

# BRIDGES 2017 Waterloo, Canada

## A Mathematical Poetry Reading

Sunday, July 30, 2:00 – 4:00 pm  
Davis Centre, Room 1304, University of Waterloo

### The program and the poets

Coordinated by Sarah Glaz, professor of mathematics at the University of Connecticut and poet, the poetry reading at Bridges 2017 features poetry with strong links to mathematics, a great variety of topics, and a wide range of poetic styles. The first part of the program starts with special guest poet, Marco Lucchesi, reading a selection from his mathematical hymns, followed by invited poets: Robin Chapman, Carol Dorf, Emily Grosholz, JoAnne Growney, Alice Major, Kaz Maslanka, Daniel May, Mike Naylor and Eveline Pye, reading selections from their work. The program concludes with an open microphone period where Bridges participants read their own mathematical poems.



**Sarah Glaz** is professor of mathematics at the University of Connecticut specializing in the area of commutative algebra. She also has a lifelong interest in poetry. Sarah translated poetry from several languages, wrote articles on the connections between mathematics and poetry, experimented with poetry in the mathematics classroom, co-edited the poetry anthology *Strange Attractors: Poems of Love and Mathematics*, is editor of the print and online *Bridges Poetry Anthologies* 2013, 2014 and 2016, and served as Guest Editor for the *Journal of Mathematics and the Arts Special Issue: Poetry and Mathematics*. Sarah's mathematical poetry appeared in a number of mathematical and literary journals and several anthologies. Her first poetry collection, *Ode to Numbers*, will be published by Antrim House in 2018. She is an associate editor for *Journal of Mathematics and the Arts*. <http://www.math.uconn.edu/~glaz>

**Marco Lucchesi**, professor of comparative literature at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, is a Brazilian poet, novelist, essayist and translator. In 2011, he was elected to the Brazilian Academy of Letters, for which he acts as director of publications and editor-in-chief of its journal, *Revista Brasileira*. He is also a regular contributor to the newspaper, *O Globo*, and former editor of the National Library of Brazil poetry magazine, *Poesia Sempre*. His publications include twelve award winning books and numerous works of translation, among others *Poemas Reunidos (Collected Poems)*, *Hinos Matematicos (Mathematical Hymns)*, *Irmisul* (his collected Italian poems), and translations of Rumi, Khlebnikov, Rilke, Pasternak and Vico. His work has been widely anthologized and translated into more than ten languages. His literary honors include the Prize Alceu Amoroso Lima, a lifetime achievement award in poetry. <https://translate.google.com/translate?>



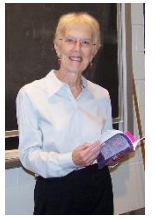
**Robin Chapman** is a poet, painter and developmental psycholinguist. She is Professor Emerita of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and emerita Principal Investigator at the Waisman Center, where she studied language development in children with Down syndrome. A fellow of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters and co-organizer of the UW Chaos and Complex Systems Seminar, she is author of ten books of poetry, including, the *eelgrass meadow*, *One Hundred White Pelicans* (poems of science and climate change), *Six True Things* (poems of childhood in the Manhattan Project town of Oak Ridge, TN) and, with physicist J.C. Sprott, *Images of a Complex World: The Art and Poetry of Chaos* (World Scientific, 2005). Her mathematical poems have appeared in the *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, *The Mathematical Intelligencer*, and the anthology *Strange Attractors*. <http://robinchapmanspoetryandpainting.blogspot.com/>

**Carol Dorf** is fascinated with the boundaries between disciplines, particularly mathematics and poetry. She is poetry editor of *Talking Writing* where she writes about issues in contemporary poetry, and has edited two issues on mathematical poetry, as well as an issue on poetry occupying the interstitial space of nature and technology. Carol teaches high school mathematics, and leads poetry reading and writing workshops, as a California-Poet-in-the-Schools, at Berkeley City College and other art venues. Recently she tried to bring her loves together by introducing poetry into the mathematics classroom and by teaching poetry writing to mathematics teachers. Her chapbook, *Theory Headed Dragon*, published in 2016, is available through Finishing Line Press. Carol's writing appeared in *Vinyl*, *Glint*, *Slipstream*, *Spillway*, *Sin Fronteras*, *About Place*, *The Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, *American Scientist*, *Scientific American*, *Maintenant*, and elsewhere. <http://talkingwriting.com/why-poets-sometimes-think-in-numbers/>



**Emily Grosholz** is Edwin Erle Sparks Professor at Pennsylvania State University, and has been an advisory editor for the *Hudson Review* for thirty years. Her most recent volume, *The Stars of Earth: New and Selected Poems*, with drawings by Farhad Ostovani, has just appeared with Word Galaxy/Able Muse Press. Her latest chapbook, *Childhood*, published by Accents Publishing with drawings by Lucy Vines Bonnefoy, has raised over \$2500 in the past two years for UNICEF. A Japanese translation by Atsuko Hayakawa and an Italian translation by Sara Amadori were recently published, and a French translation by Pascale Drouet is underway. Her philosophy book *Starry Reckoning: Reference and Analysis in Mathematics and Cosmology* is just out from Springer, which will publish her book on poetry and mathematics, *Great Circles: The Transits of Mathematics and Poetry*, next year. <http://www.emilygrosholz.com/index.html>

**JoAnne Growney** has retired from teaching mathematics at Bloomsburg (PA) University and now lives in Silver Spring, MD where she writes a few poems, guides occasional poetry workshops, blogs (on "Intersections -- Poetry with Mathematics") and enjoys both mathy and poetic conversations with her grandchildren. During childhood on a farm in Western Pennsylvania, JoAnne began to love poetry when she found Robert Louis Stevenson's *A Child's Garden of Verses* on her family's bookshelf, but then she left poetry for a time as scholarships in mathematics enabled her to finance some education. Now she delights in the elegance of language in both mathy and poetic domains and hopes to use words effectively not only for enjoyment and insight but also to promote vital causes, including equal opportunities and recognition for women and protection of our environment. <http://poetrywithmathematics.blogspot.com>



**Alice Major** will publish her eleventh poetry collection *Welcome to the Anthropocene*, in 2018 with the University of Alberta Press. Her book of essays, *Intersecting Sets: A Poet Looks at Science*, has been awarded the Wilfrid Eggleston Award for non-fiction. Among her writing awards are the Pat Lowther Award for poetry. Her interest in mathematics began at the age of twelve, when she was introduced to non-Euclidean geometry in one of Martin Gardner's books. Ever since, like Percy Bysshe Shelley, she turns to math and science "to replenish my store of metaphor." She has been president of the League of Canadian Poets, first poet laureate for her home city of Edmonton (in western Canada), and is the founder of the Edmonton Poetry Festival. In 2012 Alice was inducted to Edmonton's Arts and Culture Hall of Fame. <http://www.alicemajor.com/>

**Kaz Maslanka** received a BFA in sculpture from Wichita State University, where he also studied music, mathematics and physics. He has been pioneering mathematical poetry for over thirty years and was nominated for a pushcart prize in poetry. His polyasthetic work maintains an international presence through exhibitions and museum collections around the world, as well as through his award winning blog, "Mathematical Poetry" (see link below). Kaz lives in San Diego, California where he works both as an artist and as an engineering group leader designing parametric CAD models for aerospace technology. He is on the board of directors of San Diego's *Sonic Arts Studio* and serves on the advisory boards of the *Bronowski Art and Science Forum* and the project, *DNA of Creativity*, sponsored by San Diego Visual Arts Network. <http://mathematicalpoetry.blogspot.com/>



**Dan May** is an assistant professor of mathematics at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota. His Ph.D. research focused on Mutually Unbiased Bases, an area which incorporates topics from linear algebra, group theory and finite geometry. His recent research interests include the connections between poetry and discrete mathematics, and the combinatorics of card games such as *Set* and *Spot It*. Dan has been spending his last several summers working with Bridge to Enter Advanced Mathematics (BEAM), a summer residential mathematics program for underserved students from New York City public middle schools. He has also received Title II grants to create and teach in-service workshops for South Dakota middle school teachers. Dan moonlights as a musicologist, and has presented several seminar talks on a variety of musical genres at his university. <https://wordsdanwrote.wordpress.com>

**Mike Naylor** is a co-director of Matematikkfølgen and of the Math Creativity and Competency Center in Norway. He gives courses for teachers, students and the public, designs math rooms for schools and develops mathematical games and learning products. Mike presents mathematical ideas in creative ways, including poetry, literature, art, music, video, software, drama, and other performances, and is author of over one hundred publications spanning a range of mathematical genres. Mike is known for his *Naked Geometry* art series and book, and his quarterly column on Mathematics and Creativity in *Tangent* magazine. In 2015 he was named a "Math and Science Hero" by the minister of education in Norway. For the past eight years Mike presented artwork and poetry at the Bridges conferences. More information on Mike's projects can be found at his website. <http://mike-naylor.com>



**Eveline Pye** worked as an Operational Research Analyst for Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines, in Zambia, for almost ten years, and was a Statistics Lecturer at Glasgow Caledonian University, in Scotland, for over twenty years. Her mathematical and statistical poetry has been published in a wide range of literary magazines, newspapers and anthologies. In September 2011, *Significance Magazine*, the joint publication of the Royal Statistical Society and the American Statistical Association featured her work in education and published a selection of her poems as part of their *Life in Statistics* series. She was poetry editor for New Voices Press and worked for the Federation of Writers (Scotland). A collection of her poems about Zambia, *Smoke that Thunders*, was published by Mariscat Press in 2015. Examples of Eveline's mathematical poems may be found online at various sites, including the link below.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/enhanced/doi/10.1111/j.1740-9713.2011.00510.x>

## Open Mic and Late Additions

To be announced at the reading.

Bridges participants are invited to read their mathematical poems in this second part of the reading. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Glaz in person at the meeting or by email at: [Sarah.Glaz@uconn.edu](mailto:Sarah.Glaz@uconn.edu).