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Journal of Humanistic Mathematics.

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Poetry reading organized by

Gizem Karaali
Pomona College

Lawrence M. Lesser
The University of Texas at El Paso

Douglas Norton
Villanova University

Poetry Reading

7:00 - 8:00 PM
Thursday, April 7, 2022

Online at the rescheduled
2022 Joint Mathematics Meetings



Program

The Call to Participants:

Math poets, come help us resume our recent tradition of eclectic JMM poetry readings! All interested in mathematical poetry/art are welcome - come to share your poetry or simply enjoy the evening's offerings!

With the rescheduling of the Joint Mathematics Meetings from their usual temporal home in January to the month of April, many of our potential invited readers were impacted by competing obligations this time of year -- not the least of which are the demands of the home stretch of the academic year for those engaged in the pedagogical arts and sciences.

As a result, the Reading for this year will retain two of the usual features found in this series while jettisoning a third. Rather than beginning with an array of invited readers, we will move directly into the open reading portion, welcoming all participants to read their own poems or favorites by other poets.

We will also welcome invited remarks by our featured speaker.

Sandra DeLozier Coleman

will read from and talk about her newly-published book,

*Mathematician with the Soul of a Poet:
Poems and Plays of Sofia Kovalevskaya*

about the book

(from an online review)

Mathematician with the Soul of a Poet is much more than the translations of the nine poems and two plays written by Sofia Kovalevskaya, *How it Was* and *How It Might Have Been*. It includes the story of why and how a math professor, artist and poet wanted to and was able to develop the translations, when, in the beginning, she did not even know the sounds or order of the letters in the Russian alphabet. It is also an introduction to the life of an amazing woman - the first woman to earn a PhD in mathematics. At a time when women were forbidden to take classes at universities or even to set foot inside the buildings, Sofia Kovalevskaya managed to open the doors through which generations of women have now passed on the way to pursuing their own interests and developing their own talents. Her story is worth telling, worth hearing and worth remembering.

Summary added after the Reading

Before and after the remarks by the featured speaker, attendees read their own poems. Readers included Shanna Dobson, Carol Dorf, JoAnne Gowney, Jordan Houser, Gizem Karaali, Dan May, Doug Norton, and David Reimann. Carol Dorf led the group in an impromptu time of composing Fibs, short poems with structure based upon the Fibonacci sequence. The freshly-minted Fibs were shared across both the audio and the Chat feature of Zoom. A delightful evening of sharing was enjoyed by all.