

# Darby Doll Dispatch

Volume 1 Issue 6

February 2014



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***Darby Library American Girl Book and Doll Club***

## ***February Meeting***

***By Miss Kay***

The February meeting of the Darby American Girl Book and Doll Club was held Friday, February 7, after school at the Darby Community Library.

The theme of our meeting was Mardi Gras, which is French for Fat Tuesday. Mardi Gras is basically a big party where participants prepare for fasting during the Lent season, the 40 days starting Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter Sunday. And how do they prepare? By eating all the foods that they give up during the Lent season, foods like cake and ice cream, hot dogs and hamburgers and French fries, chips and dips and everything else that is really good and probably bad for you!

Mardi Gras celebrations have evolved into days and sometimes weeks long parties with fancy masquerade balls and parades with floats. Clubs build floats to enter the parades and each club crowns a King and Queen. The King and Queen ride on the float with their "court" and throw beads, coins and candies to the spectators.



Albert is King of the Mardi Gras Zoo float.

We dressed our dolls for a masquerade ball and everyone looked totally amazing! Voting for best dressed was a real challenge, but in the end Bella got the most votes. Congratulations Bella!



Bella and Rebecca won the Best Dressed award.

Of course Summer and Darby dressed up too. Summer wore a royal blue dress with silver stripes with a hoop underskirt. She had a feather mask mounted on a wand. Darby wore a gold dress with gold beads and slippers and a sparkly gold mask.

Both Marie Grace and Cecile were our American Girl Dolls of the Month. Marie Grace and Cecile are best friends growing up in New Orleans in the mid-1860s.

The book of the month was *Mardi Gras Masquerade* by Carolyn Keene, a Nancy Drew mystery. Nancy Drew is a young girl in a small Midwest town. She

and her friends are invited to a Mardi Gras themed masquerade ball in a huge mansion, rumored to be haunted by Lisette, a woman from New Orleans who died young in the house. Nancy and her friends search for clues to a stolen, very valuable, antique tiara from Lisette's estate. The plot thickens when ghostly events make them wonder if Lisette's ghost still haunts the mansion.



Darby and Summer, all dolled up for the Mardi Gras masquerade ball.

Our craft project was to make Mardi Gras floats out of shoe boxes. We decorated the boxes with paper, ribbons, beads, pom-poms, sparkly garland and other found items. Some of the girls will pose their dolls or teddy bears on the floats.

Our next meeting is Friday, March 7 at the Library right after school. The theme of the March meeting is the circus!

Summer and Darby are our American Girls of the month and will pretend to be performers in the Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus!

For the Best Dressed contest, dress your doll or teddy bear in a circus performer costume or as a circus animal or bring a circus related toy or book.

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## Member Profile - Keyia

By Miss Kay

Our Girl of the Month is Keyia. Keyia is nine years old and in the third grade at Darby Elementary School. Keyia loves the American Girl Book and Doll Club. She recently had her birthday and received an 18" doll that she named Mary.



Girl of the Month – Keyia, with Mary.

Keyia can play any position on a baseball team and just about hit a home run!

Painting and singing Country/Western songs are other activities Keyia likes to do.

Keyia's favorite foods are eggs and cupcakes (not together!). Fortunately our snack at the February meeting was

red velvet cupcakes with cinnamon hearts on vanilla frosting. Hope we didn't spoil your dinner Keyia!

## Summer's Scoop

By Summer Elise Flores



We sure had fun dressing up for the Mardi Gras themed meeting! If I do say so

myself, we both looked beautiful.



Summer's mask is made of cardboard and feathers.

My dress is actually from the 1940s. It was made for a young lady doll so Miss Kay had to do some alterations. I'm a little chunky! I just love the hem of the dress. It is scalloped with piping all around the hem. The dress also has a matching petticoat with a hoop sewn



into it so the dress fullness is really shown off. The petticoat has lace and ribbon trim at the ruffled hem.

I wore my hair up with my tiara and beads and Miss Kay made me some earrings out of beads. Since my ears are not pierced, the earrings are actually attached to a tiny string and held up to my ears with a hairpin in my hair.

My mask is the kind you hold in your hand and lift to your face whenever you want to be mysterious! It is made of cardboard with lots of feathers glued on. The stick is actually one of those cotton swabs on a wood stick, and cotton only on one end.

Hi everyone! This is Darby, and my dress was exquisite! It is gold satin with an acorns pattern and sheer sleeves. I



Darby's mask is garland taped on a pair of glasses.

wore my hair up too. My mask is actually a pair of glasses that we taped gold garland on. I should have taken a picture of my gold slippers. They are really cute. Miss Kay got the dress and

slippers from Susan at Montana Sassy Sew in Hamilton.



Summer, Peter and Darby ice skating,



Peter was the first to fall down.



Summer to the rescue!

Summer and I went ice skating with Peter. I'm a fairly good skater and so is Peter, but this was Summer's first time. She did just great, in fact, Peter and I

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both fell and Summer came to my rescue. We had a beautiful day with lots of sunshine.

## Animal Adventures

By Albert, the alligator

I got crowned King of the Mardi Gras Zoo float! What an honor. I got to wear a crown and fancy red cape, just like a real king. My "subjects" rode on the float too. I think Walter thought he was pretty special. He was voted Sentinel, the official guard of the King! Benny rode on the float too but wouldn't sit still. He kept knocking Roscoe off!



We pretended we were in a real Mardi Gras parade and threw beads for the girls at the club meeting. It was a lot of fun!

## Tribute to Shirley Temple

By Miss Kay

Shirley Temple is my very favorite child star. Shirley sang and danced her way into the hearts of millions of Americans during the Great Depression. She began dancing at the age of three in 1931. Shirley starred in about 30 movies before she was twelve years old.



The Ideal toy company produced Shirley Temple dolls in the 1930s, 1950s, and

1970s. Many other companies have also made Shirley Temple dolls or "look-alikes". I have a nice collection of Shirley Temple dolls, clothes, books, sheet music, and of course movies. I always watch *Heidi* and *The Little Princess* during December to get in the Christmas spirit.



As an adult, Shirley Temple served the American people as a delegate to the United Nations, an Ambassador, and the first female Chief of Protocol of the United States.

Shirley Temple died Monday, February 10, 2014. She is much loved. To read about Shirley Temple, I suggest her autobiography, *Child Star*, which is available at the Darby library.



Shirley Temple 1928 - 2014.

**Photo of the Month**

*Submitted by Miss Kay*



Shirley Temple with Ideal Shirley Temple doll.

**Calendar of Events**

Day	Date	Event – Theme	Time	Location
Friday	March 7	AG Club - Circus	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	April 4	AG Club - Lewis and Clark	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library
Friday	May 2	AG Club - Cinco de Mayo	3:00 to 4:00	Darby Library

Don't forget that the Doll Fairy presents an American Girl doll at the May 2 meeting. You get to enter your name at every meeting you attend. You **MUST** be present to win!

To add events to the calendar, call or email Miss Kay at 406-360-7214, [schrader1501@blackfoot.net](mailto:schrader1501@blackfoot.net)