



FOCAL Points~~



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FRIENDS OF CHILDREN AND LITERATURE -- CENTRAL LIBRARY

For more news, go to www.focalonline.org

FOCAL AWARDS LUNCHEON 2013 **Mara Alpert, Children's Literature**

FOCAL (Friends of Children and Literature) has been a force for good and a generous supporter of the Children's Literature Department since 1979. And from the beginning they have honored books that enrich a child's appreciation and understanding of California, through the FOCAL Award. On Saturday, January 12, 2013, local children's literature luminaries and fans met at the Border Grill at Figueroa and Fifth to dine on truly fabulous food and celebrate the winner of the 2012 FOCAL Award, ***One Day and One Amazing Morning on Orange Street***, by Joanne Rocklin. The award committee is made up of librarians, teachers, authors, and others who have a passion for children's literature, and their 2012 selection was particularly meaningful to anyone who grew up (or is in the process of growing up) in Los Angeles.

The story revolves around a neighborhood's one remaining orange tree, and is told from the viewpoints of the street's many inhabitants, past and present, including the tree itself. It's about family, community, and the importance of connection. It's funny, poignant, and ultimately inspiring.

Every year there is an essay contest for children connected with the award. The winners of the contest are invited to attend the luncheon, and are seated with the author. They receive a signed copy of the winning book and have the opportunity to read their essay to the admiring audience. This year's essays were also funny, poignant, and ultimately inspiring.

So, you may be wondering, what exactly IS the FOCAL Award? Artist Carol Onofrio has been creating one-of-a-kind puppets representing characters from the winning titles since the beginning. She makes one for the author, one for the illustrator if it is a picture book, and one for the Children's Literature Department. We have the entire collection of FOCAL puppets on display in the department through the end of January, and the puppet for this year's winning book will be display all year. If you would like more information about FOCAL, please visit their website at <http://www.focalonline.org/>. For an excellent list of books about California that includes picture books, poetry, non-fiction, and chapter book fiction, you will find the list of FOCAL Award winners on KidsPath at <http://kidspath.lapl.org/kidspath/books/focalaward.html>.

Photos courtesy of Caroline Arnold



Fun for Kids
Children's Literature Department
Central Library

March - April, 2013

Programs are subject to change without notice.

All programs are free.

March

Baby Story & Playtime

Mondays, March 4, 11, 18, and 25

Stories, songs, and rhymes, followed by playtime. For babies and toddlers (ages 0-2). Reservations required for groups of five or more. Call (213) 228-7250. (Children's Literature Department, 11 a.m.)

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays, March 5, 12, 19, and 26

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, 11 a.m.)

1 Fri Family Storytime

"2nd Annual Dr. Seuss Readathon!" Which is your favorite Dr. Seuss story? Join us in the Children's Literature Department where we will have librarians from all over Central Library (and a few special guests as well) reading aloud their favorite Dr. Seuss stories and poems! (Children's Literature Department, 2-5 p.m.)

2 Sat Family Storytime

"Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!" We're celebrating our favorite doctor's birthday with a really BIG storytime, filled with stories, songs, poems, special guests, and a puppet show! (Mark Taper Auditorium, 2 p.m.)

9 Sat Family Storytime

"What's Your Name?" Whether your name is John, Mary, or Oliver Boliver Butt, you'll love our well-named stories, songs, poems, and puppet show! (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

16 Sat Used Book Sale

Find bargain children's books for sale. Sponsored by FOCAL, Friends of Children and Literature. (Rotunda, 10 a.m. to 12 noon)

16 Sat Family Storytime

"All Things Green" In honor of St. Patrick's Day, we share stories, songs, poems, and a puppet show, in all shades of green. (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

23 Sat Family Program

"Springtime Babies" Kittens, puppies, chicks and foals – we love baby animals! Join us for stories, songs, poems, and a puppet show. (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

SPRING BREAK WEEKDAY PROGRAMS

27 Wed Family Storytime

“Dinosaurs!” Get ready to ROAR with our prehistoric stories, songs, poems, and puppet show! (*Children’s Literature Department, 2 p.m.*)

28 Thu Arts & Crafts

“Dinosaur Craft” We’re counting down to Science Day 2013. Join us for stories and a craft. Ages 4 and up. (*Children’s Literature Department, 2 p.m.*)

29 Fri Family Activity: Fun & Games

We provide the toys and games for kids ages 0-11, you come and have lots of fun! (*Children’s Literature Department, 2-3 p.m.*)

30 Sat Family Activity

“Science Day 2013” Science you can really dig! Join us for *The Last Days of the Dinosaurs with Richard Wade* (*Mark Taper Auditorium, 1 and 2:15 pm*); plus hands-on science activities from the California Science Center, activities for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, STAR volunteer readers, and much, much more! (*Thornton & Children’s Courtyards, 1-3 pm*)

April

Baby Story & Playtime

Mondays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

Stories, songs, and rhymes, followed by playtime. For babies and toddlers (ages 0-2). Reservations required for groups of five or more. Call (213) 228-7250. (*Children’s Literature Department, 11 a.m.*)

Preschool Storytime

Tuesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

Stories, songs, fingerplays, and more for ages 0 - 5. Reservations required for groups of five or more. Call (213) 228-7250. (*Children’s Literature Department, 11 a.m.*)

6 Sat Family Storytime

“Super Silly Storytime” April is National Humor Month – we’ll be sharing our silliest stories, songs, poems, jokes, riddles, and an utterly preposterous puppet show! (*KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.*)

13 Sat Family Storytime

“We Love the Library” ... and we know you do, too! Come share the love in honor of National Library Week (April 14-20) with stories, songs, poems, and of course a puppet show. (*KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.*)

20 Sat Used Book Sale

Find bargain children’s books for sale. Sponsored by FOCAL, Friends of Children and Literature. (*Rotunda, 10 a.m. to 12 noon*)

20 Sat Family Storytime

“Earth Day” It’s time to celebrate our favorite planet, with stories, songs, poems, and a puppet show! (*KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.*)

27 Sat Family Program

“Around the World in Magic Hour.” To celebrate “Tell a Story Day,” we’ll visit countries around the world with storyteller Rebecca Martin. (*Mark Taper Auditorium, 2 p.m.*)

Children’s Literature Department

(213) 228-7250

Find us on Facebook !!!!

HOORAY FOR THE VOLUNTEERS !!

by Lara Clardy

FOCAL’s used book sales are held at Central Library on the third Saturday of each month. Without our wonderful volunteers we’d never have the income to buy things for the Children’s Department such as puppets, stuffed toys, and unique books, nor support our annual Award Luncheon. This past year the following people have taken time out of their weekends to help: **Ruben Casanova, Caroline Gill, Beth Miller, Stephanie Moore, Helen and Alex Muller, and Mari and Andy Quepons.** We wouldn’t have any books to sell without the aid of **Renny Day** and **Helene Moched-lover**, who get the big trucks organized and ready to wheel out to the rotunda. Thank you, thank you, all.

We have a good time and work hard to display our books, keep order, help people find what they want, count and pack books, make change, write receipts, and then put the unsold books away in the stacks. Teen’Scape books, games, and comic books are sold, and have to be accounted for separately. Luckily, we have great student volunteers to help with these tasks. We even have “penny sales” now and then, when our shelves get too crowded. Our volunteers are busy, but still have time to browse our books and those of the other three Friends groups who fill the upper rotunda.

If you’d like to be part of the fun, just e-mail me at lara.clardy.com, and I’ll add you to our roster. We will send you a reminder before each sale, to see if you are available to help.

Lara Clardy, Book Sale Chair

******* 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)

Selena Terrazas, Department Manager
Madeline Bryant, Senior Librarian, Children's Literature
Helene Mochedlover, FOCAL Points Editor

**FOCAL
Children's Literature Department
Los Angeles Public Library
630 West Fifth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071**