

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Geri Pool and her daughter, Kat Dakota, look over the printed proofs for their new book, "And So It Was."

Photo courtesy of Kat Dakota

Mother and daughter publish book

Local educator and published author Geri Pool, and her daughter, Kat Dakota, an award-winning artist, have blended their skills of writing and art.

Together they created the book, "And It Was So", using triangular poetry and original digital illustrations.

"Our plan was to compose child-like poetry and art reflecting Biblical texts that all ages can enjoy," Pool said. "We call it an 'Everybody's Book.'"

"And It Was So", a hard cover

64-page book based on God's creation, is now available.

The book is available for pre-order online at katdakota.com/book till the publishing date, Aug. 1 for \$25 rather than the retail price of \$35.95.

Both are excited about their book signing at Gilchrist Farm Winery in Suttons Bay on Aug. 1 (noon to 5 p.m.) the same day as the Suttons Bay Art Fair. The reduced price will also be offered during this event.

The mother/daughter duo

hope the triangular poetry and vibrant illustrations will cause this "table-top book" to become a "lap-top mystery" for all ages to realize the origin of matter, energy, space, time and life.

For a lighter "seek and find" activity, Dakota hid within the artwork, the Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, which symbolizes the Beginning and the End.

"And It Was So" Pool clarified, "was also designated to generate and strengthen face-

to-face cross-generational bonds while sharing the fun of reading to each other and voicing their thoughts and ideas.

"We realize in our high-tech private culture, both young and adults are losing the ability to communicate eye-to-eye. So much knowledge and wisdom are left unspoken — not passed on."

Dakota explained.

"It was fun and rewarding to creative this book with mom. I'm blessed to have had the

experience," she said. "The project was much more than designing a layout-placing copy and pics.

"The project itself promoted discussions about faith, imagery, culture, world discoveries and more. Better yet the collaboration provided time and opportunity to share personal life-stories we both had not voiced before."

Her mother agreed.

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"It created a sharing we hope this book will produce for its readers. There's something about reading out loud, to each other, that creates a bond that lasts a life-time. This doesn't happen in isolation — flipping through social media images from strangers."

Pool and Dakota wanted a book that invites all ages to participate in meaningful dialog. So present-day quotes, references and scientific findings, in back of the book, provide deep-

er insights that older children and adults can appreciate and promote discussions between all family members and friends. These additional insights are identified and align with each poetic verse and its illustration.

Pool served in various educational settings, she has fond memories working with struggling students burdened with attention deficit disorder (ADD).

"Maybe I enjoyed teaching these young people because they had significant potential and partly because it required

analyzing and discovering how they learn," she said. "Always did like discovering."

Later in her career, Pool taught middle school science, worked at the state level testing department, developed and in-serviced teachers "How to Teach Science" and "Classroom management" across the upper and lower peninsulas.

But as Pool saw it, "My most worthy efforts are: diving into her husband's extensive theological library, searching for ancient truths, applying them to current-day lives, and always

probing for some near evidence to teach in-depth adult Bible studies."

She acknowledged that these later efforts led to writing adult devotional material and children's activity booklets published by Concordia Publishing House (CPH).

The mother-daughter duo said they believe the Lord created the path and prepared them for this current endeavor. God guided their educational and occupational choices, provided a pastor for husband and father and encouraged the

study of the Word. He provided opportunities for Geri to write and place Kat in an art community where she discovered her gift. Both mother and daughter are confident the Lord has equipped their dream to create "And It Was So."

Pool and Dakota said they look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones, face to face, at their book signing at Gilchrist Farm Winery on Saturday, Aug 1, from noon to 5 p.m.