

# 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*

In the past, members of the physics community seemed to me to be much more active and visible than chemists in public debates about support of research and other national policy issues with a high technical content. In more recent years, the biology and medical communities have taken on more of this role, even as many medical and biological breakthroughs are based on advances at the molecular level, depending heavily on chemical concepts and knowledge. So, where are the chemists?

ACS at the national level has been much more active in recent years than in the past. The Society issues public policy statements on a variety of issues, and these form the bases for staff and member activities in educating Congress and state political leaders. On the other hand, you don't see a lot of chemists in the media. There are astronomers, physicists, doctors, and engineers—but not a lot of chemists. Why?

Have you ever felt that you would like to know more and do more about advocating for chemistry (and chemists!), or for supporting STEM education, or just learning how to better engage your neighbors and colleagues in support of issues of importance to you as members of the chemical community? Then come to the next CSW dinner meeting on March 23 to engage with a master communicator for science—Madeleine Jacobs, former Executive Director of ACS and Editor-in-Chief of C&EN. Meeting details are listed elsewhere in this issue. This should prove to be a lively and informative event.

We will also be recognizing the newest recipients of the Leo Schubert Memorial Award for excellence in high school chemistry teaching (Tiffany Reddinger, Holton Arms School, and Brita C. Johannessen-Kluk, Northwest High School), and Jennifer Tanir, winner of the Charles L. Gordon Award, given in recognition of exemplary service by a CSW member to the profession of chemistry, to the science of chemistry, and/or to the Chemical Society of Washington.

If you can, plan to join your colleagues on March 23!

**Volume 66, Number 3  
March 2016**

### Inside this issue:

- Message from CSW President, Dennis Chamot
- Learn about the CSW Dinner Meeting on 3/23
- MARM abstract submission is open!
- The Chemathon will take place on 4/30
- Read about the Schubert and Gordon award winners!
- Learn more about Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) and the Illustrated Poem contest
- Read about the undergraduates honored at the February dinner meeting
- Volunteer proctors are needed for the Chemistry Olympiad exam

## 4th USA Science & Engineering Festival: 4/16-17

The USA Science & Engineering Festival will take place April 16-17, 2016 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The mission of the Science & Engineering Festival is to re-invigorate the interest of our nation's youth in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) by producing and presenting the most compelling, exciting, educational, and entertaining science festival in the United States. The American Chemical Society will once again be a sponsor and exhibitor at this event. The Chemical Society of Washington will be partnering with ACS by providing volunteers to help man the booth and to assist with hands on activities for the children. If you are interested in volunteering for the festival, please contact Kim Morehouse via email at [kim.morehouse@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:kim.morehouse@fda.hhs.gov). Additional information about the Festival can be found on their website (<http://www.usasciencefestival.org/>).



# March Dinner Meeting: Are Chemists Too Shy For Their Own Good?

Madeleine Jacobs, former CEO and Executive Director of ACS, and former Editor-in-Chief of Chemical and Engineering News, spent nearly 45 years communicating science to the public and advocating with policymakers. Join this dynamic speaker in a talk and discussion about how we can do a better job of engaging the public and policymakers in supporting research and development and STEM education. Ms. Jacobs is currently President and CEO of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents, where she continues to communicate and advocate on behalf of the sciences.

## Date

Wednesday, March 23

## Schedule

6:00 pm – check-in and social hour  
6:30 pm – dinner  
7:00 pm – Gordon and Schubert Awards  
7:30 pm – speaker presentation

## Cost

\$28 (Members and Guests), \$14 (Students)

## Location

ACS Headquarters (1155 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC)

## Menu

Catering will be provided by W. Millar & Co. and will feature a buffet of Enchiladas Rancheros (Chicken & Cheese or Spinach, Veggie & Queso) served with Herbed Green Rice, Bread Board with Seasonal Spread, Tortilla Chips / Salsa, Tuscan Greens with Creamy Cucumber dressing or Balsamic Vinaigrette, and assorted Cookies/Bars.

RSVP by noon Monday, March 21, 2016 to [csw@acs.org](mailto: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.

## Parking

Parking is available in nearby commercial parking garages. Please be aware that garage closing times vary. Parking is also available on the street after 6:30 pm, but be aware that most parking meters are in effect until 10:00 pm and may be limited to 2 hours. You should check the individual meters for details and payment methods as some are no longer coin-operated.

## Metro

Blue/Orange/Silver Line: McPherson Square or Farragut West. Red Line: Farragut North.

## MARM 2016 Call for Abstracts

The 44th Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting is open and ready to receive abstract submissions. The meeting will be held at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, NY, June 9 - 12, 2016. Below are important deadlines and meeting information.

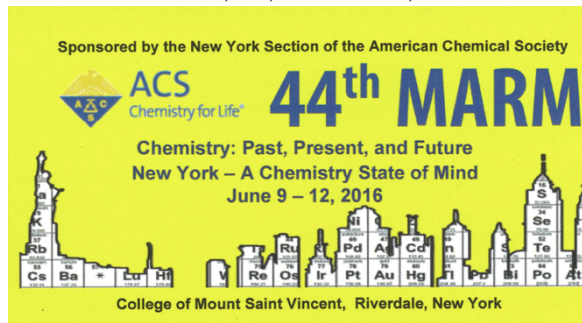
### Important Deadlines

Abstracts Open: January 11

Abstracts Close to Authors: March 21

Acceptance Notices: April 27

[Submit your abstract today!](#)

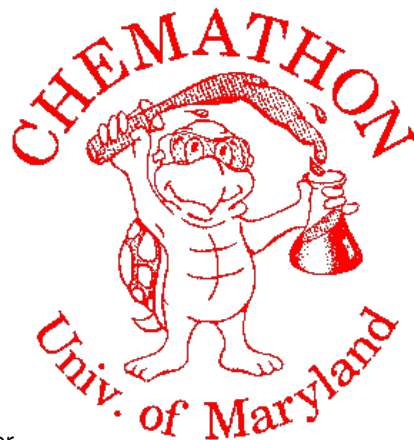


Registration and Housing Opening Soon!

Please visit the [MARM 2016 website](#) for additional meeting information and updates.

## 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Chemathon To Take Place 4/30

The Thirty-first Annual Chemathon will take place on Saturday, April 30, 2016. The Chemathon is an annual chemistry competition for high school chemistry students in Maryland, Northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The Chemathon competition is organized by a committee of area high school chemistry teachers and chemists, and is hosted by the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Maryland at College Park. The Chemathon is open to all area high schools who would like to participate. There are two competitive tracks; Level I: for students who have not taken and are not currently taking AP Chemistry or IB Chemistry and have not previously participated in Chemathon, and Level II: aimed at students at the AP and/or IB level as well as previous contestants. The theme for the posters this year is "The Chemistry of Global Infectious Diseases and Their Treatments and Cures." There is no entry or registration fee. If you are a high school chemistry teacher and would like to have your students participate in this event, please see the Chemathon website for information on how to register your school (<http://www2.chem.umd.edu/chemathon/>).



The Chemical Society of Washington will once again be a sponsor of this event. Volunteers are needed to help judge the poster contest as well as to assist with some of the activities that the students will be competing in. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Kim Morehouse via email at [kim.morehouse@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:kim.morehouse@fda.hhs.gov).

## Jennifer Young Tanir Receives the CSW 2015 Charles L. Gordon Award

The recipient of the 2015 Charles L. Gordon Award is Dr. Jennifer Young Tanir. The award is given in recognition of exemplary service by a CSW member to the profession of chemistry, chemists, and the Chemical Society of Washington. It is named after Charles Gordon for his years of service as managing editor of the *Capital Chemist*.

Dr. Tanir is currently employed by the Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI) in Washington, DC where she is a Scientific Program Manager. At HESI, Jennifer manages multi-stakeholder collaborative projects on a variety of topics related to chemistry and toxicology. Her projects include developing guidance on chemical alternatives assessment for sustainability, applying advances in exposure science to risk assessment, and advancing genetic toxicology.

She was previously employed by the ACS Green Chemistry Institute (2004-2011) where she was instrumental with running the annual Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference. She also managed technical programs focused on green chemistry information databases and standard development, awards and grants programs, educational materials, and training.

Jennifer has served as the CSW Secretary since 2014 and served as a Councilor from 2012-2014 and as a Manager from 2010-2011. She has also been an Associate on the ACS Committee on Environmental Improvement since 2013. As CSW Secretary she keeps the official Board records and provides excellent minutes of the meetings which also assist with the completion of the CSW annual report. She led the process of hiring a new administrative assistant in 2015. She has been involved in several CSW committees, and was a founding member of the CSW Environmental and Sustainability Committee. Her efforts on the annual report have been instrumental with CSW submitting for several ACS ChemLuminary Awards, of which CSW has won four in the past two years. The Chemical Society of Washington is pleased to recognize Dr. Tanir's outstanding contributions to CSW and the chemistry community by naming her as the 2015 recipient of the Charles L. Gordon Award.

## CCED Illustrated Poem Contest

As part of the Chemists Celebrate Earth Day activities, the American Chemical Society is sponsoring an illustrated poem contest for students in Kindergarten through 12 grades. Students are asked to write and illustrate a poem using the Chemists Celebrate Earth Day 2016 theme, "The Great Indoors—Your Home's Ecosystem!" The illustrated poems should relate to indoor air, water, indoor plants, mold and odor eliminators. Detailed rules and guidelines are available on the Chemists Celebrate Earth Day website; [www.acs.org/earthday](http://www.acs.org/earthday). All Entries must provide the information that the ACS request via the entry form which is available via the ACS or CSW websites. Teachers at schools in the Chemical Society of Washington area are encouraged to have a contest at their school and then submit the winning entries from the school to:

Chemist Celebrate Earth Day Coordinator

Chemical Society of Washington

1155 16th Street, NW, Stop O-218

Washington, DC 20036

Electronic submissions should be sent to: [Kim.Morehouse@FDA.HHS.GOV](mailto:Kim.Morehouse@FDA.HHS.GOV)

All entries must be received by Monday, April 25, 2016 so winners at the local section level can be submitted to the ACS by Friday April 29, 2016.

## Brita Johannessen-Kluk, Northwest High School Receives the CSW 2015 Schubert Award for High School Teaching

The co-recipient of the 2015 Leo Schubert Memorial Award for outstanding teaching of high school chemistry is Brita Johannessen-Kluk, Chemistry Teacher at Northwest High School in Germantown, Maryland. She joined the faculty at Norwest High School in 2006.

Ms. Johannessen-Kluk received her bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Secondary Education in 2006 from the University of Maryland. She received a Master's in Human Development in 2010, also from the University of Maryland.

At Northwest High School Ms. Johannessen-Kluk has taught a variety of courses, including AP and Honors Physics, Honors Environmental Chemistry, Honors Matter and Energy and Physical Science. Beyond the classroom, she has regularly served as a mentor for extracurricular chemistry competitions, including the annual Chemathon at the University of Maryland where she serves on the organizing committee. She also sponsors the Northwest High School Science Club and co-sponsors the Ecology (SERT) Team and the Advanced Curriculum for Excellence in Science (ACES). She received the Green Ribbon Award in 2015.

Ms. Johannessen-Kluk is one of those teachers who truly knows how to motivate students. Watching how she interacts with members of her own teams from Northwest High School, it is obvious that her students respect and like her. However, her ability to motivate students well beyond high school is also obvious. Several of her former students either currently are, or have been, students at Maryland, and they always stop by to see her when she is on the campus. They seem to think of her as someone who has "touched their lives".

The Chemical Society of Washington is pleased to recognize Ms. Johannessen-Kluk outstanding contributions to teaching high school chemistry by naming her as the co-recipient of the 2015 Leo Schubert Memorial Award.

## Tiffany Ann Reid Reddinger, Holton-Arms School, Receives the CSW 2015 Schubert Award for High School Teaching

The co-recipient of the 2015 Leo Schubert Memorial Award for outstanding teaching of high school chemistry is Tiffany Reddinger, Chemistry Teacher at the Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, Maryland. She joined the faculty at Holton-Arms in 2001. Prior to that she taught at the Brunswick School in Greenwich, CT, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, VA and Riverdale Country School in the Bronx, NY.

Ms. Reddinger received her bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering in 1993 from the University of Virginia. She took additional graduate courses at Lehman College, City University of New York and George Mason University.

At Holton-Arms School Ms. Reddinger has taught a variety of courses, including Chemistry and Physical Science. Beyond the classroom, she has regularly served as a mentor for extracurricular chemistry competitions, including the annual Chemathon and Chemistry Olympiad, where her students have been highly successful. She is widely recognized by her students and their parents for her strong leadership and support. She was featured in *Doorways* magazine as "Faculty Who Break the Mold." She is the sponsor for the Middle School Robotics/Engineering club and the Upper School Black Student Union. She received the Alumnae Award in 2013 and was featured in the Annual Report as a faculty member who championed the Annual Giving campaign.

## Schubert Award, Continued from Previous Page

Ms. Reddinger's dedication extends to all her students and is not limited to the top performers who have achieved great success. A parent of one of her recent students writes that "It is not an exaggeration to say that Mrs. Reddinger had a deep and profound influence on our daughter."

The Chemical Society of Washington is pleased to recognize Ms. Reddinger's outstanding contributions to teaching high school chemistry by naming her as the co-recipient of the 2015 Leo Schubert Memorial Award.

## Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED)

Earth Day was first officially recognized on April 22, 1970 as a way to demonstrate support for a healthy environment, raise awareness about environmental issues, and remind

### The Great Indoors – Your Home's Ecosystem



people that we all need to contribute to a sustainable planet. For years, chemists have been promoting a better world through recyclable plastics, cleaner-burning fuels, phosphate-free detergents, environmental monitoring, and green chemistry initiatives. The American Chemical Society joined the Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2003.

The Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) will once again participate in Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (CCED) activities. Chemistry is all around us and is vital to our planet's sustainability. Whether it's used in recyclable and biodegradable materials or through the reduction of waste, chemistry is involved in ensuring that we can be eco-friendly and kind to our environment. CCED seeks to bring international focus to environmental causes, such as clean air, water, and energy. ACS offers events, contests, and educational resources for members, chemical educators, and chemistry enthusiasts to illustrate the positive role that chemistry plays in preserving the Earth. The CCED 2016 theme is "The Great Indoors—Your Home's Ecosystem!" This year's theme investigates indoor air and the role chemistry plays in the home ecosystem. The electronic version of the Celebrating Chemistry newsletter for CCED as well as additional information about this year's CCED celebration is available from the ACS website ([www.acs.org/earthday](http://www.acs.org/earthday)).

CSW, in conjunction with the Chemistry Department at Montgomery College, Rockville Campus will participate in Rockville Science Day on Sunday, April 24, 2016. Rockville Science Day is open to the general public and CSW encourages you to attend. Rockville Science Day is intended to provide a friendly environment for students and their parents to participate in some hands on demonstrations and to learn more about how science and engineering are important to our society. There will be more than 70 exhibitors with hands on activities. Additional information about Rockville Science Day can be found on their website ([www.rockvillescience.org/rcsday.html](http://www.rockvillescience.org/rcsday.html)).

This event will be co-sponsored by the CSW Outreach Committee and the CSW Environmental/Sustainability Committee. Volunteers from CSW will be providing hands on activities for children who attend the event as a part of CSW's participation in CCED. Volunteers will also hand out copies of the Celebrating Chemistry publication for CCED, and various CCED themed products. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact the CSW CCED coordinator, Kim Morehouse ([Kim.Morehouse@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Kim.Morehouse@fda.hhs.gov)).



## Undergraduates Honored at February Dinner Meeting

The following students were honored at the February CSW Dinner Meeting:

Last Name	FirstName	School
Augustine	Kyle F.	University of Maryland, College Park
Bible	Michael S.	American University
Fisher	Richard	The George Washington University
Kabirpour	Armita	George Mason University
McDonough	William P.	The Catholic University of America
Osunsade	Adewola	University of the District of Columbia
Skorski	Matthew R.	American University
Wang	Irina	Georgetown University
Woolfs	Laura M.	Georgetown University
Zhu	Iowis	University of Maryland College Park



From left to right: Kyle F. Augustine, Michael S. Bible, Richard Fischer, William P. McDonough, Matthew R. Skorski, Irina Wang, Laura M. Woolfs, Iowis Zhu. Not pictured: Armita Kabirpour, Adewola Osunsade.

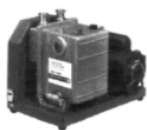
## Volunteer Needed to Proctor CSW National Chemistry Olympiad Exam

One or two volunteers are needed to help proctor the CSW U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad Examination for high school students to be given on Friday, April 22, 2016 at the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College. This is a three-part exam with student registration at 8:30 am followed by the first part of the exam at 9 am. The third part of the exam ends by 4 pm. There will be 19-20 students taking two written exams and a laboratory practical. CSW will provide a continental breakfast and box lunch for all participants. If two people volunteer, then they can split the day with one for the morning and one for the afternoon.

If you are interested in assisting, please contact Regina Cody, the CSW Chemistry Olympiad Coordinator, at [rcody@earthlink.net](mailto:rcody@earthlink.net).

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## CSW Calendar of Events

### **March**

3/21: MARM Abstract Submission Closes

3/21: CSW Board Meeting

3/23: CSW Meeting

### **April**

4/16-17: USA Science & Engineering Festival

4/25: CCED Illustrated Poem Contest Deadline

4/27: MARM Acceptance Notices Sent

4/30: Chemathon

### **May**

5/16: CSW Board Meeting

### **June**

6/9-6/12: MARM