

# Midland Rotary News

Founded in 1920 by 26 charter members on a mission to make lasting change

April 2022



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



by Dallas Rau

Hello and happy April, Rotary family!

I hope everyone enjoyed some time — whether it be getting out of Michigan or relaxing at home on a “staycation” and enjoying all our community has to offer — over spring break! I am so excited for the month of April: We have A LOT of great things happening in our club — from great programs, a birthday celebration, and every Rotarian's favorite: SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES!

Just this week, we'll be hearing an update on our Uganda Global Grant project, which is so exciting and really epitomizes what Rotary is all about. We will celebrate our club's Centennial Birthday (+2!), and since Earth Day is coming up, our newly-formed 'Supporting the Environment' committee has some opportunities for “Service Above Self” planned! Stay tuned for more details as they become available!

April's theme is also 'Saving Mothers and Children,' which is a cause we can all certainly get behind. Rotary helps by “expanding access to quality care, so mothers and children everywhere can have the same opportunities for a healthy future.

See **PRESIDENT** • Page 5



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- 3....Membership Goal/Rotary Helps Ukraine
- 4....Welcome New Members
- 5....We're Social!
- 6....Maternal and Child Health Article
- 7....District Conference Information
- 8....Pancake Supper Update
- 9....New monthly DEI column
- 10...Harry Grether Memorial/Midland Blooms
- 11....Rotary Hero Award
- 12....Rotary Fellowships Q&A
- 13...EREY/Sustainable Donor update

## PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECIPIENTS

Robert "Speed" Malecki +1	Steve Wilde +7
Leroy Smith +3	Jeanne Lound Schaller +2
Sharon Mortensen +3	Gail Hoffman +3
Reva Curry +2	Tim Dyste +2
Jon Lynch	Kate Hessling
Michael J. Flint	Sam McKenzie
Kathy McCready (non-member)	Jeanne Schaller +1
Judy Timmons (non-member)	Dr. Jim Bakeman +6

### MAJOR DONOR

Dr. Tom Lane and Jim Brozzo

# ROTARY CLUB OF MIDLAND LINKS

## Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MidlandNoonRotaryClub/>

## Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/midlandminoonrotary/>

## Twitter

<https://twitter.com/MidNoonRotary>

## Official logos/Rotary Global Rewards:

<http://midlandrotaryclub.org>

## Club Website

<https://www.midlandrotaryclub.org>

# UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

### April 7

Uganda Global Grant Update

### April 14

Energy Policy

### April 21

Rotary Centennial +2 Celebration

### April 28

Michigan Made Advanced Athletics

### April 29-30

District Conference, Park Place Hotel, Traverse City

### May 5

Update from the City of Midland

### May 12

Corteva

### May 19

Scholarship Committee

### May 26

Savant Group

### June 2

Preston Jones photography



# Our membership goal: 200

YOU CAN EASILY VIEW NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS ONLINE BY FOLLOWING THE EASY STEPS BELOW!

## Rotary Engagement Via E-Resources

Midland Rotary Club's Website: <http://midlandrotaryclub.org>

### From our Club's website, you have two options:

1. My Rotary (RI): Click for access to tools, information, and resources OR to make online donations.
2. DACdb: Click on Member Login, <https://www.dacdb.com>, Login, My CLUB Shortcuts, Club Members icon to see our Club Officers, members' contact information, your profile, and your Club membership.

### To view New Member Applications:

- Follow the DACdb steps above and click on Club Files instead of Club Members icon
- Click on Secure Files and scroll down to see apps.
- Click on Nomination Forms

---

## Rotary efforts helping Ukraine

In response to the deepening humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, The Rotary Foundation has created an official channel for Rotary members around the world to contribute funds to support the relief efforts underway by Rotary districts and has designated its Disaster Response Fund as the main avenue for contributions. Trustees have decided to prioritize contributions, including unallocated District Designated Funds, made to the Disaster Response Fund until 30 April. So far, the fund has received more than \$2 million. Any district can apply for disaster response grants to support the Ukrainian relief efforts.

RI has assured that contributions to Disaster Response are temporarily being prioritized for districts impacted by the Ukraine crisis and any unspent funds will be available to any Rotary districts for Disaster Response grants.

Link to learn more and donate is here: <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/disaster-response>

# Meet our newest members!

## March



### Jeanny Figueroa

Sponsored by Amanda Oster  
Self employed —  
Independent Beauty Guide Limelife by Alcone

## Who will you bring?

Rotary International President, Shekhar Mehta, has challenged Rotary Districts and Clubs to increase membership to 1.3 million by July 1, 2022 through his 'Each One, Bring One' initiative, which asks every member to bring one person to join Rotary this year.

## February



### Stephanie Davis

Sponsored by Dallas Rau  
President of the Greater Michigan Construction Academy



### Bob Brentin

Sponsored by Christian Velasquez  
Marketing Consultant



### Jeff DeHaven

Sponsored by Amanda Oster and Jennifer West  
President/CEO of Digital Mitten



### Sara Eastman

(Returning Member)  
Sponsored by Herb Scogg  
Legal Attorney





# We're social!

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/MidlandNoonRotaryClub/>

**Instagram:**

[Midlandnoonrotaryclub](https://www.instagram.com/midlandnoonrotaryclub)

**Twitter:** @NoonRotary



**Midland Noon Rotary Club**

@MidlandNoonRotaryClub · Nonprofit organization

Edit Learn more



← Midland Noon Rotary Club

7 Tweets



# SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Follow

**Midland Noon Rotary Club**

@NoonRotary

## President, continued...

An estimated 5.9 million children under the age of 5 die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate health care, and poor sanitation — all of which can be prevented.” To learn more, visit <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/saving-mothers-and-children>.

As we head into the last quarter of the Rotary year, I invite you to take some time and think about how you want to be engaged with our club, one (or more!) of our committees, and with Rotary in general. It has been an incredibly challenging couple of years, and we likely have a new outlook on what “normal” looks and feels like. There is a need for what you have to offer — and you being a Rotarian is a perfect way to showcase your talents. Martin Luther King said it best when he said, “Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.” Let’s work to connect that greatness as we “Serve to Change Lives” and head into the new Rotary year and “Imagine” all that is possible!

Yours in Rotary Service,

*Dallas Rau*



# April is Maternal and Child Health Month

By Joyce Bremer, Maternal and Child Health Champion



In April, Rotary will be observing Maternal and Child Health month. The topic I have chosen for April is extremely sobering but so very important for each of us to have awareness to. This awareness could save the life of a child or young adult. The topic is Human Trafficking. Human Trafficking is referred to as modern day slavery and is occurring in every state of our Nation, with Michigan in the top eight states. These states are Florida, Ohio, Georgia, Delaware, California, Missouri, Michigan, and Texas.

The victims caught in these atrocious situations include young children, adolescents, and young adults. The victims include runaways who find themselves in situations where they are tricked, coerced or forced into human trafficking. They may also include young person, who are forced by a trusted partner to participate in sexual acts. Please keep in mind that human trafficking victims can include males, as well as females.

In some cases, the victims are not even aware that they are being trafficked because they do not know anything different than what they experience in the environment in which they are in. Drugs are often involved in controlling the victims and creating a dependence of the victim to the trafficker as well.

What can we do to become more aware of a potential human trafficking situation? Michigan currently requires healthcare workers to participate in educational trainings. These trainings teach our healthcare workers to learn about a patient's health history that can raise red flags to possible trafficking. It also teaches healthcare workers to ask sensitive questions, and to be aware of what can be learned from the physical exam.

In addition, school districts are training faculty on warning signs to better identify children who may be at risk. Behavior that trained individuals would watch for can include disengagement, reoccurring urinary tract infections, bruising and an in-ability to socialize. Secretaries at our schools and receptionists in our healthcare practices could potentially identify a victim. Knowledge and awareness are the highest priority for identifying potential victims and signs of abuse. Lastly, it is important to educate school youth so they are more aware of abusive and manipulative relationships.

I encourage you to reach out to any of the links provided in this article to learn more. I further encourage you to talk with your employer and advocate for formal training to help better educate your workplace in order to better fight human trafficking in your community.

[www.mittrainingcenter.org](http://www.mittrainingcenter.org) > courses

<https://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Human...>

[https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971\\_7119\\_71039---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7119_71039---,00.html)

<https://archives.drugabuse.gov/blog/post/human-trafficking-and-drugs>



## District Conference set for April 29-30

Events to include Flashbacks performance; breakout sessions; shopping; and keynote address

Organizers are gearing up for our annual District Conference on April 29-30 at the Park Place Hotel in beautiful Traverse City. Friday night will feature the musical talents of the Flashbacks, a six-piece band featuring some Rotarians from the Pigeon club.

After breakfast on Saturday, we'll conduct our annual District Business Meeting, at which time Rotarians who have passed away during the past year will be honored. There will be breakout sessions to expand your knowledge of Rotary, technology and our environment. On Saturday afternoon, we'll explore the many businesses in the Traverse City area, many of which will offer a Rotary discount. Our conference team suggests a tour of the Traverse City Commons, Fustini's, Traverse City Whiskey, or Wine Tasting on the Mission Peninsula.

Saturday evening's final banquet will bring us our very special Keynote speaker, Retired U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Travis Mills, a recalibrated warrior. You will not want to miss his powerful story of courage and perseverance.

“Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves.”

*Paul Harris, Rotary Founder*

## Pancake Supper postponed until 2023

The Pancake Supper Committee, and our Board of Directors, have researched our weekly meeting attendance, and we found we have not been able to exceed 70 attendees on any given week. Given the fact that the Pancake Supper requires at least 75 in-person volunteers, the board feels the most prudent decision is to postpone this event for another year.

We understand that this is a beloved community event and we still plan to support the youth-oriented projects in Midland County that this event would have supported. Having said that, if you feel inclined to make a donation to assist our work, a check can be made out to “Rotary Club of Midland” with a memo to ‘Community Needs’ and can be mailed to PO Box 2002, Midland, MI 48641-2002.

Like last year, an invoice will be sent to membership for an optional donation of our normal Pancake Supper ticket prices (\$130) to be made to our club's Community Needs committee, which is the normal recipient of the event's proceeds. As you may know, the Community Needs committee's objective is to meet the financial needs primarily of Midland County youth-oriented projects that might otherwise fall through the cracks. I strongly encourage you to give what you can as this event has been postponed for two years now. Please note that this invoice will NOT be considered part of your financial obligation for the 2021-2022 Rotary year.

---

## Polio Plus Society is growing!

The POLIO PLUS SOCIETY is growing! Join the PPS and commit to at least a \$100 donation annually to the Rotary International Foundation Polio Plus Fund until Polio is eradicated from the world. Fill out the Polio Plus Society Commitment form and submit it to your Club Foundation Chair or your Club President. To make your donation, go to MY ROTARY and donate online, or submit a check with your commitment form made payable to Rotary International Foundation. Either way, indicate you are selecting the Polio Plus Fund! The form can be found by clicking [HERE](#).



# Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

## A discussion about inclusion bias

By Sharon Mortensen



As Rotarians, we join with those from around the world to engage in service and meaningful change. Rotarians are a diverse group with 1.4 million members from around the world. Rotary's website notes the following, "as one of Rotary's Core Values, diversity should be one of our great strengths. We should be proud that Rotary reflects so many cultures, generations, and lived experiences, and offers the potential for countless leaders to tap into those experiences to make a difference." How can we ensure that those coming to our club from diverse backgrounds feel welcome and included? One way is to learn tools to recognize unconscious biases we may have.

Those biases may dictate how we respond to others and even something as simple as where we sit at Rotary meetings. Do we choose to sit with those most like ourselves whether because of age, gender, or other demographic factors? How can we make sure our Rotary club allows all to feel included, accepted and experience a sense of belonging?

So let's start with the concept of unconscious bias or implicit bias. Bias is a preference in favor of, or against a person, group of people, or thing. These initial human reactions, which are often unconscious, are rooted in inaccurate information or reason and are potentially harmful. Biases are also part of being human. Curious to learn more about your own personal biases? You can take a quiz at this site where you will find multiple options: Take a Test (harvard.edu) (<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>)

How does this concept of unconscious biases relate to us as Rotarians? We want those coming to our club to feel welcome. We can lean into differences, seeking the opportunity to get to know a member unlike us. Before the bell rings, consider learning about a member sitting near you – and consider seeking out a member you've not talked with before. One powerful Ted Talk by Verna Myers entitled, "How to Overcome Our Biases? Walk Boldly Towards Them" looks more at this topic.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/verna\\_myers\\_how\\_to\\_overcome\\_our\\_biases\\_walk\\_boldly\\_toward\\_them?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/verna_myers_how_to_overcome_our_biases_walk_boldly_toward_them?language=en)

As we seek to greater live the four-way test, doing work around unconscious biases can help us become a more diverse and welcoming club. This can help us reflect Rotary's value of diversity and celebrate the contributions of all backgrounds, appreciating the differences of factors such as age, ethnicity, race, color, abilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity.



## Memorial set for Harry Grether

A memorial has been set for Rotarian Harry Grether, who passed away in December 2021. The event is set for 3 p.m. June 12, 2022, at Dow Gardens. A cookout and s'mores will follow at the Midland Country Club. His family wanted to be sure his fellow Rotarians were invited to attend and know that all are welcome.

## Calendar alert: Midland Blooms in May



The Midland Business Alliance is once again coordinating Midland Blooms, an annual beautification project for the community. Midland Blooms is in its 32nd year and involves over 500 community volunteers to make it happen. As in years past, Rotary is having a team help the effort to plant on both sides of Eastman Avenue for a two-and-a-half mile stretch. However, we may need to make adjustments pending the status of the pandemic. The event is scheduled to take place from 8 a.m. to noon May 21. Volunteer planters are asked to arrive at 8:30 a.m. on May 21st at their designated section. Carlos Uribe is the contact person for our club, and he can be reached at [ceuribe@hotmail.com](mailto:ceuribe@hotmail.com).

# Tawny Nelb is Rotary Hero

By Missie Freier



Tawny Nelb is cherished by all that know her. Tawny has spent the majority of her life chronicling and archiving things of the past to ensure they are not forgotten in the future.

She started out at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in West Branch, Iowa, and then worked for 10 years at Yale University Manuscripts and Archives Department. There she perfected her skills by working with researchers, appraising new manuscripts and processing historical collections.

In 1986, she started her own business called Nelb Archival Consulting, and moved the business to Midland in 1989. Her business has a vast number of services, including completing appraisals and needs assessment analyses.

She conducts surveys of historical records and facilities for museums, historical societies, manuscript repositories, archives, library special collections, owners of historic homes, design firms, universities, religious organizations, and governmental and civic groups. In addition, her business recommends systems to preserve and manage materials efficiently, recommends the best methods for storage of historical objects, conducts research on preservation options for archival communities and much more. She has written five books, had 50 articles published, and has given over 100 lectures.

Over the years, Tawny has been on numerous Boards and committees, in many cases, known as either president or chair of the committee. It is quite clear that her passion is preserving our history. She has written numerous grants and helped raise \$1 MILLION for the Midland County Historical Society archives endowment. Some of the Boards she has been a part of are as follows:

- Historical Society of Michigan Board of Trustees (1994-2000, 2013-2019); President (1998-2000)
- Society of American Archivists, Publications Board (2008-2016)
- Governor's State Historical Records Advisory Board of Michigan (MSHRAB) (2008-2017).
- Midland Noon Rotary Executive Board (2014-2017); President (2016-2017),
- Chemical Heritage Foundation Heritage Council Member (2007-08).
- Midland County Historical Society Advisory Board (1999-2011, 2021-current);
- Midland Center for the Arts Board of Trustees, (2004-2006) Executive Board Secretary (2005-2006);
- Co-Founder and First Chair of the Michigan Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records (Mich COPAR) (1995-1997).
- Governor's State Historical Records Advisory Board (CSHRAB), Connecticut Member (1988-89).

Nobody could have predicted the events that would happen in 2020. The world shut down due to COVID-19 and Midland County was devastated by the dam failure and historical flooding. The destruction was massive. Tawny was one of the people that laced up her boots and hit the ground running. She worked with the Midland County Historical Society appraising and processing historical documents and helped save everything they could to ensure the historical artifacts and documents would be there for generations to come.

**See HERO • Page 12**



# Q&A: Rotary Fellowships

Rotary Fellowships are international groups that share a common passion. Being part of a fellowship is a fun way to make friends around the world, explore a hobby or profession, and enhance your Rotary experience. Membership in a fellowship is open to any interested individual. You can contact a fellowship directly by using the links below.

## Q: How do I explore our fellowships?

A: Interested in a particular subject? From leadership and amateur radio to antique collectibles and beard and moustache, there are subjects for all! A listing of all groups and their corresponding websites is online at <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/more-fellowships>.

## Q: How do I form a fellowship?

A: There are a couple of options.

- Read this Guide for Prospective Rotary Fellowships. (<https://my.rotary.org/en/document/guide-prospective-rotary-fellowships>)
- Find others interested in the topic:
  - Join a [discussion group](#) or start a [new one](#).
  - Use Rotary's presence on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to promote your idea.
  - Attend the Rotary International Convention or other Rotary events (<https://my.rotary.org/en/exchange-ideas/events>).
  - Reach out to district leadership in other countries to build membership.
- Apply for official recognition using the online form at [https://rotary.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cSG6yQFgv1r dtu5](https://rotary.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cSG6yQFgv1r dtu5)

## Hero, continued...

In addition, Tawny was asked by Sharon Mortenson to take the lead of the COVID efforts with our fellow Rotarians. COVID kept us in our homes, isolated from our friends, coworkers, and our own families. The fear it instilled on many was unprecedented and the loneliness was unbearable. Tawny's efforts helped to ensure our Rotarians knew they were thought of, cared about, and loved. Rotarians were assigned to other Rotarians by Tawny to reach out on a weekly basis and simply say "Hi! How are you?" "Do you need anything?" She helped people learn how to Zoom, Skype, and Facetime to stay connected with other Rotarians along with being able to communicate and see the smiling faces of their loved ones. In many cases, groceries and prescription drugs were picked up and delivered as it was dangerous for the most vulnerable to leave their homes. Most importantly, they formed an unbreakable bond with someone who will be an integral part of their life forever. The goal was to make people understand they were needed, and the end result was far greater than we had hoped. According to Tawny, "Life can be difficult, and many people need a hand. It is important to treat people with respect and help them work through their problems by providing our time, expertise, and resources. Rotarians always step up and bring a tremendous amount of powerful networking and commitment to every project." Tawny Nelb has helped our community in ways that many people may not know. Her kindness and contributions are immeasurable, and this is why she is being named the Rotary Hero of 2022.

# Donate today for Every Rotarian Every Year and to become a Sustaining Member

*By Christian Velasquez, Foundation Committee Chairman*

This Rotary year is nearing its end and the Club would like to encourage every Midland Noon Rotary Club member to consider donating to The Rotary Foundation. No gift is too small and every dollar counts.

Last year only 22 members of the Club donated to the Annual-Share Fund (minimum of \$25) to achieve EYER status. This is down considerably from the Rotary year 2016-17 when 100 members reached this distinction. It is a goal of both the Club and District that Every Rotarian give (\$25) Every Year. Currently, 32 members of our Club qualify for EREY, and we have time to do even better! Consider an annual contribution of \$100 and become a Sustaining Member. To date, 26 members of our Club have earned recognition as a Sustaining Member. This is an improvement over last year's 19 members but down from a recent high of 56 members. All contributions made to the Annual-Share Fund help to support humanitarian projects, vocational training teams, scholarships, and District and Global grants. Half of the money donated this year to the Annual-Share Fund will be returned to the District in three years for distribution through District Grants and District support for Global Grants. During the 2020-21 Rotary year \$45,665 was made available to clubs in our district for a variety of local projects. In addition, the District supported a Global grant, spearheaded by Dick Dolinski, to bring electricity and other necessities to a rural school in Uganda. These grants from our District do make a difference in our communities and around the world. Without your support and charitable giving to The Rotary Foundation's Annual-Share Fund these projects would not be possible, please consider giving.

Thank You for everything you do as a Rotarian. If you have any questions about your RI donation, please contact Christian Velasquez at [chrisv250@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisv250@hotmail.com).

## **It is easy to give:**

- Visit your "My Rotary" page ([myrotary.org](http://myrotary.org)) and click on the Donate button.
- Use the Rotary Foundation Contribution Form. You can give by check or credit card. Just drop the form into the mail along with your donation.
- Hand a check payable to The Rotary Foundation to Christian Velasquez or any of our Club's officers at a weekly meeting, and they will do the paperwork for you!
- Visit your "My Rotary" page and sign up for Rotary Direct to have an amount taken directly from your charge card or bank account every month, quarter, or year.