



FOCAL Points ~ ~



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FRIENDS OF CHILDREN AND LITERATURE -- CENTRAL LIBRARY

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

2016 FOCAL Award Winner: *Angel Island, Gateway to Gold Mountain* by Russell Freedman

By Sada Mozer, Chair, FOCAL Award Committee

Angel Island: Gateway to Gold Mountain is the recipient of the 2016 FOCAL Award. This enriching nonfiction selection unveils the buried history of Angel Island. Once known as the “Ellis Island of the West”, it is introduced as an abandoned immigration station located off the coast of California near Alcatraz prison. Constructed in 1910, it was the entry point for many immigrating to the United States, mostly from China and Asia. Due to laws prohibiting Chinese laborers from entering the U.S., these immigrants were met with extreme bigotry. Many were detained in overcrowded detention rooms facing uncertain futures. These occupants used the walls of their cells to carve out poems of desperation. Through their heartfelt poetry, these detainees offer realistic insights into their survival.

Author Russell Freedman familiarizes us with the history of Chinese immigrants in California dating back to the Gold Rush. Tales of hardships experienced by those early settlers are interspersed with personal reflections of those that endured confinement at Angel Island. This timely selection not only highlights a tumultuous time when immigration policies were used in discriminatory ways, it is a small reflection of our own present-day system.

The FOCAL committee bestows the FOCAL Award to a book that meets the highest standards of excellence in literature for children. Guidelines include literary and/or artistic merit, readability, universality and California content. Chosen from a long list of accomplished books, with stories ranging from unusual chickens to the Golden Gate Bridge, ***Angel Island: Gateway to Gold Mountain*** easily exceeds the requirements. This book offers an eye-opening journey through time. It is superbly written and filled with images of those who came to California seeking a better life and endured its hardships.

It is the FOCAL committee’s pleasure to add this title to the long list of distinguished FOCAL recipients.

We look forward to our upcoming FOCAL Award luncheon and hearing from those that made this wonderful book a reality.

CALIFORNIA HISTORY DAY by Renny Day

Who would think history could be so much fun! Dozens of excited children had an exhilarating day as they colored California symbols on cool tote bags, strung shell bead necklaces, and created objects associated with the history of our state.

Three inspiring teachers, Lara Clardy, Beth Miller and Stephanie Moore, developed the program. They wanted to acquaint children and their families with the cultures that have been such a part of California's history and growth. After signing in and picking up their sturdy tote bag, children could visit any one of the tables set up in the middle of the rotunda. Each featured a different aspect of California history. They could pick up tips on creating a journal or diary of their lives, or make a Japanese fan or a Chinese kite. Some proudly carried home a crafted Mexican maraca.

There was an exhibit of California-themed dolls, costumes, and historical crafts to be admired and studied, curated by Stephanie.

There were also two inspiring programs in the KLOS story theatre. One featured a speaker from the Heritage Square Museum, who talked about what it was like to be child in early California. Her white dress of lace and ribbons captivated the little girls in the audience. The Native American storyteller in the second program mesmerized delighted kids with his commanding presence and narrative skills.



There was also brisk business at the Photo Booth, where staffer Tina Princenthal and a photographer captured young visitors with a giant California bear. Your reporter, filling in at the Reference Desk in the Children's Literature Department, heard many complimentary remarks and comments.

FOCAL wants to thank the volunteers who helped make the day such a success. Teachers from Stephanie's school: Cyrilly Bakewell, Sabrina Markos, Sandra Rogers, Mechele Yerima, and Karla Morishita. Teen'scape volunteer Jackie Reyes, who was invaluable at the Greeting and Goodies Table. Lara Clardy's volunteers: Mearl Jaegers, Gary Jaegers, Christina Young, and Charlene Byers. Beth's husband and some Homeboy recruits were also among the sturdy volunteers. We couldn't have managed without you.

You can meet Lara, Beth and Stephanie on any book sale day (the third Saturday of each month, from 9:30 until noon), since they are also stalwarts at the event, which promotes reading and provides fine new and used books at bargain basement prices.

Photos courtesy of Diane Olivo-Posner



LIBRARIAN FIELD TRIP!

By Mara Alpert

It was an adventure right from the start, as Miss Linda and I neared the Foothill exit off the 210 Freeway on our way to the Discovery Cube, right next door to the lovely Lake View Terrace branch library. We could see (and smell) a wild fire, burning not all that far away, surrounded by water-dropping and news-relaying helicopters. Definitely outside the norm on our rare excursion away from the Children's Literature Department for a Librarian Field Trip!

The Discovery Science Foundation has a mission to inspire, educate, and impact through initiatives such as STEM Proficiency, Early Learning, Healthy Living, and Environmental Stewardship. They do this through their various children's science museums, including the Discovery Cube LA, and they invited LAPL librarians to participate in an educator event on October 19, 2016 that included the opportunity to explore the facility, presentations on various activities to share with children, plenty of cool stuff and ideas to take back to our branches, plus dinner!

It seemed an impossibility, but all four of the Children's Literature Department librarians got to attend this entertaining and educational event. And it really was very educational. Within the first fifteen minutes, we had ideas for two experiments to share with children at our next Science Day event, another activity that would be great to share at our new Try It Tuesday program for tweens, plus contacts for possible guest presenters!

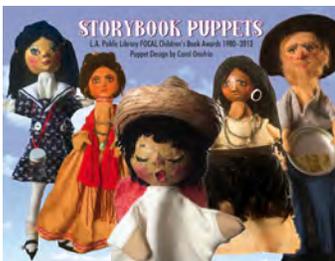
There were so many things to look at and think about! Miss Linda thoroughly enjoyed the LA Kings Science of Hockey area, where she got to check out a genuine Zamboni and try her hand at both goal-tending and shooting through interactive games (she will be keeping her day job). Miss Sara followed the 300-mile journey of the LA Aqueduct in the Helicopter Simulator (and noted that it was perhaps a little too realistic), while Miss Mara learned how different pulleys made it possible to pull more or less weight high in the air (she could manage 1/4 and 1/3 of her own weight) and managed to keep from being blown away in a Santa Ana Wind simulator (79 mph!). And Miss Brooke built a awesome Lego mover that, thanks to the power of a green screen, took a tour of the pyramids.

It was a pleasure to hang out with fellow librarians and educators, learning about ways to share science with children in an engaging and meaningful way. If you get the chance to visit the Discovery Cube LA, you should absolutely do it. And check out the Lake View Terrace branch library as well!

Discovery Cube LA / 11800 Foothill Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 91342 / www.discoverycube.org

Lake View Terrace Library / 12002 Osborne St., Sylmar, CA 91342 / www.lapl.org/branches/lake-view-terrace

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA



STORYBOOK PUPPETS IS STILL AVAILABLE FROM RENNY DAY AT THE BARGAIN PRICE OF \$ 20 PLUS \$3 FOR SHIPPING AND HANDLING.

15221 Via de las Olas, Pacific Palisades, CA, 90272

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL FOCAL AWARD LUNCHEON
and
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

HONORING
The 2016 FOCAL Award Winner
***Angel Island, Gateway to Gold Mountain by
Russell Freedman***

Saturday, January 28, 2017
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	
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED				\$

Please send this completed form and checks, made payable to FOCAL and postmarked no later than Monday, January 23rd, to: Renny Day, 15221 Via de las Olas, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR

For questions, please contact Renny Day (310) 454-3667 or rennyday@msn.com

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

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

Name _____

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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)

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