



AMERICAN WINE SOCIETY

Grapevine



Lehigh Valley Chapter December 2023

Co-Chairs: Peter Staffeld & Leslie Staffeld chair@lvaws.org 610-838-7372

Vice Chair: Kevin Campbell vicechair@lvaws.org 484-358-3926

Treasurer: Joe Pugliese treasurer@lvaws.org 610-297-2253

Board Members: Anne Dougherty, Percy Dougherty, Matt Green, Barry Isett,
Michael Orbin, Nancy Parker, Mike Parker, Judi Roggie, Dean Scott, Ann Vlot

Newsletter: Michael Orbin newsletter@lvaws.org 610-703-4292;

Chairman Select: Kevin Campbell, Shannon & David Tompkins, Kathy & Mark Breloff;

Education: Suzanne Laverick-Stone

LehighValleyAWS.org

December Holiday Event

Lehigh Valley AWS 2023 Holiday Party

Sunday, December 10, 2023

The Aster Event Center

621 Grange Rd, Allentown, PA 18106

Registration is Closed.



January Lehigh Valley Chapter Tasting

Virginia 2023 Governor's Cup

Terasas' Italian Restaurant

Sunday, Jan 14, 2024 at 2:00 PM

6561 Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18106

Hosted by Nancy & Mike Parker

Register at LVAWS.org by Saturday, January 6th



January Lehigh Valley Chapter BYOB

BYOB at Ayat

Middle Eastern Cuisine

Wednesday, Jan 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM

1243 Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18104

Hosted by Ann Vlot

Register at LVAWS.org by Friday, January 12th



Connections from the Co-Chairs Peter & Leslie Staffeld



We just want to thank everyone for their support and friendship over the past four years. It's been an exciting journey. We know that everyone will be just as supportive of **Kevin Campbell** as our Chair. **Here's to another 50 years of the LVAWS tradition!**

As we celebrate 2023, it is exciting to note that we are ending the year with 39 more members than we started the year! LVAWS now has 141 members! This reflects the fun and learning we have as a group and the reputation of our chapter.

Looking back, on November 9th members got together for a BYOB at Thai Avenue hosted by **Ann Vlot**. And now we are ready to cap off the year with our annual Holiday Celebration on December 10 at the Aster Center in Allentown. Thanks go to **Jan Thomas** for planning this event. Note that registration for the Holiday Party closed on November 27 and because of our commitment to the hotel, refunds cannot be

given after December 1. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

In January we have two events scheduled: January 14th, **Nancy & Mike Parker** will share the winners of the 2023 VA Governor's Cup and on January 17th **Ann Vlot** will host a BYOB at Ayat Restaurant in Allentown. You can register at LVAWS.org for these exciting events.

We have a great Chapter because of the extraordinary people in the group! Our volunteers keep us strong!

Cheers!

Peter and Leslie Staffeld

Co-chairs of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Wine Society

National AWS News – Leslie Staffeld



National AWS is offering another **Uncork & Discover**, 1-hour informational Zoom event on **December 11** at 8PM EST. This is an opportunity for members to gain a snapshot overview of the AWS. We will have some board members, project leaders, and lots of fun people! Here's the link:

<https://americanwinesociety.zoom.us/j/88107511543?pwd=VDYUpo1PuvyTo4OVzxyfZOjCJcKGH.1>

Passcode: 502548

AWS Wine Competition Results

The results are in! The Lehigh Valley Chapter is proud to announce that at the AWS National Conference this year we had members win in both the Amateur Competition and in the Commercial Competition. Drum roll, please!

In the Amateur Competition, **Jeff and Donna Lombardo Fisher** won 12 medals. This includes a Double Gold for their 2022 Bella Donna, in addition to a Gold, nine Silvers and a Bronze medal.

Dean Scott won a Double Gold for his 2021 Port Hole in addition to two Bronze medals.

In the Commercial Competition, **Folino Estate Winery** won three Double Gold medals for their 2022 Pinot Grigio, 2022 Teodoro Forte, and 2022 Traminette in addition to a Gold, six Silvers, and two Bronze medals. Their Traminette also won Best of Category and their Pinot Grigio won Best of Category and Best of Class for White Vinifera. Congratulations to winemaker **Darrin Scott**.

AWSEF NEWS – Dean Scott

So far this year the Lehigh Valley Chapter has donated **\$3,160** toward our next **\$3,500** scholarship. We have a great opportunity at the Christmas party to exceed the funds for a scholarship in 2024. So, **I am asking everyone to bring a wine related item to the Christmas Party for our Silent Auction.** And hopefully you will find something at the auction that you would like to bid on. If you let me know in advance what you are bringing for the auction, I will be able to make up forms in advance with your item and “donated by:”. We will also be doing a 50-50 drawing at the Christmas Party.



Items can be dropped off at the beginning of the Christmas Party.

Contact: deansscott2323@gmail.com or text 610-657-2261

If you would like to make a personal donation to the AWS Education Fund scholarship program, make the check out to AWSEF.

Welcome New Members

This month we are pleased to welcome new members **Andrew Fetterman** and **Caitlin O'Donnell** from Center Valley. We also welcome back **Annette Derkacs**. Please introduce yourself and let's help our new and returning members feel welcome.

Just a reminder: all members of LVAWS must also be members of AWS. (See page 9.)

Lehigh Valley AWS 2023 Holiday Party

Sunday December 10, 2023

(Snow Date – TBD if needed)

The Aster Event Center

621 Grange Road, Allentown PA 18106

It's that wonderful time of year again when we gather to celebrate with friends the holiday season. Good food, good wines and good company what could be better. As is our tradition, we'll ask everyone to bring a bottle of wine for the social table to share with friends and another bottle for dinner.

Here's the plan:

Doors Open 4:30PM.

Cocktail hour begins at 4:45PM.

Announcements 6:00PM.

Dinner is scheduled at 6:15PM.

Evening ends 8:30PM. (Westside Grill is open afterwards for further socializing)



Your evening includes:

Butlered Hors D'oeuvres:

Beef Wellington

Chicken Saltimbocca Bites (GF)

Fried Potstickers tossed with sweet chili glaze

Shrimp Shooters (GF)

First Course: Mixed Greens Garden Salad - Seasonal Greens, Carrots, Cucumbers, Tomato,

Balsamic Dressing

Rolls and butter

Entrées: Chicken Asiago - Chicken breast w/Spinach, Mushrooms, Asiago cheese topped w/Mornay Cream Sauce, OR

Filet Mignon – 8 oz. Filet seasoned & topped with Red Wine Demi-Glaze (GF), OR

Seared Mahi Mahi - Grilled w/Lemongrass Beurre Blanc (GF)

Sides: Au Gratin Potatoes and

Roasted Asparagus

Dessert: Chef's Choice – Holiday Season Treat

Coffee & Tea

Cost per Individual: **\$64 for Chicken**
 \$64 fo Mahi Mahi
 \$70 for Filet Mignon

Registration is closed.

Hotel Accommodations

Hyatt Place is offering to hold 10 King Guest Rooms at \$159/night for anyone interested in staying over the evening of December 10. Room reservations can be made by calling 610-387-1000 and mentioning the LV Chapter of the American Wine Society (Code G-BD03) or by going on line to the following link:

https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/pennsylvania/hyatt-place-allentown-lehigh-valley/abeza?corp_id=G-BD03

Each room has a pullout sofa, refrigerator, safe. A full buffet breakfast is included.

Registration is closed.

January Lehigh Valley Chapter Tasting

Virginia 2023 Governor's Cup



Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 2:00 PM

Hosted by Nancy & Mike Parker

Terasas' Italian Restaurant

6561 Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18106

\$55 per person

Register at LVAWS.org by Saturday, January 6th

Virginia is the birthplace of the American wine industry tracing its roots to the days of Thomas Jefferson. Today there are over 300 wineries in the state with many producing exceptional wines year after year. Each spring, the Virginia Governor's Cup, one of the most stringent competitions in the US, is held where wineries throughout the state submit their best offerings to a panel of world class judges. In 2023, 614 wines were sampled with 142 receiving gold medals and the top twelve being designated as the Governors' Cup Case.

For this tasting we have chosen a selection of gold medal winning wines, focusing on the Governor's Cup Case, consisting of four white and five red wines from wineries in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains and historic Charlottesville area.

A buffet dinner will follow the tasting.



Limited to 40 people

Remember to bring 2 wine glasses and wine to share with dinner.

January Lehigh Valley Chapter BYOB

BYOB at Ayat

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 6:00 PM

1243 Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18104

Hosted by Ann Vlot

Register at LVAWS.org by Friday, January 12th



Join us to see what all the buzz is about. Everyone is talking about the new restaurant in an old familiar spot. Some of us remember it as the Roundhouse, some will remember it as Bellisimo's.

Please remember to bring glasses and wine to share.

Any questions, please call Ann Vlot 610-393-6498



October BYOB at La Brasas Peruvian Restaurant



November BYOB at Thai Avenue Restaurant



Chairman's Selection – Kathy & Mark Breloff

With the colder weather settling in, we chose 3 reds and 1 white this month chairman tasting. The one thing we learned while over at Hamilton's Crossing Wine and Spirit store, is that right now there is a limited inventory of wines for the Chairman Selection.

VINUM CELLARS CHARDONNAY 2021

VARIETY/STYLE: Chardonnay

REGION: Monterey, California

RATING: 91pts WE **PRODUCT CODE:** 000079699

ALCOHOL: 14.5 ABV

\$12.99 (quoted at \$20.00)

Winemaker's notes:

On the palate this wine exhibits subtle creamy custard aromas and backed with lemon verbena and clove. The palate is juicy with ripe mango and wrapped in creamy Tahitian vanilla. The acidity shines through the creamy texture demonstrating the optimal acidity that the cool climate Monterey grapes process. The finish is supple, with guava, passionfruit, and silky, creamy vanilla which finishes with baked apple and creme brûlée custard flavors.

The finish is long with silky elegance and lingering acidity.

Breloff notes:

We chilled this wine to 45 degrees. We agree with the winemaker's notes on aromas and acidity. When we tasted the wine chilled, we found the acidity not to our liking, however after the wine had warmed up, we found the acidity had softened and we enjoyed it.



HIEROGRAM ZINFANDEL VINEYARD BLOCK NO 8 2021

VARIETY/STYLE: Zinfandel

REGION: Lodi, California

RATING: 90pts Wine & Spirit **PRODUCT CODE:** 000079694

ALCOHOL: 15% ABV

\$9.99 (quoted \$18.00)

Winemaker's notes:

Ripe mixed berries with licorice and chocolate notes. The palate is rich and smooth with silky tannins and just the right lift of acidity for balance, lingering easily.

Breloff notes:

This is a dry Zinfandel. We noticed aromas of cherry and chocolate with medium acidity and soft tannins. It's very drinkable. Try this wine with dark chocolate or take our word for it; it was fantastic!



CASA PRIMICIA CRIANZA 2018

VARIETY/STYLE: Tempranillo

COUNTRY: Spain **REGION:** Rioja

RATING: 92pts WE **PRODUCT CODE:** 000079704

ALCOHOL: 14% ABV

\$9.99 (quoted at \$25.00)

Winemaker's notes:

Aromas of blackberry, purple plums, and charcuterie set the stage for flavors of black cherry, blackberry, bittersweet chocolate, smoke and violet. Hefty tannins fill the palate then back off into plum and black pepper finish.

Breloff notes:

We both really enjoyed this wine. We noted aromas of cherry and chocolate. Mark said he tasted chocolate covered cherries. The tannins softened on the finish.



QUINTA DO CRASTO SUPERIOR TINTO 2016

VARIETY/STYLE: Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz, Sousao

COUNTRY: Portugal **REGION:** Douro

RATING: 92pts WE **PRODUCT CODE:** 000085871

ALCOHOL: 13.5% ABV

\$14.99 (quoted \$29.00)

Winemaker's notes:

Crasto Superior is fresh and balanced on the nose. Fresh on the palate, great body, and ripe firm tannins. Very complex notes of dark berried fruit, gum cistus, and cocoa, lingering towards the elegant finish. It has an excellent length and is aged in French oak for about 12 months.

Breloff notes:

We feel this wine needs to be served with food to be enjoyed. So, we paired it with rosemary lamb and it didn't disappoint. In the glass the wine was dark ruby, with notes of cherry. On the palate the cherry continues along with mild tannins.



Lehigh Valley Chapter Wine Tastings & Events

| <u>2023</u> | <u>Hosts</u> | <u>Theme</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Dec 10 | Jan Thomas | Holiday Party |
| <u>2024</u> | <u>Hosts</u> | <u>Theme</u> |
| Jan 14 | Nancy & Mike Parker | 2023 VA Governor's Cup |
| Jan 17 | Ann Vlot | BYOB Ayat |
| Feb 18 | Shannon & Dave Tompkins | South Africa |
| March | Kathy & Mark Breloff | Taste the Difference? |
| April | THIS COULD BE YOU! | YOUR CHOICE |

Promoting wine appreciation through education

National and Lehigh Valley AWS Dues

YOU MUST JOIN BOTH THE NATIONAL AWS & THE LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER
Both memberships run from January to December.

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 ask 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 one membership level which is **\$10 per year per person**. To join you can complete the form (below) and **mail** it (LVAWS Treasurer Joe Pugliese, PO Box 98, East Texas, PA 18046), **OR** you can individually visit **LVAWS.org and pay on-line**, **OR** you can individually go on LVAWS.org, sign in as a member, and then click the **Donations Tab** to pay dues for a spouse, family member, or friend.

Once you become a Lehigh Valley Chapter member you can register for all of our wine tastings, educational events, and BYOB dinner parties.

Name(s) _____

Email Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone # _____ **City** _____

State _____ **Zip code** _____

