

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 18, 2024

Next Meeting (January 25, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Pesto Chicken Buffet at the Delta
Program Topic – Grand Valley State University Update

What's Coming

January 25 GVSU
February 1 Muskegon Art & Culture Coalition
February 8 Call 2-1-1
February 15 Crisis Intervention Team

Upcoming Birthdays

January 30 Heather Brolick

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



Greeters this week

Arlen Dean-Gaddy & Sue Samaniego

Reflectors

Adam Bell	Jan 18
Darlene Collett	Jan 25
Joanie Smith	Feb 1
Karen Buie	Feb 8
Emily Morgenstern	Feb 15



Adam Bell provided the reflection with the focus on our "Golden Keys."

RIM Reporting this edition

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

VISITORS & GUESTS



Myra Dutton introduced her guest and work colleague, Tina Campbell.



Adam Bell introduced his and **Ara Demirjian's** guest, Rev. Mackenzie Jager.



Brandon Turnbull introduced his guest, Andrew Mateskon.



Arlen-Dean Gaddy introduces his guest and work colleague Leanna Cornell.



Claire Root-Benson introduced our Muskegon High School Interact members visiting today. From left are seniors Victoria Guerrero, the treasurer and president Zuri LaBrenz.



Dayne Robinson introduces his guest and work colleague Nicole Spangler

1/18/2024 Muskegon Rotary
YouTube Video Link: [Click Here](#)

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 Maiké	Roger Morgenstern
David Ramos	Asaline Scott
Marty Sytsema	Brandon Turnbull

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

This Week's Program: Muskegon Career Tech Center Update



Speakers: David Kirksey &

Kyle Fiebig

Introduced by: **Lisa Tyler**

Reporter: **Roger Morgenstern**

As a board member of the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD) **Lisa Tyler** got to introduce our program *and* understandably brag about the MAISD's Career Tech Center. "The career tech programs in our county are phenomenal. They're not the classes we may remember from our youth."



Our speakers were Kyle Fiebig, director of Career and Tech Education and David Kirksey, principal of the Career Tech Center (CTC). David, a Muskegon native, came back to town after being a principal in Kalamazoo for 13 years. His enthusiasm for what the CTC does was very clear. His presentation focused on a 1910 quote from Mark

Twain and how it still rings true today: *"Out of the public schools grows the greatness of a nation."*



Kirksey said while Twain made that remark when public education was defined by the one-room schoolhouse, there are three areas that still apply to today's school system: Providing an "Educational Center," civic engagement and economic improvement. "These three areas are still relevant today and I think the CTC still embodies each of these."

From auto collision to welding, the CTC offers 16 different programs to all Muskegon County students no matter where they go to school; public and private districts, charter schools and home school students can all participate. Currently 876 students are enrolled, and unlike other similar programs around Michigan, the CTC is growing, with waiting lists for some programs. Each of the programs has a Community Advisory Board to make sure the material remains current and relevant. The CTC also offers internships and various leadership roles and opportunities to "teach the teacher" as most of their instructors come from industry, and not education.

David thanked Rotarians for their support of the CTC as community business leaders. "Our county has embraced the trades. If you all weren't out there working and creating jobs, these students would have no place to go."

Thanks in part of an engaged business community and a successful tax millage, the CTC has the latest technology for students and the students are being taught by those who have worked in the various industries. "Most of our instructors are pulled out of industry" and didn't go to school to become teachers.

While Kirksey works within the CTC, Kyle Fiebig is out in the community to connect the CTC to career opportunities across the county. One

of his focuses is on talent development "to create a college and career-ready culture for all of Muskegon."



Fiebig referenced cards on each of the tables (see below) to help engage Rotarians in this effort to make connections across the community to help our youth plan their future after high school.



Together, we are creating a college and career-ready culture for all of Muskegon.

Are you IN?

Using a GIS Map (Geographic Information System), we are locating & defining opportunities where K-12 students can find help as they PLAN their future life after high school.

Talent development is critical to a community's growth. Talent development is a shared responsibility between local schools, higher education, community organizations, government agencies and business connections.

SEE our impact and JOIN our efforts!

Connection Request Form: <https://bit.ly/mkgitdmap>



MAISD
Muskegon Area Intermediate School District

New Member Inductions

Brad Hastings



Brad Hastings is the Systems Advocacy Manager at Disability Network West Michigan, where he started in the spring of 2018. Brad's primary job responsibilities are to work with disability advocates, business leaders, and local governments to improve accessibility, provide technical assistance, and community education on disability related topics. Brad is a lifelong Muskegon County resident and a graduate of Reeths-Puffer High School. He is also a graduate of Michigan State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in Anthropology, with a minor in Philosophy and Law. Prior to his time at DNWM, Brad spent 5 years as the Community Food Programs Manager at TrueNorth Community Services, where he coordinated an emergency food program.

Brad is a Certified ADA Coordinator and has completed over 200 hours of training on the Americans with Disabilities Act. Currently, Brad serves as a Co-Chairperson for the ADA Michigan Committee, leads a collaborative group on Accessibility for Disability Network of Michigan, is a member of the Trainer Leadership Network for the ADA National Network, is a member of the LEAD Muskegon giving circle steering committee, and serves on Muskegon's Downtown Development Authority Board.

In his personal time, Brad plays Trombone in a local band called Flexadecibel and enjoys reading, disc golfing, going to the beach, and travelling. Brad and his girlfriend of 5 years, Ashley, own a home near downtown with their dog and two cats.

Brad is sponsored by **Pete DeBoer**.

Nick Green



Today, we gather not just to mark Nick's journey, but to celebrate a shared belief in the extraordinary power of individual stories. Nick has an associate from GRCC and is continuously pursuing a Bachelors in Integrative Studies with a minor in Psychology, hoping to finish in the next year. Let me share a glimpse into the chapters that shaped who he is. Growing up in a challenging home, he learned that life is not a script written by circumstances; it's a narrative crafted by choices. In his short time of Earth, he has tried to make an impact however he can. He enjoys working with youth sports programs, has volunteered in Haiti after the Earthquakes in 2010, and has hosted fundraisers for various organizations and individuals.

He has been married to his wife Lyndon, for 13 years. They have 3 children together and recently moved here to downtown Muskegon. In his free time, he enjoys photography and art, beach/boat days, and exploring the UP with his family. Nick is fulfilling another passion of serving our business community in his role as a Business Dev Officer at Route 31 Credit Union.

Now, as he joins the Rotary Club, it's more than a mere addition to his Resume—it's an ode to the resilience that has guided him thus far. This journey is a testament to the idea that we are not defined by our past, but rather by the aspirations that propel us forward. So, here's to embracing the canvas of life, painting it with purpose, and finding strength in the community we create together within the Rotary Club of Muskegon.

He thanks you for being a part of this chapter of his life. Nick is sponsored by **John Rupert**.

Scott Roodvoets



Scott is a native of Midland, Michigan, but spent nearly half of his life living and working in Canada. He relocated to Muskegon from Belleville, Ontario at the start of 2022 to join his partner Liz, and to be closer to his father in Montague and his extended family, which is rooted in Grand Rapids.

Scott spent most of his career running small-to-medium manufacturing plants. He started his professional at a shipyard in Maine after completing degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering at Webb Institute of Naval Architecture.

After three years working in the marine industry, Scott returned to graduate school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and earned master's degrees in Management Science and Mechanical Engineering. He worked for Alcoa in Lafayette, IN for three years before hopping the border into Canada to join an MIT classmate running a family-owned automotive parts company. This led to 28 years of engineering and operations management roles in auto parts, plastic molding, a nano-technology start-up, electrical wire and cable production, and finally a short stint in pharmaceuticals. He is not currently working but is actively seeking a work. If you know of an opportunity that could benefit from his experience and talent, he'd be happy to hear about it.

He has a long history of volunteer activities and is eager to get more involved here in Muskegon. In Canada, Scott was a board member for two manufacturing associations that worked to share best practices and influence government policy, including two years as a board chairperson. He was part of a small group that supported a Syrian refugee family and has made two trips to

Guatemala for volunteer construction projects. He has been active in community theater for most of his life and is a long-time amateur guitar player and collector. He is currently active with the Muskegon Yacht Club and Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation. He's an avid sailor, power-boater, cyclist and yoga enthusiast.

He has two adult children and three grandsons, all living near Scottsdale, AZ. Scott is sponsored by **Jim Fisher**.



The newest Rotarians in the world, from left: **Nick Green, Brad Hastings and Scott Roodvoets**, congratulated & inducted by **President-Elect Tim Arter**.

Member Spotlight Jeanette Hoyer



This week's member spotlight features **Jeanette Hoyer**. Jeanette joined Rotary in 2017, after becoming President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of West Michigan. As the Rotary Foundation's January theme is vocational services, Jeanette said that fits well with Goodwill's role in the community. "Our entire mission is to change lives through the power of work." to meaningful and sustaining work.

Watch the video [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rotary in Action Contest Winners Announced!

Meredith Smillie, with the help of our presentation guru **Mike Vogas**, spun the Rotary Wheel of Misfortune 3 more times to "thank and politely excuse" our final Brave Rotarians and their \$100 donations: **Pam Babbitt, Kathy Moore, and Samantha Scott**. That means there were only two Rotarians on the Wheel: **Jim Fisher and Gene Fethke**. For both "survivors" their \$100 to the Rotary Foundation has become a Paul Harris Fellow (\$1,000 value) which they can hold onto or share with someone else in the community. Congratulations!

A huge thank you to all who participated: **Jim Fisher, Gene Fethke, Pam Babbitt, Kathy Moore, Samantha Scott, Judy Hayner, Kevin Ricco, Ginny Sprague, Rem Sprague, Jules Terry, Susan Holkeboer, Carim Calkins, John Noling, Dave Alexander, Ed Hendrickson, Missy Horton, Marcia Hovey-Wright, Tim Lipan, Bill Loxterman, Jillian Pastoor and Annette Smedley**.



Meredith Smillie announced the winners of our Rotary In Action Brave Rotarians Contest: **Jim Fisher & Gene Fethke**.

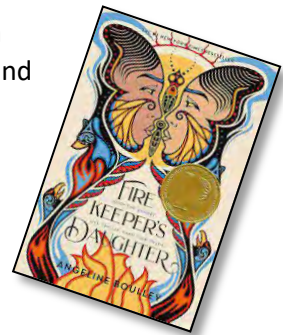
Stay tuned for your next Brave Rotarians contest coming soon-- March Madness!

Rotary In Action

- MY ROTARY
- The heart of Rotary is our dedicated members, who share the ideals of service, friendship, diversity, integrity, and leadership.
- Rotary clubs bring together people across generations who wish to create lasting change in the world in their communities, and in themselves. Rotary and Rotaract members around the world strengthen their connections to friends and neighbors taking action through service. From big cities to rural villages, Rotary is changing communities like yours.
- 244 Members in October, Chartered in 1916
- Home of Love Lives Here
- 3 "Fun"Orators: Seaway Run, Parties in the Park, Harvest Fest
- Award winning Rotary in Motion/RM newsletter
- Random Sock Contests and other Facebook Celebrities

Great Michigan Read

The Great Michigan Read is kicking off and the "Fire Keeper's Daughter" is the book for the third week in March. See **Nancy McCarthy** for more details.



Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga provided exciting news about Rotary's involvement in the upcoming "community read" of the Michigan-based

book, *Fire Keeper's Daughter*. Thanks to **Doug Wood** our Club has been recognized by Michigan Humanities as an official partner and is getting 20 copies of the book, penned by Michigan author Angeline Boulley, for distribution to members. Sarah also announced that Boulley will be visiting Muskegon April 17 as part of the community read! Stay tuned for more details. To help prepare for her visit, Sarah asked Rotarians to contact her, **Nancy McCarthy**, or **Doug Wood** if you have any native ancestry and would like to be part of a program with the author that is now in the works.

ReWine Meetings



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



President-Elect **Tim Arter** did a fine job filling in for **President Ginny**.

Pours Trivia Night – Volunteers Needed

In addition to running the occasional meeting and doing a lot of Rotary things, **Tim Arter** is working on the 2024 version of *Pours for Community*. There is a trivia night scheduled April 18 and Tim is looking for volunteers to assist. Please contact him if you can lend a hand!

Muskegon Interact is Rockin' It!



Hats off to our Interact members who have been visiting the Club to help raise money and awareness related to their upcoming trips to do good in El Salvador and Honduras. This week we heard from Muskegon Interact President **Zuri LaBrenz**, right, and Treasurer **Victoria Guerrero**, both seniors at MHS. And both young women are going on both trips! They addressed the club, promoting their upcoming blood drive at the high school Feb. 21, the Chili Cookoff Feb. 13, and spaghetti dinner fundraiser Feb. 5. We thank them for all their work and for their willingness to work abroad on behalf of our Club!

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

A benefit fundraiser to support local Rotary Interact students who will be participating in international service projects in El Salvador & Honduras in March & April 2024. Proceeds will be used to purchase house building materials & other supplies.

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 be a cook for the chili cook-off contest, please contact **Esther Ricco** or if you'd like to be a sponsor, please contact **Michelle Burley**.

EL SALVADOR FUNDRAISER




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 reminded us of the upcoming Braver Angels workshop "Skills for Bridging the Divide" Feb. 23 at the Norton Shores Library (705 Seminole Road, Norton Shores, MI).

February 23rd 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

Interact Insider

MHS Interact Blood Drive



Muskegon High School Interact is hosting a Blood Drive on February 21, 2024, at noon-6pm. Click the link to sign up for the MHS Interact Blood Drive:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/driver-results?zipSponsor=MHS>



Enjoy the snow! Our RIM Co-Editor, **Susan Besteman**, and fellow Rotarian **Sarah Sybenga-Rinsema** were spotted sledding at our beautiful Muskegon State Park.

Food Trucks – Volunteers Needed

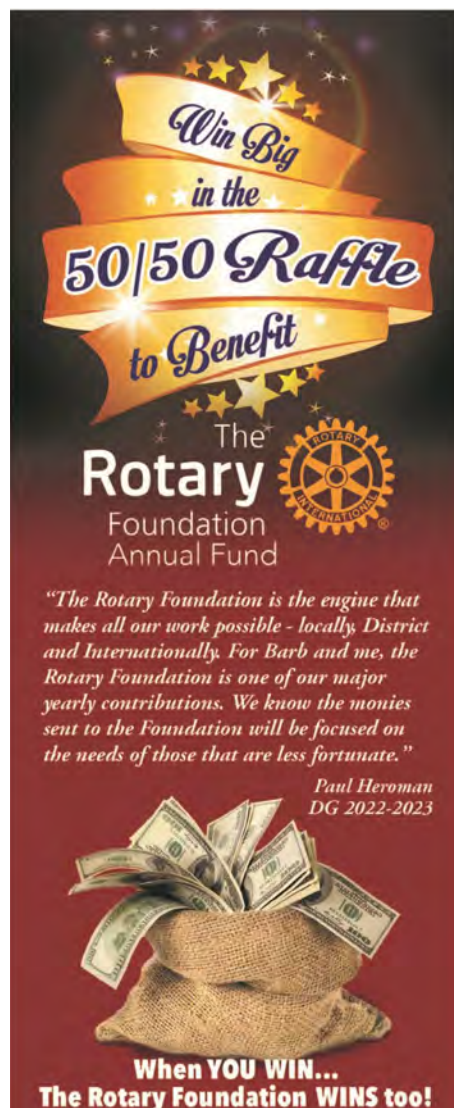
Arn Boezaart is seeking volunteers for the Feeding America Food Trucks. Rotary Board of Directors voted to underwrite and sponsor two trucks. Wednesday, March 27 and Wednesday, April 24 at 4:00-6:00PM.

We need a minimum of 10 volunteers but 15 is better. Temple Methodist Church at 2500 Jefferson in Muskegon Heights.



District 6290 50/50 Raffle

Meredith Smillie is selling 50/50 tickets for the Rotary International 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 good works 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.



Thank you, John & Susan Noling!



Kudos and great appreciation to **John Noling** and his wife, Susan, for taking the initiative to clean up the branches from the storms in Rotary Park. Contributed by **Kevin Donovan**.



(From Left to Right) **Jim Fisher**, **Kevin Ricco**, and **Esther Ricco** were spotted celebrating after the University of Michigan football team's national championship victory.

RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Lori Weiler

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

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