

NEWS FROM

The Bantam Dell Publishing Group



BANTAM



DELACORTE



DIAL



DELTA



DELL



SPECTRA

Contact: Theresa Zoro
212-782-8663 or tzoro@randomhouse.com

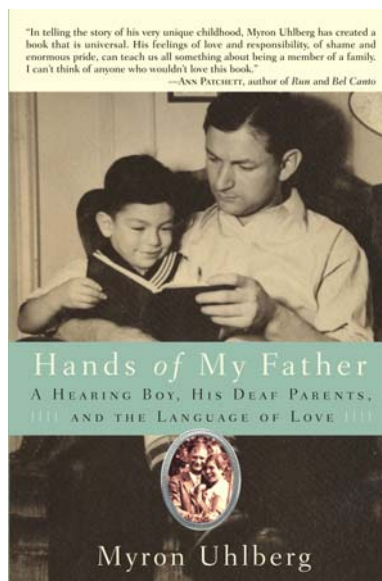
HANDS OF MY FATHER

A Hearing Boy, His Deaf Parents, and the Language of Love

~A Memoir~

By Myron Uhlberg

To be Published as a Bantam Books Hardcover on February 3, 2009



“In telling the story of his very unique childhood, Myron Uhlberg has created a book that is universal. His feelings of love and responsibility, of shame and enormous pride, can teach us all something about being a member of a family. I can’t think of anyone who wouldn’t love this book.” —Ann Patchett

“‘What I remember most vividly are the hands of my father,’ Uhlberg writes in this moving memoir of his childhood as the hearing son of two deaf parents...His strongest feelings are reserved for his remarkable father, whom he loved deeply, a man who—despite his silence—was eloquent in his expressions of love for his family and curiosity about the world. ‘My language is in my hands,’ he once told his son. ‘My memories are in my hands.’ Those memories have been beautifully served by Uhlberg in this heartfelt book.”

—*Booklist*

“In his moving memoir, *Hands of my Father*, Myron Uhlberg captures the essence of one exceptional family’s life in Brooklyn in the 30’s, 40’s and 50’s. Uhlberg is a compassionate writer of truths. His book is full of surprises, written with a generous, loving spirit. In vivid scenes—sometimes wrenching, sometimes mischievous and sometimes hilarious—he takes us inside the singular world of his childhood. And there the reader discovers the profound, everyday courage exemplified by each member of the Uhlberg family.”

—Lou Ann Walker, author of *A Loss for Words*

“He [Uhlberg] gives readers a well-crafted, heartwarming tale of family love and understanding.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

Myron Uhlberg's "moving memoir" (*Booklist*), **HANDS OF MY FATHER: A Hearing Boy, His Deaf Parents, and the Language of Love**, is a unique and beautifully told coming-of-age story. Capturing the emotional complexities of being a child in a position few of us can imagine, it tells how from a very young age Uhlberg had to take on responsibilities that were far beyond his years. As he performed the delicate balancing act of mediating between his father and the hearing world, he was required to reverse the roles of parent and child translating adult words and concepts to his father at one moment, while at the next reverting to just what he was: his father's little boy. Called "a well-crafted, heartwarming tale of family love and understanding" by *Publishers Weekly*, **HANDS OF MY FATHER** will be published as a Bantam Books Hardcover on sale February 3, 2009.

Born in Brooklyn at the absolute bottom of the Great Depression, Uhlberg was the son of two people who shared a boundless optimism about the future. His first language was American Sign Language (ALS), but his second language was spoken English, and no sooner did he learn it than he was called upon to act as his father's designated ears and mouth in the stores and streets beyond their silent apartment. Because of his role-straddling situation, he was a pint-sized witness to many of the key moments of his historic era. Listening to the radio he had to sign for his father every blow in what was called the "fight of the century," the boxing match between America's Brown Bomber Joe Louis and Hitler's Master Race champion Max Schmeling. While his father, in turn, signed to him his own translations of the newspaper headlines trumpeting every battle on the European and Pacific fronts, so that he watched the progress of the war through the medium of his father's hands.

Eloquent, touching and often funny as well, Uhlberg's "memories have been beautifully served...in this heartfelt book" (*Booklist*). **HANDS OF MY FATHER** is a timeless story that is both unique and universal.

About the Author:

Myron Uhlberg is the critically acclaimed and award-winning author of a number of children's books, including *Dad, Jackie, and Me*, which won the 2006 Patterson Prize for Books for Young People, the 2006 American Library Association Schneider Family Award, the 2006 International Reading Association Teacher's Choice Award, the 2007-2008 CRA/CLA/CATE/CSLA California Young Readers Medal, and the 2006 Comstock Award (MN), to name just a few. He lives with his wife in Santa Monica and Palm Springs, CA and speaks frequently at national and regional conferences related both to his children's books and to his activism in various deaf-related organizations.

HANDS OF MY FATHER
Myron Uhlberg
A Bantam Books Hardcover
February 3, 2009
978-0-553-80688-5/\$23.00



Photo credit: Andy Kim