

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 25, 2024

Next Meeting (May 2, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Chicken Parm - at the Lake House
Program Topic –Reflection on the Youth Exchange Year with our Inbound Exchange Students

What's Coming

May 2 –Inbound Exchange Students

Upcoming Birthdays

May 6 Carim Calkins
May 8 Phil McPherson
May 8 Myrna Olsen

Caring Connections Fund

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



Greeter This Week

Melissa Horton

Reflectors

Myrna Olson April 25

RIM Reporting this Edition

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

4/25/2024 Muskegon Rotary
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

VISITORS & GUESTS



Lisa Tyler introduces her guest, Pat Shafer.



Cece Riley introduces her guest, Emma Riley.

Reminders

ReWine meetings are every 1st & 3rd Thursday each month at 5:15pm at **Unruly Brewing (new location)**

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 for more details. The form must be completed with your donation no later than June 4, 2024.



Asaline Scott introduces her guest, Marianne Darnell.



Joan Smith introduces her guest, Justice Smith.

Induction



Marianne Darnell

A resident of the City of Muskegon Heights, Michigan, Marianne Harris Darnell was born in Muskegon where she grew up in the Nelson Neighborhood district. After graduating from Muskegon High School, Marianne moved to Chicago, Illinois where she lived for 27 years. She attended Roosevelt University and was employed by Michael Reese Hospital (from which she retired).

Marianne is the widow of a decorated Army veteran. The proud mother of one son (Adren) and a wonderful daughter-in-law (Jackie), she has been blessed with three wonderful grandchildren.



Joe Zappacosta introduces his guest, Mallory Metzger.



Rob Mathis introduces his wife, Reyna Mathis.



Cathy Brubaker-Clarke introduces her guest, Greg King.



Marty Sytsema introduces our guests from Whitehall High School

Since returning to Muskegon, Marianne has become a Community Advocate Extraordinaire. She is an advocate for children, senior citizens, and veterans. Marianne is a former volunteer for CASA, served two terms as Vice-Chair of the City of the Muskegon Police Review Board and is currently serving an appointment to the Muskegon Heights Board of Education. Having previously been elected twice and serving on the Muskegon Heights Board of Education, this is her third term.

Marianne is the Chair of the Black Women’s Political Caucus of Muskegon County, a service organization which provides awareness, education, and support to our community. She has served as Chair of the Mission Ministry at Greater Harvest MB Church and have served on various other Committees.

In Marianne’s words, “I’m creative, adventurous and have a zest for life. I’m always seeking inspiration and growth and am a wonder-lust wanderer. My motto is: Traveling isn’t about ticking off destinations...it’s about connecting with cultures, savoring street food, and collecting stories. Now that I have more time on my hands, I plan to do more traveling!”

One thing her friends and family will attest to is her passion for fishing. She can fish all day long! She credits fishing with peacefulness because the water is calm, it’s quiet and from time-to-time you meet some very interesting people.

Additionally, Marianne loves music...all kinds of music and says it fuels her productivity. She states, “I’ve been known to dance a little bit (usually when no one is watching).”

Marianne says she loves trying different foods, but her favorite foods are seafood and a good salad. Oh...and she cherishes a great cup of coffee in the morning...along with fifteen minutes of silence before starting her day.

**This week’s program:
Changing Lives Using
Innovation in
Sustainability**

**Speaker: Jeanette Hoyer and
Nick Carlson**

**Introduced by: Melissa Horton
Reporter: Meredith Smillie**



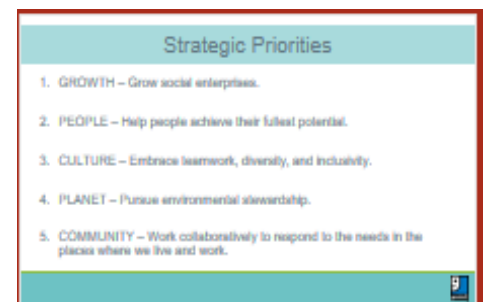
Melisa Horton, introducing our program speakers, Jeanette Hoyer and Nick Carlson



Jeanette Hoyer shared that Goodwill is a complex organization and works in a myriad of social service areas. Goodwill’s mission is to change lives through the power of work. Muskegon is one of the 154 Goodwill’s Internationally. All Goodwill’s are centered around work. They have mission focused job opportunities.

Goodwill was formed by Reverend Edgar in 1950. He started the thrift model via asking for donations to support immigrants entering the US. There are 154 Goodwill’s internationally. Locally, Goodwill Industries of West Michigan covers a territory from Manistee to Holland to Cedar Springs. There are 17 Goodwill retail stores and 1 outlet in Jeanette’s territory.

Goodwill’s vision is that every person has a pathway to meaningful and sustaining work. All are included when both individual and systemic challenges are present, and they work to alleviate these barriers. There is a career center on Apple Avenue that provides information on programs such as; Veterans Housing, Lakeshore Employer Resource Network, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Resource Navigation. They are also starting an HVAC training program via a grant. They partner with Read Muskegon for literacy, United Way for childcare costs and True North for housing resources. They also have a Supported Transitional Employment Program that provides job coaching, mentoring, on the job training and evaluations, job placement and development, vocational assessments, and education. They have a Justice Involved Program to assist incarcerated individuals in transitioning successfully to the community following incarceration.



Jeanette shared a great deal about Goodwill's priorities in West Michigan, as noted by their extensive work with people. However, she focused a great deal on their priority around Growth and the Planet.

GOODWILL DONATION CYCLE



One of their strategic priorities is pursuing environmental sustainability. The retail stores support work force development programs. They sort through 16 million pounds of goods, whereas only approximately 10 million pounds of goods can be sold via their retail stores. There are 17 stores within their territory. Jeanette shared that donation value is going down, as many can now sell via online websites for more money and fast fashion resale value is very limited in value. Jeanette noted that Goodwill started with repurposing plastics, such as broken toys, laundry baskets, etc... It is very hard to find places to recycle complex plastics. HydroBlox is out of Pennsylvania and they recycle complex plastics into sustainable planks to use in storm and drainage fields and roofing that is eco-friendly and will grow live plants. They signed a cooperative agreement with

HydroBlox and will be launching a Muskegon location. They could keep 6 million pounds of plastics out of landfills and repurpose it. Goodwill will be able to use 85% of the revenue to support services in our community.

Good Glass is another initiative. They are taking colored glass, tumbling it, and turning it into sea glass or craft glass for sale at their retail stores. Nick has researched a partner in Spring Lake for clear glass recycling and that is on the horizon soon.



Daika is re-purposing of wood waste (primarily wood furniture). The company is out of Israel and has a natural additive that you can add to wood paste to create new products. The company turns a wood product back into something it once was and is eliminating the need for virgin products. Goodwill is working on resources to use local companies to reduce shipping costs.

Harvest Nano is recovering and returning biomass (fabric) waste and converting it into valuable nanocellulose products. This is in research and development over the next two years and takes garment fibers and turns them into nano fibers.

These fibers can then be woven into ways to use this as a binding polymer, as this process increases the Tencel strength of these fibers. This is something that Goodwill could do around the world to create solutions that are scalable.

Jeanette noted that they are looking to have other Goodwill's partner with their West Michigan territory; so they can commit to Goodwill International to discover what is in textiles to further textile recycling and repurposing. Goodwill is actively working to educate the community regarding the good work that Goodwill is doing to assist not only work force development and creating employment opportunities, but to have a positive impact on the environment.



During our question-and-answer session, Nick noted that HydroBlox should be off the ground in the next 60 days locally. Daika would likely be closer to quarter two of 2025 and Harvest Nano will be in the next year, while the glass re-cycling is up and running here in Muskegon. Our West Michigan Goodwill location is leading the way for Goodwill International and is changing the dialogue around environmental impact.

Member Spotlight Jamie Hekker



Jamie Hekker is the Community Development Coordinator at the Community Access Line of the Lakeshore (211). In this role she is able to share all the wonderful services available in our community.

Watch her video [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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](#)

Adopt-A-Highway MDOT Pickup



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)

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)



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 to RSVP or for questions.

Muskegon Rising EP:16 Aspiring Ladies of Law



This week, local attorney and public defender Kendrah Robinson discusses her inspiring initiative, 'Aspiring Ladies of Law', with DJ Hilson, Muskegon County Prosecutor. Aspiring Ladies of Law is a Muskegon County high school mentorship program that empowers young women to pursue careers in law.

Is your daughter interested in a legal career? Learn more about this amazing program and how to get involved. Listen to the episode here: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/14941570-aspiring-ladies-of-law>

Marquette Microforest Upcoming Planting Dates



Get Ready to Help Your Planet!

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.

Rotarian, Pam Babbitt

Please send your good wishes for a speedy recovery to our fellow Social media messages will work, but please send cards and letters to Pam at her home address, which is in Club Runner. Her family checks the mail every day and brings your cards to Pam, who is still in the hospital and may transfer for rehab following her hospitalization. Thank You!



April 24th Food Truck

7,125 Pounds of Fresh Food provided to the community.



Thank you Arn Boezaart and Volunteers!

Community Mixer



Nancy McCarthy Requesting sponsors for Rotary's 10th Annual Family Night at Mona Lake Park.

Interactors at Work



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

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Contributors: Bill Johanson, John Noling, & Mike Vogas

Pours for Polio 794 Kitchen April 25, 2024

