

# 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 21, 2026

## May 28, 2026, Pork Loin at the Lake House Program – Consumers Energy Solar Farm

### What's Coming

May 28 – Consumer Energy Solar Farm

### Upcoming Birthdays

May 29 Jeffrey Fortenbacher  
May 29 Donata Kidd  
May 31 Theresa Bernhardt  
June 1 Karen Buie  
June 1 Jason Piasecki



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

### Stage Manager This Week

Emily Morgenstern

### Greeters This Week

Ben Carson  
Roger Morgenstern

### Reflector This Week

Darlene Collet

### RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Brock Johnson  
RIM Reporter – Sue Samaniego  
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar



President Dave opens the meeting

### Reflection



Darlene Collet provides our reflection.

### 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](#):

### Visitors and Guests



Mona Shores Middle School interact guests of Cathy Brubaker-Clarke



Campbell Elementary EarlyAct guests of **Doug Wood**



Nichole DeVries guest of **Euginnia Seyferth**



**Meredith Smillie** with special guest Connor Smillie



Aaliyah Jordan MS Interact Pres guest of **Claire Root-Benson**



Franklin Wilcox guest of **Lisa Tyler**



Christian Binger guest of **Bob Garretson**



Cameron Brandow guest of **Stephanie Tushek**

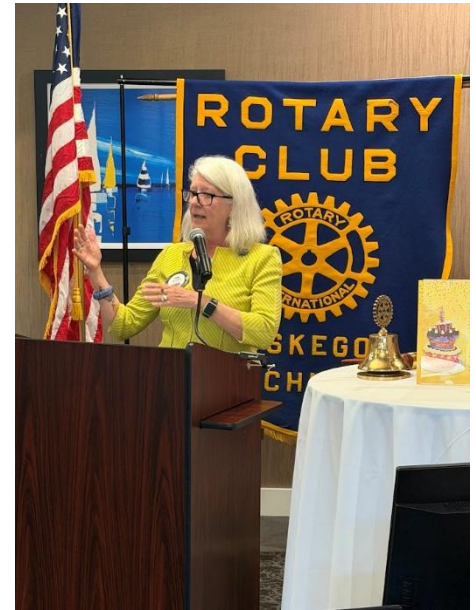


Sara Acker guest of **Andrea Riegler**



Terrance Collins guest of **Arlen Gaddy**

Muskegon Rotary has been involved for decades, including projects in Jamaica, the Caribbean, and Central America. Dr. Don and Nancy Crandall were very involved in managing these projects/trips.



## This Week's Program: World Services Committee

Presenters: **Linda Juarez, Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga, Susan Crain, and Roger Morgenstern**

RIM Reporter:  
**Sue Samaniego**

World Community Service fits within several of Rotary's seven areas of service:

- \* Promoting peace
- \* Fighting disease
- \* Providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- \* Improving maternal and child health
- \* Supporting education
- \* Growing local economies
- \* Protecting the environment

### EL SALVADOR:

**Linda Juarez** provided contextual background on El Salvador to set the scene. El Salvador is the smallest of the Central American Countries with a population around 6 million. It is known as the land of volcanoes, as it has more than 20. In the 1980's, the country's civil war resulted in the massacre of about 75,000 people. The entire region was engulfed in civil wars during this timeframe. The aftermath of this unrest was poverty. El Salvador had some improvement in their poverty rate, which is not around 30%. It remains higher in other countries in the region. With poverty came gangs and drug trafficking in the area. The new president, Nayib Bukele, has cracked down on gangs.

### 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

Currently El Salvador has the highest rate of incarceration of gangs.



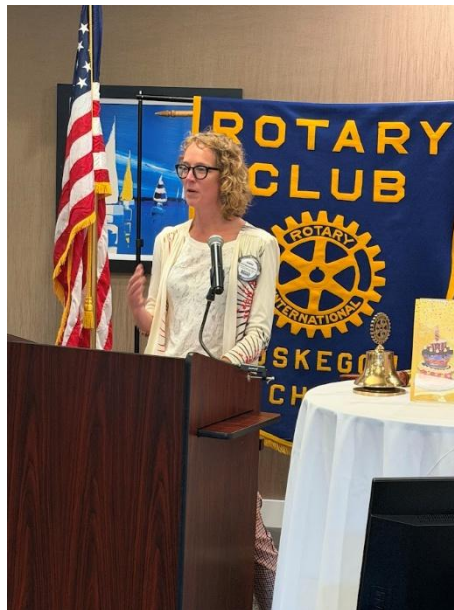
Through this video, [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zMTK5pj8e14cM4ywApcxSzOjGbgRfadU/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zMTK5pj8e14cM4ywApcxSzOjGbgRfadU/view?usp=drive_link), **Esther Rico** presented about the most recent trip to El Salvador during which seven houses were built and household necessities were provided to families in the area. This trip was in partnership with a San Salvador Rotary Chapter.

Two students who participated in the trip provided their insights and reactions to the experience. Cole said that he was most impressed with the sense of community he felt in El Salvador. His takeaways were: 1) Be grateful, 2) be kind, and 3) be the best version of yourself. Bri found the experience very meaningful, finding that she gained a different perspective. She was surprised that she found the work easier than she expected because of the teamwork. Her takeaways were that: 1) Community = home, 2) that she is now more grateful for what she has, and 3) that she feels that we need to share more with others.

#### **HONDURAS:**

**Linda Juarez** returned to provide insight into life in Honduras. The poverty rate in Honduras is extreme, especially in the rural areas.

Political instability, gang activity, and the cocaine trade exemplify the region.



**Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** provided information about the Chispa Project in Honduras. Chispa means “spark”. The goal of Chispa is to provide the spark that comes from reading to students in Honduras by helping to provide school libraries. Most children in Honduras do not have access to books. It costs around \$20 to purchase a book there, which is more than a day’s pay. The result of not having access to books is a lack of development of the social- and self-understanding that comes from access to stories.

Chispa has touched the lives of over 30,000 students.

Schools/communities who wish to partner with Chispa apply one year ahead. They must form parent communities to set up the rules, processes, and procedures for how the library will run and sign an MOU. The process is driven by the community.



**Roger Morgenstern** talked about this year’s trip in partnership with Chispa, which will occur June 20-27. It will provide books for 710 students. Chispa raises the money for the books for the library, and the Rotary trip group will set up the library. Those wishing to help raise the money for books should refer to the flier.



**Susan Crain** finished the session by welcoming Rotarians interested in becoming involved with the World Service Committee.

The group will be holding a planning session on July 10. Contact **Susan** with questions.

## Chispa's Read for Change initiative

This is NOT a fundraising request, but rather a request to sign up to read with the Honduran students

Sign up at

[www.chispaproject.org/read](http://www.chispaproject.org/read) and log their reading throughout the month of June



**Read for Change**  
with CHISPA project

Your summer reading unlocks funds for a children's library in Honduras  
**Give a library by simply reading.**

**About Us**  
For over a decade, Chispa Project has lit the spark of literacy by creating school libraries across Honduras. We've installed 125+ libraries so far, but, with over 700 schools on our waitlist, we need your help to bring the joy of reading to the next community.  
Sponsored by: **COFFEESTAMP** ¡Gracias!  
• Allen & Ann Powers  
• William Powers Breedlove  
• Justo Emilio Calderon  
[www.chispaproject.org](http://www.chispaproject.org) @chispaproject

**How it works**

1. Sign up at [www.chispaproject.org/read](http://www.chispaproject.org/read) or scan the QR code
2. Read from June 1 - 30
3. Log your minutes
4. See your reading impact immediately!

**You'll bring a library to life**  
We need 10,000 minutes read each week in June to unlock \$10K of donations for a children's library in Quimistan, Honduras:

- Including 1200 new books
- Reaching 601 students
- Training 24 teachers
- one-on-one teacher coaching for 2 full years

1 min of reading = 25¢ sponsorship funds

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](http://grandhavenrotary.org/product/jeep-wrangler-raffle)



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

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## ReWine Meeting Schedule

- \* 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](mailto:kaytieely@aol.com) to RSVP. (Total # attending including guests)

## Announcements



**Kelly DeVos** is looking for volunteers to serve meals in the evening at the Muskegon Rescue Mission Men's Shelter

\* We serve the evening meal on the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the month, on either rotating Monday or Wednesday

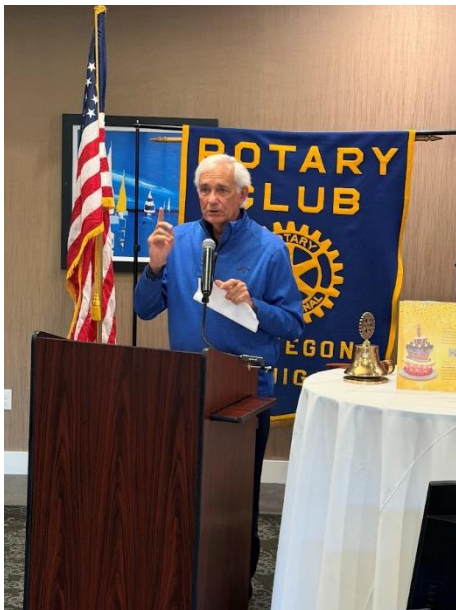
\* Next volunteer date is Wednesday 6/3/26, then Monday 7/6, etc.

\* Volunteers will need to complete this [waiver form](#) before they can be assigned a date

\* Email Kelly at [kdevos@shelbybank.com](mailto:kdevos@shelbybank.com) with their preference of Monday or Wednesday

\*We meet at the parking lot at 5:45pm help get the trays ready, then serve the evening meal. We are usually done by 7pm.

# Muskegon Clipper Carload Party



**Tim Lipan** shares it's a good time for everyone – Including games for kids in between innings and you get a **FREE MEAL**

**Date:** June 14, 2026

**Cost:** \$20.00 a carload

**Location:** Marsh Field



**Roger Morgenstern** lets members know that we are in need of photographers for RIM. Please contact Susan, Jackie, or Ginny, our three RIM editors for more information.



**Andrew Cutler** thanks everybody that signed up already for Parties in the Park. We still have a need on second shift – Nobody has signed up for cleanup afterwards

**Reminder Volunteers Needed - Parties in the Park on May 29<sup>th</sup>.**



## ReWine Explores “The Corner” in Downtown Muskegon



Rotarian **Adam Bell** recently arranged for the ReWine Satellite Club to visit one of downtown Muskegon's most exciting revitalization projects — The Corner. Housed in a beautifully

restored historic church originally built in the 1930s, The Corner has been transformed into a vibrant multi-use community destination.

Club members were welcomed by owner Mike Bernhardt and his son, Alex, who guided the group through the impressive facility and shared the vision behind the project. Mike and his family purchased the building with the goal of creating a central hub for community, arts, entertainment, and business in downtown Muskegon — and they have certainly succeeded. The Corner offers an incredible variety of spaces and programming. Guests learned about “The Stage,” a performance venue that hosts theater productions, concerts, comedy shows, weddings, reunions, and many other events. Families in the community can also enjoy “Play Muskegon,” a dedicated children’s play area, while young performers can participate in Broadway Bootcamp, a musical theatre program for kids.

In addition to entertainment and community programming, the building includes retail and office space and is also home to an Aldea Coffee location. Members especially enjoyed hearing about the beautiful outdoor patio area, which features food trucks on weekends and provides another welcoming gathering space for the community.

If you have not yet visited The Corner, consider stopping in for a coffee and taking a look around this beautiful and thoughtfully restored space. You can learn more by visiting The Corner on Facebook or @thecornermkg on Instagram.

ReWine meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. Our second meeting each month will take us out into the community as we continue exploring the many unique and exciting places Muskegon has to offer. Watch the RIM for details on where we may show up next — and come join us!



# Marquette Micro

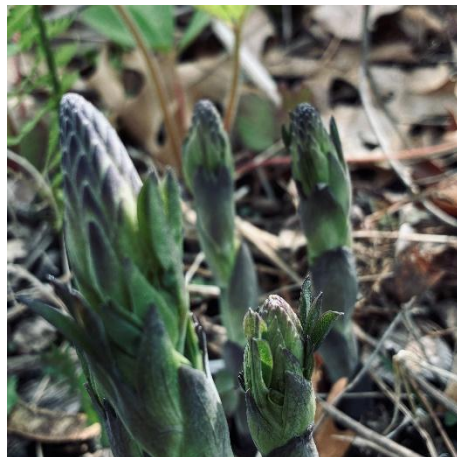
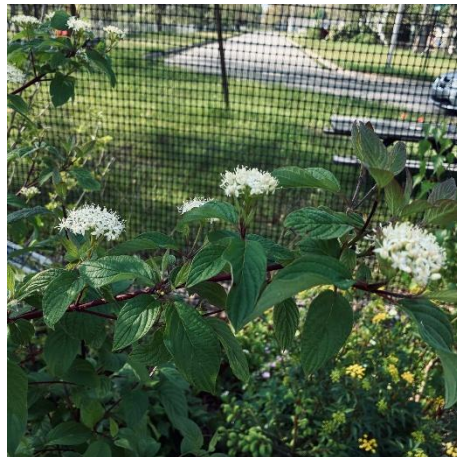


## Muskegon Rising





**Members  
wishing to  
visit for  
a personal  
tour contact  
John Noling  
or  
Doug Wood**





# Bee House Installed

