

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 144 Mini-Tasting: Cabernet Sauvignon

Dec. 45 Holiday Dinner Dance

Dec. 19.....4 Winemakers Group Holiday Potluck

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Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc. Volume 39, Issue 11, November 2015

President's Message: Jim's Journal

Welcome to the start of another fun filled year of OCWS events. Bill Redding has put together some outstanding wines for the November Cabernet Sauvignon Mini-Tasting. He has also put together an exciting Holiday Dinner Dance. This event always has good food, great wine, and dancing. Our last event of the year is the Winemakers Group Holiday Potluck.

As we prepare for 2016, Rich Skoczylas has lined up four Winery Program events. Our Winery Program events allow a win-

ery to showcase their wines, answer member questions, and at the end of the event, sell wines that were tasted during that event at a discounted price.

The 2015-2016 Board of Director responsibility assignments have been completed. Please refer to the subsequent article in this newsletter for more information. If anyone is interested in volunteering for any of these events, please contact the appropriate Director.

(Continued on page 3)

History of the Orange County Wine Society

As the Orange County Wine Society celebrates its 40th Anniversary, this 2015-2016 year's edition of *The Wine Press* will feature the Wine Society's history. About ten years ago, long time member and Past President, Larry Graham, took the initiative to gather and author the information from the organization's members. We are in the process of getting a committee together that will work on gathering and updating the history of the last decade. If you are interested in sharing memories or serving on this committee, please contact Michelle Philo at winepress@ocws.org.

~ The Wine Society is Born ~



It all started at Brant and Kathi Horton's wine retail store in Orange called Brant's Wine Rack. The Hortons hosted monthly meetings of home winemakers and wine enthusiasts to infor-

mally discuss wine and winemaking. Starting in 1976, the group was called the Orange County Wine Guild and included Bud and D Aust, Judi (Collins) Brady, and Jim Graver among its nineteen founding members.





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Stacey Taylor Director stacey@ocws.org

November Membership Report

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 October 2015 Board meeting:

David & Pamela Christian
James & Jeanne Costello

Greg & Melissa Figge John Nation ■ Emilio Perez

As of the October Board of Directors' meeting the Orange County Wine Society has 964 members.

- Brian McDonald, Membership Chair



The Orange County Wine Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization incorporated under the laws of the state of California with its principal place of business in Costa Mesa, California.

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President's Message: Jim's Journal

(Continued from page 1)

The OCWS Board of Directors has hired a new website company and we expect to have the new website up and running by March 2016. Meanwhile, we have hired a replacement website administrator to take over Judy Fox's website administrator duties during this interim period. We will continue to provide more information as it become available.

New OCWS office hours are 9 am to 2 pm, Monday

through Friday. In addition, the OC Fair and Event Center has established new parking restrictions for OCWS and OCWS members. Please refer to the subsequent article in this newsletter for more information on parking restrictions. These parking restrictions will also be placed on the OCWS website.

In closing, I encourage everyone to drink responsibly and use a designated driver at all of our events and during this holiday season. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Featured Member of the Month: Bill Forsch

Every so often one person touches many with their kindness and willingness to always lend a hand. Such is the case of Bill Forsch who, with his warm heart, patience and generosity, has volunteered time and time again. Bill is best known to always jump in to help with the demanding and time consuming tasks that make events happen.

His talent for planning and persistence consistently brings great results.

With the support of his loving wife, Noel, who is always by his side working tirelessly too, Bill spends countless hours behind the scenes as a moving force in the Cooks Caucus perfecting recipes, budgeting, shopping, decorating, arriving early and staying late to assure the success of an event.



His dedication, coupled with a great sense of humor and ever present smile, makes him one great volunteer and friend to the OCWS.

Bill is also a major force in the Winemakers Group. This year he brought a new seminar to the OC Fair which he co-created in 2013 and which had already become a huge hit with the winemakers. He could be found every Saturday morning throughout the OC Fair presenting his

the privilege of knowing Bill and calling him friend, it is a great honor and pleasure. For those who have yet to meet him, if the opportunity arises, take the time to say hi and meet a truly nice, caring person. With a huge thank you for all he so selflessly does, we say thanks and may the Forsch be with you!

- Fran Gitsham, Treasurer & an endless list of grateful winemakers

class "3x3 in 3 – Kit Wine in Virtually No Space and Time". He also supports the group by handling the sourcing of grapes from Lucas and Lewellen Winery in Santa Barbara. Not only did he make the 8 hour round trip five times this year to get grapes for four varietals totaling more than four tons of grapes, but in thanks to the winery

he gifted them with a trunk full of his now famous, pickles and okra. As if this is not enough, he also suggested a program to purchase oak barrels at a reduced cost by purchasing in quantity and now coordinates that effort each year. Bill goes beyond making suggestions, and steps up to the plate to make them a reality.

For those who have

Holiday Potluck & Wine Tasting

Saturday, December 19, 2015 4:00 - 9:00 pm East Lake Village Association Clubhouse Yorba Linda, CA

The OCWS Winemakers' Group will hold its Holiday Party at the East Lake Village Association's Clubhouse in Yorba Linda on December 19. This is a beautiful venue, and the view will be beautiful overlooking all the holiday lights on the lake.

This event sold out in a record of six short days! Thanks to the people who signed up early!

- Kevin Donnelly & Rich Skoczylas, Director



Cabernet Sauvignon Mini-Tasting

Saturday, November 14, 2015 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Various Host Sites

Our next Mini-Tasting theme is Cabernet Sauvignon. Cabernet Sauvignon is a favorite wine to accompany fine dinners, especially dinners featuring red meats.

Hosts: Mini-Tastings are held at various host sites around Orange County. If you would like to host this event, please email Bill Redding at bill@ocws.org or call him at 949.248.1125. 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. The cost to attend the tasting is \$30 for members and \$35 for guests.

Dish: Each person attending brings a potluck dish (appetizer, entrée, side dish, or dessert) to serve a small portion to 18 people. The dish ideally should be designed to match the theme of the tasting, in this case Cabernet Sauvignon. Please coordinate your food selection with your host site to assure an appropriate balance of food types served during the evening. There will be a special bottle of wine that evening as a prize for Chef of the Evening. Our winning Chefs of the Evening may have their recipe published on the OCWS website. Please plan on arriv-



ing promptly at 6:00 pm so the event can start on time. You are invited to bring your own wine glasses for tasting. If bringing your own wine glasses, keep in mind the wines are served in flights of two.

We are planning a maximum of five sites for this minitasting, so the limit is 90 attendees. Due to the high attendance at our Mini-Tasting Programs, we encourage you to sign-up early as sites tend to fill quickly. The cut-off date for online sign-up is Monday, November 9. After this date please contact Bill or the OCWS office to determine availability. The cancellation deadline is November 6 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, Bill Redding, Vice President

2015 Holiday Dinner and Dance

Friday, December 4, 2015 @ 6:30 pm Atrium Hotel 18700 MacArthur Blvd. Irvine, CA

The Holiday Season is right around the corner! Get in the holiday spirit and join your fellow Wine Society members at the Holiday Dinner and Dance. The festivities take place Friday, December 4th as we move to a new venue at the Atrium Hotel, Irvine.

The evening begins with a reception featuring sparkling wines and passed appetizers from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Dinner will follow accompanied by a variety of fine wines provided by the Wine Society. Coffee and tea will also be available.



After dinner be prepared to have a good time "dancing the night away". The "Three 2 Sevens", a group well known to the Membership BBQ crowd, will provide this year's dance music. Even if you do not dance, you will be entertained and have a great time too. The band promises to play some "slow dance" music and Holiday rock tunes.

The cost for this fun-filled evening is \$90 per person which is inclusive of dinner, tax, gratuity, wine provided by the OCWS, corkage costs, self-parking, and of course, the "Three 2 Sevens." Valet parking is available at the discounted rate of \$5. Non-members accompanied by an OCWS member are welcome at the same member price! Invite your friends, neighbors, or co-workers to join the party.

The Wine Society is also taking table reservations. Each table holds eight people. When your group of 4 to 8 has signed up, simply contact the OCWS office to reserve your group's table. Additional seats will be filled by 1-to-4 individuals on the night of the event.

A special room rate of \$119/night that includes parking, wireless internet access and breakfast for up to (2) guests is available. The Atrium Reservations Line is 1.800.854.3012 and refer to "OC Wine Society Dinner."

- Bill Redding, Vice President



Winemakers Newsroom

Winemakers' Group Quarterly Potluck

The Winemakers' Group held its Quarterly Meeting on October 3 at the lovely home of Bill Forsch and Noel DeSota. About 80 people attended the event and enjoyed the views overlooking Lake Forest. The Group devoured fabulous potluck appetizers, entrees, and desserts. Of course, we were also treated to fabulous home wines made by the members of the Winemakers' Group! We also had four new winemakers in attendance with their significant others. It is always great to see new people picking up this fabulous, passion of winemaking!

Before the meeting, Jerry and Kim Guerin, Eddie Petros and Mike Paz tested our wines for sulfur dioxide on our electric analyzer.

Thank you to Bill and Noel for hosting, and to everyone doing the testing for always helping! It was another FABU-LOUS event!

Upcoming 2015 Planned Events

December 19: Homewine Holiday Potluck

Post Crush Seminar Planned

The Winemakers' Group will be hosting a Lab Seminar and a Post Crush Seminar in the next few weeks. Please contact Kevin Donnelly at kjd_ca@hotmail.com if you are interested in attending.

- Kevin Donnelly & Rich Skoczylas, Director

New OCWS Office Hours & Parking Restrictions

New Office Hours



The OCWS office on the grounds of the OC Fair & Event Center (OCFEC) is now open Monday through Friday, 9 am to 2 pm.

Parking Restrictions

The following parking restrictions have been established by the OCEFC. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in following these guidelines at all times.



- 1. No parking directly in front of the OCWS office or next to the Courtyard at anytime.
- 2. Parking is available on the Festival Asphalt area when no events are being held on the grounds utilizing the area.
- If space is not available on the Festival Asphalt area, parking will be in either Lot F, next to the OC Fair administration building on Arlington Drive (access available 24 hours a day), or Lot B, outside of Centennial Farms off of Fair Drive (access available 7 am to 4

pm). You will need to walk into the grounds from either of these locations.

4. Deliveries to, and loading/unloading of vehicles at, the OCWS office or The Courtyard are permissible at anytime for the length of time it takes to perform the task.

Centennial Farms, which is adjacent to the OCWS office, hosts children's educational programs continually throughout the year on both weekdays and weekends. These restrictions have been imposed by OCFEC for the safety of the children and staff. OCWS is bound by its agreement with OCFEC to adhere to their guidelines.

If you have any questions, please call our Office Administrator, Janet Hammond, during the newly posted office hours at 714.708.1636.

Thank you so very much for your understanding and cooperation.

- Fran Gitsham, Treasurer

New Website Update

Vendor selection for the design and development of a new OCWS website is now in its final stages. In attempting to see that no stone was left unturned, ten companies were invited to submit proposals based on detailed specifications provided by us. Of those ten, we received six quotes. Two of the companies were determined to be too inexperienced for our needs and we are now closely scrutinizing the final four to find the perfect fit for the organization.

We anticipate contracting with a company to begin construction of the site this month. The time frame for completion is estimated to be approximately six months. We will continue to provide up-



dates on the status of this very exciting project in future editions of *The Wine Press*.

- Stacey Taylor, Director & Fran Gitsham, Treasurer

2016 Winery Program

Our winery program for 2016 promises wonderful tastings with many well-known names in winemaking. Our schedule is set as follows:

Date	Winemaker	Winery
January 22, 2016	Joel Peterson	Ravenswood
February 5, 2016	Jim Klein	Navarro
March 25, 2016	John Klacking	Double Bond
May 6, 2016	Kent Rosenblum	Rock Wall Wine Company

Affectionately known as the "Godfather of Zin", Joel Peterson is both an articulate spokesman and a gutsy trendsetter who helped make Zinfandel the phenomenon that it is today. He is a founding Board member and former two-time President of Zinfandel Advocates and Producers (ZAP).

For our February tasting, Jim Klein will discuss the wines of Navarro. Jim's 2006 Brut Sparkling Wine from Anderson Valley won the Chairman's Award in the 2015 OC Fair Commercial Wine Competition.

Our March tasting will feature a newer boutique winery named Double Bond. John Klacking established this winery in 2007 and he has produced many award-winning wines. If anyone has had the opportunity to taste his wines, you take a sip and exclaim "Wow! That's a great wine!"

The May tasting with Kent Rosenblum will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Orange County Wine Society. Kent always provides anecdotes about "Sven and Ollie" and always provides an extraordinary tasting of his wines. Be sure to look for some specials we are planning for this auspicious occasion.

- Rich Skoczylas, Director

In Memory of Mike McNeese

Mike McNeese, a long time member of the Wine Society, was an active member of the Cooks Caucus until he recently moved to Nevada. A handful of the members that worked with Mike and the Cooks Caucus took a moment to recall memories of Mike and how his ideas have continued to have an impact on today's Wine Society events.

"I have so many fond memories of Mike, it is difficult to pick my favorite one. Several membership BBQs ago in 2006, Mike came up with the idea of making New Orleans Cray-

fish. We discussed it, and I suggested that we use shrimp rather than crayfish because they would be more user -friendly to eat. Mike and I got the shrimp and mussels and he brought his pot and cooker and he prepared some of the best New Orleans style shellfish ever and they were the hit of the event. Mike also came up with the idea of serving deep fried items at our events and supervised their preparation. His creativity and innovative ideas greatly expanded our collective thinking on food items for all of our events.

Every night prior to the BBQ, Mike would come up to the house and help Barbara, me and other Cooks Caucus members chop vegetables, prepare other items for the event and, on occasion, we would work well into the night, and of course, enjoy wine and other assorted libations.

Mike was a great and creative cook, a hard worker and team player for the Cooks Caucus, and a great friend to all of us, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was a dear and close friend to me. I'm sure as soon as he gets settled into his new place above, he will be coming up with great dishes to be served up there. May God bless him." - *Eric Martens*

"One fond memory of Mike's doings with the Cooks Caucus is when he had a restaurant friend of his open his commercial kitchen in West L.A. for the Cooks' Caucus to prep for one of our events. It was so interesting (you should've seen the bread ovens) and lots of fun! And what a sous chef he was! Wow!" - Lynda Edwards

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"Mike shared with me that he had worked many years with the Forum and the Lakers. I noticed that he had a Lakers World championship ring! He mentioned that normally each year that they won they would give a ring to 1 person in or around their organization that normally wouldn't receive a ring. He had been the recipient one of those years.

Also, after one of the Laker games he was chatting and drinking with the late Jerry Buss – owner of the Lakers. Late into the night, they started to "brag" on who was the

better shooter. At about 4 am, after several more beverages, a big bet was wagered on who was the better shooter. They found their way down to the forum floor and realized the court was not lit. Jerry said, 'I don't know how to turn the lights on, but I could certainly call someone to come and turn them on for us.' They both decided that it would be better to go up and finish the bottle of bourbon!

Mike was a great team player for the Cooks Caucus, a smart worker, and always brought a great attitude to every event I worked with him on. My best

to his family." - Bill Forsch

•••

"Mike was one of the original members of the Cooks Caucus. Mike was the "King of French Fries" and our original deep-fryer chef." - *Walt Thurner*

$\bullet \bullet \bullet$

"Mike was one of the first Wine Society members who welcomed me into the organization. When we first met at a membership BBQ, despite sweating it out over the grills, he still had a grin on his face and was excited to get to know me. He always had a great outlook on life and lived life from a 'no day but today' view. He'll be missed." -*Michelle Philo*

~ In Memory ~

Michael McNeese

February 16, 1947 - October 11, 2015

2015 Chili Cook-Off Wrap Up

With the threat of 60% chance of rain looming a week prior, Sunday, October 18th pleasantly turned out to be a typical warm, sunny California day in The Courtyard. The day could not have been more perfect.

Lloyd and Liz Corbett did the event set up. Cal and Sue Rietzel covered the tables and did the decorations. By 9:30 am. The Courtvard was ready to welcome the seventeen OCWS member chili cooks to set up their displays and prepare their chilies for judging.



The judging process was overseen by Terry McLean. The Judges seven were volunteers from the Orange Coast College Culinary Arts Program.

The judging of Best Presentation kicked off at 11:15 with the Chili tasting following. After all the votes were tallied and certified by the Judging Committee, the coveted engraved Chili Ladles were presented to:

People's Choice Award – Sam Puzzo & Carol Frank Traditional First Place – Bob & JaNae Unruh Traditional Second Place - Dave & Pam Carter Traditional Third Place – Mike & Rita Kovac Best Chili with Wine – Virginia Kawai Best Vegetarian – Cliff & Sara Cornell

Most Unusual Chili – B.J. & Tina Fornadley

Best Presentation -- Bob & JaNae Unruh

The event opened for general membership at 1:00. In addition to tasting some fantastic homemade chili and having hamburgers and hot dogs prepared by the Cooks' Caucus, the approxi-200 people mate



danced and enjoyed the music of Fly By Night DJ's. Beer was poured by Four Sons Brewery of Huntington Beach and two dance lessons taught by Dance All You Can of Fountain Valley.

Events like this do not happen without a host of volunteers. The volunteers were well coordinated by Jolen Zeroski. A heart-felt "thanks" to the event committee and the many volunteers for a job "well done" and, of course, to our Cooks' Caucus.

- Brian McDonald, Director



2015-2016 Board Member Responsibilities

The Orange County Wine Society hosts several events throughout the year. The success of the events is attributable to the many volunteers who not only work the events, but also serve on the committees that plan the events. If you are interested in learning more about committee opportunities or are interested in volunteering for a committee, please contact the committee chair. Contact information for the committee chairs can be found on page 2.

MAJOR/KEY EVENTS	CHAIR	BOD ASST.	MEMBER ASST.
Annual Barbecue	Liz Corbett		
Champagne Brunch	Rich Skoczylas		
Chili Cook-Off	Brian McDonald		Terry McLean
Commercial Wine Competition	Jim Beard, Co-Chair		Leslie Brown, Co-Chair
Dine with Wine	Rich Skoczylas		
Holiday Dinner / Dance	Bill Redding		
Homewine Competition	Stacey Taylor	Rich Skoczylas	
Installation Dinner	Rich Skoczylas		
Mini-Tastings	Bill Redding		
Wine Auction / PYOL	Dennis Esslinger	Bill Redding	
OCFEC Wine Society Event 2016	John Carnes	Stacey Taylor	Liz Corbett
Wine Courtyard	Fran Gitsham		
Winery Programs	Rich Skoczylas		

ADMINISTRATIVE	CHAIR	BOD ASST.	MEMBER ASST.
Bylaws Committee	Brian McDonald		
Cellarmaster	Dennis Esslinger	Bill Redding	Kevin Coy
Computer/Database Coordinator	John Carnes		
Cook's Caucus Coordinator	Liz Corbett		Lynda Edwards
Election Committee	Dennis Esslinger		
Facility Coordinator	John Carnes		
Finance Committee		Fran Gitsham	Yale Finkle - Chair
Historian & Photographer Liaison	Liz Corbett, Historian	Stacey Taylor, Photographer	
Marketing Committee	Stacey Taylor	Brian McDonald	Terry McClean - Chair
Membership	Brian McDonald		
Merchandise Sales	Liz Corbett		
Newsletter Board Liaison	Dennis Esslinger		Michelle Philo
OC Fair Liaison	Bill Redding		
Office Procedures Coordinator	Fran Gitsham		
Publicity & Media	John Carnes		
Scholarship	Stacey Taylor		
Social Media Coordinator/Constant Contact	Stacey Taylor		Wendy Taylor
Volunteer Recognition	Bill Redding		
Website Board Liaison	Stacey Taylor		
Wine Education	John Carnes		
Wine Steward (Winery Program)	Bill Redding		
Wine Tasting Field Trips	Rich Skoczylas		
Winemaker's Group	Stacey Taylor		

Cabernet Sauvignon Mini-Tasting Various Host Sites Saturday, November 14, 2015 6:00 - 9:00 pm	Holiday Potluck & Wine Tasting East Village Homeowners Association Saturday, December 19, 2015 4:00 pm	Holiday Dinner & Dance Atrium Hotel 18700 MacArthur Blvd Irvine, CA Friday, Dec. 4, 2015 at 6:30 pm
Member Guest Day Phone Day Phone Night Phone Email Email Number of Members @ \$30 each Number of Guests @ \$35 each Payment	Co-Member Day Phone Night Profile Email Number of Guests @ \$12 each Payment [] Personal Check Total Enclosed Reservation Deadline: December 16	Member (M) Co-Member (C) Day Phone Night Phone Email Number of Guests @ \$90 each (M) (C) () () Chicken Roulade () () Grilled Salmon
 Personal Check Total Enclosed Cancellation Deadline: November 6 Reservation Deadline: November 9 		() () Flat Iron Steak Payment [] Personal Check Total Enclosed
	ning up online at DCws.org	Reservation & Cancellation Deadline: November 30

History of the Orange County Wine Society

(Continued from page 1)

Brant Horton had always been disappointed with the entry criteria used by other wine competitions and wanted to conduct a judging of wines readily available in the Orange County marketplace. On May 24, 1976, during a meeting with Jerry Mead, a noted wine columnist, Brant proposed that the Orange County Fair would be an ideal host for a professional competition of Orange County marketplace wines made using only California grapes. On May 27, 1976, they met with the Orange County Fair's General Manager, Ken Fulk, and with the support of Warren Finley, President of the OC Fair Board of Directors, all agreed that a jointly-sponsored Commercial Wine and Homewine Competition would be held starting in 1977.

Brant Horton also recognized that a volunteer organization was needed to provide the staffing to conduct such events. At a meeting on July 23, 1976, at Brant's Wine Rack, he proposed an organization that would co-sponsor both Commercial and Homewine Competitions while also promoting the education and appreciation of wine, winemak-

ing, and viticulture. Brant Horton, Jerry Mead, and others went to work to form such an organization that was to be called the Orange County Wine Society. Eventually, Articles of Incorporation were drafted in January 1978 by Brant Horton and William Owen to form a nonprofit charitable and educational corporation under the laws of California including plans for a Wine Scholarship Fund. Fred Basom, Jim Graver, Brant and Kathi Horton, Jerry Mead, William Owen, and Mike Collins signed the initial articles. The articles called for the establishment of bylaws to guide the organization and its membership. The articles were subsequently registered with the California Secretary of State in June 1978 and the Internal Revenue Service approved a tax-exempt status for the OCWS under Section 501(c)(3) in 1980. The group met once a month on the second Friday. As the membership grew, it was proposed that a logo be designed for the OCWS. Dick Hamm won the design contest and it is the same logo used today. A competing logo, the "Purple Foot", was used to make stickers for distribution during the Fair. Early OCWS programs included wine tours at local wineries and food and wine tastings by Judi (Collins) Brady and Jane (McGrath) Goodnight.

OCWS Save the Date Calendar

- Nov. 14 Mini-Tasting: Cabernet Sauvignon
- Dec. 4 Holiday Dinner Dance
- **Dec. 19 Winemakers Group Holiday Potluck**
- Jan. 22 January Winery Program: Ravenswood
- Feb. 5 February Winery Program: Navarro
 - March 25 March Winery Program: Double Bond
 - May 5 May Winery Program: Rock Wall



Orange County Wine Society





www.ocws.org



The Wine Press

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