

# 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 16, 2025

**Next Meeting (January 23, 2025, 12-1:30pm) — BBQ Pulled Meats at the DELTA  
 Program Topic – Youth Exchange Reveal & MCC Rotaract Update**

## What's Coming

- Jan 23 – Youth Exchange Reveal and MCC Rotaract Update
- Jan 30 – Musk Co Bicycling Coalition
- Feb 6 – Harbor Terrace Senior Living

## Upcoming Birthdays

January 25 **Emma Schroeder-McClintock**

## Caring Connections Fund



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

## Greeter This Week

Pete DeBoer & Cynthia Maynard

## Reflector This Week

**Emily Morgenstern** provided the Reflection with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



## RIM Reporting this Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern  
 RIM Reporter – Kathy Moore  
 RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

## Visitors & Guests



**Jamie Sowa** introduced students and staff from Baker College. As Baker's director of student affairs, she rattled off every name without notes; *RIM* is not that proficient so we'll list them here as best we can: Students Madeline Lorenz, Ella Fallenhagen, Jude Geyer, Ernesto Guerrevo, and staff members Kiana Roberts, Kalysta Millis and Jessica Scharmer.



**Bill Erickson** introduced his work colleague Jonathan Scouten.



**Jamie Hekker** her guest and her dad, Mike Helsen.



**Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** introduces her Rotary Youth Exchange student Michelle Mbashall.



**Jenny McNeill** introduces her guest, Kathy Covington.



**Emma Peterson** introduces her guest, **Michelle Gravlin**.



**Ken Johnson** introduces his guest, MLive/Muskegon Chronicle reporter **Kayla Tucker**.



With his usual flair, **Marty Sytsema** introduces our student guests from Oakridge High School. Joining us were counselor Kurt Kiesgen and seniors (and sisters) Gracie Willea and Kylee Willea.

### 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

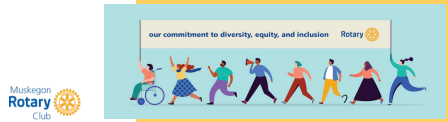
**Directors:**

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

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

## This week's program: DEI Committee

# Muskegon Rotary Club DEI Committee



**Presenters: Contessa Alexander and Andy Buelow**

**Introduced by: Dave Alexander**

**RIM Reporter: Kathy Moore**

**Dave Alexander** introduced the program speakers – **Andy Buelow** is the



President/CEO of West Michigan Symphony and has served as the volunteer Chair/Co-Chair of the Club's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee for several years. **Contessa Alexander** works as the Develop Analyst for the City of Muskegon and has actively served as the volunteer Chair/Co-Chair of the DEI Committee for several years as well.



The program started with greetings from and recognition of numerous committee members who have dedicated lots of time, talent and treasure in pursuit of the DEI objectives. The speakers shared the Committee's vision, mission, and list of imperatives. The mission of the DEI Committee is to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of Muskegon Rotary, including its membership, partnerships and activities.

The presentation outlined Damali Ayo's suggested solutions to "Ending Racism in 5 Steps" which is an excerpt from her "I Can Fix It!" publication. The artist and author (Ayo) summarized over 2,000 responses to an email survey from people of many races to create a guide that could be

## Greetings from Muskegon Rotary Club DEI Committee



## PATHS OF PRIVILEGE AND BARRIERS



### Reflection Questions

1. What emotions or thoughts arose as you discussed the prompts? How do these disparities connect to real-life challenges faced by individuals in different communities?
2. How did your table's scenario influence your ability to gain or lose resources during the game? What does this reveal about the impact of representation, economic stability, or cultural acceptance in shaping opportunities?



applied immediately by a wide range of people. The 5 suggested steps are: 1) Admit it, 2) Listen, 3) Educate Yourself, 4) Broaden Your Experience, and 5) Take Action.

Each step was defined and/or explained in greater detail with a dedicated slide of examples. Lastly, the audience of Rotarians and guests were invited to participate in an interactive table exercise designed to promote greater understanding of systemic inequities. The objective of the activity was to explore and discuss how systemic factors (race, gender, disability, etc.) impact access to resources and opportunities; and to experience how disparities accumulate over time. The interactivities included various scenarios, limited resources

(green and red chips), prompts, reflection and sharing. The intent was to heighten emotions, understanding, and (possibly) uncomfortable realizations. Discussions pursued.

In conclusion, both Andy Buelow and Contessa Alexander exhibited passion and dedication to the cause. The DEI committee and its members are visibly present and involved in a plethora of DEI-focused initiatives and activities throughout the Muskegon area and beyond. They have originated, co-created, and/or participated in numerous noteworthy projects such as the "Love Lives Here" campaign, Community Mixer with the City of Muskegon Heights, the Big Read Lakeshore book discussions, festivals, celebrations, collaborations, trainings and many more. They are passionate, firm, and unapologetic in their approach. And we applaud them for their "Service Above Self" commitment.



# Thank you

**Andy Buelow**

[abuelow@westmichigansymphony.org](mailto:abuelow@westmichigansymphony.org)

**Contessa Alexander**

[contessa.alexander@shorelinecity.com](mailto:contessa.alexander@shorelinecity.com)

**Rotary In Action  
Muskegon Rotarian –  
Mark Eisenbarth**



World Community Service is an international outreach effort that our Muskegon Rotary Club has decades of history to reveal. We are proud to offer our members and local youth, the chance to learn humanitarian lessons by volunteering abroad. These trips offer life lessons in the unique experiences they bring home with them each year.

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**

**RIM Reporting Team**

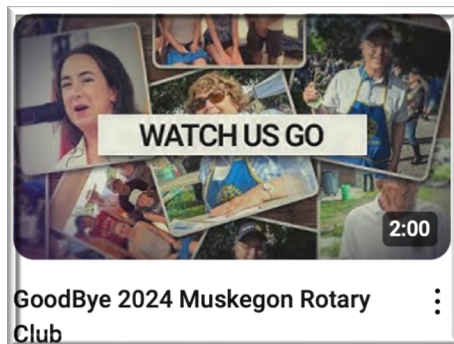
Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Jackie Farrar

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the video **Mike Vogas** created to give a two-minute salute to Muskegon Rotary efforts in 2024!

**Coffee Connect  
Rescheduled to Feb 18<sup>th</sup>**

Due to the inclement weather, our next Coffee Connect is Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow in upcoming RIM Newsletters.



**Nancy McCarthy**, on behalf of our Rotary Club’s Peacebuilders Committee, invited everyone to attend an upcoming Braver Angels Red Blue workshop on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 9am-noon called 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 to sign up.

**Rotary Club  
Corporate Partnership  
w/ Neal Fitness Center  
(Boys & Girls Club)**



EST. **NEAL** 2021  
**FITNESS  
CENTER**

900 W. Western Ave.  
Muskegon MI 49442  
☎ 231-375-7041  
[www.nealfitnesscenter.com](http://www.nealfitnesscenter.com)

You heard it here first!

A Corporate Partner Agreement between Muskegon Rotary Club and The Neal Fitness Center at the Boys and Girls Club is in the works! Here are the details:

Neal Fitness Center Corporate Partnership Plan: **FitPERK**

The FitPerk benefit is a discounted \$50/month membership (usually \$60) and includes discounts for facility rentals at The Clubhouse (The Boys & Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore and the Neal Fitness Center)

Start Date: **Fri. Jan. 24, 2025**

Partnership Launch

Promotion: **Initiation Fee Waived through Sun. Feb. 16th**

The initiation fee (\$50) is waived for each new Rotary member and for each Family Add-on membership during this period.

What to bring: Please ask members to show the email they will have received from Rotary announcing this opportunity at the member services desk when they come in to sign up.



Harvest Fest organizers **Dave Alexander**, **Carla Flanders** and **Roger Morgenstern** joined **Jamie Sowa** and her crew from Baker College and its Culinary Institute of Michigan (CIM) to celebrate the success of Harvest Fest 2024. Not only did the annual fund raiser bring in \$21,000 to support Muskegon Rotary Foundation programs, but it also provided \$2,000 for CIM student scholarships and \$1,000 for the Baker College Rotaract Club.

### Help our Interact Students with International Service!

Thank you for your continued support of our Interact students!!!

This year we are asking for donations to fund for building supplies. To give you an idea of the difference our building efforts in El Salvador make:



Above is a picture of a typical house in Talnique, El Salvador – metal sheeting, bedsheets, tarps, mud, sticks, dirt floors, basically anything they can find to put a roof over their heads.



This is a house built with a Talnique family, Rotarians and Interactors – bricks, metal roofing, windows, doors, and cement floors.

We appreciate any support you can give. Scan the peach colored QR Code or click this link to donate:

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE \\$\\$](#)

Muskegon Rotary Fdn El Salvador Bldg Supplies

### Muskegon Rising Podcast S2E2: Alana Matyas-Brower - Run Muskegon



Ready to get moving, Muskegon? Aaron Maike sits down with Alana Matyas-Brower to explore the impact of Run Muskegon. Learn how this organization fosters community, encourages healthy lifestyles, and supports runners of all levels, from beginners to experienced athletes.

Whether you're a seasoned marathoner or just starting your running journey, this episode is sure to inspire.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/16436142-alana-matyas-brower-run-muskegon>

This link connects to the entire collection of our YouTube Muskegon Rising video podcasts. [CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

### Please welcome potential new members:



Kaitlin Hermanson who is the Manager of Farm Programs with Trinity Health Muskegon. Kaitlin is sponsored by **Emily Morgenstern** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Kaitlin will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Amy Campanelli who is the Director at the Muskegon County Public Defender Office. Amy is sponsored by **Marcia Hovey-Wright** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Amy will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Jonathon Scouten who is the Director of Ministry at Life Change Church. Jonathon will be placed with a sponsor soon and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Jonathon will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Michelle Gravlin who is the Lakeshore Director of Community Health & Well-Being with Trinity Health. Michelle is sponsored by **Emma Peterson** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Michelle will be inducted in the next few weeks.

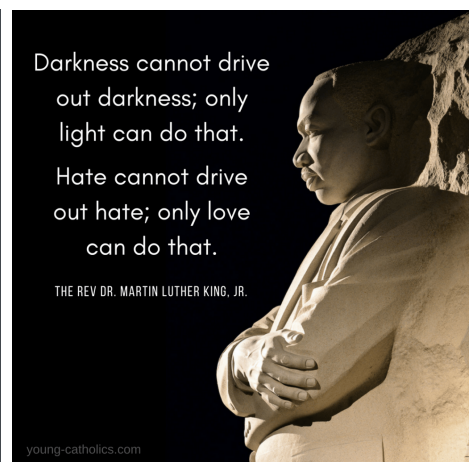
Paula Martin who is retired from Hackley Hospital/Trinity Health. Paula is sponsored by **Pam Babbitt** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Paula will be inducted in the next few weeks.

Trevor Hopkins who is with Beacon Home Inspection. Trevor is sponsored by **Alexandre Fonseca** and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Trevor will be inducted in the next few weeks.



### Baker College Rotaract Students Make a Big Impact to Harbor Hospice Foundation

Baker Rotaract Advisor and Rotarian **Jamie Sowa** and the Baker Rotaract Students including Anna Childerhose, Rebekah Fox-Zunt, Monika Godek, Kalysta Millis, Madison Mills, Kiana Roberts, Allison Ross, and Sillian Singleton, presented a hard-earned gift of \$2000 to Harbor Hospice Representatives and fellow Rotarians **Ammy Seymour** and **Sue Houseman**. Ammy thanked the group for their generous donation and this support will go toward three of their key programs: Harbor Palliative Care, their Leila & Cyrus Poppen Hospice Residence, and the Bob & Merle Scolnik Healing Center. Kudos to this amazing group of young leaders!



[Click here](#) for some of MADL's recommended reads for Martin Luther King Jr Day!