

# 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

February 20, 2025

**Next Meeting (February 27, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Chicken Marsala at the DELTA**  
**Program Topic – Value of Manufacturing to Muskegon**

## What's Coming

**Feb 27—Value of Manufacturing to Muskegon**

**March 6—History of St. Cecilia Music Center**

## Upcoming Birthdays

February 27	<b>Jonathan Scouten</b>
February 28	<b>Cody Chipman</b>
February 29	<b>Esther Ricco</b>
March 1	<b>Jason Kennedy</b>
March 1	<b>Stephen Olsen</b>
March 2	<b>Kevin Ricco</b>
March 4	<b>Blake Cramer</b>
March 5	<b>Monica Turnbull</b>

## Caring Connections Fund



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

## Greeter This Week

Jane Clingman-Scott

## Reflector

### This Week

Darlene Collet



## RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern  
RIM Reporter – Jackie Farrar  
RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

## Visitors & Guests



**Rachel Gorman** introduced her two guests and Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce co-workers, Kelly Stone and Jaime Smith



**Cathy Brubaker-Clarke** with her guest, granddaughter, and Lincoln Park EarlyAct member, Azailea Finch.



**Heidi Sytsema** introduced her guest, newly approved member Euginnia Seyferth who will be inducted soon!



Thanks to the poor weather recently, we had two schools visit us! **Kendrah Robinson** introduced, from Muskegon High School, academic adviser Josh Wall and fantastic students James Young and Darekeo Speech.



**Marty Sytsema** introduced, from Orchard View High School, principal Samantha Wilson and two fun-filled students, Trenton Rogers and Declyn Horter.

**President Tim** is becoming an experienced bell ringer to bring our weekly meetings to order.



2/20/2025 Muskegon Rotary  
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)



## This week's program: Black Entrepreneurs in Muskegon County

Presenters: Marquis Childers Jr.,  
Laquisha Harris, & Justin Shaun  
Introduced by: **Emily Morgenstern**  
RIM Reporter: **Jackie Farrar**



**Emily Morgenstern** from the Program Committee introduced and moderated a lively panel discussion of three local entrepreneurs in recognition of Black History Month. From left, Marquis Childers Jr. of Estelita Wines, LaKisha Harris of Soul Filled Enterprises and Justin Sean of Great Lakes Mushroom Company.

Lakisha, Justin, and Marquis shared information on their business products, experiences they faced on starting a business, lessons learned over the years, and future goals. Today's presentation was full of information on small businesses in our community. We can all support small businesses by shopping and eating locally.

For the full interview: [Click Here](#)

### RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman &  
Jackie Farrar

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger  
Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie,  
Sue Samaniego, Ginny Sprague  
Photographers: Mark Alpher, Wyatt  
Huggett, & Roger Morgenstern

Contributors: John Noling, Mike  
Vogas, & Doug Wood

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Estelita-Wine-100082334546055/>

<https://livesoulfilled.com>

<https://greatlakemushroomsupply.com>

**Rotary In Action**  
**Adelyn Witmer**  
**MHS Interact Student**



Addie Witmer is a Muskegon High School student who is president of their Interact Club. Even though her club was eager to help our area animal shelters, they had a difficult time finding one that would allow help from minors; however, they were able to find one and are enthusiastically cleaning food bowls and blankets. Addie appreciates the extra effort of Rotarians, like **John Noling** and **Claire Root-Benson**, who have helped get the MHS Interact Program back after COVID.

Addie is part of the CHISPA (Honduras) project (Feb 16-23<sup>rd</sup>) which contributes to installing libraries and supporting literacy in Honduras. Her love of books, Spanish knowledge, and aspiration to be a librarian in the future make this project perfectly suited to Addie's skillset.

See the full video—[Click Here](#)

ReWine meetings are every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 5:15pm at Unruly Brewing **except February 20<sup>th</sup> where they will be at the Core Plaza at 221 W. Webster**

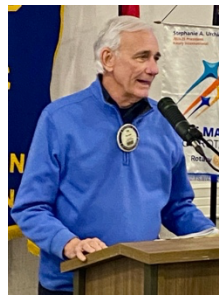
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Green Guest Cards

Reminder if you bring a guest, please complete the green guest cards and give them to the Greeters as you enter Thursday's meeting.

### Social Committee Museum of Art Event

**Tim Lipan** from the Social Committee reminded us of the upcoming Rotary social event at the newly expanded Muskegon Museum of Art from 5:30-7 p.m. Feb. 26. Tour the Newly Expanded Muskegon Museum of Art Wednesday, February 26, 2025 5:30pm – 7:00pm



The Signup link is below  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AFAA2CABFFC16-55035619-rotary>

All Rotarians, Interact, Rotaract and their family and friends are invited. The expansion adds four new galleries - including an underground print gallery – two education studios, viewable collections storage, a new gift store and an outdoor sculpture park. The Muskegon Museum of Art is renowned for its fine permanent collection of American and European paintings, sculpture, prints, & drawings.

Muskegon Museum of Art - 296 W Webster Ave, Muskegon, MI 49440

What Do I Receive?

- Hors d'oeuvres
- Water & soft drinks
- Cash Bar
- Exclusive Tour of the \$15 million building expansion.

How Much Does it Cost: FREE

How to sign up: No registration necessary but it would be helpful to sign up on sign-up genius.

Follow Us Here:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/164L6CUFba/>

Questions: Contact Tim Lipan at [Lipant@comcast.net](mailto:Lipant@comcast.net) or 231-740-0982.

ALSO—The Social Committee is looking for new members. If you are interested in helping to plan 5-6 Rotary social events a year, contact Tim.

## Braver Angels

**Jane Clingman-Scott**, from the Peacebuilders Committee, reminded everyone of the March 21<sup>st</sup>

Braver Angels Red Blue (and Purple!) workshop titled "Bridging the Political Divide." Many attended the introduction course last year and this workshop will move forward to the next step with helping conservatives and liberals rebuild trust and engaging in productive conversation. Contact **Nancy McCarthy** to sign up for this workshop on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 9am-Noon.





# Brave Rotarians

## March Madness Brave Rotarians Contest!

**Meredith Smillie** will happily take your \$100 for our next Brave Rotarians contest tied to the NCAA men's and women's basketball tournament. We'd like to fill up both brackets and have 64 available spots (you can pay \$200 to be in both brackets).



We will once again feature a men's and women's bracket for a chance at glory and a coveted Paul Harris Fellow. Your \$100.00 participation fee supports the Rotary Foundation. At the end of the tournament, we will have two new Paul Harris Fellow's to award, one for the winner of each bracket. In addition, we will select a random participant for an additional Paul Harris Fellow. So, if you are ready for some madness, get your donation in soon. Email **Meredith Smillie** at [msmillie@bethany.org](mailto:msmillie@bethany.org) or sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4BACAF28A2F58-55137205-muskegon>

Cash, checks (The Muskegon Rotary Foundation) or credit card. I will be at Rotary to collect entry fees or email you to collect entry via credit card.

The Rotary Foundation gives health and hope in areas that were once ravaged by diseases like



polio, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. Your donation helps Rotary carry out service projects aimed at improving economies and expand work opportunities in developing communities. You can support literacy, basic education, and reduce gender disparity in education for the 775 million people (above the age of 15) that are illiterate. You can support conversations that foster understanding and peace within and across cultures. Your donation helps support mothers and children with initiatives aimed to support developing areas impacted by malnutrition, inadequate health care and sanitation. We support local solutions that bring clean water, sanitation, and hygiene every day through expertise and education programs. Lastly, Rotary is committed to supporting activities that strengthen and protect natural resources, advance ecological sustainability and foster harmony between communities and the environment.



## New Member Coffee Connect

The next new member coffee connect will be March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Lakeshore Museum Center at 8-9 AM. Contact **Melissa Horton** at [Melissa@LakeshoreMuseum.org](mailto:Melissa@LakeshoreMuseum.org) to RSVP and/or if you have any questions.

## Muskegon Rotary Board

Tim Arter, President  
Dave Alexander, President-Elect  
Roger Morgenstern, President Nominee  
Ginny Sprague, Past President  
Kristi Nagengast, Treasurer  
Jane Clingman-Scott, Secretary  
Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator  
Directors:

Aaron Maiké	Tom Palmer
Brandon Turnbull	Esther Ricco
Marty Sytsema	Lisa Tyler

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

## Pours for Community

The Committee is pleased to announce Happy Hour Establishment commitments:

1. Thursday, April 17 - 794 Kitchen
2. Monday, April 21 - Unruly Brewing
3. Thursday, April 24 - Community House
4. Friday, May 2 - Wonderland Distilleries
5. Tuesday, May 6 - Muskegon Brewing





## REGISTER NOW!

It's FREE to attend but you need to sign up

Livability Lab is an opportunity for people in Muskegon County to come together to focus on small projects that lead to big improvements.



Visit [livabilitylab.com](http://livabilitylab.com) to learn more or to sign up.

**FREE! Breakfast & lunch included**

**FEBRUARY 25  
8:30 AM-4:00 PM**

Muskegon Community College

You're invited to be part of Livability Lab 5.0, a 100-day initiative focused on community-driven change. This is your chance to collaborate with fellow residents, stakeholders, and leaders to create impactful solutions that address real needs in Muskegon County.

Why Join? Your participation can help turn insights into actionable city and state-wide plans.

Kickoff Event:

Date: February 25, 2025

Time: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Muskegon Community College, Collegiate Hall

Registration Link: [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/livability-lab-5-0-kickoff-event-tickets-2939562)

RSVP by February 21st

Questions? Contact:

Hillery Ross, B.S., CCHW, CLE  
Community Program Manager, Access Health INC

(513) 293-9562

[hross@access-health.org](mailto:hross@access-health.org)

Or visit: [www.livabilitylab.com](http://www.livabilitylab.com)

## Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E7: Renae Hesselink - One Person's Sustainable Impact



Want to learn how to make a positive impact on the environment?

Join us for an inspiring conversation with Renae Hesselink, a true sustainability champion in the Muskegon area! Renae shares her expertise on everything from corporate LEED certification to community education and collaboration. Discover how her work creates a greener, more sustainable future for future generations.

Check out the episode and learn how to get involved.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/16648367-renae-hesselink-one-person-s-sustainable-impact>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

## Rotary Members - We need your help to grow our social media pages!

We have been sharing some great content on Facebook and Instagram and we want to make sure that current Rotarians, as well as future club members, are seeing it! We could use your help in growing our audience! Please follow the simple steps below by **FEB 8** and let's see how many friends we can add to our pages!

Facebook:

- Go to the Rotary Facebook page by clicking [HERE](#).
- Click on the "Like" button if you have not already done so. Should say "Liked" when done.
- Then, click on the three dots next to the "message" button (on your phone) OR the menu items (on your computer).
- Once you click on the three dots, a new menu comes up. Click "Invite Friends."
- Then, you can "select all" at the top of the menu OR choose specific friends to invite by checking the box after the individual's name.
- Once friends have been selected, click "Send Invites" and you are done! :)

Instagram:

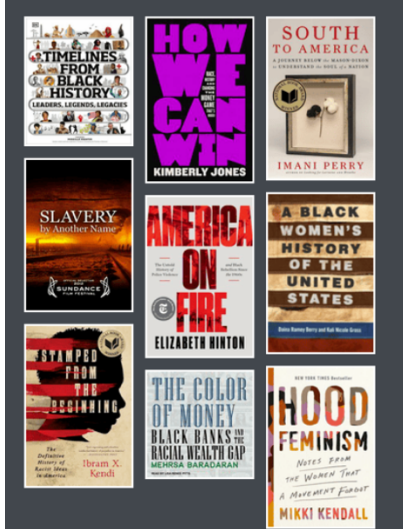
- Go to the Rotary Instagram page by clicking [HERE](#).
- Click on "Follow" should say "Following" when done.
- Then feel free to share the page link with your IG friends and ask them to follow as well!

## February is Black History Month



MUSKEGON AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

[CLICK HERE](#) to view MADL's recommended reads!



At Rotary it's all about networking and many of the "mini meetings" that go on before, during and after our weekly lunch. The RIM photo staff captured this scene of several engaging discussions after last week's meeting.

## RI District 6290 Empowerment & Leadership Summit



District  
6290  
Governor  
Brianna  
Scott  
invited all  
to our  
Rotary

International District 6290  
Empowerment and Leadership  
Summit! This is your chance to  
grow, connect, and be inspired!  
Whether you're a new Rotarian  
or one of our seasoned (and  
spicy!) members, this learning  
event is designed for YOU.

### ✨ What's in store?

- ✓ Discover how to create a large signature service project.
- ✓ Be moved by inspiring stories from our Rotary Foundation.
- ✓ Learn the secrets to making your club irresistible!
- ✓ Engage in breakout sessions to enhance your Rotary experience.
- ✓ And yes, there will be MAGIC—both in learning and in entertainment!

Of course, no Rotary event is complete without fellowship and fun. Don't miss this opportunity to elevate your impact and strengthen your connections. **CLICK HERE TO [Save the Date & Register Now!](#)**

Let's make a difference together and create some magic!

A promotional poster for the Rotary International District 6290 Empowerment & Leadership Summit. The background is dark blue with a pattern of faint, glowing icons. The text is in white and yellow. It features three circular images: a building at night, a man pointing, and a woman in a Rotary uniform. A QR code is in the bottom right.

Immerse yourself in powerful learning experiences

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 6290 EMPOWERMENT & LEADERSHIP SUMMIT MAY 3 - 4, 2025 MUSKEGON, MI**

- Celebrating outstanding clubs and their impact
- Best practices for planning and executing successful projects
- Creating a strong club identity and community presence
- Leadership Development workshops
- Inspiring stories of The Rotary Foundation's Impact

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

## Rotary Peace Fellowship Program – Looking for Candidates

You can promote peace! The “Magic of Rotary” helps provide the fully funded Rotary Peace Fellowship program. The program covers tuition and living expenses, increases the capacity of dedicated peace builders from communities around the world to prevent and resolve conflict by offering academic training, field experience, and professional networking. Fellows

choose between a 15–24-month Master’s degree program or a shorter Professional Development Certificate. Our District needs help identifying individuals in our communities that would make great Rotary Peace Fellowship candidates. Contact **Jackie Bertsch** (District 6290 Peace Fellowship Chair) at [jbertsch@charter.net](mailto:jbertsch@charter.net) if you may know someone who could benefit from this opportunity. To learn more about this program, [click here](#).