



FOCAL Points



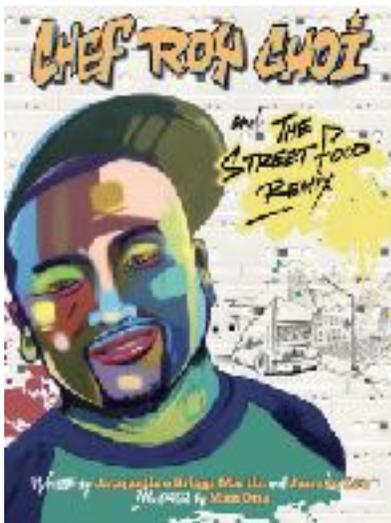
VOL XLI NO. 3

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SUMMER 2019

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Meet the Authors and Illustrator of the 2019 FOCAL award winner.



Mark your calendars!

Please join us to celebrate the **40th annual FOCAL Award** at our luncheon which will take place on December 14, 2019. We will be joined by both authors, Jacqueline Briggs Martin and June Jo Lee, and illustrator Man One. They will speak about the book, *Chef Roy Choi and The Street Food Remix*, share stories and sign books.

Tickets will go on sale with our next FOCAL points. If you are unable to attend in person, you can still help support this event by sponsoring tickets for the Nobel MS students who design and create the center pieces, essay contest winners' parent and teacher, or the Puppet Makers.

Los Angeles Public Library Selected as a Libraries = Strong Communities National Tour Location



In recognition of the Los Angeles Public Library's achievements in empowering individuals, delivering innovative community-based services and serving as a place for lifelong learning, ALA President Loida Garcia-Febo visited the library on May 14th. She was joined by City Librarian John F. Szabo, Council member David Ryu and the library volunteers as they present a symbolic check for \$4,784,374.12 to City Council. This amount represents the value of the more than 164,000 hours of service provided by the nearly 7,500 library volunteers.



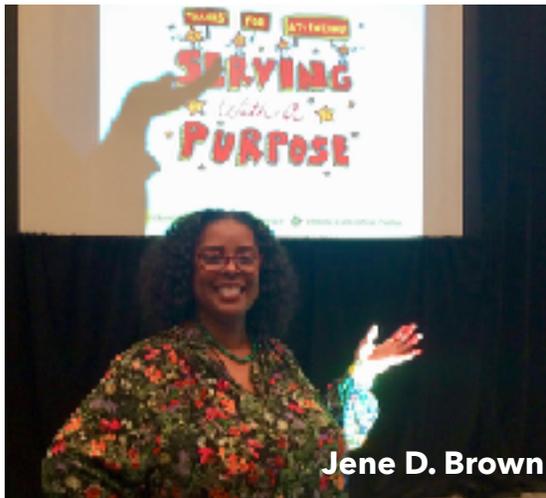
Loida Garcia-Febo also took a tour of the Central Library and met with library supporters, community partners and librarians from throughout Southern California. During her visit to Central library she was delighted to tour the Children's Literature Department and impressed by the work of volunteers there.

If you would like to be a part of what makes the Children's Literature Department so special please join FOCAL as a member and/or volunteer. For more information contact volunteer@focalcentral.org



Serving with a Purpose: Library Volunteers Annual Conference

On Thursday, May 23rd, 2019, Kathryn and Caroline, FOCAL board members, attended the 7th annual conference for *A Gathering for Friends, Trustees, Foundations and the staff who support them*, at The Ontario Convention Center in Ontario. **Jené D. Brown**, Principal Librarian at LAPL Central, was one of the eight members of the 2019 conference planning committee. Representatives from 69 City Libraries were in attendance for the all day program. The Roll Call of all the city libraries was fun as they included places from all over Southern California. While eating breakfast together, we had an opportunity to speak with other volunteers about their successes, problems, and common experiences.



Jené D. Brown

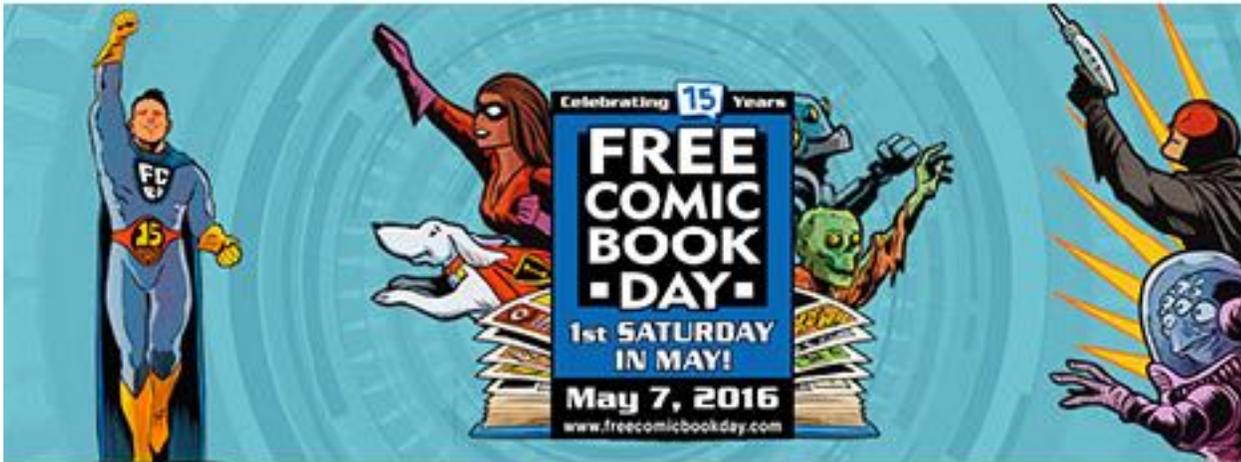
We were welcomed by Shawn Thrasher, Director of the Ontario City Library, Greg Lucas, the California State Librarian and Michelle Perera, President of CLA. The Keynote Speaker, Hardy Smith, who has a book soon to be coming out, spoke about "Repurposing The Basics." He is famous for saying that "Adapting is the key to nonprofit success." And then he added that we must "take action to make necessary adjustments."

The author, Yangsze Choo, spoke about her new book, *The Night Tiger*. She also has an audio version of this book out in which she is the reader. One of her books made the Reese Witherspoon's book list. She shared her writing habits which includes eating loads of Cheetos and stories about her life.

Following our lunch, we heard presentations from: Edie Howard, The Friends of the Upland Public Library, whose topic was: "One small basic change led to a BIG change!" Edie Howard was amazing as she shared how the Upland Friends Group was able to fund adding an additional room for the Friends' Used Book Sales. Roundtable Discussions followed where the "A-HA Moments" were shared. Evaluations preceded the drawings for prizes. Our takeaway from the program was the enthusiasm of the volunteers and being able to share what we are doing to support our Children's Literature Department.

Library Events: Free Comic Book Day

Contributed by Rachel Kitzmann, Librarian II, Art, Music & Recreation Department



Free Comic Book Day is the first Saturday in May, and it has become an unofficial holiday for the people that love superheroes, super villains, robots, and monsters. The event started in 2002, and now, almost 20 years later, comic book shops all over the United States and abroad participate.

Thanks to the Bruckman Rare Books Friends, the Art, Teen'Scape, and Children's Literature departments were able to devote the day to fun programs celebrating a love of all things superhero! Each department hosted a bevy of programs -- from slime-making and droid-building to Star Wars trivia -- but the highlight of the day was giving free comics to patrons!

Amanda Charles, Teen'Scape Librarian III, created a cross-department scavenger hunt, allowing patrons the chance to explore each department's graphic novel collections before collecting their free comic book. Between the comic books and the programs, the second floor departments saw approximately 500 people -- and this was only our first year!

Thank you, Bruckman Rare Book Friends! We couldn't have done it without your support.

FOCAL Awards On TV!



Mara Alpert was invited to participate in a panel discussion of books either set in Southern California or written by Southern California authors, on Spectrum Channel One. The show is Inside the Issues with Alex Cohen. She does a segment called Good Reads every few months. The other

member of the panel was Brien Lopez, store manager of Children's Book World. The show was aired on May 30th.

Mara spoke about the characters Ms. Snoops, from *One Day and One Amazing Morning on Orange Street* by Joanne Rocklin, and Sylvia Mendez from *Separate is Never Equal* by Duncan Tonatiuh, both recipients of the FOCAL Award. And of course she brought the puppets of Ms. Snoops and Sylvia Mendez to share as a part of the segment.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Membership is for the calendar year, January through December.
Dues are tax deductible.

New Renewal

Basic \$25

Contributing \$60

Sustaining \$100

Lifetime \$1000

Dewi Ochoa, FOCAL Points editor

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