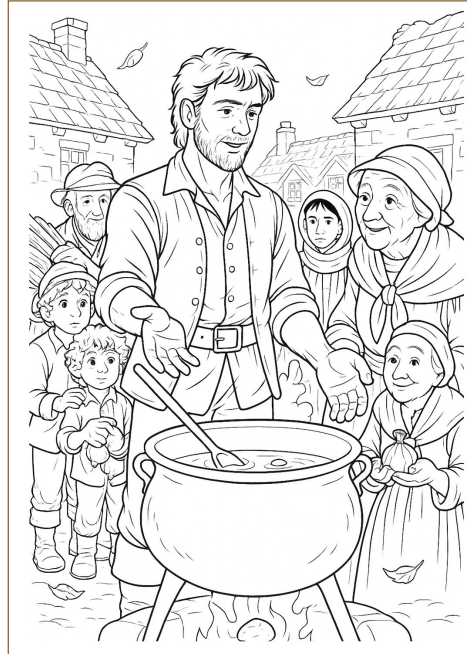


Media Kit



A luminous 3-part reimagining of the beloved Stone Soup folktale

Kickstarter Pre-Launch

My Father's Miraculous Rock Soup Hardcover Storybook

August 8, 2025

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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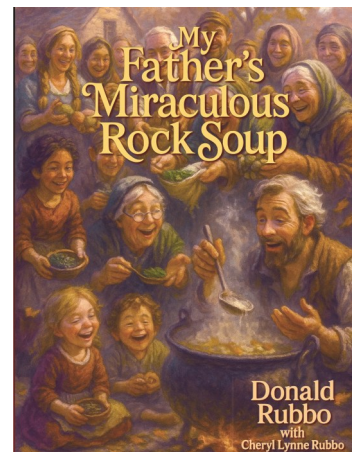
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Local Authors Pre-Launch Kickstarter for Luminous Children’s Book Celebrating Generosity, Family, and Food

SAN RAFAEL, CA — August 8, 2025 — Bay Area author and entrepreneur Donald Rubbo and his wife and co-author Cheryl Lynne Rubbo, announce the Pre-Launch of their highly anticipated Kickstarter campaign for their illustrated children’s storybook *My Father’s Miraculous Rock Soup*—a luminous reimagining of the beloved Stone Soup folktale, destined to become a cherished classic in children’s literature. This extraordinary storybook, with its innovative three-part structure and evocative journey, soars beyond all previous adaptations, weaving a tapestry of trust, faith, hope, love, and community that resonates across generations.



Set against the intimate backdrop of a 1965 Bronx kitchen, and expanding into a war-torn European village, this 7"x10" full-color, 146 page, illustrated hardcover masterpiece transforms a simple tale into a profound exploration of life’s small miracles.

In “Finding the Rock,” we meet eight-year-old Donald, whose hardworking artist father, on a rare visit home from his Manhattan midtown artist studio to their modest Bronx apartment, sees that Donald loves baking, and tells him the folktale of Stone Soup, grounding the story in heartfelt family bonds. “The Soldier’s Plan” transports readers to a distant European village, rekindling the classic folktale with fresh emotional depth and vivid storytelling. Finally, “Making Rock Soup with My Dad” returns to the Bronx, where the lessons of artful cooking, sharing and love culminate in a deeply personal celebration of connection.

This triptych structure—unique among Stone Soup adaptations—elevates the narrative, offering young readers and families a richer, more layered experience that speaks to both heart and soul.

The Kickstarter campaign aims to fund the first print run of this soon-to-be classic, multicultural heritage (Puerto Rican, Italian, European), and imaginative, collaborative generosity. Supporters can sign up on the Pre-Launch page to get early notification of the official Launch of the Campaign.

- Kickstarter Pre-Launch Page:
- <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/donaldandcheryllyne/my-fathers-miraculous-rock-soup-storybook>
- Official Kickstarter Campaign Launch Date: August 25, 2025
- Funding Goal: \$8,500
- Key Rewards:
 - Signed hardcover copies of My Father's Miraculous Rock Soup
 - Coloring Book of Storybook illustrations
 - Rock Soup .mp3s of Instrumental Songs to accompany Bedtime Reading
 - Rubbo Rock Soup recipe (from the storybook) .pdf
- Target Audience: Families, educators, librarians, and book lovers in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.
- Publication and release date of the hardcover book: October 15, 2025, in time for the holiday gifting season.

“My storybook is about how trust, family, art, food, and storytelling can turn anything—even a rock—into a miracle,” says Donald Rubbo.

“I have been substitute teaching for the past 3 years in public schools, and I know that the K-6 children will love this book! Adults will love it, too, because they will learn the powerful magic of sharing, even when we think we have nothing to share. Also, if there is anyone who has never experienced creating soup from scratch, this book will give them all the knowledge they need to choose the ingredients from the store or garden, walk into the kitchen, and magically assemble a hearty “Rock Soup”. What I like most is the heartfelt gift that a loving father passed on to his son. I could smell and taste the soup by the story’s end!” With much love, Claudia Holt, Teacher

“Reading My Father’s Miraculous Rock Soup to myself and my aging mother was a delightful surprise. Rubbos’ ability to mix art and cooking (a skill rooted from his childhood) shines through, and his storytelling, likely inherited from his father, brought back such vivid childhood memories for my mother that it brought tears to her eyes. I personally verify ‘this is a book readers of all ages can enjoy.’” Heidi Spaeth, Graphic Designer

“What a beautiful book, thank you for sharing it with us. As a preschool teacher for many years, it brings me joy to reenact the story of the Stone Soup story in my class each year. It teaches the children empathy, community and sharing. Many of the children had never liked soup before, until they made the soup with their own hands. Your book brings the love of making the soup with the father and son buying the vegetables and preparing the soup together, then watching the family enjoying the love that was placed in this meal. The beautiful illustrations are colorful and happy and really outline the story.” Linda Van Staveren, Teacher

Donald Rubbo, a New York City-born artist and longtime Bay Area resident, author and entrepreneur, is owner of **Rubbo Salt Shop**, an imaginative cook and a trailblazer in the wellness world. A lifelong multidisciplinary artist, with a four decade long career as a martial and healing arts teacher, mentor and volunteer with numerous public service projects—including currently on the board of, and volunteering with, *Respecting Our Elders*, a nonprofit food rescue organization—Rubbo has spent decades nurturing others through art, mentorship, and faith-driven actions. His deep belief in compassion and generosity as transformative forces shines through every word and every illustration.



Born into the vibrant chaos of a New York City artist loft, raised by Pop Art legend **Don Rubbo Sr.**, Donald fuses raw creativity with an unwavering spirituality, anchored by his unshakable Christian faith and a heart brimming with compassion, generosity and wisdom. Honored as a hero by the 2006 Volvo for Life Awards and decorated with two Presidential Commendations (President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama) for his public service, Rubbo's compassionate volunteerism and love for humanity spark vibrant, connected communities that pulse with hope and vitality. Learn more about Donald's background here: [Donald's Art Bonafides](#) and [Donald's Bio](#)

Cheryl Lynne Rubbo is an author and entrepreneur wellness innovator, and former martial arts and healing arts teacher whose passion for healing and transformation shines through her work. She has co-authored inspiring books with her husband, Donald Rubbo, including *Extraordinary Breath*, *The Art and Mastery of Bio-Energetic Healing*, and "Old-fashioned!" *Naughty! Everything! - A Glimpse of Emily Dickinson*. Cheryl Lynne also grew up with an influential artist father, **J.P. Pickens**, in the 1960s in Lagunitas, California. J.P. was a leading force in the early San Francisco North Beach music scene, circa 1963, playing recombined music at the Coffee Gallery, along with David Meltzer and James Gurley, and defining the psychedelic rock genre.

Altruistic and always ready to give a helping hand, Cheryl Lynne blends gentle humor, creativity, spirituality, and compassion, guided by her deep Christian faith. Her volunteer efforts and commitment to fostering healthier communities have earned her widespread admiration, amplifying her mission to uplift and connect humanity through love and generosity.

About the Artwork in the Storybook:



My Father's Miraculous Rock Soup storybook is a visual and emotional masterpiece, the story is written by Donald Rubbo from a memory from his childhood, and every AI-Assisted illustration is personally crafted by Donald Rubbo with extensive, all-inclusive artistic direction.

These AI-assisted visuals honor traditional storytelling while embracing new creative technologies, honoring, and building upon, the groundbreaking artistic legacy of Donald's father, Don Rubbo, as well as Donald's comprehensive, multi-disciplinary artistic career.

FROM THE STORYBOOK

INTRODUCTION

Some stories live in our hearts long before they're written down. *My Father's Miraculous Rock Soup* was born from a cherished memory, which nestled in my heart until it bloomed in God's perfect time. *My Father's Miraculous Rock Soup* is both a story remembered, and a story shared.

It began in a modest apartment in the Bronx, where my father, with his remarkable gift of storytelling, taught me his core belief that taking care of others, whether family or strangers, is an act of faith, love, compassion and generosity.

We have the power to spark hope in the darkest places - because light never shrinks when it's shared, it multiplies. One candle can ignite millions without losing its flame, and in the same way, your kindness and generosity can ripple out to nourish hearts, homes, and the whole wide world.



THE SOLDIER'S PLAN

One of the villagers said to his neighbor, “Hmm, this is getting interesting!” The man replied, “It's been so long since I've had a good meal, and this is turning into a real celebration, but my stomach is growling very loudly!”

The woodcutter's daughters and the Mayor's grandchildren helped the Soldier place tinder, kindling and logs under the cauldron.

Reaching into his knapsack, the Soldier brought out his tinderbox, and, striking the flint against the firesteel, lit the fire. Reaching again into his knapsack, he removed his trusty wooden spoon and stirred the water in the cauldron.

The Soldier lifted the spoon to his lips to taste the soup. “Ahhhh, the miraculous rock is releasing such delicious flavors, it's almost perfect! If only I had some onions to add a little piquant flavor to this soup!”

MAKING ROCK SOUP WITH MY DAD

“Now, here's an exquisite head of garlic! See how perfectly shaped the head is, as well as each clove, nestled tightly under the white skin. Feel this garlic, smell, it, hold it.”

He handed me the head of garlic and I closed my eyes and felt the shape of it in my hand, and heard the whispering of the paper skin as I ran my thumb over the garlic.

“And this flat-leaf parsley! Magnificent! Notice the bright green color of the parsley. Pinch the leaf, and smell the aroma that's released, it stays on your finger for awhile. We'll take a bunch of this parsley.”

He passed the parsley to me. I pressed the parsley to my face and inhaled deeply.

