



AMERICAN WINE SOCIETY

Grapevine

Lehigh Valley Chapter

June 2020



CoChairs: Peter Staffeld & Leslie Staffeld chair@lvaws.org 610-838-7372
Vice Chair: Joe Pugliese vicechair@lvaws.org 610-297-2253
Treasurer: Kevin Campbell treasurer@lvaws.org 484-358-3926
Board Members: Alan Derkacs, Anne Dougherty, Percy Dougherty, Rick Frederick,
Matt Green, Maryellen Iobst, Barry Isett, Michael Orbin, Judi Roggie, Dean Scott,
Jan Thomas.
Newsletter: Michael Orbin newsletter@lvaws.org 610-703-4292
LehighValleyAWS.org

June Lehigh Chapter Tasting

Folino Estate Tasting and Talk with the Vitner

Saturday June 27, 2020 5:00 PM
Hosts: Dean and Bonnie Scott
Virtual Event on Zoom

See Registration & Wine Pickup Details Below



VIRTUAL BYOB **Rosé Wines**

Friday July 17, 2020 5:00 – 6:00 PM
Hosts: Leslie and Peter Staffeld
Via Zoom

July Lehigh Chapter Tasting

Pinnacle Ridge Tasting and Talk with the Vitner

Friday July 24, 2020 5:00 PM
Hosts: Dean and Bonnie Scott
Virtual Event on Zoom

See Registration & Wine Pickup Details Below



VIRTUAL BYOB **“A Grape No One Has Heard Of”**

Friday August 14, 2020 5:00 – 6:00 PM
Hosts: Leslie and Peter Staffeld
Via Zoom

Connections from the Co-Chairs – Peter & Leslie Staffeld

Dear Members,

Happy Summer to all!

We are pleased to share that the Chapter's ten weeks of BYOB Virtual Tastings were a success! The Zoom tastings were fun and we have had a great turnout. Typically, two to three dozen members opened their own bottles of wine in the comfort of their homes and shared their experiences on line. It has been a good time. Together we have explored and shared wines such as Pennsylvania wines, Italian wines, Cabernet Sauvignons from around the world, Sparkling wines, Iberian wines, Central and South American wines, French wines, and wines that bring a happy memory. Thank you to everyone who participated; we enjoyed your stories.



Now that Pennsylvania is in “yellow”, we thought we’d adjust the Virtual BYOBs to once a month. So, mark your calendars for Friday, July 17 and Friday, August 14 at 5pm. When you register on the website you will receive the link to Zoom. Remember, there is no cost and there is a lot of comradery! We hope you’ll join the fun. The theme for July 17 is Rosé wine and the theme for August 14 is “A Grape That No One Has Heard Of”. Mark your calendar and select your wines.

In addition, **we are pleased to offer two Virtual Tastings on June 27 and on July 24.** Thanks go to **Dean and Bonnie Scott** for hosting these special events. Details are in this newsletter. You can also learn more about the vineyards by visiting FolinoEstate.com and PinRidge.com

Thanks go to **Jan Thomas** for keeping National apprised of our virtual BYOBs and sharing about the virtual tasting our chapter hosted with Willamette Valley Vineyard (WVV). **Joe Pugliese** was kind enough to write an overview of the WVV tasting, which you can read in this issue.

Thanks also go to **Judi Roggi and Alan Derkacs**. As members of the Board, they offered to research and draft LVAWS Bylaws and Operating Procedures. Our Chapter has operated without these documents for almost 50 years, and we think it is important to get it right. The goal is to produce guidelines that can serve the Chapter well now and can move with its members into the future. So, we will be seeking everyone’s input over the next few months. First, the Board Officers are providing feedback, then the entire Board will review and discuss both documents. After revisions and Board approval, the drafts will be shared with the entire membership for additional feedback. The Board will discuss the feedback and then the proposed Bylaws and Operating Procedures will be posted for a month and all members will then have the opportunity to vote. Like fine wine, good guidelines take time.

We have a great chapter because of the extraordinary people in the group! We look forward to seeing you each in person, until then continue to stay safe and stay healthy.

Cheers!

Peter and Leslie Staffeld

Our Chapter membership currently stands strong at 145 members.



June Lehigh Chapter Tasting

Folino Estate Tasting and Talk with the Vitner

Saturday June 27, 2020 5:00 PM

Hosts: Dean and Bonnie Scott

Virtual Event on Zoom

Join Dean Scott, Former Folino Estate Vineyard Manager and Darrin Scott, Folino Estate Vineyard New Winemaker, on a virtual tour of the winery. Then you'll also participate in a wine tasting from the comfort and safety of your home while Dean and Darrin lead us through a virtual tasting in the Folino Estate Barrel Room.

Registered members will have the opportunity to taste: [2019 Rossa Fresco](#) (Dry Rosé), [2019 Pinot Grigio](#), and [2017 Cabernet Franc](#). Marco Folino, the owner and founder, is providing the wines at a discounted rate for our LVAWS tasting. The special rate is \$50 for the three bottles of wine (including tax).

Interested? There are two easy steps to participate:

1. Register for the tasting by going to the Events Tab on the website (lvaws.org) and sign up. Your confirmed reservation will include the link to the Zoom site for the 5PM, Saturday, June 27 tasting.
2. Choose if you would like to pick up the wine yourself or meet Dean locally on June 25.

Order and pick up at the winery: Call 484-452-3633 ext. 2 and ask for the AWS tasting special wine package and arrange to pick it up at the winery, 340 Old Route 22, Kutztown, PA

... OR...

Order and pick up with Dean: Email Dean at deansscott2323@gmail.com before June 24. He will pay for the wine and you can pick it up and pay Dean directly. Dean will meet members on June 25 between 3 and 5PM across the street from Tilghman Square shopping center in the old K-Mart parking lot.

VIRTUAL BYOB

Rosé Wines



Friday July 17, 2020 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Hosts: Leslie and Peter Staffeld

Sit back, relax and open your favorite bottle of Rosé with dozens of fellow LVAWS members, all from the safety of your home.

Register on LVAWS.org and receive the link to Zoom.

July Lehigh Chapter Tasting



Pinnacle Ridge Tasting and Talk with the Vitner

Friday July 24, 2020 5:00 PM
Hosts: Dean and Bonnie Scott
Virtual Event on Zoom

Here is an opportunity to meet and speak with a wine grower and a wine maker all from the safety of your home. Dean Scott and Brad Knapp will lead us through a tasting of three of Pinnacle Ridge's best wines:

- [2016 Veritas](#) (50% Merlot, 40% Cab Franc, 10% Petit Verdot, 100% PA Fruit),
- [Sparkling Cuvee Chardonnay](#) (100% PA Fruit), and
- [2018 Dry Riesling](#) (100% PA Fruit)

Because of COVID-19, this tasting and presentation will occur in the comfort of your own home, via Zoom. Directions and the link will be sent to you when you register for this event on the LVAWS website (lvaws.org). Brad Knapp, owner and founder of [Pinnacle Ridge](#), has selected the wines for this tasting and he is providing LVAWS members with a discounted package. The special rate is \$50 for the three bottles of wine (including tax).

Interested? There are two easy steps to participate:

1. Register for the tasting by going to the Events Tab on the website ([lvaws.org](#)) and sign up. Your confirmed reservation will include the link to the Zoom site for the 5PM, Friday, July 24 tasting.
2. Choose if you would like to pick up the wine yourself or meet Dean locally on July 21.

Order and pick up at the winery: call 610-756-4481 and ask for the AWS tasting special wine package and pick it up at the winery (407 Old U.S. 22 Kutztown, PA 19530)

...OR...

Order and pick up with Dean: Email Dean at deansscott2323@gmail.com before July 20. He will pay for the wine and you can pick it up and pay Dean directly. Dean will meet members on July 21 between 3 and 5PM across the street from Tilghman Square shopping center in the old K-Mart parking lot.

NOTE: If you order online with the [Pinnacle Ridge Winery](#) website, you will be **charged full price** and not get the AWS tasting discount. You can call the winery, place your order and request the AWS tasting discount and pay shipping if you prefer.



VIRTUAL BYOB

"A Grape No One Has Heard Of"

Friday August 14, 2020 5:00 – 6:00 PM
Hosts: Leslie and Peter Staffeld

Share your tasting experience with fellow LVAWS members.
Challenge yourself to open a bottle of an uncommon or rare varietal. **Be Bold!**

Register on [LVAWS.org](#) and receive the link to Zoom.

What is the AWS Educational Foundation All About?

– Leslie and Peter Staffeld

As your new Lehigh Valley Co-Chairs, we are reaching out to others to learn more about different aspects of the [American Wine Society \(AWS\)](#). We want to learn how to best support our Lehigh Valley Chapter. Here is some information we learned after speaking with **Walter Rachele**, treasurer of the [American Wine Society Educational Foundation \(AWSEF\)](#). As you may know, the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the AWS contributes to the AWSEF via their scholarship fund.

First of all, AWSEF is separate from our national AWS. Walter explained that while the two organizations share a common goal of wine education, they are managed separately – both financially and administratively. However, as a member of the AWS, one is automatically a member of the AWSEF.

Financially, the AWSEF has three fund types established to support both operation of the Board of Trustees and to provide scholarships. These funds are the General Fund that supports Board operation, the Endowment Fund that provides Foundation scholarships into perpetuity, and Special Scholarship Funds that bear the name of an individual, group or corporation.

Secondly, the LVAWS donations help to fund a scholarship for students in North America who are entering wine-related industries. The AWSEF provides supplementary financial resources. The fund is based on the “premise that there is an acute need for the professional development of qualified scientists and educators to ensure the growth of the American wine industry”.

Third, there is not a date regarding a deadline for donations. As an individual or a Chapter, a donation can be made at any time.

Fourth, Walter explained that he tries to make the number of scholarships similar each year, ranging from 7 to 9. The problem is there is a dearth of candidates. With this in mind AWSEF already has funds collected for 9 scholarships for 2020, and they expect to have 8 candidates. Walter said he would prefer to balance out the funds over the years and while he is grateful for any amount of donations at any time, it would be best if LVAWS contributed to a scholarship next year. To that end, if LVAWS funds a scholarship, he will already have four scholarships funded for 2021.

Fifth, Walter also mentioned that as a chapter, we have the opportunity to name the scholarship we fund, in honor of or in memory of someone. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate past or present member(s). As your Co-Chairs, we would like to know the thoughts of our members.

Dean Scott has offered to coordinate our donations to AWSEF, so please let him know if you have someone or a couple who come to mind. He can be reached at deansscott2323@gmail.com. Your suggestions will then be brought to the Board for discussion and selection.

Lastly, as a Chapter, LVAWS has been very active in providing funds toward scholarships. Walter expressed his gratitude. He said that our contributions have typically been anywhere from \$325 (from the 50/50 in 2109) to \$800 or \$1,000 a year. This year **Dean Scott and Rick Frederick** have offered to work together to provide an auction and a 50/50 raffle at the Holiday Party on December 13, 2020. This will allow our Chapter to fully fund a scholarship for 2021.

AWSEF is a tax-qualified 501(c)(3) organization and accepts charitable gifts. There is a specific form that is completed with each donation. The form can be completed by an individual with a personal donation, and can be credited toward the chapter if the donor delineates it that way. Going forward, when the Chapter makes a donation, the LVAWS treasurer will complete the form and send a LVAWS check. The contribution form is on the LVAWS website under the Member Resource tab, so it's easily accessible if you choose to use it. You can also access it by clicking [HERE](#).

We hope you found this informative.

Willamette Valley Vineyards May Virtual Tasting

–Joe Pugliese

Members of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the AWS had a private virtual tasting of wines from the **Willamette Valley Vineyards (WVV)** on Friday, May 15, a mini-vertical of **WVV's Bernau Block Pinot Noir, 2016 and 2017.**

The tasting was facilitated by **Wende Bennett**, senior winery ambassador, **Jim Bernau**, WVV owner and founder, and **Joe Ibrahim**, winemaker. Each LVAWS participant received a kit containing the wines, two glasses, an aroma wheel, tasting notes, AWS scoring sheet, a recipe and food pairing suggestions. About forty members purchased tasting kits. WVV was so impressed with our interest and support that they are allowed **all members** of the Lehigh Valley Chapter to participate in the virtual tasting.



Jim Bernau and WVV have been pioneers in the Pacific Northwest wine industry and beyond. In 2012, the AWS honored Jim with our Award of Merit for his contributions to wine and wine appreciation and his longstanding support of the AWS. Jim founded WVV in 1983, but his story starts way before then. His Dad, a Roseburg lawyer, was hired by a California winemaker to secure the first winery license in Oregon after Prohibition. Jim's Dad allowed small tastes of Richard Sommer's wine at the dinner table, lighting a path that led Jim from home winemaking to studies at UC Davis and eventually Beaune, France.

Joe Ibrahim is the winemaker at WVV. He grew up in the lower Hudson Valley, in the town of Nyack. He is a graduate of the University of Vermont, and worked at Ste. Michelle Wine Estate in Washington State, Gallo Family in California, Edna Valley Vineyard, California, and Willamette Valley Vineyards. Their accomplishments have contributed to Willamette Valley Vineyards being listed among the top 100 Wines in the World by Wine Spectator Magazine, named "One of America's Great Pinot Noir Producers" by Wine Enthusiast Magazine and "Winery of the Year" by Wine and Spirits Magazine.

Wende explained that the glasses used for tasting Pinot Noir wine are special and enhance the flavor. She suggested using another glass, the "dummy glass", to compare the taste between the two glasses. Sure enough the Pinot Noir wines tasted much better with the kit glass than the "dummy glass".

Joe Ibrahim explained that the 2016 Pinot Noir was harvested after a hot growing season with less rain, and hot warm weather which made the grapes darker and had more tannins to protect the fruit. Less juice and more skin make a wine more concentrated, and as a result, the 2016 harvest produced a wine with a great body and big tannins. The 2016 was the Inaugural vintage for Joe Ibrahim.

The Willamette Valley area can get up to 60 inches of rain between October and April, so winemakers must work hard to harvest the grapes before the October rains come. Sometimes it's a rush to harvest because it's hard to farm in the rain. The 2016 was an early and light crop, whereas the 2017 Pinot Noir was harvested during a steady rain, so there was more crop yield. The tannins in the 2017 are much lighter and may not age as well due to more juice. The 2016 drinks beautiful now.

Willamette Valley Vineyards May Virtual Tasting - continued

The question was raised as to which is more important – the terroir or wine maker. Joe said it's both, and he commented on the diverse micro climates and remarkable terroir in the Willamette Valley. He spoke about the unique soils. Jim Bernau provided some great stories and information about wines and wine making. For example, he talked about corking and what they do to get good corks. Natural corks are good enclosures for good wines and help the planet by sustaining cork trees. WVV only uses good quality natural corks. Jim mentioned that he started a program to measure good stewardship of the environment. He believes that it is important to be organic and use fully sustainable agricultural practice. He invited members to visit, and recommended coming in early September.

Wine in the News

Lehigh Valley's first Kosher winery sets up shop in Allentown

Allentown Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) May 26, 2020

<https://allentownedc.com/first-kosher-winery-in-allentown/>

Binah Winery is the newest client company of the Bridgeworks Enterprise Center in Allentown. **Binah** (pronounced "Been-ah") translates in Hebrew to mean "intuitive understanding," and is a nod to the mystical aspects of Judaism.

Owner **Kevin Danna** started making wine in his home in 2014 as a hobby. The Penn State graduate with a degree in architectural lighting design said he knew from those early days of experimenting that he wanted to be a winemaker and one day own a winery. He leased a vineyard in Williams Township where he grew and harvested the grapes from which his wine was made. As he got better at making wine, he scaled up his production and was producing close to 1,000 cases by the end of his first year in business.

After completing a two-year online certificate program in winemaking, he did a required internship at **Pinnacle Ridge** winery in Kutztown during the summer and fall of 2015. There he perfected his skills and also learned how to make sparkling wine. He was then hired on as assistant winemaker until he left in 2019 to start **Binah**.

"You can't just read a few books and know how to make wine. Winemaking is an art and a delicate process," Danna said. "You need to be hands-on with it, to experiment in order to get it right. You need to make mistakes. That's how you learn the process. And you need a good mentor, and **Brad Knapp**, the owner of **Pinnacle Ridge**, was that for me."

Because the wine is Kosher, its manufacturing follows strict guidelines which require that only Sabbath-observant Jews handle the wine. The Lehigh Valley Kashrut Commission oversees the production process in order to certify the wine meets Kosher standards.

Binah Winery's current offerings include white wines Celeste, Stella, Muscat, Chardonnay and Viognier, and a Rose wine, also. It offers online ordering with curbside pickup for local residents. [Read more on Website...](#)

Lehigh Valley Chapter Wine Tastings & Events



<u>2020</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Theme</u>
June 27	Dean & Bonnie Scott	Virtual Tasting with Folino Estate
July 17	Peter & Leslie Staffeld	Virtual BYOB: Rose'
July 24	Dean & Bonnie Scott	Virtual Tasting with Pinnacle Ridge
August 14	Peter & Leslie Staffeld	Virtual BYOB: Pick a grape no one had heard of
August	Joe Pugliese	Barolo
Sept 13	Tami Cericola, Cheryl Hildebrandt, Jan Thomas	Wines of Greece (rescheduled)
Oct 11	Matt Green & Ann Vlot	To Decant or Not Decant (rescheduled)
November	Judi Roggie & Tom Harbin	Petite Sirrah
Dec 13	Annette Derkacs, Jan Thomas, Ann Vlot	Holiday Party at Morgan's Restaurant
<u>2021</u>		
Jan	Peter & Leslie Staffeld	Port and Food Pairing (rescheduled)
March 14	Jan Thomas	Illyrian Wines at Nostros (rescheduled)

National and Lehigh Valley AWS Dues

YOU MUST JOIN BOTH THE NATIONAL AMERICAN WINE SOCIETY AND THE LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER

National AWS Membership: To join, you need to register with both the national American Wine Society (AWS) organization and a local AWS chapter. The national organization has a variety of membership plans available, but the most popular are an "individual" membership for \$49/year, and a "household" membership (for two people at the same address) for \$62/year. You can register for one or two local chapters. We recommend that you select the Lehigh Valley chapter as your Primary chapter! You can sign up for national membership online at AmericanWineSociety.org.

Lehigh Valley Chapter AWS Membership: The Lehigh Valley chapter has two membership levels (individual and household), which are both \$10/year. Once you become a Lehigh Valley Chapter member you can register for all of our wine tastings, educational events, and BYOB dinner parties. You can sign up for membership online at LVAWS.org using the "Join us" main menu option, or use the form below.

Name(s) _____ Email Address _____
Address _____ Phone # _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Membership runs from January to December.

You can pay on-line at lvaws.org or mail a check to:

LVAWS Treasurer Kevin Campbell, 6461 Meadowview Terrace South, Zionsville PA 18092

Guest policy: Members are encouraged to bring guests to our events. The national AWS insurance policy restricts guests to a maximum of three events in a lifetime.

Virtual BYOBs May 15th to June 5th



