In 2011, the publisher Springer-Verlag asked me to write the volume *The Chemical History of Color* for its series of texts on the History of Chemistry. The story behind this book, soon to be published, itself has a long history.

In the mid-1970s Sr. Mary Jane Robertshaw of The College of New Rochelle Art Department felt that chemistry might offer concepts for art majors. We offered a course called “Color and Chemistry.” There was no textbook available, so over the course of a few years, and in collaboration with a colleague, I wrote *Chemistry and Artists’ Colors*. I’m in the process of updating the 1998 edition that has been adopted at the Art Institute of Chicago, Cornell, Colgate, Smith and Brandeis.

I took a sabbatical to learn about the relationship between chemistry and color, a topic not covered in the graduate chemistry curriculum. At New York University Institute of Fine Arts, I collaborated with an art historian, Tom Matthews (whose mother was a CNR graduate), in researching pigment usage in medieval manuscripts. We published the first-ever comprehensive medieval palette analysis with knowledge we gained from chemical samples and tests. Also, and quite unexpectedly, we uncovered a few forgeries along the way.

When I wrote a paper describing the course in the international *Journal of Chemical Education*, courses of this nature began to multiply around the country, and I found myself on the lecture circuit of the American Chemical Society in the U.S., Asia, and Europe, Australia and Israel. In February 2011, I was the keynote lecturer at the Edelstein Color Symposium in Israel. A highlight was the mounting of my work on medieval manuscripts at the Pierpont Morgan Library, and subsequently published in the show catalog *Treasures in Heaven*.

Other opportunities over the years, include a Fulbright Fellowship for Israel and becoming the editor of *Chemical Heritage*, newsmagazine of the Chemical Heritage Foundation. The history of an idea has unfolded, enriched by new understandings, people and time.
LCWR and the Ursuline Province Chapter

“We the members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, believe that God’s call is written in the signs of our times. Our foremothers and founders stepped into the chaos and the unknown of their day, trusting in God’s good guidance and great providence. In our time, we are called to do the same. Inspired by the radical call of the Gospel, led by God’s Spirit, and companioned by one another, we embrace our time as holy, our leadership as gift, and our challenges as blessings.” LCWR Call 2010-2015

Following the posting of the Vatican’s Doctrinal Assessment of LCWR in April 2012, the public outcry was immediate. The groundswell of articles, analyses, interviews and reflections far exceeded what might have been anticipated by the Vatican and LCWR. By and large, other religious conferences of women and men, and lay supporters, nationally and internationally, supported the women religious, acknowledging their witness to the gospel and contributions to the life of the Church. What became increasingly clear, also, was that this assessment touched on much larger questions of how the Church leads the faithful, and how the faithful are to live as a people of faith, given the complexities of this time. The LCWR situation became a trigger for questions whose implications go well beyond the scope and evaluation of LCWR.

In the wake of the Assessment, the Conference leadership asked its members to study the document and to pray and reflect before a response would be given. In June, LCWR President Pat Farrell and Executive Director Janet Mock went to Rome to discuss the Assessment with Cardinal Levada of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith. While they were able to express their concerns with openness and honesty, the meeting was difficult because of differing perspectives.

In the meantime, the leadership, the membership representing 80,000 women religious, and their communities are living with the challenge that the Doctrinal Assessment presents. And we do this in the way we approach any serious or critical issue – through contemplation and discernment, personally and communally.

In her most recent communication to LCWR members, Pat Farrell again asked us to “Stay the course of Contemplation,” reminding us that the “ability to contemplate the other, to really see, takes us outside our habitual consciousness.” As we move forward, the need for open, genuine dialogue with the Vatican is critical. While we need skills for this kind of dialogue, it is also, as she says, “a capability born in contemplative spaciousness.” Only time will tell how and when we will effectively respond to the Assessment.

In much the same vein of mystery and newness that LCWR will probe during its assembly in August, Mystery Unfolding: Leading in the Evolutionary Now, Ursulines, meeting in October, are invited to “Go out into the deep; welcome the future with hope and courage.” At the Crowne Royal in White Plains, the four provinces of the United States will join in a Gathering on October 5 and 6, and each province will have its own chapter on October 7 and 8. This particular Province Chapter, a year prior to the General Chapter, is an opportunity to look back over the previous six years and to look forward and set some directions for the future. In 2013 a General Chapter in Rome will bring together delegates from the worldwide provinces.

In the final analysis, whatever the future holds for you our friends and for us the Ursulines, Jeremiah’s words carry the assurance, “I know the plans I have for you, plans for peace, and a future full of hope” (Jeremiah 29).
Visit our remodeled website, www.osueast.org, and browse around the site for information about the activities, events and ministries of the Ursulines. You may also enter your prayer requests, order Mass Cards, or make inquiries.

While you are there we encourage you to click on the subscribe button and enter your name and email address to receive automatic updates whenever new information is added.

In China Dreams, Sr. Irene Mahoney shows how the best intentions and efforts between people of differing cultures and customs become tangled as they reach out to one another.

For more information about the book and about Sr. Irene Mahoney’s other work, visit http://osueast.org/new-book-by-irene-mahoney-osu/
May Calendar is Fundraising Success

The Ursulines thank everyone especially the following Sponsors whose extra financial support made the May Calendar a successful fundraiser.

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Bylines editor Roxanne Zimmer is part of a CNR initiative that has developed a campus “sustainability garden” as a learning demonstration site. For the full story visit: www.osueast.org/eat-plant-learn.
On a hot June afternoon, I visited Sr. Jane Clary in her sunny room at Andrus. Sr. Jane was eager to talk about her life; books and family photos fill her bright room. Reading continues to be a great pleasure for her.

During her 35 years on the College of New Rochelle faculty, Mother Madeleine, as she was then called, taught both English and journalism as well as serving as a house mother, and a faculty advisor to several college organizations. She was a beloved Class Moderator of the CNR Class of 1947 which dedicated its yearbook to her. Becoming interested in film study, she introduced it into the college curriculum in 1968. Her enthusiasm garnered several grants for CNR, and she led a memorable study tour to Ireland in 1969 to study the nascent Irish film-making industry.

Jane Winifred Clary was born in Seneca Falls, NY, the youngest of seven – five girls and two boys. She notes with pride that Seneca Falls was the birthplace of the Women’s Rights Movement, and the Clary sisters must have absorbed those values from childhood. Jane graduated as valedictorian from the local public high school. Her eldest sister, Mary, enrolled in CNR in 1913, and the five Clary sisters, Mary, Agnes, Hildegard, Dora, and Jane, also found great happiness downstate where trips into Manhattan and college activities filled their days. For twenty years, Mrs. Clary was sending weekly “laundry cases” filled with clean clothes and linens, cakes, crackers, and snacks for her hungry daughters and their friends.

“She knows how to live.”

Jane was active in college organizations: sodality, dramatics, the college newspaper and magazine, athletics, and for the girls from a distance, the Long Distance Club. Her class voted her “Most Loquacious” and “Most Original”. Her college yearbook described her as a born organizer, with a droll sense of humor – a characteristic for which she is known and that continues to this day.

After graduating cum laude from CNR in 1933, Jane followed her older sister Hildegarde into the Ursuline novitiate. She taught at Blessed Sacrament School, Ursuline Schools on the Grand Concourse, and in New Rochelle before teaching English at The College of New Rochelle in 1941. Sr. Jane retired from CNR in 1977. She earned an MA from the Catholic University; later she studied theology at Providence College and at the University of Notre Dame. Ever the adventuresome, Jane taught herself to cook when she moved into one of the convent’s small houses. The story of the frozen peas is a classic. Sr. Jane’s mother had cooked at home, and in her home, peas came from pods or cans. But when Jane decided to cook for her community, the peas were frozen. She dutifully immersed the unopened box in the pot of boiling water. Later, everyone – including Jane – had a good laugh, and the memory still makes her laugh.

Jane’s enthusiasm for life has not waned. As a friend has commented, “She knows how to live.”
The Angela Spirituality Group will hold its annual retreat on Saturday, October 13. The retreat, Meeting God in the Seasons of Our Lives, will be led by Kathleen M. Geelan, who offers programs on integrating spirituality and psychology. To receive registration information, write, call, or e-mail the Province Center at 1338 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10805-2121, 914.712.0060, or admosu8@aol.com.

The Adult Learning Center in New Rochelle, a program of Ursuline Social Outreach, has provided English language classes for hundreds of area immigrants for over 15 years. Its annual dinner, an important fund-raiser, will take place at the Fountainhead in New Rochelle on March 7, 2013. Cardinal Timothy Dolan will be presented with the Portrait of Angela award, in recognition of the Church’s advocacy for new immigrants. For tickets, contact Sr. Madeline Welch at 914-636-3456, ext. 217.

Sr. Susan Conte has given presentations based on research on non-suicidal self-injury of young adults. She has spoken on “Self-Injury among LGBTQ Youth” at the Pride/Works Conference. In July, she gave a presentation at the National Association of Social Workers’ Annual Conference in Washington, DC. Sr. Susan addressed the topic of adolescent depression and self-injury at the Pelham public schools and the College of Mount Saint Mary.

Sr. Ann Dumas returned to Georgetown, Guyana, this past summer. From June through the first week of August, Ann tutored girls ranging in age from 6 through 14, in mathematics at both Marian Academy and St. Ann’s Orphanage.

In mid-November, Srs. Terry Eppridge, Marie-Celine Miranda, Teresa Byrne, Dee Yanshak, and Carole Marie Keaney will return to New Orleans for project “NunsBuild” to continue their annual work of rebuilding homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Sr. Jeannie Humphries has completed three years as educational consultant and instructional supervisor for Cooke Center for Learning and Development, dealing with special-needs students. She is currently working on a Ph.D. dissertation at Fordham University in Language, Literacy, and Learning. Sr. Jeannie will also teach literacy courses for Concordia College’s newly developed Masters Program in Special Education and at Fordham University’s Graduate School of Education.

Sr. Maryellen Keefe has been promoted to Associate Professor at Maritime College and will chair the Student Life Committee. Sr. Maryellen has just finished a year as “interim chaplain” at Maritime. She is completing Casual Little Affairs: The Life and Fiction of Sally Benson, a book developed from her dissertation, to be published by SUNY Press in Spring 2013.

In September Songcatchers participated in the New Rochelle ArtsFest. The intergenerational concert included singers from Hugh A. Doyle Center and Garito Manor. In November Songcatchers, with the Magnet Arts Program at Webster Elementary School, will join with the production company Tutti Bravi, under the general direction of founding director Billie Tucker, in a performance of the Children’s Opera Rip Van Winkle. Tutti Bravi promotes and produces music of New Rochelle Musicians. Kathy Wiegand and Sr. Beth Dowd will be musical directors.

Sr. Maureen Welch has joined The Partnership for Global Justice, a non-governmental organization at the United Nations. The Partnership for Global Justice collaborates with other organizations to provide educational resources that promote global citizenship and global spirituality, at UN Headquarters in New York and the world community.
SR. CHRISTINE DENESHA, OSU  
March 3, 1923 – April 5, 2012

Sister Christine Denesha, born Rita, died peacefully at Andrus on Hudson in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY on April 5, 2012. She was 89 years old.

She entered the Ursulines in 1942 and made her first vows in 1944. Christine’s ministry was as an elementary school teacher. She taught at Blessed Sacrament School, New Rochelle, the Ursuline Academy in the Bronx, St. Joseph’s School in Middletown, NY and at Our Lady of Mercy School in the Bronx. In 1958 Christine returned to the North Country, where she taught at Notre Dame School in Malone. Besides her love for teaching children, she was known for being faithful in her devotion to visiting the sick in hospitals in the Malone area.

SR. CHRISTINA PRATT, OSU  
May 9, 1928 – May 11, 2012

Sister Christina Pratt, born Mary, died peacefully at Andrus on Hudson on May 11, 2012. She had celebrated her 84th birthday with friends the day before.

Christina entered the Ursulines in 1950 in Beacon, NY. She taught elementary school at St. Joseph’s in Middletown, St. Philip Neri, Our Lady of Mercy and the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, and St. Angela.

After tertianship in Rome in 1970-71, Christina began the service she cherished all her life in Botswana and South Africa from 1971 to 2003. She taught at the Teacher Training College in Botswana. In 2003 Christina returned to the United States teaching language at the Adult Learning Center in New Rochelle and working at Part of the Solution for the homeless in the Bronx. In 2008 she retired to Andrus on Hudson.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving & Reception


Jeannette Parshall, Gloria Greco, Joan Diaferia and Jacqueline Fontinell conversing in St. Joseph’s garden.
During the summer new banners, featuring a redesigned laurel tree, were displayed on lampposts along the Ursuline Provincialate driveways.

To learn more about the history of the laurel tree image visit www.osueast.org/the-laurel-tree.