



ACS-GHS December 2019 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- January 18th - 2020 Kick-off meeting
- January 18th - Career Pathways Retirement Workshop
- February 12th - IUPAC Global Women's Breakfast
- February 15th - Chemistry Olympiad Registration Deadline

[Check our website and below for details on these upcoming events.](#)

Skydiving Into Retirement: Enjoy the Ride and Land Softly

ACS members contemplating retirement or newly retired (± 2 years) are invited to join us for a discussion about retirement with William Carroll, Jr. Please register to attend [here](#).

Saturday, January 18th
1:00 - 4:00 pm
University of St. Thomas
Center for Science & Health Professions
Room SHP 251
4100 Yoakum Blvd.
Houston, TX 77006

Chemistry Olympiad



The Greater Houston Local Section will participate in the 2020 United States National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) competition administered by the American Chemical Society (ACS). The local competition will take place on March 6, 2020 (Friday) evening at the Main Campus of the University of Houston. The registration deadline is **February 15, 2020** (Saturday). For further information and the registration form, please contact Dr. Jerry Yang at acs.ghs.cho@gmail.com.

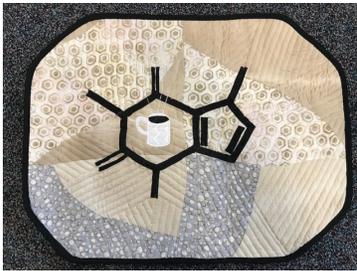
City of Houston Declares October 26th, 2019 International Year of the Periodic Table Day



As part of the ACS-GHS celebration of 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table (IYPT), GHS Chair-Elect Crystal Young spearheaded efforts to have the IYPT officially recognized by the State of Texas and the City of Houston. October 26th, 2019 was proclaimed to be International Year of the Periodic Table Day by the City of Houston to coincide with the ACS-GHS Kids & Chemistry Outreach event at the Children's Museum during National Chemistry Week. On Friday, December 6th, ACS-GHS representatives visited City Hall to receive the proclamation commemorating the IYPT directly from Mayor Sylvester Turner. The Mayor commented on Twitter after the meeting, "It's important that young minds continue to be attracted to science in order to ensure the next generation of innovators."

Thank you to Mayor Turner for the Commendation! We are grateful for his support of science, chemistry, and the International Year of the Periodic Table.

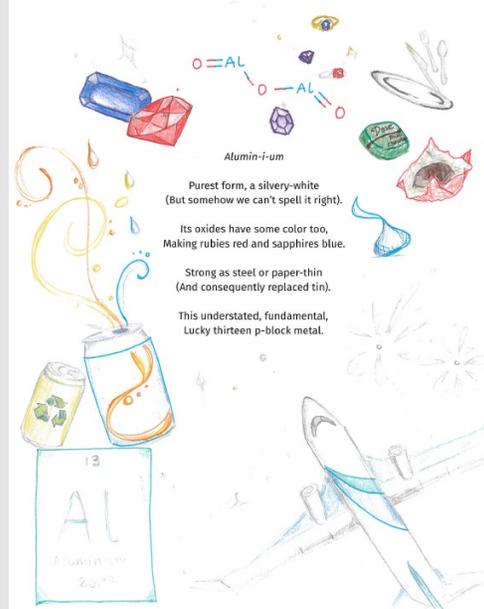
A Bid for Success



The ACS-GHS held its first online silent auction over the last two weeks of October to auction off chemistry-themed quilts and pillows made in honor of the International Year of the Periodic Table. We're happy to report that the event was a great success, raising \$665 in support of Project SEED and other GHS activities! We had bids come in from across the US and even some drama as a well timed final bid resulted in a last minute auction victory. Thank you to all our bidders for your support, and congratulations to our auction winners!

National Chemistry Week: Poetry Contest winner

This year, for the first time in recent memory, a student from the Greater Houston Section was honored at the national level for their submission to the Illustrated Poetry Contest for National Chemistry Week. This year's theme was Marvelous Metals and Isabella Trong, a junior at Memorial High School, was the national 2nd place winner for the 9-12 grade category with her poem on Aluminum. Hopefully this will be the start of the Greater Houston Section having more participation and winning a few more accolades at the national level. Isabella's chemistry teacher is John Husted and he was excited to hear about her recognition. Please check out Isabella's poem, which incorporates Aluminum's characteristics, uses, and a bit of humor as well!



San Jacinto STEM Expo 2019



The ACS-GHS had the opportunity to participate in the STEM Expo hosted by San Jacinto College on October 24th at the Central Campus. Ann Cartwright and Cheryl Sellers were on hand to make sure the evening, events and hands-on experiments went off without a hitch. Ruben Ramirez, the Lab Supervisor, came up with the crazy ideas for projects to deliver an exciting evening for the over 500 guests of all ages that attended. The STEM Expo featured Mathematics, Engineering, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, Oceanography, Aerospace, the SJC Foundation and the American Chemical Society-Greater Houston Section. For more details and pictures, check out our [website](#).

ACS-GHS Rocked the Vote

Thanks to all GHS members who cast their ballots for the Greater Houston Section 2020 Executive Committee. The votes have been tallied and we are in the process of notifying the ACS National Office and the winners of their election. A formal announcement of the new Board members will be made once all positions are confirmed.

Volunteer Spotlight - Bob Botto

Botto joined the ACS in 1972 as a college student. He later joined ACS-Greater Houston Section (GHS) in 1975 when he moved to Houston to work for Exxon. He was elected to the ACS-GHS Executive Board about 1979 and served in several capacities throughout the 80s, receiving the ACS-GHS Local Section Award in 1982 and the ACS Regional Award for the Southwest Region in 1994. He also served as Chairman of the SW Region in 1995.

He was elected a Fellow of the ACS in 2011 and in 2015 was presented the Helen Free



Award for exemplary volunteer service to the ACS. [Read more about Bob and his contributions in our full profile.](#) We thank Bob for his years of volunteer service and salute his continued commitment to sharing the joy of chemistry with community members of all ages!

Chemistry Comic by Sidney Harris



Chemists want to do chemistry. We are happiest when we are at the bench, surrounded by glassware, apparatus of all shapes and sizes and the ubiquitous safety equipment – or on our computer, performing simulations or modeling. It's where we are at our best and feel fulfilled and productive. Duties that take us away from that familiar environment such as regulatory affairs, environmental impact assessments, safety procedures, or ethics training can be seen as an unwelcome distraction from the excitement of doing science. But those tasks are critical to how we pursue our science. Today's chemists not only understand that but live by it. Safety and ethics are core to chemistry, front and center in chemists' minds. And our science is all the better for it. There is no doubt that what we now produce is of higher quality and is more responsive to the world in which we live than ever before. We thrive with those challenges and opportunities.

--- Bibiana Campos-Seijo, Editor in Chief, *Chemical & Engineering News*

STAY CONNECTED

