

*I heard it through the ...*

<http://awspgheast.org>

American Wine Society  
Pittsburgh East Chapter

# GRAPEVINE

Volume 9, No. 1

Founded March, 1998

January, 2006

## EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Chair<br>Karen Wayner             | 412-795-8192<br>DEWKEW@aol.com             |
| Vice-Chair<br>John Liotta         | 724-443-8004<br>jayjay16@connecttime.net   |
| Secretary<br>Francine George      | 412-422-8956<br>francinegeorge@hotmail.com |
| Treasurer<br>Chris Anderson       | 724-327-4388<br>cca5006@adelphia.net       |
| Programs<br>Doug Wayner           | 412-795-8192<br>DEWKEW@aol.com             |
| Membership<br>Marsha & Sam Cuffia | 724-265-2965<br>woodhillwines@gmail.com    |
| Communications<br>Karen Hanks     | 724-744-2962<br>khanks1013@aol.com         |

## SAY CHEESE !!

Keeping with tradition, we like to have an inexpensive tasting for the January meeting. We all overspent for Christmas, but we still want to have a good program.....**WHAT TO DO ???** We look for a **VALUE** wine to taste !!! Our tasting this month will be 2 wines that often do not get enough talk - **Viognier and Chenin Blanc**.

Probably the main attraction of **Viognier** is its potentially powerful, rich, and complex aroma that often seems like overripe apricots mixed with orange blossoms or acacia. It has a distinctive and sweet aroma-flavor profile much like Gewürztraminer. Both Chardonnay and Viognier share tropical fruit flavors and a creamy mouthfeel. Even with little or no wood aging, Viognier can be as full-bodied as an oaky Chardonnay, but has much more distinctive fruit character. It also has a typically deep golden color, as well as rich and intense flavor.

At the beginning of the 1970s, Americans began to discover that California's better wines are labeled by the predominate grape variety. Made in the style of the day, fragrant and lightly sweet, and also easy to pronounce, **Chenin Blanc** quickly became the best-selling wine of the era. Chenin blanc is arguably the most versatile of all wine grape varieties. Crisp, dry table wines, light sparkling wines, long-lived, nectar-like dessert wines, and even brandy are all produced in various areas of the wine world, all beginning with Chenin Blanc.

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Date:** January 6, 2006  
**Time:** 7:30 PM  
**Place:** Lions Hall  
Murrysville-Trafford Road  
Level Green, PA

**Members:** \$20.06 per couple or \$10.03 per single  
**Guests:** \$26.06 per couple or 13.03 per single

**Deadline:** Monday, January 2, 2006

To accompany our tasting we will also feature a **cheese tasting by Eric Wallace, Executive Chef of CASBAH** on S Highland Avenue. Casbah is part of the Big Burrito Restaurant Group that includes, Mad Mex, Kaya, Soba and Eleven. They are at the front of innovative dining adventures in Pittsburgh. Eric is also a member of the **American Cheese Society**. That sounds like a good match to our organization. Eric has been written up by national magazines and has worked with some of the top chefs in New York.

Join us on **FRIDAY, JANUARY 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM** as we kick-off the 2006 program year and unwind from the busy Holiday Season. **The cost of the meeting will be \$20.06 per couple, \$10.03 per person for members. Guests are welcome at \$26.06 per couple, \$13.03 per person. SEE YOU THERE !!**

\* \* \*

## Comments from the Chair

**Welcome to 2006 and Happy New Year!**

**FUN! Three little letters – very simply that is why we are a club!**

**Our objective is to have FUN learning more about wine and wine appreciation with a wonderful team leading the way for an enthusiastic group of members.**

We have some exciting tastings and programs planned for the upcoming year.

Check out our meeting schedule posted in this newsletter – mark your calendars – you won't want to miss any of them – they are going to be fantastic.

**I would like to extend my thanks ...**

**To the Executive Board.** You are a great team, it was my pleasure to serve with you during 2005 and I am looking forward to working with our new board for 2006 – we have **fun** planning the meetings and making every meeting a great experience for everyone! We are fortunate as a group to have such a wonderful group of officers.

**To everyone who hosted a meeting for 2005.** You have added your special touches to each and every meeting, making them a special treat to everyone attending. We appreciate all your efforts. It is **fun** to be

involved and it makes the meetings much more interesting to have diverse personalities providing a special touch to the meetings.

**To everyone who washed glasses...** it is such a pleasure to have a group of dependable and responsible members! Ok so washing glasses isn't **fun** but it is **fun** getting them dirty (sampling some interesting wines) so even this little job is rewarding and very much appreciated.

**To anyone I may have missed –** if you poured wine, helped set up the hall or cleaned up after the meeting..... Thank you!

I think we are a great TEAM – and I am looking forward to having lots of **fun** programs and tastings in 2006 with you!

See you Friday, January 6

**Karen**

\* \* \*

### WINE GLASS WASHING LIST

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Case 1 Clean     | Case 10 Clean     |
| Case 2 Jeff Long | Case 11 George    |
| Case 3 Clean     | Case 12 Clean     |
| Case 4 Baer      | Case 13 Clean     |
| Case 5 Yeager    | Case 14 Clean     |
| Case 6 Clean     | Case 15 Clean     |
| Case 7 Clean     | Case 16 Cuffia    |
| Case 8 Putignano | Case 17 Tranquill |
| Case 9 Clean     |                   |

### WINE FLUTE GLASSES

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Case F1 Vecchi      | Case F8 Hockenberry  |
| Case F2 Welch       | Case F9 Muir         |
| Case F3 Bob Wilson  | Case F10 Vecchi      |
| Case F4 Putignano   | Case F11 Putignano   |
| Case F5 Clean       | Case F12 Hockenberry |
| Case F6 Pedley      | Case F13 Barb Jones  |
| Case F7 Barb Jones  | Case F14 Clean       |
| Case F8 Hockenberry | Case F16 Pedley      |

### Important Wine Glass Information

If you have taken wine glasses for washing, please either bring them to the January meeting or call the Glass Washing Chairpersons, Don and Marty Baer, at 724-733-3038 to make other arrangements. Be sure to record both your name and the box number in Don's binder when taking glasses home or returning them to the meeting.

**If you took Wine Flute Glasses, please check with the Baers regarding their return for storage until the next time they are needed.**

**MORE GLASS INFORMATION:**

All new members as well as the current members are reminded that we STILL have AWS logo glasses available for sale. They are sold with a minimum of six glasses and are very reasonably priced. Chris Anderson and Karen Wayner both have a supply. You may call either of them to arrange for acquisition or see them at the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE AWS PITTSBURGH EAST CHRISTMAS PARTY**

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the AWS Pittsburgh East Chapter held its annual Christmas party at the Alcoma Country Club in Penn Hills. It proved to be a great decision to hold the party there instead of at the Lion's Club in Level Green. The country club was decorated with garlands, poinsettias, and trees, of course, as was the private banquet room where the round tables were arranged to encircle the dance floor. On the tables were white tablecloths, dinnerware and enough wine glasses for all five wines that were served during dinner including a sparkling wine. Before dinner, guests enjoyed wines brought by the members and nibbled on the snacks and cheese that the country club prepared. Karen Wayner welcomed everyone, Dave Chase presented the toast and Chuck Hanks gave the invocation. After the soup and salads were served at the tables, the buffet line started and dinner began. The food ranged from salmon to beef, vegetables to pasta Alfredo and the grande finale—flaming desserts. Along with each course, guests drank the accompanying wines that were set on each table.

After dinner, Dave Chase gave Karen her gift from the chapter members, and Karen, in turn, thanked all for a great year and presented the board members with gifts of wine. Even the Armed Forces were represented when one of the Marines working for Toys for Tots spoke about that organization which was the evening's designated charity.

Somehow the disc jockey discovered that there is definitely some singing talent in the membership. He called upon quite a few of the group to come up on the dance floor to perform "The Twelve Days of Christmas" which they did with great success and mostly on key! AND, they did it in less than twelve days! Whew, his organizational skills were at work there. Laughing

most of the time, both the audience and performers seemed to enjoy themselves. Everyone spent the remainder of the evening socializing and dancing to the DJ's music.

Although the chapter Christmas parties in the past have been festive, with the preparing, decorating and setting up all a part of that, it was a welcome change for the leadership and the general members to be able to just dress up and arrive at their destination knowing that everything would be done for them, and, in this case, done very well. It gave all of those who work so hard all year to make the monthly meetings a success a chance to relax and enjoy a very special evening with fellow wine lovers during a very special time of the year.

Featured Reporter: Bunny Chase

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**NOVEMBER GUESTS:**

- Tom and Natalie Kelly**
- Tim and Dana Tommaney**
- Greg and Darlene Daverio**
- John and Melanie Erskine**
- Jennifer Katz**
- Barbara Battaline**

Hope to see you  
again!

**FYI:**

Our website is up and running. Don't forget to check it out! Right now there is not much information on it but keep watching! Here is the address: [www.awspgheast.org](http://www.awspgheast.org) The address can also be found on the front page of the Newsletter just above the word GRAPEVINE.

**WINE JUDGE TRAINING CLASSES**

**In January there will be an organizational get-together on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the Holiday Inn near Rts. 48 and 22 in Monroeville. We will set the meetings for 2006 and celebrate our successes in 2005. Congratulations to Jan Frissora who passed**

Year 1 and Nick Yankanich who passed Year 2 and will be advancing.

If you would like to join the Wine Judge Training group, please contact Doug at 412-795-8192. We are always looking for new students or those people just wanting to improve their tasting ability.

### DUES, DUES, DUES !!!!

It is that time of year when we must handle our membership dues to **both** AWS National and AWS Pittsburgh East Chapter.

If you have been a member of AWS National, you will receive a bill for this year's dues soon, if you have not already received it.

According to AWS by-Laws, membership in the National AWS is mandatory to belonging to any local chapter. As of printing date of this Newsletter, the exact amount of dues per household in AWS National has not been made known. Last year it was \$52.00. Best you budget at least that amount or a little more for this year!

Local dues for AWS Pittsburgh East will remain at \$20.00 per household—single or couple membership. Dues must be paid no later than March 31, 2006 to remain in good standing with the Club. Do it now before you forget.!

Local dues are to be made out to AWS Pittsburgh East and either included with your Meeting Reservation Form or mailed directly to:

Chris Anderson, Treasurer  
5006 Holly Court  
Murrysville, PA 15668

If you do not receive a bill from AWS National by the end of January, please check with Marsha or Sam Cuffia, Membership Chairs, and they can provide you with the proper information and address.

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### WINE LIST FOR AWS CHRISTMAS ELEGANCE PARTY

#### SELECTION OF WINES FROM BOTH OLD WORLD AND NEW WORLD WINES

|      |                       |        |
|------|-----------------------|--------|
| 2000 | ROTARI BRUT           | Italy  |
| 2002 | LOUIS LATOUR MERSAULT | France |

|      |                               |             |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| NV   | SOKOL BLOSSER EVOLUTION       | Oregon      |
| 2002 | CASTANO SOLARERA VINES VIEJAS | Spain       |
| 2002 | JOSEPH PHELPS INNISFREE       | Napa Valley |

(NV denotes Non-Vintage)

### EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED FROM DRINKING WINE

**You can account for taste – some people don't have any.**

**There's a big difference between old and aged.**

**Even crap sounds delicious in French.**

**Room temperature depends on the room.**

**Never give a corkscrew to a drunk.**

**Price isn't everything.**

**Whether the glass is half empty or half full depends on what's in it.**

**Plastic cups are for urine samples.**

*(Taken from Vintage Humor for Wine Lovers, by Malcolm Kushner AFHC)*

# Happy New Year !!!

| 2006 PROGRAM SCHEDULE |  |  |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| MONTH                 | PROGRAM  | HOSTS  |
| January               | <b>SAY CHEESE !!</b> - A tasting of Viognier and Chenin Blanc. Cheese tasting to match presented by <b>Eric Wallace, Executive Chef of "CASBAH" Restaurant</b> | Dana & Tim Tommaney                                      |
| February              | <b>"THE SWEETEST MONTH"</b> - A tasting of dessert wines, chocolates and pastries  | Chris & Mike Hockenberry / Chris & Don Anderson          |
| March                 | <b>"CHAIRMAN SELECTION"</b> - Program and tasting by <b>Jonathan H. Newman</b> , Chairman of the PLCB  | Liz & Ben Pedley / Jeff & Carol Long / Faye & Bob Wilson |
| April                 | <b>"PERCEPTION IS EVERYTHING"</b> - Program and tasting presented by <b>James Wallace of J Lohr Vineyards, California</b>                                      | Cay Welch & Danielle Baird                               |
| May                   | <b>"GO WEST"</b> - Program and tasting presented by <b>Cara Pepper of Willamette Valley Vineyards of Oregon</b>  | Tyna & Bob Putignano / Barb & Jim Putignano              |
| August / September    | <b>"CALL ME A CAB"</b> - Program & Tasting of Cabernet Sauvignon and Sauvignon Blanc   | Sam & Marsha Cuffia / Tom & Natalie Kelly                |
| October               | <b>"PINOT ENVY" - PREMIUM TASTING</b> of Burgundy with <b>Dave Desimone</b>  | Debbie Hauser / Dave & Bunny Chase                       |
| November              | <b>"TWO TO TANGO"</b> - Program and tasting of Wine & Music by <b>John Eld</b>   | Carol & Jim Katelan / Sally & Paul Cunkelman             |

----- Cut Here -----

## January Meeting Reservation Form

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (if changed) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to: AWS - Pittsburgh East**

**Members: \$20.06 per couple - \$10.03 per single**

**Guests: \$26.06 per couple - \$13.03 per single**

**Mail Reservations To:**

**Karen Wayner**

**609 Rockland Drive**

**Pittsburgh, PA 15239**

**(NOTE: Guests are non-dues paying participants in AWS - Pittsburgh East and visits are limited to three lifetime visits. Guests must join after third visit to continue attending the meetings.)**

**AWS - Pittsburgh East Chapter  
21 Deerfield Drive  
Harrison City, PA 15636-1317**



