project where these young leaders gave up some of their recess time to serve as tutors, teaching assistants, and overall helpers in their school.



Sharing their community project of planting flowers and delivering cards and flowers to neighbors.



Sharing their world project towards donating money towards Save the Children.

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](#):

Inductions



Our two newest Rotarians in the world with their sponsors.



Rachel VanDyke with sponsor **Jim Fisher**
Rachel VanDyke is a second-generation Rotarian. Her father Gene Logan was a proud Rotarian for many years, and it is meaningful to continue that legacy.

Her husband Bryan, and her have been married for 30 years, and are the proud parents of two sons. Heath recently graduated from Kendall College of Art and Design with a BFA in Photography, and Xander has just completed his junior year at Michigan State University.

Rachel earned a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and a master's degree from Grand Valley State University, and my Doctorate degree from Walt Disney World. On June 20th she will be ordained as a Rabbi.

She has spent the last 30 years teaching Kindergarten and will retire on June 10th. She is also a huge theater fan and loves volunteering backstage with Muskegon Civic Theatre Crew Productions.



Theresa Bernhardt with sponsor **Greg Borgman**

Born and raised in Troy, Michigan; Theresa's parents instilled a strong work ethic and values that mirror those in action through Rotary.

A graduate of Troy Athens High School and Wayne State University, Theresa began her career in the corporate fitness industry in 1984. Theresa met Mike in 1986 and two years later they married and moved to Muskegon. Theresa continued her journey as an independent contractor, teaching corporate fitness classes, yoga & meditation; expanding to add "Exercise for Two," pre- and post-natal yoga classes for Hackley and Muskegon General hospitals.

Theresa and Mike have been blessed with three wonderful children, (you may recall meeting them during the presentation of "The Corner"), Jacqui, (her husband Dayne; children Drew & Delainey), Alex, and Victoria.

In 1996, during Theresa's pregnancy with Victoria, she began a "grass roots" effort which became a 10-year battle to remedy health threats hidden in the environment. Theresa, along with area football team members, had planned an Earth Day cleanup to remove tires from Ruddiman Creek; unaware that there existed far greater issues buried

throughout the watershed. Once warned of the harmful potential health impacts, she began to research the problems. This turned into a full-on education in contaminated sediments, aquatic habitat and civic duty.

The Ruddiman Creek Task Force was formed and that October, Victoria was born into a loving family that had grown to include all of Glenside and joined her siblings as the youngest members of the task force.

Thousands of hours of volunteering, meetings, review of studies and visits to the local schools became this young family's way of life. The focus, public education and planning; including federal, state, local governments and scientists from GVSU. The "Great Lakes Legacy Act" was inspired through the passion of the Muskegon Lake PAC & Ruddiman Creek Task Force collaboration with Senators Jerry VanWoerkom and Leon Stille.

Ten years later, with \$16 million dollars spent, over 85,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments were removed from the watershed and the Ruddiman Creek restoration process began.

For her voluntary efforts, Theresa has received:

- * The Muskegon Area Environmental Excellence Award, (2002)
- * The State of Michigan, White Pine Award for Environmental Excellence and Education (2003)
- * SOLEC Award by The Canadian and U.S. Consuls General (2006)
- * ARCA President's Award of Distinction, 2008

* Also in 2008, Theresa and family traveled to Chicago to visit with then director of the US EPA, Steve Johnson who awarded Theresa with "The President's Volunteer Service Award".

* Theresa has been honored as a "Michigan Green Leader" (2011) and, in 2012, was inducted into the "Michigan Environmental Hall of Fame"

* In 2014 Mike was deployed to Iraq for the U. S. Navy and Theresa returned to teaching yoga and meditation.

* In 2016, Theresa opened her business "Heal from Within" specializing in Trauma Informed Yoga, Reflexology, Energy Work and "Yoga Prescriptive." No matter your ailment or issue, Theresa has a yoga pose to help remedy it. You may find her in her new office at The Corner, on her yoga mat, teaching or practicing at Rootdown or cuddling her delightful grandchildren her new favorite pastime! Theresa is still very involved in the environment with tree plantings, clean ups and educating youngsters in how to protect and safely enjoy the wonders of our Great Lakes ecosystem.

Theresa has fond memories of Rotary picnics and ball games from her childhood. She believes that in order to affect positive change, one must first inspire a shift in forming a new "value". New values align with new possibilities and as Rotarians, we can all create a great, positive impact on our world and our future!



Newest Members **Rachel VanDyke** and **Theresa Bernhardt** with President Nominee **Lisa Tyler**.

This Week's Program: Fab Lab

Presenters: Dr. Stephanie Briggs and Gabe Guerrero

Introduced by: **Andrea Riegler**

RIM Reporter:
Meredith Smillie



Andrea Riegler introduced our two program speakers.

Andrea Riegler introduced today's speakers and program. Dr. Stephanie Briggs, Associate Dean of Workforce and Talent Development and Gabe Guerrero, Fab Lab Manager, presented on the Fab Lab, which is associated with Muskegon Community College and located in downtown Muskegon.



Stephanie introduced the additional Fab Lab staff, including Dan Rinsema-Sybenga, Dean of Academic Affairs, and Jessica Sisco, the STEM Lab Coordinator.

The Fab Lab is a makerspace and innovation hub where ideas can become reality. The fabrication lab offers many types of printers that support prototypes, personal projects, and community impact.



It is a space for entrepreneurs, innovators, and dreamers to bring their ideas to life.

The Fab Lab shares space with the Sturtevant Technology Center and serves as an extension of Muskegon Community College. It is open to students, community members, businesses, and nonprofits. Staff provide introductory training for those interested in becoming

members. The lab supports entrepreneurship, expands STEM engagement, and encourages high school and college students to develop CAD design skills.



The Fab Lab is a strong community resource. For example, because many insurance plans do not cover wheelchairs for children under age 5, the lab can produce a toddler mobility tool for under \$180. Using an open-source file and 3D printing, the lab has produced eight of them. Each one takes about 120 hours to print.



The Fab Lab has worked with many local nonprofits, student groups, and businesses to support learning and help organizations use the lab to grow. Smaller groups receive more hands-on time. It also offers many educational opportunities for K–13 students to learn about STEM and technology. Many local school districts bring student groups through the Sturtevant Technology Center, and the Fab Lab. Staff show students how to do something, then encourage

them to learn, adapt, and innovate on their own. Stephanie noted that many people love learning, and once shown the process, students and members can continue building their skills, including software skills.

MEMBERSHIPS

The Lakeshore Job Lab is open to the public on a membership basis, making advanced technology and equipment accessible to students, educators, entrepreneurs, business, and community members. Membership provides access to hands-on learning opportunities, specialized equipment, training, workshops, and a collaborative maker community.

- K-College - \$25 per year
- Annual Membership - \$250 per year
- Monthly Membership - \$40 per month
- Family Membership - \$450 per year
- Business Membership - starting at \$400 per year



RIM Reporting Team

Editors: Susan Besteman, Jackie Farrar, and Ginny Sprague

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

Photographers: Wyatt Huggett, Brock Johnson, Emily Morgenstern, and Roger Morgenstern

ReWine Meeting Schedule

- * Thursday May 21 the Corner
- * Thursday June 4 Core Plaza
- * Thursday June 18 TBA

RSVP by Wednesday at 5:00 pm for the meeting on Thursday. Contact Kaytie Drake at kaytieely@aol.com to RSVP. (Total # attending including guests)

**Muskegon Rising Podcast
S3E8: Tim Taylor –
Hamburger Mikey
Muskegon Rotary Club**



In this episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, Aaron Maike talks with Tim Taylor about the growth of Hamburger Mikey and the impact a locally owned business can have on a community.

Tim shares how Hamburger Mikey has built a loyal following through creativity, quality, and a commitment to Muskegon. From supporting local suppliers and creating jobs to giving back through community-focused programs, the conversation highlights the important role small businesses play in strengthening our region.

It's a great discussion about entrepreneurship, leadership, and community investment right here in Muskegon.

Listen
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/19152051-tim-taylor-hamburger-mikey>

Watch
<https://youtu.be/6kmXFap7Zxo?si=OXuSRPJ0kKB4UKTO>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

**Rotary in Action
Kendrah Robinson**



Public defender Kendrah Robinson shares how her work in the criminal justice system aligns with the mission of Rotary International, advocating for those who cannot speak for themselves while protecting constitutional rights.

In this inspiring Muskegon Rotary interview, Robinson reflects on service as a calling driven by compassion rather than compensation, highlighting how weekly Rotary meetings connect her with others committed to strengthening the community through volunteerism.

Her perspective underscores the powerful idea that true reward comes from giving back—whether in the courtroom or through community initiatives—making this a compelling story of purpose, justice, and heartfelt service [Click here](#) to hear the entire interview.

Announcements



Tim Lipan from the social committee announced the next carload Clipper Rotary gathering on Sunday, June 14th. \$20 to get in for a carload or \$8 individual.



Tim Arter thanked the club and sponsors for the support for the recent five Pours for Community events. This will certainly be our best year so far with somewhere around \$8,200-\$8,500 raised!



Cynthia Maynard asked for more volunteers to help put up flags on Seaway Drive for Memorial Day. 8am to put up flags and around 5pm to take them back down. Contact Cynthia if you are interested in helping.

Grand Haven Rotary Foundation, Inc.

2026 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 2 DOOR RAFFLE



Proceeds go to Grand Haven High School Aquatic Center Enhancements

Drawing to be held at
Central Park Place, 421 Columbus Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417
July 6, 2026 @ 12:30 PM

TICKET PRICE: \$100

Contact any Grand Haven Rotarian to purchase tickets or to purchase online, please visit grandhavenrotary.org/product/jeep-wrangler-raffle



If 400 tickets are not sold the drawing will revert to a 50/50

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Reminder Volunteers Needed - Parties in the Park on May 29th.

Microforest



Nearly 30 Rotarians from the Muskegon and Grand Rapids clubs, including a group of Interact Students from Orchard View High School, worked for several hours May 9 at the new microforest being developed by the Muskegon Rotary Club in partnership with the Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve. The project is at the entrance of the Preserve, on Lake Avenue in North Muskegon just west of Whitehall Road.





The volunteers planted about 200 shrubs and other native plants, potted more than 200 plants and trees that need to grow a little more at a nearby nursery before they're added to the microforest, tackled a large brush pile by chipping it all up for future use as mulch on the site and did plenty of watering. Soon, fencing and an irrigation system will be put in place to grow the microforest over the next two years.



The project began last fall when cardboard and then mulch were placed on the roughly quarter acre site to provide a good soil for the plants. A team of Rotarians and others volunteering April 24 during the United Way of the Lakeshore's Day of Caring planted 250 trees. The microforest will be expanded over the next several years into an L-shaped display of native species for enjoyment and environmental education for the public.



This is the second microforest that the Muskegon Rotary Club has developed. A project started in fall 2023 at Marquette Avenue and U.S. 31 in Muskegon is now full of established native plants and trees. The Muskegon Rotary Club got the idea for a microforest from a Sarasota, FL Rotary Club.

According to the site Earth.org, a microforest is a dense, tiny forest with high biodiversity. The technique is a form of afforestation, or the act of planting a forest where there wasn't one before. Forests need multiple layers of plant and animal life to thrive.

These layers create a web of biodiversity between fungi, animals, trees, and everything in between. Each layer helps the others become healthier. Traditional forests are home to an estimated 80% of all Earth's land-based species. Tiny forests aim to replicate that level of biodiversity on a small scale. Microforests are planted densely and become hotspots for insects and small animals. In urban areas, patches of forest improve health, cool cities more effectively than ornamental vegetation, and remove pollutants.

Maintenance, including plenty of weeding, will be regularly needed at both microforests. Contact Muskegon Rotarian John Noling or any other Muskegon Rotarian if you want to help!





Thank You
to all
the
Volunteers