

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

March 28, 2024

Next Meeting (April 4, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Pasta Buffet at the Delta
 Program Topic – How to Birth - Doulas

What's Coming

- April 4** – How to Birth - Doulas
- April 11** -- Tri-Share Program/State of
Childcare

Upcoming Birthdays

- April 5** Lisa Tyler
- April 6** Dave Alexander
- April 7** Michael Ramsey
- April 8** Jamie Hekker
- April 10** J. Giffith

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



Greeters This Week
 Walter Mrotz & Myrna Olsen

Reflectors

Nancy Crandall	Mar 28
Eileen Stoffen	April 4
Jane Clingman-Scott	April 11

RIM Reporting this Edition
 Photographer – Roger Morgenstern
 RIM Reporter – Roger Morgenstern
 RIM Editor – Susan Besteman

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

VISITORS & GUESTS



Kendrah Robinson introduces her guest **Brytney Duncan**



President Ginny Sprague enjoyed introducing her guest and one-time Muskegon Civic Theatre colleague, **Tiffany Novak**



Claire Root-Benson introduces Interact Student **Bella Enriquez** (center) and Bella's mother, **Melissa Reyes** (left)



Erin Kuhn introduces her colleague and guest **Amanda Snyder**



Phil McPherson introduces his guests, from left, **Laura Fitzpatrick** & **Coleen Davis**



Pete DeBoer introduces his guests (participants in the Community Foundation for Muskegon County LEAD programs) **Jenna Lakos**, **Eli Fox**, **Chelsea Kelley**, & **Tara Foreman**

Last Week's Program: Great Michigan Read – Firekeeper's Daughter



Introduced by:

Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga

Reporter: **Roger Morgenstern**

Judging by a show of hands, a good number of our Rotarians have joined with others across our state to read the *Firekeeper's Daughter*, the debut novel by Michigan author Angeline Boulley. She is an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, is a storyteller who writes about her Ojibwe community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The book is the 2023-23 selection for the "Great Michigan Read" by Michigan Humanities and has become a project of our Club's Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee.

The book provides an excellent window on Native culture, its beauty, and its challenges. To provide more insight, our Club's awesome DEI Committee had two of our members of Native ancestry, **Jerry Kuester** and **Irma Carney**, share with us some of their insights and experiences. Jerry is of Ottawa Anishinaabe heritage and is originally from "where the shores curve," also known as Detroit. One of his nicknames is Wise Eagle, given to him by incarcerated Native Americans he worked with a number of years ago. Jerry said the book's frequent use of the Central Algonquin language shows the author "wants these young readers to experience the language....it helps with their self-esteem and builds their community."



Jerry Kuester

Anishinaabemowin is the language of the Anishinaabeg who make up the majority of the indigenous people in Michigan. It is used throughout the book. The language is deeply connected to identity, spirituality, and sovereignty. Some examples include: *Boozhoo* (Greetings!) and *Mino-bimaadziwin* (The Good Life). Anishinaabe are groups of culturally related indigenous people in the Great Lakes region of the U.S. and Canada. The Three Fires Council of Anishinaabe tribes in Michigan are the Ojibwe (keepers of culture), Ottawa (keepers of trade), and Potawatomi (keepers of fire). Kuester said a way to lead a good life is to follow the "Seven Gifts of the Grandfathers" which in English are translated as Love, Truth, Bravery, Wisdom, Generosity and Humility.



Irma Carney explained many aspects of Native American's identity, including her own journey. She is ¼ blood from the Rosebud Sioux of Lakota Tribe but

because her father was not an "enrolled member" of the tribe, she is not enrolled member. *Firekeeper's Daughter's* main character, Daunis, whose mother is not a Native American and whose father's family has a long history with the tribe, explains the challenge of not being an "enrolled member," a status also shared by her best friend Lily: "My father isn't listed on my birth certificate, and Lily doesn't meet the minimum blood quantum requirement for enrollment. We still regard the Tribe as ours, even though our faces are pressed against the glass, looking in from the outside." Carney said, "When I read this passage it resonated really strongly with me." Her husband, Michael Carney, is an enrolled member of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. She also displayed the paperwork showing both her and her husband's Native ancestry. Pointing at the documents on the screen, she joked "This is me. I'm like an AKC dog, I have papers!"



Irma Carney

She said these detailed records are important as they'll be needed to have their two sons ¼ Native blood quantum documented so they can be enrolled in the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. As Carney outlined for the Club, this record keeping is very important: Native Americans are the only population in the U.S. that are legally defined by blood quantum. Essentially, this is how much Native American

blood a person has that can be verified through documentation. This matrix is used to enroll into federally recognized Indian tribes. Blood quantum varies from tribe to tribe. One tribe may require ¼ Indian blood to enroll, while another may only require proof of being a descendant. Descendants require a much lower proof of blood quantum.



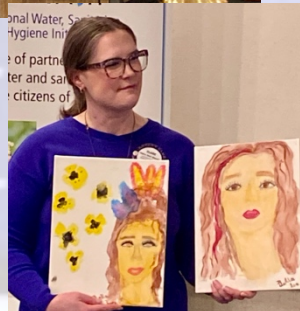
There are 574 federally recognized tribes in the US, each of which have their own specific requirements for enrollment. The Sault Ste. Marie

Tribe featured in *Firekeeper's Daughter* is one of 12 federally recognized Native American Tribes in Michigan. Five of them are in the Upper Peninsula. Elements of this week's program were sprinkled throughout the meeting: Our reflection was from **Nancy Crandall**, who's great-great grandmother from Kentucky was of Cherokee descent.

One of our Rotary Interactors from



Muskegon High School, **Bella Enriguez**, was so moved by the novel that she created several beautiful drawings which she and **Claire Root Benson** displayed for the Club.



The Delta staff included in the buffet lunch "3 sisters succotash" as the vegetable

and "poyha," a bison meat option alongside the traditional American meatloaf!

Since this *RIM* correspondent is still reading the novel, we're not going to give away too much of the book. But as summarized on the novel's cover, "*Firekeeper's Daughter* is an electrifying thriller layered with a rich exploration of the modern Native experience, a reckoning of current and historical injustices, and a powerful celebration of community." Michigan Humanities' Great Michigan Read creates a statewide discussion around a Michigan themed book. Through partnerships with libraries, schools, book clubs, and a wide range of other non-profit organizations, the Great Michigan Read facilitates statewide reading and programs to bridge communities around a common conversation. *Good Morning America* featured the book in March 2021, soon after its release. Since then, Boulley has written a sequel and is working on a third installment. This week's fascinating program is only part of the work done by the DEI

Committee. **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** reminded everyone that the author, Angeline Boulley, will be in Muskegon April 17 at 6 p.m. at Orchard View High School. Register to attend at www.madl.org/miread.



Nancy McCarthy let the Club know that if you haven't yet read the book, thanks to the Library of Michigan, BiblioBoard, and Michigan Humanities, free downloads of audio and e-book versions of *Firekeeper's Daughter* will be free to Michiganders from April 12 to May 10. Visit www.ReadMichigan.org to access.



AUTHOR VISIT ANGELINE BOULLEY

Bestselling Young Adult Novelist
Printz Medal & Morris Award Winner

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17
6:00 PM

ORCHARD VIEW
HIGH SCHOOL



REGISTER AT
MADL.ORG/MIREAD

MUSKEGON AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY



Member Spotlight Christine Etienne



This week's member spotlight, rounding out the month's RI Foundation focus on water and sanitation, featured a well-known member of our Rotary District 6290 family, **Christine Etienne** of the Petoskey Club. Christine is a former District Governor and a leader in the Hanwash (the Haiti National Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Initiative) Program. She's also an incoming member of the Rotary International Board of Directors.

Watch her video [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 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 & Roger Morgenstern

Contributors: Bill Johanson,
 John Noling, & Mike Vogas

New Member Induction Joseph "Joey" Foley



Joey Foley is the Community Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator at Renew Mobility.

Joey grew up in Cedar Springs, Michigan, and attended Cedar Springs Public Schools. Upon graduation, he attended Grand Valley State University where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences.

As a student at GVSU, Joey worked as a Certified Nurse's Aide, where he gained valuable experience working with durable medical equipment that now serves him well in his role at Renew Mobility. In 2023, driven by his interest in food systems and food equality he spent time as an intern at Ottawa Food, and as a seasonal farm assistant for Kids' Food Basket. These experiences allowed him to collaborate with volunteers and community partners, deepening his interest in nonprofit work and ultimately leading him to Renew Mobility.

As the oldest of seven siblings, Joey values family and community. His hobbies include tennis, baseball, reading, and spending time outdoors with friends and family. He is excited to be a part of the Muskegon Rotary Club and to help make a greater impact on the Muskegon community.

Joey looks forward to continuing his education and personal growth, both as an individual and a professional, as he strives to further contribute to making a lasting difference in the lives of others. Joseph is sponsored by **Phil McPherson**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS People of Action Arrive in El Salvador



L to R, top row: Esther Ricco, Victoria Guerrero (MHS), Candyce Meyers (RP), Megan Adams (RP), Levi Jackson (MHS), Terrell Jones (MS), Michelle Burley, Tobias Melton (MHS); Bottom row L to R: Zuri LaBrenz (MHS), Megan Romkema, former NM 2015 Interactor trip participant and chaperone, Addison Schmitz, Oakridge HS

Our Muskegon Interact/Rotary Action team has arrived safely and are hard at work building six new homes in the town of Talnique, El Salvador this week. After a long travel day, the group is now split up and organized in work teams installing concrete posts and building concrete block walls in 90-degree heat and will return early next week.

Each home costs approximately \$4000 to build. Our District Interact and Rotary clubs sent \$24,000 to the Rotary Club of Noroeste San Salvador to buy supplies for building six houses. Of that amount, our Rotary and Interact clubs raised over \$6,200 from Get Your Chili On! proceeds to contribute to the service project. Over 160 safe and solid multi-generational homes have been built in Talnique since 2000 when this service trip first originated.

Below are initial observations written by Tobias Melton (MHS) and Candyce Meyers (RP) after their first day at the Talnique worksite. The El Salvador team will give their report to Rotary on June 20 along with a report from our Honduras service trip. We look forward to hearing from our People of Action!

(El Salvador Continued)

Tobias Melton from Muskegon High School Commented:

First off, I want to quickly comment on how good the food is here. There are so many other things that I did not expect like the heat, environment, and food. Getting up in the morning was not as bad as I thought it would be; everything that happens made me tired enough to go to sleep earlier and, in turn, wake up early. Going to the worksite on the bus you see so much I can't even describe everything as we pass by it fairly fast, but I will say that the view you see is amazing. Working at the work site was not so bad. There was lots of heavy lifting but at the end of the day I felt good. Being back at the hotel, I went to the pool where many others played games and overall had a good time.

Candyce Meyers from Reeths-Puffer High School Commented:

I feel I have already seen and learned so much even though we've only had one full day here. Every tiny thing that I don't typically see in Michigan immediately intrigues me and invokes so many questions in my head. One thing I've noticed I've really been paying attention to are the modes of transportation utilized here. I was so excited to see that pizza was delivered on motorbikes instead of cars. And I've yet to see a single Subaru but I have seen a lot of Hyundai's and Ford's. But there are a lot of models I've never seen before. The way they drive here is like clockwork, every time it seems like a disaster is about to happen, it ends up working out seamlessly. I typically feel anxious when anyone else is driving but myself, but I've found myself having complete trust in our bus driver regardless of the extremely narrow roads, sharp turns, steep hills. Before arriving to the worksite, I had no idea what I was expecting, but it was simpler than I'd thought. Even though it was very hard work lifting the heavy blocks and making them fit evenly within the beams, we got a lot done. It has been a great trip!



Stay tuned for more photos and updates next week!

Thank you to **Esther Ricco, Michelle Burley**, team leaders, and the Interact students representing Muskegon Rotary.

Life Leadership Spotlight: Rainny Calderon



Rainny is an Orchard View sophomore and second year Interactor with a big heart for service who wants to "be the best leader I can be". Active in Interact, Show Choir, volleyball, soccer, cheerleading, Student Council, church, and work, She was inspired by her father to be involved and to serve others. As President of her class, Rainny seeks "to grow as a person, learn new things, and meet new people". She hopes to attend the University of Michigan and become a nurse.

Rainny will join fellow Interactor Jurnee Johnson as a dynamic duo representing Orchard View High School and their Interact Club at the 75th Anniversary Rotary District 6290 Life Leadership Conference, June 12-15 at Ferris State University.

Welcome to the Rotary Life Leadership Conference Rainny Calderon!

Food Truck a Success!



Arn Boezaart thanked everyone who helped with the Food Truck on March 27th! We served 127 cars in the distribution line and 37 walk-throughs with 410 registered food recipients. The next Rotary Sponsored food truck is Wednesday, April 24th. Volunteers to arrive at 4pm at Temple Methodist Church (2500 Jefferson, Muskegon).

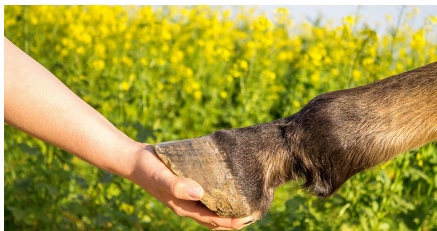


March Madness Brave Rotarian Contest



Thank you to everyone who signed up for the March Madness Brave Rotarian contest. Please get your \$100 payment to **Meredith Smillie** or **Kim Boersema**.

District Conference



Kathy Hegedus emailed everyone about the upcoming District Conference at the Double JJ Ranch, May 2-4, 2024. Please consider signing up to attend at least part of the conference; you will have an enjoyable time with Rotarians from around our District. We encourage a good showing from our Club because next October, we will host the District Conference along with your fellow Muskegon Rotarian, **Brianna Scott**, who will be our District Governor for 2024-2025.

To Register – [Click Here](#)

Please welcome potential new member:

Marianne Darnell who is retired and spends much of her time as a community leader. Marianne is sponsored by Asaline Scott and has been approved by the Muskegon Rotary Board. Marianne will be a Satellite member and will be inducted in the next few weeks.

POURS FOR COMMUNITY



The Pours for Community is coming up soon! The proceeds are used for the Muskegon Rotary charities. Below are the designated locations this year; including a bonus Trivia Night at the Valkyrie this year so get your team together now!



Thursday, April 11 – Valkyrie (This will be a trivia night.)
6 – 9 PM
1900 Ruddiman Dr, North Muskegon
[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)



Friday, April 19 -- Wonderland Distilling Co. 4 – 6 PM
1989 Lakeshore Dr, Muskegon



Monday, April 22 -- Unruly Brewing
5 - 7 PM
360 W. Western Ave, Muskegon



Thursday, April 25 at 794 Kitchen
5 - 7 PM
794 Pine St, Muskegon

Muskegon Rising Ep 12: How Development Can Be a Catalyst for Positive Community Change



Episode 12 of the Muskegon Rising podcast is here, and it's all about how development can be a force for positive change in our community.

This week, we chat with Jon Rooks, the visionary behind Parkland Properties. We'll explore Jon's journey and how he saw Muskegon's potential for growth.

Listen to hear how development can be a catalyst for positive change, and how Parkland Properties is making a difference right here in Muskegon.

This is an episode you won't want to miss.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/14773028-how-development-can-be-a-catalyst-for-positive-community-change>

Rotary Highway Clean-up Crew Needed



Our next highway clean-up event for the Muskegon Rotary stretch of highway on I-96 will be on Saturday, April 20. Volunteers will meet promptly at 8:45am for a short safety talk, then head out on the road to pick trash. (We will finish no later than 11:00am, sooner if we get a lot of help 😊). If you can help, please contact Esther Ricco, riccoe@gvsu.edu and she can provide you with details. Be a part of keeping our adopted stretch clean and taking action to protect our environment!

Parties In the Park



Rotary will be hosting the first Parties in the Park for 2024 in beautiful downtown Muskegon's Hackley Park May 31. Keep an eye on your e-mail and RIM for signing up to volunteer. As **President Ginny** said "sign up, show up and have some fun supporting Rotary and raising money for our programs."

Creating Hope in the World: Landon Fortenberry



Landon Fortenberry · 1st Foreign Service Officer 2d · 🌐

First day of work at the embassy. I feel proud and grateful to represent my country abroad.



- Rotary Youth Exchange student to Brazil learning Portuguese
- Law Day Speech Contest participant in Muskegon
- District 6290 Life Leadership Conference participant
- Reeths-Puffer High School Grad 2014
- Soon after, Life Leadership Conference -
- Staff member, speaker
- MSU degrees, multiple trips to China to learn Mandarin
- Harvard East Asian Studies Masters degree
- Joined Foreign Service with State Dept, lots of training
- Now, his first diplomatic post in China!

We in Rotary could not be prouder of you Landon!

From Zach Noling:
Rotary around the world...For those on this note who don't know me, I'm a (proud) "chip off the old block" of **John Noling**, and I lived in China, the Middle Kingdom, for 7 years. My first interaction with Mr. Landon Fortenberry was seeing this super talented guy at the Rotary Life Leadership Conference District 6290 in 2014...fast forward a few years to 2018 and Landon visited me in Shanghai, speaking fluent Mandarin at a Saturday morning "marriage market" in Shanghai (Shanghai's "marriage market" comprises parents in their 60s+ wandering around with "rap sheets" with photos trying to broker dates for their "late marriage blooming" sons or daughters in a "blind date" sort of fashion - strange to Westerners but entirely "in" with urban Chinese; fascinating to watch). Rather than me saying good things about Landon (I can say many), I'll let my wife Fiona speak. Fiona is a Chinese gal from Northern China (Tianjin) who grew up poor in government housing

with a very iron rice bowl hardscrabble upbringing; she is a tough judge of character...here's what she said about Landon: "world citizen" and "hard worker". She's right. Landon passed one of the most difficult job entry exams, that to be a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. State Department. For those who want to know where dollars spent on the Life Leadership Conference eventually reach hearts and minds, Landon's one of thousands of examples of talented young people.



Our Presentation Professional **Mike Vogas** goes over details of the meeting's program with participants, from left, **Jerry Kuester, Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** and **Irma Carney**.



Past President **Nancy Crandall** delivered a special Reflection tied to her Native ancestry. Her great-great grandmother from Kentucky was of Cherokee descent.