

BULLETIN FOR JULY 16 2015

NORTH FRESNO ROTARY

Upcoming Meeting Events:

July 23: Michelle Bronson: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center

July 30: Matthew Buckman: Fresno Grand Opera

Rotary Club of North Fresno
Chartered: October 5, 1948
District: 5230
email: northfresnorotary.org
Current Members: 98



Be a gift to the world

Future Club Events:

August 6: Grizzly Game with Fig Garden Rotary

September 17: Stage Works Fresno @ Fresno Art Museum

October 17: Charter Night @ the home of Murray Barry

If you are making arrangements for program, please verify the program/presenter are correct when you submit for publication.

TASTED EVERYTHING BUT THE GRAPPA

On Thursday July 16, a group of 30-40 strong club members/wine experts descended on the Fresno State Winery. We were welcomed into the tasting room by Kevin Smith, MBA, Business, Sales and Marketing Manager of the Fresno State Winery.

They had reversed the normal table set up so we could take in the magnificent view of the vineyard. Then the fun began! Kevin described how he had come to

his position many years prior, and then told us about the current status of the program and wine making in the Central Valley. During the presentation it was revealed that:

- Half of the production vineyard is devoted to 'homegrown' vines with the other half being donated by other vintners in Northern California for making various wines produced by the program.
- 45% of marketed wines purchased are Chardonnay
- The program graduates 30-40 students yearly in both viticulture and enology after about 5-6 years of education.
- In 2012-2013 there was a collaboration between the wine, math and art students to name some of the wines, and provide artwork for the labels. The end result of that effort was the production and labelling of 1 white (Abstract Theory) and 2 reds (Pythagorean's Serum and Depth Perception) Truly clever and ingenious work!

While these pearls were shared members sampled 4 of the programs wines. 2 red varieties and 2 whites. While the student President of the Enology Society of Fresno, LAUREN BARRETT was pouring, she was assisted by yours truly as well as JOHN KRIKORIAN. A true example of 'service' above self.

When Mr. Smith concluded his remarks, there was a rousing question and answer period that carried us over right until lunch was served. In this editor's opinion, it was more raucous than most Q & A's following our usual guests. Methinks, the membership has a special interest in the production and consumption of wines!

During the 'catered' lunch of salad, pasta with chicken and some marvelous cookies, the grand prize winner of the Pancake Breakfast raffle was announced. AND THE WINNER IS.....JOE GARCIA, who must have purchased his ticket from SHIRIN SOHRABI while working at our local public radio station KVPR.

Our final activity was a tour of the wine making facilities. The initial stop was the bottling room where we found out they can store up to 7000 cases ready for distribution.

Our second location was just outside the bottling room. This space had stainless steel storage vats along with a 5000 gallon vat filled to the brim with Tailgate Red to be bottled in the future. There was also an oak vat containing a 30 year old sherry. As the story goes, for the last 30 years students have made contributions to the vat prior to their graduation in preparation of it being bottled and sold. Word is that the sherry is going to be bottled and prepared for consumption later this year.

The last stop on the tour was the barrel room where we found both American and French Oak barrels containing various wine varieties. Once again, members asked questions about how the barrels were labelled and the wines identified before we left the winery.

All in all, this was quite an informative trip to the university and fun as well.

Submitted: Editor, Neal Howard

Pictures may be viewed on the club website and were taken by Paul Masquelier

If you are responsible for one of the above events, please review it for accuracy/correctness of the topic/presenters