



The Chemical Consultant

Association of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Inc.

Scientific, Engineering, Business & Management Consultants

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FUTURE MEETINGS

SEPT 21

Joint Meeting with AIChE
NY Metro Section

Pfizer Building
685 Third Ave., New York

Dr. John C. Bonacci

*"A Chemical Consulting
Business—Then and Now"*

OCT 27

Ben's Deli,
New York City

Annual Membership
Meeting

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The Association of Consulting Chemists & Chemical Engineers (ACC&CE) is a network of senior-level consultants with a broad range of functional expertise and many years of experience in the chemical and allied industries.

The purposes of the organization are:

To furnish support to its members as they conduct their consulting practices.

To offer prospective clients a "clearing house" which they can use to find the most qualified consultants or team of consultants whatever their particular problem may be.

This newsletter is intended to support those purposes as well as to educate prospective new members and prospective client organizations about ACC&CE, and how we can be most helpful to them.

The ACC&CE has an interactive website – www.chemconsult.org, that allows prospective clients either to input their problem or to search for those consultants most skilled in their area of concern.

SPECIAL ISSUE— ELLIOTT L. WEINBERG

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In this issue, we commemorate our good friend and colleague, Elliott Weinberg, who passed away on May 6, 2009. We are publishing remembrances of Elliott from some of his friends and fellow members of the Association of Consulting Chemists & Chemical Engineers.

I joined the ACC&CE at about the end of the year 2001, and I met Elliott shortly thereafter at one of our periodic meetings. I knew him as a bright and articulate scientist and businessman, who appeared to have travelled everywhere and done everything. The times that I was able to spend more personal time with Elliott is when we both were speaking at a regional or national ACS meeting. In the last years, he was forced to use a cane to get around, but he still kept up his activities, with good humor.

We will miss him.

Joe Porcelli, Editor

The following obituary was written by Dave Riley for the SPEC SHEET, the Palisades SPE Newsletter, and appears here with the permission of the SPE and the Weinberg family.

Elliott Weinberg, an eminent, world renowned scientist, died on May 6 of cancer at the Robert Woods Johnson hospital in New Brunswick, NJ. He was 84. His wife, Rita, and his twin sons, William and David, were at his side.

Elliott was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a Fellow of the Society of Plastics Engineers, and Fellow of the American Institute of Chemists. He has received numerous awards through the years, including the Honor Scroll Award in 1990 by the New Jersey Institute of Chemists after serving as President.

He was the original editor of the Journal of Vinyl Technology starting in 1979 and became the associate editor of the newer Journal of Vinyl & Additive Technology in the mid 1990's. He has received numerous patents, mainly in inorganic chemistry involving tin and has written dozens of important technical papers.

Remarkably, Elliott, at the age of seven, knew that he was going to be a chemist. He was aided by an uncle who let him experiment in his basement, and by the age of eleven, Elliott was doing research. In addition, he learned plumbing and electrical work from this uncle who was a contractor.

He graduated from high school at the age of 15 and found that the University of Illinois had a good chemistry program. So he went there in 1939. His professors grew fond of him quickly and, on a personal level, asked him to teach things that they knew he could handle, sometimes, better than they.

Before he could graduate, his professors recommended that he join many other students and professors at Columbia University in New York to work on the Manhattan Project, a highly secret function to separate Uranium into a more fissionable material. This was to be for the atomic bomb. This was truly new work involving equipment no one had ever seen before. This involved welding, soldering, glass blowing, and all sorts of new things, highly secret and not open to the public. His instructions were to answer questions about his job at Columbia by saying that he was a gardener.

At Columbia, he met Rita, a photographer, who was commissioned to take precise pictures about all areas of the work that they were doing for future analysis. After the war, Elliott returned to Illinois to finish his bachelor's degree. After receiving his degree, he returned to the New York area and married Rita in February 1948. They had twin boys in 1954, William and David.

His first employment after receiving his degree was with Metal & Thermit Corp., in Rahway, NJ, working on tin compounds for which he received many patents.

He worked on tin compounds such as stannous fluoride for toothpaste and in tin stabilizers for poly(vinyl chloride) compounds. The latter material was vital in the growth of rigid PVC in the 1960 and 70's. He was so successful with all the inorganic programs that he initiated that he was made the Director of Research and Development at M&T. After being a Director for several years, as M&T was absorbed by several other companies, he left to form his own consulting firm in the North Brunswick area. This was very successful and led to such high levels that he was actually serving as a mediator between two large German companies that could not get together and work effectively together without Elliott. Also, on a trip to Moscow, he met one of the top level men in the Soviet Union, a person that actually reported to the Prime Minister of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. They struck up a personal friendship that lasted for years.

As he expanded into all forms of chemistry, he joined the Society of Plastics Engineers in 1961 and grew to become a leader in that area. He was President of the Palisades Section for two years, served as Director of Past Presidents for two years while developing new approaches for that Section. After serving for three years as the Councilor of SPE for the Polymer Modifiers & Additives Division, he changed the way all of SPE thought about international affairs. He went to India periodically and effectively represented that country for years. In the 1990's he became the Editor of the Palisades highly rated SPEC SHEET; this meeting announcement goes to the hundreds of members every month and needed constant review and in depth correction.

As his wife, Rita, always observed and stated. "He spent his life doing what he loved to do."
Everyone will miss Elliott Weinberg.

In Memoriam



1924 - 2009

Remembrances of Elliott Weinberg

Elliott was a Manhattan Project chemist, a world-class vinyl additives expert, and a plastics business entrepreneur. To me, however, he was a friend who willingly assisted a young and maturing consultant in the business of consulting. I will miss his fascinating stories, his engaging demeanor, and his insightful advice.—Steve Duerr

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Early in the life of the Polymer Modifier & Additives Division of SPE, the members decided to put on an educational seminar series. We decided on two talks each night for several weeks and I was co-chair with Elliott. The person who deserves credit for the continuing success of this format is Elliott. He worked closely with me and gave the excellent advice about not having a speaker unless he or she was recommended by at least two people from different companies had heard the talk. He also suggested several top quality speakers.

We have seen each other at least once a year for at least 25 years. Like many others, I will miss my friend.— Ernie Coleman

More Remembrances of Elliott Weinberg

Elliott and I traveled together to and from meetings of the Association of Consulting Chemists & Chemical Engineers for several years as we both lived in East Brunswick, NJ. We talked a lot during those trips and compared experiences. His long consultancy was invaluable to me and he helped me in a variety of situations. I always found him to be a principled, upright gentleman, a "mensch". His questions during technical meetings had substance to them and I marveled at the breadth of his knowledge. He had an indomitable spirit that carried him on in the pace of life seeking and sharing solutions to scientific problems. I will miss him.— Daniel Kruh

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Elliott Weinberg was a trusted coworker, a good friend, and I will miss him. I recall his valuable contribution to at least one major project. I was invited to a major producer of PVC compounds to listen to their issues and make them a proposal for how The Target Group might help. Knowing of Elliott's expertise in PVC, I asked him to accompany me for this trip.

We had done our homework of looking up the background of the company but had no idea as to what their issues would be. We therefore carefully listened as the president of the prospective client (together with some of his other executives) gave us a rundown of what he saw as their problems. Without speaking to one another, Elliott and I sized up the situation: that the company was in the wrong end of the PVC business, that their profitability could be greatly improved and we made an off-the-cuff presentation of how we could steer them into a better business opportunity.

After we finished, the prospect's executives asked to be excused and left for what seemed to Elliott and me a very lengthy time. At that point we were afraid that we had been too brash and perhaps had assumed too much. They returned after keeping us waiting for the better part of an hour and the president said they had discussed our assessment, and that they felt we had sized up the situation completely correctly. He then and there retained us for a very interesting and lengthy consulting assignment which Elliott and I executed. Elliott had made a major contribution both in assessing the company's position and problems, and in executing the assignment.— Peter Lantos

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After Elliott re-retired, I called him about a problem associated with Chlorine. He found a person and a reference for me on my specific subject which was a non-paying task for me and for him. He was truly a dedicated professional and helper of people even to the very end. Many will miss him. - John Bonacci

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Still More Remembrances of Elliott Weinberg

I first met Elliott in 1960 or '61 when I answered an ad for a chemist at Chemirad Corporation in East Brunswick. He conducted the initial interview before passing me along to the owner of the firm, Dr. Hans Osborg.

At the time, Elliott served as Marketing, Sales and Advertising director --- a multiple post common to small firms. Chemirad then consisted of only 6-7 people, including secretaries plus some week-end adjunct chemists commuting from the former plant-site in Maryland..

I joined this team as Chief Chemist while Elliott retained his multiple sales-related posts [subject to fairly frequent overruling by the boss]. Together, we built a 4 person lab staff with responsibilities in (a) use of Polyethylenimine and derivatives in paper manufacture, (b) use of Ethylenimine and related imines as curing agents for rocket fuels, polymers and specialty coatings, and (c) manufacture of both Ethylenimine and Polyethylenimine. The latter manufacturing steps were made in close conjunction with our Chemical Engineer, Ranald Dunning, and were, eventually, licensed to BASF.

This association lasted for about 4 years before Elliott moved on to other interests, primarily in the plastics consulting areas with which he remained closely allied from then on. — Al Goldstein

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