

ENTERTAINMENT

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Book's sales help community groups

What better time to help our community than now, especially with the holidays approaching? Wisconsin author, Mary Anne, set out a little over a year ago to ask local retailers to team up with her to do just that.

She wants to remind people that when we give, we receive much more in return. When she released her first book, "Rise Above the S---! Down-to-earth thinking from Wisconsin," she did something very different.

Mary Anne took the book to local retailers and asked them to take a leap of faith in carrying the book without any prior advertising. In return, the retailer could choose any charity they wanted, and Mary Anne would donate \$1 per book and \$2 per audio book to that charity. Her recommendation was to consider a local non-profit and help their community.

In the past year, over 50 stores in Wisconsin have

joined forces and have helped generate almost \$5,000 for Wisconsin charities. The author has a goal of raising \$1 million for charity while making the world a happier place.

Some of the local businesses putting their trust in this book and author are A to Z One Stop, Lake Delton for the Dells Food Pantry, Market Square Cheese, Lake Delton for the Dells Food Pantry, and Mid-State Equipment at several locations for Second Harvest Food Bank. A complete list of retail locations can be found at AnniePress.com.

The book, which has sold mostly by recommendations and repeat customers, gives quick tips to overcome those common things that hold people back or down in life, and teaches how to have a happy life, no matter what. Information is available at AnniePress.com.

Artist exhibits paintings of hikes in state

It was more than two years ago that Letha Kelsey sat across the table from her husband at the Weary Traveler Freehouse restaurant in Madison.

Kelsey, an art professor at UW-Baraboo/Sauk County and an accomplished painter, was being pressed: What did she want to do next?, her husband, an elementary school teacher, wanted to know. Where was she going?

Over lunch, Kelsey got to thinking about the importance of landscape in her painting and drawing. Her childhood as a painter's daughter in rural Iowa first had her taking brush to paper to depict the patterns cornfields cast.

Now she taught with a view of the Baraboo Bluffs and lived in scenic Lodi, but began to think of how seeing the rest of the state could inform and expand her work.

"It made me want to get out of the area and stretch



LETHA KELSEY

out of my neighborhood," she said. "I felt it was important to see the state on foot."

A little over a year later she and her husband set out hiking from Potawatomi State Park in Door County, planning to walk between 15 and 25 miles a day on the Ice Age Trail across the state.

Supported by an applied summer research grant from the UW Colleges, Kelsey brought the supplies of a distance hiker — dehydrated food, camping gear — and the pared-down tools of an artist.

"I had ink pens, charcoal, a tube of sepia water-color, a sawed-off paint-brush and a really small sketchbook," she said. In her pack she also had a small Holga film camera.

"It gave me another layer of memory," she said. "It helped me gather shapes, textures, and patterns, adding to the drawings I was doing."

The landscape was inspiring, from the "erratic" boulders left behind by glaciers, to the 1,200 foot long Stewart Tunnel near Belleville, to the land dipping like a saddle into Lake Michigan.

"I liked the slow pace and the rhythm of it, waking up and knowing that all I had to do was walk that day," Kelsey said. "This was a different vantage point."

Injuries forced her to break up the trip into more manageable chunks, but by August 2010 she was back in Lodi, pinning up sketches and photos of the

landmarks and wildlife she had seen on her journey.

The resulting body of work, titled "On Foot," shows streams of light, huge fungi, birds on telephone wires, snakes and storms in paintings that are more sensory representations than strict depictions.

They're both recognizable and new.

"On Foot" will be at the Marshfield Gallery 450, the Portage Center for the Arts in January 2012, and the Menasha Aylward Gallery. Kelsey also plans to donate one piece to the UW-Baraboo/Sauk County permanent collection.

The experience of being a "weary traveler" herself was inspiring, Kelsey said. "I felt really lucky to be able to do that," she said. "I set up an environment to give myself time to walk, and I thought it might lead to something interesting."

For information about "On Foot," visit www.lethakelsey.com.

TV LISTINGS

SUNDAY MORNING

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SUNDAY AFTERNOON