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**TECHNOLOGY:**

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## An Appreciation for the Finer Things in Life



by Ernie Geigenmiller

A year ago, Sanford Jones and Dan Foster, both local businessmen with strong ties to our community, sat down and discussed ways to blend their affinity for food, wine and charitable giving.

Being connoisseurs of fine cuisine, and wanting to expand the reach of quality dining in Clark County, Jones and Foster wanted to create something special. They wanted to create something enjoyable.

"After all what goes better with fine food than fine wine?" said Jones, reflecting on his ideas while he and Foster dine for lunch at The Restaurant at the Historic Reserve in Vancouver. "And then we had to figure out how to wrap charitable giving into all this."

Their idea came to fruition after much thought and consideration.

"I think this is a great idea," said Foster. "We both really enjoy fine food and wine, and we're both vested in this community."

So, last March, they wrote up a mission statement and effectively created the Wine and Food Society of Clark County. It's a well-crafted statement:

"The mission of the Wine & Food Society of Clark County is to connect our members and the general public with the value, creativity and craftsmanship inherently present in the culinary and viticulture arts. Our mission is fulfilled by funding grants, scholarships and research aimed at elevating the quality, awareness and enjoyment of good food and fine wine as well as hosting educational and social events that enhance the quality of life for our members and communities. These programs offer unique opportunities to enrich the minds and palates of our guests, who in turn can share their experience with friends having common interests."

In September the group was granted non-profit status and officially became a Washington 501©(3) organization.

To date, the young organization has 30 members and a 100-person mailing list.

Jones and Foster are talking to wineries and restaurants and raising charitable donations for culinary arts students. They're fulfilling their mission by organizing events periodically during the year with the purpose to "enliven the Society's schedule" with dinners, wine and food seminars and day trips.

Their next big event is Tuesday, March 20 with a Cajun

Photos opposite page: Wine bottles at Vancouver Gift & Wine Cellar. This page: Sanford Jones, left and Dan Foster, right, are the founders of an exciting new organization called the Wine & Food Society of Clark County.

Food & Wine event at the Club at the Reserve. Details to be announced. On April 21 the organization is having a fundraiser and wine auction.

To meet their charitable objectives, the Wine and Food Society of Clark has set up a Grant Awards program with the "intention of providing an annual source of funds for educational and innovative projects in wine and food."

Applicants are encouraged to write proposals that meet the scope and purpose of the Society, which is to provide education and research in the areas of wine and food.

"I really want to promote food," said Jones. "The purpose is to enjoy life and have fun, and this opportunity also gives me a chance to give away wine. It gives me a chance to buy more wine. Plus we raise money for good purposes and have fun at the same time. We need to give more in Clark County, and this will help with that.

"I am extremely grateful. I've had a good life. I grew up poor, but I've worked hard and now I can give back. We're having a good time with the Society."

Foster said they're working with the Clark College Culinary Institute and students enrolled in the culinary arts career path. Their organization, he says, is big on education and works closely with Clark College and other continuing education programs.

Part of their objective is to increase the number of quality dining establishments in Clark County.

"We believe education will help us achieve that objective," Foster said. "Supporting continuing education classes, and even sponsoring cooking classes will help meet our goals."

Society leaders are all volunteers. There is no staff to be paid, and membership fees support grants. There will also be additional fundraisers.

"It's also a great way for people to get connected to community," said Jones. "We're planning on having a lot of fun while learning."

Foster thinks the organization can really make a difference in the community, and looks forward to its continued success and growth. "We both think there's a real need for this in Clark County," he said. "We just want to do our part."

To learn more, call 360.834.6914 or visit [www.clarkcountyfoodandwine.org](http://www.clarkcountyfoodandwine.org)



An advertisement for Vancouver Gift &amp; Wine Cellar. The top left shows a Harley-Davidson gift basket containing a Harley-Davidson motorcycle helmet, a Harley-Davidson mug, and other items. The top right features the text "A perfect place for wedding gifts." The bottom left shows two bottles of wine, one labeled "Rumour Cabernet Sauvignon" and the other "Rumour Pinot Noir". The bottom right features the logo for "Vancouver Gift &amp; Wine Cellar" with a stylized figure holding a gift. Below the logo is the text "Designer Pieces • Gallery Art Wine Tasting • Gift Baskets". At the bottom, the address and contact information are listed: "Downtown Vancouver across from Esther Shore Park 418 W. 8th Street | Vancouver, WA | 360.993.5006 www.vancouvercellar.com | vancouvercellar@aol.com".