



The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 42, Issue 7, July 2018

Gearing Up For Fair Fun

With the Commercial and Home Wine Competitions now just fading memories, the 2018 OC Fair is fast approaching, and the OCWS is geared up to run our most important fundraising effort of the year—The Courtyard at the OC Fair. This year's Fair theme is "Free Your Inner Farmer," and the Fair runs Wednesdays through Sundays, beginning on Friday, July 13 and concluding on Sunday, August 12. The Fair was attended by over 1,400,000 people last year, so The Courtyard clearly provides us with a perfect venue for reaching lots of people with our mission of wine education.

In exchange for running the OC Fair's wine competitions, the Orange County Fair and Events Center affords us the opportunity to run The Courtyard and realize the income therefrom. In addition to the income received from The Courtyard funding the wine competitions, it also provides funds for our year round overhead and, by way of donations, for our Scholarship Program. So, it is

of utmost importance to the organization that The Courtyard be a huge success! It takes over 300 OCWS volunteers to man The Courtyard during the Fair. Whether you are a new volunteer or a seasoned veteran at The Courtyard, this is your opportunity to support the fundraising efforts of the Orange County Wine Society.

In addition to hosting The Courtyard during the OC Fair, some of the most knowledgeable and experienced OCWS members will be conducting wine seminars on Saturdays and Sundays. Check out the seminar schedule on the OCWS website and come learn something new about wines and wine pairings that you may not know you don't already know.

So, if you seek fun, don't miss coming out and freeing your inner farmer with wine fun at the Fair! I look forward to seeing you there.

- Fran Gitsham, President

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2018 Annual OCWS Business Meeting

2018 OCWS Annual Business Meeting
Friday, September 7, 2017 @ 7:00 pm
OC Fair & Events Center
Baja Blues Restaurant


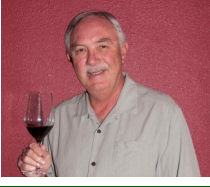


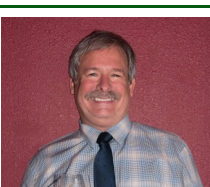
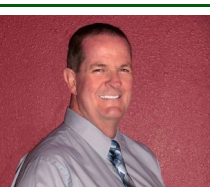


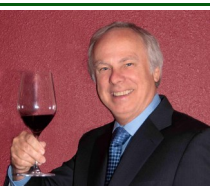
The Annual Business Meeting, which is free to all OCWS members, will be held this year on Friday, September 7, beginning promptly at 7:00 pm at Baja Blues located within the fairgrounds near Gate 5. There is no limitation on the number of members who may attend; however, the meeting is strictly for members only. There is no charge to attend, although any member who signs up

and does not attend will be charged \$25. The OCWS is required to pay for the number of meals confirmed which is based on the actual number of members who have signed up.

Please sign up at the OCWS website. All reservations must be received no later than Friday, August 31. The OCWS is required to have an accurate count to the caterer shortly thereafter.

This is the most important member meeting of the OCWS year, as it offers an overview

(Continued on page 2)

	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

2018 Annual OCWS Business Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

of the year's activities and a financial summary of the 2017/18 OCWS Board year. Volunteer awards will be presented after the business presentations. Thereafter, the current OCWS Board of Directors will be available to answer questions and listen to any comments from the general membership. The meeting is conducted in accordance with OCWS Bylaws and government regulations for 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

After presentations and an OCWS question and answer session, candidates for the 2018/19 Board year will be introduced and will present their qualifications and interests as potential OCWS Board members. This meeting provides the best opportunity for members to meet the candidates and learn about their interests and objectives for the next Board year. If you are interested in becoming an OCWS Board member, please contact Greg Hagadorn at Greg@ocws.org. Also read Greg's article on Board candidacy.

Please note that no food or drinks will be served until the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting (approximately 90 minutes). We will conclude the evening with a light catered meal, accompanied by wines from the OCWS cellar. Some members choose to bring their own wines to this event and, if you do so, we ask that you please refrain from opening your wine until the meal has commenced following the end of the meeting.

Your 2017/18 OCWS Board of Directors look forward to seeing you as we review our 42nd year and look forward to our 2018/19 calendar year.

- Jim Beard, Director

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 at the June 12 meeting:

Anthony Brown • Beth & Donald Miller
Frank Deptola • Cindy Thomas • Anne Miller • Jean Oelrich
Amy & Mark Davis • Jenifer Williams & Orlando Guillory
Janet Birch • Elee & Don Phillips

As of June 1, the OCWS had 1,012 members.

Seeking New Member Mixer Location. The last OCWS New Member Mixer was held on February 28. The OCWS Board would like to host another Mixer on Sunday, September 16, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm and is seeking a venue for this event. Anyone who feels they have a home that can host about 60 people, please contact Brian McDonald either by phone at 714.227.7284 or by email at Brian@ocws.org. The OCWS provides all the food, wine, water, paper goods, etc. All we are seeking is a location.

- Brian McDonald,
Director & Membership Chair

The Courtyard Portal

The Courtyard Schedules. The 2018 OC Fair is just around the corner. Thank you for the fantastic response to the call for volunteers for The Courtyard during this time. Both Fran and I continue to be amazed by the willingness of everyone in this organization to step forward and volunteer.

By now you should have received confirmation as to your Courtyard shifts. If you have not, please email either Brian McDonald at Brian@ocws.org for Manager, Assistant Manager, Cashier or Steward Shifts; for Server shifts contact Fran Gitsham at Courtyardsignup@ocws.org. When volunteering at The Courtyard please remember the **No. 1 Rule – have fun!**

Want To Get More Involved? Have you given some thought as to getting more involved with The Courtyard? We are looking to expand the number of people involved in running The Courtyard for 2018. If you are interested in becoming involved in scheduling, training, etc., please contact Brian McDonald at Brian@ocws.org or Fran Gitsham at Fran@ocws.org.

- Fran Gitsham & Brian McDonald, Event Chairs

The Courtyard Setup & Teardown. **Setup** for The Courtyard is scheduled for **Saturday, July 7**. We need to move all of The Courtyard material from the storage trailer, clean the refrigerator, clean the counters and shelving, hang posters

and signs, etc. The setup will start at 9:00 am and will end by 2:00 pm so everyone going to the Gold Medal Mini-Tasting will have plenty of time to get home and prepare.

Teardown for The Courtyard will be on **Monday, August 13** starting at 9:00 am until approximately 3:00 pm. We need to remove and store all the pictures, signs, leftover glasses, etc., as well as remove and store the Express Bar. Everything must be cleaned and the refrigerator secured.

Lunch, beer and wine will be provided for both the setup and teardown activities. Everyone working will be asked to pick a bottle of wine to take home as a thank you.

If you are able to help, please RSVP to Brian@ocws.org so we can plan for food and other essentials.

Please Take Note

We have heard from some members who told me they signed up online. **Please take note, there is no online sign-up** for either of these activities. The only way you are confirmed on “the list” is if you contacted Brian McDonald by email at Brian@ocws.org. It doesn't mean you will be turned away, but there may not be any food for you. If in doubt, please send me an email. I promise I won't count you twice.

- Brian McDonald, Setup & Teardown Chair

OCWS Board of Directors: Call for Candidates

Have you thought about getting more involved with the OCWS outside of volunteering for or attending various OCWS-related events? If you are innovative, open-minded, possess good interpersonal skills, are results oriented and a problem solver, then a position as a Director of the OCWS just might be right for you. As I have stated previously, 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.

The beginning of a three-year term of the nine members of the Board of Directors, according to the Bylaws, shall be staggered such that three members' terms will expire each year. The three vacated Board positions will be filled each year by a vote of the OCWS membership, following the Annual Business Meeting in September.

The overall time commitment for a mem-

ber 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 as well:

- General knowledge of OCWS events and activities
- Experience as a volunteer in some events and involvement with event committees
- The ability and time 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 no later than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the scheduled Annual Business Meeting. The last date to declare candidacy for this year's election is **Friday, August 24, 2018**.

During the Annual Business Meeting, you will have the opportunity to speak to the membership and present your qualifications. A written Statement of Qualifications must be presented to the Election Committee no later than five (5) calendar days after your Declaration of Candidacy.

If being an OCWS leader interests you, feel free to contact Greg Hagadorn with any questions related to Director responsibilities, the election process or anything related to the election. I can be reached at 714.388.8803 or at Greg@ocws.org.

- Greg Hagadorn, 2018 Election Chair

Winemakers Newsroom

The OCWS Winemakers' Group finished another successful Home Wine Competition on Saturday, June 9. This year we had 178 winemakers from all parts of California who entered a total of 598 wines. In all, they garnered 579 awards.

2018 Home Wine Competition Results. The award medals consisted of: 4 "Best of Show," 81 Double Gold, 61 Gold, 236 Silver, 158 Bronze and 39 Honorable Mention.

In addition, Award Certificates were given for 35 Wine Label Competition winners. The "Best of Show" wine winners received a specially engraved plaque. All Double-Gold wines are judged for the Best of Show awards. The award winning wines will be on display at the Home Wine Competition exhibit in The Courtyard during the Fair, from July 13 to August 12.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the approximately 220 people who participated this year. Without all of your volunteer time, we could never continue to be one of the largest and most comprehensive judging of California homewines in the state, now for the 42nd year in a row! Once again, the Cook's

Caucus provided two wonderful meals, breakfast and lunch.

The day after the Competition, the Winemakers' Group hosted a "Thank You Reception" for everyone who volunteered and entered a wine. It was attended by 172 exhausted but happy people who were able to taste more of the award-winning wines along with enjoying a wonderful catered lunch.

Thanks again to everyone involved. Congratulations to all of the award winners!

Be sure to check out our Homewine Display at this year's Fair. In addition, if you're interested in learning how to make wine, attend one of our Winemaking Seminars on Saturdays between Noon and 2:00 pm during the Fair.



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

Graber Olive House, a Longtime, Valued Supporter of the OCWS



The Wine Society would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Graber Olive House for their friendship, generosity and continued support over the years.

Graber Olive House has provided their specialty olives to the Commercial Wine Competition for many years. As you know, palate assault can be extreme even though wine judges may expectorate every sip. The acidity in white wines and tannins in red wines can be a painful experience after a full day of tasting. A small cup of Graber olives placed alongside each judge neutralizes the elements in both reds and whites, work wonders for the palate and taste fantastic, too.

Graber olives are hand-picked when they've ripened to a cher-

ry-red color, then "cured in covered vats without being oxidized," according to Graber Olive House. After the curing and canning processes, the olives are of varying shades of nut-like color.

Graber Olive House is located in quiet, serene surroundings. Visitors will be delighted to discover a bit of early California when they visit. Along with olives, Graber Olive House offers many other products, such as crisp California almonds and pistachios, California dessert fruits, olive oils and elegant gift baskets. When in or driving through Ontario, visit Graber Olive House and pick up a few cans of olives and other items. You can also visit their website at GraberOlives.com to have products shipped directly to you.

Graber Olive House is located at 215 E. Fourth Street, Ontario, CA 91764.

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.

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Dine With Wine: Brunch Overlooking Beautiful Newport Harbor

**Brunch Overlooking Newport Harbor
a Dine with Wine Event**

Sunday, September 9, 2018 @ 10:30 am

Newport Landing Restaurant

503 E. Edgewater Ave., Balboa Island, CA



The weather will be warm and brunch will be on the patio lanai of the Newport Landing Restaurant, which

offers the best of southern California incomparable cuisine serving the ultimate in quality fresh food. The restaurant is located on the waterfront overlooking the historic Balboa Ferry with a panoramic view of Newport Harbor and Balboa Island.

The incredible Brunch menu includes, but not limited to:

Design Your Own Omelets/

Eggs Benedict/Sausage and Bacon

Pancakes/French Toast/Belgian Waffle

Seafood Marinated Poke/Ceviche/Mahi Mahi/Salmon

Shrimp/Scallops Quiche/Clam Chowders

Beef/Pork Carving Stations/Teriyaki Skewered Sirloin

Cobb & Caesar Salads/Taco Bar/Enchiladas

Assorted Fruits/Bread Selection

Chocolate Fountain/Desserts/Juices & Coffee or Tea

The price for this brunch is \$44 for members and \$49 for guests. This price includes tax and gratuity.

Sign up on the OCWS website to attend this event. Space is limited; when it fills up, contact the OCWS office to be put on the waitlist.

Each person is expected to: bring a bottle of your favorite Champagne or wine; drink responsibly, as this could be a long meal; wear your nametag; dress casually.

Because we need to contract with the restaurant with the attendance count, the last day to sign up, make changes or cancel and receive a refund is Monday, September 3. Any cancellations after this date will be filled and refunded from the waitlist.

Parking is a challenge on Balboa Island. Street parking is minimal. There is a parking lot at Palm Street/E. Bay Avenue, with a 2-hour maximum time limit, and a parking garage at E. Bay Avenue/Adams Street. Parking is also located at E. Oceanfront/Palm Street. Consider taking Uber or Lyft for transportation, and you won't have to deal with parking.

**- Rochelle Randel & Rich Skoczylas,
Dine With Wine Coordinators**

Commercial Wine Competition Judges Go Over & Above

The support of the Judges at the 2018 Commercial Wine Competition knows no bounds. In addition to the Judges, with the exception of a small stipend, paying their own way to attend and judge, each year a handful donate back their stipends to create a Judge's Scholarship, which is then granted in their honor by the OCWS. This year, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to those Judges who, collectively, donated \$2,000 toward our mission of scholarship fundraising for grants in enology, viticulture and culinary arts.

Special thanks to the following judges for their kindness and generosity: Brent Amos from Las Positas Vineyards; Joseph S.

Franzia from Forest Glen Winery; Ondine Chattan from Cannonball Wines; Jessica Gasca from Story of Soil; Alfredo Koch from Allen Hancock Community College; Steve Lohr from J. Lohr Winery; Stephen Rasmussen from Westgate Cellars; H. Marty Spate from Meridian; Fred Weibel, Jr. from Weibel Family Vineyards & Winery; and Evelyn White.

We urge all our OCWS members to support their businesses, and if your paths cross with these generous people in your travels, to please thank them personally and relay to them just how much their caring ways mean to all of us. Thank you.

- 2018 Commercial Wine Competition Committee

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.

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Save the Date: Announcing Oktoberween 2018

October means Oktoberfest with authentic German Bratwurst, sauerkraut, potato salad and beer. But it also means Halloween with costumes, tricks, treats and wine—so we are having both! Put your “creative” minds to work and plan on showing up in your favorite Halloween or Oktoberfest costume and enjoy some good food, wine, beer, games, contests, music and dancing. More details coming!

Date & Time: Saturday, September 29 from Noon to 4:30 pm

Location: The “haunted” Courtyard at the OCFEC

- Terry McLean, Event Chair



The Wine Press

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

OCWS Save the Date Calendar

July 7	Gold Medal Mini-Tasting— <i>Sold Out Event</i>
July 13—August 12	OC Fair
September 7	OCWS Annual Business Meeting
September 9	Dine with Wine: Brunch at Newport Landing
September 29	“Oktoberween” themed Fall Membership BBQ
October 21	Oktoberfest, Phoenix Club, Anaheim
November 30	Annual Holiday Dinner & Dance, The Atrium Hotel



www.ocws.org

