



# GENCO GAZETTE

January 2022

**SAVE THE DATES! ON ZOOM!!!**

**JANUARY 26 MEETING: WINEMAKER – DON VAN STAAVEREN**

**FEBRUARY 23 MEETING: TBD**

**TIME FOR GENCO DUES 2022**

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY: DECEMBER 11**

45 members and one uninvited guest (Mr. Omicron) attended the GENCO Christmas party. Everyone had a great time with good food, wines, festive decorations (thanks to all the volunteers “elves” that decorated on the night before), all-in-all the best party until COVID reared his ugly spikes. Despite all our rigid protocols, this new variant snuck in. Hope everyone has recovered and able to enjoy the rest of the holidays. Here’s to a better 2022!!!



**It’s time for GENCO dues!**

**January is dues month and since our next meeting will be on Zoom, please send \$40 cash or a check made out to “GENCO” and mail it to:**

**Cathleen Lukrich, GENCO Treasurer  
4595 Mt Taylor Drive, Santa Rosa 95404**

[www.gencowinemakers.com](http://www.gencowinemakers.com)

## **JANUARY 26: 7:00 PM ON ZOOM WINEMAKER DON VAN STAAVEREN**

Hi, GENCO Members,

It’s two steps forward and one step back. You may have heard that a number of attendees at our Holiday Party experienced breakthrough COVID infections, most likely due to the omicron variant. Fortunately no one was seriously ill, thanks to the requirement that only vaccinated members can attend in-person events. Most attendees were boosted as well. I have been working with the Sonoma County Health Department, who did a great job with contact tracing.

I know that our club works best with in-person meetings, but since omicron has demonstrated that proof of vaccination is not sufficient to assure that large gatherings are safe, we will be moving our monthly meetings back to Zoom for at least January and February 2022. At that point we will assess resuming in-person meetings, taking our guidance from the Health Department.

The January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature renowned Sonoma County winemaker Don Van Staaveren. Gary Alvey will send out a reminder and the Zoom link before the meeting. Happy New Year to all from me and your Board members,

*Mary Lou*

Don was assistant winemaker for Chateau St. Jean winery from 1978 to 1990. When Dick Arrowood left he became head winemaker. In 1996 he was offered the challenging job of making high end reds for Cordoniu Napa which was later rebranded under the name Artesa. In 2004, Don, started making wine for the prestigious Three Sticks winery. He now consults for a select group of small producers. He is probably best known for his famed Cinq Cepages red wine blends for Chateau St. Jean, after the 1996 vintage was named Wine of the Year by the Wine Spectator.

Don will be talking about what constitutes a wine great, and the important concepts to keep in mind to ensure quality. He’ll also discuss his approach to winemaking, particularly Pinots, Chardonnay, and Cabernet blends. I asked him to offer practical advice on handling grapes, managing fermentations, MLFs, making adjustments, etc. that he thinks would be useful to home winemakers.

*linden designs*