



The [2026 Year of Mathematics](#) project is pleased to invite **community centers, public libraries, and local schools** to take advantage of the opportunity to host any of the program offerings below.

The 2026 Year of Mathematics, facilitated by the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences, has as a goal to bring the power and beauty of mathematics directly into local communities through accessible, high-impact programming.

The **Adult Financial Literacy Sessions** are free (thanks to the Society of Actuaries and FiCycle), and each Film screening requires a modest \$37 licensing fee (with thanks to Zala Films, SLMath, and the National Association of Mathematicians).

If interested in hosting one of these programs, please submit the request form found at [theyearofmath.org/event-hosting-request](https://theyearofmath.org/event-hosting-request). We promise a prompt response.

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### **ADULT FINANCIAL LITERACY SESSIONS**

**(not yet available; beginning in April 2026)**

#### **Math and the game of finance: using math to understanding wealth, time, risk & value**

*We begin by talking about how math helps us understand, ask the right questions, and find better solutions about our own financial lives by exploring and learning about wealth, time, risk, and value.*

*Then we break down the four components of wealth: assets, liabilities, income, and expenses and the equations that connect these concepts. Through accessible examples and activities, participants will learn to speak and think about their financial situation with precision.*

*We'll dive into the mathematics of risk: we will learn what risk is, how to measure it, and why it matters. Through an interactive game we will learn how insurance can be used as a tool for managing uncertainty as we navigate our financial lives.*

*Participants will leave with a greater understanding of personal finance, the underlying math, and a more informed way of thinking about wealth, financial decision-making, and their financial lives.*

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### **FILM SCREENINGS (available throughout 2026)**

**Trailers may be viewed at <https://zalafilms.com/>**

#### **Journeys of Black Mathematicians: Forging Resilience (2024, 58 min.)**

*The first of two documentary films produced by Zala Films, Forging Resilience traces the evolution of a culture of Black scholars, scientists and educators. The film follows the stories of prominent pioneers, showing how the challenges they faced, and their triumphs are reflected in the experiences of today's working Black mathematicians. The film offers a panoramic survey starting with the first Black Ph.D, Edward Bouchet (1877), and W. W. S. Claytor, extraordinary exemplars from the early and mid-20th*

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century who prepared the way for several of the trailblazers filmed for this project. The oldest of these is Virginia K. Newell (born in 1917), followed by Evelyn Boyd Granville, the second Black woman to earn her PhD in mathematics, who died in 2023 at the age of 99.

**Journeys of Black Mathematicians: Creating Pathways** (2025, 59 min.)

*Creating Pathways* is the second of two documentary films produced by Zala Films as part of the Journeys of Black Mathematicians project. It highlights the lives of Black pioneers in mathematics from the 20th century and examines the impact of segregation and prejudice on the lives and careers of individuals first featured in *Forging Resilience*. The film focuses on the stories of mathematicians who attended predominantly White institutions, surveying a range of attitudes around identity, and on these scholars' achievements. Questions about the beauty and philosophical meanings of mathematics are explored as extensions of these personal journeys. In the final minutes, several programs aimed at increasing the number of African Americans in the STEM fields are documented.

**Secrets of the Surface: The Mathematical Vision of Maryam Mirzakhani** (2020, 60 min.)

This film examines the life and mathematical work of Maryam Mirzakhani, an Iranian immigrant to the United States who became a superstar in her field. In 2014, she was both the first woman and the first Iranian to be honored by mathematics' highest prize, the Fields Medal. Her mathematical colleagues from around the world, as well as former teachers, classmates, and students in Iran today, convey the deep impact of her achievements. The path of her education, success on Iran's Math Olympiad team, and her brilliant work, make Mirzakhani an ideal role model for girls looking toward careers in science and mathematics.