



The Grapevine

Newsletter of the Sacramento Home Winemakers, Inc.

January 2013

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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 membership, meetings and activities, visit:

www.SacHomeWine.org

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

Happy New Year to all! We hope your holidays with Friends and Family were enjoyable.

Please join us on January 16th as we welcome the iconic Randall Grahm who returns and updates SHW on his latest works at Bonny Doon Vineyard and Winery in Santa Cruz. Randall is President for Life of Bonny Doon and is the original "Rhone Ranger" for his efforts in promoting Rhone varietals in California.

About six years ago, Randall spun off a majority of the Bonny Doon Vineyard to realign his viticulture and winemaking focus. This has resulted in the continued emphasis on terroir and biodynamic principles and making wines that lives on. Please join us for a thought provoking and interesting evening with this industry leader. At the meeting, Randall is planning to share a hand selected line-up of Bonny Doon wines so come prepared with 2 wine glasses for your use.

The meeting starts at 7 PM upstairs at the Turn Verein, 3349 J Street in midtown Sacramento. We anticipate a full house and thanks for planning accordingly. Thanking you in advance for helping with meeting set-up and cleaning up.

There is a \$5 meeting charge for non-members and no charge for current members. If you haven't yet renewed or joined SHW for 2013, a membership form is attached to this newsletter.

-- **Bill Staehlin, 2012 Vice President**

President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Thank you all for a giving me this opportunity to again serve as your SHW President. (Please Be Aware: I did receive a unanimous aye vote; yet, then again, I was the only sacrificial lamb put forward.) But, in all seriousness, I do look forward to another exciting and interesting year for our Club.



FUTURE NOTE: Our January 16TH meeting features the appearance of RANDALL GRAHM, President For Life, of BONNY DOON VINEYARD. We *(continued on next page)*

2013 Leadership

Executive Board

President – Gary Young
gycats@earthlink.net
916 451-3893

Co-Vice Presidents

Sonia Baron & John Avila
soniabarons@hotmail.com
mail@john-avila.com

Treasurer - Mike Touchette
pinotsyrah@yahoo.com

Secretary – JD Phelps
jd.phelps@gmail.com

Membership Co-Chairs

Fred Millar & Gin Yang
fred.millar1@gmail.com
ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com

Past President – Donna Bettencourt
bettencourt1045@softcom.net

Board Appointees

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

Cellar Master - Henry Wilkinson
hbwilkinson@jps.net

**Club Competition Coordinator
& Web Manager** - Judy Pinegar
judypinegar@gmail.com

Mentors Coordinator - Bill Staehlin
bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality Coordinator
Holly Heggli
galstealth@hotmail.com

Community Relations - TBA

Historian - Gary Young

The Grapevine Editor
Gin Yang (thru January 2013)
Donna Bettencourt (beginning Feb
2013 issue)

Board of Directors

Mike Touchette (Chair)
Fred Millar
Lynn Keay
Donna Bettencourt
Gary Young

last were fortunate to host Randall, in February 2007, when he discussed his provocative and forward thinking ideas regarding vineyard management and wine making techniques. I look forward to another very stimulating exhortation. THIS IS A MEETING NOT TO BE MISSED.

In the near future, a tentative schedule of the year's forthcoming meetings events will be publicized. Included will be the traditional "White & Red Wines Evaluation & Analysis" meetings; as well as the "Club Project Evaluation" of our prior year wines. And, of course, we will again be featuring our annual "June Jubilee - Wine Competition and Picnic"; the Harvest Winemakers Dinner; and, the December Holiday Dinner Party -- just a few of the fabulous wine/social activities sponsored by your Club.

In addition, I want to invite you to make further suggestions as to additional programs you might find of interest. SHW is YOUR Club and is intent on responding to your needs and interests regarding the world of home winemaking.

I want to extend a SPECIAL recognition and thanks to last year's Executive Board, ably led by Past President Donna Bettencourt, for their efforts in sustaining and furthering the achievements of the Sacramento Home Winemakers Club. Thanks for the Great Job!

This year we are commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Sacramento Home Winemakers Club. The Club is the oldest of our type west of the Mississippi River. Last year the Club was recognized by WineMaker Magazine's "International Amateur Wine Competition" as the 2012 Club of the Year.

The Sacramento Home Winemakers Club can be proud of our past accomplishments and our continued determination in working for our mutual goal:

THE MAKING OF BETTER WINE !!

Cheers!

-- Gary Young, 2013 President

Thanks for Stepping Up!

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

- Debbie Moreton for coordinating another fun SHW Holiday Party on December 16;
- Judy Pinegar for managing a successful Holiday Party Silent Auction;
- All who participated in the Silent Auction either as a donor or bidder or both;
- President Gary Young for hosting both the December and January Executive Board meetings;
- Andy Walter, Donna Bettencourt, and Lynn Keay for operating the Club's equipment lending program; and
- Tom Montgomery for assisting the Web Manager with blog updates.

2013 SHW Calendar

January 16 Wednesday	General Meeting: Rhone Ranging – terrior driven and organic/biodynamic wines – What Does This All Mean? Speaker: Randall Grahm, Bonny Doon Vineyard
February 6 Wednesday	Executive Board Meeting Contact President Gary Young – 916 451-3893 or gycats@earthlink.net
February 20 Wednesday	White Wine Evaluations Evaluators: TBA
March 20 Wednesday	Deciphering Judging Sheet Comments Speaker: D.D. Smith, Chief Judge
April 17 Wednesday	Sacramento Home Winemakers 40th Anniversary Party!
May 15 Wednesday	Non-Bordeaux Wine Evaluations
June 1 Saturday	June Jubilee Wine Competition and Picnic

Monthly meetings generally 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. Please bring 2 wine glasses for evaluations & special meetings. Thanks for helping set up & cleaning at the meetings.

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

February Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, February 6, 6:30PM -8 PM – Rancho Cordova

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 February 6, 2013 at a member's home in Rancho Cordova 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 President Gary Young at 916 451-3893 or gycats@earthlink.net for exact location.

Only Seven Months Until Harvest

What varietals are you planning to make in 2013? Volunteer to lead a varietal focus group! Talk to Gin.

Club Mentors

Mentor Coordinator Bill Staehlin can help you find a winemaking or vineyard mentor. Contact Bill at: bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net or 916 216-1753.

Judy Pinegar, Loomis
916 652-5198
judypinegar@gmail.com **F,R,W**

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

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**

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

Rex Johnston, East Bay
925 930-2897
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

2012 SHW Annual Awards

To encourage excellence in winemaking and volunteerism, SHW honors members and supporters with its annual awards. The Board of Directors, at the December 2012 SHW Holiday Party, were pleased to announce the 2012 awards recipients:

- *Henry Wilkinson* – Hal Bob Beck Memorial Award “Wine Educator of the Year”
Cellar Master Henry was given this award for his contributions to wine education and guidance of home winemakers. Henry coordinated and the Beginning Winemakers Varietal Focus Group which included a mini-Winemaking 101 plus he also mentored anyone who called for help.
- *Debbie Moretton* - Hal Ellis Memorial Award “For Service Above and Beyond the Crush”
A tireless volunteer, Debbie has ensured that December’s Holiday Party is a fun time for all giving partygoers and an evening to remember. In addition to coordinating several holiday parties and fundraising efforts, Debbie continues to contribute in many ways with great ideas and suggestions.
- *Pilar Millar* – Stu Shafer Memorial Award “Most Improved Winemaker of the Year”
Pilar started making wine just a couple harvests ago and demonstrates that one can excel in anything they do if they do it with passion and commitment. This year Pilar’s wines struck gold multiple times and also won a best of show.
- *Sonia Baron* – Rookie Winemaker of the Year
Zestily plunging into the world of home viticulture and home winemaking, Sonia has developed her own non-stop approach to winemaking. As a novice winemaker, she’s made white wines, harvested grapes and made wines from her home vineyard, plus vinted a golden plum port from her orchard.
- *Barbara Bentley and Rex Johnston* – Winemaker of the Year
This annual award is earned purely by the numbers. Well, of course, it starts with outstanding wines. Following the Winemaker of the Year criteria (available on the Club’s web site), Barbara and Rex blew the 2012 competition out of the water. Virtually all of their wines entered into competition earned high honors. They make knock-out white, red, fruit, and port wines and generously share their winners and winemaking expertise.
- *Donna Bettencourt* – President’s Award
Donna served as Club president for two consecutive years – an unmatched feat as anyone who has served in that capacity knows winemakers are a tough rogue bunch! We continue to benefit from Donna’s clear visions.

Congratulations to all!



Wine-derful Celebration - 2012 Holiday Party and Silent Auction

This year's event was a WINE-DERFUL CELEBRATION in many ways. First, 92 members and their guests enjoyed a festive holiday party atmosphere on a clear, crisp evening in Old Sacramento aboard the Delta King that provided opportunities to mingle with new and long-time members, their guests, celebrate with SHW's annual award recipients, and participate in the silent auction held that night. Many a conversation was overheard about crush activities, the fine art of winemaking, vacations and holiday plans.

Second, Charlie Coyne, SHW Member and General Manager of the Delta King and his staff provided a delectable holiday fare that was both plentiful and pleasing to the palate, and complimented the many wine varietals and cocktails consumed during the night.

Third, and the most celebrated moments of all, through the generosity and support of our members and guests, we raised over \$2,600* from the Silent Auction...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 and Judy Pinegar's personal thanks to all of you who donated items for the silent auction and to the volunteers who helped "get the party started".

I look forward to being your Holiday Dinner and Party Coordinator for 2013!

-- Debbie Moretton, Holiday Party Coordinator

* Thanks also to member Steve Barrett for his generous cash donation that kicks up the total proceeds from this fundraising effort to above \$2,900.



Unified Wine and Grape Symposium Trade Show Tickets

Member Lynn Keay coordinates the donation of tickets from the show's vendors for the trade show part of the symposium and SHW offers the tickets to members only for a nominal cost. If you're interested in tickets, contact Lynn at lynn.keay@gmail.com. Please note that ticket requests exceed the number of tickets SHW receives.

2013 Club Dues Are Due!

The SHW annual Club dues are \$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;
- Gain winemaking knowledge 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 meetings, activities and dinners and ability to 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, 916 576-9596 and fredmillar1@gmail.com, or Gin Yang at 916 217-0294 and ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com.

Club Resources

Winemaking and Vineyard Mentors	Contact Mentor Coordinator Bill Staehlin and he'll match you up with a mentor. bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net; 916 216-1753
Club Equipment Rental	See list on right for information to borrow the Club's destemmer-crusher, press, and filter.
Oak Cubes for Ageing	Contact Bill Staehlin; contact info above.
SHW Logo Wine Glasses	Contact Sue Summersett to purchase SHW logo wine glasses. sbsummer2002@yahoo.com; 916 354-2050
SHW Logo Wear Polo Shirts & Caps	Contact Fred Millar for more information. Fredmillar1@gmail.com; 915 576-9596
Club's Web Site	www.SacHomeWine.org

Club Equipment

Club equipment can be borrowed by SHW members. Reservations are handled on a first come, first served basis with a signed "Release Agreement" on file.

Destemmer-Crusher

Contact:

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

Basket Press

Contact:

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

Filter

Contact:

Donna Bettencourt, 916 454-5487
bettencourt1045@softcom.net

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.

"Release Agreements" are available at the monthly SHW meetings. Be proactive: if you're planning to borrow Club equipment, attend the equipment training and complete the form. Contact Donna Bettencourt for additional information.

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
Name & Location _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am making wine. Years making wine: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> I have grapes to sell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I made _____ gallons wine in 2012. | <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in making these wines: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I plan to make _____ gallons wine in 2013. | <input type="checkbox"/> Bordeaux <input type="checkbox"/> Rhone <input type="checkbox"/> Iberian <input type="checkbox"/> Italian <input type="checkbox"/> German |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want to know about: <input type="checkbox"/> wine chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> SO2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit <input type="checkbox"/> Mead <input type="checkbox"/> Port <input type="checkbox"/> Sparkler <input type="checkbox"/> Dessert <input type="checkbox"/> Other ___ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pH and acid <input type="checkbox"/> blending <input type="checkbox"/> fining <input type="checkbox"/> filtering | |

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



Amateur Wine and Label Competitions

Newport Seafood & Wine Festival Amateur Wine Competition, Newport, Oregon. Entries due **January 20, 2013**.
Web: www.seafoodandwine.com.

WineMaker Magazine 2013 International Amateur Wine Competition. Entries due **March 15**. In 2012, SHW was awarded the competition's *Wine Club of the Year*. Defend SHW's title - enter your wines. Entry forms are available at the SHW January 16, meeting or by going on-line: www.winemakermag.com.

2013 Winemaker Magazine Conference

This year's conference is back on the west coast in Monterey on May 17-18. The conference offers two full days of seminars and special events for hobby winemakers. Conference brochures are available at the SHW's January 16 meeting or at www.winemakermag.com.

Looking For More Fun!

Volunteer to coordinate a Club activity! We're looking for coordinators for the spring home winery tour, autumn winemakers harvest dinner, or SHW winery tours throughout northern California. Contact Prez Gary if you're interested in volunteering: gycats@earthlink.net and 916 451-3893.



Sacramento Home Winemakers
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