



CHRISTINA ANN
ALEXANDER KARLSEN
June 19, 1960–January 1, 1991



LEVI H. KARLSEN
February 3, 1985–November 20, 2008

PERPETUAL EVIL

By Shellie Cervantes

In the January/February 2014 issue of our Citizens Against Homicide newsletter, I wrote an article about a family friend, Christina Karlsen and her son, Levi. Chris and her father, Art, would frequent the small office supply business my family owned in Murphys, CA, during the 1980s. I must share as before, she was everything perfect; beautiful, smart, sweet, a gifted seamstress, a talented singer and dancer. She appeared happy, for the most part, and always had a great sense of humor. She was a loving daughter, sister, aunt, cousin and friend to so many and her world revolved around her three children, Erin, Levi and Katie.

No one would have guessed back then that Chris was the victim of a tumultuous and controlling marriage to Karl Karlsen. Despite this, she struggled to maintain as much normalcy as possible for the sake of her children.

Our small town has always been a laid back, friendly and non-news-worthy community. However, on New Years Day, 1991, news of an intense, fast-moving residential fire quickly became the utmost of tragedy and topic of every conversation. This fire not only destroyed the home Chris shared with her family... it also destroyed the lives of all those who loved her. She was trapped in the bathroom of the residence; the window had been boarded up just prior to the inferno, by her husband, Karl. He stated he was only able to rescue their three children and then drove away to a far distant neighbor to call 911. However, no attempt was made to rescue Chris. In fact, the children have had to live with the

—continued on page 4

There will be
no meeting in
March 2020

Inside This Issue

Words from Jan	2
Quote of the Month	3
Vote No on Prop 13	5
Dennis N. Griffin	6
Unclaimed Restitution	7
Travel Compensation	7
A Second Look	8

CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE

About Us

The majority of our CAH Board Members have lost a loved one to murder. We will never “get over” our tremendous losses, but we do “get through” the grief. Becoming proactive; assisting/supporting families throughout the most difficult time of their lives and guiding them through the complicated criminal justice system. We have joined together to create a voice for families of homicide victims.

CAH Objectives

- Assist families through the complicated criminal justice system;
- Act as Liaison between families and investigative law enforcement;
- Provide assistance with Parole Opposition Letters;
- Accompany families to parole suitability hearings (when possible);
- Provide trial and courtroom support (when possible);
- Facilitate Reward Billboards (when/where possible);
- Provide information on pending crime legislation

Protecting Your Own Interests

We cannot prepare for the devastating event that changes our lives forever. We can only react. You will need to know how to deal with the subsequent trial, sentencing and (today) the unavoidable parole hearings. CAH will help you take action to protect your own interests.

If you know of a family or friend who may need our help, please share the information we have provided here.

Location for Meetings

We hold bi-monthly meetings on the second Sunday of the month at Loch Lomond Yacht Club - 95 Loch Lomond Drive, San Rafael, CA. The meeting starts at 10:00 a.m. We encourage anyone interested to attend.

A Few Words From Jan

Let me start off by wishing everyone a very Happy New Year of 2020. Somehow, the 2020 seems to easily roll off the lips and comes easy to the pen.

My typical New Year’s Day is spent watching sports and relaxing; basically, doing nothing. However, this year we received an invitation to a New Year’s Day celebration. At first glance, it appeared to be a typical holiday celebration. However, after reading each word a couple more times, it became clear it was actually a wedding invitation in code, thus not actually letting friends and family know what the occasion really was. I shared my thoughts with a few and received a few nods. As it turned out, my instincts were correct.

What a surprise it was for the nearly one hundred people in attendance. This wonderful couple became engaged in 1995 and then split up (for one reason or another). Now, 25 years later, they were getting married. Over the last 25 years, each had lived their lives yet neither had married. The entire day somehow gave me a wonderful feeling that love can conquer all and, if you are meant to be,—so you shall be. Hence, my year started out with a grand smile.

While the year started off with a grand smile. The realities of our surroundings quickly came to light.

Over the years of writing my thoughts and ideas in this newsletter, you are aware that I have strong religious beliefs. I truly believe my religious ties have carried me through some very difficult times in my life. I have also shared my belief that the flip side of the criminal justice system is our educational system and a strong family unit. Since becoming intimately

—continued on page 3

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Website: www.citizensagainsthomicide.org

CAH Victim Advocate:

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

Words From Jan—cont. from page 2

involved in the criminal justice system over 30 years ago, I, along with so many of my fellow victim activists, have witnessed this once trusted criminal justice system deteriorate year by year, as has the educational system along with a continued effort by our government to break down the family. It is devastating to see all our hard work and accomplishments during the 80s, 90s and early 2000s now being discarded and flushed. The lies being taught in our schools by biased educators and that spew from the mouths of our elected officials becomes harder and harder to digest. I have watched my children and now grandchildren being exposed to these lies and, as a responsible parent and grandparent, I must work harder to show them truth and the value of the family unit. I urge them to lean on our religion and draw strength from this religion to help them through their burdens. I have seen great success in my own family. However, for the State and some parts of the country, I am seeing a battle we are not winning.

The only answer is for us, each and every one of us, to step out of our comfort zone and fight this head on. We need to find the time and courage to run for public office; get on the board of the educational system so that we will, once again, have a voice in what is being taught in our schools. We must get back to the basics in teaching; critical thinking; math; writing; logic. Encourage “meal time is family time”

as often as possible. These precious “family time” moments will allow us to discuss and share what is going on in our lives; good and bad, and work together to find answers and guidance. Eating together is about being together and caring about each other. Get on the board of planning; on the water board... all of these are areas that are burdening us with unnecessary regulation.

We must continue to say, “**we WILL make a change**” NOT “we will try”. We need determination.

If you live in the State of California as I do, then you already know the importance of the current Recall Governor Newsom effort. Along with him should go all those from top to bottom (legislature, city council, board of supervisors, etc.), who are not willing to enforce the laws of this state. Newsom’s repetitive back door propositions and bills are attacking our livelihood from all directions. Our hard-working citizens are falling at an unprecedented rate. Once we make our legislatures accountable, we will be living in a better place and the world will be a better place for us, for our children and our grandchildren.

Are you mad enough yet—I am!

I am mad as hell and I just don’t want to take it anymore. Please join me in the fight to make this a better place to live. For Family, For God, and for America!

—Jan

Quote of the Month

“There are heroes in this world. They’re called district attorneys. They don’t get to have clients—people who smile at them at the end of the trial; who look them in the eye and say thank you. Nobody’s there to appreciate the district attorney because we work for the state. And our gratitude comes only from knowing there’s a tide out there. A tide the size of a tsunami coming out of a bottomless cesspool. A tide called crime which if left unchecked will rob every American of his freedom. A tide which strips individuals of the privilege of being able to walk down a dark street or to take \$20 out of an ATM machine without fear of being mugged. All Congress does is talk. It’s the district attorney who grabs his/her sword, who digs into the trenches and fights the fight; who dogs justice day after day after day without thanks; without so much as a simple pat on the back. But, we do it. We do it, because we are the crusaders. The last frontier of American justice. Knowing that if a man cannot feel safe, he can never, never, feel free.”

—The Practice

Perpetual Evil—cont. from page 1

nightmare of hearing their beloved mommy screaming from within the smoke and flames for Karl to help her. “Mommy was screaming for help and daddy didn’t listen to her”.

From the very beginning, suspicions ran rampant. A kerosene-soaked carpet just outside the bathroom door was discovered from the onset of the investigation. Karl confidently explained this away, stating a can of kerosene had accidentally tipped and spilled. And what reasonable explanation could be given for the boarded bathroom window? It was pretty much the town consensus that Chris was purposely trapped with no viable exit to save her life. Local law enforcement friends at the time also expressed suspicion of arson. However, after a haphazard investigation conducted by the state fire marshal, this horrific incident was ruled an “accident” and the matter or cause of Christina’s death went by the wayside. However, the Alexander family would never accept this finding and truly believed there would be no hope for justice; no recourse.

Within days of Christina’s death, Karlson collected over \$200,000 from his deceased wife’s insurance policy (a life insurance policy he had purchased within weeks of her demise). He then packed up the children and headed to the East Coast (Seneca County, New York) to be near his family and, it is believed, to move the furthest possible distance from the scene of his crime.

Karl Karlson continued living the good life. He quickly remarried and then became the father of another

son. They owned a spacious ranch house, which included a barn, acreage and beautiful Belgian draft horses. One evening in 2002, a fire suddenly erupted in the barn; all the horses were trapped inside and perished. Karlson soon collected an insurance settlement worth \$80,000. Still, no one suspected a thing—Again, just an unfortunate “accident”. Coincidence?

The relationship he shared with his son, Levi, had deteriorated significantly. Levi had separated from his wife (with whom he had two daughters) and moved back into the ranch house with his dad and stepmother. The two were at odds and arguments were frequent.

Then on November 20, 2008, tragedy again strikes the Alexander family. Levi (age 23) is killed when the 5,000-pound truck he is working under in the barn, falls off its jack; severely crushing his chest. This time, Karlson collected \$707,210 from the insurance policy on Levi that he had paid in full just 17 days before. To make matters worse (according to insurance records), Karlson used the proceeds from Levi’s life insurance policy to set up policies on Levi’s daughters (ages 4 and 6 at the time of their father’s untimely death). The total death benefit for the two young girls would be \$744,000.

Karl Karlson’s reign of terror finally came to an end when he was arrested on November 23, 2012 for the murder of his son, Levi. His current wife, over time, had become suspicious and in fear of her own life. She contacted authorities and shared her belief that Karlson had possibly caused the death of his own son.

On December 16, 2013, Karlson was sentenced to 15 Years to Life for murdering his son, Levi. He admitted kicking the jack from under the truck causing it to fall on Levi. He then left the scene to attend a local function, purposely leaving Levi to die an excruciating death. The motive for the crime, admitted Karlson, was profit.

The deaths of Christina and Levi, though 19 years apart, bear undeniable similarities. Karl Karlson was the last person to see them alive; both deaths were originally considered accidents; and Karlson had taken out substantial life insurance policies on each shortly before their deaths.

With the conviction and sentencing of Karl Karlson in upstate New York, we were all hoping and praying for justice here in California. Then enter our amazing Calaveras County District Attorney, Barbara Yook, who reopened Christina’s case for further investigation. Karlson was extradited to Calaveras County in 2016 to face charges for Christina’s murder.

Twenty-nine plus years after the fact and after a 13-day long trial and
—continued on page 5



Vote No On Proposition 13!

The verb “regret” is to feel sad, repentant, or disappointed over something that has happened. The noun “regret” is a feeling of sadness, repentance or disappointment over something that has happened. On or before March 3, 2020, you will be voting on Proposition 13, a cleverly crafted proposition designed to repeal Proposition 13 (1978).

The current California Legislative Administration is once again attempting an end run to repeal Proposition 13. A repeal of Prop13 will open the door for increased taxes to bolster the State’s General Fund. Historically, California has used bonds to fund Education Facilities. A Majority of voters approve the sale of bonds to investors by the state. The bonds provide the funding that the state uses for projects. The state then repays the investors, with interest, from the General Fund, which is the state’s main operating account. The General Fund receives its revenue from, but not restricted to, personal income taxes, state sale and use taxes and cooperate taxes. The state repays investors with payments annually over many decades. Because taxes are not restricted to the sources mentioned, the probability of your home taxes increasing is of concern. This is a fact the proponents of Proposition 13 intentionally fail to mention. Additionally, there is no mention of the limits to home taxation.

The proponents of Proposition 13 intentionally fail to state that the amount of funding a local school

district can borrow will be nearly double the limit previously allowed. When school districts borrow money, Property Taxes are used exclusively to repay the debt. WHO PAYS PROPERTY TAXES? We all do, directly in property taxes or through higher rents and other costs. Unlike the original Proposition 13 (1978) this Proposition 13 puts all taxpayers at risk. Doubling the borrowing limit means HIGHER TAXES for repayments. Higher taxes are certainly something I do not look forward to.

The proponents of Proposition 13 believe wording such as... remove asbestos, toxic mold, and hazardous materials from aging classrooms; replace deteriorating pipes so children have safe drinking water; add school nursing facilities; make schools safer in wildfires, earthquakes, and natural disasters will scare or shame you to vote for their proposition. Schools with the needs listed or that have TOXIC MOLD etc., should be closed, simple as that. Time and time again, we have been promised

that by voting for increased tax propositions schools, playgrounds and neighborhoods will be safer only to later learn that the monies promised no longer existed. They say their proposition will make local school buildings stronger and healthier. What the hell does that mean? To add insult to injury, there is no explanation given as to what happened to the monies. The disappearance of funds is frightening and smells of corruption. FYI California has an estimated \$7 billion General Fund SURPLUS for 2020. Why isn’t Mr. Newsom using these funds to address the needs delineated above?

Make no mistake, Proposition 13 has one goal and one goal only, repeal Proposition 13 (1978). I never want to look into a mirror and see an image of REGRET, because I failed to vote NO on Proposition 13. The thought of anyone losing their home because their property taxes doubled or tripled is inconceivable. I urge you to vote NO on this current Proposition 13.

Perpetual Evil—cont. from page 4

roughly eight hours of deliberation, a jury of 12 Calaveras County citizens delivered their verdict on Monday, February 3, 2020. Karl Karlsen has been found GUILTY of 1st Degree Murder w/Special Circumstances—Financial Gain and Destruction of Evidence. He will never see another free day for the rest of his life.

On behalf of the Alexander family, extended Karlsen family and friends, a most heartfelt THANK YOU to Calaveras County District Attorney, Barbara Yook and her wonderful, hardworking and caring staff for successfully bringing Justice for Christina! You are our heroes.

CAH is proud to introduce our dear friend and fellow victim advocate/crime fighter, Denny Griffin, who has recently authored his new book, "SURVIVORS". This book "takes readers inside the world of real crime cases to expose the shocking truth behind the alarming number of unsolved murders and suspicious deaths classified as accidental, self-inflicted or natural, with little to no investigation".

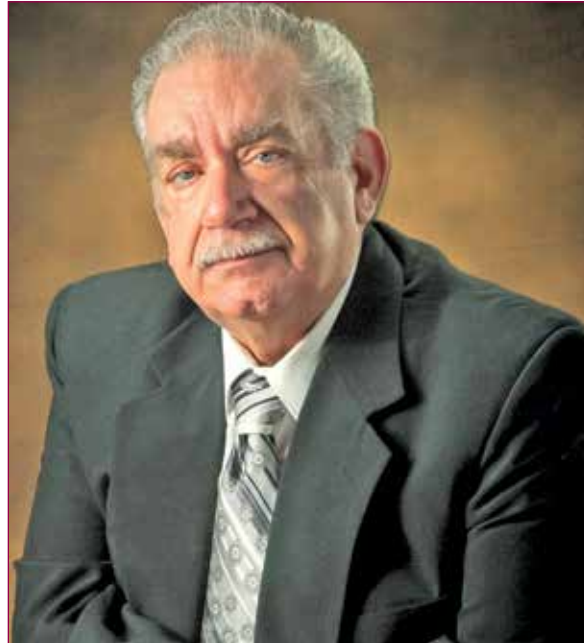
DENNIS N. GRIFFIN

A Rome native who began his career as a private and law enforcement investigator and would later found The Transparency Project to aid victims of violent crimes, has released a new book, "Survivors: Shocking true stories about America's pursuit of police transparency and justice."

Dennis N. Griffin, who has authored several fictional crime novels, was born in Rome in 1945. After being honorably discharged from the United States Navy in 1966, he returned to central New York. He and his wife have four grown children, and the couple now splits their time between New York and Las Vegas, Nev.

Griffin began his career in investigations and law enforcement in 1975, when Pinkerton, Inc. hired him as a private investigator. His duties included insurance fraud, missing persons, financial and background investigations, as well as undercover operations.

In 1979 the Madison County Department of Social Services hired him as a Senior Child Support investigator. He was responsible for locating and conducting financial investigations of those failing to provide legally-mandated child support.



In 1981, he joined the Madison County Sheriff's Department and attained the rank of sergeant. He was a shift supervisor and public information officer. During the same time, Griffin said he moonlighted as a patrolman in the villages of Chittenango, Cazenovia and Canastota.

Then in 1987, Griffin was hired by the state Department of Health as director of investigations at the Wadsworth Center. The primary mission of his unit was to investigate violations of the Public Health Law relating to clinical and environmental laboratories, and health care fraud. He was responsible for hiring and training investigators, case assignments

and general supervision. In addition, he personally handled the more difficult and complex investigations. Many of these cases received both local and national media attention. Griffin would retire in 1995.

The author is an active member of the Police Writers Association and the Las Vegas Valley Writers Group. He attended Onondaga Community College, Mohawk Valley Community College and the Central New York Regional Academy for Police Training.

Writing became a second career in Griffin's retirement. Other books he has authored include, "The Morgue" (his first novel released in 1996), "Red Gold," "Killer in Pair-A-Dice," "One-Armed Bandit," "Vegas Vixen," "Blood Money," "Cullotta: The Life of a Chicago Criminal, Las Vegas Mobster, and Government Witness" and "The Battle for Las Vegas: The Law Vs. The Mob."

Griffin said "Survivors," a work of non-fiction, serves to expose the shortcomings of the nation's justice system.

"I am the founder of The Transparency Project, dedicated to helping survivors of victims of

—continued on page 7

Dennis N. Griffin—cont. from page 6

murder and suspicious death obtain resolution for themselves and justice for the victims,” said the author. “It is our goal to generate public awareness of the plight of the survivors that will lead to changes in the system that will help to balance the playing field.”

The goal of TTP is to help families who are survivors of victims of murder or suspicious death, to gain access to police records related to the investigation of the death of their loved one. This primarily involves making sure the police agency involved is complying in full with the Sunshine or Open Records laws in effect in their particular jurisdiction. It can include filing appeals when requests for records are denied, or recommending changes to existing laws that are overly restrictive.

In “Survivors,” Griffin takes readers inside the world of real crime cases to expose the shocking truth

behind the alarming number of unsolved murders and suspicious deaths classified as accidental, self-inflicted, or natural—with little to no investigation, according to the book description.

The author also hosts Blog Talk Radio podcasts, “Crime Wire,” and “The Transparency Project Radio Show,” and serves as a true crime consultant.

“The primary goal of this book is not to solve the specific cold cases you will read about,” said Griffin. “These stories do, however, serve to illustrate and bring attention to problems within the justice system that need to be addressed.”

He said, “It is my hope that through public awareness and legislation—such as Molly’s Law—the playing field can be leveled and give these contributors and all the other forgotten victims out there

(and future survivors), a better opportunity to obtain true justice.”

“Survivors” is available on Amazon.com and through the TTP website: www.thetransparencyprojects.com. Griffin is also scheduled to be a featured speaker at the CUE Center for Missing Persons in Wilmington, N.C. March 26–29.

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

The Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services has funds available through a federal grant which allows for reimbursement 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 1-877-256-6877.



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 restitution, 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 restitution que no se haya reclamado. Para obtener mas informacion, llame gratis al 1-877-256-6877

A Second Look

By Gene Cervantes

In December 2008, Shellie and I assumed the Victim Advocacy responsibilities for Citizens Against Homicide (CAH). Later, Angie Gillam and Boni Driskill joined us as Victim Advocates. To date, we have well over 600 cases that we have, to some degree, worked on with families of homicide victims. Some cases are closed, for various reasons; however, the majority are open unsolved murders.

Many of these open murder cases are actively being investigated by the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction. Others, although active/open, are on the back burner awaiting a witness, forensic evidence

or any pertinent information that would warrant an arrest. Then there are those cases we have placed on inactive status. These cases, more often than not, are ones we have requested families to provide documents, i.e. police reports, autopsy reports, contact information for the lead detective (investigator) or other documents/information that is germane to the murder victim. Families have failed to provide the documents; hence, we could not proceed with any action.

The purpose of this letter is to reach out to our CAH families of homicide victims. Advances in technology and forensic science may warrant another

look at a cold case. Additionally, resources previously unavailable may now be available and be cause for detectives/investigators to, once again, work a cold case.

If you believe the murder of your loved one warrants additional attention, based on information provided, please email us at cahadvocate@yahoo.com and document reason(s) to support this belief. Our common goal and purpose is to assist you in finding answers and justice. Together we can make a difference.