

Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

Volume 26 No. 1

February Dinner Meeting

Chocolate – Food of the Gods

Howard and Sally Peters

Abstract

Chocolate has been part of the world culture for thousands of years. This talk will present:

- (1) the high points of the history of chocolate from the Mayan and Aztec cultures to the present;
- (2) some chemistry and biochemistry of theobroma cocoa (the food of the gods);
- (3) some health results that indicate this exotic vegetable (obviously since wine is a fruit) is actually good for you;
- (4) some circulating urban legends (little known facts, trivia) about chocolate;
- (5) discussions about the recent book "The Emperors of Chocolate"; and
- (6) samples sufficient to make some attendees sick.



Some of us are not ashamed to admit to being card-carrying chocoholics and on a 12-step plan.

Biography

Howard Peters is a 1962 chemistry graduate of Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA (and hometown of Joe Nameth). He earned a Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Stanford University in 1967 under Dr. Harry S. Mosher. After several years in chemical research with Dow Chemical Company in Midland, MI and then SRI International in Menlo Park, he completed his legal studies at night at Santa Clara University in 1978. He was a patent attorney with Syntex Corporation in Palo Alto and for the past 18 years has been a partner in his own patent law firms in San

continued on next page

February Dinner Meeting

Date: February 19, 2004

Time: 6:00 pm Social Hour
7:00 pm Dinner
8:00 pm Lecture

Location: Palo Alto Elks Lodge
4249 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, CA 94306
650-493-4249

Speakers: Dr. Howard Peters
Peters, Verny, Jones &
Schmitt, L.L.P.
Sally Peters
PARC Inc.

Cost: \$15.00 Club Buffet, including main course, salads, vegetables, coffee and dessert. No host bar available.

Reservations: www.scvacs.org
Shirley Radding
408-246-2564
408-296-8625 Fax

Reservations should be made by February 16th stating your name, address, company affiliation, and number in party.

If you are unable to honor your reservation, you will be invoiced following the dinner meeting.

All attendees will be part of a free raffle for a 10-lb bar of bittersweet Guittard chocolate.

January Dinner Reminder

On Thursday, January 22nd, we will be presenting the 2003 Mosher Award to Dr. Joe Lambert at the Biltmore Hotel and Suites in Santa Clara. Please join us starting at 6:00 PM for Social Hour and dinner at 7:00 PM. For his presentation, Dr. Lambert will unravel the past through chemistry at 8:00 PM.

Please make your reservations by January 19th, either online (www.scvacs.org) or with Shirley Radding (408-246-2564 or 408-296-8625 FAX). Hope to see you there!

Chocolate, continued from previous page

Francisco and Palo Alto. He is a former Santa Clara Valley Local Section Chair (1986 and 1996) and is presently a Councilor for the Division of Chemistry and the Law. He has received the Santa Clara Valley Section's Ottenberg and Radding Awards, and Roger Middlekauff Service Award of the Division of Chemistry. He is the author of the ACS reference book *Understanding Chemical Patents*, 2nd edition (1991) and is currently working on the update.

Sally Peters is a 1964 chemistry graduate of Geneva College and performed biochemical research for Dr. Hubert Loring at Stanford in 1964-65. She earned an MLS degree in library science at San Jose State University in 1983. She has been a chemical information specialist in the Information Center at PARC Inc. (formerly XEROX PARC) in Palo Alto for the past 20 years. She is currently our local section Councilor and was the 2001 Chair. She has received the Geneva College Alumni Service Award (1997)

and the Local Section's Ottenberg Award in 2001.

The Peters family includes Theresa Peters, a high school biology teacher in Pasadena, and Elizabeth Peters Bhatt, a biotech/business type with Eli Lilly in Indianapolis. The two granddaughters in Indianapolis, Kayleigh and Megan, have 119 years of ACS membership in their grandparents; the other Grandpa Raj Bhatt is a biochemist and a 44-year ACS member.



Chair's Message

Welcome to 2004, a significant milestone in the life and history of the Santa Clara Valley Section—50 years! This year comes with the promise of an exciting program: interesting monthly dinner meetings, teacher workshops, community outreach programs, member profiles, section awards honoring ACS members who have exhibited excellence in the field of chemistry with service to the Society as well as our local section.



At the beginning of each New Year, the Section's leadership changes with a new Chair taking the gavel. I am that person. My name is George Lechner, a 40-year ACS member and a manager of Environment, Health & Safety at Xerox Corporation. I am located in Palo Alto and provide EH&S oversight for the company's customer service engineers and client account associates in the Western United States. The Executive Committee of the Santa Clara Valley Local Section and I are at your service to guide us through the year. 2004 will be a challenging year and we need the help of everyone to assure that we serve as many members as we can with topical meetings and outreach.

I would like to thank Maureen Scharberg, last year's Chair, for her continuing and outstanding efforts in

Section leadership and her concerns for the education of our youth and those interested in science and chemistry, in particular. Thanks also to the Executive Committee for guiding us through 2003.

At our January dinner meeting, we are pleased to present the 2003 Harry

and Carol Mosher Award to Dr. Joseph B. Lambert, the Clare Hamilton Hall endowed professor of chemistry at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He will speak to us about "Unraveling the Past through Chemistry" by exploring four areas in which chemistry has become involved in archaeology. The program will start at the Biltmore Hotel and Suites in Santa Clara at 6:00 PM with a social hour, followed by dinner, the award presentation and lecture. You can make your dinner reservations online at www.scvacs.org. If you just want to hear the talk, simply show up at the Biltmore around 8:00 PM.

Then, in February, Dr. Howard Peters will deliver his favorite topic, "The Chemistry of Brown." Did you know there is wonderful chemistry in brown? This dinner meeting will take place at a new venue—the Elks Lodge in Palo Alto. You will be pleased with not only the topic but also the dinner and its price. In an effort to have more of our dinner meetings at a more affordable price (and maybe attract

more attendance), we have made arrangements to try out the cuisine and facilities at the Elks Lodge. Watch for the announcement.

March will see us traveling to the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco to attend a joint dinner meeting with the California Section of ACS and the NorCal Section of the AIChE. The topic will be "How to Survive in the World of Biotech," an exciting area of study and promise. There will be more on this in the next newsletter.

Later in the year, we will learn about the chemistry of prions (We know about ions, but what about prions? The word is even pronounced differently.), industrial hygiene, what the Student Affiliates are doing and other topics of interest to our members.

What topics are you interested in? Let us know. Jack Riley, our Chair-Elect, would be most interested in hearing about what members are thinking. You can email us at scvacs@yahoogroups.com.

Remember that this is your Society. You can make a difference by participating in the local section activities as well as the national ACS meetings, divisions and committees. Interested? Join us when you can at a monthly dinner meeting, the summer picnic, at a meeting of the Executive Committee or at a teacher workshop.

Happy New Year! I am looking forward to meeting you.

George Lechner

Important Upcoming Science Fair News

Howard Peters

The local section will be changing directions in its Minority Affairs and Science Fair programs in 2004.

The Dr. George Washington Carver Science Fair and Carver Kidvention were cancelled again for the recent January 5th (Carver Day in California). The economic situation has not improved enough over the past year in the Silicon Valley to proceed. We will keep you posted about any plans for January 2005.

In San Mateo County, the Science Fair will be held from January 30th to February 6th at the Hiller Museum in San Carlos. See <http://www.hiller.org/> later in January and <http://www.aldencase.com/SanCarlosScienceFair/> for more information.

SCIENCEPAOOLZA is a program of the East Side Union High School in San Jose. It will be on Saturday, February 28th at the San Clara County Fair Grounds in San Jose. See <http://www.outreach-foundation.org/palooza/palooza.html> for more information and to sign up to be a judge.

The Santa Clara Valley Section will be hosting for the first time at the Synopsis Championship in March with ACS judging and an ACS awards presentation. Two groups of judges will be needed on Wednesday, March 17th, 2004 at the McNary Convention Center in San Jose: one group for ACS chemistry (7-10 judges needed) and one group for the usual chemistry awards made by Synopsis (as has been done in the past -and at least 10 different chemistry judges will be needed). See <http://www.science-fair.org/> for more information and procedures to sign up to be a judge.

The Bay Area Science Fair will be held during March 21st and 27th at the San Francisco County Fair Building. The change is due to the closing of the California Academy of Sciences building in Golden Gate Park for four years around December 31st for a complete demolition and reconstruction. See <http://home.pacbell.net/sfbasf/> for more information.

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) will be held May 9th-15th, 2004 in Portland, OR. Judging is usually Tuesday afternoon, May 11th and all-day Wednesday, May 12th. See <http://www.sciserv.org/isef/> for judging.

The California Science Fair will be held May 24th-25th at the California Science Center in Exposition Park near downtown Los Angeles. See <http://www.usc.edu/CSSF/> for more information.

Editor's Corner In the News



In the November 11, 2003 issue of C&EN, Dr. John Brauman was one of eight scientists who received the 2002 National Medal of Science at the White House on November 6th. Dr. Brauman is the J.G. Jackson and C.J. Wood Professor of Chemistry at Stanford and is a Past-Chair of the Local Section (1971). He is a pioneer in the mechanisms and dynamics of reaction chemistry and determining a solvent's role in acid-base chemistry. Visit the National Science Foundation Website to view all of the Medal recipients' citations: www.nsf.gov/nsb/awards/nms/medal.htm. Congratulations to Dr. Brauman!

The theme of 2003 National Chemistry Week, "Earth's Atmosphere and Beyond: Celebrating 100 Years of Flight", extended to the general public in the December 2003 issue of the Smithsonian. It was on the morning of the 17th of December 1903 that Orville Wright took flight for about 120-feet. Check it out online at www.smithsonianmag.si.edu/smithsonian/issues03/dec03/flight.html.

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS JANUARY 2004

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3729

Position Title: Lecturer

Job Description: Part time University teaching in Chemistry for Spring and/or Fall semesters

QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED

Education: PhD Preferred

Experience: Inorganic, General, Physical or Biochemistry background. Teaching experience highly preferred.

LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS

Location: San Jose State University

Salary: Dependent upon education level and experience.

Description of Employer: EE/AA Employer. Women and minorities encouraged to apply.

Application Instructions: Send Curriculum Vitae to:

San Jose State University
Department of Chemistry
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0101

Happy
New
Year!





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AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY
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JANUARY 2004 NEWSLETTER TOPICS:

Chocolate—Food of Gods
February Dinner Meeting
January Dinner Reminder
Chair's Message
Important Upcoming Science Fair News
Editor's Corner: In the News

CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS

To receive emails when newsletters are published on our web site, send an email to SCVACS-newsletters-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION

2004 Section Officers

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Chair-Elect: **John F. Riley** 650-328-4036 jfriley@atdial.net
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Treasurer: **Hong Gao** 650-564-5197 hong.gao@alza.com
Past-Chair: **Maureen Scharberg** 408-924-4966 scharbrg@pacbell.net

Councilors

2002-04: **Bonnie Charpentier** 650-948-3931 charpentierbon@yahoo.com
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2003-05: **Maureen Scharberg** 408-924-4966 scharbrg@pacbell.net
2003-05: **John F. Riley** 650-328-4036 jfriley@atdial.net
2003-05: **Ean Warren** 650-329-4554 ewarren@scvacs.org
2004-06: **Linda Brunauer** 408-554-6947 lbrunauer@scu.edu
2004-06: **Sally Peters** 650-812-4994 sally.peters@parc.com
2004-06: **Peter Rusch** 650-961-8120 pfrusch@aol.com

Alternate Councilors

2002-04: **Mark Kent** 408-736-0989 makent@earthlink.net
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2003-05: **Laura Jarvis** 650-210-1242 lj Jarvis@scvacs.org
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2004-06: **George Lechner** 408-226-7262 george.lechner@usa.xerox.com
2004-06: **Carol Mosher** 650-322-3120 cmosher2@aol.com
2004-06: **Ernest Gargas** 408-365-2866 eggargas@yahoo.com

Newsletter

Editor: **Laura Jarvis** 650-210-1242 editor@scvacs.org

ChemEmployment Abstracts

Director: **Shirley B. Radding** 408-246-2564 sradding@att.net

FUTURE MEETINGS

Jan 22 Dr. Joseph Lambert
Mosher Awardee
Santa Clara, CA

Jan 25-28 Organic Thin Film Electronics
Miami, FL

Feb 1-5 LabAutomation 2004
San Jose, CA

Feb 19 Howard and Sally Peters
Chocolate—Food of the Gods
Palo Alto, CA

Mar 18 Biotechnology Joint Dinner
Meeting
San Francisco, CA

**Mar 28
to Apr 1** ACS National Meeting
Anaheim, CA

For the latest information, please visit
SCV/ACS web site: www.scvacs.org



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