

# 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

January 11, 2024

Next Meeting (January 18, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Pot Roast Buffet at the Delta  
Program Topic – Muskegon Career Tech Center

## What's Coming

**January 18** Muskegon Career  
Tech Center  
**January 25** GVSU  
**February 1** Muskegon Art & Culture  
Coalition

## Upcoming Birthdays

**January 20** Brandy Carlson,  
Kate Scarbrough, Duane Schechter, &  
Samantha Scott

**January 23** Steve Dix

[Caring Connections](#)

[Fund](#)

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



## Greeter this week

Nick Green

## Reflectors

Rob Cook	Jan 11
Adam Bell	Jan 18
Darlene Collett	Jan 25

## RIM Reporting this edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern  
RIM Reporter – Meredith Smillie  
RIM Editor – Susan Besteman



## VISITORS & GUESTS



**Kris Collee** was obviously very excited to introduce her guest and fiancé Marc VanderStelt, the recently appointed Police Chief for Norton Shores.



**Myrna Olsen** introduces her friend and former Rotarian Vennie Avorque.



**Joanie Smith** introduces Reeths Puffer Interactors Candyce Meyers, left, and Megan Adams. Both are headed to El Salvador this spring with other Interactors and Rotarians to help build houses. Megan "got hooked" last year when she worked on the project and looks forward to one day being an adult chaperone to continue her involvement.



**Doug Brown** introduces his guests, from left, Robert Baker and Kim Cyr.



**Rob Mathis** introduced his guest, business partner and wife Reyna Mathis.



School is back in session and that means student guests! **Marty Sytsem** introduced his visitors from North Muskegon High School. From left, seniors Oskar Howard, Sage Brewer and Principal Jennifer Schultz. Ms. Schultz thanked the Club for all it does in our community, saying she considers Rotarians adult National Honor Society members. **President Ginny** joked we may need to add our GPAs to our ClubRunner profiles...

## This Week's Program: Voting 101



Speaker: Lori Hayes

Introduced by: **Karen Buie**

Reporter: **Meredith Smillie**

Karen Buie began the introduction of our speaker with an update of a new addition to Michigan's constitution to allow registered voters the ability to vote in person nine days early for all state and federal elections (from a November 2022 vote). Karen noted that the county clerk's responsibility is to ensure that this constitutional privilege is upheld in our municipalities. Muskegon applied for and received a state grant thanks to Lori Hayes' efforts to ensure each municipality has proper staffing and resources for this change.



Lori Hayes shared with Rotary exactly what nine days of early voting looks like. Voters are issued a ballot before election day and the voters can insert the ballot into the tabulator; but the ballots are not tabulated until the close of the polls on election day. Most municipalities in Muskegon County decided to consolidate to be fiscally responsible.



This is a substantial savings for the county of Muskegon. The location to complete your vote will be at a Muskegon County consolidated site which is centrally located in the county at Baker College (1903 Marquette Ave). If this is successful, they may move to additional sites throughout the county.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						17 8am - 4pm
18 10am - 6pm	19 9am - 5pm	20 9am - 5pm	21 9am - 5pm	22 11am - 7pm	23 9am - 5pm	24 8am - 4pm
25 10am - 6pm		27 Election Day 7am - 8pm				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						27 8am - 4pm
28 10am - 6pm	29 9am - 5pm	30 9am - 5pm	31 9am - 5pm	1 11am - 7pm	2 9am - 5pm	3 8am - 4pm
4 10am - 6pm		6 Election Day 7am - 8pm				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						26 8am - 4pm
27 10am - 6pm	28 9am - 5pm	29 9am - 5pm	30 9am - 5pm	31 11am - 7pm	1 9am - 5pm	2 8am - 4pm
3 10am - 6pm		5 Election Day 7am - 8pm				

Location  
1903 Marquette Ave  
Muskegon, MI

Lori noted that early voting is secure and accurate; voters are checked in with a database to ensure that they are registered to vote and have not previously already voted. The voting equipment is certified by bi-partisan board of canvassers and tested by local officials, bi-partisan election inspectors with Clerk supervision work at the early in-person voting site, and voters cast paper ballots which are stored in secured sealed ballot containers each night, and there is a separate container for each day.

There is a need for more volunteers. If you are available and willing to help, contact Lori for your next step.

### Muskegon Rotary Board

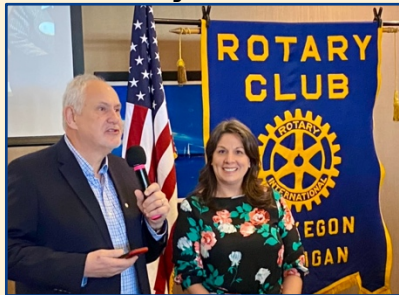
Ginny Sprague, President  
Tim Arter, President-Elect  
Dave Alexander, President Nominee  
Jane Clingman-Scott, Past President  
Kristi Nagengast, Treasurer  
Don Hutchins, Secretary  
Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator

Directors:

Aaron Maike  
David Ramos  
Marty Sytsema  
Roger Morgenstern  
Asaline Scott  
Brandon Turnbull

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

## New Induction – Irma Carney



Doug Brown introduces our newest member, **Irma Carney**. Irma is a Mortgage Loan Officer with Revolution Mortgage. In her free time, she loves spending quality time with her husband Michael (who she met in 6th grade) as well as her two sons, Braylon and Xavier, and (of course) her two fur kids, Lucy and Teo'. She enjoys watching family movies, eating sushi and attending high school football games, especially the Muskegon Big Reds. Irma is a 5am Boot Camper that likes to keep everyone in class laughing with her "Workout Words." She believes in working hard, staying humble, and being kind.



## Please welcome potential new members:

David Medendorp who is with Medendorp Real Estate Group. David is sponsored by **Scott Timmer** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. David will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Amanda Rupert who is employed at Big Lots. Amanda is sponsored by **Kevin Ricco** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Amanda will be inducted in the next few weeks.

## Member Spotlight Rob Mathies



Rob and his wife Reyna have created Citi Boi. Citi Boi works to help their community overcome any barriers they may be facing by reallocating goods and services to those in need. They connect people with food, school supplies, clothing, housing, and other resources.

Watch the video [here](#).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Great Michigan Read



The Great Michigan Read is kicking off and **Nancy McCarthy** announced the "Firekeeper's Daughter" will be the book for this year's event the third week in March (Michigan-based author, Angeline Boulley). See Nancy for more details.



### ReWine Meetings

ReWine meetings are every first and third Thursday each month at 5:15pm at Walker's (in the Delta)

## Braver Angels Workshop



Friday, February 23

### Skills for Bridging the Divide (MI - State/Muskegon Rotary)

Communication Skills for Bridging the Political Divide Workshop

**Nancy McCarthy** announced the Rotary PeaceBuilders Committee invites you to attend an upcoming Braver Angels Workshop on

February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:30-11:30am at the Mona Shores Library Community Room (refreshments provided).

This workshop will focus on teaching crucial capabilities for having respectful conversations that clarify difference, search for common ground, and affirm the primary importance of our relationships within a safe environment to practice those skills. Braver Angels presented their organization to Rotary on September 21, 2023, and at this workshop, they won't be specifically talking about individual politics; instead, they will be instructing active and deeper listening skills, tone-setting strategies, affirming each other, reframing difficult conversations with constructive "I" statements, exploring creative ways to discover seemingly hidden areas for common ground between us and developing good boundary-setting capabilities. Maximum of 50 people so sign up soon through this link:

[Braver Angels Workshop Signup Link](#)  
[Click Here](#)



PEACEBUILDING AND  
CONFLICT PREVENTION

## Food Trucks – Volunteers Needed



**Arn Boezaart** is seeking volunteers for the Feeding America Food Trucks. Rotary Board of Directors voted to underwrite and sponsor two trucks. Wednesday, March 27 and Wednesday, April 24 at 4:00PM to 6:00PM. We need a minimum of ten volunteers and 15 is better. Temple Methodist Church at 2500 Jefferson in Muskegon Heights. See Arn if you'd like to volunteer.



Andy Buelow from the DEI Committee said our Club will be well represented at the Jan. 12 Unity Breakfast organized by Muskegon Community College, with two tables paid for by our Club. He thanked those who will be attending.

## Rotary in Action Contest

We said thanks but "you're off the island" to **Kevin Ricco** and **Judy Hayner** (not pictured because the RIM photo department ran out of film). Next week, we'll thank and excuse the final 3 Brave Rotarians. The remaining two will be awarded Paul Harris Fellows in their name. Thanks to all for participating in the "Rotary in Action" fundraiser for the RI Foundation!

## District 6290 50/50 Raffle



In addition to running the Brave Rotarian contest, **Meredith Smillie** is selling 50/50 tickets for the RI Foundation. Tickets are \$20 a piece. Together we can change lives by building better communities. Join us in the great 2024 50/50 Raffle. Half of your ticket goes to the Rotary Foundation to do more in the world and half your ticket will be returned in prize money to 6 lucky winners. Tickets for \$20 each are on sale through February 29, 2024. See Meredith to purchase. Cash or check made out to Rotary District 6290.

## Get Your Chili On! Cook Off and 50/50 Raffles



From left, Candyce Meyers & Megan Adams, seniors at Reeths-Puffer and Interact members, greeted Rotarians in the buffet line Jan. 11 to promote the Feb. 13 Chili Cookoff. As you can see, there's still room on the sheet for cooks and sponsors! Both Interactors are among the group from Muskegon Rotary who will be participating in international service projects in El Salvador and Honduras in March & April 2024. Proceeds will be used to purchase house building materials and other supplies on their trips.

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024  
5:30-7:30pm**



First Lutheran Church,  
1206 Whitehall Road  
Muskegon MI 49445

Menu: Chili, cornbread, salad, desserts, and bottled water

Tickets are \$10 each (or \$15 at the door) – Children 5 and under free.

## Scan QR code to buy your tickets:

Please enter the total \$ amount of the tickets you want to purchase. \$10.00 x number of tickets you'd like. Example, enter \$20.00 if you wish to buy two tickets. The email receipt you receive will serve as your ticket into the event.



If you'd like to get into the chili cook-off contest, please contact Esther Ricco ([riccoe@gvsu.edu](mailto:riccoe@gvsu.edu)) for information. If you'd like to be a sponsor for this event, please contact Michelle Burley ([michelleburley1969@gmail.com](mailto:michelleburley1969@gmail.com)) for information. Your support is greatly appreciated!

## EL SALVADOR FUNDRAISER

### Spaghetti Dinner

FUNDRAISER

Join us for a Spaghetti dinner to help raise money for Muksegon High School Rotary Interact kids going to El Salvador to build homes!

**Monday, February 5th**  
at Lakeside Cafe  
from 5pm-7pm

**\$12.99** Dinner include: Spaghetti, Meatballs, Garlic Bread! (Drink not included.)

We also will be accepting pop cans donations!

**Interact**  
Rotary Sponsored Club

## New Muskegon Rising Podcast



Muskegon Rotary Club is proud to announce the release of the Muskegon Rising podcast! The podcast features Rotarians interviewing change makers bringing growth to Greater Muskegon.

The inaugural episode features an interview with Muskegon County Sheriff **Michael Poulin** by Muskegon County Prosecutor **DJ Hilson**. Mike and DJ discuss everything from law enforcement's relationship with the community to the "Polar Patrol" ice cream truck.

A special thank you to hosts **DJ Hilson, Kendrah Robinson, Nick Green, Aaron Maiké, Emily Morgenstern, Lisa Stafford**, and the incomparable **Mike Vogas** for producing the podcast.

New episodes drop on Tuesday. Tune in and subscribe at: <https://muskegonrotary.org/page/muskegon-rising-podcast>



**Esther & Kevin Ricco** celebrating the University of Michigan National Championship win with **Jim Fisher** courtesy of **Jim Fisher**

## New Rotarian Pastor



**Rob Cook** celebrated his 50th birthday by giving a brief but very impactful reflection

at our weekly meeting. In the background, a sharp RIM photographer captured Rabbi Alan Alpert who is always looking for more reflectors. See Alan to sign up.

## RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Lori Weiler

Reporters: Jackie Farrar, Kathy Moore  
Roger Morgenstern,  
Meredith Smillie

Photographers: Mark Alpher & Roger Morgenstern

Contributors: Bill Johanson,  
John Noling, & Mike Vogas



The Inaugural Roger A. Andersen Lifetime Community Leadership Award



## Former Major Rotarian Robert Jewell Obituary

Jewell, Robert  
8/1/1930 - 1/5/2024  
(Summary from obituary): Robert (Bob) D. Jewell, age 93, passed away on January 5, 2024. He was known for his success in growing Muskegon Business College into a statewide career college known as Baker College. During his professional career of 63 years, he served as President and Chairman of the Board for the Baker College System and on many community and private boards and service clubs. Please sign the family's online guestbook and share memories with the family at [sytsemafh.com](http://sytsemafh.com).



**Marilyn Andersen Obituary**  
Marilyn Jean Verduin Andersen, wife of the late Roger A. Andersen, passed away

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at age 89. The family will hold a visitation at Clock Funeral Home at 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. on Friday, January 12, 2024. The family will hold a private graveside burial service. A celebration of life memorial service will be planned for a date to be determined in mid-2024. Please visit [www.clockfuneralhome.com](http://www.clockfuneralhome.com) to leave a memory or sign the online guestbook.

