



Newsletter / Bollettino
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Association of Italian
Canadian Writers



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NOTA DELLA PRESIDENTE

Dear Members and Friends,

Last spring, I travelled throughout Italy to present the AICW anthology *Writing Our Way Home*. (You can see photos of these gatherings on the AICW Facebook page and in the June newsletter, available on the AICW site.) I'm pleased to report that Italian professors and graduate students are very interested in the literary production of Italian Canadians. For their hospitality and co-ordination of events, I am most grateful to professors Flavio Gregori and Giulio Marra (Venice), Paola Puccini and Carla Comellini (Bologna), Oriana Palusci (Napoli), Eleonora Federici (Calabria), and Annalisa Bonomo (Enna). Thanks also go to Elena Lamberti, Mirko Casagrande, Renata Oggero and Loredana Trovato. At the University of Calabria, I met Marcella Lorenzi (director of the university press) and her late husband Mauro Francaviglia, professor at the University of Torino. We had originally met at Montreal's Blue Metropolis Festival a few years ago. Both Marcella and Mauro were very supportive of Italian Canadian writing and we discussed their participation at our Montreal 2014 conference. Shortly after our meeting in Calabria, Mauro passed away suddenly. We are saddened to hear of his untimely death. Mauro gave us a memorable tour of Cosenza. We will always remember his kindness and hospitality.



Mauro Francaviglia, AICW members Licia Canton and Liana Cusmano, Marcella Lorenzi.

We are working on the 2014 AICW Conference to be held in Montreal, May 1 - 4, 2014. (See Call on page 7.) I look forward to seeing many of you at the Montreal conference, a unique opportunity to come together and share our publications and works-in-progress. If you'd like to volunteer at the conference, or on other AICW committees, please let us know by writing to info@aicw.ca.

Our pan-Canadian Books and Biscotti Literary Series during Italian Heritage month was very successful this past June. We'd like to thank Michael Tibollo, president of the National Congress of Italian Canadians for his continued collaboration and for having supported the June 10th event at the Columbus Centre in Toronto. It isn't too early to start planning events for June 2014, so send us your ideas and suggestions. Books and Biscotti events take place because of the involvement of AICW members. If you would like to organize an event in your city (at any time of the year), or if you already have a scheduled launch or reading that could be part of our Books and Biscotti series, please write to our Communications Officer, Giulia De Gasperi, at communications@aicw.ca.

On August 16 to 18, the AICW participated at Montreal's Italian Week. Our tent featured the works of our members. Thanks to Michael Mirolla, Ralph Alfonso and Domenic Cusmano for manning the tent. (See photos on page 2.)

The AICW, in partnership with Guernica Editions and *Accenti Magazine*, is proud to participate in the travelling exhibit "Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Times: Italian Canadian Experiences During World War II". The exhibit, which travels across Canada until 2016, features our volumes *Behind Barbed Wire* and *Beyond Barbed Wire* – a co-publication with Columbus Centre. For the exhibit tour schedule, go to www.italiancanadianww2.ca. Visit http://www.guernicaeditions.com/free_ebooks to download our free e-books.

As the wealth of information in this newsletter clearly shows, AICW members are very active. We want to hear from you, too! Tell us about your recent events or publications by sending details to our Newsletter Editor, Agata De Santis, at agata@redheadproductions.com.

A very warm **Welcome** to our new members. And **thank you** to our many long-time members. Wishing you a very creative and productive fall!

Licia Canton, Ph.D.
President, Association of Italian Canadian Writers

Welcome to new AICW members!

Silvia Fiorita (returning)

Steve Galluccio

Vincenzo Pietropaolo (returning)

Centaur Theatre (supporter)

Tessa Floreano

Linda Morra (returning)

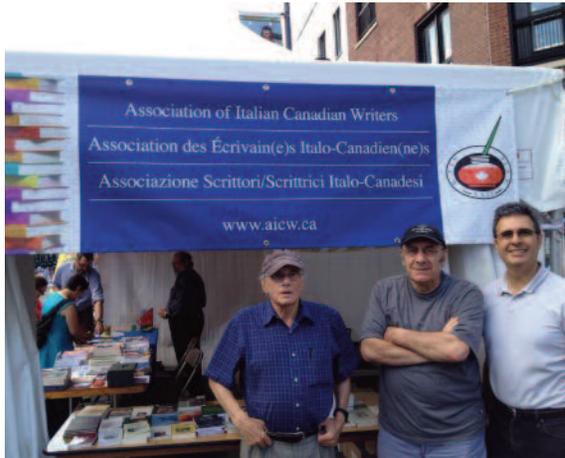
Maria Zarrone



THE AICW AT MONTREAL'S ITALIAN WEEK



The AICW tent at Montreal's Italian Week, Boulevard St-Laurent, Little Italy, August 16 - 18, 2013.



Nico Bignami, Michael Mirolla and Domenic Cusmano promoting the works of AICW members.



Ralph Alfonso and Michael Mirolla.

Thank you to everyone who participated!

REMEMBERING YOLANDA COPPOLINO

- Venera Fazio

On June 15, 2013, AICW member Yolanda Coppolino, in her 84th year, passed away after a short illness. Our relationship dates back to more than a decade ago, when I was working on the first *Sweet Lemons* Sicilian anthology. Yolie had recently retired from a successful career as administrator and teacher in the Faculty of Business, Ryerson University. She contacted me by email saying she was writing her Sicilian mother's story. She admired her mother more than anyone else in their family. "She was a very strong woman," Yolie once told me, "widowed early, I was about 10 years old, and my mother worked and looked after us four children."

Yolie never submitted a portion of her mother's memoir, for either of the *Sweet Lemons* anthologies. She was reserved about sharing her writing. Until she died, we maintained a frequent correspondence, sharing stories of our Sicilian heritage, swapping book titles to read and supporting each other's literary efforts. She self-published a book of her mother's proverbs. She was her family's historian and documented their past as far back as her parents' immigration from Sicily.

We lived some distance from each other and only met four or five times, at AICW conferences and Toronto book readings. In her emails and in person, she was warm, affectionate as well as sincere in her praise of my literary efforts and those of other AICW writers. She was a lively conversationalist with a keen intellect and along with her passion for her heritage she maintained a scholarly interest in her profession even after her retirement. She completed a Ph.D. in Business in her seventies.

OTTAWA'S ITALIAN WEEK

Il Gruppo culturale di Villa Marconi, Ottawa, held *un pomeriggio letterario* on June 9th as part of Italian Week 2013. The theme was Sguarcci di Roma nella letteratura. Rene Pappone was among the 15 readers who presented their own creations or poetry and stories of renowned authors. A few videos were also shown. Rene presented his own creation, a short story about the ancient Baths of Caracalla, built between 212 and 219 A.D.

TERRI FAVRO FINALIST FOR CBC LITERARY PRIZE

In July, Terri Favro was a finalist for the CBC Literary Prize for Creative Non-Fiction for her memoir-essay, "Icarus." Terri was one of five writers on the shortlist, from a pool of 2,700. "Icarus" has been published on the CBC Canada Writes website at <http://www.cbc.ca/books/canadawrites/2013/07/icarus-by-terri-favro.html>.



JOSEPH PIVATO AT TWO UNIVERSITY CONFERENCES

Joseph Pivato (Edmonton) spoke at the first conference of the Black Canadian Studies Association at Brock University (St. Catharines) on May 24-26. Joe was on a panel with George Elliott Clarke and Camille Isaacs which discussed and compared depictions of Black people and Italians in North America. Joe edited *Africadian Atlantic: Essays on George Elliott Clarke* (Guernica) and Camille Isaacs edited *Austin Clarke: Essays on His Works* (Guernica).

Joe delivered a paper at the conference of the Canadian Association for Italian Studies at the University of Victoria, B.C., on June 1-3. Joe spoke about the poetry of Rina Del Nin Cralli as part of a panel with Anna Pia De Luca (Udine), and Cristina Perissinotto (Ottawa) which discussed the literature of Friuli Venezia Giulia. The keynote speaker was Cristiana Compagno, Rettore, Università di Udine, the first woman president of a university in Italy.

Italian-Canadian writing was well-represented at this Victoria conference: Davide Bellusci (Dominican College) spoke about the poetry of Pier Giorgio Di Cicco; Deborah Saidero (Udine) looked at Friulian writers in Canada; Tiziana Nannavecchia (Ottawa) spoke about Italian-Canadian writers being translated into Italian; and Konrad Eisenbichler (Toronto) examined the Italian protest poetry of Italian-Canadian journalist Gianni Grohovaz.

Victoria was also the first public presentation of the new book by Emma Pivato, *Blind Sight Solution*, a murder mystery novel.



In the photo: In Victoria. L-R Anna Pia De Luca, Deborah Saidero, Cristiana Compagno and Joe Pivato.

THE VINCHIATURO PRESENTATION

- Joseph Ranallo

On May 20, 2012, the beginning of the week dedicated to the city's patron Saint, San Bernadino da Siena, I returned for the first time in sixty years to my birth town of Vinchiaturò, Molise. I had left my hometown as a 12-year old in July of 1952. Because my father had died four years earlier, my mother had remarried, by proxy, a suitor she had not actually met who lived in Rossland, British Columbia. She had been introduced to this Canadian through a family friend who had temporarily moved to Rossland. This man, who by now through the marriage process, had become my stepfather, had sent for us to join him in Rossland, the small, one traffic light, Swiss like, historic western and mining town in the interior of BC which was to become my new home.

In 1961, nine years later, I began my interrupted studies at BC's Victoria College (which four years later became the University of Victoria) that I left in 1968 with a Teacher Training Certificate and a BA in English with Honours. In 1972, I completed an MA in English Literature from Washington State University, in Pullman, Washington. From then on, until my retirement in 2008, I worked as a teacher, college and university instructor, and an administrator at the elementary, secondary, college, and university levels. I retired as the Associate Coordinator of the University of British Columbia's West Kootenay Teacher Education Program based at Selkirk College in Castlegar, BC. In 2001, I was licensed by the province of British Columbia to practice Acupuncture. During my working years, I was able to do a bit of writing as a hobby. I was fortunate to have my modest texts, articles, poems, short fiction, and essays published in Canada, the US, Australia, China, and Italy.

Two years before my trip to Italy with my wife Maureen and my daughter Laura, I had received an email from one of Vinchiaturò's distinguished scholars respectfully known as La Professoressa Giuliana Bagnoli, the author of the impressive social science text, *Vinchiaturò: Una Comunità Allargata*. Through acquaintances in Eastern Canada, she had come across some of my publications. She said that if I should ever return to Vinchiaturò for a visit, to let her know ahead of time. Once the plans for my trip were finalized, I notified her. I brought with me Anna Foschi's Italian translation of a presentation I had delivered in English at the 2000 Montreal-based AICW Biennial Conference of Italian Canadian Writers. My presentation, "Pier 21 and the De-emphasis of the Cafone class in Canada," was published in *The Dynamics of Cultural Exchange* (Montreal, 2002).

Shortly after we jumped off the train at the now abandoned Vinchiaturò railway station, I noticed on the unmaintained office door a poster that announced the festivities and events for the San Bernardino week. San Bernardino da Siena was the fiery orator that, in the distant past, Vinchiaturò had adopted as its protector and patron largely because he used to preach in the area. I was pleasantly surprised to read that I was on for the evening of May 21. I was to be the main protagonist in an incontro with the town's charismatic and imposing Mayor, Antonello Tucci.

This event, held in a fairly new and impressive hotel built in part on the farm on which I was born, turned out to be an extravaganza that included an appetizing buffet, the TV media from the nearby capital city of Campobasso, folkloric entertainment, and the participation of the Comune and the noted Popoli Migranti society of Vinchiaturò. Professoressa Bagnoli and her assistants had done a splendid job of organizing this auspicious evening. Because most of the residents of Vinchiaturò, for varying period of their busy lives, have been affected by immigration of some form or another, my words hit home. The town treated me like a celebrity. I was particularly humbled when the participants cued up and asked me to attach my signature to the handout I had distributed.

Three days later, when we boarded a Rome bound bus that would eventually take us to the Fiumicino Airport, a sizeable group of Vinchiaturesi gathered at the mid town bus stop to wish us a pleasant return to Canada. As the bus headed west passing through a litany of now familiar sounding cities and towns, I could not stop my mind from comparing this departure with the one I had made sixty years ago. When I had left my hometown for the first time, hardly anybody noticed. Only a few close relatives and friends came to the bus stop near my birth farm. Today's crowd was much larger and happier. Sixty years ago our exodus was clearly a one-way trip; today's well-wishers were already looking forward to our return.



TIMMINS VOICES 2ND ANNIVERSARY

- Frank Giorno

September 15, 2013 marks the second anniversary of *Timmins Voices*, a literary series held monthly at Christopher's Coffee House in Timmins, the land of the 100 Year Gold Rush.

A literary reading series in a rough and tumble gold mining community of 40,000 situated in the Canadian Shield, may appear odd, but the support has been tremendous right from day one. Our opening day lineup on September 15, 2011, included Mayor Tom Laughren, reading the very first poem – "The City Planner" by Margaret Atwood. We also had Cliff Naveau, an Ojibway elder, delivering the opening prayer. On June 14, 2012, we featured Paula Mascioli as part of AICW's Books and Biscotti series. Paula spoke about her grandfather, Leo Mascioli, a true Northern pioneer. In the early 1900s he worked on the building of Marconi's Towers on Signal Hill in St. John's Newfoundland. He later settled in Cobalt, Ontario, where silver was being mined and moved up north to take part in the Porcupine Gold Rush of 1909. Mascioli didn't find gold, but was instrumental in bringing miners from the Abruzzi area into the Porcupine.



Timmins Voices

Literary reading series

Other notable performers include Vern Cheechoo, a talented musician originally from Moose Factory, Ontario. Vern has been twice nominated for a Juno Award. Among his songs are "Lonesome and Hurtin" featured in *Dance Me Outside*, a 1995 film by Bruce McDonald about life on a First Nations Reserve. Vern is part of a musical family whose accomplishments are noted in the Encyclopedia of Native American Music. Another feature was Annie Metat from Fort Albany First Nations. She regaled the audience with stories about Cedar Girl and other northern legends.

Bill Shaver is an avid local writer who has overcome many struggles due to an acquired brain injury suffered in an ice boating mishap almost 20 years ago. His poetry is inspirational and straight from his struggles. We've featured psychologist, Dennis Bernardi, whose latest book is titled *Feeding the Wolf*, Kevin Vincent, who wrote *Bootleg Gold*, stories about high grading or the theft of gold and Charlie Angus, MP for Timmins-James Bay who has written books on mining health and safety.

Young musicians who have performed at Timmins Voices include Celeste Levis, a talented 17 year old who won at the Miss Teen Canada Pageant earlier this summer; Bee Rock Steady, a poet and punk rocker; Robert J. Stubbings, a gifted musician; and Adrianna Ciccone, an award-winning fiddle player.

We featured traditional spoken word poets like Deborah McIntosh, Anna Niemi Gibson and myself. Our open mic has drawn avid young poets like Michelle Couture, Daniel and Eric Letourneau and Jacob Rice.

On June 20, 2013, we featured the Timmins Gold Miners Daughter Roller Derby Team and explored their sport.

To mark our second anniversary, we are holding two Timmins Voices: September 19 with Father LaFleur, the Pastor of St. Anthony's Cathedral and an engaging and humorous man; and September 26 with Luciano Iacobelli and Rocco DiGiacomo from Toronto. This Fall, the local cable company EastLink TV will be airing five minute segments called "Voices" featuring the best of our Timmins Voices guests. Next year we will add a French version – Voix de Timmins – featuring our francophone writers. Fifty percent of Timmins' population is French.

We have published our fourth issue of *Northern Voices Journal* and copies can be purchased for \$5.00 each. Please contact me at frankgiorno1@gmail.com.

Please visit our Facebook pages for further information:
www.facebook.com/timminsvoces and
www.facebook.com/northernvoicesjournal.

PROGETTI CULTURALI AUTUNNALI AL CENTRO ITALIANO DI VANCOUVER

- Anna Ciampolini Foschi

La serata di mercoledì 6 novembre 2013 sarà dedicata al lancio di due libri di letteratura italo-canadese, con la collaborazione organizzativa e l'ospitalità del Centro Culturale Italiano di Vancouver che mette a disposizione la bella sala della Trattoria. Anche se detta Trattoria è uno spazio per avvenimenti culturali più che per convivi gastronomici, sembra davvero la sede più consona al titolo del nuovo volume presentato al pubblico di Vancouver. Infatti, oggetti del lancio sono: la nuova antologia curata da Delia De Santis e Loretta Gatto-White, *Italian Canadians at Table: A Narrative Feast in Five Courses*, pubblicata da Guernica Editions e il volume di poesie *Quadri Canadesi-Canadian Images* di Pietro Vitelli (Traduzione inglese di Anna Ciampolini Foschi), pubblicato in Italia nel 2011 da Herald Edizioni.

Quest'ultimo volume (*Quadri Canadesi*) è già stato presentato al pubblico a Montreal, Toronto e in diverse città in Italia. L'autore, Pietro Vitelli, già Funzionario del Ministero delle Finanze italiano ed ex-sindaco di Cori, membro della Direzione nazionale dell'Associazione Italiana per il Consiglio dei Comuni e delle Regioni d'Europa (AICCRE) ha pubblicato più di dieci volumi di saggi, poesia e narrativa, fra cui "Il primo italiano in Canada, storia del missionario F.G.Bressani" e una ricerca storica su Enrico Tonti.

Italian Canadians at Table, la recentissima antologia curata da De Santis e Gatto-White arriva a Vancouver in "prima" assoluta ma nel resto del Canada ha già ricevuto attenzione e opinioni più che lusinghiere dalla stampa e da molti esponenti di spicco del mondo letterario canadese come Sheldon Currie o Valerie Compton. Come meravigliarsi quando le curatrici vantano l'esperienza e la competenza indiscussa accumulata in anni di lavori letterari ad alto livello? La curiosità e l'interesse stanno già creandosi anche a Vancouver e questo fa ben sperare per la serata di novembre.



THE AICW SUPPORTS HERITAGE DESIGNATION OF MYRTLE VILLA

- Jim Zucchero

Recently a notice was issued by the Etobicoke-York Community Council confirming that a proposal to have Myrtle Villa (in Mimico, part of the GTA) designated as a heritage site was approved. Myrtle Villa was the family home of James Franceschini, a prominent member of the Italian Canadian community in Toronto. Franceschini was among those interned in 1940. His compelling story is recounted and examined by Frank Giorno and James McCreath in the volume *Beyond Barbed Wire: essays on the Internment of Italian Canadians* (2012).



The campaign for the heritage designation was led by Michael Harrison, who noted that preserving the Villa was a way of creating a “teachable moment.” He approached the AICW for support for the proposal and a letter was issued by the Association noting that “Myrtle Villa provides a tangible link to James Franceschini as historic figure, and to the events of his life, including unpleasant ones like his internment.

The preservation of Myrtle Villa is, in one sense, the practical extension of the work our Association has undertaken with our CHRP book project. Our objective is to heighten awareness of past wrongs, to commemorate those events in constructive ways, and to encourage greater sensitivity to matters of ethnic diversity as a means of building strong, vibrant, multicultural communities. . .

Those who visit the site would be able to ponder the fact that at one time in Canada, even the man who built all of this could be swept up by authorities and locked away merely because of his ethnicity. The knowledge of this should be used to promote sensitivity to the dangers of prejudice and racism, and to instill awareness of the need to be vigilant in protecting our freedoms and liberty from abuse.”

With this heritage designation the Villa will be spared the wrecking ball; instead, it will be preserved (and protected under the Ontario Heritage Act) as an important Canadian historic site for future generations.

ALBERTO DI GIOVANNI RETIRES FROM CENTRO SCUOLA

- Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni

After 40 years as the founder and director of Centro Scuola e Cultura Italiana in Toronto, Alberto Di Giovanni has decided to retire. This is noteworthy for members of the AICW because the many activities supported by Centro Scuola under Di Giovanni’s leadership contributed to the cultural awareness and community development of thousands of students, families, and institutions in the Greater Toronto Area and beyond.

His passionate dedication to the promotion of Italian language classes in schools influenced the Ontario Ministry of Education and various school boards to maintain International Language courses in Italian in hundreds of elementary schools, starting in 1977. By 1985, Centro Scuola had created a partnership with the Toronto Catholic District School Board, and later also the York Catholic School Board, to provide Summer Credit Courses in Italy for secondary school students.

In addition to educational programs, Alberto Di Giovanni lent considerable support to publications that brought Italian culture and Italian Canadian writers to the attention of teachers, libraries, diplomats, clubs, and social organizations. Through his initiative in 1986, Mosaic Press published the first volume of *Italian Canadian Voices: An Anthology of Poetry and Prose, 1946-1983*. This was followed by the second volume, *Italian Canadian Voices: A Literary Anthology, 1946-2004* (Mosaic Press, 2006). Finally, a third anthology came out, *Bravo!* (Quattro Books, 2012). All three anthologies were edited by Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni. Other books organized and supported by Centro Scuola include: *Italian Culture*, edited by Prof. Julius Molinaro, in 1978; *The Luminous Mosaic*, edited by Prof. Maddelena Kuitunen and Prof. Julius Molinaro, in 1993; *Love’s Sinning Song*, poetry by Celestino Di Iulii, in 1982; as well as language textbooks for the elementary school classes.

The office of Centro Scuola was located in Columbus Centre when that facility opened in the 1980s. There, in a room dedicated as The Alberto Di Giovanni Library, visitors can find books pertaining to Italian history, literature, culture, and social studies. One prominent section contains an impressive collection of Italian Canadian literature, from Pier Giorgio Di Cicco’s *Roman Candles* (1978), to the most recent AICW publication, *Writing Our Way Home* (Guernica Editions, 2013). Poetry, short stories, novels, novellas, and memoirs are all on the shelves, together with essays and sociological studies of the Italian Canadian population. In his retirement, Alberto is writing a history of the Italian-Canadian community since the post-WW II immigration, a history that he took part in creating.

NEWS FROM PIETRO CORSI



Un suo nuovo racconto (*Neruda, il corvo bianco, il gatto nero, Seneca Ed.*) è stato presentato presso il Teatro Comunale di Casacalenda, Molise, il 12 agosto scorso, preceduto da un video clip di 10 minuti con l'attore Pierdomenico Simone del Teatro Stabile del Veneto. In traduzione inglese (*Neruda, the white raven, the black cat*) lo stesso racconto si è classificato semifinalista nella Fiction Contest 2013 della Leapfrog Press, tra 417 partecipanti, ed è nel calendario 2015 di Guernica Editions che ha già pubblicato due suoi libri (*Winter in Montreal, Premio Bressani; Halifax, the other door to America*).

Un lavoro in corso (*Raven's daughter*) si è classificato primo assoluto alla V edizione del Premio Letterario Internazionale Città di Martinsicuro, in Abruzzo, Sez. Lingue straniere, con diritto alla pubblicazione in duplice lingua, inglese e italiano con Di Felice Edizioni. La premiazione è avvenuta sabato 27 luglio presso la Torre Carlo V di Martinsicuro, una incantevole cittadina abruzzese ai confini con le Marche.

Il romanzo *Un certo giro di luna*, in seconda edizione, è in corso di pubblicazione presso Europa Edizioni. Ugo Moretti (autore di *Vento caldo, premio Viareggio Opera Prima*) così ne scrive: "Un racconto che nasce e cresce come un fiore tropicale. Corsi scava i caratteri dei personaggi con piglio da scultore togliendo dall'abbozzo il sovrabbondante della materia, limando fino alla sfumatura il profilo delle azioni. Non campisce brutalmente i colori ma compone i toni e impasta il drammatico con la leggerezza distaccata dello spettatore."

MEET OUR MEMBERS

TERRI FAVRO's novella *The Proxy Bride* won the Ken Klonsky-Quattro Books Novella Award, and was published in 2012. Terri also collaborated with artist Ron Edding on the graphic novels *Bella and the Loyalist Heroine* (2012) and *Waiting For Mario Puzo* (2013), published by Grey Borders Books. Her fiction and non-fiction have been published extensively in print and online media, including *Accenti*, *Prism*, *Geist*, *The Toronto Star*, *Broken Pencil*, *MORE*, *Riddle Fence*, *Feathertale.com*, *Lies With Occasional Truth*, and the *Red Line* (U.K.), and the anthologies *TOK: Writing the New Toronto Vol. 6* (Zephyr) and *Behind Barbed Wire: Creative Works on the Internment of Italian Canadians* (Guernica). In 2013, Terri was a finalist for both the CBC Literary Prize in Creative Non-Fiction and the Broken Pencil Indie Writers Deathmatch. She is a two-time finalist (2009 and 2011) for the *Accenti Magazine* Awards. She blogs at www.terrifavro.ca.

SILVIA FIORITA is a Montreal-based freelance writer whose work has been published in *Curaggia* (Women's Press). She belongs to the West Island writers' group and has had work published in two of their anthologies. She was second place winner in a story contest by *Accenti Magazine* in 2008 and was also second place winner in a poetry contest by the AICW. She has taught English as a second language and worked for many years with special needs children.

STEVE GALLUCCIO started his career in the Montreal underground theatre scene in 1990. He burst into the mainstream with *Mambo Italiano*, one of the most successful plays in Canadian theatre history. The play was turned into a movie which became an international hit, sold in more than 53 countries, including the U.S. Galluccio followed *Mambo* with the Gemini award-winning TV series *Ciao Bella*. Filmed in both French and English for CBC and Radio Canada, *Ciao Bella* was also broadcast in Europe and the United States. Galluccio's second feature film, *Surviving My Mother*, won the audience favourite award at the Montreal Film Festival, and was featured in many prestigious film festivals all over the world. Galluccio's third feature, the bilingual *Funkytown*, opened in January 2011 and grossed over 1.5 million dollars. It was distributed in the U.S. by Wolfe Video. In *Piazza San Domenico*, Galluccio's ninth play, was the number one comedy in Montreal in the fall of 2009, selling out most of its extended run. The play was performed in Germany in 2011. In his first production venture, Galluccio purchased the rights to the Broadway hit *39 Steps*. He co-produced the play in French in Montreal in 2012. *39 Marches* is currently on tour all over Québec. In 2012 Galluccio also released his first book, *Montréal à la Galluccio*, a whimsical guide of his beloved hometown of Montreal. Steve's new play, *The St. Léonard Chronicles*, will open the 2013-14 season at Montreal's venerable Centaur Theatre.

FRANK GIORNO was born in Montalto Uffugo, Calabria, Italy. He came to Toronto in 1959, moved to Timmins, Ontario, in 2010. Frank is the founder of the Timmins Voices Literary Reading Series and *Northern Voices Journal*. Frank has written two poetry books, *Elvis in America* and *Arrivederci! Plastic-Covered Couch*. His essay, "Internee 328 Camp Petawawa," written with James McCreath on the internment of James Franceschini, was published in *Beyond Barbed Wire*, a collection compiled by the Association of Italian Canadian Writers (in partnership with Guernica Editions and *Accenti Magazine*). The volume was co-published with Columbus Centre of Toronto. He writes about mining for *Mining Life Magazine*. He is a past editor of the AICW Newsletter. He has two children: Sophie and Giancarlo.

Dr. LINDA MORRA is an Associate Professor and head of the English Department at Bishop's University. Her research, largely animated by inquiries into the place of women writers in the public sphere, has culminated in a monograph (under review with UTP), in *Basements and Attics, Closets and Cyberspace: Explorations in Canadian Women's Archives* (co-edited with Dr. Schagerl, WLUP 2012), and in the prepared edition of Jane Rule's memoir, *Taking My Life* (Talon 2012). The latter was short-listed for the international LAMBDA prize in 2012.

VINCENZO PIETROPAOLO is a documentary photo artist and writer who has distinguished himself as a photographic bookmaker, mixing photographs and his own original writing. He has authored or edited over a dozen books, including the acclaimed *Not Paved with Gold*, about the Italian immigrant experience, and *Invisible No More*, in which he explores the world of people with intellectual disabilities. His work is in many collections, including the Art Gallery of Ontario.

If you would like your biography included in a future installment of "Meet Our Members," please send in your request at the next call for submissions.



15TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ITALIAN CANADIAN WRITERS (AICW)

DEADLINE: October 15, 2013.

**Writing and Translating Culture:
Bridging Differences Together
Montreal, May 1 to 4, 2014**

The Association of Italian Canadian Writers (AICW) is accepting proposals for its 15th biennial conference to be held in Montreal, May 1 to 4, 2014. The conference seeks readings and papers that illustrate the building of bridges (generational, linguistic, cultural, literary styles, etc.) and encourage discussion between Italian-Canadian writers and other literary, artistic, cultural and academic communities across Canada and beyond.

Academics and researchers, writers and artists from all disciplines – both inside and outside the Italian-Canadian sphere – are invited to submit proposals to present new works in English, French, or Italian. Graduate students are encouraged to participate. Possible topics include, but are not limited to: Italian Canadiana and literary criticism, youth fiction, literary education, film, media, the short story, autobiography, religion, history, translation studies and cultural hybridity.

Individual papers (20 min.) that discuss recent publications by Italian-Canadian authors or which give a comparative analysis of Italian-Canadian writing and other literatures. Send a 100-word abstract and a 60-word biography.

Panels: send a title for the panel, 100-word abstract for each paper, as well as 60-word biography for each panelist, and contact information for all panelists (maximum three) and chairperson.

Literary readings (15 min.): send 60-word biography, a 200-word excerpt of the text to be read (prose or play) or four poems (max. 40 lines). Preference will be given to readings (and performances) of new works.

Please note that once a proposal has been accepted, a conference registration fee (\$65.00) will be requested for all presenters who are not AICW members in good standing.

Please send submissions and queries to conference2014@aicw.ca.

GOOD FRIDAY IN LITTLE ITALY

DEADLINE: October 30, 2013.

Vincenzo Pietropaolo is seeking submissions for possible inclusion in a new book, *RITUAL: The Good Friday Procession in Toronto's Little Italy – A Photographic Essay and Literary Survey 1969-2012*.

Vincenzo Pietropaolo has been photographing the Good Friday procession for more than 40 years from its earliest days in 1969 to the present. Returning year after year, he has documented the evolution of the procession from a small local parish affair into one of the largest religious festivals in Canada and the United States that often attracts 100,000 participants and spectators.

The public display of religiosity, with its myriad Biblical tableaux and atmosphere of solemnity as the Via Crucis is reenacted against the backdrop of a modern city, has had a pioneering influence by “breaking ground” in Toronto. Paving the way from the beginning, this most important manifestation of the Italian-Canadian immigrant experience has inspired many writers including poets, novelists, and journalists.

This book offers an opportunity to collect some of the key literary works inspired by this event. Due to space limitations, in the case of longer works, the inclusion of excerpts will be considered. There will be no fees for publication, but copyright will be retained exclusively by the authors. Publishing details have not been set, but it is expected that the book will appear in 2015.

For further information please contact Vincenzo Pietropaolo directly at vpietropaolo@gmail.com.

This project is supported by the Mariano A. Elia Chair in Italian Canadian Studies at York University.

ITALOCANADESE.COM IS LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTORS

DEADLINE: Ongoing

Italocanadese.com is looking for contributors. Every story has an Italian Canadian angle, be it in the subject matter, the interview subject, or the issue at hand. The online magazine features four categories: News, Arts & Culture, Community or Events. Stories can run anywhere from 300 to 1500 words in length. Italocanadese pays a \$15.00 CAD honorarium for every published story.

Contact Agata De Santis at agata@redheadproductions.com for details.



24 SETTEMBRE / MONTREAL

Visual Arts Centre School of Art / McClure Gallery
presents An Evening of Poetry, Prose & Music
Tuesday, September 24, 2013
350 Victoria Avenue, Westmount, Tel (514) 488-9558
Doors open at 7:00PM. Readings start at 7:30PM
\$5.00 at the door
Founder/producer Ilona Martonfi

Featuring:

Susan Elmslie's *I, Nadja, and Other Poems* won the A.M. Klein Award and was shortlisted for three other prizes.
Jack Hannan is the author of two recent books of poetry: *Some Frames*, and *A rhythm to stand beside* (Cormorant).
Nadine Ltaif is a Lebanese poet and translator, living in Montreal. Her last book is *Ce que vous ne lirez pas* (Noroît).
Alejandro Saravia Bolivian-Canadian author. He has published five volumes of poetry and the novel, *Rojo, amarillo y verde*.
Aspasia Worlitzky, teacher, comedian. Book: *¿Adónde vas madre? Anthology: Presencia femenina, Voces sin fronteras, Conjuro de luces*.
Ehab Lotayef, author of *To Love a Palestinian Woman*. Engineer & activist, he writes in both Arabic & English.
Barbara Lewis uses her great vocal gifts to communicate with her audience. Every song is a story and Barbara is the consummate story-teller.

www.visualartscentre.ca

1 – 27 OTTOBRE / MONTREAL

The St. Leonard Chronicles
By Steve Galluccio
Directed by Roy Surette
Centaur Theatre, 453 St. François-Xavier,
Old Montreal.

Arrivederci St. Léonard. Hello Beaconsfield!

From the award-winning author of Centaur's runaway hits *Mambo Italiano* and *In Piazza San Domenico* comes a saucy, delicious new comedy about a young couple in St. Léonard. There is barely a hint of gilded rococo in their newly renovated duplex – not just a cultural infraction but a telltale sign. Now Terry and Robert want to move to the Anglo-Saxon suburb of Beaconsfield, seen as tantamount to committing a mortal sin by their traditional Italian relatives. When they confess their plans to their family, this admission opens the floodgates to other unspoken desires and revelations, turning conservative St. Léonard values upside down. Surprisingly touching and sidesplittingly funny!

For tickets, visit www.centaurtheatre.com or call the Box Office at (514) 288-3161.

15 OTTOBRE / ST. CATHARINES

Terri Favro will be reading from *The Proxy Bride* at the Niagara Authors Series on Tuesday, October 15, at 6:30PM, at the Dr. Huq Family Library Branch, 425 Carlton St. (corner of Niagara St.) in St. Catharines, Ontario.

This reading is a literary homecoming, as the branch is located directly across from the original 'candy shop corner,' now an oil change shop, where much of *The Proxy Bride* was set.

4 NOVEMBRE / TORONTO

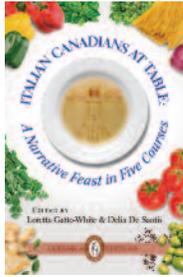
Terri Favro will be reading from *The Proxy Bride* on Monday, November 4, at 7:00PM at the Annette Street Library, corner of Annette and Medland streets in Toronto.

Terri Favro will be joining novelists D.J. McIntosh, Rosemary McCracken and Lisa de Nikolits for an evening of readings, revelations and conversation.

Italian Canadians At Table: A Narrative Feast in Five Courses

Edited by Loretta Gatto-White and Delia De Santis
Guernica Editions

- Loretta Gatto-White

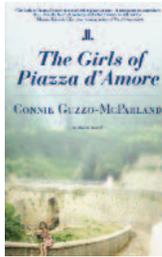


The persistence of misconceptions about Italian-Canadian food culture raises many questions for us. Do we force-feed guests? Are we in fact food obsessed? How many grains of truth can a stereotype hold? We had to know, so we asked Italian-Canadian writers and simpatico friends from British Columbia to Newfoundland. The responses were surprising, thoughtful, entertaining and often touching, making my co-editor, Delia De Santis, and I very glad we asked, as every piece which streamed over the internet's ether was a gift and a joy to read.

Italian Canadians At Table is an anthology of essays, poems, creative non-fiction and fiction. It is available for purchase to the members of the AICW at a 40% discount through Guernica by contacting Michael Mirolla at michaelmirolla@guernicaeditions.com. The Toronto launch of the book is coming soon.

The Girls of Piazza d'Amore

By Connie Guzzo-McParland
Linda Leith Publishing



Fellow AICW member and past AICW secretary Connie Guzzo-McParland is happy to announce the September 14 release of her first novel, *The Girls of Piazza d'Amore*, published by Linda Leith Publishing. Mark September 19 on your calendar for the Montreal book launch at the Casa D'Italia, 505 Jean Talon East. A Toronto launch is being planned for October 20.

The Girls of Piazza d'Amore traces the lives of three Italian village girls and the forces that lead them to leave home for a new life across the ocean.

Told through the remembrances of a narrator who, while attempting to pilot her own passage into young adulthood, accompanies her friends on their evening passeggiate to the spring water fountain and carries their love notes to the boys that hold their affections, *The Girls of Piazza d'Amore* is a warm, soft-focus portrait of childhood, culture and the only constant that life ever offers any of us: change.

Romantic, imaginative and engrossing, *The Girls of Piazza d'Amore* sees Guzzo-McParland walk her reader through the piazzas and narrow alleyways of her own childhood in southern Italy in the 1950s, but ultimately "is not of either place, or time," says Giller prize-winning author of *The Sentimentalists* (2009), Johanna Skibsrud, "It transports us somewhere else – into the heart of memory, and what it means to tell stories."

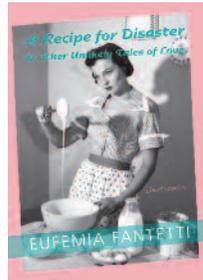
A not-to-be-missed addition to the Italian-Canadian literary canon, *The Girls of Piazza d'Amore* will resonate with anyone who has ever grieved the confusions, heartbreaks and complexities of their youth, be it on near or far shores.



Waiting for Mario Puzo

By Terri Favro
Grey Borders Books

Last June, Terri Favro's second Bella graphic novel, *Waiting for Mario Puzo*, created in collaboration with artist Ron Edding, was launched by Grey Borders Books as part of the Niagara Literary Arts Festival. A Toronto launch is being planned for this fall. To order copies (\$10.00) or for more information, please visit: <http://greyborders.jigsy.com/grey-borders-books>.

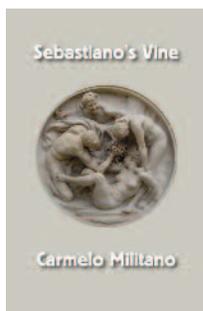


A Recipe for Disaster & Other Unlikely Tales of Love

Debut short stories by Eufemia Fantetti
Mother Tongue Publishing

Funny, tender and poignant, *A Recipe for Disaster* is populated by quirky characters who blend desire, imperfect love and comfort food into the sweet and salty mix of daily life while they yearn for the sustenance of human connection. A bemused child witnesses her mother flirt with a police officer responding to a domestic dispute call. A young woman mourns the end of a relationship, recalling the potentially toxic recipe that created the disastrous union. A son struggles to accept his father's emotional frailties and reject his passive approach to loss. A couple finally commits – to breaking up. A recently divorced woman meditates on the source of her ravenous cravings. A woman decides to end the prolonged vow of silence she took with her devout, hyper-critical mother. Five skillful and witty stories that will engage your heart.

Eufemia Fantetti is a graduate of The Writer's Studio at SFU and holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph. She is a winner of Event Magazine's Creative Non-Fiction Contest and the 7th annual *Accenti* Writing Contest. Her essay, "Alphabet Autobiografica," was listed under notable essays in the *2009 Best American Essay Series*. Her work is included in the anthologies *Contours*, *Beyond Crazy*, *Emails from India* and the 2012 *Fish Anthology*. A two-time finalist for Theatre BC's National Playwriting Competition, Eufemia has had plays produced across Canada, including *The Waiting Room*, *An Italian Tale*, *It's All the Rage* and *My Own Private Etobicoke*. She has performed stand-up comedy in Toronto, Vancouver and the Catskills. She co-hosted the SFU's *Studio Reading Series* and co-founded the series, *Speakeasy*, in Ontario. A resident of BC for many years she now lives in Toronto, where she's at work on a memoir. www.eufemiantetti.com.



Sebastiano's Vine

By Carmelo Militano
Ekstasis Editions

Ekstasis Editions of Victoria, BC, will be releasing *Sebastiano's Vine* as part of their fall collection. *Sebastiano's Vine* is a novel of revenge, guilt, betrayal, and love and the passionate forces of family and history that are released by a powerful mysterious wine discovered after a century old earthquake. The landscapes of Calabria and Greece are evoked with loving detail as are the gritty urban Winnipeg scenes. The prose is both haunting and poetic and moves at a brisk unrelenting pace. Tragic and comic by turns, *Sebastiano's Vine* is a beautifully written book.

- David Arnason, author of *King Larry and The Demon Love*



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