

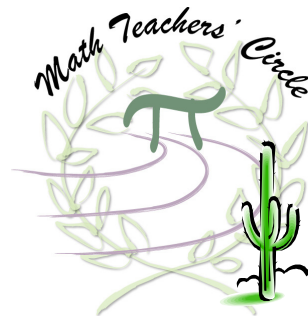
## History

Math Circles for students have existed for decades in Eastern Europe. A variation also exists in China. They were created to provide challenging problems for high-achieving mathematics students and to expose these students to topics not covered in the standard school curriculum.



These sessions stimulated interest in mathematics and helped students compete in various mathematics competitions. In recent years, Math Circles for students were introduced in Berkeley, California and in the San Francisco Bay Area. There is currently a Math Circle for students operating here at the University of Arizona.

Some dedicated math educators in the Bay Area started the first Math Teachers' Circle at the American Institute of Mathematics in 2006. It was so successful that a grant was created to spread the ideas. The American Institute of Mathematics continues to support the training of new teams to create Teachers' Circles throughout the country.



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<http://ime.math.arizona.edu/circles/teacher.html>

The Tucson Teachers' Circle programs are made possible through funding from The Institute for Mathematics & Education at The University of Arizona.

To make donations to the Tucson Teachers' Circle, please make checks payable to the UA Foundation (Teachers' Circle) and send to:

Department of Mathematics  
Office of the Department Head  
617 N. Santa Rita Ave.  
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## The Tucson Teachers' Circle

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**Mathematical Problem Solving  
In Community with  
Middle School and  
High School Math Teachers**

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Sponsored by:

**INSTITUTE FOR  
MATHEMATICS AND  
EDUCATION**



## About the Tucson Teachers' Circle

Middle and high school mathematics teachers who are interested in exploring engaging, accessible topics in mathematics and who strive to incorporate a problem-solving approach in their classrooms participate in Teachers' Circles.

Participants gain a variety of resources along with membership in a dynamic community of mathematics educators, and a renewed sense of appreciation for the world of mathematics.



*“You have re-energized me and have been a large factor in my decision to keep teaching Middle School Math.”*

Terry Bash

Teachers and university faculty members gather at the University of Arizona (usually in the Gould Simpson Building or the Mathematics Building, depending on the group size and equipment needs) from 5:30–8:00 PM one evening per month to participate in problem solving related to the night's theme. Rich mathematical discussions ensue as teachers explore new ideas.

Participants enjoy a catered dinner and have opportunities to share classroom experiences, best practices, and challenges. Teachers also earn recertification credits.

## Summer Workshops

Summer workshops support teachers in their development of problem-solving skills as well as the incorporation of these skills into their curriculum. Sessions are led by exemplary educators and mathematicians from the Tucson area.

A major theme is to find creative strategies to incorporate interesting, rigorous problems into the existing school curriculum. To this end, teachers experience sample problems and are supplied with hand-outs and resources based on the material covered in the workshop sessions. Focused discussions are held to determine solutions to perceived obstacles and to offer support in teacher quests to improve mathematics instruction.



*“I felt like a learner rather than a teacher and I enjoyed that totally. Each time I came for the food and camaraderie...but each time I left with a real satisfaction about the math.*

Janice Takagi

## Support the Circle

Participation is free of charge thanks to the support of the Institute for Mathematics and Education (IM&E), the University of Arizona Foundation, and generous private donors. Please contact us if you would like to add your support to the Tucson Teachers' Circle.

