LOCAL AUTHOR ADDS FLAVOR TO LATEST BATCH OF CHICKEN SOUP, JUST IN TIME FOR MOTHER’S DAY

WESTMINSTER, Colo.- Piping hot chicken soup is mom’s remedy for a cold, a long day or a broken heart. This Mother’s Day, celebrate the love and memories you and your mother share with a local writer, Donna M. Hoffman.

Hoffman, of Westminster, Colo., has added a story as a main ingredient in the latest edition of the Chicken Soup for the Soul® series, Chicken Soup for the Mother & Daughter Soul. Hoffman's contribution, entitled "Thoughts on Being a Grandmother," was written several months after her grandson was born, when her husband Jim was dying of a brain tumor.

"It was a challenging time," Hoffman said. "I wrote the story to focus on the new life."

Hoffman, a retired teacher, said she can't remember when reading and writing weren't a part of her life. She has published numerous articles and stories in periodicals for children, women and mature adults. Hoffman is currently working on women's novel and a fantasy novel for children.

Chicken Soup for the Mother & Daughter Soul is a testament to a mother’s unconditional love and the experiences shared by daughters as they evolve into women and mothers themselves. These stories share the special moments and everyday experiences of mothers and daughters while proving how soothing they can be to each other’s soul, just like a bowl of hot chicken soup.

This book is a collection of heartwarming stories that will evoke feelings of joy and happiness and may even bring a tear or two. Chicken Soup for the Soul® stories are known for being motivating and inspirational to all who read them. Readers will be touched by stories of love, courage, loss, reunion, sacrifice and redemption.

The book is the latest addition to the best-selling Chicken Soup for the Soul® series, which has sold over 80 million copies worldwide. The series, now with 63 titles, has been translated into 39 languages. Nineteen of the titles hit the New York Times and USA Today bestseller lists, and seven reached #1.

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Local News

Local author cooks up story for 'Chicken Soup for the Soul'

By NANCY MACE Staff writer

WAYNESBORO - A local author has added her own ingredient to the latest batch of “Chicken Soup for the Soul.”

“A Fib and a Matinee,” a short story written by Mary Alice Dress Baumgardner, is featured in “Chicken Soup for the Mother & Daughter Soul,” released just in time for Mother’s Day.

The Chicken Soup series contains stories of love, courage, loss, reunion, sacrifice and redemption. The “Mother & Daughter” installment is a testament to a mother’s unconditional love and experiences shared by daughters as they evolve into women and mothers themselves, according to the publishers.

The story by Baumgardner, who has written and illustrated several children’s books, is about the importance of always telling the truth.

Baumgardner was 6 years old when she talked her 3-year-old sister Sally Kay into cleaning neighbors’ houses to earn money to buy a Mother’s Day gift.

“We offered to do it for 25 cents, but we had no takers,” she said.

One of the neighbors, however, called their mother Sarah to tell her what her girls were up to.

“We totally denied it,” Baumgardner said, but later the girls admitted what they had done and apologized.

-more-
“We didn’t realize how much a fib can hurt.”

Sarah had a rather unorthodox way of teaching her daughters a lesson - one Baumgardner isn’t sure others would approve of today.

“We sat down and ate lunch and mother asked us if we would like to go to the movies... the matinee. We bathed and got all dressed up and wore our Mary Jane pumps.”

As the three were leaving their second-floor apartment in Hagerstown, the girls became concerned they would miss the bus.

“That’s when my mother knelt down and said ‘we’re not going to the movies. That’s what it’s like to fib.’”

Baumgardner said she realizes the experience was probably harder on her mother than on her daughters.

“It was done with love. There were tears in her eyes.”

Sarah told the girls that fibbing felt awful to her, and “the lesson stayed with us.”

Baumgardner began writing children’s stories after teaching in elementary and high school.


“I believe each of us has stories to tell...it’s just a matter of taking the time to write them down.”

Baumgardner also is a member of The Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. She works in watercolors, prismacolors, graphite and mixed-media. Her work has been exhibited in a one-woman show at Penn State Mont Alto’s Campus Gallery. Baumgardner’s art appears in Welcome Home magazine and also has been displayed in various area galleries.

She is a graduate of Gettysburg College and studied art in Florence, Italy. Baumgardner completed the “Master’s with the Masters Program” at Marywood College, receiving a master’s degree in studio art with an emphasis in children’s book illustration.

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NORFOLK COMPASS
REUNION WITH DAUGHTER SOUP FOR GHENT MOTHER'S SOUL
CAROL HANNA BRANCH THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

05/08/2003
The Virginian-Pilot and The Ledger-Star, Norfolk, VA
FINAL
04

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The day Kathy N. Jublou reunited with her daughter was the first time in 25 years that she did not worry about her, wondering if she was happy.

Jublou, 48, recounts the joyous reunion with a daughter she gave up for adoption in 1972 in her contribution to the new book, *Chicken Soup for the Mother & Daughter Soul.* Her reminiscence is one of dozens of heartwarming stories about births, love, self-sacrifice, holiday tradition and other memories of this special bond.

The Ghent resident and retired Naval Reserve commander recalls the long-awaited meeting in 1997 through prose: "She was tall, she was blond and she was gorgeous. We very slowly hugged each other with the gentleness afforded only the most precious, fragile treasures in your life."

Jublou, a victim of date rape, became pregnant at 16. Deciding with her parents to give the baby up for adoption, she only spent 15 minutes with "the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen," she says. All she knew was the baby went to a Richmond family.

While her daughter was growing up, the Jubbous lived all over the world - Newport, R.I., Key West, Fla., and Sydney, Australia. Never in her wildest dreams did Jublou think that her daughter grew up just 25 minutes away from her home in Norfolk, where she has resided since 1982.

Finishing college, Jublou met her husband, Bradley Jublou, at Navy officer's candidate school. They married and now have two sons, Alex, 15 and Nick, 17.

While Bradley Jublou always knew about his wife's daughter, the boys did not know until the day their mom met her first born. They thought it was "neat" to have a sister, Jublou recalled.

"When people hear the story, it sounds so amazing," Jublou said from her dining room table as she gently picked up a framed picture of her now 31-year-old daughter, whom she named Nicole at birth.

The adoptive parents had changed her name, and Nicole preferred that it not be published.

The smiles of mother and daughter are the same, along with other features. "It makes a strong case for the nature-nurture argument," Jublou said.

The resemblance is so strong that Bradley Jublou jokes that he has "the best of both worlds: Kathy at 25 and Kathy at 40-something," Kathy Jablou laughs - another shared trait with her daughter.

Nicole sees the similarities, too. "It was pretty wild to walk up and see yourself," she said about their first meeting. Jublou waited until Nicole was 18 to place a letter in her adoption file just in case she wanted to know about her birth mother.

Nicole began the quest to uncover her past while planning her wedding.

"I was so happy growing up that I would forget I was adopted," Nicole said. "When I was getting married, I wanted to know the medical history, and it snowballed from there."

Nicole's fateful phone call to Jublou lasted three hours. "How do you fit 25 years of unanswered questions into one conversation?" Jublou asks in the first paragraph of her story, "The Reunion."

Today, Jublou and Nicole are more like friends than the traditional mother and daughter.

For one reason, Nicole already has a wonderful adoptive parents, whom Jublou appreciates greatly.

"They welcomed me and my family into their lives with the same open arms that welcomed Nicole," Jublou writes in her
The first Mother's Day after the reunion, Nicole's adoptive mother sent Jublou a card wishing her happiness.

Summing up her feelings, Jublou mused, "I consider every day we spend together as a gift. ... I hope our relationship will continue to grow."

Nicole agreed: "I wasn't looking for a mother; I found a friend."

Caption: Carol Hanna branch Kathy Jublou's experience reuniting with the daughter she gave up for adoption in 1972 is chronicled in the book "Chicken Soup for the Mother & Daughter Soul."

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