MATH ENCOUNTERS

SQUARING *the* CIRCLE — *with* QUILTS!

Speaker: Beth Malmskog

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Afternoon Presentation
4:00 pm ET (New York)

Evening Presentation
7:00 pm ET (New York)

National Museum of Mathematics
225 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY

Imagine five friends in a quilting circle decide to make five quilts in a "round robin" sort of way. Is it possible to find a way to pass quilts among five people so that each person works on each quilt, and no person passes to the same person twice? The pursuit of an answer leads to "Latin squares" — mathematical objects with a thousand-year history and modern applications in experimental design, error-correcting codes, and even entertainment. Join Beth Malmskog, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Colorado College, to hear the story of how this real-world problem connects quilting, taste testing, combinatorics, group theory, graph theory, number theory, music, Tom and Jerry, and the power and limits of modern computing. We may be starting with just a simple quilt, but we'll end up with some mathematical mysteries that remain unsolved to this day.

Register now at mathencounters.org to reserve your place!

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