



The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 44, Issue 10, October 2020

President's Message

Thanks to all of our members who joined the virtual Annual Business Meeting on Friday, September 11. Highlights of the year's past events and the financial health of the organization were reviewed. A recording of this meeting will be available on the OCWS website to those of you who missed the live meeting. Special thanks to all of our presenters for helping to pull off this event. The highlight of the evening was the recognition of our volunteers who this past year contributed over 1,034 hours of volunteer time in support of the OCWS up through March when COVID-19 restrictions were implemented. Please see George Craven's article in this edition for the details of those recognized.



This year, it was my honor and privilege to present the President's Award to Kevin Coy for his many years of outstanding dedication and service to the OCWS as a Director, President, Cellar Master, and Director of Judges for the Commercial Wine Competition. Pictured is Kevin holding his award. Congratulations, Kevin!

At the September BOD meeting, Jim Beard, was recognized with the President Emeritus Award. This award is presented by the President with Board recommendation, as a special designation to acknowledge the dedica-

tion, time, and effort given to the OCWS by those who served as OCWS President, and who have continued to volunteer after their term of office has concluded. Congratulations, Jim!



This year's BOD election has brought forth a great turnout of candidates. In addition to our first "virtual" Annual Business Meeting, we are conducting the election electronically this year. Thanks to Greg Hagadorn and the Election Committee for pulling this off. Please stay tuned to ocws.org for information on the election results. Unfortunately, the Annual Installation Dinner is cancelled. I would like to thank outgoing Directors Brian McDonald for his dedicated service over the past six years, and Ken Scott for his expertise over the past three years. This will also conclude my six years of service on the Board.

As the outgoing President, I wish to thank all of my past fellow Board members for their service. A special thanks goes to my wife, Carolyn, whose encouragement and delightful sense of humor has supported me over the years and who introduced us to the OCWS over 19 years ago—it has been quite a journey! Cheers,

- Bill Redding, President



This edition of *The Wine Press* is the LAST edition to be printed and mailed to members—visit ocws.org to view future editions

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Winemakers Newsroom

The OCWS Winemakers' Group is smack dab in the middle of our crush season, as is the rest of the northern hemisphere. Thanks to the work of Bill Forsch and Bruce Powers, we have already received fresh Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes and pressed out Malbec Rosé juice. We are looking at October for Dolcetto grapes and Chardonnay juice.

Thanks also to Rob Romano and David Rutledge for helping distribute the grapes and juice.

Unfortunate times for one of our friends and grape suppliers, Chris Van Aylea with Soltera Winery. Because of the fires in northern California, smoke has dropped on their wonderful family vineyards in Russian River, and they won't be picking grapes this year. As an alternative, Chris has been purchasing high-quality grapes from unaffected AVAs, and he is offering those clean grapes to us.

Thanks to Chris and our other suppliers, Lucas and Lewellyn vineyards in Solvang and Emerald Creek Winery in Warner Springs, for all they do to support our Winemakers' Group year after year.



Happy winemaking everyone! I hope your 2020 vintage wines are *stellar!*

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Kevin at Kevindonnelly@ocws.org or by phoning 714.457.7229.

- 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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OCWS Virtual Winery Webinar with Eberle Winery

Sunday, October 11, 2020
Zoom event starts @ 3 pm



The virtual Winery Webinars continue with presenting a winemaker who was introduced to Bordeaux wines, studied enology, and earned a doctoral degree at UC Davis, pioneered the Paso Robles Wine Appellation, and became a star winemaker with an incredible 40+ year legacy. In 2019 he was

awarded the esteemed Robert Mondavi Hospitality Award. This month we are honored to bring you a living legend, Gary Eberle.

Gary Eberle is considered a pioneer in the Paso Robles wine region. He landed in Paso Robles in the late 70s with a mindset to produce Cabernet Sauvignon. Settling on 64 acres on the east side, he released his first Cabernet Sauvignon in 1979 and continues through today to produce fine Cabs that exceed expectations associated with the price.

Virtual Winery Webinar Sign-Up & Wine Order. Sign-up for the Eberle virtual Winery Webinar on our website. The presen-

tation will again be conducted using Zoom. After you sign-up to attend, you will receive a confirmation email with details on connecting.



You will have the option to order the wines to be presented; it is not mandatory, but their 36% discount price to the OCWS is very attractive; tax and shipping will be included. The wines include: the 2019 Côtes-du-Rôbles Blanc, the new release of the 2018 Steinbeck Vineyard Syrah, and the 2017 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon. ***You may order these wines now!*** Order several days in advance to receive them in time for the webinar on October 11.

As a special treat to Wine Society members, Gary Eberle will also provide us the opportunity to order during the month of October all their wines for a 30% discount. More information to be provided later.

- Leslie Hodowanec, Director
- Rich Skoczylas, Director & Winery Program Chair

OCWS Virtual Entertainment Seminars



In looking to find some fun alternatives to The Courtyard at the OC Fair that, sadly, were not able to be held this year, Summer Sunday Seminars were created. Ten weeks of entertaining seminars were developed by a talented team of people

who combined their passion for the OC Fair seminars and their love of our organization and its members.

Carolyn Christian, Dawn Iglesias, Ed Reyes, Ken Knapp, Kevin Donnelly, and Sara Yeoman combined their collective talents to bring enjoyable and unique topics to life. Ten seminars were presented via Zoom, with an average of 75 attendees each week. All seminars were recorded and are available to members for playback when logged into the OCWS website; the main menu item ***Webinars*** will appear.

The seminar group was also very honored to be invited to participate in the OC Fair & Event Center's Virtual OC Fair and recorded fun wine-related clips that were featured on the OC Fair's website and social media.

After receiving overwhelmingly positive responses to the Summer Seminar Series, this group is excited to announce that they will be retuning with a Winter Series beginning Sunday, December 6 and running through Sunday, February 28, 2021. Watch your inbox in November for more details and the full seminar schedule.



If you have any questions, feedback, or suggestions, you can reach out to us at Seminars@ocws.org. We look forward to having more fun with you this winter in today's virtual world.

- Sara Yeoman, Director

Membership Update



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 8 meeting: Tammy & Mike Cairns, Holly & Chris Breen,

Mary & Geoff Garrett, Jon Theurich, and Ginette & Steve Watson.

As of September 1, the OCWS had 1,109 members.

- Brian McDonald,
Director & Membership Chair

In Recognition and Appreciation of the OCWS Volunteers



While our most volunteer-intensive events weren't held this year, there were still a number of members who put in significant time helping plan and run the events that we did have. As the organization has only part-time employees, it relies on our volunteers 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 Wine Society rewards its volunteers with gift certificates redeemable for admission to OCWS events.

\$50 Discount Coupon

Betty Jo & Jay Newell
Leslie Brown
Chris & Hank Bruce
Carolyn Christian
Liz & Lloyd Corbett
Kevin Coy
Kevin Donnelly
Bill Forsch
Fran Gitsham
Terry McLean

Betty Jo & Jay Newell
Karyl Newton
Bruce & Jeannine Powers
Rochelle Randel
Ed Reyes
Germaine & Rob Romano
Peter Schlundt Bodien
Stacey Taylor

Barb & Dave White
\$25 Discount Coupon
Lynda Edwards
Carol Esslinger
Jane Goodnight
Larry Graham
Greg Hagadorn
Dawn Iglesias
Virginia Kawai
Jim Kerins

Linda McLean
Irene Scott
Dave & Tami Stancil
Richard Ward
Dave Wiegand
\$10 Discount Coupon
Damian Christian
Michael Del Medico
Jerry Guerin
Shelly Jayne

Karl Kawai
Ken Knapp
John Lane
Kevin Lite
Sam Puzzo
Dana Rutledge
Bob Topham

Thank you to the following volunteers for their efforts during the 2019-2020 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 will be posted to each member's account by the end of September, and can be used for events through the end of September 2021. The Board has also agreed to extend the expiration of unused volunteer coupons from 2018-2019 so they will be useable for events through the end of September 2021.

- *George Cravens, Volunteer Recognition Chair*

2020-2021 OCWS Scholarship Drive—Time to Wine-Up

Scholarships are important to the core of the OCWS, especially to the dedicated students we support. Due to COVID-19 and the cancellation of scholarship fundraising sources, the scholarship account has only **10% of what we funded last year at this time**. We have lost the top three and more of five sources that account for Undesignated (shared) and Designated (specific) Scholarship funds. We need the help of our generous OCWS members to Wine-Up Scholarships this fall.

Every new OCWS membership and renewal provides \$12.50 into our Scholarship Fund. This past year, the BOD twice suspended expiring memberships, for a total of 8 months of no incoming undesignated funds.

Judges' donations from our Commercial Wine Competition are combined and rotated in an annual order to one of our seven colleges and universities. There was no designated 2020 Judges' donation. The Courtyard at the OC Fair generates funds in two areas. Donations awarded from the onsite Featured Winery Program and winemakers serving at the Express Bar are divided between colleges that officially enter our competition. There was no 2020 designation.

The largest incoming annual source of almost half of the total OCWS scholarship funds every year are the tips/gratuity dona-

tions our fabulous volunteers generate over The Courtyard counter during the OC Fair. There are no undesignated sources this year from The Courtyard either.

Ways to Wine-Up. For this 2020 tax year, the CARES Act allows tax benefits in the form of a universal deduction up to \$300 toward 501(c)(3) organizations for those that do not itemize their deductions. As an alternative, you can make contributions directly from your IRA or 401(K) and avoid additional income on your individual return. Always check with your tax professional as how it applies to you.

On our OCWS website, click on Scholarship Program and Donations. You may designate your contribution toward a specific college. An undesignated option is to divide your contribution to be equally distributed between seven colleges. After you make your donation, you will be able to print your receipt for your tax records. The Cunningham Endowment is specifically designated to Sonoma State University and you must contribute separately to that account. With unprecedented disappointments this year, let's show that the OCWS can Wine-Up as a scholarship organization with benefits toward grateful recipients for 2021.

- *Leslie Hodowanec, Director & Scholarship Chair*

Wine Education 101: November & December Update to Schedule



Members, there has been an interruption in the schedule for the upcoming Wine Education seminars for November ("Pairing Wines With Your Holiday Meals") and December ("Celebrating the Holidays With Sparkling Wine"). These two classes are cancelled for the time being.

It has been a pleasure serving as your OCWS Wine Education Chair for the past two years.

*Irene Scott, WSET-3, CSWS
UC Davis Winemaking Certificate, 2020
OCWS Wine Education Chair 2018-2020*

Meeting and Staying Social from a Distance



These past months have been challenging for all of us in the Orange County Wine Society. This has caused the OCWS to rely more heavily on our older methods and get creative with new ways to keep in touch with our members. Our last in-person Quarterly Meeting was held in February, and we all miss them dearly.

The Winemakers' Group has leaned in to use all tools available to communicate with both our new winemakers as well as our more experienced (notice I'm not saying "OLD") members. We collaborated with Sara Yeoman and her team to provide additional content to be included in the virtual Summer Sunday Seminar series under topics titled "Winemaking for Mere Mortals" and twice-featured "Filtering, Fining and Bottling."

Adapting to this "2020 norm" (hoping it's not the NEW norm), we have conducted our Group Bottle and Group Cork Pur-

chases, and now that we are in grape picking season, we are conducting our Group Grape Purchase over email and Constant Contact.

The Winemakers' Group continues to conduct its programs, and for that, we have also turned to video conferencing over the Zoom platform. Thus far, under our group training program, we presented a 5-session class on "Kit Wine Making" where viewers followed along with their kit wines while instructor, Karyl Newton, made a kit wine on camera. We just conducted a lecture to support the Group Grape Purchase, discussing "How to Order Grapes," and "How to Pick Up the Grapes" in which Bill Forsch discussed procedures, and Bruce Powers did some crushing and destemming of his estate Sangiovese grapes over the Zoom virtual platform.

We conducted our "Pre-Fermentation" seminar for both red and white wines, and will be hosting a "Post Crush" seminar in a virtual setting. In spring, we will repeat the "Filtering, Fining and Bottling"

seminar as we get ready to finish up our 2020 vintage wines and start all over with 2021. We are also brainstorming with the idea of having a Winemakers' Group meeting in a virtual platform where everyone has their video turned on so that we may see dozens of "newer and older" faces.

While utilizing a virtual platform is not an ideal substitute for in-person meetings, it offers us a new way to snub our noses at the quarantine, while staying safe and keeping a safe distance. Continuing to build close, strong relationships can be challenging when communicating and connecting in a virtual setting with our remote members in order to engage, educate, and entertain - meeting that challenge is top of mind.

We all hope and look forward to when we can return to our "pre-2020 norm," but in the meantime, keep a bottle of (maybe homemade?) wine close, and I look forward to *seeing* you all, for the time being, in a virtual setting soon!

- Kevin Donnelly

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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OCWS Save the Date Calendar

October 11 Virtual Winery Webinar: Eberle Winery

Sundays, December 6 through February 28:

Virtual Winter Entertainment Seminars



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