

THE MIDLAND CHEMIST

A publication of the Midland Section of the American Chemical Society

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Chair Column – Thank you

Mark Jones, Chair, Midland Section ACS



Thank you. Thank you for voting and thank you for attending the Fall Scientific Meeting. There is a nip in the air. Winter is lurking. Seasons change and it is a time of change at the Midland Local Section. Soon, your local section will be under new management. We need your input.

There are many reasons to feel pride in the Midland Local Section. Year in and year out, we receive recognition for our outreach and other activities. We are a top performing local section, consistently besting much larger sections. We still want to improve.

We just completed our first ever, all virtual Fall Scientific Meeting. Anirudha Banerjee and the rest of his team proved up to the challenges that COVID imposed. The virtual format allowed extending the reach of the meeting. I believe we set a geographic record with a poster from Warrington, PA (nominally Philadelphia). And that from a high school student, too. The speakers were all great and the quality of their talks top-notch.

While we gained in reach, we certainly lost in the interpersonal experience. I enjoy seeing old friends at the meeting. Zoom's advantages don't include spontaneity. They don't include facilitating casual interaction.

We can now sense the dawn of 2021. We don't know what the year will bring, when prudent response to the pandemic will allow face-to-face meetings again. We crossed a threshold during this year's Fall Scientific Meeting, proving that an all virtual meeting is possible. What should 2021's Fall Scientific Meeting be? Should we return to an in-person meeting? Is a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting the way to go? Is a full Saturday

preferred over a more spread out event? Please let us know what you liked or disliked about this year's meeting, or past meetings. Please offer suggestions for improvement.

The Midland Section ACS is an all-volunteer organization. Volunteers are needed for a variety of positions, including organization of next year's Fall Scientific Meeting. Please reach out if this or other opportunities strike your fancy. Anirudha and this year's organizing committee faced many challenges, solved many problems, and managed to put on a great event. I believe I speak for us all when I say let's hope that 2021 proves to be a less challenging year.

Midland Section ACS Receives 19 ChemLuminary Nominations for 2019 Programs

Amanda Palumbo, Past Chair, Midland Section ACS

The Midland Section of the American Chemical Society is honored to receive **19 ChemLuminary nominations for 2019 programming**, including Outstanding Section Performance in the Medium Size Category. See the full list of the 19 nominations below.

Last year was a busy, productive, and fulfilling year for the Midland Section, with the culmination of three important local section-sponsored programs including the 100th year anniversary of the ACS Midland Section, the "H2O Q" Citizen Science Experiment, and the 50th Central Regional Meeting. This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our members, volunteers, and board to partner with the community to ensure public participation in learning, celebrate chemistry in everyday life, and nurture the interest and promotion of the value of science.



Winners will be announced at the 22nd Annual ChemLuminary Awards ceremony on **Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 4:00 PM (Eastern Time)**. **The virtual ceremony is FREE and all are welcome to attend.** [Register online here](#). The virtual ceremony will include a keynote address by Janet L. Bryant, recipient of the Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society, and the presentations of awards given by 23 committees of the Society will follow.

Thank you to everyone for your service and commitment to our community and the ACS!

To learn more about the ChemLuminary Awards and to register to attend the 22nd Annual ChemLuminary Awards virtual ceremony, please visit <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/funding-and-awards/awards/community/chemluminary.html>.

- **Outstanding Performance by a Local Section (Medium Size)**
- **Chemists with Disabilities Inclusion Award** – *“Creation of a Tactile 3D Printed Periodic Table in Braille & ASL”*
- **Outstanding Community Involvement in CCEW** – *“Chemists Celebrate Earth Week Programming”*
- **Outstanding Local Section Industry Event** – *“2019 Central Regional Meeting – Celebratory Chemical Heritage Symposium”*

- **Outstanding Local Section Programming Related to the Promotion of Ethics in Chemistry** – *“Centennial Museum Exhibit – Display on Unintended Consequences”*
- **Outstanding Continuing Public Relations Program of a Local Section** – *“Public Relations for Midland Section”*
- **Best Event or Activity Organized by, or Benefiting, the Applied Chemical Technology Professional Community** – *“2019 Central Regional Meeting – Mid-Michigan Technologist Group Programming and Events”*
- **Outstanding Leadership Development Program** – *“Women Chemists Committee, Skills Beyond the Bench”*
- **Best Activity or Program Stimulating Member Involvement** – *“H2O Q – Citizen Science Water Quality Experiment”*
- **Local Section Partnership Award/Marinda Li Wu Award** – *“Public Museum Exhibition: Science Paints Our World, Chemistry and Arts”*
- **Most Innovative New Activity or Program** – *“H2O Q – Citizen Science Water Quality Experiment”*
- **MAC Industry Engagement & Outreach** – *“2019 Central Regional Meeting – Technologists in Industry Symposium”*
- **Best Continuing Senior Chemists Activity within a Local Section** – *“Midland ACS Centennial Museum Exhibit, ‘A Century of Science and Service’”*
- **Best New Senior Chemists Activity within a Local Section** – *“Silver Circle Midland Section Centennial Celebration”*
- **Fostering Interactions between Local Sections and Student Chapters** – *“Events and Partnerships with Women Chemists Committee, CERM 2019, Mid-Michigan Technologist Group, CMU/Midland Section Joint Meeting”*
- **Outstanding U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad** – *“Midland Local Section Chemistry Olympiad”*
- **Best Overall WCC Local Section** – *“Midland Section Women Chemists Committee”*
- **Outstanding Local Section YCC** – *“Midland Section Younger Chemists Committee Revival in Diversity and Partnerships”*
- **Outstanding or Creative Local Section Younger Chemists Committee Event** – *“Younger Chemists Committee and Silver Circle – Experience Exchange Luncheon and Panel Discussion at Central Regional Meeting”*



**Midland Section ACS Fireside Chat with Mary Draves, Chief Sustainability Officer, Dow
Andre Yvon Bessette, Younger Chemists Committee, Midland Section ACS**



Everyone is welcome to join this free and interactive virtual event.

Speaker Bio: Mary F. Draves, Chief Sustainability Officer and Vice President, Environment, Health and Safety

As chief sustainability officer and vice president of Environment, Health and Safety (EH&S) for Dow, Mary Draves is passionate about using science, innovation, and collaboration to drive transformative and sustainable change. She leads corporate EH&S governance and Dow's ambitious 2025 Sustainability Goals. Priority areas include solutions for a circular economy, climate change, sustainable chemistry, and incorporating nature into business decisions.

Draves previously led Dow's groundbreaking Valuing Nature Goal, which represents the first-ever commitment by a corporation to formally factor nature into its business decisions. Under her leadership, Dow has enjoyed a highly productive collaboration with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Together with TNC, she and her team have helped pioneer tools and create a cultural shift that are enabling Dow sites to make a compelling business case for adopting nature-based project solutions. Dow's aim is to identify \$1 billion worth of value to Dow from projects that enhance nature by 2025. Since launching the goal in 2015, the Company has realized about \$500 million of value in nature-based decisions.

Draves joined Dow in 1989 and has held several manufacturing and EH&S leadership roles. During her three decades at Dow, Draves has built a reputation for being an effective and collaborative leader who helps inspire commitment in her teams and attain results. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a Master of Science degree in technological processes from Saginaw Valley State University. She resides in Midland with her family.

In summary, Draves has three professional passions: sustainability, leading people, and building effective collaborations. When it comes to personal passions, she is focused on her family, community service, and supporting women in STEM careers.

When it's time, join your Webex meeting here.

Meeting number (access code): 173 847 9990
Meeting password: Fireside (34737433 from phones)

[Join meeting](#)

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

[+1-855-369-1166](tel:+1-855-369-1166), [1738479990#34737433#](tel:+1-855-369-1166) US Tollfree Number

[+1-989-633-1166](tel:+1-989-633-1166), [1738479990#34737433#](tel:+1-989-633-1166) US Toll Number

Some mobile devices may ask attendees to enter a numeric meeting password.

Join by phone

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[Global call-in numbers](#) | [Toll-free calling restrictions](#)

Join from a video system or application

Dial 1738479990@dow.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Join using Microsoft Lync or Microsoft Skype for Business

Dial 1738479990.dow@lync.webex.com



MSU St. Andrews, November 2020 Events

Clare Light, Project/Event Coordinator, MSU St. Andrews

Family Astronomy Night, Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 7:00 – 8:30 PM. Free virtual event. For more details, please visit: <https://standrews.msu.edu/2020/09/11/family-astronomy-night-3/>.

Our Amazing Moon: More Complicated Than You Expect!

Did you know that the Moon is responsible for how our calendars look? Do you know what a “supermoon” is? (Or Hunter’s Moon? Or a Blue Moon?) Can you see the man in the moon? (Or the woman? Or the bunny?) Are you able to tell time using the Moon’s phases and position? Have you heard that some parts of the Moon shine by light from the Earth? And that the Moon causes tides and affects the damage caused by hurricanes? Join us by Zoom to learn more!

Join: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/96595057130>

Meeting ID: [96595057130](https://msu.zoom.us/j/96595057130)

Password: MSU



Families with school-age and older children are invited to join us virtually for a presentation focused on our wonderful Moon. Specifically, we will describe the numerous things that we can learn about the Moon just by looking at it and watching what it does over time – even without a telescope. The Moon has phases, of course, but also changes regularly in brightness, size, and height above the horizon. Its orbit around the Earth is surprisingly complicated, with different kinds of “months” that differ by several days, depending on how you measure them. Some even change in length throughout the year!

As always, we will show you how to find the planets and other cool things in the sky this month and into December. For example, have you noticed that Jupiter and Saturn are now closer together than at any time in the last 20 years? When will they be closest? Have you seen Mars in the southeast or brilliant Venus lighting up the morning sky? Mercury is in the morning sky, too, as is a meteor shower that is happening right now! We will help you see all of these things for yourself.

Attention students! MSU St. Andrews participants in the [STEM Pipeline Passport](#) program.

Also, please like MSU St. Andrews on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MSUStAndrews/>. Thank you.

Midland Section ACS Pioneer, Thomas G. Griswold, Jr.
Wendell L. Dilling, Historian and Director, Midland Section ACS

The Wednesday, October 28, 2020, issue of the *Midland Daily News*, page 3A, contains a very interesting article, "Thomas Griswold, Jr. was first man employed by Dow Chemical," written by Tawny Ryan Nelb.



Thomas G. Griswold, Jr., ca. 1897
(Courtesy of the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation)

She notes that "Griswold helped nourish the development of the early company with his skills as a chemical engineer, land surveyor, inventor, machinist, photographer, and patent attorney. He also enriched the business, cultural, and humanitarian part of our community as an early organizer of the Community Center, the Chemical State Savings Bank, and the Midland Chapter of the American Chemical Society, as well as sharing his talents in music, gardening, furniture design, and the devotion to his church."

Griswold was the third Midland Section ACS Chair, serving after Herbert H. Dow, who served parts of two, one-year terms, 1919-1921, and Edwin O. Barstow, who served one, one-year term, 1921-1922. Griswold served a one-year term in 1922-1923 and another in 1930-1931.

Among other interesting items recounted by Nelb is that "Griswold reminisced about those very early days in his autobiography saying, 'A few days after starting on my drawings, Mr. Dow sat on a stool at the back side of my drafting table and explained to me his theories of design and manufacture. He gradually slowed down and finally burst out with the remark, 'Say I am important enough around here for you to listen to me when I talk.' I had continued working on my drawings as he talked. I explained to him that I had been brought up by a superintendent who wouldn't talk to me unless I continued to work while he talked. Mr. Dow never did get used to my habit of working while he talked to me.'"

Another item of interest related to the Midland Section included in Nelb's article is that Griswold married Herbert Dow's sister, Helen, in 1897. Helen died in the flu pandemic of 1918. I note that Dow's daughter, also named Helen, who married William J. Hale, the "founder" of the Midland Section ACS, also died in the flu pandemic of 1918.

Many other items of interest about Griswold are described in Nelb's article in the original *Midland Daily News* article.

2020 ACS Garden Update: Fresh Produce During the Pandemic

Gina Malczewski, Outreach, Midland Section ACS

As food pantries, in general, faced increased requests for food from families who have experienced reduced or lost income during the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACS garden was able to provide fresh produce to three local organizations. Over the course of the summer, direct donations from our garden as well as in-kind contributions from other gardeners were given to the SAMS Emergency Food Pantry in Midland, the Corpus Christi/Holy Trinity Pantry in Bay City, and the Caregiving Network in Midland. Almost 290 pounds of produce, including zucchini, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, peppers, green beans, and kale were donated. In-kind apple donations were also made this fall. In addition, herbs such as thyme, chives, and basil grown in our garden spaces were dried and donated.

The ACS garden is maintained, in part, as a teaching tool and is a portion of the Creative 360 Community Garden on Bayliss Street, in Midland. Gina Malczewski managed the entire enterprise this year in addition to the ACS plots. The ACS greenhouse made of recycled bottles was built on site in 2015 and demonstrates various methods of limited space gardening – with hanging and upside-down tomatoes, stacked beds, and vertical wall gardens. We also maintain compost piles, with donations of coffee grounds from Coffee Chaos and discarded tea leaves and herbs from the Grove Tea Lounge. A vermiculture unit (making “worm tea” for fertilizer) and hydroponics run by a roof solar panel are also greenhouse capabilities. A children’s garden was originally planned for this year but was postponed until 2021.

Please watch for spring announcements about garden plots if you are interested in joining the community garden effort next year. If you wish to donate time or money (or your excess produce) at any time, please contact Gina Malczewski at reginamalczewski@gmail.com.



Photo of one of the ACS garden plots next to the greenhouse, taken in June 2020.

(Photo courtesy of Gina Malczewski)



Photo of the inside of the greenhouse looking through one of its windows, taken in September 2020.

(Photo courtesy of Gina Malczewski)

In Memoriam – Ora Ley Flaningam ***Steve Keinath, Co-Editor, The Midland Chemist***

Editor's note: The obituary notice for Ora Flaningam as it appears here is reprinted, in part, from the Thursday, October 29, 2020 issue of the *Midland Daily News*. Ora joined the American Chemical Society in 1959, and at the time of his passing he was a 61-year member of the ACS.



Ora Ley Flaningam, 85, of Midland, died Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at the Toni and Trish House in Auburn. He was born April 27, 1935 in Dixon, IL, son of the late Ora Wakeley and Ethel May (Cramer) Flaningam.

Ora grew up in Lapeer, MI and graduated from high school in 1953. It was then that a counselor told him that he should apply to college at Michigan Tech, so Ora took a 19-hour bus ride north. He did not have very much money and had to work his way through school. During the summers, Ora spent his days digging ditches and pouring concrete for the Detroit Edison Company, working with his dad painting, and manufacturing auto parts for Chevrolet at Lapeer Metal Products. He also worked every evening as a switchboard operator for his dormitory before earning his bachelor's degree. Ora enrolled in a master's program but eventually his money ran out. He was encouraged to take a teaching position at Suomi College in Hancock, MI and to his chagrin, he accepted the position.

After his teaching commitment was completed, Ora had several interviews with various companies, and he was eventually offered a position with Dow Corning. In 1960, he moved to Midland where he made his permanent residence. Ora worked for Dow Corning for 38 years, retiring in 1998 as a Senior Analytical Specialist.

While in college, Ora joined the ROTC to help fund his education. He obtained the rank of Second Lieutenant and six short months into his new career with Dow Corning, he was called away to serve in the Chemical Corps where he was stationed at Fort McClellan in Alabama. After his six-month military obligation was completed, he returned to Midland and his job, but remained in the reserves for the next four years.

Finally, being settled, Ora joined the Young People's Business Group at Memorial Presbyterian Church, in Midland. It was there where he met the love of his life, Donalee Graham. Little did he know, the two were at Michigan Tech at the same time. After a few years of courting, Ora and Donalee were married in April of 1963 at Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Donalee worked as a chemist in the physics lab at the Dow Chemical Company before she and Ora had their daughter Lian. Once Lian was in school, Donalee continued her own education and earned her master's degree in computer science from Central Michigan University.

Donalee loved the theater and shared that interest with Ora. The two of them spent countless hours volunteering at the Larkin Playhouse before there was a Midland Center for the Arts. Ora spent his time running the lights and sound while Donalee directed many of the productions and was eventually elected chairman and historian of the Theater Guild.

Once Ora retired, the two enjoyed traveling. They found their way to Australia where they stayed for a month before returning home. They then decided to buy a second home in Florida where the couple spent part of every year. Ora continued spending time in Florida until finally selling that home in 2014.

Genealogy was a large part of Ora's life and therefore became a part of Donalee's life, too. He researched his family lineage back ten generations even finding an old family sampler created in 1794. This prompted Donalee to create her own sampler for Ora that consisted of the ten generations, comprised of 125,000 stitches, 162 colors, and 6 different fibers. It took her 800 hours and over 22 months to complete and it became one of Ora's most cherished and prized possessions.

Ora and Donalee were married for 40 years before their love story came to an end. In December of 2002, Donalee succumbed to an illness that she could not defeat, leaving Ora to continue their legacy on his own.

Ora is survived by his daughter, Lian (Fiancé Robert Ray) Flaningam; brother, Noel Flaningam; sisters, Diana Flaningam Kirkpatrick and Paula Flaningam Sutherland; as well as nieces and nephews, Esther Angel Gamble, Violet Ostrander, Dale Ostrander, Tammy Wickstrom McGonigle, Loretta Wickstrom Hanks, and Philip A. Noyes, Jr. In addition to his parents and wife Donalee, Ora was preceded in death by his brother Garnett Flaningam and sisters Augusta Flaningam, Serena Barta, and Sandra Ostrander.

A funeral and memorial service for both Ora and Donalee took place at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at the Ware Smith Woolever Funeral Chapel, 1200 West Wheeler Street, in Midland. Rev. Dr. Wallace H. Mayton III officiated with burial following in the Midland Cemetery. Their family received friends at the funeral home on Wednesday, November 4, from 11:00 AM until the time of service.

The family is grateful to the Toni and Trish House for their kindness and compassion during Ora's final days. Their comfort and care were appreciated beyond measure. Therefore, any individual wishing to make a memorial donation is asked to consider the Toni and Trish House (4699 11 Mile Road, Auburn, MI 48611).

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Updates

- November 2 (7:00 – 8:00 PM) – Midland Section ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via a WebEx conference call connection at [Midland Section WebEx Board Meeting November 2020](#), phone number: 989-633-1166.
- November 17 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – MSU St. Andrews Family Astronomy Night, *Our Amazing Moon: More Complicated Than You Expect!* Free virtual event via Zoom. Link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/96595057130>. Password: MSU. For more information, please see <https://standrews.msu.edu/event/family-astronomy-night-tuesday-november-17-at-7-pm-virtual-event/>.
- November 18 (12:00 – 1:00 PM) – Midland Section ACS Fireside Chat with Mary Draves, Chief Sustainability Officer, Dow. Everyone is welcome to join this free and interactive virtual event. Please see the accompanying article on pages 4-5 for instructions on how to join the WebEx event.
- December 7 (7:00 – 8:00 PM) – Midland Section ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (in person), or via a WebEx conference call connection at [Midland Section WebEx Board Meeting December 2020](#), phone number: 989-633-1166.
- December 8 (7:00 – 8:30 PM) – MSU St. Andrews Family Astronomy Night. Free virtual event via Zoom. Watch for more event details and Zoom information coming soon. For more information, please see <https://standrews.msu.edu/event/family-astronomy-night-tuesday-december-8-at-7-pm-virtual-event/>.
- December 9 (4:00 PM to ??) – 22nd Annual ChemLuminary Awards virtual ceremony. This virtual ceremony is free and all are welcome to attend. However, pre-registration is required ahead of time at <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/funding-and-awards/awards/community/chemluminary.html>.
- December 9 (4:00 PM to ??) – 2020 Volunteer Appreciation event / 22nd Annual ChemLuminary Awards virtual ceremony watch party. Save the date; more details to follow. For more information, please contact Amanda Palumbo at amanda.palumbo@dow.com.
- January 4 (tentative date) (7:00 – 8:00 PM) – Midland Section ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (anticipated location, in person), or via a WebEx conference call connection (TBD), phone number: 989-633-1166.
- February 1 (tentative date) (7:00 – 8:00 PM) – Midland Section ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (anticipated location, in person), or via a WebEx conference call connection (TBD), phone number: 989-633-1166.
- March 1 (tentative date) (7:00 – 8:00 PM) – Midland Section ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (anticipated location, in person), or via a WebEx conference call connection (TBD), phone number: 989-633-1166.
- March 21-25, 2021 (Save the Date) – Spring 2021 National ACS Meeting & Exposition, San Antonio, TX and Online. Meeting theme – *Macromolecular Chemistry: The Second Century*. For more information, please see <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/national-meeting/about/future-meetings.html>.
- April 5 (tentative date) (7:00 – 8:00 PM) – Midland Section ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (anticipated location, in person), or via a WebEx conference call connection (TBD), phone number: 989-633-1166.
- May 3 (tentative date) (7:00 – 8:00 PM) – Midland Section ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (anticipated location, in person), or via a WebEx conference call connection (TBD), phone number: 989-633-1166.
- May/June 2021 (Dates TBD) – 2020 ACS Central Regional Meeting, Columbus, OH. Note: CERM 2020 was postponed and will potentially take place in May or June 2021. The dates are still to be determined. For more information, please see https://cerm2020.org/?sc=200226_mtg_em_regional_CERM_od.

- June 6-9, 2021 (Save the Date) – 2021 ACS Great Lakes Regional Meeting (GLRM), Minneapolis, MN. For more information, please see <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/regional/great-lakes.html>.
- June 7 (tentative date) (7:00 – 8:00 PM) – Midland Section ACS Board meeting, MCFTA Board Room (anticipated location, in person), or via a WebEx conference call connection (TBD), phone number: 989-633-1166.
- August 22-26, 2021 (Save the Date) – Fall 2021 National ACS Meeting & Exposition, Atlanta, GA and Online. Meeting theme – *Resilience of Chemistry*. For more information, please see <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/national-meeting/about/future-meetings.html>.

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