

# 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

October 31, 2024

**Next Meeting (November 7, 2024, 12-1:30pm) — Honey Glazed Pork at the DELTA**  
**Program Topic – Inbound Youth Exchange**  
Learn about our Inbound students and the countries they come from!

## What's Coming

- November 7 – Inbound Youth Exchange
- November 14 – Safer Teens
- November 21 – Boys & Girls Club  
with a tour after meeting!

## Upcoming Birthdays

- November 9      **David Ramos**
- November 11    **Rich Kramer**
- November 11    **Mike Vogas**
- November 12    **Kris Collee**

## Caring Connections Fund



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

## Greeter This Week

Mary Boyd & Lisa Kraus

## Reflector This Week

Kathy Moore

## RIM Reporting this Edition

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

10/31/2024 Muskegon Rotary  
YouTube Video Link: [Click here](#)




[Click here for the Harvest Fest video by Mike Vogas with all the fantastic photos!](#)

Carla Flanders thanked the Harvest Fest Committee, everyone who volunteered, attended, and sponsored this event. Over 250 people attended and the 32 silent auction items brought in over \$4000. \$3500 will be donated to Baker College for the Culinary Student Scholarship Fund as well as their Rotaract Club. Final numbers will be announced soon so stay tuned! More photos—[click here!](#)



## Visitors & Guests



Chad Lawie (former Rotarian interested in coming back ) introduced by **Susan Crain**



**Pete DeBoer** introduces his guest, Miranda Klemm



Shea Ross was introduced by **Melissa Moore**

**(Visitors & Guests Continued)**



**Emily Morgenstern** presented Sara Barco



Ravel Bowman was announced by **Carla Flanders**



**Heidi Sytsema** introduced Diana Giles



**Kendrah Robinson** welcomed Evan Ewing (who is interested in Rotary 😊)

ReWine meetings are every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 5:15pm at **Unruly Brewing**  
Planning for the Chili Cookoff begins at 4:30 Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> if you would like to help!



**Marty Systema** sweetened the air with his introduction of our student guests from the Career Tech Center! Teacher Consultant Becky Moleski presented Cooper Mallory (senior at North Muskegon HS in the Machining and Engineering Technology Program at CTC) and Caden Carrillo (senior at Fruitport HS in the Hospitality and Food Management Program at CTC).



**Contessa Alexander** presented our speakers today, Angelita Valdez and Ana Olson

**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: Hispanic Heritage Month**



Introduced by: **Contessa Alexander**  
 Presenters: Angelita Valdez and Ana Olson  
 Reporter: **Roger Morgenstern**

**Contessa Alexander**, as co-chair of our DEI Committee, said in recognition of the recently completed Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15) we're hearing from two organizations doing outstanding work in our community, Centro de Esperanza and Latinos Working for the Future.

Among her many community commitments, Angelita Valdez serves as board President and co-founder of Centro de Esperanza.



**CENTRO DE ESPERANZA**



She said this relatively new non-profit organization's goal "is to break down obstacles and boost mental health support by utilizing strong referral programs and forming meaningful partnerships with local organizations. We are at the

forefront of providing language services, dedicated to meeting the varied needs of the Muskegon community through our broad range of services."

The organization is based on four Pillars:

- Providing a central location hosting specialists that provide direct contacts to supportive services.
- Reducing barriers of language access through interpretation and language services.
- Fostering a fun community that engages our senior population with social opportunities.
- Focusing on building relationships between teens and parents, while encouraging healthy communication.

Valdez said the organization helps provide translation and interpretive services for individuals, businesses and local governments. She said Hispanic individuals come from as many as 20 different countries. The Cento de Esperaza provides language assistance in Spanish, Haitian Creole and French. She said Centro de Esperaza "is not trying to reinvent the wheel, but rather supporting other organizations in our community."

Learn more at [www.centrodesperanzamuskegon.org](http://www.centrodesperanzamuskegon.org), by emailing [support@centrodesperanzamuskegon.org](mailto:support@centrodesperanzamuskegon.org) or calling (231) 224-6585.



The other organization we learned more about, Latinos Working for the Future, has been around since 1991 and was founded by the late Connie Navarro, a well-known community leader who was honored by our Club as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Ana Olson, treasurer of Latinos Working for the Future, said the organization's mission is to unify and organize the community of Muskegon County by celebrating our culture, and increasing interest in our history, while preserving and honoring Latino Heritage.



To help fulfill this mission, Latinos Working for the Future has an annual fundraiser, the Muskegon County Latino Festival, downtown in Hackley Park. Olson said proceeds from the festival help provide grants to local Latino small businesses, entrepreneurs and youth.

"We want to have a space where people can feel welcome and express their individuality and their culture," said Olson, who has been treasurer since 2018.

In addition, the group provides scholarships available for Muskegon County Latino youth who are graduating from high school and are enrolled in a higher education program, such as colleges, universities and trade centers.

#### Grants and Scholarships:

LWTF provides grants to local Latino small businesses and entrepreneurs. In addition, we provide scholarships available for Muskegon County Latino youth who are graduating from high school and are enrolled in a higher education program, such as, college, universities, and trade centers.



In October, the organization hosted its first Latino Youth Conference at Muskegon Community College. Olson said "we were blown away" with the response from the Muskegon and Ottawa County areas. They even had to turn away some high school seniors when they hit their 250-person capacity.

Learn more by visiting [www.latinosworkingforthefuture.org](http://www.latinosworkingforthefuture.org) or e-mailing [info@latinosworkingforthefuture.org](mailto:info@latinosworkingforthefuture.org). The website (and fliers distributed during our meeting) have information on several upcoming events during November.

#### RIM Reporting Team

Co-Editors: Susan Besteman &

Jackie Farrar

Reporters: Kathy Moore, Roger

Morgenstern, Meredith Smillie,

Sue Samaniego, Ginny Sprague

Photographers: Mark Alpher, Wyatt

Huggett, & Roger Morgenstern

Contributors: John Noling, Mike

Vogas, & Doug Wood

## Spotlight Video Jamie Sowa



This week's spotlight features Jamie Sowa, director of Student Affairs for Baker College. She also serves as one of the advisers for Baker's reinvigorated Rotaract Club. Among their community activities this year have been two Adopt a Highway cleanups, two blood drives and volunteering to coordinate for the Norton Shores Arts and Dash 5K race. Most recently, they were among the Rotary volunteers who helped maintain the "powder rooms" at the Michigan Irish Music Festival. "It's such a critical time in their life...I don't know how many people remember being 18 years old. It's not the easiest time in your life transitioning from being a high school student to now considered an adult."

Listen to Jamie's story [here](#).



**Meredith Smillie** introduced **Jon Gale**

## Paul Harris Fellow Sheriff Michael Poulin



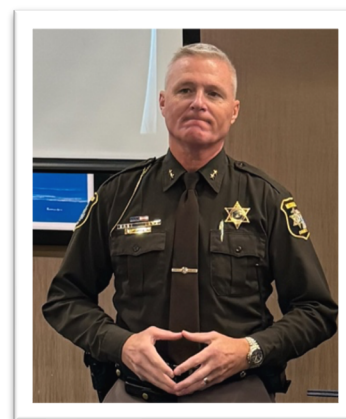
*Sheriff Michael Poulin and MAISD Safety & Security Liaison, Jon Gale*

**Jon Gale** introduced our newest Paul Harris Fellow with the following: *I am proud to be able to announce the next Paul Harris Award recipient. This person has dedicated his life to public service. He truly fits the Rotary motto of Service above self. He is a Grand Valley State University graduate and attended the finest police academy in the state. Go Lakers. His extended education experience includes a list of supervision certifications from Northwestern University, Michigan State University, Michigan Sheriffs Association, and the FBI National Academy. He is even a certified firefighter. I think most can already figure out who I am talking about. He has received countless awards from state and national organizations including dozens of Traffic Awards including one called "Traffic is my Life award" and several awards from the Governor. There are over 20 of them. He is considered an expert in traffic safety in which he has served many years on the Governors Traffic Safety Committee. He has also spoken as an expert at many traffic safety conferences, tactical conferences, and leadership courses both statewide and nationally. He has also taught courses in other countries such as Kuwait and*

*Qatar. His professional affiliations are numerous, but I will highlight a few; he is the current President of the Michigan Sheriffs Association, the State of Michigan school grant committee, Pioneer Resources board of directors, president of the North Muskegon School board, he held many chair positions with Drug-Free Muskegon and was the co-founder of both the Muskegon Area Medical disposal program and the Muskegon Alcohol Liability program.*

*As our current Sheriff, he has led his police department and corrections department with the finest integrity and professionalism. He is the only person in this room who has had a gun to his head at the same time as me and the only person in this room who entered a building without hesitation with me during an active shooter situation. This is a person I would always trust to have my back and I would have his.*

*I am proud to announce the next Paul Harris Award winner and my friend, **Michael Poulin.***



Afterward, Meredith joked that Jon was able to "get some revenge" on Mike Poulin as he surprised Jon with his own PHF earlier this year.


## ANNOUNCEMENTS




**John Noling** thanked leaders of the Michigan Irish Festival for their support to recognize the volunteer efforts of seven different Muskegon Rotary Interact and Rotaract clubs. They were awarded a combined \$5,000 for their volunteer hours to maintain what John called “a high-class porta john oasis.” Thank you, IRISH FEST BOARD, **Kris Collee, Kevin Donovan, Chris Zahrt, Emily Niemiec, Bill Loxterman, Craig Pirrotta, Esther Ricco, Doug Wood, Michelle Burley, Jaime Sowa**, and others (we had 82 volunteers!) who made this possible.

### Brave Rotarians Wanted!

**Meredith Smillie** is looking for contestants for this fall’s Brave Rotarian competition. Here is your chance to win a coveted Paul Harris Fellow! Competition kicks off on November 7, 2024. \$100 will get you in the mix for this one-of-a-kind competition. Contact **Meredith Smillie** at [msmillie@bethany.org](mailto:msmillie@bethany.org) or sign up at lunch.



|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| MONA SHORES ROTARY INTERACT    | \$426          |
| MUSKEGON HIGH SCHOOL,          | \$548          |
| NORTH MUSKEGON ROTARY INTERACT | \$670          |
| ORCHARD VIEW ROTARY INTERACT   | \$1,036        |
| SPRING LAKE ROTARY INTERACT    | \$792          |
| REETHS-PUFFER ROTARY INTERACT  | \$975          |
| BAKER COLLEGE ROTARACT         | \$548          |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                  | <b>\$5,000</b> |



### Donations Needed for Youth Exchange Conference Nov 8<sup>th</sup>

Your Muskegon Rotary Youth Exchange is again hosting the District 6290 District Conference! As our budget is limited for food, we would ask if any Rotary members would be willing to donate any of the following, it would be SO appreciated:

- 15 People
  - Small bags of assorted chips such as Potato, Dorito, etc.
  - If you have leftover Halloween candy, they love it!
  - A large green salad for Friday night
  - A large green salad for Saturday night.
  - A bowl of fresh fruit.
- If you can donate any of these, please let me know as soon as possible. Please put your name on each bowl or dish with some masking tape, and I'll return it to you. Please bring your donated food to the large Airbnb at 6003 Grand Haven Road, Norton Shores

on Friday afternoon 4:30-5 PM,, November 8. Thank you to everyone who has helped in the past and can do so now! **Joanie Smith** for Rotary Youth Exchange [joan.hilles@gmail.com](mailto:joan.hilles@gmail.com)

### Honduras Trip

**Nancy Crandall** announced plans are coming together for the next Rotarian work trip to Honduras, Feb. 16-22, 2025. The work will build on efforts this year to construct and equip a community library near the capital of Tegucigalpa. **Sarah Rinsema-Sybenga** will be providing additional details soon. You can also contact Sarah at [srinsema@madl.org](mailto:srinsema@madl.org) if you are interested in learning more or attending.



## Rotary After Hours – Family Night at the History & Science Museum



**Thursday, November 14, 2024 - 5:30pm – 7:30pm**

**Who:** All Rotarians, Interact, Rotaract and their family and friends.

**What:** Rotary social event at the History and Science Museum at the Lakeshore Museum Center. This event is geared to the entire family and will feature interactive events for kids and adults as well as access to all the museum's exhibits including:

- **Dinosaur Bones.** Explore Dinosaurs with Paleo Joe and embark on an extraordinary journey through time as we unveil the mysteries of the prehistoric world in the Dinosaur Bones exhibit.
- **Coming to the Lakes:** Learn all about the lives of those who've called this area home for the last 10,000 years! From giant Mastodons to fur traders, lumber barons and others, this exhibit is bound to make you curious.
- **Habitats Gallery:** Discover the relationships between the plants and animals that live in Muskegon County and the habitats of each.

Which ones have you seen? The habitat Gallery will make you **adventurous**.

- **Michigan from the Depths of Time:** Our beautiful lakes didn't always look like they do today! Our bodies of water have experienced impactful changes throughout the ages. Dive into this exhibit and see for yourself. Bet it will make you **smile!**
- **Stem Center:** Be sure to check out this creative and interactive space that will make you **think** about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics! This exhibit promotes hands-on learning for all family members.

**Where:** 430 W. Clay Ave., Muskegon, MI 49440

### What Do I Receive?

- Snacks, adult beverages, water and soft drinks
- Enjoy the comradery of Rotary members and their guests in a relaxed atmosphere outside of the meeting setting.
- Access to all other museum exhibits too

**Cost:** FREE

**How to sign up:** No registration necessary but it would be helpful to sign up—[CLICK HERE](#).

**Questions:** Jeff Bessenger at [jeff@lakeshoremuseum.org](mailto:jeff@lakeshoremuseum.org) or Tim Lipan at [Lipant@comcast.net](mailto:Lipant@comcast.net) or 231-740-0982.

## Grants Committee

**Past President Ginny Sprague** shared that she's fulfilling "the one job of Past President," to organize our Foundation's annual Grants Committee. Beginning Nov. 7, community 501 c 3 non-profit organizations will be able to submit a Letter of Inquiry to begin their grant application process. The organizations are asked to review and follow the Guidelines for Grant Making found on our Club's website, or by [clicking here](#). The Letters of Inquiry are due by Dec. 13. The Grants Committee will meet in January to review all letters. Non-profit agencies who are selected to submit a grant application will be notified by Jan. 15 and grant applications will be due by Feb. 28.

## Youth Exchange Auction More Donations Needed

**Craig Pirrotta** helps with the Rotary Youth Exchange Program and this year it will cost \$8000 for the students. This increased expense caused one of the students to drop out, so they need our help with more donations including donations for another auction. The first auction raised \$1200 with another \$500 check that arrived after; however, these students could use more help. Craig is looking to do another auction in December so will be asking for more items next month.

## Special Vote at Rotary November 7<sup>th</sup>

President Tim reminded members that they will be asked to vote at the Nov. 7 weekly meeting on a Board proposal to add two additional Director spots for our Rotary Board of Directors. Details were spelled out in an Oct. 28 e-mail from Tim (sent by Kim Boersema) to all members.

### Muskegon Rising Podcast Ep 43: Kirk Hallman - Muskegon Museum of Art



Join us as we speak with Kirk Hallman, Executive Director at the Muskegon Museum of Art, about Charles Hackley's vision for a world-class art museum in Muskegon. Learn how his generous bequest, dedicated to acquiring "pictures of the best kind," led to the museum's grand opening in 1912, capturing global attention.

Over a century later, the MMA boasts a remarkable permanent collection, rivaling those found in major metropolitan cities, a testament to Hackley's enduring legacy.

Listen now and explore the artistic treasures of Muskegon.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2269729/episodes/16006813-kirk-hallman-muskegon-museum-of-art>

This link (thank you, **Mike Vogas**) connects to the entire collection of our YouTube Muskegon Rising video podcasts.

[CLICK HERE FOR ALL PODCASTS](#)

### Thoughtful Cards Needed

Former Rotarian Joan Schmitt has moved to the Oasis (Assisted Living) of Norton Shores. If you are willing and able, a thinking-of-you card would lift her spirits. Please contact **Darlene Collet** at [collethome@comcast.net](mailto:collethome@comcast.net).

### Muskegon Rotary's Environment Committee Sees Potential Next Project

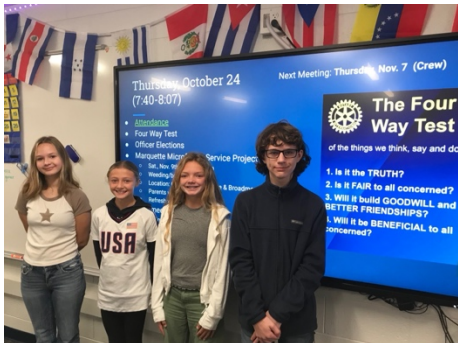


Several Rotary members met on October 28<sup>th</sup> to see the existing micro-forest site in the Marquette neighborhood and after visited Rotary Park between the Boys and Girls Club and Heritage Landing. The discussion led to a possibility of a second micro-forest and shoreline softening/restoration at Rotary Park.

Every Monday 8:30-10:30 am, volunteers are needed to help maintain the Marquette micro-forest. Contact **John Noling** if you can help.



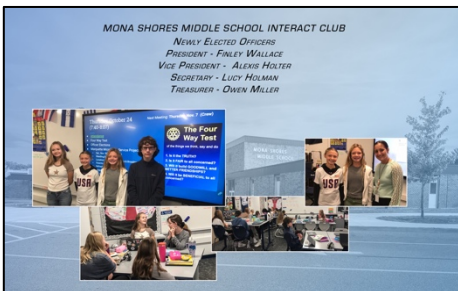
## Mona Shores Middle School Interact elects first slate of club officers



Our first official Middle School Interact Club! Mona Shores now has an Early Act Club at Lincoln Park Elementary and both Middle and High School Interact Clubs. Watch out for these terrific young leaders! Congrats and best wishes for every success from Muskegon Rotary! Officers left to r:  
 Secretary: Lucy Holman  
 Vice President: Alexis Holter  
 President: Finley Wallace  
 Treasurer: Owen Miller




Mona Shores Middle School Interact Club Advisor Jenna Arter congratulates new VP Alexis Holter(left) and Pres Finley Wallace



"The Mona Shores Middle School Interact Club is being attended by an amazing instructor. The agenda on the screen and its quality is a visual indicator of the level of professional example offered in that classroom." -Mike Vogas


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# International Story Voyage

Featuring Exchange Students from Muskegon Rotary

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





Craving adventure? Embark on an International Story Voyage at the library! Rotary exchange students share captivating tales in both English and their native tongues. Explore new cultures, ask questions, and tantalize your taste buds with treats from afar. Broaden your horizons - all without leaving your seat! Registration required.

**Norton Shores Branch**

Tuesdays, November 5 | 3:30 pm

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

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

Here's a link to the books related to Native American Heritage Month: [https://lplp.bibliocommons.com/list/share/1892109169\\_madl\\_staff/2412573123\\_native\\_american\\_heritage\\_month](https://lplp.bibliocommons.com/list/share/1892109169_madl_staff/2412573123_native_american_heritage_month)



Kathy Moore gave the reflection this week.