

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, September 24, 2026

October 1, 2026 Pasta Bar at the Lakehouse Program – Muskegon County Parks Millage Information

What's Coming

October 8—Life Leadership Students

October 15—Winter Paralympics

October 22—No noon meeting-
attend Harvest Fest!

October 29-- Webb Chemical and
Trace Analytics

Upcoming Birthdays

October 1 Toni Winkas

October 2 D.J. Hilson



Caring Connections Fund

[Click here to donate](#)

Stage Manager This Week

Andrew Zahrt

Greeters This Week

Don Kalisz and Eric Seifert

Reflector This Week

Emily Morgenstern

RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Wyatt Huggett

RIM Reporter – Susan Besteman

RIM Editor – Ginny Sprague

Muskegon Rotary Sept. 24

YouTube Video:

[Click Here](#)



President Roger opens the meeting with a smile and a Tom Petty song.

Reflection



A smiling Emily Morgenstern begins her Reflection by having all members taking a deep breath in and a slow breath out.

Muskegon Rotary Board

President: Roger Morgenstern

President-Elect: Lisa Tyler

President Nominees: Arlen Dean-Gaddy and Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga

Past President: Dave Alexander

Treasurer: Kim Taylor

Secretary: Joanie Smith

Directors:

Kelli DeVos

Dimitri Poland

Martha Fohlbrook

Esther Ricco

Lisa Kraus

Samantha Scott

Melissa Moore

John Selmon

Club Coordinator: Kim Boersema

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



Registration is Open!



Barcelona, Spain

June 26-30, 2027

[Rotary International Convention](#)

Visitors and Guests



Dom Bunker introduces her guest, **Dave Elliot**, Volunteer Coordinator for United Way of the Lakeshore.



Megan Byard Karaba introduces her guest, **Ellis Glassford**, MAISD Muskegon Promise Community Outreach Specialist.



Dave Alexander and Visting Rotarian, **Jim Rademacher**, General Manager, WCMU Public Media, and President-Nominee of Grand Rapids Rotary Club.



Greg Borgman and his guest, **Chad Portenga**, President and Owner, Portenga Manufacturing Co.



Marianne Bockheim-Verhil welcomes her guest, Catholic Charities West MI colleague, **Sarah Stechschulte**.

Student Guests



Marty Sytsema welcomes Mona Shores Students, **Andrew** and **Julie**, and Counselor, **Danielle Smith-Walker**.

Special Presentation



Cathy Brubaker-Clarke and **Doug Wood** of the Peace Builders Committee, recognize Muskegon Violence Prevention (MVP) as the first recipient of the Peace Builders Annual Peace Award. **President Roger** helps present a check for \$200 to Jackie Hallberg, Advisor, and Marquette and Yahdira, Junior Advisors for MVP.



<https://www.rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org/>

This Week's Program: Peace Builders International Peace Day 09/21/2026



Introduction:

Cathy Brubaker-Clarke

Speaker: **Lisa Perhamus**

RIM Reporter: **Susan Besteman**



Cathy Brubaker-Clarke

The 2026 theme for the International Day of Peace is "Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day." **Cathy Brubaker-Clarke** introduced our program speaker today, **Lisa Perhamus**. Lisa is the inaugural director of Grand Valley State University's Padnos/Sarosik Center for Civil Discourse. In addition to her directorship, she is a professor in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies at Grand Valley. Lisa grounds herself in the idea that every person has a right to be understood, and, through her teaching, scholarship, and service, she seeks ways to elevate people's stories in the face of societal barriers that often silence people.



Speaker,

Lisa Perhamus, began with a story of the 2016 Presidential Election with candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. After Trump won the election, her students entered her classroom either with visible body language that conveyed they were happy or upset. One student came in the classroom with a slower pace and heavy step wearing a white t-shirt with black letters stating “F*** Trump” while another student came in with a smile and light-hearted steps wearing a red “Make America Great” hat. Lisa knew she had to initiate conversations and help the students process their thoughts and emotions. The student wearing the white t-shirt began and stated, “I’m feeling not just angry, but I’m feeling scared.” She recounted her time when she was protesting at a Trump rally where she was encircled by a group of people who wouldn’t let her out until a group of people helped her get out. This triggered some past trauma when she was sexually abused. The student with the red hat said, “Thank you for sharing. I grew up feeling really misunderstood.” He felt people never really understood who he was, made assumptions about him, and didn’t give him a real chance. He felt that people were treating Trump this same way: misunderstood, not giving him a chance, and criticizing before he even has a chance to start. It showed how deep the emotions ran and where they were coming from and yet they were able to talk through their feelings and the mistrust or each other.

After seeing our Muskegon Rotary’s positivity with a one question vote (A. Most people can be trusted or B. You

can’t be too careful in dealing with others), Professor Perhamus showed the national average of the GSS Trends since 1972-2024.



In 1972, our country was at 45.1% and in 2024, we were at an all-time low of 24.9% showing the decrease in trust over the years. Lisa continued with the Edelman Trust Barometer with layers that include polarization (belief that our country is divided and those divisions are entrenched), grievance (resentment toward a system that’s rigged against you), and insularity (reluctance to trust anyone that’s different than you). We have been beyond a state of polarization for quite some time in this country with some of the items impacting the polarization are economic displacement, cost of living, discrimination, geopolitical tensions, misinformation, and the long-lasting impact of the global pandemics. We are now even beyond a state of grievance where according to Lisa, “This is a state where we’re not only divided, but we’re feeling resentful and angry and upset.” “We’re even at a stage beyond grievance into a stage of being insulated from one another.”

With the U.S. experiencing low social trust and increased insularity, Lisa emphasized five paths forward. The first includes investing in micropolitics and local civic engagement (school boards, neighborhood associations, etc.) to build social trust and hold local leaders accountable. The second is spending time in third spaces (Hackley Park, libraries, gyms, cafes, etc.) to increase physical connection, build social trust, and counter insularity. The third path forward is to hold media accountable and

seek authentic accounts by people rather than corporations or AI, local reporting, and multiple news sources. The fourth path is being a trust-broker where shared work becomes the focus rather than the differences through a shared vision of what we hope for and where we are going. Practicing civil discourse, the fifth path forward, to deepen mutual understanding (care enough about each person to stay curious about what the other person is experiencing).



Before taking questions from the Rotarian audience, Professor Perhamus closed with a quotation from Kubin, et al, 2021. *Personal narratives can bridge divides better than facts.*



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, and Emily Morgenstern

This Week's Birthdays



Sally O'Malley, aka Jamie Sowa, is celebrating a milestone birthday today! Please update your Club Runner profile, Sally.



Thursday, October 22
from 5 to 8 pm
at the CIM
336 West Clay Ave., Muskegon

[Harvest Fest 2026 Tickets](#)
[Eventbrite](#)

Presidential Announcements

President Roger shared a plethora of announcements with the Club.

1. Many thanks to **Tim Lipan** and the Social Committee for a fun evening aboard the Milwaukee Clipper, and a shout out to **Pam Babbitt** for the perfect weather.

2. On behalf of **Doug Wood** and **John Noling**, thank you to all of the Rotarian and Interactor volunteers who maintained the powder rooms at Irish Fest.

3. The next **ReWine** will be at 5:15 pm on October 1 at the Lake Effect Bistro inside the Shoreline Inn.

4. Our Club is looking for Rotarians and Interact students to participate in our two service trips: Honduras from March 13—20, 2027 and El Salvador from March 31— April 8, 2027. The Rotary Board has approved contributing \$500 for any Rotarians attending their first overseas service trip, as well as \$500 for any Interactors who wish to go. For more information, please see Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga about the Honduras trip and Esther Ricco about the El Salvador trip.

5. Dave Alexander will be sharing information about Harvest Fest.

6. On October 15, the Club will honor the memories of three recently deceased Muskegon Rotarians: Ara (Doc) Demirjian, Kevin Donovan, and Ed Hendrickson. There will be a brief presentation during the Club meeting followed by a formal dedication of their memorial bricks at Rotary Park at 2:00 p.m. Please join us!

Presidential Announcements continued

7. **President Roger** will be gone for the next two weeks. Thank you in advance to **Past President Dave Alexander** and **President-Elect Lisa Tyler** for running the meetings in his absence. Please reach out to Dave, Lisa, or Kim Boersema if you need help or information.

8. Finally, a reminder from **Club Coordinator Kim Boersema** that the October dues billing will go out on October 1st. Please ensure that your payment option is correct.

As the Three Amigos would say, El Guapo is on his way!

ReWine Meeting Schedule

5:00 p.m. social time
Meeting starts 5:15 p.m.

Thursday October 1st at Lake Effect Bistro & Lounge, 750 Terrace Point Drive, Muskegon.

Thursday October 15th at Pigeon Hill Brewing Company, 895 Fourth Street, Muskegon.

Thursday, November 19th at the Muskegon Museum of Art, 315 West Clay Avenue, Muskegon

RSVP by Wednesday at 5pm prior to each meeting by contacting Kaytie Drake at kaytieely@aol.com Total # attending, including guests

Announcements



Jamie Sowa

lauded Baker College Rotaractors for collecting 18 bags of trash cleaning up their stretch of Laketon to Marquette (see photo below) and announced an upcoming food truck on Monday.

Baker College Rotaract



Brad Hastings

promotes the Muskegon Big Read!
(See page 7 for more information.)



Susan Crain urges Rotarians attending the RI Convention to book your hotel rooms ASAP!



Megan Byard

Karaba asks for Rotarians to help the Innovation Academy of Muskegon with job-shadowing opportunities for high school Juniors.



Cathy

Brubaker-Clarke invites Rotarians to participate in the spring 2027 Honduras service trip. The deadline to sign up is December 1st. Sara Barkhane, Director of Chispa, will be presenting a workshop on November 11, and will be Muskegon Rotary's program speaker on November 12. RSVP to participate on the 11/11/26 for Reimaging International Projects.
(See flyer on page 7.)



Pete DeBoer

Invites Muskegon Rotarians to attend **John Noling's** birthday party at the Muskegon Microforest on Saturday, 9/26/2026 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.
(See photos on page 8.)



Rob Cook

reminds Rotarians to come and see the Soul Box Project. (See flyer on page 6.)



Past President

Dave Alexander, urges members to distribute Harvest Fest flyers and promote this important fundraising event. Dave uses a German Hofbräuhaus beer bottle to emphasize the fun-filled evening on Thursday, October 22, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at the CIM.



Announcements continued

On behalf of **Tennille Woodward, Dave** urged members to volunteer at Kids Food Basket every third Monday noon to 1:30 pm at their 2330 Barclay Avenue location. We need ten volunteers on Monday, October 19th. Please consider joining in this fun service opportunity!



President Roger and Past President Dave showcasing Harvest Fest posters to display around town and promoting the Beverage Bundles valued at \$150 each. Please bring in your liquid donations by next Thursday, 10/01/26. In lieu of the weekly raffle sale, Harvest Spirits raffle tickets will go on sale on October 8 and October 15. Details below.

**Harvest Fest
Beverage Bundles Raffle***
October 8 and October 15
\$20 for one ticket
\$35 for two tickets
\$50 for three tickets
**Each bundle is valued at
more than \$150.**

* In lieu of weekly raffle to support Harvest Fest.

Muskegon Rising Podcase S3 E19: James Perry Denver Air Connection



In the latest episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast, host Aaron Maiké welcomes James Perry, Regional Manager for Denver Air Connection, for a conversation about the role Muskegon County Airport plays in our region's economic future.

James outlines the airport's remarkable progress, including record passenger growth, consistent, reliable service, and the addition of a regional aircraft maintenance hub that is creating skilled local jobs. He also discusses how partnerships with local educators are building aviation career pathways, and why dependable air service is a key factor in attracting new investment to West Michigan.

For those of us invested in Muskegon's long-term growth, this episode offers a clear look at how infrastructure, workforce development, and community partnership work together.

Listen:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/19876336>

Watch:

<https://youtu.be/wII7H6LIHwI?s=quNbKCPNAS9aBPdf>

Peace Builders Committee

The Soul Box Project Comes to Muskegon
A Lakeshore Community Memorial and Gun-Violence Awareness Display

You are invited to view The Soul Box Project, a Gun Violence Awareness Display, hosted by Muskegon Central United Methodist Church, 1011 Second Street, Muskegon, MI 49440. Come. Remember. Reflect. Learn.

Sept 22nd – Oct 8th

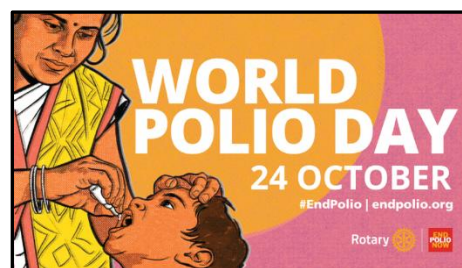
Sept 22nd – Oct 8th
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Open to the Muskegon's Lakeshore Communities and Surrounding Areas

The Soul Box Project Comes to Muskegon
A LAKESHORE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL AND GUN-VIOLENCE AWARENESS DISPLAY
Hosted by Central United Methodist Church • 1011 Second Street, Muskegon, MI 49440

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
September 20	21	22 10-2pm	23 10-2pm	24 10-2pm	25	26 10-4pm
27	28 5-7pm	29 10-2pm	30 10-2pm	October 1 10-2pm	2	3
4 12-4pm	5 5-7	6 10-2pm	7 10-2pm	8 10-2pm	9	10

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | **COME. REMEMBER. REFLECT. LEARN.**



World Polio Day on 24 October is more than a date on the calendar— it is a vital time for Rotary and Rotaract clubs around the world to join our partners, supporters, and public health advocates to raise awareness and funds that will help us end polio for good. We made a promise to the world's children to banish this vaccine-preventable disease!



Muskegon Rising

Flag Corp Volunteers Needed

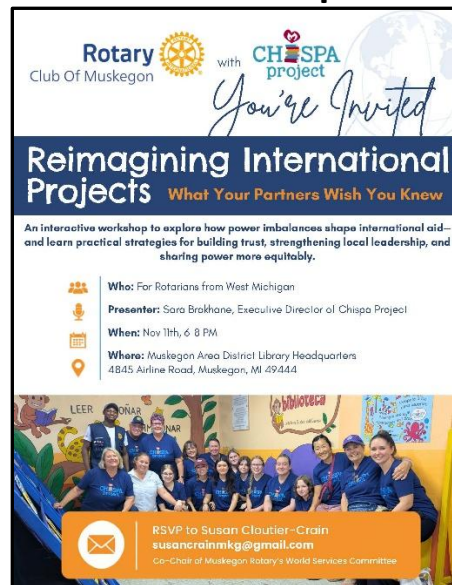


Please volunteer to join the Flag Corp on **Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day**. This is the last opportunity for this patriotic service in the 2026, our semiquincentennial celebratory year

Student Leadership Conference November 20—21



Honduras CHISPA Service Trip



**Thursday, October 22
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

The CIM The Culinary Institute of
Michigan- Muskegon, MI 49440

[Harvest Fest 2026 Tickets](#)
[Eventbrite](#)

Big Read Muskegon

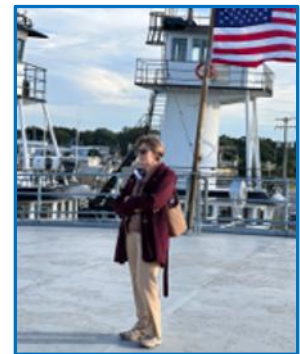
Big Read is a county wide reading initiative. During Oct and Nov our community reads a set of books connected by a shared theme. The four books this year, all by author Dave Eggers, are:

Big Read: *The Circle*
Middle Read: *The Eyes and the Impossible*,
Little Read: *What Can a Citizen Do*

This year's books are connected by the theme "Our Choices Matter" and also by award-winning author, Dave Eggers, who will be coming to the Frauenthal Theater on November 17th at 6:00 pm.

Rotary's DEI Committee has purchased the books to encourage Rotarians to participate in this community conversation. For the next several weeks we'll have books available before and after Rotary—first come first served!

Milwaukee Clipper Social Evening September 22, 2026 Tours, Food, Ice Cream Sodas, and Rotary Friendship



**Muskegon Lake
Nature Preserve
Microforest
September 26, 2026**

**Rotarians, Interactors,
Weeding, and
Environmental Fun**

