



The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 42, Issue 11, November 2018

President's Message

Greetings to everyone on behalf of the OCWS Board of Directors. A special thanks is extended to Jim Beard, Fran Gitsham, and Rich Skoczylas for their outstanding leadership and service over the past six years.

At the Annual Installation Dinner last month, our new Board members were introduced: Leslie Hodowanec, Mel Jay, and Sara Yeoman. This year's Officers were also introduced: President—Bill Redding, Vice President—Ken Scott, Treasurer—Brian McDonald, and Secretary—George Cravens. The Board Members' contact information is in every newsletter. Please feel free to introduce yourself to this year's Board at upcoming OCWS events.

For those who don't know me personally, my wife, Carolyn, and I have been members since 2001. Since that time, we have taken an incredible journey through the OCWS. We have learned a great deal about wine, winemaking, California's wine industry, and have had the opportunity to meet many of California's premier winemakers who graciously assist in judging at the Commercial

Wine Competition each year. Just as importantly, we have come to know numerous people, many of whom we now count as friends. It is my sincere hope that our members participate in the many activities that are available as attendees, volunteers, or as members of the various committees that make events possible each year.

The success of the OCWS over time is due to the tremendous support of its members. Last year, members contributed 20,682 volunteer hours. As a non-profit educational foundation, we have contributed scholarship funding totaling over \$633,000 to select California colleges and universities in support of students who will become the next generation working in California's wine industry and the culinary arts.

Upcoming activities are posted on our website at ocws.org and in our newsletter. *The Wine Press* is mailed out at the beginning of each month.

Please join your fellow members at one of our upcoming events. Cheers!

- Bill Redding, President

Upcoming Events:

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- November 30 1
Holiday Dinner & Dance
- January 115
Buttonwood Winery

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2018 Annual Holiday Dinner & Dance

Friday, November 30, 2018
6:30 pm — 11:30 pm
The 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 2018 Annual Holiday Dinner & Dance. The festivities take place Friday, November 30, at The Atrium Hotel in Irvine.



Sign ups are now available online at ocws.org.

The evening begins with sparkling wine and passed appetizers from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Dinner will follow accompanied by a variety of fine wines provided by

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2018 Annual Holiday Dinner & Dance

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the Wine Society. Of course, you are free to bring your own wine to share – corkage is included.

The dinner menu for this event is:

Salad

Spinach Salad with Feta Cheese, Green Apples & Black Pepper Lemon Vinaigrette

Choice of Entree:

- *Roasted Chicken Breast with assorted Mushrooms, Shallots, Pancetta Red Wine Jus served with fresh Herbed Risotto & Broccoli*
- *Grilled Salmon with Lemon Dill Sauce*
- *Flat Iron Steak topped with Gorgonzola Butter & Crispy Shallots, Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes & Candied Baby Carrots*

Dessert

Flourless Chocolate Cake with Raspberry Relish

After dinner, be prepared to have a good time “dancing the night away” with the “*Three 2 Sevens*,” a crowd pleaser for the past two years. Even if you don’t dance, you will be entertained and have a great time. Yes, they promise to play some “slow dance” music and holiday rock tunes.



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

The Atrium Hotel is offering OCWS members a special rate for Friday evening of \$119 plus applicable taxes, and \$8 overnight self park (usually \$14). That’s only a little more than UBER!



Again this year, we will be collecting unwrapped presents to support the Costa Mesa Fire Department’s “**Spark of Love**” which provides holiday gifts for needy children in Costa Mesa. Please bring an unwrapped gift and

have your picture taken with some of Costa Mesa’s best!

The deadline for sign up is Monday, November 25, **no exceptions!**

- Brian McDonald, Event Chair

Winemakers Newsroom



Crush Season throughout California has been delayed this year due to a cool August and September. As a result, many of our winemakers are still receiving grapes, fermenting their musts, and pressing out wines that have already completed fermentation. The pictures show Bill Forsch, Bruce Powers, and Dave Wiegand helping to distribute grapes they have picked up for our Winemakers' Group purchase.



Winemakers' Quarterly Meeting Recap. On October 20, we had our Winemakers' Quarterly Meeting & Potluck at the home of Bruce and Jeannine Powers in Orange. A grand time was had by all!



Upcoming Events. In November, we will be conducting our "Post Crush Seminar."

The Winemakers' Holiday Party will be scheduled in December and the location will again be in Yorba Linda.

Please visit ocws.org for more information and details on these two events, as well as sign-up information.

The Winemakers' Group mentors many new winemakers. If you are interested in getting into winemaking, talk to us so that we can help you through the learning process. 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

Mini-Tasting: Food-Worthy Reds - Sold Out

Saturday, November 10, 2018

6:00 pm — 9:00 pm

Various Members' Homes

The November Mini-Tasting will feature a range of red wines that pair well with holiday feasts. The guests will rate the

wines tasted blind in pairs and then discuss their ratings. Overall ratings from each site will be published in the wrap-up article in the December edition of *The Wine Press* and on the OCWS website.

- *Bon Appétit, George Cravens*

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 October 8 meeting:

Louis Kancher • Shauna & Eric Forsum • Marissa Tilton & Robin Robinson • Shannon Justin • Vickie M. Baker • Janet Wells

As of October 1, the OCWS had 1,052 members.

- *Brian McDonald, Director and Membership Chair*

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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2019 OCWS Winery Program: Save the Dates



The Orange County Wine Society starts its 2019 Winery Program in January. This annual series promotes the knowledge of winemaking, viticulture, and wine appreciation. It comprises several wine tastings to introduce our members to different wines made by award-winning wineries from

some of the best wine producing regions in California.

We invite the winemakers to come and talk about their wines and to answer your questions. This is a great benefit that we provide our members. If you consider that if you visit a winery, how often do you have the ability to hear and talk personally with the winemakers themselves? Save the Friday dates and mark your calendars to attend.

Friday, January 11, 2019: Buttonwood Winery
Friday, February 22, 2019: Francis Ford Coppola*
Friday, March 15, 2019: Red Soles Winery
Friday, April 12, 2019: Trentadue Winery
Friday, May 10, 2019: Monte de Oro Winery

The evening of the tasting, you can order the wines at a dis-

counted price. The wines will then be shipped directly to your home.

Our Winery Program is an opportunity to attend a tasting in our local area by a well-known and established winery or a newer winery just starting, but one that produces outstanding wines. We bring you award-winning wineries so you can taste their wines, learn if you enjoy a particular style, and order the wines served that evening.

New Members. If you joined after our May 2018 tasting, and when you attend your first Winery Program tasting in 2019, we will gift you with a bottle of wine.

Look for information about each tasting in *The Wine Press* or on the Wine Society website at ocws.org. We hold our Winery Program events at the Avenue of the Arts Hotel in Costa Mesa. Each tasting starts with a light dinner and self-parking is included in the price. With our large membership and limited attendance space, we encourage you to sign up early.

*Special February tasting tied to the Hollywood Oscar presentations in March.

- Rich Skoczylas, Winery Program Coordinator

Oktoberween 2018 Wrap Up

The OCWS Oktoberween themed Membership BBQ was held October 14 at The Courtyard under clear skies and comfortable temperatures.

It was a tremendous success with over 150 members attending and over \$2,000 raised for the OCWS Scholarship Fund from the Wine Wall and silent auction.

This year's event maintained our long-standing tradition of great food, good music, and the bringing together of our members for an afternoon of fun and comradery.

I would like to give special thanks to the following members who helped make it such a success:

- Betty Jo and Jay Newell: Decorations and making all of the gift baskets
- Irene and Ken Scott: Decorations and games development

- Liz and Lloyd Corbett: Coordinating the Wine Wall, silent auction, and OCWS logo merchandising
- Jim and Linda Downey: Making the homemade German Potato Salad and Sauerkraut
- Robyn and Dean Strom: Donation of soft drinks
- Sara Yeoman: Event MC (Mistress of Ceremonies)
- Lynda Edwards and Rochelle Randel: Administration, event ticketing and tracking
- Brian McDonald: Leader of the Grilling Team, invaluable help in menu planning and shopping
- Jolen Zeroski: Volunteer Coordinator

And to all the volunteers who gave their time in support of the event and helped to "make it happen" - Thank You!!

- Terry McLean, Event Chair



2019 Winery Program: Buttonwood Winery

Friday, January 11, 2019
Dinner starts @ 6:30 pm
Avenue of the Arts Hotel
3350 Avenue of the Arts
Costa Mesa, CA



Buttonwood started as a farm, then an equestrian facility, and eventually a vineyard and winery. Its winemaker, Karen Steinhilber, started a career working many hours daily in high tech, high heels, and power suits in a high-rise tower. After realizing she would rather have fresh air and something more physical, she became interested in winemaking. Karen met many winemakers and started as a harvester working up to assistant winemaker at Fiddlehead Cellars, where she honed her skills, gaining experience and responsibilities. Karen then joined Buttonwood where she crafts old vine fruit into wines of character and distinction.

Located in the Los Olivos District of the Santa Ynez Valley, Buttonwood's mostly varietal wines are in their Artist Series. The whites are generally pressed whole cluster in stainless steel, rosés are cold fermented, reds are barrel fermented and aged in some new oak, and often produced is a sweet dessert wine or a sparkler. Their Specialty Series produces small lots of "Zingy" Sauvignon Blanc, a white Bordeaux blend, and a flagship red Bordeaux blend.

The cost of the buffet meal is \$40 for members and \$45 for

guests. This buffet meal includes pan roasted Chicken with a fig demi, wild rice pilaf, and purple wax beans with a beet salad of baby arugula, fresh mint, shaved red onion and orange segments, champagne vinaigrette. Warm Artisan breads and rolls with sweet butter are included.



We offer a separate option of a "Heart Healthy" sit-down meal for \$45 for members and \$50 for guests. This meal includes seasonal Salmon with tarragon demi and herb roasted mushrooms, wild rice pilaf, and purple wax beans with a beet salad of baby arugula, fresh mint, shaved red onion and orange segments, champagne vinaigrette. Warm Artisan breads and rolls with sweet butter are included.

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 pay \$10 for valet parking. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm with the meeting following about 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.

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 6.** Any cancellations after this date would be filled and refunded from the waitlist.

- Rich Skoczylas, Winery Program Coordinator

In Memoriam: Paul Peal



The OCWS mourns the loss of OCWS member, Paul Peal, the recipient of the 2015 President's Award. Paul's extraordinary volunteerism, warm and gentle demeanor, and tireless efforts spoke volumes regarding his devotion to the success of the Wine Society.

Paul, a longtime member along with his wife, Janet Owen Peal, will be remembered for his huge heart and amazing ability to build and repair anything

and everything imaginable. His handiwork can be seen in every physical aspect of the organization from the OCWS office to The Courtyard and well beyond.

The family requests that any donations in his memory be made by helping a veteran, supporting a student, or donating to the OCWS scholarship fund.

Paul will be sorely missed by all who had the great fortune to have crossed paths with him in life. Cheers, our friend!

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 Save the Date Calendar

November 10	Mini-Tasting: Food-Worthy Reds—Sold Out
November 30	Annual Holiday Dinner & Dance, The Atrium Hotel
January 11, 2019	Winery Program: Buttonwood Winery
February 22, 2019	Winery Program: Francis Ford Coppola
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