

January 2005

The Grapevine

a newsletter of the Sacramento Home Winemakers

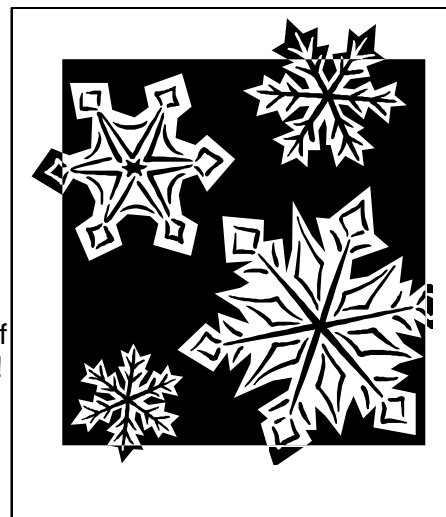
www.sachomewine.com

The Next Meeting: "Winterizing Your Vineyard"

The January 19, 2005 meeting of the SHW Club will feature a popular speaker from last year on an entirely new topic. Andy Johaus from Johaus Enterprises will talk to the club about how to "Winterize" Your Vineyard. "Winterizing" includes everything done to the vineyard from the Fall Harvest to the Spring Bud Break.

Even if you don't have your own vineyard, this should be an interesting meeting that will give you an idea how to evaluate your potential grape sources. (Not to mention the nice wine we all plan to bring to share.) Andy currently manages in excess of 1,000 acres of grapes in the Sacramento/Clarksburg/Elk Grove/Lodi Area. Many of our members have purchased his grapes, with award winning results!! Andy is a very entertaining speaker. The meeting begins at 7 PM.

Another treat will be the introduction of some exciting plans for the 2005 year that are being cooked up by your new Board.



Reminder

Don't forget the Unified Wine and Grape Symposium, downtown at the Sacramento Convention Center. The dates are January 24-27, 2005. The conference itself is a little cost prohibitive for home winemakers, but a reasonably priced "Exhibit Hall Only" Ticket gets you in to two days (Wednesday and Thursday) worth of stimulating discussion, information, and supply deals from the knowledgeable vendors. Exhibit Only price includes a free wine tasting on Wednesday at 8 PM, as well as more wine and a buffet lunch on Thursday at 11:30-1 PM. It's a great experience. For more info go to:

<http://www.unifiedsymposium.org>

President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. For many of us, it sure started out well with another fine Club Christmas Party. The food was excellent, the company just as good, and the wines, of course, were superb. Thanks to everyone whose hard work made the event so good.

I'm honored to have been selected to serve as your president for 2005. We have a great Executive Board that includes some new blood as well as several veterans. Our Constitution states that the president shall appoint an historian and a newsletter editor. Although we seem never to have had an historian, I've appointed Gary Young to that position. Gary has compiled a record of all of our past officers and committee chairs. That record shows that our newsletter editor, Judy Pinegar has held almost every position over the last decade! The same can be said for our continuing webmaster, John Troiano, now in his eighth year with that duty.

Our first Board meeting of the year was well attended and full of energy. Lots of ideas for monthly programs and special events were discussed. With your participation, the Sacramento Home Winemakers will be sure to have another great year!

Ken Hough

SHW 2005
Board of Directors

and Committee Chairs

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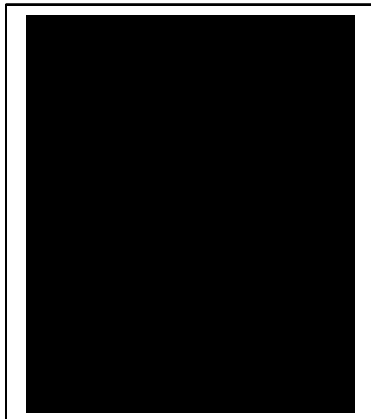
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Winemakers Board Meeting on February 2, 2005

And the newly elected (well some were nominated by acclaim) Board for the 2005 program year are listed to the left, along with some of the appointed club positions. Congratulation and thank you for your efforts. We will be looking for more help too!

I (Judy, SHW Cheerleader) make a special appeal to the three or four people I heard volunteer (November meeting, remember?) to "DO" a meeting to help us out...Please come to me, or to J Page, the Program/Vice President to remind us who you are ... I am very sorry I wasn't taking down names!

Also we have had great attendance of "others" (non-board members) at the past few Board meeting... it is really a fun group and more are welcome to join to help share the load!!

The next meeting will be held at J Page's (Vice President for 2005) house on February 2, 2005. Snacks start at 6:00, the meeting at 6:45 PROMPTLY. Many club members have been there, but if you need directions call J and Linda at (916) 991-6955.

FREE TO SHW MEMBERS

FREE Commercial Wine shippers. Six and twelve bottle boxes (some 2's). Accepted by UPS and FED EX. Airlines will check them as baggage.

FREE Wine bottles. Most washed with labels removed.

Contact John Benbow (916) 652-0282 or email: benbow@vfr.net

Warning: Don't feed Grapes to Your Dog!

Recently the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) has received several reports of dogs developing renal (kidney) failure after ingesting varied quantities of grapes or raisins. Kidney failure has been associated with eating fresh grapes, raisins and grape crushings/fermented grapes from wineries (or the backyard of home winemakers.)

Signs of poisoning may begin within hours of grape ingestion, and can consist of vomiting, lack of appetite, diarrhea, and abdominal (belly) pain.

Until we gather more information regarding how many grapes or raisins need to be consumed before toxicity develops, we advise that owners completely avoid feeding grapes to their pets. If you suspect your dog has eaten grapes, we advise you seek immediate veterinary care, as aggressive treatment may make all the difference.

Courtesy of Loomis Basin Vet Clinic, Michelle Sievers, DVM

HISTORY ... *wine's social impact through time...*

Fossil vines, 60-million-years-old, are the earliest scientific evidence of grapes. The earliest written account of viniculture is in the Old Testament of the Bible, which tells us that Noah planted a vineyard and made wine. As cultivated fermentable crops, honey and grain are older than grapes, although neither mead nor beer has had anywhere near the social impact of wine over recorded time. Wine and history have greatly influenced one another.

MIDDLE EASTERN ORIGINS

An ancient Persian fable credits a lady of the court with the discovery of wine. This Princess, having lost favor with the King, attempted to poison herself by eating some table grapes that had spoiled in a jar. She became intoxicated and giddy and fell asleep. When she awoke, she found the stresses that had made her life intolerable had dispersed. Returning to the source of her relief, her subsequent conduct changed so remarkably that she regained the King's favor. The King shared his daughter's discovery with his court and...

It is certain that grape cultivation and wine drinking had started by about 4000 BC and possibly as early as 6000 BC. The first developments were around the Caspian Sea and in Mesopotamia, near present-day Iran. Texts from tombs in ancient Egypt prove that wine was in use there around 2700 to 2500 BC. Priests and royalty were using wine, while the workers drank beer! The Egyptians developed the first arbors and pruning methods. Archeological excavations have uncovered many sites with sunken jars, so the effects of temperature on stored wine were probably known.

******2005 Sacramento Home Winemakers - Membership Form**

Dues for 2005 are \$35 per person or family/couple. Membership in the SHW is based on a calendar year January 2005 through December 2005. This is an early reminder! Submit this form with your dues check payable to "Sacramento Home Winemakers" or "SHW" at a club meeting or mail to the SHW Treasurer:

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-Mail Address _____

Carl Brust
3982 El Monte Drive
Loomis, CA 95650

Are you interested in a more active role in the club? Please indicate your area of interest below:

Committee Member Help (mark one or more)

- Newsletter
- May Jubilee (coordinate some portion)
- State Fair (coordinate some portion)
- Passport weekend (visiting other SHW homes)
- Event coordinator (like one dinner or club party, a bus tour or a weekend trip)
- Hospitality (bring snacks ...you will be reimbursed) for one or more meeting

Club Board Help (mark one or more)

- Membership (greet, make badges, pass out info)
- Program helper
- Know a speaker?
- Have an idea?
- Help gather judges or work with the Chief Judge?

Please give program or speaker ideas _____

Sacramento Home Winemakers -- Schedule for 2005
Monthly Meetings, 3rd Wednesday of Month, 7:00 PM,
Sacramento Turn Verein Hall - 2nd Floor, 3349 J Street, Sacramento
Board Meetings 1st Wednesday of Month, 6:00 PM
(location varies – see below)

JANUARY 2005

January 19, 2005, 7:00 p.m., Andy Johaus, Wine Broker and Vineyard Manager will talk to the club about how to “Winterize Your Vineyard.”

FEBURARY 2005

February 2, 2005, 6:00 p.m., SHW Board Meeting, J and Linda Page’s Home Call (916) 991-6955

February 16, 2005, 7:00 p.m., NEW White Wine Tasting, Panel of Experts.

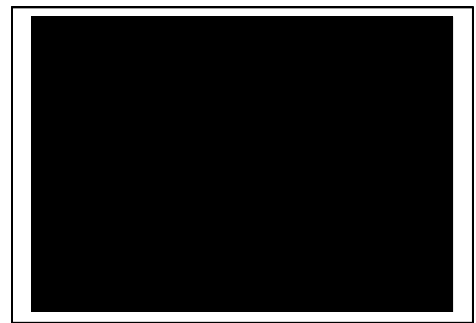
MARCH

March 2, 2005, 6:00 p.m., SHW Board Meeting, TBA

March 16, 2005, 7:00 p.m., NEW Red Wine Tasting, Panel of Experts

OCTOBER TEASER

To be arranged: All Day Bus Tour of Sonoma Valley



Sacramento Home Winemakers
c/o Judy Pinegar
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