

WESTCHESTER CHEMICAL SOCIETY
announces a

SCIENCE CAFÉ, Wednesday March 18th, 2020

Science Cafés are designed for informed interaction with members of the public on scientific matters of current concern in society. The essence of a Science Café is informality, with groups seated around tables, with food and drink to encourage conversation.

The focus in March will be on “Safety, Fire, and Chemical Hazards in Special Effects”

Speaker and Discussion Leader: Monona Rossol, M.S., M.F.A.
Industrial Hygienist
President: Arts, Crafts & Theater Safety, Inc.
New York, NY



Biography

Monona Rossol is a chemist, artist, and industrial hygienist. She was born into a theatrical family and worked as a professional entertainer from age 3 to 17. She enrolled in the University of Wisconsin–Madison where she earned a B.S. in Chemistry with a minor in Math (1959), an M.S. majoring in Ceramics and Sculpture (1962), and an M.F.A. with majors in Ceramics and Glassblowing and a minor in Music (1964). Monona was in Harvey Littleton's first college-level glassblowing courses. Her ceramics, sculpture and blown glass were exhibited in over 40 group shows and four solo shows. Her many awards include a purchase prize in the 23rd Ceramic

National Competition of the Everson Museum of Art.

While at school she worked as a research chemist, taught art and chemistry classes, performed with University music and theater groups, toured with summer stock, and began working as a free-lance art conservation consultant/restorer working primarily with furniture, ceramics, and enamels. She also noticed the vast difference in the safety cultures in the science, art and theater departments. She presented several graduate seminars on art safety to a very unreceptive art student body which sparked a life-long interest in the subject.

She moved to New York City in 1969 and began working in the area of art safety despite a thundering lack of demand for these services. Her major income was from teaching art and performing in musical and straight acting roles in Off and Off Off Broadway theaters and cabaret. Her work was eventually recognized and she became full member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association in 1984.

Today, this work is in demand. Monona is a building regulatory and ventilation system planning consultant and has worked on over 80 new and renovation building projects. She consults, trains, and lectures regularly on the hazards of theater and art hazards including those of conservation work and museum/laboratory disaster planning. She has been a member of the American Institute for Conservation since 1981 and was made a life-time Honorary Member in 2002.

Monona is President/founder of Arts, Crafts & Theater Safety (ACTS), a nonprofit dedicated to providing health and safety services to the arts. She also is the Safety Officer for Local USA829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) and for the New York Production Locals (representing all unions on film locations). Her jobs have taken her to all but two states in the US, Canada, Australia, England, Mexico, Portugal, the Netherlands, and the United Arab Emirates. She has written nine books, one of which won a 1996 Choice Outstanding Academic Book Award from the Association of College and Research Libraries. Her latest book: *Pick Your Poison: How Our Mad Dash to a Chemical Utopia has made Lab Rats of Us All* (Wiley & Sons) 2011. She will teach a 40 hour Art/theater Safety Course at UMass-Amherst, August 24-28, 2020.

Talk Summary

People in theater, film and television work with chemicals every day. As a child, Monona worked in variety entertainment (Vaudeville), and saw chemicals used in magic acts that caused things to flash into flame, disappear, or change color. Today she deals with chemicals ranging from those used to paint faces (makeup) or to paint scenery to explosive chemicals used to blow up cars in movies. The program will start with a short video showing how pyrotechnic chemicals are used to simulate bullets hitting walls or people and then she'll discuss a host of other chemical safety issues in the entertainment industry

Date: **Wednesday, March 18, 2020**

Time: 5:15 PM Social and Snacks,
(Cold drinks and a variety of snacks freely available, as well as a cash bar.)

5:30 pm Lecture and Discussion

7:00 PM Option to Order Dinner

Place: Stone Manor Restaurant,
101 Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A),
Hawthorne, NY 10532. Tel: 914-703-4112

Cost: **\$3.00 Students, \$5.00 All Others**

For further information: contact Peter Corfield, pcorfield@fordham.edu
Phone: 914-762-4468; Text: 914-980-9128 or 914-218-7607.

Please RSVP by text or email to Peter Corfield if you expect to come, to help us plan. But if you do not RSVP, you can still drop by!

Please note that photos may be taken at the meeting and may be submitted for publication in the NY/North Jersey newsletter, The Indicator. If you do not want a photo of yourself submitted, let us know at the meeting.

Directions Next Page

From New Jersey:

Take Tappan Zee Bridge follow exits to the Saw Mill River Parkway North, Get off at Exit 25 (9A). At the light at the end of the exit ramp, turn left (North). After 0.5 miles Stone Manor will be on your right (opposite Rosedale Nurseries).

From the south:

Take Henry Hudson Parkway to Saw Mill River Parkway. Follow NJ directions.

Or take Bronx River/Sprain Brook Parkways to the exit for Route 100. At the light, turn left onto 100C (West). Take it 1.0 mile to 9A (North, right exit). Follow 9A 1.7 miles to Stone Manor (on right).

Or take the NY Thruway (I-87) North to the Saw Mill River Parkway (North). Follow NJ directions.

Or take Hutchison River Parkway or New England Thruway (I-95) North to I-287 (West). Follow I-287 West to NY-9A N/Saw Mill River Rd in Elmsford. Take exit 2 from I-287. Use the right two lanes to turn right onto NY-9A N/Saw Mill River Rd. 3.0 miles to Stone Manor on right.

From the North or Connecticut:

Take Connecticut Turnpike, I-684, or Merritt/Hutchison River Parkways to I-287 West. Follow above instructions.

Or take Taconic Parkway to Saw Mill River Parkway (South). Take exit 23 (Old Saw Mill River Road, Eastview). At the light at the end of the ramp turn right. Go under parkway and turn left onto the parkway (North) at the light. Take the first exit (25, 9A) and follow NJ directions.

Or take Route 9 South. At the end of the expressway over the Croton River, take the 9A exit toward Briarcliff Manor. Follow 9A south, past Route 117 to Stone Manor on left.

From Tarrytown:

Take Nepperan Avenue, East. Follow it to the road around the Tarrytown Lakes. After the traffic light, pass under the Saw Mill River Parkway. Follow the directions from the North via the Taconic Parkway.

Or; Take Route 119 East to the Saw Mill Parkway North. Then Exit 25 (see the directions from NJ, above).

From Southeast Westchester (Yonkers, River Towns):

Take the NY Thruway (I-87) or the Saw Mill River Parkway North. Follow the directions from NJ of the south, above.

Or: Take Route 9 north to Route 119 East. Follow the second Tarrytown directions, above.

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Route 9A heading south

