

# The Grapevine



## JANUARY PROGRAM

January 15, 2014

**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)

SHW traditionally celebrates December with its annual holiday dinner party instead of a technical program. This year's party is on December 15 at the Delta King in Old Sacramento.

After settling down from the holidays, mark your calendar for SHW's January 15, 2014 meeting when Shea A.J. Comfort returns to the Turn Verein. Shea, known as *The Yeast Whisperer*, specializes in start-up and small wineries and craft distilleries sharing techniques to develop particular styles of wines and spirits. In his evening with us, Shea will be sharing his techniques on making good wine and focused wine styles – starting with primary and secondary fermentations and continuing through the ageing process. The January 15 meeting starts at 7PM upstairs at the Sacramento Turn Verein.

January's meeting is for members only – send in your membership dues or bring them to the January meeting. Membership information and form can be found in this newsletter and on the Club's website at [www.sachomewine.com](http://www.sachomewine.com).

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## REMARKS ON THE STATE OF THE CLUB

By Gary Young, SHW President



Dear Fellow Club Members:

1. In 2013 the SHW membership increased to a record 170 members. (2012 total: 125 members.) Thanks and congratulations to both our new and longtime members. Your support is a resounding affirmation of the intrinsic value to be found in being an SHW member.
2. The continued high quality of the wines our club members produce was again affirmed, for the second year in a row, by the SHW Club being named "Club of the Year" at the 2013 WineMaker Magazine International Wine Competition. This is an honor that the Club may take pride in!
3. In April, we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the founding, on April 1, 1973 of the Sacramento Home Winemakers Club. (I am happy to note that one of SHW's earliest members, Gerald Cresci, remains an active, contributing member as evidenced by his informative and insightful evaluation program presented at last month's meeting, of members' prot, fruit, dessert and sparkling wines.)
4. The Club continued a very active and successful wine education program. I believe that our "Winemaking 101" course has become one of the stellar events and central part of that program. In particular, I would mention a few of those who made "Winemaking 101" such a success: Gin Yang, Sonia Baron, Donna Bettencourt, JD Phelps, Bill Staehlin, Judy Pinegar, Mike Touchette, J. Page, and Henry Wilkinson.
5. The SHW Club has enjoyed a good year. The successes were made possible by the inventive and energetic group of people who served as your 2013 Executive Board and Appointed Chairs. Many thanks to go: Sonia Baron and John Avila; JD Phelps, Mike Touchette, Gin Yang, Fred Millar, Donna Bettencourt, Henry Wilkinson, Bill Staehlin, Holly Heggli, Debra Moreton, Lynn Keay, and Judy Pinegar. Believe me, I was happy to be along for the ride!

Many thanks, Cheers, and Season's Greetings to you all,

Gary Young

**Introducing the 2014 SHW elected officers**

**At the November 2013 annual meeting of the Sacramento Home Winemakers, the following slate of officers for the Executive Board, were elected, unanimously. They are:**

**President—Donna Bettencourt**

**Vice President—Sonia Baron and JD Phelps**

**Secretary—Joe and Lynn McGillivray**

**Treasurer—Steve Barrett**

**Congratulations to all for a new year filled with visions of greatness for our Club!**

**S H W C l u b L e a d e r s h i p**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President—Gary Young

Co-Vice Presidents—Sonia Baron and John Avila

Secretary—JD Phelps

Treasurer—Mike Touchette

Past President—Donna Bettencourt

Membership Co-Chairs—Gin Yang-Staehlin and Fed Milar

Chief Judge—Donna Bettencourt

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mikc Touchette—Past President

Fred Milar—Past President

Lynn Keay—Past President

Donna Bettencourt—Past President

Gary Young—Current President

**SHW Membership Rosters Available**

Current Club membership rosters are available upon request. The electronic version of the membership information contains names, cities, phone numbers, and email addresses. No street addresses will be shared. Also not shared are those members who indicated “do not share” on their membership forms

These lists are for personal use only. Thanks for keeping them private and not using the information for commercial purposes.

Please contact Membership Co-Chair Gin Yang at [ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com](mailto:ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com) to request the latest membership roster.

## ENDING 2013—A FEW MEMBERSHIP STATS

**Here's the numbers.** Sacramento Home Winemakers continues to experience membership growth and 2013 was a banner year ending with 170 paid memberships.

- \*These are *household* memberships with the actual member headcount estimated at 292.
- \*The total of 170 memberships is an increase of 34 memberships (+25%) from 2012's 136 year-end membership numbers.
- \*Of the 170 memberships, 55 (32.5%) are new members. "New members" is defined as members joining for the first time or members returning after a minimum one year membership lapse. 2012 ended with 36 (+26.5) new members.
- \*Monthly meeting attendance hovered between 58-68. January's meeting featuring Randall Grahm drew 114 attendees.
- \*SHW grew from 92 to 170 memberships in four years (2009-2013) resulting in 78 additional memberships (+85%). Bearing in mind, 2013's growth numbers "bucks the trend" from the previous 3 years of growth, we are building the Club's budget more conservative annual growth factor.
- \*Almost 50 people came to this year's Winemaking 101 class and all but one participant joined SHW, resulting in 26 new memberships (some attendees came with their household partner).

Year	# of Memberships	Change from Previous Year	# New Members	% of New Members
2013	170	34 (+25.0%)	55	32.4
2012	136	12 (+9.7%)	36	26.5
2011	124	5 (+4.2%)	26	21.0
2010	119	27 (+2.9%)	41	34.5
2009	92			

**We know where you get your mail.** The Club doesn't track you like google but we do know that the membership is far reaching throughout the state and into northern Nevada.

- \*Greater Sacramento area: majority of members live within counties that border Sacramento County.
- \*Northern California and Nevada: one member lives in Sparks, Nevada; two live near Lake Tahoe (Truckee and South Lake Tahoe); and one lives in Kelseyville.
- \*Bay Area, Central Coast, Mother Lode, Southern California: five members live in the bay area, one along the central coast, one in Calaveras County, and two in Southern California.

County (# of Members in each community)	# of Members
Sacramento (48 Sacramento; 9 each Elk Grove, Folsom; 5 Fair Oaks; 4 each Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Gold River; 3 Elverta; 2 Orangevale; 1 each Antelope, Herald, Rancho Murieta, Rio Linda, Wilton)	93
Placer (10 Loomis, 8 Granite Bay; 6 each Auburn, Roseville; 5 Lincoln; 2 Rocklin; 1 each Colfax, Penryn)	39
Yolo (6 Davis; 2 each El Macero, West Sacramento; 1 each Clarksburg, Esparto, Woodland, Yolo)	14
El Dorado (4 El Dorado Hills; 1 each El Dorado, Shingle Springs, Somerset, South Lake Tahoe)	8
Contra Costa (1 each Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek); San Francisco (1 San Francisco; San Mateo (1 each Belmont, Brisbane)	5
Calaveras (1 Angels Camp); Lake (1 Kelseyville); Nevada (1 Truckee); Orange (1 Dana Point); San Diego (1 Oceanside); San Joaquin (1 Lodi); Santa Barbara (1 Santa Barbara); Solano (1 Dixon); Yuba (1 each Marysville, Wheatland)	10
State of Nevada (1 Sparks)	1

## S H W M e m b e r s h i p 2 0 1 4

**2014 SHW Membership Dues Are Now Due**

Thank you for supporting SHW with your membership dues. SHW is a non-profit club run solely by volunteers and you. The annual dues are applied to the Club's expenses including meeting room rent, insurance, PO Box, monthly speaker costs, printing, equipment purchases and repairs, and the other necessities used to bring you technical programs and activities.

Benefits to membership include the Club's newsletter, *The Grapevine*, delivered to your fingertips, a year's subscription to *WineMaker* magazine (if renewing or joining by March 1), and participation in monthly meetings, Club events and activities. Starting this year, we'll issue SHW membership cards to confirm your membership and help you gain access to membership privileges at participating vendors.

The 2014 membership form is attached to this newsletter and is also available on-line at [www.sachomewine.com](http://www.sachomewine.com). 2014 dues are \$50 per household (up to 2 members). If you have membership questions, please contact membership co-chairs Fred Millar at (916) 576-9596 and [fredmillar1@gmail.com](mailto:fredmillar1@gmail.com) or Gin Yang at (916) 217-0294 and [ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com](mailto:ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com).

**2014 Unified Wine Symposium****January 28-30****Sacramento Convention Center**

Built with the joint input of growers, vintners and allied industry members, the Unified Wine & Grape Symposium is held annually in Sacramento, California and is the largest event of its kind in the western hemisphere. Serving as a clearing-house for practical information important to wine and grape industry professionals, the Unified Symposium also hosts a trade show with over 650 suppliers displaying their products and services to the more than 13,400 people who attend annually.

For more information about the Symposium, go to:

<http://unifiedsymposium.org/aboutus.html>

Every year, SHW is privileged to receive a limited amount of tickets to the exhibits and winetasting held on the afternoons of January 29th and 30th. If you would like to purchase a ticket for \$5 each, contact Club Member, Joy Smathers at: [last3lives@aol.com](mailto:last3lives@aol.com)

Only SHW members are eligible to purchase these vouchers.

## MEMBER 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 Donna Bettencourt at (916) 454-5487.
SHW LogoWear	Contact Fred Millar for more information.
Polo Shirts & Caps	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, betten-  
court1045@softcom.net  
betten-  
court1045@softcom.net

Please note that there is a \$5 per use fee for the filter, and a \$10 fee for the crusher-destemmer. No fee for the club press.

## Scientists Discover Wine Cellar Dating to 1700 B.C.

(courtesy of the Los Angeles Times)

"Archaeologists have unearthed one of the oldest and largest wine cellars in the near-East, dating back to approximately 3,700 years ago. Packet with 40 jars, 3 feet high each, it had a modern-day capacity of 2,000 liters, or about 3,000 bottles of wine. The cellar was discovered in northern Israel on the grounds of a vast palatial estate that was once home to the ruling household of a northern Canaanite city. Using organic residue analysis, the archaeologists were able to determine that the wine in the jugs was sweetened with honey and infused with juniper berries, mint, cinnamon and myrtle."



