




**“Service Above Self”**

# Muskegon Rotary in Motion

<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>



**2014-2015 Distinguished Service Citation**  
Awarded to the Rotary Club of Muskegon  
For their consistently outstanding club newsletter



**District Governor's Citation**  
Presented to  
The Rotary Club of Muskegon  
This Citation is awarded with high appreciation to the members of The Finest Newsletter in the District  
I took this 3rd day of May 2014  
James C. Taylor



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



**Muskegon Rotary Club**  
 Club 16 (2809) – District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916  
**Next Mtg—October 26, 2023, 12-1:30pm**  
 The Lake House  
**ReWine Sat Club—1st and 3rd**  
**Thursdays, 5:15 pm**



Aaron Maie, Director  
 Roger Morgenstern, Director  
 David Ramos, Director  
 Asaline Scott, Director  
 Marty Sytsema, Director  
 Brandon Turnbull, Director  
 Roger Morgenstern, RIM Photographer  
 Roger Morgenstern, RIM Reporter  
 Lori Weiler, RIM Editor



## THE FOUR WAY TEST THAT ROTARIANS USE IN MAKING ETHICAL DECISIONS:

Is it the **truth**? Is it **fair** to all concerned? Will it build **goodwill** and better **friendships**? Will it be **beneficial** to all concerned?

## Next Meeting (10/26/23) — Muskegon County Housing Commission

“This is it: the absolute edge of no return: to turn back now and make home or sail irrevocably on and either find land or plunge over the world's roaring rim” - William Faulkner

### MEETER - GREETER

Meredith Smillie

### Upcoming & Recent Birthdays

Daniel Hartmann	Oct 22
Linda Garzelloni	Oct 23
Eric Ringelberg	Oct 27
Jenny McNeill	Oct 28
Randy Lindquist	Oct 29
Paul Christie	Oct 30
Timothy Vander Haar	Nov 1

### [Caring Connections Fund](#)

(Remember to donate \$10 on your birthday for this great cause!)

### PROGRAMS / EVENTS

Oct 19 - Inbound Exchange Students

Oct 26 - Muskegon County Housing Commission

Nov 2 - Community Read Initiative

**Did we mention Harvest Fest? Get tickets [here](#).**

### Muskegon Rotary Board

Ginny Sprague	Aaron Maie
Tim Arter	Roger Morgenstern
Dave Alexander	David Ramos
Jane Clingman-Scott	Asaline Scott
Kristi Nagengast	Marty Sytsema
Don Hutchins	Brandon Turnbull

**Please email Club Board**

**Members through this [link](#):**

### VISITORS & GUESTS



Kristi Pawlak had a houseful of guests: They include our inbound exchange students Dori Szekeeres from Hungary, Kyoka Tomoyama from Japan, and Andres Amaya from Colombia. Tomas Uruena, also from Colombia, was ill and unable to attend. Also in this group are our outbound prospective exchange students Quaon Bates, Brenda Rodriguez, Charlotte Winter, Connor Smillie and Landyn Kubinski. Also attending was former exchange student Carleigh Wilson.



**D.J. Hilson** introduces his son Trevor and Trevor's girlfriend Rachel Starski.



**Bob Lukens** welcomed Muskegon County Airport Manager Ken Efting.





**Marcia Hovey-Wright** welcomes her fellow Muskegon County Commissioner **Jessica Cook**.



**Karen Buie** introduces her County Clerk office colleague, Elections Clerk **Lori Hayes**.



**Tom Palmer** introduces **Max Monton**.

## THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM: Inbound Exchange Students

Introduced by: **Kristi Pawlak**

Reporter: **Roger Morgenstern**

Our Rotary Club is indeed lucky to host a great group of international exchange students this school year. They've been in town just a couple of months but it's clear they're getting accustomed to the greater Muskegon community and life in America.

At our Oct. 19 meeting, we heard from **Dori Szekeres** of Hungary (attending North Muskegon), **Kyoka Tomoyama** of Japan (attending Reeths-Puffer) and **Andres Amaya** of

Colombia (attending Mona Shores). A fourth student, **Tomas Uruena** of Colombia (attending North Muskegon), was ill and could not attend.

Each of the "inbounds," as we call them in Rotary parlance, provided information on their family, their hometowns and an overview of their country. While each of them had varying levels of English proficiency, it was very clear they are getting involved with their schools and enjoying their time in America.



***Kristi Pawlak** introduces our inbound exchange students.*

Upcoming Halloween trick or treating is an American event they're all looking forward to. Said **Dori**: It's almost Halloween and I'm so excited!"

They each said they are enjoying their host family and have been busy at school. For **Dori**, she's involved with choir; **Andres** is in the marching band and **Kyoka** is cheerleading. They all said they're making friends among their classmates and hope some of them blossom into life-long relationships.

They were asked what American stereotypes they had coming to the U.S. and how this compares to reality. **Kyoka**, who was wearing a traditional Japanese kimono for her presentation, said Americans are more friendly than she expected. "Muskegon people are very, very friendly...like the compliments I got today on my kimono."

Each of the students were proud of their home country. **Andres** promoted Colombian's java, saying "Brazil may be the country with the most coffee production, but Colombia has the coffee with the best flavor...did I mention my dad owns a coffee farm?"



***Dori Szekeres** of Hungary is attending North Muskegon High School.*

When asked about their musical tastes, **Dori** admitted to being a Taylor Swift fan. When showing a picture of various Japanese foods, **Kyoka** pointed to one of the items and said "I do miss Japanese food. I sometimes ate this three times a week!"



***Andres Amaya** of Colombia is attending Mona Shores High School.*

Joining our inbounds at the meeting were five prospective "outbounds" from our club who will be interviewed soon by Rotary representatives for going overseas next school year.



*Kyoka Tomoyama of Japan is attending Reeths-Puffer High School.*

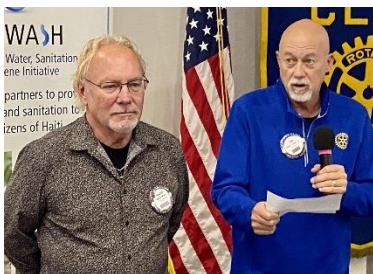


*President Ginny presented Muskegon Rotary banners to each of our inbounds and thanked them for sharing their personal stories.*

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## New Member Induction: Walter Mrotz

**Sponsored by Rob Taylor**



Walter contracted polio at age one, lost his ability to walk but eventually, with his mother's determination, regained the use of his legs.

He went to college at Milwaukee School of Engineering before serving three years in the US Army.

He married his wife in 1972 and together they raised their two children eventually moving to Michigan.

He started his career as a draftsman at Fiat-Allis, design engineer at

Haworth, and retired from Knoll as a Lead Senior Design Engineer.

He realized a dream when he was certified as a PADI Scuba Diver and explored many Great Lakes shipwrecks, Caribbean reefs, reaching the certification of Master Diver.

At 50 he first began acting with community theater in Muskegon and Grand Haven.

Later he joined local cycling groups and besides Michigan, cycled across Iowa, Idaho, Ireland, Mallorca, Spain and Japan.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Muskegon Rotary Foundation Grant Applications

Muskegon Rotary Foundation Grant application process is open for our 2024 round. Muskegon Rotary provides funding for programs and projects primarily in Muskegon County. Grants typically range from \$5,000 – \$15,000.

Muskegon Rotary is interested in fresh, innovative approaches to addressing community needs that emulate the values of the Rotary four-way test, and making grants that create a broad impact by leveraging other funding sources and collaborating with other organizations.

We are asking all Rotarians to promote this opportunity among your community contacts who could benefit from this small grant opportunity to be our partners in *Serving our community to foster belonging, well-being, and economic stability.*

Our Grant Making Priorities, Grant Making Criteria, and Application Process are published on our web-site page - [Guidelines for Grant Making](#)

**We will accept letters of inquiry though November.** Eligible applicants will be asked to submit a full proposal by **March 15, 2024.**

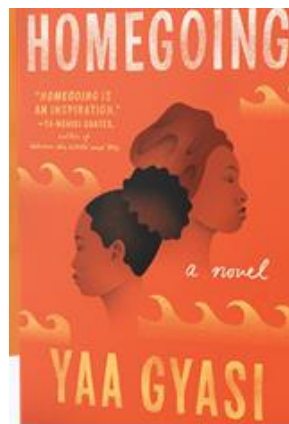
A description of eligible projects and applicants is available on our Website, [Muskegonrotary.org](https://muskegonrotary.org) - the grants page is <https://muskegonrotary.org/page/guidelines-for-grant-making>.

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## NEA Big Read Lakeshore

Nancy McCarthy and Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga shared activities related to the Nov. 2 program about this year's "NEA Big Read Lakeshore" of the book *Homegoing*.

To help prepare members for the Nov. 2 program, Nancy and Sarah



distributed discussion questions related to the book. In case you didn't pick them up from your table, here they are so you're

prepared!

--How are our identities shaped by our experiences, culture and social contexts?

--What is home to you? What does it represent?

--What does it mean to belong to a place, institution or community?

--What are our family and ancestry stories?

--How might we contribute to making a more just and equitable society/community?

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## Member Spotlight: Frank Peterson



This week's member spotlight features **Frank Peterson**. Frank joined Rotary soon after coming to town as Muskegon's new city manager in 2013. One of the first community events he attended was a Rotary event. Frank is now with the WheelFish Group and remains focused on community and economic development. "It's really not rocket science to try to build this community...but it does take a little bit of courage. It takes people willing to make difficult decisions." He said sometimes those decisions don't have a lot of initial support but "don't let that be the reason you stop talking about it...if it really is something that can make the community better, keep having those discussions." The full video is available [here](#).

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## Thank you, Muskegon Rotary for your support of Youth Exchange!

**Craig Pirrotta** and **Joanie Smith** are organizing the food for the District Rotary Youth Exchange **Conference November 10-12**. Thank you ALL for your generous donations today at our meeting, with which we'll buy food for 25 people for the weekend!

## Could we also ask for some food donations? We'll need for **Friday night, November 10:**

**Three** people to bring a large green salad

**Four** people to bring a dozen cookies each (homemade or store bought)

**Two** people to bring a large fruit salad or a bowl of fresh fruit



Please let me know if you are willing to deliver this to our conference location on Friday afternoon. I'll send details once I hear from you!

--Joanie Smith

[joan.hilles@gmail.com](mailto:joan.hilles@gmail.com) or  
718-354-0437



## HERE IT COMES!!

Did you recently catch **Carla Flanders** on Fox17 WXMI chatting about Harvest Fest? In case you still don't know, you can watch the entire interview right [here](#) where she shares all we need to know about Harvest Fest coming **OCTOBER 26, 5-9pm!**

Gather with friends, enjoy culinary delights, listen to live music and more!



Muskegon Rotary Foundation



The Muskegon Rotary  
Diversity, Equity &  
Inclusion Committee presents  
community activities with a DEI focus.

## DEI Committee



CORNER

### MUSKEGON AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

## HISTORY, BLACK IDENTITY, AND RETURN MIGRATION IN YAA GYASI'S "HOMEGOING"



Dr. Ernest Cole presents a fascinating look at the historical, cultural and literary experiences of African Americans and parallels to Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing*.

Part of our NEA Big Read Lakeshore program series.

**Wednesday, October 25 | 6:00 pm**

**Norton Shores Branch**

**Register at [MADL.org/calendar](https://MADL.org/calendar)**

FOR ADULTS



**NEA BIG READ**  
L A K E S H O R E

## MEET THE AUTHOR YAA GYASI

**Monday, November 13 | 7:00 pm | Hope College**

Born in Ghana and raised in Alabama, Gyasi will reflect on the personal experiences that inspired her to write her breathtaking debut novel *Homegoing* and explore the complexities and intersections of African immigrant and African-American identities in the United States today.



**NEA BIG READ**  
L A K E S H O R E



**NEED A  
RIDE?**

Take a bus from MADL Headquarters (4845 Airline Rd) to Hope College. **Space is limited**, so be sure to register by clicking on the bus. The bus will be leaving promptly at 6pm: **DON'T BE LATE! For ages 18+.**



Register at [madl.org/calendar](https://madl.org/calendar)



## DEI Committee

# CORNER

### MEET THE AUTHOR JERRY CRAFT

Q+A & BOOK SIGNING, FREE  
FOOD & DRINKS, & MORE!

Embracing My Own Boldness  
(In a World that Demands that I Be Humble)

How does a reluctant reader who was told that comics would rot his brain grow up to create the graphic that won the Newbery medal? Jerry Craft takes you on his journey. **For all ages.**

AND

ANNOUNCING  
THE COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
FOR MUSKEGON COUNTY'S

2023  
IMPACT  
AWARD



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION  
FOR MUSKEGON COUNTY

WGVM  
Public Media



MUSKEGON  
AREA  
DISTRICT  
LIBRARY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 6:00 PM | FRAUENTHAL CENTER



## Upcoming Muskegon Rotary Luncheon Programs

October 26 - Muskegon County Housing Commission - Angel Mayeaux

November 2 - Community Read Initiative - Nancy McCarthy & Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga

November 9 - Interact Students & Rotary Interact Co-Chairs - Plans for this school year

### RIM Reporting Team

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Lori Weiler

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