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Susan Quinn, Director

April 6, 2016

PRESS RELEASE

What: Author Jon D'Amore to speak at Ocean County Library's TR branch

When: 2 p.m. Saturday May 14

Where: Toms River library branch, 101 Washington St.

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A return to normal: author to tell of deliverance from criminal life

TOMS RIVER - Ocean County Library will present Hudson County-born author Jon D'Amore 2 p.m. Saturday, May 14 and his book "The Boss Always Sits in the Back."

The book is a memoir of when he, his mob connected cousin Jerry and an assortment of business associates conducted a series of scams on casinos in Las Vegas forty years ago. Unlike many of those associates, his artistic skills and talents helped insulate him from becoming a mobster. And he is still alive to tell the stories.

The book names names and tells tales, but D'Amore carefully crafts his sentences, attentive to their tone and what they reveal. It was also vetted by people who could take offense and intervene if an incident brought unwarranted interest to them or their activities.

The book ends with a peek into his return to his first loves: music and writing.

Jon D'Amore was always a North Jersey, artsy sort of guy.

As a youngster he enjoyed writing and was a published author at the age of 10.

As a pre-teen he began studying the guitar, leading him to hone his love and knowledge of music and to study the art of composition. By 18 he signed a performing contract, and by 20 he was traveling cross country as a session musician.

Jon merged both passions and wrote feature articles about performing and the musicians he met for "The Passaic Herald News," then New Jersey's third-largest newspaper.

That changed dramatically in 1975 when cousin Jerry's special invitation for Jon's 22nd birthday celebration in Las Vegas introduced him to a glamorous life with less-than-legal trappings.

Life became one rollicking party and he was appreciated for his successes in the scam. Expensive hotel suites and the best seats at all the entertainment venues, all compliments of the casinos of course, were perks of his scams.

That life of glamour suddenly crashed when an impromptu meeting with the real criminal power in Las Vegas and delivery of a lethal message quickly brought an end to Jon's scam.

This latest chapter in Jon's life story brings him back to his artistic roots: writing and storytelling. And it brings him to Ocean County Library's Toms River branch, 101 Washington St. where he will retell stories from those breathtaking times.

The program is free but registration is required. To register telephone the branch 732-349-6200 or go to the library website www.theoceancountylibrary.org .

Copies of "The Boss Always Sits in the Back" will be sold after the program and Jon D'Amore will be available to sign the book.