

The Wine Press

Brown's Bits & Bytes...

Volume 35, Issue 8 ~ August 2011

As I am writing this article, over 300 members of the OCWS are busily preparing The Courtyard for this year's Orange County Fair, "Let's Eat!" During the first two weeks in July, under the leadership of this year's co-chairs, Chris Cunningham and Larry Graham, The Courtyard was cleaned, Manager's Specials determined, the cellar organized, cash registers programmed, volunteers TIPS-trained, and Fair credentials mailed to over 300 volunteers. This year, as you are working in The Courtyard, please take a look around at your fellow volunteers. Chances are that with approximately fifty new members participating as Courtyard volunteers

for the first time, you will have the opportunity to welcome and become acquainted with many of our new members.

The Courtyard provides the OCWS the opportunity to serve either wines from the Commercial Competition or purchased wines as well as fulfilling the requirements of our 503(c) 3 non-profit status to provide wine education. Many of our members joined the OCWS after spending some time sipping wine with our volunteers so encourage our customers to consider becoming members. In addition to serving and discussing the wines at

the counter, wine seminars will be presented on Saturdays and Sundays. The Winemakers Group will again present seminars on viticulture and enology each Saturday at noon. There is no charge for the winemaking seminars. There is a small charge for the other seminars which are held at 3:00 and 5:00 on Saturdays and Sundays. Please see the seminar schedule for the topics and times of the seminars located both on our website and in this newsletter.

Our Annual Business Meeting is

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Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting of the OCWS will be held on Friday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m. at Baja Blues, near Gate 5 at the Orange County Fair and Event Center.

The meeting will begin with an overview of the year's activities followed by a summary of our finances for the 2010-2011 board year. Volunteer awards will be given out after the



board presentation. Following the presentations, the Board of Directors will be available to answer questions and listen to any comments from the membership. The meeting is conducted according to our by-laws and government regulations for 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

After the presentations, the candidates for the 2011-2012 board year

will be introduced and will present their qualifications and interests as potential Board Members. This meeting provides the best opportunity to meet with and learn about the candidates who are running for the board. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member, please see Craig Rowe's

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August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6 
7 	8 	9 	10 	11 	12 	13 
14 	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August

1-14 The Courtyard Activities ~ OC Fair & Event Center

September

9 Annual Business Meeting ~ Baja Blues ~ OC Fair & Event Center ~ 7:00 p.m.

11 Champagne Brunch ~ Yves' Restaurant and Wine Bar ~ Anaheim Hills ~ 11:30 a.m.

25 Annual Membership Barbecue ~ The Courtyard ~ OC Fair & Event Center ~ 3:00 p.m.

October

9 Installation Dinner ~ Five Crowns Restaurant ~ Corona Del Mar ~ 6:00 p.m.

14 Monthly Meeting & Tasting ~ Sierra Madre Vineyard ~ DoubleTree Hotel / OC Airport ~ 6:30 p.m.

22 Mini-Tasting ~ Details TBA

23 Chili Cook-Off ~ The Courtyard ~ OC Fair & Event Center ~ 1:00 p.m.

30 De Portola Wine Trail Trip ~ Details TBA

2010 ~ 2011 Board of Directors

President ~ Leslie Brown
714.921.2717

Vice President ~ Kevin Coy
562.243.3234

Treasurer ~ Mel Jay
714.544.6287

Secretary ~ Kevin Donnelly
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Director ~ Chris Cunningham
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Director ~ Greg Hagadorn
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Director ~ Bob Prill
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Director ~ Sam Puzzo
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Director ~ Ed Reyes
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The Wine Press is the official newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc. If no one procrastinates too much, it is published monthly. The opinions expressed herein are those of the editor unless he can find someone else to blame.

The OCWS welcomes your letters and comments. All topics from complaints about the organization, to questions about wine and winemaking may be addressed. Send to: OCWS, Attention: Editor, *The Wine Press*. Your name can be withheld on request.

The OCWS 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. For your convenience, our office is staffed five days per week along with our 24-hour answering and facsimile machines. Additionally, the OCWS has a web site with email and secure event sign-up capability. Visit us online at www.ocws.org.

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Brown's Bits & Bytes (Cont'd)

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scheduled for Friday, September 9th at Baja Blues on the Fairgrounds. During the meeting, the board will present an overview of the past year's events and finances. Following questions from our members, candidates for the board will introduce themselves and present their qualifications to serve on the Board of Directors. After the business portion of the event, Baja Blues will serve dinner accompanied by wines from our cellar. Since this is such an important meeting, there is no charge for attendance. However, if you sign up and do not attend, you will be billed for the event. Please note that this is a members-only event and all members are welcome to attend. I especially encourage our new members to come and learn more about our organization.

It is not too late to consider running for the Board of Directors. It is truly the best way to learn about our organization and to meet and work with some wonderful people. I look forward to seeing you at The Courtyard and the Annual Business Meeting.

Leslie Brown

Annual Business Meeting (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

article in this newsletter. Feel free to contact Craig or any present board member to discuss your interest in running for the board.

The Business Meeting begins promptly at 7:00 p.m. and no food or drink will be served until the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting which lasts about ninety minutes. We will conclude with a light meal served by Ovations and accompanied by wines from the OCWS cellar. There is no limitation on the number of members who can attend, but the meeting is closed to guests. There is no charge for attendance, but reservations are required so that adequate food and seating can be arranged. The OCWS does pay a per person charge so if you are a "no-show", you will be billed a \$25 charge.

This is one of our most important meetings of the year which is why there is no charge to attend. Please use the sign-up form found in this newsletter or call the office to make your reservation by Wednesday, September 7. I look forward to seeing you as we review the 35th year of the OCWS and look toward our future.

Leslie Brown

Champagne Brunch

The Champagne Brunch is returning once again! Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 11, to join your fellow OCWS friends for brunch at Yves' Restaurant and Wine Bar in Anaheim Hills. Details were being worked out at the time this newsletter article was being written. You will receive an e-mail blast announcing additional details. We are going to continue to raise the bar on the menu. Otherwise, it will be the same set-up as last year's Champagne Brunch. You bring a bottle of Champagne and Yves' Restaurant and Wine Bar will take care of you from there with outstanding food and atmosphere!

The event will start at 11:30 a.m. The cost to attend this fun event is \$36 per person, tax and tip included. Due to the popularity of this event, please try to limit the number of guests you wish to bring.

Last year, the event was attended by over 70 members. Seating is extremely limited in this great venue, so please sign up early. Fill out the sign-up form at the back of the newsletter, contact Janet Hammond in the OCWS office to reserve your seat at this great event, or go on-line for your sign-up.

See you there!

Mel Jay

Annual Membership Barbecue

Don't miss the 2011 Annual Membership Barbecue: "*Ride the Wild West!*" It is scheduled for Sunday, September 25, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at The Courtyard at the Orange County Fair and Event Center. Break out your western hat and boots, check your horse and pistol at the gate, and join us as we circle the wagons for a traditional western barbecue feast.

The Annual Membership Barbecue is a long-standing tradition that brings together long-time and new members of the OCWS. It's been a busy couple of months at the Competition and the Fair so this is our first chance to kick back and tell stories around the ol' campfire. Visit your old pals and meet some new ones.

This year's menu is shaping up. Our Cook's Caucus is planning to prepare brisket, chicken, sausage, salads, and sides. Beer, and of course wine, will be served. No one leaves hungry!

Tickets for the event are still a great deal: Members are \$35 and guests are \$45. Price includes food, wine, beer, and entertainment. And of course lots of camaraderie with your OCWS friends, and maybe even a surprise or two.

Volunteers are always needed. Join the team for setup, decorations, registration, server, or helper. Shifts are available before, during, and after event. For more information, please contact Bob Prill at jobobyl@aol.com, or Janet Hammond at the OCWS office.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2011 Annual Membership Barbecue: "*Ride the Wild West!*"

See ya'll there!

Cowboy Bob

Membership ~ “Who’s New?”

The Orange County Wine Society extends a warm welcome to our newest members whose membership was approved by the Board of Directors at the July Board meeting:

*Ron Althouse
Frida Kolozsvari
Meghan and Janet Meihaus
Rick and Janelle Shiba
Roger and Natallie Schultz
Stephen and Barbara Spero
Miyuki Takemoto and David DeWitt
Jeremy and Katy Triefenbach*

Newcomers, get your feet wet by attending some of our many upcoming events. Mingle with fellow members in The Courtyard at the Orange County Fair, through August 14. September events include our Annual Business Meeting, Champagne Brunch, and Annual Membership Barbecue. The fun continues in October with the Installation Dinner, Chili Cook-Off, our last Mini-Tasting of the year, and a wine tasting trip to Temecula.

As of the July Board of Directors’ meeting, there are 947 members with 369 dual and 209 single memberships, exactly the same as last month.

Our Spring Membership Drive has ended in a three-way tie for first place between Jim Graver, Kris Julin, and Kathy Krieger! So like a great football game tied after regulation we’re going into overtime. The first of our three finalists to sign up a new member will win 2 tickets to this year’s Annual Membership Barbecue and next year’s Wine Extraordinaire. The two runners up will also receive prizes as a reward for their efforts. Stay tuned for the final results.

We signed up 62 new members between February 1 and June 30. Thanks to all for promoting the OCWS and we look forward to seeing you at our events!

Ed Reyes
Membership Chair

Installation Dinner

The Installation Dinner is the traditional formal announcement of the results of the annual OCWS election. It is your opportunity to welcome and chat with our 2012 Board Members and officers while honoring those retiring from the Board.

The Installation Dinner is planned for Sunday, October 9, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. We will hold this celebration at The Five Crowns, one of the top restaurants in Orange County. The restaurant is located at 3801 East Coast Highway, Corona Del Mar. We will begin the festivities with a Champagne Reception including passed hors d’oeuvres in the Greenhouse Patio, then moving into the Garden Room for dinner and our Installation Program.

The menu is being finalized. It will include Garden Salad and choice of entrée: Signature Roasted Prime Ribs of Beef, a Fish Entrée or Fowl Entrée; Dessert; and many of the best wines from our OCWS Cellar, set aside especially for this event.

Don’t miss this fabulous evening at one of the area’s finest restaurants. Cost per person is \$70 all-inclusive (wine, tax and gratuity). Due to this extraordinary dining event, seating will be limited to the first 80 reservations. Entrée selection can be made the night of the event. Call the office or mail or fax your reservation with payment using the sign-up form at the back of the newsletter, or sign up on the OCWS website as soon as possible. No reservations can be accepted after September 30.

Dressy business attire is appropriate.

Bob Prill
Director

Gold Medal Mini-Tasting Update

Thanks to all who participated in the Gold Medal Mini-Tasting on July 9th. Over 140 people enjoyed a wonderful array of sixteen Gold Medal sparkling, white and red wines at eight homes around Orange County. Special thanks to Chris Cunningham for obtaining all of the wines.

Thanks to all the OCWS member hosts for this event...

Chris Cunningham — Costa Mesa
Frank and Pat Solis — Fountain Valley
Paul and Janet Peal — Santa Ana
Sam Puzzo and Carol Frank — Santa Ana
Ed Reyes and Debbie Renne — Laguna Hills
BJ and Tina Fornadley — Monarch Beach
Greg and Colleen Stoddard — Laguna Niguel
Floyd and Maxine Allen — Fullerton

Results of the tasting are not complete by press time and will be reported in the September newsletter.

An addition to the Meritage Mini-Tasting report last month: Chef-of-the evening at Sterling Wallace's site was Ed Reyes for his Mac and Cheese.

The last Mini-Tasting of the year will be in October. I welcome some suggestions and feedback. Under consideration, is a white wine tasting—either whites other than Chardonnay or including Chardonnay as well as a Rhône varietal and blend tasting. Let me know by August 10 if you like these ideas or have other suggestions so we can report the selection in the September newsletter.

Thanks to all who have attended and supported the Mini-Tasting Program this year. I welcome any feedback you may have as to changes made this year or changes you would like to see.

Thank you,

Sam Puzzo

Last Call! ~ Election 2012

There is still time! The deadline for declaring candidacy for this year's election to the OCWS Board of Director is August 27. Qualifications are quite simple:

- ◆ Appreciation of wine. You need not be an expert; just have an interest in learning about and enjoying wine.
- ◆ A commitment to the OCWS. Help the OCWS achieve its objectives as a non-profit educational organization.
- ◆ Teamwork. Work with 8 other Board Members to share the effort, make decisions, and provide direction to the OCWS.
- ◆ Desire to have fun. After all, we are a social organization. So, if it's not fun, none of us would be here.

While it may not be touted often by our group, being a part of the OCWS allows one to have fun with friends while giving back to our various communities, i.e. the California Wine Industry, young adults in need of scholarships to help them become part of the Wine Industry, the Orange County Fair and, of course, the OCWS membership. While supporting these community groups, members actively engaged in OCWS activities can make friends for a lifetime and have a lot of fun along the way. Directors, especially, have the opportunity to implement ideas focused on creating, improving, and promoting "Community, Friends and Fun". If you have any of these interests, then consider a leadership role in the OCWS. The rewards are many.

As always, three board positions will be filled by a vote from the OCWS membership, following the Annual Business Meeting on September 9. To declare your candidacy for a position on the Board of Directors, simply present your Declaration of Candidacy to the Election Committee in writing no later than August 27. The Declaration of Candidacy should be accompanied by a simple written Statement of Qualifications.

I hope many of you will consider candidacy for the Board of Directors. If you have any questions related to the election—director responsibilities and benefits, the election process, etc.—please contact me at 949.583.0921 or craig_ronna@cox.net.

Craig Rowe
2011 Election Chairman

October Meeting & Tasting ~ Sierra Madre Vineyard

Sierra Madre Vineyard
Friday, October 14
6:30 p.m.
DoubleTree Hotel
Santa Ana / OC Airport
201 East MacArthur Blvd
Santa Ana

Sign up early as a sell-out crowd is expected. Cost will remain the same at \$33 for members and \$38 for guests. Since there will be a wine seminar before the meeting, the doors will open at 6:30 p.m., unless you are attending the seminar at 6:00. Dinner starts at 6:45 p.m. with the monthly meeting and tasting at 7:30.

Chris Cunningham

Situated in one of the Central Coast's most coveted appellations, the Sierra Madre Vineyard lies near the western edge of the Santa Maria Valley in northern Santa Barbara County. The light-textured, well-drained, sandy-loam soils cultivated there nourish low-yielding vines to set clusters with small berries, intense with flavor, color, and concentration, all essential qualities for top-level wines.

Arguably California's coolest grape growing region, this coastal valley is equally well-suited to both Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, as cold Pacific air blankets the vineyard each summer afternoon. This natural moderation of heat accumulation slows ripening in the developing grapes, allowing for extended "hang-time" to deliver vibrant fruit character, while retaining crisp, fresh acidity in the resulting wines.

This inaugural release of the Sierra Madre Vineyard Chardonnay and Pinot Noir is owner Doug Circle's celebration of the history of this fine vineyard, as well as its unbounded future potential.

Additionally, Sierra Madre has released several new wines this year. With their selection of Dijon and Historical Clones, they decided to launch their "Single Block" program this year. Each vintage, they plan to choose the best of each harvest year by varietal and bottle in limited production, for both Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. These small production wines are what they feel to be the "best of the best"—so please don't miss out. In addition, they are offering for the first time their estate Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc, as well as a very limited production of "Bubbles" made from 100% Chardonnay. All of these wines are such a great representation of this amazing vineyard and its location.

Winemaker Steve Rasmussen and his team have been together for years, providing the basis for the results for which Steve is known. They've watched the maturation of Sierra Madre Vineyard and are excited for the opportunity to get their hands on some of the fruit.

Come join the folks at Sierra Madre Vineyards and your fellow OCWS members and celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Sierra Madre Vineyard on Friday, October 14 at the DoubleTree Hotel OC Airport / Santa Ana. Many of these wines will be tasted and will be available for purchase that night. A complete listing of all wines will be in next month's edition of *The Wine Press*.

Winemakers Group Newsroom

The 2011 Orange County Fair Homewine Competition

The annual OC Fair Homewine Competition was held June 11, and celebrated its 35th year as one of the top amateur wine competitions in California. The competition is co-sponsored by the Orange County Wine Society in conjunction with the OC Fair and is open to all residents in California.

The 2011 Awards

There were 200 winemakers from all parts of California who entered a total of 679 wines. In all, they garnished 591 awards, which consisted of 4 - "Best of Show", 46 - Double-Gold, 60 - Gold, 226 - Silver, 168 - Bronze medals, and 87 - Honorable Mention award ribbons. In addition, Award Certificates were given for the Wine Label Competition winners. The "Best of Show" wine winners receive a specially engraved plaque. All Double-Gold awards are judged for the Best of Show awards and will receive double-gold medals. The award-winning wines will be on display at the Homewine Competition exhibit, in The Courtyard during the Fair.

Best of Show White Wine

David Scholl / D.J. Normark
Walnut Creek
2008 Gewürztraminer

Best of Show Red Wine

Dan McCarthy
Santa Clara
2009 Meritage

Best of Show Fruit Wine

Rex Johnston / Barbara Bentley
Walnut Creek
2008 Golden Raspberry

Best of Show Dessert Wine

Robin Lang
Santa Ana
2010 Chocolate - Raspberry Port

Best of Show Wine Label

Barry Reeves
Humorous Category
Twilight Zin

Judges and Stewards

This year, 97 judges, with several coming from Northern California, were formed into 27 panels, with 3 to 4 judges selected per panel based upon their prior experience and ability. More than 69% of the judges have served more than 5 years and 9% served more than 30 years. Each year, several new judges are invited and serve as the fourth member of the panel along with three experienced judges. There were 78 volunteer stewards and staff that assisted with the competition with many of them serving ten years or more.

The Judging

The judging is performed "double-blind." Neither the stewards nor the judging panels have any knowledge of the identity of the individual wines being evaluated. Scoring is done using a modified 20-point rating system. Each wine is evaluated on such attributes as clarity, depth of color, viscosity, general appeal, aroma and bouquet, sweetness, tannin, acidity, body, balance, and overall quality. Judging comments and recommendations are returned to the winemakers to help them improve their wines.

Wine Label Competition

There were 77 entries in this year's Wine Label Competition that were judged based upon creativity, design, originality, and professionalism. The categories were Abstract, Classic, Figurative, Humorous, and Viticultural/Enocological. The Award Certificates were designed so that the label can be attached to the certificate for mounting or framing. Based on the number of awards, most wine labels were excellent. There were even more labels that were on the competition bottles that were not entered in the Label Competition, that were also outstanding and made a colorful display at the Homewine Exhibit during the Orange County Fair. It is a tribute to the time and effort that the winemakers put into designing and producing these wine labels.

Winemakers Brunch

The "Winemakers Brunch" was held July 30, during the Fair to recognize the amateur winemakers of California. This was a time where many of the participants had a chance to meet the other winemakers, talk about their wines, how they were made, and an opportunity to share their experiences and taste many of the award-winning wines. There were about 50 people in attendance.

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Winemakers Group Newsroom (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

2011 Homewine Competition Committee

Many thanks to the committee members who made this competition successful. Working with Jim Graver, the Competition Chairman, were Kim Guerin, Rich McCormick, Jim Hume, Rob Romano, Germaine Romano, David Rutledge, Ed Szubielski, Stan Matsui, Pat Matzke, Eddie Petros, Rich Skoczylas, Lynda Edwards, Deborah Miller, and Sally Toth.

Winemakers Quarterly Potluck and Wine Tasting

The group held its July Potluck and Meeting at the seaside home of Robin and Rich McCormick on Sunday, July 10. We had a great time sampling about 50 wines and tasting the delicious foods brought by the winemakers and other Wine Society members. We also did a bit of post-mortem on the Homewine Competition and discussed our plans for the rest of the year. Many thanks to Robin and Rich for once again opening up their picturesque home for our event.

Wine Basics Seminars at the OC Fair

The OCWS Winemakers Group presents a one-hour seminar every Saturday at the Orange County Fair on "Winemaking Basics", demonstrating how we start with Vinifera wine grapes from California vineyards to create red, white and rosé wines. These seminars are meant to be interesting and informative to the general public and to potential new winemakers and have included equipment such as a grape crusher/de-stemmer, a wine press, carboys, barrels, and some of the tools and testing equipment that we use to make our award-winning wines. The remaining seminars are scheduled on Saturdays through August 14 from noon to 2:00 p.m.

Beginning Winemakers Wanted

If you have an interest in winemaking and have not yet actively pursued that interest, we encourage you to get involved with our group of winemakers. We have a great time pursuing our goal of making the best wines we can, given the available fruit. We will be making decisions within the next couple of months about sources and quantities of grape varieties for our 2011 vintage. So if you'd like to join our merry band, please contact Jim Graver at winemaster72@earthlink.net.

Winemaker Manual by Lum Eisenman

Most home winemaking books are written like cookbooks. They contain winemaking recipes and step-by-step directions, but little technical information is included. These books try to provide enough information so

the reader can make a successful batch of wine. Our winemaking book by Lum Eisenman, is an attempt to provide beginning home winemakers with the basic "how to" instructions as well as providing an introduction to some of the more technical aspects of winemaking. Lum concentrates the technical material in a few chapters, so readers can easily ignore much of the technical content until an interest develops.

There is a link to this book on-line on the OCWS website under Winemakers Newsroom. Lum is an experienced winemaker, a past member of the Winemakers Group, a mentor, instructor, judge (both in the Homewine and Commercial Competitions), former vineyard owner, and has a great deal of knowledge and expertise that he gladly shares with other winemakers in this book. Check it out!

International Winemaker Winners in Our Midst

Congratulations to several Orange County Wine Society members who were winners in the 2011 Winemaker International Amateur Wine Competition held in Manchester, Vermont on April 8 - 10, 2011. This competition judged 4,235 wines from entries from all fifty states, eight Canadian provinces, and five countries as far away as Spain, Norway, and Israel. The 20-point Davis Judging System was used to evaluate wines in 50 different categories. Our Wine Society members who entered and the awards they won include...

Ron Gray, Mission Viejo

Gold	2007 Meritage, 2006 Merlot, 2008 Petit Sirah
Silver	2008 Meritage, 2009 Syrah
Bronze	2009 Cabernet Franc, 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon, 2008 Zinfandel, 2009 Petit Sirah, 2008 Other Red Blends

Joseph and Robbie Lyn Maldonado, Walnut

Silver	2006 Merlot
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Ed Szubielski, Laguna Niguel

Gold	2009 Chardonnay, 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon, 2009 Syrah
Silver	NV Cabernet Sauvignon
Bronze	2008 Syrah, 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon

*For the Winemakers Group,
Rich Skoczylas*

De Portola Wine Trail Trip

Once again, the wineries on the De Portola Wine Trail have invited the OCWS to enjoy an Autumn day of wine tasting with lunch in Temecula. Save the date, October 30, for our next bus trip. Details will be announced soon.

The Wine Trips Committee is also working on a four-day Spring bus trip to Paso Robles. This luxurious trip will include bus transportation to wineries around Paso Robles, meals, hotel accommodations, and tasting fees. Look for more details in future issues of *The Wine Press*.

Ed Reyes

Wine Tasting Trips Chairman

2011 Wine Award Book

The 2011 Award Book is being printed and will be ready for the opening of the fair. I hope the quality, the information, and professionalism of the book will make each of you proud. First I would like to say "Thank You" to the members who sent me names and contact information of prospective wine vendors. We were able to pickup a new advertiser: UnCorked Wine Boutique in Rancho Santa Margarita.

A special "Thank You" to our two longest supporters, Hi-Times in Costa Mesa and Wine Exchange in Orange. Since the beginning, they have supported the OCWS with encouragement and financially with their ads each year.

A new core group of advertisers deserve our appreciation for their support: La Maison Gourmet in Mission Viejo, Total Wine and More stores across Southern California, California Taste in Laguna Niguel, and Salt Creek Wine Company in Laguna Niguel. Our book even reaches as far as Solvang where the Olive House has placed an ad each year.

We have a few advertisers not directly in the wine business who support the Award Book. The many great Olive Gardens restaurants across the county, Crystal Geysers waters, Shasta Beverages and finally Print Media Services in Signal Hill. Each has been generous with their support.

I hope when you receive your 2011 Award Book you will take the time to look at the ads placed by these fine companies and in your travels please stop by and thank them for their support. Remember, their websites are also available on our website.

Dan Deeble

2011 Award Book Chairman

It's Chili Cook-Off Time!

It's time once again for the annual OCWS Chili Cook-off. Now's your chance to show off your closet cooking skills and enter your own special "private stash." If you want to simply attend and sample the many chili's being offered, that is great too!

The Chili Cook-off will be held on Sunday, October 23, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. in The Wine Courtyard at the Orange County Fair & Event Center.

In addition to all the great diverse chilies, our Cooks Caucus will be on hand cooking up barbecue picnic fare with all the accompaniments. We will have a wide variety of wines and beer to cool your tongue after tasting the chilis. Back by popular demand, the band "Rock-Its" and their singing group, "The Hi-Lites" will be on hand providing some good old rock and roll music for listening and dancing. Everyone raved last year about how great this group sounds. If you haven't heard them, you are in for a surprise!

Chili Award categories are as follows...

Best Chili Overall — 1st Place
Best Chili Overall — 2nd Place
Best Chili Overall — 3rd Place
Hottest Chili
Mildest Chili
Most Unusual Chili
Best Chili With Wine
Best Presentation
People's Choice
Best First-Time Chili Cook

All chili entrants will be awarded two bottles of wine for your efforts. Prize-winning chili chefs will be awarded a famous Engraved Chili Ladle denoting your winning category.

Once again, we will allow the chili chefs to determine in what category they would like their chili judged. On the sign-up sheet, check if you would like your chili to be judged in the hottest, mildest, or most unusual category. If you have selected wine as an ingredient, please indicate the "Chili With Wine" only if you wish your chili to be judged in that category.

Please indicate the name of your chili on the entry form. Allow enough time to set up your presentation display and prepare your chili for judging. Set-up time will be available from 11:00 a.m. Remember, your presentation and chili must be ready by 12:30 p.m. for chili-judging. At approximately 1:00 p.m., we will open for general chili tasting.

Admission price is \$25 for members and \$30 for guests who want to "taste" only. Chili Team contestants are admitted free. I need your sign-

up by Wednesday, October 12.

Additionally, I will need a few volunteers to help with this event. If you would like to join me to put on this fun event, just drop me an e-mail to john4wine@msn.com. Volunteers will be entitled to free admission to the event. Remember, you can volunteer and still enter a chili. Don't let one interfere with the other—the more chili cooks; the better. I will be needing help with the following...

- Set-Up and Clean-Up
- Stewarding
- Registration and Reception
- Cooking and Barbecuing
- Wine and Beer Serving
- Raffle Coordinator

~ Chili Cook-off Rules ~

1. Each team will consist of no more than two cooks, one of which must be a member of the OCWS.
2. Each Chili Team will have four linear feet of display area.
3. Each entry must provide at least five quarts of chili.
4. Chili must be ready for judging by 12:30 p.m.
5. The name of your chili and your category selection must be on the entry form.
6. If wine is used as an ingredient, please state the varietal.
7. Provide a way to keep the chili hot (camp stove, crock pot, etc.)
8. Please let us know if you'll need electricity. Bring your own extension cord!
9. Judging will start at 12:30 p.m., open tasting to follow at 1:00 p.m.
10. Bring your own ladle or spoon for serving.
11. Each chili will be eligible for a judge's award in only one category.
12. Sign-up by October 12.

John Goodnight
The Head Jalapeño

The Last Laff...

Thoughts?...

- ◆ I had amnesia once—or twice.
- ◆ I went to San Francisco. I found someone's heart. Now what?
- ◆ Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.
- ◆ All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.
- ◆ If the world were a logical place, men would be the ones who ride horses sidesaddle.
- ◆ What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?
- ◆ They told me I was gullible and I believed them.
- ◆ Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.
- ◆ Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.
- ◆ One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.
- ◆ My weight is perfect for my height—which varies.
- ◆ I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.
- ◆ How can there be self-help "groups?"
- ◆ If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?
- ◆ Show me a man with both feet firmly on the ground, and I'll show you a man who can't get his pants off.
- ◆ Is it me—or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?

The recession has hit everybody really hard...

- ◆ My neighbor got a pre-declined credit card in the mail.
- ◆ CEO's are now playing miniature golf.
- ◆ Exxon-Mobil laid off 25 Congressmen.
- ◆ A stripper was killed when her audience showered her with rolls of pennies while she danced.
- ◆ I saw a Mormon with only one wife.
- ◆ If the bank returns your check marked "Insufficient Funds" you call them and ask if they meant you or them.
- ◆ McDonald's is selling the ¼ ounce.
- ◆ Angelina Jolie adopted a child from America.
- ◆ Parents in Beverly Hills fired their nannies and learned their children's names.
- ◆ My cousin had an exorcism but couldn't afford to pay for it, and they re-possessed her!
- ◆ A truckload of Americans was caught sneaking into Mexico.
- ◆ A picture is now only worth 200 words.
- ◆ When Bill and Hillary travel together they now have to share a room.
- ◆ The Treasure Island casino in Las Vegas is now managed by Somali pirates.

- ◆ Congress says they are looking into this Bernard Madoff scandal. Oh Great! The guy who made \$50 billion disappear is being investigated by the people who made \$1.5 Trillion disappear!
- ◆ I was so depressed last night thinking about the economy, wars, jobs, my savings, Social Security, retirement funds, etc., I called the Suicide Hotline. I got a call center in Pakistan and when I told them I was suicidal, they got all excited and asked if I could drive a truck.

Classic Definitions and Cool Meanings

- ◆ Love affairs: Something like cricket where one-day internationals are more popular than a five day test.
- ◆ Lecture: An art of transferring information from the notes of the lecturer to the notes of the students without passing through "the minds of either."
- ◆ Conference: The confusion of one man multiplied by the number present.
- ◆ Compromise: The art of dividing a cake in such a way that everybody believes he got the biggest piece.
- ◆ Conference Room: A place where everybody talks, nobody listens, and everybody disagrees later on.
- ◆ Classic: A book which people praise, but do not read.
- ◆ Office: A place where you can relax after your strenuous home life.
- ◆ Yawn: The only time some married men ever get to open their mouth.
- ◆ Etc.: A sign to make others believe that you know more than you actually do.
- ◆ Committee: Individuals who can do nothing individually and get to decide that nothing can be done together.
- ◆ Experience: The name men give to their mistakes.
- ◆ Philosopher: A fool who torments himself during life, to be spoken of when dead.
- ◆ Opportunist: A person who starts taking a bath if he accidentally falls into a river.
- ◆ Optimist: A person who while falling from Eiffel Tower says midway "See I am not injured yet."
- ◆ Pessimist: A person who says that O is the last letter in Zero, Instead of the first letter in the word Opportunity.
- ◆ Boss: Someone who is early when you are late and late when you are early.
- ◆ Politician: One who shakes your hand before elections and your confidence after.

Until next month...

The Editor

Kudos to the OCWS...

We received this email on June 30. Thought you would enjoy it; especially the Homewine Competition Group and our panel of Homewine Judges...

Dear Orange County Wine Society,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to your organization for the professional attitude and approach to your Home Winemaking Competition. The entire process is extremely helpful to the home winemaker in improving home winemaking quality. In particular, I was extremely impressed with the evaluation of our wine from Robert Devon. Our wine (09 Zin Silver Medal) had issues that we worked hard to overcome.

Taster notes:

"New barrel?" Yes; it was a new French oak barrel!

"Low acid" Yes; the wine did not complete Malolactic so we added potassium carbonate to reduce the acid.

"Slightly bitter" Yes. Still has some malic acid.

Dead on evaluation! Very Impressive! Orange County Wine Society Rocks!

Thanks,

Rick Reed
Los Gatos, CA

Chili Cook-Off
Sunday, October 23
The Courtyard
OC Fair & Event Center
Costa Mesa

~ Time Schedule ~

11:00 a.m. - Set-Up
12:30 p.m. - Judging
1:00 p.m. - Open Tasting

Member _____ Co-Member _____
Address _____ City & Zip _____
Day Phone _____ Night Phone _____
Email _____

I can't even open up a can of Dennison's. Just sign me up as a Chili Taster...

Number of Member Tasters @ \$25 each _____ Number of Guest Tasters @ \$30 each _____

~ Payment ~

Personal Check Credit Card Credit Card number on file
Card Number _____ V Code _____
Expiration Date _____ Signature _____
Total Enclosed _____

~ Chili Registration ~

I want to enter a chili this year...

Name of chili _____

I wish to enter my chili in the following category...

Hottest Mildest POC (Plain 'Ole Chili)
 Most Unusual Chili with wine. Name of Varietal _____

Electricity required? Yes No
Note: availability of electrical outlets in The Courtyard may be limited. Bring your own extension cord!

First time entrant? Yes No

Deadline for reservation is Wednesday, October 12. All reservations must be paid in advance, either by check or credit card and may be made by mail, on the website, or by fax. All phone, fax, and website reservations are credit card only. For information, call the OCWS office at 714.708.1636.

Mail/fax reservation to:

OCWS Chili Cook-Off
P.O. Box 11059
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

In Memoriam

Jan Gitsham

July 17, 1948 ~ July 10, 2011

Jan was a long-time member of the Orange County Wine Society and an avid supporter and wine enthusiast. His passing saddens us.

We extend our sympathy to Fran and family.

Annual Membership Barbecue
Sunday, September 25
3:00 to 7:00 p.m.
The Courtyard
OC Fair & Event Center
Costa Mesa

Member _____

Co-Member _____

Address _____

City & Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Night Phone _____

Email _____

Number of Members @ \$35 each _____

Number of Guests @ \$45 each _____

~ Payment ~

- Personal Check
- Credit Card
- Credit Card number on file

Card Number _____

V Code _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Total Enclosed _____

~ Volunteer Sign-Up ~

- I will help with registration
- I will help with raffle
- I will help with serving/stewarding
- I will help with clean-up

Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, September 21. All reservations must be paid in advance, either by check or credit card and may be made by mail, website, or fax. All website, or fax reservations are credit card only. For information, call the OCWS office at 714.708.1636.

Mail/fax reservation to:

OCWS Annual Membership Barbecue
P.O. Box 11059
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

October Tasting
Sierra Madre Vineyard
Friday, October 14
6:30 p.m.
DoubleTree Hotel
Santa Ana / OC Airport
201 East MacArthur Boulevard
Santa Ana

Member _____

Co-Member _____

Address _____

City & Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Night Phone _____

Email _____

Number of Members @ \$33 each _____

Number of Guests @ \$38 each _____

~ Payment ~

- Personal Check
- Credit Card
- Credit Card number on file

Card Number _____

V Code _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Total Enclosed _____

~ Volunteer Sign-Up ~

- I will help with registration
- I will help with raffle
- I would enjoy serving wine

A light dinner will be served from 6:45 to 7:30. The tasting will start at 7:30.

Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, October 12. All reservations must be paid in advance, either by check or credit card and may be made by mail, phone, website, or fax. All phone, website, or fax reservations are credit card only. No refunds will be made after the cutoff date unless there is a waiting list and your reservation can be filled by someone else. For information, call the OCWS office at 714.708.1636.

Mail / fax reservation to:

OCWS
October Tasting
P.O. Box 11059
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Installation Dinner
 Sunday, October 9
 6:00 p.m.
 Five Crowns Restaurant
 3801 E. Pacific Coast Highway
 Corona del Mar

Member _____
 Co-Member _____
 Address _____
 City & Zip _____
 Day Phone _____
 Night Phone _____
 Email _____
 Number of Attendees @ \$70 each _____

~ Payment ~

Personal Check
 Credit Card
 Credit Card number on file

Card Number _____
 V Code _____
 Expiration Date _____
 Signature _____
 Total Enclosed _____

~ Entrée Selection ~

(May be made during the event)

As this event is strictly limited in attendance, we strongly recommend you call in your reservation with payment to the OCWS as soon as possible. Deadline for reservations is Friday, September 30. After this time, all reservations will be placed on a standby list, first-come, first-served. All reservations must be paid in advance, either by check or credit card and may be made by mail, phone, or fax, or via the OCWS web site. All phone, fax, and web site reservations are credit card only.

Mail / fax reservation to:

OCWS Installation Dinner
 P.O. Box 11059
 Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Champagne Brunch
 Sunday, September 11
 11:30 a.m.
 Yves' Restaurant and Wine Bar
 5753 E. Santa Canyon Road
 Anaheim Hills

Member _____
 Co-Member _____
 Address _____
 City & Zip _____
 Day Phone _____
 Night Phone _____
 Email _____
 Number of Attendees @ \$36 each _____

~ Payment ~

Personal Check
 Credit Card
 Credit Card number on file

Card Number _____
 V Code _____
 Expiration Date _____
 Signature _____
 Total Enclosed _____

As this event is strictly limited in attendance, we strongly recommend you call in your reservation with payment to the OCWS as soon as possible. Deadline for reservations is Friday, September 2. After this time, all reservations will be placed on a standby list, first-come, first-served. All reservations must be paid in advance, either by check or credit card and may be made by mail, phone, or fax, or via the OCWS web site. All phone, fax, and web site reservations are credit card only.

Mail / fax reservation to:

OCWS Champagne Brunch
 P.O. Box 11059
 Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Annual Business Meeting
 Friday, September 9
 7:00 p.m.
 "Baja Blues" Building
 Orange County Fair & Event Center
 Costa Mesa

Member _____
 Co-Member _____
 Address _____
 City & Zip _____
 Day Phone _____
 Night Phone _____
 Email _____
 Number of reservations (OCWS members only) _____

~ Payment ~

This event is complimentary to OCWS members only. By virtue of signing up for this event, each member declares that they are aware of and agree that in the event they have confirmed reservations and are "no shows", they will be billed by the OCWS at the rate of \$25 per person and will reimburse the OCWS accordingly.

Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, September 7. All reservations must be confirmed by the OCWS office. There is no limit to the number of OCWS members wishing to attend. Members must attend the business portion of the meeting in order to be able to partake of the complimentary snacks and beverages. For information, call the OCWS office at 714.708.1636.

Mail / fax reservation to:

OCWS
 Annual Business Meeting
 P.O. Box 11059
 Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Follow us on Facebook!

Join us on Yahoo!Groups...
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OCWineSociety/>

The Wine Press
Orange County Wine Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 11059
Costa Mesa, CA 92627