

My Memories of Maureen from Jeannette Brown

I met Maureen when I became active in the North Jersey section of the ACS. I used to go to national meetings because most of them were local, Chicago, New York and Atlantic City, but I decided to attend the North Jersey section meetings. Maureen was always friendly and smiling so, she adopted me into the fold of women chemists. At the time, men dominated the meetings. In fact, when we met at the Seton Hall University, the meeting ended with beer and smokes. The women did not or were not invited to attend that session. The women decided to form a local section Women Chemists Committee since there was already a National committee. At an informal dinner meeting during a National ACS meeting four women, including myself, Maureen and Val Kuck and a woman from the New York Section decided to form the Metro New York New Jersey Women chemists Committee. This committee did not have chair's only coordinators. Maureen became a coordinator.

Maureen introduced me to National ACS when she was chair of the National Women Chemists Committee. I remember when Maureen attended her first council meeting. It happened to be at the only National ACS meeting that was held in Hawaii. I had decided to go to Hawaii for a visit and incidentally attend the meeting. Maureen was so excited about being able to attend that meeting as a councilor. She was beaming with excitement about the meeting and being in Hawaii.

I was elected as councilor and Maureen was my mentor. This was before councilors had formal mentors. Then I became chair of the North Jersey Section and Maureen was the Secretary of the section. Since she had been chair of the section before I was, she guided me as to how to run the section. I took her advice even though I had been chair of the national Project SEED Committee.

That was my business experience with Maureen. Maureen was also my new best friend. I remember her inviting me to dinner at her house to meet her relatives and eat Chinese food. I also remember when the ACS national meeting was held in Toronto. CK Maureen's husband found the local Chinese restaurant for our dinner. He also did that when we met in San Francisco. Maureen attended birthday parties at my house, the last one being my 80th birthday party last May when she attended with her husband.

Maureen also helped me personally. Since her sister had had cancer, I called her when I was diagnosed with blood cancer. She volunteered to drive me to my first visit to the oncologist so that she could take notes because she knew that I would be too upset to do it. I was so glad that she volunteered to do that for me because I had no one else who would. I also helped her as she was going through her disease and I remember my last contact with her was in November when I found out she was not able to attend an ACS committee meeting because of her illness.

I will miss her very much. Maureen was always smiling, cheerful, and ready to help when she was needed. This is rare in what started out as a professional relationship.