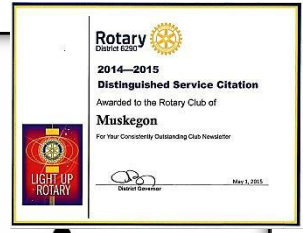


# "Service Above Self" Muskegon Rotary in Motion



<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>

Jason Piasecki, President  
Jane Clingman-Scott, President-Elect  
Ginny Sprague, President Nominee  
Mark Meyers, Immediate Past President  
Tim Arter, Treasurer  
Kathy Betts, Secretary  
Kim Boersma, Club Coordinator



**Muskegon Rotary Club**  
Club 16 (2809) – District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916  
Next Meeting August 26, 12:00-1:30pm  
Hybrid Style – Delta Marriott & Zoom  
ReWine Sat Club – Next mtg 9/2 5:15 pm

Mary Anne Gorman, Director  
Jeff Lewis, Director  
Doug Wood, Director  
Asaline Scott, Director  
David Ramos, Director  
Marty Gerencer, Director  
Meredith Smillie, RIM Reporter  
Lori Weiler, RIM Editor



## THE FOUR WAY TEST THAT ROTARIANS USE IN MAKING ETHICAL DECISIONS:

Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

### Next Meeting (8/26/21) — The Alzheimer's Association

This is it: the absolute edge of no return: to turn back now and make home or sail irrevocably on and either find land or plunge over the world's roaring rim" - William Faulkner

### MEETER - GREETER

Chanda Cregg

### REFLECTORS

Alan Alpert August 19  
Mary Anne Gorman August 26

### NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Rich Berry August 28  
Gene Fethke August 28  
Don't forget [Caring Connection Fund!](#)

### PROGRAMS / EVENTS

8/19 The Kauffman Institute  
8/26 The Alzheimer's Association  
9/2 Latinos Working Toward the Future



In President Jason Piasecki's absence this week Linda Juarez took to the podium. Thank you, Linda!

### VISITORS & GUESTS

DeMarco Morris was a guest of Melissa Horton. DeMarco is a friend of the Museum and completed a mural at the Museum while he was a student at Muskegon High School. DeMarco is starting a career in real estate.



Chanda Cregg brought along her youngest daughter, Chloe. Chloe is interested in Rotary's Youth Exchange Program.



Joanie Smith welcomed new Reeths-Puffer Interact advisor Karla Buchan.



John Jack was also a guest of Annette Jack.



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Condolences

Please remember the Morgenstern family in your prayers. Roger's wife, Michelle (Missy) passed away on Wednesday morning. Her obituary can be found [here](#).

If you couldn't attend or missed this week's Zoom, here's a [link](#) to today's meeting.

## COVID-19 Update

The report from Public Health Director **Kathy Moore** is that our numbers are ok, not great. We are concerned about Delta variant and recommend masking up. Stay the course with social distancing and vaccination. More information on Muskegon County numbers can be found on their website [here](#).

## The Membership Council

is developing a mentor program and reestablishing the Retention and Engagement Committee. Please consider joining as now, more than ever, we need help retaining and engaging membership. Reach out to [Lisa Metzdorf](#) for more information.

## Parties in the Park

### Volunteers Still Needed

Parties in the Park in Hackley Park is still in need of plenty of volunteers are this weekend (especially Saturday!)



PLEASE volunteer [here](#) **Friday 5pm-9pm**  
**Saturday 3pm-9pm**

## Calling All Cans

Remember that pile of returnable cans still sitting in your garage that you keep meaning to get around to taking back? How about helping at least five Rotary and Interact Clubs with revenue for service projects in the coming months.



Thank you for the over \$4,000 already shared by our clubs at North Muskegon, Reeths Puffer, Mona Shores, Orchard View, and Oakridge in the past year and a half. With new clubs forming at Muskegon High School and Muskegon Catholic Central, there is a continuing need. So THANKS FOR ANY HELP!

Please contact [Blake Cramer](#) or [John Noling](#) for pick up or delivery details.

## Norton Shores Arts & Drafts Festival

Takes place this **Saturday, August 21** at Ross Park. It begins at 8 am with a 5K run, followed by the arts & crafts fair, then wrap up your day with Arts & Drafts and live music until 11:30 pm.

**8am:** Arts & Dash 5k Run

**10am - 4pm:** Arts & Crafts Fair

**10am - 2pm:** Muskegon Area District Library Children's Area (and the unveiling of their new Bookmobile)

**11am - 3pm:** Arts & Wheels Car Show

**Noon - 11:30pm:** Food, beverage & live music featuring:

**Noon - 3pm:** Yard Sale Underwear

**4pm - 7pm:** West Side Soul Surfers

**8pm - 11:30pm:** Great Scott

## Vocational Spotlight

**Bruce Spoelman** joined Rotary in 2004 or 2005. Bruce is Executive Director of the Muskegon YMCA.



He grew up in Muskegon and is a graduate of Muskegon High School. Bruce came back to Muskegon to work at Camp Pandalouan and to preserve the camp as an extension of the YMCA. Bruce is very passionate about preserving the future of Muskegon and building a healthy future for all of Muskegon and feels Rotary has really supported that passion. Watch [here](#).

## THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM: Kaufman Institute: Fall Holidays around the World

By: Meredith Smillie

Click [here](#) to watch the program.

Panelists: Kyle Kooyers, Fred Stella, Rabbi Michael Shaddick

Kyle Kooyers is part of the Kaufman Inter-Faith Institute at Grand Valley State University serving as the associate director.



*Kyle  
Kooyers*

A key mission of the Kaufman Institute is represented in the cooperative programs held in the community to enlighten, inform, and promote inclusivity. These events bring together diverse voices and faith traditions to find a common ground while still honoring individual experiences. The Kaufman Institute has found great success in carrying out these roundtable discussions.

Fred Stella joined Kyle on the broadcast and has had a keen interest in Hinduism for many years. He is an outreach minister and is President of the Inter-Faith Institute's Speaker's Bureau.

Rabbi Michael Shaddick also joined the panel; and he has served 25 years as a rabbi in West Michigan and is a cornerstone of the Jewish community.

Kyle kicked off the discussion asking the panel about the most meaningful holidays in their respective faiths. Fred noted that one of the most meaningful of the Hindu dharma, or way of life, is the freedom of thought, morals/values, rebirth and

prosperity/work. Fred noted what you believe is personal and no one's business, and the most important part is that of practice and leading a moral life and your relationship with your faith. Hinduism is a diverse system of thought marked by a range of philosophies and shared concepts, rituals, systems, pilgrimage sites and shared textual sources that discuss theology. How you interpret the sacred texts can vary widely based on where you reside in the world.



*Fred  
Stella*

Rabbi Michael noted that Judaism is always a place for personal reflection and growth. Sacred texts guide Jews to become better humans, as individuals and as a people. There are very diverse ideas on how to interpret the sacred texts and reflect on where we are going in life and to become a better version of ourselves. Judaism is an Abrahamic ethnic religion comprising the collective religious, cultural and legal tradition and civilization of the Jewish people.

Kyle then shifted the discussion to a diversity and inclusion lens; and looking at the holidays in the fall and how we can be more mindful of the experiences of others in their religious practices. Rabbi Michael noted that in early fall, late September and early October is one of the most sacred Jewish holidays. High holy days are very significant for those practicing Judaism and they will be preparing for these holy days this fall. The Jewish New Year is celebrated as an ask for forgiveness of sins in the past year and is known as Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement. Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah (head of the year) is the kick

off of this holy season. They herald in this period by sounding the Horn of the Ram to wake the congregation and call them to action- to become a better person in the new year. Sweet foods are traditionally served so the new year is sweet.



*Rabbi  
Michael  
Shaddick*

Rosh Hashanah is a ten-day period of reflection coming up to Yom Kippur. This is a most important Jewish holiday.

Fred noted that in the Hindu traditions the most important holiday is Diwali or Deepavali-oil head- at the end of October to early November. The most popular tale is the exile Prince Rama was exiled for 14 years with his devoted princess Sita and he returns to claim his rightful throne. The oil was used to light the lamps to guide Rama and Sita home. It is a call to invest more time in self-reflection and starting your inner light to a become new person. There is great variation throughout the world, as Hinduism is observed and practiced differently in different parts of the world. Schools are developing a greater Hindu population, as are offices and medical arenas.

Kyle, Fred and Michael then shared-How to create a feeling of inclusivity? For Hindus, it is important to know where the person has originated from as there is variation in how celebrations and traditions are expressed. Most Hindus want to be recognized and acknowledge the presence of these individuals as valuable and productive citizens. Ask questions about their religion and what days are most important to them.

Rabbi Michael noted that persons of the Jewish faith are often found in workplaces or schools with no knowledge of Jewish of traditions and holidays. Ask questions about the Jewish traditions. Be mindful of scheduling meetings, athletic events, practices, recitals and do not penalize Jewish persons for observing their religious holidays. Honor and respect these holidays and make efforts to accommodate observance of these holidays. There are people of various faiths and traditions living in West Michigan and acknowledge this diversity of faith.

Both religions have holidays throughout the calendar year and we are encouraged to take notice of these dates. There were suggestions to have these holidays listed out in policy and process. There is a [multi-faith calendar](#) on the Kaufman Institute website. It is important to have an understanding of death, dying, grief and loss on families of various faiths. The Kaufman Institute has done a lot of research along the lines of palliative care and making this available to health professionals. Including mental health professionals. They are working on a speaker's bureau of medical professionals that can speak on the medical nuances of working with persons of diverse faiths. We were encouraged to ask questions, open ended discussions and pursue understanding.



The Kaufman Institute is available to assist local organizations and businesses with training and education.

Visit the [Interfaithunderstanding.org](https://www.interfaithunderstanding.org) website for a plethora of useful information.

## Two Paul Harris Fellows (from 8/12/21 meeting)

Written by Bob Scolnik

### Eddie Babbitt, Jr.

The first of today's honorees is Eddie Babbitt, Jr. The Babbitt name is well known in Muskegon and around the state for being one of Michigan's largest Powersport Dealers. The original company was founded in 1965 by his father, Ed Babbitt, Sr., as a used car dealership. As time went on, the business expanded, selling Skiroule Snowmobiles, John Deere, campers, and Suzuki motorcycles. Eventually the business relocated to its current location at Getty and Airline Road in Norton Shores.



Eddie Babbitt, Jr. was born the same year his parents started the dealership.

Eddie first started working in the business at age 8 when he would help in sales after school. He continued to work there and before he was teenager, he raced Moto Cross on Team Babbitt's race team. When he turned 15 in 1980, he started his serious career in Powersports after school and on the weekends. As he gained experience and knowledge, the more he moved up in each of the departments. Helping customers in the parts department, building machines in the service department, then on to the Sales Department.

His Dad, and one of my best friends, Ed Babbitt Sr. passed away unexpectedly at only age 68 in 2004. In 2005, he became General Manager and eventually the owner of the business.

Through the years of working in the family business, his passion and love for racing flourished. So much so, that in 2006 he started a full-blown professional motocross race team, complete with a Nascar-style semi-trailer and over-the-road tractor to tow it around the country. The team of elite racers, with intense energy and impeccable performance brought home more than 9 championships to West Michigan.

In 2006, Eddie Babbitt created the "Babbitt's Online Division" and with the use of advanced technology and online shopping, he created the beginning of what was to become one of the largest outlets for Original Equipment powersports parts and accessories in the United States. The business represents all the largest manufacturers, including Arctic Cat, Honda, Kawasaki, KTM, Polaris, Suzuki, and Yamaha. The business continues to grow and thrive and is one of the largest retailers of parts in the United States.

On any given day, you can visit the 30,000 square foot showroom at Babbitts and view over 200 machines: ATV's, motorcycles, personal watercraft, snowmobiles, scooters, side by side vehicles and trailers. Eddie Babbitt's dedication has not changed and when he is not spending time with his family, boating or golfing, you can still find him helping in every department.

Eddie Babbitt strives for three key objectives: (1) Listen to his customers (2) Exceed their expectations and (3) Satisfaction.

Eddie has always given back and tried to help his community. Her has been a major supporter of the Boys & Girls Club, the Unity Festival, Every Women's Place, Dancing with the Local Stars, the Women's Division's Fashion & Frolic, the Coast Guard Festival, and many more.

### Steven L. Adams

I am honored to present this Paul Harris Fellowship Award to an old friend and business associate, Steven L. Adams. Steve Adams is a former corporate banker and a veteran entrepreneur.

His passion likes in optimizing the performance of entrepreneurs, executives, organizational leaders, and athletes. Steve has expertise and extensive experience in building and scaling organizations through disciplined execution, direct-response marketing and culture that leads to extraordinary client experiences. Steve grew up in Lansing as the son of an auto worker. He went on to a university and became the first college graduate and MBA in his family.



Steve's first career was in corporate banking where over a 15-year period, he brought in nearly \$500 million in new business, rising ultimately to a Regional Bank President role in his mid-30's.

After banking, Steve's first venture was a retail organization inside a new franchised pet superstore concept. Steve, his partners, and team innovated and developed many approaches which later were adapted nationally by the franchisor. Over the next 20 years, the company grew to 44 locations in 6 states with approximately 750 employees and revenues of about \$100 million. A few years ago, Steve decided to sell, but at the time of his sale, the company led the chain nationally in same-store sales comparisons, Net Promoter scores, client overall satisfaction scores and employee engagement scores.

Currently, Steve is Founder and CEO of a peak performance organization called Tiger Performance Institute serving individuals seeking peak performance.

Steve also founded Seattle based Tiger Medical Institute, which specializes in personalized medicine.

Steve is the author of the book *Passionate Entrepreneur* published through Advantage Publishing. Steve just released is latest book, *Unleashing the Peak Performer Within You* in February 2021.

Steve's interest in the community and his Church spans many years. In 2008 Steve founded "International Business as Mission" (ibam.org) an international non-profit providing entrepreneurial training and start-up funding in developing nations. Steve has made many trips to Kosovo, Serbia, and Central Asia and since he started this organization, over 60 businesses in 10 countries have been launched under the iBAM Program. The program has a mission that involves both stabilizing families with their own businesses, job creation and allowing the family to stay together but also, as part of their mission, to enable them to start churches as part of their "Business as a Mission" strategy. Steve also served on the Board of Directors of Clarks Summit University in Pennsylvania.

I've known Steve Adams for many years, and I am very pleased to be part of today's Paul Harris presentation. I am proud to have been one of first investors and silent partners in his pet superstore businesses and he is one of the hardest working and ethical people you will ever meet. When Steve was President of Irwin Union Bank in Grand Rapids, I served on his Board of Directors and watched him do his business magic on that organization. I've known his wife for decades and watched his kids grow up. They are my excellent friends.

\*\*\*\*

**Friday, September 10** is the United Way Day of Caring. We are looking for volunteers for the Day of Caring. Please contact [John Noling](#) or [Christine Robere](#). There are a lot of opportunities over the next few weeks to get engaged.

## Hold on there, Summer! We're not quite done with you yet!

We still have our beautiful beaches fun outdoor adventures, and the Lakeshore Museum Center has tons of activities for everyone!



### Upcoming Events

Lunch & Learn

Historic Sites

August 19

[>>more info](#)

Downtown Walking Tours

Museum Center

August 19 & 23 & Sept. 2

[>>more info](#)

All Access Tours

Historic Sites

August 20

[>>more info](#)

Dinosaurs Drop-in Activity

Museum Center

August 21

[>>more info](#)

Free Community Day: Complex  
Machines

Heritage Museum

August 21

[>>more info](#)

Great Lakes Fish

Drop-in Activity

Museum Center

August 28

[>>more info](#)

After Dark Tour

Historic Sites

September 3

[>>more info](#)

## Muskegon Rotary Board

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Congratulations to **Kristy Pawlak** who has accepted a new position at Grand Valley State University teaching Japanese.

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