

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

July 18, 2024

Next Meeting (July 25, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Chicken Parmesan - at the Lake House
Program Topic – History of the Recovery Center

What's Coming

July 25 – History of the Recovery Center

Upcoming Birthdays

July 27 Don Crandall
July 28 Stephen Tomczak

Caring Connections Fund

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



Greeter This Week

Lisa Tyler

Reflectors

Adam Bell July 18
Myrna Olsen July 25

RIM Reporting this

Edition

Photographer – Roger Morgenstern
RIM Reporter – Roger Morgenstern
RIM Editor – Jackie Farrar



Adam Bell delivered the Reflection.

7/18/2024 Muskegon Rotary
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)

VISITORS & GUESTS



Mary Anne Gorman introduces her guest Deb Yonkers.

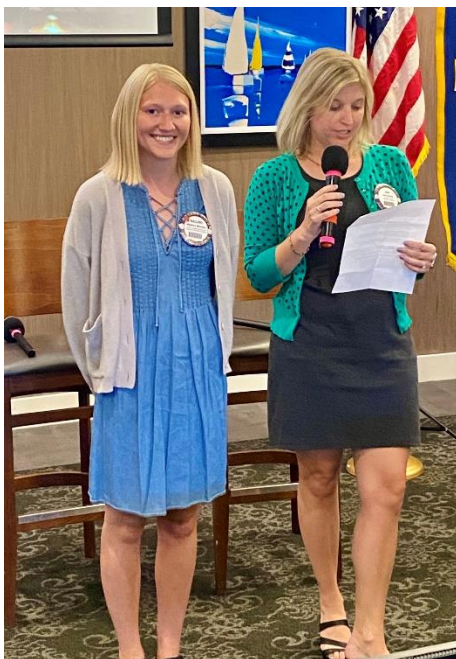


Kristi Pawlak introduces, for the last time, her guest, Columbian exchange student Tomas Uruena, who is headed home next week. Good news is he's coming back later this year to enroll at Muskegon Community College!



Dave Ramos joked he had so much respect for his guests, from left, Maria Secord and Bryan Betten, that he wore long pants!

Inductions



Lisa Kraus introduces new member **Mallory Meston**. And yes, she's the granddaughter of former Rotarian and education leader Susan Meston!

Mallory Meston was born in 2000 in Muskegon, MI. Her parents are Fred Meston, a fourth-grade teacher at Churchill Elementary School, and Kristen Andersen, a Speech and Language Pathologist at Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Her grandmother, Susan Meston, as many of you already know, was the Superintendent of the MAISD and an avid, retired, Muskegon Rotarian.

Mallory has two brothers, Nick and Clark Meston, and two stepsisters, Mallory (yes, another Mallory in the family) and Amelia VanderVelde.

She graduated from Mona Shores Public Schools in 2018, where she was an active member of InterAct and participated in volunteer mission trips to Honduras in 2017 and 2018.

She then attended Northern Michigan University (Go Cats!) in Marquette, MI, earning a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies & Sustainability with a minor in International Studies in 2022.

After returning to her hometown of Muskegon in 2022, Mallory worked for the West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) as the Lakeshore Fellow.

In January of this year, she began working as the Business Development Manager at Energy Conservation Source, a solar company in downtown Muskegon.

Fun fact: Mallory also has a five-year-old chocolate lab named Daisy.

To conclude, Mallory is thrilled to officially be named a Muskegon Rotarian. Thank you!



Melissa Boughner introduces new member **Wyatt Huggett**. And yes, *RIM* staff in the room picked up that one of his hobbies in photography....we'll be in touch!

Wyatt currently serves as a Gift Officer at Muskegon Rescue Mission, which he plays a vital role in supporting the organization's mission through effective fundraising and donor relations.

He holds an Associate of Arts degree from Jackson College and brings nearly a decade of diverse experience in banking, insurance, and financial sectors. Throughout his career, Wyatt has consistently demonstrated exemplary customer service skills, making him a valuable asset in any professional setting.

A native of Hillsdale County, Wyatt now resides in the greater Grand Rapids area. He has embraced his new community in the same passion he has shown throughout his professional and volunteer endeavors.

Wyatt is no stranger to community service. He has volunteered with local theaters, served in shelters and kitchens, and assisted in coordinating events for county fairs. His commitment to giving back to the community is evident in these activities and aligns perfectly with the Rotary Club's values.

Driven by a deep desire to engage with the Muskegon Community, Wyatt decided to join Rotary. He is eager to dive headfirst into the community, meet as many locals as possible, and further integrate himself into the fabric of Muskegon life.

In his personal time, Wyatt enjoys photography, participating in community theatre, and dancing at weddings. These hobbies not only enrich his life but also contribute to his community spirit and creative expression.

We are thrilled to have him with us and look forward to the positive impact he will undoubtedly make.



President Tim got to induct his first two members as our Club leader. Here, he makes sure Mallory and Wyatt really want to join Rotary. They do! Welcome to the Club!

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: Outbound Youth Exchange Students Farewell

Speakers: **Charlotte Winter, Brenda Rodriguez, and DaQuon Bates**

Introduced by: **Kristi Pawlak**

Reporter: **Roger Morgenstern**



Our panel discussion of "outbound" Rotary International exchange students. From left is Exchange Program advisor **Kristi Pawlak** and students Charlotte Winter from North Muskegon High School, Brenda Rodriguez from Muskegon High School and DaQuon Bates from North Muskegon High School.

Charlotte and Brenda are headed to different cities in Brazil while DaQuon will be going to Spain. A fourth student, from Reeths Puffer High School, Landyn Kuberski, was ill and unable to attend. He will be headed to Italy.

They leave in several weeks but already have their official RI exchange blazers with pins they've already collected from other Exchange Program representatives.



Kristi Pawlak not only serves as the primary advisor for our outbound and inbound (coming to Muskegon) Rotary exchange students, she is also a leader of the RI exchange program across District 6290. Thank you Kristi for your passionate work!

In Rotary International's Exchange Student Program parlance, we got to hear from our "Outbounds" this week. That is, the youth who will be representing our Club, our community and our country overseas for the next year!

Kristi Pawlak moderated a panel discussion with three of our four Outbounds: Charlotte Winter from North Muskegon High School, Brenda Rodriguez from Muskegon High School and DaQuon Bates from North Muskegon. A fourth student, Landyn Kuberski, from Reeths Puffer High School, was ill and unable to attend. He will be living in Italy.

Each student, wearing their blue Rotary International U.S. exchange student blazers, covered in pins they've always received from other exchange students, provided an overview of each of the countries where they will be living for the next year, as well as information about their host families. Ironically, two of the host families have children who will be leaving this fall for exchange programs in other countries.

Charlotte and Brenda will both be going to Brazil, Charlotte to the city of Gravatai and Brenda to Curitiba. DaQuon will be living in Palma De Mallorca, Spain.

Kristi said each student will be leaving in about five weeks. "The next time they'll be doing these presentations it'll be in another language so ask them lots of questions."

And our Rotarians had plenty of questions and comments. All three students agreed they'll be relying a lot on the Google Translate app initially although they have some knowledge of the native languages.

Many of our Rotarians asked questions and also provided advice as former exchange students and local exchange student hosts. Kristi said she's had a great response recently for local hosts but she's always looking for more...if not in this coming year, then in the next school year.

Also joining Kristi Thursday was Tomas Uruena from Columbia, who is returning to his home country next week after a year here attending North Muskegon High School. The good news is he plans on returning later this year and enroll at Muskegon Community College to study art!

Sounds like Muskegon made a good impression on him.

In a related note, **Craig Pirrotta**, who serves on the exchange student committee, thanked club members for their support of a recent online auction of donated used items. The auction raised \$1,200 which helps these Outbound exchange students pay for the \$5,000 in costs needed to participate in the program. Another online auction is planned in September. Stay tuned for details!

President Tim kicked off one of his initiatives, regular updates on Club activities, which he's calling Rotarians In Action. The first video focuses on our new member Orientation program.

Rotarians in Action Spotlight Doug Wood



We heard from **Doug Wood**, who co-chairs the committee with **Howard Hardesty** and **Sue Samaniego**. Doug said recruiting new Rotarians starts with all of us. "Every one of us in the room has a chance to sponsor someone." To view the spotlight, click [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Gerald R. Olsen, husband of Myrna, and a former diplomat who was honored as one of the most outstanding foreign service officers in the West Michigan area by the Gerald R. Ford Museum and Library, Grand Rapids, passed away on July 10, 2024.

Memorial events are:

Visitation: July 30, 2024, 6-8 p.m., Lee Chapel of the Sytsema Funeral and Cremation Services, 6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444

Memorial Service: July 31, 11 a.m., Harbor of Grace Lutheran Church, across from the former Nims School, 1132 W. Southern Ave., Muskegon, 49441



Emily Morgenstern shares her excitement that Harvest Fest tickets are now on sale! Visit our Club website for tickets or to become a sponsor for this great Oct. 24 event at Baker College's Culinary Institute of Michigan (CIM) in downtown Muskegon.



Emily Morgenstern announced that tickets for the second annual Harvest Fest Oct. 24 are now on sale! Tickets can be purchased online by going to MuskegonRotary.org, clicking on the calendar/events tab, then clicking Harvest Fest.

Tickets are \$85 and include all processing fees. Each ticket provides entry into the event, a signature Harvest Fest glass or seasonal plant provided by Barry's Greenhouses and Landscaping plus one free beverage ticket! A cash bar will be available as well as complimentary culinary delights created and served by Baker

College's Culinary Institute of Michigan students.

This community event will provide great networking opportunities and chances to win prizes, all while raising funds to support local charitable organizations through the Muskegon Rotary Foundation.



Nancy McCarthy shares that the Business Equity Initiative Fund, which received Rotary Club funding recently for mentoring programs, will announce its latest round of grant recipients July 31.

Nancy McCarthy invited members to join her July 31 at the Greater Muskegon Woman's Club downtown for the latest grantee announcement of the Business Equity Initiative (BEI).

The fund, led by volunteers Nancy, fellow Rotarian **Mary Anne Gorman** and former Rotarian Kim Suarez, will announce \$50,000 in entrepreneur grants aimed to help women business owners succeed. Nancy also thanked the Club's grants committee for its recent \$5,000 contribution toward BEI's mentoring program.



Cathy Brubaker-Clarke provides information on a Peace Builders event July 31.

Cathy Brubaker-Clarke, representing Rotary PeaceBuilders, invited us to attend an event July 31, which she called "a night of learning, 'Hope In Turbulent Times, A Conversation Facilitated by Sister Simone Campbell'".

The event will take place at 6 p.m. at the Norton Shores Library Branch. I believe we can all relate to the fact that we are in turbulent times. Now, more than ever, we need to find ways to listen to each other and work together to build community.

Sister Simone, a 2022 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, author, attorney, and religious leader, promises to fill us with hope and community spirit, as she shares her insights and sparks a vital conversation about our collective future."

At the event, Cathy said, Sister Simone will present the key themes from her latest book, "Hunger for Hope: Prophetic Communities, Contemplation, and the

Common Good”, and then open the floor for a dynamic discussion. Questions such as “What fuels your hope? How can we foster unity and healing in Muskegon?” will be explored.

This will be an opportunity to listen, learn and engage in meaningful conversations that can transform our community.



Craig Pirrotta thanks members for their help in raising \$1,200 via a recent online auction to help support the cost of sending our Outbound students overseas for a year. Another auction is coming up this fall!

Ep 28: Muskegon Polish Festival



Get ready to explore the rich history of Polish culture in Muskegon with Episode 28 of the Muskegon Rising Podcast.

This week, we're excited to have Donna and Jason Piasecki, our first mother-son duo, as our guests. They're giving us an exclusive look at the 9th Annual Muskegon Polish Festival, happening this Labor Day weekend.

Here's what you'll learn:

- * Discover how the festival gives back to the Muskegon community.
- * Get ready for a sampling of Polish cuisine like pierogi, golabki, kielbasa, and kapusta.
- * Find out what makes the festival's wooden dance floor the perfect spot to kick up your heels to live polka music.
- * Hear about the Polish beers and drinks from the new vodka bar that will be on tap.

Whether you're a festival veteran or a newbie, Donna and Jason have the inside scoop to make your experience unforgettable.

Don't miss this episode, and get ready to celebrate Muskegon's Polish heritage.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/15423292-muskegon-polish-festival>

Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga left fliers on the Rotary information table, near the lunch line, if you didn't get one this week, which includes registration information. Here's a [link](#) to the Muskegon Area District Library site where you can register online.

RIM Reporting Team

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Jackie Farrar

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Contributors: Bill Johanson, John Noling, & Mike Vogas

REMINDER

****No ReWine Meetings in July**

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