

May 8, 2019



Gangster In Our Midst—available at local bookstores, [Amazon](#) & Barnes & Noble
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Gangster Blog

FOUR (4) things that are NEW

- 1) A chapter from Gangster in our Midst, "The Duck Blind," is scheduled to appear in issue 8 of [WINK magazine](#) (watch for the link).
- 2) Check out the new tabs on my website: [Biography](#), [Blogs](#), [Book Clubs](#) and [Press](#) (find all my Gangster BLOGs posted under [Blogs](#).)
- 3) Two book clubs have read Gangster in our Midst. Download the new **Study Guide** (free) under "[Book Clubs](#)".
- 4) Thank you to Twin Cities Attorney Julie Finch, "Legal Bits for Business," for featuring me/Gangster in our Midst in an April **podcast** ([link](#)).

Gangster in our Midst — Now available at Walmart!

I recently googled Gangster in our Midst to see if new reviews had been posted on the Internet. To my surprise, I found Walmart is now selling the book. Check it out ([link](#)).

Wanted! 10 People to Write a Book Review

Gangster in our Midst rises closer to PAGE ONE on Amazon with each on-line review the book receives. My goal is to get ten people to write and post a book review. Below are a few questions to spur ideas about what you might say:

- How did you feel when reading the book?
- What themes or thoughts did you get while reading the book?
- What did this book remind you of?

Go to Amazon ([link](#)) and post your review.

THANK YOU!



"Three Fingers"

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Neither rain, nor snow, nor (flooding)...

Burlington, Iowa, like other towns along the mighty Mississippi River, has been dealing with record flooding this spring, but that did not deter this group (pictured) from coming to the **Burlington Public Library** the morning of May 3rd to hear about Fairbank, Iowa's gangster, Louie La Cava.

Lois Blythe, senior librarian with thirty years' experience, invited me to do an author talk in July 2018.

My remarks noted that "Scarface" Al Capone saw the 1919 ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment—banning the making, transporting, and sale of alcoholic beverages in the United States—as an opportunity to get rich. But so did a lot of others. Turf wars were inevitable, but Chicago was already bloodied from the 'Beer Wars'.

What propelled Capone to the top of the nation's Public Enemy list was the April 1926 triple murders that included Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County, Billy McSwiggin. It's believed Capone had put out the hit on two notorious rival gangsters that evening at a saloon on Roosevelt Road with whom Billy was keeping company. McSwiggin's murder was seen as an attack against the state. La Cava was among Capone's hitmen police brought in for questioning.

Then came the assassination of New York gangster, Frankie Yale, in July 1928, which might have initially passed as just another incidental skirmish between rival gangs who sought to control the illegal supply of alcohol and other activities—if not for the automatic revolver and sawed-off shotgun inside Yale's car police identified as belonging to Capone. The Feds really turned up the heat on Capone.

La Cava went into hiding—after two years, the Feds finally found him in Cleveland, Ohio and served him with a subpoena to testify as a tax witness against his old boss. In October 1931, Capone went off to the Atlanta Penitentiary for income tax evasion.

Was Louie La Cava destined to forever look over his shoulder?

Apparently so. When he built his house in Fairbank in the 1960s, he put a half-dozen deadbolts and locks on every door, a set of double locks on every window...and included a discreet place, a "panic room," of sorts, where two could hide for days at a time.

Author Events

— Date/Time: **TBD (new)** — "Wiltse Family of Strawberry Point," Wilder Foundation, 123 W. Mission St., Strawberry Point, IA, (563) 933-4615

— Date/Time: **TBD (new)** — "Wiltse Family of Strawberry Point," Clayton County Historical/Genealogy Society, 119 N. Main St., Elkader, IA, 563-245-1065

— **Sun, Jun 23, 1-2:30 pm** — "Iowa's Oakdale Sanatorium—A Ray of Hope," Johnson Co. Historical Society, 860 Quarry Rd, Coralville, IA, (319) 351-5738

— Mid-July, time **TBD (new)** — Jackson Street Beer, 607 5th St, Sioux City, Iowa, (712) 574-8403

— **Fri., Aug. 9th, 10-11:30 am** — "Meet & Greet," Lake Country Booksellers, 766 Washington Square, "White Bear Lake, MN, 651-426-0918

— **Tues., Sept. 24, 6:30 pm (new)** — "Iowa's Oakdale Sanatorium—A Ray of Hope," Clear Lake Public Library, 200 N. 4th St., Clear Lake, IA 641-357-6133

Book Clubs

— **Last Monday of the month**, St. Paul, MN.

— **Beancounters Book Club**, Burlington, IA

— **Cicero Public Library**, 5225 West Cermak Rd., Cicero, Ill, (708) 652-8084

Book Festivals

— **Sat., Sept. 9, 9 am (new)** — Oak Knoll Lutheran Church, 600 Hopkins Crossroad, Minnetonka, MN

— **Sept 20-Oct 6**, Iowa City Book Festival, 123 S Linn St., Iowa City, IA, 319.356.5245

— **Sat., Nov. 17, 10 am-2 pm (new)** — Sterling Lord Writers and Readers Festival, Burlington Public Library, (319) 753-1647

Pending...

— April/Time: **TBD** — Sawyer Co. Historical Society & Museum, County Highway B, Hayward, WI, (715) 634-8053

— Date/Time: **TBD** — James Kennedy Public Library, 320 1st Ave E, Dyersville, IA, (563) 875-8912

— Date/Time: **TBD** — Harrison County Welcome Ctr, 2931 Monroe Ave., Missouri Valley, Iowa, (712) 642-2114

— Date/time: **TBD** — Big Foot Inn, 11508 N US Highway 14, Harvard, IL, (815) 943-4740

— Date/time: **TBD** — Wapello County Historical Society, 210 W Main St., Ottumwa, IA, (641) 682-8676

— Date/time: **TBD** — Davenport Public Library, 321 N Main St., Davenport, IA, (563) 326-7832

— Date/time: **TBD** — Ottumwa Public Library, 102 W 4th St, Ottumwa, IA, (641) 682-7563

— Date/time: **TBD** — Iowa City Public Library, 123 S Linn St, Iowa City, IA, (319) 356-5200

— Date/time: **TBD** — Landmark Commons Retirement Community, 1400 Maxhelen Blvd., Waterloo, IA, (319) 296-7100