



Coronavirus cancels July event

The Yakima Enological Society has decided to cancel the July 8 event. Yakima County still being in Phase 1 of the coronavirus pandemic, we believe it is the right thing to do.

We all enjoyed last year's outdoor event, but the Hilton Garden Inn has no food service right now. **Stems** is open with limited hours and private appointments. We hope we will be able to do it next year. Stay safe!

—Brad Baldwin

Enjoy your own private outdoor event in July.



Platinum XVIII Dinner Canceled

In early spring, the 18th annual Platinum Dinner originally set for April 18th was rescheduled to August 8th due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Platinum Committee was hopeful that by August some of the pandemic restrictions would have eased. But, as you are all aware, we are still in Phase 1 and it will be impossible to get to Phase 4, which allows groups over 50 people, by August 8th. Your Platinum Committee had a virtual meeting on June 14th and made the decision to cancel a sit-down dinner at the Yakima Country Club.

In its place we want to have a virtual auction of the Platinum-award-winning wines, some baskets and other items. We have formed a subcommittee to explore and start planning for an auction at the end of September or beginning of October. If anyone has any experience in conducting a virtual auction, the committee would welcome any help, as none of us has ever done this before.

Look for information in the upcoming months and please support our auction with your bidding, as we still want to raise money for enology and viticulture scholarships. This auction of wines is really our only option at this time. Let's hope things are totally different in 2021.

—Platinum Committee

Look for more information and ways you can help support our virtual auction this fall!



Plan Ahead... Y.E.S. Calendar of Upcoming Events

—Brad Baldwin

August 18...
Platinum Dinner
CANCELED

September 26-27...
Canada bus trip
TENTATIVE

October 14...
Nana Kate's in Selah
WE HOPE!

President's Corner

July 2020

YES vs. COVID-19

The YES Board continues to acknowledge the risks of COVID-19 in our region. The ugly bug is relentless in its spread. However, we do have some control over this, and we are driven to protect our membership.

YES is an organization that emphasizes membership **interaction** with each other and leaders in the wine and restaurant industry in our Valley. This is a challenge, to say the least. We are brainstorming a means of virtual interaction for our events. The recent GFW Wines event was an experiment. We made it work, but we have also discovered opportunities for improvements.

The traditional Platinum Dinner/Auction would be impossible, unless COVID-19 miraculously disappears before August. We are researching a means to conduct a virtual auction. The funds generated from this one annual event have produced an average of \$10,500 in scholarships each year.

The Weekend Bus Trip to Canada's nearby wine region is also in question. Nonessential travel between the U.S. and Canada has been restricted. And, 30 people in a bus does not satisfy social distancing practices (at all).

So, we are seeking input from our Membership. No harm in expanding our brain trust for creative solutions. Please feel free to reach out to one of your Board Members.

—Roy Lewis, Y.E.S. President,

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June Recap: GFW Wines, Staci's Catering and a viticulture education

We successfully pulled off our June 10th YES Event. Members were graciously hosted by **Brad Baldwin** and **Sandy Saffell**, as singles and couples, and we were properly socially separated. We were all connected with our **GFW** presenters, **Jaime Borton** and **James St. Clair**, via Zoom and our onsite computers.

Jaime described the five wines we were tasting, as they were paired with substantial/quality food provided in individual boxes by **Staci's Catering**. James provided us with a detailed insight into current viticulture practices. His knowledge is immeasurable.



Attendees were tested on their viticulture knowledge via a 20-question trivia quiz. The near-perfect winners at each venue were rewarded with a fine bottle of GFW wine. Additional purchases were made onsite or online. This was a great introduction to another local winery.

—Roy Lewis