

New York City HOLD Honest Open Logical Debate on Math Reform  
A Consortium of Concerned Parents, Educators, Mathematicians and Scientists

-PRESENTS-

## ARE OUR SCHOOLS' NEW MATH PROGRAMS ADEQUATE? Experimental Mathematics Programs and Their Consequences

Wednesday, June 6, 2000  
7:00 – 9:00 pm  
Tishman Auditorium in Vanderbilt Hall, NYU Law School  
40 Washington Square South  
NYC

### AGENDA

- 7:00 pm      INTRODUCTION  
                  Chuck Newman  
                  Elizabeth Carson
- 7:15 pm      PANEL PRESENTATIONS  
                  Ralph Raimi  
                  Wilfried Schmid  
                  Fred Greenleaf  
                  Alan Siegel  
                  Stanley Ocken  
                  Bas Braams
- 7:40 pm      SUMMARY COMMENTS  
                  Sylvain Cappell
- 7:50 pm      AUDIENCE QUESTION AND ANSWER WITH PANEL DISCUSSION  
                  Moderator: Elizabeth Carson  
                  Panel Members:  
                  Ethan Akin                      Charles Newman  
                  Bas Braams                      Stanley Ocken  
                  Marvin Bishop                     Ralph Raimi  
                  Sylvain Cappell                    Wilfried Schmid  
                  Jonathan Goodman                 Alan Siegel  
                  Fred Greenleaf                     Susan Szczepanski
- 9:00 pm      CLOSING COMMENTS
- 9:10 – 9:30 pm    POST FORUM INFORMAL DISCUSSION  
                  Panelists invite audience to join them in discussion in front of the dais

Organizing Committee Co-Chairs: Denise Haffenden Matava, Marjorie Weinman

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## PANELISTS' BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES

**ETHAN AKIN** is a professor of mathematics at City College of the City University of New York, where he also completed his undergraduate degree in 1965. After receiving his PhD in mathematics from Princeton, he taught briefly at UC Berkeley before returning to teach at City College in 1970.. His primary research is in dynamical systems with applications to biology.

**MARVIN BISHOP** is a professor of mathematics and computer science at Manhattan College. He received his PhD in mathematics from Columbia University. He is the father of two children who currently attend public school in Manhattan.

**BAS BRAAMS** is a research scientist at the Courant Institute of NYU in the division of magneto-fluid dynamics. He was educated in the Netherlands, where he earned a PhD in physics. His research area is computational science, especially fusion energy. He spent one year studying in a US high school as an exchange student in Bozeman, Montana.

**SYLVAIN CAPPELL** is a professor of mathematics at the Courant Institute of NYU. He received his PhD in mathematics from Princeton University. Professor Cappell is one of the leading topologists in the world, and has been described as a “national treasure.” He has been a visiting professor at many prestigious institutions including: The Institute for Advanced Scientific Studies in Paris, The Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, Harvard University and the University of Chicago. He has chaired and served on External Review Committees for many leading mathematics departments in America, as well as abroad. He has often mentored mathematically gifted youngsters at Stuyvesant High School and gives an annual lecture at Stuyvesant High School.

**JONATHAN GOODMAN** is a professor of mathematics at the Courant Institute of NYU. He earned his PhD in mathematics at Stanford University. In addition to his research in computational techniques, he is responsible for the Master of Science Program in Financial Mathematics at Courant. He is the father of two children who have attended District 2 schools; one currently attends Stuyvesant high School. Professor Goodman has coached the math team at the Upper Lab High School in District 2, the team placed 6<sup>th</sup> in New York State.

**FRED GREENLEAF** has been a professor of mathematics at the Courant Institute for more than 30 years, and has served as Chair of Undergraduate Studies. He received his PhD in mathematics from Yale. Since 1992, Professor Greenleaf has been a leader in the development and implementation of the three-course NYU core curriculum in math and science, “Foundations of Scientific Inquiry” (FSI), required of all non-science majors at NYU. He also led the effort to adapt the FSI to the needs of non-specialist teachers-in-training in the School of Education; the program is now part of their training. Professor Greenleaf has twice received distinguished teaching awards, the “Golden Dozen,” awards given annually by NYU to 12 professors throughout the university.

**CHARLES NEWMAN** is a professor of mathematics and chair of the Mathematics Department at the Courant Institute of NYU. He received his PhD in physics from Princeton University. He has been a Fellow at the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and is a member of the American Mathematical Society and the International Association of Mathematical Physicists

**STANLEY OCKEN** is a professor of mathematics at City College of the City University of New York. He received his PhD in mathematics from Princeton University. Professor Ocken is a graduate of the New York City public school system. His current interests include exploring the uses of technology for training teachers of K-8 mathematics.

**RALPH RAIMI** professor emeritus of mathematics at the University of Rochester. He received his PhD in mathematics from the University of Michigan. He has served as chairman of the University of Rochester Department of Mathematics and Department of Sociology. He has also served as Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. Professor Raimi co-authored *State Mathematics Standards: An Appraisal of Math Standards in 46 States, The District of Columbia and Japan*, and the updated version *The State of State Standards*, both published by the Fordham Foundation.. He has served a consultant on curriculum standards for K-12 mathematics for the states of New York and California, the Learning First Alliance and ACHIEVE.

**ALAN SIEGEL** is a professor in the Department of Computer Science at the Courant Institute of NYU. He is a former Deputy Chairman and a former Director of Industrial Relations for the Department of Computer Science. He received his PhD in computer science from Stanford University. Over the course of the last three years, he has investigated school mathematics teaching and mathematics content in the US and abroad. As a consequence of his analysis of teaching practices in Japan, he was invited to speak at the recent K-1 conference: *New Directions in Mathematics Education*, which was sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Education.

**WILFRIED SCHMID** is Dwight Parker Robinson Professor of Mathematics at Harvard University. He received his PhD in mathematics at the University of California at Berkeley. He is the father of a third-grader in a school using TERC. Professor Schmid is a mathematics advisor to the Massachusetts Department of Education and helped revise the state's Mathematics Curriculum Framework. He also serves on the steering committee for the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) the federal longitudinal testing program

**SUSAN SZCZEPANSKI** is a professor in the Mathematics Department at Lehigh University. She received her PhD in mathematics from Rutgers University. Professor Szczepanski has taught mathematics at the university level since the mid-seventies to undergraduate and graduate students in engineering, mathematics, science, business, social science and architecture programs at Lehigh as well as MIT, Rutgers, and the University of Pennsylvania. She has been involved in curriculum development and teaching innovations, in particular workshop based courses and technology-based components for calculus.

**ELIZABETH CARSON** is a District 2 parent and Co-Founder of NYC HOLD. Over the past ten years she has worked to support and better the schools her son has attended and the system at large. She has held numerous elected and appointed positions in parent organizations, committees, study groups, and education advocacy campaigns at the school, district, city and state levels, representing parent experiences, views, values and standards on education reform, policy and governance. She has given numerous testimonies before district and central school boards, and invited testimony before the NY City Council on standards reform and city schools governance.

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## **Special Acknowledgements and Thanks**

Parent handouts researched and produced by Christine Larson

Thank you to Marcia Saito Eckel, NYU and Daisy Calderon, NYU for their invaluable assistance in coordination of this event. Thanks to Alexis Raskin for video taping the event. She is currently fulfilling MFA requirements at the School of Visual Arts. Kudos to District 2 parents and others who helped distribute flyers at schools and around town, and who gave general support in the planning and coordination of this event.

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