**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# The National Museum of Mathematics, the Premiere Math Museum in North America, Announces Winners of the 2023 *Rosenthal Prize for Innovation and Inspiration in Math Teaching*

*Newest additions to free Rosenthal archive of prize-winning lesson plans are available as a resource for teachers*

*Dedicated to STEM education, since 2012 MoMath has awarded more than $411,000 to math educators for creative, hands-on math teaching*

**New York, NY (January 8, 2024)** –The National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath), the premier math museum in North America, has named the winners of the 2023 *Rosenthal Prize for Innovation and Inspiration in Math Teaching*, an annual award that recognizes and promotes hands-on math teaching in upper elementary and middle school classrooms.

Each winner is awarded a monetary prize, and their lessons are added to MoMath's free online archive of *Rosenthal Prize*-winning instructional activities dating back more than ten years. Teachers, mathematicians, and professionals who do educational math outreach are eligible to win. This archive of Rosenthal Prize lessons is one of the most robust free libraries of outstanding, wide-ranging, interactive lesson plans created to bolster classroom creativity and student engagement for middle schoolers. The 2023

submissions came from 15 countries, with finalists hailing from Australia, Colombia, Canada, and the US, and from 31 states, with finalists coming from Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.

The 2023 *Rosenthal Prize for Innovation and Inspiration in Math Teaching* winners are:

- **First place: Karl Schaffer**. Karl's winning lesson is "How is a Polygon Like a Circle?" Karl was awarded a prize of **$25,000.** Karl Schaffer lives in Scotts Valley, CA where he is an Emeritus Math Faculty at De Anza College and also MoveSpeakSpin.

- **Second place: Kathy Paur.** Kathy's winning lesson is "Cutting Out Hearts." Katherine's award is **$12,500**. Kathy lives in Burlingame, CA, and is a math teacher at the Nueva School in San Mateo, CA.

"It is critical that we support and encourage creativity and enthusiasm in math education. MoMath's *Rosenthal Prize* competition recognizes some of the most innovative math educators from around the world and produces one of the richest free libraries of resources for math educators," said Cindy Lawrence, CEO and Executive Director of MoMath. "We are thrilled we can continue to offer the prize and these compelling, creative lesson plans as a free online resource."

MoMath's virtual archive contains a wide range of classroom lessons, such as math probability activities, exploration of the math of fashion design, and an investigation of projections using light and shadows, contributed by educators from across the world.

This year's first place winner, Karl Schaffer, hails from Scotts Valley, CA. His winning lesson, "How is a Polygon Like a Circle?" is an arts-integrated activity that teaches students about geometry using full-body exploration. In this creative and playful discovery lesson, students work in teams and walk along the edges of a shape marked on the ground, using movement to explore mathematical concepts.

Second place winner Kathy Paul, lives in Burlingame, CA and her lesson, "Cutting Out Hearts," teaches concepts of symmetry through a sequence of puzzles in which students fold paper in increasingly complex ways in order to use a single curved cut to create a pattern of heart-shaped holes in their paper. Students learn about symmetry and problem-solving through reverse engineering thinking, and persistence.

Since it was established in 2012, MoMath's *Rosenthal Prize* has given cash awards totaling more than $411,500. The award is named for Saul Rosenthal, President of Oxford Funds, LLC, Trustee of the National Museum of Mathematics, and a longtime supporter of math education.

"I am thrilled to see the outpouring of interest and creativity from educators worldwide who are once again using their passion and imagination to bring math to life for students around the world. These lessons are a tremendous resource that leave a legacy of education for generations in classrooms globally," said Saul Rosenthal, President of Oxford Funds, LLC, Trustee of the National Museum of Mathematics, and a longtime supporter of math education.

More information about submitting applications for the 2024 *Rosenthal Prize for Innovation and Inspiration in Math Teaching* and the full archive of past winners' lessons plans can be found at rosenthal.momath.org.

**ABOUT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MATHEMATICS**

The National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) is North America's premier cultural institution devoted to the wonders of mathematics and its many connections to the world around us. Located at 11 East 26th Street in Manhattan, MoMath is home to more than 40 interactive, engaging, and playful exhibits. The Museum is open seven days a week, from 10 am to 5 pm.

Since opening in December 2012, MoMath has welcomed more than 1.2 million visitors, including more than 300,000 students. When mandated by New York City to close in March 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic, MoMath transformed itself into a virtual Museum with an extensive global footprint. Since that time, MoMath has provided nearly 5,500 online programs reaching more than 150,000 participants from all 50 U.S. States and from 126 other countries.

For more information, visit momath.org.

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