

What's New and Recent Changes



ORIGAMI USA CONVENTION 2010

Contact Us

To contact someone with convention questions, please go to the following webpage: www.origami-usa.org/convention_contacts. There are links there to contact people in charge of each major area of responsibility.

Special Guest

Our special guest this year will be Roman Diaz from Uruguay, who is a relatively recent addition to the list of top creators of exciting and challenging designs. He was born in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1968, and lived in Argentina, Honduras and Mozambique in his childhood. He returned to Uruguay to complete his studies, and became a veterinarian. During his travels he occasionally experimented with traditional origami in the simple books that he found.

It wasn't until a European vacation in 1997 that he found a sophisticated modern origami book - "Origami Sea Life" by Robert Lang and John Montroll - and became hooked immediately. He was fascinated by the possibilities of what he saw, but had no way to get more origami books. "I had no other option but to start designing my own things," he wrote. "I based my first designs on the techniques I could learn from the only origami book I had. Pretty soon after that I had access to the Internet which opened a whole new origami world to me. Back then there were not that many diagrams, but I was more interested on the photos of other people's designs."

By 2005 his diagrams and images of his designs were starting to attract attention. Since then he has been a special guest at origami conventions in Spain, France, Italy, Germany and Chile, and he's published two books, the most recent a collaboration with Nicolas Terry that includes models he designed



and created during four years in Calgary, Canada.

Roman is a charming and articulate man with accessible teaching skills. We know that our members will enjoy meeting him and learning more about his work.

Price Increases

FIT has consistently raised our costs about 10% per year, and other costs have gone up substantially since the last time we increased prices three years ago. We're doing our best to keep expenses down, including our decision not to mail full packets of convention forms this year. We have realized, however, that we must raise convention prices this year. Other prices have also gone up, including those that we pass along with no overhead or profit, such as housing and dinner. The good news for the dinner is that we have been assured that we will again have the bright and pleasant space in the Student Cafeteria that we were shifted to last year at the last minute.

Sonobe Modular Challenge

You'll notice that our logo includes models formed with a classic module - the Color Box module - developed by Mitsunobu Sonobe of Japan in the 1970's. It's become famous as the "Sonobe module," and it's spread so far that we forget that it's not traditional. We're featuring it this year with the kind permission of Sonobe-sensei, obtained with assistance from the Nippon Origami Association. The t-shirt has a 30-piece construction and a cube on the front, and the directions for folding the module and constructing a cube on the back.

We'd like to offer a challenge to our attendees - bring with you, or fold on-site, your favorite Sonobe module construction, with many modules and/or intriguing color combinations. We'll have a table set up in Exhibition to demonstrate the exciting possibilities of this simple module. There will be a separate People's Choice Award for the Sonobe Modulares.

Exhibition Awards

This year we're introducing a very special award in Exhibition - People's Choice award. Each public access visitor will receive a ballot where they can choose their favorite models.

Three gift certificates will be given to the top vote getters.

New T-shirts



Brian Chan has designed this year's logo and t-shirt, and we're really excited about some of his other t-shirt designs. You can see them on this page in black and white, but check the website for details and better images. We're planning on carrying them all year at The Origami Source, but if you order them in

advance of the convention, you'll enjoy special introductory pricing.

Take a look at them on the website, and if you'd like to pre-order them for pick-up at the convention, add them to your registration form. They're also available on the "Sorry I Can't Attend" form for mailing.

Non-Folding Parents

Sometimes it's not clear where non-folding guardians can go, and some expect to join their child in class. This is not a great idea - students in each class should be able to fold independently, there are sometimes limited seats, and parents and other guardians can be distracting. We ask that non-folding guardians wait in the Hospitality Area or outside the room. If a guardian wishes to join their child in class, they must register as folding Attendees with Classes. If there are cases of handicaps or other restrictions where an aide is indeed necessary, please let the convention organizers know ahead of time, and we'll make special arrangements. Guardians: consider volunteering while you wait for your child. We'll make sure that your assignment is in a centralized location where your child can find you easily. And if you wait in the Hospitality Area, please make sure that you and your child identify a specific location in the room to meet.

Model Menu and Teacher Ticketing Priority

We need to have the Model Menu ready for Friday evening's Open House, and in recent

years many people have brought their models very late on Friday, or even on Saturday. This makes it very difficult for Attendees to plan their schedules, and so we have added a time limit to Teacher Ticketing Priority requirements. All teachers must have provided their models by 6:45pm on Friday, or they will not be permitted to obtain Teacher Ticketing Priority.

Oversized Folding Event on Sunday Evening

Last year Sok Song's Oversized Folding Event was an overwhelming success. Teams of two to four folders took photo backdrop paper, some as large as 9' wide, and created extraordinary and exciting huge models. It was truly enjoyed by the participants, and also became a performance art event that dazzled the audience that formed to watch.

We're going to do it again this year, co-sponsored by OrigamiUSA and OMGNYC (Origami Meet-Up Group - New York City). So start thinking about what you'd like to fold, and gather your team. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Information Desk, and you'll need to register early to ensure that we can cut paper on time for you. See the website for more detailed specifications.

T-Shirt Deadlines

We must place our t-shirt orders by June 1st. In prior years, we received a flurry of orders just before convention, which substantially changed the number of shirts we required in each size. So this year we're adding a deadline - all shirts must be ordered by May 31st. If you do not order your shirt by May 31st, you may still purchase shirts at the convention, but there's no guarantee that we'll have your size, or that we won't run out before you get to the Source.



Website Changes

We've made a lot of changes (hopefully improvements) to our website. One noticeable difference is that all paper forms can now be completed on-line, including the "Sorry, I Can't Attend" form and the Vendor form. All forms are also available as pdf downloads from the website.