

THE GRAPEVINE

NEWSLETTER FOR SACRAMENTO HOME WINEMAKERS

December 2014



SHW Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month starting at 7pm, 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

There is no general meeting in December. Meetings will resume in January 2015.

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Coming January 2015

Sacramento Home Winemakers is pleased to announce

the return of Darrell Corti.

Long-time member and mentor, Mr. Corti will be

entertaining and informing our group on a variety of wine-related topics.

This is a definite must-attend!

In addition, Mr. Corti is interested in revisiting the SHW wines he has tasted over the years.

If you have a wine that Darrell Corti has evaluated in the past, please bring two bottles of it to share and for him to re-evaluate.

If you would like to participate in this opportunity, please contact Co-Vice President Sonia Baron at soniabarons@hotmail.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



SHW 2014

Executive Board

President:

**Donna
Bettencourt**

Vice Presidents:

**Sonia Baron
JD Phelps**

Secretaries:

**Joe and Lynne
Mc Gillivray**

Membership Chairs:

**Fred Millar
Gin Yang**

As I come to the close of my third term as your President, many thoughts come to my mind.

Gratitude - I thank my sturdy Executive Board of elected officers, members of the Board of Directors, and appointees: Sonia Baron, J.D. Phelps, Joe and Lynne McGillivray, Steve Barrett, Gin Yang-Staehlin, Fred Millar, Mike Touchette, Lynn Keay, Gary Young, Debra Moreton, Judy Pinegar, Henry Wilkinson, Bruce Currie, Holly Heggli, and Jacque and Craig Brown. A home wine association that continues to honor its traditions while it creates new opportunities to fulfill its mission was well served by this merry band of home winemakers!

Pride - While the Sacramento Home Winemakers received its third consecutive International Home Winemakers Club of the Year Award at the Winemaker Magazine's 2014 conference, it is not that particular distinction that brings me the most pride as outgoing President. I am most proud of the small, but powerful ways that each of you supported the winemaking skills of each other, while you supported the person. As the all-powerful Oz, I saw it all, as if from afar, yet very present: an offer of advice, a shoulder to cry on when that last bit of "tinkering" ruined your wine, condolences for deaths and other losses, a revelation of a winemaking secret (really Steve, actual cloves?), and the camaraderie that only shared purpose can bring.

Hope – You are in very good hands with President-Elect J.D. Phelps. Although only three years into making wine at home, he is already an award winning winemaker, and a fearless one at that. Who else would schedule his own European honeymoon in October in his first year of winemaking? Who else would lead a Touriga Nacional varietal focus group in his second year? And, who else would broker 8 tons of Italian varietal grapes in his third year? 2015 will be a very good year for the Sacramento Home Winemakers.

My time as the Captain of the good ship SHW is coming to an end. Sometimes it was a struggle to steer the ship, sometimes, it sailed effortlessly. But, I like to hope that I steered it by the North Star which is the mission of the Sacramento Home Winemakers Association – to educate the public about the art and science of home winemaking and to help others to make excellent wine at home.

Happy Winemaking!

Donna Bettencourt

Does SHW Have Talent?

Okay, so maybe you can belt one out...

SHW depends on member volunteers. Lots of you. So, in addition to your winemaking acumen, you may have skill sets and experience that the Club is looking for. We're looking for volunteers and leaders to keep moving us forward – participate on the team. We'll start with a little refining and merging - akin to racking your wine. Most of the current coordinator positions will be folded into **committees**. **We envision these committees to meet periodically, establish goals, and select a chair to be the committee's representative at executive board meetings.**

Here's a list of committees needing volunteers:

Education Committee - develop ongoing learning curriculum for Winemaking101 (beginning) and 201 (next step); assist vice president with monthly programs; maintain mentor program; secure auxiliary educational opportunities such as field trips, lectures, etc.

You: willing to help others learn to make better wine. Ideal for winemakers beyond their first year of winemaking.

Media & Communications Committee - develop monthly newsletter; post updates to the website's blog, post on to social media - facebook, twitter, instagram, youtube et al; develop videos.

You: creative with tech and communications in one or more mediums.

Technology Committee - responsibilities include managing the website and other mediums. Identifying and implementing technologies to further enhance the SHW member experience.

You: individuals who work in the tech field or as a web designer as a career.

Competition Committee - responsibilities include execution of SHW's Jubilee/wine competition; winemaker of the year selection; knowledge of other wine competitions.

You: experience in various aspects of wine judging including wine competitions, judging, data base management, successful wine competitor. (Chief judge would be part of this committee)

Event Committee - organizes SHW Jubilee/wine competition, harvest dinner, holiday party and fundraiser, wine related events, and monthly meetings.

You: good at planning and organizing events

See yourself in there? Contact JD Phelps at jd.phelps@gmail.com

**SHW 2015
Officers Elect**

President - J.D. Phelps

Vice President - Bruce Currie

**Treasurer - Steve Barrett and
Mary Breedlove**

**Secretary - Joe McGillivray
and Lynne McGillivray**

**Membership Chair - Fred
Millar and Gin Yang**

Coming in February...

White Wine Evaluation

The regular meeting on February 18 will feature evaluations of white wines made from the 2014 harvest. Bring your freshly made wines to receive comments and suggestions of ways that your new wines can be improved before you finish and bottle them. We expect to have two experienced evaluators for this event.

CLUB EQUIPMENT:

Destemmer/Crusher:
TBD

Basket Press and Corker:
Jacque and Craig Brown
jbrown6766@gmail.com

Filter: Donna Bettencourt,
(916) 454-5487
Bettencourt1045@softcom.net

Each item is subject to a nominal upkeep fee per use:
Destemmer/Crusher: 10\$
Basket Press: 10\$
Corker: 5\$
Filter: 5\$

**SHW
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS;**

Donna Bettencourt-Current President

Mikc Touchette - Past President

Fred Millar - Past President

Lynn Keay - Past President

Gary Young - Past President

2015 SHW Membership Dues Are Due

SHW is a non-profit club run solely by volunteers and your support. The annual dues help cover Club expenses including meeting room rent, insurance, monthly speaker costs, printing, equipment purchases and repairs, and the other necessities used to bring you programs and activities to help you make your best wines.

SHW's annual membership is for a calendar year, January – December. The 2015 dues remain at \$50 per household (up to 2 members) and include these benefits:

- * The Grapevine, SHW's monthly newsletter, delivered to your fingertips;
- * a year's subscription to WineMaker magazine (if renewing or joining by March 1);
- * access to members only events including SHW's Jubilee wine competition and picnic, group buys, and social events;
- * use of Club winemaking equipment for a nominal fee;
- * email notification of grapes and winemaking items for sale and educational seminars and events; and
- * getting your wines evaluated by professionals.

The 2015 membership form can be found in this newsletter. Thanks for sending your check and form to SHW Treasurer Steve Barrett, PO Box 623, Roseville CA 95678. Steve will also be accepting memberships at the January 2015 meeting.

If you have membership questions, please contact membership co-chairs Fred Millar at (916) 576-9596 and fredmillar1@gmail.com or Gin Yang at (916) 217-0294 and ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com.



Sacramento Home Winemakers -- 2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____ Today's Date _____

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 - \$50 per household (calendar year). Join by March 1, 2015 to receive a one-year subscription to WineMaker Magazine mailed to your address.

Renew Membership - \$50 per household (calendar year). 2014 members who **renew by March 1, 2015** will receive a one-year extension to their existing WineMaker magazine subscription. *Subscription is not extended if renewing after March 1, 2015.*

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 am interested in making these wines: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm interested in Winemaking 101 (Basics) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Bordeaux <input type="checkbox"/> Rhone <input type="checkbox"/> Iberian <input type="checkbox"/> Italian <input type="checkbox"/> German |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am making wine. Years making wine: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> <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"/> I want to know about: <input type="checkbox"/> wine chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> SO2 | <input type="checkbox"/> I would like more information on these grape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pH and acid <input type="checkbox"/> blending <input type="checkbox"/> fining <input type="checkbox"/> filtering | varietals: _____ |

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 Corker

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

Commercial 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:

Pease make check payable to "Sacramento Home Winemakers" and mail with membership form with to: Steve Barrett, SHW Treasurer - P.O. Box 623 - Roseville, CA 95678

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