

Published September 28th, 2011

## Small Town Fun at the Moraga Pear and Wine Festival

By Sophie Braccini



A fair young maiden stomps grapes while Parks and Rec Director Jay Ingram kneels to capture the juice

town's third bonded winery, "that's the way it's always been done."

The theme of pears and wine was picked up by one of the contestants in the pear recipe contest. Robin Valentine created a pear in wine sorbet dessert that tasted delicious and won her 4th prize. In the meantime, Monica Chappell was teaching a wine and food pairing class with three wines (two of them local): a Parkmon Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc was paired with goat cheese; Captain Vineyard's Petite Sirah went with rare beef; and a Washington State Riesling met chips and salsa. Chappell, who usually teaches a two-hour class, said, "The Town of Moraga asked me to create a shorter class to do outside during the festival. It worked very well, with mostly local wines."

Artists, community service groups, representatives from the Town and inflatable jumpies for the kids completed the scene in which neighbors, friends and families met and mingled. There was nothing pretentious, nothing outrageous - just nice, fruitful fun.

The winners of the Pear Recipe contest are:

1st place: Elaine Cable's Savory Pear Tartlets with Chevre

2nd place: Sharon Metcalf's Fresh Pear Upside Down Cake

3rd place: Robin Valentine's Pear and Red Wine Sorbet

4th place: Brian Pergamit's Cinnamon Pear Pockets

Front page photo: On the left, Mayor Karen Mendonca jumps in with both feet; right, a fair young maiden stomps grapes while Parks and Rec Director Jay Ingram kneels to capture the juice.





Mayor Karen Mendonca jumps in with both feet



Left to right: Mina Lucacher, Grant Stubbelfield, Virginia Smith and Bob Gardner Photo Ohlen Alexander

Reach the reporter at: [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)

[back](#)

Copyright © Lamorinda Weekly, Moraga CA