



Join us to make a difference

A non-profit, public benefits organization serving families and friends of homicide victims.

REWARDS FOR INFORMATION

You have, no doubt, seen the posters offering \$50,000 rewards in past issues of our newsletter. These rewards were the result of the three governors (Arnold Schwarzenegger, Grey Davis and Pete Wilson) preceding our current Governor, Jerry Brown. Schwarzenegger, Davis and Wilson signed Reward Proclamations without hesitation. Penal Code Section 1547(a) authorizes the Governor of California to do just that. Governor Brown has not signed a single proclamation since taking office. Because there are no rewards as requested by police chiefs and elected sheriffs throughout California, many murderers enjoy this omission as one less factor that might lead to their arrest. Parents of murder victims once again are victimized by of all people, the Governor of California, Jerry Brown. His refusal to sign requested proclamations for rewards minimizes the probability that their loved one's murderer will not be brought to justice.

Each featured reward poster will include a brief narrative depicting what happened to the murder victim and contact information should any of our readers have information that might help apprehend a murderer.

Kristin Appice Case Info

On April 8, 2003, Kristin (age 20) and a friend, Alonzo Jackson left her home at approximately 11:00 p.m. to walk to a nearby convenience store located in Hayward, California. During their return trip back to Kristin's home, they were ambushed by two assailants. Both Kristin and Alonzo were shot at close range with a shotgun and died at the scene.

Our
Next Meeting
will be on
Sunday,
March 13,
2016

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Become a CAH Member!

CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE

Who We Are

The majority of the board members of Citizens Against Homicide have had a family member murdered. They are surviving the devastating loss of a loved one and still suffer the continued emotional trauma of coping with our criminal justice system. We have joined together to create a voice for the survivors and friends of murder victims.

CAH Objectives

- Assist families through the complicated criminal justice system.
- Provide trial and courtroom support to victims.
- Accompany victims to parole hearings in their endeavor to keep the convicted murderer in prison.
- Provide information on pending crime legislation.

Protecting Your Own Interests

You can't prepare for the event that makes you a victim. You can only react. You need to know how to deal with the subsequent trial, sentencing and unavoidable parole hearings. CAH helps you take action to protect your own interests.

If you have friends or family who may be in need of our assistance, please pass along the information regarding our organization.

Location for Meetings

We hold monthly meetings on the second Sunday of each month at 302 4th Street, San Rafael, CA. The monthly meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. We encourage anyone interested to attend meetings.

A New Years Message from Jan

"Tis the Season" once again. Perhaps it is my age, but it appears each year "the Season" arrives sooner. Once again, I have not accomplished all the things I believed necessary for the year to be a complete success. When time is taken to review the events of the year, I realize that not accomplishing all the things on my list had a lot to do with "life". In a perfect situation, we have our list of things to do and we set out to accomplish those things; when in real life, as they say, "stuff" happens. It is the "Stuff of Life" that does not allow for the completion of the list, because life is far more important and complicated. Perhaps a sick friend needed some company; or a grandchild who wanted to help with cooking the family dinner that extended a one-hour task to several hours. The rewards for visiting a friend and including your grandchild for kitchen duty was filled with laughter, hugs and the company of a loved one. Perhaps it was a complete day searching for that perfect photograph to give to that special someone, who will cherish it forever. These memories are priceless. Finding ways to bring laughter into my life is as varied

as the number of grandchildren I have. Cheering at football, soccer and basketball games (to the extent of almost losing my voice), is expected as the cheering was for my grandchild. Needless to say, my list will be extended to 2016 and I believe I have lived 2015 to the fullest.

Sadness was ever present in 2015 due to the deaths of family members and friends. The year 2016 will not be the same without them. Emotions and memories vary with each death. There is a sadness with the death of the elderly. In retrospect, we say, "What a wonderful life they led". The sadness differs dramatically with the death of our youth. We say, "They had so much more to do". Their untimely death cut short hopes and dreams.

But those are our thoughts when in reality, the Lord above has the master plan. As the years pass, sometimes we are able to see a greater part of that master plan and where we fit into it. Other times, it is just a blur.

—continued on page 3

Officers

Jane Alexander	<i>Co-Founder Emeritus</i>
Jan Miller	<i>Co-Founder</i>
Gene & Shellie Cervantes	<i>Victim Advocates / Consultants</i>
Susan Fisher	<i>Legislative Consultant</i>
Angela Bushnell Gillam	<i>Victim Advocate / Communications</i>
Boni Driskill	<i>Victim Advocate</i>
Alice Ostergren	<i>Treasurer</i>
Carol Silveira	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Anne Poverello	<i>Victim Representative</i>
Jacque MacDonald	<i>Victims Voice-Publicity</i>
Eryn Cervantes	<i>Special Assignment Consultant</i>
	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Foothill Printing & Graphics	<i>Design & Printing</i>

Advisory Board

Jack Miller	Chuck Mitchell
Ora Knowell	Andi Jarmicki
Terri de la Cuesta	David Perotti

Citizens Against Homicide

The UPS Store
369-B Third Street, Box 303
San Rafael, CA 94901
Tel 415-455-5944 • Fax 415-721-0788
E-Mail: vctmsmurdr@aol.com
Website: www.citizensagainsthomicide.org

CAH Victim Advocate:

For advice regarding your individual murder case, 1-209-728-2873
cahadvocate@yahoo.com

Trust and Accountability

By Gene Cervantes

Night after night, the evening news reports on a murder committed in our community. Fifty percent or more of these reports leads us to believe a murder did, in fact, occur. At the end of the report, we are told that the Medical Examiner (ME) determined the Method of Death (MOD) to be “suicide or accidental”. Often times, “curiosity” pushes me to research such cases. To my dismay, I initially believed the ME got it right. Too often, however, MEs failed to conduct a thorough and comprehensive examination.

Let me tell you about a death that took place in the Mid West. A 911 call was made by a female who reported that her boyfriend committed suicide. She relayed to the 911 operator that the deceased had high blood pressure and other medical issues. The 911 operator relayed this information to the first responders. When the first responders arrived, they found prescription drugs in the medicine cabinet consistent with the treatment of high blood pressure and other medical conditions. Since the ME was unavailable (at a dinner party) to examine the body, he took the word of the first responders that prescription medicine supported accidental overdose. The ME then instructed the first responders to document MOD as accidental overdose and he would sign the Death Certificate the next day.

When the staff at the funeral home were preparing the deceased for burial, they discovered three (3) bullet holes in the back of his head. No evidence! No viable suspects! No nothing! The ME was too lazy to do his job. He failed to examine the body and verify prescription drugs. This is not unusual. Too many MEs get the MOD wrong and are too proud to admit their error.

Watching Dateline the other night, a veteran detective was made aware of the many inconsistencies to call a death “accidental”. However, the detective responded, “I am not medically qualified to contradict a doctor”. I was shocked. There was every indication of foul play that shouted out for a murder investigation. He took the easy way out. He failed to use his years of experience to challenge the faulty MOD.

Let us make 2016 a year of accountability. Let us hold MEs accountable for their lack of integrity, honesty and professionalism. Let us hold law enforcement personnel accountable for incompetent investigations and failure to follow up on leads that contradict MEs’ findings. Remember, autopsies are the voice of the dead. Homicide personnel and MEs must listen to these voices. Let us hold all elected representatives accountable. We must have trusted leadership, who are victim friendly.

Words From Jan—*cont. from page 2*

My message to you is this... reach out to all of your family and friends, bring them closer, take the time to enjoy everyday as if it is the last gift. Enjoy that gift of life!

From the entire Board of Citizens Against Homicide, we hope your Christmas was beautiful and, as we welcome 2016, wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Join us at our meeting to be held March 13, 2016.

Quote of the Month



“Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but in finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong”

—Theodore Roosevelt

Dear Gene and Shellie,

I want to let you and everyone at Citizens Against Homicide know parole for Kenneth Jones, was rejected today. The help from you and Citizens Against Homicide is such a blessing.

Thank you for all of your support given to myself and my family.

—Mary Jo Craft Troxell

Letters Asking a Judge not to Release a Murderer from Prison

The past year has been a roller coaster ride for the family of Essie and James Effron, an older couple who were murdered on the eve of their retirement.

As the Citizens Against Homicide newsletter reported, in February 2015, the California Parole Board decided that the murderer, Jose Gonzalez, should be released from prison. In July, Governor Brown reversed that decision, because it was clear that Gonzalez would pose a danger to society unless he remained behind bars. Now, a judge has issued an order requiring the governor to show cause why Gonzalez should not be released on parole.

The governor's papers opposing the granting of parole to Gonzalez will be filed with the court soon. In the meantime, there is an opportunity for everyone to help keep Gonzalez in prison by writing letters to the judge.

James Effron was born in Kentucky and moved with his family to San Diego. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and during World War II served in the Army, where he became a lieutenant. After James' military service ended, he helped his parents run their store in San Diego, Effron's Clothing Store.

Essie was born in England, and her family moved to Los Angeles when she was a teenager. She and James got married when they were in their early twenties, and they had two children, Gary, who is now an attorney, and Cheryl, a medical doctor. After James' parents died, James and Essie continued operating Effron's Clothing Store.

In 1977, Essie was diagnosed with cancer and had to have abdominal surgery and chemotherapy. Not knowing what the future state of her health would be, she and James made a decision to close down the store so that they could spend all of

their time together. They then began a going-out-of-business sale.

Jose Gonzalez was hired as a salesman for the sale, but James and Essie fired him for being rude to customers. To get revenge, after the store closed for the day on November 21, 1977, Gonzalez and some of his friends forced James and Essie to go down to the basement, where they were tied up and bludgeoned to death.

And so, in a few terrifying minutes, the lives of two wonderful people were brought to an end, as were their dreams of spending their remaining years together in retirement.

Jose Gonzalez was convicted of the murders and sentenced to life imprisonment, which was the most severe penalty he could receive. At that time, the death penalty had been ruled unconstitutional, and the law did not yet provide for consecutive life sentences or life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. Consequently, Gonzalez has had nine parole hearings, and the Effrons' children, Gary and Cheryl, have been to those hearings, trying to be sure that Gonzalez was not released on parole.

Every time, parole was denied, until the hearing in February 2015, when the parole board decided that, at the age of 59½, Gonzalez was "elderly" and should be released on parole. After that decision was reversed by the governor, Judge David Rubin issued an order requiring the governor to show cause why Gonzalez should remain in prison.

Judge Rubin will be making his final decision soon. In the meantime, Gary and Cheryl have started a campaign of letters urging the judge to keep Gonzalez behind bars. Gary and Cheryl are grateful for the many letters that supporters of Citizens Against Homicide sent to Governor Brown when he was reviewing the parole board's decision, and the governor

commented on those letters when he reversed that decision.

A sample letter to Judge Rubin appears in this newsletter, and copies that can be used to cut and paste are on the following links:

Sample Letter #1: Copy and paste the following link into your browser: <http://www.laserdermdoc.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/49d0b939ead63a48548b9b7d8c01e3c5.docx>

Sample Letter #2: Copy and paste the following link into your browser: <http://www.laserdermdoc.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/05d9230272565db04e63af98b4b1c4f7.docx>

Sample Letter #3: Copy and paste the following link into your browser: <http://www.laserdermdoc.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/e09578cdab1ab700c088567485cb05bd.docx>

It is not necessary to use the exact wording in the sample letter. Additional information can be found on the Facebook page Justice for James and Essie Effron.

Letters should have the sender's letterhead or name. It is not necessary to show the sender's street address, and just putting the city or county and state will be sufficient. An e-mail address would be helpful, so that Gary and Cheryl can send an acknowledgment.

Letters should not be sent directly to Judge Rubin. Instead, they should be mailed to Dr. Cheryl Effron, 500 S. Anaheim Hills Road, Suite 210, Anaheim Hills, CA 92807. All of the letters will be accumulated and delivered to the judge as a package so that they will have the maximum impact.

With everyone's help, we can keep Gonzalez behind bars, where he belongs.

Sample Letter to Judge Rubin Regarding Convicted Murderer, Jose Gonzalez

Your name or letterhead
Address (optional)
City or county and state
E-mail address (optional, but very helpful)
Date

Honorable David M. Rubin
Judge of the Superior Court

RE: Habeas corpus petition
of Jose Gonzalez
San Diego Superior Court
Case nos. HC22247 and CR42227

Dear Judge Rubin:

This is to ask you, please, not to release Jose Gonzalez from prison.

Gonzalez savagely bludgeoned to death an innocent couple, Essie and James Effron, grandparents who decided to retire after Essie was diagnosed with cancer and had to undergo surgery and chemotherapy. Gonzalez was enraged that the Effrons had fired him as a salesman at their store's going-out-of-business sale because he was rude to customers.

Governor Brown's written decision clearly shows that he considered the horrendous nature of the murders, Gonzalez's continuing failure

to take responsibility for his actions, the inconsistencies and absurdities in his version of the events, a psychologist's report, and other evidence that Gonzalez would be a danger to society if he were released from prison.

Whether or not you agree with the governor's decision, the important thing is that the decision was based on evidence that Gonzalez would be a danger to society if he were set free. Accordingly, the decision should stand, and you should not release Gonzalez from prison.

Sincerely,
[Signature]

**[DO NOT SEND YOUR LETTER
DIRECTLY TO JUDGE RUBIN—
ERASE BEFORE PRINTING]**



Questions

By Gene Cervantes

Why? Why do we continue to allow our judges and our elected officials (including a California Governor who is anti-victim rights) to make back room deals that allows the release of convicted murderers from our prisons? California has an unprecedented number of convicted murderers being released to parole to “save money”. Why do we tolerate a governor (Jerry Brown) who treats us as if we are stupid. In a recent press conference, Mr. Brown made reference to the mass killings in San Bernardino, CA. He had the gall to look directly into the camera and without hesitation, said... (we will spare no resource to bring these murderers to justice). Mr. Brown knew at that time, two of the murder suspects had already been killed by law enforcement. The third suspect was soon to be arrested. Mr. Brown knew this, but he has many years of expertise at headline-grabbing. He has no loyalty to victims of murder or families of murder victims. I am most curious and question why he favors convicted murderers.

How can you request compensation for travel costs to a parole hearing?

As of May 2010, the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services has funds available through a federal grant which allows for reimbursement, up to \$200, to victims and next-of-kin for costs associated with travel to parole hearings. For information on how to apply for travel reimbursement contact OVSRS at I-877-256-6877.

Parole & Clemency Hearings

These parole hearings are imminent. Send letters in support of these families today.

Please send letters to address below, e-mail to justiceforsusan@yahoo.com or fax to (775) 687-6736

(DATE)

Nevada State Board of Parole Commissioners
1677 Old Hot Springs Road, Suite A
Carson City, Nevada 89706
Fax (775) 687-6736

RE: Simon Macias—NDOC# 41565
Parole Hearing Date: February 2016

Dear Chairman and Parole Board Members:

Please DO NOT grant a parole date to convicted murderer Simon Macias. On December 22, 1993, Simon Macias was convicted of brutally stabbing his 19-year old wife, Susan, to death in their home. He had bound her hands with duct tape, stuffed her in garbage bags and then dumped Susan's lifeless body in a remote desert area outside of Henderson, Nevada.

In a plea bargain following a bungled investigation, Macias pleaded no contest to Second Degree Murder and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Note: As part of the plea bargain, prosecutors dropped two charges of lewdness with girls under the age of 14, brought against Macias after investigators found film in his car with pictures of two young female family members.

In February 2016, Susan's family will, once again, have to relive the horrendous events that led to her brutal murder. Again, they will be forced to endure the trauma and uncertainty of this murderer's seventh parole hearing. Because of Simon Macias' complete disregard for human life and lack of remorse for executing his own wife, justice demands this convicted murderer be denied parole. This senseless act of violence was a personal choice made by Macias and he must continue to accept the consequences of his actions. Please deny parole to convicted murderer, Simon Macias, for the maximum time allowed by State of Nevada law.

Thank you for your consideration.
(NAME/SIGNATURE)

For your confidentiality, do NOT post your return address on the letter; only on the outer mailing envelope.

Please e-mail a copy of your letter to the victim's family—justiceforsusan@yahoo.com

(DATE)

Board of Parole Hearings
P.O. Box 4036, Sacramento, CA 95812-4036
Attn: Pre-Hearing Correspondence
Re: Robert Shippmann—CDC# 96002
Parole Hearing Date: February 18, 2016

Dear Chairman and Parole Board Members:

Please DO NOT grant a parole date to convicted murderer, Robert Shippmann. On April 22, 1993, Shippmann kidnapped his estranged wife, Juli Mathis Shippmann, age 28. He then drove Juli to Howell Mountain Road, Angwin-St. Helen, California, where he shot her three times with a 22.-caliber rifle. Shippmann then shot himself, but survived. He was convicted of Second Degree Murder and sentenced in 1993 to 15 Years to Life in state prison.

According to the Napa County D.A.'s office, there is every reason to believe this convicted murderer still poses an unreasonable danger to public safety. Robert Shippmann has displayed abusive and violent treatment of women for over 30 years and, to date, has demonstrated no insight into his actions or remorse for his personal choice to murder Juli.

On February 18, 2016, Juli's family and friends will, once again, have to relive the horrible events that led to her brutal murder and face the uncertainty that accompanies each parole hearing. Because of Robert Shippmann's complete disregard for human life and sense of entitlement, justice demands this convicted murderer be denied parole. Robert Shippmann must be held accountable for his personal choice to kidnap and murder an innocent young woman and must accept the consequences of his actions. Juli Mathis Shippmann had so much to offer this world; so many plans and dreams for her future. However, Juli will never get this opportunity or a second chance to live; she is gone forever. Therefore, Robert Shippmann does not deserve a second chance or the privilege of freedom. Also, age is not a relevant argument, as he is still very capable of holding and discharging a gun.

Please deny parole to convicted murderer Robert Shippmann for the maximum time allowed by State of California law.

Thank you for your consideration.
(YOUR NAME/SIGNATURE)

For your confidentiality, do NOT post your return address on the letter; only on the outer envelope

Replacing the death penalty long over due. This is like “Ground Hog” Day.

By Jan Miller, CAH President

In this letter, the writer, Matthew Cherry (SF), supports the States Legislative Analyst’s Office with its recently issued “Justice That Works Act of 2016”. This is cited as the back up to the prior article “Dreary life on Death Row” (Dec 30). Both of these articles support the idea that Californians are paying too much for a broken death penalty system. It states that since the DP was brought back in 1978, over \$4 billion has been spent on this dysfunction and failed program; that we have sentenced 1,046 people to die, but executed only 13 of them. They suggest we sentence them to life without the possibility of parole (LWOP) and insist that those sentenced to LWOP be required to work in prison and forward most of their wages to the families of victims. Thus, they are again gathering signatures to once again put on the California ballot to remove the Death Penalty.

Anyone as old as I am will remember the last time Jerry Brown was Governor. After putting all of the death penalty murderers into LWOP the Governor Brown’s appointee, Superior Court Judge Rose Bird, took it a step further. All LWOP murderers were given sentences of life **with** the possibility of parole. The murder rate increased significantly! Hence, to this day, we are giving annual or bi-annual parole hearings to the likes of Charles Manson and many more cold blooded murderers. Money was not saved and many murderers have been released since Jerry Brown was once again voted into the Office of Governor of California. His personal agenda is redemption; everyone deserves a second chance. There were no second chances given to the murder victim and clearly no regard or compassion extended to the families, as murderer after murderer continue

to be released into our society. During the courtroom proceedings, the victim’s family and friends sat diligently with a great deal of emotion and heard the sentence after a trial before their peers. How does anyone have the right and the power to toss that sentence out the window. This is just wrong!

The true waste of money is that the Chief Justice (currently Tani Cantil-Sakauye, sworn into office January 3, 2011 by Arnold Schwarzenegger; replaced retiring Chief Justice Ronald M. George—Chief Justice 1996–2011) is not following the law. There are laws and procedures in place for the DP process; 2–3 years from sentencing to execution. However, if the Chief Justice does not enforce these deadlines, then excuses after excuses continue to be made and the years pass. They say there are not enough lawyers. There are thousands of them. They say the way they are executed is “cruel and inhumane”. Either change the system to a firing squad or allow them to die as their victim died (*that would be cruel and*

inhumane). Some said the execution room was too small—we spent millions rebuilding it to get it right. Remember the Chief Justice follows the lead of the Governor. The Attorney General follows the lead of the Governor. The sheriff’s office follows the lead of the Governor, etc., etc.

Speaking from both sides of his mouth—Our Governor stands on the steps of the Capitol each year during Crime Victims’ Rights Week and professes his dedication to our families and friends of homicide victims. He then appoints people of power to implement his belief that murderers should and must be given second chances. One moment extending support our way; the next giving us a very clear message that our loved ones’ lives are not worth enforcing the law(s). We are insulted and re-victimized each and every day.

Don’t let Jerry Brown do it to us again—do not put your name to any paper without knowing all the true facts.

The opinion of The CAH Board

Unclaimed Restitution

English

Were you the victim of a crime and the court ordered you restitution? The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation may have collected money for you. Contact the Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services to inquire if you have unclaimed money from a direct order of restitution. To update your address or to obtain additional information, call us toll free at 1-877-256-6877.

Spanish

Si usted fue victima de un crimen y la corte le otorgo restitucion, es posible que el Departamento de Correcciones y Rehabilitacion haya recibido dinero a su favor. Llame a la oficina de Victimas y Sobrevivientes para preguntar si usted tiene restitucion que no se haya reclamado. Para obtener mas informacion, llame gratis al 1-877-256-6877

Dashad "Sage" Smith

WHERE IS SAGE?

Smith was last seen on 11/20/2012, around the same time he planned to meet Erik McFadden near the Amtrak Train Station on West Main Street in Charlottesville, VA

If you can help police, call Crime Stoppers at 434-977-4000. A \$20,000 reward is being offered in the case.

Whatever it takes.
HELP
save the next **GIRL**
For as long as it takes.

Help Save the Next Girl

January 2015
Missing Person Case
Dashad "Sage" Smith

Dashad "Sage" Smith (age 19) was last seen on November 20, 2012 in the 500 block of West Main Street in Charlottesville, Virginia. He was wearing a black jacket, dark gray sweatpants, a black scarf and gray boots. Police say Dashad had phone contact with Erik McFadden and had planned to meet him near the Amtrak Train Station on West Main Street.

Parole Denied!

I just wanted to say THANK YOU! in reference to my Parole Protest petition of convicted double murderer David Scarbrough for the murders of Les and Carol Dotts, that you printed in your November newsletter.

I literally stumbled onto the newsletter tonight. My husband and I are SO touched and grateful that you took the time to include the information in your newsletter.

Your compassion and support means more than we can say.

PLEASE let us know when you have anyone contact you and needs a parole protest petition signed or letter written, we are happy to help!

—Thank you,
Jeanne Dotts Brykalski