

SHW
The Grapevine
Newsletter of
Sacramento Home Winemakers, Inc.
January 2012

January 18, 2012 Program

Making Wine: As Natural As it Gets

Happy New Year to all at SHW!

Please join us on January 18 for a thought provoking evening. This month's guest speaker is John Munch, founder, partner and winemaker for Le Cuvier Winery in Paso Robles. As with most winemakers, John's an independent rogue who dances to a different drummer. John will be providing insight into his unique style of winemaking that will blow up the wine making boxes that we comfortably reside in as John does not use sulfites in his wine making processes. Plus, he prefers to use natural yeasts and has his own definition of a "racking schedule".

And, did we mention that his wines have a cult following and are almost always sold out? John will share with us some barrel samples— these will surely provoke our sensories! Come with 2 wine glasses and the expectation of an evening filled with a very interesting exchange of wine making ideas and methods.

Meeting starts at 7 PM, upstairs at the Turn Verein located at 3349 J Street in midtown Sacramento. Thanks for helping set up before the meeting and cleaning up afterwards. For addition information, please contact Vice President Bill Staehlin: 916 216-1753 and bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net .

President's Message

Greetings to all Sacramento Home Winemakers, and Happy New Year!

I am sure that we can hardly contain ourselves as we anticipate the safe arrival to the bottle of our 2011 wines, and our anticipation of a "normal" 2012 harvest season.

This may seem like a slow time to many, but not for home winemakers. We are busy checking for malo-lactic fermentation completion, SO₂ levels, topping up, oak additions, and care and maintenance of our equipment. Many of us are salivating as we look over winemaking catalogues for that pump we have always wanted, or that magic yeast additive that will solve all of our winemaking problems. It is also the time when visions of new varietals dance in our heads – a Touriga, a Nero d'avola, maybe a Malbec! Take this time of year to really evaluate where you are as a home winemaker, and

where you want to be! Make some resolutions – to make a new varietal, to try malolactic fermentation, to buy a small barrel, to finally read SHW's Home Winemaking Manual available at the Club's website at www.sachomewine.org.

Also take this time to assess how you can contribute to our organization. Can you host an Executive Board meeting in your home, or place of business? Can you offer up a raffle prize for our fund raising efforts? Are you able to help out on a committee, or even serve on the Board? We need some new blood and we will find you something to do. In fact, we just happen to have an opening for a new Newsletter editor...

This year, we will again be offering our Winemaking 101 class (and maybe a Winemaking 201 class!), our Harvest Dinner, the Jubilee Competition, Varietal Focus Groups, mentoring, the Holiday Party, and of course, our monthly educational meetings. We need plenty of hands to make these events possible, and you can help! Contact me at bettencourt1045@softcom.net if you want to help out and I will put you to work!

Finally, get your white wines ready for evaluation at our February monthly meeting. If you are going to fine, or filter them, do it this month, as well as add any needed sulfites. See you all at the January 18th Monthly SHW Meeting!

Donna Bettencourt
2011 SHW President

February 2012 Executive Board Meeting

All SHW members in good standing are invited to attend the monthly Executive Board meeting. Our February board meeting will be on February 1st, Wednesday. If you would like to learn more about how the board works, and become more involved with the Sacramento Home Winemakers, this is an excellent and enjoyable experience. We meet from 6:30 PM to 7:45 PM, followed by a potluck and sharing of wine. Contact Prez Donna Bettencourt at (916) 548-3199 (bettencourt1045@softcom.net) for location.

2012 SHW Annual Dues

Annual Club dues are due on January 1. The \$45 annual dues include a 1-year 6-issue subscription to WineMaker magazine for renewing members and new members who submit their dues by March 1, 2012. Member benefits also include evaluation of wines at meetings, eligibility to enter wines into the Club's wine competition/Jubilee, participation and members' pricing at Club events, and the monthly opportunity to hang with the best home winemakers! Please use the membership form attached to this newsletter.

2011 Annual Holiday Dinner and Party Review

This year's event was celebrated by 101 members and their guests at the Embassy Suites Sacramento Riverfront Promenade. A beautiful, sunny afternoon started the festivities as everyone mingled and chatted about the late harvest, new wines in the making, vacations, holiday plans and saying hello!

Executive Chef Clay Purcell and his staff presented a delicious holiday fare that was both bountiful and scrumptious and complimented the many wine varietals consumed during the evening.

We also celebrated fundraising efforts of \$1,190, through the generosity of our members and guests, from the \$5 Raffle.

My personal thanks to all of you who donated items for the raffle, those participating, and to those who helped sell raffle tickets. These monies will continue provide the curriculum and events we all enjoy and participate with the Club throughout the year. It was, "the most wine-derful event of the year!"

~ Debbie Moretton

Editor's Note: many thanks to Holiday Party Coordinator Debbie Moretton for another well organized event!

Join SHW's Cool Shirt and Hat Gang!

You're PROUD of your winemaking adventures and club, right? Then why not strut your connection and pride by purchasing a SHW polo shirt and/or hat. We have men's sizes to XXL and ladies sizes also. \$21/shirt; \$15/hat. These are quality-made products. Note the practical color of the shirt and quality embroidered logos. Hats are adjustable with hook and look fastener. Limited quantities, so getter done now folks and join the SHW Cool Shirt and Hat Gang! Look for Sue Summersett at the January meeting. She'll have them available and would love to take your \$\$\$.

Coming soon! SHW Logo Wine Glasses! Contact Sue for more info.



Winemaking Mentors Needed

Hey, experienced winemakers, how would you like to help others learn the craft of winemaking? Please call or e-mail Judy Pinegar of your interest (and what you would like to mentor: reds, sparklers, fruits, desserts, ports, vineyard management, and other specialties?) Phone: 916-652-5198, e-mail: jpinegar@calwisp.com.

Wanted – Newsletter Editor

SHW's *The Grapevine* is looking for a 2012 editor. Be the first in town to report on the latest home winemaking happenings! Please express your interest to President Donna Bettencourt at or Gin Yang at (916) 217-0294.

2012 Executive Board Officers and Board Appointed Positions

The 2012 governing board officers – president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and membership chair were elected at the November 2011 SHW meeting. In addition to the elected positions, the president appoints additional positions to assist the Club.

Rounding out the leadership team is the Board of Directors (current president plus four past presidents). Below are the 2012 elected appointed positions and members of the Board of Directors, with contact information. Thanks for keeping this list for your use.

By the way, we are still recruiting for a *The Grapevine* newsletter editor. If you're interested or know of someone who might be interested, please contact Gin Yang at ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com or 916 217-0294.

President	Donna Bettencourt	bettencourt1045@softcom.net 916 454-5487
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Hospitality Coordinator	John Avila	See above
Mentor Coordinator	Judy Pinegar	See above
<i>The Grapevine</i> Editor	Vacant	
Board of Directors	Judy Pinegar (Chair) Fred Millar MikeTouchette Lynn Keay Donna Bettencourt	See above for all

SHW's on facebook!

Check out the SHW 2011 Holiday Party pics on Sacramento Home Winemakers facebook page.

Upcoming SHW Meetings and Events

January 18 Wednesday	General Meeting, 7 PM 3349 J Street, Sacramento	John Munch, Winemaker/Owner Le Cuvier Winery, "As Natural As It Gets"
February 1 Wednesday	Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 PM	Contact President Donna Bettencourt at bettencourt1045@softcom.net or 916 454-5487 for location/info
February 15 Wednesday	General Meeting, 7 PM 3349 J Street, Sacramento	White Wines Evaluation Jonathan Pack, Perry Creek Winery(invited) Peter Marks, Six Hands Winery (invited)
March 2-4 Fri-Sun	Field Trip: Madera Wine Trail Plus (tentative)	Coordinator: Gin Yang 916 217-0294 ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com

This and previous issues of The Grapevine can be found on the SHW website at:
www.sachomewine.org