

## **Various reviews in consumer and trade media outlets for *In Grandpa's Hands***

### ***IN GRANDPA'S HANDS* A BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED TRIBUTE**

In honor of Father's Day on Sunday, the book review presentation today is a children's book, but it surely relates to the fathers of Douglas County. The author notes that *In Grandpa's Hands* is a book about fathers and grandfathers, but to her, "Grandpas are the keeper of the family, the strength, the history and the wisdom of generations." In that prelude, Marlene Uhrik sums up her cleverly designed children's book that features 12 poignant pencil drawings by illustrator Barbara Cervone.

"The book was created as a result of my experience seeing my elderly dad go through a life-threatening surgery," Uhrik said. "It was the long battle to recovery that had me reflecting on what my dad meant to me and the entire family — his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Through his struggle to recovery, it became more apparent who he was, not only to his family, but his friends, neighbors and the world."

She notes that her purpose in writing the book is to promote communication and emotional connectedness that comes through a nurturing relationship between children and grandparents. Uhrik has a Doctorate degree in education and is a nationally and internationally recognized children's advocate.

She has taught teachers from around the world how to inspire young children to learn and has received awards for improving the quality of life for children and families. She is currently a consultant for the California Department of Education in Sacramento, where she lives with her husband. She has two grown children and three grandchildren.

The book itself is a simple, but beautifully stated and illustrated children's story of grandpa's hands doing everyday things to which children can relate. It is told in a few words, sometimes no more than six, leading into the lifelike illustrations of Barbara Cervone, so detailed that the calloused, wrinkled hands seem to reach out to the child.

Cervone, a watercolor and oil landscape artist from Napa Valley, Calif., said she could relate to the concept of Uhrik's books "because I am blessed with nine grandchildren."

The book is 32 pages in a 9-by-9-inch square format, a sturdily made hardcover book for children ages 1 to 8. It will make a perfect gift to a child from a grandparent.

Bill Duncan is editor of The Senior Times. He also writes a weekly column on the Opinion Page of The News-Review every Thursday. He is also a grandpa and a great-grandpa.

### **BOOK REVIEW FROM BLUEGRASSMOMS.COM, JAN ROSS**

Since grandparent's day is this weekend, I thought I would share a grandparent book I got in the mail to review the other day. It's called *In Grandpa's Hands*, by Marlena E. Uhrik and is a lovely celebration of a grandfather's life. Each page shows a pencil sketch of a grandfather's hands holding such objects as a starfish, a feather or an apple and

says "In grandpa's hands there is..." This would be a wonderful book for a grandparent to share with a grandchild and would generate many stories about the objects the grandfather is holding. Remember when we went to the beach that time? Remember when we took those flowers to him? Remember? Remember?

### **BOOK REVIEW, HERALD-STAR, ESTHER MCCOY, Staff writer**

On this Father's Day I want to take you through a book called *In Grandpa's Hands*.

The 12 photos of an elderly man's hands, used for hard work, serve as keeper of the house and holder of tiny children's hands, each have a simple but moving sentence to communicate the moment.

The experience of seeing her elderly dad go through a life-threatening surgery prompted Dr. Marlena E. Uhrick to write the book. His battle to recovery made her reflect on how precious he was to the family and his friends.

Barbara Cervone was illustrator of the pencil drawings that are very lifelike. She has created paintings for public and private collections for more than 20 years.

The book starts with both hands cradling a mug, and the words "In Grandpa's hands there is a cup."

Other pages go through "In Grandpa's hands there is a diary, a feather, a trowel and continues through the pages with a flower, a bird, a starfish, a hat, a baseball, an apple, and a very old model camera. The last page shows one of grandpa's hand, covered by a younger hand and reads "In Grandpa's hands there is mine."

The book is a child's celebration of family, and the publication by White Stag Press is available today at book stores.

### **THE KINGMAN DAILY MINER, Clark Issacs**

*In Grandpa's Hands: A Child's Celebration of Family*, by Marlena E. Uhrick, published 2008, White Stag Press, hardcover, 32 pages, ISBN: 13:978-097925835-0; \$13.95

For children ages 1 to 3 (as well as all parents, grandparents ... and great-grandparents), this is a poetically formulated book designed for a child to experience the closeness of getting to know elderly relatives in a kinder, gentler way by reading together about the simple things in life.

Pencil drawings by Barbara Cervone and poetry by Dr. Marlena E Uhrick combine to bring a book which is intended for both grandfather and grandchild to have quiet time together and touch each other's spirit.

This is another wonderful Father's Day present, and it is printed in large type, too!

## **BOOM THIS from boomthis.com**

For Grandpas Everywhere! Stumped as to what to get Grandpa this year for Father's Day? It could be that he doesn't need another cardigan or fishing pole. One suggestion would be to give him the gorgeous book *In Grandpa's Hands*, written by a childcare specialist and lovingly illustrated to reflect the roles a grandfather plays in his family. The book, written by Marlena E. Uhrik, Ed.D. is "designed to promote communication and the emotional connectedness that comes from a nurturing relationship of fundamental importance." More simply, it illustrates through drawings all of the things that the aging hands of a grandfather imparts to his grandchildren: the promise of care, knowledge, fun, and most importantly, love. To buy the book, visit your local bookstore, shop online or visit here.

<<http://www.publishersdesign.com/mediainfo.php?projectid=21>> (Retail price, \$13.95).

## **MENSTUFF.ORG BOOK REVIEWS**

Uhrik, Marlena E., *In Grandpa's Hands: A Child's Celebration of Family*. Time shared between grandparents and their grandchildren are moments to cherish. To honor not only her father (a much loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather) but to honor all Grandpas, the author created this book. She writes "[Grandpas] are the keeper of the family, the strength, the history, and wisdom of generations...Grandpas teach us the things we need to know for everyday life and help carry us into our future." Featuring 12 simple-yet-poignant full-page pencil drawings accompanied by a simple statement on the facing page, the book immediately calls to mind special moments with one's own grandparents.

## **READERSVIEWSKIDS.COM BOOK REVIEWS**

*In Grandpa's Hands: A Child's Celebration of Family*

Reviewed by Cayden (age 3-1/2) and Max (age 20-months) Aures and Mom for Reader Views (5/08)

*In Grandpa's Hands: A Child's Celebration of Family* is a simple book that focuses on various items that "Grandpa's Hands" are holding. The author writes that the book "is designed to promote discussion of the importance of the elderly and their role in our lives and our society. It is meant to honor the simple things in life that remind us of our gratitude for the people who bring us joy and happiness."

Cayden: "Why don't the pictures have any colors?"

Cayden: "What is in the cup he is holding? Is it milk?"

Max: "Milk!"

Cayden: "What is a diary?"

Cayden: "What is a trowel?"

Cayden: “How come it says he is holding only a flower when he is holding a lot of flowers? “

Cayden: “Flowers have to be in water so they grow.”

Max: “Flowers grow!”

Cayden: “How did he get that starfish? They live under the sea!”

Parent’s comments:

When I first saw *In Grandpa’s Hands*, it looked to me like a book that would be displayed on a coffee table. The simple pencil illustrations are wonderful although I think I liked them more than my children did. They did not appreciate the fact that they were so simple with no color to them.

Cayden also couldn’t get over the fact that it said “In Grandpa’s hands there is ... a flower” when in fact he is actually holding a whole bouquet of flowers in a vase. Other than that my children enjoyed naming the different items that were showcased in “Grandpa’s Hands” and talking about both of their grandpas.

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