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FIVE THINGS: About a key collector

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BY EMILIANA SANDOVAL

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Birmingham photojournalist Linda Solomon has a new book, "The Key: Celebrated People Unlock Their Secrets to Life."

BRIEF BIO

Solomon was born in Detroit, graduated from Seaholm High School and has an education degree from the University of Michigan.

Advertisement

She lives in Franklin with her husband, Barry, a labor relations consultant. They also have a house in Tucson, Ariz.

PHOTO PASSION

Solomon got her first camera on her fifth birthday. She immediately loved it.

"It's a hobby you can grow with. It teaches you not just how to look but how to really see. I never go anywhere without a camera."

She's a busy freelancer and has photographed a lot of celebrities. Her office has a huge photograph of Robert Redford on horseback, from "People We Know, Horses They Love," a book she did with her sister, Jill Rappaport, an entertainment reporter for "The Today Show."

She's old-school -- she uses film and loves the look of natural light.

"At the Oscars there are only two of us that still use film -- they call us Fred and Wilma."

THE BOOK

Solomon started working on "The Key" two years ago. She asked 56 celebrities, via phone or e-mail, to share a specific piece of wisdom. Celebrities include Sidney Poitier, Tony Bennett, Tiger Woods, Hilary Duff and Steve Forbes.

Paired with each thought is an appropriate key. For Edsel Ford's wisdom about the key to a legacy, Solomon photographed five vintage Ford keys, to represent five generations of Fords, on a vintage car seat.

GIVING BACK

A portion of the book's proceeds will go to the Entertainment Industry Foundation's Women's Cancer Research Fund. Breast cancer survivors in the book include Olivia Newton-John and Melissa Etheridge.

"I've had so many friends who got breast cancer in their 40s," Solomon said. "I did it for them, to create awareness, and maybe the book will help someone going through it."

Solomon will be on CBS' "The Early Show" on Wednesday. Crust in Bloomfield Township will host a book signing from 6-9 p.m. Oct. 17, and there will be a discussion at 7 p.m. Oct. 19 at Borders in Birmingham. The book will be featured at the

Saks Fifth Avenue Key to the Cure kickoff on Oct. 12 at the Somerset Collection. Go to www.henryford.com/giving and click on Special Events.

LOCAL KEYS

Comedian Tim Allen gives the key to laughter.

Auto magnate Edsel Ford gives the key to a legacy.

Singer Aretha Franklin gives the key to respect.

Writer Elmore Leonard gives the key to taking a risk.

Dave Woodruff, brother of Bob Woodruff, gives the key to believing.

Tigers manager Jim Leland gives the key to leadership.


Teamsters leader James P. Hoffa gives the key to negotiation.

GM Vice President Ed Welburn Jr. gives the key to design.

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