

Portland Section Newsletter

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December 2020

A Message from the Chair

by Marcie Merrit, Chair, Portland Local Section

During this month of Thanksgiving and upcoming end of 2020 I have been reflecting on the things I am most grateful for. Among them is our talented Executive Committee, and busy Scholarship, Diversity, Earth Day, Project SEED, OSSF, Sr. Chemists, Younger Chemists and Women Chemists Committees who found ways to engage members vir-

tually during this unprecedented era of restrictions.

I am grateful for the new community coalitions (Portland Community College students MakerLab, Society of Women Engineers, ACS members, Boeing Portland Additive Manufacturing and Houston Makerspace) for 3D printing of PPE parts and sending to Regional medical centers—and in addition, to LSAMP, WIS PDX, regional STEM groups, OSTA, and teachers in our Section area and the Oregon DEQ. We've been able to reach out and will continue to do so as we can.

Thank you to you, our members, for the work you do to make our Portland Section great. Whether it's at home supporting your family, sheltering in place or wearing PP, we send condolences to those of you who have been affected by Covid or layoffs; as well, a message of Hope and support to you, your families and our coalitions—present and future. Without your commitment, creativity, and high standards, we would not be as successful an ACS Local Section. Working with you this year as Chair has been an amazing opportunity.

Recap of Virtual Oregon Science Startup Forum 2020; Stay Tuned for Virtual 2021 OSSF

By Jim Tung, Portland ACS Oregon Science Startup Forum

ACS Portland held a highly successful 5-day live streamed virtual event June 22-26, with one session being presented each day. Archives are available on the Portland Section [YouTube channel](#). Skip Rung, Moderator of the first session entitled “What’s it Like to be a Science Entrepreneur?” reported that—“Covid 19 notwithstanding—I thought it was the best ever in terms of real-world insights and advice for inventors and entrepreneurs who are early in their journey.”

Skip continued: “Beth Bosley of [Boron Specialties](#) pulled back the curtain on a bootstrapped, highly technical, growing, and very safety-critical manufacturing business—with some great lessons about customers, competitors and opportunity selection. Dana Garves of [Oregon BrewLab](#)—another bootstrapped success—again impressed me with her deep passion for her industry and her customers, and with her daily focus both on what matters most and what has to be done whether she enjoys it or not. Devin Wiley of [Circumvent Pharmaceuticals](#) has had to raise a great deal of outside funding from both research funders and investors, as the company develops solutions to the most challenging neurodegenerative diseases. Devin also told us about the value of being selected and invested in by [Y-Combinator](#), which is reputed to be more selective than Harvard.”

Stay tuned for the 2021 virtual Oregon Science Startup Forum, coming to you Spring 2021.

Hillsboro Sisters Win Earth Day Illustrated Poetry Contest

Sisters Sahasra and Saanvi Swargam, Hillsboro OR, won First Prizes in the Puget Sound Section's Chemists Celebrate Earth Week (CCEW) Illustrated Poetry contest with the theme "Protecting Our Planet through Chemistry". Later in the year, the girls submitted illustrated poems for National Chemistry Week (NCW) with the theme "Sticking with Chemistry".

The sisters won top honors for CCEW for grades K-2 and for 6-8th grades. Sahasra also won First Prize for overall best for all grades K-12 in the CCEW contest.

The girls submitted their illustrated poems to Puget Sound Section instead of Portland Section because Portland Section did not have a contest this year. Their entries are included on page 4 (CCEW) and 5 (NCW).

2021 Election Outcome

Portland Section Secretary Elaine Nam announced the outcome of the election held during the month of November 2020. **Andrew Baggett** was elected Chair-Elect; **Jim Tung** was elected Councilor 2; and **Marcie Merritt** was elected Alternate Councilor 2. **Ken Schriver** serves as 2021 Chair.



Ken Schriver has been a member of ACS for 34 years. He graduated from Reed College and received the Portland Section Harold Zeh scholarship during his senior year. With the support of a Beinecke Scholarship, he went on to study physical chemistry at UCLA, working with Rob Whetten, and received his Ph.D. in 1990. Ken held a number of positions including both executive and academic. When his last startup venture closed shop in 2014 he retired to focus on his health, moving back to the Pacific Northwest in 2016. Ken was Publicity Chair for NORM 2019 in the Local Organizing Committee; he also was proctor for the Sunday ACS Advocacy Workshop during NORM 2019.

Chair-Elect **Andrew Baggett** is Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Linfield University. He grew up in Silverton, Oregon, and always has had a connection with the Pacific Northwest. He is an avid cyclist. Andrew received his BS in Physical Chemistry from LeTourneau University



in 2009 Summa Cum Laude. He was a PhD student at University of Oregon 2009-2013, then received his PhD at Boston College 2013-2016. Andrew's first career position as a chemistry professor was at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania where he spent three semesters; he then took the Linfield University position and is entering his fourth year there. Andrew served as the President of the Oregon Academy of Science during the 2018-2019 academic year. Andrew joined ACS in 2012.



Jim Tung works at Lacomas Laboratories in Portland, OR. He has been at his current position for 9 years, working on developing new chemical manufacturing projects. An Oregon native, Jim got his B.S. in biochemistry from the University of Oregon, his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Notre Dame, with postdoctoral experience at Pfizer's laboratories in La Jolla, CA. He is past chair of the Portland Section of the American Chemical Society and was 2019 general co-chair of NORM 2019. He has interests in process chemistry, social media outreach and encouraging career exploration and development for younger chemists.



Marcie Merritt is 2020 Portland Section Chair and Membership Chair, spearheading section collaborations in area STEM groups and companies to increase Section resources, members, and Section visibility. From writing ACS funded grants to sponsoring Beyond Benign Green Chemistry teacher workshops, which encouraged students to attend STEM workshops for 2020 and 2021, Her 2021 goals include increasing virtual area STEM, Diversity, Inclusion and Respect workshop collaborations and joint meeting opportunities for members to gain skills and support. Marcie received the 2019 NW Region ACS E. Ann Nalley Award and is a member of the National ACS Chemists with Disability Committee and CWD Liaison to several national ACS committees.

Women Chemists Committee (WCC)

By Hannah Hefely, Chair, Portland ACS WCC

What a difficult year to relaunch a committee! The original plans for a March debut Portland Women Chemists Committee event were quickly derailed in the wake of 2020 pandemic.

After some time to pick up the pieces and begin planning again, the joint YCC/WCC Virtual Wine Tasting seminar was a huge success! With fifteen participants, two types of wine to learn about and taste, an expert wine maker, and the science behind the perfect Pinot Noir and Rosé, the Zoom seminar was both fun and informative. This launched the official start of the WCC in Portland.

Since this event, there have been 6 active members of the WCC to help plan and brainstorm future events. The first solo WCC event took place last month—a Zoom Female Nobel Prize Winners themed Happy Hour! We created a menu to send out to RSVPs beforehand that included a brief synopsis of the seven female Nobel prize winners in chemistry and a carefully crafted cocktail or appetizer to match. Over fifteen participants had the chance to introduce themselves to our community, learn more details about the Nobel prize winners and their lives, and offer up their own fun facts as well.

Despite the unusual challenges this year has presented, we were able to gain some momentum—and we don't plan on losing it. Your Local Section WCC has some great ideas for 2021, so stay tuned!

Younger Chemists Committee (YCC)

By Kyle Lindgren, Chair, Portland ACS YCC

The Younger Chemists Committee has had quite an interesting year, as we all have. Our initial plan of hosting an event once a quarter started off well as we hosted a tour of the Reed Nuclear Reactor. The event was well attended with approximately 18 attendees over two groups. However, soon after the pandemic forced us to rethink all of our events for the year. It was during these planning meetings that we decided to shift our events to virtual ones, and try to provide a space for people to hang out and have fun! This led to the recurring virtual happy hour events, which started in June and continued through December. All told there were six virtual happy hour events with an average attendance between six and fifteen people! In addition to our happy hours, the YCC also hosted a Virtual Trivia night. Only five people could attend, but they were very excited for additional trivia nights and as a result we plan our hosting more in the new year. We also had the privilege of assisting the WCC plan their first event, the virtual wine tasting event which ended up being quite successful.

The YCC would not have been nearly as successful without the dedication of our volunteer committee, and I would like to recognize Alex Couch, Hannah Hefely, Karelly Ramirez, Quentin Wilebski, and James Wyckoff for their hard work this year. With their effort, the YCC has an exciting future with more planned in 2021.

The Portland Section Glass Gavel

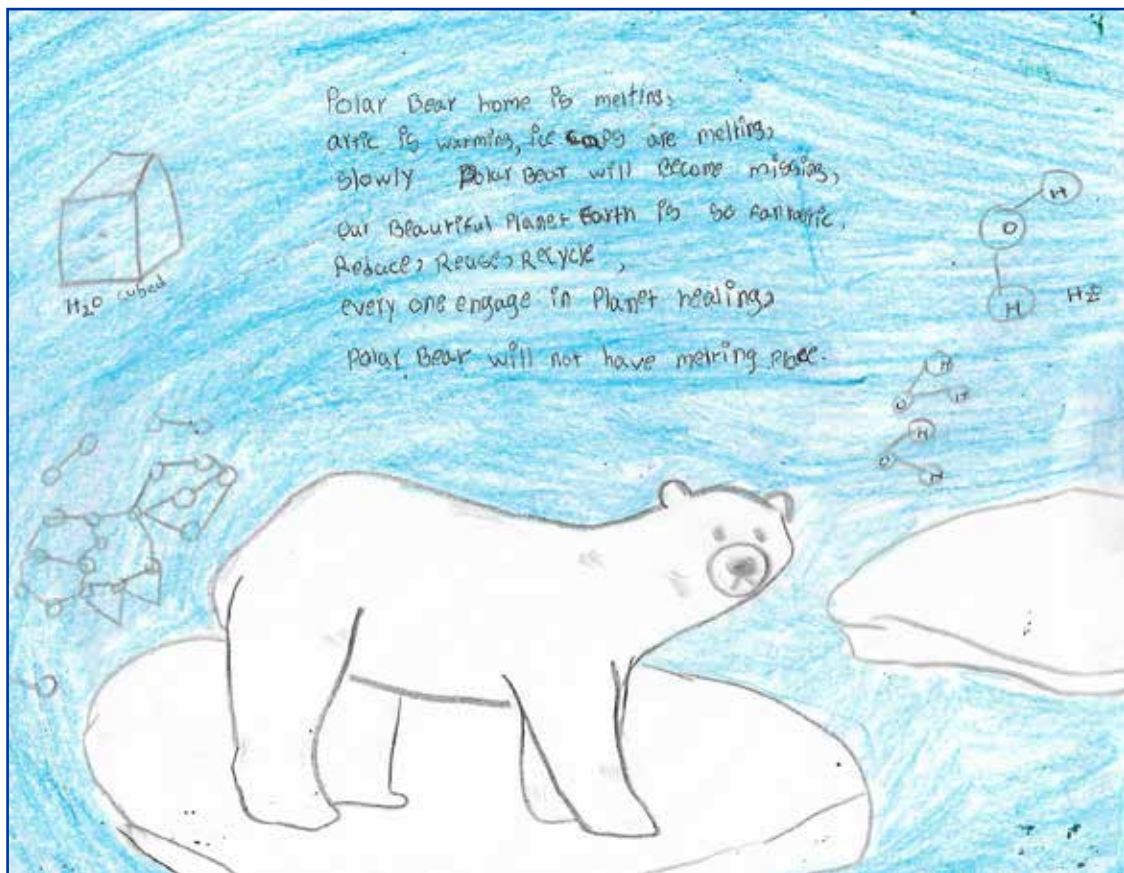
The photo collage below shows various chairs with the glass gavel that they receive when they take office in January of each year. The glass gavel was made by Gunther Weiss, President of TOSOH Quartz, Inc., in Beaverton. Mr. Weiss is a Master Scientific Glass Blow-

er, educated in Europe. He has been providing quartz products for the semiconductor industry d.b.a. Weiss Scientific Glass Blowing since 1970. [Gunther Weiss Scientific Glassblowing](#) manufactures ophthalmic devices for Lacrimal Bypass Surgery (CDCR).

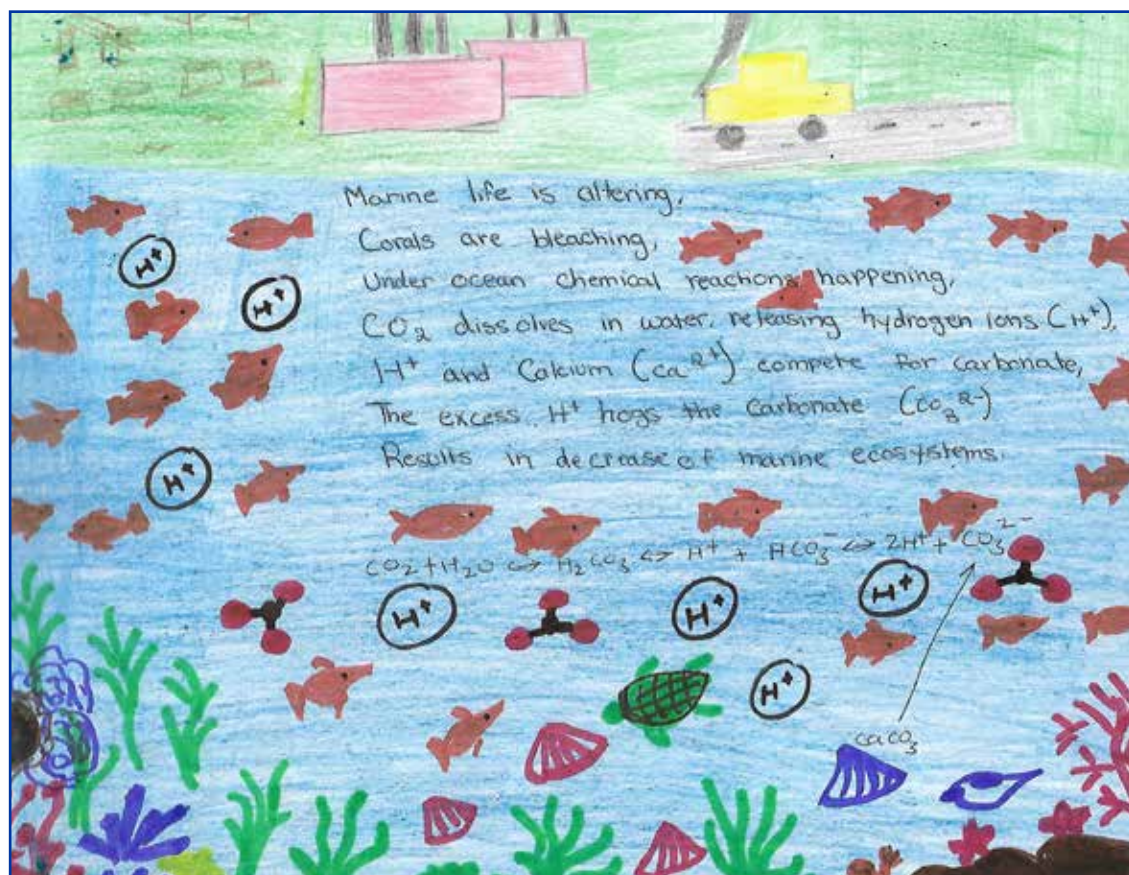


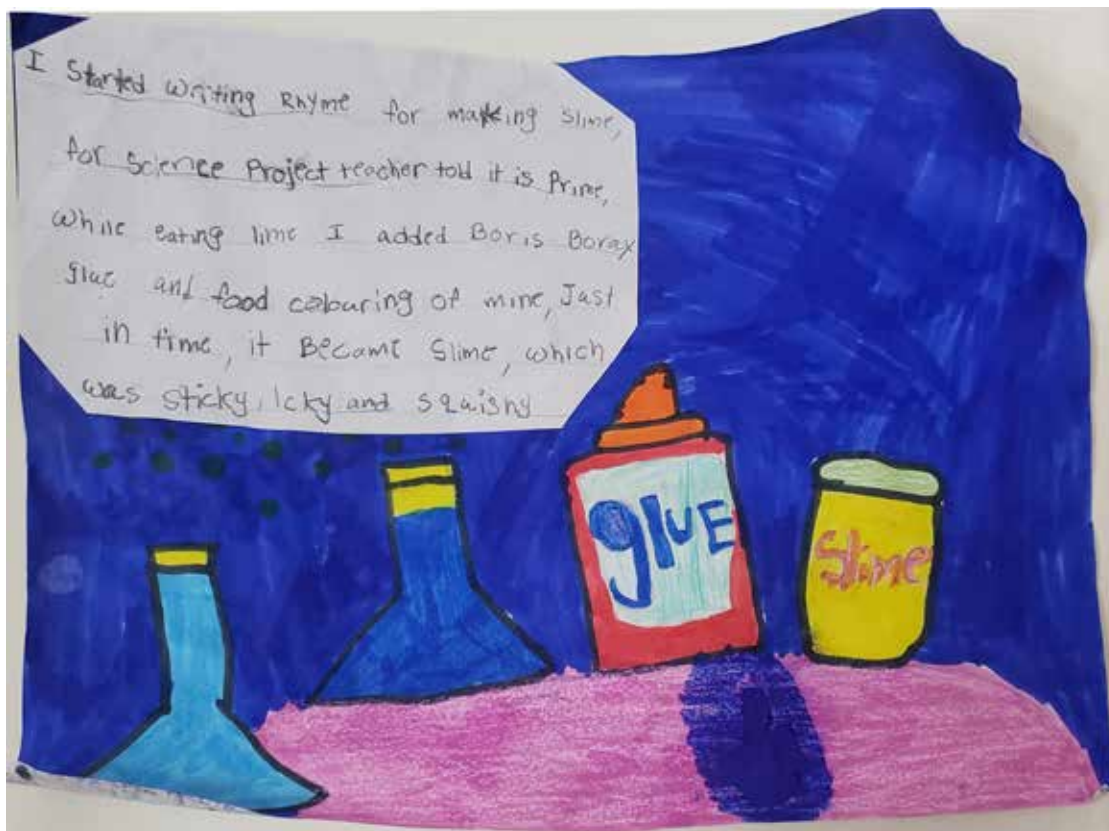
Chairs of Portland Section holding the glass gavel made by master glassblower Gunther Weiss. Left to right, Dale Brabham, Chair 2011; Dave Reingold, Chair 2015; Marcie Merritt (Chair 2020) receiving the gavel from Warren Ford (Chair 2019). Incoming 2021 Chair, Ken Schriver, will receive the gavel in January.

Saanvi Swargam, 1st Prize, Grades Kindergarten – 2nd grade, Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (theme: "Protecting Our Planet through Chemistry") Illustrated Poetry Contest, Puget Sound Section.



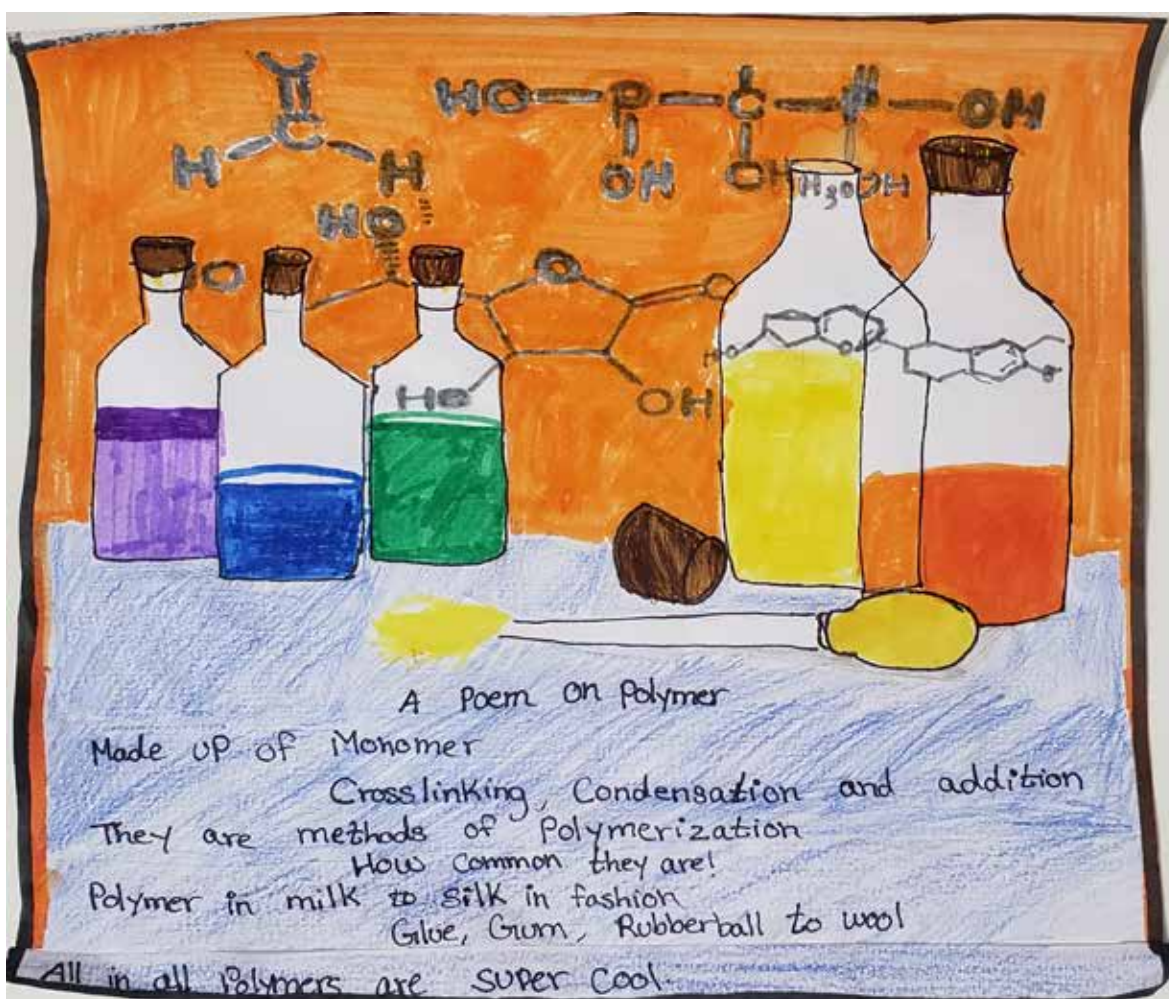
Sahasra Swargam, 1st Prize, Grades 6th-8th and Overall Winner, Grades K-12th 1st Prize, Chemists Celebrate Earth Day (theme: "Protecting Our Planet through Chemistry") Illustrated Poetry Contest, Puget Sound Section.





Saanvi Swargam
 2nd Grade
 Jacob Wismer school

The same two students as on the previous page prepared Illustrated Poems for National Chemistry Week (theme: "Sticking with Chemistry") but the Illustrated Poetry was submitted too late for the contest. By printing them in the Portland Section Newsletter we give the students credit for preparing the artwork and the poetry. We thank the Puget Sound Section for bringing these two entries to our attention.



Sahasra Swargam
 7th Grade
 Stoller Middle school