



The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 42, Issue 4, April 2018



Christopher William Cunningham
December 19, 1949—March 4, 2018

It is with great sadness that I write of the passing of Chris Cunningham. Too often our paths cross with someone who is almost larger than life. Unfortunately, we do not know their whole story nor do we recognize their amazing attributes until they are gone. Chris, a member of the OCWS since 1978, held various positions within the organization ranging from President, Vice President and Director, to being the inaugural Chair of the Wine Extraordinaire.

We also have Chris to thank for the creation of the Express Bar at The Courtyard during the OC Fair, presentation of countless wine seminars and purchasing of wines for The Courtyard, among so many other contributions throughout his 40 years with us.

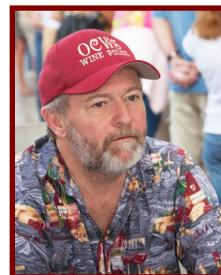
Chris' passion for wine even found him trying his hand at wine making, which garnered him a silver medal at the Home Wine Competition. His knowledge of wine was astounding, as was his palate, and he never missed an opportunity to share his passion with anyone who had the good fortune of crossing paths with him.

Chris, throughout his working years, managed a Goodyear auto store, owned a wine storage and delivery business, and worked

as an accountant and consultant for several businesses, but his passion always brought him, in one way or another, back to the love of his life—wine.

If you didn't know Chris well, his often times gruff demeanor belied the passionate heart that lied beneath the strong man he was. Chris carried the life-long burden of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, which is a degenerative nerve disease that damages the nerves in the arms and legs. He grew up with three younger sisters which, as they say, was a challenge in itself and he was therefore named, the "adventurer-in-chief."

His family remembers him as one who never backed down from a challenge, was always ready with an opinion or better idea, and challenged them to embrace life to its fullest. They further describe him as living his life with strong determination, unfailing spirit and a positive outlook on life. Anyone who knew him knows that there were never truer words spoken.



Chris' legacy is one that will, most certainly, live on even after his passing; his passion is still supporting the organization he so dearly loved. His family has requested, in lieu of

flowers, donations be made to the OCWS to be placed in the scholarship account for granting in Chris' memory.

One can only imagine that Chris is a Wine Angel who will forever police The Courtyard. He will be sorely missed by many. Thanks, Chris, and cheers to you!





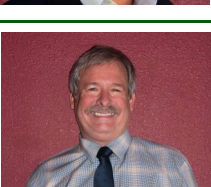
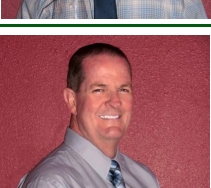



- Fran Gitsham, President

Upcoming Events:

April 7.....	3
OCWS Wine Auction	
April 13.....	4
Winery Program:	
Cottonwood Canyon Winery	
April 21.....	4
Spring Membership BBQ	
May 11.....	7
Winery Program:	
Jeff Runquist Wines	

Special Points of Interest:

New Member Corner	2
How to Check On	
Your Orders.....	2
The Courtyard Sign-Ups....	3
Winemakers Newsroom ..	3,5
Commercial Competition	
Volunteers Needed	5
New Member Mixer	5
TIPS Training.....	6
Opportunity: Three BOD	
Seats Open in 2018	6
Hotel Reservations for	
Wine Competition.....	6
Pinot Noir Mini-Tasting	
Recap	7

	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

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 March 6 meeting:

**Trinda Bierman • Dave Muret • Sue Mucaria • David Finley
Debra & Michael Thompson • Stephanie Pollard
Mitzi & Michael Ball • Ellen Dunlap • Karen & David Simenson**

As of March 1, the OCWS had 998 members.

- Brian McDonald, Director & Membership Chair

How to Check On Your Orders

Help us prevent duplicate orders. Please take a moment to check your order list prior to placing an order for an event you would like to attend, pay for annual membership, or purchase OCWS merchandise. The OCWS website keeps track of all orders you have placed which can be viewed by clicking on the "My Account" menu link after you log on to the OCWS website. If you scroll lower on the "My Account" page, you will see an area of Recent Orders. The list shows the order name of the event or the last item ordered on the invoice. The Total column lists the amount and the number of items in the order. Notice the second item "OC Wine Society Membership - Dual" which costs \$60 but this item Total is \$242.00 for 5 items.

Recent Orders

Order	Date	Total	
Member Steak - Jeff Runquist Wines	March 14, 2018	\$104.00 for 2 Items	View
OC Wine Society Membership - Dual	February 27, 2018	\$242.00 for 5 Items	View
Member Spring BBQ - Let's Play Ball!	February 27, 2018	\$90.00 for 2 Items	View

By selecting the View button, the Order details displays a full itemization of what the Total of \$242.00 represents.

Order details

Product	Total
Member Buffet - Pear Valley Vineyards × 2	\$78.00
Member Steak - Jeff Runquist Wines × 2	\$104.00
OC Wine Society Membership - Dual × 1	\$60.00
Subtotal:	\$242.00
Payment method:	Credit card
Total:	\$242.00

[Order again](#)

Prior to placing an order, please check the Recent Orders section to determine if you have already placed an order. This will eliminate duplicate orders and provide a more accurate account of items placed in your "My Account." Please find this and other helpful documents within the "OCWS Website 101" of the ocws.org website under "News and Photos." Remember to log in so that you are able to access these documents.

- Wendy Taylor, Website Administrator

OCWS Wine Auction

Saturday, April 7, 2018

11:00 am to 5:00 pm

OC Fair & Events Center

Huntington Beach Building (next to The Courtyard)

Please expect to be present for the entire event.

No early check-outs!

The OCWS Wine Auction is right around the corner. This is a terrific venue to purchase outstanding wines of all varieties at great prices!

Place your bid in our silent auction, offering several hundred 4-bottle lots of wine in every varietal imaginable. You can also raise your bidder paddle for many premium lots in the verbal auction. The Wine Auction affords the OCWS Cellar Master a chance to clear out the cellar to make room for all the wine arriving for the 2018 Commercial Wine Judging Competition. The auction also helps provide funding for this year's Commercial Wine Competition.

Also available for purchase will be sealed boxes containing

4 bottles for \$10 or \$20. These very reasonably priced everyday wines will be available at checkout.

Sign up now on the OCWS website or contact the office for assistance. Bidder catalogues will be available the week before and during event check-in. This sale offers wine bargains galore! Everyone leaves happy and comes home a winner. There will also be a nice selection of wines poured for your pleasure and plenty of food to keep you smiling throughout the day. For your convenience, it is suggested that you bring wine glasses and pens to the Wine Auction. Limited quantities of individual wine glasses will be available for sale.

The price is \$20 per member. One more thing—only OCWS members may attend, no guests please. Additionally, please remember that Wine Society events are for adults only. As such, we ask that you please refrain from bringing underage guests and children to our events.

See you at the Wine Auction!

– **Bill Redding, Auction Director & Cellar Master**

The Courtyard Sign-Ups

We know the OC Fair seems a long way off, but the scheduling process is about to begin. With over 300 shifts to be filled, scheduling takes some time.

This year we are going to be doing it a little different. By invitation only, managers will again be given the first opportunity to sign up beginning April 1. On April 15, stewards and cashiers will be invited to request their shifts. Managers, stewards and cashiers will receive an email notification. On May 1, online sign-up for server shifts will open. Shifts are

generally filled on a first-come basis, so if you have favorite shifts, it is best to sign up early. All volunteers will be issued an OC Fair pass that is good on any day of the Fair and an off-site parking permit with shuttle transportation to and from Gate 4.

You may sign up for as many shifts as you like, but you must sign-up for a **minimum of three shifts**.

For those who are working The Courtyard for the first time, you are required by the OC Fair to be TIPS certified. The

OCWS provides free classes (normally \$40). For returning volunteers, your certification is good for three years. When you sign up, you will be notified if you need to re-certify. TIPS certification classes are held on the grounds of the OC Fair & Event Center in the evenings and on weekends.

When volunteering at The Courtyard please remember the **No. 1 Rule – have fun!**

– **Fran Gitsham & Brian McDonald, Event Chairs**

Winemakers Newsroom

Carrying on the tradition of education, the Winemakers' Group is planning classes on red wines and wine chemistry in the upcoming months.

Kit Wine Making Class. Kern Vogel will host this class on April 21. The cost to attend this educational and informative class will be \$35. Sign-ups are currently open on ocws.org; so please be sure to check the website for availability.

Bottle & Cork Group Purchases. We are now conducting our bottle and cork purchases. Contact David Rutledge at Dwrutledge1952@gmail.com if you are interested in purchasing bottles or contact Bill Forsch at Bforsch@cox.net if you are

interested in purchasing corks.

Judging Seminar. All Judges need to attend a Judging Seminar once every three years to be able to judge at the Home Wine Competition. This year's Judging Seminar will be held on May 5 at the home of Lynn Hess. Please let me know if you are interested in becoming a Judge.

Steward Volunteer Signup. Members interested in volunteering as a Steward at the Home Wine Competition can log on to the OCWS website at ocws.org, go to About >Members' Cor-

(Continued on page 5)

April Winery Program: Cottonwood Canyon

Friday, April 13, 2018
Dinner @ 6:30 pm
Avenue of the Arts Hotel
3350 Avenue of the Arts
Costa Mesa, CA



Cottonwood Canyon Vineyard & Winery is a premium boutique winery specializing in Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Syrah located in Santa Maria Valley.

Cottonwood's location is complimented by the near perfect conditions of high

humidity, low temperature wine caves, allowing them to age wines with minimal human intervention that allows the fruit to showcase its best characteristics naturally. Winemaker Norman Beko is an artist that adopted the simple philosophy that "Mother Nature" knows best when it comes to his wines. His wines age beautifully to a graceful elegance, balance and complexity that enriches each taste. Swirling the wine in a glass opens the wine to develop its potential.

The cost of the buffet meal is \$39 for members and \$44 for guests. This buffet meal includes Chicken Scallopine in a dry sherry sauce with Morels, green peas, asparagus, herb risotto and a spinach salad with baby spinach leaves, feta cheese, marinated olives, fresh strawberries with cucumber-lemon vin-

aigrette, warm artisan bread and rolls with sweet butter.



We offer a separate option of a "Heart Healthy" sit-down meal for \$44 for members and \$49 for guests. This selection includes roasted salmon with wilted spinach and mushroom sauté, topped with baby arugula and balsamic glaze, brown rice and a

spinach salad with baby spinach leaves, feta cheese, marinated olives, fresh strawberries with cucumber-lemon vinaigrette, warm artisan bread and rolls with sweet butter.

Sign up on the OCWS website to attend this event. Attendees can either self-park in the hotel garage and get their ticket validated at OCWS check-in or pay \$10 for valet parking. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm with the meeting following about 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 OCWS nametag. As we need to contract the meals with the hotel, **the last day to sign up, make changes or cancel and receive a refund is Sunday, April 8. Any cancellations after this date would be filled and refunded from the waitlist.**

- Rich Skoczylas, Director

Spring Membership BBQ



LET'S PLAY BALL! Proudly wear your team's colors while enjoying fabulous food and wine and dancing to live entertainment at the **2018 Spring Membership BBQ in The Courtyard at the OC Fairgrounds on Saturday,**

April 21 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Sign-ups are now open online, and space is limited.

Tickets are a great deal at just \$45 for members and \$50 for guests.

Wear your colors proudly! Team jerseys, tees and shirts, whether bowling, baseball, basketball, football, soccer, golf or tennis, professional, college, high school, little league are all

acceptable! Show where your heart lies and your winning spirit!

Our own OCWS Cook's Caucus will be bringing new meaning to America's favorite pastime with an amazing array of sports inspired appetizers, main courses, side dishes and desserts.

As with any OCWS member event, help is needed to make this day a success, and your consideration in joining the team for a short stint to set-up, decorate, serve, pour wine or clean-up will be greatly appreciated. Short shifts are available before, during and after the event.

Sports, food, drink and camaraderie, coupled with great live music and dancing make being at this event a must of the season. Hope to see you there!

- Fran Gitsham & Terry McLean, Event Chairs

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

Winemakers Newsroom

(Continued from page 3)

ner> **Volunteers Needed for OC Fair Homewine Competition.**

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. If you are interested in attending, contact Kevin or visit WineMaker website at www.WineMakerMag.com for more information.

2018 Home Wine Competition. We are ramping up for our 42nd Annual Home Wine Competition to be held on June 9 at The Courtyard. The Home Wine Competition is **now accept-**

ing entries. Please visit our website at www.HomeWineCompetition.com or feel free to email us at HomeWineCompetition@ocws.org for more information.

Making Rosé Wines Recap. Bruce Powers and Bill Forsch conducted a class on making rosé wines last month. The class was well attended with 16 people who had the pleasure of tasting several Rosé wines along the way, naturally!



Be sure to frequently visit the OCWS website for upcoming Winemakers Group events.

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

- Kevin Donnelly

Commercial Competition Volunteers: Now Accepting Signups Online

Volunteer signups for the 2018 Commercial Competition are now being accepted online. The Commercial Competition will be held June 2 and June 3 and volunteers are crucial to its success! This event offers many opportunities to meet winemakers, add to your wine knowledge, and enjoy getting to know your fellow OCWS members and how our competition works.

No training is necessary as newer volunteers will be teamed with competition veterans.

There are many tasks where volunteer help is needed including stewarding, glass drying, and computer input and ver-

ification of scores. As these tasks fill up, they will be removed from the signup – so please sign up early! The deadline for volunteer signups is May 1, 2018.

All volunteer signups are now done online. Go to the OCWS.org webpage and **log in as a member first.** After logging in, go to About > Members' Corner > **2018 Commercial Competition Volunteers.**

The volunteer site identifies bagging nights, stewarding days, and other work tasks with dates and times. In order to qualify for stewarding, we need you to sign up for two additional tasks such as bagging, hotel setup, and moving of wine

to and from the competition site. In addition, volunteers can elect to work the sorting task in June.

Please make sure your email address is up to date in the ocws.org website as we will be using your email to send you confirmations. You should receive an email confirmation that your online signup was submitted, along with a final confirmation of your assigned tasks later in May.

If you have questions about volunteering, please email us at: Ken@ocws.org or Irene@ocws.org. We look forward to your participation in this very important event!

- Ken & Irene Scott,
Volunteer Coordinators

New Member Mixer

We have tentatively scheduled a New Member Mixer to take place in April. We are still looking for a venue. If you are a new member (you joined **after** September 1, 2017) **and** have not previously attended a New Member Mixer, please watch for an announcement as to the time and location for this event. This is a **free event** for new members hosted by the Board of Directors.

- Brian McDonald, 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, Greg Hagadorn, Marcy Ott, Rochelle Randel, Irene Scott, Wendy Taylor

Contributing Editors: John Goodnight, Ron Nickens, Michelle Philo, Rochelle Randel, Taren Weber

Contributing Photographer: Jim Burk, Wendy Taylor

Copyright © 2018 Orange County Wine Society, Inc. and its licensors.
All rights reserved.

Alcohol Server Training (TIPS) for The Courtyard



The 2018 OC Fair will be here soon which means it's time to schedule Alcohol Server Training (TIPS). Most TIPS classes will be held during April with only a few classes in May and June. **Do not wait** to sign up for a class; if classes do not fill they are cancelled and you may not be able to volunteer in The Courtyard. TIPS certification is valid for three years. If you were TIPS certified in 2015 and are planning to volunteer at The Courtyard this year, you will need to re-take the class. A letter has been mailed notifying you that your TIPS card has expired. If you have **never taken** a TIPS class, you will need to attend and successfully complete the training.

The 2018 OC Fair starts on Friday, July 13, and ends on Sunday, August 12. As a concessionaire of the OC Fair, the OCWS must adhere to contractual requirements established

by the OC Fair & Events Center Board of Directors. Prior to working in The Courtyard during the OC Fair, everyone must be "professionally trained and certified in alcohol awareness techniques."

The Alcohol Server Training (TIPS) sign-up form is located on the OCWS website at www.ocws.org. Please log into your account and use the online form located at 'About>Courtyard.' When selecting your availability, please indicate your 1st **and** 2nd choice dates. The classes are held on the grounds of the OC Fair & Event Center. An email confirmation with maps will be sent within one week prior to the class.

If you have any questions regarding TIPS training, please email TIPS@ocws.org or call 714.235.6459.

- **Marcy Ott, Badging Coordinator &
- Rochelle Randel, TIPS Trainer
2018 Courtyard Committee**

A Great Opportunity: Three BOD Seats Open in 2018



Wow, we have a great opportunity right now for the first time in a long time. Three Board members' terms are expiring, and they are ineligible to run again.

I am reaching out to the membership earlier than usual so that anyone who has considered running for a Board position can talk and share their ideas with the existing Board and members. It's the relationships that you have cultivated with your fellow members that get you elected. With that being said, if you are innovative, open-minded, results oriented and a problem solver, a position as a Director of the OCWS just might be right for you. We need some forward thinking people that are looking to see where we want the OCWS to be in the next 5-10 years.

The overall time commitment for a member of the Board varies, based on assignments and participation. We are moving from having the Board manage some events to having our members run the event with a Board coordinator being the liaison to the Board regarding budgets, event timing and placement.

A candidate should possess some of the following skills and experience:

- General knowledge of OCWS events and activities
- Experience as a volunteer in some events; involvement with event committees
- Possess the ability to organize events during the year
- Selected event and budget management skills

- Be a member in good standing

To declare your candidacy for a position on the Board, the candidate must present their Declaration of Candidacy in writing, by mail, or via electronic media to the Election Chair. I want to again urge you to sign up sooner than later. This first step will allow you to start talking to other OCWS members and allow them the opportunity to get to know you and your background.

If being an OCWS leader interests you, contact me with any questions related to Director responsibilities, the election process, or anything related to the election, at 714.388.8803 or email me at Greg@ocws.org. More detailed information will be featured in a future edition of *The Wine Press* and at ocws.org.

- **Greg Hagadorn, 2018 Election Chair**

Hotel Reservations for Commercial Wine Competition

If you plan on staying at the Costa Mesa Hilton Hotel for the weekend of the Commercial Wine Competition, please make reservations no later than May 20. The OCWS has booked a block of rooms for OCWS members at a discounted rate and this rate is guaranteed only until that

date. The special rate does not require advance payment and is \$139 per night plus \$12 per night parking. If you want to stay on the 7th floor Executive Level, the rate is \$175 per night for up to 2 persons in the room. Room reservations can be made by phoning 714.540.7000 or online

at <http://group.hilton.com/OCWS2018WineCompetition>.

When making reservations, be sure to mention the discount code "**OCWS18 Wine Competition**" to receive the above rates.

- **Bill Redding, Director**

May Winery Program: Jeff Runquist Wines

Friday, May 11, 2018
Dinner @ 6:30 pm
Avenue of the Arts Hotel
3350 Avenue of the Arts
Costa Mesa, CA



Jeff Runquist has a passion for red wines. He produces 22 different red varieties and has received dozens of medals every year. Jeff wins many competitions from San Francisco to Orange County and at the California State Fair. His wines are awarded either Gold or Double Gold.



Jeff's wines are easily recognizable with their "R" on the bottles with an exceptional "Z" for his Zinfandel. His wines are balanced and are enjoyed in their youth. As they age, the wines become more complex. Jeff Runquist winery is located in the

heart of the Sierra Foothills.

For the first time at a Wine Society tasting, we bring Jeff Runquist wines to our tasting program. Our members will also have an opportunity to purchase his wines at a great price on this evening. Do not miss out on this occasion!

We will be featuring a special sit-down, three-course dinner

instead of our usual buffet offering. The price will be \$52 for members and \$57 for guests with a choice of two entrée items. Dinner will start with the Silver Trumpet salad of baby mixed greens, gold and red beets, grapes, Chevre goat cheese, walnuts, tarragon-Dijon vinaigrette, with warm artisan breads and rolls with sweet butter.

Our two dinner entrée choices include **either** (i) a grilled petite top sirloin with an Armagnac green peppercorn sauce, potato au gratin and charred Kabocha squash **or** (ii) a "Heart Healthy" entrée of pan seared, herb marinated Branzino with pea puree, braised kale, Sumac onions and citrus Gremolata.

For dessert, we will have a Meyer lemon tart with fresh berries. Sign-up on the OCWS website to attend this event. Attendees can self-park in the hotel garage and either get their ticket validated at 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.

As we need to contract the meals with the hotel, **the last day to sign up, make changes or cancel and receive a refund is Sunday, May 6. Any cancellations after this date would be filled and refunded from the waitlist.**

- Rich Skoczylas, Director

Pinot Noir Mini-Tasting Recap



Over 100 members and guests attended the February 24 Mini-Tasting at six host sites. The blind tasting consisted of five flights of two wines each with wines from the Sonoma Coast, Santa Maria Valley, Santa Rita Hills, Russian River, Carneros, Santa Lucia Highlands, and Willamette Valley (Oregon).

The scores for the wines were very close, with seven of the ten wines being selected as first, second, or third favorite at one or more sites.

The overall favorite wine of the evening was 5B, Paul Hobbs 2015 Hyde Vineyard Pinot (\$76), which was the #1 wine at three of the six sites, and #2 and #3 at one each.

The second place wine was 4A, Ponzi 2014 Reserve (\$50) which took two seconds and two thirds.

In third place overall was 3A, Frank Family 2015 Carneros Pinot (\$29). This wine got one first, one second and one third.



NOTE: The 2014 vintage won 4-Star Gold in the Commercial Wine Competition last year.

Fourth place was a tie. Wine 5A, Fess Parker 2014 Ashley's Pinot (\$40) got one first and one second ranking, and 3B, Talbott 2015 Logan Pinot (\$20) got one first and two third place rankings.

Fifth place went to 1A, Flowers 2015 Pinot (\$40), with two second places.

Finally, wine 2B, J Wine's 2015 Estate Russian River Valley Pinot (\$31) was tied for second at one site.



The wine list will be posted on the website along with these results, as well as the Chef of the Evening winners for each site.

Congratulations to all the winners! A big **thank you** to the hosts!

- George Cravens, Director



The Wine Press

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

OCWS Save the Date Calendar

April 7	OCWS Wine Auction
April 13	Winery Program: Cottonwood Canyon Winery
April 21	Spring Membership BBQ
May 11	Winery Program: Jeff Runquist Wines
June 2-3	Commercial Wine Competition
June 9	Home Wine Competition
July 13—August 12	OC Fair
September 29	“Oktoberween” themed Fall Membership BBQ
October 31	Oktoberfest: Phoenix Club, Anaheim



www.ocws.org

