

HANDS-ON JEWISH ORIGAMI

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Description: Florence Temko, the author of three best-selling "Jewish Origami" books, will show you how you can enhance Jewish holidays with simple paper decorations. Participants will come away with a completed project.

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Florence Temko is the author of *Jewish Origami*, *Jewish Origami 2*, and *Bible Origami*, which are highly popular with teachers and parents. She is internationally known as an expert on world folk crafts and paper arts, having traveled in 31 countries. She has written more than forty books and presented hundreds of hands-on programs in libraries, schools, and museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She makes her home in San Diego.

At the Association of Jewish Libraries Convention 2001 in La Jolla, California, I presented two hands-on workshops about Jewish Origami. This is a summary of my informal workshops:

What is Jewish Origami?

"Jewish Origami" may seem an odd mixture of two cultures, as origami is the art of folding paper without any cutting or gluing, which is known as a Japanese folk art, a far cry from Jewish customs. I have been involved with

origami over many years, through personal presentations and through writing how-to books.

Over the years I created shofars for Rosh Hashonah, dreidels for Hanukkah, flowers for Shavuot and other things with Jewish themes by using traditional origami techniques. I taught these designs in Sunday Schools, at temples, synagogues and sisterhood meetings. Teachers and parents always welcomed the designs for Jewish celebrations and year-round use.

In response to their requests I prepared instructions they could take away after the event. A publisher, Heian International, recognized that there was a wider demand and asked me to collect them in a book called "Jewish Origami." It was so well received that "Jewish Origami 2" appeared the next year. Subsequently "Bible Origami" brought bible stories to life with more origami designs. To my own satisfaction the publisher produced the books in full color at a very reasonable price.

In the Jewish Library

At the AJL workshops I showed participants how they could use origami effectively. They learned to make a jumping frog to illustrate the Plague of Frogs and were amazed that they were able to complete it successfully in just a few minutes. Then I suggested that they can fold simple origami animals and other props to illustrate story telling or conduct craft workshops. When teaching they might find it helpful to use the exact wording in the instructions printed in "Jewish Origami" which have been well tested.

What is the value of teaching origami in a Jewish setting?

Librarians, Sunday School teachers, program chairs, and others who are always searching for interesting craft ideas for Jewish holidays, find that origami introduces Jewish children to their heritage with an activity they enjoy. At the same time, the cost of materials is minimal, and no mess to clean up. Origami paper cut into squares is available, but printing papers or even recycled papers are all that is required for these arts and crafts projects.

After youngsters have learned some basic steps they can use their imagination to invent their own designs, giving them great satisfaction and adding to their self-esteem. Seniors have found in origami a magical bond with their grandchildren. Beyond making one-time decorations, some children and adults find intellectual stimulation in folding pieces of paper and pursue origami as an educational hobby. In the United States and Israel it attracts many scientists, computer programmers and mathematicians, among others.

Best of all, Jewish Origami is fun!

These and other Temko books are available at bookstores or contact author via webpage:
<http://www.Humantuneup.com/origami>

Jewish Origami, Publ. Heian International, 1991, ISBN 0-89346-335-3, \$5.95

Jewish Origami 2, Publ. Heian International, 1992, ISBN 0-89346-375-2, \$5.95

Bible Origami, Publ. Heian International, 1994, ISBN 0-89346-800-2, \$5.95

Paper Pandas and Jumping Frogs, (Classic Introduction to Origami), Publ. China Books, 1986,
ISBN 0-8351-1770-7, \$12.95

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