

# 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

April 18, 2024

Next Meeting (April 24, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Taco Bar at the Delta  
Program Topic – Jeanette Hoyer & Nick Carlson – Goodwill Industries of West Michigan

## What's Coming

April 25 – Goodwill Industries of West Michigan

## Upcoming Birthdays

April 25	Jeff Bessinger
April 26	Don Hutchins
April 26	Rem Sprague
April 28	Parker Aerts
April 30	Doug Wood

## Caring Connections Fund

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



## Greeter This Week

Melissa Horton & Tom Palmer

## Reflectors

Adam Bell	April 18
Myrna Olson	April 25

## RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern  
RIM Reporter – Kathy Moore  
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar

## VISITORS & GUESTS



Kris Collee introduces her family: Her fiance and soon to be Rotarian Marc VanderStelt and daughter Lucy Holman.



Christine Robere with her United Way colleague and guest Wyneice Hairston.

## Updates

New Location for ReWine Meetings Starting Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be meeting at Unruly Brewing

ReWine meetings are every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 5:15pm at Unruly Brewing



Cece Riley introduces her guest Lauren Meldrum



Asaline Scott introduces her guest and soon to be inducted Rotarian Marianne Darnell

4/18/2024 Muskegon Rotary  
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)



**Dave Medendorp** introduces his guest and colleague Eric Ratkiwicz



**Lisa Kraus** introduces her guest Mallory Meston.



**JJ Lewis** introduces his guest and United Way colleague Steve Keglitz.



**Heidi Sytsema** introduces her Community Foundation colleague and guest Bonita Jackson



**DJ Hilson** introduces his guest, U.S. Attorney Mark Totten, and jokes anyone on the FBI Most Wanted list may want to leave the meeting.



**Melissa Horton** introduces her guest Pam Smith.



Shari Ralston and Tim Zinger from Mona Shores Schools, **Kris Collee** and the 19(!!) members of the Lincoln Park Elementary Early Act Rotary group who joined us at Club. The students (not in order as the *RIM* photo department was just happy to get all of them in the frame) are Lucile Holman, Amelia McGrane, Erin Petersen, Stella Lassanske, Meredith Warren, Camille Cline, Emily Brush, Hunter Heron, Chloe Cunningham, Leah Hall, Echo Bower-Slade, Avery Reese, Avery Waldo, Genevieve Udell, Evie Twa, Sawyer Schiller, London Jackson, Alea McHenry and Clara Buboltz. These are tomorrow's leaders!



Shari Ralston and Tim Zinger from Mona Shores Schools with four of the Lincoln Park Elementary Early Act Rotary group, explaining some of the creative ways they have raised more than \$1,000 at the school. There are 19 Early Act students at the school, up from 10 a year ago.



**Rob Taylor** introduces his guests, his wife Priscilla Taylor and Mehean Quinn.



**Pete DeBoer** introduces his guest and Community Foundation colleague Martha Samuel.





**Marty Sytsema** introduces our guests from Muskegon Covenant Academy, senior students Jasmin Zambrand and Larae Davis and family support specialist Deanna Brandt. Both students gave powerful testimonials on how the Academy has helped turn their lives around.



Some of the Lincoln Park Elementary Early Act students were busy before and after Club selling carnations. **Gary Nelund** told *RIM* the students are very wise; they got him to donate the \$20 he won in the 50/50 toward the carnation sale. Gary's wife Angie, owner of Wasserman's Floral, donated the flowers!

## Inductions



### Bethann Egan

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed members of the Muskegon Rotary Club, it is my absolute pleasure to

introduce to you an individual who navigates the depths of history with the finesse of a seasoned captain. She dived into the nonprofit world almost two decades ago. She looks through the periscope to Muskegon's future and knows she wants to submerge herself in it to ensure a positive outcome. Please allow me to introduce you to Bethann Egan, the Executive Director of the USS Silversides Submarine Museum. Bethann has recently celebrated her one-year anniversary with the beautiful museum on the Channel and she is excited to continue to explore below the waterline. Bethann spent ten years in various positions with the Boy Scouts of America both in Chicago and here in Michigan. She then went on to become the Executive Director of In the Image, a social service organization in Grand Rapids. Bethann spent ten years with the organization before she answered the call to the lakeshore and closed the hatch on that part of her life. Bethann is a proud military spouse and the mother of one spunky 5-year-old who is definitely a future leader. She enjoys volunteering in various roles from reading parent at school to the leader of the unit's Soldier and Family Readiness Group. Now, if you've ever wondered what it takes to keep a piece of history afloat and to honor, remember, and educate – Bethann encourages you to volunteer your time right along with her at the submarine. She believes that volunteers are the backbone of strong organizations and strong communities. She hopes to continue to strengthen Muskegon through her time with Rotary. **Sponsored by Gary Nelund**



### Jamie Sowa

Jamie Sowa is a lifelong resident of Muskegon and is actively involved with the community. She has worked at Baker College for 23 years in various roles including the Culinary Institute of Michigan and is currently the Director of Student Affairs. She is currently serving as the Muskegon Rotaract club advisor. Additionally, she is the Arts and Dash 5k race coordinator, serves on the Unity Breakfast committee, is an Education Foundation member for Mona Shores, is a city council member for the city of Norton Shores, and is a board of review member. I first met Jamie when we were both running for council in 2021. She lives in Norton Shores with her husband Chris (owner of Lumbertown Woodworks) and their daughters Sophia 13 and Evelyn 11. It's fitting that our early act students from Lincoln Park Elementary are here today as Jamie is the past president of the Lincoln Park PTO! **Sponsored by Roger Morgenstern**

**This week's program:**

## **Journey Through Africa**

Speaker: **Paul Billings**

Introduced by: **Kris Collee**

Reporter: **Kathy Moore**



In introducing our program speaker, Kris Collee described Paul Allen Billings as an accomplished leader and entrepreneur. He founded the West Michigan Community Help Network and owns two local FM radio stations (103.7 The Beat and 106FM). Impressively, his dedication to marginalized communities extends beyond our local boundaries into Orlando, Florida – where he launched a community-focused radio station, and Abeamz Kyeakor Village, Ghana – where he serves as Developmental Chief, promoting sustainable growth and positive cultural exchanges. Mr. Billings' dedication, leadership, and valuable contributions over the past twenty years have been recognized with numerous honors including the City of Muskegon 2019 Citizen of the Year Award and, most recently, the 2024 Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneur of the Year.



Paul Allen Billings first acknowledged and thanked several employees, long-term affiliates, and supporters of his radio station and initiatives. He then explained that his slide presentation is normally about an hour long, so today's program is an abbreviated version. He proceeded to share his journey through Africa and enlightened us with his personal discovery of its culture, beauty, nature, wealth, and leadership. The colorful pictures were fascinating and captured the incredible essence of the continent and the 14 African countries that he visited. Slide by slide – from Ghana to Kenya to Ethiopia, Egypt, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and many more – Paul shared his experience and emotional connection as he strived to dispel negative conceptions. Ghana has a rich history of transatlantic slave trade sites that attract visitors who are seeking to understand the resilience of its people. Kenya is home to the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest airline in Africa. Kenya Airlines is black-owned and flies to 42 destinations worldwide. Ethiopia is renowned for its rich history, diverse landscapes, and status as the only African nation never colonized. One of the world's most natural wonders, Victoria Falls, is located on the borders of Zambia and Zimbabwe. This breathtaking cascade of water spans over 1,600 meters and plunges to a depth of over 100 meters. Paul described his visit to Egypt as a life-changing, rich cultural experience and shared breathtaking pictures of the famous pyramids and the legendary Sphinx of Giza.



Kudos to Paul Allen Billings for helping to positively reshape the historical image of Africa through his presentations and personal story of his incredible journey. He informed us that he feels especially connected to this mission because his genetic heritage, confirmed by Ancestry DNA, linked him to 10 of the African countries. In addition, Paul has initiated several projects to help youth and others visit and experience the cultural impact. Kids Free Trip to Africa.



Tanzania 4 Less offers a captivating exploration of 14 African realms, diverse cultures, and landscapes. His presentation included so much more! To see the program in its entirety, view the Rotary Muskegon YouTube link.



## Member Spotlight Emma Peterson & Holly Alway



Emma Peterson Director of Philanthropy with Trinity Health and Holly Alway from the Safe Kids West Michigan Program share the work and collaboration being done in our community to make sure every child has the opportunity to grow up in a healthy and safe environment.

Watch her video [here](#).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the generosity of Rotary Charities of Traverse City, our Rotary District 6290 is again able to offer the 500 points Paul Harris Fellow recognition point match program. Your participation and donations will be recorded at Rotary International, and your cash donations will qualify for the recognition of Paul Harris Fellow points.

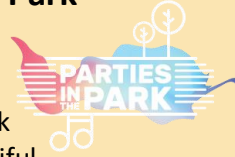
I hope you will consider participating in this great program and support our Rotary Foundation Annual Fund.

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. There is a form that must be completed with payment information. Please email Meredith Smillie at [msmillie@bethany.org](mailto:msmillie@bethany.org) for more details. The form must be completed with your donation no later than June 4, 2024.

## Parties In the Park

Rotary will be hosting the first Parties in the Park for 2024 in beautiful downtown Muskegon's Hackley Park May 31. Festivities will continue throughout the summer. A SignUp Genius was sent out this week for our Party in the Park on Friday, May 31st, from 5 to 9:00 p.m. Please volunteer early and often!

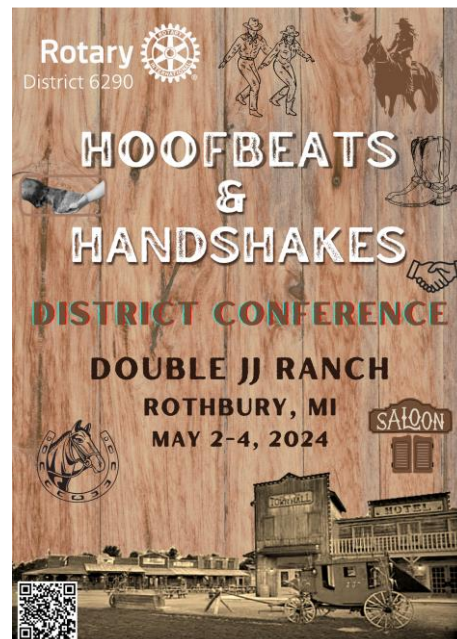
[VOLUNTEER LINK – CLICK HERE](#)



**Mort Kantor's** family reached out and wanted us Rotarians to know that they are hosting Mort's Celebration of Life on Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 4:30-6:30 pm at MYC Junior Sailing Association 3198 Edgewater Street Muskegon, MI 49441.

Mort's Obituary – [Click Here](#)

## District Conference



Please consider signing up to attend at least part of the conference; you will have an enjoyable time with Rotarians from around our District. We encourage a good showing from our Club because next October, we will host the District Conference along with your fellow Muskegon Rotarian, **Brianna Scott**, who will be our District Governor for 2024-2025.

To Register – [Click Here](#)

## Muskegon Rising Ep15:

### The Deck



This week on Muskegon Rising features Michelle Harris from The Deck at Pere Marquette. This Muskegon staple has grown from a small deck to a must-visit destination for lakeside fun!

In this episode, we dive into the story behind The Deck's success, what makes them a favorite for locals and visitors alike, and, of course, all the amazing food, drinks, music, and beachy vibes they have to offer! 🌻

Whether you're a longtime fan or just discovering The Deck, this episode is a fun listen! Give it a listen, and then head on down to enjoy some lakeside fun for yourself!

Listen today at:


<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/14900196-the-deck>

## Donate Eclipse Glasses

**Don't Toss Your Eclipse Glasses!**

Donate to school children in Latin America for their October eclipse.

Mail your gently used and undamaged glasses to:  
**Eclipse Glasses USA, LLC**  
PO Box 50571  
Provo, UT 84605  
(By August 1st)



YOU'RE INVITED TO  
**COFFEE CONNECT**  
A ROTARY NEW MEMBER EVENT

June 12, 2024  
8:00 - 9:00 AM  
Muskegon Museum of History and Science  
430 W. Clay Ave.  
RSVP: [melissa@lakeshoremuseum.org](mailto:melissa@lakeshoremuseum.org)

**Coffee Connect**

Connect with fellow Rotarians over coffee on June 12, 2024, 8-9am at Muskegon Museum of History and Science (430 W. Clay Ave.) Contact [Melissa@LakeshoreMuseum.org](mailto:Melissa@LakeshoreMuseum.org) to RSVP or for questions.



**Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** welcomes a crowd at the Orchard View High School Auditorium for the Firekeeper's Daughter author visit on Wednesday April 17. Our Club is among the sponsors.

## Adopt-A-Highway MDOT Pickup



Here some of the crew pose with one unusual find, a Texas trailer plate!



A special THANK YOU to John and Sue Noling, Kelly DeVos, Carim Calkins, Jerry Kuester, Amanda Rupert, Cindy Maynard, Kevin Ricco and Muskegon High School students Tobias Melton and Levi Jackson for cleaning up the Muskegon Rotary Club's Adopt-A-Highway stretch on I-96 this past Saturday.

This amazing crew hauled 50 bags of trash to the side of the road for MDOT to collect and dispose of properly.

The next pick up will be on Saturday, July 13. If interested in helping at the next pick up, please email Esther Ricco ([riccoe@gvsu.edu](mailto:riccoe@gvsu.edu)).

## Food Truck April 24<sup>th</sup>



**Arn Boezaart** reminds us of if you're on the list to help with our next food truck, you'll be helping soon! Please see Arn if you'd like to help, are not signed up, or if your schedule changed. Volunteers to arrive at 4pm at Temple Methodist Church (2500 Jefferson, Muskegon).

Rotary Interactors from Oakridge and Mona Shores pictured below joined many other community volunteers Saturday to plant dune grass and clean the shoreline of plastics and other debris as part of Earth Week celebrations.



Volunteers from all over, including GVSU students and Friends of Pioneer Park





How do you end up with tires on a Lake Michigan beach?



Dune Grass plugs installed by the hundreds.



Oakridge and Mona Shores Interactors and Parents helping a lot.

Pioneer Park, We Love You!



**Emma Peterson** reminds us of the three upcoming Pours for Community events in the next week!



**WONDERLAND DISTILLING CO.**  
EST. 2018  
Cocktail Bar & Catering  
Friday, April 19 -- Wonderland Distilling Co. 4 – 6 PM  
1989 Lakeshore Dr, Muskegon  
[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)



**Unruly Brewing Co.**  
Monday, April 22 -- Unruly Brewing 5 - 7 PM  
360 W. Western Ave, Muskegon  
[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)



**SEVEN-NINE-FOUR**  
[ TRENDY, CASUAL PUB DINING WITH A TWIST ]  
VIEW MENU  
Thursday, April 25 at 794 Kitchen 5 - 7 PM  
794 Pine St, Muskegon  
[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

## Marquette Microforest Upcoming Planting Dates



Get Ready to Help Your Planet!

April 22--Earth Day Monday, 3-6 pm, Get Ready to Help Your Planet! United Way Day of Caring event, room for 25 volunteers, organizing and planting a limited number of trees and shrubs.

May 3--Pennsylvania Elementary 40 kindergarten students planting day, 40 trees and shrubs.

May 10--Friday 9am-3pm Community Planting date, lots of trees and shrubs

### Muskegon Rotary Board

Ginny Sprague, President  
Tim Arter, President-Elect  
Dave Alexander, President Nominee  
Jane Clingman-Scott, Past President  
Kristi Nagengast, Treasurer  
Don Hutchins, Secretary  
Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator  
Directors:  
Aaron Maike  
David Ramos  
Marty Sytsema  
Roger Morgenstern  
Asaline Scott  
Brandon Turnbull

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

### RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Jackie Farrar  
Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie  
Photographers: Mark Alpher & Roger Morgenstern  
Contributors: Bill Johanson, John Noling, & Mike Vogas



# Pours for Polio – Wonderland Distilling Company April 19, 2024







**Thank You for your Support!**