



# The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 44, Issue 6, June 2020

## President's Message

Greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors and staff. We are in strange times during which we are postponing or deleting events from the calendar. For many of us, the months of June, July and August are normally filled with OCWS activities.

The Winemakers' Group is purchasing supplies and working on some virtual seminars. With all of this extra time many of you may want to try making wine. Please see Kevin Donnelly's article in this month's newsletter.

During the month of May, the BOD has attempted to make contact by phone or email with our members. Of my own personal contacts, it seems that our members are safe and staying busy. Doing puzzles, reading, cooking, gardening, painting, virtual seminars and getting to projects that are long overdue are popular activities.

I am sure everyone has been trying to stay busy at home. I have actually found the time to review some old *Wine Spectator* issues and organized my office bookshelf. To my surprise, I have found several of my wine-related books that I have been looking for,

and they are now keeping each other company. A few favorites that are in my collection: *The Juice* by Jay McInerney, *Judgment of Paris* by George M. Taber, *Perfect Pairings* by Evan Goldstein and *Wine Folly* by Madeline Puckette and Justin Hammack. All great reference books and of course the great story by Taber which formed the basis for the movie *Bottle Shock*. No doubt you have your own wine books and magazines to get re-acquainted with. If you are just looking for reading with a wine themed author, Ellen Crosby offers entertainment with her 10-book *Wine Country Mystery* series. Our *Wine Press* Editor and Board member, Linda Mihalik, also has a book and film title summarily related to a wine theme in this issue in her "In Case You Missed It" article plus some ideas to stay active at home.

The OCFEC is working on plans to hold virtual activities during the five week Fair run this year. The OCWS has been invited to work with them to provide several virtual events. Cheers,

- Bill Redding, President

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## Membership Update

No new members were admitted in April. As of May 1, the Wine Society had 1,051 members.

**New Member Info.** If you are thinking about attending an event and are not sure how to dress, what to bring, how it works, or just want someone to meet and greet, please reach out to any member of the Board of Directors, feel free to phone Brian directly at 714.227.7284, or email the "New Member Hotline" at Brian@ocws.org.

- Brian McDonald, Director & Membership Chair



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## Winemakers Newsroom

As our self isolation continues, our winemaking activities also continue. We are coming upon summer, when most of us do our wine bottling. This past month, the Winemakers' Group has moved ahead with two large group purchases for bottles, led by Greg Hagadorn, and corks, led by Bill Forsch. We also held our SO2 testing, with David Rutledge conducting the testing from his home. Thanks to Greg, Bill and David!

This month, we are starting to source fresh wine grapes for the Winemakers' Group, so be on the lookout for information coming out with varietal availability, pricing and timing estimates.

We are also looking to get creative, offering virtual seminars via Zoom to reach our existing members, and hopefully "hook" some new people into our shared passion, winemaking.

- We are planning on offering a virtual seminar on Filtering, Fining and Bottling your wines, to help our newbies finishing up their 2019 wines.
- We will be offering a virtual seminar about Kit Wine Making, which will span the entire process over about two months with a video call every two weeks. Viewers will buy their own kit wine and equipment, and our instructor will walk everyone through starting the process, followed by "What do we do now?"



If you are interested in either of these seminars, please contact Kevin at [Kevindonnelly@ocws.org](mailto:Kevindonnelly@ocws.org) or by phoning Kevin at 714.457.7229. In the interim, our 2019 wines only getting better! Happy sheltering, and happy wine-making everyone.

- Kevin Donnelly

## In Keeping the "Space"



Lynda Edwards, Bill Redding and Charles English arranged to have an alternative in place while continuing to operate The Wine Society while adhering to physical distancing guidelines. From the smiles on their faces, they are definitely delighted to see each other!

*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 Board of Directors: Call for Candidates

There's no script about how to run for an OCWS Board of Director seat during a pandemic. We may not be able to socialize with each other due to distancing directives, and campaigning is not quite what it was before. This is uncharted territory for everyone. So how do you even begin if you are thinking about getting more involved with the OCWS outside of volunteering for or attending various OCWS-related events?

Are you innovative, open-minded, possess good interpersonal skills, are results oriented and a problem solver? If you feel good answering those questions, then a position as a Director of the OCWS just might be right for you .

The beginning of a three-year term of the nine members of the Board of Directors, according to the Bylaws, shall be staggered such that three members' terms will expire each year. The three vacated Board positions will be filled each year by a vote of the OCWS membership, following the Annual Business Meeting in September. We have two members that cannot run again so two positions will need to be filled by new members.



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 as well:

- General knowledge of OCWS events and activities
- Experience as a volunteer in some events
- The ability and time 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 no later than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the scheduled Annual Business Meeting.

During the Annual Business Meeting, you will have the opportunity to speak to the membership and present your qualifications. A written Statement of Qualifications must be presented to the Election Committee no later than five (5) calendar days after your Declaration of Candidacy.

If being an OCWS leader interests you, feel free to contact Greg Hagadorn with any questions related to Director Responsibilities, the election process or anything related to the election. I can be reached at 714.388.8803 or at [Greg@ocws.org](mailto:Greg@ocws.org).

- Greg Hagadorn, 2020 Election Chair

- Leslie Brown, 2020 Election Committee Member

- Jolen Zeroski, 2020 Election Committee Member

## Wine Education Seminars: Status Update



Perfect Pairings" (February).

We are disappointed that due to COVID-19 we had to cancel our remaining 2020 seminars on "Wines of Spain," "Wines of

Germany & Austria" and "Wines of North America."

However, as soon as conditions permit, we will re-schedule these, and more wine education seminars. We may have smaller class sizes and will need to follow guidelines for social distancing, but rest assured, there will be plenty of wine tasting!

Thank you for your patience and understanding. We will notify you as soon as we can safely reschedule these seminars.

- Irene Scott, Wine Education Chair

## In Case You Missed It

Lately when reading online news, every now and then an interesting headline appears that I thought worthy of sharing—in case you missed it!

Ever hear of the “Cannonball Run?” It’s the New York to Los Angeles cross-country drive that has set a new pandemic-aided record in April. The new record beat the old record, set in November of last year, by more than 45 minutes. The drive was made in 26 hours and 38 minutes due to lack of traffic. It was reported that there were three to four drivers who made the drive, averaging an illegal speed of 106 miles per hour, covering 2,825.3 miles. Amazing!

Have you pulled out your old puzzles recently from the closet or ordered new ones to work on during your stay-at-home restriction? *The New York Times* published an interesting article recently on how jigsaw puzzles are made. Apparently the demand for puzzles has skyrocketed to levels not seen since Christmas, and with the world



under lockdown, they’re been viewed as a new tool to save humanity.

A brief excerpt from the article is about a German company known for puzzle production, that “can’t easily ramp up production, because each new puzzle takes weeks to create. Each puzzle piece must be uniquely shaped, to avoid one accidentally fitting into the wrong place. That means 1,000 different shapes for a 1,000-piece puzzle, each drawn by hand by workers. Before a puzzle is cut for the first time, each piece is sketched on a sheet of paper draped over the finished image.” Who knew!

It would be remiss of me not to include a wine related headline which especially caught my attention. I did not want my inbox to light up to have to remind me that we are a wine organization, and that this space predominately addresses wine related events, home winemaking and education. Or the “red” landline phone ringing, fearing to answer knowing the President Bill Redding might have the current edition of *The Wine Press* in

front of him, while enjoying a glass of wine, that didn’t make mention of wine in any form in an article.

Do you recall reading *Love in the Time of Cholera*, a novel by Nobel Prize winning author Gabriel Garcia Marquez? Did you see the movie titled the same? An online publication, *Spirited*, featured an article with a catchy title *Wine in the Time of Pandemic* which led me to read on. Aside from delivering how California wineries are adapting to the “new norm” with curbside pickup, virtual wine offerings and discounts, the article reminded me to “keep calm and keep the corkscrew handy.” Laura Ness, the writer of the article, keeps a corkscrew handy in every purse and jacket she owns. Hint, hint!

Moving on . . . did you know that the whales are thriving without cruise and cargo ship traffic? *Lonely Planet* is reporting that “wildlife are having a whale of a time—quite literally. A reduction in container and cruise ship traffic has provided a vacation of sorts for vulnerable cetaceans, and an opportunity for scientists to learn more about how marine noise pollution impacts ocean species.”

And there’s less rumbling on the earth’s surface—



seismologists who study seismic signals from the earth’s interior report that quarantines seem to have made it easier to listen! There’s less air pollution, and city soundscapes are changing—it’s a whole lot quieter. This may be a good thing or a bad thing depending on preference to quiet or surrounding noise! *The Atlantic* published this interesting read entitled “The Pandemic is Turning the Natural World Upside Down.”

I am among the many who are currently working from home during the stay-at-home restriction. While enjoying a glass of wine, I try and catch up on positive COVID-19 related newsworthy articles.

My hope is that this article brings into your homes a “distraction” from what we are all facing today.

- Linda Mihalik, Editor

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Forward comments, questions, and suggestions to [WinePress@ocws.org](mailto:WinePress@ocws.org).

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## We Want to Hear from You

It most definitely is the “new norm” nowadays. Have you embraced the “new” virtual reality yet? Virtual classrooms, virtual health care, virtual workplaces, and yes, even virtual cheerleading. If you have, then we want to hear about your virtual *winetasting* experiences with family and OCWS friends while adhering to the California stay-at-home order.

My virtual experience has most definitely expanded from attending monthly OCWS Board meetings and Commercial Wine Competition meetings after my remote workday ends.

One of the benefits of being a member of the Wine Society is meeting new people who also enjoy learning about wine, drinking wine and sharing. Have you noticed that once you open a bottle of wine among friends, the conversation expands to someone knowing the winery, the winemaker, the region, and recommending other wineries in the region worthy of a visit?



About a month ago, I was invited to attend a Wednesday evening Zoom wine meeting beginning at 6 pm and lasting approximately two hours. The invite list was intentionally small so that we can have an opportunity to virtually share the wine we opened for the evening, discuss it and not find ourselves

talking over each other. We also rated our own wines and went online to find out what it was rated by others and shared this



information during the event.

A fairly new OCWS member took our Wednesday virtual winetasting experience to a whole new level. She prepared, presented and paired her wine to the meal she was enjoying in our virtual setting. And being savvy in technology, she set up her Zoom account with an amazing, different and interesting backdrop each week—a vineyard in Sonoma County, the Golden Gate Bridge (taking us back in time when we attended ZAP together), and she also took us inside a beautiful winery’s cellar. I look forward to the time when we can see each other face to face and continue sharing, drinking and talking about wine – and when a group hug will be perfectly appropriate!

Members, if you feel comfortable to briefly share your stay-at-home virtual wine experiences with family and friends, or you simply just want to send in isolation photos, we want to hear from you. Each month going forward, we will endeavor to publish your submission and photos, pending space and content of your submission. As in past practice, we do not encourage promotion of any winery, restaurant, or other online virtual experience in this space. Your submission should be sent to the email address at [WinePress@ocws.org](mailto:WinePress@ocws.org).

- Linda Mihalik, Director

## News from OCWS Scholarship Universities and Colleges

We were delighted to hear about the inspiration and many accomplishments from the scholarship colleges and universities the OCWS supports. Students are studying in virtual classes and labs. Following is a bit of news so worthy of sharing.

Allan Hancock College Winery, Santa Maria Campus, is celebrating their fifth anniversary as a commercially bonded winery. Students carry over to a four-year university by participating in harvesting, production, bottling, marketing, and sales of award-winning wines. They produce their own bottles, and their labels are designed by the Campus Graphics Dept. AHC Winery has an on-campus wine club that provides Friday afternoon tastings to those over 21, and their wines are available for purchase. Allan Hancock 2018 and 2019 OCWS medal winners are Chardonnay, Malbec, Torrontes, Albarino and Rose of Pinot Noir.

Many students at the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Justin and J. Lohr Center for Wine and Viticulture are employed by local wineries while they study. A new learning lab building was recently completed by donated funds and equipment where students conduct experiments and analysis of specific varietals.

Cal State Fresno Jordan College of Agricultural Science and Technology vineyards are still growing grapes and are continuing to cultivate and care for all the agricultural crops on a daily basis. While practicing safe distancing guidelines, a local winemaker and students have been volunteering to bottle Fresno State wines. Fresno State 2018 and 2019 OCWS medal winners are Zinfandel, Muscat, Pinot Noir, Proprietary White and Rose of Grenache.

Several students from the Sonoma and Napa Valley areas are returning from losing their homes and family businesses, wine cellars, and wineries in recent wildfires. With the 2020 OC Fair cancelled, the OCWS will miss out on donations garnered during the Fair and allocated to the OCWS scholarship fund.

Many thanks to our members for continuing to support our eight scholarship colleges and universities.

The OCWS congratulates the graduating Class of 2020 Enology and Viticulture students. We wish you the best in your future wine-related endeavors. Keep in touch with us.

- Leslie Hodowanec, Scholarship Chair



## *The Wine Press*

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### **OCWS Save the Date Calendar**

Date TBD      Kit Wine Class Virtual Seminar  
Jul 17-Aug 16      Orange County Virtual Fair  
August 28      Declaration of Candidacy Deadline



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