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Note: One photo is attached; photo credit is Abigail K. Photography. Other photos are available. Thank you!

**Local Author Offers Unique**

**Christmas Gift Ideas**

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis-based author Linda Mansfield has two unique suggestions for Christmas shoppers.

Her “Stories for the 12 Days of Christmas” makes an excellent hostess gift, stocking stuffer, or inexpensive present for employees, teachers, babysitters, letter carriers and other service providers.

When it’s combined with the other three books in her “Two Good Feet” series, gift-givers have the unique opportunity to give hard-to-buy-for people on their lists a new fictional story for every week of the year.

“Each of the four books has a baker’s dozen, or 13 stories, so the series has 52 stories in all, or one story for every week of the year,” she explained.

The other three titles are “Twelve Stories for Spring,” “Twelve Stories for Summer” and “Twelve Stories for Fall.”

The stories were written for males and females, teenagers to senior citizens.

All of the books share the same characters, but each book can stand alone.

Many of the stories have local ties, and all were written in Indianapolis or Speedway.

“The first story in each book is about a single mom in a fictional, rural Indiana town, and an Indianapolis Colts jacket plays a major role in one of those stories,” she said. “The main character in another set of stories in all the books is a fictional housekeeper who works at the Hampton Inn and Suites, Indianapolis Airport. One story is set at the Indianapolis 500, and another occurs at an Indianapolis Indians game,” she added.

The books are available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble’s Web sites, and all have five-star reviews.

“Just put my name in the search bar, and they’ll come up,” she said.

She’s appearing at two local events in October to sign copies of her books. She’ll be at North United Methodist Church’s Craft Fair Saturday, Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and at the Greenwood Public Library’s Authors’ Fair on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The church is located at 3808 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis. The library’s address is 310 South Meridian Street, Greenwood.

All four books are also available locally at Three Sisters and a Trunk, 1434 Main Street in Speedway, and Indy Reads Books, 911 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis. Portions of the proceeds of books sold at the latter fight adult illiteracy.

“The Barnes & Noble at the Shops at Perry Crossing in Plainfield has some copies of the Christmas book, and they can be special-ordered at any Barnes & Noble store in the world,” Mansfield added.

Mansfield got the idea for the first book after observing four women angrily vying for parking spots at the Fashion Mall at Keystone while Christmas shopping. “They were in a rush, and two of them almost hit me,” she said. “I thought, ‘They’re so stressed, they aren’t enjoying Christmas. If they could just take a break for 10 minutes, they’d calm down. Maybe if I could write a short story that they could pull out of their bags to read, they’d feel better.’ Then I went home and tried to see if I could write one Christmas story, and the project grew from there.”

Mansfield has been surprised that many of her readers are men.

“That might be because I have an almost equal mixture of male and female main characters, and very little romance,” she said with a smile. “I tried to appeal to everyone.”

For more information see LindaMansfieldBooks.com.