



# FOCAL Points ~ ~



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FRIENDS OF CHILDREN AND LITERATURE -- CENTRAL LIBRARY

## GRAPHIC NOVEL WORKSHOPS

by Carol Raby

At the beginning of the summer, FOCAL sponsored a day of graphic novel workshops in the beautiful Mark Taper Auditorium with Mark Siegel, Editorial Director of First Second and author. What an informative day it was! The workshops Mark presented were:

A Short history of Comics in America,

A New Visual Literacy, and

The Graphic Novel Section As A Hub In Your Community

Each workshop was fascinating and full of pertinent information.

Mark described the contrasting history of the development of comics in the United States, Europe, and Japan. It was quite surprising to learn that the development of comics in the US was thwarted by a censoring organization called the Comics Code Authority, which existed from the 1950's to the early 1990's. During this time in Europe and Japan the graphic format was used to tell all kinds of stories. Finally during the 1990's the American graphic artists had the freedom to tell a wide variety of stories. For example, Mark introduced us to a sophisticated, well researched history of Washington, D.C., a history of the first dog the Russians sent to orbit the Earth, and his own book called To Dance, a beautiful story about ballet and a special ballerina, his wife.

The visual literacy workshop instructed us on techniques to enjoy and appreciate the graphic format by showing us the design process of bringing a book to completion. The process is very labor intensive! We also became familiar with many of the different artistic styles such as brushed line work, tight realism, and painterly drawing. This is called visual handwriting. Most helpful were the tips on how to enjoy the graphic style if one does not usually choose to read in the graphic format. The most important tip was to read slowly and notice both the words and the pictures. Although these tips sound elementary, they are quite useful.

Certainly the collection development information was put to use by many of us as soon as the workshop concluded. Personally, prior to the workshops I was not a frequent graphic novel reader. However, since the workshops I have enjoyed reading a variety of works in the graphic format, from Greek myths to biographies. And, I have been able to purchase several new books in the graphic format to share with my students.

In November, Mark Siegel has been invited to present the three workshops we saw at the Library of Congress. They will be taped and become part of the collection of the Library of Congress. Mark is an authority on the subject of graphic novels and the history of comics. First Second produces graphic books of high quality, such as Gene Yang's American Born Chinese, which has won the Printz Award and was the first comic ever nominated for the National Book Award. While comics used to be marginalized primarily into stories about superheroes, today's graphic books offer a wide selection of quality literature which really can be a hub in our libraries.



## EDITORS' NOTES

Thanks to the second phase of Measure L, all libraries will be open four nights a week till 8pm, and branches will be open again on Friday mornings. The LAPL website has a complete listing of hours.

Check the FOCAL website for information on this year's Essay Contest. The deadline is not until December 7th, so kids have time to enter.

Mara Alpert again was a star on KPCC when she reviewed the latest title in the "Captain Underpants" series on the Brand & Martinez program. You can read her blog at <http://www.scpr.org/programs/brand-martinez/2012/08/28/28118/librarian-reviews-captain-underpants-tippy-tinklet/>.

Save the date of December 8th for a special Holiday Program presented by our sister Friends Group, Bruckman Rare Book Friends, when Glen Creason, Map Librarian in History, will be signing his "Los Angeles in Maps". Glen was recently featured in the **Los Angeles Times**.

**SUMMER READING CLUB 2012**  
by Joanna Fabicon, Children's Literature

It is fitting that a summer encouraging big dreams started off with an empty, large cardboard box that the Department inherited from Teenscape. As it sat in my cubicle for a few weeks we all dreamed about what the box could be. For fans of Dr. Who, a TARDIS? An elaborately carved rocket ship? A locomotive with some train cars for children to ride? Our April Information meeting wound up inspiring us, and that was when the idea for our multi-scene photo booth was born. After tracing figures, painting with donated tempera, and cutting out shapes big enough for a kid's head, we ended up with the opportunity for children to pretend they were in a rocket ship blasting off into space, exploring the galaxy as an astronaut, or roaring like a dinosaur.

The photo booth wasn't the only chance to dream in the Library. Before even crossing the Department's threshold, patrons got to see what the summer held for them through two display cases in the rotunda. One featured the reading club materials (both the preschool and school age activity folders), nocturnal animals, books, and beloved children's book characters outfitted in space gear or pajamas. The other display case held all the crafts scheduled for the summer's Dreamcraft Thursday programs. A paper plate alien spaceship, sheep, shadow puppets, dream catcher, a star ornament, and paper bag owl puppets mingled around books about bedtime, a copy of "The Dream Keeper" poem by Langston Hughes, and glittering stars.

Over two hundred children and parents attended our summer Thursday programs, which included an author presentation by FOCAL award-winning author Jason Chin. Almost three times as many people went to our Saturday Family Storytimes, but the newest number of note is 215, the number of babies, parents and caregivers who attended our "Babies Dream Big" storytimes. This program was our way of attracting what we thought was an underserved population in our Department, children ages 0-2. With attendance during the summer so high we decided to incorporate this baby program to our weekly schedule.

The perfect bookend to the summer for me happened during the last Dreamcraft Thursday. The week before, participants made shadow puppets for the Korean folktale "The Strongest of All" using straws and black construction paper. At the final program, they decorated shoeboxes (donated from the Department and Central Library staff) and made them look like little theaters. Each child got to have their own venue for the puppets, but before they took them home, they all took turns shining a desk light behind their theaters to tell stories of their own. Suddenly, there were all these impromptu performances where princesses, goblins, and bears sailed on a ship and had adventures.

Watching the children tell their stories was a perfect testament to what the Library does, not only in the summer, but all year. We provide opportunities for creativity and inspiration by giving children access to books, ideas, and the simplest materials. Whether refrigerator-sized or fit for shoes, the summer began and ended with empty boxes. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated staff, stellar teen volunteers, and talented performers, those boxes were filled with big dreams and great memories.

Editors' Note: A grand total of 983 kids signed up for "Dream Big -Read" in Children's Literature this summer !!!! Wow !!!!

SUMMER READING CLUB AND OTHER ACTIVITIES Photos by Joanna Fabicon and Children's Literature staff



**THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL FOCAL AWARD LUNCHEON**  
and  
**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

HONORING  
The 2012 FOCAL Award Winner  
**ONE DAY AND ONE AMAZING MORNING**  
**ON ORANGE STREET**  
by  
**Joanne Rocklin**

Saturday, January 12, 2013

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 Monday, January 7, to: Helen Muller • 17210 Goya St. • Granada Hills CA 91344.  
TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR

For more information, contact Helen at (818) 363-6578 | muller.helen@rocketmail.com

Fun for Kids  
Children's Literature Department  
Central Library

November - December, 2012

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

November

Baby Story & Playtime: Mondays, November 5, 19, and 26

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 Storytimes: Tuesdays, November 6, 13, 20 and 27

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.)

3 Sat Family Storytime: "Old MacDonald Had a Storytime"

With a moo moo here, and a baa baa there, we'll share stories, songs, poems, and an E-I-E-I-Oh-So-Good puppet show!

(KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

10 Sat Family Storytime: "Harvest Happenings"

A delicious celebration of our favorite fruits and vegetables, with organic stories, songs, poems, and puppet show. (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

17 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)

17 Sat Family Program: "American Heritage"

Musician Craig Newton takes us on a whirlwind tour of American History through the popular music of different time periods played on a wide variety of instruments. (Mark Taper Auditorium, 2 p.m.)

24 Sat Family Storytime: "Sing and Dance"

Get ready to move and groove with our musical stories, songs, and puppet show. (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

December

Baby Story & Playtime: Mondays, December 3, 10, 17, and 31

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 Storytimes: Tuesdays, December 4, 11, and 18

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 Sat Family Storytime: "Moose on the Loose"

Oh no! Watch out! Moose will be stomping and tromping through stories, songs, and a very silly puppet show. (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

8 Sat Family Storytime: "Mmm... Yummy!"

Join us for tasty stories, songs, poems, and a delicious 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 Program: "Christmas/Hanukkah Family Fun"

Stories, songs, and holiday fun with musician/storyteller Ken Frawley. (Mark Taper Auditorium, 2 p.m.)

Winter Break Weekday Programs. Part 1

19 Wed Family Program: "Max & Ruben's Cartoon Drawshop"

Even if you can't draw a straight line, you can learn how to draw cartoons using simple shapes, letters, and numbers. Fun for the whole family! (Children's Literature Department, 11 a.m.)

20 Thu Author Program: Erica Silverman

The Children's Literature Department is proud to welcome Erica Silverman, award-winning author of non-fiction, picture books, and the very popular Cowgirl Kate & Cocoa series for beginning readers! (Children's Literature Department, 11 a.m.)

21 Fri Family Activity: "Fun & Games"

We provide the games and toys for children ages 0-11, you come and have lots of fun! (Children's Literature Department, 11 a.m. – 12 noon)

22 Sat Family Storytime: "Happy Holiday Sing-a-long!"

We'll have a musical storytime with stories, plenty of songs, and a puppet show. (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

Winter Break Weekday Programs, Part 2

26 Wed Preschool Storytime [SPECIAL DAY & TIME]

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, 1 p.m.)

27 Thu Family Program: "I Dream a World"

Storyteller Karen Rae Kraut introduces fantastical dreamers who made their wildest dreams come true as she shares stories, songs, and activities. (Children's Literature Department, 1 p.m.)

28 Fri Family Activity: "Fun & Games"

We provide the games and toys for children ages 0-11, you come and have lots of fun! (Children's Literature Department, 1 – 2 p.m.)

29 Sat Family Storytime: "Happy New Year to You!"

We ring in 2013 with stories, songs, noisemakers, and a puppet show. (KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)

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**NEW HOURS !!!**

*Monday-Thursday 10am-8pm*

*Friday & Saturday 10am -5:30 pm*

\*\*\*\*\* 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)

Eva Mitnick, Youth Services

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