



Origami Festival at Japanese Garden



Children and adults will have the opportunity to learn the art of origami (paper folding), including Year of the Rooster creations, from professional teachers and enthusiasts on Sunday, July 17, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden on the campus of CSULB.

Well-known origamist Michael Ujin Sanders is among the experts who will share his knowledge of this popular Japanese art. Garden visitors will learn such things as how to fold a shirt in a new way. Another aspect of the festival is the folding of furoshiki, a large cloth that has many uses. It can be transformed into a purse, a wrapping for gifts or a back for carrying items.

The word origami comes from the Japanese words "ori" meaning to fold and "gami," paper. Origami has many purposes and is an excellent hobby or past time for persons of any age.

"To do origami, the first and last thing you need is paper," explained Alison Redfoot, the garden's education coordinator. "There lies the simple beauty of origami, the art of understatement. The benefits of origami, however, go beyond the pleasure and decorative qualities of its creation. The memorization of the folds strengthens one's memory and is used as a fortification against memory loss. Also, the geometry of the folds is known to aid one's development in mathematics."

Paper is included with the price of admission, and participants will be able to take home any paper creations they have made. Tea and treats will be available for purchase at the event.

The garden is located off Bellflower Boulevard on Earl Warren Drive, across from Parking Lot 16 where parking is free. Admission for the event is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and free for Friends of the Japanese Garden members, CSULB students and children under 12.

For more information, call the Japanese Garden at 562/985-8420 or 562/985-5930.