

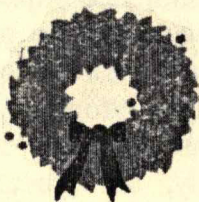


THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

presents

*"Once Upon a Christmas Cheery
in the Lab of Shakhashiri"*



By Bassam Z. Shakhashiri



This program commemorates the 200th anniversary of the birth of Michael Faraday, the noted English physicist and chemist. Faraday originated the tradition of Christmas Lectures for children at the Royal Institution of Great Britain in the 1840s.

Monday, December 16, 1991
The National Academy of Sciences Auditorium
2100 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

7:30 p.m.



Michael Faraday's Christmas Lecture

Michael Faraday, the noted English physicist and chemist, lived from 1791 to 1867. He was a gifted lecturer, and he began giving Christmas Lectures for children at the Royal Institution of Great Britain in the 1840s. Faraday loved simplicity and had a strong sense of the dramatic. His audience entered wholeheartedly into the world of science with him as guide. His ideas were still considered very unorthodox at that time, and children, who had not yet adopted conventional ideas, would react enthusiastically to the ones Faraday presented. Eventually, the Lectures became very popular, and even the Prince of Wales attended and learned about the mysteries of electricity. Faraday sought to awaken the sense of wonder in his listeners. He knew that once a person began to wonder about the world, it was only a short step to studying it. He emphasized that if you looked closely at the most ordinary thing, such as the force of gravity, it ceased to be ordinary and became somehow miraculous. Faraday urged his listeners to see and judge for themselves, to experiment and to question nature directly.

Bassam Z. Shakhashiri

Dr. Bassam Shakhashiri has had a distinguished career in science education and public service. A native of Lebanon, Dr. Shakhashiri received an A.B. degree in chemistry from Boston University and master's and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry from the University of Maryland. After a year of post-doctoral research and two years as a junior member of the chemistry faculty at the University of Illinois, he joined the chemistry faculty of the University of Wisconsin in 1970, a position he has held since. In 1983 he founded the Institute for Chemical Education and served as its first director. From 1984-90, Dr. Shakhashiri served as Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation for Science and Engineering Education.

Dr. Shakhashiri is known for his development and use of demonstrations in the teaching of chemistry. He has co-authored several laboratory manuals and workbooks for introductory chemistry. His four-volume series, *Chemical Demonstrations: A Handbook for Teachers of Chemistry*, is well-known among chemistry educators. He developed the first interactive museum chemistry exhibit in the United States at The Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. It has been on display since 1983. Dr. Shakhashiri has received numerous honorary degrees and awards, including the Keikhofer Distinguished Teaching Award from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Manufacturing Chemists Association Catalyst Award, the James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Teaching of Chemistry, and the American Chemical Society Award in Chemical Education.

Dr. Shakhashiri's Christmas Lecture will be broadcast on WETA-TV, Channel 26, on Sunday, December 22, at 11:00 a.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The National Academy of Sciences

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