

THE CAPITAL CHEMIST

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

CSW Dinner Meeting - April 30, 2026 - Featuring Dr. John Warner

Meeting Logistics

Date: Thursday, April 30, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m. Check-in / Social Hour

6:30 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Speaker Presentation

Location: ACS Headquarters - Marvel Hall
1155 16th Street, N.W., Washington, DC

Menu: Meal will be catered by Nora's Kabob Mediterranean Grill and will feature chicken, koobideh, and saffron salmon kabobs, grilled vegetables, hummus, Armenian eggplant dip, roghjot, cucumber dill, pita bread and lavash bread, mini baklava. Beverages will be provided.

Vegetarian option – *available by request only* - Vegetable kebab with hummus and smoked eggplant, falafel wrap, side of pasta salad, combination of vegetable kabob and falafel with rice with hummus and smoked eggplant.

Cost: \$26.00 per person (half price for students and high school teachers)

An RSVP is required for dinner so we can plan appropriate seating and meals.

Register for the virtual option via Zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc3nyh7m>

RSVP by noon (ET) Tuesday, April 28, to csw@acs.org. Please provide the names in your party as well as your contact information when you RSVP. The public is invited to attend. You may attend the talk only at no charge, but reservations are appreciated. If you need any further information or would like to make a reservation, please contact the CSW office by email at csw@acs.org.

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

Volume 76, Number 4

April 2026

Inside this issue:

Events

- Register for the April dinner meeting
- Volunteer for Rockville Science Day
- Encourage participation in the Illustrated Poem contest for CCEW
- Plan to join an upcoming CMA meeting

Section News

- Encourage a student to apply for Project SEED
- View the recording from the March CSW meeting
- See pictures from CMA's Black History Month Trivia event
- Catch up on the latest about the Chemistry Olympiad
- Learn about the District Caucus Meeting

Awards / Opportunities

- Help plan MARM 2028
- Nominate a CSW member for the Hillebrand Prize, Gordon Award, or Schubert Award
- Apply for the CSW Student Travel Award
- Apply for the Division of Analytical Chemistry YCC Travel Award

Speaker Bio

John C. Warner, CEO & CTO, Technology Greenhouse, LLC

John Warner is a chemist, inventor, and educator widely recognized as a founder of green chemistry. With Paul Anastas, he coauthored the 1998 book that defined the field and introduced the 12 Principles of Green Chemistry. Warner earned a BSc from the University of Massachusetts Boston and a PhD from Princeton University. He holds more than 350 patents and has collaborated with hundreds of companies worldwide. A former tenured professor at the University of Massachusetts, he launched the world's first PhD program in Green Chemistry in 2001 and cofounded the nonprofit Beyond Benign. His inventions have spawned multiple companies worldwide.



Abstract

“Green Chemistry: The Missing Elements”

Imagine a world where all segments of society demanded environmentally benign and climate neutral products! Imagine if all consumers, all retailers, and all manufacturers insisted on buying and selling only non-toxic truly sustainable materials! The unfortunate reality is that, even if this situation were to occur, our knowledge of materials science and chemistry would allow us to provide only a small fraction of the necessary products and materials that our economy is based upon. Unfortunately, the way we learn and teach chemistry and materials science in academia is for the most part void of any information regarding mechanisms of toxicity and environmental harm. Green Chemistry is a science that seeks to reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous materials at the design stage of a materials process. It has been demonstrated that materials and products CAN be designed with negligible impact on human health and the environment, while still being economically competitive and successful in the marketplace. This presentation will describe the history and background of Green Chemistry and discuss the opportunities for the next generation of materials designers to create a safer and more sustainable future.

Celebrate Earth Week by Volunteering with CSW at Rockville Science Day on April 26, 2026

Join CSW in Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) by volunteering at the 35th annual Rockville Science Day. This event is held by the Rockville Science Center. Each year this free event features a variety of science and technology-related exhibits, activities, games and demos. This year CSW will be hosting activities for kids centered around this year's CCEW theme, “Into the Woods with Chemistry.” You can learn more about Rockville Science Day at <https://www.rockvillesciencecenter.org/rockville-science-day>.



If you would like to volunteer for this event, please send an email to csw@acs.org to notify the CSW Outreach Committee. All volunteers are asked to read about ACS's volunteer policy and register as an ACS volunteer at this link: <https://www.acs.org/volunteer/explore/youth-protection-policy.html>

Illustrated Poem Contest: Into the Woods with Chemistry

As part of Chemists Celebrate Earth Week, CSW will be hosting the ACS Illustrated Poem Contest for students K-12. Students are invited to create poems and illustrations around the theme, "Into the Woods with Chemistry" Local submissions are judged based on grade categories and local winners advance to the national level where ACS awards cash prizes. To enter, both the poem and an entry form need to be submitted to csw@acs.org no later than April 26, 2026, 11:59 pm ET. Poem Contest rules and further details can be found at the following link: <https://www.acs.org/education/ccew/plan-an-event/illustrated-poem-contest.html>

Entry form: <https://tinyurl.com/4d6spe4t>

Project SEED 2026 Students Applications Close April 2

Project SEED is a program designed to provide paid summer internships in the chemical sciences to students with demonstrated financial need. Students selected to take part of this internship are eligible for college scholarships (learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/yvbhrxc8>). Additionally, CSW encourages use of public transit to get to your internship (and other programming through the summer) via our Travel Green program. Students who utilize public transit can have their travel expenses reimbursed.



At the end of the summer research program, CSW will host a poster ceremony for the students to have a chance to present their research posters to family, friends, and chemistry colleagues from the DMV metro area. More information will come with dates and times for each CSW-hosted Project SEED event.

We have openings for 7 students across 6 projects. If you know students who would be interested and qualify, please have them apply at <https://www.acs.org/education/students/highschool/seed/apply.html>.

Applications close April 2.

Volunteer Opportunity: Help Plan MARM 2028

The Chemical Society of Washington has been selected as the host of the 2028 Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) of the ACS. An organizing committee has been established, and preparations are already underway. The meeting will be held right in the heart of Washington, DC, at historic Howard University June 8 – 10, 2028. Howard was selected for its prime location, favorable accommodations, and historic nature as one of the first HBCUs established in the United States after the Civil War by General Oliver Otis Howard. While we plan to include many of the symposia you are used to from other regional and national ACS meetings, we will also work to include symposia geared towards government labs and policy making given our unique location. We hope you can make this meeting to share and hear about great chemistry happening in the Mid-Atlantic area, but even more so we hope you can assist in our preparations!

So far, the organizing committee is composed of the following volunteers: Prof. Wes Farrell of the US Naval Academy is the General Chair, Prof. Lauren Ragle of George Washington University and Prof. Jacqueline Smith of Howard University are the Co-Program Chairs, Dr. Alessandra Zimmerman of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences is the Communications Chair, former CSW President Dr. Jason Schaff is the Treasurer, Prof. Alex Zestos of American University is the Outreach and Volunteering Chair, and our outgoing CSW President Dr. Allison Aldridge is the Fundraising Chair. Additionally, Prof. Steven

Cummings of Howard University is hard at work serving as a liaison between the committee and Howard University officials.

The local organizing committee is currently seeking to fill additional roles which require different levels of commitment. Furthermore, we hope to have volunteers to organize and preside over symposia, and make suggestions for plenary speakers. We encourage you to share your thoughts or volunteer using our Google survey: <https://tinyurl.com/yjtcvaxr>

Photos and Recording Available - CSW Dinner Meeting - March 26, 2026 - Featuring Hillebrand Prize Recipient and College Chemistry Achievement Awards

Photos and the recording are now available for the March 26th dinner meeting, including presentation of the 2025 College Chemistry Achievement Awards and presentation of the 2025 Hillebrand Prize. Dr. Alan Remaley, recipient of the 2025 Hillebrand Award, is a senior investigator at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in Bethesda MD, and he presented his research on cardiovascular disease, as well as the history of the field.

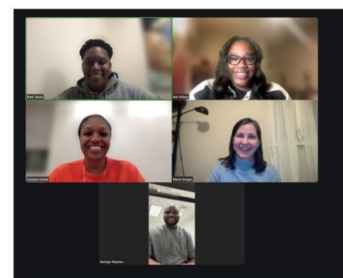
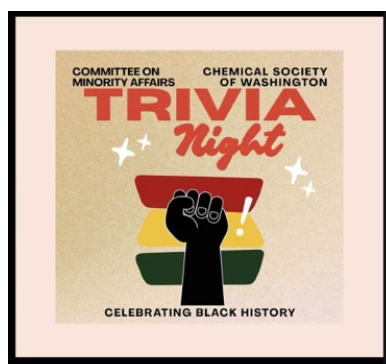
View photos and the recording at <https://tinyurl.com/5ke7cddt>.



Black History Month - Trivia Event 2/26/2026

CMA had a successful trivia event celebrating Black History Month with an evening of fun, learning, and friendly competition. The achievements and impact of Black scientists in chemistry and beyond were highlighted and everyone walked away learning a great deal. We hope to see you at our next event!

Carissa Hunter, Co-Chair
Committee on Minority Affairs



Chemistry Olympiad 2026 is Rolling Along

This year, we had 196 students register to take the local section Chemistry Olympiad exam. On Saturday, March 7, CSW hosted 23 students from schools across the DMV metro area who were unable to participate in the local section exam for the Chemistry Olympiad at their schools. Meanwhile, the other students were able to be tested individually at 9 schools across our area. Those schools (and leading teachers) were:



- Emily Owens at Thomas Jefferson High for Science and Technology
- Erik Lodal at Montgomery Blair High School
- Eriny Youssef at McLean High School (new this year)
- James Keil at Richard Montgomery High (new this year)
- Komal Jain at Lake Braddock Secondary School
- Prasad Gerard at Poolesville High School
- Sarah Oakes at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School
- Susan Bingham at Oakton High School
- Terry Villarreal at BASIS DC (new this year)

Many thanks to the host schools, parents, and friends involved in organizing these students for the local section exam. From these students, only 17 (up to 2 per school) can be selected to participate in the National Chemistry Olympiad exam. The national exam will be graciously hosted by the Takoma Park campus of Montgomery College again this year. Selected students will be contacted with more information to come. The National Chemistry Olympiad exam consists of three sections: Multiple choice, short answer, and an in-lab practical exam. We will break for lunch with faculty and students at Montgomery College to discuss the transition from high school to college and how a 2-year college might help in their career goals.

From the national exams across US, students will be selected for the USNCO Study Camp and go on to represent the US on the international stage at the International Chemistry Olympiad.

Learn more about the Chemistry Olympiad at <https://www.acs.org/education/olympiad.html>, or reach out to our local section coordinator, Lauren Ragle, at lragle@gwu.edu.

Councilor Update from District III Caucus Meeting – 2026

As you may (or may not) know, CSW is part of ACS District III. There are 6 US districts across the ACS membership. Each district holds a caucus meeting prior to the ACS meetings to review important items that will be brought before the entire Council. This gives us a chance to discuss things coming up to a vote and to be aware of anything new going on in various committees. Our own Allison Aldridge organized the recent District III caucus held on March 15. After opening with some ideas of what has been working in our local groups and

regions for innovative projects, we started hearing from different representatives across ACS.

Bonnie Lawlor, District III board representative, gave us an update on the efforts the ACS Board of Directors have undergone to advocate for science on the Hill. She reminded everyone of the Act 4 Chemistry campaign (<https://www.acs.org/policy/memberadvocacy.html>), which is a Legislative Action Network anyone can join to advocate for the chemical sciences. There was some concern over how much work the Board does on behalf of the ACS membership, and Bonnie reassured us she would bring concerns to the Board. The main idea was about transparency of Board actions and the importance of evaluating effectiveness of policy outreach actions. Bonnie closed with reminding everyone about the ACS Open Board Meeting Sunday March 22 at 4 pm, which will be followed by an address by Priestly medalist Dr. Jennifer Doudna.

Bill Carroll presented updates from the Committee on Committees (ConC). There will be a petition to change the name and responsibilities of the Committee on Budget and Finances (B+F) to become the Committee on Fiscal Affairs. These changes would allow the committee to focus more on supporting societal needs and the Board would form a budget committee to focus on the affairs of the ACS enterprise as a whole. Fiscal experts will be brought in as advisors to the volunteer members on both committees. Don Mercer from B+F later added context that these discussions have been ongoing for a little over a year, as the Board reached out to B+F with the desire to form a Board-level committee and adjust the duties of the B+F committee. Don emphasized that the B+F membership are volunteers who may not have fiscal experience handling a \$1B+ organization, hence why these changes will be a good move for all in the end.

Bill also reminded us that the Committee selection form is active (<https://tinyurl.com/y73x9c4f>). If you are terming off soon, please don't forget to fill it out. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please be sure to fill out the form. He mentioned there are some committees who are hurting for membership including the Committee on Chemical Technical Professionals (CTP) (<https://tinyurl.com/y2b85z6k>) and the Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Symbols (NTS) (<https://tinyurl.com/3a25v9ke>). The committee preference form will close July 6, 2026. There are several committees across ACS to look through at <https://tinyurl.com/y5a9yx3x>.

Melissa Cichowicz from the Membership Affairs Committee (MAC) shared the vision of having 150k members by the 150th anniversary. There is a Recruitment and Engagement Toolkit (<https://tinyurl.com/mr2n37aw>) put together by MAC that may be of use. Melissa also discussed the organization of the new "My Benefits" dashboard (<https://www.acs.org/membership/my-benefits.html>), organizing all ACS member benefits in one cohesive space.

Donivan Porterfield from the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N+E) was the last speaker at the Caucus meeting. He reminded everyone to come listen to the four candidates for President Elect. There will be a downvoting process to narrow the list to two candidates before the official ballots go out to members. N+E also had a Strategic Planning Retreat recently, where they discussed things such as unifying equitable access to communication strategies for candidates and supporting the pipeline of development for future candidates.

Much thanks, again, to Allison Aldridge for organizing the District III Caucus.

Applications are now being accepted: CSW Student Travel Award - ACS Fall 2026 Meeting

The ACS National Meeting for Fall 2026 will be held in Chicago, Illinois, on August 23-27, 2026. This will be a hybrid event.

The Chemical Society of Washington is pleased to announce a student travel award to defray travel and/or registration costs to the ACS Fall 2026 meeting. Eligible expenses include meeting registration, travel expenses, airfare and lodging. Applicants should submit the following by midnight on June 1, 2026 to csw@acs.org:

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

Within three weeks of returning from the ACS meeting, the awardees should submit receipts 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.

The award is open to students who are graduate or undergraduate students in the jurisdiction of the Chemical Society of Washington. The award is not intended for post-doctoral fellows. There will be a maximum of four awards available. Each award will be for up to \$1,000 of eligible expenses based on the review of the above materials.

After returning from the conference, awardees will be asked to draft a short (1-page) summary of their experiences for posting to the *Capital Chemist* website and to present their posters, if applicable, at one of the upcoming CSW dinner meetings.

Accepting Nominations for the 2026 Hillebrand Prize: Recognizing original contributions to the science of chemistry by a member or members of the Chemical Society of Washington (CSW)



William Francis Hillebrand
December 12, 1853 – February 7, 1925

American Chemist
ACS President 1906

Nominations are being accepted for the 2026 Hillebrand Prize Award.

Nominations are invited for the 2026 Hillebrand Prize, awarded annually for original contributions to the science of chemistry by a member or members of the Chemical Society of Washington (CSW), the local section of the American Chemical Society. The Hillebrand Prize is the most prestigious honor given each year by CSW and is recognized nationally as a mark of significant accomplishment in chemistry. The Hillebrand Prize originated in 1924 and is named for Dr. William F. Hillebrand (1853- 1925), an internationally-recognized pioneer in analytical chemistry and one of Washington's most distinguished early chemists.

The prize carries an honorarium of \$2000. Many previous Hillebrand Prize recipients have won numerous other national and international awards, including three who have received the Nobel Prize.

View the list of past award winners: <https://capitalchemist.org/2018/06/hillebrand-prize-recipients-by-year/>

The nominating package should contain the following:

Nominating Letter – limited to 1000 words

The letter should focus broadly on the chemical accomplishments of the nominee, rather than their bio, leaving the finer points to those submitting seconding letters. Biographic details (degrees, positions held, major activities, etc.) will be given in the nominee's CV. The letter should begin with the major theme(s) in the nominee's research career with perhaps a summary of how these evolved over the years to create breakthroughs or push the field in a new or very productive direction.

Describing the nominee's major contribution(s) is extremely important and should be the bulk of the letter.

There is no preference or restriction for the specific area of contribution so long as it represents a significant accomplishment in chemistry. Anything is fair game: synthetic or analytical, experimental or theoretical, bio- or inorganic, etc. This section might detail such things as: the major techniques used in their research and how these were applied to a specific area to bring about significant results not previously achievable; if their research resulted in the development of a new experimental/instrumental technique or use of an existing technique in an innovative new way; how techniques the nominee developed became standard in that area; the impact the nominee's work had on influencing other areas of research; development of new reagents, catalysts or reaction conditions; development of a new computational method or theoretical approach; etc. The nominator should provide evidence in support of these statements. This could include information about the number of citations, impact factors of certain articles (or aggregate numbers), especially influential articles/book chapters, important invited talks, previous awards by other societies, patents, funding, important leadership positions, etc. Mentioning an extremely productive collaboration is possible so long as the role/contributions of the nominee are clear. The award is not given for mentoring students (as a specific criteria) but nominators often mention if this has occurred, especially if these students have gone on to significant positions of their own.

Two Seconding Letters – limited to 500 words each

It is helpful if these be from established experts in the nominee's field, and best if they are from experts at institutions other than the nominee's unless a notable expert in the nominee's area is also from the nominee's institution.

Curriculum Vitae – the candidate must be a member of CSW

The CV should strongly emphasize individual academic backgrounds, appointments, publications, presentations, and patents.

List of Publications

This is critical in determining the specific scientific contribution of the nominee or team.

Proposed Citation – limited to 25 words

This is a brief statement that should be understood by chemists in almost any area. It should avoid highly specialized language but still give the reader the area of accomplishment and why this is a significant accomplishment in chemistry. In some ways it is a one or two sentence abstract of the first paragraph of the nominating letter. Since this is only 25 words, you may simply want to provide 1 or 2 examples of previous awardees.

We strongly recommend that the nominator collect all materials and forward in one email, preferably as PDF files(s), to csw@acs.org. Nominations will be active for three years.

If you would like to verify the eligibility of an individual as a nominee or nominator, please contact the CSW Administrator at csw@acs.org. The Prize will be presented at a CSW dinner meeting in Spring 2027, or on a date mutually agreeable.

If you have any questions about the award or the procedure for nominating someone for the award, please contact our office at csw@acs.org.

Accepting Nominations for the 2026 Charles L. Gordon Award: Recognizing Excellence in Service

Named after Charles Gordon for his years of service as managing editor of the *Capital Chemist*, the Charles L. Gordon Memorial Award is 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. Nominations are invited for this award, consisting of a plaque that will be presented at a fall CSW dinner meeting. A written nomination should include a description of the accomplishments on which the nomination is based. Additional documentation that includes seconding letters and the nominee's CV are welcome.

The nomination should be submitted electronically to csw@acs.org. Please contact CSW (csw@acs.org), if you have any questions.

Accepting Nominations for the 2026 Leo Schubert Award: Recognizing Excellence in Chemistry Teachers

The Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the Leo Schubert Memorial Award to recognize an outstanding high school chemistry teacher in the Washington, D.C. area. The award was established in 1979 to honor Dr. Leo Schubert (1916-1978), a chemistry professor at American University who devoted much of his career to developing programs for high school teachers and students. The Schubert award consists of a \$500 honorarium and a certificate, which will be presented at a fall CSW dinner meeting.

Nominations for the award must be comprehensive in describing the nominee's accomplishments in areas such as innovation in teaching, writing curricula, outside teaching, papers published, involvement in science fairs, and postgraduate study. The application may also include supporting letters, as well as any supporting documents that concisely illuminate the nominee's accomplishments.

To be eligible for the CSW Schubert award, the nominee must currently teach chemistry at a secondary school in the geographic region of the Chemical Society of Washington, which includes metropolitan Washington, D.C. and the neighboring counties in Maryland (Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties) and Virginia (Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties). The region of CSW also includes six counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland: Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset.

The CSW Schubert Award nomination form is available via our website: <https://tinyurl.com/29k2vvh4>

Alternatively, a pdf version of the nomination form can be obtained by an email request to csw@acs.org. Completed nomination forms can be sent directly to csw@acs.org. Please contact csw@acs.org if you have any questions.

ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry YCC Travel Award

The ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry is offering travel awards for Younger Chemists (under age 40) to travel to a meeting to present the results of their research. Individuals who may not have previously been able to participate in professional meetings are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications are due Nov 1st for winter and spring meetings and May 1st for summer and fall meetings. More information is available on the Division website at <https://acsanalytical.org/award/younger-chemists-conference-travel-grants/>. The application forms will be available when the application period is open.

Committee on Minority Affairs Meeting Schedule

The Committee on Minority Affairs (CMA) had a great start with our first meeting in February! We're excited to announce that we'll now be hosting monthly meetings via Zoom and would love for you to join us.

Upcoming Dates

- April 1, 2026
- May 7, 2026
- June 4, 2026
- July 2, 2026
- August 6, 2026
- September 3, 2026
- October 1, 2026
- November 5, 2026
- December 3, 2026

Meeting Details

Topic: CSW CMA Committee Meeting
Time: 7:00 PM

Join via Zoom

Meeting ID: 958 2100 7951
Passcode: cswcma

The Capital Chemist

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

Capital Chemist Staff

Voice: 202-659-2650
Email: thecapitalchemist@gmail.com
X (formerly Twitter): @CapitalChemist

Chair, Publications

Alessandra Zimmermann

Editor, Business Manager

Jessica Catto

Publisher

Chemical Society of Washington

CSW Correspondence

CSW, 1155 16th Street, NW, O-218
Washington, DC 20036
202-659-2650 voice
email: csw@acs.org
www.capitalchemist.org

CSW assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the editor or contributors to its publication or the products and services advertised herein. Copyright ©2026, CSW.

The **Chemical Society of Washington (CSW)** is the local ACS Chapter for the Washington, DC area and serves approximately 3,500 members.

2026 Officers

President

Nevart Tahmazian

President-elect

Lee M. Nagao

Immediate Past President

Allison Aldridge

Secretary

Nia Pollard

Treasurer

Bree Taylor

CSW Calendar of Events

- April 1: CMA Meeting
- April 2: Project SEED Student Application Deadline
- April 26: Rockville Science Day
- April 26: Illustrated Poem Contest Deadline
- April 30: CSW Dinner Meeting
- May 1: DAC YCC Travel Award Deadline
- May 7: CMA Meeting
- June 1: CSW Student Travel Award deadline
- June 4: CMA Meeting
- July 2: CMA Meeting

The following CSW members contributed content to this month's newsletter: Wesley Farrell, Carissa Hunter, Lauren Ragle, and Nevart Tahmazian.