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**FIRST-EVER CHILDREN'S BOOK ABOUT FREEMASONRY
EXPLAINS ANCIENT FRATERNITY TO KIDS**

My Dad is a Freemason is great for curious adults too

My Dad is a Freemason, a book by Richard Vang, has just been released by Square Circle Press. The book is designed to help Freemasons explain their mysterious organization to their children and other younger members of their families. Until recently, Masonic tradition discouraged the discussion of lodge activities even with family members, often with the result of adult sons wondering why their fathers never asked them to join their Masonic lodge. This book provides a tool for Masons to more easily communicate with their families and share the experience of their membership.

Patterned after books that describe various occupations to children, My Dad is a Freemason is narrated through the words of a young boy who details his father's Masonic experience. The son explains what a Freemason is, what ritual initiations and lodge meetings are like, and what activities Freemasons are involved in. The text of the main narrative is geared towards readers ages eight and up. The simple text is accompanied by photographic illustrations, many depicting actual activities of a typical Masonic lodge.

In addition, a detailed subtext parallels the central story with historical anecdotes about famous Masons such as George Washington, Harry Truman, and Erastus Beadle. Richly illustrated with photographs of Masonic artwork and ritual paraphernalia, the historical text is aimed at slightly more advanced readers, providing vocabulary-building skills and years of reading pleasure for children. A glossary at the end of the book gives definitions of some of the more important Masonic terms used in the historical subtext.

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A “Personal Masonic History” form is included at the end of the book, providing a genealogical research activity for kids to record the Masonic career of a relative or one of the famous Freemasons listed in the book. The form could also be used by a Freemason to record his personal information in order to present the book as a keepsake gift to his children or other loved ones.

“While this book is written for children, it can also serve as an excellent introduction to Freemasonry for adults who are curious about the Masonic order as well,” explained Richard Vang, author of the book. “The illustrations and text present a summary view of Freemasonry that can usually be learned only by joining a lodge or reading several scholarly works on the subject,” he added. “Because Freemasonry is practiced differently across the country, this general overview is designed to be applicable to any Grand Lodge throughout the United States.”

Vang has been active in Freemasonry since 1991, and is a Past Master and the current Historian of Otsego Lodge in Cooperstown, NY, as well as a Trustee of The Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library. He holds a BA in Literature and Folklore from Binghamton University, and has been working with computers and graphics for libraries, museums, and government agencies for over 20 years. The author of numerous articles, Vang also designed and illustrated the book.

My Dad is a Freemason is the first installment of *The Masonic Family Series*. The forthcoming books will employ the same method to explain the many affiliated organizations which make up the larger “Masonic Family,” such as the Order of the Eastern Star, the Scottish Rite, the York Rite, and the Shriners, as well as the Masonic youth groups like DeMolay and Rainbow Girls.

Square Circle Press will donate a part of the proceeds of the sale of every book in *The Masonic Family Series* to Masonic charities. “Freemasons are well known for the charitable good works they do in their local communities and throughout the country,” Vang stated. “These books continue this tradition in a new and exciting way.”

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For more information about how and where to purchase My Dad is a Freemason or other forthcoming titles in *The Masonic Family Series*, or to learn more about Square Circle Press, visit the publisher's web site at www.squarecirclepress.com.

BOOK INFORMATION:

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