The NOTIFLYER

Newsletter # 69 The FRIENDS of the MIMS / SCOTTSMOOR LIBRARY October 27, 2014

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursday, November 6 at **1:30pm** Mims/Scottsmoor Library Book Club. Please join us for a discussion of the book "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls. Copies are available for checkout at the Reference Desk. The public is invited. Free.

FRIENDS MEETING

The next meeting of the Friends of the Mims/Scottsmoor Library will be **Thursday, November 13, 2014 at noon**.

Remember that if you pay your dues annually, your membership has expired and dues for the 2014/2015 year are due now. **Thank you to members for your support**—your dues, your work at book sales, your donations of time, donations of books, donations of yummy baked goods, and your generous checks to Friends all help to provide excellent programs and materials to our library! (***Note our purchase of a new children's computer, too).

Your membership expiration date is printed on the mailing label of this newsletter in the lower left corner.

WATERCOLOR PAINTING

On **Thursday, Nov. 6th at 6-7:30pm** Rosemary Daly of the Titusville Art League returns to teach Watercolor Painting. This will be her first class of the winter season. A sample of a class project is on display at the library. Cost is $10 with all materials provided. Please call 264-5080 to register.

ALASKAN ADVENTURE

On **Thursday, Nov. 20th at 6:30pm** local author, Polly Hall, will present a talk about her book: "The Adventure of a Lifetime: 24 Years in Alaska." The program is free, thanks to support from Friends, and copies of the book will be available for purchase after the program. The author will sign her books. The public is invited.

NEW CHILDREN'S COMPUTER

Calling all kids ages 2-8 or so! Come play with the colorful, exciting new computer purchased by Friends! The Friends purchased this fun and fascinating computer for the Children's Department at our library. This computer is for children only. It is not connected to the Internet, so parents need not be concerned about their children viewing inappropriate content.

This wonderful computer has both touchscreen and keyboard/mouse, so that the children can use whichever technology is comfortable and familiar. It offers children a "dynamic, all-in-one digital learning solution." Further, it provides more than 60 educational software titles (featuring hundreds of activities) spanning seven curricular areas.

From Math Doodles, and Speakaboos e-books, and JumpStart, and Dora the Explorer…to Reader Rabbit, there seems to be something special available for every child's learning preference. These titles are preloaded and ready to go. Children will delight at the engaging graphics and the menus.

Bring your child soon for fun and games on the AWE Early Literary Station! It's free. Thanks, Friends!

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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Preschool Story Times: **Fridays** at **10:30 am** include fun-filled programs for the children in the summer, and interesting and informative programs for the whole family during the rest of the year.

Where's Waldo Halloween Scavenger Hunt

On Halloween, Oct. 31, the friendly staff at our library will dress up in costumes to welcome all to the library. The staff will hide cutouts of Waldo around the library for adults and children to find. The lucky searchers who find a Waldo cutout will turn in Waldo at the desk, and receive a prize! What fun. (One prize to a person.) Bring your family and your neighbors, too. Wear a costume if you wish, but it's not required. The public is invited. If you haven't visited our library, this is a super time to do so. Library hours on Halloween are 9:00am to 5:00pm.

CHASER The dog who knows a thousand words!

Is your dog a genius? Chaser is. The book "Chaser" by John W. Pulley tells the informative true story of how Chaser learned over a thousand words (more than any other animal of any species except humans). She has memorized the names of over a thousand toys, and can retrieve any of the toys on command. John's groundbreaking approach "has opened the door to a new understanding of animal intelligence, one that requires us to reconsider what actually goes on in a dog's mind." Although the book is written for adults, no doubt children will be delighted to be told about Chaser's story.

Amazingly, Chaser was not bred to be super-intelligent. Chaser was just a puppy picked out of a litter. The important idea here is that John's training methods can be adopted by any dog lover. The key is playtime, affection, and positive reward. It's important to always reward dogs for good behavior by playing with them and petting and praising them. "We all learn better and faster when learning is fun."

Chaser is a Border collie, and Border collies often herd sheep. On a sheep farm, the dogs usually only need to learn a few commands, such as "Go out" or "Come by" or "There" (freeze instantly in a standing position). At first, John thought dogs didn't even understand their own names except as signals to pay attention. One sheep farmer, however, told John that he could ask his dog to herd sheep out of the flock by saying the names of the sheep, and the dog would do it without any gesturing.

John wondered what methods could best trigger and extend such learning. He started with this philosophy: "Let the puppy be a puppy. Give the dog time to develop, and piggyback your training on her natural instincts." Also, John used a quiet, calm voice, the power of praise, and especially limited harsh words ("No!"). Every time the dog does something that pleases you, brag on the dog and let the dog know in every way possible that the dog has pleased you. "Good girl! Good dog!"

John, an emeritus professor of psychology, published his findings in the scientific journals "Behavioral Processes" and "Learning and Motivation." Try his dog training methods. Maybe your dog is smarter than you think.