Words to live by

This bookstore — and inn upstairs — let you snuggle up between the covers

By Steve Godfrey

For Business World

It may have taken longer than anticipated for Pat Rutledge to realize the dream she'd had since age 5, but book lovers are glad she did.

At a young age, Pat had developed what would become a life-long love affair with reading. She began keeping a list of book titles she wanted to have someday in her own bookstore. But it was a long road to fulfill the young girl's dream.

It came to fruition in 1992 in Leavenworth when she and her husband Ed opened A Book for All Seasons (abookforallseasons.com), 703 Highway 2. The independent bookstore is one-of-a-kind in Leavenworth, and it recently celebrated its 20th anniversary.

“At our book store it doesn’t take long to outgrow the space at the Mottler building on Highway 2. To keep abreast of staying relevant in the conversation of bookselling, I’m a big believer in being active in business associations,” Pat said. “Before moving to Leavenworth, I went to the American Booksellers Association (ABA) Book Fair in the Javits Center in New York City. We knew we were going to have a bookstore in Leavenworth, so I attended the fair to see what kind of books I thought would be appropriate for the area. I joined the ABA at that time.”

The owners also attended Booksellers School in Chicago, a two-week crash-course in how to run a bookstore. Not only was the school beneficial to the prospective bookstore owners, but it also increased their affiliation with the ABA.

After the couple made the move to Leavenworth, Pat’s desire to broaden her scope of business contacts led her to find the regional bookseller business association. The Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association covers the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. The couple attended a show in Eugene, Ore., and joined the organization. Pat eventually became president of the regional association.

It didn’t take long to outgrow the space at the Mottler building, and soon the owners relocated the business to Front Street across from Visconti’s. It moved to its current location in 1995. At that time the independent bookstore’s new space had an adjoining coffee shop, the independent bookstore lasted six months, but it also increased their affiliation with the ABA.

The owners liked the idea, and the ABA suggested having a Starbucks company in early 2000, and the coffee shop opened in July of the same year.

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Authors who write books...