






“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>

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 Kim Boersema, Club Coordinator



Muskegon Rotary Club

Club 16 (2809) – District 6290, Chartered May 1, 1916

Next Mtg—Sept 15, 2022, 12-1:30pm

The Lake House - Hybrid

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

Bill Loxterman's patio



Jeff Lewis, Director
 Marty Sytsema, Director
 Asaline Scott, Director
 David Ramos, Director
 Marty Gerencer, Director
 Chip Chipman, 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 (09/15/22) — Life Leadership Panel

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

Myra Dutton

REFLECTOR

Darlene Collet Sept 8

Bill Erickson Sept 15

NEXT WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Jeff Lewis Sept 17

Tim Susterich Sept 17

Justin Kitchka Sept 18

Todd Rexford Sept 19

Nicolas Morano Sept 20

[Caring Connections Fund](#)

PROGRAMS / EVENTS

9/8 – Mediation & Restorative Services

9/15 - Life Leadership Panel

VISITORS & GUESTS



DJ Hilson introduced new Boys & Girls Club of the Lakeshore CEO Monica Turnbull



Student guests Braden and Caroline along with Principal Stephanie Callow from Muskegon Catholic Central High School were introduced by **Marty Sytsema**



Chip Chipman was joined by Summer Crowell



Susan Crain welcomed back her guest Demetri Poland



Joan Schmitt introduced her friend Ann Emily



Please pay your dues – the new billing cycle begins October 1.

To watch the recorded 9/8/22 meeting, click the link [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellow Rotarians, we need just a few more adults on our total Rotary/Interact team **this Friday and Saturday** to help fill the slots at **Michigan Irish Music Festival** from various clubs. We are behind schedule at this point and need to fill all needed slots before **WEDNESDAY!**

It is our job to make sure all works well on that shift. Light supervision basically, and note who shows up, etc. It may call for assigning a workstation or making adjustments in various powder rooms, but not big deal. This is good duty.

You will hear great music and hang around with some great future Rotarians while you are at it!

Rotarians needed:

- At least one more Friday 8-11 pm
- At least one more Saturday 1-4 pm
- At least two more Saturday 4-7:30 pm
- At least two more Saturday 7:30-11 pm
- One more Sunday morning 9:30-noon
- One more Sunday afternoon 12-3 pm

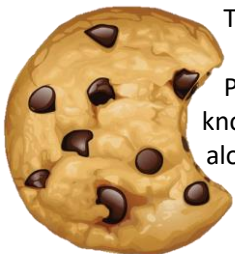
BRING A FRIEND OR SPOUSE!

Use the link [here](#) to sign up on the spreadsheet and be sure to include your shirt size!

Muskegon Rotary

Peacebuilders Club will be hosting an International Peace Day Celebration on **September 21, 2022**, at 4 pm at Heritage Landing – Rotary Park, 1050 7th Street, downtown Muskegon.

Ms. Gaia Tampu will be the speaker and three peace poles created with the help of two Poppen Program students will be dedicated. Please see the press release at the [end of this edition](#) of RIM for more information.



This event is in need of homemade cookies! Please let **Annette Jack** know if you can bring along a dozen (coconut macaroons will be in high demand).

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM: Mediation & Restorative Services

Introduced by **Arn Boezaart**

Reporter – Chip Chipman

Rotary was pleased to host Jackie Hallberg this week, who was able to share with us a bit more about [Mediation & Restorative Services](#) of West Michigan, where she serves as the Executive Director.

Jackie is a lifetime Muskegon resident, and graduated from Ravenna High School before going on to receive her Bachelor Degree from CMU, and a Master's Degree in Social Work from Grand Valley State University.



Jackie is certified as a mediator herself and had worked for Mediation & Restorative Services 14 years earlier in her career, before becoming a school counselor. She then went on to work as Police Community Coordinator for the City of Muskegon Police Department before returning to work at Mediation & Restorative Services. Throughout her career Jackie has worked with those who have been victimized, including those who were victims of domestic or sexual violence. She has also worked with many offenders--both juvenile and adult. In

the next few weeks, Jackie plans to launch her side gig called Tripping with Jax, which will focus on her travel interests. Jackie is also the Vice President of the Orchard View School Board.

The Mediation & Restorative Services agency focus on mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and re-entry services in Muskegon, Oceana, Mason, and Manistee counties. The organization was founded 28 years ago with a community focus to find ways to help members of the greater West Michigan community find peaceful solutions to the common conflicts of life not typically worthy of court or police resources. Examples include neighbors parking in driveways, dogs barking, or loud music being played.

The mediators are highly trained, and all are required to go through a 48-hour training, plus a 10-hour training observation internship. This ensures that they are all qualified to handle not just the barking dog complaints, but also the more complex situations that can come through their doors. The mediators are qualified and available to help with divorce situations, parenting time situations, landlord disputes, employee and employer conflicts, and many more of those sorts of situations that can arise in any of our lives.

All the work they do is strictly confidential, and both parties have to be willing to come. Most of the services offered by Mediation & Restorative Services are free thanks to a combination of funding by the State of Michigan and other groups, such as United Way.

For the first several years of its existence Mediation & Restorative Services were focused only on conflict

re·stor·a·tive jus·tice

noun

1. a system of criminal justice which focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large.

resolution. However, in the early aughts they began offering restorative justice services. Restorative justice is defined as “a system of criminal justice which focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large.” What this means in practice is bringing together the victim of a crime and offender of a crime, when appropriate, to help the victim feel whole again, and allow the offender to understand the impact of their actions and began a path to rehabilitation.

After the success of their restorative justice program, Mediation & Restorative Services began working with the State of Michigan on the prisoner reentry program. This service was available to those being released from prison who had served at least a one-year term and is designed to help them reintegrate back into larger society and to face some of the personal challenges that arise from that. Specifically, many prisoners come home to a different family dynamic, which can be difficult to adjust back to. The original program is no longer funded, but just as that was going away, a similar one emerged called EXIT, and the Mediation & Restorative Services quickly joined with them to continue to help to ensure this valuable service remains accessible within our community.

The success of Mediation & Restorative Services has only been possible thanks to its community partners in West Michigan and the volunteers who make themselves available to help. If you are interested in becoming a mediator for Mediation & Restorative Services, they will provide you with the training and the support needed to find success. They are also always open to volunteers for other tasks if you think mediation is not for you.

To sign up to become a volunteer, you can fill out [the form at this link](#), or call them directly at 231-727-6001.

Making A Difference

Humans of Muskegon: A Storytelling Project from People Who Defy Stereotypes

“Humans of Muskegon” is a story telling project, where Muskegon County residents share their stories about what it means to be them in the community and how they defy stereotypes. Featured are lesser told stories, from people who have experienced prejudice or discrimination because of who they are, based on their lifestyle, a diagnosis, disability, belief, gender, language, ethnic or racial origin, or occupation.

These individuals are Open Books—sharing their experiences to help break down stereotypes and create a more human, kinder world.



“Everyone we interviewed has felt separated from others for whatever the reason, whatever the situation in life, felt alone and this project changes that. They’re not alone and neither are we. We think this will go a long way toward connectedness.”

Watch the video interview [here](#) or visit MADL.org/HumansofMuskegon to view all 15 stories.

New Member Induction: Robert Mathis

Introduced by **Asaline Scott**

Robert Mathis was born in Detroit and lived in the Jefferies Projects with his mother and two brothers. At age 7 his mother, a single parent, purchased a home on the outskirts of Detroit where he and his brothers grew up. They learned how to depend on one another at this time while his mother was attending school full time to become a nurse as well as working as a gas station attendant part time.



Rob’s family was on public assistance, but they also had lots of help from family and friends.

His mother continued her education and worked hard to provide for them. As a youngster, he witnessed how hard his mother struggled to make sure that she was able to provide the necessities for her family. Rob tried as much as possible to help with his little brothers hoping to make things a little easier for his mother. She taught them about love, respect and responsibility which are the core principles upon which Rob lives his life today.

In the summer of 1983, Rob moved to Muskegon to live with his father, his stepmother, and her children (6 more brothers and sisters of which he was still the oldest). He graduated from Muskegon Heights High School in 1984. A month later he joined the Army as a Nuclear Biological Chemical Warfare Specialist. Rob is a proud veteran! After military service, Rob

held various jobs until deciding to pursue his education at Muskegon Community College where he received an Associate Degree in Management and Marketing. He then earned his Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management from Kaplan University.

While attending Muskegon Community College, Rob interned for Summer Celebration where he developed a passion for community service. He worked for that organization for 11 years.

Over 16 years ago, the father of 7 children, Rob met and fell in love with his wife Reyna, and they instantly became a big, blended family. Reyna had 6 children of her own. Together they have 7 sons and 6 daughters.

There was never a dull moment at the Mathis' home and the holidays are always one for the books. In a few months he and Reyna will be celebrating 13 years of marriage. He states, "I could not be more grateful."

Together Rob and Reyna founded Citi Boi Corporation a local non-profit in North Muskegon where they love serving the community! Rob's dream is to take this organization globally with headquarters based here in North Muskegon. People helping people run by volunteers.

Currently they are planning to open a Mexican restaurant and catering service where Reyna can serve her delicious homemade authentic meals. Reyna loves to feed people and takes pride in her cooking. Rob wants to support her in her dreams as she has always done for him and still does at Citi Boi.

Rob's hobbies and activities include writing, traveling, biking and walks in the woods.

Interact Insider

Life Leadership Conference Reports



Ca'Mya Jackson, Junior

Muskegon Heights Public School Academy

"The Life Leadership program was one of the best experiences I ever had.

When I first arrived I thought people were not going to talk to me, but as the day and conference went on, I met some very amazing and cool people and I love them till this day.

One of my favorite parts of the program was the free time, because during that time I met so many people I connected with and enjoyed my time around. One of my favorite memories is playing volleyball with everyone during our free time.

My favorite take-away from this experience was Molly Kennedy's "FLIP YOUR 20", which basically means that you shouldn't let one bad thing ruin your day, so you change your paradigm, you "Flip your 20", and make it the best day it can possibly be, no matter what.

From my experience with LLC, it changed me and how I am around new people. It took me out of my comfort zone and I enjoyed my time there. What I took away from this is that I finally know why

I was chosen to be a leader and when school starts back I'm going to be a leader for volleyball and band this year and going to help some of the new students we have coming to school feel welcomed."

PS: my family name was the best!

BBL-Bonded By Loyalty

ReWine Update

September 1, 2022 meeting was held at North Grove Brewers with seven Rotarians in attendance.

Highlights include Updates and discussion about the Interact students' efforts to bring Molly Kennedy to talk at their schools.

John Noling will get back to the Interact students about their interest in the Murder Mystery show fundraiser.

Upcoming events include:

September 15, 2022: Life Leadership students speaking at the Rotary meeting

September 15, 2022: Next ReWine meeting at Bill Loxterman's patio, 735 Ruddiman Ave., N. Muskegon. Beer and wine provided. Bring an appetizer to share.

September 15-18 Irish Fest. Interact and Rotary volunteers needed to help clean powder rooms. Let John Noling know if you can help.

October 6, 2022: ReWine meeting at Carlisle's in the Trinity Health (LC Walker) Arena, 470 W. West Ave.

October 20, 2022: ReWine meeting at Craig Pirotta's house 6059 Grand Haven Rd, Norton Shores. Interact students will be invited. Still need to coordinate refreshments.

November 11, 12, 13, John Noling is looking for host families to host two district inbound students, each with their own bed and get them to events at St. Paul's and the Synagogue.

Rotary and Interact Stand Tall at Day of Caring

Contributed by **John Noling**

What a day it was! Twenty-four Muskegon Rotarians, 14 Rotary Interactors from four high schools, plus 50 students from two Interact classes at North Muskegon Middle School, joined over 300 community volunteers at United Way Day of Caring last Friday. Of the 17 Day of Caring worksites, our teams contributed greatly at 6 sites by:

- raking lots of leaves from a disabled vet's yard on McArthur Road
- making major house and yard improvements for two veteran homes on Lake Drive and Fenner Road
- planting 60 native trees at Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve
- upgrading grounds and facilities at 8th Street Park in Muskegon Heights
- improving grounds and facilities at Camp Pioneer Trails on Blue Lake



Rotary aprons were out in force for this one! **Thank you** to all who made Service Above Self come to life for United Way Day of Caring. The last major all-out Day of Caring was in 2019 and we thank United Way of the Lakeshore for bringing it back in such fine style!



Thanks to Mike Vogas who put together [this video](#) and to all who contributed photos.





Press Release

Muskegon Rotary Peacebuilders Club to Host International Peace Day Celebration

Muskegon, MI- The Muskegon Rotary Peacebuilders Club will host an event celebrating International Peace Day on Wednesday, September 21 at 4:00 p.m. at Heritage Landing - Rotary Park, 1050 7th St., downtown Muskegon.

A central element of the Rotary mission is to empower Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace. Rotarian Peacebuilders clubs commit to engaging in dialogues and projects that promote positive peace in their communities and across the globe. The Muskegon Rotary Peacebuilders Club has pledged to educate, empower, engage and raise the profile of peace in the community to create a more effective and successful path to peace and nonviolence.

Ms. Gaia Tampu, a Systems Resource Manager with Grow Benzie and a former Rotary International Peace Fellow, will be the speaker at the Peace Day celebration. Tampu has extensive experience incubating native-owned businesses in Northwest Michigan and the Eastern Upper Peninsula. She completed an internship with Rotary Charities of Traverse City, received the best dissertation award, and graduated with distinction with a Master of Arts in International Development Management. She also conducted undergraduate research in China and Mexico.

Three peace poles will be dedicated during the Rotary International Peace Day Celebration. The poles are being created by art instructor Hallie LeBlanc of Trillium and Twig studios and two Nancy K. Poppen Program students, Bryce Thompson and Brenda Rodriguez. The Nancy K. and Sherman R. Poppen programs, administered by Executive Director, Claire Root Benson, provide scholarships to students in the fine and performing arts.

Pathfinders of Muskegon, whose mission is to provide an empowering, engaging, and motivational environment for youth, is partnering with Poppen Programs on this project. The non-profit has a long standing program of providing peace poles created by local student artists for the community. As part of the celebration, Poppen Program students will be providing a spoken word poetry and musical performance by Kylee Foster, poet artist and De'Antae Mayhew, bassist.

Community members are encouraged to attend the celebration and join the Muskegon Rotary Peacebuilders Club in future events and activities. Those attending the celebration are encouraged to bring a lawn chair. Cookies will be provided.

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