



FOCAL Points~~



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FRIENDS OF CHILDREN AND LITERATURE -- CENTRAL LIBRARY

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SCIENCE DAY 2017

By Sara Rebman, Children's Literature

I saw my first Science Day unfold behind four buckets of non-Newtonian liquid (aka cornstarch and water). It was Saturday, April 29th, 2017, and over 300 visitors experienced three hours of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) fun! By the time it was over, I was sitting in a puddle of non-Newtonian liquid and was covered in it...but that's why I became a children's librarian.

Science Day featured many different tables that were hosted by the Children's Literature Department and partner organizations. Some of the partnering organizations and presenters include: Disney Jr., FOCAL, LA Makerspace, Theodore Payne Foundation and Animals of Prey.

In the Mark Taper Auditorium, Disney Jr. showed a screening of their new show **Miles from Tomorrowland** and even brought along NASA astronaut Dr. Yvonne Cagle.





FOCAL hosted a build your own robot table that was a HUGE hit with the kids. Children dug through piles of recyclable materials to find the perfect parts to make their own robots. The creations were unique, creative, and took yards of tape to hold together. It was heartwarming to see families work together and it was one of the most popular events of the day.

In addition to the make your own robot table, FOCAL also had a thaumatrope (an optical illusion from the 1800s) table and a table where children could make sun prints.

LA Makerspace taught children how to make their own robot that draws, called an art bot. In the process they learned about how to make a circuit and were able to take their robot home!

The Thomas Payne Society hosted a booth where participants were able to plant their own seeds to take home with them to nurture and watch grow.



Inside the Mark Taper lobby, the Children's Literature Department had a table featuring Makey Makeys, manned by our very own Linda Israelson. At this table kids were able to create circuits to control laptops using peppers and other household items like paperclips and pencil markings.



Mara Alpert from Children's Literature made an amazing magnetic slime that would completely engulf anything metal! There is an awesome video on our Children's Literature Department Facebook page that is absolutely mesmerizing.

In the courtyard there were the Animals of Prey, which attracted a lot of attention. Kids and their families were able to see a variety of animals up close and personal.



As for me, I made a mixture of cornstarch and water that is called a non-Newtonian fluid. This means it both acts like a liquid and a solid. You can roll it into a ball, but once you stop rolling, it will drip off your fingers like water. If you punch a bucket of it, there will be no splash; but if you put your hand in, it will sink right to the bottom. Some of the kids did not like the texture or were scared of getting dirty, but I had the time of my life!

Everyone who came to the event got a LAPL book bag that was teeming with stuff by the time they left. Throughout the whole event, our fearless leader, Brooke Sheets, made sure everything ran smoothly.

At the end of the day, back at the Children's Literature Department, Dr. Cagle asked me to show her the non-Newtonian liquid. She was so impressed she said that I was her rock star! Needless to say, I ended the day feeling like a rock star.

EDITORS' NOTES

Without a dedicated team of FOCAL members, library staff, special guests, and eager volunteers, there is no way that Science Day could happen and be such a rousing success.

Thanks to Vi Ha and the wonderful teen volunteers who provided so much help:

Andy Olivera, Jesus Alonso, April Garcia, Angel Isaac Reyes, Stephanie Valverde Garcia, Josue Vides, Mickali Thompson.

Thanks to the ever-helpful, enthusiastic Cal State Long Beach volunteers:

Tyler Vercruyssen, Joseph Palme, Bryant Gaona, Steven Tataje, Camille LaCroix, Luis Bermejo.

Kudos to: Deysi Moran; STAR volunteer Reader Brie Wakeland; staff members Diane Olivo-Posner, Rita Law, Christina Young, Joanna Fabicon; Rory Fisher and staff from IT demonstrating LAPL's ever-popular 3-D printer.

FOCAL members Lara Clardy, Marilyn Robertson, Lauren Okayama, Caroline Gill, Dewi Ochoa, Renny Day and Helene Mochedlover.

The entire staff of Children's Literature who coped with it all, preparing for the day, and were everywhere needed, all day long. Russell Pyle, our AV Director, as always calm in the midst of chaos. The events attendants who set it all up and the staff who cleared it all away.

Everyone who saved all those tubes, boxes of all sizes, and other recyclables which the kids loved using for their robots. The photographers who provided these great photos: Mara Alpert, Joanna Fabicon, Diane Olivo-Posner, and the staff of Volunteer Engagement.



Introducing Shanna Kim

by Renny Day

There's a new face at the Reference Desk in Children's Literature. Shanna Kim, with shiny, dark hair and sparkling eyes, is ready to help children and their families enjoy all the wonderful programs and services that are offered by the department.

We caught up with Shanna as she was preparing for a "Rainbow Family" story-time at the library. She says that interacting with families with young children is her favorite part of the job. Shanna grew up in the San Gabriel area, speaks Chinese, and graduated from UCLA Library School in 2015. In November, 2016, she got married, moved, and came to work for Los Angeles Public Library (Whew!) Her favorite genre is fantasy fiction. Shanna avers that graphic novels are not just cartoons, but an enticing doorway to improving a child's reading skills.

A graduate of University of California at Irvine, she interned at Santa Monica Public Library and several private schools. Shanna would like to see more collaborative activities with other departments at Central. She views librarians as activists for reading, not just custodians of a collection.

And on her days off? Shanna loves taking walks with her Maltese-Poodle, Cooper. She and her husband enjoy trying new eateries, and exploring all the cultural areas downtown.

Welcome, Shanna.

— SAVE THE DATE — SAVE THE DATE — DECEMBER 9TH, 2017 — —

This year's FOCAL Award Luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2017.

The winner is:

***Chasing Secrets* by Gennifer Choldenko**

"Newbery Honor-winning author deftly combines humor, tragedy, fascinating historical detail, and a medical mystery in this exuberant new novel" set in 1900 San Francisco.

The author will be with us to talk about her latest FOCAL Award-winning book. Her book ***Al Capone Does My Shirts*** received the 2006 FOCAL Award. More details in our Summer issue !!

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

Please send renewals to: Renny Day / 15221 Via de las Olas / Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

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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)

**Selena Terrazas, Department Manager
Brooke Sheets, Senior Librarian, Children's Literature
Helene Mochedlover, FOCAL Points Editor**

FOCAL

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