

For a calendar of technical society meetings in the Mid-Hudson Valley go to:  
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Poughkeepsie Chapter of the Association For Computing Machinery

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**Topic:** Why Mathematics Is Taught So Ineffectively

**Speaker:** Irvin M. Miller, Ph.D.

**When:** Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 7:30 pm

**Where:** Marist College, Hancock Center, Room 2020 (**not** our old 2023)

**Directions:** Building #16 on the map at <https://www.marist.edu/about/map>

**Parking:** Please park at: 1) Lot north of Hancock Center (#10 on map). We are permitted to park there in spite of the signs, or, 2) Lot on south-east corner of Route 9 and Fulton Street. Take staircase at South-West corner of lot, and tunnel under Route 9.

**About the Topic:** In this presentation you will be shown how mathematics is taught misleadingly and incorrectly, and why students and you have difficulty understanding and using it. You will be shown by proofs why this is so and how to teach students to challenge what they are taught and to study and practice more effectively. We will show how mathematicians probably discovered new concepts. Early mathematicians abhorred negative numbers; imaginary numbers were misnamed. We will be starting with negative impact of teaching that zero is nothing and how negative numbers and fractions were defined and rules of operation developed. Through my own experiences I will describe how I corrected my college professors and aced exams when the rest of the class failed. I will describe my experiences teaching students. You will be encouraged to challenge what I am presenting and teaching me something I did not understand. You are encouraged to watch the PBS NOVA episode Zero to Infinity [<https://www.pbs.org/video/zero-to-infinity-fioar3/>] (requires PBS "Passport" subscription), and my critique of it, Nothing Is Something [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1kTK9SsK8g>]. In this presentation, you will be shown the dozens of examples of mathematical nonsense that was presented in the PBS video.

**About the Speaker:** Irvin Miller has a Ph.D. in Physics and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He was the leading expert in computer graphics at IBM. Dr. Miller is President and Director of The Math and Physics Exploration - one of two math museums in the United States. He currently teaches enriched mathematics to students in the Wappingers School District.

**Cost:** Our meeting is **Free** and open to the public

**Dinner:** 6:00 pm, Palace Diner, 845.473.1576  
Map and menu: [www.thepalacediner.com](http://www.thepalacediner.com)  
All are welcome to join us for dinner.

We thank Marist College for hosting the chapter's meetings.

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