

SACRAMENTO HOME WINEMAKERS

THE GRAPEVINE

NEWSLETTER -- SEPTEMBER 2018



SEPTEMBER 19 PROGRAM

September Gold

Join your fellow Home Winemakers on Wednesday, September 19th at 7pm for our Monthly Program upstairs at the Turn Verein located at 3349 J Street in Sacramento. There is additional parking in the back.

I am referring to this program as **September Gold**. We have had such an outstanding number of Gold, Double Gold, Best of Show and Class in wine competitions that I have asked fellow Winemakers to share their Gold with Club Members. Many of these Winemakers are willing to part with a few bottles, this says a lot about SHW, some of these Winemakers make small batches. Thank You for sharing! So bring your wine glass and be ready to taste some fabulous wines. And

have questions for these Gold Medal Winemakers; ie. What yeast did you use, how long was the fermentation fast and furious or slow and controlled? When did you realize this was a really good wine? Etc...

As usual help in setting up and cleaning up at meeting is always appreciated. Please consume responsibly. And remember to bring your wine glass.

Questions, contact Vice President, Terry Piazza-Perham at 916 806-1621 or piazza-perham@att.net.

See you there.

-- **Vice President Terry Piazza-Perham**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Help! The crush is upon me! There's too much to do, I can't keep up. And there's only one cure; a nice glass of homemade wine!

This year things seem to be off kilter: the grapes are coming in at varied times, in some cases the acid's high, other's

it's low. There're other commitments to fit in besides wine making and the juggling act becomes the way of living. It's a good thing there's "islands" of respite; places where you can retreat to for a few minutes of sanity saving interaction. That's what SHW is all about. When you come to a meeting you get to hear a fabulous speaker, interact with like-minded

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President's Message (continued)

people, taste excellent homemade wine and be among a diverse, fun, energetic group of people. What an Island of retreat.

When you stop and think about it, what makes this thing we call SHW exist? First, there's you, the membership. You support the club by actively making wine. Then, you come to meetings and to other programs the club sponsors. When the fund-raising event arrives in December, you generously support the Club with your donations. Then, there's the leadership team. The people who have made the choice to be more involved to ensure that the programs are there for the membership, the opportunities to learn are there and that new members coming into the Club have mentorship available to help them with their early vintages. In a nutshell (grape skin?), it's an ebb and flow of positive energy advancing this Club to greater heights. And it's so damn exciting to be part of that! You ALL should be just as excited about it as I am.

And, you ALL should be thinking; "What can I do for the Club?" There are lots of innovative ideas lurking in our midst, but an organization like SHW needs to be able to have those innovating members step-up and get involved. Club elections are coming soon in November, who's going to take the Club into 2019?

Executive Board positions are voted on at the

November General Meeting. Many of you are used to me as your President for the past year and that's mostly because two years ago, I was President as well. But who's to say there isn't a better President out there? I appreciate being able to serve in this capacity but for this Club to be healthy and innovative, we need new ideas, new leaders, and usage of new technology. Not that I'm going anywhere but I'm sure there are other club members who can do what I do and make our meetings just as fun, engaging, and full of painful pun moaning. The Club provides an awesome learning environment for new and experienced home winemakers. Proactive planning is strong in the club with much in place to support worry free management. So, consider what you might do for SHW in 2019. Are you a future Executive Board member? The next President? The next Board Member at Large? Talk to one of the current Executive Board members or one of the past Presidents to find out what it's about.

As the harvest gets into full swing, be strong, positive and encouraging to other winemakers, growers and those that help us with our business. May your vintage be healthy and age well!

-- President Joe McGillivray

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THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS!

Lots of volunteers help keep SHW running smoothly! Thank you for stepping up!
July's meeting appreciation:

- **Ryan Sherman** for being the August meeting's program on Ambient Fermentation.
- Hospitality: **Joe and Lynne McGillivray** and **Shannon Shackelford** for the cheese and bread. For set-up and clean-up: **Linda Clevenger, Seth Brunner, The Spitzer Boys, and Lynne McGillivray.**

Thank you for volunteering to support SHW outside our monthly meetings!

- **Terry Piazza-Perham** for hosting September's board meeting.
- **Thad Rodgers, Vern Vierra / St. Jorge Winery**, and St. Jorge Winery's winemaker **Luke Laubaugh** for coordinating the Beginning Winemakers Group crush.
- **Ron Loder** for coordinating the Cabernet Franc group crush at Clos du Lac in Loomis.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – 2019 EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Board of Directors (four past SHW presidents and seated president) is seeking SHW members to serve on the 2019 Executive Board for the positions of president, vice-president, secretary, membership chair and member at large. Please see job descriptions for these positions on the SHW website at www.sachomewine.com. For more information or to be considered as a nominee, please contact Board of Directors members Gary Young at gycats@earthlink.net and 916 451-3893 or Fred Millar at fredmillar1@gmail.com and 916 576-9596.

BEGINNING WINEMAKERS GROUP CRUSH

Hopeful winemakers and seasoned mentors showed up early Saturday morning on September 8 at St. Jorge Winery to get their tempranillo must. Vern Vierra, owner of St. Jorge along with the winery's winemaker Luke Laubaugh gave the group a tour filled with winemaking experiences. We're looking forward to tasting the new winemakers first vintage in a couple of years! (Photos courtesy of Heather Rodgers; more photos on fb.)



SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Donna Bettencourt, Chief Judge

In January of 2018, I published the results of the 2017 SHW Winemaker of the Year in The Grapevine. I reported in that article that the highest number of points ever earned by a Winemaker of the Year was 146.6. In fact, after some investigation, this proves not to be true.

In December of 2012 Rex Johnston and Barbara Bentley were awarded the 2012 Winemaker of the Year award with an eye-popping score of 176.6.

Further, I reported at the June 2018 meeting that Rex and Barbara had earned 9 Golden Bears at the California State Fair Home Wine Competition. In fact, they have earned a total of 13 Golden Bears!

Rex has not only set the bar incredibly high as an award winning home winemaker, but he has made us all better winemakers, through his quiet and generous counsel, his dedication to the art and passion of home winemaking, and his legacy of excellence. Congratulations Rex and Barbara!

CLUB EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROGRAM

SHW's equipment is available to members to rent: destemmer-crusher, basket presses, and scale. Kendall Johnson, Club Equipment Manager is coordinating the rentals and can be reached at kjohns91@yahoo.com and 214 794-4798.

To be eligible to rent Club equipment:

- Must be a current SHW member;
- Must have been certified in the operation, care and cleaning of Club equipment;
- Equipment must be returned clean and in good working condition at the specified time;
- In addition to a rental charge, the program assesses a cleaning charge that is refundable if the equipment is returned clean; and
- If equipment is returned uncleaned, member loses Club rental equipment privileges.

EDIBLE SACRAMENTO FEATURES SHW MEMBERS

Pick up the Fall 2018 issue of *Edible Sacramento* at local businesses and check out the article on home winemaking. The article features Club members Vickie Alvarez and Joe and Cori Morgan.

Digital version of the issue can be found on-line at <http://ediblesacramento.com/digital-flipbooks>.

Edible Sacramento cover photo by Debbie Cunningham.



WINEMAKER'S PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Share your most interesting winemaking-related photos with the club! Every month, one photo will be chosen from the entries (by an anonymous person) and be included in the next SHW newsletter.

Email your best photo to Christa Ring at cmring@citlink.net by the first Saturday of the month, include a catchy caption and keep an eye out for the next newsletter!

Christa captions this photo: "keeping the swimmers out of my carboy wine cooling pool."

SHW EVENTS CALENDAR

- Executive Board Meetings –7:00 PM start; contact Prez Joe McGillivray for location; pyramidlake59@gmail.com.
- General Meetings –7:00 PM start; upstairs at 3349 J Street, Sacramento (unless noted)
- More calendar and details - www.sachomewine.com; see Events Calendar and Newsletters.

General Meeting	Sept 19, 7 PM Wednesday	Taste the Gold! Members: bring in your top winners for tasting
General Meeting	October 17 Wednesday	Harvest Dinner
General Meeting	Nov. 14, 7 PM Wednesday	Annual Meeting + Desserts, Fortifieds, Sparklers, Fruits Wine Evaluations Guest Evaluator: Vern Vierra, St. Jorge Winery
Holiday Party	Dec 12 Wednesday	SHW Annual Holiday Party and Fundraiser Details to follow

Please note: November's meeting and December's Holiday Party are on the **2nd Wednesday** of the month.

From:
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www.sachomewine.com
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To: