



# The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Sacramento Home Winemakers, Inc.

December 2012



---

## In This Issue

---

January 16, 2013 Program Preview	1
President's Message	1
Leadership	2
2013 Officers	2
Club Calendar	3
Club Equipment	2
Mentors	3
Amateur Wine Competition	3
Volunteers	4
Good Eats!	4
2013 Membership Form	5

**Sacramento Home Winemakers (SHW)** monthly meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 membership, meetings and activities, visit:

**[www.SacHomeWine.org](http://www.SacHomeWine.org)**

---

## January 16, 2013 SHW Meeting Preview Randall Grahm, Bonny Doon Vineyard

### No General Meeting in December 2012

There's no technical meeting in December, instead SHW celebrates with a Holiday Party on December 16. This festive evening is highlighted with the presentation of the annual SHW awards including Winemaker of the Year. Additionally, the party's silent auction is the Club's largest fundraiser and your generosity is appreciated with both your donations and bids.

Then it's back to business in 2013. Save the date - January 16<sup>th</sup> - when Randall Grahm, President for Life of Bonny Doon Vineyard and Winery and author of *Been Doon So Long*, joins us for an update on Biodynamic Sciences, Terrior, and other insights on how these and other somewhat esoteric concepts may affect wines. More details forthcoming in the January 2013 *The Grapevine*.

Wishing you and yours a safe and peaceful holiday season.

-- **Bill Staehlin, Vice President**

---

## President's Message

Dear SHW Members:

In my last President's Message to the members of the Sacramento Home Wine Makers, I would like to convey my gratitude to everyone who made my two term presidency not just a potable vintage, but an excellent one.

During the past two years, SHW:

- introduced the Varietal Focus Group concept;
- produced 24 exceptional newsletters;
- increased our outreach and support to new home wine makers;
- created a new interactive and user friendly website;
- conducted two excellent Jubilee Competitions and Picnics;
- provided two informative Winemaking 101 classes;
- produced 22 informative, and inspiring, programs;
- hosted four awesome parties; and
- won the Winemaker Magazine International Home Wine Club of the Year for 2012.

---

## 2012 Boards and Appointees

---

### Executive Board

*President* - Donna Bettencourt  
bettencourt1045@softcom.net

*Vice President* - Bill Staehlin  
bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net

*Treasurer* - Mike Touchette  
pinotsyrah@yahoo.com

*Secretary* - Sue Summersett  
sbsummer2002@yahoo.com

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

*Past President* - Lynn Keay  
lynn.keay@gmail.com

### Board Appointees

*Chief Judge* - D. D. Smith  
ddanjo@sbcglobal.net

*Cellar Master* - Henry Wilkinson  
hbwilkinson@jps.net

*Club Competition Coordinator*  
*Mentors Coordinator*

*Web Manager*  
Judy Pinegar  
judypinegar@gmail.com

*Hospitality Coordinator*-Sonia Baron  
soniabaron@hotmail.com

*Community Relations*  
Debbie Moretton  
dem1019@sbcglobal.net  
John Avila  
mail@john-avila.com

*Historian* - Gary Young  
gycats@earthlink.net

*The Grapevine Editor* – Gin Yang

### Board of Directors

Judy Pinegar (Chair)  
Mike Touchette  
Fred Millar  
Lynn Keay  
Donna Bettencourt

So, thank you to the officers and appointees who served with me, to the volunteers who assisted in so many ways, to our wonderful speakers, judges, and evaluators, and to the members who supported each other in our never ending quest to make excellent home wine. There is no such thing as a bad wine; it is only a wine which will be made better next time.

I will be reincarnated, if appointed by our President-Elect Gary Young, to the position of Assistant Cellarmaster and Newsletter Editor, as well as take my place for the next five years on the Board of Directors with the other recent past four Presidents.



So, my Presidency is now in the bottle, to be judged by future generations of SHW members as to its worth and quality.

So long, and see you around.

-- Donna Bettencourt



---

## Welcome the 2013 Executive Board

At the November 2012 meeting, the members of the Sacramento Home Winemakers elected the officers of the Executive Board for 2013. They are:

**President** – Gary Young

**Vice President** – Sonia Baron and John Avila

**Secretary** – JD Plelps

**Treasurer** – Mike Touchette

**Membership** – Gin Yang and Fred Millar

President-elect Gary Young will be appointing SHW members to fulfill the following duties. If you would like to volunteer, contact Gary Young at 916 451-3893 or gycats@earthlink.net, by January 15th.

- **Hospitality** – coordinates the provision of bread/cheese and set-up for monthly meetings
- **Mentor Chair** – coordinates the club mentorship program
- **Newsletter Editor** – produces the monthly newsletter
- **Cellarmaster and Assistant Cellarmaster** – sets up wines for evaluation at club programs and coordinates the wines for judging for the Jubilee
- **Webmaster** – develops and disseminates information to members via the website
- **Chief Judge** – official judge for the club, and coordinates the judging at the Jubilee
- **Community Relations** – develops reciprocal relations in the community
- **Holiday Party Coordinator** – coordinates the annual Holiday Party
- **Competition Coordinator** – coordinates the annual Jubilee Wine Competition and Picnic

## 2012-13 SHW Calendar



December 16 Sunday	<b>Holiday Party and Silent Auction, Delta King, 4 PM</b> <i>No Technical Meeting in December</i>
January 3, 2013 Thursday	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b> <i>Contact President-Elect Gary Young – 916 451-3893 or gycats@earthlink.net</i>
January 16 Wednesday	<b>General Meeting: Rhone Ranging – terrior driven and organic/biodynamic wines – What Does This All Mean?</b> Speaker: Randall Grahm, Bonny Doon Vineyard
February 20 Wednesday	<b>White Wine Evaluations</b> Evaluators: TBA
March 20 Wednesday	<b>Deciphering Judging Sheet Comments</b> Speaker: D.D. Smith, Chief Judge
April 17 Wednesday	<b>Sacramento Home Winemakers 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party!</b>

**Monthly meetings** generally start at 7 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Please bring 2 wine glasses for evaluations meetings. Thanks for helping set up and cleaning at the meetings.

**Board meetings** start at 6:30 PM generally on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays of the month.

### December Executive Board Meeting – December 5 Wednesday, 6:30PM – 8PM in East Sacramento

The SHW Executive Board meetings each month to conduct the business of the Sacramento Home Wine Club. In addition to the officers of the club, the appointees also attend. Join us January 3, 2013 at a member's home in East Sacramento at 6:30 pm. All SHW members are invited to attend and learn more about how you can contribute to the club. The board meeting starts at 6:30 pm, and we are generally finished with business by 8 pm, after which we all enjoy potluck dishes and wine that have been brought.

Contact Donna Bettencourt, President at 916 548-3199 or [bettencourt1045@softcom.net](mailto:bettencourt1045@softcom.net) for exact location.



### Amateur Wine and Label Competitions

**Newport Seafood & Wine Festival Amateur Wine Competition**, Newport, Oregon. **Entries due January 20, 2013.** Web: [www.seafoodandwine.com](http://www.seafoodandwine.com).

## Mentors

*Looking for a winemaking mentor?  
Judy Pinegar can help you find one.*

Judy Pinegar, Loomis (Coordinator)  
916 652-5198  
[judyvinegar@gmail.com](mailto:judyvinegar@gmail.com) **F,R,W**

Carl & Lili Brust, Loomis  
916 652-9001  
[lcburst@garlic.com](mailto:lcburst@garlic.com) **S,W**

Debra Moreton, Auburn  
916 296-1115  
[dem1019@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dem1019@sbcglobal.net) **V**

Mike Touchette, Diamond Springs  
530 748-9677  
[pinotsyrah@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:pbaldwin@frontiernet.net) **R,VM,W**

Henry Wilkinson, Sacramento  
916 446-6276  
[hbwilkinson@jps.net](mailto:hbwilkinson@jps.net) **R**

Jim Margolis, Sacramento  
916 451-4279  
[jamadapa@att.net](mailto:jamadapa@att.net) **R,W**

Donna Bettencourt, Sacramento  
916 454-5487  
[bettencourt1045@softcom.net](mailto:bettencourt1045@softcom.net) **R,W**

D. D. Smith, Gold River  
916 638-8849  
[ddanjo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ddanjo@sbcglobal.net) **I,P,R,W**

Lynn Keay, Gold River  
[lynn.keay@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.keay@gmail.com) **F,R,W**

Rex Johnston, East Bay  
925 930-2897  
[Wine4rex@yahoo.com](mailto:Wine4rex@yahoo.com) **F,R,W**

### Mentor Wine Specialties:

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

## Thanks for Stepping Up!

Your Club appreciates your help in keeping the organization running smoothly and extends special thanks to:

- Holly Heggli and Amy Gregory for bringing the hospitality cheese and bread for October's meeting;
- Gary Young for hosting December's executive board meeting; and
- Deb Moretton and Judy Pinegar for coordinating the December 16 Holiday Party and Silent Auction.

---

## 2013 Club Dues are Due January 1

The SHW annual Club dues are again \$45 per household, the same membership cost as in 2012. Your membership dues go toward Club program and activities costs including meeting space, insurance, web site maintenance and updates, and meeting speaker costs and hospitality.

The benefits of SHW membership are many:

- one-year subscription to WineMaker magazine (6 issues);
- Delivery of the month Club newsletter, *The Grapevine*, to your fingertips;
- Evaluation of your wines by experienced winemakers and industry professionals;
- Learn better winemaking through technical monthly programs supported by commercial winemakers, the winemaking industry and viticulture and enology educational institutions;
- Opportunity to compete in the SHW Jubilee Wine Competition;
- Receive member rates to activities and dinners and participate in varietal focus groups and group buys;
- Borrow Club equipment – destemmer-crusher, basket press and filter; and
- Access to some of the finest winemakers in Northern California.

The 2013 membership is attached to this newsletter. Join or **renew by March 1 to have WineMaker magazine delivered to your home address.**

Contact Membership CoChairs if you have questions: Fred Millar, fredmillar1@gmail.com and 916 576-9596, or Gin Yang at ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com and 916 217-0294.

---

## Good Eats! Curried Shrimp and Butternut Squash Bisque

Judy Pinegar brought this to the December board meeting. It was a hit!

### Ingredients

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 ½ lbs. shrimp, raw and unpeeled                      | 2 teaspoons dried thyme        |
| 3 Tablespoons butter                                   | 1 teaspoon garlic powder       |
| 1 large yellow onion, roughly chopped                  | 1 cup whipping cream           |
| 1 large butternut squash, as cooked below              | 1 teaspoon salt                |
| 32 ounces chicken broth, divided                       | 3 teaspoon ground red pepper   |
| 4 Tablespoons curry paste (mix of red & golden yellow) | 1 teaspoon ground black pepper |
| 1 teaspoon garam masala                                | 1 teaspoon paprika             |

### Directions

- Peel shrimp, and devein, if desired. Cut into halves. Set aside in the refrigerator.
- Cut butternut into 4 pieces. Place in a covered pan to steam, about 20 minutes, until starting to soften. Remove from pan, let cool, Peel and cut into 1" cubes.
- Melt butter in a 4-quart heavy saucepan over medium-high heat; add onion and sauté 8 to 10 minutes or until tender. Reduce heat to medium; add squash and cook, stirring occasionally, 15 minutes or until tender.
- Add ½ of broth, curry, garlic, garam masala and thyme, and cook 5 minutes. Let cool slightly. Process mixture in portions in a blender or food processor until smooth, stopping to scrape down sides.
- Return mixture to saucepan; add remaining broth, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and add shrimp pieces, cook until the shrimp has turned pink. Stir in whipping cream, salt, peppers, and paprika; reduce heat to low. Simmer 5 minutes. Garnish, if desired.



## 2013 SACRAMENTO HOME WINEMAKERS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

(SHW communicates primarily through emails. If you also prefer the newsletter by USPS, indicate here. \_\_\_)

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

**New Membership** - \$45 per household (calendar year). Join by March 1, 2013 to receive a one-year subscription to WineMaker Magazine mailed to your address.

**Renew Membership** - \$45 per household (calendar year). 2012 members who **renew by March 1, 2013** will receive a one-year extension to their existing WineMaker magazine subscription. *Subscription is not extended if renewing after March 1, 2013.*

### Tell us about your winemaking interests to assist SHW in developing programs and resources:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have been a SHW member since _____   | <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in home viticulture.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am a new/novice/rusty winemaker  | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a home vineyard. # of vines: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm interested in Winemaking 101 (Basics)  | <input type="checkbox"/> I am a <input type="checkbox"/> commercial winery and/or <input type="checkbox"/> grower  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am making wine. Years making wine: _____   | Name & Location _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I made _____ gallons wine in 2012.   | <input type="checkbox"/> I have grapes to sell   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I plan to make _____ gallons wine in 2013.   | <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in making these wines:  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to know about: <input type="checkbox"/> wine chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> SO2                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Bordeaux <input type="checkbox"/> Rhone <input type="checkbox"/> Iberian <input type="checkbox"/> Italian <input type="checkbox"/> German                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pH and acid <input type="checkbox"/> blending <input type="checkbox"/> fining <input type="checkbox"/> filtering | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit <input type="checkbox"/> Mead <input type="checkbox"/> Port <input type="checkbox"/> Sparkler <input type="checkbox"/> Dessert <input type="checkbox"/> Other ___ |

### Thanks for choosing some of the many ways to help SHW:

**Leadership:**  President  Vice President – Programs  Treasurer  Secretary  Membership Chair  Cellar Master/Assistant Cellar Master  Web Site Manager  Newsletter Editor  Chief Judge/Assistant Chief Judge  Competition Coordinator  Mentor Coordinator  Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Host a board meeting** on the first Wednesday of the month. Which month is best? \_\_\_\_\_

**Jubilee Wine Competition and Picnic:**  Judging  Cellar Help  Clerk  Chef  Logistics

**Home Winery Tour:**  Coordinate  Chef  Home Tour Destination

**Harvest Dinner:**  Coordinate  Find corkage-free restaurant

**Holiday Dinner and Fundraiser:**  Coordinate  Logistics  Secure Items  Donate Items

**Monthly Hospitality:** reimbursable snacks at monthly meetings:  Coordinate  Bring Snack

**Club Equipment Manager/Storage:**  Destemmer-Crusher  Press  Filter

**Winemaking supplies** (bottles, oak, corks, etc.): help with  procurement,  storage and  sales

**Winery/Industry Tours:**  Coordinate  Lead  Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grape Sourcing/Group Buys:**  Procure  Manage Varietals: \_\_\_\_\_

Program/meeting topics you're interested in or why you 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