



# FOCAL Points ~ ~



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FRIENDS OF CHILDREN AND LITERATURE -- CENTRAL LIBRARY

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## JOANNE ROCKLIN WINS 2012 FOCAL AWARD

By Joanne Rocklin



It was a happy and proud moment for me when I was told that my middle grade novel *ONE DAY AND ONE AMAZING MORNING ON ORANGE STREET* had been named the 2012 FOCAL award winner by the Friends of Children and Literature of Los Angeles's Central Library. I have always admired the books chosen by this committee of librarians, teachers and writers, for what the books offered children with respect to understanding and appreciating California. And now my book is among them!

I was born and brought up in Montreal, Canada, but I consider California my true home, for many reasons. Here is where my children grew to adulthood and came to live with their own families. Here is where I've made many strong, vital connections with kindred spirits, including members of California Readers (of which I'm a proud founding member). And this is the place where my career as a children's author began, especially when I discovered The Society of Children's Book Writers

and Illustrators. I often wonder if any other setting would have inspired me so deeply.

My book is set in Los Angeles, a city like no other--multicultural, vibrant, mysterious. I like to imagine a child resonating to its translated name, 'City of Angels', a hopeful, optimistic view of L.A.! Indeed, it is a city attracting pioneers, adventurers and storytellers, a city ever-changing, yet deeply affected by its fascinating past. Sometimes one has to actively scratch the surface to find that past, but it's always there, lurking in the shadows of its sparkly new buildings.

And so I created a street called Orange, where children did "scratch that surface", literally, digging in the earth under an old orange tree for clues to former inhabitants of an empty lot. All the living things on that street, past and present - kids, a mysterious stranger, an elderly



woman, a bird, pets, and even the tree itself, have stories to tell, tales replete with wishes, dreams and worries. I conceptualized one day and one morning on that street, an amazing morning because, in a few shining moments, all of these stories coalesced. And for a few amazing moments the inhabitants experienced the beauty of the Magic Now, becoming a true community, working together.

I live in Oakland now. Northern California has its own beauty, its own unique stories. But, oh, how I miss the beautiful orange tree of my Los Angeles backyard! It was a tree that healed and nourished my family, and gave comfort as I waited for my novel's shape to reveal itself to me. It actually taught me quite a bit about the writing process and creativity and love. Really!

The FOCAL luncheon honoring my book will be held January 12. Please save the date. You and I will meet youngsters who have won the FOCAL essay contest, and I will receive a puppet representing a character in my novel, a FOCAL award tradition. I am thrilled and excited at the prospect of spending time in Los Angeles again, and greeting many of its angels in the world of children's literature.

Joanne Rocklin's website is [www.joannerocklin.com](http://www.joannerocklin.com)

**ONE DAY AND ONE AMAZING MORNING ON ORANGE STREET** is part of the 2012 California Collection.

### **EDITORS' NOTES**

Joanne's article was published in the August 2012 issue of *California Readers*. Her enthusiasm bubbles over through the pages to all of us. The January luncheon should be a very special one. Don't miss it !! The reservation form is on the next page.

In our last issue, we highlighted the ambitious Children's Literature programs for November and December, including a series of Winter Break Weekday Programs. Since we are mailing this on the 20th of December, we include the programs for Dec. 26 through Dec. 29th. Please note that Holiday hours are from 12:30 to 5:30 for those dates at all LAPL facilities.

#### Winter Break Weekday Programs, Part 2

26 Wed Preschool Storytime [SPECIAL DAY & TIME]

Stories, songs, fingerplays and more for ages 2-5. Reservations required for groups of five or more.

Call (213) 228-7250.

(Children's Literature Department, 1 p.m.)

27 Thu Family Program: "I Dream a World"

Storyteller Karen Rae Kraut introduces fantastical dreamers who made their wildest dreams come true as she shares stories, songs, and activities. (Children's Literature Department, 1 p.m.)

28 Fri Family Activity: "Fun & Games"

We provide the games and toys for children ages 0-11, you come and have lots of fun! (Children's Literature Department, 1 – 2 p.m.)

29 Sat Family Storytime: "Happy New Year to You!"

We ring in 2013 with stories, songs, noisemakers, and a puppet show. (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL FOCAL AWARD LUNCHEON  
and  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

HONORING

The 2012 FOCAL Award Winner

**ONE DAY AND ONE AMAZING MORNING**  
**ON ORANGE STREET**

by

Joanne Rocklin

Saturday, January 12, 2013

at

**Border Grill**

445 South Figueroa Street #100 • Los Angeles CA 90071

PARKING

Westlawn Garage • 524 S. Flower St. (\$1.00 with library validation)

Union Bank Garage • 445 S. Figueroa St. (\$5.00 with restaurant validation)

11:00 A.M. Social Hour

No-Host Bar

12:00 Noon Luncheon



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**Reservation Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Reservation Options	Number	x	Price	Amount
Luncheon FOCAL Members @ \$40 ea.		x	\$40.00	
Luncheon Non-Members @ \$45 ea.		x	\$45.00	
Lunch + \$20 Basic Membership @ \$60 ea.		x	\$60.00	
Lunch + \$30 Associate Membership @ \$70 ea.		x	\$70.00	
Lunch + \$60 Contributing Membership @ \$100 ea.		x	\$100.00	
Lunch + \$100 Sustaining Membership @ \$140 ea.		x	\$140.00	
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>				<b>\$</b>

Please send this completed form and checks, made payable to FOCAL and postmarked no later than Monday, January 7, to: Helen Muller • 17210 Goya St. • Granada Hills CA 91344.

TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR

For more information, contact Helen at (818) 363-6578 | muller.helen@rocketmail.com

**\*\*\*\*\* MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION \*\*\*\*\***

Send renewals to: Renny Day / 15221 Via de las Olas / Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership is for calendar year, January through December.**

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Basic \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Associate \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Contributing \$60 \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_

**(Free autographed book)      (Seat at Head Table)      (Book and Head Table)**

Eva Mitnick, Youth Services  
Madeline Bryant, Senior Librarian, Children's Literature  
Helene Mochedlover, FOCAL Points Editor

**FOCAL  
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