



The Grapevine Newsletter

January 2020



2020 SHW Calendar of Events

Executive Board Meetings:

Generally held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7PM; locations vary. Contact President Robert Wharton at Robert.wharton@hpe.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, January 15, 2020
Chik Brenneman discussing Syrah
General Meeting

Wednesday, February 5, 2020
Executive Board Meeting, Loomis 7pm

Wednesday, February 19, 2020
General Meeting
White/Rose evaluations. Craig Haarmeyar from St Rey will evaluate.

Monthly Meeting– January 15, 2020 Chik Brenneman, Dusty Baker Wines Discussing Syrah

Come one, come all to the first Monthly Program for 2020, a New Year and a new decade. We meet the third Wednesday of the month at the Turn Verein, 3349 J Street in Sacramento at 7-9pm upstairs. There's parking behind the Turn Verein off of I Street.

This month I have a special guest speaker coming to talk about Syrah. Chik Brenneman writes the Varietal Focus in WineMaker magazine, Chik has recently retired from teaching at UCD and is a partner with Baker Family Wines. I, for one, enjoy his varietal focus articles in the WineMaker Magazine, he has great stories and lots of good information. So let's all come out this third Wednesday evening of January to enjoy Chik Brenneman, he will be bringing Syrah wine to taste so don't forget to bring your glass. And, as usual, it's always fun to bring a bottle of wine to share with your fellow Home Winemakers.

Hope to have a good turnout for the beginning of the new year and decade. Welcome 2020

CinCin
Terry Piazza-Perham
SHW past Vice President

Please consume responsibly.



President's Message



by Robert Wharton

Hello Everyone,

Happy New Year, one and all. With the start of the new year, we have some new faces leading the club. I, Robert, have taken over the reins as President, Fayne Boyd as Vice President and Wreatha Duverney as Treasurer. Gin Yang and Christa Ring will remain on as Membership Co-chairs as well as Mike Menard as secretary. Our Members-at-Large for this year are Thad Rodgers, David Ichikawa, Jerry Roark, Angie Cassidy and Bob Peake. A BIG shout out to outgoing officers Joe McGillivray, Terry Pizza-Perham and Bob Peake for their service to the club over the past two-years. Bob has moved to a Member-at-Large position, and Joe and Terry have indicated that they intend to remain active in the club going forward. Thanks, again!

With a new administration there can be a concern as to how the organization is going to change. Rest assured that the high-quality programs and activities you have become accustomed to will continue into 2020. We had one or two new ideas rolling around in our heads last year...we'll see if we can bring those to fruition. Otherwise I want to work with the Executive Committee on a couple of process improvements to see if we can work more efficiently going forward.

As far as I can tell, all who attended the STHW Holiday Party at the Embassy Suites had a good time. Thank you to Fred Millar, et.al., for the work planning and making that night happen! Please read Donna's article further down in this newsletter for a complete listing of the awards presented that evening. Thanks also to Rex Johnston and Barbara Bentley for their large donation of stemware which was auctioned off during the evening to benefit the club.

Believe it or not, I recently took some ice bombs out of the freezer, thawed them and now need to empty/dry them. I don't know about you, but life has a way of getting in the way of my winemaking activities. Perhaps retirement, still a few years off, will help address that issue for me. In the meantime, one thing I'm doing now is going through my winemaking equipment to repair/refurbish/replace anything needing attention from last season. As an example, my wine transfer pump wouldn't self-prime towards the end of the season. Over the Christmas break I took it apart, cleaned it thoroughly and now need to test it. You might want to think about similar items in your wine making arsenal which could benefit from some attention before August/September rolls around. Harvest time will be here before we know it.

Finally, please pay your club dues. While we run a very lean budget, we do have expenses. Your dues help to offset those costs.

Cheers,

Robert



**AND THE
WINNER IS...**

By Donna Bettencourt

Results of the 2019 Sacramento Home Winemakers “Rex Johnston Home Winemaker of the Year” Award

As SHW’s Chief Judge, I am happy to announce the results of the 2019 Winemaker of the Year Competition. The competition was fierce, as always, and SHW proved once again that our members are among the best home winemakers in the world! Many thanks to Rex Johnston and Barbara Bentley for attending our Christmas Party and recognizing the accomplishments of our 2019 entrants.

Home Winemaker of the Year – Don and Gayle Koehler

Total Score: 153.3

2nd Place – Thad and Heather Rodgers

Total score: 148.9

3rd Place – Donna Bettencourt

Total score: 128.3

4th Place – Al Piccardo

Total score: 104.6

Congratulations to all of our applicants and happy winemaking in 2020!

2019 Sacramento Home Winemakers Annual Award Recipients

Every year, the Board of Directors (consisting of the past four Presidents and the current President) pauses to reflect on those members who have made extraordinary contributions to the club. Quietly and consistently you serve, you teach, you grow and, you improve in the art and science of home winemaking.

Here then are the 2019 honorees:



Rex Johnston Home Winemaker of the Year

Don and Gayle Koehler



Bob Beck Educator of the Year Award

Thad Rodgers

Henry Wilkinson Volunteer of the Year Award

Joe and Cori Morgan

Stu Shafer Most Improved Home Winemaker Award

Joe McGillivray

Rookie of the Year

Rob Hunter and Ed Hyde

Community Partner Award

Bom Vinho! Vineyards

Embassy Suites

Competition Corner

Chief Judge Donna Bettencourt



Now is the time to decide which wines you will enter in competition. Is the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon finally ready? Are the tannins tame in your 2017 Tempranillo? Maybe you should bottle some of your 2018 white wines? Time to schedule a blending party in time to select your final blend on that Rhone?

The home wine competition season is beginning. Bear in mind that if you wish to enter the Sacramento Home Winemakers Rex Johnston Winemaker of the Year Competition (WOY) for 2020, you must have entered at least two separate and distinct wines in both the 2020 Sacramento Home Winemakers Jubilee Competition and the 2020 California State Fair, and in one other recognized 2020 home wine competition. The deadline for entering the WOY competition is November 30, 2020.

On another note, the evaluations of your 2019 white and rose wines will be happening at the February 19, 2020 regular SHW meeting. Because you will probably be making finishing decisions and even bottling soon after February, bring 2 bottles of your wine to the February meeting and receive important feedback prior to bottling. Please do not sulfate your wine samples just prior to the evaluation.

Upcoming Competitions

Bottleshock Open Home Winemaking Competition

The last day for accepting entries to the Bottleshock competition is Friday, February 14th. Judging will be on Wednesday, March 4, 2020. Entries are limited to 400 this year. Ship to or drop off entries at this address: Bottleshock Open c/o Woodbridge Winery, Att. Stephanie, at 5950 East Woodbridge Road, Acampo, CA 95220. The office is open 7 days a week from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm (209)369-5861. For more information, contact Aaron Kidder at (209) 969-9296 or go to www.BottleShockOpen.com for entry forms and rules.

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Upcoming Competitions, Continued

2020 Winemaker Magazine International Amateur Wine Competition

Enter your best homemade wines, ciders, and meads in the world's largest competition for hobby winemakers! Entry deadline is March 17th. You can enter online at:

www.winemakercompetition.com

The Winemaker Competition Awards Dinner will be on May 30th, 2020 in San Luis Obispo, California at the annual Conference, May 28-31 at the Embassy Suites. Sounds like a road trip to me! (Oooops, but I will be judging wines at the State Fair...)

California State Fair Home Wine Competition

The California State Fair has announced that the 2020 Home Wine Competition will be judged on May 30, 2020. Entries open on line on March 30, 2020. Online entry registration closes on May 6th. Window for dropping off bottle entries is the same. The awards ceremony is planned for Saturday, June 20th. As SHW will be gathering all entries at designated drop off sites, we will be accepting properly registered and payed for State Fair entries at the April 15th monthly meeting. For more information, Please go to <https://www.castatefair.org/california-home-wine/>

Sacramento Home Winemakers Jubilee Competition

Looks like our own club-only home wine competition will be held on Saturday, June 13th with the picnic and presentation of awards the next day, Sunday, June 14th. Properly labeled entries will be accepted at the May 20th monthly meeting. Look for further announcements in this column and via email blasts.

If you know of any upcoming homewine competitions, please let Donna know at don-nab1045@gmail.com so we can add them to this monthly column.

2020 Membership Dues

Happy New Year! SHW is accepting applications for 2020 memberships. The annual family/individual membership remains at \$50 and UC Davis Viticulture and Enology 2020 student memberships are \$10. Please use the membership form in this newsletter and on the SHW website.

2020 membership includes a one-year print only subscription to Winemaker magazine (no subscription for student membership). Winemaker magazine is offering half-off pricing for SHW members for the magazine's annual digital membership. Please contact Gin Yang for the details.

For questions about SHW membership, please contact the Membership Co-Chairs Christa Ring and Gin Yang. They're at cmring@citlink.net and 916 798-5982 and ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com and 916 217-0294, respectively.

Sacramento Home Winemakers (SHW) – 2020 Membership Form

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Your Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City & Zip _____ Phone Number (____) _____

Email Address(es) _____

(SHW communicates primarily through SHW website blog posts and emails. If you also prefer the newsletter by USPS, check here: ___)

Do Not share my street address with SHW members.

New Membership - \$50 per household (Jan 2020 – Dec 2020). Join by March 1, 2020 to receive a 1-year print subscription to WineMaker Magazine via USPS. Opt out of WineMaker magazine subscription

Renew Membership - \$50 per household (January 2020 – December 2020). 2019 members who **renew by March 1, 2020** will receive a one-year extension to their existing WineMaker print magazine subscription. *Subscription is not extended if renewing after March 1, 2020.* Opt out of WineMaker magazine subscription

Student Membership (UC Davis Viticulture & Enology student) – \$10 per student annual membership entitles members to the benefits of a non-student membership but does not receive Winemaker magazine subscription.

Tell us about you:

I'm interested in learning to make wine.

I have been a SHW member since _____

I have been making wine since _____.

I belong to another home winemaking club. Which one?

Thanks for supporting SHW. Choose the 3 volunteer activities where you can best help:

Leadership: President Vice President – Programs Treasurer Secretary Membership Chair Cellar Master/Assistant Cellar Master Web Site Manager Newsletter Editor Chief Judge/Assistant Chief Judge

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

Harvest Dinner: Coordinate Find corkage-free restaurant

Holiday Dinner and Fundraiser: Coordinate

Logistics Secure Items Donate Items

Mentor: new winemakers home viticulture

wines/styles (reds, ports, etc) _____

Monthly Hospitality: meeting snacks, set up & clean up:

Coordinate Bring Snack

Fundraising: Coordinate Committee member

Club Equipment Manager/Storage:

Home Winery Tours: Coordinate Destination

Grape Sourcing/Group Buys: Procure Manage

Varietals: _____

Program/meeting topics you're interested in / why you joined SHW / how did you learn about SHW? _____

As a condition for membership, I/we agree:

1) to comply with SHW's by-laws and rules; 2) to promptly pay or reimburse SHW for any fees or other expenses incurred, e.g., bank returned checks; 3) if I or my guests consume alcoholic beverages at a SHW meeting or event, that we will do so responsibly (SHW is not responsible for transportation but may assist in obtaining a ride as a courtesy);

4) if I or my guests bring wine or other alcoholic beverages to a SHW meeting or event, the item must contain only ingredients commonly found in wines or other alcoholic beverages, and does not contain illegal substances, hallucinogens, psychoactives, medicinal substances or herbs; and 5) consent to having photos of me/us on the SHW website and communications including social media.

Signature of Person Applying for Club Membership

Date Signed

Please make check payable to "Sacramento Home Winemakers" and mail with membership form to:

Wreatha Duverney, SHW Treasurer | 10725 Sunrise Ridge Cir | Auburn CA 95603-6041

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