



The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 41, Issue 11, November 2017

As I sat down to write my first *Wine Press* article as President, I thought about all the things I could say to the OCWS membership over the next 12 months. I could easily recap events that have just taken place, or I could highlight upcoming events. These are things that, if you read this newsletter every month, each Chair of these gatherings is sharing with you in their articles with far more interesting detail than I can. I also thought about all the questions I have been asked as a Director over the past five years and realized that I have been given a platform to tell you things about the organization and the people involved that you otherwise might not know and, just maybe, answer some of those questions that have crossed your mind at one time or another.

As the incoming President of the OCWS, I would be remiss if I didn't use this first article to pay homage to those who came before me and set the tone for this amazing organization. After being a member for 17 years and a Director for the past five, I thought I knew a lot about the OCWS. After studying the list of Presidents beginning in 1978, I realized the one thing I didn't know as well as I could is the history and commitment of the 24 people who served as President before me. Many of them served multiple terms, and through their encouragement and kindness, have held my hand and heart on my journey to the presidency.

With that being said, we honored one of those individuals at our recent Annual Busi-

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events:

- November 11** 1
Cab Sauv Mini-Tasting
- December 1** 3
Holiday Dinner & Dance
- January 12** 5
Winery Program: Hess Winery

Special Points of Interest:

- New Member Corner** 2
- Winemakers Newsroom** 4
- BBQ Wrap Up** 4
- 2018 Winery Program - Save the Dates** 6
- New Member Mixer Postponed** 6
- OCWS Scholarship Recipient** 7
- OCWS Scholarship Fund - Recyclables/Resale** 7

Mini-Tasting: Cabernet Sauvignon

Saturday, November 11, 2017
6:00 pm — 9:00 pm
Various Members' Homes



The most popular grape among American wine drinkers is


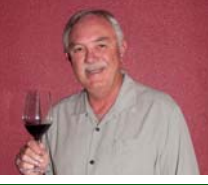







Cabernet Sauvignon. Cabernet Sauvignon produces wines with deep, dark colors that offer complex scents and concentrated flavors ranging from blackberries, crème de cassis, black cherries, boysenberry, blueberry and chocolate when young, to fragrances of tobacco, truffle, cedar wood, earth, lead pencil and leather when mature.

Hosts: Mini-Tastings are held at various host sites around Orange County. If you would like to host this event, please email Bill Redding at Bill@ocws.org or phone him at 949.248.1125. You may need to sign up and pay until hosts are selected. Reimbursement will be made for all host sites.

Locations: Host sites and directions will be announced to those attending approximately one week prior to the event. We try to place you at the location nearest your home or to accommodate your specific site request; however, your assigned host site is also based on the order in which your sign up is received in the OCWS office.

Mini-Envelope: Each person attending brings a potluck dish (appetizer, entrée, side

(Continued on page 3)

	Fran Gitsham President fran@ocws.org
	Bill Redding Vice President bill@ocws.org
	Brian McDonald Treasurer brian@ocws.org
	Rich Skoczylas Secretary rich@ocws.org
	Jim Beard Director Jim@ocws.org
	George Cravens Director george@ocws.org
	Terry McLean Director terry@ocws.org
	Ken Scott Director ken@ocws.org
	Stacey Taylor Director stacey@ocws.org

(Continued from page 1)

ness Meeting with the designation of President Emeritus. The title denotes the perpetual status of an individual who has helped move the organization to new heights as a former key member on the Board of Directors. In this case, as President an unprecedented four terms (2000-01, 2002-03, 2008-09, 2013-14), with none of those terms consecutive. This year Dennis



Esslinger joined the ranks of just a few who have garnered the President Emeritus title.

He joins a small, elite group of past Presidents who not only gave their time and effort over a number of years, but continue to do so and for that I, for one, am grateful.

The other eight Presidents Emeriti are Jim Graver (1978-79), Lora Howard (1995-96), Bob Trout (1996-97), Charley Owen (1997-98), John Goodnight (1999-2000), David Hirstein (2001-02), Larry Graham (2005-06, 2006-07), and Leslie Brown (2009-10, 2010-11). I want to thank these

people, along with the other past Presidents for laying the foundation of the OCWS. I can only hope to continue in their footsteps and do good for the organization this next year. When your paths cross with theirs, please thank them for their commitment and hard work in bringing us to where we are today.

My heartfelt thanks go to the current Board of Directors for electing me to this office and having the confidence in me to lead the organization for the next Board year.



In closing, if there is anything you would like to see answered in this column over the next several months, please email me at Fran@ocws.org. I can't promise everything will be addressed in this column, but I will do my best to answer everything asked of me in one way or another.

- Fran Gitsham, President

New Member Corner



The Orange County Wine Society extends a warm welcome to its newest members! Membership for the following members was approved by the Board of Directors at the October 10 meeting:

Lydia Schneider • Beth & Bill Kerfott • JoAnn & James Fox
Pamela Zanelli • Francie Stevens & Daniel Alford • Nicole Paskerian
Debbie Knox • Ginny & Armand Stephanian • Laura Brown

As of November 1, the OCWS had 1,009 members.

- Brian McDonald, Director & Membership Chair

Mini-Tasting: Cabernet Sauvignon

(Continued from page 1)



dish or dessert) ready to serve a small portion to 18 people. Ideally, the dish should be designed to match the theme of the tasting, in this case Cabernet Sauvignon. Please coordinate your food selection with

your host to assure an appropriate balance of food types served during the evening. There will be a special bottle of wine awarded that evening as a prize for Chef of the Evening. Our winning Chefs of the Evening can have their recipe published on the OCWS website.

Please plan on arriving promptly at 6:00 p.m. You are invited

to bring your own wine glasses for tasting, keeping in mind the wines are served in flights of two.

Cost: The cost to attend the Mini-Tasting is \$30 for members and \$35 for guests.

We are planning a maximum of six sites for this Mini-Tasting, so the limit is 108 attendees. Due to the high attendance at our Mini-Tasting programs, we encourage you to sign up early, as sites tend to fill quickly.

The cut-off date for online sign up is Sunday, November 5. After this date, please contact Bill or the OCWS office to determine availability. The cancellation deadline is Friday, November 3, for a refund. After that date, due to the advance purchase of wines, you will not receive a refund unless there is a waiting list.

- *Bon Appétit, Bill Redding*

2017 OCWS Holiday Dinner & Dance

Friday, December 1, 2017

6:30 pm — 11:30 pm

The Atrium Hotel

18700 MacArthur Boulevard

Irvine, CA

The Holiday Season is right around the corner! Get in the holiday spirit and join your fellow Wine Society members at the Holiday Dinner & Dance. The festivities take place Friday, December 1, at The Atrium Hotel in Irvine.

The evening begins with champagne and passed appetizers from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Dinner will follow accompanied by a variety of fine wines provided by the Wine Society. You are, of course, free to bring your own wine to share. Corkage is included.

Dinner Menu:

Spinach Salad with Feta Cheese,

Green Apples with Black Pepper Lemon Vinaigrette

Choice of Entree:

- **Roasted Chicken Breast with assorted Mushrooms, Shallots, Pancetta Red Wine Jus served with fresh Herbed Risotto and Broccolini**
 - **Grilled Salmon with Lemon Dill Sauce**
 - **Flat Iron Steak topped with Gorgonzola Butter and Crispy Shallots, Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Candied Baby Carrots**

Dessert:

Flourless Chocolate Cake with Raspberry Relish

After dinner, be prepared to have a great time “dancing the night away.” The “Three 2 Sevens,” a crowd pleaser last year,

will return to provide this year’s dance music. Even if you don’t dance, you will be entertained and have a wonderful time. Yes, they promise to play some “slow dance” music and holiday rock tunes.

The cost for this fun-filled evening is \$90 per person which includes tax, tip, gratuity and self-parking. Valet parking is available at the discounted rate of \$5. Non-members accompanied by an OCWS member are welcome at the same price. Invite your friends, neighbors, or co-workers to join the party.



We are taking table reservations; each table holds eight people. When your group of 4 to 8 has signed up, simply contact the OCWS office to reserve your group’s table. Additional seats will be filled by other individuals on the night of the event.

A special room rate of \$119 per night, inclusive of parking, is available. The Atrium Hotel reservations phone number is 1.800.854.3012. Please reference the “**OC Wine Society Dinner**” when booking your reservation to receive this special rate.

Once again, we encourage you to bring an unwrapped gift to place under the tree for donation to a charitable organization.

- *Brian McDonald, Director*

Winemakers Newsroom

As we are finishing up crush season, most of our 2017 wines are pressed out, are beginning to rest and completing a secondary malolactic fermentation. Now is the time for us to rest (just a little) and enjoy our newly bottled 2016 vintage wines.

Crush Celebration. The Winemakers' Group held their Fall Quarterly Meeting & Potluck Dinner on Saturday, October 14. The event was attended by over 80 people and a spectacular time was had by everyone in attendance. Many thanks to Debbie Renne and Ed Reyes for opening their home to the Winemakers' Group. It truly was a fun evening.



Quarterly Meeting & Potluck Dinner on Saturday, October 14. The event was attended by over 80 people and a spectacular time was had by everyone in attendance.

Winemakers' Group Holiday Party. Our holiday party is scheduled for Saturday, December 23, at the Eastlake Clubhouse in Yorba Linda. As always, this is a potluck and we ask everyone attending to bring enough



food to serve 10 to 12 people and a bottle of wine per person, either homemade or commercial. Reservations open on November 1 on the OCWS website at ocws.org. This event always sells out, so please sign up early if you plan to attend.

2018 WineMaker Magazine Conference. We are looking forward to the WineMaker Magazine's annual conference to be held May 17 through May 20 in San Diego. We are hoping to have a large contingent of our winemakers attend and flex our muscles as a fabulous and energetic part of the OCWS!

The program is being finalized with full details to come early this month. If you are interested in attending, contact Kevin or visit WineMaker website at www.winemakermag.com for more information.



Details on all Winemakers' Group events will be featured in an upcoming edition of *The Wine Press* or posted on ocws.org.

If you have any questions, contact Kevin at KevinDonnelly@ocws.org or by phone at 714.457.7229.

- Kevin Donnelly

Annual OCWS Membership BBQ: Wrap Up



Under clear skies and comfortable temperatures, the OCWS annual membership BBQ took place on Sunday, September 24 in The Courtyard at the OCFC. With over 200 members attending and over \$1420 raised for the OCWS Scholarship Fund from the wine wall, it was a tremendous success enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

This year's event maintained our long-standing tradition of great food, provided by our own Cooks Caucus, good music and the bringing together of our members old and new alike for an afternoon of fun and comradery.

We would like to give special thanks the following members who contributed to the BBQ's outstanding success:

- Ken and Irene Scott – Decorations

- Liz and Lloyd Corbett – Coordinating the wine wall, raffle and silent auction items
- Robyn and Dean Strom – Donation of soft drinks
- Sara Yeoman – Master (Mistress) of Ceremonies
- Lynda Edwards – Administrative and event ticketing/tracking support par excellence
- Cooks Caucus – Menu and recipe planning, shopping, meal preparation and serving

Thank you to all of the volunteers who gave their time the day of the event and helped to 'make it happen!'

This article contains a sampling of a few of the photos taken by Jim Burk. Please visit ocws.org to view the complete collection of photos taken by Jim during this event.

- George Cravens & Terry McLean, Event Co-Chairs



2018 Winery Program: The Hess Collection Winery

Friday, January 12, 2018
Dinner @ 6:30 pm
Avenue of the Arts Hotel
3350 Avenue of the Arts
Costa Mesa, CA



Randle Johnson,
Founding Winemaker

Our 2018 Winery Program starts with The Hess Collection Winery from Napa Valley. This winery has history and heritage to build on its foundation with grapes grown on the diverse hillsides of Mt. Veeder. Winemaker Randle Johnson, having over three decades with the Hess family, does what it takes to make top quality

wines. Vintages are challenging with steep and rocky slopes. The wine making is traditional, but also innovative to improve on each successive vintage.

The wines poured this evening will be from The Hess Collection, Artezín and Calafia Cellars. Hess wines offers three distinct tiers of wines from Mount Veeder, from Napa Valley, and Hess Select, which sources fruit from the Northern and Central Coasts of California. Hess Wines has distinguished itself as a premium producer of Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay.



Artezín focuses on California's original heirloom varieties, including signature Zinfandel and Petite Sirah. These handcrafted wines emphasize pure varietal character. Every bottle highlights the inherent uniqueness of the wine's terroir in the rugged North Coast, with a focus on Mendocino.

Calafia Cellars is a labor of love, a personal brand and little-known gem of a winery started by Randle and his wife MaryLee in St. Helena.



The cost of the buffet meal is \$39 for members and \$44 for guests. The buffet meal includes a breast of chicken with mustard seed cream sauce, rosemary roasted pee wee potatoes and charred seasonal vegetables with a California Caesar salad with toasted pepitas, chopped Romaine, heirloom cherry tomatoes, garlic croutons, Parmesan cheese and creamy Caesar

dressing, and warm artisan breads and rolls.

We offer a separate option of a "Heart Healthy" sit-down meal for \$44 for members and \$49 for guests. This selection includes a pan roasted local Sea Bass with a citrus sauce, Quinoa, charred seasonal vegetables, with a California Caesar salad with toasted pepitas, chopped Romaine, heirloom cherry tomatoes, garlic croutons, Parmesan cheese and creamy Caesar dressing, and warm artisan breads and rolls.

Attendees can self park in the hotel garage and either get their ticket validated at the OCWS check-in or pay \$10 for valet parking. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm with the meeting following at 7:15 pm.

Members may bring their own wine to enjoy and share during dinner. We do ask that you remove your bottle from the table during the tasting. Be sure to wear your nametag.

Sign up is available on the OCWS website. As we need to contract the meals with the hotel, the last day to sign up or cancel and receive a refund is Sunday, January 7.

As a side note, when visiting The Hess Collection winery, you must visit The Hess Art Collection which houses art collected by Donald Hess. One can have his or her own journey and experience with an art piece or with a glass of Hess wine.

- Rich Skoczylas, Director

The Wine Press is the official newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc. The newsletter is published monthly.

The Wine Press welcomes input from the OCWS membership.

Forward comments, questions, and suggestions to WinePress@ocws.org.

Editor-in-Chief: Linda Mihalik

Contributing Writers:

Board of Directors, Kevin Donnelly

Contributing Editors:

John Goodnight, Ron Nickens, Michelle Philo, Rochelle Randel, Taren Weber

Contributing Photographers:

Jim Burk, Wendy Taylor

Copyright © 2017 Orange County Wine Society, Inc. and its licensors. All rights reserved.

2018 OCWS Winery Program: Save the dates

The OCWS 2018 Winery Program begins in January featuring The Hess Collection winery. Please refer to The Hess Collection Winery Program article featured in this edition of *The Wine Press* for more information.

Our annual Winery Program promotes the knowledge of winemaking, viticulture and wine appreciation. It comprises several wine tastings to introduce our members to different wines made by award-winning wineries from some of the best wine producing regions in California.

Please mark your calendars to attend. Note that all dates listed below fall on a Friday:

Dates	Featured Winery
January 12, 2018	The Hess Collection
February 16, 2018	J. Lohr Vineyards
March 9, 2018	Pear Valley Vineyards
April 13, 2018	Cottonwood Canyon Winery
May 11, 2018	Jeff Runquist Wines



We invite winemakers to come and talk about their wines and to answer your questions. This is a great benefit that we provide our members. If you consider when you visit a winery, how often do you have the ability to talk personally with the winemaker or hear what they have to say about their wines?

The evening of the tasting, you can order the wines at a discounted price. The wines will be shipped directly to your home. Our Winery Program is an opportunity to attend a tasting in our local area by a well-known and established winery or a newer winery just starting, but one that produces outstanding wines. We bring you award winning wineries so you can taste their wines, learn if you enjoy a particular style and order the wines served that evening.

This is a great deal for new members! If you joined since our May 2017 tasting and you attend your first Winery Program tasting in 2018, we will present you with a bottle of wine.

Look for information about future Winery Program tastings in *The Wine Press* or at OCWS.org. The Avenue of the Arts Hotel in Costa Mesa is the venue where we hold all Winery Program events. Each tasting starts with a light dinner, and self-parking is included in the price. With our large membership and limited attendance space, we encourage you to sign up early.

- Rich Skoczylas, Director

New Member Mixer Postponed to 2018



The Board of Directors has decided to postpone the New Member Mixer to January. We have been unable to find an appropriate indoor venue that will accommodate 80 to 100 people. As was previously mentioned in October's edition of *The Wine Press*, the location during the winter season must accommodate everyone indoors or at least under a shelter. We can limit the attendees to a number the host feels his or her home can reasonably accommodate, similar to past Mixer venues.

The OCWS provides all the wine, water, food, and ice. If you have a home that could accommodate 80 to 100 people and would like to host a New Member Mixer, please contact Brian McDonald.

If you live in a common area development that has a community center that we would be able to rent, that could also work. I would like to hear from you as well!

If you have a home or have access to a common area facility that could accommodate the above stated number of people, please email Brian McDonald at Brian@ocws.org.

- Brian McDonald, Director & Membership Chair

OCWS Scholarship Recipient: In his own words

Dear Orange County Wine Society,



I am writing to thank you for your generous \$1200 CPS Orange County Wine Society scholarship. I was overwhelmed with joy and extremely appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship. Receiving this scholarship was particularly special to me because of the nine years I spent working and living in Orange County,

which is one of my favorite places in the world. I decided to go to college at age 29 after falling in love with wine during my career in the restaurant industry in the OC.

I am a Wine and Viticulture major with an emphasis in enology. I plan to pursue a career in the wine industry upon graduating from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. I am currently a senior working on my last quarter, and plan to

graduate in the fall of 2017. After graduation, I will be looking to travel to the Southern Hemisphere to work harvest and then be moving to Sonoma County to find employment in the wine industry. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal. By awarding me the CPS Orange County Wine Society scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on my studies. Over the last four years, I have been in school full time while working in restaurants part-time to pay for school and all other regular expenses. Your generosity will help me as I work towards my goal of graduating this fall Summa Cum Laude. It has also inspired me to help others and give back to the community, because without the help of generous people and organizations, like the Orange County Wine Society, I would not have been able to achieve my goals. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely, Robert H.

OCWS Scholarship Fund: Recyclables and Resale



A friendly reminder to the OCWS membership to save your plastic and glass bottles and aluminum cans that have CRV on their labels. If you do not personally recycle, I ask that you collect these items in a bag and contact me to arrange for delivery or pick-up. I can be reached at either 949.851.5950 or on my cell at 949.501.0169. Items for recycling

can be dropped off at the OCWS office or arrangements can be made to have items delivered to my home. I will make myself available to pick up items if requested.

I turn these donations into cash at the Irvine recycling center. The monies collected over a two year period are donated to

the Orange Coast College Culinary Department in Costa Mesa.

OCWS members have been extremely generous in donating unwanted items for resale at various OCWS events. These items are cleaned and/or repaired and ready for resale. Please contact me regarding any unwanted small household items that you feel might be of value in resale. Handmade wine-related items are always in demand.

Please stop by and visit me during an OCWS event to see all the items displayed for sale. Monies collected from these sales go directly to the OCWS Scholarship Fund or to the OC Rescue Mission, a charity I have supported for many years.

Contemplating a garage sale? Let's collaborate. Call me.

- Janet Marino

The Orange County Wine Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization incorporated under the laws of the state of California with its principal place of business in Costa Mesa, California.

PO Box 11059, Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Phone: 714.708.1636 Fax: 714.546.5002

Website: OCWS.org ■ OCWS Facebook ■ Twitter: @OCWineSociety

OCWS Website Administrator: Wendy Taylor

OCWS Photographer: Jim Burk

OCWS Save the Date Calendar

November 11	Mini-Tasting: Cabernet Sauvignon
December 1	OCWS Holiday Dinner & Dance
December 23	Winemakers' Group Holiday Party
January 12, 2018	Winery Program: The Hess Collection
February 16, 2018	Winery Program: J. Lohr Vineyards
March 9, 2018	Winery Program: Pear Valley Vineyards
April 13, 2018	Winery Program: Cottonwood Canyon Winery
May 11, 2018	Winery Program: Jeff Runquist Wines



www.ocws.org



The Wine Press

Orange County Wine Society, Inc.
PO Box 11059
Costa Mesa, CA 92627