

# Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

Volume 30 No. 6

**JUNE 2008 NEWSLETTER TOPICS**

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## Annual Family Picnic and Awards Ceremony

Our next Section event will be our summer picnic on Saturday, July 12. It will feature a special red wine tasting hosted by Floyd Hobbs. The afternoon will also include a catered picnic outside the Mudd chemistry building at Stanford and ceremonies honoring our 50-year and 60-year members and other award winners.

### 50 year members

Dr. Andreas Acrivos	Dr. Lionel Bailin	Dr. John Brauman
Dr. James Cope	Dr. Manfred Eberhardt	Mr. Ross Fuller
Mr. Clarence Johnsen	Mr. Akio Nishino	Mr. Michael Rothenberg
Mr. David Russell	Dr. Stanley Williamson	Dr. Leon Yengoyan

### 60 year members

Mr. W. Ray Booth	Mr. James Brackett	Mr. William Burton
Mrs. Rosalie Dinkey	Dr. Reed Gray	Dr. Donald Hildenbrand
Dr. Mary Harriette Huff	Mr. Drace Kutnewsky	Mrs. Adrienne Mitchell
Mr. Edgar Oerman	Dr. Chester Poetsch	Mr. William Van Horn

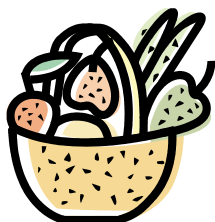
### Wine Tasting

Floyd Hobbs has offered to arrange a wine tasting. This year we will taste a variety of red wines. The wines produced today are very different from those produced 30 years ago. Grapes today are allowed to hang on the vine longer which increases their sugar content. Consequently, the wines made from these more mature grapes are higher in alcohol (in the range of 13.5 to 15.5%) and have a deeper, full-bodied jammy flavor. We will have a blind tasting of wines selected from the following varietals: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Pinor Noir, Petite Sirah, and Zinfandel.

### Dinner

Armadillo Willy's will cater the picnic, as they did last year. The tentative menu will include:

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## Annual Family Picnic

Saturday  
July 12, 2008

### RESERVATION FORM

#### Annual Family Picnic and Awards Ceremony

Stanford University – Saturday, July 12, 2008 Deadline for Reservation – Monday, July 7, 2008

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations at \$16.00 ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children (age of 4-12) at \$5.00 ..... \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed** .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Santa Clara Valley Section – ACS

Mail check and reservation form to: Ms. Shirley Radding, 2994 Cottonwood Court, Santa Clara, CA 95051

Please check if you can volunteer:  I can help set-up  I can help clean-up

## Chair's Message

Wow, where has the year gone: turn around, and it is time to write another message from the chair. Presumably, I am not the only one that is finding that time is flying past. I hope that everyone's time is productive: I know from past experience how enervating non-productive time can be (and no, time spent on vacation is not generally considered to be non-productive)

At the May meeting of the ExComm, Herb Silber noted that housing for the August national meeting in Philadelphia is now open. It is expensive, and the sooner that reservations are made, the better. At the time of writing this message, all but one of the councilors are intending to attend the meeting; we may need one alternate councilor to attend, as I haven't received word from the last councilor.

The ExComm is seeking a volunteer to fill a place as alternate councilor, as one of our alternate councilors is unable to serve. If you are interested in serving your section in this manner, please contact one of the members of the ExComm (our contact information is in the newsletter, and also on the section's web site) and volunteer – volunteers cheerfully welcome!

Linda Brunauer reported that the student affiliates had their research conference Saturday, May 3rd and that there were over 200 attendees. There were 72 posters and 21 presentations, which is really great, even though it did strain the logistics of the site.

I hope that you and your families will attend our annual picnic at Stanford on Saturday, July 12th. We will have wine tasting, enjoy a meal prepared by Armadillo Willy's, present some awards, and honor those members of the section that have been members of ACS for 50 or 60 years.

*Happy  
Father's Day*

*Annual Family Picnic and Award Ceremony, continued from front page*

- Smoked Barbequed chicken • Beef brisket • BBQ beans
- Spicy coleslaw • Corn bread muffins • Green Salad
- Beer, soda, water • Dessert

### Where:

The Stanford Chemistry Department.

### When:

4:30 p.m. Wine Tasting

5:30 p.m. Buffet BBQ Dinner

7:00 p.m. Awards

### Directions:

**From Route 101** (Bayshore Freeway): Take University Avenue west through Palo Alto. It becomes Palm Drive on the Stanford Campus. Turn right on Roth Way and continue to the Chemistry Department. Park in the parking structure on your right. Keck and Mudd chemistry buildings are across Roth Way from the parking structure.

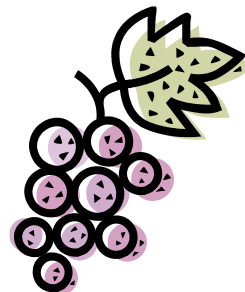
**From Route 280:** Take the Sand Hill Road exit. Drive east and turn right on Stock Farm Road. Then turn left on Campus Drive West and right on Roth Way. Park in the parking structure immediately on your left. Keck and Mudd chemistry buildings are across Roth Way from the parking structure.

### Reservations:

A reservation form for this event is included here. You can also make reservations by accessing the Internet at our website:

**[www.scvacs.org/Local\\_Folder/din\\_mtg.html](http://www.scvacs.org/Local_Folder/din_mtg.html)**

Remember, this is the one meeting where you have to send a payment with your reservation. The cost will be the same as it was last year: \$16 for adults, \$5 for kids 4-12, and kids under 4 free. Reservations and payments must be received by Monday, July 7.



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## Chocolate is the Food of the Gods Especially on Cunard's Queen Mary 2

Howard and Sally Peters March 2008

As former UK Prime Minister, Baroness Margaret Thatcher, knows, it is amazing what you can do with degrees in chemistry - and law.

Howard finished a great 12-day ACS solo speaking tour on the Azalea Circuit in GA, NC and SC in February talking about chocolate and fun patents from February 2nd-13th. Each talk included a free raffle for a 10 pound bar of Guittard chocolate or for familiar patented toys e.g., SLINKY, FRIS-BEE (with copies of the US patents). (See <http://www.pat2pdf.org/> for a superb free US patent web site.) A copy of the inspiring 2007 PBS special "Forgotten Genius" about Dr. Percy Julian and copies of the National Historical Chemical Landmark (NHCL) brochures about him were presented



to each local section chair.

Immediately following Howard's stint as tour speaker he dove into working on his memoirs, "farm2FARM" (from the farm near Penn State to finishing his Ph.D. in chemistry at Stanford (THE FARM) at age 25), for his grand-girls. While working he got an emergency call at 9 a.m. from

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*Chocolate, continued from previous page*

Cunard Cruise Line in Southampton UK - and at the end of their day. He learned, "A speaker had canceled at the last minute and we (the cruise line) have an emergency." Howard was then asked, "Would he be able to fill-in on short notice and serve as invited science/author speaker for Cunard?"

If so, then he had to be in NYC by Friday afternoon. This was less than 48 hours from the time of the phone call! He also had to have three lectures prepared to deliver on the Queen Mary 2 (QM2) during a 10 day Caribbean cruise – all expenses paid! Howard, who retired in August, could have gone on his own, but... Sally, who is still working full time at (XEROX) PARC, said, "Do you think for a minute that I will let you go on a 10 day cruise in the Caribbean – alone?"

We flew first class overnight to LaGuardia and were met by a waiting limousine driver who took care of the luggage and whisked us to the pier and the giant Queen Mary 2.

The arrival of the luggage, on-board registration, and the time to get to the stateroom were unbelievably fast. The view from the porthole of our luxury stateroom included the skyline of NYC all the way to the Statue of Liberty.

One fun talk, "Chocolate-Food of the Gods," and one serious talk, "Immigrants and Patents: The US Debt Owed to its Immigrant Inventors," were completed on March 1st and March 2nd respectively. The talks were recorded then rebroadcast on the closed circuit TV on-board for 24 hours. Howard had a five minute recorded interview with the QM2 cruise director, Ray Rouse, about the "Immigrants" talk. That segment was shown every half hour the next day on the on-board TV channel.

On Saturday, March 9th we gave a final talk, "Joseph Priestley: Minister, Inventor, Radical (The British Father of American Chemistry)" – and a family with whom Howard does have some long-term "underground" connections in PA. Howard's German

great, great, great, great, great-grand-parents, Nicholas and Barbara Paul, were involved in the Revolutionary War (on the correct side) and were contemporaries of Joseph Priestley in Northumberland, 1799-1804. They have been buried 30 paces from Joseph Priestley for over 180 years. Surely, their DNA has mixed by this time! This same Priestley talk was presented at the ACS meeting in Philadelphia for the Division of History of Chemistry as a part of the 200th anniversary of Priestley's death (See page 1 and 2 of the July 2004, Silicon Valley Chemist, <http://www.scvacs.org/newsletter/news0407.pdf>). Mr. Norman Rich, the CEO of the regional Pennsylvania Weis Markets headquartered near Northumberland PA was one of the passengers. He has been to the Joseph Priestley House many times. And he was delighted and amazed to hear the local history and the connections on the QM2.

This was a surprising extension of our usual soap box – putting a human

face on chemists and chemistry. Being invited speakers on a major cruise line is a first for Sally and Howard, two long-term ACS members. Our tablemates were Penny and Howard from St. Louis, and Shiela and Peggy from Wales – a delightful traveling couple who are very active members of Women's Institute (WI – remember the recent film "Calendar Girls" with Helen Mirren?). 80% of the 2400 passengers were Brits – a reflection of the strength of the pound and a bad winter in the UK. Retiring to a cruise ship is cheaper than going to a nursing home. So we are ready to take to the water. (FYI – Howard really did need a crowbar to pry Sally off the ship in NYC.)

All of Howard's presentations have been given at least once in various ACS venues over the past 5 years, and are available at

<http://www.howard-peters.com>.

Sally and Howard were also the Valentine's Day story in the San Jose Mercury News on February 14, 2004 when they gave their first fun chocolate talk to the ACS SCV local section.

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## Outstanding High School Chemistry Students

On April 19th, seventeen of Silicon Valley's top high school chemistry students met at Las Positas College in Livermore to compete in the national testing for the 2008 International Chemistry Olympiad. The California section hosted the day. Nationally over 1000 students participated in the exam that weekend.

The exam that the sophomores, juniors and seniors took consisted of three sections and lasted more than 4-1/2 hours. The students gave up a beautiful Saturday to work on 90 minutes of multiple choice questions, 105 minutes of problem set questions and 90 minutes of 2 lab practical questions.

At 3 p.m. when the day was wrapping up, Al Verstuyft, our CA section host, asked the students what they were going to major in when they went to college. A tired voice from the back of the room answered "Not chemistry"! All of the students laughed and agreed!

A special thanks goes to Yan Liu, Bruce Raby, George Lechner and Sally Peters for proctoring the exam. We were all amazed at the ability and composure that the students displayed. If you want to test your wits against our high school experts, go to the 2008 exam that is posted (with the answers) on the national web site.

[http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?\\_nfpb=true&\\_pageLabel=P\\_P\\_SUPERARTICLE&node\\_id=1508&use\\_sec=false&sec\\_url\\_var=region1](http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=P_P_SUPERARTICLE&node_id=1508&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1)

Our finalists and their dedicated teachers are (drum roll please!):

### Gunn High

Emily Viggiano and Kevin Zhu  
Teacher: Heather Mellows

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*Outstanding, continued from previous page*

**Harker School**

Vikram Nathan, Aniel Zhou and Daniel Kim  
Teacher: Anita Wu

**Kings Academy**

Max Diddams  
Teacher: Jason Rose

**Leland High**

Jennifer Tang and Jeremy Huang  
Teacher: Lambert Woo

**Lynbrook High**

Jeremy Feng and Patricia Li  
Teacher: Amanda Alonzo

**Monta Vista**

Kunal Nagpal and Ayushi Samaddar  
Teacher: Kavita Gupta

**Notre Dame (Salinas)**

Hediah Matinrad  
Teacher: Kayleen Lewis

**Palma High (Salinas)**

Steven Rogalsky and Joshua Garcia  
Teacher: John Chipley

**Palo Alto High**

Alex Wein and Nicholas Gaya  
Teacher: Carolina Sylvesti



## Family Science Night at East Palo Alto Charter School

On April 24, we held our first Family Science Night at the East Palo Alto Charter School. More than 300 students and families attended a program that included many hands-on experiments, a science magic show, an opportunity to look at Mars and Saturn through telescopes and a performance by the Science Jam Band. This event was co-hosted by the California local section of ACS. Student volunteers from Santa Clara University, San Francisco State University and Stanford all helped with the experiments. The students got to taste ice cream made with liquid nitrogen. It was sometimes difficult to figure out who was enjoying it more—the students or the ACS volunteers. The evening was a great success.

## Highlights of the April Dinner Meeting with Dr. Bruce Roth at Genentech



# Highlights of the May Dinner Meeting with Dr. Bego Gerber



## CHEMEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS JUNE 2008

### **CHEMEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3901**

*Position Title:* Entry-level Scientist

*Job Description:* Oxonica Inc is looking to hire an entry-level Scientist to be part of our Research and Development team. The successful candidate will work in the area of nanoparticle synthesis and characterization.

**QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:**

*Education:* Bachelor's degree in chemistry or a related field

*Experience:* Must have some experience with chemical synthesis and have used measurement techniques such as optical absorbance, fluorescence, etc. Candidate must be able to work in a cross-functional team, have excellent written and verbal communication skills, and be comfortable working with Excel, Word and related programs.

**LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS:**

*Job Location:* Mountain View, CA

*Salary:* DOE Oxonica has an immediate opening for this position. Do you have what it takes to join our rapidly growing team? We offer a complete benefits package (Medical, Dental, Vision, FSA, HSA, Life/AD&D, 401(k) with company match).

*Employer Description:* For more details about Oxonica Inc, the Nanoplex™ Technology and the Mountain View team please see [www.oxonica.com](http://www.oxonica.com).

*Application Instructions:* To apply, please send your resume and cover letter (addressed to Human Resources) to [jobs@oxonica.com](mailto:jobs@oxonica.com), with "Scientist" in the subject line. No phone calls please!

### **CHEMEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACT 3902**

*Position Title:* Senior Engineer - Late Stage Cell Culture

*Job Description:* This position will drive the development of high-throughput systems for cell culture in Late Stage Process Development. Responsibilities include the evaluation, acquisition and implementation of state-of-the-art high-throughput laboratory automation technology to support media and process development efforts. This position will also include supervisory responsibility and oversight of high-throughput laboratory activities.

**QUALIFICATIONS DESIRED:**

*Education:* The candidate must have a Bachelor's degree in Chemical/Biochemical Engineering (or equivalent) with a minimum of five years of experience, or a Ph.D. with a minimum of two years of relevant experience.

*Experience:* Prior expertise in the application of automated high-throughput systems (e.g. liquid handling systems) is a must. A strong understanding of mammalian cell culture process development is desired. The ability to collaborate with internal and external groups is required. The candidate should have excellent communication skills (verbally and in writing) and should be able to deliver high-quality scientific presentations.

**LOCATION, SALARY, MAIL ADDRESS:**

*Job Location:* South San Francisco, CA

*Salary:* DOE

*Employer Description:* For more than 30 years, Genentech has been at the forefront of the biotechnology industry, using human genetic information to develop novel medicines for serious and life-threatening diseases.

*Application Instructions:* Genentech is dedicated to fostering an environment that is inclusive and encourages diversity of thought, style, skills and perspective. To learn more about our current opportunities, please visit our careers page, click on "Job Postings" and reference Req. #1000022869. Please use "Web - ChemPloyment" when a "source" is requested. Genentech is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION  
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 395, Palo Alto, CA 94302

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## SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION

### 2008 Section Officers

Chair	<b>Mark Kent</b>	408-736-0989	marklent@yahoo.com
Chair-Elect	<b>Natalie McClure</b>	650-906-7831	nmcclure@drugregulatoryaffairs.com
Past Chair	<b>George Lechner</b>	408-226-7262	glechner@aol.com
Secretary	<b>Karl Marhenke</b>	831-688-4959	karlmar@armory.com
Treasurer	<b>Herb Silber</b>	408-924-4954	hsilber@science.sjsu.edu

### Councilors

2006-2008	<b>Abby Kennedy</b>	209-640-2005	akennedy@exelixis.com
2006-2008	<b>Ean Warren</b>	650-329-4554	ewarren@scvacs.org
2007-2009	<b>Linda Brunauer</b>	408-554-6947	lbrunauer@scu.edu
2007-2009	<b>Sally Peters</b>	650-812-4994	Sally.Peters@parc.com
2007-2009	<b>Peter Rusch</b>	650-961-8120	pfrusch@aol.com
2008-2010	<b>George Lechner</b>	408-226-7262	glechner@aol.com
2008-2010	<b>Herb Silber</b>	408-924-4954	hsilber@science.sjsu.edu
2008	<b>Howard Peters</b>	650-854-4614	peters4pa@sbcglobal.net

### Alternate Councilors

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2007-2009	<b>Maureen Scharberg</b>	408-924-4966	maureen.scharberg@sjsu.edu
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### ChemPloyment Abstracts

Director:	<b>Charles Sullivan</b>	650-359-0731	cdansullivan@sbcglobal.net
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## FUTURE MEETINGS

- Jun 24-26** 12th Annual Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference  
Washington, DC  
**<http://www.gcande.org>**
- Jul 12** Annual Awards, Wine Tasting, and Picnic  
Stanford Chemistry Department  
Stanford, CA
- Aug 3-8** Gordon Research Conference  
on Green Chemistry  
Bates College  
Lewiston, ME  
**[www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2008&program=green](http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2008&program=green)**
- Aug 17-21** 236th ACS National Meeting  
Philadelphia, PA
- Sep 23-27** Western Regional Meeting  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
**<http://membership.acs.org/w/WRM2008>**
- Oct 19-21** Topics and Tactics in Current Drug Design  
ACS ProSpectives Conference  
Cambridge, MA