



# FOCAL Points~~



VOL. XXXIII

SPECIAL ISSUE 2011

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN AND LITERATURE -- CENTRAL LIBRARY

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## FOCAL AWARD LUNCHEON

**GREETINGS!** Well, the holidays are just about over. But before we turn the calendar pages and think about the New Year, there is still one tantalizing tidbit left from 2011.

This issue is a reminder about the FOCAL Luncheon, which will take place on January 28, 2012, at the Border Grill.

The food will be bountiful and delicious, with piquant appetizers, a variety of skillfully prepared entrees, and a not-to-be-forgotten dessert.

**BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE...**the author of the award-winning book, Amy Novesky, will be the featured speaker. She will share her inspiration for writing about the events in Frida Kahlo's life which started her on the road to international acclaim.

**BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE...**the winners of the essay contest will attend with their families, and read the winning entries. These young writers, from grades 3 - 8, display maturity and poise, as they express their reactions to the book.



**BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE.....** David Diaz, the talented illustrator of *Me, Frida*, has donated a striking black & white painting which will be on display at the luncheon. Opportunity tickets to have this portrait for your very own will be available there.

David, a Caldecott Award winner, has a scheduling conflict, but sends his congratulations to Amy and his best wishes to FOCAL.

This offer will expire on January 28. So turn to page 5, and send in your reservation form NOW !!

## ***FAR-FLUNG FOCAL FOLK***

Since this is the time of year when we renew our FOCAL membership, we thought you might be interested in knowing just who is on the roster.

Of course, there are many librarians and teachers, who live in the greater Los Angeles area. Authors and illustrators of children's books account for a great many of the more than 200 hundred names on the membership list. Parents and grandparents of children who have benefited from coming to Central Library for school assignments and programs are also enthusiastic members.

But, you may be surprised to learn that some of FOCAL's most loyal members live outside of the Southern California area.

JERI CHASE FERRIS moved to Lincoln, California (near Sacramento), where she continues to write biographies of pivotal people in American history, such as *Demanding Justice*, about Mary Ann Shadd Cary. Jeri, formerly Membership Chair of FOCAL, is now newsletter editor for the Friends of the Lincoln Public Library.

THELMA FRANZ now lives in Port Orchard, Washington. Thelma was working in the Literature and Fiction Department when she was transferred in a previous budget crisis to the Children's Literature Department. She blossomed into an enthusiastic story-teller and puppeteer, and also became an expert in California children's fiction.

ROBIN RECTOR KRUPP moved to Asheville, North Carolina, where she is active in the art community. Robin, the author of *Let's go Traveling in Mexico*, *The Rainbow and You*, and others, may have changed her address, but didn't change her loyalties. She keeps up on California news with her membership in FOCAL and other organizations.

ELIZABETH MAURY retired to Takoma Park, Maryland to enjoy her family. Elizabeth was so pleased at the progress of her grandchildren under the guidance of the local children's librarian, that she sent a FOCAL gift membership for KAREN McPHERSON. It's an intriguing coincidence that Karen was on the Newbery Committee with our own Madeline Bryant. They formed an instant bond. In another circular FOCAL connection, Karen reviewed Susan Patron's latest book, *Lucky for Good*, for local papers.

JOANNE ROCKLIN, award-winning author, now calls Oakland home. Fortunately, book tours periodically bring her to Los Angeles, where her many fans get a chance to greet her and her husband. Look for *One Day and One Amazing Morning on Orange Street*.

AHIKO ANGELA YAMADA lives in Japan. She and some fellow library school students visited Los Angeles, and Madeline Bryant gave them a tour of Central Library. She was so impressed with the Children's Literature Department, that she became a member of FOCAL. We are proud to have representation across the Pacific.

Articles in this issue were written by Renny Day.

Photos are courtesy of Children's Literature Staff.

## EDITORS' NOTES

The FOCAL Board had a welcome guest at our October meeting. **Barbara Odanaka** came to tell us that her adventurous group called "Skateboard Moms," had once again selected FOCAL as their designated charity, and presented a check for \$1000 to our overjoyed treasurer, Alex Muller. Funds were raised at their annual Mighty Mama Skate-O-Rama, which is a skateboarding extravaganza featuring women skateboarders. Faithful readers may remember that FOCAL Points ran an article about last year's event, which was chronicled by our own Madeline Bryant.



## AUTHORS SHOWCASE

FOCAL sponsored some authors of children's books during the week before Christmas. Restless children were spellbound by these local personalities....and perhaps shopped-out families picked up a few gift ideas.

December 20: Michael-Paul Terranova presented his e-books, *Max's Temper Turnaround*, and *Spotch: the Center*. Michael-Paul is the creator of Curious Circus, which develops interactive iPad apps. You can get a taste of his work if you Google "Curious Circus" and scroll down to item number eight, where a happy child is learning all about dinosaurs.

December 21: Barb Odanaka, author of *Skateboard Mom*, *A Crazy Day at the Critter Cafe*, and *Smash! Crash! There Goes the Trash*, delighted her audience with spirited readings and photos of her skateboarding in her trademark spotted cow costume.

December 22: Joan Bransfield Graham proved that poetry comes in all shapes and sizes as she shared her collections, *Splish Splash !* and *Flicker Flash !* She encouraged her young audience to join in and help produce their own poetry.

December 29: **WINTER HOLIDAY ART AFTERNOON WITH LACMA:** Teaching artists from LACMA (the Los Angeles County Museum of Art) will be here to help kids and their families create fabulous art.

February 9: **AUTHOR PROGRAM: Cornelia Funke** and **Rainer Strecker** will read from Ms. Funke's newest book, *Reckless*, copies of which will be available for purchase at the event. **Mark Taper Auditorium, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

## ROXANE LISKER

Before there was GAB, there was Roxane.

Roxane Lisker was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on February 27, 1928, and passed away on October 4, 2011. Her family moved to Hollywood, California in the 1930's. Roxy, as her family and friends called her, was a graduate of Hollywood High School. She is survived by her niece, Kathie Klass, and Kathie's husband Dan Rumelt, of Washington, DC, and her nephew Bruce and Bruce's wife Kara Noble Lisker, of Marina de Rey.

Roxane didn't initiate GAB (Grandparents and Books). That was the inspiration and hard work of long-time FOCAL supporters Ginny Walter and Maureen Wade. But Roxane was living proof that the interaction of caring adults with young children could result in an enthusiastic and lasting love of books and reading.

Roxane was a voracious reader, and a welcome volunteer. I first met her when the children's department was in the "Ivanhoe Room," (now the Language Learning Center of the International Languages Department). She cheerfully helped Rosa, our clerk typist, with a variety of clerical duties, but if some children came into the room, Roxane would settle down on the wooden window seat, and read to a devoted audience. Parents told me that they were inspired to read to their own children, after watching Roxane wield her magic. They learned from her that it is important to read to children, even after they have learned to read by themselves.

After the library fire of 1986, Roxane transferred her activities to her local branch. But as soon as we opened a temporary library on Spring Street in 1989, she became a fixture in the reading room once more. She was one of the first to sign up for the Grandparents and Books program, and proudly saved every certificate that she received for her participation. She volunteered twice a week in the current department, and children still ask about "Grandma Roxane". We all miss her, but continue to be inspired by her devotion to reading with children.



Donations in her memory may be made to FOCAL. The fund will be used to purchase the fantasy books that she loved to share with children.

Renny Day

# THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL FOCAL AWARD LUNCHEON

and  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

HONORING  
The 2011 FOCAL Award Winner

**Me, Frida**

by

**Amy Novesky**

**Illustrated by David Diaz**

Saturday, January 28, 2012

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

## 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 Tuesday, January 24, to: Helen Muller • 17210 Goya St. • Granada Hills CA 91344.

TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR

For more information, telephone Helen at (818) 363-6578

\*\*\*\*\* 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.

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

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

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

**DUES FOR 2012 ARE NOW DUE**                      **DUES FOR 2012 ARE NOW DUE**

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

**FOCAL  
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