



## Science Buzz Cafe # 569

Monday 6 PM • May 25th, 2026

**The HopMonk 'Abbey'**

Host, Daniel Osmer ([daniel@economicbuzzcafe.com](mailto:daniel@economicbuzzcafe.com))

6 PM • Come Early for Food & Drink • RSVP \$7 • DOOR \$10

**"Click Chemistry": Molecules as Legos!**  
**Subject of the 2022 Nobel Prize**

**Karen Frindell Teuscher, PhD**  
**SRJC Chemistry Professor**

Click Chemistry has been used to build new materials, map living cells in real time, and revolutionize drugs for cancer treatment.

When it comes to simple, elegant reactions, biology has always had chemistry beat. Living organisms seamlessly and effortlessly turn simple, non-toxic building blocks into complex advanced materials. Sugars snap together to become cellulose and lignin to form giant redwood trees; amino acids join to make proteins that make up all manner of catalysts and functional biomaterials. But it turns out human chemists haven't always had this ability with creating molecules. Enter "Click Chemistry"! At the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Professor K. Barry Sharpless and his collaborators turned conventional chemistry synthesis upside down by designing a system that treats molecules as Legos – just as nature does. Since then, Click Chemistry has been used to build new materials, map living cells in real time, and revolutionize drugs for cancer treatment. And this clever, fast, and useful framework for creating the molecules humans need to improve our lives only continues to show more promise for the future.

Dr. Karen Frindell Teuscher has been a professor of Chemistry at Santa Rosa Junior College for over two decades. She particularly enjoys teaching introductory classes and getting students excited about chemistry. As an inorganic materials chemist by training, she is intrigued by how a substance's composition affects its function in the world and is forever fascinated by nature's ability to create superior structures with ease.

**BRINGING SCIENCE & ECONOMICS BACK INTO CULTURE ...**

(707) 292-5281 • [daniel@economicbuzzcafe.com](mailto:daniel@economicbuzzcafe.com) • [www.sciencebuzzcafe.org](http://www.sciencebuzzcafe.org)

**Discover the Chemist Within and Widen Your Horizon!**