



SONOMA WEST TIMES & NEWS

© 118 Years Vol 120/No. 3

Dec. 4-Dec. 10, 2008

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Sebastopol, CA.

December 4, 2008 A3

Cheese book author reads in Guerneville

by Frank Robertson
Sonoma West Staff Writer

GUERNEVILLE — Food consultant and writer Clark Wolf will read and sign copies of his acclaimed new book "American Cheeses" next Monday night (Dec. 8) at Guerneville's River Reader book shop on Main Street.

"It promises to be an evening of good cheer, good food and drink, and wonderful conversation," said River Reader owner Susan Ryan.

New York Times food writer Alex Witchel last week called "American Cheeses" a "savvy valentine to the men and women who devote their lives to the labor-intensive passion of cheesemaking."

Wolf is a Guerneville resident and bicoastal foodie known locally for inaugurating the Russian River Food & Winefest. He ran a Nob Hill cheese shop in San Francisco in the 1970s and managed the San Francisco branch of Oakville Grocery.

"While the rest of America was on the verge of a decade of morbid fear of butter fat, Wolf was looking for a source of local fresh mozzarella and newly

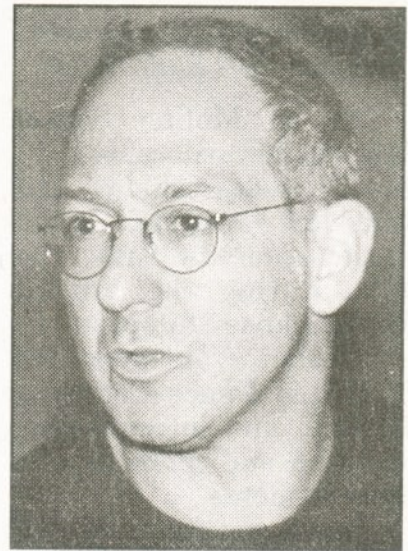
devoted to the joys of rice flour-rubbed teleme and four-year-old Wisconsin cheddar," says a book blurb by the publisher, Simon & Schuster. "Glorious cheese, particularly American cheese, is still his passion."

Wolf now commutes between Guerneville and his New York offices with partner Scott Mitchell who took the black-and-white photos for "American Cheeses, The Best Regional, Artisan and Farmhouse Cheeses, Who Makes Them and Where to Find Them."

"It only took nine years to write it" says Wolf, whose research included a trek across the U.S. searching out artisanal cheesemakers.

Wolf visited cheesemaking icons such as Laura Chenel who is credited with introducing goat cheese to America, and Myron Olson of Wisconsin's Chalet Cheese Cooperative, "the last bastion of the misunderstood and potentially delicious limburger," writes Wolf.

Monday's celebration in Guerneville starts at 6:30 p.m. with cheese tasting, beverages and book signing. Ten percent of the proceeds from book sales at River



AUTHOR — Guerneville author Clark Wolf will sign copies of his new "American Cheeses" book in Guerneville and Healdsburg.

Reader's event will be donated to the Guerneville School garden program.

Wolf will also be in Healdsburg at Copperfield's Books next Friday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. as part of Copperfield's Feed Your Mind series.

That appearance will include an author talk and book signing followed by a dinner at Bovelov restaurant. For reservations or more info, call Bovelov at 431-2962.