



For Immediate Release:

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Celebrating Mother’s Day with Pink Flamingos

Sioux Falls—The embarrassment of growing up on the prairie with a mother whose yard included a flock of pink flamingos has resulted in a journey of celebrating her gifts in a new book by author Dee Dee Raap.

“We all know how to send a Mother’s Day card and say thanks,” Raap said. “*Find Your Pink Flamingos* helps readers go a bit deeper and find the best gifts of a mother’s life—values that were taught in words, actions and traditions or unique places, like my mother’s plastic pink flamingos,” she said.

Raap’s journey began with healing of loss, shared in her first book, *Dear Mom: Remembering, Celebrating, Healing*, and continues on with the celebration of a mother’s gifts. The book features stories of how she was taught 16 values she believes every child was given by their mom and others who were key in their life.

“Sometimes we do a better job focusing on our ‘To Do’ lists rather than on our ‘To Be’ lists. Life is a journey with a bucket that contains our stories, and those stories hold our values. Wouldn’t it be great if our bucket-list contained not just things to do and see, but the values to practice to make our journey great and to share with our children and grandchildren?” she asked.

Raap’s list of core, personal values includes optimism, taught by people who survived tough times and said, “There’s a silver lining in every cloud.” Other values include gratitude, an essential value for success in any aspect of life, as well as compassion, humor and quality.

Find Your Pink Flamingos stresses the importance of seeing the spiritual heritage of our

core, personal values and the importance of “paying them forward” to children and grandchildren.

Striving to live the values doesn't mean we wear halos or are perfect,” Raap said. “When I chose not to live the values, my dad said, ‘You know better.’ I believe we all know what values count most, and finding them in the lives of a mom we took for granted is a great way to celebrate Mother’s Day.

Why pink flamingos? Her mother’s flock of pink flamingos on a farm in northeastern South Dakota embarrassed Raap as a child. “Moms say and do things that seem goofy to us as kids,” she said. “Finding the life lessons in your stories, the things you cherish and even in the things that embarrassed you is a journey of finding the values that make you who you are today.

Find Your Pink Flamingos is available April 27 at Zandbroz in Sioux Falls, Prairie Pages in Pierre, Chapter 2 Book Center in Aberdeen, and on-line at www.DeeDeeRaap.com.

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