May 3, 1999

Dear Students and Teachers,

On behalf of the Bay Area Mathematical Olympiad and Circles committee, I am happy to announce the second year of the Berkeley Math Circle, 1999-2000. The Circle is intended for talented high school students who are interested in extending their mathematical knowledge and skills well beyond what the high school curriculum offers, and who are willing to take up the challenges of mathematical problem solving. The Circle will start in mid September and continue until mid May, from 2 to 4pm on Sundays in Evans Hall on the UC Berkeley campus. The 2-hour sessions will be a combination of advanced high school math topics, relevant theory and an abundance of challenging problems.

The tradition of Math Circles originated in Hungary more than a century ago. The math circles soon spread over Eastern Europe and Asia, and they eventually led to the start of many national and international math contests, including the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) in 1959 in Romania. The United States joined the IMO in 1974, and since then its team has performed among the very top of the approximately 80 participating countries. This success, however, has been due mainly to the extraordinary individual effort of the few team members and their coaches and personal mentors. The system of math circles that exists in countries like Russia, Romania and Bulgaria, is only starting now to develop in the United States.

Our Math Circle is run by university faculty and teachers who are prominent problem solvers, competitors and coaches of math teams in the US and abroad (cf. the enclosed list of the coaches of our Math Circle.) We work towards establishing a mutual understanding and support between the students and the coaches, and nurturing our common enthusiasm for the wonders of mathematics. In receiving systematic training in mathematical problem solving, our students are provided with the theory and necessary techniques, and are given the opportunity to apply these with imagination and originality during the sessions and while attacking homework problems on their own. Our students also learn that solving a good problem is not a five- or ten- minute affair, but one that could last hours or even days, entailing lots of concentration as well as enthusiasm.

The activities of our math circle will be centered around preparation for several math events of challenging character, such as

- the USA Math Olympiad, and
- the Bay Area Math Olympiad (BAMO).

BAMO is a local version of the USA Math Olympiad, and it is part of the same project as our Math Circle. The first BAMO took place in February of 1999, with 235 California participants, grades 5 through 12. A web site for BAMO and Math Circles is located at http://www.gunn.palo-alto.ca.us/bamo/. There you can find a brochure on the Bay Area Mathematical Olympiad and Math Circles with sample problems, literature, a discussion on the difference between a Math Club and a Math Circle, and a
A website for the Berkeley Math Circle is located at http://math.berkeley.edu/~stankova. Among the materials posted there are: description of the Circle, academic program for year 98-99, lecture notes and handouts, monthly contests, application, and other relevant information.

The Math Circle is sponsored by Mathematical Sciences Research Institute at Berkeley, University of California at Berkeley, and University of San Francisco.

If you want to join the Math Circle, or if you decide to recommend a student(s), please fill the enrollment/recommendation form, and mail it to

Berkeley Math Circle
attn: Barbara Peavy
Department of Mathematics
Room 970, Evans Hall
University of California at Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720-5070

or e-mail the information to peavy@math.berkeley.edu, or call us at (510) 642-2479 (or 642-2028). There is no enrollment fee. To facilitate efficient scheduling of the Circle, we would like to receive your enrollment forms by July 15th. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at peavy@math.berkeley.edu or stankova@math.berkeley.edu.

Wishing you all the best and hoping to hear from you soon,

Sincerely,

Zvezdelina Stankova-Frenkel
Assistant Professor
UC Berkeley and Mills College
REQUEST FOR ENROLLMENT/RECOMMENDATION FORM
for Berkeley Math Circle
Evans Hall, UC Berkeley
1999-2000

Note: You may xerox this form. Please, use a separate form for each student.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDENT

☐ Name of student:..........................................................................................................................

☐ Mailing address:..............................................................................................................................

☐ E-mail address (if any):................................................................................................................

☐ Phone number(s):.......................................................................................................................

☐ School:.................................................................................................................. ☐ Grade:.............

☐ School address.............................................................................................................................


☐ Brief description of student’s math experiences and interests:

OVER
INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDENT’S TEACHER or RECOMMENDING PERSON

☐ Name of teacher:............................................................................................................................

☐ Mailing address:................................................................................................................................

☐ E-mail address (if any):........................................................................................................................

☐ Phone number(s):................................................................................................................................

☐ School:..........................................................................................................................................

☐ Grade:..........................................................................................................................................

☐ School address................................................................................................................................... 

☐ Check if proctored BAMO'99 at your school.

You can either mail this form to

Berkeley Math Circle
attn: Barbara Peavy
Department of Mathematics
Room 970, Evans Hall
University of California at Berkeley
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or e-mail the information to peavy@math.berkeley.edu, or call us at (510) 642-2479 (or 642-2028).
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peavy@math.berkeley.edu or stankova@math.berkeley.edu.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE
AND HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER BREAK!