

# 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 15, 2025

**Next Meeting (May 22, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Chicken Marsala at the Lake House**  
**Program Topic – Silent Observer**

## What's Coming

May 22 – Silent Observer

May 29 – Celebrating Harbor Hospice  
and the Popen Residence

## Upcoming Birthdays

May 22	Pam Babbitt
May 22	Gary Hall
May 22	Greg Sischo
May 23	Marianne Darnell
May 24	Alex Fonseca
May 24	Bob Scolnik
May 26	Cynthia Maynard
May 27	Marty Sytsema
May 27	Amy White

## Caring Connections Fund



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

## Greeters This Week

Dave Alexander  
Martha Fohlbrook

## Reflector This Week

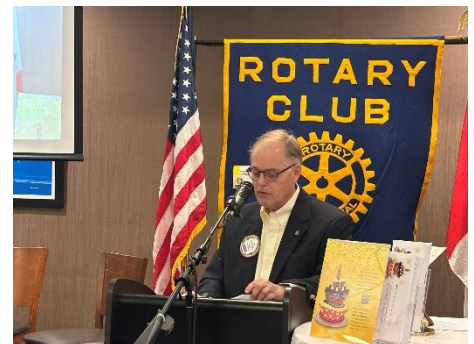
Susan Crain

## RIM Reporting this Edition

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



Dave Alexander, Martha Fohlbrook, and Carim Calkins are our first stop at the meeting today



President Tim Arter opens the meeting

## Visitors & Guests



Tom Palmer welcomes his guest, Jake Grinwis (Commercial Producer with Shoreline Insurance)



Susan Crain provides the reflection



Myra Dutton brought a special guest, her son William Watkins





Leonard Chance Valdez (Technology Support Specialist with Catch Mark Technologies) is **Kat Hyder's** guest



**Brad Hastings** brought Matt Erickson (Gov. Affairs Manager with Comcast)



**Meredith Smillie** introduced her guest, Adriana Molina-Schmucker (Clinician with Bethany Christian Services)



**Jessica Kauffman** brought two guests, MaKenna Kiledjian and Isabel Dashnaw (Mona Shores Flats)



**Linda Garzelloni** brought two guests who went on the Honduras trip



**Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga's** son, Elias, was a guest and speaker for our meeting



**Marty Sytsema** got the crowd going with his introduction of our student guests from West Michigan Christian--Academic Advisor Christina Martin and seniors Hallie Linda and Will Seaver



West Michigan Christian Academic Advisor Christina Martin and seniors Hallie Lindale and Will Seaver



Jenna Arter with her Mona Shores Fifth Grade Early Act Students



## 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](#):**



## This Week's Program:

### El Salvador & Honduras Trips

#### Speakers for El Salvadore:

Jamina Chervenak, Levi Jackson, Cora McGinn, and Kaydence VandenBosch

#### Speakers for Honduras:

Jamie Hekker, Tara Foreman, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Linda Juarez-Garzellioni, and Elias Rinsema

#### Introduced by:

Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga and Michelle Burley



**Michelle Burley** introduced four Interact students that went to El Salvador to build six houses—Levi Jackson, Cora McGinn, Kaydynce VandenBosch, Jamina Chervenak.

## EL SALVADOR

Rotary International District 6290 sponsored a group of teens and adults to build houses in El Salvador. With funds raised and the group's fantastic work ethic, they were able to build six houses in a week in Talnique, El Salvador despite the 90-degree humid weather! **Michelle Burley**, one of the chaperones and leaders of the group, led the presentation with a slideshow which you can see too—[CLICK HERE](#).

**Esther Ricco** and **Ava Bentley** (former Mona Shores Interactor & recent UM Grad) also chaperoned with Michelle alongside Interactors pictured below that spoke today about their experiences: (from left) Levi Jackson, Cora McGinn, Kaydence VandenBosch, and Jamina Chervenak.

All four Interactors mentioned today how tough the work was (dropping placas and mortaring) but the fun (going to the beaches), new experiences (climbing a volcano), and empathy and insights gained proved to be invaluable and recommend the trip for anyone who may be interested.



Levi Jackson, Cora McGinn, Kaydence VandenBosch, and Jamina Chervenak spoke about their service trip to El Salvador to build six houses and climb a volcano



## HONDURAS



Speakers for the Honduras Chispa Service Trip—**Jamie Hekker, Tara Foreman, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Linda Juarez-Garzellioni, and Elias Rinsema**

There were three other students who were not able to attend the meeting today—Addie Witmer, Landon, and Emerson Foreman.

Members of the Muskegon Rotary joined a couple Grand Haven Rotarians and partnered with a Honduran organization called Chispa to build a library in an elementary school on the outskirts of Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. The school, Jose Angel Ulloa, serves 349 students, K-6<sup>th</sup> grade. The school applied for a Chispa Library about a year ago (there is currently a waitlist of over 500 schools!) and has been preparing diligently for the library installation for several months. Our Rotarians and students worked alongside teachers, students, administration, and community leaders to paint murals on the library and classroom walls, build bookshelves, inventory 750 new books, and assist with classroom activities. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially inaugurate the library at the end of the week. Marcia spoke about the impacts our politics have even on the Honduran community they were at.

Elias enjoyed his time helping and having fun playing soccer and basketball with the local kids. He was humbled by his experience in seeing what we take for granted, they appreciated. He gave the example of bread is just bread to us; however, to them, it is appreciated at the level of cake as a special occasion item.

All appreciated their experience and would recommend it to anyone considering for next year. If you'd like to learn more, there is a Happy Hour event of fun, fellowship, and learning about the Chispa Project on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:30-6pm at 3430 Pigeon Hill Court, Muskegon, MI 4944. Please RSVP to Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga at 231-740-5676 by May 29<sup>th</sup>.

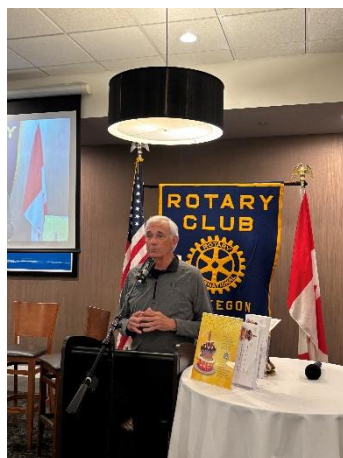


To see the full interview, click [here](#).



**Tara Foreman** gave extra support with the purchase of her hand-made Honduras shoes from her service trip

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Tim Lipman** of the Rotary Social Committee gave an announcement of two upcoming after-hours events: Hackley Building Tour on May 21st and The Clipper Baseball Carload Party on June 10<sup>th</sup>

### Rotary In Action Susan Crain



Susan Crain has been to Rotary Club meetings around the world. She shares her passion for learning through the cultures of others and encourages us to attend the meetings of the other clubs to improve our understanding and knowledge of the world.

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

### Adopt-A-Highway MDOT Pickup Spring Report Esther Ricco

A special THANK YOU to Kaytie Drake, Cindy Maynard, Evan Ewing, Kelly DeVos, John and Sue Noling and Kevin Ricco for cleaning up the Muskegon Rotary Club's Adopt-A-Highway stretch on I-96 on April 12. This amazing crew hauled 72 bags of trash to the side of the road for MDOT to collect and dispose of properly.

**WE NEED MORE HELP ON FUTURE PICKUPS!!!** If you have the desire to put **Service Above Self** into action, please email Esther Ricco ([riccoe@gvsu.edu](mailto:riccoe@gvsu.edu)) to get on the list for future pickups. If you aren't physically able to do the picking, I am always looking for drivers. Please consider helping out!



### Rotary ReWine

ReWine meetings are every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:kaytieely@aol.com) for more information



## 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



Click [here](#) for watch the El Salvador Video

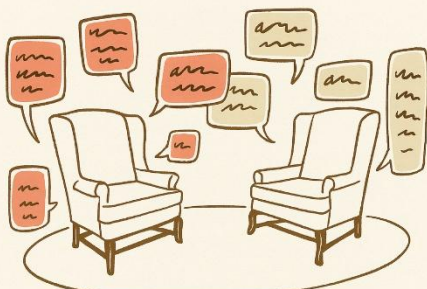
## DEI Corner

May is Mental Health Month:  
For more information Click [here](#)

### Upcoming Community Conversations

#### 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).

**Depolarizing Ourselves**  
May 20 12:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
White Lake Community Library

**Skills for Disagreeing Better**  
June 3 12:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
Hickory Public Library

**Families and Politics**  
June 4 12:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
MADL Norton Shores Branch

For more information and to register visit  
[wgvu.org/community-conversations/](https://wgvu.org/community-conversations/)



Braver Angels

MADL

White Lake Community Library

Hickory Public Library

WGUV

Public Media

## Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E19: Jonathan Wilson – DTE Energy



In S2E19 of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, Jonathan Wilson from DTE Energy shares how a \$3.3 billion investment is modernizing natural gas infrastructure across Michigan, including right here in Muskegon County.

We cover what the upgrades mean for safety, how DTE is helping customers reduce their carbon footprint, and why programs like appliance rebates and natural gas balance are shaping a more sustainable future.

Listen now on Amazon Music, iHeartRadio, or wherever you get your podcasts.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/17162612-jonathan-wilson-dte-energy>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

## Friendly Reminder

We're collecting input from members to better understand how our club website (<https://muskegonrotary.org>) is being used and what content matters most.

Your response will help us decide if any changes are needed. This short survey should only take a minute or two. Thanks for sharing your thoughts!

**Please respond by Friday, May 23, 2025.**

[Click here for survey](#)

## 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](mailto:info@nealfitnesscenter.com)

300 W. Western Ave. Muskegon MI 49442

[www.nealfitnesscenter.com](http://www.nealfitnesscenter.com)



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](mailto:msmillie@bethany.org)

# John Noling Award Commendation

John Noling was recognized as one of two Charles H. Hackley Commendation for Service to the Humanities awards by the Friends of the Hackley Public Library on May 15.

This award was first given in 1983 and the list of honorees is very impressive and includes many current and past Rotarians.

***"Good dreams don't come cheap, you have to pay for them. When you just dream when you're asleep, there is no way for them to come alive - to survive." - Harry Chapin***

