



BOOKS & AUTHORS

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Former THS drum major publishes children's book

■ **Kathy Chase Young's "The Gift" is written in memory of her Tupelo cake-baking mom.**

BY LESLIE CRISS
Daily Journal

For at least a decade, Kathy Chase Young wrote stories.

But her stories were stuffed in a drawer and not shared with others.

"It was just a hobby," she said.

One day she wrote a story that she read to her husband, Louis, who proclaimed his wife's effort "awesome."

Other stories began to be pulled from their hiding place in the drawer.

"I started sharing them with my children," Young said. "They didn't even realize I wrote."

An invitation from her daughter, Janie, to read to her classmates garnered more op-



YOUNG

Book signings

■ **Tupelo:** Reed's bookstore from noon until 1:30 p.m. Wednesday

■ **Corinth:** Spice of Life from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Thursday

■ **Oxford:** Square Books Jr. from 10 a.m. until noon Saturday



FINCH

portunities for sharing her stories. Son, Chase, liked his mom's stories, too.

Young's support system was now set – her family became her greatest fans.

"That was all the encouragement I needed," said Young, who teaches preschool and teaches part time at the University of Southern Mississippi.

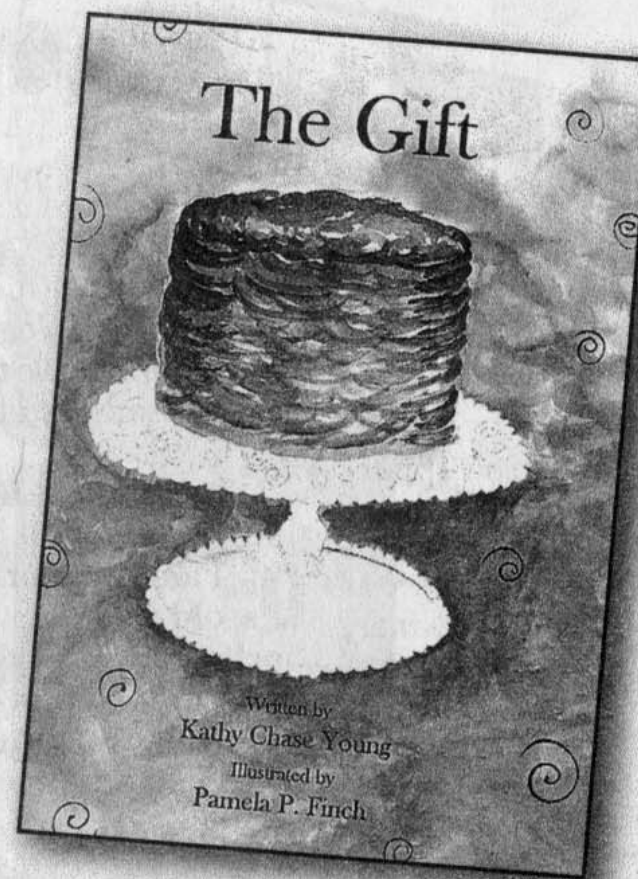
Her first published effort comes in the form of a children's book, "The Gift."

Young's book tells the heart-

tugging tale about the relationship between a mother and a daughter made sweeter during their time together in the kitchen baking a cake.

It's not just any cake, mind you, but a very special chocolate cake with a secret recipe passed down from another generation.

The story comes straight from Young's heart – and personal memories. Her mother, longtime Tupeloan Betty Chandler, who died in 2001, was



where. Her chocolate cake was one of her most loved."

"The Gift" is in memory of Betty Chandler.

Young said it's in her own Hattiesburg kitchen where she and her children have the most valuable, comfortable conversations.

A 1987 graduate of Tupelo High School, Young still has family in town – her father and stepmother Tommy and Kay Chandler.

"The Gift" is illustrated by Young's friend Pamela Polard Finch, also of Hattiesburg.

"Pamela was always an artist by hobby," Young said. "She's painted all her life; her paintings are all over her home, but

"She was known for her cakes all over town. She'd take them to voting precincts, sick friends, everywhere. Her chocolate cake was one of her most loved."

Kathy Chase Young

about her mother, Betty Chandler

both of us were unsure, at first, about working together since we are friends."

However, after interviewing other artists, Finch, mother of three daughters, remained first choice.

"And it has been a journey for both of us," Young said. "My husband produced the book, so it's been a collaborative effort."

"The Gift" is published by Tishomingo Tree Press. The hardcover book sells for \$16.95.

Bookshelf

(Ballantine)

3. "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt, Stephen J. Dubner (William Mor-

10. "Winning" by Jack Welch and Suzy Welch (HarperBusiness)

7. "Monday Mourning" by Kathy Reichs (Pocket Star)

4. "Three Famous Short Novels" by William Faulkner (Vintage)