

## **October 2011 Newsletter**

- I WCC Hosted Presentation on the Life of Madame Marie Curie
- II National Chemistry Week Celebration at the National Museum of Nuclear Science
- III National Chemistry Week Celebration at the Explora Museum
- IV Nuclear Forensics: The Science and Role in Enhancing Global Security
- V Local Section Officers
- VI Changes of Address

### **I. WCC Hosted Presentation on the Life of Madame Marie Curie**

Our Local Section Women Chemists Committee in partnership with the Chemistry Division of Los Alamos National Laboratory will host a presentation by Pnina Abir-Am (Brandeis University Resident Scholar, Women's Studies Research Center) on "The Centennial of Mme Curie in 2011: What her Public Memory can tell us about the Changing Status of Women in Science". This presentation will be open to our Local Section members – men included – and the general public.

There will be two opportunities (3 pm and 5 pm) to hear Dr. Abir-Am's presentation on Wednesday, October 12 at the Bradbury Science Museum (1350 Central Avenue) in Los Alamos. We are currently planning to have refreshments available at the Bradbury museum for attendees in the period between those two presentations. In addition we are currently planning to have an evening dinner with Dr. Abir-Am in Los Alamos. Any of our members interested in joining us for that dinner can contact Donivan Porterfield <[dporterfield@lanl.gov](mailto:dporterfield@lanl.gov)> for further details.

The Centennial of Marie S. Curie's Nobel Prize of 1911 (her 2nd, for the discovery of radium) is being observed during 2011, which is why IUPAC and UNESCO proclaimed it the International Year of Chemistry. Commemorative events held so far include special issues of scientific journals, exhibitions, and conferences held by scientific and historical societies. Based on events that took place in the first half of 2011, Dr. Abir-Am will explore how this centennial provides a unique opportunity for shaping societal and professional perceptions of women in science, so as to improve the under-representation of women in science.

In the first part of her talk Dr. Abir-Am will explore how the public memory of Mme Curie and her discoveries was forged in the century that lapsed, through various anniversaries, especially the globalization of the centennial of the discovery of radium and radioactivity after the end of the Cold War, in 1998. In the second part, she will explore how Mme Curie's public memory as discoverer of new elements, collaborative spouse, a twice Nobel laureate, (shared award in physics in 1903; sole award in chemistry in 1911) widowed single mother of a would be Nobel Laureate daughter, laboratory

director, head of a research school, member of an elite network of influential scientists, and international celebrity, reflects changing societal opportunities for women in science.

## **II. National Chemistry Week Celebration at the National Museum of Nuclear Science**

Our Local Section is once again planning to hold a National Chemistry Week outreach event at the National Museum of Nuclear Science in Albuquerque on Saturday, October 22 from 10 am to 4 pm. Attached to this newsletter is the promotional flyer for this event.

More than a dozen UNM Department of Chemistry students will be demonstrating a variety of experiments at the Museum on that day. However, given the significance of the 2011 International Year of Chemistry (IYC) we would like to have broader representation of our Local Section membership in sharing the joy of chemistry with the public.

In partnership with the National Museum of Nuclear Science and the UNM Department of Chemistry we will have the needed items for several different chemistry activities. We also welcome participation by those who have chemistry related activities they wish to share with the public. We are also interested in those within commercial firms and the national laboratories in our Local Section who would like to demonstrate the chemistry behind products or technologies the public would find relevant. Among the goals of the 2011 IYC are to increase the public appreciation of chemistry in meeting world needs, to encourage interest in chemistry among young people, and to generate enthusiasm for the creative future of chemistry.

Those interested in assisting with this Local Section activity at the National Museum of Nuclear Science can contact Donivan Porterfield <dporterfield@lanl.gov> and Malva Knoll <mknoll@nuclearmuseum.org> for more information.

## **III. National Chemistry Week Celebration at the Explora Museum**

The Explora Museum in Albuquerque is a participant in the Search for the Elements Science Center Network. This network is a part of a National Science Foundation funded project to produce a two-hour documentary, "The Mystery of Matter: Search for the Elements," about one of the great adventures in the history of science, the long (and continuing) quest to answer the question: What is the world made of?

The Explora is looking for volunteer chemists to assist their staff in the Experiment Bar during over the period of Sunday, October 16 through Friday, October 21, 2011 to celebrate National Chemistry Week. Please contact Armelle Casau [acasau@explora.us](mailto:acasau@explora.us) for information on how you could assist with activities at the Experiment Bar. Our Local Section also looks forward to working with the Explora staff and student interns to develop activities for the 2012 National Chemistry Week and leading up to the broadcast of the above documentary.

#### IV. Nuclear Forensics: The Science and Role in Enhancing Global Security

Our Local Section will be joining the Trinity Section of the American Nuclear Society and the Southwest Regional Chapter of Institute of Nuclear Materials Management for a presentation by Dr. Carol Burns (Division Leader for the LANL Chemistry Division) on “Nuclear Forensics: The Science and Role in Enhancing Global Security”. That presentation will be on Friday, November 18 at the Courtyard Marriott in Santa Fe. More details will be provided closer to the date of that meeting.

#### V. Local Section Officers

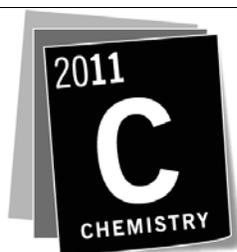
The following are our 2011 Local Section Officers. Please feel free to contact them about any of the opportunities mentioned in this newsletter or other ways you would like to become involved in the Local Section or ACS in general.

Position	Name	E-mail
Chair	Mr. Donivan Porterfield (LANL)	dporterfield@lanl.gov
Chair-Elect	Dr. Michael Heagy (NM Tech)	mheagy@nmt.edu
Past-Chair	Dr. David Hobart (LANL)	dhobart@lanl.gov
Secretary	Dr. Changjian (Jim) Feng (UNM)	cfeng@unm.edu
Treasurer	Dr. Andrea Ambrosini (SNL)	aambros@sandia.gov
Advisors	Dr. Merritt Helvenston (NMHU)	merritt@nmhu.edu
	Dr. David Hobart (LANL)	dhobart@lanl.gov
	Dr. Kristin Omberg (LANL)	komberg@lanl.gov
Councilors	Dr. Steve Showalter (SNL)	skshowa@sandia.gov
	Mr. Donivan Porterfield (LANL)	dporterfield@lanl.gov
Alternate Councilor	Dr. Ron Clark (Cycad Products)	cycadp@ziadial.com

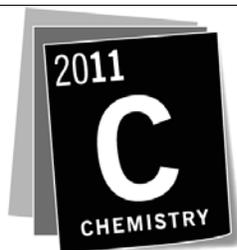
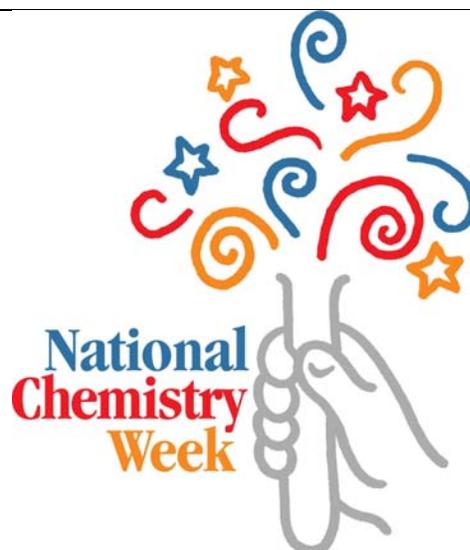
We are also in the process of revising our Local Section bylaws to bring them up to date with ACS policies. We hope to have approval of revised Local Section bylaws on this upcoming officer election ballot. Anyone interested in participating in the revision process can contact <dporterfield@lanl.gov> for more information.

#### VI. Changes of Address

The distribution of our Local Section newsletter is dependent on accurate e-mail and US mail addresses being supplied to the ACS. Address changes can be submitted to ACS through the following means: service@acs.org, (800) 227-5558, or logging in to www.acs.org.



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**CHEMISTRY**  
2011



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