



*Join us to make a difference*

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



## HAROLD "SKEETER" LYERLA September 29, 1959–November 21, 1988

Harold "Skeeter" Lyerla was a wonderful, kind and giving young man with a great sense of humor. He loved his family, his friends and life... and everyone loved him back. He had dreams of a picture book marriage and children. A successful future lay before him.

Cynthia Lynn Knox and Harold "Skeeter" Lyerla met at a dirt bike race. Skeeter, a motocross enthusiast since age 10, was competing in an event in California as Cynthia Knox watched from the sidelines. They quickly became a couple and moved in together.

Before Cynthia and Skeeter were married (July 1987), they lived in an apartment near Thousand Oaks, California. At this apartment pool, Cynthia caught the eye of John Litchfield (16 years her senior), a self-styled investor, who owned a ranch in nearby Agoura Hills. Litchfield began sending her flowers even though she was living with Lyerla. Skeeter and Cynthia married a year later and in April 1988, welcomed a daughter, Kajsa.

Litchfield continued his obsession with Cynthia and was very jealous of Skeeter. He eventually lured her away from her husband with a new Corvette, promises of an acting career and a rented apartment for her near his property.

The last person to see Skeeter alive was a close friend and golfing companion. The friend testified Skeeter had confided that Litchfield had threatened to hire someone to kill him. Two days later, on November 23, 1988, friends of Cynthia's (upon her request) went to Skeeter's home and found his body on the kitchen floor with a dish cloth over his face. He had been murdered two days earlier on November 21, 1988.

*—continued on page 5*

**CAH Annual  
Meeting  
Sunday, July 8,  
2018  
10:00 a.m.**

**Loch Lomond Yacht Club  
95 Loch Lomond Drive,  
San Rafael, CA**

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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 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.

## Words From Jan

This is an analogy I am sure you have heard before. I believe it is very important and wanted to bring it to your attention once again from a CAH prospective.

If you take a large and empty mayonnaise jar and fill it with rocks, about 2" in diameter—you will have used about 4 rocks and the jar will look full.

If you then take a box of pebbles and pour them into the jar and roll it around a bit, the pebbles will fall between the large rocks and, once again, the jar will look full.

If you then take a box of sand and pour it into the jar, it will fill all of the remaining spaces and for sure now the jar is full.

Finally, if you take two glasses of wine and pour them into the jar, you will effectively have filled all of the possible space in the jar.

Now, we must think about this jar and how it represents your life. The rocks are the important things; your family, your spouse or partner, your health and your children. These are the things that

if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car, your friends. The sand is everything else—all the small stuff.

What is most important to remember, is that if you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same is true of our lives. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are truly important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children; take time for your medical checkups, go out dancing with your spouse or partner. There will always be time to go to work, clean the house, give a dinner party and fix the disposal.

**TAKE CARE OF THE ROCKS FIRST**—the things that really matter; set your priorities, remember the rest is just sand.

—continued on page 2

## *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 &amp; 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](mailto:vctmsmurdr@aol.com)  
Website: [www.citizensagainsthomicide.org](http://www.citizensagainsthomicide.org)

## *CAH Victim Advocate:*

For advice regarding your individual murder case, I-209-728-2873  
[cahadvocate@yahoo.com](mailto:cahadvocate@yahoo.com)

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# Parole & Clemency Hearings

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

(DATE)

Board of Parole Hearings  
ATTN: Pre-Hearing Correspondence  
P.O. Box 4036  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

RE: Scott Avery Fizzell—  
CDCR# P-42992  
Parole Hearing Date: August 1, 2018

Dear Chairman  
and Parole Board Member,

Please do not grant a parole date to convicted murderer, Scott Fizzell. On the night of March 25, 1988, Fizzell entered the Modesto, California home of Debi Ann Whitlock (age 32). He brutally attacked Debi while she slept in her bed and then murdered her in the hallway outside of her 3-year-old daughter's room. He repeatedly stabbed her and then slit her throat. Then he proceeded to rape her dead body and grotesquely posed her body with the murder weapon.

Fizzell evaded law enforcement and justice until 1996. He was finally apprehended by Modesto Police Department with the help of an informant. He has never expressed remorse. His only regret is that he was caught. Fizzell took a plea bargain and was sentenced to 25 years to life with the possibility of parole.

On August 1, 2018, Debi's family and friends must relive the

horrendous events that led to her brutal murder. By reason of his complete disregard for human life, his complete lack of remorse and the unconscionable, sick nature of this crime, justice demands this convicted murderer be denied parole. His release would pose a dangerous threat to society.

Scott Fizzell made a personal choice to execute Debi Whitlock on the night of March 25, 1988; his actions were deliberate and planned. Now, he must continue to accept the consequences of his actions. He must remain behind bars so that he can never again harm another innocent human being. Debi does not get a second chance to live; she is gone forever. Therefore, Scott Avery Fizzell does not deserve a second chance or the privilege of freedom.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

(NAME/SIGNATURE)

*(For your confidentiality, please do not post your return address in this letter; only on outer envelope)*



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## Words From Jan—cont. from page 2

Finally remember no matter how full your life may seem there is always time to share a glass of wine with family and friends.

All of us at CAH and most of you reading this newsletter have lost someone to murder. This is the event of our lives that has changed us forever. We learn to lean on each other and help each other. We want you to know that CAH is one of the rocks in your jar of life. All of you are the pebbles in the lives of us here at CAH.

Remember together we can and will make a difference.

—Jan



# Parole & Clemency Hearings

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

(DATE)

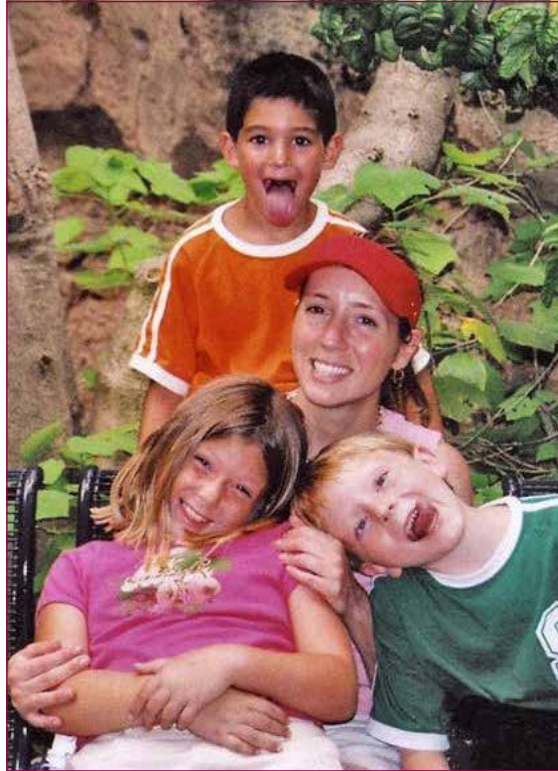
Nevada Board of Parole  
Commissioners  
1677 Old Hot Springs Road, Ste. A  
Carson City, NV 89706-0677

RE: Edward Preciado-Nuno—  
NDOC# I064661  
Parole Hearing Date: July 2018

Dear Commissioner,

Please DO NOT grant a parole date to convicted murderer, Edward Preciado-Nuno. In November 2008, this murderer unleashed an unconscionable act of vicious brutality on Kimberly Ann Long (age 31), his son's girlfriend. His account of this unwarranted attack with a claw hammer changed with each story. His son wanted to evict Kimberly from his residence and requested his father's assistance. Preciado-Nuno was going to "put to rest the whole situation".

Preciado-Nuno boasted about "knocking her on her ass" and that he "nailed her good" (hardly acceptable language for a retired peace officer). Kimberly sustained I3 skull fractures; 6 to the back of the head (including a violently depressed skull fracture), blunt force trauma to the back of her shoulders and multiple contusions to the chest, torso, hip and thigh area. There were shattered impact points at her kneecaps, legs, ankles, arms, wrists and hands. Her arm was broken. Kimberly was alive and breathing throughout this merciless bludgeoning!



Preciado-Nuno hated Kimberly with a vengeance, blaming her for all his son's troubles. He also blames her for his actions of putting a swift end to her life and, at no time, does he ever accept personal responsibility.

Preciado-Nuno should be held to a higher standard given his past law enforcement background, i.e., FBI agent and deputy sheriff. His law enforcement background should have prevented him from taking such fatal measures. It is baffling and insulting to the family of Kimberly Ann Long that a jury could render a guilty decision for Voluntary Manslaughter given their option to convict for First Degree Murder. It is now time for the Parole Board to right this wrong. Because of his complete disregard for

human life, the animalistic brutality, his complete lack of conscience and remorse, justice demands this convicted murderer be denied parole.

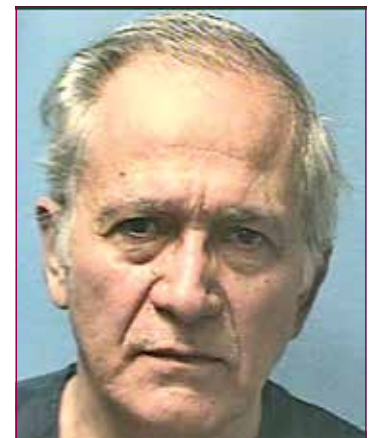
Edward Preciado-Nuno made a personal choice to execute Kimberly Ann Long and must continue to accept the consequences of his actions. He must remain behind bars so that he can never again harm another innocent human being. Kimberly does not get a second chance to live; she is gone forever. Therefore, Edward Preciado-Nuno does not deserve a second chance or the privilege of freedom.

Please deny parole to convicted murderer, Edward Preciado-Nuno 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 in this letter; only on outer envelope)*



# 2018 Annual Our 25th Year Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Help CAH Make This Fundraiser a Success

*Remember together we CAN make a difference*

Make a copy and encourage a friend to buy tickets

## Win a one-week stay at one of these beautiful resorts:

- **SEDONA—**  
Summit Resort  
Sedona, AZ  
2 bedrooms, sleeps 8 max, 6 privately,  
Jacuzzi/hot tub, laundry and  
swimming pool.
- **HILTON HEAD—**  
Sea Crest Surf  
& Racquet Club  
Hilton Head Island, SC  
2 bedrooms, sleeps 8 max, 6 privately,  
full kitchen, tennis courts and  
2 swimming pools.
- **WELCHES, OR—**  
Whispering Woods II  
Welches, OR  
2 bedrooms, sleeps 6 privately,  
Jacuzzi/hot tub, sauna, swimming  
pool, full kitchen and fireplace.

### CAH GRAND PRIZE DRAWING August 3, 2018

Drawing to be held at our Charity  
Golf Tournament Awards Banquet.

Note: Date and location of these  
one-week vacations cannot be changed for  
any reason. All reservations are final.

*You need not be present to win.*

Suggested Donation  
\$5.00

#### CAH Special Grand Prize Drawing • August 3, 2018

SEDONA, AZ: 4/12/2019–4/19/2019

HILTON HEAD, SC: 4/13/2019–4/20/2019 • LAS VEGAS, NV: 4/22/2019–4/29/2019

THESE DATES AND LOCATIONS CANNOT BE CHANGED

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Donation  
\$5.00

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Suggested Donation  
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PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Donation  
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ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Donation: \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00

Tickets must be received at the CAH address by no later than August 1, 2018

Return tickets and/or donation to: CAH The UPS Store • 369-B Third Street, Box 303 • San Rafael, CA 94901

# 2018 Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Help CAH Make This Fundraiser a Success  
*Remember together we CAN make a difference*

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**AWARDS SPONSOR** **\$4,000**

Includes two foursomes, official program recognition and special tee sign.

**TEE PRIZE SPONSOR:** **\$4,000**

Includes two foursomes, official program recognition and special tee sign.

**LOGO BALL SPONSOR:** **\$2,000**

Includes one foursome, official program recognition, special tee sign and logo ball insignia.

**LUNCH SPONSOR:** **\$2,000**

Includes one foursome, official program recognition, special tee sign and lunch table sign.

**BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR:** **\$1,000**

Includes two-player entry, official program recognition and special cart sign.

**WINE or DESSERT SPONSOR:** **\$1,000**

Includes two-player entry, official program recognition and banquet table sign.

**HONORARY SPONSOR:** **\$500**

Includes one-player entry, official program recognition and special tee sign.

**HOLE SPONSOR:** **\$250**

Includes official program recognition and special tee sign

If you would like to become one of our tournament sponsors, please mark the appropriate box and mail this form along with a check for the designated amount to:

Citizens Against Homicide Charity Golf Tournament  
The UPS Store  
369-B Third Street, Box 303  
San Rafael, CA 94901

For more information on sponsorships  
(or co-sponsorships) please contact us at:  
Ph: 415-455-5944 • Fax: 415-721-0788  
Email: vctmsmurdr@aol.com

Although I am unable to play golf this day, I would like to help make a difference by my enclosed donation of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

## SPONSORSHIP/PLAYER FORM

Business Sponsorship:

\$4,000     \$2,000     \$1,000     \$500

Hole Sponsor: \$250

Golf Tournament Registration: \$150

Dinner Only: \$50      Number of Dinners: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
**CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE**

Make a Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Charge My Credit Card:

VISA       MasterCard

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV#: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSOR INFORMATION

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### NAME(S) OF GOLFER(S) PARTICIPATING

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

*Use an additional form for more golfers*

### MAIL ENTRY FORM AND CHECK TO:

Citizens Against Homicide Charity Golf Tournament  
The UPS Store • 369-B Third Street, Box 303  
San Rafael, CA 94901

or for more information please contact us at:  
Ph: 415-455-5944 • Fax: 415-721-0788

Email: vctmsmurdr@aol.com



## Sponsorship Opportunities

- AWARDS SPONSOR:** \$ 5,000  
Includes two foursomes, official program recognition, and special tee sign.
- SHIRT SPONSOR:** \$ 5,000  
Includes two foursomes, official program recognition, and special tee sign.
- REGISTRATION PRIZE SPONSOR:** \$ 4,000  
Includes two foursomes, official program recognition, and special tee sign.
- LOGO BALL SPONSOR:** \$ 2,000  
Includes one foursome, official program recognition, special tee sign and logo ball insignia.
- LUNCH SPONSOR:** \$ 2,000  
Includes one foursome, official program recognition, special tee sign & lunch table sign.
- BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR:** \$ 1,000  
Includes two player entry, official program recognition, and special cart sign.
- WINE SPONSOR:** \$ 1,000  
Includes two player entry, official program recognition, special tee sign and banquet table sign.
- DESSERT SPONSOR:** \$ 1,000  
Includes two player entry, official program recognition, special tee sign and banquet table sign.
- HONORARY SPONSOR:** \$ 500  
Includes one player entry, official program recognition and special tee sign.
- HOLE SPONSOR:** \$ 250  
Includes official program recognition and special tee sign.
- MEMORIAL SPONSOR:** \$ Your Choice

If you would like to become one of our tournament sponsors, please mark the appropriate box and mail this form along with a check for the designated amount to:

Citizens Against Homicide Charity Golf Tournament  
The UPS Store

369-B Third Street • Box 303 • San Rafael, CA 94901

For more information on sponsorships

(or co-sponsorships) please contact us at:

Ph: 415-455-5944 Fax: 415-721-0788

E-Mail: [vtctsmurdr@aol.com](mailto:vtctsmurdr@aol.com)

[jan@citizensagainsthomicide.com](mailto:jan@citizensagainsthomicide.com)

Although I am unable to play golf this day, I would like to help make a difference by my enclosed donation of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Tax I. D. #68-0330408

# CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE

## 25 YEARS

Citizens Against Homicide is a nonprofit public benefit organization started by local victims, and other interested parties, to serve the families of homicide victims.

Because the law enforcement community has become increasingly aware of the rights of victims within the criminal justice system, it is critical for victims, law enforcement, and the public to work together.

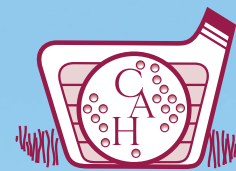
All proceeds from this golf tournament will be used to sustain activities which help victims cope with the criminal justice system and raise public awareness of victims rights.

Such activities include attending trial and courtroom hearings, monitoring paroles, supporting law enforcement, serving on judicial and legislative watchdog committees, educating the populace concerning the rights of families of homicide victims, and helping families obtain information leading to the resolution of unsolved murders.



CAH Helps Balance The Scales

Tax I. D. #68-0330408



## —25th Annual— Charity Golf Classic *Best Foursome Theme Costume*



*Come join the CAH Family for this extra special 25th Anniversary Celebration. Enjoy a day and evening with friends and family looking back on the remarkable run we've enjoyed. And there will be some shenanigans too!! Play your round in your very best costume—you decide the theme, have fun and don't take yourself too seriously! Many prizes for those who dare to be different!*

### August 3, 2018

Benefiting the Members of  
CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE

Hosted at:

ROOSTER RUN GOLF CLUB  
2301 EAST WASHINGTON STREET  
PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA



25 YEARS

# ROOSTER RUN GOLF CLUB

230I East Washington Street  
Petaluma, California

## Course Rules

Collared Shirt      Soft Spikes Only

## Prizes

- Best Foursome Theme Costume
  - Hole-in-One
- Closest to the Pin
  - Long Drive
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place
  - A & B Flights

## Raffle, Silent & Live Auction

If your company is interested in donating items for the tournament goodie bags, raffle or silent auction, it would be of a great benefit to Citizens Against Homicide and to the success of the event. Please contact Jan Miller if you are interested in donating.

## Tournament Information

Date: Friday, August 3, 2018 Rain or Shine!  
Location: Rooster Run Golf Club  
Format: Scramble  
Maximum # of Players: 124  
Player Fees: \$150  
Entry Fee Includes: Green fees, golf cart, driving range and dinner.

## Tournament Schedule

Registration: 10:30    Putting Contest: 11:00  
Lunch: Noon  
Shotgun Starts 1:00  
Dinner: 6:15 (Awards, Raffle and Auction)

## Registration

To register for play or to become a sponsor, please complete the attached form and mail it along with a check payable to:

Citizens Against Homicide  
Charity Golf Tournament  
The UPS Store  
369-B Third Street  
Box 303  
San Rafael, CA 94901

## Further Information

For additional information, please contact:

JAN MILLER 415-308-9413  
or  
LEAVE A MESSAGE 415-455-5944  
E-mail:  
jan@citizensagainsthomicide.com  
vctmsmurdr@aol.com

Tax I. D. #68-0330408

## Sponsorship / Player Form

*\*Please Print\**

- Business Sponsorship:     \$5,000  
 \$ 4,000     \$ 2,000     \$ 1,000     \$ 500
- Hole Sponsor: \$ 250  
 Memorial: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Golf Tournament Registration: \$ 150  
 Dinner Only: \$50    Number of dinners: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
**CITIZENS AGAINST HOMICIDE**

Make a Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my credit card:

- VISA     MasterCard

Card#: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSOR INFORMATION:

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### NAME OF GOLFER(S) PARTICIPATING:

1: \_\_\_\_\_

2: \_\_\_\_\_

3: \_\_\_\_\_

4: \_\_\_\_\_

Use an additional form for more golfers

### MAIL ENTRY FORM AND CHECK TO:

Citizens Against Homicide Charity Golf Tournament  
The UPS Store  
369-B Third Street  
Box 303  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
or for more information contact us at:  
Ph: 415-455-5944  
E-mail:

jan@citizensagainsthomicide.com    vctmsmurdr@aol.com

Note: Approximately 20% of your fees are tax deductible

Tax I. D. #68-0330408





## Skeeter Lyerla—cont. from page 1

Harold “Skeeter” Lyerla had been stabbed four (4) times; twice in the back and twice in the front. The fatal thrust from the back cut through the liver and diaphragm before piercing his heart. Police found a kitchen knife with traces of blood in the kitchen sink and a single fingerprint on the faucet.

When questioned about her husband’s murder, Cynthia suggested “there was this guy working for John (Litchfield) who is kind of mean”.

Victor Perea was a landscaping contractor who did work for Litchfield and lived in a house on Litchfield’s property. His fingerprint matched the print left on the faucet and he was arrested and charged with the murder of Lyerla.

Litchfield soon bought Cynthia a \$12,500 diamond ring and married her on May 6, 1989, just as Perea’s murder trial began. Cynthia disappeared and could not be subpoenaed to testify against her new husband. Litchfield took the Fifth Amendment during his testimony, invoking his constitutional right not to incriminate himself. Cynthia filed for divorce two months later, validating the belief they married to avoid having to testify against each other.

Perea was convicted of first degree murder on May 20, 1989 and sentenced to 26 years to Life. To this day, Perea claims he was brainwashed by Litchfield and paid \$4000 to kill Lyerla.

On July 27, 1989, Kajsa Lyerla (15 months old) drowned in a shallow fish pond on the property of her maternal grandfather and his wife. Kajsa was under her mother’s sole custody and supervision when she died. Family and friends believe Skeeter and his daughter were both



murdered in order to obtain \$279,000 from Skeeter’s life insurance policy, half of which was assigned to Kajsa.

Cynthia Knox decided it was time to disappear under the radar. She obtained the birth certificate of an infant named Christina White, who died in 1965 and used that document to establish a new identity. With a new Social Security Number, she was also able to obtain driver’s licenses, passports, mariner licenses and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) documentation allowing her to enter secure port areas.

Cynthia Knox (now calling herself Christina White) and John Litchfield soon built new lives together. Both ended up in Houston, Texas and started a cruise business offering yacht charters and dinner cruises out of Kemah and Galveston.

In 2016, “Christina White” applied to the U.S. Coast Guard to renew her mariner’s license and her carefully protected life began to unravel. The Coast Guard will not divulge what aroused suspicion about her application, however, there is every indication her fingerprints on the application were linked to the investigation of her murdered husband.

In March 2017, a year after her arrest, Knox pleaded guilty to aggravated identity theft and making false statements in a passport application.

Still... no pending charges as to her involvement in Harold “Skeeter” Lyerla’s murder.

Is there such a thing as a perfect murder? We can only hope and pray that in time, the conscience of those “in the know” will prevail. The “Mastermind” (Litchfield) chose to “take the Fifth”, but the convicted murderer, Perea, continues to maintain an unwavering testimony of Litchfield’s involvement. Perseverance and patience will, in all likelihood, pay off. We look forward to the day when someone comes forward with information that will break this case wide open. If anyone has information, please do the right thing. Contact Lompoc Police Department Investigation Bureau at (805) 875-8120. Skeeter deserves justice from all those involved in his murder. God bless Skeeter and his baby girl, Kajsa. They will never be forgotten.

*NOTE: On April 21, 2018, 20/20 on ID Presents: Homicide (Season 3, Episode 3) aired “A TRAIL OF DEATH—follows a couple intertwined in love, secrets and partnership; dark and mysterious questions loom after life begins thanks to a stolen identity”. This documentary highlights the murder for hire case of Harold “Skeeter” Lyerla.*



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## Commentary

# “Davis Double Murderer Gives the TED Talk a New Twist”

By Gene Cervantes

TED is an organization that posts talks online for free distribution under the slogan “ideas worth spreading”. Responsibility and credibility are two words with particular significance that the TED slogan failed to consider prior to showing the May 16, 2018 YouTube video entitled, “Embracing our Humanity”. The speaker was Daniel Marsh, a convicted double murderer, currently housed at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility (California State Prison).

This article written by Lloyd Billingsley delineates, with no uncertainty, the lack

of credibility in what Daniel Marsh has to say. He admits to doing horrible things to people, however, never once does he use the word “MURDER”. He blames the California Youth Authority for bringing anger and hatred to the surface and notes that he is living with a violent, hateful man. Throughout his presentation, he blames his troubled childhood for the “thrill killing” of an elderly couple. He concludes by asserting his belief that there is no such thing as evil people in this world. I beg to differ! Daniel Marsh is an evil person. Reading the accompanying

article will allow you to intelligently draw your own conclusions.

Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney, Yolo County, reached out to California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for an explanation as to why and how such an unconscionable video was allowed to be filmed. Nolice Edwards, Chief, Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services, in a telephone call, accepted responsibility on behalf of CDCR, and will work on a better process with the prisons in the future.

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## Davis Double Murderer Gives the TED Talk a New Twist

By Lloyd Billingsley • Special to *The Enterprise*

Readers may be unaware that TED is a “nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics—from science to business to global issues—in more than 100 languages. Meanwhile, independently run TEDx events help share ideas in communities around the world.”

On the other hand, a recent TED event may have left some confusion about the ideas in play. This TED talk showed up in a May 16 YouTube video titled “Embracing our Humanity.” The speaker was Daniel Marsh, 20, of Davis, backdropped by a banner of the

Richard J. Donovan Correction Facility, a state prison near San Diego.

“Daniel had a troubled childhood punctuated by abuse, indifference and loneliness,” the video description says. “After losing the most important person in his life, he went on a downward spiral that would eventually lead to his incarceration. But it was in the exploration of those depths that Daniel found the thing that he had been needing all along: Human Connection.”

As Daniel explains, “I see myself as a resilient, loyal and kind-hearted individual who may not always say the right thing but always means well. Friends and those that know me have described me as friendly, funny,

intelligent and resourceful. My biggest interest and passion in my life is music. I am both a singer and a guitar player and writing my own original songs and material occupies a great deal of my time.” In this video, the loyal, resilient singer only speaks.

“The home environment I grew up in was both lonely and hostile,” he said. “For the vast majority of my childhood, I was alienated. I was hated. I felt more like an object than a person.

It made me feel as though I had no connection to humanity.”

His mother and father would fight and “I was sexually abused by two different people, both of whom I loved and trusted.” He was “alone and ashamed,”

—continued on page 7

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## TED Talk—*cont. from page 6*

with “no one to confide in, cry to, to tell me it wasn’t my fault. No one.” And it was actually worse.

“Every single person in the world used and took my kindness and discarded me like a piece of trash. I was bullied at school as well as at home. I became extremely introverted.” His mother fell ill and his mentor, a man named Boris, killed himself.

“My connection to humanity was severed. I fell into deep depression.” His “hurt turned into anger” and he felt “an uncontrollable rage that grew stronger with each passing day. I hated the people who had hurt me.” The hate continued to grow and “I would come to hate all of humanity.”

As Daniel Marsh explained, “I did horrible things to people who never deserved to be hurt.” He “blindly hurt other people for no apparent reason.” In juvenile hall, he found “kind people,” but the California Youth Authority “brought anger and hatred to the surface,” and in adult prison, he was “living with a violent, hateful man.”

Even so, “There is no such thing as evil people in this world,” Marsh explained, “only damaged people.” He concluded, “we must always embrace our humanity” and the video closed out with a loud ovation. Viewers got no detail about what, exactly, had landed the friendly, resourceful speaker at the Donovan Correctional Center.

In April, 2013, Daniel Marsh, 15, murdered Oliver Northup, 87, and his wife Claudia Maupin, 76, in their Davis home. A police report said the killer showed “exceptional depravity” and

the autopsy runs 16 pages and 6,658 words. Marsh meticulously planned the crime, researching the serial killers he admired. As Marsh told police, killing the elderly couple “felt amazing,” and he experienced “pure happiness” and “the most exhilarating enjoyable feeling I’ve ever felt.” So the self-proclaimed “kind-hearted” man in the video did not kill for “no apparent reason.”

In 2014, a Yolo County court sentenced Marsh to 52 years to life, with eligibility for parole. Two years later voters passed Proposition 57, which barred prosecutors from filing cases directly in juvenile court. An appeal court applied the measure retroactively to Marsh, and vacated his conviction. There was no new exculpatory evidence, and no errors in trial, but the convicted murderer would gain a hearing to determine whether it had been appropriate to try him as an adult. If the hearing went in his favor, Marsh would be resentenced as a juvenile and the maximum punishment would be incarceration until age 25.

Marsh’s TED talk was sponsored by Brilliance Inside “a project for harmony and peace” led by Mariette Fourmeaux du Sartel. The organization works with inmates “to reduce conflict and increase communication and connection” and “growing resilient high-performance individuals contributing their purpose and a safer society on their release.”

Brilliance Inside notes that “thanks to CA Prop 57, good behavior and participation in qualified programs also allow residents to earn time off their sentence.” That’s why Marsh talked up his great treatment in juvenile hall, and portrayed himself as a victim. As his trial made clear, the double murderer was not an abused child with no one

to lean on. Marsh had a circle of friends and a network of sympathetic counselors, psychologists and teachers. He was depraved, not damaged, and has never shown the slightest remorse.

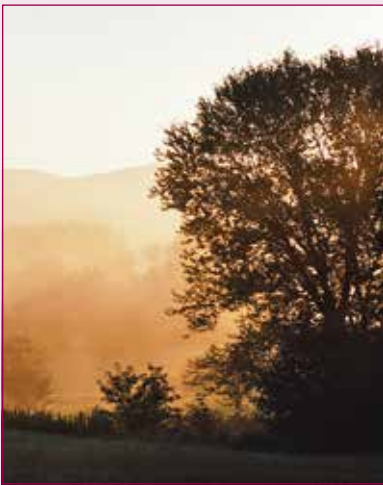
When the judge would not toss his five-hour confession, Marsh changed his plea to insanity. Prosecutors Michael Cabral and Amanda Zambor showed that he knew the difference between right and wrong, and the jury found that he was sane when he killed Oliver Northup and Claudia Maupin. Brilliance Inside cast him in a TED talk and put it up on YouTube. As Claudia’s daughter Victoria Hurd said in a comment, “what an unconscionable thing you have done.” The video has since been taken down.

The Proposition 57 hearing, meanwhile, is a sign that California’s judicial system can no longer distinguish between right and wrong, between violent criminals and their innocent victims. If Victoria Hurd chose to call that unconscionable, or even evil, it sure would be hard to blame her.

—*A version of this article first appeared in American Greatness. The author’s “Killer Confession” contains the entire Marsh interview with Davis police. His latest crime book is “Lethal Injections: Elizabeth Tracy Mae Wettlaufer, Canada’s Serial Killer Nurse.”*



## Quote of the Month



“Just knowing you’re not alone is often enough to kindle hope amid tragic circumstances”

—*Richelle E. Goodrich*

## 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 1-877-256-6877.

