

THE CAPITAL CHEMIST



A Publication of the Chemical Society of Washington Section of the American Chemical Society

Message from the President

Contributed by Dennis Chamot, CSW President

New Years is a time to both reflect on the past and plan for the future. The Chemical Society of Washington is a very large and vibrant local section of the American Chemical Society, with a wide variety of activities to serve our diverse membership. I am grateful to immediate past president Alan Anderson and the other officers and members of the Board of Managers for their dedicated (and continuing) service that has helped to maintain the robustness of the section.



To begin the process of looking ahead, a couple of months ago I sent out a questionnaire to the CSW membership, asking for your comments on the monthly membership meetings, CSW committees, and more. Not unexpectedly, alas, the return was from a relatively small portion of the section's membership. Still, all are valuable, and I would be very happy to receive your further comments and suggestions at any time. Send them to csw@acs.org, using the subject line, "message for Dennis Chamot."

I would also like to call your attention to the first membership meeting of the new year, to be held on January 6 (see details elsewhere in this issue). Appropriate for looking to the future, we have invited Dr. Cathy Covert, point person for the National Science Foundation's Centers for Chemical Innovation program, to discuss Grand Challenges for Chemistry. Dr. Covert's presentation will include some brief but neat videos, as well as interaction with the audience. So bring your own ideas to share at what should be an enjoyable and stimulating event.

The traditional cartoon symbols for the beginning and end of a year are a fresh, cheerful baby and a tired old man, weathered by the experiences and cares of the previous 12 months. Each year has its ups and downs, and the continuing problems with research support and diminished job opportunities for chemical professionals are still of concern. But we can hope that the good will far outweigh the bad. I look forward to my year as CSW president and invite you to share with me the experiences of CSW and the future of chemistry.

Right: Tobias White, St. John the Evangelist Catholic School, CSW K-2nd grade category winner

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Featured Items:

- Welcome from CSW President, Dennis Chamot
- Learn about the CSW Dinner Meeting on 1/6
- Apply for the CSW Travel Award
- View the NCW Illustrated Poem Finalists for 2015

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Congratulations to our CSW Illustrated Poem contest winners! Look for their entries throughout this issue!



January Dinner Meeting: Tackling Grand Challenges in Chemistry

Origins of life; the fundamental nature of the chemical bond; chemistry of the brain; designing molecules for materials and function and then to be able to make them—these are only a few of the grand challenges facing chemists. Join Dr. Kathy Covert, Program Director for the NSF Division of Chemistry primarily assigned to the Centers for Chemical Innovation (CCI), to discuss some of the exciting new developments supported by the CCI at the January 6 CSW dinner meeting.



To tackle these large and complex grand challenge problems, CCI supports nine centers. Dr. Covert will highlight some of their work, including presentation of a few very brief but attractive and informative videos designed for the general public.

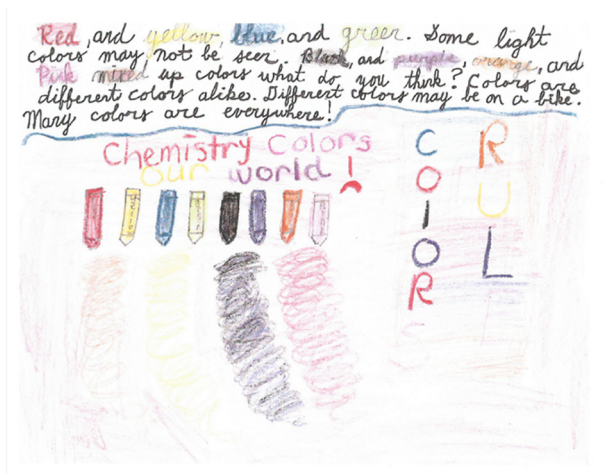
Kathy Covert is a Program Director for the NSF Division of Chemistry, primarily assigned to the Centers for Chemical Innovation. She has been with the NSF since 2000. She received her Ph.D. from Cornell University, with a specialization in synthetic inorganic chemistry.

- Date: Wednesday, January 6, 2016
- Time: 6:00 p.m. social hour/check-in/dinner, 7:00 p.m. speaker
- Cost: \$28 (Members and Guests), \$14 (Students)
- Location: ACS Hach Building, Marvel Hall
1155 Sixteenth St. NW, Washington, DC 20036

RSVP by noon on Monday, January 4, 2016 to csw@acs.org or by phone at 202-659-2650. Please provide the names in your party when you RSVP. The public is invited to attend.

Menu: Catering will be provided by Food Fare and will feature a buffet of lasagna (meat and vegetable option), with a Caprese platter, garlic Italian loaf, and dessert.

If you need any further information or would like to make a reservation, please contact the CSW office at csw@acs.org or call 202-659-2650.



Left: Siyanne Daniel, Landover Hills, MD, CSW 3rd-5th grade category winner, NCW Illustrated Poem Contest

2016 CSW Student Travel Award Application Process

The Chemical Society of Washington is pleased to announce a travel award to defray travel and/or registration costs to a National ACS meeting. Eligible expenses include meeting registration and travel expenses, such as airfare and lodging. Applicants should submit the following to CSW (email: csw@acs.org) by January 15, 2016:

1. A cover letter stating how and why attending this ACS meeting will promote his/her career;
2. The applicant's CV;
3. A letter of recommendation from the student's mentor explaining why the student deserves the award and how this will help his/her professional development;
4. An accepted abstract with proof of acceptance.

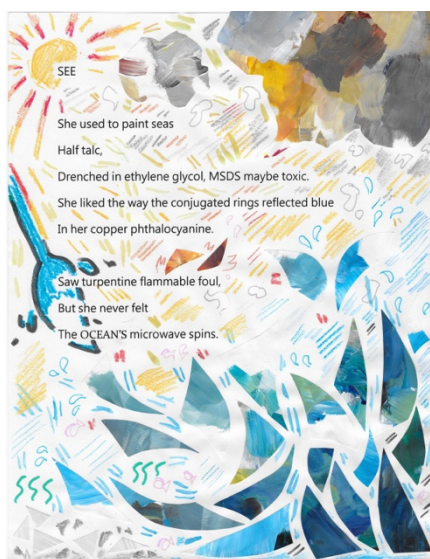
Within three weeks of returning from the ACS meeting, the awardees should submit receipts to the CSW Treasurer for any or all of the eligible expenses described above, after which the Treasurer of the Chemical Society of Washington will issue a check to each of the awardees. After returning from the conference, awardees will be asked to present their posters at one of the up-coming CSW dinner meetings.

The award is not intended for postdoctoral fellows. There will be a maximum of 4 awards available for each National meeting. Each award will be for \$500 and award of this stipend will be based on the review of the above materials. The award is open to current graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in the jurisdiction of the Chemical Society of Washington.

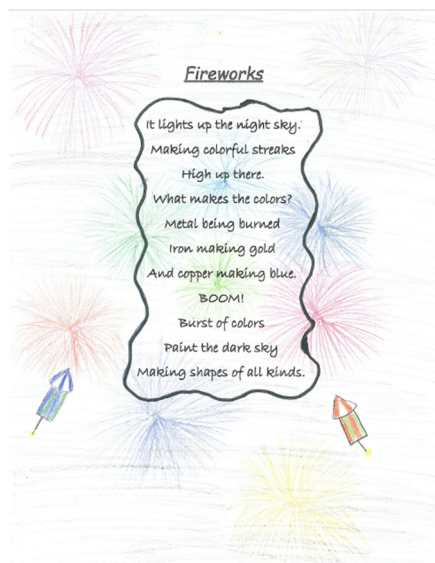
CSW Illustrated Poem Winners

Contributed by Kim Morehouse, NCW Coordinator

Once again, CSW participated in the National Chemistry Week illustrated poem contest. Four entries from CSW were chosen as the local section winners for each category, and were forwarded to ACS to participate in the national contest. The national contest winners and their entries can be viewed on the ACS website at <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/outreach/ncw/ncw-illustrated-poem-contest/2015-winners.html>. The local section winners and their entries are highlighted throughout this issue of the *Capital Chemist*. Thank you to all who participated!



SEE
She used to paint seas
Half talc,
Drenched in ethylene glycol, MSDS maybe toxic.
She liked the way the conjugated rings reflected blue
In her copper phthalocyanine.
Saw turpentine flammable foul,
But she never felt
The OCEAN'S microwave spins.



Fireworks

It lights up the night sky.
Making colorful streaks
High up there.
What makes the colors?
Metal being burned
Iron making gold
And copper making blue.
BOOM!
Burst of colors
Paint the dark sky
Making shapes of all kinds.

*Left: Angel Wen,
Montgomery Blair High
School, CSW 9th-12th
grade category winner*

*Right: Agnes Catimbang,
St. John the Evangelist
Catholic School, CSW 6th-
8th grade category winner*

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CSW Calendar of Events

January

1/6: CSW Meeting

1/15: Deadlines to submit Student Travel Award application

February

2/11: CSW Meeting

March

3/23: CSW Meeting