

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 27, 2025

Next Meeting (March 6, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — Sweet & Sour Chicken at the LAKE HOUSE
Program Topic – History of St. Cecilia Music Center

What's Coming

March 6—History of St. Cecilia Music Center

March 13—Shoreline Regional Development Committee

Upcoming Birthdays

March 8	Bob Lukens
March 9	Ron Suszek
March 9	Tim Tuthill
March 11	Tim DeMumbrum
March 11	Stephanie Tushek

Caring Connections Fund



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

Greeter This Week

Jane Clingman-Scott & Cindy Maynard

Reflector This Week

Jamie Hekker



RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern

RIM Reporter – Kathy Moore

RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

Visitors & Guests



Doug Wood introduces the leadership of the Reeths-Puffer High School Interact Club. From left are advisor Karla Buchanan, Vice President Brook Buchanan and President Charli Belinger.



Claire Root-Benson introduces the Muskegon High School Interact leaders, from left, Vice President Cora McGinn and President Addie Witmer.



D.J. Hilson with his guest and potential member Nick Gereaux.



Nick Green introduces his guest who just completed his application for membership, Mike Apostle.



Tom Palmer introduces his guest and potential new member Enrique Guterrez.



Marcia Hovey-Wright introduces her guest, Maria McIntosh.

2/27/2025 Muskegon Rotary
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)



Alex Fonseca introduces his guests Joe Keck and Annie Novak.



Parker Aerts introduces his guest and a familiar face at our club, former Rotarian Cyndi Langlois.



Dr. Emma McClintock introduces her guest, Kandas Rodarte.



Kendra Robinson introduced our guests from Fruitport High School: Superintendent Jason Kennedy and students Jolie Guevara and Vincent Pollock.

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

This week's program: The Value of Manufacturing in Muskegon County

Presenter: Jack Russell

Introduced by: **Mike Vogas**

RIM Reporter: **Susan Besteman**

Photos/Captions: **Roger Morgenstern**



Usually, our own **Mike Vogas** is behind the scenes, surrounded by his audio-visual equipment to make our weekly programs look and sound awesome. This week, Mike stepped over to the other side of the mic to introduce his longtime friend, businessman Jack Russell, who was our program speaker.

Jack graduated from Muskegon High School and has been a photographer, journeyman pattern maker, private pilot, VP of International Business at Shape Corp for 21 years, and purchased Rolar Products in 2015 and merged three companies into one over the past ten years.



Jack Russell shared his perspective on the value of manufacturing to Muskegon. "Manufacturing is the lifeblood of almost every community. In most communities,

manufacturing jobs are the highest percentage of jobs." In Muskegon County, 20% of employment is manufacturing.

Some of us wouldn't be here if it weren't for manufacturing. To give background and reference to the colossal scope of manufacturing and the massive role it plays, Jack spoke about one of his early experiences he had in Japan that gave us a fuller understanding of just that.

Manufacturing requires both extreme precision and consistency. In 2024, there were 15.5 million vehicles produced in North America. That means, there are 72,000 produced in North America every day. 4,375 vehicles an hour or about 73 a minute. With multiple plants, the average vehicle is built, assembled, and driven off the assembly line in 56 seconds. There are two days of a buffer period and if something happens and it is reduced to one day, there is a person living in that manufacturing plant from the main manufacturer.

It's a tough and expensive business but it supports our community with jobs, paying taxes, and other various ways. Thinking back to Jack's early statement of, "Some of us wouldn't be here for manufacturing," he answered with a fact from the Lakeshore Museum. During WWII, according to the Lakeshore Museum, there were over 23,000 employees at the Continental Motors plant on Getty St where they made engines for the P51 Mustang planes. Had it not been for Muskegon's own manufacturing, more of us would have not been here even with this one example. Manufacturing's value in Muskegon County not only improves our community financially but also personally.

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

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](#):

Interact Insider

Rotary In Action Dimitri Poland Navigator Role



Dimitri draws the distinction between a sponsor and a navigator in the process of welcoming a new member to our club. Our goal is to assure a comfortable and friendly transition into a large group in a way that respects a newcomer's sensitivities and interests.

See the full video—[Click Here](#)



Doug Wood shares the news that the Muskegon and Reeths-Puffer high school Interact Clubs are now officially registered with Rotary International.

Interact leaders from Reeths-Puffer and Muskegon high schools were recognized for their work and being officially recognized by Rotary International. **President Tim and Doug Wood** presented certificates to them during our weekly meeting.

Reeths-Puffer Interact President Charli Belinger shares some of the work their club is doing in the community.



YOU ARE INVITED TO:

Coffee Connect

A NEW MEMBER ROTARY EVENT

2025 DATES:
February 18
March 11
June 17
September 5

8:00-9:00 am

Muskegon Museum of History & Science
430 W. Clay Ave.
Muskegon, MI 49440

RSVP: melissa@lakeshoremuseum.org

New Member Coffee Connect

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



Interact leaders, from left, Vice President Brook Buchan and President Charli Belinger from Reeths-Puffer High School and Vice President Cora McGinn and President Addie Witmer from Muskegon High School.



Muskegon Interact President Addie Witmer shares some of the work their club is doing in the community.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Rotary After Hours – Muskegon Area Career Tech Center Tuesday, March 18, 2025 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Who: All Rotarians, Interact, Rotaract and their family and friends.

What: Rotary social event at the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center with an opportunity to network with fellow Rotarians and learn about one of the jewels of Muskegon County. The Muskegon Area Career Tech Center offers 17 areas of relevant hands-on career training, academic credit, and free college credit, for high school juniors and seniors in Muskegon County.

Classes include: Allied Health Auto Collision/Refinishing Auto Service Technology Bio Tech & Engineering Computer Aided Design (CAD) Construction Trades Cosmetology Criminal Justice Electrical/Computer Technology Environmental/Veterinary Sciences Graphic Production Hospitality & Food Management Health Science Academy Software Design & Development Teacher Academy Machining/Engineering Technology Welding Technology

Where: Muskegon Area Career Tech Center - 200 Harvey St, Muskegon, MI 49442

When: Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 2025, 5:30pm – 7:00pm.
What Do I Receive?

- Culinary students will be serving their prepared appetizers
- Brief remarks about the Career Tech Center
- Tours of the facility
- The Criminal Justice students will be manning the parking lot, doors, and helping guide us.
- Water and soft drinks.

How Much? 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/18LzMXivhf/>

Questions: Contact Tim Lipan at Lipant@comcast.net or 231-740-0982.



Fresh off the well-attended Wednesday Rotary After Hours event at the newly expanded Muskegon Museum of Art, **Tim Lipan** of the social committee announced their next event: Tuesday March 18 at the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center, from 5:30-7 p.m.



Braver Angels



Cathy Brubaker-Clarke reminded everyone of the **March 21** Braver Angels Red Blue (and Purple!) workshop titled "Bridging the Political Divide," organized by our Peacebuilders Committee. 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 21st at 9am-Noon.

Social Committee Looking for New Leaders

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.

Sensible fun at the Rotary Social Event at the Muskegon Museum of Art on February 25th. Thank you, **Tim Lipan**, for your pose and **Irma Carney** for the great photography!

Brave



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 or sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4BA CAF28A2F58-55137205-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.

Beards for Books!



Christine Robere shared with Rotarians with beards or wanting to grow beards in March to help support literacy and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library with the United Way of the Lakeshore's annual Beards for Books Campaign. Contact Christine, **Dom Bunker** or the United Way office for more information.

Pours for Community



We are looking for **hosts and new member hosts** for our upcoming **Pour Events** and would love your support!

What is Pours?

Pours is one of Muskegon Rotary's key fundraising events, helping us "**pour the money back**" into the community and beyond. Funds raised support local and international causes, including literacy programs, youth leadership, community projects, and global humanitarian efforts.

Upcoming Events & Locations Needing Hosts:

- **Thurs. 4/17 – 794 Kitchen & Bar** (Host Needed)
- **Mon. 4/21 – Unruly Brewing** (Host Needed)
- **Thurs. 4/24 – Community House** (Host Needed – AM & PM Slots Available)
- **Fri. 5/2 – Wonderland Distilling** (Host Confirmed)
- **Tues. 5/6 – Muskegon Brewing Company** (New Member Host Needed)

We are specifically looking for **Rotarians and new members** to step up as **event hosts** to welcome and engage attendees. If you're interested, please contact **Dimitri Poland** at dimitri.poland@braeburnwealth.com.

Thank you for supporting Rotary and our mission!



President Elect Dave Alexander asks Rotarians to "save the date" for our next joint service project with the Grand Rapids Downtown Rotary Club. We'll be doing work at Kids Food Basket in Grand Rapids on **Saturday, March 29**.

Muskegon Rotarians, please join Grand Rapids Rotarians in a fun and worthwhile joint service project March 29 to help Kids Food Basket! Work involves packing KFB sack suppers and/or prepare food, creating single servings out of KFB's bulk food purchases.

We have 50 spots available for adults and children ages 16 and older accompanied by an adult who will be working in the Food Warehouse, 1300 Plymouth Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. We will then have a fellowship/social hour at a nearby local establishment still being determined.

Since this is also a friends- and family-friendly event, KFB is able to host and accommodate an additional 20 Rotarians and young children (ages 4 to 15) who will be sitting in the KFB Lobby Area (just outside the Food Warehouse) decorating KFB lunch/supper bags with loving messages and drawings. All bags, markers, crayons etc. are provided by KFB.

Rotary Club of Muskegon

Join your fellow Rotarians from Grand Rapids and Muskegon, and bring along your families and friends for our

Joint Community Service Project
at Kids Food Basket
&
Social Gathering/ Fellowship
with the Rotary Club of Muskegon

Saturday March 29

9:30-11:30am Service Project

12-1:30pm Social Gathering

WHERE

- Kids Food Basket (Grand Rapids Location)
- 1300 Plymouth Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505

WHO

- This is a fun and family-friendly Volunteer Opportunity, so bring along your family and friends!
- 50-60 Volunteers Needed

SERVICE PROJECT: 9:30 - 11:30 am

- All Rotary Volunteers should arrive by 9:15am at KFB.
- Create/pack healthy and nourishing meals for kids :-)
- Two Meal Production Shifts are available:
 1. Create single serving lunches out of bulk food purchases
 2. Pack Sack Suppers (mostly dry goods)

SOCIAL GATHERING: 12:00 - 1:30 pm

- Lunch and Social Hour at a nearby family-friendly restaurant (Location TBA soon!)

FUN & FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES @ KFB

- Bring your family (*great for younger kids and teens!*) and get creative while having tons of fun!
- Decorate Paper Lunch Bags with your artistic designs and loving messages for the kids receiving lunches (All materials - bags, crayons, markers etc. - are on site.)

REGISTER HERE!

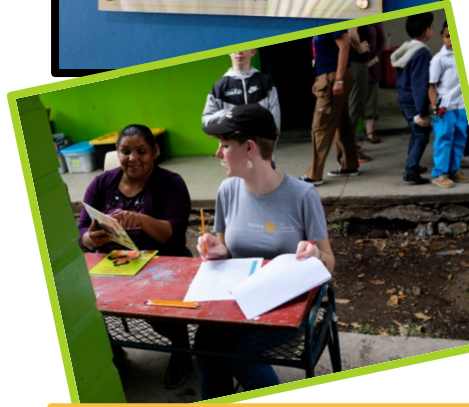
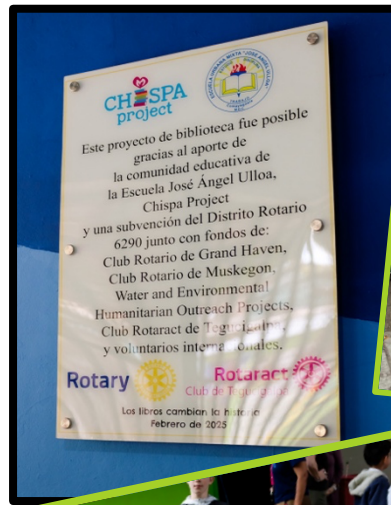
KFB requires volunteers to sign up directly using the QR code on this flier. An account needs to be created for each Rotarian. After scanning QR Code with your phone, select the "Get Started" button on the top right of your screen to create your account. When selecting a work site, select "Kent County Onsite Events" and our March 29 Service Project will then appear. If a Rotarian brings a guest (i.e.,

spouse, partner, colleague, neighbor, child, grandchild, friend), **they should register themselves and add the number and names of their guest(s)**, and the kid's age (if possible). Please contact KFB for any questions at volunteer@kidsfoodbasket.org. Any questions about the event, please contact Roger Morgenstern, rogmorgen@gmail.com.

Chispa Project Completed in Honduras

Members of Muskegon Rotary joined with those from Grand Haven Rotary and partnered with a Honduran organization called Chispa, to build a library in an elementary school on the outskirts of Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. The school, Jose Angel Ulloa, serves 349 students, K-6th grade. The school applied for a Chispa Library about a year ago (there is currently a waitlist of over 500 schools!) and has been preparing diligently for the library installation for several months. There was high anticipation the whole week, as we worked alongside teachers, students, administration, and community leaders to paint murals on the library and classroom walls, build bookshelves, inventory 750 new books, and assist with classroom activities. All of us gathered at the end of the week to officially inaugurate the library with a ribbon cutting ceremony. If you'd like to learn more, talk with **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Linda Juarez, Tara Foreman, Jamie Hekker**, or our student participants Addie Witmer, Landon, Elias Rinsema, and Emerson Foreman.

Contributed by **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga**.



Pictured below are the uniforms that **Darlene Collet** collects and donates for the students. The two gentlemen in the middle are Rotaract Members of the Tegucigalpa Club who are working with a rural school where they will be bringing the uniforms.



Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E8: Jacqui Bernhardt Robinson - Stage at the Corner



Muskegon's newest performance venue is also one of its oldest.

Discover the Stage at the Corner, a 95-year-old landmark transformed into a vibrant 300-seat theater! Jacqui Bernhardt Robinson joins us to share the story of this passion project, complete with a sloped floor, acoustically plastered walls, a vaulted ceiling, and even a fully operational Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ.

Learn how The Corner is fostering community, creativity, and economic growth in Muskegon.

Hear the interview on the latest episode of the Muskegon Rising Podcast:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/16692964-jacqui-bernhardt-stage-at-the-corner>

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)



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

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

Immerse yourself in powerful learning experiences

- 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**

Don't miss this opportunity to elevate your impact and strengthen your connections.

CLICK HERE TO [Save the Date & Register Now!](#)



GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Women History Month

Staff-created list

Celebrate Women's History Month from March 1 to March 31, 2025. Women's History Month began as a smaller "Women's History Week" on March 7, 1982 and was later petitioned by the National Women's History Project to become a month-long celebration. The month of March officially became Women's History Month in 1987 and gives us the opportunity to acknowledge the historical contributions of women in the United States. International Women's Day is observed on March 8th. Learn more about Women's History Month.