






“Service Above Self” Muskegon Rotary in Motion

<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>



Mark Meyers, President
Jason Piasecki, President-Elect
Jane Clingman-Scott, President Nominee
Tim Arter, Treasurer
Linda Juarez, Past President
Kathy Betts, Secretary
Orville Crain, Director



Muskegon Rotary Club

Club 16 (2809) – District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916
 Next Meeting Dec 17, 2020 12:00-1:00pm

From Home, Office, Barn, North Pole
ReWine Sat Club – Next mtg 12/17 5:15 pm

Mary Anne Gorman, Director
Jeff Lewis, Director
Ginny Sprague, Director
JD Wallace, Sr, Director
Doug Wood, 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?

(12/17/20) “A Conversation of the Holiday Season”

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

* Hopefully...white fluffy precipitation.

REFLECTORS

Jane Clingman-Scott 12/10
 JD Wallace Sr. 12/17

THIS WEEK'S MENU

Take out from any (or every) local restaurant.

NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Michael Hansen Dec 14
 Pam Curtis Dec 17
 David Hogan Dec 20

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

12/17 A Conversation of the
 Holiday Season
 12/24 No meeting
 12/31 No meeting
 1/7 Every Woman's Place

If you missed the Dec 10 meeting, want to watch it again, or share with someone who may be interested in learning more about our Rotary club, you can view the video [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ReWine Notes

Next meeting will be outside with a bonfire at Ricco's house, 1241 Sherwood Drive on December 17.

Kudos

From **President Mark Meyers** this week to **Jonathan Wilson** on his nomination for the MPWRD Business Magazine Influential Awards!. We'll find out by January 14 if he won; but the nomination is a great honor!

Meredith Smillie mentioned that **Judge William Marietti** will celebrate 25 years as a Rotarian in 2021. What a legacy!

20 Brave Rotarians

Leaving the library this week were **Pam Babbitt** and **Gene Fethke**.

Guests

Dawn Wolfe, former Rotary Exchange Student and current publisher of *Grand Haven Neighbors* and *Norton Shores Living* was a guest of **Chanda Cregg**; **Kris Collee** welcomed today's program speakers, Kim Hillebrand, Zahabia Ahmed-Usmani, and Allison

Egrin; Rocket City Interactors were introduced by Principal Dan Beckeman, thanks for joining us, Carmen and Kendall!!



Carmen and Kendall – RP Interact

New Member Announcement

Please welcome potential new member Mary Boyd, Trinity Health, Executive Consultant, sponsored by **Mary Anne Gorman**. Mary Boyd has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board and awaiting Induction.

Club Business

New Rotary Club Leadership starting July 1, 2021

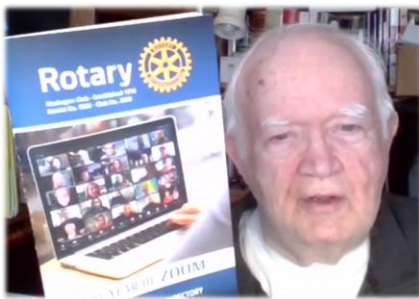
Board: President Elect **Ginny Sprague** and Board Members: **Asaline Scott**, **David Ramos** and **Marty Gerencer**

*There were no nominations from the floor for president nominees or board members.

Thanks to **Larry Fife** for suggesting this week's quote (below) and also to **Mike Vogas** for giving us a great "virtual greeting card" to go along with it! Watch it [here](#).



Committee Reports



Bill Johanson was on board today to show off the cover of the new Rotary Directory, a reflection of our virtual year. If you haven't received yours it may be because you also ordered mask(s). Those will be going out with the mask orders as soon the masks are in. If you did NOT order a mask and haven't received your directory, contact **Amy Gustin** aegus@aol.com or **Bill Johanson** bjobassman@yahoo.com.

If you did NOT order a Love Lives Here face mask and still wish to get one, please reach out to muskegonrotarycc@gmail.com to order; they are \$6 each.



The Caring Connection Program is funded by our \$10 "completely voluntary donations" on club members' birthdays. If you've had a birthday after July 1, never fear; we will find a way to get that money from you soon!

WEEKLY COVID REPORT

Kathy Moore, Muskegon Public Health Director, reported Muskegon County to date has had 8,200 positive individuals, 198 deaths, 3,505 recovered.

NOTE: Please look for Kathy's graphs on the [last page](#) of this RIM.

State positivity rate is 17.3% effective December 6. We are coming down from a high of 28.9% in mid-November. Hospital capacity can change hourly based on intake and discharge.

Muskegon County death rates are much higher than in Ottawa County. In the month of November we had 97 deaths, which is more than March through October combined. We have had 15 deaths in the month of December year to date. Age groups are also noted in [Kathy's graphs](#).

Inmate numbers are not included in Muskegon County data. Brooks Correctional Facility has recorded an inmate death this month.

Per Kathy, numbers are declining slightly since Thanksgiving. We are still experiencing three times as many cases and deaths recently as compared to March and April. Vaccinations are coming, but we don't know when; phase 1A will go to front line health staff and members of nursing care homes. "We are currently above water but there is no land in sight."

Mary Boyd added that the last update she had was that Mercy Health would be receiving vaccines for Group 1 around December 15. They are prepared with storage capabilities, patient communications, and other related process.

Food Truck Updates

Arn Boezaart is pleased to report another successful food truck distribution last week Friday (12/4) at 5th Reformed Church on Holton. Rd. It was a large recipient turnout with

more than 225 cars lined up and counted with upwards of 250 Muskegon County households served.



The organizers at 5th Reformed noted that this was one of their largest turnouts ever. The organizers speculated that the record turnout reflects the impact of Covid19 on our communities. Very favorable December weather helped to make what was a big job a bit easier.



We had a total of 14 Rotary-related volunteers on hand in addition to a good number of regular church volunteers. With so many capable hands available, the job of off-loading, re-packaging and distributing the 7,500#'s (plus) of food on the truck went very smoothly and everyone enjoyed the experience.



We had nine (9) Rotarians on hand plus five (5) related spouses, kids and significant others. The brave Rotarians present included: **Lisa Hegenbart, Cathy Brubaker-Clarke, Rich Berry, Jenny McNeil, Don Hutchins, Duane**

Schecter, Dave Alexander, John Noling and Arn Boezaart.

So now we head toward the 10th and final truck for this year which will complete our grant commitment. The final food truck distribution will take place on **Wednesday, December 23 at Temple Methodist Church in Muskegon Heights**. A good turn-out of Rotary volunteers will be needed as it will be a big truck and not as many host organization volunteers will be available. **Volunteers are asked to assemble at 3:00 p.m. in the church parking lot, food distribution begins at 4:00 p.m. and the work will be completed by 5:30 p.m.**

Volunteers are asked to check in with Arn ahead of time by phone, e-mail or text 616-745-8465

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM:

Kaufman Interfaith Partnerships

By Meredith Smillie

Guests: Allison Egrin, Zahabia Ahmed-Usmani, Kim Hillebrand

Kristen Collee presented a dialogue on Kaufman InterFaith Partnerships as part of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

The three women discussed their faith and how that has impacted them through community. Each described their faith: Judaism (Allison), Islam (Zahabia) and Buddhism (Kim).



Allison Egrin
egrina@mail.gvsu.edu

Each woman described their favorite seasons and how these are celebrated in their religions and extend into the greater community by bringing them closer to God and closer to one another. Many highly sacred seasons do not fall during the November and

December months which is sacred in Christian faiths. Celebrations can fluctuate depending on where you may live and/or based on lunar calendars. All three women discussed allowing flexible work schedules to accommodate fasting, attendance to religious services and creating healthy spaces for everyone. All three women discussed how similar and different their religions are from one another and may vary from one part of the world to another depending on how strictly they may adhere to their cultural and religious values.



Kim Hillebrand
hillebrk@gvsu.edu

Each of the woman also shared implicit bias in the workplace and offered some insight into how to demonstrate inclusivity and competence in your office. Reminders and notes; do not allow outward appearances to influence or make assumptions around a person's faith; such as not all Buddhists are Asian and not also Muslims wear traditional garments.



Zahabia Ahmed-Usmani
usmaniz@gvsu.edu

Zahabia also referenced that micro-aggressions; such as "how Muslim are you," or "are you a radical Muslim," are very offensive. Instead ask questions in a manner to seek great understanding and clarity, such as food preferences and what food should be served to make all of your guests feel welcome. Zahabia also suggested using holiday celebrations or holiday decorations which are more inclusive and help persons of various religions feel more a part of the

workplace or school environment; being sensitive to changing schedules and that students and adults may need time off to attend to religious obligations.

Choose to seek out individuals and to understand their story, versus making assumptions about who they are and what their religion--or how they observe religious holidays--may represent. Some tips and tricks to create open dialogue with staff regarding accommodations for holidays or obligations: use language such as, "we really like to be inclusive," which helps open doors for great discussions. Start by asking open-ended questions and have a learner attitude to create understanding. Our guests enjoy when we can build bridges; asking questions is helpful, and develops pathways to peace. All of our guests encouraged us to find meaning in religious holidays versus how commercialized these holidays can become. Finding the spiritual connection to religious holidays helps build a sense of community and to something bigger than ourselves.

Allison also spoke how the Kaufman Institute incorporates religion and culture into the arts, and to advocate for social justice issues and cultural diversity.

www.Interfaithunderstanding.org and www.gvsu.edu/interfaith are fabulous websites to visit to explore this topic further.

Muskegon Rotary Board

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Interact Insider

From Georgette Kersman, North Muskegon Rotary Interact Club President

Through all of the conflicts and setbacks that have presented themselves this year, North Muskegon Interact has persevered. We are constantly working together to do as much as we can to help local and global communities.

During this past summer, we continued to meet through weekly zoom calls where we thought of new opportunities to help out our community. Fortunately, we were able to get into contact with MOKA, an organization with multiple specialized adult foster care homes in West Michigan, and as a club we donated lots of supplies. Also, thanks to the generous pop can donations from the Rotary Club of Muskegon, we were able to once again work together in a safe manner to raise close to eight hundred dollars. In addition, Morgan Stanley kindly gifted us with a 25% rebate, making our total close to one thousand dollars. This money has and will continue to help us fund many of our projects, including supporting a little boy named Midan, whom we adopted through Compassion International.

Due to recent events, North Muskegon High School has closed for the time being. We have found that the best way to stay in touch with all forty plus club members is by dividing them into teams. As we prepare for the holidays, each of these teams will adopt a family through Northside Churches Adopt a Family program. This is something we look forward to every year and we

have so much fun picking out gifts to spread joy.

North Muskegon Interact Club has recently worked together with Mona Shores interact club, along with other local interact clubs to raise money. In about five days we were able to raise \$220 to send to Honduras. We are very grateful for the opportunity to once again work with other clubs and we hope this won't be the last time this school year that we are able to do so. Currently our club has adopted four local families and we are excited to bring them some Christmas Joy this season. We are happy to participate in one of our usual activities, and in the future we plan to work with kids food basket, Soddo Christian Hospital and the WRAPS ministry program. We are doing our best to not let COVID-19 slow us down!

Our club is very excited to continue helping people locally and globally, no matter the obstacles we face. We work hard to keep each other accountable and we have continued to find creative ways in which we can still have a positive impact. We are very grateful for the many opportunities we have had to support communities and we are excited for our future.

Here is a brief club update:

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*Georgette Kersman,
President
of North
Muskegon
Rotary
Interact
Club*

You still CAN!

John Noling and **Blake Cramer** are still collecting cans for the Interact Clubs! Reach out to either fella at for pickup or dropoff locations.

John Noling johnnoling65@gmail.com
or Blake Cramer blakec51@gmail.com.

RIM Reporting Team

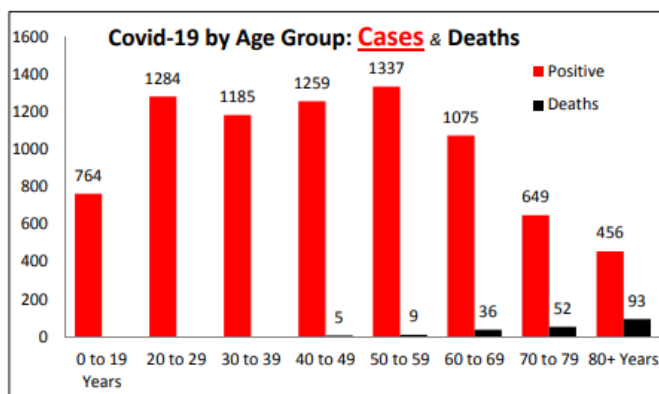
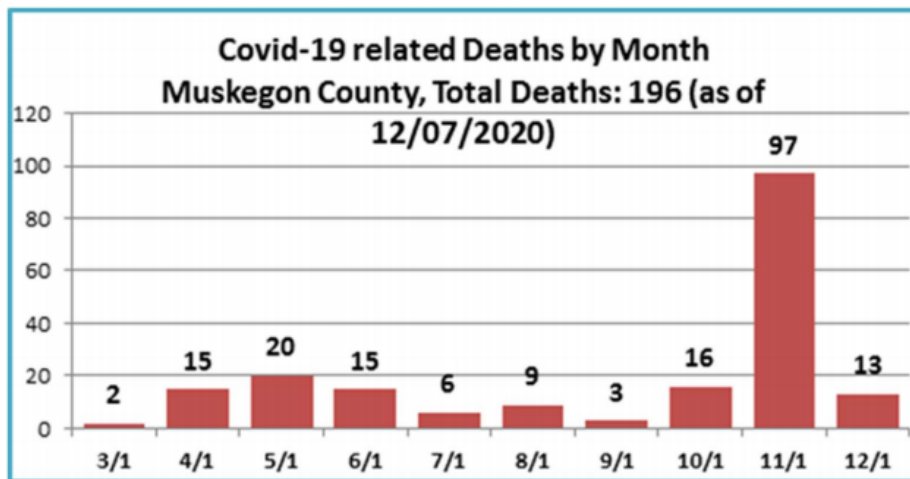
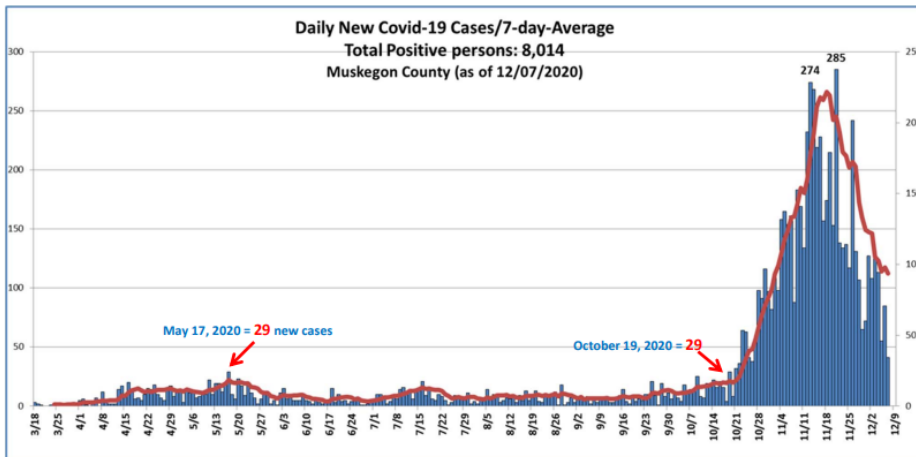
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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Muskegon County

As of December 9, 2020

Total tests to date: **128,502**
Total positive cases to date: **8,200**
Total negatives: **120,309**
Total deaths to date: **198**
Total recovery: **3,505**



Regional hospital COVID-19 patients and occupancy as of December 7, 2020

Health System/Hospital	COVID-19 Patients	COVID-19 Patients in ICU	Bed Occupancy %
Mercy Health - Hackley	0	0	42.0%
Mercy Health - Lakeshore	0	0	20.0%
Mercy Health - Sherman	94	22	85.0%
Mercy Health - St. Mary's	45	6	97.0%
North Ottawa Community	6	4	26.0%
Spectrum - Butterworth	81	31	78.0%



The Holiday season is less than 3 weeks away...here are some helpful tips

Don't forget this week the **Pioneer Resources** is hosting a **Holiday Light Tour** to enjoy in your personal vehicle with your family December 10-21. The tour is FREE but you need tickets (but this Editor suggests offering a donation).

OR...REALLY make it fun and consider the **Holiday Family Night Box** for \$55. It includes voting ability, snacks, games, holiday items, map, directions, holiday home notes and more! Great for a family of 4 and only 50 are available.

Get all the details [here](#):

Did you know...the Muskegon Farmer's Market is still open indoors! The market will be open Saturday from 9 am-2 pm. There are plenty of great gifts available from amazing vendors.

Not able to visit? You can shop from some of their vendors online—check out the Market's [FaceBook](#) page for more details.

The Getty Drive-In Theatre will remain open "as long as we're able"! Showing this weekend (Thursday - Sunday) are:

Die Hard / All My Life
Dr. Seuss' The Grinch / Elf
The Croods: A New Age / The Christmas Chronicles 2
The Polar Express / Christmas Vacation

This weekend **I am grateful** to be enjoying my kids as we continue a holiday tradition we have done together *forever*. Although they are no longer little, we still decorate cookies every year together. The best part is the laughter (*so much laughter*) and the togetherness. This holiday season doesn't look like the ones we're used to, but I am grateful for what we do have.

Share your holiday ideas!

Lori.weiler@summitlawncare.net