






“Service Above Self” Muskegon Rotary in Motion



**2014–2015
Distinguished Service Citation**
Awarded to the Rotary Club of
Muskegon
For their Consistently Outstanding Club Newsletter



<http://www.muskegonrotary.org>

Jane Clingman-Scott, President
Ginny Sprague, President-Elect
Tim Arter, President Nominee
Jason Piasecki, 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—Sept 29, 2022, 12-1:30pm

The Lake House - Hybrid

ReWine Sat Club – Next mtg 9/29/22 5:15 pm

Location TBA



Jeff Lewis, Director
Marty Sytsema, Director
Asaline Scott, Director
David Ramos, Director
Marty Gerencer, Director
Susan Besteman, 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 (09/29/22) — Coalition for Community Development

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

Tom Palmer

REFLECTOR

Alan Alpert	Sept 22
Bill Loxterman	Sept 29
Tom Palmer	Oct 6
Roger Morgenstern	Oct 13

NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Bill Loxterman	Sept 30
Lori Weiler	Sept 30
DJ Hilson	Oct 2
Cindy Larsen	Oct 6

[Caring Connections Fund](#)

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

9/22 - Rotary Peace Scholars
9/29 - Coalition for Community Development

VISITORS & GUESTS



DJ Hilson welcomed Christine Baker, candidate for 88th House Seat.



Melissa Moore introduced Jenna Lakos new Development Coordinator for Read Muskegon



Susan Crain with her guest Amy Church-Hosford



Kate Scarbrough and her guest Lynn Armintrout



RIM Reporting Team

Susan Besteman	Lori Weiler
Chip Chipman	Jackie Farrar
Susan Holkeboer	Bill Johanson
Kathy Moore	Roger Morgenstern
Meredith Smillie	

To watch the recorded
9/22/22 meeting, click the
link [here](#).

Muskegon Rotary Board

Jane Clingman-Scott	Ginny Sprague
Tim Arter	Jason Piasecki
Kristi Nagengast	Don Hutchins
Marty Sytsema	Kim Boersema
Jeff Lewis	Asaline Scott
David Ramos	Marty Gerencer

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



President Jane introduced Peggy Anderson from Whitehall Rotary, here to promote the District Gala



Marty Sytsema welcomed Fruitport Trojans (l to r) Kailea and Tiegen, along with Counselor Patty Stasiak

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM:

Rotary Peace Scholars

Speaker: Gaia Pampu

Reporter – Susan Besteman

2019-2020 Rotary International Peace Fellow Gaia Pampu was born in Traverse City, Michigan; however, her family moved and she was raised in Midland.

Doug Wood introduced Gaia who is the Systems Resource Manager with Grow Benzie in Detroit. She manages a four-acre campus, volunteers, and leads a network of 20 local partner organizations working toward improving the quality of life in Benzie County. Prior to her current position, she coordinated and implemented a federal grant through the administration for Native Americans to incubate Native American owned businesses in Northwest Michigan and the Eastern Upper Peninsula. As a Rotary International Peace Fellow (2019-2020), Gaia

completed her internship with the Rotary Charities of Traverse City. She received the Best Dissertation Award and graduated with distinction with a Master's in International Development Management with a concentration in Sustainable Development. She has eight years of experience in the non-profit sector and has received a fellowship for the United States State Department, conducted undergraduate research in China and Mexico, and currently serves as a Secretary of the Benzie Sunrise Rotary Club Foundation. Gaia lives in Bear Lake, Michigan in Manistee County with her daughter, Evelyn, and husband, Mitchell. (Below is a picture of Gaia's family with her first host family.)



Gaia thanked everyone at Muskegon Rotary and especially those working on the Peace Sub-Committee and DEI Committee. She was excited to share her journey, how Rotary impacted her life, how Rotary has transformed her family's life, and her experience of the global reach of Rotary and its impact on young people. Gaia also was thankful to share her research as it relates to philanthropy and crisis (her Fellowship was completed overseas during a crisis in 2019-2020).

In 2019-2020, Gaia had the honor and privilege of representing the United States and Rotary International as an International Peace Fellow studying to complete a Master's degree at the University of Bradford in England. During this period and because the pandemic had just started, change became a constant. A quote came to her from Jennifer Jones from the Rotary District that elected her (D6400), "As we reflect

on our new strategic priorities, we could have never envisioned that our ability to adapt would become our North Star during what is inarguably the most profound time in recent history."

The last decade for Gaia included graduating in 2011 from Midland High School, being a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Turkey, returning home (and experiencing reverse culture shock) and heading to Wayne State University for a major in Theater and Peace & Conflict Studies. She met Dr. Pierson through Rotary and Barbara Jones where she learned more about community development and received the opportunity to intern with the Shakespearian Prison Program through the Detroit public theater working at the Huron Valley Correctional Facility. She also had the opportunity to work with the Wayne State University Confucius Institute to research young women and girls and specifically how young women overseas and in rural communities are treated differently in the classroom and opportunities for STEM are not as readily available for them as their male counterparts. At the Wayne State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, she applied for the US State Department Reverse Exchange Fellowship to go to Bogota, Columbia to study under the largest Youth Peace Education Program in their country. There, she was able to learn more about what it meant to bring peace, education, and youth together under one umbrella in the some of the most remote and hard to reach places. This was something that inspired her to bring back to Detroit where she and other committed Rotarians created the Peace Culture Project to over 200 metro Detroit youth over the course of about three years.



Rotary International has roots across the world and is also an organization that facilitates and creates incredible opportunities to young people for development. Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards 50 fellowships for Master's degrees to an international pool of applicants. Five universities have dedicated programs for anyone wanting to pursue these degrees including Duke University (USA), University of Bradford (UK), a Japanese University, a University in Sweden, and a University in Australia. Each of these provide different concentrations of studies. There is also a new facility in Thailand as well as Uganda which provide shorter opportunities for Fellowships.



Gaia chose the University of Bradford because it is one of the world's largest institutions for peace studies, conflict resolution, and development. It was also a founding member of Rotary Peace Centers Network (2002), Norwegian Nobel Institute, and had only 10 Fellows per Class. In her class, she had folks from Palestine (not able to return home after the pandemic), Ethiopia (not able to return home after the pandemic), Liberia (able to return home eventually), Nepal (borders closed but was able to return home), Georgia (borders temporarily closed but able to return home eventually), Columbia (borders temporarily closed but eventually able to return home), United States (borders open), and Canada (borders open). This gave some immediate perspective on the privilege that we carry in the USA.

Gaia visited the Nobel Institute in Oslo, Norway as well as the Peace Research Studies institute where Galtung first termed his coin, "positive peace" which essentially means more than just an absence of violence. She also was able to simulate UN world crisis events (and play the role of United Nations Security

Council), train in conflict sensitivity, and also train in resiliency (which came at the onset of the pandemic).



Gaia's dissertation focused specifically on philanthropy and COVID-19 and was entitled, "The Shape of COVID-19 Recovery, Philanthropy, and Positive Peace: A Case Study of Wayne County, Michigan, USA." This came from completing five years serving in Detroit and looking through the lens of positive peace to see how philanthropists responded to the pandemic. She applied a case study of around 111 investments.



For Rotary, this work is important because many Rotary Clubs have philanthropic arms (and it can take many different forms from Bill and Melinda Gates to Hells Angels). According to Payton and Moody 2008, 12, philanthropic action is intimately familiar for "as many as half of all adult Americans." Lawrence J. Freidman, in his 2003 book *Charity*, defined philanthropy as "a collective form of charitable giving (in which)...philanthropists tend to impose their vision of a good society" with their funding. Gaia noted the two words of impose and vision because we all have different ideas of what those mean. Applying all the applications within Wayne County, she looked back to the Institute of Economics and Peace (Australia) where they defined positive

peace as "The attitudes, institutions, and structures that, when strengthened, lead to a more peaceful society." When breaking this down, Gaia emphasized attitudes and the way we feel. The Institute for Economics and Peace was specifically interesting to Gaia because of its relationship with Rotary and they have analyzed and quantified data over the years that might lead us to understand conflict affected areas. In their research, some of the researchers also wanted to bring in Galtung's positive peace understanding as well and what is happening in those areas where peace is flourishing. They were able to come up with eight different pillars of peace (which were quantified based on different industries):

- Well-Functioning Government
- Equitable Distribution of Resources
- Free Flow of Information
- Good Relations with Neighbors
- High Levels of Human Capital
- Acceptance of the Rights of Others
- Low Levels of Corruption
- Sound Business Environment

Gaia analyzed the almost \$60 Million in grant investments for Wayne County, Michigan between March and August 2020 for her case study. These funds were a response to the COVID-19 crisis and she felt it was important to reflect on where that funding was applied and how it affected the communities. She could see initially that there was a strong investment of the rights of others, an equitable distribution of resources, and the free flow of information (laptops and increased internet to students where the digital divide was addressed). Corporate Foundations made up a significant portion of these investments (40.7%) followed by Individual/Family Foundations (18.5%) and Community Foundations (3.7%). When looking at the positive peace performance in her case study, she found a lack of investment in corruption which raised a question of whether it is philanthropy's job to include this pillar.

Gaia concluded that it is interesting when corporations make significant contributions to positive peace investments. They help communities; however, at the same time the distance between grassroots philanthrolocalism and corporations is also interesting (is there a way to connect the two?). Gaia wants to see more of an adoption of philanthrolocalism in which the primary purpose of philanthropy is to increase opportunities and strengthen the possibilities of authentic community connections. Some of the most powerful investments, according to Gaia, were ones where individual community members went to community foundations and asked specifically what they needed, and it was provided for them.



Some central challenges noted were that organizations have a tendency to fall into organizational path dependency (fall into the same patterns and difficult to break those in order to respond to a crisis), investments in collaboration and partnerships are effective when long-term and meaningful (not as effective and some unintended consequences when short term), and crises have the potential to enable further “gap-filling” for tax social safety nets by unelected, non-transparent private investment in public goods (which could be filled by government). Gaia overall felt that crisis expands our imaginations around what is possible. She also recommends getting youth involved in all conversations when possible, creating boards and committees that are inclusive and diverse (value other thoughts and opinions), thinking more as a positive peace general guide (not a checklist), and bringing folks (back) together.

This Week's Spotlight: Mary Anne Gorman



Mary Anne joined Rotary in 1991 when John Day (board member at Harbor Hospice) invited her to join so she could meet great people and prospective board members. She has a son who just turned 40. Born and raised in Baltimore, she loves seafood. She majored in History but went into Social Work right after graduating. She then realized she wanted to better serve her clients with a Master's Degree and went on to obtain that. She was the first social worker hired at Hospice of Muskegon.

When Sue resigned to take a position as a leader of the State Hospice Association, Mary Anne was elected to be the next Executive Director where she served for 27 years. She was able to attend the Rotary International Convention in Toronto five years ago where it gave her a really good perspective on what Rotary International could accomplish and what we, as an organization, can do. Mary Anne chairs the Muskegon Rotary Membership Committee and Membership Council where their motto is, “Each one, bring one.” This means they ask each member to be thinking about people that would enjoy the experience of being part of Rotary and also have something to contribute.

New Member Inductions: Dimitri Poland



Dimitri Poland is an Associate Wealth Advisor at Braeburn Wealth Management. He is a native of Muskegon and graduated from Mona Shores High School in 2018. During his time at Mona Shores, he was captain of the Boys Varsity High School Soccer team, and an athlete for the track team. After graduation, he attended his dream school, Michigan State University, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Finance. He graduated through the honors college at MSU, and was also a proud member of the Wealth Management Association at MSU. For a brief period, he was a member of the MSU Rotaract club, and is looking forward to getting back involved with the Rotary community. Some interesting facts about him are that he is a triplet, and is 50% Russian. He looks forward to becoming a member of Rotary and making a positive impact for the organization and community. Dimitri is sponsored by **Susan Crain**.



Eddie Alexander

Eddie Alexander is the sole owner of The E.Alexander Group and Realtor for Fivestar Real Estate. He has been selling real estate since 2016. In that time Eddie has grown both professionally and personally. Eddie now has his own team with seven licensed agents in Michigan and one in Florida. Eddie is proud to offer the same outstanding service not only in Michigan but also Florida. Eddie is a proud husband and father of three children! Eddie is sponsored by **Emily Morgenstern**.

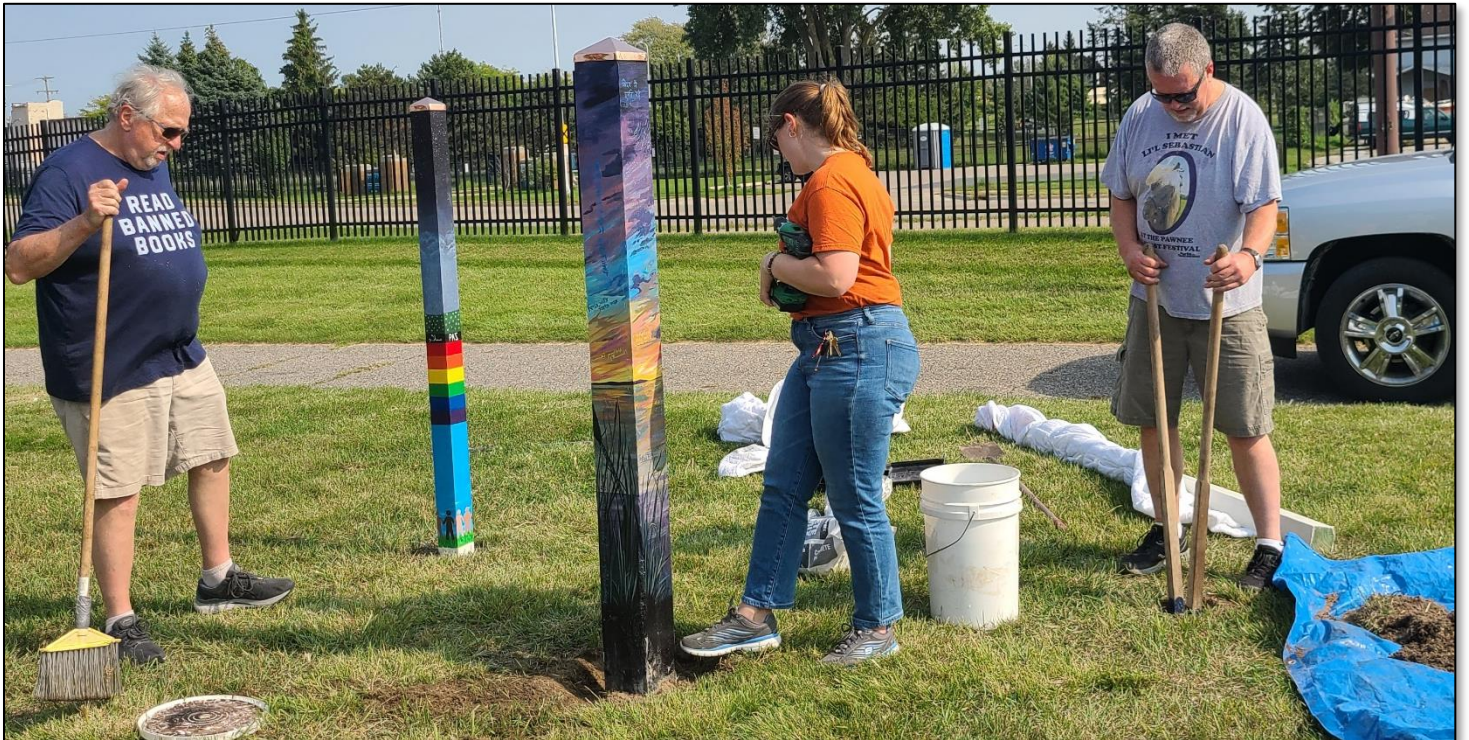
Muskegon Rotary International Peace Day Celebration

Contributed by **Cathy Brubaker-Clark**

The Muskegon Rotary Peacebuilders Club hosted a Rotary International Peace Day Celebration on Wednesday, September 21 at Heritage Landing - Rotary Park. This was the first event of the PeaceBuilders Club.

Rotarian Peacebuilders clubs commit to engaging in dialogues and projects that promote positive peace in their communities and across the globe. The speaker for the event was Gaia Pampu, Systems Resource Manager with Grow Benzie and former Rotary International Peace Fellow. Three beautiful, artistic Peace Poles were erected in Rotary Park as part of the celebration. The poles were created by art instructor Hallie LeBlanc of Trillium and Twig studios and two Nancy K. Poppen Program students, Bryce Thompson and Brenda Rodriguez. Pathfinders of Muskegon, whose mission is to provide an empowering, engaging, and motivational environment for youth, is partnering with Poppen Programs on this project. In addition, Kylee Foster, Muskegon High School student, Poppen and Pathfinder program participant and Interactor presented her spoken word poem, "Peace" (see below) and Cruz Pena, violinist and student at GVSU (former Poppen participant) concluded the program with lovely music that brought a feeling of peace to all in attendance.







"Peace" by Kylee Foster

It gets tiring waking up every day expecting the same thing

Running to an endless goal

Fighting an endless fight

Our stressors distract us from our ultimate objective

They blind us from our future

They subtract and divide our communities

Like math classes young girls can only dream of attending

And we still find ourselves lost within our own struggles

Unable to separate ourselves from our own worlds

An origin has never been global

The roots of a project begin locally

When will the time come that we look to one another

And see that we can strive against the same circumstances

That we can be free from the roles assigned to us

When we join our hands and stand with one another

When we join our hearts, mend our souls together

We can achieve peace