

Darby Doll Dispatch

Volume 1 Issue 7

March 2014



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*Darby Library American Girl
Book and Doll Club*

March Meeting

By Miss Kay

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



Darby, Summer and Peter Renown circus performers.

The theme of our meeting was the circus! We learned that the first circus opened in 1768 in England and was demonstrations of equestrian skills with a few other types of acts to link the horsemanship performances.

Big Tops were introduced in the mid 19th century. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus is an American circus company billed as The Greatest Show on Earth.

Some world famous entertainers include Marvelous Mabel Stark, the greatest female tiger trainer in history, Harry Houdini, the world's greatest magician, and The Flying Wallendas, a tightrope walking family that performed without a net.

We also learned about General Tom Thumb and his wife Lavinia Warren, both of whom were less than 3 feet tall,

Emmett Kelly, a classic tramp clown, and Jumbo the elephant, the greatest circus attraction in American history.

We dressed our dolls as circus performers and all of the outfits were wonderful. Bella got the most votes for best dressed. That's two times in a row, Bella! Congratulations!



Summer concludes her performance with Elly the elephant

Summer, Darby and Peter all dressed up as circus performers. Summer the Sensational demonstrated her skills to train her elephant to sit on a large square platform. Daring Darby, Death Defying Lion Tamer, brought her well trained lion. Darby is a kind trainer and brought her whip and chair just for show. Peter, The American Boy Clown, has really big hands and really big feet, and made us all laugh at his tiny clown playmate.

Summer and Darby were our American girls of the month. Both are American Girls of Today and can be whatever they want to be, including circus performers.

To get in the circus spirit, we walked a tightrope! Not to worry Mom and Dad, we laid the rope on the floor so when we fell off, we were only an inch off the ground. Still, it takes a lot of balance.



Walking the tightrope

We also had a take-home instruction sheet on how to juggle. We'll try to learn with ping pong balls, tennis balls or maybe oranges. Raw eggs are probably not a good choice.

The book of the month was *To Be A Clown* by Beth MacDonald. This is the true story of a 12-year old boy who ran away from an orphanage in 1945 and joined a circus. Some parts were really sad when he had to leave his best friend



Making pom-poms for a clown suit or to decorate our hair or shoes.

at the orphanage. In his journey to find the right circus, he met a wonderful lady and her granddaughter. The best part is the end – a very happy, and true, ending that I won't spoil. Check out this book from the library to find out what happens.

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Our craft project was to make pompoms out of yarn. We can use the pompoms to trim a clown costume for our dolls or they make pretty hair decorations and look great tied to shoe laces.

And a special Happy Birthday to Kiera, and thank you for the refreshments!

Our next meeting is Friday, April 4, at the Library right after school. The theme of the April meeting is the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery with special emphasis on Sacajawea.



Kenzee talks about a book she has read

Kaya is our American Girl of the month and will bring her special friend, Sacajawea.

Kaya is a Nez Perce Indian from 1764. Lewis and Clark entered her homeland when Kaya would have been about 50 years old and probably a grandmother! Sacajawea was a Lemhi Shoshone, born near Salmon, ID and was kidnapped when she was about 12 and taken to North Dakota. She served as interpreter between Lewis and Clark and her native people as well as other tribes, including the Nez Perce.

For the Best Dressed contest, dress your doll or teddy bear as an explorer, trader, trapper, cavalry, American Indian, pioneer, gold miner or any other character that Lewis and Clark or Sacajawea may have encountered on their exploration of the West.

Member Profile - Anise

By Miss Kay

Our Girl of the Month is Anise. Anise is six years old and in the first grade at home school. Anise favorite subject is



Girl of the Month – Anise with Isabel.

math and she loves gymnastics. Anise' favorite foods are bacon and grapes.

After school, Anise loves to play. Her favorite doll is Isabel.

Summer's Scoop

By Summer Elise Flores



Darby, Peter and I really enjoyed learning about the circus and our costumes were so much

fun! But Miss Kay was not at the March meeting because she was in Florida!

Miss Kay took Felicity to Florida since Darby and I simply did not want to miss the circus themed meeting. So I've asked Felicity to tell us about her trip.

Hi everyone, Felicity here. I had the adventure of my life going to Florida with Miss Kay. We left very early Friday morning, February 28, right in the middle of a huge snow storm. Our plane was over three hours late leaving, but not due to the weather. It seems the de-ice crew was late! Anyway, we made it to the Tampa airport only a couple hours later than planned.



Black swan on Lake Morton

Miss Kay's friend, Miss Dree, picked us up and took us to her house. Miss Dree has been to Darby twice, both times to help with the Darby Doll Show.

Sunday, March 2, we drove to Lakeland, FL. And who do you think lives in

Lakeland? Why, Miss Kitty, of course. We have been sister clubs with the Lakeland American Girl Book and Doll Club for over a year and this is the first time Miss Kay and Miss Kitty have met!

We went to the Tropical Doll Study Club meeting. The Tropical Doll Study Club has 25 adult members and three Junior Collectors. I really enjoyed meeting the girls and their dolls.



Tropical Doll Study Club of Lakeland
Yummy buffet lunch

Miss Kitty, Miss Kay, Lanie and I gave a presentation to the club about our sister



Miss Kitty with Lanie and Miss Kay with me

clubs. We shared the story of how we found each other, and told about the letters, stories, items from Florida and Montana that we have shared. I got to model the aprons and chefs hats that

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we made and I brought one of our paper dolls and paper doll clothes too. The club is going to submit an article to a couple of doll magazines! Miss Kay will watch for the article and share it with all of you.

After the club meeting, Miss Kitty took us to Lake Morton to see the swans. Oh are they beautiful. I especially liked the black swans. There were lots of other birds too. Sophia was out with Becca so I didn't get to meet them, but I got to see their homes.



Miss Kay and Miss Dree took me to see two arboretums. The Sunken Gardens was really cool. It was a lake that was drained in 1804 and the owner filled it with tropical plants and birds. This picture

is a rainbow eucalyptus tree. We also saw lots of flowers including orchids.



Wizarding World of Harry Potter

Friday, we went to Universal Orlando to see the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, based on one of my favorite series of books. Unfortunately, I could not go on the ride – I'm too short!



Miss Kitty's table at the doll show.
The pink wrapped box is Isabelle

Saturday was the big day – the Tropical Doll Study Club annual doll show. It was huge! I never saw so many dolls, teddy bears, clothes, furniture and accessories



This whole table was loaded
with American Girl size doll clothes!

in my whole life. There were dolls of every shape and size and material you

can think of. The doll show theme was “Here comes the bride” and there were beautiful bride dolls everywhere. At Miss Kitty’s table, Josephina, Kit, Molly, and another girl, who’s name I can’t remember, all wore fancy wedding type dresses.



Kaya, her horse, dog and travois and other Indian dolls for sale at the show.

The most fun part of the show (besides all the new clothes Miss Kay bought for us girls) was the Lakeland American Girl



Miss Kitty reading the winner of Isabelle

Book and Doll Club prize award presentation. Miss Kay drew the tickets, Miss Kitty read the winner’s names and the girls who won at the show last year, and at the last club meeting presented the prizes. One girl won Isabelle, two girls won bride dresses for their American Girl dolls, and one girl won a

Precious Moments doll. Altogether a wonderful trip. Thank you Summer for inviting me to share!

Animal Adventures

By Albert, the alligator

I didn’t go to the March club meeting. First, the road to Lake Como was too deep in snow to get there, and second, who ever heard of an alligator at a circus? Turns out it was a good thing I was home.



We had a mini-avalanche above the stream that feeds our pond. It took out a couple of trees and blocked the stream, for a while anyway. The next thing we knew, we had torrents of water pouring



Water rushing into our pond.

into the pond. It totally wiped out Benny’s lodge and all the willows left from his stores washed into the lake. We spent two days hurrying to channel the water past our pond into the lake, then rebuilding the lodge. Fortunately, Spring is just around the corner so we didn’t have to gather too many replacement willows for Benny’s family to eat.

My new room is even bigger and I still have my pass-through! I’m exhausted! Time for a nap.

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Photo of the Month

Submitted by Felicity



White swan and Egrets at Lake Morton, Lakeland, FL

Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Event – Theme	Time	Location
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