



# Rotary Club of Kalamazoo

Editorian: Denny Stults

**Today's** meeting was called to order by President Martin Velten at 12:15pm

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Lead by President Martin Velten

Invocation: Aaron Winters offer the invitation for reflection on the vital work being done by the ARC.

**Arts News:** Art News was presented by Bryan Zocher, Visit the Arts Council Website at [Kalamazooarts.org](http://Kalamazooarts.org) for details on our Rotary Website.

**Visiting Rotarians:**

**Guests:** Sarah Gerstner by Denny Stults

**Announcements:**

- Voted in the new slate of leaders. Jim Cupper moved, Amy Remmert seconded and the mo

**New Member Comments:** Rasheda Shepherd. She has 2 daughters that benefited from the Kazoo promise, an engineer and food scientist, July birthday,,,accepting all gifts including happy bucks. Was a high school diver, choir and has a happy life. Car is named Jupiter, Red Buick, WMU Alumni, working on doctoral degree from Nebraske Methodist. Six months as head of the ARC Community Advocates

**Happy Bucks:**

- Happy fin from Sandy Blieneser to be back
- Happy fin from Eric Wembley for being in the Bahamas during the recent freeze
- Happy fin from Don Fleshey recommending the play at Miller Come from Away
- Two happy bucks from Anne Witherspoon or her mom and for the chili cookoff from
- Two happy bucks from Martin Velten for daughter turning 20 and for the Lions season

**The Program:** Rasheda Shepherd, executive director of the ARC. Mission: We exist as an advocacy agency to make it.... In 1950's little was understood about mental health issues. Most were funneled to Institutions where they were physically restricted, had poor nutrition, overcrowding and health and safety hazards. The Arc Community Advocates was born 70 years ago (1953). One of 29 community-based organizations nationwide, 11 in Michigan. The Arc's

are tailored to the community it serves. Rasheda is the first African American Executive Director.

- Educational Advocacy
- Adult Advocacy (not case management)
- Systems Advocacy
- Alternatives to Guardianship
- Community Education

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Inclusion Conference

- Friday March 15, 2024
- WMU Fetzer Center
- 8:30am-4:30pm

Many Partnerships

They are looking for a permanent home

If a family is in need...they now find the Arc by word of mouth. The Arc is beginning to target zip codes for outreach and awareness. Currently the Arc does not count clients served...they count "goals achieved".

Next Week:

**Closing:**