



**SLOW FOOD  
SONOMA  
COUNTY  
:: NORTH ::**

## January 2021 NEWSLETTER



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## State of Our Chapter

In March of 2020, we thought we would be postponing a few events for a few months. One of our Board members predicted we'd have to cancel everything until the end of the year. What! Are you crazy?! Well, no.

We became more familiar with Zoom than we expected, and our monthly Board meetings gave us the chance to see and update each other as well as consider changes to the Board structure and policies.

We ended 2020 with a Zoomed Annual Meeting on Terra Madre Day, December 10, during which we reported on the state of our chapter and shared some of our family food traditions.

## **Voting on Board and Bylaws**

At the meeting, the 30 attending members voted in new Board member Kate Hendricks, and returning Board member Debbi Crapeau. Members also approved changes to chapter bylaws to delete term limits for Board members and increase the number of members beyond 7.



The Sonoma County North Team

## Other Chapter Business

**Financial.** Treasurer Mark Crapeau reported that the chapter has \$4,342 in the General Fund. In addition, each project has its own fund with proceeds from individual fund-raising or sales.

**Communication.** Communication Chair Carol Diaz reported that media activities include a website, our bi-monthly newsletter, emails to members, and Ark of Taste sightings. The chapter has 1245 Facebook followers and 1438 Instagram followers. Articles appeared in *Sonoma Magazine*, *Marin Magazine*, and the *Press Democrat*.

**Events.** Marie Giacalone, Events Chair, described a 100-mile Dinner and the Snail of Approval Awards Ceremony that were held before the March lockdown. Since March, Slow Books has met every 6 weeks via Zoom to discuss the selected book and share photos of food prepared from the book.

## Project Updates

Project leaders reported on the highlights of their teams' activities:

**AMIDI** (Marilee Wingert): AMIDI is the Association of Indigenous women for Wholistic Development in Guatemala. Through donations this year, each interested member received a pregnant

goat to start a small herd for selling both the milk and the offspring. All members also received a spacious rabbit hutch and bunnies; they use the manure for fertilizer and sell the offspring in the local market town. For months, a COVID19 ban of all public transportation resulted in the increased cost of staples. We have provided 3 distributions of staples such as corn, beans, rice, soap, and disinfectant.

### **Bodega Red Potato**

**Presidium** (Barbara Bowman): The Presidium sold 4,500 pounds of seed potatoes to farms and retailers in Sonoma and Marin County. The potatoes made their supermarket debut at Oliver's Market, and Quail & Condor Bakery used Bodega Reds in their bread. Publicity on the history and availability of the potato appeared in the *Press Democrat* and *Sonoma Magazine*.

### **Local Farmer Project** (Lisa Hunter):

The project made two overlapping grants to farmers. Little Rocky Ranch completed their grant in September, and Kicking Bull Farms was funded in September. Vanessa Advocate (Little Rocky) and William Henpenn (Kicking Bull) both reported on their progress at the meeting.

**Grow Out/School Gardens** (Debbi Crapeau): Although the project grew Ark of Taste seedlings for the 8 project schools, the plants could not be distributed when the pandemic closed

school campuses. Ark seed packets were, however, sent to farmers who requested them.

**Snail of Approval** (Kathy Matonak): A celebration of 2019 Snail Awardees was held in February. Because of COVID19, all applications, nominations, and interviews with potential new restaurants, farms, and artisan producers were suspended.

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## Slow Food Events

# Join us for the first meeting of Slow Books on Food Justice

**Monday, February 15, 5:30-6:30 pm**

**Our book will be *Notes from a Young Black Chef: A Memoir*, Joshua David Stein and Kwame Onwuachi**

**Food Justice Slow Books** will be held via Zoom until we can meet again in person. An invitation to the first meeting will be sent soon. Each meeting will be limited to the first 10 participants to sign up.

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## Snail of Approval



2019 Snail of Approval Awardees

## Snail of Approval Website Is Changing

We are in the process of moving our Snail of Approval website to a webpage that will be more streamlined and better associated with the two chapters here in Sonoma County that run the program. Slow Food Russian River and Sonoma County North will continue to partner on this project. The new webpage is accessible now at [Snail of Approval- Slow Food in Sonoma County](#).

## Snail of Approval Is Going National!

We also have some good news: Snail of Approval is going national! Currently the Snail of Approval program is run independently by various Slow Food chapters. Early in 2021 it will become a national program within Slow Food USA; all current Snails can then be accessed from a National Snail of Approval directory and map on the Slow Food USA website. This will help us to promote our local food establishments across the country!

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## [Bodega Red Presidium Update](#)

Due to volatile weather this summer, the Bodega Red seed potato crop for 2021 was much smaller than usual, yielding only 1525 pounds available to Sonoma County growers

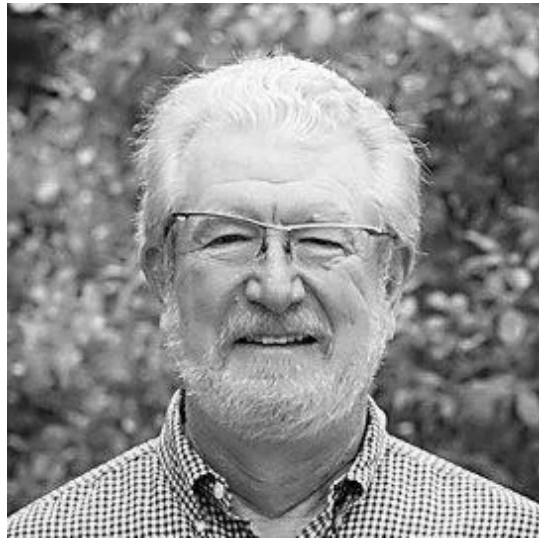
compared with 4,500 pounds in 2020. We are selling this reduced crop to 18 growers who have bought Bodega Reds from us in the past.

Although nothing is certain when Mother Nature is involved, we expect to have an ample supply of seed for 2022!

Here is more information about the [Bodega Red Potato Presidium](#).

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## In Memoriam



Bill Bowman

We recently lost two of our members. Bill and Joyce, we will miss you very much.

## Bill Bowman

From the inception of our chapter in 1997, Bill supported the chapter and attended our dinners and picnics with his wife, Barbara (co-founder of Sonoma County North). Many of us remember his warm welcoming of newcomers to events. And it was always a pleasure to catch up on the latest local news with him and Barbara every week at the Healdsburg Farmers Market. He died at home, unexpectedly, on November 28.

## Joyce Ortega

Joyce was an active participant in Slow Books, sharing her opinions of the books we read and the food she prepared inspired by those books. Joyce was a gardener, cook, and wildflower enthusiast, who also worked in the wine industry. She fought cancer for three years, and died on September 30.

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## Membership

# Welcome New Members!

**Geneva Anderson Bill Conklin Julie Conklin Nancy Dalwin William Henpenn Robert Heyman Laurie Johnston Kathleen McBride Colin McCormick Oona McKnight Marilyn Madrone T. Marrone Anna Pope Frank Pope**

[Join or renew your membership online](#) and list Sonoma County North-CA as your chapter. If you prefer to renew locally by check, please download our [membership form](#) and follow the instructions.



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