

Dec. 5, 2018



*Gangster In Our Midst*—available at local bookstores, [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) & Barnes & Noble  
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## *Gangster* Blog

### In the Bleak Mid-winter...

The winter months in Minnesota are a great time to hunker down and write. A few of you have inquired about *Book #4*. I am still trying to decide between a few ideas: 1) a **sequel** to *Gangster in our Midst* (I've still more Louie La Cava stories I long to tell); 2) a book of **true crime** (a Twin Cities story); or 3) a **children's book**. I'm researching all options. Stay tuned!

And I'll schedule more 2019 book events.... Looks like May will be another **Book Tour**, this time in the Burlington-Davenport, Iowa areas. After a year of marketing GIOM, it's getting a bit easier to get into libraries and bookstores. And I don't think I shared with you that I've reached a **new milestone**: I've now sold \$5,000 worth of books (only 1 percent of authors reach this level, I'm told). The new book cover should help with book sales on Amazon (see attached).

### Waiting for Reuben

A big PLUS in writing books for me is getting to meet so many new people. My longtime friend **Reuben** informs me that in December he'll be in Chicago and will give his copy of *Gangster in our Midst* to his friend, **Bill**—whose father was an associate of Frank Sinatra and a protector for Al Capone. I'm "sitting on the edge of my seat" waiting to hear from Bill to learn what he thinks about how well I've laid out the facts of the story.

### Postings

Here's a short list of Facebook Group sites where I post (about GIOM). If you have a favorite fb site, **send me a note with the link**, and I'll "like" and try to post there, as well.

- Mystery Writers of America, Midwest Chapter
- Minnesota Twin Sisters in Crime
- Cozy Mystery Book Corner
- Forgotten Iowa
- State Historic Society of Iowa



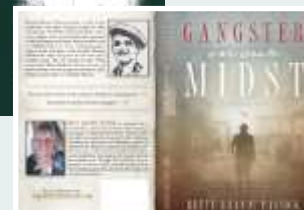
## Three Fingers

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

In the Bleak Mid-winter.. ....	1
Waiting for Reuben .....	1
Postings .....	1
New Book Cover (coming!) .....	1
Two Iowa Communities That Have Much in Common .....	2
Author Events ....	2



**New Book Cover (coming!)**





Mobster Charlie “Cherry Nose” Gioe (right).



## Two Iowa Communities That Have Much in Common

I’m working on finalizing a date in January to do book events at the Ottumwa Public Library and Wapello County Historical Society. Turns out, Ottumwa has much in common with Fairbank, the town that inspired *Gangster in our Midst*.

All communities in the Midwest were affected, more or less, by the outbreak of crime in Chicago during Prohibition.

When Des Moines—a strategic site where all roads in the country came together for freight—became a hub for Capone’s illegal booze trafficking, some law officials worried that Des Moines might become a “little Chicago.” At the head of this Iowa Mafia was **Charlie “Cherry Nose” Gioe**, a lieutenant in the Chicago Outfit.

Ottumwa lay only eighty miles to the southeast of Des Moines.

Fairbank, too, grew its share of bootleggers, a few who got their shipments out of Chicago. Then the town got **Louie La Cava**, Capone’s bookkeeper, lieutenant, and sometimes hit man, who shifted between New York, Chicago and Miami for some sixty years.

Like La Cava, Charlie Gioe (pronounced Joy) is an interesting case study, if you like the old “Untouchables” television series, where bad guys ended up taking a bullet to the temple—not by law officials, but at the hands of other mobsters.

According to Allan May, mafia historian, Gioe had been dispatched in 1936 by Capone to oversee his operations in the Des Moines region. When Capone went to prison in ’31, Frank Nitti took over the Outfit. Gioe was one of twenty attendees to be given new responsibilities by Nitti, who soon came up with a major money making scheme known as “The Hollywood Extortion Case.” Gioe went to prison for a few years. Considered a government “snitch,” his assassination happened in Chicago in 1954.

La Cava, who was subpoenaed by the Feds to give testimony against Capone—and Johnny Torrio—died of old age at 91 in Florida.

## Author Events

- **Spring 2019** — Cicero Public Library, 5225 West Cermak Rd., Cicero, Ill, (708) 652-8084
- **Spring 2019** — West Des Moines Library, 4000 Mills Civic Pkwy., West Des Moines, IA, (515) 222-3400
- **April 2019**, Date/Time: **TBD**
- Sawyer Co. Historical Society & Museum, County Highway B, Hayward, WI, (715) 634-8053
- **Fri., May 3, 2019**, 10 am — Burlington Public Library, 210 Court St., Burlington, IA (319) 753-1647
- **Sat, May 4, 2019**, 11 am-3 pm — Burlington By The Book, 301 Jefferson St, Burlington, IA, (319) 753-9981
- May/time: **TBD (new)** — Davenport Public Library, 321 N Main St., Davenport, IA, (563) 326-7832
- May/time: **TBD (new)** — Moon River Magic, 915 15th Avenue, East Moline, Illinois
- Pending...**
- Date/Time: **TBD (new)** — Ottumwa Public Library, 102 W 4th St, Ottumwa, IA, (641) 682-7563
- Date/Time: **TBD (new)** — Wapello County Historical Society, 210 W Main St, Ottumwa, IA, (641) 682-8676
- Date/Time: **TBD** — Next Page Books, 1105 3rd St SE, Cedar Rapids, IA, (319) 247-2665
- Date/Time: **TBD** — Wild Carrot (gift shop and restaurant), 215 E Bremer Ave, Waverly, IA, (319) 352-2215
- Date/Time: **TBD** — Winneshiek County Historical Society, 211 Winnebago St, Decorah, IA 52101, (563) 382-4166
- Date/Time: **TBD** — Templeton Rye Distillery, 209 E 3rd Ave, Templeton, IA (712) 669-8793
- Date/Time: **TBD** — Johnson Co. Historical Society, 860 Quarry Rd, Coralville, IA, (319) 351-5738
- Date/Time: **TBD** — Cedar Valley Historical Society & Grout Museum, 503 South St., Waterloo, IA, (319) 234-6357
- Date/Time: **TBD** — Majors & Quinn, 3038 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, MN, (612) 822-4611