

SANTA BARBARA  
NEWS-PRESS

SECTION D

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# Life

SUNDAY



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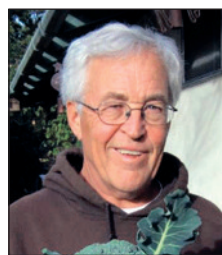
## TRAVEL

Statue of Liberty to  
reopen to public **D12**

## LIGHTING THE WAY

Find out how you and your  
family can make a difference  
with our weekly spotlight on  
nonprofit organizations. **D2**

## OUT & ABOUT



Fred Owens

### Owens joins garden board

Fred Owens has joined the board of Mesa Harmony Garden. Mr. Owens is owner of Restoration Gardening. Mesa Harmony Garden is a community-based organic food forest dedicated to growing food for donation to Foodbank of Santa Barbara County and other charities. As part of its mission, it promotes interest in sustainable gardening and helps others grow fruit in their limited spaces. Other board members include Josh Kane, Hugh Kelly and Randy Saake.

—Charlotte Boechler

## OUR TOWN

### Obon Festival returns

After a 24-year hiatus, the Japanese Buddhist Festival will return July 20 at the Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara, 1015 E. Montecito St. Festivities will begin with a Buddhist service at 11 a.m., followed by a tea offering, games, crafts, Japanese flower arrangement demonstration, martial arts demonstration, traditional music and Japanese drumming. The day's activities will culminate with Japanese Obon Odori folk dancing, an activity that everyone is invited to participate in. A special menu of Japanese dishes will be prepared by Chef Kamal, a local food truck owner/operator. Admission is free, and the food will be available for purchase. For more information, call 483-5948.

—Marilyn McMahon

## ON STAGE

### Concerts feature American classics

Vocalist and instrumentalist Craig Newton will salute America with free pre-Independence Day concerts Tuesday at Santa Barbara County libraries. Mr. Newton will perform American classics at 10:30 a.m. at Central Library, 40 E. Anapamu St.; 2:30 p.m. at Carpinteria Branch, 5141 Carpinteria Ave., Carpinteria; and 7 p.m. at Goleta Branch, 500 N. Fairview Ave., Goleta. Families are encouraged to sing along during the concerts, which are part of the Summer Reading Program. For more information, call 564-5603 or go to [www.sbplibrary.org](http://www.sbplibrary.org).

—Dave Mason

# Untouchable

Santa Barbara investigative reporter explores  
FBI's relationship with murderous mobster

By DAVE MASON  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Mafia boss Gregory Scarpa Sr. reportedly stopped counting after his 50th murder.

And Mr. Scarpa, a well-paid FBI informant, kept killing his enemies as the feds looked the other way, Santa Barbara investigative reporter Peter Lance contends in "Deal with the Devil: The FBI's Secret Thirty-Year Relationship with a Mafia Killer" (William Morrow, \$29.99). The book will be released Tuesday and sold locally at Chaucer's Books, Granada Books and Tecolote Bookshop, and Mr. Lance plans readings and signings at all three stores in July.

Mr. Scarpa, who served just 30 days in jail during his life of crime, manipulated mobsters and the FBI alike and killed Mafiosi whom he couldn't manipulate, Mr. Lance told the News-Press.

The author, a former ABC News correspondent and producer and writer on TV shows such as the mob-inspired "Wiseguys" (1987-1990), said Mr. Scarpa exploited the struggle for power between his chief rival, Carmine Persico, and Joey Gallo. And he waged war for control of the Colombo crime family, Mr. Lance said.

He said Mr. Scarpa didn't tolerate problems. He ordered the murder of his nephew, Costabile "Gus" Farace, after the latter killed DEA Special Agent Everett Hatcher in 1989. Mr. Hatcher's death brought the wrath of a 500-agent FBI and Drug Enforcement Administration task force onto the Mafia.

Mr. Lance said Mr. Scarpa even murdered his own brother, Salvatore Scarpa.

"He was a sociopath, perhaps a psychopath," the Emmy-winning reporter said. "He had this extraordinary capacity to compartmentalize his feelings. So he could pull out a gun and shoot someone dead. Then he said he wished he could have dug them up and killed them again. Then he could go home and hug his grandson and watch 'Seinfeld.'"

"He was an unbelievably complicated figure, and a brilliant tactician and Machiavellian strategist," Mr. Lance said. "He was the largest trafficker of stolen credit cards in New York. He had an international auto theft ring. He had multiple millions (of dollars) in the streets as a loan shark." The author added Mr. Scarpa stole everything from bullion to bonds worth a half million dollars each.

And the FBI, Mr. Lance said, let Mr. Scarpa get away with all of that — plus murders. He based his conclusions on his



Mr. Lance stands in front of the 1,153 pages of confidential FBI memos that he used in his research.

## MORE INSIDE

For a review of "Deal with the Devil: The FBI's Secret Thirty-Year Relationship with a Mafia Killer," see **Page D4**.

interviews, research and 1,153 pages of confidential FBI memos that he obtained via a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit by Angela Clemente, a New Jersey resident, and directly from the FBI with the help of a Washington, D.C. federal judge. His daughter Mallory Lance helped him organize them. (Mr. Lance, who's divorced, has two daughters and a son, ages 20 to 26.)

Mr. Scarpa served as an FBI top echelon informant from 1962 to 1975 and 1980 to 1992 and fed the bureau information, accurate and inaccurate, Mr. Lance said. His book shows interest in Mr. Scarpa went all the way up to legendary FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.

"They turned a blind eye to what



MIKE ELIASON/NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

In "Deal with the Devil: The FBI's Secret Thirty-Year Relationship with a Mafia Killer" (William Morrow, \$29.99), Santa Barbara author Peter Lance contends the FBI looked the other way while mob boss Gregory Scarpa Sr., an FBI informant, committed more than 50 murders.

Scarpa was doing so he could rise up in the family and take over, and they would have an unprecedented mole on the Mafia Commission," Mr. Lance said. The commission ran organized crime.

Mr. Lance's book focuses on R. Lindley "Lin" DeVecchio, the third or fourth FBI agent overseeing Mr. Scarpa, from 1980 to 1992 when he was shut down as an informant, Mr. Lance said.

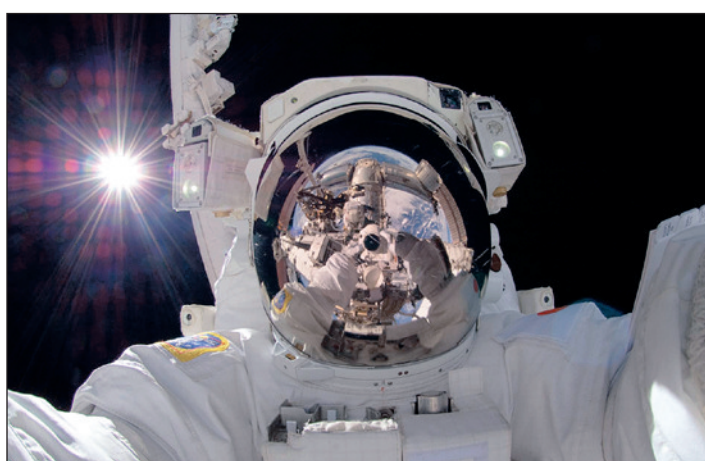
"I document in my book that 26 people were killed directly by him (Mr. Scarpa) or on his order (during those 12 years). Where was Lin DeVecchio during all this time, if he's his control agent? Was he that clueless about what was going on?" Mr. Lance said. "Well, in his book ('We're Going to Win This

Thing,' published in 2011 by the Penguin Group and co-written by Charles Brandt) and on '60 Minutes,' he said, 'I knew he was killing people.'"

And that exceeded the U.S. attorney general's guidelines for dealing with informants, Mr. Lance said. "Confidential informants are only allowed to commit misdemeanors to protect their cover but no violent crimes, and murder is absolutely off the table."

Mr. DeVecchio not only ignored the guidelines, FBI agents suspected he gave information to Mr. Scarpa, who was killing his mob rivals, Mr. Lance wrote in his book.

Please see **LANCE** on **D11**



International space station astronaut Aki Hoshide takes a self-portrait while in space.



This combo image of six undated images shows self-portraits taken by Nikki Anderson, 19, of Massachusetts.



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Actress Michelle Rodriguez poses for a photo with a fan at the L.A. Premiere of the "Fast & Furious 6."

# What did Narcissus say to Instagram? Selfie time!

By LEANNE ITALIE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — In these hyper-connected, over-shared times dwell two kinds of people: those preoccupied with taking and uploading photos of themselves and those who have never heard of the selfie.

The raunchy, goofy, poignant, sexy or drunken self-portrait has been a common sight since phone camera met social media. Now, nearly a decade since the arm-extended or in-the-mirror photos

became a mainstay of MySpace — duck face or otherwise — selfies are a pastime across generations and cultures.

Justin Bieber puts up plenty with his shirt off and Rihanna poses for sultry snaps, but a beaming Hillary Clinton recently took a turn with daughter Chelsea, who tweeted their happy first attempt with the hashtag #ProudDaughter.

Two other famous daughters, Sasha and Malia Obama, selfied at Dad's second inauguration, pulling faces in front of a smartphone. And Japanese astronaut Aki Hoshide

earned a spot in the Selfie Hall of Fame with a striking, otherworldly shot, arms extended as reflected in his helmet outside the International Space Station last year.

"It just comes so naturally after a point," said Elizabeth Zamora, a 24-year-old marketing account coordinator in Dallas who has taken hundreds of selfies since she got her first iPhone two years ago, with the front-facing camera that has become the selfie gold standard.

"You just take it and you don't

even realize it and then you're sharing it with all your friends," she said. "I try not to go crazy."

If we're not taking them, we're certainly looking, regardless of whether we know what they're called. We're lurking on the selfies of our teens, enjoying the hijinx of co-workers and friends and mooning over celebrities, who have fast learned the marketing value — and scandalous dangers — of capturing their more intimate, unpolished selves.

The practice of freezing and sharing our thinnest slices of life

has become so popular that the granddaddy of dictionaries, the Oxford, is monitoring the term selfie as a possible addition. Time magazine included the selfie in its Top 10 buzzwords of 2012 (at No. 9) and New York magazine's The Cut blog declared in April: "Ugly Is the New Pretty: How Unattractive Selfies Took Over the Internet."

On Instagram alone, there's #selfiesunday, along with related tags where millions of selfies land daily. More than 23 million photos

Please see **SELFIE** on **D11**



# Book: Mobster was a well-paid murderer

## ■ LANCE

*Continued from Page D1*

But an internal 31-month FBI investigation, started in 1994 through its Office of Professional Responsibility, couldn't lead to a federal indictment of Mr. DeVecchio, who refused to take a polygraph, Mr. Lance said. "Then he takes the Fifth Amendment, then they give him immunity! When have you heard of somebody getting immunity under investigation for crimes like that?"

There were state indictments against Mr. DeVecchio for conspiracy to commit murder for four of Mr. Scarpa's killings, but New York State Supreme Court Judge Gustin Reichbach dismissed the case after the Brooklyn district attorney's office found alleged discrepancies in the testimony of Linda Schiro, Mr. Scarpa's girlfriend, Mr. Lance said. The author blamed mistakes by the D.A. rather than the judge, who noted Mr. Scarpa provided information on murders to the FBI without admitting he was involved with them.

In addition to the FBI turning a blind eye, Mr. Scarpa knew other ways to avoid being imprisoned for his crimes, Mr. Lance said. After he killed mobster Tommy Ocera, Mr. Scarpa had his men put a bag of guns on the deck of criminal Vic Orena's home to successfully frame him for the murder.

In all of this, Mr. Scarpa was untouchable, according to "Deal with the Devil."

The FBI intervened on Mr. Scarpa's behalf against three Justice Department strike forces trying to arrest him on credit card fraud and other crimes, Mr. Lance said.

On top of all that, the FBI paid Mr. Scarpa what would amount to more than \$1 million at 2013 levels from 1962 to 1992, Mr. Lance said.

The mobster was a well-paid murderer shielded from prosecution by the FBI and Mr. DeVecchio, who was never convicted of any crime, Mr. Lance said.

Today Mr. DeVecchio is retired with an FBI pension and living in Sarasota, Fla. Mr. Lance said Mr. DeVecchio never responded to his email and mail requests for an interview.

Mr. Lance said Mr. DeVecchio may have avoided prison because convictions of him would have given grounds for clemency or new trials



Mr. Lance works at his Santa Barbara home.

for mobsters convicted during the Justice Department's war on the Mafia Commission.

"Certainly the 75 indictments in the Colombo war could have been appealed. Many would have got new trials," Mr. Lance said. "Many would have walked out of prison."

Mr. Scarpa died in 1994, not at the hands of another mobster but from AIDS. He had contacted HIV in 1986 from a tainted blood transfusion, but lived several years longer than doctors expected after it developed into AIDS in the late 1980s.

The FBI became so obsessed with fighting the Mafia that it fell short on the war on terrorism at critical times, Mr. Lance contended. He noted Mr. Scarpa's son, Gregory Scarpa Jr., who was imprisoned in a cell between two terrorists, Ramzi Ahmed Yousef and Abdul Hakim Murad, provided information on them that might have helped to prevent 9/11. The FBI, Mr. Lance said, failed to act on those details.

Mr. Lance said he is the FBI's biggest fan when it does things right, as he feels it has in the arrest and prosecution of informant and mobster James "Whitey" Bulger. But he would like to see clemency for Mr. Orena, framed for a murder he didn't commit, and a hearing in open

## FYI

"Deal with the Devil: The FBI's Secret Thirty-Year Relationship with a Mafia Killer" (William Morrow, \$29.99), by Santa Barbara author Peter Lance, will be sold starting Tuesday at local stores. You can order copies now at [www.peterlance.com](http://www.peterlance.com) and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

Mr. Lance will do readings and signings of his book 2 to 4 p.m. July 14 at Granada Books, 1224 State St., 845-1818; 5 to 7 p.m. July 19 with wine and hors d'oeuvres at Tecolote Book Shop, 1470 East Valley Road, Montecito, 969-4977; and 7 to 9 p.m. July 24 at Chaucer's Books, 3321 State St., 682-6787.

court for Mr. Scarpa Jr. so the evidence of his help to the bureau can be seen.

The FBI has lived up to the words "Fidelity" and "Bravery" on its banner, but needs to reclaim its right to the third word, "Integrity," Mr. Lance writes in his book.

Problem is, "The FBI can do no wrong. They never admit fault. That's like chipped in stone. I think it's part of the foundation of the Hoover Building," Mr. Lance said. He was referring in part



MIKE ELIASON/NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

The FBI wanted mob boss Gregory Scarpa Sr. to rise in power so it would have a mole in the top echelons of the Mafia, Mr. Lance explained.

to the bureau's justification of all of its agents' 150 shootings that injured or killed people from 1993 to 2011. (Seventy people were killed, 80 wounded). "But

if you don't admit fault, how do you improve?"

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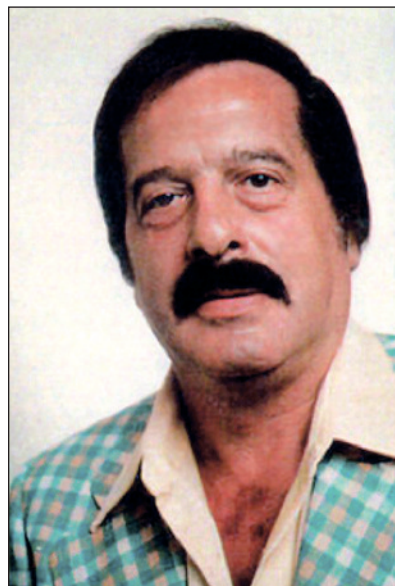


PHOTO COURTESY PETER LANCE

Gregory Scarpa Sr. killed his own brother and ordered the death of his nephew, not letting anyone stand in his way, Mr. Lance said.



NEW YORK DAILY NEWS/GETTY

Neither the Mafia nor the feds could defeat Gregory Scarpa Sr., but he fell victim to AIDS after an HIV-infected blood transfusion. Even then, the mobster persisted, surviving several years longer than doctors expected.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At right, R. Lindley DeVecchio, the FBI agent overseeing mobster and informant Gregory Scarpa Sr., appears before being arrested for conspiracy to commit murder in working with Mr. Scarpa.



PHOTOS COURTESY PETER LANCE

Greg Scarpa Jr., son of mobster Greg Scarpa Sr., middle, was held in a federal prison cell between terrorists Ramzi Yousef, left, and Abdul Hakim Murad, right. Author Peter Lance said the FBI failed to make use of information that Mr. Scarpa had on the terrorists and that those details might have helped prevent 9/11.

# Is this new trend culturally dangerous?

## ■ SELFIE

*Continued from Page D1*

have been uploaded to the app with the tag #selfie and about 70 million photos clog Instagram's #me.

What are we to make of all this navel-gazing (sometimes literally)? Are selfies, by definition, culturally dangerous? Offensive? An indicator of moral decline?

Beverly Hills psychiatrist Carole Lieberman sees narcissism with a capital N. "The rise of the selfie is a perfect metaphor for our increasingly narcissistic culture. We're desperately crying out: Look at me!"

But Pamela Rutledge doesn't see it that way. The director of the nonprofit Media Psychology Research Center, which explores how humans interact with technology, sees the selfie as democratizing the once-snooty practice of self-portraiture, a tradition that long predates Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and Flickr.

She sees some key differences between selfies and self-portraits of yore. Unlike painted portraiture, selfies are easily deletable. And "bad or funny is good in a way that wasn't the case when people had to pay for film to be developed," or for a professional painter, she said. "Albrecht Durer's self-

portraiture is these incredible self-reflections and explorations of technique, and then when Rihanna snaps her picture it's just self-aggrandizement, or it's promotion, so you have a fairly interesting double standard based upon who's taking the self-portrait," said Ms. Rutledge, in Boston.

In selfies, we can be famous and in control of our own images and story lines. As for the young, the more authority figures — parents, teachers — dislike them and "declare them a sign of a self-obsessed, narcissistic generation, the more desirable they become," she said.

The word selfie in itself carries multiple connotations, Ms. Rutledge observes. "The 'ie' at the end makes selfie a diminutive, implying some affection and familiarity." From a semantic's perspective, the selfie is a "little' self" — a small, friendly bit of the self, she said.

There's a sense of immediacy and temporariness. "Granted, little is really temporary on the Internet, but it is more that by definition. Transient, soon to be upstaged by the next one," Ms. Rutledge said.

Self-portraits tagged as "selfie" first surfaced on Flickr, a photo-sharing site, and on MySpace in 2004, Ms. Rutledge said. The earliest reference in UrbanDictionary was to "selfy" in



Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, poses with her daughter Chelsea at a Clinton Global Initiative America event in Chicago. The practice of freezing and sharing our tiniest slices of life in "selfies" has become so popular that the granddaddy of dictionaries, the Oxford, is monitoring the term as a possible addition.

2005.

In historical terms, elites in Ancient Egypt were fond of self-portraits, Ms. Rutledge said. And then there was the mirror, invented in the 15th century and allowing artists like the prolific Durer in Germany to have at it in

more meaningful detail.

While the self-involved Narcissus stared at his reflection in a pond in Greek mythology, it was the mirror that "really was the first piece of technology where an artist could see his own image long enough to paint it, other than



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

just painting self-impressions," Ms. Rutledge said.

Fast forward to the 1860s and the advent of cameras, launching a new round of selfies, though they took considerable skill and expense.

Leap with us once again to 2010

and the launch of Instagram, and on to 2012, when 86 percent of the U.S. population had a cellphone, bringing on the cheaper selfie as social media and mobile Internet access spread.

"What's most interesting to me is how we're trying to grapple with what it means," Ms. Rutledge said. "We know what it means when we see somebody's picture of their kid holding a soccer ball. We're OK with that. And we know what it means to have a portrait in a high school yearbook or of a real estate agent on a business card. We know how to think about all of those things, but we don't know how to think about this mass production of self-reflection."

Is it possible the selfie doesn't mean anything at all?

"In the era of the Kardashians, everyone has become their own paparazzi," mused Rachel Weingarten, a personal-brand consultant in New York.

Another New Yorker, 14-year-old Beatrice Landau, tends to agree. She regularly uploads selfies, from vacation shots on Instagram to fleeting images using Snapchat, a phone app that deletes them after 10 seconds.

"I know selfies are ridiculous, but it's definitely part of our 'teenage culture,'" Beatrice said.

"You don't have to have a person with you to take a picture of you, when you can take one yourself."