Elaine A. Kasimatis*. What are the right questions?

If “wisdom begins in wonder”, as Socrates asserted, and if one of the measures of effective teaching is how well it fosters understanding, then how do we kindle wonder? For all the hours and creative energy we spend on planning lessons, which aspects of our efforts actually translate into genuinely stirring our students to wonder, to be curious learners? Artist and educator Josef Albers maintained that, “Good teaching is more a giving of right questions than a giving of right answers.” And writer Madeleine L’Engle shared her wish that “we worried more about asking the right questions instead of being so hung up on finding answers.” So, what are the right questions? In this talk we will consider how crafting and refining questions can be used to guide students to pose conjectures and construct their own understanding as they engage in the mathematical process. (Received November 5, 2020)