

February 16, 2021



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

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Gangster Blog

Author Panelist

Deep Valley Book Festival Cabin Fever Edition Virtual)

Sat./Sun., Mar. 6-7



The Cabin Fever Edition of the Deep Valley Book Festival has something for everyone ([schedule](#) / [Cabin Fever Schedule](#) | [DVBF 2021](#) (deepvalleybookfestival.com)).

Register for the Author Panel: “**Book Clubs, Twitter, Instagram—Oh My! Networking with Authors,**” March 6, 10:am. We will discuss best practices for connecting, from book clubs to social media.

The Deep Valley Book Festival gets its name from the setting of the beloved Betsy-Tacy children’s books written by Mankato, MN-born author Maud Hart Lovelace.



**Cabin Fever
Edition
(Virtual)**
Sat-Sun, March 6-7

Author Panel: “Book Clubs, Twitter, Instagram—Oh My! Networking with Authors,” March 6, 10 am



Phyllis Cole-Dai



Sari Fordham



Barb Geiger



Julie Holmes



Jim Landwehr



Betty Passick



Andromeda Lax



Jaye Viner



Moderator:
Susan Stradiotto

Registration:
www.deepvalleybookfestival.com
**Largest literary festival of
its kind in Southern Minn.!**



COMING!

**Sequel to
Gangster in Our
Midst:
Spring 2021!**

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Closing Chapter on an Old Interview

Larry Flynt died February 10th of heart failure. He was 78. For many years he had been my ‘claim to fame,’ so to speak—the most famous person I’d ever interviewed. His magazine, Hustler, which had grown to a thirty million dollar a year business, was one of the most explicit adult-oriented magazines in America—making him a target for the religious right and feminist groups.

In December 1977, I was writing a weekly column “Christian Living” for my Iowa hometown newspaper, and had followed some of Flynt’s legal jeopardies. Among them was a conviction of obscenity in Columbus, Ohio, the headquarters of Leisure Time Products—which was later appealed and overturned.

Flynt had shocked the world when, months earlier, with President Carter’s faith-healer sister Ruth Carter Stapleton at his side, on a jet headed for the west coast, he became a born-again believer.

Details of his startling conversion came out within days. Flynt described his conversion as moving, transformative. Stapleton said Flynt was “doubled over in deep agony” as he admitted to heinous sins before a vision of Christ.

When I learned Larry Flynt would be a speaker at a “Think Positive” rally at McElroy Auditorium in Waterloo, Iowa, I bought a ticket.

Flynt spoke about his rise in the ‘smut’ business. He was in the process of reordering his businesses to reflect his decision to follow Christ.

I watched him exit the stage and left my seat to try to catch up with him, with but 2 questions in mind.

I spied him in an empty hallway—he on one end, me on the other. I lifted my yellow pad and pencil as he approached, signaling my intent to interview him.

He stopped a few feet from me.

“How are you going to change your magazine?” I asked.

He said he was going to use it to improve the image of women.

“How will you do that?”

He provided a smattering of talking points: “More wholesome” images, less “nudity and sex,” etc.

I remember thinking there was something hollow about the man who had claimed a fantastical born-again experience. I saw no ‘fire’ in his eyes; his charismatic personality seemed wholly flat.

Larry Flynt made national headlines again in November 1978. He’d been ambushed by a sniper outside Leisure Time Products—the third attack within a year. At age 33, he was paralyzed from the waist down and would spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

Flynt reverted back to atheism—and porn, a mixture of anger, and rage and misogyny, racism and anti-Semitic jokes, and a long-running cartoon about a pedophile.

I met Larry Flynt at perhaps the best time of his life, when he was a ‘rising star’.

And that’s my story.



Author Events

(2021)

— (new) Sat/Sun, Mar. 6-7, Author Panelist (virtual), Deep Valley Book Festival, FREE, www.deepvalleybookfestival.com

— (pending) Fri./Sat., Jul. 16-17, Waverly Heritage Days, Memorial Park, 515 5th Ave SW, Waverly, IA

— (pending) Summer 2021—(Book Signing) Sweet Reads Books and Candy, 407 North Main St. Austin, MN

— (new) Sat., Oct. 2, 6th Edition Deep Valley Book Festival, Loose Moose Saloon & Conference Center, Mankato, MN

