



The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 44, Issue 8, August 2020

President's Message

It is my sincere hope that everyone is staying safe, staying busy, and enjoying some great wines!

Since our last issue of *The Wine Press*, a lot of seminars for our members have been developed, scheduled, and taken place. We hope you have enjoyed the offerings during July which have been produced by our members: Ed Reyes, Carolyn Christian, Ken Knapp, Sara Yeoman, and Kevin Donnelly. If you missed our July lineup, do not miss the remaining seminars scheduled for August. Sign-ups are done online through a *Zoom* link found in the weekly email sent on Monday/Friday mornings or through corresponding links incorporated on our OCWS website's *Zoom* Seminars page. Since these are member-only events, you must log in to see this page on our website. The OCWS Winery Program is also making plans to conduct their programs virtually this Fall. More details are provided in related articles in this month's newsletter.

The OCWS has also partnered with the Orange County Fair & Event Center to partici-

pate in a Virtual Fair which will be held during the originally scheduled Fair dates of July 17 through August 16. We have posted two virtual offerings on Fair Food & Wine and Summer Go-To Wines. The Virtual Fair can be found at www.ocfair.com.

Summer has always been a busy time for the OCWS each year. Importantly, it is the time when new Board of Directors are needed as directors' terms expire. Please consider submitting your candidacy now. I can promise you it is a rewarding experience in which you will get to know our members and get an opportunity to contribute to our future success. Each summer, we also have our "Annual Business Meeting" as required pursuant to Article 6 of our By-laws. The 2020 meeting will be held on Friday, September 11. Due to restrictions currently in place, the meeting will be held "virtually." The announcement for sign-ups to this meeting will be sent out via email and posted on the ocws.org website in early August.

Cheers,

- Bill Redding, President

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Membership Update



The Orange County Wine Society extends a warm welcome to its newest members!

Membership for the following new members was approved by the Board of Directors at the July 6 meeting: Irene & Jonathan Printzian. As of July 1, the OCWS 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

The Winemakers' Group has been adjusting their activities in light of the reduction of on-site activities this year, including the cancellation of the Home Wine Competition and the OC Fair.



In response to our current environment, we have held three *Zoom* virtual seminars last month. On July 5, I gave a presentation to the entire OCWS titled "Winemaking for Mere Mortals." This was attended online by 50 of our Wine Society members, introducing a lot of new people to the methods we home winemakers use to create our fabulous concoctions.



On July 8, I gave a webinar titled "Filtering, Fining and Bottling," to help our new winemakers understand the final steps to finish their first batches of wine. We discussed various filters, six different fining agents and the improvements they can provide to their wines, and ended by

talking about different corking methods used to bottle their wines.



On July 11, we had the first session of our four-week online version of Kit Wine Making. Winemaker Karyl Newton taught this class by starting a kit wine during the webinar. We encouraged our viewers to buy a kit wine and a starter equipment set and follow along with us. This class will

continue through August 8 when Karyl will finish up her batch of wine and bottling.

We also completed our group bottle purchase in July, when 20 of our winemakers grouped together to purchase 513 cases of green and clear Bordeaux, Burgundy, and 375ml bottles. Our members saved about \$8 per case by buying through our group; so we offer a great service to our members!

Upcoming in August, I will be repeating my presentation of "Filtering, Fining and Bottling" on August 16, in case you missed it the first time.

We will be starting our group grape purchase this month, so watch for emails where we will let you know what grapes will be available this year. By buying as a group, we can offer several varietals of grapes from fabulous commercial vineyards, usually between \$2 to \$3 per pound. Many thanks to Bill Forsch and Bruce Powers for organizing the grapes.

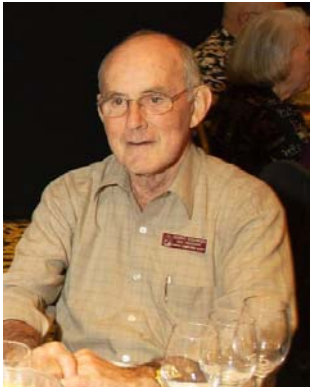


If you have any questions, I can be reached at 714.457.7229 or by email at Kevindonnelly@ocws.org.

Happy winemaking everyone.

- Kevin Donnelly

In Memoriam: Dennis Esslinger



The OCWS has lost one of its most significant members, Dennis Esslinger, due to cancer and unrelated to the COVID pandemic. In 2017 during the Annual Business Meeting, Jim Beard, then President, awarded Dennis the highest award an OCWS President can bestow, the President Emeritus Award. Past President, Fran Gitsham, eloquently stated in 2017 that the

President Emeritus title “denotes the perpetual status of an individual who has helped move the organization to new heights as a former key member on the Board of Directors. In this case, as President an unprecedented four terms (2000-01, 2002-03, 2008-09, 2013-14), with none of those terms consecutive . . . Dennis Esslinger joined the ranks of just a few who have garnered the President Emeritus title. He joins a small, elite group of past Presidents who not only gave their time and effort over a number of years, but continues to do so.”

As a recipient of the highest level year end awards, along with his wife Carol who worked with him side by side, Dennis passed away Monday, July 6, at his home.

Dennis was a longtime employee of Hughes Corporation, then Raytheon in Fullerton, working as a Project Manager until he retired. These skills served him well in various organizational and administrative capacities with the OCWS. He served on the Commercial Wine Competition Committee for well over 20 years working with others in developing the format for cataloging wines. He then took over as Chairman of the Competition and then Chairman of Judges for 10 years before turning that position over to Kevin Coy.

Dennis was very highly regarded by winemakers and winery owners which showed in the respect they have for the Commercial Wine Competition and their desire to appear for our

winery tasting programs for which Dennis was in charge for a few years.

Dennis traveled the world with Carol and their children for many years in his position with Hughes. The traveling never stopped once he became active with the OCWS as he embarked upon a number of wine trips with friends to wineries, wine tastings at ZAP, and meeting with family winemakers as a member of the Commercial Wine Competition. He maintained a close circle of OCWS friends throughout the years who enjoyed his kindness, generosity, and reverence.



Raised in Kansas and a graduate of Kansas State, his work ethic and skills were valued in the OC Fair Courtyard where he and Carol put in many hours in preparing The Courtyard, setting up the wine cellar, maintaining, stewarding, managing and teaching about wine. His calm demeanor allowed him to deal with honesty and humor any time problems or disagreements arose in the OCWS or during the OC Fair. Dennis' activities preparing for and working the Annual Wine Auction allowed this event to be our biggest single revenue producer outside The Courtyard during the OC Fair.

It would be impossible to say just how many accolades Dennis received from the OCWS, Judges, friends and co-workers. What he has contributed to the OCWS will be evident once the pandemic is under control and we return to normal activities with the OCWS.

We ask you to raise a glass of wine for Dennis and in support of Carol and the family who will need all our good thoughts and prayers.

Dennis, we will miss you terribly.

- Sam Puzzo

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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Welcome to Zoom, the OCWS Alternative Event Platform



A f t e r COVID-19 made the outside world taboo, the O C W S adopted to interacting with members through computer screens. COVID has forced us to shift how we operate and interact in just a small window. During the month of July, we introduced the Summer Sundays Seminar series. Many members have expressed their interest in these web-based events and logged in without issue, some having never logged into a video platform before. We thought we would use this space to introduce *Zoom* to our membership.

How does a *Zoom* event work? *Zoom* is a web-based video conferencing tool with a local, desktop or mobile application that allows users to meet online, with or without video. *Zoom* users can choose to record sessions, collaborate on projects, and share or annotate on one another's screens, all with one easy-to-use platform.

The Wine Society has for quite some time used *Constant Contact* to e-blast mes-

sages to OCWS members throughout the month reminding members of events close to selling out and other important member information that needs immediate attention.

During the Summer Sundays Seminar series, Sara Yeoman Director, and host of these events, initiates an e-blast informing members of an upcoming seminar on Monday mornings. The e-blast identifies the seminar event, date and time, and shows a "green" sign up bar (link) for members to click and fill out. Once you have filled out the information, an email confirming your attendance will be sent to you from *Zoom*—please be sure to check your junk/spam folders if you didn't receive a confirmation email. Later in the week, you will receive another email providing you with everything you need to know about the event and how to access the *Zoom* event with a "*Click Here to Join*" link. It also provides a password, which is unique to you so that the event cannot be accessed by others—it is member specific. Members also have the option of using a landline or cell phone to dial in to the event using the dial in numbers shown, the webinar identification number, and password. If this

option is selected (not using your computer), you will not be able to view any presentations—you will only be able to listen to the audio of the event taking place.

Remember, you do not have to have a *Zoom* account to attend, you will be prompted to download the software once you click the *link* you have been provided utilizing your personal computer.

For demonstration purposes only, below is a screen shot of how to join the event, which will be located midway in each seminar registration email. Each registration email will be different, so please do not rely on the password contained below:

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

[Click Here to Join](#)

Note: This link should not be shared with others; it is unique to you.

Password: 769944

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out by emailing us at Seminars@ocws.org. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have or walk you through the process before the event.

- Sara Yeoman, Director

New Member Promotion



COVID-19 has sidelined us, to say the least. The virus made us hunker down and forced us to find creative ways to virtually stay social. Various virtual OCWS wine seminars have taken place and will continue throughout the year for members to sign up and enjoy from the comfort of their own homes. This being the case, we thought we would reach out to our members with a promotional opportunity to

invite your friends to get in on our exciting virtual opportunities by becoming members of the OCWS.

Do you have a friend or two or even three who has expressed an interest in wine? Even without the 2020 OC Fair taking place this year, we are running a membership promotion.

If your friend joins as a new member (former members are excluded), they will receive a \$15 credit per member (\$15 for a single membership, \$30 for a dual membership) that they can use to attend any event prior to July 1, 2021. Shoot,

that makes joining almost cost free! The credit cannot be used to purchase merchandise or for membership renewal fees.

So talk it up among your wine loving friends—knowing you, they know how much fun it is being a member of the OCWS. You all know how much fun this club is. New members can sign up through our website at ocws.org.

- Brian McDonald,
Director & Membership Chair

Last Call to Declare to Run for an OCWS Board Seat



Over the last several months, the Membership Committee has posted an article in *The Wine Press* calling on members who have an interest in running for a OCWS Board seat to do so.

The What. In recent articles, we have outlined the overall time commitment, possession of certain skills and experience, and seeking individuals who are innovative, open-minded, results oriented, and problem solvers. All of these requirements are not unique, and most of us possess them.

We want you to seriously consider, and encourage you, to run for a seat on the OCWS Board!

The Why. As we see it, there are four major benefits of serving on the Board:

1. You play a key role in strategizing. When you serve on the Board, you have the honor, challenge, and responsibility of understanding how everything needs to work together to

accomplish the OCWS' goals and mission. It's invigorating.

2. Giving of your time and talents, it's really important, but also incredibly rewarding.
3. Your voice is heard, and it has an impact. And you will hear the impactful voices of other members, too.
4. Like most everything else in life, you find that you get what you give. You will care more than you thought you could, and as you grow into your role on the Board, you will contribute more. "To contribute to something is meaningful . . . to allow something meaningful to contribute to you." It certainly does work both ways!

The Who. 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 When. Time is running out as we are approaching the deadline of receiving your written Declaration of Candidacy statement which is due no later than August 28th. 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.

The Where. During the Annual Business Meeting, you will have the opportunity to present yourself 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.

The How. 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.

-Greg Hagadorn, 2020 Election Chair
- Leslie Brown & Jolen Zeroski,
2020 Election Committee Members

Wine Education 101: Pour Me Another Glass of *Vitis Vinifera*



Grapes that are made into wine are often referred to as "*Vitis vinifera*." But are all wine grapes *Vitis vinifera*? Can wine be made from grapes that are not *Vitis vinifera*? To understand what *Vitis vinifera*

means, we should first understand the basics of Taxonomy, the science involved with the classification of organisms.

We can thank Aristotle for first creating the classification of things as either animal, plant or mineral and further subdivisions based on how they looked or behaved.

However, it was in the 1700s that Swedish scientist Carl Linnaeus developed our current binomial system of Taxonomy. The Linnaean Classification system has every animal, plant or microbe given a two-part name. The first part is Genus (broad) and the second part is Species (specific). Some familiar bino-

mial names you may be familiar with include: *Tyrannosaurus rex*, *Gorilla gorilla*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Oenococcus oeni*. Linnaean taxonomic ranks further divided all living things into increasingly more specific divisions such as: Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and Species.

So, with this basic understanding of Taxonomy we know that *Vitis* is the genus (grapevines), and *vinifera* is the specific species of this grapevine. *Vitis vinifera* is a member of the *Vitaceae* family of woody, climbing vines and is native to the Mediterranean, Central Europe and southwest Asia.

To understand what other species of *Vitis* are used in wine-making, log into the OCWS website to continue reading at: <https://ocws.org/category/wine-education/>.

- Irene Scott, WSET-3, CSWS
UC Davis Winemaking Certificate
OCWS Wine Education Chair

Wine Education 101: Wine Trivia and other interesting tidbits!



- Most domesticated grapevines have both male and female reproductive structures and are self-pollinated by wind. [1]

- The first U.S. AVA region was the Augusta AVA in Missouri. This AVA was federally approved on June 20, 1980, eight months before the Napa Valley AVA in California. [2]

- During Prohibition, Alicante Bouschet was the most popular grape varietal for winemaking because of its darker color and its thicker skins allowed for more successful train transportation to the East Coast. [3]
- The Norton grape varietal is thought to be the oldest American grape used for commercial production. This grape varietal also has the highest levels of resveratrol – a beneficial antioxidant. [4]
- The oldest-known winery is the “Areni-1” cave, discovered in

Armenia in 2007. This winery is dated to c. 4100 BC and contains evidence of a wine press, fermentation vats, drinking cups and storage jars. Scientists also discovered evidence of *Vitis vinifera* seeds and grapevines. [5]

- Irene Scott, WSET-3, CSWS,
UC Davis Winemaking Certificate 2020
OCWS Wine Education Chair

Sources:

- [1] Jackson, R.S., Wine Science: Principles and Applications, Fourth Edition, Academic Press 2014
- [2] Missouri Wines: History and AVAs, 2018, <https://missouriwine.org/about-us/history-and-avas>
- [3] Lukacs, P., American Vintage: The Rise of American Wine, W.W. Norton & Company LTD, 2000
- [4] Wine Searcher: Norton Wine, 2015, <https://www.wine-searcher.com/grape-901-norton>
- [5] Wikipedia: History of Wine, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_wine

It's All About Sharing!



Summer Sangria

It's been said “whether it's summertime or wintertime, it's always sangria time.” Here's a summertime favorite.

Ingredients:

- 1 (750 mL) bottle of red wine (choose a low-tannin, fruit-forward, dry or off-dry red wine)
- ¼ cup brandy
- ¼ cup orange-flavored liqueur (such as triple sec or Grand Marnier)
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 2 tablespoons fresh orange juice

- ¼ cup sugar
- ½ orange, thinly sliced
- 1 - 2 cup berries (such as blueberries, blackberries, raspberries strawberries, etc.)
- About 6 - 10 maraschino cherries (with a splash of juice)
- 1 (750 mL) bottle sparkling water, chilled

Directions:

Combine all ingredients except the sparkling water in a large plastic container or glass pitcher. Cover and chill for 1 to 2 hours. When ready to drink, add the sparkling water.

Enjoy!

- Irene Scott,
OCWS Wine Education 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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Slip in Virtually to the Fall OCWS Winery Webinars



As you may recall, due to the COVID-19 pandemic we had to cancel two excellent and highly anticipated events as part of our regular 2020 Winery Program. We will now be evolving into conducting the OCWS Winery Program virtually! We anticipate starting this program in the fall of this year. You will be able to view each seminar presentation

using the *Zoom* virtual platform from the comfort of your own home. You will learn about each winery and the wines they produce. Members will have the option to purchase the wines. As our planning progresses, we will keep you updated.

- Leslie Hodowanec, Director

- Rich Skoczylas, Director & Winery Program Chair

Another Walk Back in Time



Last month, we posted a few snippets from the 1st Edition of *The Free Run*, the OCWS' formerly titled monthly news publication.

The demand was overwhelming from many

members reaching out asking for more historical OCWS print information from the early years—below are a few items from the OCWS 10th Anniversary Edition, April 1986.

Thank you, Charley Owen, for taking us all down memory lane.



THE ORANGE COUNTY WINE SOCIETY: 10 YEARS IN THE MAKING

The Orange County Wine Society is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year!

Since its inception in July 1976, the OCWS has grown from 19 members to well over 500 wine enthusiasts throughout Southern California. Its basic philosophy, however, remains the same: to promote society's understanding and appreciation of wine, winemaking and viticulture.

The OCWS was formed through the efforts of Brant Horton, an Orange County wine retailer. In May 1976, Horton decided the Orange County Fair would be an ideal candidate for hosting a professional competition of California wines. His concept was simple: each year only certain varietals would be judged according to consumer price categories—inexpensive, moderate and premium. All wines would have to be commercially available in Orange County, and all wines within the selected varietal would be judged, whether they were donated or purchased. The judges would either be commercial winemakers or winery principals.

Horton and Jerry Mead, noted wine columnist, approached the manager of the Orange County Fair with this concept on May 27, 1976. Although it was too late for the OCF to host a wine competition that year, the response was enthusiastic, and Horton and Mead immediately began making plans for a competition the following year.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Certificates of deposit, IRA's, Keoghs, 401k's—all of these are readily identifiable as investments in your financial future. But did you realize that members of the Orange County Wine Society and our guests at the Extraordinaire and the Extravaganza are also investing in the future of California winemakers? Since 1981 the OCWS has been awarding scholarships to students at UC Davis and Cal State Fresno, the only qualifying factor being that the student is engaged in a study related to the manufacture of wine. From 1981 through 1983, the scholarships were \$500 each; in acknowledgement of the rising cost of education, in 1984 they were raised to \$750 and in 1986-87 they will be increased to \$1000. A brief look at some of the past recipients reminds us of the broad spectrum of talents that go into the production of a fine glass of wine.

James Dodson from UC Davis was granted a scholarship in 1982. Unlike many students of Enology, Jim did not start off with wine-making as his original career goal. His early education was in the field of aeronautical engineering; he won his BS degree from MIT and his MBA from the University of Southern California. Several years of experience in the aerospace industry convinced him that his true interests lay elsewhere, and he entered the UCD Enology program in 1980. His goal was to be the managing wine-maker of a small winery producing premium quality varietal wines; he took his first step in that direction in 1984 when he entered the industry as assistant wine-maker at a Napa Valley winery.

ORANGE COUNTY FAIR EXHIBIT

"Jump On Over" is the theme for this year's Orange County Fair, July 11-20, and the Orange County Wine Society is already making plans for the annual Wine Garden and Display exhibit.

Since 1977, the Orange County Wine Society has co-sponsored and organized the annual Commercial Wine Competition with the Orange County Fair, judging selected varieties of all commercially available wines in Orange County. The Wine Garden and Display serves as a showcase for the Competition's gold, silver and bronze medal winners.

Six large picture windows will be utilized in the Flower and Wine building to display the award winning wines and wineries. A special exhibit of Home Wine Competition winners will be on display in the Home Arts building. Tasting booths will be set up in the Wine Garden and Flower and Wine Building for wine enthusiasts to sample the top-ranked wines and wine coolers. In addition, photo albums of previous OCWS activities will be available for members to enjoy.





The Wine Press

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OCWS Save the Date Calendar

August 2020 Summer Sunday Seminar Schedule:

- August 2 Reading Between the Wines: Bottles Clues to Help You Buy Smarter!—Ed Reyes
- August 9 Wine Wars - California vs. France—Ken Knapp
- August 16 Filtering, Fining, and Bottling your Wines—Kevin Donnelly
- August 23 Stay-at-Home Food & Wine Pairings—Ed Reyes and Sara Yeoman
- August 30 Top Varietals in California—Carolyn Christian

- Thru Aug 8 Kit Wine Class Virtual Seminar
- Thru Aug 16 Orange County Virtual Fair
- August 28 Declaration of Candidacy Deadline
- September 11 Virtual Annual Business Meeting



www.ocws.org

