

# The Wine Press

## Brown's Bits & Bytes...

Volume 34, Issue 1 ~ January 2010

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful, relaxing, and joyful holiday with friends and family.

The OCWS kicked off the festive season in early December at our annual Holiday Dinner and Dance. In addition to enjoying great food, wine, company, and music, our members were extremely generous in their gifts for the Marines' Toys for Tots Program. Thank you all for your concern for those less fortunate, especially in these difficult times.

As we begin our thirty-fourth year, several committees are hard at work planning great events for the coming year. Chris Cunningham has lined up several wineries for our monthly programs beginning with Siduri Winery on Friday, January 8. This event promises to sell out quickly so if you haven't signed up yet, please do so.

The Wine Extraordinaire Committee, led by Sam Puzzo, is working diligently planning another major tasting event. The Extraordinaire, scheduled for Sunday, February 28 at the

Anaheim Hilton, will feature boutique wineries. It promises to be a great afternoon of excellent wines, food, and a wonderful auction. Since this is one of our major events requiring many hours of planning and expense, it is important that as many of our members attend as possible. Plan on attending and bring a friend or two or three or more!

Jim Beard has planned another great year of Mini-Tastings for us beginning with a Pinot tasting in late March. Plans for the "Sip

*(Continued on page 3)*

## January Tasting ~ "Siduri"

Siduri produces single vineyard Pinot Noir wines from twenty different vineyards stretching all the way from Santa Barbara to the Willamette Valley in Oregon. We will taste some of their hand-crafted wines from five of these vineyards. All of Siduri's Pinot Noir is produced unfiltered and unfinned.

The evening's event will commence with a tasting of Siduri's Pinot Noir Blanc. Additionally, we will be tasting three Novy wines. As a courtesy to our members, all Siduri wines will be available for purchase that evening. All wines ordered at the tasting will be discounted and include free shipping.

Plan now to join Adam Lee and your fellow OCWS members for a delightful evening of Pinot Noirs, informative facts, a light meal, and all for \$33 for members and \$38 for guests.

The DoubleTree Hotel in Santa Ana is the place.

*(Continued on page 3)*

# January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 	9
10	11	12 	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## January

- 8 Monthly Tasting ~ Siduri ~ DoubleTree Hotel ~ Santa Ana / OC Airport ~ Details in newsletter
- 12 Winemaker Group Planning Meeting ~ Details in newsletter
- 23 Winemaker Group ~ Rancho de Philo Sherry Seminar ~ Details in newsletter

## February

- 6 Winemaker Group activities ~ Details in newsletter
- 12 Monthly Tasting ~ DoubleTree Hotel ~ Santa Ana / OC Airport ~ Kenneth Volk Winery
- 28 Wine Extraordinaire ~ Anaheim Hilton Hotel ~ Details in newsletter

## March

- 12 Monthly Tasting ~ DoubleTree Hotel ~ Santa Ana / OC Airport ~ Byron
- 18 - 21 "Sip & Swirl" in Santa Ynez ~ Details in newsletter
- 27 Mini-Tasting ~ "Pinot Noir" ~ OCWS Members' Homes

## April

- 9 Monthly Tasting ~ DoubleTree Hotel ~ Santa Ana / OC Airport ~ Dutcher Crossing

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The OCWS welcomes your letters and comments. All topics from complaints about the organization, to questions about wine and winemaking may be addressed. Send to: OCWS, Attention: Editor, *The Wine Press*. Your name can be withheld on request.

The OCWS 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. For your convenience, our office is staffed five days per week along with our 24-hour answering and facsimile machines. Additionally, the OCWS has a web site with email and secure event sign-up capability. Visit us online at [www.ocws.org](http://www.ocws.org).

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## Brown's Bits... (Cont'd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

and Swirl in Santa Ynez", led by Ron Gottesman's committee, are well underway and sign-ups have begun. Please see the specific articles for each of these events in the newsletter for more details, volunteer opportunities, and sign-up information.

Because of the close relationship between the OCWS and the Orange County Fair and Event Center, the future of the Fairgrounds is of great concern to us as it is to all residents of Orange County. It is important that we are prepared to meet all eventualities. To that end, Larry Graham has agreed to chair a committee exploring our options and preparing for our future, depending on the events of the next few months with regard to the sale. As the year progresses, we should have more information and we will keep the membership informed. Even with all the rumors and concerns, the Hangar Building is nearing completion and other improvements to the Fairgrounds are continuing.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our future events.

***Leslie Brown***

## January Tasting... (Cont'd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Dinner will be served at 6:45, with the meeting starting at 7:30. This event will be a sell out; don't wait—signup now!

See you there!

***Chris Cunningham***

## February Tasting ~ “Kenneth Volk Vineyards”

Proprietor Ken Volk has been making Santa Barbara and Central Coast wines for more than a quarter century. Perhaps best known as the founder of Wild Horse Winery, Ken has earned a reputation for crafting world-class wines, particularly Pinot Noir and Chardonnay from the Santa Maria Valley.

In 1981, Ken and the Volk family established Wild Horse Vineyard and constructed Wild Horse Winery. Over the next twenty-two years, production grew from 600 to 150,000 cases.

In 2003, he sold Wild Horse Winery & Vineyards to Peak Wines International, a division of Jim Beam Brands Worldwide. In December of 2004, Ken purchased the “Original” Byron Winery facility from the Robert Mondavi Corporation and renamed the property Kenneth Volk Vineyards. In 2006 the first wines were released.

Ken has hinted about doing a regional Pinot Noir seminar, showcasing the Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, Santa Rita Hills, and Santa Lucia Highlands areas.

Join us on February 12 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Santa Ana. Price and setup is the same as January’s meeting. Advance sign-up form is located at the back pages of the newsletter. More information next month!

**Chris**

## “Sip & Swirl” in Santa Ynez

Join your Wine Society friends as we tour wineries in the Santa Ynez area, March 18 - 21. Be prepared for unique experiences not normally available to the public. For those who have been on our previous trips, you can tell your fellow members what a first-class experience it was. For those who have not been on one of our trips, or have wanted to visit a wine-growing area and taste more wines, this is it! Sign up now for an experience you won’t forget. Great wine, great food, and friends. This is what life is about. And you get to relax and enjoy; no worries, everything is taken care of—the hotel, the food, the wine, and the transportation. And we have negotiated better prices thus enabling us to drop the price to \$750 per person double occupancy or \$1,000 single occupancy.

A variety of wine tasting experiences await you as we tour wineries throughout the region including the Santa Rita Hills, Lompoc Wine Ghetto, Santa Ynez, Foxen Canyon, and Santa Maria. We’ve planned an event which not only includes tasting, but also wine education, tours, barrel tastings, and question and answer sessions with winemakers.

These smaller and more intimate settings may be off the beaten path and in a variety of locations, but they share one thing—it’s all about great wine; Pinot Noir, Rhône styles, Italian varietals, Syrah, Riesling, Chardonnay, and more. You name it, they produce it and we’ll taste it.

Our trip begins Thursday as we drive to our lovely Four-Star boutique hotel, the Hadsten House, located in the beautiful Danish village of Solvang. After meeting everyone, we will be taken by bus to two of our favorite wineries, Alma Rosa and Lafond, then to a Champagne Reception and dinner in Solvang. On Friday, our bus will take us to wineries in the Santa Rita Hills. The first winery Clos Pepe, is usually not open to the public and will feature a discussion on the features and microclimates of the region and why it produces world-class Pinot Noir. We will stop at Melville Winery on our way to the “Lompoc Wine Ghetto.” If you’ve never been to the ghetto, don’t let the location and name fool you. This area is known for producers of unique, small lot wineries such as Palmina, La Vie, and FiddleHeads. Friday evening, we’ll return to our hotel for a Champagne Reception and dinner. On Saturday, we’ll visit wineries along the Foxen Canyon Trail for tastings and lunch. Right now, our schedule includes Curtis, Zaca Mesa, and Cambria wineries. Our bus then continues up into the Santa Maria area where we’ll visit Cambria winery and have dinner. Our trip concludes with a Sunday Brunch in Solvang.

The “Sip & Swirl” includes all meals, tastings (except in the wine ghetto), tours, hotel accommodations, and bus transportation for the entire weekend. It’s always more fun to go tasting with a group and what could be better than with people

*(Continued on page 5)*

## **“Sip & Swirl” (Cont’d)**

*(Continued from page 4)*

who know and enjoy wine—your fellow Wine Society friends, and as luck (or did we plan it that way?) would have it, we are there the same weekend as the Taste of Solvang Food and Wine Festival. How good is that! Go to [www.solvangusa.com](http://www.solvangusa.com) for more information.

Come and experience the lovely springtime weather and scenery this area has to offer. Enjoy rolling green hills, wild mustard in bloom, and bud break on the vines. Deposits are being taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Hurry—space is extremely limited!

The cost of the trip is \$750 per person (2 per room) and \$1,000 for singles (one per room). A deposit of \$250 per person must be received along with your reservation. A second payment of \$250 per person is due by February 1 and your final payment will be due by March 1. Make your reservation through the Orange County Wine Society at [www.ocws.org](http://www.ocws.org), use the sign-up at the back of the newsletter, or call 714.708.1636. When the trip fills up, names will be placed on a waiting list.

**Ron Gottesman**  
**And the Trip Planning Committee**

## **Membership ~ “Who’s New?”**

The OCWS would like to welcome the following new members whose membership in the organization was approved by the Board of Directors at the December Board meeting.

*Dan Ellingson  
John Gallagher  
Robert Karalian  
Darcie McClelland  
Susan Wade and Robert Miller*

We are pleased to welcome you to the OCWS and encourage you to attend as many of our functions as your time permits. Most new members really get to know the Society and its members by volunteering to help with one or more of our events.

One of our major events which requires many volunteers is the Wine Extraordinaire to be held on Sunday, February 28. Also, don’t miss our January Monthly Meeting which promises to be a wonderful tasting. More information on these events and volunteer sign-up forms are located in the newsletter and on the web site.

As of the December Board of Directors’ Meeting, there are 939 members consisting of 373 dual memberships and 193 single memberships.

**Leslie Brown**  
**Membership Chair**

## Mini-Tasting ~ “Pinot Noir”

The first Mini-Tasting of the year will be held on Saturday, March 27, at 6:00 p.m. at various host sites. Ten wines will be provided and grouped into five flights for serving at each site.

Host sites will be announced to those attending approximately one week prior to the event, including directions and a map to the host site. Every effort is made to place you at the location nearest your home or to accommodate your site-specific request. However, your assigned host site is also based on the order in which your sign-up is received in the OCWS office. If you are interested in hosting the event, have attended at least one Mini-Tasting and can easily accommodate 16 people plus yourself, call Janet Hammond at 714.708.1636. If you serve as hosts, you attend the Mini-Tasting for free. The cost to attend is \$35 for members and guests. Each person attending is requested to bring a potluck dish (appetizer, entrée, side dish, or dessert) to serve at least 8 to 10 people and designed to match the theme of the tasting (couples may need to double the recipe).

As usual, there will be a special bottle of wine that evening as a prize for Chef-of-the-Evening. Get out those gourmet cookbooks and try something special to share. Our winning Chefs-of-the-Evening may have their recipe published on the OCWS website. Many fine wine recipes can be found in your favorite cook book or on the web.

To attend, just complete the sign-up in this newsletter or on the OCWS website. We are currently planning a maximum of six sites so the Mini-Tasting is limited to a maximum of 96 attendees. Wines for the evening are selected and purchased approximately one week prior to the event. Therefore, unless there is a waiting list you will not be refunded your money if you cannot attend. Cut-off date for event sign up is Wednesday, March 17.

Desserts may be limited at the discretion of the host. We ask each attendee to call the host 2 to 4 days prior to the tasting to advise the host what food the attendee desires to bring. Using this approach, attendees will enjoy a greater variety of food pairings with delicious wines. We have a high attendance at our Mini-Tasting Program, and as such, we encourage you to sign-up early as some sites tend to fill quickly.

Bon Appétit,

**Jim Beard**

**Ron Gottesman**

## 2010 Mini-Tasting Schedule

Four Mini-Tastings are planned for 2010 to be held at member host sites. The following four Saturday Mini-Tastings are planned...

March 27	Pinot Noir
May 22	Cabernet Sauvignon, Red Meritage, and Syrah
July 10	Orange County Fair Gold Medal Winners
October 30	Zinfandel

The price for the Pinot Noir Mini-Tasting will be raised to \$35 for all attendees. There will only be ten Pinot Noirs poured for this tasting instead of the normal twelve wines. The intent is to pour better quality wines.

The three remaining Mini-Tastings will be at the normal price of \$25 for members and \$30 for non – members. These Mini-Tastings will be the normal six flights or twelve wines.

We are very grateful to the few members who consistently host our Mini-Tastings and want to thank them for opening their homes to this event. We need additional volunteers to host the Mini-Tastings for this year, so if you have attended a Mini-Tasting and would like to host one or more of the above events please notify Jim Beard at 949.302.7286 or Janet at the OCWS Office at 714.708.1636.

For those who are new members or have not hosted a Mini-Tasting, these events are one of the best ways to meet other members, enjoy great food, and taste excellent wines. They are held in OCWS members' homes throughout Orange County and consist of up to sixteen attendees plus the hosts. The hosts are supplied with the wines plus supplies for the tasting including glasses, dump buckets, water pitchers, pour spouts, and disposable plates, napkins, and eating utensils. Finally, if you serve as hosts, you attend the Mini-Tasting for free!

See you at the Tastings!

**Jim Beard**

**Ron Gottesman**

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## **Wine Extraordinaire Silent Auction and Raffle Request**

Just a reminder that Silent Auction Coordinator, Dolorie Thurner, is still collecting those new knickknacks and gift items that have been sent to you by your favorite wineries. You know, those wine-related goodies that you set aside, hoping to someday find a use for them and remain locked away in a closet in their original packaging? Perhaps, it's even time to clean out your wine cellar. We'll gladly accept bottles from your private wine collection, take them off your hands, and will re-gift them into our Silent Auction baskets!

Maybe you own a store or operate a business and are looking for tax-deductible donations? Maybe the business you work for is looking for ways to provide charitable donations. The OCWS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which means that donations to the OCWS are tax deductible. We can provide a receipt upon request.

Please bring donated items to any future OCWS meeting from now until the Wine Extraordinaire and give them to Dolorie Thurner, Sam Puzzo, Janet Hammond, or any Board Member. Dolorie will arrange for a pick-up if you like, just give her a call at 562.430.5802. You can also bring a donation to the Wine Extraordinaire event on February 28, the day of the event. Please be sure to include your name and phone number on any donated item.

***Dolorie Thurner***  
***Extraordinaire Raffle Coordinator***

## **Holiday Dinner & Dance "Wrap"**

On December 4, 110 members and guests from the OCWS met at the DoubleTree Hotel in Santa Ana for our annual Holiday Dinner and Dance. We began with passed appetizers and Champagne, accompanied by John Goodnight playing carols on the keyboard. As we went into dinner, Kevin and Sean, our two representatives from the U.S. Marine Corps, thanked our members for their generous contribution of toys for the Toys for Tots Program. Both young men had just returned from Iraq and were grateful to us for the toys whereas we were all very grateful to them for their service to our country. Following a tasty dinner and fine wines, members danced the night away to the sounds of Night Shift, our band for the past several years. A great time was had by all.

I want to thank Robyn and Dean Strom for their help in setting up the participation of the Marines for the Toys for Tots Program and to emphasize the generosity of our membership in bringing so many toys to provide a happy holiday for a child who might not have had any gifts. Thanks also to John Aust, Karl and Virginia Kawai, Dave Brown, Jim Beard, Ron Gottesman, Sam Puzzo, and Dean Strom for help with check in and Champagne pouring.

***Leslie Brown***

# The 2010 Wine Extraordinaire

Anaheim Hilton Hotel  
Sunday, February 28, 2010  
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
777 Convention Way  
Anaheim

The end is near! There are less than 60 days to the OCWS wine tasting event of the year—the 2010 Wine Extraordinaire! Please make plans for you and your friends to join us for this year's event on Sunday, February 28, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Hilton Anaheim. Consider this the Shopping Mall of Wines with over 65 wineries under one roof. Don't miss the chance to visit some celebrity members of the OCWS, such as Sam Puzzo, Event Chairman, Carol Frank at the merchandise table, OCWS President Leslie Brown and Mr. Everything, John Goodnight, when you check out after a successful bid on a terrific item.

Enjoy wines from wineries producing under 25,000 cases, food selections from local restaurants, exciting raffle and silent auction prizes, and a souvenir Riedel wine glass for tasting. This promises to be another great event and should not be missed! All these items are included for the amazing price of \$50 with a tax deductible portion of \$35. Designated drivers are also welcome to attend for only \$25. Tickets to the Extraordinaire will make great gifts for your wine-loving family and friends. You won't find a better deal anywhere!

The Wine Extraordinaire is one of our major fundraisers for the year. We hold this event each year for two important reasons: 1) to showcase these low-production wineries to the public, and 2) to raise funds for our Scholarship Program.

I am soliciting your help. We have a goal of selling an additional 100 tickets more than last year's event. The 2009 event only sold 308 full-price tickets, including our volunteers, who received a rebate for their help. We need to get 410. Even if you are not attending, please let your friends and co-workers know of the event. Let's work together to reach our goal. A fundraiser that barely covers our cost is not a good thing. Additionally, we need food purveyors and restaurants. If you can enlist an attending restaurant or food purveyor or supply us with a name and address and they ultimately attend, you will receive two complimentary tickets to the event. If you just want to give us the name of a restaurant we will contact them. Send any restaurant names to Sam Puzzo at my e-mail address in the newsletter. If you have any ideas or suggestions for selling tickets please call me.

The Wine Extraordinaire requires about 80 volunteers to make it run smoothly. There are a number of volunteer opportunities available throughout the event. As an added incentive, all volunteers will receive a \$25 rebate after the event. All volunteers must pay for their ticket to the event in advance before their volunteer request will be processed.

Please do not discount your ticket price when purchasing your ticket. Rebates will be sent to volunteers after the event in March.

## Ticket Information

Now through Friday, February 26  
OCWS Members - \$50  
Non-Members - \$50  
Designated Drivers - \$25  
(no group sales rates)

After February 26 (at the door price)  
Members - \$50  
Non-Members - \$60  
Designated Drivers - \$25

Come join us for the 2010 Wine Extraordinaire: Small Wineries...Big Wines and help the OCWS fulfill its mission to promote the knowledge and education of wine. Please refer to the next page for the Volunteer Sign-up Form and to the back of the newsletter for the Event Sign-up Form. For additional questions regarding the event, please contact Sam Puzzo, Event Chair, at [sampocws@earthlink.net](mailto:sampocws@earthlink.net).

See you at the event,

**Sam Puzzo**

# 2010 Wine Extraordinaire Volunteer Sign-Up

Member _____ Address _____ Day Phone _____ Email address _____	Co-Member _____ City & Zip _____ Night Phone _____
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*Please complete and mail/fax to the OCWS office (fax 714.546.5002). Volunteer shifts will be filled in the order they are received. Ticket purchase must accompany volunteer sign-up (see back of newsletter for ticket purchase form.)*

Select the shift(s) desired. Choosing more than one shift increases chances. Circle M for Member or C for Co-Member

1st 2nd	M	1st 2nd	C	AREA	ASSIGNMENT	SHIFT HOURS	SHIFTS REQ'D
	M		C	Guest Check-In	Guest Check-In	1:00 - 3:00	10
	M		C	Guest Check-In	Guest Late Check-In / Clean-Up	1:30 - 3:30	2
	M		C	Vendor Check-In	Food / Winery Check-In	10:45 - 12:45	4
	M		C	Vendor Check-In	Food / Winery Check-In	12:45 - 2:45	4
	M		C	Vendor Check-In	Food / Winery Check-In	1:00 - 3:00	1
	M		C	Vendor Check-In	Wine / Food Escort	10:45 - 12:45	2
	M		C	Vendor Check-In	Wine / Food Escort	12:30 - 2:30	4
	M		C	Dock	Wine / Food Mover	10:45 - 12:45	5
	M		C	Dock	Wine / Food Mover - Elevator Operator	12:30 - 2:30	1
	M		C	Dock	Wine / Food Mover	12:30 - 2:30	5
	M		C	Dock	Wine / Food Mover	4:00 - 6:00	2
	M		C	Raffle	Raffle Ticket Sales	1:30 - 3:30	5
	M		C	Raffle	Raffle Ticket Sales	3:30 - 5:30	5
	M		C	Raffle	Raffle Assistant	1:00 - 3:00	2
	M		C	Raffle	Raffle Assistant	1:30 - 3:30	2
	M		C	Raffle	Raffle Assistant	3:30 - 5:30	4
	M		C	Raffle	Raffle Assistant / Clean-Up	4:00 - 6:00	2
	M		C	Restaurants	Restaurant Set-Up	11:00 - 1:00	2
	M		C	Restaurants	Restaurant Server	1:30 - 3:30	2
	M		C	Restaurants	Food Supplies (Re-stock)	1:30 - 3:30	2
	M		C	Restaurants	Food Supplies (Re-stock / Clean-Up)	3:30 - 5:30	2
	M		C	Restaurants	Food Clean-Up / General Clean-Up	4:00 - 6:00	2
	M		C	Security	Security	11:30 - 1:30	2
	M		C	Security	Security	1:30 - 3:30	2
	M		C	Security	Security	3:30 - 5:30	2
	M		C	Silent Auction	Silent Auction Assistant	12:00 - 2:00	6
	M		C	Silent Auction	Silent Auction Assistant - Security	2:00 - 4:00	1
	M		C	Silent Auction	Silent Auction Assistant	3:30 - 5:30	1
	M		C	Silent Auction	Silent Auction Assistant	4:00 - 6:00	4
	M		C	Wineries	Winery Relief	3:30 - 5:30	4

## Dine With Wine

Happy New Year!

Our Sunday lunch at The Bluewater Grill in Tustin was hosted on Sunday, November 22. Thirteen OCWS Members joined us for an early afternoon lunch. The food was outstanding and the service was even better. If you haven't been to The Bluewater Grill lately, you're definitely missing out. I continue to get rave reviews about the event!

If you haven't been to one of our Dine With Wine dinner events, please consider joining us. It's a great way to get to know your fellow OCWS members in a warm and sociable atmosphere, especially for new members! Please remember that visiting these restaurants is our organization's way to say "Thank You" to them for joining us at our Wine Extra-ordinaire and Wine Classic events. I continue to ask myself..."If we don't support them; why should they support us?"

Please remember to bring your family and friends to our supporting restaurants and don't forget to let them know that you're visiting them as an OCWS member in appreciation of their supporting of our organization and events. The following restaurants supported our latest Wine Classic event...

*The Bluewater Grill – Tustin*

*Flight Bistro and Lounge – Huntington Beach*

*Lizarran Tapas – Brea*

*Mad Mike's Sausages at Booster's Sports Grill – Mission Viejo*

*Mastro's Steak House – Costa Mesa*

*Olive Garden – Irvine and Huntington Beach*

*Pacific Whey Café – Costa Mesa*

*The Melting Pot – Brea and Irvine*

For more information about our Dine With Wine Dinners with our supporting restaurants, please feel free to contact me at [kevin@ocws.org](mailto:kevin@ocws.org).

**Kevin Coy**

## Winemaker Group Newsroom

### "Living Large" in Chino Hills

A warm and sunny November day greeted the Home Winemakers Group as they held their quarterly meeting and Pot-Luck at the home of OCWS members Doug and Diane Wilks.

Their lovely home is situated on a hill overlooking their 300+ vine orchard which is planted with seven varietals including Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Malbec, Zinfandel, Chardonnay, and even Thompson Seedless. Plenty of their own label, Coyote Hills, was poured along with more than twenty offerings from other OCWS Home Winemakers. This is the second time the Wilks have supported the group by hosting us in their home. And a great experience it is.

Before the meal and meeting, their winery operations room and the hand-dug wine cellar provided the site for the SO2 testing of many home wines under the aegis of Jerry Guerin.

If you are interested in making wine, or learning more about how wines are made, contact Jim Graver at [winemaster72@earthlink.net](mailto:winemaster72@earthlink.net).

### Post Crush Roundtable & Wine Analysis Lab

Mid-November is the perfect time for home winemakers to start to get a handle on this year's vintage. Time to get together, discuss grapes we've purchased, crushed, fermented, and racked. Time to get our first major set of lab tests done. Time to get expert help!

Held in two parts, the senior winemakers hosted the discussion and training with hands-on wine testing. Experienced winemakers and beginners got to bring their questions and samples of their own wines for testing.

Testing and discussions covered malolactic fermentation, pH testing, titratable acidity, racking, sulfiting, fining, temperatures, and storage.

Thanks again to John Willis, along with other senior members, Jerry Guerin and Don Brennan for leading this detailed effort.

**2010 Planning Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 12, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Residence of Rob & Germaine Romano**  
**379 N. Elk Glen Lane**  
**Orange**

This past year, we were very busy with the conduct of many home winemaker programs: some social, but most

*(Continued on page 11)*

# Winemaker Group Newsroom (Cont'd)

*(Continued from page 10)*

educational. Our programs included the quarterly potlucks; SO2 testing; a newly formed Fruit Wine Group; the California State University - Fresno Wine Sensory event; two wine blending programs that included one by Still Waters Winery; the Russian River Campout; the Homewine Competition; winemaking presentations at the Orange County Fair; workshops; seminars; the Group Crush; and many more.

The purpose of this meeting is to solicit ideas for Home Winemaker programs and activities for 2010. Now is the time to plan for an even more exciting year and it does take your ideas to help put something together. In addition to your participation, more importantly, we need your ideas and input.

After a busy 2009, it is time to jump in again and line up events for 2010. Plan on bringing your ideas, energy, and volunteerism. Space is limited, so e-mail Rob Romano at [ocws@demetedfermenters.com](mailto:ocws@demetedfermenters.com) to confirm your attendance. A light dinner will be provided.

## Winemakers Hop on Holiday Bandwagon Early!

The Holiday Season got off to an early start as the OCWS Winemaker's Holiday Party, held on December 5, at the home of Ed and Robin Szubielski. About 50 of the OCWS finest attended the party in their lovely home.

There was plenty to enjoy in nice surroundings. From the vines in the backyard, the putting green, the outside barbecue with TV (showing the USC come-from-behind win), to the indoor bar, and great holiday decorations. We had 35 home wines ranging from fruit and dessert choices up to big whites and reds. Included was Ed's own Syrah. This wine was selected as the Grand Champion during the 2009 Winemaker's Magazine Homewine Competition competing against 4,474 wines! Ed now has the distinction of being the Number One amateur winemaker in the largest Homewine Competition held in the country. Congrats, Ed!

The highlight for the attending winemakers was a tour of the cellar—fully loaded with top-notch commercial vintages and Ed's own "Eddie's Backyard" label. We got to barrel sample twelve of his wines in process, many sourced from unique vineyards throughout California.

After loading-up on the many pot luck dishes and great wine, all were entertained by OCWS member Don Brennan. You may enjoy some of his music at [www.donbrennan.com](http://www.donbrennan.com).

## Sherry Making Program Rancho de Philo Winery January 23 Alta Loma

This is not just another winery, but something unique as it only makes a Triple Cream Sherry made in the traditional Spanish style.

Rancho de Philo was founded in 1975 by Philo Biane and now is run by his daughter, Janine, and her husband, Alan. The Winery is located in the foothills of the Cucamonga Valley and we are very pleased to be invited for this rare opportunity to learn more about Sherry and the Sherry-making process. Normally, the winery is only open two weekends during November, so this is extra special for us.

The details have not been finalized, but we plan to arrive in the morning, attend the program, and have lunch at the Centro Basco Restaurant. In the afternoon, we may be able to visit the Galleano Winery in Mira Loma.

We do not have the price nailed down yet and the number may be limited to between 20 to 30 members. If you have an interest in attending, please contact Rob Romano [ocws@demetedfermenters.com](mailto:ocws@demetedfermenters.com). More information on this event is forthcoming.

## Calendar of Events & Activities for 2010

January 12	Winemaker Group Planning Meeting
January 23	Rancho de Philo Winery - Sherry Making Program
February 6	Quarterly Potluck and Wine Tasting
February 6	Sulfur Dioxide Wine Testing
February 28	Wine Extraordinaire participation
May	Homewine Judging Seminar
	Quarterly Potluck and Wine Tasting
	Sulfur Dioxide Wine Testing
May 21-22	Winemaker Magazine Wine Conference
June	OC Fair Homewine Competition

For the Homewine Group,

**Jim Graver**

# The Last Laff...

## 'Twas the Month after Christmas

'Twas the month after Christmas, and all through the house,  
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.

The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste,  
At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales there arose such a number!  
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a lumber).

I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared,  
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared.

The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese,  
And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt,  
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt.

I said to myself, as I only can,  
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"

So away with the last of the sour cream dip,  
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip.

Every last bit of food that I like must be banished,  
'Til all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie--not even a lick,  
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.

I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,  
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore,  
But isn't that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot,  
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

## A New Year's Wish

On New Year's Eve, Marilyn stood up in the local pub and  
said that it was time to get ready. At the stroke of midnight,  
she wanted every husband to be standing next to the one  
person who made his life worth living.

Well, it was kind of embarrassing. As the clock struck  
midnight, the bartender was almost crushed to death.

## New Year's Lecture

On New Year's Eve, Daniel was in no shape to drive, so he  
sensibly left his van in the car park and walked home. As he  
was wobbling along, he was stopped by a policeman. "What  
are you doing out here at four o'clock in the morning?" asked  
the police officer.

"I'm on my way to a lecture," answered Daniel.

"And who on earth, in their right mind, is going to give a  
lecture at this time on New Year's Eve?" enquired the  
constable sarcastically.

"My wife," slurred Daniel grimly.

## A Cat's New Year Resolutions...

1. My human will never let me eat her pet hamster, and I am at peace with that.
2. I will not perch on my human's chest in the middle of the night and stare into her eyes until she wakes up.
3. We will not play Herd of Thundering Wildebeests Stamping Across the Plains of the Serengeti over any humans' bed while they're trying to sleep.
4. When it rains, it will be raining on all sides of the house. It is not necessary to check every door.
5. I will not play "Dead Cat on the Stairs" while people are trying to bring in groceries or laundry, or else one of these days, it will really come true.
6. Computer and TV screens do not exist to backlight my lovely tail.
7. I am a walking static generator. My human doesn't need my help installing a new board in her computer.
8. I will not eat large numbers of assorted bugs, then come home and vomit them up so the humans can see that I'm getting plenty of roughage.
9. Screaming at a can of food will not make it open itself.
10. If I bite the cactus, it will bite back.
11. The dog can see me coming when I stalk her. She can see me and will move out of the way when I pounce, letting me smash into floors and walls. That does not mean I should take it as a personal insult when my humans sit there and laugh.
12. I will not stick my paw into any container to see if there is something in it. If I do, I will not hiss and scratch when my human has to shave me to get the rubber cement out of my fur.
13. I will not assume the patio door is open when I race outside to chase leaves.
14. I will not stand on the bathroom counter, stare down the hall, and growl at nothing after my human has finished watching the X-Files.
15. I must not help myself to Q-tips, and I must certainly not

*(Continued on page 13)*

# The Last Laff... (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 12)

proceed to stuff them down the sink's drain.

## A New Year Prayer for the Elderly

God, grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones that I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Mini-Tasting  
"Pinot Noir"  
Saturday, March 27  
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
All Locations TBA

Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Co-Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Night Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members @ \$35 each \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Guests @ \$35 each \_\_\_\_\_

~ Payment ~

Personal Check  
 Credit Card  
 Credit Card number on file

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
V Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

~ Volunteer Sign-Up ~

I would like to host a future Mini-Tasting.  
My residence can accommodate 16 people.

*Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, March 17. All reservations must be paid in advance, either by check or credit card and may be made by mail, website, or fax. All website, or fax reservations are credit card only. Since the wine must be purchased in advance, no refunds will be made after the cutoff date unless there is a waiting list and your reservation can be filled by someone else. For information, call the OCWS office at 714.708.1636.*

Mail / fax reservation to:

OCWS  
Pinot Noir Mini-Tasting  
P.O. Box 11059  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

"Sip & Swirl" Wine Trip  
March 18 - 21  
Solvang/Santa Ynez Viticultural Area

Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Co-Member \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Night Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Double Occupancy Rooms \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Single Occupancy Rooms \_\_\_\_\_

Each double room @ \$750 per = \$1,500  
Each single room = \$1,000

- First payment (deposit) \$250 per person due with this sign-up
- Second payment - \$250 due February 1
- Final payment - \$250 due March 1

~ Payment ~

Personal Check  
 Credit Card  
 Credit Card number on file

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
V Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

*Since the number of attendees dictate the size and cost of the bus, all requests for refunds must be directed to Ron Gottesman for approval. A cancellation fee may apply. For additional information, call Ron Gottesman or the OCWS office at 714.708.1636.*

Mail / fax reservation to:

OCWS  
Santa Ynez Bus Trip  
P.O. Box 11059  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

2010 Wine Extraordinaire  
Sunday, February 28  
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Hilton Anaheim Hotel  
777 Convention Way  
Anaheim

Member \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Member \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Night Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

~ Ticket Information ~

Now through February 26...

Number of Member Tickets @ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Non-Member Tickets @ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Designated Driver @ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

February 27 to Event Date...

“At the Door” price for everyone @ \$60

Designated Driver @ \$25

~ Payment ~

Personal Check

Credit Card

Credit Card number on file

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

V Code \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

~ Volunteer Sign-Up ~

Please complete the Volunteer Sign-Up form  
on page 10 and send in with your ticket pay-  
ment.

Mail / fax reservation to:

OCWS  
2010 Wine Extraordinaire  
P.O. Box 11059  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Advance Sign-Up  
February Tasting  
Kenneth Volk Winery  
Friday, February 12  
7:00 p.m.  
DoubleTree Hotel  
Santa Ana / OC Airport  
201 East MacArthur Boulevard  
Santa Ana

Member \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Member \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Night Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members @ 33 each \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests @ \$38 each \_\_\_\_\_

~ Payment ~

Personal Check

Credit Card

Credit Card number on file

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

V Code \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

~ Volunteer Sign-Up ~

I will help with registration

I will help with raffle

I would enjoy serving wine

A light dinner will be served from 6:45 to 7:30.

The tasting will start at 7:30.

*Deadline for reservations is Wednesday,  
February 10. All reservations must be paid in  
advance, either by check or credit card and  
may be made by mail, phone, website, or fax.  
All phone, website, or fax reservations are  
credit card only. No refunds will be made  
after the cutoff date unless there is a waiting  
list and your reservation can be filled by  
someone else. For information, call the  
OCWS office at 714.708.1636.*

Mail / fax reservation to:

OCWS  
February Tasting  
P.O. Box 11059  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

January Tasting  
Siduri Winery  
Friday, January 8  
7:00 p.m.  
DoubleTree Hotel  
Santa Ana / OC Airport  
201 East MacArthur Boulevard  
Santa Ana

Member \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Member \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Night Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members @ 33 each \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests @ \$38 each \_\_\_\_\_

~ Payment ~

Personal Check

Credit Card

Credit Card number on file

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

V Code \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

~ Volunteer Sign-Up ~

I will help with registration

I will help with raffle

I would enjoy serving wine

A light dinner will be served from 6:45 to 7:30.

The tasting will start at 7:30.

*Deadline for reservations is Wednesday,  
January 6. All reservations must be paid in  
advance, either by check or credit card and  
may be made by mail, phone, website, or fax.  
All phone, website, or fax reservations are  
credit card only. No refunds will be made  
after the cutoff date unless there is a waiting  
list and your reservation can be filled by  
someone else. For information, call the  
OCWS office at 714.708.1636.*

Mail / fax reservation to:

OCWS  
January Tasting  
P.O. Box 11059  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

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***The Wine Press***  
**Orange County Wine Society, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 11059**  
**Costa Mesa, CA 92627**