



ACS Local Section
New York
Westchester Chemical Society

OUR CHEMICAL HERITAGE: ITS IMPACT ON OUR DAILY LIVES

Speaker: Mary Virginia Orna, Ph.D.

Professor of Chemistry,
Emerita,
College of New Rochelle

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Time: Coffee Hour: 5:30 pm
Speaker: 6:00 pm

Place: Westchester Community
College
75 Grasslands Road
Valhalla, NY 10595
Gateway Center
Room 110



Event is free of charge

The meeting will be a hybrid – both in-person and by ZOOM. The ZOOM link will be available in the March Indicator.

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Abstract:

This talk will take us on a journey from the legendary discovery of glass on the shores of the Mediterranean to this peculiar substance's impact on our society. Made up of Earth's most abundant elements, it is nevertheless a puzzling oddity. We will look at natural and synthetic glasses, its composition and processing, glass production in Roman and Venetian times, medieval stained glass, the advent of laboratory glassware that enabled the growth of the chemical industry, and finally, how our society depends on glass for so many essential functions.

Biography:

Mary Virginia Orna is Professor of Chemistry, Emerita, College of New Rochelle. She received her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Fordham University and has lectured and published widely on the history of chemistry and chemical education. She is an active ACS member, a Past-Chair of the New York Local Section and Alternate Councilor for the ACS Division of the History of Chemistry. She is the author or editor of 22 books and the recipient of numerous awards for her work in chemical education, including the George C. Pimentel National Award and the CASE New York State Professor of the Year and National Gold Medalist in 1989.

Please contact Peter Corfield at pcorfield@fordham.edu to RSVP for the meeting or if you have any questions.

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and Youth Protection Policy

(<https://www.acs.org/content/dam/acsorg/volunteer/documents/acs-youth-protection-policy.pdf>) , as applicable