



The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 43, Issue 10, October 2019

President's Message

The Annual Business Meeting was held Friday, September 6, at Baja Blues. We had a tremendous turnout with 157 of our members who reviewed highlights of the past year's events and the financial health of the organization. The highlight of the evening was the recognition of 95 attendee volunteers who, along with all our volunteers, contributed over 20,000 hours of volunteer time in support of the OCWS.



It was my honor and privilege to present the President's Award to Kevin Donnelly for his many years of outstanding dedication and service to the

OCWS and the Home Wine Group. Congratulations, Kevin!

This year, the election was suspended pursuant to Article 4, Section 4.6. Incumbent Director George Cravens, Rich Skoczylas and Linda Mihalik were elected at the Annual Business Meeting.

At the Annual Installation Dinner, we will have the opportunity to thank our outgoing Director Terry McLean for his dedicated service over the past three years, and Director Stacey Taylor for his outstanding expertise over the past four years. The newly elected Board members and Officers will be introduced. This year's Officers are: President—Bill Redding, Vice President—Ken Scott, Treasurer—Mel Jay, and Secretary—George Cravens. Their contact information is listed on every newsletter. Please feel free to introduce yourself to this year's Board of Directors at all upcoming events.

Upcoming activities are posted on our website at ocws.org and in our newsletter, *The Wine Press*, which is mailed out at the beginning of each month. Please join your fellow members at one of our upcoming events.

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

- Bill Redding, President

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Wine Education Seminar: "Tour of Italian Varietals"

Come join your fellow OCWS members for our next wine education seminar on a "Tour of Italian Varietals." Italy is home to over 2000 indigenous grape varietals as well as some of the world's most iconic and renowned wine regions. Spend the evening with us as we explore six uniquely Italian wines and varietals and learn about the breathtaking tradition and beauty of the regions they hail from.

This 2-hour seminar is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in Costa Mesa. The cost is \$49 per person and is limited to OCWS members only. Sign-ups (with additional details) will be located on the OCWS website. Sign up early as seating is limited. This will be a fun and very educational wine tasting event!

Contact Irene@ocws.org if you have any questions.

- Irene Scott, Wine Education Chair



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Winemakers Newsroom

September was a hectic month for the Winemakers' Group as we tried to decide which grapes we wanted to purchase and in what quantities we will continue to receive through October. Because of the work of our great members, our group purchases of grapes from commercial vineyards offer a wide variety.



Bruce Powers has managed to obtain grapes from Soltera Winery, providing Merlot, Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay juice from Dry Creek, and Pinot Noir grapes from Santa Lucia Highlands.

Bill Forsch has sourced Sangiovese grapes from Lucas & Lewellen Vineyards in the Central Coast and Malbec from Emerald Creek Winery in Temecula.

As we all know, you can't make good wine from bad grapes, but you can make bad wine from good grapes!

Rob Romano has been running herd on all the orders. Watch for some fabulous wines coming out next year from our 2019 vintage.

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

Winemakers' Group Holiday Party. Our holiday party is scheduled for Saturday, December 21, 2019 at the Eastlake Clubhouse in Yorba Linda. More information will be provided in an upcoming newsletter and at ocws.org.

Be sure to frequently visit the OCWS website for upcoming Winemakers' Group events and sign-up information.



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

Happy wine-ing everyone!

- Kevin Donnelly

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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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 September 2019 meeting:



Brian Zeek & Dee Dee Brooks

Tanner Hansler & Katey Bugg

Kathleen Smith

Eileen Stuka & Carol Lewis

Gary Ambrose

Diane & John DeVoll

Mark Freiburghouse & Ann Cheung

Michael Kurland & Alexandra Sanchez

Judy Acord

Pina & Greg Bell

Randy Bennett

Jessi & Neil Cooper

Melanie & Jeff Cyr

Joyce Ginsburg & Tim O' Malley

Kira Hall

Erica Hernandez

Gracie Kimball

Diane & Eric Lethen

Cristi & Eddie Nunez

Tru & Bob Olea

Jesse Perez & Teresea Yee

Russell Sanders & Dina Garnatz

Jackie & Bob Soto

Brooke Sundstrom

Michelle & Jason Wisniewski

Randy Archuleta

Denise & Troy Baker

Roberta Brown

Rhonda Campbell

Sara & Oliver Cazalis

Lori & Terry Cone

Vicki Cox & Reina Mansillo Osborn

Jessica Guerrero

Brian Mineshin & Josh LaFarga

Sylvia & Alan Munoz

Estela Perry

Colleen Rahn & Cathy Fuller

Gail Thompson

Nancy & Gerard Unterreiner

Robert Foster & Terri Munroe

Scott Anderson & Amy Repp

Melissa Buchholz

BJ Reinard & Lorna Cooney

Maria Sanchez

Martha Sanchez

Caroline & Larry Swift

Ray Davis

Karen Digiambattista & Shari Pavlik

Maria & Tony Faulkner

Ellen & Jack Gaar

Michelle Kirk & Thomas Dunn

Dayne Austin & Lany Niang

Lindsey Beehler & Greg Schwartz

Suzanne Danis

Theresa Marriott

Marcy & Alan Schwitzgebel

Dana & Jim Stewart

Ruth & Craig Wheeler

Phil Cordova & Liberty Black

Stan Curtis & Geri Curtis

Brian Flores

Melody Mahmoudian

Audrey Ouver

Laurie & James St. Pierre

Toni Wells

Brandi & Jim Zoellner

Marcia Gordon & Suzanne Rosas

Elizabeth Hughes

Donna & Lonnie Bennett

Susan & Mickey Bennett

Lisa & Monte Carter

Victoria Crystal & Souriya Sengphet

Judy McInnis

Diane Yegge

As of September 1, the Orange County Wine Society had 1,040 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.

- Brian McDonald,
Director & Membership Chair

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 enter-



tainment.

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.

**SORRY THIS EVENT IS
SOLD OUT**

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.

The event is currently sold out. Please phone the OCWS office to be placed on a waitlist.

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

Wine Education 101—Harvest Timing

In California, Fall is an exciting time of the year for winemakers as it is the grape harvest season and a time for new beginnings. Most harvests in the Northern Hemisphere occur in the months of August, September, and October – while harvests in the Southern Hemisphere typically occur in February, March, and April. In California, some early-ripening varieties, such as Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Muscat, and Pinot Noir, may be harvested in late August. On the other hand, some late-ripening varieties, such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Zinfandel, and Syrah, may be harvested in early November.

The timing of the grape harvest is one of the most important viticulture decisions affecting the winemaking process. The potential quality of the wine is established early in the winemaking process by the quality of the grapes at harvest. Winemaking practices may help offset some deficiencies in grape quality, but cannot fully make up for deficiencies in grape flavor when harvest is too early or too late.

So, how is this important harvest timing determined? Check out our website at <https://ocws.org/wine-education> to read more.

- Irene Scott, Wine Education Chair

“Big Reds” Mini-Tasting Program

Saturday, November 23, 2019

Various Locations

6:00 pm—9:00 pm



With the holiday season fast approaching, there will be ample opportunities to enjoy wines that complement holiday meals. The November Mini-Tasting will feature a range of red wines that pair well with holiday feasts. The

guests will rate the wines tasted blind in pairs and then discuss their ratings. Overall ratings from each site will be published in the wrap-up article.

Hosts: Mini-Tastings are held at various host sites around Orange County. If you would like to host this event, please email George Cravens at George@ocws.org or phone George at 949.510.5318. 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.

Cost. The cost to attend the tasting is \$30 for members and \$35 for guests.

Mini-etiquette: Each person attending brings a potluck dish (appetizer, entrée, side dish, or dessert) ready to serve a small portion to 18 people. The dish ideally should be designed to match the theme of the tasting. Please coordinate your food selection with your host to assure an appropriate balance of food types served during the evening.

Chef of the Evening. There will be a special bottle of wine that evening given 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. so the event can get started on time. You are invited to bring your own wine glasses for tasting; keep in mind the wines are served in flights of two.

We are planning a maximum of 6 sites for this mini-tasting, so the limit is 96 attendees (plus hosts). Due to the high attendance at our Mini-Tasting Programs, we encourage you to sign up early as sites tend to fill quickly.

Cut-off/Refund Deadlines. The cut-off date for online sign-up is Sunday, November 17, 2019. After this date please contact George or the OCWS office to determine availability. The cancellation deadline is also Sunday, November 17, 2019 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 Appetit, George Cravens*

Consider Signing up to Volunteer & Remember to Sign in at the Event

It's that time of the year where OCWS volunteers are recognized in the October edition of *The Wine Press*. The OCWS President and event Chairs have throughout the year recognized and appreciated member volunteers for their service to the OCWS in various articles and online posts.

As you may or may not know, Volunteer Recognition Points (VRPs) are awarded to members who volunteer time to organize, work, or provide a location for OCWS activities. These points are tracked online by the event organizer or event Chair. Therefore, it is important to sign in when you arrive at the event where you are scheduled to volunteer to ensure your points are recorded. There are 20 or so activities all year round that members can participate in behind the scenes that accumulate points. OCWS merchandise purchases and attending an event do not qualify for VRPs.

Additional VRPs are awarded for more labor-intensive or technical skills. OCWS members with physical limitations are always accommodated, just let the organizer or event Chair

know beforehand.

Please consider that most events are planned several months in advance and require volunteers before, during, and after the event concludes. Events are held at various OC locations, at The Courtyard, at various hotels/banquet rooms that can accommodate larger groups, and “host sites” which are usually a member's home for smaller groups.

When you sign up online to attend an event, consider signing up to volunteer for an hour or so. Those members who have recently joined the OCWS during the OC Fair promotional period may have already noticed that a \$15 incentive is in their online account.

OCWS is an all-volunteer organization. Try a variety of duties and have fun sharing your talents this year, then spend your VRPs at an OCWS event next year.

- *George Cravens, Volunteer Recognition Chair*
- *Leslie Hodowanec, Director*

Raise a Glass . . . to our Volunteers



At the Annual Business Meeting, many of our volunteers were recognized for the hours of service and efforts they dedicated to the Orange County Wine Society over the last Board year. As the OCWS has only part-time employees, volunteers are relied upon for everything from guiding and managing our organization to planning and running our events. Most volunteer work is done “behind the scenes” and unnoticed by many.

In recognition of the hours of service, the OCWS rewards its volunteers with gift certificates redeemable for admission to OCWS events. Thank you to the following volunteers for their efforts during the 2018-2019 Board year.

Our volunteers make this the successful organization that it is. We encourage you to get involved. It is a great way to see how the OCWS works and meet new friends.

NOTE: The volunteer coupons have been posted to each member’s account and can be used for events through the end of September 2020.

- *George Cravens, Volunteer Recognition Chair*

\$50 Discount Coupon

James Beard
Leslie Brown
Chris Bruce
Hank Bruce
Pam Carter
Judy Chapel
Sam Clark
Elizabeth Corbett
Lloyd Corbett
Courtney
Kevin Coy
Maria Coy
Kevin Donnelly
Jim Downey
Lynda Edwards
Wendy Eld
Carol Esslinger
Dennis Esslinger
Linda Flemins
Carol Frank
Fran Gitsham
Jane Goodnight
Larry Graham
Jerry Guerin
Kim Guerin
Gregory Hagadorn
Marie Hawthorn
Cheryl Heinecke
Fred Heinecke
Donna Hisey
Helga Hrowal
Dawn Iglesias
Michael Iglesias
Karl Kawai
Virginia Kawai

Cheryl Knapp
Ken Knapp
Michael Koval
John Lane
Theresa (Terri) Lane
Kevin Lite
Monica McCarthy
Sue McDonald
Linda McLean
Linda Mihalik
Carol Miura
Mary Mulcahey
Morteza Naraghi
Betty Jo Newell
Jay Newell
George Ott
Marcy Ott
Maia Pehrson
Bruce Powers
Laurie Preus
Sam Puzzo
Rochelle Randel
Walter Reiss
Ed Reyes
Robert Romano
Ronna Rowe
Karen Russell
Scott Sayre
Peter Schlundt Bodien
Irene Scott
Jack Shepard
Rich Skoczylas
Dave Stancil
Dean Strom
Robyn Strom
Karl Tani

Wendy Taylor
Bob Topham
Richard Ward
Barbara White
David White
Jolen Zeroski

\$25 Discount Coupon

Dino Amico
Anke Bajhart
Ray Bartlett
David Brown
Laura Brown
James Burk
Rosemary Christen
Carolyn Christian
Damian Christian
Kim Clark
Greg Collins
Lois Durning
Paul Durning
Stephen Edwards
Charles English
Sharon Finkle
Yale Finkle
Ellen Flynn
Bill Forsch
Beverly Genis
Alison Godleski
Mark R. Godleski
Kay Gooding
Kelly Hagadorn
Kelly Haggard
Wayne Scott Harral
Lynn Hess

Will Holsinger
Lynelle Hustrulid
Shelly Jayne
Rodney Jeu
Kathy Krieger
Kendall Madsen
Janice Mattar
Roger Mattar
Shirley McManus
John Molina
Cathy Painter
Lee Painter
Mike Paz
Eddie Petros
Kim Philhart
Carolyn Redding
Debbie Renne
Tom Richey
Cal Rietzel
Sue Rietzel
Janet Riordan
Elisa Roddy
Wilton Roddy
Craig Rowe
Michael Salas
Denise Scott
Irene Serna
Raul Serna
Linda Shepard
Pat Solis
Tami Stancil
Tom Tippet
Sally Toth
James Vaughan
Jean Vetri-Wilson
Lisa Viceroy

Kern Vogel

\$10 Discount Coupon

Laura C. Acocella
Nancy Ball
Linda Barreda
Robert Barreda
Aimeelou Barrett
Shilo Bartlett
Greg Basile
Cheryl Bell
Gisella Brett
Gregory Brett
Louis Cohen
Kevin Condryn
Michael Cox
Georgia Crane
Marcine Crane
Michael Del Medico
Mark DeWitt
Dan Donati
Jared Dotinga
Michelle Dotinga
Linda Downey
Mark Eggebrecht
Kate English
Jim Flores
Jim Fox
Jo Ann Fox
Claude Fusaro
Mary Giedzinski
John Goodnight

(Continued on page 7)

2019 OCWS Holiday Dinner & Dance



Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way. The Holiday Season is upon us (good Lord, has summer already passed?). Have any of you been to any big box stores lately? The holiday decorations are out, and the music is playing. The OCWS Holiday Dinner & Dance, like the holidays, is right around the corner.

Friday, December 6, 2019

6:30 pm – 11:30 pm

The Atrium Hotel

18700 MacArthur Boulevard

Irvine, CA

(directly across from John Wayne Airport)

The evening begins with sparkling wine and passed appetizers from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. A three-course dinner will follow accompanied by fine wines provided by the OCWS. Of course, you are free to bring your own wine to share – there is no corkage fee.

The cost for this fun-filled evening is a mere \$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 do have a limit as to the number of people we can accommodate and the deadline for signing up is Friday, November 29. Attendance must be confirmed to the hotel on the next day. So don't be a Scrooge, sign up early and get your table reservation in.

We are taking table reservations; each table holds eight people. When your group of 4 to 8 has signed up, simply contact the event chair at Brian@ocws.org to reserve your group's table. Additional seats will be filled by other individuals on the night of the event

Menu

Plated Salad

Spinach with Feta, Almonds, Sliced Strawberries & Lemon Vinaigrette

Choice of three entrees

Lemon Oregano Roasted Chicken Breast with Roasted Garlic Jus

Grilled Salmon with Lemon Dill Sauce

Sirloin Steak with Gorgonzola Butter & Shallots

Dessert

New York Cheesecake

After dinner, be prepared to have a good time dancing to the "Three 2 Sevens," a crowd-pleaser for the past three years and at many other OCWS events.

Once again, we encourage you to bring an unwrapped gift to be placed under the tree for donation to Spark of Love through the Costa Mesa Fire Department.



A special room rate of \$119/night plus tax that includes parking is available. The Atrium Hotel Reservations Line is 1.800.854.3012 and refer to "OC Wine Society Dinner."

- Brian McDonald, Event Chair

Raise a Glass . . . to our Volunteers

(Continued from page 6)

Agnes Grogan
Melinda Guillory
Elizabeth Haaker
Peter Haaker
Robert Hall
Chuck Hanson
Nancy Harman
Elise Haussler
Paul Haussler
Jim Hurst
David Imboden
Shannon Jestin

Nancy Jeu
James Johnson
Laurie Johnson
Michael Johnson
Susan Johnson
Hope Kanaley
Roxanne Korzeniowski
Linda Martin
David McCann
Joan McCann
Robin McCormick
Debra Mendoza
Leland Mote
Ron Nickens

Chris Ouellette
Alison Painter
Cynthia Peterson
Tom Peterson
Don Phillips
Elee Phillips
Jane Ptucha
Gregory Rager
Greg Risling
Kim Rizzuto
Steven Rizzuto
Germaine Romano
Melanie Schiffman
Tricia Shelton

Scott Shuster
Bernard Torbik
Shelly Trainor
Jeannine VanBuren
Marcia Vaughan
Daniel Vlahovic
Deborah Webber
Tony Wiczorek
Dave Wiegand
Spencer Wilson
Robert Wittmond
Amie Zeroski



The Wine Press

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

- October 6 Annual Installation Dinner
- October 17 Tour of Italian Varietals—Wine Education Program
- October 27 Oktoberfest at The Phoenix Club
- November 14 Wines of the Southern Hemisphere—Wine Education Program
- November 23 "Big Reds" Mini-Tasting Program
- December 6 OCWS Holiday Dinner & Dance
- December 21 Winemakers' Group Holiday Potluck



www.ocws.org

