The Florence Temko Award

The Florence Temko award is in honor of Florence Temko (CA), whose fifty-five books (and still counting) have turned so many people on to origami. For this award, we choose someone who has done outstanding things with origami but has not become part of the OrigamiUSA community yet.

Christine Petrell Kallevig (OH) first came to my attention almost two decades ago when Lillian Oppenheimer mentioned that Christine had sent her manuscript for a foldalong story book to Lillian. She had sent the manuscript to Lillian, who, at that time, was traveling in England, France, and Israel. By the time Lillian returned, the publishing deadline had passed and it was too late for her personal endorsement. In her note to Christine, she pronounced the instructions “clear” and wrote that Christine was a “very clever young lady.”

Christine’s first book was published in 1991, quickly followed by more origami/storytelling books as well as others on related topics and DVDs. This author’s works of original stories illustrated with origami were sold through The Source for many years, but this will be the first time we get to meet her. We are so pleased to welcome Christine Petrell Kallevig into the fold. She has been a large and lasting presence outside of our group, and I hope you get to meet her and perhaps hear one of her origami stories.

Ranana Benjamin Teaching Award

Dorothy Kaplan’s (NJ) resume is so extensive that I will just mention a few of the things she’s done over the past 47 years that would easily qualify her for the Ranana Benjamin Teaching Award.

OrigamiUSA presents this annually in memory of Ranana Benjamin to honor an outstanding teacher of origami.

For over ten years on cablevision, Dorothy produced, hosted, and performed programs relating to origami and other crafts. She has worked with scout groups, school groups, libraries, women’s clubs, and teacher workshops. Dorothy has done presentations for leaders of the hearing impaired, those with learning disabilities, the blind, and for her township and at libraries and camps.

In 1972, Dorothy wrote Perceptual Development Through Paperfolding, and created and wrote an educational manual-audio-tape kit for Kimbo Educational Record Co. Additionally, her booklet, The Money Rose is sold through The Source.

For over 25 years, Dorothy nurtured monthly meetings of the local origami group in Monmouth County. And it sure doesn’t look as if she’s done yet.

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The Awards committee composed of Ruthanne Bessman (WI), Judy Hall (FL), Penny Sing (NJ), and Florence Temko (CA) join me in congratulating our 2008 winners. ☺