

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK 1999
Dr. Alex Madonik and Dr. Marinda Li Wu
Public Relations and NCW Co-Chairs
California Section, American Chemical Society
Reprinted from The VORTEX, December 1999

NCW '99 (Nov. 7-13) has been a MOST EXCITING week for the California Section! Not only have we had various public outreach efforts conducted by members throughout our local section, but this year our NCW efforts included TWO HUGE NCW EVENTS. As a "brand-new" NCW event, the California Section was thrilled to appear as part of the half-time show at the CAL football stadium on the campus of UC Berkeley before an estimated crowd of 50,000 with an NCW-SEABORG TRIBUTE on Nov. 13. Earlier on Nov. 9, we celebrated NCW '99 with our third and ever-popular Family Science Night program, this year featured as "Y2CHEM - A CHEMISTRY EXTRAVAGANZA" in Piedmont, California. IChC, the International Chemistry Celebration, which began with NCW last year and concluded with NCW this year, was celebrated at both of the California Section NCW'99 events. A mission common to both NCW and IChC is to "enhance the public appreciation of chemistry and its contributions to everyday life."

ZONE by the football stadium. We distributed thousands flier and temporary NCW-Sg tatoos honoring Nobel Laureate, the late Dr. Glenn Seaborg (1912-1999) along with NCW and IChC literature and souvenirs. UCB recent grad, Ryan Louie as "MCSquared", entertained the crowds with his "Cool Chemistry Rap" celebrating National Chemistry Week along with Randall Schroeder's colorful "Cool Chem Car."



The Periodic Table Car by Randy Schroeder

The NCW-Seaborg Tribute (written by Dr. Sam Markowitz, Professor of Chemistry at UCB) was delivered over the public address system of UC Berkeley's Memorial Stadium to CAL and U. of Oregon fans watching the half -time show. With the CAL band still on the field, our 8 enthusiastic NCW volunteers (Dr. Alex Madonik and Dr. Sam Markowitz with the NCW banner; Alpha Chi Sigma members, Deanne Krenz, Chris Hack, Alice Lee, and UCB grad, Ryan Louie, carrying the huge Sg (element 106) banner; Dr. Marinda Li Wu and Will Wu with plenty of He-filled special "blue and gold CAL colors" NCW balloons) marched out on the football field as the following announcement was made to the crowds:



Members of the Alpha Chi Sigma fraternity staff the ACS Booth at the Funzone, 13 November 1999, University of California, Berkeley Memorial Stadium

Prior to the CAL football game from 10:00am to 12:30pm, our local section along with UCB chemistry students from Alpha Chi Sigma and Iota Sigma Pi hosted an ACS-NCW booth for the general public attending the pre-game FUN

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"And now ladies and gentlemen, please direct your attention to midfield for a special presentation. As part of National Chemistry Week, members of the California Section of the American Chemical Society would like to honor the late Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg. Dr. Seaborg was the former faculty representative to the Pacific Coast Conference, President of the American Chemical Society, Nobel Laureate and former chancellor of the University of California. The element 106, Seaborgium, was recently named in his honor and is displayed on the field. The American Chemical Society thanks CAL fans for their recognition and support of achievements in science education."



Honoring Glenn T. Seaborg at UC Berkeley

"Y2CHEM - A Chemistry Extravaganza" came to Piedmont Middle School on Tuesday, Nov. 9th, and over 1000 students and parents will not soon forget it! Co-sponsored by the American Chemical Society and the Piedmont Schools Parents' Clubs, this event celebrated National Chemistry Week with two stage shows at 7pm and 8pm as well as 20 "hands-on" activity stations that were literally mobbed by 4th-8th grade students and their families. Each stage show began with a formal welcome by PMS Principal John Morrison and Dr. Marinda Li Wu, NCW Coordinator for the CA Section. Special guests included Patty White, the Mayor of Piedmont, who presented our section with a Proclamation for National Chemistry Week, Dr. Gail Uilkema, Piedmont Unified School District Superintendent, and Sheila Jordan, Alameda County Office of Education Superintendent.



Making slime at Piedmont Middle School

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Entertainment followed with Cool Chemistry Rap by MCSquared (recent UC Berkeley graduate Ryan Louie), accompanied by a half dozen spirited PMS students who brought home the message that "Chemistry is FUN!" The stage presentations continued with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientists, Dr. Bryan Balazs and Ken Foster, featuring Elephant's Toothpaste and Ken's acrylic-oxygen rocket. Award presentations were then made by Dr. Wu, Public Relations Co-chair for the California Section, who noted the Sunday, Nov. 7, 1999 article in "Parade" magazine entitled "What Has Chemistry Given Us?" In keeping with "Polymers" as this year's theme for NCW, the ACS is conducting a "Global Salute to Polymers," in conjunction with this year's International Chemistry Celebration. Dr. Wu introduced the section's recipient, Dr. Nicholas J. Kirchner, recognizing his research on modification of surfaces of polymers such as Teflon®. An award was then presented to 7th grader, Julia Chiang, as the overall winner from 22 sections of 6th - 8th Piedmont Middle School students competing in our contest for the best essay on new uses of super absorbent polymers. The stage shows concluded with raffles for NCW T-shirts, NCW "Millimoles," and other NCW souvenirs.

Y2CHEM also featured 20 "hands-on" stations where kids explored everything from the pH of household products (led by Anne Frazer) to the polymerization of DNA and RNA. Our ever-popular "Slime" activity station (led by Dr. Elaine Yamaguchi and others from Chevron) and Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream (led by Janet Schunk and other volunteers) were big hits as always. "A World of Color" was a theme of IChC, the International Chemistry Celebration, and of "Natural Dyes from Plants," presented by Professor Margareta Sequin and her students from SF State U. "Polymers in Your Life"

featuring a "hands-on" Wonder Science activity on super absorbent polymers was led by Sara Gaucher and others from Iota Sigma Pi. East Bay AWIS (Association for Women in Science), as always, also provided volunteers. Piedmont High School chemistry teacher, Tanya Phillips, provided a number of activities as well as many student volunteers. Thanks are also due to other Piedmont teachers including Marianne Gielow and Jennifer Bridgman as well as the Piedmont parent contact, Anne-Marie Lamarche. Other volunteers included some ACS Executives, Dr. Alex Mihailovsky, Mary Singleton, Bobbi Kahn, Dr. Paul Vartanian, Dr. Chris Bannochie and others already mentioned. Special thanks also go to Cathy Clarkin, Timothy Perfit, and Norm Wu for all their help and to Randall Schroeder for driving his unique colorful "Cool Chemistry Car" (autographed by the late Dr. Glenn Seaborg and many others!) to BOTH of our NCW '99 events! Again, we THANK the efforts of hundreds of volunteers who helped us at these successful NCW events as well as those who have worked with us since last May planning NCW '99.

