



FOCAL Points~~



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FRIENDS OF CHILDREN AND LITERATURE -- CENTRAL LIBRARY

Science Day at Central Library by Madeline Bryant, Senior Librarian, Children's Literature Department

Over 300 people attended this year's annual Science Day event, celebrated at Central Library on March 30, 2013. Now in its 8th year, the theme of Dinosaurs made this our BIGGEST success yet. Science Day is the brainchild of the Friends of Children and Literature (also known as FOCAL) the friends group for the Children's Literature Department. They organize and sponsor this event in memory of Peggy and Merv Miller, a local science teacher and librarian. Science and libraries- it's a natural pairing that feeds kids' curiosity through hands-on learning and provides them with a variety of high quality books to check out and take home for further exploration.



This year's participants had the opportunity to see Richard Wade, a long-time performer for LAPL, present his "Last Days of the Dinosaurs" show. He captivated audiences young and old with an extraordinary amount of information in a mere 45 minutes. In his entertaining and enthusiastic way, Mr. Wade taught us how fossils were formed, how paleontologists make their discoveries, that birds are actually related to dinosaurs, and that T-Rex probably didn't stand upright. We also learned what happened to make the dinosaurs become extinct. You'll need to see the show or come to the library to find out!

Meanwhile, outside under a bright blue sky on a perfect 70-degree day, hands-on projects, activities, and experiments were underway in the Thornton and Children's Courtyards. We had young scientists from Paseo del Rey Natural Science Magnet School share their best Science Fair projects with us in a "Meet the Scientist" interactive exhibit. We had children digging for fossils, looking at rocks and minerals under microscopes, testing the weight and buoyancy of various types of rocks, and making their own mini-earthquakes. There were dinosaurs galore to play with and learn about and children

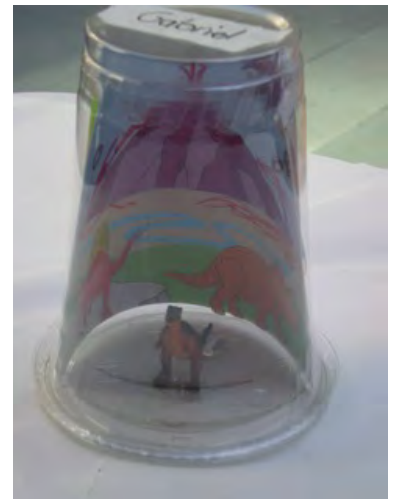


even got to create their own prehistoric dioramas to take home. The day wouldn't have been complete without a story or two or three. Ms. Debra, one of our fabulous STAR volunteers, entertained crowds with some dino-mite stories while children got to dig for dinosaurs in buckets of sand.



This free educational event provides children from birth to age 12 an opportunity to explore and experiment in a safe and welcoming environment. The amazing crew of volunteers, many of whom are educators or librarians themselves, ranges from teens to retirees, making this a successful cross-generational collaboration as well.

The critical need for early STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education is stronger than ever and Science Day is just one of the ways in which LAPL is meeting that demand. The children's librarians at Central Library and a few select branches are currently being trained by the California Science Center on how to include early childhood science education into the library's programming and storytime schedule. Keep on the look-out for a series of science-themed preschool storytimes coming later this year at Central Library. If you are interested in learning more about Science Day, joining FOCAL, or helping to organize and support next year's event, please visit www.focalonline.org or call Senior Librarian, Madeline Bryant at 213-228-7251.



Meet The Scientists

by Carol Raby

Science Day, 2013 at LAPL Central Library was a huge success! Sponsored by a generous donation to FOCAL from The Miller Family Fund, the day drew more than 300 families to the beautiful Thornton Courtyard and Children's Courtyard for a variety of science activities.

A popular new addition this year was the "Meet The Scientists" area featuring seven young scientists from Paseo Del Rey Magnet Elementary School. First grade teacher Suzanne Miyabe had three eager students bring projects they could demonstrate. The young scientists were encouraging other curious children to experiment with their projects. Third, fourth and fifth grade students brought engaging projects and enthusiastically spoke to adults and children telling of their discoveries about our world. One student performed science magic tricks to the delight of all ages.

Many children had fun making pinwheels with Lara Clardy, while some of our youngest explorers listened to science stories read by our wonderful STAR Volunteers. Debby Pourroy and Lauren Okayama brought college students with a variety of intriguing science activities which amazed and amused children of all ages. As always, the Librarians from the Children's Room were integrally involved with all the details of the day to ensure everyone had a positive experience with science and the fabulous Library. The teen volunteers were very helpful in a variety of ways, also.

The program in the Mark Taper Auditorium, "The Last Days of the Dinosaurs" presented by the dynamic Richard Wade was packed with new information on dinosaurs and it was just fascinating to children as well as to adults. Some attendees listened to the program twice! Hannah, a fourth grader who was one of the student scientists with her experiment on sound exclaimed, "The dinosaur presentation was my favorite part of the day besides from sharing my science project with people!"

As the event ended, I asked Gus, a first grade student scientist if he felt like a real scientist after Science Day. His exuberant reaction was a fist pump and a gleeful cry, "Yes!" Hearty congratulations to all involved with this successful event.



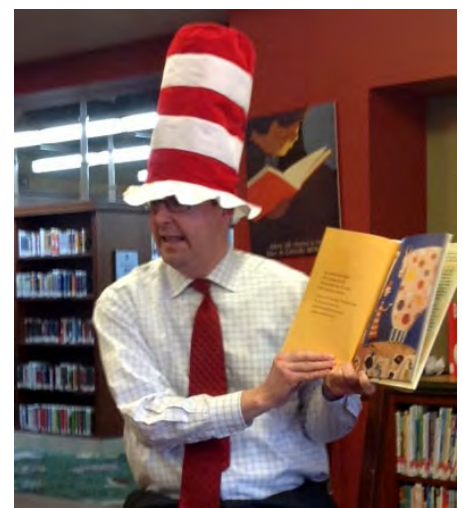
A Dr. Seuss Weekend

by Mara Alpert, Children's Literature

For librarians and teachers and anyone who loves children's literature, early March is always a little bittersweet, because March 2 is Dr. Seuss' birthday, and he is no longer with us. Granted, he'd be 109 years old this year, but still. This year we in the Children's Literature Department celebrated Dr. Seuss and his legacy in a BIG way. We started on Friday, March 1, with the 2nd Annual Dr. Seuss Readathon. For three hours it was All Seuss, All the Time. We invited library staff and some special guests to read aloud their favorite Dr. Seuss story or poem. It was fabulous! John Szabo, our City Librarian, read Hooray for Diffendoofer Day. Giovanna Mannino, the Director of Central Library, warned against the dangers of naming all 23 of your children the same thing in the poem "Too Many Daves." Ken Brecher, President of the Library Foundation, wearing a most Seussian hat and wielding a rubber chicken, presented Oh, the Thinks You Can Think! The Cat in the Hat (aka Linda Israelson) regaled the admiring audience with the touching tale of Bartholomew and the Oobleck. Plus many other stories and poems from many other fine readers, read to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience.

But wait, we aren't finished yet. On Saturday, March 2, we had a Super-Sized Seuss Storytime, not in our usual digs (the KLOS Story Theater), but in the Mark Taper Auditorium. "Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!" was a Seuss Extravaganza! We used iPad Apps to present "The Sneetches" and Green Eggs and Ham, and projected the pages of And to Think that I Saw It On Mulberry Street (read by the Cat in the Hat – this time played by Mara Alpert) and The Butter Battle Book (read and accompanied with guitar by one of our amazing STAR volunteers, Eric Pratt). Of course there was more, and the event ended with a solemn recitation of Hop on Pop by a Very Important visiting Seuss Expert, Dr. I.M. Important (Linda Israelson), while Miss Mara and STAR Eric acted out the story with puppets using our brand new transportable puppet show stage. We couldn't have done any of this without Russell Pyle and his lighting, sound, and technological wizardry, and Madeline Bryant, Senior Librarian of the Children's Literature Department. We had a great audience (about 180 strong!).

There have been and will continue to be many creative and influential children's book authors and illustrators, and I think when we celebrate Dr. Seuss, in a way we are celebrating all of them. Don't worry if you missed this year's celebration. You can still visit the Children's Literature Department and check out a great book by Dr. Seuss, and next year we will do all again, even bigger and better! 100 percent guaranteed!



Fun for Kids

Children's Literature Department
Central Library

May - June, 2013

*Programs are subject to change without notice.
All programs are free.*

May

Baby Story & Playtime

Mondays, May 6, 13, and 20

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, May 7, 14, 21 and 28

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.)

4 Sat Family Storytime

"May Flowers" Get ready for a garden full of lovely stories, songs, poems, and blooming good puppet show! (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

11 Sat Family Storytime

"Mommies!" In honor of Mother's Day, bring your favorite mommy to the Children's Literature Department for stories, songs, poems, and a puppet show. (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

18 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)

18 Sat Family Storytime

"Bookworms and Other Bugs" You'll go buggy for our creepy, crawly stories, poems, songs, and puppet show! (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

25 Sat Family Program

"Reading is Magic" In his hilariously entertaining and amazing program, magician Tony Daniels shows us that reading really is magic! (Mark Taper Auditorium, 2 p.m.)

Join Los Angeles Public Library's 2013 Summer Reading Club

Reading is So Delicious!

June 3 – August 3, 2013

June Baby Story & Playtime

Mondays, June 3, 10, 17 and 24

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, June 4, 11, 18 and 25

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.)

Book Café: Book Club for Grades 4-6

Wednesdays, June 5, 12, 19, and 26

Find out how delicious reading can be as we read and discuss your favorite (and soon-to-be-favorite) books! (Children's Literature Department, 4 p.m.)

Thursday Craft Buffet

Thursdays, June 6, 13, 20, and 27

A smorgasbord of stories and crafts for kids ages 5-12. (Children's Literature Department, 4 p.m.)

1 Sat Family Storytime

"Reading is So Delicious! Summer Reading Club 2013 Kick-Off!" We'll have tasty tales, savory songs, really good rhymes, and a piquant puppet show! (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

8 Sat Family Storytime

"Folklore Feast" Delicious stories and more from around the world, including, of course, a puppet show. (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

15 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)

15 Sat Family Storytime

"Dad's Delicious Storytime" What could be nicer than breakfast in bed for Daddy on Father's Day? How about these yummy stories, songs, poems, and puppet show! (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

22 Sat Family Program

"Silly Science Show" Professor Weisenheimer (aka Ric Morton) talks about how science works, then invites several "Junior Scientists" to help him with super silly, but educational, experiments! (Mark Taper Auditorium, 2 p.m.)

29 Sat Family Program

"Sukey Jump!" Get ready to have fun with songs from around the world, with music and movement, call and response, round singing, hand clapping, and more. (Children's Literature Department, 2 p.m.)

!!!! THANKS TO ALL SCIENCE DAY VOLUNTEERS !!!!

Science Day would not exist if we did not have our wonderful corps of volunteers. Our Teen volunteers were Gerardo Velazquez, Rolando Mejia, Dario Miguel, Paola Gramajo, Andrea Torres, and Deborah Franza. They were everywhere doing what needed to be done.

Our STAR volunteer, Miss Debra, kept kids in thrall all afternoon. Debby Pourroy and Lauren Okayama again rounded up a group of enthusiastic volunteers from L. A. Valley College.

Helen Muller as always got it all together and made it happen. Lara Clardy, Caroline Gill, Carol Raby, Alex Muller, and Nancy Reich were keeping audiences fascinated.

Madeline Bryant, Mara Alpert, Diane Olivo-Posner and the Children's Literature Staff once again kept it all together all afternoon.

EDITORS' NOTES

Since our last issue, there have been some promotions as well as changes in the organizational structure of Central Library. Youth Services has reverted back to being separate Children's Services and Young Adult coordinating offices. **Eva Mitnick** is the new Principal Librarian managing Children's Services, and **Adam Mendelsohn** is the new Principal Librarian in charge of Young Adult Services. Since these are system-wide coordinating offices, they are now under Admin/Support Services instead of Central Library Services.

There are two new Principal Librarians in Central Library Services. **Selena Terrazas**, Customer Service Manager, is in charge of Access Services, InfoNow, Children's Literature and Teen'scape. **Ani Boyadjian**, Research & Special Collections Manager, is in charge of Literature and Fiction, Art/Music/Recreation/Rare Books, International Languages, and Science and Technology. **Dan Dupill**, Programming & Outreach Manager, is in charge of History and Genealogy, Photo Collection, Social Sciences/Philosophy/Religion, and Business & Economics. Their respective titles indicate the areas in which they will take the lead on division-wide projects.

Meanwhile, **Diane Olivo-Posner** is the new Senior Librarian in Children's Services. We will miss her, but she is right across the hall, and we will see her often in her new position. Great work, Diane !

Belated kudos to everyone !!! We are so happy for all of you, and happy for us to have you there.

Membership Alert:

Renny Day is revising the Membership Roster. If you see a blue dot on your address label, it means that it's time to bring your membership up to date.

You wouldn't want to miss future issues of FOCAL Points, with all the news of Children's Literature Department as well as Central Library.

***** 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)

Selena Terrazas, Department Manager

Madeline Bryant, Senior Librarian, Children's Literature

Helene Mochedlover, FOCAL Points Editor

FOCAL

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