

# THE CAPITAL CHEMIST

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

## Letter from the CSW President Regarding COVID-19

Dear Members and Colleagues,

As the Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) continues to closely monitor the developments related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), we want to assure those planning to attend upcoming CSW events that safety and security are our top priorities. We share your concerns and are intently evaluating whether events can be held safely. At this time, the events that are planned for April will run as scheduled. CSW will provide further updates as events warrant via email, social media, and the CSW website. You may also contact us at [CSW@acs.org](mailto:CSW@acs.org) with questions.

We look forward to seeing you at CSW sponsored events, but we realize there are many questions about these events in light of the coronavirus threat.

Please note that the ACS website now highlights ACS efforts and resources regarding COVID-19 which you might find helpful: <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/covid-19.html>

We appreciate your patience as we evaluate this fluid situation.

Sincerely,

Darryl Boyd

CSW President

**Volume 70, Number 4**

**April 2020**

### Inside this issue:

- Join us virtually for the next CSW meeting
- Learn more about this year's Chemists Celebrate Earth Day theme, and how to participate

*Note: Several events have been cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19. Please check [capitalchemist.org](http://capitalchemist.org) for the most up-to-date information.*

## April 20th VIRTUAL CSW Meeting: "Protecting our Planet Through Chemistry"

Join us for a lunchtime webinar on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for the Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) monthly meeting. Due to COVID-19, CSW is organizing remote participation by webinar in place of its in-person April dinner meeting.

### Protecting our Planet Through Chemistry

a panel discussion

#### **Abstract:**

The chemical sciences play an integral role in protecting our planet, now and for future generations. With the 50th anniversary of Earth Day this year, Chemists Celebrate Earth Week will be focused on Protecting our Planet through Chemistry. Engage in a discussion on this theme with an expert panel, bringing perspectives on the roles of climate science policy, retailers and consumers, and chemical education in shaping a sustainable future.

**Moderator:** Jennifer Tanir, Senior Sustainability Scientist, ToxServices LLC

**Panelists:**

- Carl Maxwell, Manager of Advocacy, American Chemical Society
- Boma Brown-West, Senior Manager of Consumer Health, Environmental Defense Fund
- Mary Kirchhoff, Director, ACS Green Chemistry Institute®

## Webinar Logistics

**Date:** Monday, April 20

**Time:** noon – 1:00pm EDT

**Connection Details:** Visit [www.capitalchemist.org](http://www.capitalchemist.org) for connection details (will be posted as soon as available).



J. Carl Maxwell is responsible for advocacy on energy and environment policy on behalf of the American Chemical Society. He oversees all aspects of congressional policy related to sustainability, climate change, energy, and environmental regulation. He also works closely with related federal agencies to ensure consistent implementation of laws and regulations. Carl served in the offices of Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Senator Bob Smith (R-NH), and Congressman Jim Turner (D-TX), handling science, energy, telecommunications, judiciary, and social security issues. He also served as Senior Legislative Assistant to Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), overseeing tax, trade, energy, and science policy. A native of Austin, Texas, Carl is a political science graduate of Bates College (B.A.) in Lewiston, ME.

Boma Brown-West joined Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) in 2013. She is currently Senior Manager of Consumer Health, focused on driving safer products to the retail marketplace in order to reduce people's exposure to toxic chemicals. In her role, Ms. Brown-West works closely with product manufacturers and retailers such as Walmart on sustainability strategies that accelerate the usage of safer chemicals in consumer products. She also leads EDF's initiative "Behind the Label: a Blueprint for Safer Chemicals in the Marketplace" that lays out a path to corporate leadership. Prior to working at EDF, Ms. Brown-West worked for a decade at Whirlpool Corporation in product engineering and sustainability. There, she played a driving role in establishing Whirlpool's North American sustainability strategy and working with industry colleagues to create the region's first ever appliance sustainability standards. Ms. Brown-West has a M.S. in Technology & Policy from MIT and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Yale University.



Mary Kirchhoff is the Executive Vice President of the American Chemical Society (ACS) Scientific Advancement Division and the Director of the ACS Green Chemistry Institute®. She received her Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of New Hampshire and joined the Chemistry Department at Trinity College in Washington, DC, in 1992. She began working in green chemistry as an AAAS Environmental Fellow and Visiting Scientist with the U.S. EPA's green chemistry program. Mary joined the ACS in 2001, serving as Director of the Education Division for 11 years. Mary is an AAAS Fellow and currently serves on the National Academies' Chemical Sciences Roundtable.

Jennifer Y. Tanir is a Senior Sustainability Scientist at ToxServices, where she manages Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Products Program certification, Living Product Challenge's Transparent Material Health, ToxServices's ToxFMD Screened Chemistry® Library, and supplier outreach and audits for the U.S. EPA Safer Choice Program. Jennifer joined ToxServices in 2019 with almost 20 years of green and sustainable chemistry-related experience working in industry (DuPont), non-profit organizations (American Chemical Society's Green Chemistry Institute and the Health and Environmental Sciences Institute), and consulting (Toward Safer LLC). Jennifer has a Ph.D. in polymer/organic chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and B.S. in chemistry from the University of Richmond. She serves in leadership roles in several professional organizations, including the Association for the Advancement of Alternatives Assessment, American Chemical Society, and Society of Toxicology.



## Chemists Celebrate Earth Week - April 19-25, 2020

A promotional banner for Chemists Celebrate Earth Week. On the left is the ACS logo with the tagline 'Chemistry for life' and 'AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY'. In the center, the text 'PROTECTING OUR PLANET THROUGH Chemistry' is displayed above a graphic of a pair of sunglasses with a green and blue Earth map as the lens. On the right, it says 'CHEMISTS CELEBRATE EARTH WEEK' with a globe icon. At the bottom right, the dates 'April 19-25, 2020' and the website 'www.acs.org/ccew | #CCEW' are listed. On the bottom left, there is a '50 YEARS 1970-2020' logo.

Chemists Celebrate Earth Week  
a program of the American Chemical Society (ACS)  
Theme: "Protecting Our Planet through Chemistry"

Earth Day 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the world's largest environmental movement! Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) is a community-based program of the American Chemical Society (ACS). ACS will celebrate Earth Day through CCEW 2020 from April 19-25 with the theme, "Protecting Our Planet through Chemistry." ACS and Earth Day Network are creating resources and programs to support ACS members and chemistry enthusiasts in joining the campaign. This annual program unites ACS local sections, student chapters, technical divisions, businesses, schools, and individuals in communicating the positive role that chemistry plays in the world. 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 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 ACS joined the Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2003.



The Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) will once again participate in Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) 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. CCEW 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 CCEW 2020 theme is "Protecting Our Planet through Chemistry."

This year's theme looks at how chemistry protects and affects the planet. Planet Earth provides humans with the natural resources we need to survive and thrive. Chemistry is the science that has helped us use both renewable and nonrenewable resources to transform our lives. Chemists invent and design many of the materials that make items we use every day, from electronics to medicine. Every day, our actions as humans have impacts on the earth and the environment. Some of these actions are beneficial, while others are not. We can each do our own part to protect the planet by making small changes in our lives, like switching to biodegradable plastics and buying less one-time-use stuff. We want to show you some of the ways chemistry is contributing to cleaning our water, reducing waste, and designing sustainable materials. We hope that you enjoy celebrating Earth Day's 50th birthday during Chemists Celebrate Earth Week 2020, with the theme of "Protecting Our Planet through Chemistry." Remember that actions to protect our planet should be observed and celebrated all year round! The electronic version of the *Celebrating Chemistry* newsletter for CCEW, as well as additional information about this year's CCEW celebration, will be available February 1, 2020 from the ACS website ([www.acs.org/ccew](http://www.acs.org/ccew)).

## CCEW Illustrated Poem Contest - Deadline to Submit Entries is April 27, 2020

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 Week 2020 theme, "Protecting Our Planet through Chemistry." This year's theme looks at how chemistry protects and affects the planet. Planet Earth provides humans with the natural resources we need to survive and thrive. Chemistry is the science that has helped us use both renewable and nonrenewable resources to transform our lives. Chemists invent and design many of the materials that make items we use every day, from electronics to medicine. Every day, our actions as humans have impacts on the earth and the environment. Some of these actions are beneficial, while others are not. We can each do our own part to protect the planet by making small changes in our lives, like switching to biodegradable plastics and buying less one-time-use stuff. Your illustrated poem should to show some of the way's chemistry is contributing to cleaning our water, reducing waste, and designing sustainable materials. We hope that you enjoy celebrating Earth Day's 50th birthday during Chemists Celebrate Earth Week 2020, with the theme of "Protecting Our Planet through Chemistry."

Detailed rules and guidelines are available on the Chemists Celebrate Earth Day website; [www.acs.org/ccew](http://www.acs.org/ccew). All Entries must provide the information that the ACS request via the entry form which is available via the ACS or CSW websites and adhere to the rules set by the ACS. The entry form is available from the CSW website ([https://capitalchemist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ccew-poem-contest-entry-form\\_2020.pdf](https://capitalchemist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ccew-poem-contest-entry-form_2020.pdf)). 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 Week 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 27, 2020 so winners at the local section level can be submitted to the ACS by Sunday May 3, 2020.

View flyer: <https://capitalchemist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ccew-poem-contest-flyer-2020.pdf>

# Postponed: USA Science & Engineering Festival



Dear USA Science & Engineering Festival Supporters,

The health and well-being of our Festival community are of utmost importance to us. With this in mind, the Festival leadership has made the necessary decision to postpone the April USA Science & Engineering Festival (USASEF) until further notice.

This postponement includes the Festival Expo, X-STEM, Sneak Peek Friday and Inspire Educators Workshops scheduled for April 23-26, 2020. The previous USASEF welcomed over 350,000 attendees, an attendance number that warrants too great a risk of exposure and transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19). As an organization rooted in science, we will continue to follow the guidelines of the CDC, and we encourage you to stay up to date on their website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

## What does this mean for the near future?

At this time, we are actively pursuing new dates for the USASEF. Our goal is to find a date over the summer or early fall. It has been our mission for a decade to provide the most compelling and exciting hands-on STEM programs and events to inspire the next generation. Along with the support of our sponsors and partners, we look forward to continuing to fulfill our mission.

We will be issuing refunds for paid tickets to the USA Science & Engineering Festival Expo and the X-STEM Symposium. Please allow 7-10 business days to process the refunds. If you do not receive a refund by Monday, March 30, 2020, please contact us at [info@usasciencefestival.org](mailto:info@usasciencefestival.org).

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to navigate through these uncharted waters. The Festival team is heartbroken over this circumstance. We have been diligently working for the past 22 months to make the Spring 2020 USASEF a huge success. We wish you good health during this crisis and look forward to a safe family experience for the future USA Science & Engineering Festival.

Please remember to cancel any travel booked for this event.

Sincerely,  
Marc Schulman  
Executive Director, USA Science & Engineering Festival

## Postponed: Rockville Science Day

Regrettably, because of the coronavirus outbreak, we are postponing Rockville Science Day 2020 to a later date in summer or fall 2020. The Rockville Science Center can be a catalyst for science literacy. We can help weather the storm and prepare for the future.

Bob Ekman, Rockville Science Center

*Trustee President*

## CANCELED: Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM)

# MARM 20/20

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# CHEMISTRY IN FOCUS



Dear members of the MARM community,

The organizing committee of the 2020 Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting, that was to be held June 12-13, 2020 at the CUNY Graduate Center and St. John's University, has been monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Unfortunately, the decision has been made to terminate MARM 2020 in the interest of the health and safety for all of our invited speakers, poster presenters, exhibitors, and attendees. While it is unfortunate that we can't present MARM 2020, our hearts go out to the real people impacted by COVID-19.

We wish to thank all of our session organizers for their hard work in building an exciting and dynamic program for MARM 2020 and the American Chemical Society staff, Shantesse Dortch and Kim Savage, for their expert guidance in organizing this regional meeting. We also sincerely appreciate the support of the New York Section of the ACS, our fellow scientific society collaborator [Society of Cosmetic Chemists], our industrial exhibitors [Advion, Dotmatics, Chem101, TA Instruments, Heidolph Instruments, and Vernier], our academic exhibitors [Columbia University Chemical Engineering MS program, CUNY PhD Programs in Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Delaware Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Pennsylvania Master of Chemical Science, Stony Brook University, and York College - CUNY], and our program sponsors [ACS Division of Organic Chemistry, ACS Womens Chemists Committee, and Firmenich] for their generous support.

Sincerely,

Alison Hyslop, General Co-Chair  
Joseph Serafin, General Co-Chair  
Brian R. Gibney, Program Chair

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The **Chemical Society of Washington (CSW)** is the local ACS Chapter for the Washington, DC area and serves approximately 4,000 members.

### **2020 Officers**

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Connect with us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/ACSCSW](http://www.facebook.com/ACSCSW).

## CSW Calendar of Events

April 19: Rockville Science Day (POSTPONED)

April 19-25: Chemists Celebrate Earth Day

April 24-26: USA Science & Engineering Festival (POSTPONED)

April 27: Illustrated Poem Contest Deadline

June 12: MARM (CANCELED)