



The meeting was started by Kalamazoo Rotary President, Kristen Chesak. The invocation was given by Christina Dorett and the art news was presented by Bob Miller. For a full line-up of the week's activities, visit the Arts Council website at www.kalamazooarts.org

Memorial Day Flags: There are only two more weeks to order your Memorial Day Flags. Honor a veteran or currently serving service member by purchasing a flag or more. If you submit the names of the service member or vet, that tag be added to the flag. Flags will be posted at Bronson Park on Memorial Day weekend.

Rotary is for Reading was a huge success. We had Rotary members and several non-rotaran volunteers in classrooms in all second-grade classrooms in the Kalamazoo Public School system. Thank you, Jim Cupper for organizing this very special project. Jim may be sending out a survey to volunteers to see how we can improve the event next year. The event will take place in January of 2024 to coincide with College Awareness Week.

Guests: Chris Shook brought guest John Kepplinger, a retiree from Kellogg. Lorence Wenke brought guest was Jessica Fax Lucinda Stinson came as a guest but will soon be installed as a new member.

Visiting Rotarian was Matt Schrock from South Bend.

Rotary Hero: President Kristen Chesak announced that Jim (everything) Cupper has been chosen to be our Rotary Hero. He has displayed a CULTURE OF CARE. Jim has been Kalamazoo Rotary Past President, Past District Governor, PETS trainer, Mentor, Strive mentor, Distinguished Alum of Western Michigan University. Jim is a SUPER HERO.

Paul Harris Fellows: Paul Harris Fellows were announced. Denise Hartsaugh +1, Martin Velten +3, Lisa Anspaugh +4, Kristen Chesak +2 and Richard Voorman who was absent from this meeting.

Happy Bucks: Rick Briscoe honored his wife Penny with a happy buck because of the vast number of mealworms she went through to feed her Purple Martins. Dan Hartlieb gave his for his dog Daisy who is going through training. Dan Sytsma gave for the great announcement that will be made on Thursday involving KNAC. But is sworn to secrecy. The Borgess Foundation guy gave for Jim Cupper. Dan Hartlieb for his daughter completing the Boston Marathon her best time, 2 hr 58 min. Jim gave for the success of Rotary is for Reading.

Program: Amy Thill introduced the speakers from Global Ties. Jordan Blough-Orr is the Program Manager. Also in attendance was Jodi Michaels, the Executive Director. Global Ties has been bringing international visitors to Kalamazoo for many

years through the Citizen Diplomacy Agency. It is designed to provide a platform for sharing on issues. They include high school students and adults from a multitude of nations. Many are home hosted but others may be housed in local hotels. During their stay they spend money in our community helping to support our local economy. Local host volunteers will house some and host many for social interaction. Other activities include professional meetings, internships and cultural activities. These visits help break down barriers and transform the image of America. Their experiences and the images they take back to their home countries can be transformative.

Next Week's program will be the Kalamazoo Growlers.