

The American Chemical Society

1155 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036
202-872-4450

NEWS SERVICE

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For further information, contact:

Frank Bigger (202) 872-4445
Nancy Enright (202) 872-4450
FOR BROADCAST INTERVIEWS:
Vivian Powers (202) 872-4371

Media Headquarters during the meeting:
Los Angeles Hilton, Chandler Room

SUNDAY AFTERNOON WITH SCIENCE--FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

LOS ANGELES--An illustrated address by a Nobel Prize-winning chemist and dazzling chemical demonstrations are features of "Sunday Afternoon with Science," slated for Sept. 25 in Kinsey Auditorium, California Museum of Science and Industry, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Free and open to the public, "Sunday Afternoon with Science" is presented as a special event of the 196th national meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS) being held here Sept. 25 - 30. The Sunday afternoon event is sponsored by the ACS Dept. of Public Communication.

Speaking on "Modern Alchemy - The New Elements" will be Nobel Laureate Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, associate director, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Seaborg will answer questions from the audience after his presentation.

To follow is "The Great Shakhashiri!", a series of colorful and sometimes loud chemical demonstrations by Dr. Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, assistant director, Science and Engineering Education, National Science Foundation. He is on leave from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he is a professor of chemistry and director of the Institute for Chemical Education (ICE.)

With flames and smoke, blasts and showmanship, Dr. Shakhashiri's demonstrations amaze and delight as he conveys the wonders of the chemical sciences. But unlike many magicians, he gladly explains his tricks.

Assisting Dr. Shakhashiri will be Ronald T. Perkins, senior teacher, Greenwich High School, Greenwich, Conn., and assistant director, ICE; and Dr. Rodney Schreiner, resident fellow, ICE.

An international statesman of science, Dr. Seaborg won the 1951 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Edwin M. McMillan. He has played a key role in the discovery of nuclear materials that are now indispensable to health care, agriculture, industry, research, and energy production. He is renowned as codiscoverer of 10 elements heavier than uranium, including plutonium, and as chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) under three presidents beginning with Kennedy in 1961. He also was advisor to President Eisenhower and to the AEC under President Truman. So distinguished is his career that Dr. Seaborg is recognized in the GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS for having the longest entry in WHO'S WHO.

A native of Michigan, Dr. Seaborg grew up in Los Angeles, attending some grammar and all high school grades in the Watts area. He completed an undergraduate degree in chemistry at the University of California, Los Angeles, entering the school when there were only four buildings on campus --- and plenty of mud. He earned his doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Seaborg is recipient of numerous major awards and honorary degrees. He has won several top ACS awards, including the Priestley Medal, highest honor in American chemistry.

A Lebanon native, Dr. Shakhashiri completed his undergraduate degree at Boston University and his masters and doctorate at the University of Maryland.

He is renowned for his development and use of demonstrations in teaching chemistry. His annual program, "Once Upon a Christmas Cheery, in the Lab of Shakhashiri," has been seen by television viewers throughout the country. He is co-author of several technical publications and is a member of numerous scientific and educational groups, including the ACS in which he has held several leadership positions. In 1986, he was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in recognition of his scientific and and educational achievements. Among his many awards are two of the ACS's most coveted ---the James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Teaching of Chemistry (1983) and the ACS Award in Chemical Education (1986). Dr. Shakhashiri also is recipient of two honorary doctorate degrees.

Largest scientific society in the world, the nonprofit American Chemical Society was founded in 1876 and is chartered by the Congress in the public interest. Its membership of more than 137,000 chemists and chemical engineers is international. The Society is a world leader in promoting chemical education, research, and the public understanding of science.

"Sunday Afternoon with Science," first presented in 1977, has become a tradition at national meetings of the ACS, and attendance has grown steadily.

"These programs call the general public's attention to the importance of science in our lives," Dr. Seaborg said, "and to the need for obtaining a certain degree of scientific literacy in order to cope successfully in today's high-technology society."

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