



CLUB AND DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

MADERA ROTARY PARK ~by Diana Barden. The Madera Rotary Club used the occasion of Rotary's 103rd birthday in February to *Share Rotary* by dedicating the Rotary Park Sign to the City of Madera.

The dedication ceremony took place in Rotary Park and was attended by over 80 Rotarians, city officials and representatives, and members of the community. Club members hosted a Barbeque in the park pavilion following the ceremonies.



Madera's Mayor Sally Bompressi presents a proclamation from the City of Madera to Madera Rotarians Carol Kennedy, President Jane Wiebe, and Diana Barden



Muralist Heather Lewis of Madera created a collage of Rotarians at work. This beautiful piece of public art is located in Madera's Rotary Park and depicts the club's projects in the community and in the world..

The monument sign is placed on the river walk and can be seen from northbound Highway 99. The mosaic Rotary wheel was designed and created by club members and their families.

Funding for this phase of the project, which began in 2006, came from an "Operation Civic Pride" grant program offered by the city of Madera, a District Simplified Grant from Rotary District 5220, and from the donations of Madera Rotary and local businesses.

In January the City approved another Operation Civic Pride matching grant to put the Rotary mural on the side of the sign facing the park pavilion. The mural, painted by Madera artist Heather Lewis, is a collage of Madera Rotary's activities locally and around the world.

DISTRICT SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS

~by Bob McConnell - The winner of the District Rotary Final Speech contest held on Saturday, April 5th is



(l-r) District Governor Dick Wyatt with first place winner Halima Lucas, second place Tony Pierucci and third place winner Erica Vorhis.

Halima Lucas of Stockton, sponsored by Stockton Sunrise Rotary. She is a Bear Creek High School Junior from Stockton. All twelve finalists spoke on this year's topic: **SERVING THROUGH CARING AND SHARING**. The first contest for these speakers was at the club level in the all of the clubs of the district in February. The winners then went on to area contests in March. The prize winners from the 12 areas spoke in the finals. Over 200 students participated and a total of \$21,000 was awarded. Halima will present her speech to the District Conference on April 19th, in Sparks Nevada. Second place winner was Tony Pierucci of Lodi. He is a senior at Tokay High School, and was sponsored by Lodi Tokay Rotary. Erica Voris, a Buhach Colony High School Senior who was sponsored by Atwater Rotary, took third place honors. The contest was sponsored by the Cal State Stanislaus Communications Studies Department, with Dr. Vickie Harvey as the official host. Five Communication Studies students were the judges. Congratulations to all!