

The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Sacramento Home Winemakers, Inc.



January 2011

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Sacramento Home Winemakers (SHW) monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month starting at 7 PM, upstairs at the Turn Verein located at 3349 J Street in midtown Sacramento. For more information on SHW meetings and activities, visit:

www.SacHomeWine.org

50 Years of German Wines January 19 SHW Meeting

Join your fellow winemakers for very special evening as wine and food guru Darrell Corti returns to SHW to share *50 Years of German Wines*. As we taste wines from 1959-2008, Darrell will guide us through 50 years of Germany's wine history, its winemaking regions and significant German wines. You may taste wines that you didn't know before existed!

Due to the uniqueness of these wines, and so that the Club may ensure that there is sufficient wine to accommodate all, please:

- **R.S.V.P. with number attending, no later than Friday, January 14 to Gin at 916 217-0294 or ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com;**
- Guests (non-SHW members) will be charged a \$10 tasting fee. The tasting fee will be waived if guests join SHW that evening.
- Please leave your wine glasses at home as we'll be using the Club's judging glasses.



President's Message

As I write this inaugural message as President of the Sacramento Home Winemakers Club, I am aware of the awesome responsibility entrusted to me by long-time members of SHW and by those of you new to the Club.



Sometime in 1973, by what must have been a strong breed of independent, creative people, Sacramento Home Winemakers, Inc. was founded, and long before home winemaking was on anyone's list of trendy, or happening hobbies. Everyone else was out running or disco funk dancing, or comfortably watching "The Waltons" or Billie Jean King defeat Bobby Riggs.

I can only imagine their first Executive Board Meeting: "Hey, let's start a club and invite all of our friends who make wine. I bet we can make

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2011 Boards and Appointees

Executive Board

Donna Bettencourt, President
bettencourt1045@softcom.net

Bill Staehlin, Vice President
bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net

Mike Touchette, Treasurer
pinotsyrah@yahoo.com

Sue Summersett, Secretary
sbsummer2002@yahoo.com

Fred Millar & Gin Yang
Membership Co-Chairs
fred.millar1@gmail.com
ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com

Lynn Keay, Past President
lynn.keay@gmail.com

Board Appointees

D. D. Smith, Chief Judge
ddanjo@sbcglobal.net

Henry Wilkinson, Cellar Master
hbwilkinson@jps.net

Judy Pinegar Coordinator
for Club Competition & Mentors
jpinegar@calwisp.com

Vacant, Web Manager

John Avila, Hospitality Coordinator
mail@john-avila.com

Gary Young, Historian
gycats@earthlink.net

Gin Yang, *The Grapevine* Editor

Board of Directors

Judy Pinegar, Chair

Fred Millar

Mike Touchette

Lynn Keay

Donna Bettencourt

2011 SHW Calendar

January 19 Wednesday	General Meeting: 50 Years of German Wines <i>Presenter: Darrell Corti, Corti Bros.</i>
February 2 Wednesday	Board Meeting – All Members Are Welcome <i>Location: see article below</i>
February 16 Wednesday	General Meeting: Evaluation – 2010 White and Rosé Wines <i>Evaluators: Stefan Tscheppe, winemaker for Perry Creek and Bill, winemaker for Scribner Bend</i>
March 2 Wednesday	Board Meeting – All Members Are Welcome <i>Location: contact President Donna Bettencourt – 916 548-3199; bettencourt1045@softcom.net</i>

Monthly meetings start at 7 PM on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month, upstairs at the Turn Verein, 3349 J Street, Sacramento. Show up at 6:30 PM with your wine glass and a bottle of wine and enjoy wine making camaraderie. Bring 2 wine glasses for evaluation meetings. Thanks for helping set up and cleaning at the meetings.

Board meetings start at 6:30 PM on the 1st Wednesdays of the month

President's Message (continued from page 1)

wine just as good as Stag's Leap – hear they have great hopes for their 1973 Stags Leap Cab!"

John Quincy Adams said of leadership: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

With equal attention to the needs of veteran winemakers and to new winemakers I pledge this year to lead us all to dream more, learn more, and become more as home winemakers. I will be attentive to your ideas for improving the club and seek to unite the membership in pursuit of objectives worthy of our best efforts.

Happy New Year to all!

Donna Bettencourt

President

Sacramento Home Winemakers Club

February Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board of SHW will meet on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at InAlliance, 6950 21st Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95820 from 6:30pm - 7:45 pm. All SHW members in good standing are invited to attend. Agenda items to be discussed are SHW Program options and new ideas for the Club Project. **Come at 6:30 pm if you are attending the Board meeting.** Otherwise, join us afterwards for fellowship potluck and wine. Contact Donna Bettencourt at 548-3199 if you plan to attend or have agenda items to present.

2011 Club Dues are Due

The Club's annual membership dues are due. Join or renew by March 1 to receive a one year 6-issue subscription to WineMaker magazine as part of your membership. The membership form can be found as the last page in this newsletter or at the SHW website: www.sachomewine.org. 2011 dues are \$42 and you can either mail your dues or bring them to the next Club meeting. For additional SHW information, please contact Gin Yang at ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com or 916 217-0294 or Fred Millar at fred.millar1@gmail.com.



From the Chief Judge

My personal thanks to the members who took the time and effort to enter our Winemaker of the Year competition. I hope each of you found the experience rewarding, and that it will contribute to making you a better winemaker in future years.

D.D. Smith

Most of us feel that it's worth the price to have some very experienced wine people sample *your wine*, comment on it, and rank it among the wines of your peers.

The 2011 Winemaker of the Year competition is now in play, with one of the first competitions, the *Winemaker International Amateur Competition* now accepting entries (see elsewhere in this newsletter). Along with other committee members, I will be working on Winemaker of the Year competition rules to accommodate lessons learned over the past year.

The highest performers in the 2010 Winemaker of the Year competition are as follows:

Winemaker	Total Points	Number of Wines Entered
Steve Barrett	104.16	5/4/4
D.D. Smith	95.00	2/2/2
Dar Geramian	95.00	10/5/1
Bob Peake	75.00	2/2/2

Congratulations, Steve Barrett, for your winning performance and for some truly fine handcrafted wines in 2010! -- *D.D. Smith*



Stan Barrett

Mentors

Judy Pinegar, Loomis (Coordinator)
916 652-5198
jpinegar@calwisp.com **F,R,W**

Carl & Lili Brust, Loomis
916 652-9001
lcbrust@garlic.com **S,W**

Debra Moretton, Auburn
916 296-1115
dem1019@sbcglobal.net **V**

Mike Touchette, Diamond Springs
530 748-9677
pinotsyrah@yahoo.com **R,W**

Gerald Cresci, Herald
209 748-2122 **F,P,VM**

Paul & Nancy Baldwin, Elk Grove
916 684-2086
pbaldwin@frontiernet.net **R,VM,W**

John Troiano, Carmichael
916 487-1480
fatcatjt@sbcglobal.net **R**

Henry Wilkinson, Sacramento
916 446-6276
hbwilkinson@jps.net **R**

Dave Leonard, Sacramento
916 452-1616
djleonardpbb@gmail.com **R**

Jim Margolis, Sacramento
916 451-4279
jamadapa@att.net **R,W**

Donna Bettencourt, Sacramento
916 454-5487
bettencourt1045@softcom.net **R,W**

D. D. Smith, Gold River
916 638-8849
ddanjo@sbcglobal.net **I,P,R,W**

Lynn Keay, Gold River
lynn.keay@gmail.com **F,R,W**

Wine Legend

F = fruit; **I** = ice; **P** = port; **R** = red;
S = sparkler; **V** = viognier; **VM** =
vineyard management; **W** = white

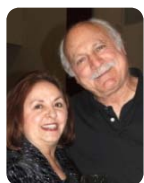
Annual SHW Awards

It has been SHW's long-standing tradition to recognize members or supporters who have given so much to the Club or demonstrated noticeable improvements in home winemaking. These awards, along with the Winemaker of the Year award are presented at the annual SHW Holiday Dinner and Party.

Bob Beck Memorial Education Award – Bob and his wife Jo traveled internationally and shared their many wine adventures with SHW through travelogues. Additionally, at his home, Bob taught many new winemakers the basics of winemaking. This memorial award, also known as the Wine Educator of the Year award, is given to an individual who continues to teach and inspire winemakers. Judy Pinegar was bestowed with the 2010 honors. Last year, Judy again opened up her home for the SHW Jubilee, hosted Winemaking 101 (including participants bottling and going home with a bottle of Judy's wine), and mentored numerous members.



Hal Ellis Memorial Award - For Service Above and Beyond the Crush. This award recognizes members who have devoted unwavering time, effort and dedication to the Club. There were two parties honored this year for their volunteerism. Neal Shleffar and Donna Brown were an integral part of the team who hosted a silent



Donna & Neal

auction event – progressive dinner and wine for 8. They also bravely volunteered as part of the “Chefs” at the dinner stop for last spring's SHW Winery Tour. In the fall, Neal coordinated the 2010 Club Project, Amador zinfandel at Oakstone Winery with over 35 participants - the largest number of participants in recent Club history. The second party to be acknowledged is Debbie Moretton. In 2010, she was SHW's board secretary and also the SHW Holiday Party Coordinator for the second consecutive year. Through Deb's creative fundraising skills, the holiday party silent auction and raffles have been very successful.



Deb Moretton

Stu Shafer Memorial Award – Most Improved Winemaker of the Year. Stu use to make wine out of just about anything he could get his hands on. When Stu started making wine, his wine wasn't so good. A fast learner, he was soon placing in competitions, as has Bob Peake's wines, the 2010 recipient for this award. Watch out – Bob's wines have been receiving high awards in wine competitions!

Congratulations to all!

Do You Have Ideas for Meeting Programs?

If you have ideas or suggestions for programs for the upcoming year, please contact Vice President Bill Staehlin at 916 216-1753 or bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net. The Club's vice president is responsible for monthly programming and is interested in your suggestions. Programming topics currently being considered include: wine chemistry with a hands-on approach for acid and free SO₂; closure and bottle presentations; and oak additive options. Please let Bill know if you'd like specific areas covered in these possibilities.

Get Involved! Committee Members Wanted

SHW membership is growing and changing and the programs are growing and changing to meet members' needs. President Donna Bettencourt is recruiting members for 3 committees: Home Winery Tour, Winemaking 101, and Club Project. If you have some fun ideas or feedback from previously attended events, Donna wants to hear from you. Please contact her at 916 548-3199 or bettencourt1045@softcom.net.

Need Oak for Your Club Project Zinfandel?

The 2010 Club Project was a very nice Zinfandel from Oakstone Vineyards. Traditionally, Zinfandel is aged in American Oak. VP Bill Staehlin will be ordering a 20 lb bag of American Oak cubes from Sta-Vin, Medium Toast. If you're interested this oak, contact Bill at bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net or 916 216-1753 with quantity desired.

February Program – Sulfite Whites & Rosés Now



Heads up! Members white and rosé wines will be evaluated at the Club's February 16 meeting so if you're planning to bring your 2010 white and rosé wine in for evaluation, please sulfite now.

- Bring in only one white or rosé wine that may have a problem; please expect to bring 2-3 bottles (750 ml) of the same wine.
- This evaluation is for "new" white and rosé wines (made in 2010). The evaluation is to help manage any flaws prior to bottling.
- If you didn't get around to bottling the wine for evaluation early do not add sulfites when you do bottle.
- You must be a current member to have your wine evaluated.

Please contact Vice President Bill Staehlin at 916 216-1753 or bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions.

Looking for Hosts for Board Meetings

Traditionally, the monthly board meetings, open to all members, are held on the first Wednesdays of the month in members homes. We conduct business first and then leisurely enjoy wine and food that has been provided by those present.

The board is in search of a more permanent location to have their meetings, one that is centrally located – perhaps in Sacramento? If you know of such an opportunity (one that also doesn't adversely impact the Club's budget and allows us to bring in food and wine) or if you'd like to host a meeting (a fun way to get involved without getting involved), please contact President Donna Bettencourt at 916 548-3199 or bettencourt1045@softcom.net.



Wine Competitions

Missouri Valley Wine Society – this wine society is seeking entries for its 3rd annual competition. Last year, they had 249 entries from 12 states. Entry deadline is **February 14**. The brochure and entry form can be found on this website: www.mvws.org

2011 WineMaker (Magazine) International Amateur Wine Competition – last year's competition judged over 4,508 entries from every USA state, 8 Canadian provinces, and 6 countries. Entries are accepted through **March 4, 2011**. Go to this website for entry information: <http://www.winemakermag.com/competition>.

Grand Opening - UC Davis Robert Mondavi Institute: Winery, Brewery and Food Science Facility

One of the five buildings of the Robert Mondavi Institute at UC Davis, this LEED Platinum designated facility houses the teaching and research spaces for the university's enology, brewing and food science programs, and is

Club Equipment

Club equipment can be borrowed by SHW members with reservations handled on a first come, first served basis with a signed liability statement on file.

Destemmer-Crusher

Contact:

Andy Walter, 916 955-6373
andrew.walter@sbcglobal.net

Basket Press

Filter

Contact:

Lynn Keay, 916 969-4924
lynn.keay@gmail.com

Please help keep Club equipment in optimum shape for everyone to use.

- Thoroughly clean and return equipment within 24 hours.
- Notify equipment coordinator of equipment malfunctions or damage.
- Provide your own paper filters for the filter.
- Schedule thoughtfully during peak season as several members may need to borrow the equipment on the same day.

complemented with 12 acres of vineyards planted outside of the front doors. The facility's grand opening is scheduled for Friday, January 28 and the public is invited. Go to their website for additional information:

<http://robertmondaviinstitute.ucdavis.edu/grand-opening-winery-brewery-and-food-science-facility>.



Good Eats!

Cindy Miller's Macaroni and Cheese

The ultimate comfort food! Member Cindy Miller hosted this month's board meeting and she treated us to a creamy macaroni and cheese casserole, adapted from the Barefoot Contessa. The dish warmed us up on that chilly evening and there wasn't a speck of it left at the end of the night!



Ingredients

Oil for pasta water	1 tablespoon salt
1 pound elbow macaroni or rotelle	½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 quart milk	½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
6 tablespoons unsalted butter	½ teaspoon dry mustard
½ cup all-purpose flour	¾ pound fresh tomatoes (4 small)
12 ounces Gruyere, grated (4 cups)	½ cup Parmesan cheese
8 ounces extra-sharp Cheddar, grated (2 cups)	

Directions

Add oil to the boiling pasta water and cook pasta according to package directions. Drain well.

While pasta is cooking, make the sauce. Heat the milk in a small saucepan. Do not allow to boil.

In a 4-quart pot, melt butter. Cooking over low heat, add flour and whisk constantly with a whisk, making a roux, and cook for about 2 minutes. Whisk in hot milk and cook for another 1-2 minutes until mixture is thickened. Take the milk mixture off the heat and add the grated Gruyere and Cheddar cheeses, salt, black pepper, nutmeg and dry mustard. Add the cooked macaroni and stir well. Pour into a 3-quart baking dish.

Slice tomatoes and arrange on top of casserole. Evenly sprinkle top, including tomatoes, with Parmesan cheese. Bake at 375 degrees F until sauce is bubbly and top is browned.



Area Wine Events

Lots happening at area wineries on the February 12-13 weekend. Lodi Wine Country is featuring their 14th Annual Wine and Chocolate Weekend - wines, chocolates, giveaways (lodiwineandchocolate.com).

Be sure to stop by SHW supporters m2 Wines (m2wines.com) and D'Art Wines (dartwines.com). ♥

Take the short drive out of the gloomy grey into sunny Placer County and visit Lone Buffalo Vineyards (lonebuffalovineyards.com). They'll be open both days with special sweets and treats on hand. ♥ If you're too busy on the event weekend to enjoy the countryside, El Dorado County wineries barrel

tasting weekend "Bring Out the Barrel" is January 20-30 (eldoradowines.org).

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Submissions to **The Grapevine** and comments to the editor are welcome.

2011 SACRAMENTO HOME WINEMAKERS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your Name(s) _____

Address _____

City & Zip _____ Phone Number (____) _____

Email Address(es) _____

(SHW communications are primarily through newsletter and emails)

___ Yes ___ No Share my phone number, city and email addresses with SHW members. (Note: street addresses will not be shared.)

___ **New Membership** - \$42 per household (calendar year). Join by March 1, 2011 to receive a one-year subscription to Winemaker Magazine or extend existing subscription.

___ I currently do **not** subscribe to WineMaker Magazine

___ I currently subscribe to WineMaker Magazine and the subscription is under (exact name) _____

and the Expiration Date is _____

___ **Renew Membership** - \$42 per household (calendar year). 2010 members who renew by March 1, 2011 will receive a one-year extension to their existing WineMaker magazine subscription. Subscription is not extended when renewing after March 1, 2011.

Save valuable resources by having the monthly newsletter delivered to your email addresses above. If you want USPS delivery, please indicate here: ___

To assist SHW in developing programs:

- I plan to make: ___white ___ red ___fruit ___port ___sparkler ___dessert
- I am a new winemaker. I'm interested in Winemaking 101 (Basics)
- I am a novice winemaker. I'm interested in Winemaking 201 (Basics +)
- I am an experienced winemaker. Years making wine: _____
- I plan to start a home vineyard: size/ number of vines _____
- I own a home vineyard: size/ number of vines _____
- I hope to go commercial: ___winery ___vineyard
- No winemaking for me, learning wine appreciation
- I have been a SHW member since _____

Program topics you're interested in or why I joined SHW: _____

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

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

Membership questions? Contact Gin at 916 217-0294 or ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com

Let us know how you'd like to help with SHW meetings and activities.

C = I'm interested in Coordinating
V = I'd like to Volunteer

Indicate on items below with a **C** or **V**

Jubilee Wine Competition

<input type="checkbox"/>	Judging	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chef
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cellar Help	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clerk
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clean-Up	<input type="checkbox"/>	Logistics

Home Winery Tour

<input type="checkbox"/>	Home Winery Destination
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chef
<input type="checkbox"/>	Logistics/Clean-Up

Holiday Dinner & Fundraiser

<input type="checkbox"/>	Logistics
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secure Donations/Donate Items

Monthly Hospitality

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bring snacks (reimbursable)
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Club Project

<input type="checkbox"/>	Find grape source and participants
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Winemaking Mentor

<input type="checkbox"/>	Resource for members
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Club Equipment Manager/Storage

<input type="checkbox"/>	Help with Club equipment logistics
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Assistant Cellar Master

<input type="checkbox"/>	Help pour at meetings
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Programming Committee

<input type="checkbox"/>	Assist VP with monthly programs
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Other Activities (board meetings, tours)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Host board meetings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Specify:

2012 Leadership Interests

___	President
___	Vice President – Programs
___	Treasurer
___	Secretary
___	Membership Chair
___	Cellar Master
___	Web Site Manager
___	Newsletter Editor
___	Chief Judge
___	Mentor Coordinator
___	Other (please specify):