

February 2011

# MO MATH

News!

## Math Encounters is Here!

The Museum of Mathematics and the Simons Foundation are proud to announce the launch of *Math Encounters*, a new monthly public presentation series celebrating the spectacular world of mathematics.

In keeping with its mission to communicate the richness of math to the public, the Museum has created *Math Encounters* to foster and support amateur mathematics. Each month, an expert speaker will present a talk with broad appeal on a topic related to mathematics. The talks are free to the public and are filling fast! For more information or to register, please visit [mathencounters.org](http://mathencounters.org).

Upcoming presentations:

**Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. & Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

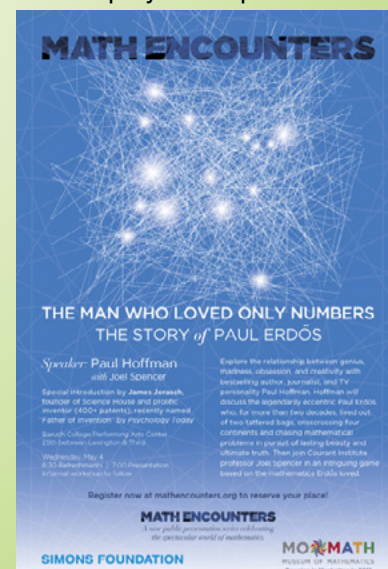
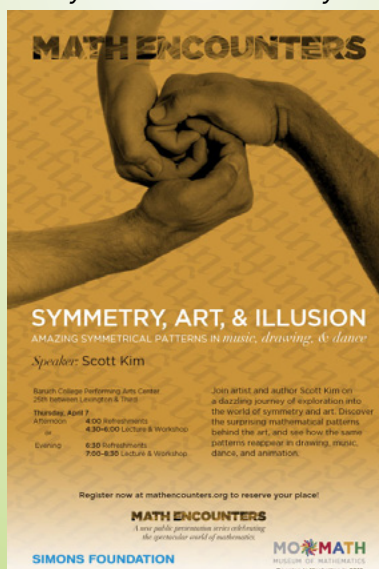
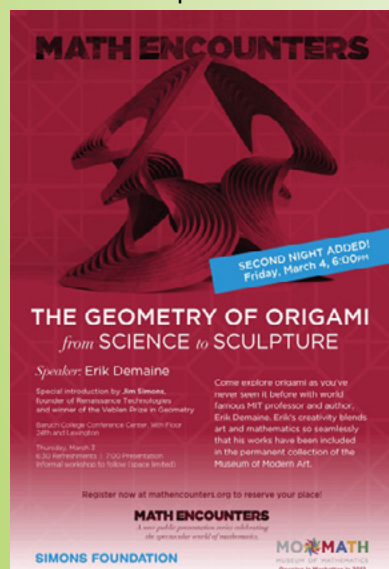
Erik Demaine presents *The Geometry of Origami from Science to Sculpture*

**Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.**

Scott Kim presents *Symmetry, Art, and Illusion: Amazing Symmetrical Patterns in Music, Drawing, and Dance*

**Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

Paul Hoffman presents *The Man Who Loved Only Numbers: The Story of Paul Erdős*; workshop by Joel Spencer



## Putting the “M” in “STEM”

In recognition of the need for more mathematics content in the world of informal science education, MoMath is currently seeking funding to create and prototype a small, informal math experience called Math Midway 2 Go (MM2GO). With the assistance of the Science Festival Alliance, MM2GO would debut at six science festivals over the next two years.

MM2GO would be the first museum-style exhibit to travel to multiple festival sites over a prolonged period of time. It would bring informal math education to a broad range of communities, many of which have little experience with such informal education programs. This innovative project would consist of several interactive math exhibits and hands-on programs, with participation from local math professionals.

## National Math and Science Initiative and Laying the Foundation

October 2010 – In Texas, Museum staff met with representatives from the National Math and Science Initiative. After taking a personal tour of the Math Midway at Sci-Tech Discovery Center, the program's math director expressed interest in collaborating with MoMath on future programs.

MoMath staff also met with representatives from Laying the Foundation, who were very impressed with the Math Midway and expressed interest in partnering with MoMath in the future.

## Math-hattan Offices Are Open!

December 9, 2010 – Museum staff celebrated their new workspace during an office warming party in December. Nearly fifty guests attended the event, which included hors d'oeuvres, music, and, of course, math. As an evening highlight, George Hart led guests in construction of the Amazing Acrobats sculpture, and folks were able to experience an array of MoMath products, including the popular Tetraxis® puzzle.



Museum staff, back row: Walter Dawkins, Josh Brandoff, Tim Nissen, Glen Whitney. Front row: Cindy Lawrence, George Hart, Andrea Cannizzaro, Christine Horstman.

## MoMath at the Movies

February 2011 – The Museum of Mathematics is working to put together a joint promotion with the producers of *An Invisible Sign*, a new film featuring Jessica Alba. This program will help MoMath reach a key target audience of girls and teens.

## The Math Midway Continues to Inspire Wonder

October 2, 2010 – The *Math Midway* was the highlight exhibition for Sci-Tech Discovery Center's grand opening in Frisco, Texas. Museum representatives attending the opening, and MoMath's introductory presentation was very well-received. Attendance numbers at Sci-Tech far exceeded expectations, and the *Math Midway* was credited for this success.

The *Midway* is currently being exhibited at the Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas, Texas, and it will remain there until May 16th.

Future *Midway* venues:

### World Science Festival Street Fair

New York, NY

June 5, 2011

### Discovery Center for Science and Technology

Thousand Oaks, CA

June 17 through August 12, 2011

### Boonshoft Museum of Discovery

Dayton, OH

February 4 through April 29, 2012

### Maryland Science Center

Baltimore, MD

May 26 through September 3, 2012

### Museum of Discovery and Science

Fort Lauderdale, FL

January 26 through May 5, 2013

For more information, please visit [mathmidway.org](http://mathmidway.org).



## MoMath Presents Middle School Math Tournaments!

The Museum of Mathematics is pleased to announce its plans to hold three middle school math tournaments, open to seventh and eighth graders:

- Consolidated Edison of New York has generously agreed to sponsor the First Annual ConEd Bronx Middle School Math Tournament, presented by the Museum of Mathematics. The tournament will take place on Tuesday, April 5th, at the ConEdison Auditorium in Manhattan. We are thrilled to expand our tournament offerings to the Bronx, and we look forward to partnering with ConEd in this endeavor. For registration information, please visit [bronx.momath.org](http://bronx.momath.org).
- The Second Annual Nassau County Middle School Math Tournament will take place on Wednesday, March 16th, at Kellenberg Memorial High School in Uniondale. For registration information, please visit [nassau.momath.org](http://nassau.momath.org).
- The Second Annual Suffolk County Middle School Math Tournament will take place on Wednesday, March 30th, at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, New York. For registration information, please visit [suffolk.momath.org](http://suffolk.momath.org).

For more information regarding any of these tournaments, please email [tournament@momath.org](mailto:tournament@momath.org).



## MoMath Around the Country

**Honolulu, HI** – Museum staff attended the annual Association of Science-Technology Centers Conference, held October 2nd through 5th. STEM professionals from around the country explored the Portable Ring of Fire and left with enthusiasm for and interest in the Museum itself.

**New York, NY** – MoMath was thrilled to participate in the Celebration of Mind in honor of Martin Gardner on October 21st. Museum staff made connections with dozens of math enthusiasts and led a large construction activity.

**Washington, DC** – An estimated five hundred thousand visitors descended on the National Mall for the First Annual USA Science and Engineering Festival that was held October 23rd and 24th in our nation's capital. Visitors to our booth created more than 2,000 flexagons, and discovered beautiful surprises playing with our Portable Ring of Fire exhibit. Children and their parents also enthusiastically assembled the Amazing Acrobats sculpture while taking in the view of the Capitol building. MoMath staff also led walking tours around the DC area as part of this exciting event.

**New Orleans, LA** – Museum staff members were excited to take part in the Joint Mathematics Meetings, an annual event that brings members of various math associations together for a three-day series of lectures, workshops, and exhibitions. The Museum had a booth in the exhibition area, where the Portable Ring of Fire inspired curiosity in even the most advanced of mathematicians, and MoMath's dynamic presentations were exhibition highlights.

**Boston, MA** – Trustee Stephen Wolfram and his wife Elise hosted a "Meet the Museum" event at their home. Guests included various business leaders from Boston, as well as representatives from both Harvard and MIT.

**Cambridge, MA** – The Museum participated in an interactive geometry event for the public at the American Repertory Theater, including the assembly of a two-layer hemispherical dome.

### Who's Blogging About MoMath?

October 28, 2010 – "My son and I LOVED the Math Walking Tour! Mr. Whitney dovetailed fundamental principles of mathematics with the sculptures at the Hirshorn Sculpture Garden and common things visible at the National Mall in easily understood terms...Thank you very much and I hope the Museum of Mathematics continues to participate in the Festival and provide this excellent tour. I also hope MoMath receives the necessary funding and donations to sustain itself; it is that important."

— George R., attendee and participant, USA Science & Engineering Festival, Washington, DC

October 30, 2010 – "We planned on spending an hour and ended up spending almost two. This is the most interactive series of exhibits for kids that we have attended. There is tons to do and see and play and we didn't even come close to doing everything. The boys had a great time and we will be back soon."

— Holly, visitor to Math Midway at Sci-Tech Discovery Center, Frisco, TX

### Tidbits

- MoMath Executive Director Glen Whitney led a teacher workshop at the 60th Annual Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State this past November. The workshop was a success, and AMTNYS has joined the growing list of organizational donors!
- MoMath is excited to announce new members of our staff! Kevin Carlin has joined the team as Graphic Designer, and Emily Vanderpol has become MoMath's Outreach Exhibits Coordinator. Join the Museum in welcoming our newest staff members!



Kevin and Emily at the Math-hattan office.

### Iridescent Learning Science Festival and Ribbon Cutting

November 4, 2010 – MoMath was excited to be a part of the Iridescent Learning Science Festival that was held in the Bronx in November. Visitors to the MoMath table assembled flexagons and found unexpected shapes in the Portable Ring of Fire. Interest in the Museum was extremely high, and the *New York Daily News* was impressed enough to feature the Portable Ring of Fire in a follow-up article about the event.

The festival featured exhibits and hands-on interactive STEM activities for children and their parents. The event was led by The Cooper Union, Columbia University, and the New York Hall of Science, and representatives from the United States Navy, including Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, were also in attendance.

## The Tetraxis® Geometry Toy Receives High Score from *The New Yorker*!

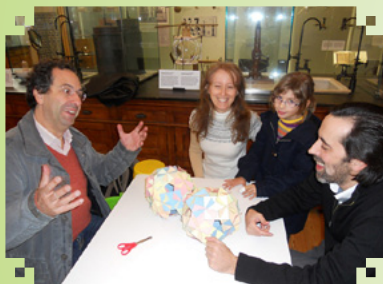
December 6, 2010 – *The New Yorker* published an article entitled “TOY STORIES: Rating this year’s playthings,” in which Patricia Marx rated the Tetraxis® geometry toy as the top educational toy of 2010.

“In the category of Educational Toy That Could Pass for a Real Toy, the high scorer was Tetraxis®,” she wrote.

Sales of Tetraxis® puzzles soared once the article hit the presses, making it one of the top sellers available at MoMath’s online shop ([momath.org/shop](http://momath.org/shop)). Other items for sale include Euler’s Identity Commemorative Coin Sets, Star Magnets, and MoMath T-shirts with an assortment of exciting logos. Monkey magnets from our popular Math Midway exhibit are coming soon. All purchases at [momath.org](http://momath.org) help the Museum open its doors!

## MoMath Chief of Content Has Been Busy!

October 16, 2010 – MoMath Chief of Content George Hart gave a lecture about mathematical sculpture at the University of Illinois as part of a conference attended by hundreds of students from the University and surrounding schools. While in Champaign–Urbana, he also took the opportunity to visit the Community Fab Lab and meet with mathematicians from Wolfram Research.



Workshop participants

November 25-26, 2010 – George Hart also traveled all the way to Coimbra, Portugal, to lead workshops and give informational talks about the Museum of Mathematics and its goals, progress, and enthusiasm for math education. He spoke with faculty at the University of Coimbra’s Department of Mathematics, and also led a workshop for visitors to the Museum of Science in Coimbra.

## New Organizational Supporters

The Museum of Mathematics is excited to announce that National Grid and Consolidated Edison of New York have joined the growing list of corporate supporters! This coming April, the Museum will be presenting the first annual ConEd Bronx Middle School Math Tournament, and the National Grid Gallery will be a permanent exhibit in the Museum. Current supporters include:

### Corporate Funders:

- Consolidated Edison of New York
- D.E. Shaw & Co.
- Goldman Sachs
- Math Minded LLC
- Merck Partnership for Giving
- Morgan Stanley
- National Grid
- Reservoir Labs, Inc.
- Two Sigma Investments LLC

### Not-For-Profit Funders:

- American Mathematical Society
- Association for Symbolic Logic
- Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State
- Long Island University
- Nassau County Math Teachers Association
- Nassau County Association of Mathematics Supervisors
- Research Foundation of The City University of New York
- Suffolk County Mathematics Teachers Association
- University of California, Los Angeles

### Foundations:

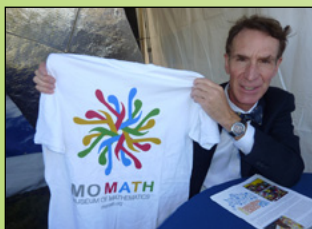
- Ahoora Foundation
- American Endowment Foundation
- Dancing Tides Foundation
- Epicurus Fund
- Frey Family Foundation
- Golden Family Foundation
- Hackett Family Trust
- The Lourie Foundation
- Mathenaeum Foundation
- Night Heron Foundation
- The Sims/Maes Foundation
- Turock Family Foundation

## Look Who’s Supporting MoMath!

*NASA  
Astronaut John  
Grunsfeld.*



*Daniela Ruah and Barrett Foa  
from NCIS: Los Angeles.*



*Bill Nye the Science Guy.*



*Kari Byron of  
Mythbusters.*