

# The RIM Newsletter

# Rotary In Motion



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 25, 2024

Next Meeting (February 1, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Taco Bar at the Delta  
Program Topic – Muskegon Art & Culture Coalition

## What's Coming

**February 1** Muskegon Art & Culture Coalition  
**February 8** Call 2-1-1  
**February 15** Housing Study

## Upcoming Birthdays

**February 1** Jim Nielsen  
**February 4** Laura Lorenz

### Caring

#### Connections Fund

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



### Greeters this week

Arlen Dean-Gaddy & Irma Carney

### Reflectors

Darlene Collett	Jan 25
Joanie Smith	Feb 1
Karen Buie	Feb 8
Emily Morgenstern	Feb 15
Andrew Buelow	Feb 22
Ken Rasp	Feb 29

### RIM Reporting this edition

Photographer – Carla Flanders  
RIM Reporter – Jackie Farrar  
RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

1/25/2024 Muskegon Rotary  
YouTube Video Link: [Click Here](#)

## VISITORS & GUESTS



**Tim Arter** with guest Amy Deming (Brickley DeLong)



**Meredith Smillie** introduced her husband and guest for today, Trent Smillie



**Andrew Zahrt** with his guest and prospective member, Kevin Huss (Lumbertown Law)



**Samantha Scott** introduced her guest and prospective member, Jared Hughes (Elektron Solutions)



**Melissa Horton** with guests Josh Lucksted (Philanthropy Officer), Laura Aikens (VP University Development), & Al Steinman (Research Professor)



**Rich Houtteman** introduced his guest, Collin Mahan



**Claire Root-Benson** with MHS Interact student Levi Jackson and Terrell Jones



Karen Benson, a visiting Rotarian from the Grand Haven club



Muskegon Big Reds were well represented with Dacarion Taylor, Aliya Elliott, and Counselor Shawndra Sain.



Current Youth Exchange Students joined the meeting today to witness the announcement of the outbound Exchange students' assignments. Pictured above (from left): Kyoka Tomoyama (from Japan), Tomas Uruena (from Colombia), Dori Szekeres (from Hungary), and our amazing Rotary Youth Exchange Leader, **Kristi Pawlak**

**Our Current Outbound Exchange Students Before the Big Reveal -**  
(Check out page 5 to see the exciting country reveals or [click here!](#))



Brenda Rodriguez (from Muskegon HS) with her mom



Char Winter (from North Muskegon HS) with her mom



Quon Bates (from North Muskegon HS) (his mom missed the pictures but came minutes later)



Landyn Kuberski (from Reeths-Puffer HS) with his mom



Conner Smillie (from Mona Shores HS) with parents Trent and **Meredith Smillie**

### 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                      Roger Morgenstern  
David Ramos                    Asaline Scott  
Marty Sytsema                Brandon Turnbull

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

### RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman & Lori Weiler

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

Photographers: Mark Alpher, Carla Flanders, & Roger Morgenstern

Contributors: Bill Johanson,  
John Noling, & Mike Vogas



## This Week's Program: Grand Valley State University Update



Speaker: Philomena Mantella

Introduced by: **Melissa Horton**

Reporter: **Jackie Farrar**



Grand Valley State University (GVSU) is rising in three areas in Muskegon County according to our speaker

today, GVSU President Philomena Mantella: strategic growth with a regional impact, compounding value and agility, and an innovation ecosystem.



The Annis Water Resources Institute was founded in 1986 with sixty plus researchers, and over 200,000 participants in the vessel education program. The Muskegon Innovation Hub supports local business with funding startup costs, networking, workspace, and recently received a grant from the State of Michigan.

To see the full presentation with our YouTube video, [click here](#).



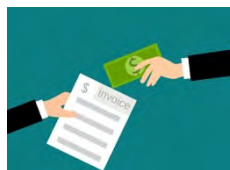
## Member Spotlight Eric Seifert



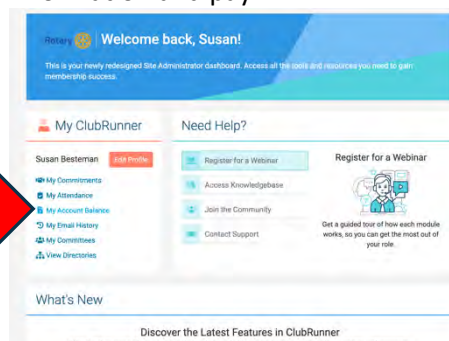
Eric is a retired banker but not really retired. His work with the community in economic development centers on bringing former Muskegon residents back to purchase local companies instead of losing the ownership to larger corporate interests, who value community less.

Watch the video [here](#).

## Pay Your Dues



Reminder to pay your Rotary dues. One option is to pay online in your ClubRunner account. First, head to [www.MuskegonRotary.org](http://www.MuskegonRotary.org). Then click the member login button at the top right of the screen. Login to your account and head to the "My Account Balance" button under your profile. You can then enter your credit card information and pay.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ReWine Request



ReWine members are asking for volunteers to help with the food trucks for those in need at the Community Methodist Church in North Muskegon on **Friday 1/26/2024 at 4pm**. Contact **Esther Ricco** for more information. Also, ReWine meetings are every first and third Thursday each month at 5:15pm at Walker's (in the Delta).

### Coat Missing



If you accidentally grabbed a dark grey wool overcoat on the top of the coat rack in the hallway by the membership badges when leaving this Thursday's meeting, please send Dr. Todd Rexford a message. When he left the meeting, the coat was not on the top of the rack where he left it, nor was it hanging on the rack or on the floor. If someone finds it, please contact him.

## Interact Insider

### MHS Interact Blood Drive



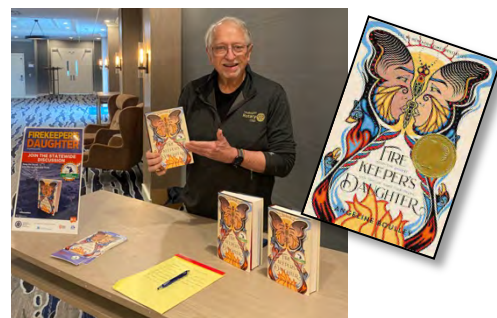
Wednesday February 21st, the MHS Rotary Interact Club has a blood drive scheduled in the High School Cafeteria from 12-6pm.

Our club planned this drive with the goal of recruiting community members as opposed to our student body, so we need your support!

Did you know the Red Cross is experiencing a desperate shortage of banked blood in their stores right now? They need our help! Please consider giving if you are able. You can use this link to sign up for a time:

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

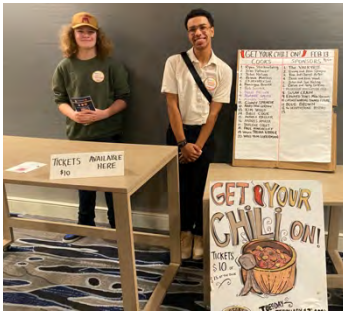
## Great Michigan Read



**Doug Wood** was at the front entrance with his sign-up sheet for the Great Michigan Read beginning in March with a couple copies of the book, "Fire Keeper's Daughter." Thanks to Doug, 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. Last week, **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** provided exciting news that the book's author, Angeline 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.



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



**Levi Jackson** and **Terrell Jones** hard at work selling tickets, finding cooks, and signing up new sponsors for their Chili Cook-Off on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

The chili cook-off is 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 such as books for a library as well.

**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**.



After  
Thursday's  
meeting,

three Interact students stopped by **Mike Vogas'** studio to record their thoughts on Interact and their upcoming trip to El Salvador.

[Click this here to watch the video.](#)

## Braver Angels Workshop



Please join us for the "Skills for Bridging the Divide Workshop" through Braver Angels (a red and blue organization), sponsored by the Rotary Peace -Builders Committee. We will explore creative ways to discover seemingly hidden areas of common ground between people of different political beliefs and party affiliations and develop good boundary-setting capabilities to ensure that our conversations, begin, progress, and conclude in more respectful sways, even in difficult moments of interaction. The Workshop will take place on February 23 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Norton Shores Library. Please sign up through Eventbrite.

Contact Cathy BrubakerClarke at [cbrubakerclarke@developmuskegon.org](mailto:cbrubakerclarke@developmuskegon.org) for further information.

Maximum of 50 people so sign up soon through this link:



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

## Muskegon Rising Ep 3: Boys & Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore



Tune in to Episode 3 of the Muskegon Rising podcast for an interview with Monica Turnbull, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore, as she talks with DJ Hilson about the club's new facility and the benefits it brings to the local youth in greater Muskegon.

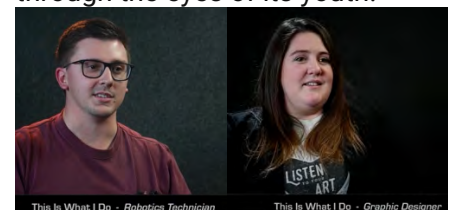
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<https://muskegonrotary.org/page/muskegon-rising-podcast>

## Rotary's Strength Vocational Spotlight #3 –



The Muskegon Rotarians that host the vocational video series are most gratified to know that their efforts are amplifying community growth through the eyes of its youth.



Click the link to see the video and don't forget to subscribe to our Muskegon Rotary YouTube channel.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7RHkRXGFQ-E>



## Rotary Youth Exchange Country Reveals!

Just like dessert, we saved the best for last in this edition! **Kristi Pawlak** led the group with fun trivia questions about each country the five students are heading to later this year.



Quon Bates is heading from North Muskegon HS to Spain!



Landyn Kuberski is heading from Reeths-Puffer HS to Italy!



Brenda Rodriguez is heading from Muskegon HS to Brazil!



Conner Smillie is heading from Mona Shores to Japan!



Char Winter from North Muskegon HS is heading to Brazil as well!

## 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.

*"The Rotary Foundation is the engine that makes all our work possible - locally, District and Internationally. For Barb and me, the Rotary Foundation is one of our major yearly contributions. We know the monies sent to the Foundation will be focused on the needs of those that are less fortunate."*

Paul Heroman  
DG 2022-2023

**When YOU WIN...  
The Rotary Foundation WINS too!**

## Rest In Peace Florence "Sue" McKee Wierengo

"Sue", age 92, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 19, 2024, in Fremont, MI.



Even though her Muskegon Rotary leadership was not included in her obituary, Sue had two significant Muskegon Rotary milestones. Sue was the first woman president of the Rotary Club of Muskegon from 1999 to 2000. This was indeed a millennial change. Sue was also named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Muskegon Rotary Club in May 2001, along with Nancy Crandall. The first women awarded Paul Harris Fellows were Margaret Ann Cole, 1983; Bettye Clarke-Cannon, 1989; and Patricia Johnson, 1998, joined by Sue and Nancy in 2001. She was born on October 21, 1931, to Frank and Katharine (Lacey) McKee in Muskegon, MI.

From her obituary (abbreviated)-- Sue believed in the potential of Muskegon and had a calling, instilled by her parents, to be involved and serve her community. She capped off a long history of community involvement by serving as an elected Muskegon City Commissioner for two 4-year terms from 2005 to 2013. Over the many years working in Muskegon Sue held leadership positions with many local organizations including League of Women Voters, Grantsmanship Services, and the Mona Lake Watershed Council. She served as chairwoman of the Muskegon County Economic Development Commission and later as Director of the Muskegon Community Leadership Academy where she helped train many of the county's current leaders. In all these activities, Sue brought a spirit of collaboration, integrity, humor, and "let's get it done" to the effort and those she worked with.

A Celebration of Life will be held during the summer. Arrangements entrusted to The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 S. Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444.

Share memories with the family at [www.sytsemafhn.com](http://www.sytsemafhn.com).

[Click here to see her full obituary.](#)