



The Grapevine Newsletter

January 2010

Executive Board Members

Lynn Keay
President

Donna Bettencourt
Vice President

Debbie Moreton
Secretary

Mike Touchette
Treasurer

Gin Yang
Membership

Board Appointees

D.D. Smith
Chief Judge

Henry Wilkinson
Cellar Master

Jim Cota
Web Master

Jennifer Keay
Newsletter Editor



www.sachomewine.org

2010 President's Message

Happy New Year 2010! I am excited to start a second year as SHW's President and thank you for the opportunity to lead SHW. I am also excited to work with the newly elected Board members and challenged to generate new programs and activities. 2009 concluded with a Holiday party, Awards Presentation, and Annual Fundraiser of new proportions, literally. Moving to the large Banquet Hall at the Turn Verein made it possible to spread out and accommodate our growing membership and their guests. Debbie Moreton did expert work coordinating the event and we are grateful she volunteered to do a repeat performance in 2010. Kudos to Debbie! I especially want to thank everyone who generously supported the club with donations and participation in the Fundraising effort. Your support is truly what makes it possible to continue to support such great educational programs, field trips, tours, presentations, and winemaking experiences in the years ahead.

Reminder: SHW has near new winemaking equipment available to members. In August 2008, we purchased a large crusher/destemmer, a sizeable basket press, and later, a new Buon Vino wine filter. The purchases were a significant investment and, with this in mind, require thorough cleaning, storing, care, and maintenance to last through many years of winemaking. Members are accountable and responsible for proper care, use, and timely return but in exchange, we get all the benefits of convenience and accessibility when we need them with no rental fees.

I encourage anyone who has not yet had the chance to volunteer, to consider helping in some way in 2010. As a group, we are only as good as we make ourselves. Please don't be shy about getting involved or even attending a Board meeting if you have not yet done so. The experience is richly rewarding and we have lots of fun in the process.

We have a great meeting planned for January 20 and I hope to see you all there. We have a number of new members this year so please take the time to introduce yourselves. I look forward to sharing ideas, wine, and friendship with you all!

~ Lynn Keay, 2010 SHW President

2009 Annual Holiday Dinner and Party

This year's event was a CELEBRATION in many ways. First, 99 members and their guests enjoyed a festive holiday party atmosphere, on a clear, warm evening at the Turn Verein's Main Hall, that provided opportunities to mingle with new and old members, their guests, and participate in the many fund raising activities held that night. Many a conversation was overheard about crush activities, the fine art of wine making, vacations and holiday plans.

Second, Calyn McKnight and her staff provided a delectable holiday fare that was both plentiful and pleasing to the palate, and complimented the many wine varietals consumed during the night.

Third, and the most celebrated moments of all, through the generosity and support of our members and guests, we raised \$520 from the \$5 Raffle, \$2,371 from the Silent Auction and \$720 from the Grand Prize Raffle. WOW! These monies will help the Club to continue to provide the curriculum and events we all enjoy and participate in throughout the year.



Again, my personal thanks to all of you who donated items for the silent auction and the \$5 Raffle, and the volunteers who helped "get the party started". Special thanks to Gary Young and Fred Millar for auctioneering the \$5 Raffle, and to SHW Treasurer, Mike Touchette, for keeping the numbers straight. I look forward to being your Holiday Dinner and Party Coordinator for 2010! ~ Debbie Moretton

2009 Award Winners!

Every year the club gives different awards to members and associates of the club. The following awards were given for 2009 in December:

SHW HOME WINEMAKER of the YEAR: This award is based on members who enter and win awards (the higher the better!) at various competitions throughout the year. The award is based on criteria that require achievement in a minimum of three competitions, including the club's Jubilee and the California State Fair. This year the award goes to long time winemaker and member: **Luis Rodriguez**. Congratulations!

HAL ELLIS MEMORIAL AWARD: For Service Above and Beyond the Crush. This has traditionally gone to someone who has contributed many volunteer hours to the events and activities of the club for the current year. The award was created to also to honor Hal Ellis, one of the original members of the club, some 30 years ago. He is remembered by long term members of the club also as the maker of some dubious, but different "Celery Wine." The winner of this award for 2009 is **Lynn Keay**.



STU SHAFER MEMORIAL AWARD: Most Improved Winemaker of the Year. Stu and his wife Betty (still a club member) joined a number of years ago. Their early efforts at winemaking were not greatly memorable, but after only 2 or 3 years in the club, Stu shot up making large numbers of gold awards each year, and won the Best of Show at the both the May Jubilee and the State Fair. From then on Stu was known for his award winning wines. The deserved member selected in 2009 to receive this award is **Dar Geramian**.



BOB BECK MEMORIAL EDUCATION AWARD: Bob Beck was a long time member who gave many classes to new winemakers in his home and wine room in Auburn, the basics of that lesson on how to make wine are now in a book form and copies are provided to people joining the SHW as new winemakers. In addition, Bob and his wife Jo used to make an annual trip (Europe, Canada and other places) with a wine focus. They would take slides, bring back wine, and present an educational meeting to club members, which were a Wine and Food Travelogue of their latest trip.

For this reason, some years back the club created the **BOB BECK MEMORIAL AWARD: Wine Educator of the Year**. The 2009 award for contributing to the wine education of SHW goes to **Jason Fernandez**, Winemaker and Consultant.

PAST PRESIDENT'S GAVEL PLAQUE was awarded to **Lynn Keay**. We thank Lynn for energy and leadership contribution in 2009!

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR 2009: For outstanding achievement, this award was presented to **Debbie and Kevin Moretton** for winning a Double Gold with their first vintage ever made!



Upcoming SHW Meeting, January 20

Join with fellow SHW members in a lively presentation, and interactive demonstration, on the effect of oak, oak additives, and tannins on your red wines.

Gerald Cresci has been a home winemaker, and wine judge, for over 35 years. He has been a frequent presenter at SHW meetings in the past and is a demi-god in the world of dessert and fruit winemaking (of course, you will have heard of his pyracantha wine which we all tasted at the October meeting).

Gerald will be sharing his knowledge of the effect of oak, oak additives, and tannins on your wines. Bring 4 wine glasses if possible so that you can contrast and compare the base wine sample against those that have been "doctored" with varying intensity of oak, and tannins. Find out how to perform bench trials on your wine to find the best oak profile for your taste, and for the wine style itself. Come prepared with questions ("Oops, I put too many oak chips in my wine: now what???" or "What are the various aroma and flavor profiles that I can expect of American oak vs. French Oak vs. Hungarian oak?")



Join us "Wednesday, January 20th at the Turn Verein, 3349 J Street in Sacramento at 7 PM; or come early at 6:30 PM to mix and mingle and yes, enjoy each others wines.

****2010 Club Dues are Due****

This year's SHW annual dues are \$42 (no increase from last year) and includes a 6-issue annual subscription to WineMakers magazine if the dues are paid by March 1, 2010. Please submit your check with a completed membership form (found in this newsletter or on the SHW website at www.sachomewine.org) to SHW Treasurer Mike Touchette.

If you and your friends have just discovered SHW and are interested in joining or learning more about the club, please contact Gin Yang, 2010 Membership Chair, at 916 217 0294 or ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com.

Please welcome our newest members: **John and Robbin Haitz** and **Terry and Marianne McNiff**



Amateur/Home Wine Competitions

2010 Newport Seafood & Wine Amateur Winemakers Tournament – The Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce in Newport, Oregon sponsors this wine competition that is open to amateur winemakers only and offers an opportunity for these individuals to have their wines independently evaluated by a panel of judges. Entries are due by January 22, 2010. The festival runs from February 26-28. For more information, go to <http://newportchamber.org>.

Sparkling Demonstrations

What do bidules, acetone, and final dosage have in common? These and many other sparkling wine making terms were added to a dozen SHW members vocabularies last Saturday. Lili and Carl Brust, in a hands-on session, patiently walked us through the steps for making sparkling wine methode champenoise. Afterwards, we warmed up to snacks and a pulled pork sandwich lunch, complemented with wines, which, of course, included the sparklers that we had just bottled. Many thanks to **Lili and Carl Brust** for sharing their wine making expertise and generous hospitality.

If you didn't get a chance to participate in the Brusts demonstration and would like to learn more about making sparkling wine, Donna Brown and Gin Yang are planning to move their still wine into the secondary fermentation stage of sparkling wine making. They offer to demonstrate this piece of the process sometime in January-February. For more information, please contact Gin at ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com or 916 217 0294.



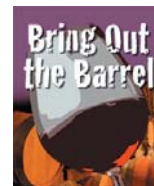
Area Wine Events - Highlighting the area's wine regions and SHW member wineries

ZAP's 19th Annual Zinfandel Festival - January 28 - 30, 2010

The Zinfandel Advocates and Producers annual festival will again be held at the Fort Mason Center in San Francisco with over 300 wineries featured. For more information, see the website at: www.zinfandel.org.

El Dorado Wine Country ~ Barrel Tasting Weekend - January 30 - 31, 2010

Be among the first to discover the nuances of a new vintage by joining our winemakers in the intimate environment of their cellars for a weekend of barrel tasting. Wine lovers of all levels are welcome to get a special preview of young wines and compare them with older vintages from the bottle. More than 20 vintners will treat you to samples straight from the barrel. Enjoy light food pairings, demonstrations and take advantage of futures sales. For tickets and more information, check out: www.eldoradowines.org.



Lodi's 13th Annual Wine & Chocolate Weekend - February 13 & 14, 2010 ~ 11am -4pm

Make your plans now! Spend Valentine's Day weekend, February 13 & 14 in Lodi Wine Country sipping delicious, handcrafted wines during the 13th annual Wine & Chocolate extravaganza event! Taste delicious Lodi wines and decadent chocolates from 40 wineries in the Lodi Appellation. For additional information, go to: www.lodiwineandchocolate.com.

Placer Hills Winery Tour ~ Presidents/Valentine's Weekend - February 13 - 15, 2010 ~ noon - 5pm

On this weekend, all 15 Placer County wineries are open for wine tasting, including Lone Buffalo Vineyards – no appointments are necessary. Special chocolate goodies will be offered with the tastings. For more information, see: www.placerhillswinetour.com.



Calaveras Winegrape Alliance - One "Sweetheart of a Weekend" - February 13 & 14, 2010 ~ 11am - 5pm

Participants will enjoy special barrel tastings, new wine releases, and an array of delicious palate pleasing appetizers! Come on out and meet some of Calaveras' great winemakers, make new friends and raise your glass in toast to your sweetheart on Valentine's Day and to the people who helped make this country great! The cost of admission to participate in this event is the \$10.00 purchase of a CWA logo wine glass. For ticket and additional information, go to: www.calaveraswines.org.

Holly's Hill Valentine's Food & Wine Pairing - February 13th & 14th ~ 11am-4pm

Music by Elements of Style

Purchase tickets by Feb. 8th for discounted price.

\$20/person - online at www.hollyshill.com

\$25/person - call 530.344.0227 or e-mail winery@hollyshill.com

Prices include Riedel® logo glass.

Tickets Here:

<http://www.hollyshill.com/events/valentine/valentine.html>



2010 Unified Wine and Grape Symposium

This year's symposium at the Sacramento Convention Center will run from January 26-29; the trade show exhibits are on display from January 27-28. This joint venture co-sponsored by the American Society for Enology and Viticulture (ASEV) and the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG), offers winemakers and grape growers the latest industry information and products. Exhibit hall/trade show tickets are \$30 through January 18 and \$60 thereafter. Check out their website at www.unifiedsymposium.org.



Recommended Reading

Home Winemaking Step-by-Step by John Iverson

Written expressly for beginning and advanced amateurs, this guide explores home winemaking in practical terms, focusing on the latest fermentation techniques of both red and white wine grapes. This new edition is more user-friendly than ever, containing an expanded offering of tips and advice to help winemakers obtain the best possible yield as well as descriptions of new yeasts, chemicals, and additives available. Detailed information on equipment, supplies, and how to arrange a source for good grapes as well as mistakes to avoid makes getting started easy. Advanced winemakers will appreciate full explanations of sophisticated topics—such as malolactic fermentation, sparkling wines, concentrate kits, and blending—and listings of websites for supplementary information.

Upcoming 2010 Executive Board Meeting

SACRAMENTO HOME WINEMAKERS

February 3 - InAlliance, 6950 21st Avenue,
Sacramento, CA 95820



**SACRAMENTO HOME WINEMAKERS ASSOCIATION
2010 PROGRAM**

Date Meeting	Topic/Event	Speaker/Panel/Committee
January 20	Intro of 2010 Board, Input from membership “Oaks and Tannins in Your Wines”	Gerald Cresci
February 17	White Wine Evaluation	Chik Brenneman, Winemaker Viticulture/Enology Program, UC Davis
March 17	Bordeaux Wine Evaluation	Jason Fernandez, Winemaker
April 21	Other Red Wine Evaluation	Marco Cappelli, Winemaker El Dorado County wineries - various
May 1	Home Winery Tour	Lincoln vicinity – Carducci, Farinha, Lee Gin Yang, Coordinator, volunteer signups
May 19	Technical session	Mike Ramsey, Teaching Laboratory Mgr., Viticulture & Enology, UC Davis
June 16	Club Project Evaluation Merlot	Jon Affonso, Owner/Winemaker Rail Bridge Cellars
June 26	June Jubilee	Judy Pinegar’s House Volunteers needed
July 21	TBD	
August	Winemaking 101	TBD - Judy Pinegar’s House Need coordinator
August 18	Italian varietals, grappa and their winemaking process.	Rusty Folena, winemaker Jim Gullett, Owner Vino Noceto, Plymouth Winery
August/Sept	Club Project	TBD – White or Red
September 15	TBD	
October 20	Dessert/Fruit/Bubbly Evaluation	TBD
October 24	Harvest Dinner	Embassy Suites, Old Sacramento Need coordinator
November 17	Elections, Gold Medal Winners, etc.	
December 15	Holiday Dinner Party and fundraiser	Debbie Moretton, Coordinator

Monthly SHW Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Turn Verein, 3349 J Street in Sacramento. Meetings begin at 7 PM, but come at 6:30 to mix and mingle.

Note: Remember to bring two wine glasses to the meetings.

MENTORS AND WEBSITE FORUM

New to winemaking or have a winemaking or vineyard management question?
 Contact Judy Pinegar at jpinegar@cde.ca.gov or
 (916) 652-5198 for assistance in locating a mentor.



MENTOR	CONTACT INFO	GEOGRAPHICS	MENTOR SPECIALTY
Judy Pinegar	916 652-5198 jpinegar@cde.ca.gov	Loomis	White, red, & fruit wines
Carl & Lili Brust	916 652-9001 lcbrust@garlic.com	Loomis	White and sparkling wines
Mike Touchette	530 626-7704 pinotsyrah@yahoo.com	Diamond Springs	Red and white wines
Gerald Cresci	209 748-2122	Herald	Vineyard management; fruit wines & port
Paul & Nancy Baldwin	916 684-2086 pbaldwin@frontiernet.net	Elk Grove	Red & white wines; vineyard management
John Troiano	916 487-1480 fatcatjt@sbcglobal.net	Carmichael	Red wines
Jim Margolis	916 451-4279 jamadapa@att.net	Sacramento	Red and white wines
Dave Leonard	916 452-1616 djleonardpbp@gmail.com	Sacramento	Red wines
Donna Bettencourt	916 454-5487 bettencourt1045@softcom.net	Sacramento	Red & white wines
Henry Wilkinson	916 446-6276 hbwilkinson@jps.net	Sacramento	Red wines
D. D. Smith	916 638-8849 ddanjo@sbcglobal.net	Gold River	Red, white, port & ice wines
Lynn Keay	lynn.keay@gmail.com	Gold River	Red, white and fruit wines



2010 SACRAMENTO HOME WINEMAKERS MEMBERSHIP FORM
(2010 Annual dues are \$42 per household)

Your Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email(s) _____

Winemaker Knowledge Level: _____ Novice _____ Experienced

_____ **Renew My membership \$42.** Current members, renew by March 1, 2010 and your Winemaker Magazine subscription will automatically extend for a year otherwise your subscription will expire in Spring 2010.

OR

_____ **New or Lapsed Memberships \$42.** Submit dues by March 1, 2010 to get your one year subscription to Winemaker Magazine or extend existing subscription.

_____ I do **not** currently subscribe to Winemaker magazine

_____ I currently subscribe to Winemaker magazine, and the subscription is under (*exact name*) _____ Expiration: _____

Preferred method of delivery for monthly SHW newsletter (email is default mode):

_____ email address above _____ hard copy to address above

Please make check payable to "Sacramento Home Winemakers" and mail to:

Mike Touchette, SHW Treasurer
P. O. Box 894
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741

To assist in the Club's planning efforts, please let us know of your interests:

INTEREST	COORDINATE	VOLUNTEER	2011 POSITION S	
Regional Winery Tours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	President	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jubilee (Club Wine Competition)			Vice-President	<input type="checkbox"/>
Judging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar Help	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home Winery Tour			Cellar Master	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home Winery Destination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chef	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grapevine Editor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Logistics/Clean-Up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chief Judge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holiday Party			Jubilee Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/>
Logistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hospitality Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secure Donations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equipment Monitor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donate Item - Raffle or Silent Auction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mentor Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/>
Winemaking 101			Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Offer Venue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Teach Segment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Club Project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Monthly Hospitality (bring reimburseable snack)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Club Equipment Monitor / Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Winemaking Mentor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		