

July 18, 2019



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

WOW Writers' Conference, Sept. 28th

You are invited to attend the Women of Words 10th Annual Writers Conference ([link](#)), Saturday, September 28th, 8:30 am—4:30 pm, at Oak Knoll Luth Church, 600 Hopkins Crossroad, Minnetonka, Minn.

The conference is a welcoming place for women writers to attend five amazing sessions from marketing, publishing tips, editing tricks, and much more. Snacks, lunch, and beverages will be available throughout the day. Early bird registration (\$75) ends September 14th.

Plan to attend the “**Panel of Mystery Crime Authors**,” and find out what is different between writing mystery crime vs other fiction. See you September 28th!



Betty Brandt Passick, Oakdale, Minn., historical mystery, bettybrandtpassick.com

Midge Bubany, Maple Grove, Minn., Police Procedurals, midgebubany.com

Gloria VanDemmeltraadt, Lake Elmo, Minn., cozy mysteries, gloriavan.com

Joan H. Young, Scottville, Mich., classic detective, booksleavingfootprints.com

Moderator: Connie Anderson, co-founder of Women of Words, WordsandDeedsInc.com



“Three Fingers”

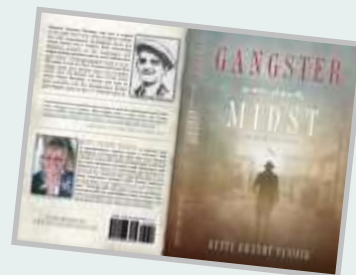
Bulletin Board

Current Projects (2):

I'm writing 2nd in a series of **Gangster in our Midst**—plus the screenplay.

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Gangsters sped around the Midwest in fast cars firing “Thompson typewriters” from windows

It’s hard to find a town in the Midwest without a claim to hosting at least one Prohibition era gangster.

Fairbank, Iowa’s gangster, Louie La Cava, came to town in the 1920s—and lived there off and on for the next sixty years.

Other gangsters renowned to have sped around the cities and countryside included Tommy Carroll, John Dillinger, Charles Arthur “Pretty Boy” Floyd, Baby Face Nelson, the Barker–Karpis gang—even Chicago kingpin Al Capone, who openly sought the adoration of his fans. They drove fast black cars, customized with back windows that dropped down and side windows with cavities so kinsmen could fire “Thompson typewriters” (called so for the sound they make from a distance) without hindrance.

General John T. Thompson is credited for inventing the Tommy submachine gun. During WWI he saw the need for a gun that could act as a ‘trench broom’, one that would enable a lone infantryman to clear whole dugouts of enemy troops in mere seconds. He patented the Thompson in 1920. The U.S. Postal Service was his first customer, ordering 200 guns to protect the mail from violent thieves.

But gangsters catapulted to infamy the gun as the weapon of choice.

John Q. Public eventually saw how bad mob violence had become and put immense pressure on law enforcement to put an end to it after the Valentine’s Day massacre in 1929, when two Thompsons pumped 70 rounds, within seconds, into seven members of the “Bugs” Moran Gang in a warehouse on Chicago’s South Wabash Avenue, allegedly upon order of Moran’s biggest rival, Al Capone.

La Cava, part of Capone’s inner circle, likely helped plan that massacre. His was the second name alongside Capone’s on Capone’s bank box.

J. Edgar Hoover soon tasked Eliot Ness, special agent of the U.S. Department of Justice, with the job of setting up a special, incorruptible squad to take out Capone and his Chicago crime syndicate. Only then did the FBI place its first order for Thompsons.

The massacre drew attention to the nation’s gun laws. The Thompson had the dubious honor of being one of the first weapons subject to the 1934 National Firearms Act which prohibited the use of automatic and concealable weapons by civilians in the U.S.

Emmett Durham was among the Fairbank kids whom La Cava took to see movies at the Opera House. Grandson Howard Durham recalls Emmett saying: “I once saw a machine gun in Louie’s trunk, I think.”



John T. Thompson and his famous Tommy submachine gun. (Image source: WikiCommons Media)

Author Events

— **Sun., July 21, 1-6 pm** — “Meet & Greet,” Jackson Street Brewery, 607 5th St, Sioux City, Iowa, (712) 574-8403

— **Sat., Aug 3, 10 am-4pm** — Mason City Author Event, Southbridge Mall, 100 S Federal Ave, Mason City, IA, (641) 423-6688

— **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** — “A Ray of Hope” (Iowa’s Oakdale Sanatorium), Clear Lake Public Library, 200 N. 4th St., Clear Lake, IA 641-357-6133

— **Fall 2019** — The Center, Corner of 8th and Kingwood Streets, Brainerd, MN, (218) 829-9345

Book Clubs

— **Beauncounters**, Burlington, IA

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

Book Festivals-Conferences

— **Sat., Aug 10, 9 am-3 pm**— Northwoods Arts & Book Festival, Hackensack, MN

— **Sat., Sept. 9, 8:30 am-4:30 pm** — WOW 10 Annual Writers Conference, Oak Knoll Luth Church, 600 Hopkins Crossroad, Minnetonka, MN

— **Oct 11-13** — St. Paul Art Crawl, 308 Prince St, St. Paul, MN, (651) 270-0563

— **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** — Sterling Lord Writers and Readers Festival, Burlington Public Library, (319) 753-1647

Pending...

— Date/Time: **TBD (new)** — Chicago History Museum, 1601 North Clark Street, Chicago, Ill, (312) 642-4600

— Fall/Winter, Time: **TBD** — Lake Time Brewery, 801 Main Ave, Clear Lake, IA, (641) 357-2040

— Date/Time: **TBD** — Coralville Public Library, 1401 5th St, Coralville, IA, (319) 248-1850

— Date/Time: **TBD** — Jefferson Public Library, 200 W Lincoln Way, Jefferson, IA, (515) 386-2835

— Date/Time: **TBD** — “Gangsters Hid in Small Towns, too”, Roseville Public Library -Shoreview, 4560 Victoria St. N., Shoreview, MN, (651) 724-6090

— Date/Time: **TBD** — “Autism at the turn of the Twentieth Century”, Mary Hanson Show, TPT Twin Cities PBS

— Date/Time: **TBD** — Musser Public Library, 408 East 2nd St., Muscatine, IA, (563) 263-3065

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