



## MAY 2023 “MAKING CONNECTIONS”

### HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

As usual, volunteering does more for us than it does for the people we help. In April, Nancy Martin, Vince Kehoe, Chair Rob Iwama, and I interviewed six high school seniors to see who was best suited to receive our Rotary Scholarships. It was an amazing opportunity to hear the students' stories.

We interviewed five young women and one young man. Having sorted through the paperwork of fifteen students the week before; looking at grades, activities, personal statements as well as colleges and universities that they had applied to, six students were selected for the interview.

The committee always struggles with the question, do we choose the brightest stars who will obviously do well in school, or do we choose the ones with potential, who need our help paying for additional education. To tell

you honestly, I wanted to provide a scholarship to the young woman who wanted to go to beauty school.

On paper, it appeared that they all deserved the largest scholarship, but once they started answering our questions, everything changed. Many of the students answered the first question, “What is your greatest strength?” with the answer “Determination” or “Perseverance” and then went on to explain why. Without giving away private information, let me just say that some of the teens practically raised themselves and felt bad that they could not help their dysfunctional parents more than they did as they grew up. Others were first generation Americans who felt the sting of prejudice and the loneliness of working jobs while attending school and trying to sneak in time for studies. Continued on page 2

They are all hardworking even when it comes to sports. Most of them mentioned that they were captains of various athletic teams. The majority were valedictorians, and their career goals would astound you.

By the time we met our final candidate and listened to her barricades to success as well as her aspirations, Nancy and I were near tears and had to be quiet. Being on the Scholarship Committee and so many other committees that we have in Rotary gives

us a great opportunity to assist others along their rocky roads in life and provides us with a little tingling sense of accomplishment.

If you participate in the Golf Tournament or Art, Wine, and Wheels, you are raising money for these very deserving students. Our group of interviewees, Rob, Nancy, Vince, and myself, just want to know how we can raise more money to assist students along the expensive road to college graduation.

Submitted by Chery Davis

## ART, WINE, AND WHEELS

Planning for the 17th Annual Art, Wine, & Wheels has been in earnest for the past several months, as permits, sponsors, artists, wineries, and advertising are developed, acquired, or solicited. Many members of the Rotary



Club are engaged in these efforts on a nearly daily basis.

Each year the Rotary Club of Mariposa Yosemite invites artists to submit their artwork for consideration to represent the group's annual Art, Wine, and Wheels event.

The themes can include art, wine, classic cars, Mariposa history, local scenery, flora, fauna, or the Mariposa community. The 2023 winning art is "A View from the Vineyard" by Rosalie Thurston. It is an 11" x 14" acrylic on canvas.

Rosalie Thurston, a long-time Mariposa resident, works as a sales associate at the Ridgeline Gallery and Gift in downtown Mariposa. This new adventure has inspired her to try her hand at painting, and the rest is art in the making.

The event will be on Saturday, May 27th on the Courthouse lawn from 11 am until 5 pm. Every Rotarian is asked to participate in the event, as it takes a great deal of work on the day of

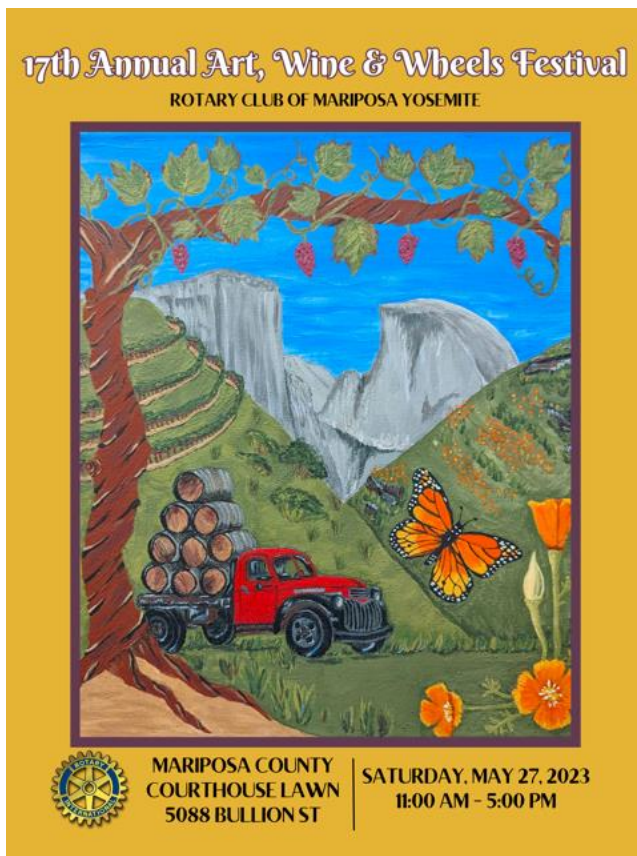


the festival to ensure that the visiting public is well taken care of. Every Rotarian should sign up with Roger Leonard for volunteer spots. AND WEAR YOUR BLUE POLO, so that the public will be able to identify Rotarians in the crowd.

Familiar friends and activities will be there, including music by the Blue Sky Trio, wine poured by Kris Casto, and Courthouse Tours by our own Mike Fagalde, joined this year by new judge Anita Starchman-Bryant. New for this year will be a food court on 10th Street, and the Friends of the Mariposa Library will be selling their used books across the street during the event.

Featured artist Rosalie Thurston will be on hand for the event in the featured booth. The poster for the 17th Annual Art, Wine & Wheels event features her winning artwork.

Ultimately, this is a significant fundraiser for the club, and the public (in part) knows our club because of this event; we want to continue to impress our community with a successful event.



Submitted by Susan Robinson  
and John McCamman

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL'S NEW VISION STATEMENT

In June 2018, the Rotary's Board of Directors and Trustees approved a new vision statement for the organization:

"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."

The new vision statement helps us set a future course so that Rotary can thrive in the years ahead. It reflects the impact Rotary aspires to have on the world and our members. ([mission-statement.com/rotary/](https://www.rotary.org/mission-statement)).

Submitted by Mark Buenafe



## RECOGNIZING ROTARIANS WHO HELPED IN NON-ROTARY FUNCTIONS

Thanks go to Margarita King and Earl Heitzman who helped in the Face Lift sponsored by the Mariposa Yosemite Climbing Museum on April 22.

That same day, Susan Robinson, Greg and Jenivieve Harper, and Mark Buenafe are to be congratulated for their help in bringing Storytelling to Mariposa. Mark invited the Storytelling program planners to use the Methodist Church sanctuary and the event was a huge success.

## PROUDLY PINNED

Becoming official Rotarians was quite a momentous occasion for CB and me. Being introduced to Chery Davis over this past summer has been wonderful. While hiking the backroads of Mariposa with her, Chery was quite the advocate for the Mariposa Yosemite Rotary, and spoke of the important volunteer involvement the club promotes. We were encouraged to come to the Miners Restaurant on a Thursday morning to learn more about the club's mission of service to the community and beyond. We took her up on the

invitation and quickly realized the members were welcoming and generously shared their stories of the selected events they sponsor throughout the year.

As relatively new transplants from Sonoma County to this mountain town, arriving just before the dreaded COVID pandemic hit, we were faced with physical isolation, and unable to meet and build relationships that we were so painfully missing. Our primary reason for relocating was to see our



grandchildren often, and even that was curtailed greatly.

Now post-pandemic, we have been blessed with meeting like-minded, caring people who are committed to improving the lives of people here and internationally. Both of us are looking forward to donning our paint smocks to help with the growing Christmas Village and working the Butterfly Festival morning shift of parking lot duties. The Mariposa Yosemite Rotary Club is fortunate to have Chery as an ambassador for the club. Being inducted by President Eric Weihe and

Debbie Peters (Chery's proxy, due to more snow) was inspiring. Having the District Governor Chris Daly in attendance and doing the honors of "Pinning" us, made the ceremony all that much more meaningful.

Chris spoke passionately about Rotary and gave us insight into the mission of "Service Above Self." CB and I look forward to helping the club continue the volunteer work that will benefit Mariposa, and places far afield. Many thanks for the warm welcome,

Liana and CB Belair



Edited by  
*Chery Davis*

