



# The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 46, Issue 8, August 2022

## President's Message

### From the Heart

I have had the pleasure of being President of the OCWS twice now, four years apart, and have tried to use this column wisely as a forum to share some of the history of the organization, to give you a peek into the workings behind the scenes, and to highlight the magnitude of just what it takes to run this amazing organization. This article is a reaffirmation of something I wrote in 2018 and is different from other articles I have written in that I want to tell you why I think the OCWS is so incredible and why it holds a huge place in my heart.

To me, the Orange County Wine Society is a microcosm of what the entire world should be. We have members ranging from



their 20s to their 90s, members of all races, religions, political affiliations, and sexual orientations. We have doctors, lawyers, professors, law enforcement, salespeople, white and blue-collar workers. We have people that live from check to check and multi-millionaires. But none of this matters because what everyone in this organization has is heart and passion, and they don't care about the trimmings or the labels. They care about the success of the OCWS, its educational mission and fundraising, and the camaraderie that nowhere else in my life has been found elsewhere. This group has hundreds of people willing to go out of

their way to hold others up and come together for a better cause than oneself. Absolutely amazing in my estimation!

I have watched the people around me circle and embrace those in need of support as often as I have seen them laugh, dance, occasionally drink (okay, so that's a bit of an understatement), and work their tails off to make every aspect of our eclectic group a raving success. On a personal note, this group has held my heart at the highest points in my life, the years after my husband and I joined, and at the lowest point, when I was widowed. It was people within the OCWS that encouraged me to get back out into the world again, lifted me up and gave me the courage to help lead this organization, not once, but twice. I am so proud to be a Director and having had the opportunity to be your President.

With every new member, we continue to make more friends, have more fun, feel more fulfilled. The last couple of years left a hole in my heart in that I missed all the smiles and hugs, but they are back with a vengeance at the OC Fair this year and I could not be happier. I hope the Orange County Wine Society makes each of you as happy as it makes me and that our paths, and new ones, continue to cross often in the future, all while working for a common goal.

Until we next meet again. Cheers and L'Chaim.


- Fran Gitsham, President

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## Gold Medal Mini-Tasting

Saturday, August 27, 2022

6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Various Host Sites



The Gold Medal Mini-Tasting is a chance to taste many of the Gold Medal and Double Gold wines from this year's Commercial Wine Competition. The tasting will feature different varietals that won Gold Medals and we try to obtain as many Double Gold winners as possible.

This event is always a sell-out, so please sign up early! NOTE: If you are interested in hosting, please contact George Cravens by email at [George@ocws.org](mailto:George@ocws.org). If you'd like to request a specific host site or to car-pool with another member, please add a comment on your sign-up. When possible, the event will be held outside.

**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.

**Dish:** Each person/couple attending will sign up with their host site to bring a potluck dish (appetizer, entrée, side dish, or dessert) to serve a small portion to 16-18 people. There will be a special bottle of wine that evening as a prize for Chef of the Evening (voted on by the attendees of each site). Our winning Chefs of the Evening can have their recipe published on the OCWS website.

We are planning for ten sites for this Mini-Tasting. Sign-ups will open on Monday, July 11. Due to the high attendance at our Mini-Tasting programs, we encourage you to sign-up early as sites tend to fill quickly. Once sign-ups fill up, please call the OCWS office to be added to the waiting list.

The cut-off date for online sign-up is Friday, August 12. After this date, please contact the OCWS office to determine availability. Due to the advance purchase of wines, you will not receive a refund if you cancel after the cancellation deadline of Monday, August 15.

**- Bon Appétit, George Cravens**

*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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■ Twitter: [OCWineSociety](https://twitter.com/OCWineSociety)

2021 Wine Competition Results: [WineCompetition.com](http://WineCompetition.com)

OCWS Website Administrator: Wendy Taylor

OCWS Photographer: Jim Burk

## Featured Winery Program at the OC Fair

Lloyd and I would like to invite you to visit us, along with Betty Jo and Jay Newell, at the Featured Winery Bar during the OC Fair. We will be presenting wines from a different winery each Friday, Saturday and Sunday. You will get to meet the winemaker or a winery principal who will introduce you to their wines, answer your questions about their wines, their history with the winery, and any other inquiries you may have. We will be pouring tastes for you to enjoy.

Our participants are scheduled to present from 1 pm to 7 pm, as featured below.

All proceeds from the Featured Winery Bar go to the OCWS Scholarship Fund.

Please come make new friends, learn more about wines, and enjoy yourself.

**- Liz & Lloyd Corbett,  
Featured Winery Program Co-chairs**

Date	Winery
August 5	Gelson's Private Label Wines, Jake Cheung
August 6	Orange Coast Winery
August 7	TBD
August 12	Vinos Unidos Winery, Chris Jaregui
August 13	Shale Oak Winery, Curtis Hascall
August 14	Bushong Vintage Co., Jason Bushong



## Announcing the OCWS Photography Contest



The OCWS is starting a photography contest and you are invited to participate! As you might have guessed, the subject is "Wine," but this can mean many things to many people. Do you have a great shot of the sun filtering through the vines just before picking? Or an action shot of wine being poured with some great swirls in the glass? Or a romantic shot of a couple toasting

each other with some wine? These are just a couple ideas, and I am sure you have many more ideas of that great shot involving wine in some way.

Each month the Photography Committee will select a "Photo of the Month" for publication in an upcoming *Wine Press*. The ultimate goal is to publish an OCWS Calendar, consisting of the 12 best photos of the year. These may or may not be the 12 monthly winners.

The rules are simple:

1. Entrants must be OCWS members in good standing and the submitted photo must have been photographed by the OCWS member when he/she was an active member.
2. The photo must be somehow wine oriented. It may be of a winery, a vineyard, the winemaking process, the finished

product or simply the consumption. But don't limit yourself to these ideas!

3. The photo may be submitted to the photography committee anytime but will be considered only for the month it was submitted. There is a limit of five (5) submissions per month.
4. Upon submission, the photo becomes the property of the OCWS, so before you submit it make sure it is your property. Please get permission from any people in the photo to use for OCWS marketing purposes.
5. The photo may be submitted in any either JPEG, RAW, TIFF, or Photoshop format. Any size is acceptable, but is preferred to be at least 3000x2400 pixels, which is an 8x10 shot at 300 dpi for printing.

To submit a picture attach it in an email to [Jim@JBurk.net](mailto:Jim@JBurk.net). Be sure to include your name, phone number, picture location and picture title.

If you have any questions contact Jim Burk at [Jim@JBurk.net](mailto:Jim@JBurk.net), OCWS photographer and head of the OCWS photography committee.

**- Jim Burk, OCWS Photographer**

# It's Not Your Same Old Chili Cook Off

It's time once again for the Annual OCWS Chili Cook Off—**Saturday, October 1 from 2 pm to 7 pm at The Courtyard.**

We are planning on having a live band and are looking for one that can play whatever music genre suits our fancy. Whether we favor '60s, '70s or '80s, swing or country western, ballroom or salsa, they will play something for everyone.

Every entry will be eligible for the Peoples' Choice and Best Presentation Award, **but entries will be eligible for only one Award in Category One.**

Chili Award categories are:

<b>Category One</b>	<b>Category Two</b>
<b>Best Chili with Beans</b>	<b>People's Choice</b>
<b>Best Chili without Beans</b>	<b>Best Presentation</b>
<b>Best Chili with Wine—1)</b>	
<b>Most Unusual Chili—2)</b>	
<b>Best New Member Chili—3)</b>	
<b>1) Wine should be a key element in your chili;</b>	
<b>2) Unusual chili includes vegetarian chili and white chili; and</b>	
<b>3) A new member is anyone who joined after October 1, 2019 and did not participate in the 2019 Chili Cook Off.</b>	

Contestants must select a category from the list under Category One and may get an Award only in the category selected. All contestants are eligible to win an Award under Category Two even if in addition to an Award under Category One.

Now is your chance to show off your cooking skills and enter your own special brew!

If cooking is not your fancy and you just want to taste, you can simply attend and sample the many Chilis being offered, that is great too! At 2 pm, the event will formally begin and all entries will be available for general Chili tasting. For those who only want "taste," the admission price is \$45 for members and \$50 for guests.

In addition to all the great diverse Chili, our Cooks' Caucus will be back cooking up barbecue picnic fare with all the accompaniments. We will have a wide variety of wines to cool your tongue after tasting the Chilis.

All Chili entrants will be awarded a bottle of wine for your efforts. Prize-winning Chili Chefs will be awarded the highly cov-



eted **Engraved Chili Ladle.** Our distinguished panel of judges from the Culinary Arts Department at Orange Coast College will again do the honors of tasting and judging the Chilis.

Each Chili team will be allowed a space 30 inches by 4 feet wide to set up their chili display (**there are no larger display areas**). The displays will be judged and a "**Best Presentation**" Award given to the most impressive.

At least one Chili Team contestant must be an OCWS member in good standing. Chili Team contestants are admitted free (up to a maximum of two members per team). Cooks must sign up online by Wednesday, September 21. Attendees must sign up online by Wednesday, September 28.

If you would like to volunteer to help put on this fun event (and we really need your help), please contact our volunteer coordinator Alice Polsner at [Ajpolser@gmail.com](mailto:Ajpolser@gmail.com).

## ~ Chili Cook-off Rules ~

1. Each team will consist of **no more than two cooks**, one of which must be an OCWS member
2. Each Chili Team will have **no more than four linear feet** of work/display area
3. Each entry must provide at least six quarts of Chili
4. Contestants will have access to set up starting at 9:30 am
5. Chili must be ready for judging by 12 noon; presentations must be ready for judging by 2 pm
6. You need to provide a way to keep the chili hot (camp stove, crock pot, etc.)
7. If you'll need electricity, you must furnish your own extension cord. Electric "spiders" will be located around the serving area. Extension cords must be the heavy-duty type
8. Bring your own ladle or spoon for serving
9. OCWS will provide tasting cups and spoons

**- Brian McDonald, Chair & Alice Polsner, Co-chair**

# Winemakers Newsroom

## Celebrating Our OCWS Winemakers

Our Quarterly Meeting and Potluck was held Saturday, July 9 at the home of Robin McCormick in Laguna Beach. Over 40 winemakers and friends gathered to enjoy our wines, socialize and discuss upcoming events.

In attendance were two of the Home Wine Competition “Best of Show” winners. These Awards recognize the “best of the best,” and I had the pleasure to present them to two of our very own OCWS home winemakers:



Stuart Fricke presented with “Best of Show” White Wine Award

Stuart Fricke who won “Best of Show” white wine for his 2020 Gewurtztraminer.

Jim Kerins who won “Best of Show” red wine for his 2021 Tempranillo.

These Awards are a huge accomplishment for Stuart and Jim.

It also speaks volumes about the level of winemaking prowess of our OCWS Winemakers’ Group. The winners were among 560 entries in the recent Home Wine Competition. For our members to garner “Best of Show” Awards in two of the four categories says a lot about how skilled our winemakers are.



Jim Kerins presented with “Best of Show” Red Wine Award

## OCWS Board of Directors Election

### ELECTION

Oversite of the OCWS is seen by a nine-member Board of Directors, which finds three members’ terms ending each year. The organization, as you all know it, does not run itself. Needless to say, intelligent, innovative, open minded, problem solving, and results oriented people are the key to the leadership of the group. The majority of our members have these skills already, and it’s that time of year to consider stepping up to help lead the way. If you know the organization and have been a volunteer along the way, you just might be among the people to take a lead position.

The beginning of a three-year term on the Board of Directors, according to the By-Laws, shall be staggered such that three members’ terms expire each year. The three vacated positions are filled each year by a vote of the OCWS membership, following the Annual Business Meeting which, this year, will be



The plaques themselves are very impressive too. One new winemaker in attendance told me afterward that she wants to enter her wines into the Home Wine Competition next year in the hopes of winning one of those.

While we celebrated our accomplishments and Awards from the Competition, we started thinking about the upcoming harvest and making new wines.

**Grape Purchase Update.** Our next grape purchase is being planned and one of our longtime winemakers, Bruce Powers, will once again be coordinating the grape purchase.

We will be sourcing Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel grapes and fresh Chardonnay juice from our longtime source in Dry Creek Valley, Sonoma. We also have access to other varietals sourced from Lucas and Lewellan Vineyards in Santa Barbara County. OCWS winemakers have been making wine from grapes sourced from these vineyards for many years. These grapes always produce high quality wines which, through the years have garnered many awards in the Home Wine Competition.

Winemakers, be on the lookout for details on the upcoming grape purchase. For those of you who are new to winemaking and want to get started please contact me at [Ed@ocws.org](mailto:Ed@ocws.org) for more information. If working with fresh grapes seems intimidating you can also make wine from kits or frozen juice. These are available year-round and are a great way for a new winemaker to learn the craft.

- Ed Reyes, Winemakers’ Group

held on Friday, September 9, 2022, and will be held virtually via Zoom.

The overall time commitment for a member of the Board varies, based upon assignments and participation. The ultimate goal of the Board is for members to run OCWS programming, with the Board acting as mentors and liaisons regarding budgets, event timing and placement, and for the Board to function as an oversight committee, focusing on compliance with the By-Laws, insurance, OC Fair compliance, liability exposure, etc., and generally running the business of the organization.

A candidate, ideally, should possess some of the following skills:

- General knowledge of the OCWS events and activities
- Prior experience as a volunteer

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## OCWS Board of Directors Election

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- The ability and time to help organize events throughout the year
- Selected event and budget management skills
- Be a member in good standing

To declare candidacy for a position on the Board of Directors, a candidate must present a Declaration of Candidacy, in writing, by mail or via electronic media to the Election Chair no later than fourteen (14) calendar days (which is August 26, 2022) prior to the scheduled Annual Business Meeting.

Statements of Candidacy will be posted on the OCWS website and, during the Annual Business Meeting, declared candidates

## OCWS Varietal Hours are Back!

The OCWS Varietal Hours are coming back! Join us starting Monday, August 29 at 7 pm and every other Monday at 7 pm, for a virtual happy hour that you can enjoy from home!

What are the advantages of the Varietal Hour?

- No need to clean your house for guests, but you can still see your friends.
- No need to drive home after enjoying a few glasses of wine!
- No need to share your wine with others (more for you), except to share a description of what you are enjoying with fellow attendees.
- You can see your OCWS friends, even if they are half way across the globe.
- You can try new wines you wouldn't normally try when following the theme of the week.
- You can hear about great wines before you try them (or not so great wines so you don't have to try them).

will have an opportunity to address the attending membership. A written Statement of Qualifications is required to be presented to the Election Committee no later than five (5) calendar days after receipt by the Election Chair of a Declaration of Candidacy.

The OCWS continues to thrive thanks in great part to the leadership of the organization over the last 47 years. If helping take the helm of this amazing group is of interest to you, please feel free to contact Sara Yeoman at [Sara@ocws.org](mailto:Sara@ocws.org) with any questions related to Director Responsibilities, the election process or anything else. Thank you.

- Sara Yeoman, 2022 Election Chair

- You can come as you are and don't need to dress up!
- You can purchase a new wine or find something in your cellar that fits the theme.
- It's a FREE event!

Even though this event is FREE, you will need to register on the OCWS website by the Sunday night before the event. A link for the meeting is emailed to you on the day of the event.

We are also looking for hosts for each week for future varietal hours. No experience is necessary! We will guide you through the process and handle the Zoom meeting functions for you.

Please contact Carolyn at [Carolyn@ocws.org](mailto:Carolyn@ocws.org) or George Cravens at [George@ocws.org](mailto:George@ocws.org) with any questions or suggestions.

We look forward to Zooming with you soon at one of the future Varietal Hours! Cheers!

- Carolyn Christian & George Cravens, Directors

DATE	TIME	VARIETAL	Hosts
8/29/2022	7:00 PM	Your Favorite Summer Wine	Sam & Kim Clark
9/12/2022	7:00 PM	Zinfandel	Janet Riordan
9/26/2022	7:00 PM	Unique Varietal Wines	Don & Elee Phillips
10/10/2022	7:00 PM	Non-US Wines	Ed Reyes
10/24/2022	7:00 PM	Rhone Varietal Wines	Cathy & Lee Painter
11/7/2022	7:00 PM	Italian Varietal Wines	Cheryl & Ken Knapp
11/21/2022	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Wines	Stuart & Nancy Fricke
12/5/2022	7:00 PM	Southern Hemisphere Wines	George Cravens
12/19/2022	7:00 PM	Holiday Wines	Damian & Carolyn Christian

## The Courtyard Crew– Set Up and Tear Down

**This is How It's Done:** It took three days for our talented veteran volunteers to set up The Courtyard for the 2022 OC Fair. With things around us quickly changing every day, new features and with our special touches, we passed all our inspections to make The Courtyard a safe place to meet, greet and appreciate.

It is from our Courtyard teams and your generous service that promote our organization in many ways throughout the year. And importantly, the donations generated fund our scholarship account. New members could experience interesting tidbits



few of us get to see, and there will be more opportunities to get involved for the OC Fair in 2023. Sorry we cannot keep The Courtyard looking so nice all year long!

**The Tear Down Team** will assemble in The Courtyard the day after the Fair ends to take it all down in one day, **Monday, August 15 at 9 am until 3 pm**. Contact Leslie Hodowanec at [Les@ocws.org](mailto:Les@ocws.org) to sign up. Lunch will be provided.

If you're smiling when you walk into The Courtyard, thank the Set Up Team! We are one facet of many that it takes to pull off the OC Fair. We hope you enjoy some photos below of our dedicated OCWS team in action and **THANK YOU CREW!**

**- Leslie Hodowanec, The Courtyard Set Up and Tear Down Coordinator**



## 2022 Annual Business Meeting



Our Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 9 at 7 pm. In order to continue our practice of being fiscally responsible and to reach the most members possible, this year's meeting will be presented over Zoom.

During this meeting, viewers will hear updated information about the current state of the Wine Society, including our financial condition. We will highlight what has been accomplished during the past year, including a recap of our two wine competitions and the OC Fair, and discuss the upcoming events we have planned for the remainder of the year.

Our Annual Election of three members for the Board of Directors is coming up, and we will introduce you to candidates who will present their qualifications and interests as potential Board members live. There will be time set aside for questions and

answers and Committee Chairs available to provide more insight.

Sign-up for attendance will be open August 1 through our OCWS website under the Events tab. Reminder announcements will also be pushed out to the membership during August. There is no cost to attend this Zoom meeting.

The 2021/22 OCWS Board of Directors looks forward to you attending as we review our past year and look forward to the 2022/23 calendar year. The meeting will be concluded in accordance with OCWS Bylaws and government regulations for 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

We look forward to having you log into this important event!

**- Fran Gitsham, President**

## Members 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 June 2022 meeting: **Trevor Rothman, Dennis Dascanio, and Mercinilda Silva & Rivail Ferreira.** As of July 1, the OCWS has 897 members.

For new members trying to log into the website, go to [OCWS.org](http://OCWS.org). Your default login is the primary member's email address. The default password is the primary member's zip code. Both of these may be changed under the tab "My Account" once you log on. However, there may be only one login/password per membership.

- **Brian McDonald, Director & Membership Chair**

## Save the Date

**Bubbles 'n Brunch**

**Sunday, October 9, 2022**

**Location & Time: To be Announced**



Please Save the Date to attend our Bubbles 'n Brunch event. More details to follow in an upcoming *Wine Press*.

- **Rochelle Randel, Champagne Brunch 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](mailto:WinePress@ocws.org)

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## OCWS Save the Date Calendar

Through—August 14	OC Fair
August 27	Gold Medal Mini-Tasting
September 9	Annual Business Meeting
October 1	Chili Cook Off
October 9	Bubbles 'n Brunch
November 5	Winemakers' Group Quarterly Meeting & Potluck, Location TBA

### Varietal Hour:

August 29	Your Favorite Summer Wine
September 12	Zinfandel
September 26	Unique Varietal Wines
October 10	Non-US Wines
October 24	Rhône Varietal Wine



[www.ocws.org](http://www.ocws.org)

