



The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 42, Issue 5, May 2018

The Side Our Bread Is Buttered On (or more appropriately...The Vines Our Grapes Thrive On)

The Orange County Wine Society is known for running The Courtyard at the OC Fair each year and reaping the benefits, but most people don't know how this came to be. Proceeds from The Courtyard, along with the Wine Auction each year, pay for running the Competitions and sustaining the organization; however, this does not come from the OCWS alone. The OCWS is in a very important partnership with the Orange County Fair and Events Center (OCFEC) which affords us the opportunity to continue running the Competitions and realizing the benefits. The Commercial and Home Wine Competitions that we run each year are, in fact, owned by the OCFEC, not the OCWS. However, it was that small group of home winemakers that I wrote about just a few months ago in *The Wine Press* that not only began

the organization 42 years ago, but also approached the OC Fair with the thought of running wine competitions at the OC Fair. Hence, with a single table and a handful of wines, the OC Fair wine competitions were born.

From that handful of passionate people and one small table, the OCWS now runs one of the most prestigious commercial wine competitions in the country. The OC Fair Commercial Wine Competition, which is held offsite over an entire weekend, finds entries of upwards of 2,500+ California commercial wines each year that are judged by a distinguished panel of nearly 90 judges comprised of mostly renowned California winemakers and winery principals. The Competition, which is traditionally held on the first week-

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May Winery Program: Jeff Runquist Wines

Friday, May 11, 2018
Dinner @ 6:30 pm
Avenue of the Arts Hotel
3350 Avenue of the Arts
Costa Mesa, CA



Jeff Runquist has a passion for red wines. He produces 22 different red varietals and has received dozens of medals every year. Jeff wins many competitions from San

Francisco to Orange County and at the California State Fair. His wines are awarded either Gold or Double Gold.

Jeff's wines are easily recognizable with their "R" on the bottles with an exceptional


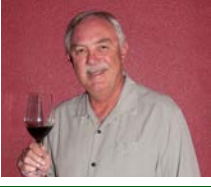


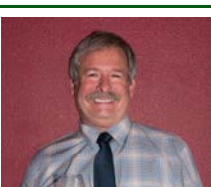




"Z" for his Zinfandel. Jeff Runquist winery is located in the heart of the Sierra Foothills.

For the first time at a Wine Society tasting, we bring Jeff Runquist wines to our tasting program. Our members will also have an opportunity to purchase his wines at a great price on this evening. Do not miss out on this occasion!

We will be featuring a special sit-down, three-course dinner instead of our usual buffet offering. The price will be \$52 for members and \$57 for guests with a choice of two entrée items.

Dinner will start with the Silver Trumpet salad of baby mixed greens, gold and red

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The Side Our Bread Is Buttered On (or more appropriately... The Vines Our Grapes Thrive On)

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end of June each year, finds over 300 OCWS volunteers working hard to make each competition more successful than the one before. The Winemakers' Group of the OCWS, which is comprised of about 80 die-hard home winemakers, many of whom are award-winning winemakers in their own right, and a couple of hundred more supporters, run the OC Fair Home Wine Competition on the second weekend of June each year. This Home Wine Competition, which is held on the Fairgrounds, finds approximately 220 volunteers to make this event a success. Over 100 of these individuals are trained home wine judges who judge approximately 650 entered wines that are served by about 80 stewards. Behind the scenes finds scorers and glass washers, among many other supporting roles, as well as both breakfast and lunch created and served by the OCWS Cooks' Caucus.

All of this culminates in The Courtyard during the OC Fair, where the OCWS has the pleasure of serving tastes of that year's award winning commercial wines throughout the 23 days of the Fair, pouring glasses of other commercial wines and hosting a number of wine seminars in an effort to continue our organization's mission of wine education. All of this is accomplished at the hands of hundreds of dedicated volunteers without whom this organization would not be what it is today. Truly amazing in my opinion! I am so proud to be your President this year and have the opportunity to share stories of incredible people and events with all of you.

For more information about the Competitions and The Courtyard, please visit our website at ocws.org.

- Fran Gitsham, President

May Winery Program: Jeff Runquist Wines

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beets, grapes, Chevre goat cheese, walnuts, tarragon-Dijon vinaigrette, with warm artisan breads and rolls with sweet butter.

Our two dinner entrée choices include **either** (i) a grilled petite top sirloin with an Armagnac green peppercorn sauce, potato au gratin and charred Kabocha squash **or** (ii) a "Heart Healthy" entrée of pan seared, herb marinated Branzino Sea Bass with pea puree, braised kale, Sumac onions and citrus Gremolata. For dessert, we will have a Meyer lemon tart with fresh berries.

Sign-up on the OCWS website to attend this event. Attendees can either self-park in the hotel garage and get their ticket validated at 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.

As we need to contract the meals with the hotel, **the last day to sign up, make changes or cancel and receive a refund is Sunday, May 6. Any cancellations after this date would be filled and refunded from the waitlist.**

- Rich Skoczylas, Director

In Memoriam: Suzy Skoczylas



Suzanne Skoczylas, beloved wife of OCWS Director, Rich Skoczylas, and long time OCWS member, sadly passed away on March 19, 2018. Her amazing, upbeat attitude belied physical battles suffered for many, many years. Her love for her husband,

and for life itself, sustained Suzy through 42 years of numerous bouts of cancer. She can first and foremost be described throughout those years as the epitome of a true survivor.

Born in Oklahoma City, Suzy became a medical secretary and was set up on a blind date with Rich, then a young Air Force officer, by her mother who worked with Rich at Tinker Air Force Base.

Suzy and Rich were married on May 3, 1972 and shortly thereafter moved to Boston, where Rich was transferred, before moving to California in 1978. After moving to California and set-

ting in Fountain Valley, Suzy and Rich joined The Wine Society in the early 1980s.

Always at Rich's side, Suzy supported him through many years of chairing numerous OCWS events, several stints on the board of directors, the creation of amazing desserts for events and, always when able, Suzy was found volunteering herself for many OCWS gatherings.

Suzy's love of people and passion for helping others found her active with the Newcomers Clubs of Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach, CHOC, the American Cancer Society, the Breast Cancer Angels, and as a volunteer for several years at Orange Coast Memorial in Fountain Valley supporting cancer patients.

Suzy leaves behind her loving husband, a brother, a sister and a brother-in-law and many, many friends, along with an amazing legacy of strength and love. Suzy was an incredible woman whose memory will be treasured and held in many hearts.

Alcohol Server Training (TIPS) for The Courtyard: Last Call



Spring has sprung! If you haven't previously done so, it is time to spring into action and sign up for an Alcohol Server Training (TIPS) class. There are just a few classes left in May and June. TIPS certification is

valid for three years. If you were TIPS certified in 2015 and are planning to volunteer at The Courtyard this year, you will need to re-take the class. If you have **never taken** a TIPS class, you will need to attend and successfully complete the training.

As a concessionaire of the OC Fair, the OCWS must adhere to contractual requirements established by the OC Fair & Events Center Board of Directors. Prior to working in The Courtyard during the OC Fair, everyone must be "professionally trained

and certified in alcohol awareness techniques."

The TIPS class schedule and sign-up form are located on the OCWS website at www.ocws.org. Please log into your account and use the online form located at 'About>Courtyard.' When selecting your availability, please indicate your 1st **and** 2nd choice dates. The classes are held on the grounds of the OC Fair & Events Center. An email confirmation with maps will be sent within one week prior to the class.

If you have any questions regarding TIPS training, please email TIPS@ocws.org or call 714.235.6459.

- **Marcy Ott, Badging Coordinator**

- **Rochelle Randel, TIPS Trainer**

2018 Courtyard Committee

OC Fair Server Responsibility Statements

The OCFEC requires each person pouring alcohol to sign a Server Responsibility Statement. This is an OC Fair form, not an OCWS form. Therefore, please **do not** write any messages on the form. The form states that you have attached a copy of your server certificate to the form; this step is handled by The Courtyard Committee prior to submitting the signed Server Statements to the OCFEC. The form can be found on the web-

site at www.ocws.org under 'About > Courtyard' section. Please only fill out one name per form, sign and date where indicated, and email to TIPS@ocws.org or by fax to the OCWS office at 714.546.5002 (**not the fax number indicated on the form**). Thank you.

2018 Courtyard Committee

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.

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The Courtyard Sign-Ups

Sign ups for The Courtyard will be online at ocws.org starting May 1. Shifts are generally filled on a first-come basis, so if you have favorite shifts, it is best to sign up early.

All volunteers will be issued an OC Fair pass that is good on any day of the Fair and an off-site parking permit with shuttle transportation to and from Gate 4.

You may sign up for as many shifts as you like, but you must sign-up for a **minimum of three shifts**.

For those who are working The Courtyard for the first time, you

are required by the OC Fair to be TIPS certified. The OCWS provides free classes (normally \$40). For returning volunteers, your certification is good for three years. When you sign up, you will be notified if you need to re-certify. TIPS certification classes are held on the grounds of the OC Fair & Event Center in the evenings and on weekends.

When volunteering at The Courtyard please remember the **No. 1 Rule – have fun!**

- Fran Gitsham & Brian McDonald, Event Chairs

Winemakers Newsroom

The Winemakers' Group is ramping up for the 42nd Annual Home Wine Competition to be held on June 9 at The Courtyard.

The Home Wine Competition is **now accepting entries!** Check our website at www.HomeWineCompetition.com or contact us by email at HomeWineCompetition@ocws.org for more information. Please let me know if you are interested in being a Judge or Steward this year!

During May, the Winemakers' Group will be conducting two educational classes.

Judging Seminar. This year's Judging Seminar will be held on May 5 and hosted by Robin Lang and Lynn Hess, at the home of Lynn Hess.

Kit Wine Making Class. Kern Vogel and Mike Iglesias will host this class on May 12; a great way to get into winemaking!

2018 WineMaker Magazine Conference (Last Call). We are looking forward to the WineMaker Magazine's annual conference to be held May 17 through May 20 in San Diego. If you are interested in attending, contact Kevin or visit WineMaker website at www.WineMakerMag.com for more information.

Bottle & Cork Group Wrap Up. We are wrapping up our Bottle & Cork group purchases for our members. Our members have purchased 700 cases (that's 8,400 bottles) managed by David Rutledge, and 9,000 corks managed by Bill Forsch, each at

about half the cost of the retail supply stores. Thank you to both David and Bill for all their efforts!

Making Rosé Wines Recap. Noting the growing popularity of Rosé, the Winemakers' Group developed and held a wine maker seminar on March 20, led by Bruce Powers with 15 attendees **going PINK!** Yes, Rosé wines merited discussion, tasting and Q&A on how to make various styles of Rosé wines! Bruce generously shared several of his vintages as well as a few commercially purchased Rosés. Rob Romano delivered a delicious homemade meal of Chicken Piccata, artisan bread, roasted vegetables, and pink iced shortbread cookies in the shape of wine bottles. Thanks to Germaine Romano for securing their boardroom space for our use, Rob for cooking and handling all the sign-up and detail preparations and, of course, Bruce Powers for leading this informative, fun and "tasty" class. Winemakers, look for our Fall grape selections to help you make your first Rosé!



Be sure to frequently visit the OCWS website for upcoming Winemakers' Group events.

If you have any questions, contact Kevin at KevinDonnelly@ocws.org or by phone at 714.457.7229.

- Kevin Donnelly

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 at the April 10 meeting:

Deborah Mines • Linda Flemins • Sera Nelson • Michael

Corral • Cyndi & Paul Nelson • Patricia & Robert Machado • Linda & Bob Ellenburg • Pamela & Robert Hess • Mercedes Flores & Eric Perez • Lisa Viceroy & Lila Feingold • Lori Plummer & Robert Loll • Christine Ankenman

As of April 1, the OCWS had 1,007 members.

- Brian McDonald, Director & 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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OCWS Website Administrator: Wendy Taylor ■ OCWS Photographer: Jim Burk

A Great Opportunity: Three BOD Seats Open in 2018



Wow, we have a great opportunity right now for the first time in a long time. Three Board members' terms are expiring, and they are ineligible to run again.

I am reaching out to the membership earlier than usual so that anyone who

has considered running for a Board position can talk and share their ideas with the existing Board and members. It's the relationships that you have cultivated with your fellow members that get you elected. With that being said, if you are innovative, open-minded, results oriented and a problem solver, a position as a Director of the OCWS just might be right for you. We need some forward thinking people that are looking to see where we want the OCWS to be in the next 5-10 years.

The overall time commitment for a member of the Board varies, based on assignments and participation. We are moving from having the Board manage some events to having our members run the event with a Board coordinator being the liaison to the Board regarding budgets, event timing and placement.

A candidate should possess some of the following skills and experience:

- General knowledge of OCWS events and activities
- Experience as a volunteer in some events; involvement with event committees
- Possess the ability to organize events during the year
- Selected event and budget management skills
- Be a member in good standing

To declare your candidacy for a position on the Board, the candidate must present their Declaration of Candidacy in writing, by mail, or via electronic media to the Election Chair. I want to again urge you to sign up sooner than later. This first step will allow you to start talking to other OCWS members and allow them the opportunity to get to know you and your background.

If being an OCWS leader interests you, contact me with any questions related to Director responsibilities, the election process, or anything related to the election, at 714.388.8803 or email me at Greg@ocws.org.

- Greg Hagadorn, 2018 Election Chair

Hotel Reservations for Commercial Wine Competition

If you plan on staying at the Costa Mesa Hilton Hotel for the weekend of the Commercial Wine Competition, please make reservations no later than May 20. The OCWS has booked a block of rooms for OCWS members at a discounted rate and this rate is guaranteed only until that date. The special rate does not require advance payment and is \$139 per night plus \$12 per night parking. If you want to stay on the 7th floor Exec-

utive Level, the rate is \$175 per night for up to 2 persons in the room. Room reservations can be made by phoning 714.540.7000 or online at <http://group.hilton.com/OCWS2018WineCompetition>. When making reservations, mention the discount code "**OCWS18 Wine Competition**" to receive the above rates.

- Bill Redding, Director

The Courtyard Setup & Teardown

Setup for The Courtyard is scheduled for Saturday, July 7. We need to move all of The Courtyard material from the storage trailer, clean the refrigerator, clean the counters and shelving, hang posters and signs, etc. The setup will start at 9:00 am and will end by 2:00 pm so everyone going to the Gold Medal Mini-Tasting will have plenty of time to get home and prepare.

Lunch, beer and wine will be provided. Everyone working will be

asked to pick a bottle of wine to take home as a thank you. If you are able to help, please RSVP to Brian@ocws.org so we can plan for food and other essentials.

The Courtyard teardown will be on Monday, August 13 starting at 9:00 am.

- Brian McDonald, Set Up Chair

Commercial Competition Volunteers

We have had great enthusiasm from members signing up this year and we would like to extend a heartfelt "**thank you**" to all our volunteers! At this time most positions have been filled. Please check the website for any remaining positions.

For your information, we will be sending out confirmation of activities mid May. Please look for emails from ken@ocws.org.

If you are unable to fulfill your volunteer assignment, please contact us directly so we can get your shift covered. We can be reached at either Ken@ocws.org or Irene@ocws.org.

We are excited to see you at the competition!

- Ken and Irene Scott, Volunteer Coordinators



The Wine Press

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

OCWS Save the Date Calendar

May 11	Winery Program: Jeff Runquist Wines
June 2-3	Commercial Wine Competition
June 9	Home Wine Competition
July 7	Gold Medal Mini-Tasting
July 13—August 12	OC Fair
September 29	“Oktoberween” themed Fall Membership BBQ
October 21	Oktoberfest, Phoenix Club, Anaheim
November 30	Annual Holiday Dinner & Dance, The Atrium Hotel



www.ocws.org

