



Highlights

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March Meeting of the East Bay Chapter of the Association for Women in Science

Susan Christy, Ph. D., CMC

How to Work with Difficult People Thursday, March 17, 2005

Chiron Corp. Room 4.104

6:30 pm Light Supper

7:00 pm Meeting Begins

See www.ebawis.org or p. 3 for directions

Fight or flight are not your only options when working with difficult people! Dr. Susan Christy joins us for the March Chapter meeting to explore the obstacles and challenges of communicating with people when they are unhappy or unreasonable, for example. Participants will also learn techniques and new approaches to diffusing difficult situations.

Dr. Susan Christy brings with her a rich background in psychology and business. She is a management consultant specializing in people skills. Before starting her own business, Christy Consulting, Inc., Susan was VP of Programs at HighGain, Inc., a tenured Psychology professor, TV talk show host, professional speaker, and consultant. Clients like the combination of her PhD in Psychology and her Certification as a Management Consultant. Susan has worked with corporations like eBay, Bechtel, Hewlett-Packard, Pacific Bell, InVision, Aetna and Blue Cross. She has coached many executives, small business owners, and entrepreneurs. She recently rotated off the Board of The Institute of Management Consultants, NorCal Chapter.

President's Message by Terry Calarco

At the January chapter meeting we heard Lynda Deschambault speak about her career of opportunities. For those of us contemplating new directions, Lynda's talk was a view into the possibilities that await. Sometimes it is being in the right place at the right time, sometimes it is taking a leap into the unknown. Her diverse examples ranged from a WHO training program in Africa to transforming her environmental passions in to a run for local office.

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Nationally, AWIS is frequently asked to endorse various policy or legislative initiatives. This may be a simple but important way to take action, by signing a petition or writing an e-mail. Topics range from protecting scientific research to Title IX and more.

Check out www.awis.org/voice/endorsement.html

Take a risk, volunteer, apply—you never know where those opening doors will lead. Wishing you all a Happy New Year and challenging new adventures.

-Terry.

January Meeting Report: Environmental Science to EPA to Elections: One Woman's Amazing Journey

By Suzanne Canada and Laura McDevitt

The January 25, 2005 meeting of the East Bay AWIS, featured Lynda Deschambault (M.B.A, B.A. Chemistry, B.S. Soil Science), who gave a delightful and inspiring overview of her career in science. Her presentation showed, from a first-hand point of view, how technological trends and scientific issues can affect personal career decisions.

Lynda started by discussing her entry into the workforce, describing how fortunate she was to have found a job right out of college working in someone's laboratory simply by being in the right place at the right time. She visited a job board, only to have a professor directly introduce her to the laboratory that same day. She reminisced about how she was able to grow as a scientist, working at all levels from dishwasher to laboratory director. She has since become rather well known in the field as an expert in soil analysis. In those technological boom days, dubbed the "dot com" days for environmental science labs by Lynda, there were lots of opportunities for start-up companies in her field. By seeing lots of mismanagement in the area, Lynda was motivated to get her degree in Business Management, after which she would run several labs at a time by organizing teams consisting of a scientist, a marketing person, and a technologist. As things became more competitive in the business, Lynda saw the quality level drop as the emphasis shifted to efficiency rather than accuracy of data.

Lynda went to work for the EPA, where her experience in Soil Science was a significant asset. She worked in regulatory enforcement at the EPA, identifying polluters and making the information available to the public. Finally she was put in charge of one of the Superfund sites, a large dump site where huge amounts of industrial waste had been accumulated. She described the huge efforts, logistics, and costs involved in keeping the waste contained.

Lynda then launched into her work with the United Nations outreach to Ghana, where she and others were able to use their expertise to train a great number of public health officials, educators, and government regulators on how to find information on chemicals and their affects on public health. Through those efforts, she shared that this two-weeks of effort had a more significant impact in a shorter time than any she had previously undertaken.

In the end of the presentation, Lynda briefly described her grass-roots run for city counsel: how she campaigned and how her values to protect open-space land and the lifestyle in her community led her to a position serving on her local city council.



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Directions to Chiron Corporation 4560 Horton St, Emeryville, CA

From San Francisco: Take 101 North/I-80 East towards San Francisco. Continue on I-80 across the Bay Bridge. I-80 then joins I-580 (left lanes). Immediately move to the far right lanes and take the Ashby Avenue exit, the next exit past Powell Street. Exit at Ashby Avenue and proceed under the railroad overcrossing, then turn right on 7th Street at the light. Turn right on Folger Avenue and follow the road as it turns left and becomes Hollis Street. Continue on Hollis, across Powell Street, and turn right on 53rd Street. Chiron is the third driveway on the left (4560 Horton Street).

From Oakland: Take I-880 North. Continue past Oakland to the I-980 interchange towards Walnut Creek. Proceed to I-580 West to San Francisco then to I-80 East. Stay to the right and proceed towards Berkeley on I-80 East/I-580 West. Exit Powell Street and turn right on Powell at the light. Continue on Powell over the overpass to Hollis Street. At the light turn right on Hollis and then right again on 53rd Street. Chiron is the third driveway on the left.

From Walnut Creek: Take Highway 80 East toward Berkeley from Highway 24 Westbound, Exit Powell Street and turn right on Powell at the stop light. Continue on Powell over the overpass to Hollis Street. At the light turn right on Hollis and then another right turn on 53rd Street. Chiron is the third driveway on the left.

From the South Bay: Take I-880 North. Take I-980 exit towards Highway 24/Walnut Creek. Take the I-580 exit towards San Francisco/Hayward. Take the I-580 West exit on left towards San Francisco. Merge onto I-580 West. Turn slight right at the intersection of I-80 West Ramp to stay on I-580 West. Take the Powell Street exit towards Emeryville and turn right on Powell at the stop light. Continue on Powell over the overpass to Hollis Street. At the stop light at Hollis turn right, then right again onto 53rd Street. Chiron is the third driveway on the left.

Park for the AWIS meeting in the visitor parking area you will see immediately after turning off 53rd Street into the Chiron driveway. Our meeting takes place in the large brick façade building with purple and yellow stucco located across 53rd Street from visitor parking. Enter at the doors nearest the big yellow stucco ball. We meet in room 4.104.

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