DTSC Celebrates International Year of Chemistry

DTSC Graphic Open

VO:
“Chemistry – Our life, our future” is the motto for 2011…the International year of chemistry. This year long event is all about increasing people’s awareness of chemistry and getting kids interested in science.

Bite of Myrto Petreas:
“Chemistry, like any science, is fundamental science. It’s something that many disciplines need…from medicine to technology, chemistry is important.

NAT Myrto Petreas:
“Marie actually coined the term Radioactivity.”

VO:
DTSC held a workshop at its Berkeley lab celebrating Madame Curie’s Nobel Peace Prize and women’s achievements in chemistry.

Bite of Arlene Bloom:
“There were four girls in my freshman chemistry class…we all got doctorates in chemistry…and you know how unusual that is in the sixties.”

VO:
Arlene Blum is an author and award-winning chemist. She has a doctorate in biophysical chemistry and has worked hard to get nasty chemicals out of everyday household items.

NAT of Arlene Blum:
“We said the main flame retardant in children’s pajamas is a mutagen and should not be used…it got a lot of publicity and three months later…April 1977…tris was banned by the Consumer Products Safety Commission. So it was out of kids’ pajamas.”

Bite of Arlene Blum:
“Toxic chemicals from our products here in California become global pollutants and circle the whole planet…so we’re connecting with people. If the whole world works together we can reduce toxic chemicals and protect the health of the whole world…it’s a global effort and great to be a part of it.”

VO:
The topic of choice was chemistry but these scientists took time to share personal success stories and the challenge of explaining their jobs to friends and family.
**Bite of Myrto Petreas:**
“Remember the whiteout used to have solvents in it. Our work made the manufacturers change the product and formulate it differently so they could still sell the whiteout, but it was safer and people could use it.”

**VO:**
The main goal of the IYC is to get people and kids more interested in chemistry and these scientists had plenty to say on the subject.

**Bite of Carol Wortham:**
“When I explained to them that I worked at an analytical laboratory for testing they went…oh wow, that’s interesting…and the whole support kind of left. We need to reach those kids who potentially have that same issue with their own families. They want to do something as exciting as science, but maybe have families who don’t understand the concept…don’t understand what can be done with it.”

**VO:**
Getting people to understand how science affects their lives is important and this workshop is one of the many ways DTSC is spreading the word.

**Bite of Arlene Blum:**
“I like to teach science to non-scientists, and I like to explain things in a real simple fashion…so I think everybody can understand how important it is to have safe chemicals in our products.”

**On Screen Graphic:**
DTSC: Celebrating the International Year of Chemistry

**DTSC End Slate**