

Geneva-Linn

The Regional News

Part-time local's debut novel goes national

Much of Marco's thriller written locally

By Steve Targo
steve@lakegenevanews.net

Scottsdale, Ariz. — There's no such thing as coincidence. Inspiration will strike when you least expect it. Identifying an opportunity is just as important as seizing it.

These statements more than apply to Pascal Marco and the process which led him to write his first novel, "Identity: Lost." With it, Marco achieved what every would-be novelist desires — a publishing deal.

"Identity: Lost" will be released nationwide June 14 by Oceanview Publishing.



Marco

During a June 2 telephone interview from his Scottsdale home, Marco sounded like a proud father fresh out of the delivery room. Now, he's got a press kit he can send reporters when they ask for background on him and the book, and a schedule of appearances in the immediate future to help promote it.

"It's still very hard for me to say 'my publicist,'" said Marco, who summers in Geneva Township. But he is eager to talk about how he wrote it. He credited friends and his wife, Karen, for helping him by having discussions about the story. Marco also talked enthusiastically about how parts of the novel were written in Geneva Township and in several other area locations, including the public libraries in Lake Geneva and Fontana, Panera Bread in Delavan, and two businesses in Williams Bay — Skip's and Tickled Pink.

"That, to me, was really germane," Marco

Identity: Lost – A plot synopsis

Stan Kobe, living in the Arizona Witness Protection program since he was 13, is forced to confront his past. Known as Maricopa County's most ruthless prosecutor, he returns to Chicago where he witnessed a murder as a boy. But going to his hometown will require him to divulge a secret he has kept for more than 30 years: The current Democratic presidential candidate was also at the scene of the crime.

Pascal Marco, a summer resident of Geneva Township, is scheduled to appear at the Lake Geneva Public Library Wednesday, June 29, at 6 p.m. to discuss and sign copies of his debut novel, "Identity: Lost." Marco has been a well-respected, successful entrepreneur in Chicago and Phoenix, including having owned a communications company. He lives with his wife, Karen, full-time in Scottsdale, Ariz. They have four children and four grandchildren — one of whom Marco credited for coming up with the cover design for "Identity: Lost." "But I have to give him royalties," he said and chuckled.

said. "I will always be connected to these places when I look back on the writing of this book."

It's a book he started writing more than five years ago.

Murder & the White Sox

"Things started to happen that felt coincidental but had a distinctly stronger message for me than just mere happenstance occurrences."

Marco states in his press kit. "The first was when I attended Game Five of the 2005 ALCS Championship, when the Chicago White Sox visited the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim."

The Sox won, which prompted Marco to write how he felt about it. On June 2, he said had he not been at the game, he wouldn't have experienced the emotional victory to inspire his essay about it. Marco said he called a sports columnist he knows for advice on where to publish it and found a fan website which agreed to do so. That turned into him writing a column for the site for one season, but in doing so, it stirred in him something he'd remembered from his days as a young father living in Chicago.

Marco said in 1979, gang members murdered an old man, and an 11-year-old boy witnessed it. He said the boy walked three miles to the police headquarters to report it.

"I thought this boy either had a very strong home environment and had a good sense of

right or wrong, or maybe he knew the killers," Marco said. "Or, maybe he knew both (the killers) and the victim."

Another piece of history figures into "Identity: Lost." Marco told the story of Bobby Rush, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives who co-founded the Illinois chapter of the Black Panthers.

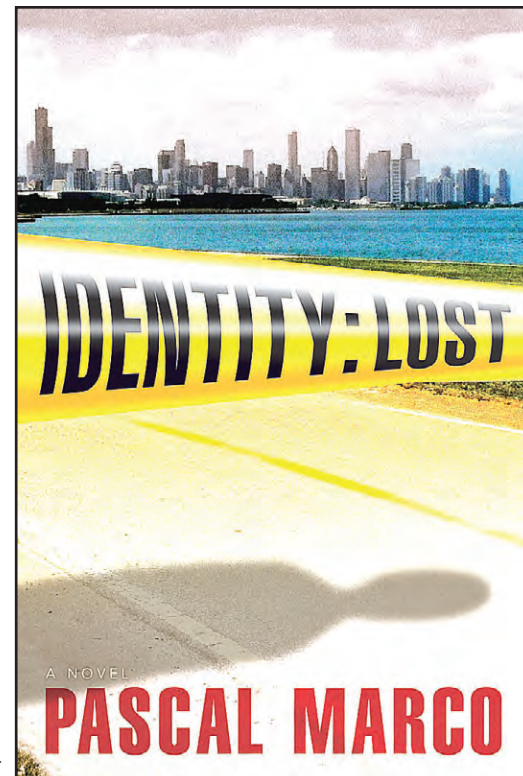
This led Marco to play "what if." He said he was amazed to see a former gang member become a Congressman, but what if someone like Rush had been involved in a crime which was never solved. These are the kinds of questions which compel one to write fiction.

But Marco, who has bachelor's and master's degrees in communications and theater from the University of Illinois, said the White Sox — and the Black Sox — figure prominently in "Identity: Lost."

Marco also made a somewhat startling admission.

"I'm not a huge fiction reader," he said. "I mean, I read it more now, (but) I was more into nonfiction."

Marco said while working on a column for the White Sox website, he visited the Scottsdale



Public Library and saw a flyer for a local group of writers. He said at first he thought the group could help him with the column. After a visit, recognizing there were several fiction writers — a few published — in the group, Marco said that was his "a-ha" moment. He decided instead of following his first inclination of making this story as a movie, he could fictionalize the real-life murder, use it as a framework.

But Marco said he realized something else — he needed to learn how to write a novel.

"I had really just written it as a kind of essay," he said.

PLEASE SEE BOOK PAGE 8

"Am I crazy?"

I'm offering my \$189 Air Conditioner Super-Tune-Up™ for only \$89... AND I guarantee your system won't break down this Summer or my service is FREE!!



Keith Nissen
King of Comfort

I must be crazy! When the temperature rises, I can get pretty busy. So, why am I offering such a drastic discount on my Super-Tune-Ups? It's very simple. I want you as a client for life! So, I call this my INVESTMENT IN YOU!

I know that I run the tightest service company in the business. I belong to a National Organization of highly motivated and technically competent plumbing, heating and air conditioning contractors. We are professionally and continually trained in the skills of service, repair, system replacement and All-Star Team Building business management and marketing systems.

I am serious about my profession; proud of my entire staff; and completely dedicated to each and every one of my clients... new and old.

Now, how am I going to prove all this to you if I can't get your attention?

Right! I make you a spectacular offer you can't refuse and win you as a new client for life.

Back to my offer.

My Super-Tune-Up includes a painstaking and thorough examination of more than 34 potential problem areas in your air conditioner. I will inspect, adjust, *clean and with your permission clear and repair anything I find wrong. When I have finished and if anything was repaired, I will present you with a written guarantee that your system is FIXED RIGHT OR IT'S FREE™! And if I have to come back during this season because your system is not working, my service is FREE!

This is a \$189 value for only \$89 and it's limited to first-come, first-served callers. Don't miss this opportunity to meet the Best In The Business!

* Coil cleaning is an additional charge.



Plumbing • Heating • Cooling

262-248-2103

www.masterserviceslg.com

"We're the Good Guys Your Friends Told You About™"



KNOW A FANTASTIC FATHER?

The Resorter is seeking photos of the great dad in your life!



Send us a snapshot that sums up the father-child relationship. The winning dad will receive a free year's subscription to The Lake Geneva Regional News, along with a photo frame to commemorate the special picture. Deadline to enter is Monday, June 20, 2011. To enter, email your photo and contact information to jaf@lakegenevanews.net, drop it off at our office at 315 Broad St., Lake Geneva, or send it to: The Lake Geneva Regional News, Attn: Resorter Editor P.O. Box 937, 315 Broad St., Lake Geneva, WI 53147

No 'ties' for this Father's Day: only one dad will win!

Watch for the winning picture of the 'Fantastic Father' Photo Contest in an upcoming Resorter

Geneva-Linn & Genoa-Bloomfield

Veteran takes Honor Flight



SUBMITTED
SGT. LAWRENCE CHRASTKA recently attended the Honor Flight for World War II veterans in Washington D.C. As part of his special trip, friends and relatives were asked to write letters thanking soldiers for their service. Two classes from Brookwood Elementary School participated, including (top photo) Reece Kiel, Chrastka's great-great niece, who is embracing him. Now 90, Chrastka wanted to thank the children in person. (Below) Chrastka with his daughter, Cheryl, boarding his flight. He served on the U.S.S. Honolulu in the Philippines.

REEK SCHOOL NEWS

Letteney receives master's degree

Geneva — Town Judge Scott Letteney received a master of public administration degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at a commencement ceremony Sunday, May 22.

The study of public administration focuses on the implementation of government policy, according to a press release.

Letteney concentrated on municipal management. His studies included courses in governmental budgeting and finance, human resources management, collective bargaining, public policy analysis, land use planning and governmental accounting.

Letteney's capstone project was titled "Municipal Employee Residency Requirements: Framing the Debate."

He has been the town of Geneva judge since 1999. He also is the deputy city attorney for Racine and a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel.

Letteney received his bachelor of arts in political science from UW-Milwaukee in 1985 and a juris doctorate from Marquette University Law School in 1988.



Letteney

A new administrator

Linn — Starting July 1, Reek School will have a new administrator.

According to a press release issued last week, the Reek School Board hired Joseph E. Zirngibl as the new district administrator/principal.

He will take over the job currently held by Lillian Henderson, who said during an interview in May she will become the new administrator at Sharon Elementary School.

The release states Zirngibl is completing his seventh year as the principal in Siren, a community in Northern Wisconsin.

He has 14 years of elementary education experience in the regular classroom.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with bachelor degrees in secondary education as well as elementary education, Zirngibl also has a masters of education-professional development with an emphasis in middle level education from Eau Claire.

He also has a masters of science degree in education with emphasis in educational administration from the University of Wisconsin-Superior and is completing the WiscAd program to earn certification as a business manager and a superintendent.

For more about Zirngibl and Henderson, read future editions of the Regional News.

LINN POLICE REPORTS

Town of Linn police cited:

■ A 21-year-old Lake Geneva woman for driving without a valid license after a traffic stop May 22 at 12:57 p.m. on Willow Road at Highway 120. According to the police report, the woman also received a verbal warning for drivng without proof of insurance.

■ A 43-year-old Lake Geneva man for driving without proof of insurance after a traffic stop May 18 at 5:37 p.m. on Linton Road, 400 feet east of Brink Road. According to the report, the man also received a verbal warning for speed-

ing.

■ A 20-year-old Genoa City man for driving without proof of insurance after a traffic stop May 23 at 10:38 p.m. on Highway B at Zenda Road. According to the report, the man also received a verbal warning for headlight and license plate violations.

■ A 50-year-old Tomah man for a seat belt violation after a stop May 24 at 9:04 p.m. on South Lake Shore Drive at Maytag Road. According to the report, he also received a verbal warning for speeding.

Book/But there's tender parts in it, too'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Marco said his writing mentor, Deborah Ledford, director of the group, gave him the help he needed.

"She said if I'm really serious about writing a novel, (her group) will help me," he said. "So, my first draft was done in about two years. I wrote about one chapter every couple weeks, give or take. I'm fortunate that I was able to attend this group. They were a really good group, and I was determined to come out of it with something.

From there, in Marco's words, "The novel just kind

of took a life of its own." It's one he said has been described as "cross-cultural," "raw" and "street-like."

"But there's tender parts in it, too," he said.

As for the title, Marco said that came about after a brainstorm session with Karen. He said "Identity: Lost" reflects an important aspect of the novel.

"I think the whole thing about the book is there are several characters who question their identity," Marco said.

Serendipity, or how I got published

Some people will say

writing a novel is easier than getting it published, especially if it's a first novel. But for Marco, the road to finding a publisher began in Fontana.

He said he heard best-selling author Brad Thor was appearing at the Fontana Public Library for a book signing.

Marco said he went and talked to Thor, who told him if he's serious about publishing a novel, he should go to Thriller Fest in New York City. As it happened, despite the cost of attending, Marco did. That's where he found his publisher.

However, the first time he pitched his book, which used to be called "The Murder of Manny Flieschman — Last of the Black Sox," he said Oceanview passed on it, but made some suggestions to improve it.

"Then, more than a year later, I repitched it to them," Marco said.

"That was something I was told I couldn't do."

He credited his progress to his background in sales.

"The skill you develop is ... never be afraid to ask for the sale,"

Marco said. "In sales, it's really rare that you ask. I think, if there's one thing that's helped me, it's selling myself."

But there's another thing, which he illustrated with a tale of meeting another best-selling author, Douglas Preston. According to Marco, he'd asked the doorman at his hotel if anyone wanted to share a cab to LaGuardia. Marco had talked to Preston briefly a couple times before, so the two writers engaged in conversation. From that, Preston agreed to help Marco by providing a blurb for "Identity: Lost."

"Had I not asked to share a cab ride, I wouldn't have shared a cab ride with Douglas Preston," Marco said. "You have to capitalize on these opportunities."

He said it's also important to recognize the opportunities, and in this case, they weren't random.

"These things happened for a reason," Marco said.

And according to the bio in his press kit, a second novel is in the works.

Swimming Lessons

- Dates: June 20-Aug. 12
- Twice per week lessons are just \$35 for the whole summer!
- Once per week lessons are just \$25 for the whole summer!
- Lesson locations: Lake Geneva Beach, Fontana Beach, Williams Bay Beach, Linn Pier, Knollwood, L.G. Beach Assn., Buena Vista Assn.

Registration: Mon., June 13 thru Sat., June 18

Please register in person at the Water Safety Patrol Headquarters between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon (M-F) OR 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (M&W) Or 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sat. Our address is 451 Outing St., Williams Bay. For directions or more info. please see our web site at www.watersafetypatrol.org or call our office at 262-245-6577.



SCOOTER RENTALS
 STARTING AT ONLY \$29
 MIDWEST ACTION CYCLE
 251 HOST DR. OFF WELLS ST.
 LAKE GENEVA, WI 53147
 WWW.SCOOTLOCKEYS.COM (262) 249-0600

Aftermath Paving

LAKE GENEVA, WI
 262.812.9150
 New & Existing Construction
 Free Estimates

Our Residential Services Include: Driveway Seal Coating

- Paving repair and replacements • Crack repairs • Extensions • Overlays
- Hot and cold patching • Infrared patching • Waterways • Ditching • New and existing construction

Aftermath Paving Inc. Licensed, bonded and insured, we provide our loyal customers with free estimates on all of our work as well as a guarantee for great workmanship.

CALL AFTERMATH PAVING AT 262.812.9150 TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT TODAY, OR BROWSE OUR WEBSITE, www.Aftermathpaving.com