



# The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 41, Issue 10, October 2017

## President's Message: Jim's Journal

As you are reading this edition of *The Wine Press*, we are preparing for the Annual Installation Dinner to be held on Sunday, October 8 at Yves' Restaurant & Wine Bar. Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Liz Corbett, Brian McDonald and Bill Redding for their outstanding support to the OCWS Board for the past three years. On this special night, we will honor these three BOD members for their contributions over the last three years, as well as welcome the newly elected Board members. I encourage our current and new members to sign up to attend the Installation Dinner. Yves always prepares outstanding food, and the OCWS cellar will provide special wines for this occasion. Members are encouraged to bring their own wine, if they so desire, as corkage will not be charged.

### Volunteer Recognition Program

George Cravens has previously submitted an article explaining the volunteer recognition program. This article is now permanent-

ly posted on the OCWS website.

To locate this article on the OCWS website, follow these steps:

- Log in to your OCWS account using your "user name" and "password"
- Click on "About"
- Locate and click on "Member's Corner" (very important to click on Member's Corner)
- Finally, click on "Volunteer Recognition Guidelines"

Please see George's subsequent article listing the many committed and selfless OCWS volunteers recognized during our Annual Membership Meeting.

### Winemakers' Group Activities

The next Winemakers' Group Quarterly Meeting & Potluck will take place at Ed Reyes' and Debbie Renne's home on Saturday, October 14, in Laguna Hills.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Upcoming Events:

October 8 .....	5
<i>Annual Installation Dinner</i>	
November 11 .....	6
<i>Cab Sauv Mini-Tasting</i>	

## Special Points of Interest:

Membership Onboarding and Retention.....	1
2017-2018 OCWS Board of Directors .....	3
2017 President's Award.....	3
New Member Corner.....	4
New Member Mixer Recap.....	4
In Need of a Venue .....	4
Winemakers Newsroom .....	6
Volunteer Recognition .....	7


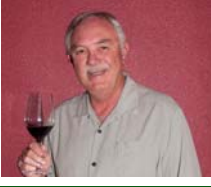







## Membership Committee: Onboarding and Retention



Thanks to the efforts of The Courtyard volunteers this year, we have brought in almost 200 new members to the OCWS. The challenge now is how to make these new members feel welcome and how to help them realize the value of their OCWS membership. The key to a successful organization is the engagement of its members.

The OCWS is forming a Membership Committee to implement a strong onboarding process for new members — a key step to creating a loyal and happy member — and to encourage retention for existing OCWS members.

*(Continued on page 2)*

	<b>Fran Gitsham</b> <b>President</b> fran@ocws.org
	<b>Bill Redding</b> <b>Vice President</b> bill@ocws.org
	<b>Brian McDonald</b> <b>Treasurer</b> brian@ocws.org
	<b>Rich Skoczylas</b> <b>Secretary</b> rich@ocws.org
	<b>Jim Beard</b> <b>Director</b> Jim@ocws.org
	<b>George Cravens</b> <b>Director</b> george@ocws.org
	<b>Terry McLean</b> <b>Director</b> terry@ocws.org
	<b>Ken Scott</b> <b>Director</b> ken@ocws.org
	<b>Stacey Taylor</b> <b>Director</b> stacey@ocws.org

## President's Message: Jim's Journal

*(Continued from page 1)*

For more information on all Winemakers' Group events, please log in to the OCWS website at ocws.org.

### Cabernet Sauvignon Mini-Tasting

Bill Redding and George Cravens are planning an outstanding Mini-Tasting on Saturday, November 11. Cabernet Sauvignon is a very popular varietal among our members and these wines will be paired with outstanding food prepared by members attending the event. I encourage all members, especially our new members, to sign up for this event. You will not be disappointed. Please refer to a subsequent article for additional information on our Mini-Tasting event.

### Annual Holiday Dinner & Dance

The OCWS will be hosting our Annual Holiday Dinner & Dance at The Atrium Hotel in Irvine on Friday, December 1 from 6:30 pm to 11:30 pm. For those unfamiliar with the venue, The Atrium Hotel is located across the street from John Wayne Airport.

It's that time again to pull out your dancing shoes and get ready to party! There is no better way to celebrate the holidays than to grab your spouse, significant other or friend to join in the festivities. The OCWS cellar will be providing some outstanding wines for this event.

In closing, the OCWS Board Members encourage everyone to drink responsibly and use a designated driver at all of our events. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

*- Jim Beard, Past President*

## Membership Committee: Onboarding and Retention

*(Continued from page 1)*

INTEREST



Currently, Ed Reyes, Greg Risling and myself have expressed an interest in formation. We are reaching out to invite anyone who may have an interest in joining this effort to do so. This would also be a great opportunity for new members to see how the OCWS works. What better way

for us to create a plan to welcome new members than to have input from a new member?

I want to emphasize that the Membership Committee is not about marketing memberships but will be focused on retaining memberships.

If anyone is interested in joining the Membership Committee, please email me at Brian@ocws.org.

*- Brian McDonald, Director & Membership Chair*

## Announcing the 2017-2018 OCWS Board of Directors



Brian McDonald, Bill Redding and Ken Scott were elected by a majority vote of the OCWS Board members held on September 6 as provided under Article 4, Section 4.6 of the current Bylaws. Section 4.6 allows the Board to suspend the election and declare the candidates elected at the Annual Business Meeting if the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of Director positions to be filled. By resolution, the Board took such action on said date.

During the Board of Directors meeting held on September 18, the 2017-2018 Board members Jim Beard, George Cravens, Fran Gitsham, Brian McDonald, Terry McLean, Bill Redding, Ken

Scott, Rich Skoczylas and Stacey Taylor elected the following Officers for the 2017-2018 Board year:

**Fran Gitsham — President**  
**Brian McDonald — Treasurer**

**Bill Redding — Vice President**  
**Rich Skoczylas — Secretary**

Next time your paths cross, please congratulate and welcome them to their new positions as well as Ken Scott, as a newly elected Director.

- Jim Beard, Past President

## 2017 President's Award



At the Annual Business Meeting last month, Jim Beard awarded the 2017 President's Award to Ken and Irene Scott. As many of you know, the President's Award honors and recognizes

those members for their exceptional contribution and dedication to the OCWS.

Both members for a number of years, Ken and Irene are passionate in supporting the various initiatives of the OCWS. They consistently contribute their expertise, knowledge and talent to many events and committees doubling the benefit to the OCWS.

As members of the Marketing Committee, Ken and Irene helped develop a marketing strategy promoting the mission and message of the OCWS. Their best practice approach

made a significant impact in implementing a fresh approach toward brand recognition by updating materials and information provided to California wineries in connection with the Commercial Wine Competition. The brochures and other marketing materials they created carried that same brand identity into the Homewine Competition and the Winecompetition.com website.

This year, as members of the Commercial Wine Competition, they co-chaired the Volunteer subcommittee coordinating hundreds of workforce volunteers in various roles and schedules during the wine competition – no easy feat as both spent hundreds of hours making sure that everything ran smoothly, and they worked tirelessly at the Competition and behind the scenes.

Congratulations to Ken and Irene on receiving the 2017 President's Award. This year's award is in the hands of the most deserving and worthy candidates!

*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).

**Editor-in-Chief:** Linda Mihalik

**Contributing Writers:**

Board of Directors, Kevin Donnelly

**Contributing Editors:**

John Goodnight, Ron Nickens, Michelle Philo, Rochelle Randel, Taren Weber

**Contributing Photographers:**

Wendy Taylor

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## New Member Corner: 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 September 8 meeting:



**Judith & Robert Fisher • Ilene Packer • Jeri Verellen & Chris Dolas  
Dr. Jim & Barbara Ghormley • Alison & Christopher Snyder  
Brenda Snyder • Debby Wiesner • Dino Amico & Adrienne Kelly  
Peggy & Lance Liimatainen • Bonnie Scidmore • Peggy Penjoyan  
Gregory Rager • Cathy Kanode • Karen & Doug Murphy • Lisa Retzlaff**

As of October 1, the OCWS had 955 members.

*- Brian McDonald, Director & Membership Chair*

## New Member Mixer Recap

On Sunday, August 27, 42 new members attended a New Member Mixer hosted at the home of Fran Gitsham, an OCWS Director.



These events are held 3 to 4 times a year and are free to new members. The goal is to give new members the opportunity to meet the Board of Directors, to develop friendships with other new members, to feel comfortable about attending OCWS events, and to learn about the many activities of the OCWS.

By having a small, collegial event where new members really feel welcome, we hope it will encourage them to attend other events and realize how much fun it is to be a member of the OCWS.

Events such as these are held at a member's home. Therefore, the number of people able to attend is limited to what the home can reasonably accommodate. As a courtesy to the homeowner and other members, it would be much appreciated that if you *have not* formally responded positively of your attendance to the current event, please consider attending the next New Member Mixer. However, if you responded and requested to reserve a space, you should receive two confirmation emails. If you do not receive two email confirmations, your reservation was not accepted and you should phone the OCWS office for assistance.

We are hoping to have another mixer in early November for those who missed the opportunity to attend the August Mixer.

*- Brian McDonald, Director & Membership Chair*

## In Need of a Venue for New Member Mixer

We are hoping to have another New Member Mixer in early November (November 12 or 19 would be ideal), and we are seeking a location. Because of the season, the location must accommodate everyone indoors or at least under a shelter. We can limit the attendees to a number the host feels his or her home can reasonably accommodate, similar to the August Mixer. The OCWS provides all the wine, water, food, and ice. If you have a home that could accommodate 60 to 80 people and would like to host the New Member Mixer in November, please email Brian McDonald at [Brian@ocws.org](mailto:Brian@ocws.org).



If you live in a common area development that has a community center that we would be able to rent, that could also work. I would like to hear from you as well!

*- Brian McDonald, Director & Membership Chair*

# Annual Installation Dinner

**Annual Installation Dinner**  
**Sunday, October 8, 2017 @ 5:30 pm**  
**Yves' Restaurant & Wine Bar**  
**5753-A East Santa Ana Canyon Road**  
**Anaheim Hills, CA**

The annual Installation Dinner for the Orange County Wine Society will feature a gourmet, four-course dinner at Yves' Restaurant.

The evening will begin with a sparkling wine reception to allow members to mingle prior to dinner. The OCWS will provide selected wines from our cellar to accompany the meal. Members are welcome to bring their own special cellar-quality bottle of wine (no corkage fees).

**Due to the wide variety of wines being shared, members are strongly encouraged to bring their own champagne and wine glasses.**

The event will provide members the opportunity to welcome the newly elected Board members, as well as honor the hard work of the outgoing Board members.

## Menu

### Appetizers

*Hawaiian Lobster Cake*  
*Prosciutto Wrapped Mini Brie*  
*Stuffed Mushroom*

### Salad Course

*Orange Pecan Endive*

European greens tossed in a sweet orange vinaigrette dressing, topped with homemade candied pecans and crumbled Montrachet chevre cheese

### Main Course

**Choice of one of the following:**

*Filet Mignon*

Cognac demi glace, with Cremini & Shiitake mushrooms; served with creamy mashed potatoes and fresh vegetables

### *Grouper with Tropical Salsa*

Fresh grilled Grouper topped with fresh tropical fruit, served on a bed of Israeli cous cous with fresh vegetables

### *Duck Breast Montmorency*

Served with wild mushroom risotto and lightly herbed fresh vegetables

### *Poulet con Risotto*

Lightly seasoned breast of chicken with sun dried tomatoes, crispy prosciutto, Cremini mushrooms, finished with a touch of cream, served with mushroom risotto

### Dessert

**Choice of one of the following:**

#### *Chocolate Lover's Soufflé*

*A decadent chocolate soufflé and chocolate chunks served with chocolate ice cream & a rich chocolate sauce*

#### *Bananas Foster*

*Bananas flamed in a sauce of butter, brown sugar, cinnamon, and dark coffee rum served over caramel-sea salt ice cream*

#### *Crème Brûlée*

*Creamy custard topped with caramelized sugar served with fresh berries*

The cost will be \$59 for members and \$65 for guests, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Coffee, tea and soda are available separately for \$2.95, with unlimited refills.

Do not miss this outstanding and exclusive dining event. Seating will be limited, so sign up early at [ocws.org](http://ocws.org) as this event will be a sell out!

Please wear your nametag and drink responsibly.

- Rich Skoczylas & George Cravens, Event Co-Chairs



*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.*

PO Box 11059, Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
Phone: 714.708.1636 Fax: 714.546.5002  
Website: [OCWS.org](http://OCWS.org) ■ [OCWS Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/OCWS) ■ [Twitter: @OCWineSociety](https://twitter.com/OCWineSociety)

OCWS Website Administrator: Wendy Taylor  
OCWS Photographer: Jim Burk

## Winemakers Newsroom

Grape crush season is here, and our OCWS Winemakers' Group is well into the sticky thick of it. Most of us have been bottling our 2016 wines to make room for the 2017 vintage. As of this writing, we have already received Chardonnay and Zinfandel grapes, with Merlot and Syrah from our group purchase. Some of our winemakers have also sourced grapes such as Sangiovese, Grenache, Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir. We expect to receive Cabernet Sauvignon sometime this month.



The winemakers will then crush and destem the grapes and start the *glorious* fermentation process. If you have not experienced the smell or observed the fermentation process, you should stop and visit one or more of our winemakers for a very memorable experience! When fermentation is completed and the wine is now dry or nearly dry, the winemakers will

run the grapes through a wine press to squeeze the wine out of the grape skins. From there, a secondary malolactic fermentation may be started, or it may go straight into aging the wine in glass, stainless steel, plastic or oak barrels.

**Quarterly Meeting & Potluck Dinner.** The best place to taste our newly bottled 2016 wines is to attend our next meeting on Saturday, October 14, at Ed Reyes' and Debbie Renne's house. This meeting (party) is a potluck, and we ask all attendees to bring enough food for 8 to 10 people and a bottle of wine, either homemade or commercial. As always, these events are open to all OCWS members and their guests. Sign up at the OCWS website at [ocws.org](http://ocws.org).

**Winemakers' Group Holiday Party.** Our holiday party is scheduled for Saturday, December 23, at the Eastlake Clubhouse in Yorba Linda. Sign up for this event will begin in November.



More details on upcoming events will be featured in an upcoming edition of *The Wine Press* or posted on [ocws.org](http://ocws.org). Kevin Donnelly can be contacted by email at [Kevindonnelly@ocws.org](mailto:Kevindonnelly@ocws.org) or by phone at 714.457.7229 to answer any questions.

- Kevin Donnelly

## Mini-Tasting: Cabernet Sauvignon

**Saturday, November 11, 2017**

**6:00 pm — 9:00 pm**

**Various Members' Homes**



The most popular grape among American wine drinkers is Cabernet Sauvignon. Cabernet Sauvignon produces wines with deep, dark colors that offer complex scents and concentrated flavors ranging from blackberries, crème de cassis, black cherries, boysenberry, blueberry and chocolate when young, to fragrances of tobacco, truffle, cedar wood, earth, lead pencil and leather when mature.

ries, crème de cassis, black cherries, boysenberry, blueberry and chocolate when young, to fragrances of tobacco, truffle, cedar wood, earth, lead pencil and leather when mature.

**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](mailto:Bill@ocws.org) or phone 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.

**Mini-Etiquette:** Each person attending brings a potluck dish (appetizer, entrée, side dish or dessert) ready to serve a small portion to 18 people. Ideally, the dish should be designed to match the theme of the tasting, in this case Cabernet Sauvignon. Please coordinate your food selection with your host to assure an appropriate balance of food types served during the evening. There will be a special bottle of wine awarded that evening as a prize for Chef of the Evening. Our winning Chefs of the Evening can have their recipe published on the OCWS website. Please plan on arriving promptly at 6:00 p.m. You are invited to bring your own wine glasses for tasting, keeping in mind the wines are served in flights of two.

**Cost:** The cost to attend the Mini-Tasting is \$30 for members and \$35 for guests.

We are planning a maximum of five sites for this Mini-Tasting, 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 Sunday, November 5. After this date, please contact Bill or the OCWS office to determine availability. The cancellation deadline is Friday, November 3, 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 Appétit, Bill Redding

## Volunteers That Made the Difference

Heartfelt   
**THANKS**  
**TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

At the Annual Business Meeting held in September, our volunteers were recognized for the many hours of service and effort they dedicated to the Orange County Wine Society over the last Board year. As the organization has only part-time employees, it relies on its volunteers for everything from guiding and managing the organization to planning and running events. Most volunteer work is done "behind the scenes" and unnoticed by many. Our volunteers make this the successful organization that it is, and we encourage everyone to get involved. This is a great way to see how the OCWS works and to meet new friends.



The OCWS presented a Special Award to Dennis and Carol Esslinger, Lora Howard and Marjorie Trout for their many years of dedication to the Commercial Wine Competition. Congratulations and heartfelt gratitude are extended to these extraordinary members.

In recognition of the hours of service, the OCWS rewards its volunteers with gift certificates redeemable for admission to OCWS events only. Please note that this year instead of printed coupons being distributed, the coupon amount will be posted as a credit on each member's account. Thank you to the following volunteers for their efforts during the 2016-2017 Board year.

- George Cravens, Director

### *\$50 Discount Coupon*

Leslie Brown  
 Lloyd Corbett  
 Courtney  
 Kevin Coy  
 Georgia Crane  
 Marcine Crane  
 Chris Cunningham  
 Noel De Soto  
 Kevin Donnelly  
 Jim Downey  
 Lynda Edwards  
 Wendy Eld  
 Carol Esslinger  
 Dennis Esslinger  
 Sharon Finkle  
 William Forsch  
 John Goodnight  
 Larry Graham  
 Kim Guerin  
 Gregory Hagadorn  
 Janet Hammond  
 Marie Hawthorn  
 Helga Hrowal  
 Michael Iglesias  
 Karl Kawai  
 Virginia Kawai  
 Cheryl Knapp  
 Ken Knapp  
 Michael Koval  
 Kevin Lite  
 Janet Marino  
 Sue McDonald

Shirley McManus  
 Linda Mihalik  
 Marcy Ott  
 Charley Owen  
 Vivien Owen  
 Paul Peal  
 Sam Puzzo  
 Rochelle Randel  
 Carolyn Redding  
 Walter Reiss  
 Cal Rietzel  
 Ronna Rowe  
 Karen Russell  
 Scott Sayre  
 Irene Scott  
 Ken Scott  
 Jack Shepard  
 Suzy Skoczylas  
 Frank Solis  
 Dave Stancil  
 Wendy Taylor  
 Bob Topham  
 Marcia Vaughan  
 Richard Ward  
 Rick Weber  
 Taren Weber  
 Jolen Zeroski

### *\$25 Discount Coupon*

Laura Acocella  
 Nancy Ball  
 John Carnes  
 Judy Chapel  
 Greg Collins

Paul Durning  
 Nancy Edwards  
 Stephen Edwards  
 Charles English  
 Kate English  
 Yale Finkle  
 Carol Frank  
 Kathy Fusaro  
 Alison Godleski  
 Mark Godleski  
 Jane Goodnight  
 Jim Graver  
 Jerry Guerin  
 Kelly Hagadorn  
 Fred Heinecke  
 Jim Hume  
 Rodney Jeu  
 Robin Lang  
 Maria Loera  
 David McCann  
 Joan McCann  
 Robin McCormick  
 Linda McLean  
 John Molina  
 Leland Mote  
 Mary Mulcahey  
 Mo Naraghi  
 George Ott  
 Janet Peal  
 Eddie Petros  
 Ed Reyes  
 Sue Rietzel  
 Janet Riordan

Greg Risling  
 Craig Rowe  
 Peter Schlundt Bodien  
 Linda Shepard  
 Pat Solis  
 Dean Strom  
 Robyn Strom  
 Walt Thurner  
 Tom Tippet  
 Barbara White  
 David White

### *\$10 Discount Coupon*

Shilo Bartlett  
 Leah Beattie  
 David Brown  
 Chris Bruce  
 Hank Bruce  
 James Burk  
 Kelly Carnes  
 Pam Carter  
 Carolyn Christian  
 Katherine Coltrin  
 Linda Downey  
 Jim Flores  
 Ellen Flynn  
 B.J. Fornadley  
 Tina Fornadley  
 Claude Fusaro  
 Beverly Genis  
 Mary Giedzinski  
 Ronald Gray  
 Melinda Guillory  
 Elise Haussler

Paul Haussler  
 Dan Hayes  
 Leslie Hodowanec  
 Will Holsinger  
 Lora Howard  
 Lynelle Hustrulid  
 Nancy Jeu  
 Susan Johnson  
 Kathy Krieger  
 Kendall Madsen  
 Don Mason  
 Tomie Mason  
 Roberta Morgan  
 John Nation  
 Ron Nickens  
 Kim Philhart  
 Connie Power  
 Bruce Powers  
 Debbie Renne  
 Elisa Roddy  
 Wilton Roddy  
 Germaine Romano  
 Robert Romano  
 David Rutledge  
 Judy Rydburg  
 Courtney Schlott  
 Theresa Schlundt Bodien  
 Irene Serna  
 Raul Serna  
 Tami Stancil  
 Dave Wiegand  
 Richard Wolsfelt  
 Sara Yeoman

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## OCWS Save the Date Calendar

October 8	Annual Installation Dinner
October 14	Winemakers' Group Quarterly Meeting & Potluck Dinner
November 11	Mini-Tasting: Cabernet Sauvignon
December 1	OCWS Holiday Dinner & Dance
December 23	Winemakers' Group Holiday Party



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



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Orange County Wine Society, Inc.  
PO Box 11059  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627