



April 2019

The Grapevine Newsletter



2019 SHW Calendar of Events

Executive Board Meetings:

Generally held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7ish PM; locations vary. Contact President Joe McGillivray at pyramidlake59@gmail.com for details.

General Meetings:

Held on 3rd Wednesday of month unless otherwise noted, starting at 7 PM upstairs at the Turn Verein meeting hall located at 3349 J Street, Sacramento.

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

General Meeting – Red Wines
Roundtable Discussion

Special Event– Check it out!

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Ethiopian Food and Wine Dinner

Seating is limited to 20.

See page 5 for details

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Executive Board Meeting– location TBD

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

General Meeting- Non-Bordeaux Red
Wines

June 1-2 SHW Jubilee!

**Wine Competition and Picnic
(Save the Date!)**

Monthly Meeting– April 17th

Red Wines Roundtable Discussion

Join your fellow Home Winemakers on Wednesday April 17th at 7pm for our Monthly Program upstairs at the Turn Verein located at 3349 J Street in Sacramento. There is additional parking in the back.

This month's meeting is devoted to the evaluations of each other's wine. A different format rolled out last year by Paul Baldwin that I fondly call, The Roundtable.

The goals of this activity are:

Help more members get to know each other and have fun

Learn what is expected on the competition judging sheet and how to use it

Help members express wine characteristics and faults

Increase participation in wine exhibits and sharing wine to the club

This month everyone needs to bring a bottle of red wine you have made, with preference for this year's wine, if that is not possible previous year or last resort a commercial wine. If you are a couple one bottle is fine unless you feel so inclined to each bringing a bottle. Don't forget a wine glass for sampling wines.

Tell your fellow Winemakers what wine you brought, wines you have made before, what's your favorite wine. Each person should talk about their winemaking journey with this wine. You can use the Evaluation form on the SacHomeWine.com website, on the home page you will find a link to the Wine Evaluation Form on the right side of the page. We will be reviewing the judging sheet for each of the wines brought to The Round Table.

This is your opportunity to share your wine with members and learn about how wines are judged using the judging sheet. And best of all with the Roundtable format you will be able to share your wine while getting to know other members and have fun!

If you haven't yet prepared your bottle do so without adding sulfites.

Your help in setting up and cleaning up is always appreciated. Contact Vice President Terry Piazza-Perham if you have program questions at, piazza-perham@att.net

President's Message by Joe McGillivray

Here we are again, basking in the afterglow of another fine SHW General meeting and Evaluation night. We had 14 whites and roses` that our fine evaluator, Craig Haarmeyer, was gracious enough to offer valuable critiques to help us improve our wines. A big THANK YOU to Craig. He's been an ongoing supporter of SHW and has helped many of us along the way. What a thrill it is to be a member of SHW!



And a big THANK YOU to the brave souls who brought in two bottles of wine for us all to taste. As I said that night, when you make small batches of wine, two bottles of wine to give up is a big thing. Think of Paul Baldwin and his 3 gallons of chardonnay that he willingly gave up 2 bottles for the meeting. I applaud all of you and your generosity and selflessness.

I'm also impressed with how our group handles the setup and cleanup before and after the meeting. We have a good relationship going with Turn Verein and by cleaning up well, we keep that good relationship moving forward.

If you haven't started thinking about next year's harvest, now is the time to start. If you're new to this group, there's lots of opportunities to pursue after you attend our Winemaking 101 class. On a personal note, Lynne and I attended Winemaking 101 after going to all of the monthly meetings and then after we crushed 125# of Primitivo, I

wanted MORE! So, we hooked up with Paul Baldwin for some Barbera and now I pick "Joes Row" annually but that's another story. The point is, I did more than the 125 pounds from that Winemaking 101 initial group buy and that can happen easily, and probably happens often. When you get bit by the winemaking bug, the fever can be HOT! We've got some group buy structure coming together, so if you want to get in on great quality grapes at a large volume purchase price, talk

to Jerry Roark. He's coordinating the group buys this year again. Thank you, Jerry!

The State Fair competition and the Jubilee are just about here! Make sure you prep for entering these two events. You'll be able to drop off wines at our General meeting and the State Fair typically has a number of drop-off points around the region. Don't forget to order your 2019 crush T-Shirts. The order forms are on the SHW website or you can talk to Club Treasurer, Bob Peake. We've got a winemaker's dinner event coming up on April 28, the Jubilee Picnic is on June 2nd and the Executive Board is gearing up for our retreat where we do future planning. We are entering a busy time of the year so let's all remember to breathe and enjoy a glass of wine on the patio or where ever you find your peaceful spot.

Cheers!

Joe



MARCH MEETING RECAP

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS!

Guest evaluator Craig Haarmeyer returned to Sacramento Home Winemakers for the March 20, 2019 meeting to provide feedback on members' 2018 whites and rosés. Craig's responses focused on winemaking styles and allowing the grapes to show through in the wines. Thank you Craig for your continued support!

Many thanks to members who shared their 2 bottles of wine for evaluation: Daniel Kasapligil for his sauv blancs (and one was an active hybrid sparkler!) Nic Thomsic's albariño; Jim and Debbie Sawin's sauv blanc and chardonnay; chardonnays from Gary Palmero, Paul Baldwin, Larry Zinky, and Tim Smith (2 chars); Larry Carducci's Grenache rosé, Rob Poch's barbera rosé; and Judy Pinegar's orange muscat.

Everyone's help is appreciated at the meetings and for your extra steps:

Ed Shepard for staffing the troubleshooting table in the back of the room; Meeting Hospitality: Marty Wilde, Olga Lukin, Lyle Peddicord, Robert Wharton, Darcy Wharton, Jim Ring, and Don Chernich; and Cellar Master Joe Morgan with his cellar crew Tim Smith, Al Piccardo and Mark Davis for pouring 14 whites and rosés.



Note: a fillable wine evaluation form has been loaded onto the Club's website for your use. Click on the link, fill out the form, give the cellar master the top half with your wines, and keep the bottom half for your reference. Thank you, Larry Zinky for making our winemaking lives easier!



Competition Corner

Chief Judge

Donna Bettencourt

The 2019 home wine competition season is well underway. Bottleshock has been judged and the awards ceremony is scheduled for May 2nd. Congrats to SHW members who placed in the money!!

Bear in mind that if you wish to enter the Sacramento Home Winemakers Rex Johnston Wine-maker of the Year competition for 2019, you must have entered at least two separate and distinct wines (as far as variety and harvest year) in both the 2019 Sacramento Home Wine Jubilee Competition and the California State Fair, and one other recognized 2019 home wine competition. The deadline for entering WOY is November 30, 2019. If you hear about other home wine competitions, let me know and I will include it in this article next month (donnab1045@gmail.com).



California State Fair Home Wine Competition

The California State Fair Home Wine Competition is accepting home wine between March 18th and April 23rd. **(Not April 26th as was reported in this column last month)**. The competition will be held at Cal Expo on May 18th this year. For more information e-mail co-ordinators at homewine@calexpo.com. Registration information is now available at www.castatefair.org SHW will be involved once again in assisting with the pick up of entries at specified drop off locations. Registered and paid for entries can be brought to the April 17th meeting and, if paperwork is in order, accepted by cellarmasters Joe Morgan and Thad Rodgers.

El Dorado County Fair Home Wine Competition

Forms and entries must be received at the El Dorado County Fair office in Placerville between April 1 and May 1, Monday through Friday, 9am - 4 pm. A representative from the competition has volunteered to pick up entries at our April 17th meeting. Make sure you have labeled your wines correctly and have a check ready for entry fees. Judging is Saturday May 4th. For more information and for rules and entry information go to www.eldoradocountyfair.org/homemadewine.html

Orange County Fair Home Wine Competition

Entries are being accepted between April 8 – May 27th.

For more information, go to www.ocws.org. We have just clarified that all 3 Brewmeister locations will be accepting entries (Roseville, West Sacramento, and Folsom). While you are at the Folsom Brewmeister shop, be sure and have a cold beer at the adjacent Red Bus Brewery, Erik Schmidt's most recent enterprise.

Sacramento Home Winemakers Jubilee Competition

This year, the competition date has been set for June 1st, with the annual picnic scheduled for the next day. Properly labeled and paid for entries will be accepted at the April 17th meeting **and up through May 7th at specified drop off locations**; no late entries will be accepted. If you are unable to bring your labeled entries to the April 17th meeting, please contact Competition Chair, Donna Bettencourt (916-548-3199; donnab1045@gmail.com) for drop off locations.

Cellarmasters U.S. Amateur Wine Competition

Judging will take place on November 16, 2019. Go to www.cellarmastersla.org for details.

Amador County Fair Home Wine Competition

Stay tuned for details regarding the annual Amador County Fair Home Wine Competition.

Ethiopian Food and Wine Dinner – April 28, Sunday

Come for what promises to be a fun filled afternoon with friends sharing delicious food and wine in a casual, comfortable and relaxing environment. Join fellow home winemakers for a delicious buffet of Ethiopian foods in the heart of Sacramento.

Let's see which wines compliment the uniquely spiced and earthy flavors that are on the tables in Ethiopia. You are invited to bring your home wines to pair and share. Additionally, the owner of the restaurant is looking for help identifying a commercial wine that pairs well with the dishes served. So, there will be a competition of sorts: if you bring a commercial wine that really pairs well with Ethiopian food and if she decides to offer this wine at her restaurant, the person who brings that wine will receive a coupon for dinner for 2.

Vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes are included in the buffet. \$20 per person inclusive of sales tax and gratuity. No corkage fee so bring a variety of your wines. **Seating is limited to 20 people.**

**RSVP to Fred Millar as soon as possible:
fredmillar1@gmail.com; text or call 916 576-9596.**

**Queen Sheba Ethiopian Cuisine
1704 Broadway
Sacramento 95818
April 28 (Sunday) 3 - 6 pm**



It's that time of year to consider helping with the CA State Fair Winemakers Competition set-up. Once again our club will be helping to set-up the cellar, check-in and reconcile the entries, and pull the flights for the day of judging. To help out, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F49ABAA23A2F94-2019>. Robert (Wharton) can be contacted by way of that web page as well should you have any questions.

If you have an idea for the newsletter, feel free to reach out to Stephanie Wilson at wilssteph@gmail.com

June Jubilee Picnic and Awards Party 2019

The Judging will be June 1, 2019, so the **Jubilee Picnic will be Sunday June 2, 2019** ...Mark your calendars. The location will be Judy Pinegar's Back Yard and Barn as in past years. The actual picnic/BBQ will begin at 1 PM with the main course planned for about 2:30 PM. **Please!! Lend a hand with set up or clean up... call Judy at 916-224-6742. Sign up today or rates come up!!**

The club will provide BBQ meat, Chili Beans, French bread, and lots of water. All wines from the competition will be available for tasting, including the Golds and Best of Shows. **Last year there were 183 Bottles!!**

Please bring a dish to share at the potluck: appetizer, salad, entree, or dessert according to the following list based of your last name (first initial): A – G = Entree; H – O = Desserts and P – Y = Appetizers. I try to switch this around every year to keep it even!

Remember to bring your own wine glasses.

For those of you who are new to the event, Judy's place has 2 ½ acres with room to explore nature in the spring. Some of Judy's lawn chairs are available, but club members should bring their own lawn chairs, blankets, or whatever if they want to be sure to have a place to sit on the lawn under the trees.

The swimming pool also will be open, so bring your suit, hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses (if it is warm enough!), but even if it Rains, the barn will be open. We will have pop-up tents around and there is an upstairs to the barn also (billiards anyone?) !

The event is great fun, lawn games will be available, and the party sometimes goes until dark... so plan on making a day of it! Children, guests and pets (only if they are friendly to others) are welcome!

Please use Reservation Form to secure your spot. Reserve by May 22 for best pricing. No walk-ins accepted.



Why should you enter the 36th Annual Sacramento Home Winemakers Competition?

With the spring weather comes the annual Sacramento Home Winemaker's club-only competition, known as the Jubilee. This year's competition judging is scheduled for June 1st, with the results revealed the next day at our annual picnic, on June 2nd. (See the May newsletter for registration for the Sunday Picnic and Awards Ceremony).

Entries are judged blindly by experienced home wine judges outside of our membership. Entries are one bottle, and the first entry is free. Subsequent entries are \$8.00 each.

Entries will be accepted at the April 17th monthly meeting, and at drop off locations through May 7th.

So, why should I enter my home wine? Drum roll please!

Reason 10: I have never entered a wine in competition!

Reason 9: My wife/husband/partner tasted this wine and they really, really like it. In fact, it is almost gone!

Reason 8: I entered this wine in another competition and it won a gold, silver or bronze metal.

Reason 7: I am very proud of this wine. I took great care in its making, and I want to have some objective feedback.

Reason 6: I am not proud of this wine. I did something very, very wrong and I need feedback!

Reason 5: You brought a bottle over to your neighbor, and they did NOT run screaming.

Reason 4: I intend to apply for the SHW Winemaker of the Year Award and I have to enter this competition.

Reason 3: This is the first white/rose/sparkler/desert wine I have made and I am eager to know how others feel about my efforts.

Reason 2: I really like to brag, and to earn ribbons. They look really cool in my

So, there you have it. Join in with your fellow SHW members and strut your stuff! When I see all 150+ bottles of wine lined up on the table at the picnic on Sunday, I am so very proud, because each bottle represents the passion and hopes of a home winemaker I know, and whose journey I have followed. Bottles of Double Golds rub shoulders with Bronze, and Silver's with Honorable Mentions, just as we each rub shoulders at our monthly meetings, and at crushes, and at club parties, with our fellow home winemakers who share a passion: to make the best possible wines at home.

Salud! Donna Bettencourt

SHW Picnic and Awards Party Reservation Form

YES! I will be attending the Jubilee Picnic and Wine Tasting:

(Price is the same as last year!) Great Food!

Name(s) _____

Reserving by May 22, 2019

____ Number of Members @ \$12 per person

____ Number of NON Members @ \$17 per person

____ Number of children under 13 (free)

Reserving between May 22 , 2019 to May 29, 2019 - None after 5/29!

____ Number of Members @ \$22 per person

____ Number of NON Members @ \$27 per person

____ Number of children under 13 (free)

NO DAY OF REGISTRATIONS WE HAVE TO GET THE FOOD EARLY!

Send form and check to:

Bob Peake, SHW Treasurer || PO Box 691 || Folsom, CA 95763

Jubilee Location:

Judy Pinegar Winery and Barn and Yard

Facebook Location: "The Barn"

9195 Vista Ct, Loomis, CA 95650

CALL : (916) 224-6742... if lost!