



# The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 42, Issue 9, September 2018

## Passing the Torch

This is the last President's article I will be writing. In accordance with our Bylaws, I am termed out of the Board after six years (two three-year terms). To be blatantly honest, I am not devastated to know that I will have more time on my hands and I can just be one hell of a great volunteer going forward. I look forward to sharing more time and laughs with so many of you whose paths have crossed mine, and because of my commitment to help run the organization precluded me from, more often than not, spending time just being and having more fun.

I am so very proud to have had the opportunity to serve the organization on the Board and to have been your President, if just for one brief year. I was mentored early on by smart, talented, and loving people and have watched this organization grow by leaps and bounds in just these past six years. We have implemented new technology, ramped

up the business aspect of The Courtyard and created new membership drives that have brought us the next generation of dedicated volunteers who will see that the OCWS continues to thrive for many more years to come. New fundraising avenues have been tapped into for our scholarship fund, marketing efforts have enhanced the Commercial Wine Competition in more ways than just entries, and we have gained, thanks to an amazing OC Fair staff, new respect from the OCFEC as one of their nonprofit partners, all while trying to take into consideration those who have come before and created the foundation that it is today.

With the above being said, I ask all of you to remember that I was just one of nine and to please show the same support, compassion and understanding I have felt from you to

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## Announcing Oktoberween 2018

**Saturday, September 29, 2018**  
**Noon to 4:30 pm**  
**The "Haunted" Courtyard**  
**on the grounds of the OC Fair**



October means Oktoberfest with authentic German Bratwurst, sauerkraut, potato salad, and beer. But

it also means Halloween with costumes, tricks, treats, and wine.

So, we are having both!

Put your "creative" minds to work and show












up in your favorite Halloween or Oktoberfest costumes, and enjoy some good food, wine, beer, games, contests, music and, dancing – yes, this includes the *Chicken Dance!*

The cost will be \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members.

Please remember to sign up early as last year's Fall Event was a sell out!

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## In Memoriam: Tony Marino



1931—2018

We are terribly sad to share the news that our colleague, mentor and friend, Tony Marino, passed away on Thursday, August 16, 2018.

Tony was respected and appreciated across the OCWS for his wine knowledge, generosity, sense of humor, and passion. Tony will be remembered with great fondness, and as a good friend. We extend our deepest condolences to Tony's wife, Janet, and to their families during this difficult time.

A dedication to Tony will be featured in the October edition of *The Wine Press* and on the OCWS website.

- OCWS Board of Directors

## Passing the Torch

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those who are coming next. You have six truly amazing Board members going forward next year and now, as all three of the outgoing Directors have termed out, we have the opportunity to elect three new Board members to help run the OCWS. I have joked that we have 1,000 members at any given time and that 991 are in it for the fun and camaraderie, but nine members who, as Directors, give an exorbitant amount of their personal time and business expertise to run the OCWS. This is so true! It's not always easy to keep in mind that we are a business and must be run as such taking into consideration finances, legalities, liabilities, insurance, etc. Your Directors give not only their time and talents, but their hearts. We have four people running for the three open Director positions. I strongly urge each of you to take the time to read their Statements of Candidacy and use your best discretion to vote for three people you consider most qualified to run the business. Statements of Candidacy can be located on the ocws.org website.

I ask that you also remember that, although nine people essentially run the business, none of this would be possible without all of your support and efforts as volunteers doing the really hard work. I could not be prouder to have been a part of the business aspect, and now I look forward to being equally as proud to join the ranks as a dedicated volunteer.

Lastly, please remember, I will still do hugs! Thank you all for a great ride!

- Fran Gitsham, President

# OCWS Annual Installation Dinner

Sunday, October 7, 2018 @ 5:30 pm

Avenue of the Arts Hotel

3350 Avenue of the Arts

Costa Mesa, CA

The annual Installation Dinner for the Orange County Wine Society will feature a gourmet, four-course dinner at Avenue of the Arts Hotel.

The evening will begin at 5:30 pm with a champagne reception to allow members to mingle prior to dinner. The Wine Society will provide wines selected from the OCWS cellar to accompany the meal. Members are also welcome to bring a bottle of their own wine (no corkage fees will be charged).

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

**Cost:** The cost will be \$63 for members and \$68 for guests, inclusive of tax and gratuity.

Do not miss this outstanding evening. This exclusive dining event has limited seating, so sign up early as this event will sell out fast.

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 OCWS check-in or valet park for \$10.

As we need to contract the meals with the hotel, the last day to sign up or cancel and receive a refund is Sunday, September 30. Any cancellations after this date would be filled and refunded from the waitlist. Remember to please wear your nametag.

**Accommodations:** A special room rate of \$119 per night is available. Self-parking is discounted at \$14 and valet parking is \$28. The Avenue of the Arts Hotel's direct reservations number is 714.751.5100. Ask for the Reservations Department and please reference the "Orange County Wine Society" when booking your reservation to receive this special rate. This special rate is good until Friday, September 14 at 5:00 pm.

- Rich Skoczylas, Dinner Coordinator

## Installation Dinner Menu

### ~ Appetizer Course (all three) ~

Bacon Wrapped Dates

Crab Cake with Cilantro Aioli

Goat Cheese, Tomato, Caramelized Onion Tartlet

### ~ Salad Course ~

Silver Trumpet Salad

### ~ Main Course ~

(Choice of one the following)

Bone-In Jidori Chicken Breast

Herbs de Provence, Charred Brussel Sprouts,

Marble Potatoes, Chicken Jus

OR

Natural Grass-Fed Beef Short Rib

Boneless Short Rib, Celery Root Puree, Cipollini Onions,

Charred Baby Carrots, Bordelaise

OR

Sautéed Salmon Filet

Wilted Spinach, Bacon and Mushroom Sauté,

Baby Arugula, Balsamic Glaze

OR

Wild Mushroom En Croute

Sun Dried Tomato Ragout, Truffle Cream Sauce

### ~ Dessert ~

(Choice of one the following)

Warm Chocolate Cake

with Pepper and Lime Macerated Berries

OR

Earl Grey Crème Brûlée

Caramelized Sugar, Lemon Sugar Cookies,

Candied Lemon Zest

OR

Affogato Vanilla Gelato

with Espresso Shot, Chocolate Covered Coffee Beans

### ~ Beverages ~

J Gursey Artisan Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee

& Gourmet Herbal Tea Service

*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).

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# Announcing Oktoberween 2018

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As with all of our events, they only happen because members like you are willing to step forward and volunteer to help. We are looking for volunteers to help with the set-up, decorating, food serving, wine serving, clean up,



check-in, raffle sales, wine wall, and a few floaters.

You can sign up to volunteer when you register for the event on the OCWS website. Hope to see you there!

-Terry Mclean, Event Chair

## Oktoberfest at The Phoenix Club

Sunday, October 21, 2018  
Brunch—11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Oktoberfest—Noon to 6:00 pm  
The Phoenix Club

1340 S. Sanderson Ave., Anaheim, CA



No need to pack or go through security, just dust off your bier steins and join your fellow OCWS members and guests for Brunch and an afternoon of German food, music, and entertainment.

The price for this German inspired Brunch is \$46 for members and \$51 for guests. This price includes tax, gratuity, \$10 in beverage tickets, parking, and entry into the Oktoberfest (a \$12 value). We will place tablecloths on several picnic style tables under the bier tent prior to the event for our group.

Since The Phoenix Club provides sparkling wine as part of their Brunch, there will be a reduced corkage fee of \$7 per bottle, payable at check-in.

Brunch will be held in the Grand Ballroom, accessed from the main entrance. We suggest you arrive by 10:30 am to check-in. Check-in is at the entrance to the Grand Ballroom.

**The Brunch includes: Bottomless sparkling wine • Carving Station & Omelet Station • Garden, fruit, potato and pasta salads • German Pancakes, Cheese Blintzes • Schnitzel, Rouladen, Sauerbraten, Fish, Chicken Bavarian, Spatzle and fresh vegetables • Desserts**



The Oktoberfest activities will be held in the big tent and the OCWS will reserve tables as stated above.

**Bring your own Bier Stein.** You can bring your own empty stein or bier mug to Oktoberfest. Please

note that your steins will not be filled directly. Bier is sold and served in a cup and then you pour the bier into your own stein.

**Proper Bier drinking etiquette.** Mugs are raised and a song belted out. One of the most popular songs played is the German classic "Ein Prosit," translated means "A Toast!" At the conclusion of the song, make sure to give your table mates a hearty "Prost" and clink the bottom thicker part of your glass into theirs.

Since we need to contract with the restaurant with the attendance count, the last day to sign up, make changes or cancel to receive a refund, is Sunday, October 14. Any cancellations after this date would be filled and refunded from the wait list.

For more information on what happens during Oktoberfest at The Phoenix Club, please check their website at [www.thephoenixclub.com/oktoberfest](http://www.thephoenixclub.com/oktoberfest).

- Rochelle Randel & Rich Skoczylas, Event Coordinators

*"Ein Prosit!"*

*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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## Winemakers Newsroom



The Winemakers' Group has just completed conducting eight weekly seminars during the OC Fair, introducing people to Winemaking from Kits and Winemaking from Fresh Grapes. I am excited to share with you that we will be

getting some new members in our group!

### Purchasing Grapes Announcement.

- Bill Forsch is arranging Sangiovese and Petite Sirah grapes, and Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Pinot Grigio white juice from Lucas and Lewellen. Contact Bill at [Bforsch@cox.net](mailto:Bforsch@cox.net) or phone him at 949.981.5087 for more information.

- Bruce Powers is arranging Merlot, Zinfandel and Cabernet Sauvignon grapes from Soltera Winery. Contact Bruce at [Bpautowerkes@gmail.com](mailto:Bpautowerkes@gmail.com) or phone him at 714.336.6370 for more information.

Deliveries have started and will continue into early September. Thanks to Bill and Bruce for again taking on this huge task for OCWS members!



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

If you have any questions, contact Kevin at [KevinDonnelly@ocws.org](mailto: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 new members was approved by the Board at the August 6 meeting. As of August 1, the OCWS had 1,048 members:

Shawna Klein · Victoria Jaffe · Alicia & Michael Moore · Linda & Bill Gillespie · Brenda J. & Robert E. Scott · Christiana Diulio & Monica Timms · Natalie Panattoni & Lauren Anderson · Thomas B.

Jahncke · Kathleen Evans & Lynda Torres · Mary Anderson & Susan Panattoni · Cindy & Doug Nelson · Juanita & Roger Johnson Carleton Waters & Michelle Talisman · Damon Palmer · Jeff Ebner · Craig Williams & Susan Clark · Jacquelyn & Pedram Mizani Alma & Keith Massey · Marie & Hank ten Cate · Annette & Brian Burley · Scott Shuster & Guest · Carolyn Feyka · Carrie & Kevin McCracken · Cara & G. Thomas Ruiz · Teri & Tom Ochs · Brian Tostado & Julie Woodard · Erica Lewis & Alexis Hanenberg · Teri & Tom Ochs · Erica Lewis & Alexis Hanenberg · Pam & Jim Muth · Janice Sorensen & Ted Slowiaczek · Stefanie Salem & David Schniepp · Kathy & Ken Kampman · Melodie & Kurt Bramstedt · Doris Roth · Michelle & Jared Dotinga · Sharon & Charles Thompson · Cathy & Mike MacKenzie · Kim Le · Thomas Bailey · Kari Crowder & Ron Wilson · Zach Anderson & Bonnie Gausewitz · Kristin & Brad Miller · Jacqueline Brassard · Brooke & Adam Nicholas · Tania Patoja & Arturo Castellanos · William Crawley · Abby Norris · Connie Killingsworth · Robert McCormick & Ashley Elias-Pedroza · Don Minchow

**New Member Mixer:** Please mark your calendars. A new Member Mixer has been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 23 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. This *free event* is a great way to meet other new members and the Board of Directors, as well as learn more about what the OCWS has to offer

so you can get the most out of your membership. Attendance will be limited to those who joined OCWS after February 1, 2018 and on or before August 31, 2018.

- Brian McDonald,  
Director & Membership Chair

## Always Wanted to Get More Involved in The Courtyard?

We are looking to expand the number of people involved in running the Courtyard for 2019. If you are interested in becoming involved in scheduling, training, etc., please contact Brian McDonald at [Brian@ocws.org](mailto:Brian@ocws.org) or Fran Gitsham at [Fran@ocws.org](mailto:Fran@ocws.org).

- Fran Gitsham and Brian McDonald,  
Event Chairs



## The Wine Press

Orange County Wine Society, Inc.  
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## OCWS Save the Date Calendar

- September 7           OCWS Annual Business Meeting
- September 9           Dine with Wine: Brunch at Newport Landing—*SOLD OUT*
- September 29         "Oktoberween" themed Fall Membership BBQ
- October 7             Annual Installation Dinner
- October 21            Oktoberfest, Phoenix Club, Anaheim
- November 10         Mini-Tasting
- November 30         Annual Holiday Dinner & Dance, The Atrium Hotel



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

