



# FOCAL Points~~



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Summer 2011

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN AND LITERATURE -- CENTRAL LIBRARY

For more news, go to [www.focalonline.org](http://www.focalonline.org)

## **REACH FOR THE STARS**

Science Day, 2011 was the best one ever. Just ask any of the more than 300 children and parents who thronged the Mark Taper auditorium to watch Mad Science of L.A. in demonstrations of flight and aerodynamics. When not at the show, the busy young scientists created vibrant pinwheels, caught bubbles and flying (paper) butterflies, and created fingerprint cards to discover that fingerprints are, indeed, different.

The California Science Center brought plastic cups, soil, moss, pebbles, and O-o-h! EARTHWORMS! Happy future scientists donned (cardboard) lab jackets, and learned all about the habits of worms as they assembled their terrariums. GAB volunteer Debra Rowe shared theme-related stories as the children drew pictures.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard to make this day a success:

Mahrokh Siah Cheshman, Vera Karluth Corciela, Bridget Donegan, Stephanie Moore, and Andy Quepons, who came early and stayed late.

Thanks also to Lisa Arndt, Fallon Johnigarn, Lillian Martinez, Jennifer Mayer, Nadia Moreira, Jennifer Mayer, Edward Rodezno, Mary Sarkisyan, Ashley Trujillo, and Mashad Yaghoubzadeh, students at Los Angeles Valley College, recruited by Lauren Okayama and Debby Pourroy. Debby also designed the many activities that engaged the youngest toddlers in the Children's Court.

Kudos to the FOCAL Board, and Helen and Alex Muller, who coordinated the event.

## **EDITORS' NOTES**

The winner of the 2011 FOCAL Award has been announced by the hard-working Awards Committee. The book is **ME, FRIDA** by Amy Novesky, illustrated by David Diaz (Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2010). LAPL Call Number is x 92 K12No. Details of the Essay Contest and the Awards Lunch will be in the next issue.

**Susan Patron's** new book in the "Lucky" trilogy will be available August 9th. **LUCKY FOR GOOD** is the last in the series, the first of which, **THE HIGHER POWER OF LUCKY**, won the Newbery Medal in 2007. Susan is finishing up a new book, part of the *Dear America* series published by Scholastic and called **BEHIND THE MASKS**. It is set in 1880 at the peak of the Bodie Gold Rush in a town much like Hard Pan, and will be available early next year.



Librarian/Scientists at work



## EDUCATION 101

by Renny Day

“Of all the people who work in a school, teachers and librarians are the heart of the place.”

The above is a quote from an impassioned letter that Jane Yolen wrote to John Deasey, Superintendent of Los Angeles Schools. Jane, who lives in Massachusetts, is the author of over 300 books, many of them top award winners, and a strong advocate of reading and literacy.

Hector Tobar, columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*, has described the ordeal many school librarians have faced, as they are interrogated about the worth of their work and their positions. He writes, “Librarians are the original information aggregators. It’s a job they’ve been doing since ancient times, from scrolls and parchment to virtual books and digital databases and...part of a school librarian’s job is to teach ‘digital literacy’.”

It’s time for supporters of children’s books and reading to let John Deasey and Board Members of the Los Angeles Unified School District know how important school librarians and aides are to the education of the children in our city.

\*Write to them....

\*Leave a telephone message....

\*Send an e-mail to the Board member in your district, with a reminder that you voted for him, or her... but you won’t the next time, if school libraries are closed.

For more talking points, refer to Sandy Schuckett’s article in the Spring issue of *FOCAL Points*, also available on [www.focalonline.org](http://www.focalonline.org).

Remember Jane’s words, “Librarians are the ones who turn on lights in children’s minds, and guard the flame in their hearts. With or without taking attendance.

***Join the Chorus...let your voice be heard***

Note to the many *FOCAL Points* readers who do not live in the city of Los Angeles.  
Tear out this page and send it to people who do.

## ***RESTORE FUNDING TO STAFF SCHOOL LIBRARIES !!***

**SCHOOLS NEED:** Teacher Librarians in Middle and High School Libraries  
Library Aides in Elementary School Libraries.

**PROFESSIONAL STAFF:** \*\* Connect students with books  
\*\* Provide literacy and information instruction  
\*\* Support the curriculum  
\*\* Develop and maintain book collections  
\*\* Teach computer and research skills

“SELF-SERVICE” LIBRARIES or PADLOCKED DOORS de-  
prive students of education in library and research skills. They  
mothball books, computers and other technology worth millions  
of dollars.

***STRONG SCHOOL LIBRARIES HELP BUILD  
CREATIVE THINKERS, ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS,  
AND LIFELONG LEARNERS.***



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**Fun for Kids • Children's Literature Department • Central Library  
July – August, 2011**

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

## **July**

### **Preschool Storytimes**

Tuesdays, July 5, 12, 19, and 26.

Stories and more for ages 3 - 5. Reservations required for groups of five or more. Call (213) 228-7250.

*(Children's Literature Department, 11 a.m.)*

### **Passport to Adventure: Stories and Crafts**

Thursdays, July 7, 14, 21 and 28.

One world, many stories, crafts, and more! For ages 5-12. Reservations required for groups of five or more. Call 213-228-7250.

*(Children's Literature Department, 4 p.m.)*

### **2 Sat Family Storytime**

“One World, Many Stories: The Americas” We travel to North and South America in stories and more, including a puppet show.

*(KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)*

### **9 Sat Family Storytime**

“One World, Many Stories: Europe” We see the sights in Europe with stories and more, including a 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**

“One World, Many Stories: Africa” We explore Africa through stories and more, including a puppet show. *(KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)*

### **23 Sat Family Program**

“Tony Daniels - One World Many Stories Magic Show” Our favorite magician Tony Daniels brings his funny and fabulous magic to Central Library, with a Summer Reading Club twist. *(Mark Taper Auditorium, 2 p.m.)*

### **30 Sat Family Storytime**

“One World, Many Stories: Asia” We visit Asia in stories and more, including a puppet show. *(KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)*

## **August**

### **Preschool Storytimes**

Tuesdays, August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.

Stories and more for ages 3 - 5. Reservations required for groups of five or more. Call (213) 228-7250.

*(Children's Literature Department, 11 a.m.)*

### **Passport to Adventure: Stories and Crafts**

Thursdays, August 4 and 11

One world, many stories, crafts, and more! For ages 5-12. Reservations required for groups of five or more. Call 213-228-7250.

*(Children's Literature Department, 4 p.m.)*

### **6 Sat Family Storytime**

“One World, Many Stories: Australia & Oceania” We're off to Australia and Oceania with stories and more, including a puppet show.

*(KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)*

### **13 Sat Family Storytime**

“One World, Many Stories – 2011 Summer Reading Club Finale!” We share our favorite stories and more from around the world, including (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**

“Hot and Cold Stories” Hot enough for you? Come to the Children's Literature Department for our super cool stories, songs, and puppet show. *(KLOS Theater, 2 p.m.)*

### **27 Sat Family Program**

“The American Cowboy with Ken Frawley” Saddle up, buckaroos! Cowboy Ken brings the American Cowboy to life with stories, songs, puppets, and trick roping. *(Mark Taper Auditorium, 2 p.m.)*

**\*\*\*\*\* MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION \*\*\*\*\***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is for calendar year, January through December.

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Basic \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Associate \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Contributing \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ 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

Send renewals to: Renny Day

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