

MSRI MEDIA ADVISORY
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MATH FESTIVAL FOR 600 STUDENTS COMES TO BERKELEY
Students who like a challenge turn out for a chance to solve math problems for fun!

WHAT: In the **Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival**, up to 600 students in grades 6-12 will test their brainpower and enjoy a hands-on learning experience covering a wide variety of math topics. Attending either a morning or afternoon session, students will circulate among activity tables where teachers, professors, graduate students, and others will engage the kids as they test their math skills on puzzles, games, and problems. Students will be rewarded for their creativity and persistence with raffle tickets for prizes such as books and games. The previous festivals have been wildly popular with students who attended and their parents!

WHEN: **Sunday, January 30**, *Morning session from 8:45 am to 1:15 pm* or *Afternoon session from 12:15 pm to 4:30 pm.*

WHERE: **UC Berkeley campus, MLK Jr. Student Union, Pauley Ballroom** at 2475 Bancroft Way (where Telegraph Avenue meets the UCB campus)

HOW: **\$10 fee or free**, if a waiver is requested. Students are encouraged to register in advance on-line for either the Morning Session at <https://hosted.msri.org/jrmf/register/berkeley1> or the Afternoon Session at <https://hosted.msri.org/jrmf/register/berkeley2>

WEBPAGE: For more information, please see <http://tinyurl.com/JRMFBerkeley>.

WHY: To celebrate and share the joys and wonders of math with kids. The math festival is named in honor of Julia Robinson (1919-1985), who made significant contributions to the solution of Hilbert's Tenth Problem, from Hilbert's famous list of the most important mathematical problems for the twentieth century. Since Julia Robinson was a mathematics professor at UC Berkeley, it is especially fitting that the first 2011 Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival will take place on the UC Berkeley campus.

WHO: Guest speaker [Michael Hutchings](#) will give a talk entitled "The mathematics of Rubik's cube." Michael Hutchings is on the faculty in the UC Berkeley mathematics department. His research interests include the geometry of soap bubble clusters and the topology of three- and four-dimensional spaces.

DETAILS: The **Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival**, a program of the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, was founded by Nancy Blachman at MSRI in 2007. It has been held in California locations such as Google Headquarters in Mt. View and Pixar Animation Studios in Emeryville, the University of Southern California and Stanford University. This year, in addition to the Berkeley event, the Festival will also be held at Stanford on May 1, 2011 and several other sites around the country. The Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival is a unique opportunity to share the wonder of math with students. The math festival is named in honor of [Julia Robinson](#) (1919-1985), the Berkeley mathematician who made significant contributions to the solution of [Hilbert's Tenth Problem](#). Among her accolades, Julia Robinson was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 1983.

SPONSORS: The desJardins/Blachman fund, the S.D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation, and the College of Letters & Science at UC Berkeley.

About MSRI: The **Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI)**, <http://www.msri.org>, in Berkeley, California, is one of the world's preeminent centers for research in the mathematical sciences and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding as an independent institute in 1982. Approximately 2,000 mathematicians visit the MSRI each year, and the Institute hosts about 85 leading researchers at any given time for stays of up to one academic year. The Institute has been funded primarily by the National Science Foundation with additional support from other government agencies, private foundations, corporations, individual donors, and 90 academic institutions. MSRI is involved in K-12 math education through its annual "Critical Issues in Mathematics Education" conferences for educators, math circles, math festivals, the National Association for Math Circles (NAMC) and its website (<http://www.mathcircles.org>), and Olympiad math competitions, in undergraduate education through its MSRI-UP program, and in public education through its "Conversations" series of public events.