



# LFW

# G r a p e v i n e

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## Winter Follies Fun!



Paul Gutierrez and Mike Marron have helped this event be an annual highlight by hosting it in their homes numerous times.

This year, our eleventh annual Lawyer Friends of Wine Winter Follies on January 29, 2011, at James Morando's home in Tiburon was a classic wild success.

The sold out event featured 36 wines in our wine competition that our attendees were able to savor. After first judging five reds and six whites, our members and guests had free reign to sample all the other competition wines (in addition to enjoying the pleasing wines that were available before the competition).

Six groups of 5 reds provided six winners and prizes. Richard Idell had two of his own winery wines in two different groups, and each won. Skip Walker's entry won the white wine competition, and you'll have to ask him the story behind that label.

Many agreed our generous members provided some of the best competition wines in years.

We sorely missed the expertise of Cellar Master Rod Santos (who had a previously scheduled major event) which left us without the perspective of a judge sampling all the wines. (Although some tried . . .)



Chef Scott Norman provided truly delicious food. Gary Lepper and Judi Azzarello helped Christopher Blunden organize the competition entries and tally the votes.

Program Chair Steve Martin did the heavy lifting event planning that included coaxing James to loan us his magnificent home, arranging catering, parking, nametags, setting pricing, and doing hands-on setup.

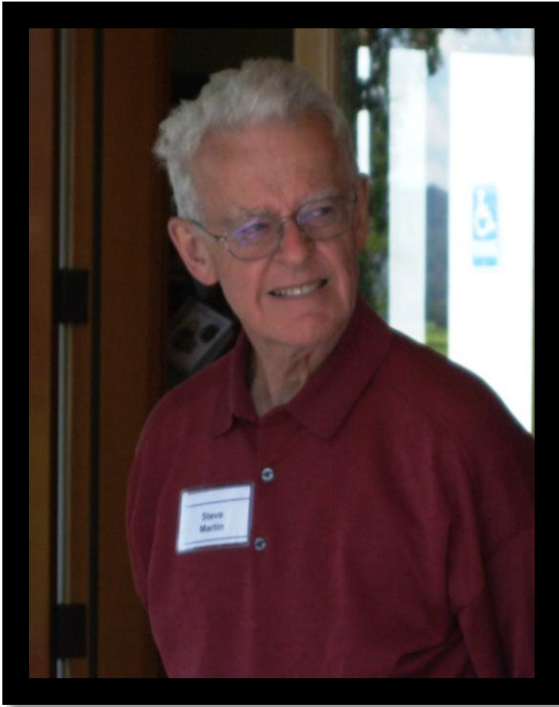
Many thanks to other unnamed contributors and to our attendees who provided excellent offerings for us to enjoy along with good natured camaraderie.

## Coming Events!

**Wine Tasting Luncheon** – Noon, Thursday, February 17 at Alfred's in San Francisco, featuring wonderful Napa Valley wines from Miner Family Vineyards. Only \$60/free parking. Late sign-ups/OK.

**Annual Cellar Treasure Dinner/Dance** -- Saturday, March 26, The Francisca Club in San Francisco. Watch for your flyer.

## Honorable Mention: Steve Martin



There's this handsome guy in our club, Steve Martin, who has been putting in more than 100 hours annually on our behalves to plan events, inspect venues, meet personally with proprietors, study spreadsheets, negotiate contract provisions and pricing, hire buses, coordinate setups, print and pass out nametags (and capture most of them back), and who even coaxed his lovely wife Kathleen to make live plant centerpieces for last year's Culinary Academy event for a *grand* total of \$8 for all of them.

He scrutinizes the details and performs follows-up. If things don't pan out, he gets our club's money back.

Steve has been working overtime to make 2011 one of our best years ever. You'll see.

Like Denise Malatesta and our uncompensated Board members, officers, and past Presidents, he provides a major contribution to our club.

Next time you see him, why not let him know how much you appreciate all he's doing to help us. Thanks, Steve!

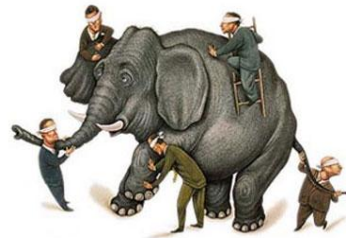
## Beautiful Venue for Claret 2011

– President's Update

The vast majority of the 100 members and guests who attended December's Claret Dinner confirmed it was a positive praiseworthy event with unique benefits clear down to cigar smoking on the patio.

The experiment of making sure members were not shut out from attending due to space limitations enabled us to have a gratifyingly inclusive event for members and guests.

In our ongoing efforts to experience great events where we seek to "please all of the people all of the time" we've subsequently determined it



wasn't an outstanding enough venue to annually go back for our signature event.

So back on the hunt again for the ideal venue, we've come up with an exciting new venue that includes many of the benefits we were seeking: The Lake Chalet on Lake Merritt in Oakland.



The place where I took sailing lessons as a kid looks a bit different now.

A \$22-million renovation to the old municipal boathouse is stunning with mahogany, marble, hardwood floors, and fireplace. Practically every nook and cranny in the stylish 10,000-square-foot redo offers a spectacular view of the Necklace of Lights that will reflect off Lake Merritt during the holidays. Executive chef Jarad Gallagher, most recently of One Market in San Francisco will apply his skills for us.

## Don't Forget to Vote

The future of our club relies on your judgment. Be sure to vote for board members when your ballot arrives in the postal mail.