



*April 2017*



*Democracy Vineyards' Jim Turpin and Susan Prokop with Stan Joynes of Valley Road Vineyards*

### ***Hello Friends of Democracy!***

Welcome to our 2017 season which opens on April 1<sup>st</sup>! The tasting room will be open Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays from 1 to 6 pm through Thanksgiving weekend, except Easter Sunday and Thanksgiving Thursday. In addition to our long-time staff associate, Susan Lineberry, we are delighted to have two new folks join the Democracy team – Van Perry and Michelle Blankenship. You'll find them at the tasting room on alternating weekend days.

We've begun to fill up our calendar with great music and fun activities, some exciting new Voices of Democracy After Hours programming and our annual Birth of

Democracy Festival on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The festival season is also gearing up and you'll find us at several venues, both old and new, in the coming months. Details on these events can be found below.

As longtime Friends of Democracy will recall, we lost our very fine winemaker and vineyard manager last year when they left to seek better career opportunities. That forced a reevaluation of our business model and led us to make some changes in our operations starting this year. We are pleased to report that we have entered into a vineyard lease arrangement with Valley Road Vineyards which will ensure the preservation of our vineyard while enabling them to expand their supply of grapes for their own purposes. We will continue to have access to a portion of the vineyard's output for our own production of wine which will be done under contract with another local winemaker. We'll share more details about plans for our 2017 vintages in forthcoming newsletters.



### ***In The Tasting Room***

The tasting room opens **Saturday April 1!** To celebrate the occasion, we're hosting a **Fun Run 5K and Craft Vendor Show** to benefit the fight against cancer with Relay for Life starting at **9 am**. **El Chilango Mexican Grill** food truck will be on site to provide tasty refreshments! Enjoy the fresh spring air, shop local artisans and support a good cause. Registration information can be obtained by contacting Joy Coleman at [Joyfullone4@aol.com](mailto:Joyfullone4@aol.com).

When you're done with the run, stick around for the **official tasting room hours of 1 to 6 pm** – and who knows, we might open a little early!

Remember we are **CLOSED on Easter Sunday!**

### **Voices of Democracy – After Hours**

**April 30 – 5:30 – 7 pm** – Sharing the knowledge of U.S. experts and institutions to promote peaceful and productive relationships around the world is a long-standing tradition in this country. We are happy to host former Nelson county extension agent **Michael Lachance**, and his wife, former School Board member, **Cindy Lachance**, who will present on their involvement overseas with the Farmer to Farmer program, and the importance of international development now and into the future. Please RSVP your plans to attend to 434-263-8463.

**May 13 – 5:30 – 7 pm** - International Press Freedom Day is celebrated each year in early May and pays homage to the fundamental importance of free and robust journalism. In honor of that occasion, we are pleased to have **Jeff Schapiro, senior journalist and political commentator with the Richmond Times Dispatch**, join us for a discussion of the 2016 campaign, the 2017 General Assembly session and what's shaping up for Governor's race this year. Please RSVP your plans to attend to 434-263-8463.

**June 17 – 5:30 to 7 pm** – On June 15, 1215, the balance of power in England shifted thanks to the Magna Carta, whose principles of liberty informed many subsequent governing documents, including our own U.S. Constitution. A modern day effort to realign power structures in Virginia is that to reform some of the more egregious aspects of gerrymandering election districts. **OneVirginia2021 Executive Director Brian Cannon** comes to the tasting room to talk about his group's efforts to achieve nonpartisan redistricting in the state, it's successes and failures in the 2017 General Assembly session, and prospects for the future. Please RSVP your plans to attend to 434-263-8463.

### **Music and More**

**April 2** – Join keyboardist **Ray VanWagner** and his “smoother with age” Golden Oldies for a gracious afternoon of music from **2 to 4 pm**.

**April 22** – What better way to enjoy Earth Day and the beauty of mother nature’s vineyard than with the melodius sound of **Renee Ruth Peckham**, singer, songwriter and keyboardist from Lynchburg, Va. **2 to 5 pm**

**April 23** – **Pete Farnham** – singer, songwriter and guitarist from Lexington, Va. plays American roots music from **2 to 5 pm**. Enjoy covers and original compositions from his latest album, New Tricks from an Old Dawg.

**May 13** – **Jim and Renee Oliphant of Ragtop** return to the tasting room from **2 to 5 pm** to share their special blend of classic and folk rock, new country and blues and songs from their new album, Rt. 460.

**Memorial Day Weekend** offers several chances to enjoy some fine wine while listening to some great musicians starting on **May 28** with singer songwriter and skilled guitarist **Paulo Franco** who comes to the tasting room from **2 to 5 pm** with songs from his new album, The Last Card. You can read an interview with Paulo about the inspirations for the songs on The Last Card at <http://nodepression.com/interview/getting-personal-paulo-franco>. Then, on **May 29**, **Renee Ruth Peckham** returns with her keyboard and lively sounds from **2 to 5 pm** to welcome summer!

**June 3** – **Painting with Kim Page of Page’s Palette** from Noon to 3 pm. Kim, a local artist from Afton, leads students through the creation of their very own masterpiece. This class is limited to 20 students. \$30/pp. To register go to Page’s Palette Facebook page or contact Kim at [kdpage61@aol.com](mailto:kdpage61@aol.com).

When you’re finished with your artistic endeavors, settle in for an afternoon of tunes with **Ragtop** in the tasting room from **2 to 5 pm**.

**June 10** – Charlottesville musician, **Vicky Lee**, brings the lilting sounds of her Celtic harp to the vineyard from **2 to 5 pm**.

**June 17** – **Ray VanWagner** plays classic songs of the 1930s, 40s and 50s on keyboard from **2 to 4 pm**.

**July 1** – Birth of Democracy! Our annual festival at the winery is scheduled for the Saturday of July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend from 11 am to 4 pm. We’re planning a day of music, vendors, food trucks and more! Stay tuned to this calendar for more details. Pete Farnham, Renee Ruth Peckham, Sue Harlow

**July 2** – Paulo Franco – 2 to 5 pm



## *Upcoming Festivals*

Look for Democracy Vineyards at these upcoming festivals around Virginia. If you plan to attend and hope to buy a particular brand of our wine, give us a call at 434-263-8463 or email us at the address below so that we can be sure to make it available. We only bring a limited number of our vintages to festivals and want to ensure that we have on hand any that we might not ordinarily stock. Also, have you ever thought of helping pour wine at a wine festival? It can be lots of fun and a great way to earn a bottle of wine for a couple of

hours work. We are particularly in need of help at Montpelier, Front Royal, Valley Fest and Alexandria. If you'd like to join the Democracy festival team, shoot us an email to [democracyvineyards@att.net](mailto:democracyvineyards@att.net) with "Festival Help" in the subject line.

**April 8 – Smithfield Wine and Brew Fest** – 11:00 - 5:00 pm. Windsor Castle Park in downtown Smithfield VA

**April 29 – A Day at the Downs Wine and Wildlife Festival** - 12 Noon - 8 pm at Infinity Downs (Oak Ridge), Arrington, VA. This event will showcase endangered wildlife species, feature a number of local wineries and breweries and includes a performance by Grammy Award winning singer and songwriter, Bruce Hornsby. For ticketing information go to Tickets: <https://tickets.frontgatetickets.com/event/qmbdzt1hgno28e8e>, call 434-245-9000 or email to [info@infinitydowns.com](mailto:info@infinitydowns.com)

**May 6 & 7 – Montpelier Wine Festival** at James Madison's historic home in Orange, VA. 11 am to 6 pm on Saturday and 11 am to 5 pm on Sunday. For tickets and other information go to <http://www.orangevachamber.com/pages/MontpelierWineFestival>.

**May 20 – Front Royal Wine and Craft Festival** – 10 am to 6 pm in historic downtown Front Royal, VA. For tickets and more information go to <http://www.wineandcraftfestival.com>.

**May 27 – Valley Fest Beer and Wine Festival** at Massanutten Resort from 11 am to 7 pm. For information go to <https://www.valleyfestbeerandwine.com/>.

**June 24 – Vine on the Waterfront Wine Festival** at Oronoco Park in Alexandria, VA from Noon to 6 pm. For information go to <http://vineonthewaterfront.com/> and Summer Solstice Wine Festival from 11 am to 7 pm at Lazy Days Winery in Amherst, VA Ticketing and other information can be found at <http://www.summersolsticefestival.com/#-home>.

We finish with a feature we plan to run from time to time sharing some of the posters and other paraphernalia that adorn the tasting room and that give us our name. South Africa Freedom Day is April 27 and marks the anniversary of the first free elections in that nation in which all races



were allowed to participate. In 1994, millions of South Africans waited in long lines for many hours to cast their votes in this historic election which brought Nelson Mandela to the presidency, after having spent 27 years as a political prisoner of the apartheid government. In this poster from that election, Mr. Mandela is surrounded by children from all the races in South Africa to demonstrate his embrace of all the nation's people.

*Cheers! Susan & Jim*