



FOCAL Points~~



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FRIENDS OF CHILDREN AND LITERATURE -- CENTRAL LIBRARY

READIN' TO THE RHYTHM

by Renny Day

"THUMP, THUMP, THUMP" went the boom box....and an enthusiastic roomful of older readers joined Joanna and Brooke for a weekly session to get loud, with musical instruments, dance, crafts, games, drumming out beats, and digital music creation.

The grand climax was an exclusive party with snacks, music, karaoke and even dancing.

"PLINK, PLINK, PLINK," went Madeline's banjo, as she and Mara treated the younger readers to songs and stories with a musical theme.* Even the babies waved their arms and kicked their legs in time to maracas and tambourines.



Yes, folks, this was the scene in Children's Literature, as staff was immersed in Summer Fun. They signed up 765 children, all of whom received a "Read to the Rhythm" game board and instructions about reading and music activities. In addition to regular weekly baby, preschool and family story-times, they offered 16 extra programs especially for the summer for a total of 38 programs. Total attendance was 1,990. They also had 27 visiting groups for a total of 1,115 people, many of whom also received a personalized tour or storytime.

* Children were not the only ones to learn new things. Witness this memo from Mara to Madeline at the beginning of summer.

"All cords are in the plastic NASA bag, Bring that, iPad, and a book truck.

Anything white and blue goes together (white adapter goes from iPad into blue thingie; other end goes in white panel.

The thick cord is merely a holder for the two smaller doohickies. One end goes into the earplug thing on the iPad, the other end goes into the gold box. Round microphone pin thing goes into #4 on larger panel.

Turn power on in control room. Use nameless television remote to turn tvs on. If the image on the tv starts wiggling out, turn it off and on again.

Make sure to connect with library wifi before you start.

Hopefully, this will work."

JOAN BRANSFIELD GRAHAM

By Renny Day

An overflow crowd greeted Joan in the Children's Literature Department on Saturday, July 11 for a presentation about all things poetic. Joan's sparkly blue attire was no match for the sparks that she ignited in her audience, as she discussed writing poems, using them with audiences of all ages, and inspiring children to create their own poems.

There was an awesome display of poetry books, including Joan's *THE POEM THAT WILL NOT END: FUN WITH POETIC FORMS AND VOICES*, which was selected for 2015 list of Notable Poetry Books by the National Council of Teachers of English. She encouraged audience participation, since she claims that poems are not just for reading, but must be heard, tasted, shouted out loud, and shared.

Joan has even written an engaging poem about librarians, which is proudly posted near the desks of the hard-working staff in the Children's Literature workroom.*

* we're short of space today....so look for it in the fall issue.



SUMMER LUNCHES by Renny Day

Hot dogs, pizza, and popsicles. Riddles, music, and games. Is this Central Library? Yes, it is. Meeting Room B, near the 5th Street entrance, became the “go-to” spot this summer at lunch time, as LAPL hosted its third year of “Summer Fun at the Library.”

Supervised by Coordinator Eva Mitnick and her hard-working crew of Eva Cox, Diane Estrella, Graciela Gallegos, and Diane Olivo-Posner, the lunches were an exquisitely timed ballet of Preparation, Precision, and Presentation, involving aprons, gloves and white hats. From the temperature-taking of the hot course at the beginning of the meal to the final mop-up, each noon was delicious fun.

All of Central Library pitched in: Pam Quon, Info Now, and Joyce Ung, Volunteer Services, were stalwarts. Staff from Teenscape, Literature, and the History Department were on hand. Security Staff helped, too. Officer Shawn astonished all with his skills as juggler and musician. Ten branches also participated, with a total of 12,002 children served in an 8-week period. Truly, this was a wonderful way “To Live and Dine in LA.”

EDITORS' NOTES

SAVE THE DATE !!!! Saturday, December 12, 2015 is the date for the annual FOCAL luncheon. The winning title this year is ***Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation*** by Duncan Tonatiuh. The nonfiction, illustrated book tells about the Mendez Family from Orange County and their successful case for desegregating public schools when Earl Warren was governor in 1947. Further information: utnewspaper@utla.net. [United Teacher, 8/21/15]



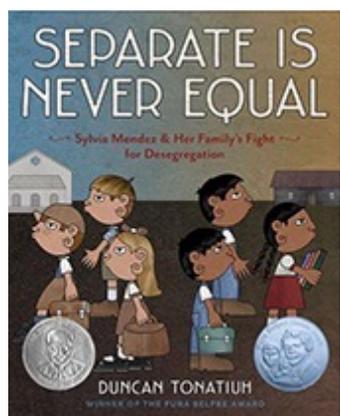
FOCAL (Friends of Children and Literature)

Essay Contest for Students in Grades 3-8



The FOCAL Award is presented annually to an author or illustrator for a creative work that enriches a child's appreciation for and understanding of California. The 2015 award goes to—

Separate Is Never Equal by Duncan Tonatiuh



To enter the contest, **read the book** and **write an Essay** of no more than 300 words to tell the Judges---

- Your reactions to the book.
- About a character or scene that stuck with you.
- What it would mean for you to meet the author.

Three essay winners will have lunch with the author and receive a signed copy of the award-winning book. Both their teacher and a parent will also receive a complimentary ticket to the luncheon where the student will share their essay aloud.

CONTEST RULES

- Entries are due November 6, 2015, and must be postmarked by then. Late entries will not be accepted. Use entry form below.
- Submit typed entries on clean, white 8.5"x11" paper only.
- Put the child's name **ON THE BACK** of the essay and on the entry form.
- Check spelling, punctuation and grammar **CAREFULLY**. Mistakes will disqualify the entry.
- No more than 3 entries per classroom.
- Winners will be notified by November 23, 2015, and will be asked to read their essays at the FOCAL Award luncheon on Saturday, December 12, 2015

FOCAL is the Friends support group
for the Children's Literature Department of Los Angeles Public Library's Central Library
Find us at www.focalcentral.org.

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Essay Contest

for Students in Grades 3-8



Entry Form

Student's First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Student's Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher's Name: _____

School Name: _____

Email: _____

Send your entry, postmarked by November 6, 2015, to:

Caroline Gill, 4335 Marina City Drive #534, Marina del Rey, CA 90292

Entry forms can also be found at
www.focalcentral.org

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***** MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION *****

Please 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. Dues are tax deductible.

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

Contributing \$60 _____ Sustaining \$100 _____ Lifetime \$1000 _____

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

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