



The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 43, Issue 9, September 2019

President's Message

As summer comes to a close and we transition into fall, it is time to look back and look forward.

Looking back, what a busy summer with the OC Fair and The Courtyard. Thanks to all of you who worked or attended the OC Fair this year. We had some record-breaking days and could not have done it without you—a special thanks to our members who answered the “SOS” emails to help staff The Courtyard.

Looking forward, there is no rest for the OCWS. About the time you are reading *The Wine Press*, you will note that September and October have major events. The Annual Business Meeting will be held on Friday, September 6, at Baja Blues. The candidates running for the Board of Directors will be introduced and an overview of the organization will be presented.

The following weeks take us to the Champagne Brunch at BLK and member BBQ & Chili Cook Off.

October is no less busy with our Annual Installation Dinner where we say farewell and “thank you” to our retiring Board members and “hello” to our newly elected Board members. In addition, come celebrate the Champagne Brunch & Oktoberfest at The Phoenix Club. You can read the details in this newsletter. If you have not already signed up for these events, please do so and give them a try.

I would like to take this time to remind all of our members to please check and update your profile on our website. We depend on your contact information to communicate with our members. Please log in to ocws.org, click on “Howdy, your name” and use the drop down “Edit My Profile” to review and make any changes.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Cheers,

- Bill Redding, President

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Who to Contact



All OCWS events and activities outlined in *The Wine Press* specify how to participate and sign up for an event. *Unless otherwise noted*, please refrain from contacting the article

editor directly.

General inquiries can be obtained by phoning the OCWS office at 714.708.1636 or by email to Office@ocws.org. For more detailed Wine Society information, log in to OCWS.org. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



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Fall Membership BBQ & Chili Cook Off

Saturday, September 21, 2019
 2:30 pm to 7:00 pm
 at The Courtyard on the OC Fairgrounds
THE RETURN OF THE CHILI COOK OFF



Cook and compete, or just come to eat! At this time, it appears that we have over 20 OCWS members “taking the challenge” and “putting up” their homemade chili against

their peers in a competition to be judged by culinary professionals from Orange Coast College.

Good food, good friends, good wine. For all those who aren't competing and are only interested in “tasting” the diverse selection of chili (traditional with beans, traditional without beans, vegetarian, best use of wine, etc.), we will also have for your culinary enjoyment a BBQ menu provided by our own Cooks Caucus, along with wine from our OCWS cellar, beer, and a live band for your entertainment and dancing pleasure.

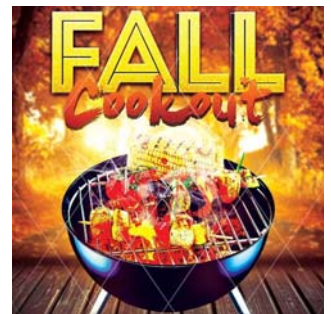
The admission price will be \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members (guests must be over 21 years old).

Please sign up soon at ocws.org as space may be getting limited!

As with all of our events, they are only possible because members like you are willing to step forward and volunteer to help. We are looking for volunteers to help with the set-up, clean-up, chili “runners” to assist the judges, food and wine serving, check-in, and a few “floaters” for those miscellaneous tasks that occur.

You can sign up for your volunteer tasks when you register to attend the event on the OCWS website.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



- Terry McLean, Event Chair

New Member Portal



The Orange County Wine Society extends a warm welcome to its newest members! Membership for the

following new members was approved by the Board of Directors at the August 2019 meeting:

Heony Kang & Kon Koziitsky • Kim & Ross Doering • Kathy Wisner • Susie Stokes • Pam & Bill Oneida • Kelly & Christopher Webb • Brittney Lewis • Gene Gimenez & Peggi Rederich • Bert McCarty & Malcolm Willis • Erika & Larry Kramer • Leslie Stipek • Sue & Jim England • Jill & Tyler Davidson • Sophia & James Enos • Rachel & Greg Frank • Mike Mishreki • Debbie & Mike Gross • Barbara Hartl • Vic Pinz & Erwin Repreza • Ferial Sadjadi • Maria Stewart • Laura &

Alex Wargnier • Karen Wilkins • Carol Browning • Diana & Thomas Wilkinson • Mary Anne Barr • Peggy Faulk • Toni & Patrick Burnside • Aimee & Steven Halligan • Michele Dinneen & John Skeel • Linda & Ed Robb • Cristine & Duane Gonyea • Zvi Peshkess • Daniel Friedl • Melanie Talbot • Channin Beckett & Matt Alexander • Rachelle Talbot & Michelle Cooper • Mary & Robin Talbot • Allison Burt • Lani Mallek • Ann Miranda • Christina & Richard Palombo • Christopher Koufodontis • Antonia Lipovac & Brian Baldwin

As of August 1, the OCWS had 1,032 members.

New Member Info. If you are thinking about attending an event and are not sure how to dress, what to bring, how it works, or just want someone to meet and greet, please reach out to any member of the Board of Directors, feel free to phone Brian directly at 714.227.7284, or email the “New Member Hotline” at Brian@ocws.org.

New Member Mixer

The Board of Directors invites new members to attend a New Member Mixer on Sunday, September 29 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The location is in the Cowan Heights area. The exact address will be emailed to members who have RSVP'd approximately one week before the event. Wine and water will be served together with light appetizers.

This is a **FREE EVENT** and is open to members who joined

OCWS after June 1, 2019. This is a terrific opportunity to meet other new members, the Board of Directors and learn how to get the most out of your OCWS membership.

An RSVP is required. Please RSVP online at ocws.org. **The deadline for sign-up is Saturday, September 21.**

- *Brian McDonald, Director & Membership Chair*

Champagne Brunch by The Beach: Sold Out, Waitlist Available

Champagne Brunch by the Beach
Sunday, September 15, 2019
11:00 am—2:00 pm
BLK Earth Sea Spirits
300 Pacific Coast Hwy
Huntington Beach

This event is currently sold out. To be placed on the waitlist, please phone the OCWS office. The last day to make changes or cancel and receive a refund is Friday, September 6. Any cancellations after this date would be filled and refunded from the waitlist. Remember, each person should:

1. Bring a bottle of your favorite Champagne or wine

2. Bring your Champagne and/or wine glasses
3. Wear your OCWS nametag
4. Drink Responsibly

Underground Parking: The entrance to the underground parking structure for BLK is located on the south side of Walnut Ave., between Main St. and 2nd St., directly across from 3rd St. To access the restaurant from the garage, take the elevator directly to the second floor. Your parking ticket will be validated for two hours in *this* garage only. There is also a separate parking garage on the north side of Walnut and 3rd St. that does *not* take validation.

- *Mel Jay, Event Chair & Rochelle Randel, Co-chair*

Annual Installation Dinner

Sunday, October 6, 2019 @ 5:30 pm
Avenue of the Arts Hotel
3350 Avenue of the Arts
Costa Mesa, CA



The OCWS Annual Installation Dinner will feature a gourmet, four-course dinner.

The evening will begin at 5:30 pm with a

Champagne reception to be held lakeside to allow members to mingle prior to the dinner. Champagne poured during the reception will be chosen by the OCWS Cellar Master. Members are also welcome to bring a bottle of their own wine for dinner as no corkage fees will be charged.

The event will provide members the opportunity to welcome the newly elected Board members as well as honoring the hard work of the outgoing Board members.

The cost will be \$67 for members and \$72 for guests, inclusive of tax and gratuity.

Do not miss this outstanding evening. This exclusive dining event has limited seating, so sign up early as this event will sell out fast.



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 OCWS check-in or pay

\$10 for valet parking.

As we need to contract the meals with the hotel, the last day to sign up or cancel and receive a refund is Saturday, September 28. Any cancellations after this date would be filled and refunded from the waitlist. Please wear your nametag.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Installation Dinner!

- *Leslie Hodowanec, Event Chair*
- *Rich Skoczylas, Co-chair*

The evening's menus are:

Reception Menu

~ Butler Passed Amuse Bouche ~
Wild Mushroom Spanakopita
Sonoma Goat Cheese with
Sun Dried Tomato Tapenade Spread on Olive Bread
Shrimp and Rice Noodle Summer Roll with
Ginger and Yuzu Dipping Sauce

Dinner Menu (in The Grand Ballroom)

~ Salad Course ~

Baby Mixed Greens with Blueberries, Glazed Walnuts,
Goat Cheese and Champagne Vinaigrette

~ Entrée Course ~

(Choice of one of the following)

Herb Crusted Breast of Chicken
Crushed Fingerling Potatoes, Roasted Baby Vegetables,
Herb Oil, Fennel Orange Reduction

or

Grilled Top Sirloin

Chive and Cheddar Twice Baked Potato, Roasted Shallots,
Baby Carrots, Fresh Herbs, Red Wine Demi

or

Mesquite Grilled Scottish Salmon

Wilted Rainbow Swiss Chard, Wild Rice,
Blistered Heirloom Tomatoes, Saffron Nage

or

Wild Mushroom Ravioli

Butternut Squash Puree, Herb Salad,
Sage Brown Butter Emulsion

~ Dessert ~

(Choice of one of the following)

Apple Tart

With Toasted Almonds and Caramel

or

Lemon Pudding Cake

With Caramel Sauce

or

Red Velvet Individual Cakes

With Chocolate Syrup

~ Beverages ~

J Gursey Artisan Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee
and Gourmet Herbal Tea Service

Winemakers Newsroom



Congratulations to two of our long-time winemakers for their Best of Show win for the 2019 Home Wine Competition! Jim Graver won in the “Fruit Wine Category” for his 2014 Blackberry Port, and Jerry and Kim Guerin won in the “Red Wine Category” for their 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon. Well done Jerry, Kim, and Jim!

August was a busy month for the Winemakers’ Group supporting the OC Fair and getting ready for the great “group” wine purchase this fall.

In addition, most of us are now scrambling to finalize and bottle our 2018 vintage wines so that we can make room for the 2019 incoming. At this time, it appears that we will be provid-

ing Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Zinfandel, Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Malbec from high quality commercial vineyards. Last year we provided over 10 tons of red grapes and over 660 gallons of white wine juice for members of our Winemakers’ Group, and we expect similar numbers this year.

We are always welcoming new members who are interested in learning winemaking.

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. Happy wining everyone!

- *Kevin Donnelly*

TIPS Trainer Extraordinaire



Anyone who has worked The Courtyard at the OC Fair well knows that TIPS certification is required by the OC Fair & Event Center and has been trained by Rochelle Randel at some point within the past three years.

The OCWS is so fortunate to have a dedicated volunteer in Rochelle, who has trained and certified 1,026 OCWS members to date!

We are proud to announce that the governing body of this certification process has acknowledged Rochelle’s dedication and commitment and the fact that, by her expert training, has been instrumental in helping to reduce alcohol related incidents and accidents.

Kudos to you, Rochelle, with our heartfelt thanks!

- *The 2019 Courtyard Committee*

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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Champagne Brunch & Oktoberfest

Brunch & Oktoberfest
Sunday, October 27, 2019
Brunch—11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Oktoberfest—Noon - 5:00 pm
The Phoenix Club
1340 S. Sanderson Ave., Anaheim, CA

No need to pack or go through security, just dust off your Bier Steins and join your fellow OCWS members and guests for Brunch and an afternoon of German food, music, and entertainment.



Brunch will be held in the Grand Ballroom, accessed from the main entrance. We suggest you arrive by 10:30 am to check-in. Check-in is at the entrance to the Grand Ballroom. The Oktoberfest activities will be held in the big tent and the OCWS will reserve tables.

Brunch includes:

Bottomless Sparkling Wine
Carving Station & Omelet Station
Garden, Fruit, Potato & Pasta Salads
German Pancakes, Cheese Blintzes
Schnitzel, Rouladen, Sauerbraten, Fish,
Chicken Bavarian, Spatzle & Fresh Vegetables
Desserts

Bring your own Bier Stein.

You can bring your own empty Stein or Bier mug to Oktoberfest. Please note that your Steins will not be filled directly. Bier is sold and served in a cup and then you pour the Bier into your own Stein.



Proper Bier drinking etiquette, mugs are raised and a song belted out. One of the most popular songs played is the German classic “Ein Prosit,” translated means “A Toast!” At the conclusion of the song, make sure to give your table mates a hearty “Prost” and clink the bottom thicker part of your glass into theirs.

Cost. The price for this German inspired Brunch is \$49 for members and \$54 for guests. This price includes tax, gratuity, \$10 in beverage tickets, parking and entry into the Oktoberfest (a \$12 value). We will place tablecloths on several picnic style tables under the bier tent prior to the event for our group. Since The Phoenix Club provides sparkling wine as part of their Brunch, there will be reduced corkage fee of \$7 per bottle, payable at check-in, if you would like to bring any additional wine or champagne.

Since we need to contract with the restaurant with the attendance count, the last day to sign up, make changes or cancel to receive a refund, is Sunday, October 18. Any cancellations after this date would be filled and refunded from the wait list.

For more information about Oktoberfest or The Phoenix Club, visit their website at www.thephoenixclub.com/oktoberfest.

Prosit!

- Mel Jay, Event Chair & Rochelle Randel, Co-chair

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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OCWS Website Administrator: Wendy Taylor ■ OCWS Photographer: Jim Burk

A Record Breaking Year at the 2019 Courtyard



The 2019 OC Fair, now just a fading memory, is still very fresh in the minds and hearts of the 330 OCWS volunteers whose dedication and enthusiasm made this year's Courtyard the most successful in OCWS history! With over 1,500 shifts worked at The Courtyard this year, and thousands of hours spent behind the scenes before and after the Fair, records were smashed from previous years. The Courtyard grossed the largest revenue in OCWS history.



As a partner to the OC Fair & Event Center, we run both the Commercial and Home Wine Competitions. In return, we are given the opportunity to run

The Courtyard during the OC Fair, with derived income paying for both competitions and covering OCWS overhead for the following year. Generous donations from the general public are contributed directly to the OCWS Scholarship Fund.

The success of The Courtyard is due, in no small part, to The Courtyard Committee, the cash verifiers behind the scenes, the seminar presenters, the set up and tear down crews and the Featured Winery program, along with too many other positions and programs to name, and **all** the OCWS volunteers who manned or maintained The Courtyard in any number of capacities.

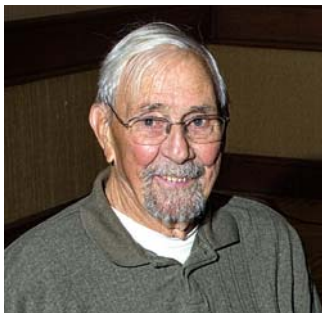
It took every one of our volunteers, no matter how great or small the task, to make The Courtyard a success and provide the OCWS with a fabulous financial foundation going into next year.

Thank you to each every one of you who volunteered!

- Fran Gitsham & The 2019 Courtyard Committee

In Memoriam: Robert Trout

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of one of the OCWS's long-time members, Robert Trout, who passed



away on the evening of June 26, 2019 at age 88. Bob was many things for the OCWS: a Board Member, President, recipient of the President's Award, and Commercial Wine Competition Committee member for many years, along with his wife, Marjorie. The Trouts helped develop the Label

Competition, and Bob served as Assistant Chairman of Judges under Dennis Esslinger. Ultimately, due to his tremendous dedication and service, he was awarded the designation of President Emeritus. In recent years, many of us knew Bob to be an exceptional opener of the cans of olives to be served to the Commercial Wine Competition judges.

Bob came to the OCWS in what seemed like "eons" ago as a home winemaker. After learning on his own, as many of us have, it also took guidance to make good home wines. The

OCWS gave him that guidance which began the road to the many years Bob and Marjorie had with the OCWS.

Bob used his design skills as a Professor of Industrial Technology at California State University at Long Beach to develop and create a special award featuring a very large actual grapevine for our Zinfandel Competition during the 25th Anniversary Commercial Competition. Bob was highly respected by our judges due to his many years with the OCWS and his time working with the judges during the Commercial Wine Competition, including obtaining wines for the Judges Dinner.

An avid bicycle rider, Bob travelled the length of California stopping in many wine regions. Those who knew him well will miss his subtle sense of humor, his friendship, intellect, and love of fine wines which he was always willing to share with people he met along the way.

For Marjorie, his daughter Shannon and her husband, and his grandchildren, he will never truly be gone.

- The OCWS Board of Directors



The Wine Press

Orange County Wine Society, Inc.
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OCWS Save the Date Calendar

| | |
|--------------|---|
| September 6 | Annual Business Meeting |
| September 15 | Champagne Brunch at BLK |
| September 21 | Fall 2019 Membership BBQ & Chili Cook Off |
| September 29 | New Member Mixer |
| October 6 | Annual Installation Dinner |
| October 27 | Oktoberfest at The Phoenix Club |



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