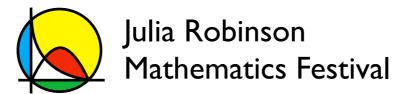# Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival

Joshua Zucker is a freelance math teacher. After a decade of high school teaching, he co-founded the Math Teachers' Circle program and was the founding director of the Julia Robinson Mathematics Festivals. Now, he maintains his involvement with those programs, as well as teaching for Art of Problem Solving and at several different math circles around the San Francisco area. He has also been a member of the US Sudoku team at the World Sudoku Championship.

Tom Edgar studied Coxeter groups under Matthew Dyer. He is a mathematics professor at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington.

Amanda Serenevy is the director of Riverbend Community Math Center, a non-profit organization located in South Bend, Indiana. She has been active with the Math Circle movement to connect mathematicians with young students interested in mathematics. In the South Bend area, Amanda leads many professional development sessions for K-12 teachers, as well as Math Circles and a variety of other math outreach programs.

Rakhee Vijairaghavan (B.Math, Waterloo) is one of the math specialists for the Calgary board of education. She has experience teaching grades 5-9 math and enjoys making her students struggle with fun math every day. Rakhee is always looking for ways to challenge her students and herself to gain a deeper understanding and appreciate the beauty of the mathematics we teach in schools today.

Aaron Renert (M.Sc., LL.B.) is a mathematics educator, a proud father of 3, a lawyer and expert witness, a statistical consultant and a real estate developer. Mostly though Aaron is a mathematics educator. He is the founder of the Renert Educational Centres, the creator of the Bright Minds mathematic enrichment program for children, and the founder of the Renert School at Royal Vista (NW Calgary), which he hopes will become Canada's first school of mathematics.

Gina Cherkowski is the education entrepreneur behind STEM Alberta.

Gael James is a graduate from the University of Calgary B. Ed. program and is teaching Grade 6 at River Valley School in Calgary. She was passionate about math puzzles as a child and is now equally passionate about sharing this enthusiasm with her students.

Gordon Hamilton (Dr. Pickle to his students) is a board game designer and the director of MathPickle. He experiments on K-12 students with unsolved problems, perplexing puzzles, great games and obscure integer sequences..In an argument between truth and beauty - Gordon is on the side of beauty. Too much of K-12 mathematics is trite & true.

Richard Guy has endeavored to teach mathematics at all levels from kindergarten to PhD students in Britain, Singapore, India and Canada.

> He believes that math is fun
>
> And available to everyone.

Mathematics keeps him alive (he's just celebrated his 97th birthday). When he discovered that he couldn't solve problems he specialized in Unsolved Problems: give him a problem and he can unsolve it!

In his tenth year teaching high school math, Zaak Robichaud is excited to meet and discuss math education with other math enthusiasts. The joy of mathematics began at a young age and it stuck with him through university where he took math courses to complement his history and education degrees. His math classes are typically full of laughter. He is currently teaching math at Bearspaw Christian School in Calgary, AB.

Veselin Jungic is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and a Deputy Director of the IRMACS Centre, Simon Fraser University. Most of his work is within Ramsey theory and the field of mathematics education. Veselin is a recipient of the Canadian Mathematical Society Excellence in Teaching Award.

Oluwaseun Okemakinde (MSc. Mathematics, University of Ibadan, Nigeria) taught mathematics in Yaba College of Technology, Nigeria and later moved to Canada where she is a Mathematics instructor in Calgary with a passion to help students in grade 10 - 12 understand Mathematics in an interesting way. Research interest is in Mathematical Physics.

Henri Picciotto is a math consultant and author. He received his BA and MA in Mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley. He has taught math for over 40 years, at every level from counting to calculus, including a 32-year stint at the Urban School of San Francisco, where he chaired the math department and directed the Center for Innovative Teaching. He has written and co-authored many books, including Algebra: Themes, Tools, Concepts and Geometry Labs. He has written articles, and edited activities for The Mathematics Teacher. He is the inventor of the Lab Gear, a hands-on environment for algebra, and is in fact a leading authority on the use of manipulatives and geometric puzzles in secondary school. He has been an enthusiastic (and skeptical) user of electronic learning environments since the early days of the personal computer. He has presented hundreds of workshops to teachers, at conferences, in summer institutes, and in school professional development programs. Henri shares his ideas about teaching, and much curriculum, through his Math Education Page <www.MathEducationPage.org>. His cryptic crosswords appear in The Nation every week.

Lora Saarnio is the Math and Tech Integration Specialist at The Nueva School in Hillsborough, California. Her teaching interests: K-4th grade math and computer science; puzzle and strategic game design; mathematical modeling; digital art and storytelling. She also designs Math Night, Science Night, Engineering Night, and STEM Night for schools in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is also an avid strategic games player/collector and former competitive chess player (previously ranked #36 for US women players).