



FOCAL Points ~ ~



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Fall 2011

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN AND LITERATURE -- CENTRAL LIBRARY

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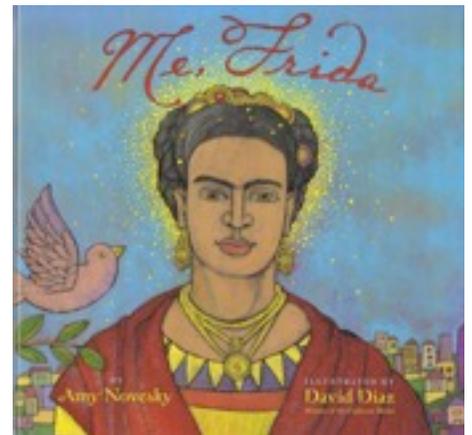
FOCAL AWARD WINNER *ME, FRIDA*

By Carol Raby, 2011 FOCAL Award Committee Chair

It is exciting to announce this year's FOCAL Award winner! *Me, Frida*, written by Amy Novesky and illustrated by David Diaz, captured our hearts. The book reads with a wonderful rhythm about a very special time in Frida Kahlo's life when she and Diego Rivera visited San Francisco, during the early 1930's. While Diego is preoccupied with painting a mural, Frida timidly explores the city of San Francisco. She not only uncovers the charm of the city, but also discovers herself and her unmistakable painting style during this time.

The book is stunningly illustrated by the very talented David Diaz. His illustrations beautifully interpret the story and add details about Frida. In fact, it was the union of words and pictures that caught the committee's attention at first. The city of San Francisco plays an important role in the story and really comes to life for the reader the way it is described and painted.

"To receive an award like this is incredibly validating and rewarding." These are the gracious words of author Amy Novesky who will attend the FOCAL Awards Presentation on January 28th, 2012. Amy has taken a small detail from the life of Frida Kahlo and created a beautiful narrative in which the city of San Francisco is prominent. She has many interesting things to share with us about what drew her to write about Frida Kahlo in San Francisco.



Although it was difficult to choose just one book out of the finalists our committee selected, it was easy to agree that *Me, Frida* meets the FOCAL Award criteria:

"a creative work which enriches a child's appreciation for and knowledge of California, either fiction or nonfiction, to be judged on literary and/or artistic merit, interest and readability."

It is an honor and a pleasure to be the chairperson of the 2011 FOCAL Award Committee. I thoroughly enjoyed reading great books and having lively discussions with my esteemed colleagues on the committee. We all hope to see you at the luncheon in January.

HIGHLIGHTS: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE, SUMMER 2011

SUMMER READING CLUB: A total of 768 signed up, of which over 200 were ages 0-4. This was the first time that this age group received its own category.

PROGRAMS:

Program attendance was very good as well. Between June and August, staff did 12 preschool storytimes, with 769 attending, an average of about 60 people per storytime.

During the same period, the librarians did 22 Family Programs, which includes 9 Thursday story and craft hours. Total attendance was 1420.

VISITORS: There were many more visiting groups and day camps than usual. For June-August, there were 80 groups and classes with a total of 1795.

MONDAY HOURS RESTORED

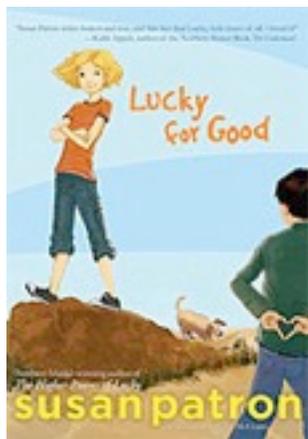
On Monday, July 18th, there was a Press Conference at Central Library to publicize the restoration of Monday service hours throughout the system. This was the first step in the restoration of services that the voters provided through the passage of Measure L.

After the press conference ended, and the doors opened to the public, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa read to a group of children from the Noble Elementary School in the Valley. There was one class of twenty-five 3rd and 4th graders assembled in the KLOS Story Theatre.

Staff had selected *The Tale of Rabbit and Coyote*, by Tony Johnston, illustrated by Tomie dePaola, LAPL Call Number x 398 J73-1. [G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1994]

The children were entranced by the reading of this charming story. The Mayor was undoubtedly gratified by their attentive response to his reading.

LUCKY FOR GOOD: READING EVENTS SCHEDULE



LAUNCH PARTY On Sunday, September 18, 2011 at 5pm, Susan Patron will be reading from and signing her latest book in the "Lucky" trilogy at Skylight Books, 1818 North Vermont Ave., LA 90027.

Susan will be at Mrs. Nelson's Toy and Book Shop at 4pm. on Friday, September 16th. The store is at 1030 Bonita Ave., LaVerne, 91750.

Next year, Susan will be speaking at the Whittier College Bookfaire on Saturday. March 31, 2012.

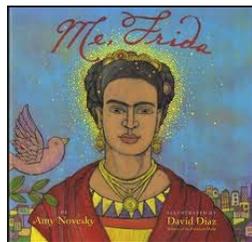
Susan's website will give you all the details of these and future events. It is www.susanpatron.com

FOCAL Writing Contest



Enter the FOCAL Writing Contest!

Sponsored by FOCAL (Friends of Children and Literature) Los Angeles Public Library, this contest gives you a chance to have lunch with a real live author/illustrator and receive a signed copy of the award-winning book.



The 2011 FOCAL Award winner is:

Me, Frida

Written by Amy Novesky
Illustrated by David Diaz
LAPL Call #x92 K12No

How to Enter

1. Read the book. (Copies are available at your school or public library.)
2. Think about what you read.
3. Write no more than 300 words to tell the judges—
 - a. your reactions to the book.
 - b. about a character or scene that stuck with you.
 - c. what it would mean for you to meet the author/illustrator.

Hints—

- Start with a sentence that makes us want to read more.
- Describe any personal connections you have with the story and help us to learn more about you as well as the book.
- Make sure your words are typed and spelled correctly.
- Turn in your entry to FOCAL on time. Send by December 3, 2011, to:

Caroline Gill, 4335 Marina City Drive #534, Marina del Rey, CA 90292

Contest Rules and Entry Form on back



www.focalonline.org

FOCAL (Friends of Children and Literature)

Support Group of the Los Angeles Public Library Children's Literature Department



FOCAL



Writing Contest

CONTEST RULES

- The contest is open to kids grades 3-8.
- Three winners will be selected, one each from grades 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8.
- Entries are due December 3, 2011, and must be postmarked by then. *Late entries will not be accepted.*
- No more than 300 words (fewer than 300 is fine).
- Submit typed entries on clean, white 8.5"x11" paper only.
- Put the child's name on the back of the essay and on the entry form.
- Check spelling, punctuation and grammar CAREFULLY. Mistakes will disqualify the entry.
- No more than 3 entries per classroom.
- Winners will be notified by January 6, 2012, and will be asked to read their essays at the FOCAL Award luncheon on Saturday, January 28, 2012.

ENTRY FORM

Student's First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Student's Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher's Name: _____

School Name: _____

Email: _____

WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED. Entry forms also available at http://www.wapl.org/kidspath/focal_entry



www.focalonline.org

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DUES RESTRUCTURING 2012

As we all know, the cost of living keeps going up every year, and so do FOCAL'S expenditures.

At our last meeting, the FOCAL Board looked at our budget and our bank accounts, and decided that we need to raise the dues.

Studying the dues of other library Friends' Groups, we realized that ours are very, very low compared with other local groups. The new dues are posted on the back page: \$10 becomes \$20, \$25 becomes \$30, and \$50 becomes \$60. This will begin in January 2012.

As always, thanks for your membership !!!!



FUN FOR KIDS SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 2011

September

Preschool Storytimes: Tuesdays September 6, 13, 20, and 27. Children's Literature, 11am. Stories and more for ages 3-5.

Saturdays Sept. 3, 10, and 17. Family Storytime. KLOS Theater, 2pm.

Saturday Sept. 17. Used Book Sale. Rotunda, 10am to 12 noon. Bargains galore !!!

Saturday September 24. Family Program. ***"Aztec Stories and Songs with Michael Heralda"***. Storyteller Michael Heralda presents the world of the Mexika/Aztecs through ballads, oral tales, and ancient poetry. Mark Taper Auditorium, 2pm.

October

Preschool Storytimes: Tuesdays October 4, 11, 18, and 25. Children's Literature, 11am. Stories and more for ages 3-5.

Saturdays October 1, 8, 15. Family Storytime, KLOS Theater, 2pm

Saturday October 15. Used Book Sale. Rotunda, 10am to 12 noon.

Saturday October 22. Family Program. ***"Living Treasures from Around the World with the Reptile Family"***. Lizards and turtles and snakes, oh my! Frogs and bugs too! Mark Taper Auditorium, 2pm.

Saturday October 29. Family Storytime. ***"Happy Halloween!"*** Wear your costume to the library for slightly scary stories, songs, a costume parade, and of course, a puppet show. KLOS Theater 2pm.

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

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

Send renewals to: **Renny Day**
15221 Via de las Olas
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

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