# The NOTIFLYER

Newsletter # 62 The FRIENDS of the MIMS / SCOTTSMOOR LIBRARY December 1, 2013

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

**Thursday, December 5** at **1:30pm** Mims-Scottsmoor Library Book Club. *Can't Wait to Get to Heaven* by Fannie Flagg will be discussed. The public is invited to join us for the December meeting. The meeting is free.

## WATERCOLOR PAINTING CLASS

**Thursday, December 5** from **6:00** to **7:30pm** Watercolor Painting Class with Rosemary Daly of TAL. Materials will be provided with instruction. Cost: $10. Please call **264-5080** to register.

## PRESSED FLOWER BOOKMARK CLASS

**Monday, December 9** from **1:00** to **3:00pm** Pressed Flower Bookmark Class. Create beautiful bookmarks or notecards using pressed dried flowers. Cost is $2 for each kit and includes all materials. Please call **264-5080** to register.

## BOOK & BAKE SALES TO BE CONTINUED???

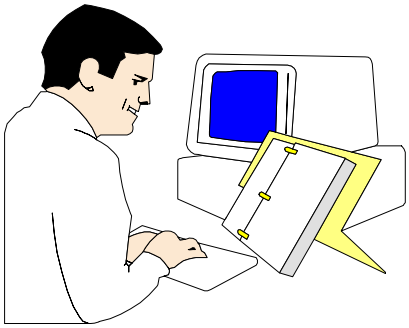
This popular sale will continue <u>only if</u> a dozen or so adults pledge to help set-up and take down books for the March 13-14 sale. Details will be available at the January 9 Friends Meeting.

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Preschool Story Times: **Fridays** at **10:30 am**

## NEW YEAR – NEW SKILLS

**Learn beginning computer**: Contact Beth, our resourceful Reference Librarian, to sign up for a series of four computer sessions. Cost for the four sessions is only $20.00. Call (**264-5080**) to learn class dates. You'll learn: Introduction to a Computer (starting with how to turn it on); Internet Basics; Using E-mail; and Word Processing (writing letters, adding underlining and italics, etc.)



## MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

For Friends members who are annual members of Friends, it's time to renew your membership. If you haven't done so this year, please pay the dues at the **January 9** meeting or at the main desk in the library. Also, dues may be mailed to the Treasurer (a membership form is attached for your convenience). Your membership expiration date is printed on mailing label of this newsletter. Thank you for your support.

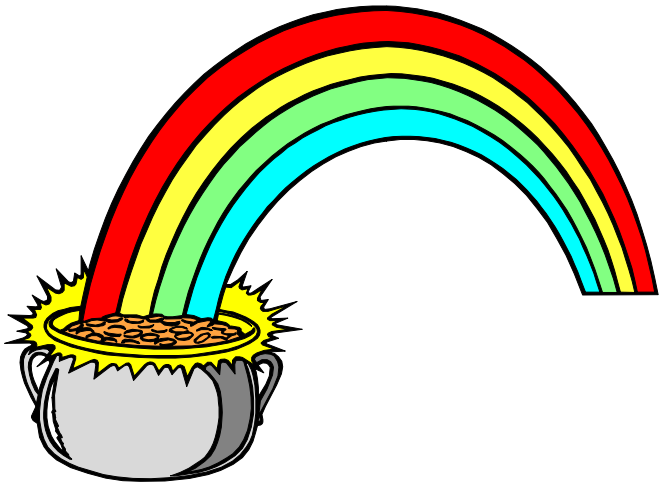
## FRIENDS MEETING

The next meeting of the Friends of the Mims/Scottsmoor Library will be **January 9** at **noon** at the Mims/ Scottsmoor Library. Meeting is open to the public and we urgently encourage you to join and to volunteer to help with our March Book Sale!

The NOTIFLYER

## JAMES PATTERSON

Prodigious is the word for James Patterson, a popular author of the most (57) New York Times #1 Best Sellers! In fact, he has sold more than 280 million books! Although most of his books appeal to adults, his new novel ("Treasure Hunters") is written for young readers. The goal of Mr. Patterson's "Campaign for Literacy" is to encourage young readers to read often and well. As the author stated in a Sept., 2013 TV interview, "If kids in middle school are not competent readers, high school becomes a horror." (How can students who don't read well understand math and chemistry?)



**It's easy to get children to read**, according to Mr. Patterson. "Parents have to step up and make children read at home for 30 minutes or so every day when children are age 7, 8, 9, and 10." Further, parents must go to the library and check out books for their children, or buy books online or at bookstores. Educators agree that it is important for parents to read every day to their children until the children are age 9, or until the children are excellent readers. Mr. Patterson recommends having a banner or poster in the child's room: "We read in this house!!" Encouraging reading at home makes a difference.

Look for these books, recommended by Mr. Patterson, at the library or the bookstore:

**For young readers**: "Wonder" by R. J. Palacio; "The Strange Case of Origami Yoga" by Tom Angleberger; "Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to NOT Reading" by Tommy Greenwald; "Hero" by Mike Lupica; and "The Witches" by Roald Dahl.

**For teen readers**: "Holes" by Louis Sachar; "Cinder" by Marissa Meyer; "Code Name Verity" by Elizabeth Wein; "Drowned Cities" by Paolo Bacigalupi; and "The False Prince" by Jennifer A. Nielson.

**For Middle School readers**: "How I survived Bullies, Broccoli, and Snake Hill" by James Patterson, and "My Brother is a Big, Fat Liar" by James Patterson. (See the entire series at MiddleSchoolBooks.com)

## FOODOPOLY

"Foodopoly" by Wenonah Hauter informs readers about the future of food and farming in America. Written in 2012, this fascinating book analyses how our food is produced, and who controls the process; it is both enlightening and disturbing. Twenty food corporations produce most of the food eaten by Americans, even organic brands! "Four large chains, including Walmart, control more than half of all grocery store sales" according to the author.

Unfortunately, biotechnology has become so powerful that it can literally buy public policy. Scientists have been allowed to move forward without adequate regulation and are now "**manipulating the genomes of all living things**—microorganisms, seeds, fish, and animals."

People who seek organic foods in order to avoid what in their opinion are possibly dangerous effects of genetically-modified foods will find this threat of corporate control over the basic building blocks of life scary, indeed. How unappetizing is it to think of scientists creating life-forms out of **who-knows-what** for us to eat?! It is up every citizen to be informed and to hold elected officials accountable for our food safety. "It is a matter of survival."

# The NOTIFLYER

## AMERICA: PRESERVING THE PAST AND PRESENT FOR THE FUTURE

What has nearly 38 million items available (for free!) online? The Library of Congress! When you want the facts, the Library of Congress is a smart place to start your research. Founded in 1800 for use by members of Congress, The Library of Congress today is open to everyone.

Why not take some time online to browse some of the millions of items available, including approximately 20 million books, 14 million photographs, and 3 million sound recordings. "The Center for the Book" promotes the joy of reading. Note also topics such as: The National Book Festival; Resources for the Classroom; Frequently Asked Questions; The History of the Library; American History; Arts and Culture; Government, Politics, and Law; Maps and Geography; Science, Technology, and Business; and Kids and Family. There's even a user-friendly webcast: How to find Stuff.

Are you looking for the earliest map with "America" printed on it? It's at the Library of Congress. Wish to hear the Master Recording of Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land"? It's available at the Library of Congress. Perhaps you wish to see Neil Armstrong's space suit that allowed humans to walk on the moon….or view several drafts of The Gettysburg Address in President Lincoln's handwriting.…or admire the famous 1796 Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington.…or remember R2-D2 from "Star Wars"? Just visit The Library of Congress online, at www.loc.gov.

Enjoy Digital Preservation items, too---prints and photographs; Veteran's History; Manuscripts---rare documents, prints, posters (Wonder Woman for President); U.S. Copyright Office; and more. You'll discover why The Library of Congress is "more than a library." As President Thomas Jefferson observed, "information and knowledge about all subjects are essential in a democracy---for legislators and citizens alike."

## KIDS*****ALERT*****

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Kids, you could win national recognition!! See "Letters about Literature" at The Library of Congress. Is there a book that has changed your life? Are you in grades 4-12? Write a letter to a favorite author on how her or his book affected your life and you could win national recognition---and an award for you and your library. To read some winning letters, go to: http://www.read.gov/letters/.

## LARGE PRINT BOOKS

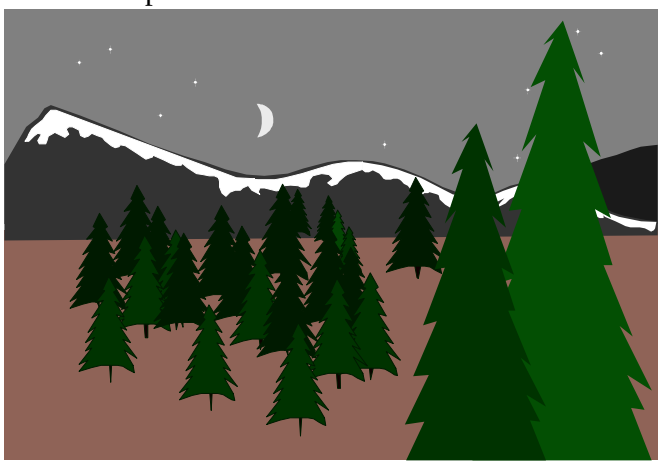
Did you know that many books in the library come in Large Print versions for easier reading? Check out a few of these books and see if you are pleased with the larger print.

The NOTIFLYER

## A WALK in the WOODS

Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail by Bill Bryson (1998)

On a below-freezing day in March, Mr. Bryson and his inept, overweight buddy Stephen, both loaded with camping equipment, maps, and food (especially noodles and Snickers bars), started walking The Appalachian Trail. This walk would prove to be both exciting and memorable. In this hilarious book, Bryson describes the adventure in vivid, and sometimes vituperative, language. On the trail, they encountered not only wondrous sights and frightening situations ("an atmosphere of pregnant doom") (p. 44) but also comically irritating fellow hikers. Despite worries about bears, snakes, bugs, wolves, and illnesses, such as Lyme disease or hantavirusus, the friends delighted in seeing gorgeous wildflowers ("there are 1500 types of wildflower in the southern Appalachians, and 40 rare types in the northern Georgia wood alone" (p. 49) and in experiencing majestic mountaintop views.



The Appalachian Trail (AT) was formally completed in Aug., 1937. The building of the "longest footpath in the world attracted almost no attention." (p. 29) Today, however, all 2,100 miles of the trail, as well as side trails, footbridges, signs, and shelters are maintained by volunteers, and it remains "gloriously free of commercialism." (p.30)

The AT stretches from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine; it offers an astonishing landscape of silent forests and sparkling lakes. While one might expect that The U. S. Forest Service is supposed to protect and preserve forests; that is not the case. In fact, what the Forest Service, with its huge numbers of engineers, does is build roads in America's forests. The reason for these hundreds of thousands of miles of roads through our forests is "to allow timber companies to get to previously inaccessible stands of trees." Further, it allows huge swathes of land to be clear-cut, including one heartbreaking recent example of "209 acres of thousand-year-old redwoods in Oregon's Umpqua National Forest." (p. 47)

In the 1980s, the Forest Service was cutting down trees faster than it replaced them. Unfortunately, 80% of its leasing agreements lost money, "often vast amounts." Between 1989 and 1997, it "lost an average of $242 million a year—almost $2 billion all told, according to The Wilderness Society." (p. 48)

Through beautiful forests, minty-clean air, panoramic views, sometimes muddy trails, the heat, the cold, the galloping wind, and the foggy stillness, they hiked. By the end of the hike, Bryson calculated that he had done 870 miles, considerably less than half the AT. Still, he had gained a profound respect for nature, and he had discovered an America that most people never know.

Whether or not you are a hiker, this book is well worth reading. You might even wish to nibble on Slim Jims, raisins and Snickers as you explore The Appalachian Trial.

*Happy New Year to all our library patrons!*