



# The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 41, Issue 12, December 2017

## The Power Behind the Organization

I'm going to open this article with the closing paragraph and, after reading it, if you choose to read through to the end, you'll hopefully have a better understanding as to what it takes to run this organization. The OCWS is a volunteer, non-profit educational corporation. Although volunteering is not a requirement of membership, it is most certainly encouraged to help make us a success. I ask all of you to please take a look at the 2017-2018 Director Responsibility list posted in this edition of *The Wine Press* and consider becoming a part in running an event this coming year. Unfortunately, over a period of time, the Board has assumed the responsibility of not only running the affairs of the organization with just a small handful of other dedicated member volunteers, but also run most of the events as well. The end. Now, I would greatly appreci-

ate you continuing to read from what was to be the beginning of this article.

As I suspect you all know, the business of the OCWS is overseen by a Board of Directors made up of nine OCWS members who are die-hard volunteers. The only paid positions within the organization are those of the office staff, bookkeeper and Website Administrator, which are all hourly paid, part-time positions. Although the nine Directors each put in thousands of hours a year to run the engine, it's the unsung and often unrecognized heroes of the organization that are the other hundreds of members who choose to volunteer and help run events throughout the year for whatever reason. Be it for the camaraderie, the feeling of knowing that they're a part of something bigger than themselves or, maybe, just for the love of

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Upcoming Events:

- January 12 ..... 3  
*Winery Program: Hess Winery*
- February 16 ..... 5  
*Winery Program: J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines*

### Special Points of Interest:

- Northern California Fires: Giving Back ..... 1
- New Member Corner ..... 2
- In Memoriam ..... 4
- New Member Mixer ..... 5
- Update Email Accounts ..... 5
- Cabernet Sauvignon Mini-Tasting: Recap ..... 6
- Winemakers Newsroom ..... 6
- 2017-18 Board Member Responsibilities ..... 7

## Northern California Devastated by Fire: Giving Back












After many, many years of being supported by hundreds of Napa and Sonoma County wineries by wine submissions to the Commercial Wine Competition, it was our chance to support them in their time of need. The Orange County Wine Society has made donations totaling \$11,000 toward relief efforts for the Northern California fire victims. A donation of \$5,000 has been made to the *Sonoma*

*County Resilience Fund*, with another \$5,000 to the *Napa Valley Community Disaster Relief Fund*. Both of these relief funds came highly recommended by several renowned winemakers who, out of the goodness of their hearts, act as Judges for the Commercial Wine Competition.

After much research, and taking into consideration numerous potential donation sites, the Board, on behalf of the OCWS, chose these two organizations to receive donations. In addition, the OCWS has donated \$1,000 directly to an employee of Carol

*(Continued on page 4)*

	<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

## The Power Behind the Organization

(Continued from page 1)

wine leftovers, these 400 or so volunteers are the ones to be thanked for running the entire vehicle when needed.

Take, for example, our biggest fundraiser of the year, The Courtyard at the OC Fair. In addition to a core committee group of roughly 20 people, we had 322 volunteers overall that worked any number of positions before, throughout and after the 2017 OC Fair that made The Courtyard a raging success. The OCWS is afforded the opportunity to run The Courtyard and realize the profits in order to run the Commercial Wine and Home-wine Competitions on behalf of the Orange County Fair and Events Center. Now, take into consideration that preparation for the competitions, both held in the beginning of June each year and both requiring as much help to run as The Courtyard, begins almost as soon as the prior year's competitions are complete. *All run by volunteers!*

Now, add into the equation our own cooking group, the Cook's Caucus, who cater three OCWS

events a year, the many pursuits of the Winemakers' Group, the Marketing Committee, the wine sort, the wine auction, mini-tastings, monthly winery programs, Dine with Wine, the annual Spring and Fall membership events, etc., etc. *All run by volunteers!*

We are an organization of almost 1,000 members, with approximately 40% of members volunteering. I've personally been approached more times than I care to recall with critiques of programs and events. Knowing there are lots of great ideas floating around in an organization with highly intelligent and motivated people, I would love to see those of you with new creative ideas, and the energy to help incorporate them step up to help keep the OCWS fun, informative and appealing. Your Board of Directors is here to encourage and support all efforts and is just waiting to hear from you. Please consider taking all those thoughts and ideas you've had and kept to yourself and put them into action.

I truly hope to hear from you. Thank you.

- Fran Gitsham, President

## New Member Corner



The Orange County Wine Society extends a warm welcome to its newest members! Membership for the following members was approved by the Board of Directors at the November 7 meeting:

**Chris McCormick • Lisa & Roderick Kerfoot • Tricia & Kasey Eunice  
Betty Taghon • Lisa & Darrel Arnold • Eva & Robert Curd  
Theresa & Steve Nelson**

As of December 1, the OCWS had 1,011 members.

- Brian McDonald, Director & Membership Chair

## 2018 Winery Program: The Hess Collection Winery

Friday, January 12, 2018  
Dinner @ 6:30 pm  
Avenue of the Arts Hotel  
3350 Avenue of the Arts  
Costa Mesa, CA



Randle Johnson,  
Founding Winemaker

Our 2018 Winery Program starts with The Hess Collection Winery from Napa Valley. This winery has history and heritage to build on its foundation with grapes grown on the diverse hillsides of Mt. Veeder. Winemaker Randle Johnson, having over three decades with the Hess family, does what it takes to make top quality

wines. Vintages are challenging with steep and rocky slopes. The wine making is traditional, but also innovative to improve on each successive vintage.

The wines poured this evening will be from The Hess Collection, Artezín and Calafia Cellars. Hess wines offers three distinct tiers of wines from Mount Veeder, from Napa Valley, and Hess Select, which sources fruit from the Northern and Central Coasts of California. Hess Wines has distinguished itself as a premium producer of Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay.



Artezín focuses on California's original heirloom varieties, including signature Zinfandel and Petite Sirah. These handcrafted wines emphasize pure varietal character. Every bottle highlights the inherent uniqueness of the wine's terroir in the rugged North Coast, with a focus on Mendocino.

Calafia Cellars is a labor of love, a personal brand and little-known gem of a winery started by Randle and his wife MaryLee in St. Helena.



The cost of the buffet meal is \$39 for members and \$44 for guests. The buffet meal includes a breast of chicken with mustard seed cream sauce, rosemary roasted pee wee potatoes, charred seasonal vegetables, with a California Caesar salad with toasted pepitas, chopped Romaine, heirloom cherry tomatoes, garlic croutons, Parmesan cheese and creamy Caesar

dressing, and warm artisan breads and rolls.

We offer a separate option of a "Heart Healthy" sit-down meal for \$44 for members and \$49 for guests. This selection includes a pan roasted local Sea Bass with a citrus sauce, Quinoa, charred seasonal vegetables, with a California Caesar salad with toasted pepitas, chopped Romaine, heirloom cherry tomatoes, garlic croutons, Parmesan cheese and creamy Caesar dressing, and warm artisan breads and rolls.

Attendees can either self park in the hotel garage and get their ticket validated at the OCWS check-in or pay \$10 for valet parking. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm with the meeting following at 7:15 pm.

Members may bring their own wine to enjoy and share during dinner. We do ask that you remove your bottle from the table during the tasting. Be sure to wear your nametag.

Sign up is available on the OCWS website. As we need to contract the meals with the hotel, the last day to sign up or cancel and receive a refund is Sunday, January 7.

As a side note, when visiting The Hess Collection winery, you must visit The Hess Art Collection which houses art collected by Donald Hess. One can have his or her own journey and experience with an art piece or with a glass of Hess wine.

- Rich Skoczylas, Director

*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:**

Jim Burk, Wendy Taylor

Copyright © 2017 Orange County Wine Society, Inc. and its licensors. All rights reserved.

# Northern California Devastated by Fire: Giving Back

(Continued from page 1)

Shelton Wines. Carol and her husband, Mitch, having also lost their home and belongings to the fires, did not look for help for themselves, but rather selflessly requested assistance for an employee, who also lost everything. Knowing Carol Shelton's truly lovely heart, and appreciating all she has contributed to the Wine Society over the years, the OCWS could do nothing less than to help when asked.

Besides requests for donations, the common message we received from hundreds of wineries is to support those areas hit

hardest by the fires by continuing to visit the wineries and purchase wines. We have been told in any number of ways that the continued support of the wine country will be a huge boost to both the local economies and to the spirit of those communities. As OCWS members and wine lovers, the Board encourages you to visit the many wineries in Northern California, make a purchase to help boost the economy of the region and the many wineries who have supported the OCWS!

- The OCWS Board of Directors

## In Memoriam: Vivien Owen



Vivien Owen, a beloved member of the OCWS, sadly passed away on November 4, 2017. Her diminutive stature belied the enormous size of her generous heart and passion for giving. Vivien joined the Wine Society with her husband, Charley, the very first year of its founding, in 1978. Beginning with selling wine at the Fair each year, her passion for the organization led her to creating the displays at the Fair for many, many

years and leaving a documented history of the OCWS by acting as historian until just a few years ago. She participated in just about every aspect of the organization at one time or another over the years and, most recently, enjoyed sharing her knowledge of wine and the OCWS with Fair attendees by being an OCWS Courtyard Ambassador during the OC Fair.

Vivien's life took her on many adventures with Charley, the most loved of which was raising a beautiful family together. Vivien was blessed with her daughter, Janet, who married Paul Peal, and her son, Jack, who married Sheila Lambert. She leaves her two children, their spouses, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren with an amazing legacy.

Born in Los Angeles, Vivien held a degree in Psychology from UCLA and a Life General Elementary teaching credential. During her professional career with the Tustin School District, she taught every grade level from Kindergarten to 12th grade, as well as special education classes.

As a volunteer throughout the years, Vivien was second to none as a Girl Scout leader, holding any number of positions on PTO Boards and as President of the Tustin Area Woman's Club, to name just a few of the many organizations and en-

deavors that were fortunate to have her leadership.

Vivien found a different direction to her volunteerism after having served on the OC Grand Jury for a year. She joined the Past Grand Jurors Association and subsequently was appointed to the Water Facilities Corporation of the Municipal Water District of Orange County where she served a six year term.

In 1989, Vivien was appointed to the Orange County Public Cemetery Board of Trustees to which she had many re-appointments by various County Supervisors, served as Chairman of the Board six times and was still serving upon her death.

Vivien and Charley's love for travel found them traversing California in a camper truck mostly visiting wineries and attending UCLA football games. Their camper travels within the USA found them visiting their son in Iowa and Florida, while bunking down in Elderhostels. Their cruise adventures found them going from Tahiti to Russia and back on U.S. soil in Alaska. Other adventures found Vivien joining Charley throughout his professional career in cities as exciting and diverse as London and Istanbul.



So many more details about the life of this loving, passionate, highly intelligent woman are left unsaid here. Simply saying that Vivien touched countless lives during her own with her infectious smile and loving nature

says it all. Her life was a blessing to all who knew her, her memory will be a treasure and she will be missed beyond measure.

Cheers to Viv!

## New Member Mixer

We are delighted to announce that the next New Member Mixer has been scheduled:

**Date:** Sunday, January 28, 2018  
**Time:** 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
**Dress:** Casual  
**Location:** Anaheim Hills area. The exact address will be emailed to those who have RSVP'd about a week before the event.

The event is open to new members who have joined on or after May 1, 2017 and have not previously attended a New Member Mixer. This is a **FREE EVENT**. It is a great opportunity to meet the Board of Directors, other new members and learn about the opportunities your OCWS membership offers.

Wine and light appetizers will be served. Please be sure to wear your OCWS membership badge.

This event is being hosted in the private home of one of our members. Attendance is limited according to what the homeowner feels their home can accommodate.

As a courtesy to the host, **an RSVP (online sign up) is required**. When you sign up online, you will receive an email confirmation. If you do not receive an email confirmation, please call the OCWS office because your RSVP has not been accepted. Only those with a confirmed RSVP will be admitted.

- Brian McDonald, Director and Membership Chair

## February Winery Program: J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines

**Friday, February 16, 2018**  
**Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.**  
**Avenue of the Arts Hotel**  
**3350 Avenue of the Arts**  
**Costa Mesa, CA**



Four decades ago, with little history or viticultural precedent, planting on the Central Coast was a gamble. One of a handful of early pioneers, Jerry Lohr, was among the first to realize the inherent potential of Monterey and Paso Robles for producing high quality grapes and superb wines.

Jerry chose Monterey County's Arroyo Seco district for its cool, windy climate and rocky soils as ideal for Chardonnay, Riesling, Valdiguié and Pinot Noir. He recognized the potential of Paso Robles for growing Bordeaux and Rhone varieties, especially Cabernet Sauvignon – given the area's rich soils and dramatic temperature swings between warm days and cool nights. The spectacular Carol's Vineyard (Napa Valley) is planted to Cabernet Sauvignon and Petit Verdot.

The cost of the buffet meal is \$39 for members and \$44 for guests. This buffet meal includes a grilled breast of chicken with Marsala wine sauce with mushrooms, parmesan herb

risotto, seasonal baby Heirloom vegetables with a wedge salad of Butter lettuce, roasted tomatoes, crispy pancetta, Bleu Cheese crumbles, creamy peppercorn dressing and warm artisan breads and rolls with sweet butter.

We offer a separate option of a "Heart Healthy" sit-down meal for \$44 for members and \$49 for guests. This selection includes roasted salmon filet with Bouillabaisse sauce, chive couscous, matignon of seasonal vegetables with a wedge salad of Butter lettuce, roasted tomatoes, crispy pancetta, Bleu Cheese crumbles, creamy peppercorn dressing and warm artisan breads and rolls with sweet butter.

Dinner begins at 6:30 pm with the meeting following at 7:15 pm. Sign up on the OCWS website to attend. Attendees can either self-park in the hotel garage and get their ticket validated at OCWS check-in or pay \$10 for valet parking.

Members may bring their own wine to enjoy and share during dinner. We do ask that you remove your bottle from the table during the tasting. Be sure to wear your nametag.

As we need to contract the meals with the hotel, the last day to sign up or cancel and receive a refund is Sunday, February 11.

- Rich Skoczylas, Director



## Update Email Accounts @ OCWS.org

We have been receiving an extraordinary number of undeliverable messages from our OCWS member email accounts. In order to receive OCWS "blasts" regarding various OCWS events and other information, your email accounts must be valid and correct. Please take a moment to log in to ocws.org, click "My Profile" to review your "account details." Double check that your and/or your co-member's email accounts are correct.

## Cabernet Sauvignon Mini-Tasting: Recap

A total of 108 members and guests attended the November Mini-Tasting held at six host sites. The blind tasting consisted of five flights of two wines each with wines from Napa, Alexander Valley, and Paso Robles. The top three favorite wines of the six host sites were:

Placement	Winery Name	Year	PRICE	DESCRIPTION
1st	Francis Ford Coppola	2015	\$17.00	King Kong, Sonoma, OCWS Gold 2017
2nd	Lancaster	2014	\$55.00	Alexander Valley, Estate, WS 94
3rd	Frank Family	2014	\$55.00	Napa Valley, WS 91

In addition, attendees brought a delicious dish to share and then voted on a Chef of the Evening. The results of the Chef of the Evening at each host site were:

- Hosts Barbara and Dave White: Joyce Coker for Wild Mushroom Lasagna
- Hosts Greg and Cathy Rising: Elaine Watrous for Zuppa Toscana
- Hosts Virginia and Karl Kawai: Jim Burk for Braised Beef in Wine Sauce & Shirley McManus for Potato Cheese Casserole
- Hosts Tina and BJ Fornadley: Tina Fornadley for Beef Lasagna with Pesto
- Hosts Marcia and James Vaughan: Barbara Schneider for Overnight Glazed Short Ribs
- Hosts Bob and Janae Unruh: Lynelle Hustrulid for Better Than Sex Dessert

Congratulations to all the winners, and a big thank you to all the Hosts!

- Bill Redding & George Cravens, Directors

## Winemakers Newsroom

Our 2017 grapes have finished fermentation, and we have been racking our new wines into carboys, tanks and barrels in anticipation of some fine “drink’n” next year!

**Winemakers’ Group Holiday Party.** Our holiday party is scheduled for Saturday, December 23, at the Eastlake Clubhouse in Yorba Linda, and this event is ***sold out***. As a reminder to those confirmed to attend, this is a potluck, and we ask everyone attending to bring enough food to serve 10 to 12 people and a bottle of wine per person, either homemade or commercial.

**2018 WineMaker Magazine Conference.** We are looking forward to the WineMaker Magazine’s annual conference to be



held May 17 through May 20 in San Diego. We are hoping to have a large contingent of our winemakers attend and flex our muscles as a fabulous and energetic part of the OCWS!

The program is being finalized with full details to come early this month. If you are interested in attending, contact Kevin or visit WineMaker website at [www.winemakermag.com](http://www.winemakermag.com) for more information.



Details on all Winemakers’ Group events will be featured in an upcoming edition of *The Wine Press* or posted on [ocws.org](http://ocws.org).

If you have any questions, contact Kevin at [KevinDonnelly@ocws.org](mailto:KevinDonnelly@ocws.org) or by phone at 714.457.7229.

- Kevin Donnelly

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

PO Box 11059, Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Phone: 714.708.1636 Fax: 714.546.5002

Website: [OCWS.org](http://OCWS.org) ■ OCWS Facebook ■ Twitter: [@OCWineSociety](https://twitter.com/OCWineSociety)

OCWS Website Administrator: Wendy Taylor

OCWS Photographer: Jim Burk

## 2017-2018 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.

<b>MAJOR / KEY EVENTS</b>	<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>BOD LIAISON</b>	<b>MEMBER ASST.</b>
Annual Business Meeting	Jim Beard	Rich Skoczylas - Catering	
Barbecue - Spring 2018 Event	Terry McLean		
Champagne Brunch	Rich Skoczylas		Marcia Vaughan
Commercial Wine Competition	Leslie Brown	Fran Gitsham	
Dine with Wine	Rich Skoczylas		Marcia Vaughan
Fall Event (Chili Cook-off, Oktoberween)	Terry McLean		
Featured Winery Program @ the OC Fair	Liz & Lloyd Corbett	George Cravens	
Holiday Dinner / Dance	Brian McDonald		
Homewine Competition	Kevin Donnelly	Stacey Taylor	
Installation Dinner	Rich Skoczylas		
Mini-Tastings	George Cravens	Bill Redding	
OCFEC Red Barn Dinners	Fran Gitsham	George Cravens	
Wine Auction	Bill Redding	Jim Beard, Asst.	Dennis Esslinger
Wine Courtyard @ the OC Fair	Fran Gitsham	Brian McDonald, Co-Chair	Liz/Lloyd Corbett
Winery Programs	Rich Skoczylas		
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>BOD LIAISON</b>	<b>MEMBER ASST.</b>
By-Laws Committee	Brian McDonald		
Cellarmaster / Assistant Cellarmaster	Bill Redding	Jim Beard, Asst.	Kevin Coy
Computer/Database Coordinator	Stacey Taylor		
Cook's Caucus Coordinator		Terry McLean	
Election Committee	Greg Hagadorn	Jim Beard	
Facility Coordinator	Fran Gitsham		
Finance Committee	Yale Finkle	Brian McDonald	
Historian			Liz Corbett
Marketing Committee	Terry McLean, Co-Chair	Ken Scott, Co-Chair	Irene Scott
Membership	Brian McDonald		
Merchandise Sales	Liz Corbett		Lloyd Corbett
Newsletter— <i>The Wine Press</i>	Linda Mihalik, Editor	Stacey Taylor, Web	Wendy Taylor, Web
OC Fair Liaison	Fran Gitsham	Bill Redding	
Office Procedures Coordinators	Lynda Edwards / Rochelle Randel	Jim Beard	
Photographers	Jim Burk/Wendy Taylor		
Scholarship	Stacey Taylor		
Social Media Coordinator / Constant Contact	Ken Scott, Co-Chair	Stacey Taylor, Co-Chair	Wendy Taylor & Irene Scott
Volunteer Recognition	George Cravens	Bill Redding	
Website Board Liaison		Stacey Taylor	Wendy Taylor
Wine Education			
Wine Steward (Winery Program)	Bill Redding		Carolyn Redding
Wine Tasting Field Trips			
Homewine Group	Kevin Donnelly	Ken Scott	Irene Scott

---

## OCWS Save the Date Calendar

December 23	Winemakers' Group Holiday Party
January 12, 2018	Winery Program: The Hess Collection
February 16, 2018	Winery Program: J. Lohr Vineyards
March 9, 2018	Winery Program: Pear Valley Vineyards
April 13, 2018	Winery Program: Cottonwood Canyon Winery
May 11, 2018	Winery Program: Jeff Runquist Wines



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



### **The Wine Press**

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