

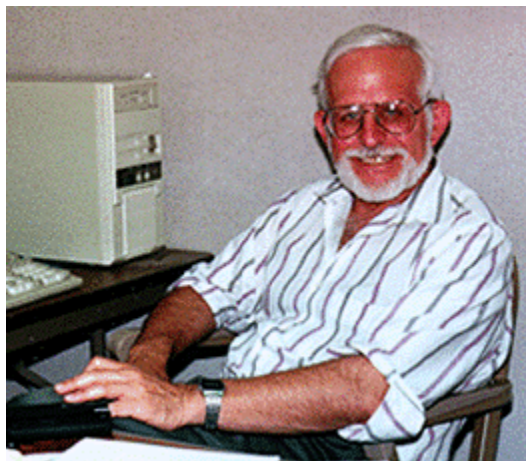


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SCALACS

September 2014

A Joint Publication of the Southern California and
San Gorgonio Sections of the American Chemical Society



**Southern California
Section Dinner
Meeting
Honoring our Section
Outreach Volunteer of
the Year
Henry Abrash
And our 50/60 Year
Members
Wednesday,
September 17, 2014**

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San Gorgonio Section

**October 11—Family Science Festival in Celebration
of Mole Day**

October 25—Recognition of 50 and 60 Year Members

See Chair's Message on Page 16

**In Memoriam
Dr. James N. Pitts, Jr.**

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Southern California Section

Chair's Message



Welcome back! I hope that you had a wonderful summer and were able to find time to enjoy the summer fun. I also hope that you had a chance to attend the National Meeting on August 10 – 14 in San Francisco.

Before the summer break, we had a great turnout to celebrate the academic achievement of the students in the High School Chemistry Olympiad and of Dr. Debbie Bennett for the Paul Shin Memorial Award for High School Chemistry Teaching. We ended the academic year with a dinner event discussing environmental research. We have many events and activities planned so we will continue to be busy during the second half of this year.

This month we are pleased to have a recognition dinner for **Henry Abrash**, our Outreach Volunteer of the Year, and our 50 and 60 year members on September 17th at Taix Restaurant. See the next page for more information. We also have other events planned in October and November so please check SCALACS, our website (www.scalacs.org), or Facebook, LinkedIn or Twitter (@SCALACS1) for more information.

I also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Jacqueline K. Barton from Cal Tech, Dr. G. K. Surya Prakash from USC Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute, and Dr. Arlene A. Russell from UCLA named as 2014 Class of Fellows. Congratulations also to Dr. Barton for being honored as the Priestley Medal Recipient for 2015.

Finally, if you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact us. Or if you have ideas for activities that you would like to participate in, please let us know that too. Our election is coming up this fall and we always need people to run for elected positions. See page 10 for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best,
- Yumei Lin, Chair
yumei.lin@Amway.com

Southern California Section

Dinner Meeting Honoring our Outreach Volunteer of the Year

Dr. Henry Abrash

And our 50 and 60 Year Members

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Taix French Restaurant

1911 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026

6:00 p.m. Check-in

7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Presentation of Awards

The Outreach Volunteer of the Year Award was introduced by the National ACS Committee on Community Activities (CCA) in 2013. It is a recognition program that highlights local section volunteers and their outstanding contributions to community outreach. We are pleased to honor Dr. Henry Abrash with this award. Please see his biography on Page 5. In addition to honoring Dr. Abrash, the Southern California Section is pleased to honor our 50 and 60 year members of the Section. Congratulations to:

50 Year Members

John Lewis Belletire	Kendall N. Houk
Donna M. Bryan	Willard E. McFarland
Herbert W. Fulmer	Zbyslaw Jan Petryka
Robert Howard Grubbs	Edith Shen Wei Wang
Roy Harris	

60 Year Members

Arthur K. Cho	Leroy Jesse Miller
Denzel Leroy Dyer	Ken Nobe
Robert E. Giuffrida	Ronald Salovey
Ray R. Irani	Shigeto Suzuki
Marvin Karten	Peter Szecsi
Paul Edward Klinedinst, Jr.	

(Continued on Page 4)

Southern California Section

Dinner Meeting (Continued from Page 3)

Reservations: There is a choice of Coq au Vin (chicken with wine sauce) or Beef Bourguignon for dinner. The cost of the dinner is **\$34** including tax, tip, and wine with dinner; cash or check at the door. Please call Nancy Paradiso in the Section Office at 310 327-1216 or email office@scalacs.org by **Monday, September 15th**. **Note:** *Please honor your reservation. If you make a reservation and do not attend, you will be liable for the cost of the dinner.*

Directions: Taix is located in Echo Park on Sunset Blvd. just north of the 101 Freeway. Valet parking is available in the parking lot or there is street parking on Sunset. To access Google maps from the Taix French Restaurant website, go to <http://taixfrench.com/contact-us/>

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Southern California Section

Dr. Henry Abrash 2014 Outreach Volunteer of the Year

Dr. Henry Abrash always wanted to be a chemistry professor. It started with a chemistry set when he was a kid. His volunteer activities with the Southern California Section (SCALACS) involving chemistry education, teacher training workshops, and science demonstrations for the general public are natural extensions of his life-long passion for chemistry education. Henry began his service to SCALACS in 1969 as a member of the Education Committee, and he's been an integral part of the Section ever since.

For over 14 years Henry has been a volunteer at the California Science Center (CSC) enthusiastically explaining and demonstrating chemistry to visitors of all ages. Since the late 1990's Henry has coordinated SCALACS outreach events for National Chemistry Week (and later, Chemists Celebrate Earth Day) at the CSC.

Henry is an emeritus professor in Chemistry & Biochemistry, retired from Cal State Northridge after over thirty years of service. He came to San Fernando Valley State (as CSUN was known at the time) in 1961 after receiving a Bachelor's degree from Harvard and his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology. During his tenure at CSUN he served as faculty president 1988-90, Chemistry Department Chair 1995-98 and president of CSUN Chapter of Sigma Xi.

Since retiring, Henry continues to actively volunteer for the Southern California Section of the American Chemical Society. In the community, he has served as Chair of the Section, and as a member of the advisory board for the Chemical and Process Technology



Henry at the California Science Center

Program at Los Angeles Trade Tech, and coordinator of the Southern California Undergraduate Research Symposium in Chemistry and Biochemistry. In 2000, he received the Agnes Ann Green Distinguished Service Award from the Section.

Southern California Section



Congratulations to Jacqueline K. Barton 2015 Priestley Medal Recipient

Jacqueline K. Barton, Ph.D., professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at the California Institute of Technology, has been named the recipient of the 2015 Priestley Medal by the American Chemical Society (ACS). It is the highest honor bestowed by ACS.

The award recognizes Barton's pioneering work to deepen the fundamental understanding of charge transport through DNA. More recently, her research has led to the development of a "DNA chip" that could potentially probe strands of a person's genetic material for telltale signs of disease.

"Barton's results have truly engaged the chemical community and spawned both theoretical and experimental studies across the world to examine the conductivity of DNA," said Harry Gray, Ph.D., who nominated Barton for the award.

Barton has received widespread recognition for her influential work. She received the 2010 U.S. National Medal of Science, the nation's highest honor for scientific achievement, for discovering that cells use the double strands of the DNA helix like a wire for signaling, which is critical to detecting and repairing genetic damage. She was also elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, as well as just being named a 2014 Fellow of the American Chemical Society. Prof. Barton was the 1994 Recipient of the Richard C. Tolman Medal given by the Southern California Section.

Southern California Section

Congratulations to our 2014 ACS Fellows!

"There are those special people, rare elements all, who are the epitome of our science and dedication to ACS." (Bob de Groot, 2009). This year, three Southern California Section members were named as part of the ACS Fellows Program. They were honored at the National Meeting in San Francisco in August. We would like to congratulate:

Jacqueline K. Barton

California Institute of Technology

G. K. Surya Prakash

Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute, University of Southern California

Arlene A. Russell

University of California, Los Angeles

The fellows program began in 2009 as a way to recognize and honor ACS members for outstanding achievements in and contributions to science, the profession, and ACS. These three members epitomize those standards. We offer our sincere congratulations to our new Southern California Section ACS Fellows.

- Yumei Lin, Chair,
On behalf of the Executive Committee of
the Southern California Section

Councilor Talking Points Highlights Fall National Meeting in San Francisco

Due to space constraints, we are not printing the Councilor Talking Points from the ACS National Meeting in San Diego. Please go to our website, http://scalacs.org/?page_id=44 for the complete report.

Southern California Section

SCALACS High School Chemistry Teacher Meeting

Occidental College

1600 Campus Road
Los Angeles, CA 90041

Saturday, November 1, 2014

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (lunch included)

**2014 theme of National Chemistry Week is
“The Sweet Side of Chemistry—Candy!”**

For many years the Occidental Chemistry Teachers Meeting sponsored by the Southern California Section was the premier place in Los Angeles for teachers to learn from teachers. Please consider coming and sharing your favorite lesson, demo, or trick with us. Already confirmed speakers include Paul Groves, Richard Erdman, Larry Quimby, Caroline Morgan, Dave Kukla, Michael Morgan, and more! Anyone interested in presenting, please contact the program chair, Michael Morgan at mmorgan@lausd.net. A detailed presentation of the reworked AP Chemistry courses will be included.

Cost: There is a \$25 cost for the program which includes lunch (cash or check). For pre-service teachers, the fee is \$5. There is free parking on campus.

Registration will be open next month. Check the October issue of SCALACS or our website, www.scalacs.org for more information. You can also contact Nancy Paradiso at office@scalacs.org.

**Sponsored by SCALACS, Occidental College and
TOPS Program**

Southern California Section



NCW Outreach Activities

October 19-25, 2014 (Varying Times) **National Chemistry Week Activities at the California Science Center**, 700 Exposition Park Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90037, website: www.californiasciencecenter.org. Join volunteers at the California Science Center for NCW activities throughout the week. The theme for NCW 2014 is **"The Sweet Side of Chemistry—Candy!"** For more information visit: www.acs.org/ncw. If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Henry Abrash at: abrash8@aol.com.

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Southern California Section

In Memoriam Ralph Amey, Occidental College

Ralph Amey, Professor of Chemistry Emeritus, died July 7 in Los Angeles. He was 77. Born in Huntington Park and a graduate of Huntington Park High School, Dr. Amey received his BA in chemistry and mathematics from Pomona College and his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Brown University. After a brief stint as a research scientist at Douglas Aircraft, in 1965 he went to Occidental College, where, in addition to his teaching and research in biophysical chemistry, he directed Oxy's NSF Undergraduate Research Program for 10 years. A member of the American Chemical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he was visiting research scientist at University College of Wales, Caltech, and the University of London's Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine. He retired in 2004.

Dr. Amey also was a wine collector, certified wine educator, judge and noted writer. His *Wines of Baja California* (2003) remains the only book in English on the wineries of the Valle de Guadalupe. He was a twice elected to the board of the international Society of Wine Educators.

He is survived by his wife, Eunice D. Howe of Los Angeles; sons Steven of Aurora, Ohio and Mark of Oak Park, Ill.; and grandchildren Miranda, Teagan, Fiona and O'Conner. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Occidental or to a charity of your choice.

Call for Nominations

The Nominations, Elections and Awards Committee of the Southern California Section is soliciting nominations for the election of 2015 Section officers (Chair-Elect and Secretary), members of the Executive Committee, and Councilors. If you wish to propose names (including your own) for consideration, send them to:

Nominations, Elections and Awards Committee
Southern California Section, ACS
Email office@scalacs.org



Insights Into IP Law

Keith Orso*, Irell & Manella LLP
KOrso@irell.com

The previous edition of this column addressed ownership of patent rights and explained that ownership of a patent vests by default in the inventor or inventors who filed the patent application. But what makes someone an inventor? Many technological breakthroughs are the product of teamwork, for example. Which team members are entitled to be named as inventors? How is inventorship determined?

The threshold question in determining inventorship is who conceived the invention. Conception is the touchstone of inventorship—the completion of the *mental* part of invention. It is the formation, in the mind of an inventor—or the minds of multiple inventors—of a definite and permanent idea of the complete and operative invention, as it is thereafter to be applied in practice. Unless a person contributes to the conception of the invention, he or she is not an inventor.

If conception is the *mental* part of invention, then what is the other part? The other part is, in effect, taking the invention from theory to practice. This is referred to as “reduction to practice.” Reduction to practice can be “actual” or “constructive.” Actual reduction to practice is the act of making an embodiment of the invention that operates according to its intended purpose, or otherwise actually practicing the invention (e.g., successfully performing the steps of an inventive process). Constructive reduction to practice, by contrast, is achieved upon filing a proper patent application for the invention, regardless of whether a physical embodiment of the invention has been made or any step of the invention has been performed, for example. Just as someone can prepare and file a patent application on behalf of an inventor so as to achieve constructive reduction to practice, someone other than the inventor can reduce the invention to practice on the inventor’s behalf—but only if doing so does not require the exercise of the inventive faculty.

Conception is complete only when the idea is so clearly defined in the mind of the inventor (or the minds of multiple inventors) that only ordinary skill would be necessary to reduce the invention to practice, without extensive research or experimentation. Look for more on inventorship in the next column. As always, please email me at korso@irell.com with any questions or issues that you would like to see addressed in future editions.

* The author earned engineering and chemical engineering under-graduate and graduate degrees, and is a patent attorney and partner at the law firm of Irell & Manella LLP. This column does not constitute legal advice and does not necessarily reflect the views of the firm or its clients.



This Month in Chemical History

Harold Goldwhite,
California State University, Los Angeles
hgoldwh@calstatela.edu

My wife, Marie, volunteers at the Friends' Bookstore at our local library, and occasionally comes across books she thinks might be of interest to me. Recently she bought a most interesting volume: "Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society 1955 Volume I" published by the Royal Society. It was the start of a new series following "Obituary Notices of Fellows of the Royal Society" Volumes 1 – 9 covering the years 1932 – 1954. My volume, judging from end-paper stamps and annotations, was de-accessioned from the library of the Carnegie Institution of Washington's Mount Wilson Observatory and it was acquired in 1957 for 30 shillings.

You probably all know that to be named a Fellow of the Royal Society and dubbed an F.R.S. is one of the highest honors a British scientist can attain. This volume of Biographical Memoirs discusses the careers of 19 Fellows and Honorary Fellows and includes such distinguished scientists and mathematicians as Albert Einstein, Enrico Fermi, and Alan Turing, with a photograph accompanying each memoir. In this column I am going to discuss the career of one of the biographees, John Lennard-Jones. I have a personal recollection of him. When I was an undergraduate I attended half a dozen lectures by Lennard-Jones on theoretical chemistry. Since last year's Nobel Prize in chemistry was awarded for achievements in theoretical and computational chemistry a look at the career of a pioneer in the field seems timely.

The biography of John Edward Lennard-Jones (1894 – 1954) was written by Nevill Mott, Nobel Laureate in physics in 1977 for his work on electronic structures of magnetic materials. Lennard-Jones was born in Lancashire, England, studied mathematics at Manchester University, earning a bachelor's and master's degrees. After World War I broke out he joined the Royal Flying Corps (predecessor of the R.A.F.), became a pilot and served in France. He returned to Manchester University in 1919 and earned his doctorate. He moved as a post-doctoral student to Cambridge University and earned a second doctorate while working on forces between atoms and molecules, deducing an empirical expression for the potential energy of two molecules that is still known as the Lennard-Jones potential equation. He also used "his" equation to calculate lattice energies of crystals.

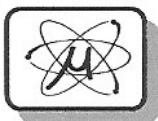
He moved to Bristol in 1925 as first Reader and then Professor of Theoretical Physics deriving expressions for the van der Waals' constants for real gases, and spent a year at Goettingen with Pauli and Heisenberg
(Continued on Page 13)

This Month in Chemical History

(Continued from Page 12)

learning and applying the new quantum mechanics. In the late 20s and 30s he began work on the method of molecular orbitals (M.O.) and explained the paramagnetism of oxygen molecules. He described the first self-consistent field (SCF) equations in a paper in 1931. He built up the theoretical physics department at Bristol, obtaining funding from individuals and foundations, and brought Hertzberg and Delbrueck from Germany to Bristol. He moved to Cambridge as Professor of Theoretical Chemistry (we can finally refer to him as a chemist!) in 1932 – perhaps the first Chair of Theoretical Chemistry anywhere. With students that included Coulson and Pople he continued work on M.O. theory and designed a small mechanical differential analyzer (a precursor to computers) to help in calculations. He also was a founder of the Cambridge Mathematical Laboratory that became important in World War II. During the war he worked on ballistics and was appointed Director General of Scientific Research (Defence) from 1942-45. He was knighted for his distinguished service in 1946 and returned to Cambridge.

He continued work in theoretical chemistry with such landmarks as justifying the use of diatomic orbitals only for valence electrons, and defining M.O.s as eigenfunctions of the SCF Hamiltonian. He was awarded the Davy Medal of the Royal Society in 1953. In the same year he was invited to become the Principal (U.S. equivalent is President) of a relatively new university in North Staffordshire now known as Keele University. He was attracted by the experimental nature of the new institution, and undertook his new duties with vigor and initiative – but his time at Keele was tragically short. After less than a year he died suddenly on November 1, 1954. Since I earned my bachelor's degree in 1953, the year Lennard-Jones moved to Keele, my class must have been among the very last to which he lectured on the subject he helped to create, theoretical chemistry.



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San Gorgonio Section

In Memoriam

Dr. James N. Pitts Jr. passed away on June 19, 2014. He is truly a local chemistry success story, with strong roots in the Southern California, San Gorgonio and Orange County Sections. He graduated from Manual Arts High School in Los Angeles and earned his B. S. and Ph.D. in chemistry at UCLA. He was a founding professor at UC Riverside when the campus was established in 1954 and cofounded the California Statewide Air Pollution Research Center at the campus in 1961. In 1994, he accepted a research position at UCI when his wife, Barbara Finlayson-Pitts, moved to UCI as Professor of Chemistry. Dr. Pitts was a pioneer in the study of the causes of smog and worked tirelessly to develop strategies to reduce the amount of air pollution in Southern California. Below are excerpts from the ***UCI News website, June 19, 2014***, which provide insight into the remarkable accomplishments of this extraordinary man who improved the lives of every Southern California resident.

James N. Pitts Jr. was born in Salt Lake City on January 10, 1921 to Esther (Bengtson) and James N. Pitts. The family moved when he was 6 months old to West Los Angeles, near Baldwin Hills. In the 1930s, the young Pitts took a streetcar daily to Manual Arts High School, where he fell in love with chemistry via his 11th-grade science teacher. He began college at UCLA before being asked to join a secret chemical warfare unit during World War II. Working on Isla San Juan off the coast of Panama, he wore a gas mask – and herded goats also wearing the masks, which were being developed to protect Allied troops in the battlefield.

Charcoal was a key ingredient in the masks, and Pitts later recalled, “My job was to sieve the coal for the Ph.D.s. I went home from head to toe covered in coal dust every night. ... I decided there and then that if I were to stay in chemistry, I would get a Ph.D. and tell others what to do!” After the war, he finished his B.S. and earned his Ph.D. at UCLA. “Starting in the 1960s and going into the 1970s, when [hazardous] levels [of ozone] (200 ppb) were reached, all outdoor activities of K-12 students were cancelled. Students had to stay indoors until late in the afternoon or evening when the ozone levels dropped,” he related in a 2007 interview with Bowling Green State University. “In some parts of Southern California, there were over 100 days per year when such alerts were called. Today, there are ... one or two per year. Controls work!”

(Continued on Page 15)

San Geronio Section

In Memoriam, James Pitts (Continued from Page 14)

Pitts led efforts to establish the Statewide Air Pollution Research Center at UC Riverside and served as its director for 18 years. During his tenure, it became internationally renowned. His team built the first smog chamber and did landmark studies on ozone and other oxidants, volatile organic compounds, fine particles and other hazardous pollutants, including carcinogens and widely used pesticides. The center's policy was to accept no private donations, only public funds "with no strings attached." It was widely recognized as an independent source of scientific advice, with visits by scientists from around the world and politicians of all persuasions – Ronald Reagan and George McGovern among them.



Dr. James N. Pitts, Director of Air Pollution Research Center with Monitoring Equipment Inside NASA Plane, May 1972. This work is in the public domain. This file was provided to Wikimedia Commons by the National Archives and Records Administration.

There are few atmospheric problems recognized today that do not have Pitts' early fingerprints on them. He co-authored 380 scientific publications and four books – two on atmospheric chemistry with Finlayson-Pitts, his second wife, that are used worldwide in training future air quality scientists. He was listed among the most highly cited researchers by the Institute for Scientific Information. Pitts' scientific perception

and enthusiasm inspired several generations of young scientists.

He said his lifelong philosophy was based on something his favorite college chemistry professor, fellow air pollution pioneer F.E. Blacet, wrote to him: "Theories come and theories go, but good data stand forever."

An undergraduate scholarship fund has been set up at UCI in his name. To make a donation, post a remembrance or see a retrospective of his life, go to [**http://ps.uci.edu/memorial/jnpitts**](http://ps.uci.edu/memorial/jnpitts).

San Gorgonio Section

Chair's Message

The San Gorgonio Section will not have a September meeting. Instead, two events are tentatively scheduled for October. Please check the October edition of SCALACS and the website for more information about these events.

October 11 Family Science Festival in Celebration of Mole Day

October 25 Recognition of 50 and 60 year members

If I hadn't become a chemist, I would have majored in history. Both of these disciplines are a haven for individuals who are insatiably curious. I spent part of the summer on a quest to learn more about the history of the San Gorgonio Section. Many thanks to Dr. James Hammond, Section Councilor and informal (but very thorough) historian, who has maintained a remarkable archive of section history. Since there is no formal meeting notice this month, I am taking the opportunity to use this space to share my summer project.

The Section was chartered in 1949 during the time that Dr. Linus Pauling was the ACS President. It was initially part of the Southern California section. The original boundaries were all of Riverside County and the portion of San Bernardino County that was not in the Mojave Desert. The local driving force for the section's creation was Dr. Francis Gunther.



Francis A. Gunther received his M. A. in chemistry from UCLA in 1941 and was employed as a laboratory assistant in the Division of Entomology of the University of California Citrus Experiment Station in Riverside. After completing his Ph. D. in chemistry at UCLA in 1947, Dr. Gunther received an appointment as Assistant Insect Toxicologist at the Citrus Experiment Station. Shortly after, he led the quest to branch off the eastern portion of the Southern California section, partly because distance and traffic made it difficult to attend meetings centered in the Los Angeles area. Dr. Gunther was the first chairman of the newly chartered section.

The Citrus Experiment Station was the forbearer of U.C. Riverside, which opened its doors to undergraduate students in 1954. When a graduate division was established at U.C. Riverside in 1960, Dr. *(Continued on Page 17)*

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Chair's Message (Continued from Page 16)

Gunther assumed teaching duties and became Professor of Entomology and Chemistry. He served the University of California for his entire forty-four year distinguished career, making significant contributions to the development of analytical methods for the detection of pesticide residues.

According to a history compiled for the 50th anniversary celebration, "... it was decided to pick a name which would have special meaning to our members. When the name San Gorgonio was suggested, it was agreed that it was unique." Mount San Gorgonio, the highest of all mountain peaks in Southern California, is located in the San Bernardino Mountains, part of the new section. "Diligent research on the part of Mr. Horton Swisher revealed that there could be a connection between the name of the section and something chemical. It seems that there is a gorgonic acid – 2,5,-diiodotyrosine- present in the scleroprotein from the skeletal tissue of sponges and coral. Thus the rationale for the choice of the name San Gorgonio was complete: both unique and with an association with chemistry."

- Eileen DiMauro
Chair and part-time historian!

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY**

14934 S. FIGUEROA STREET
GARDENA, CA 90248

***IMPORTANT
Do Not Delay!***

Contains Dated Meeting Announcement

PERIODICAL

Chemists' Calendar

For more information on these events, please check the SCALACS
website at www.scalacs.org

September

- 17 SC Dinner honoring Henry Abrash & 50/60 Year Members—see
page 3

October

- 11 SG Family Science Festival in Celebration of Mole Day—see
page 16
25 SG Recognition of 50 and 60 year members—see page 16
19-25 SC National Chemistry Week Activities—see page 9

November

- 1 SC High School Chemistry Teachers Meeting at Occidental
College—see page 8