



Association of Italian Canadian Writers

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PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends

Over the last year, I have worked on a number of AICW projects and tasks. It is my pleasure to write the past-president's message for the last issue of the newsletter in 2015.

The AICW has had a very full year of activities. Many thanks go to our president Domenic Beneventi, our treasurer Delia De Santis and the members of the executive who are working on various committees. We appreciate the work of the newsletter committee, which includes executive members Anna Ciampolini Foschi and Rene Pappone. There's a lot happening behind the scenes to keep the AICW alive and well, and it's all because of volunteers. One tireless volunteer in particular makes things happen on a daily basis: our vice-president Giulia De Gasperi. I'd like to acknowledge her commitment and efforts over the past twelve months, in particular. Congratulations are in order as Giulia embarks on a new venture: she has just launched a literary service called RADICI Wordcraft and Translation. (Read more about it on page 2.) We wish Dr. Giulia De Gasperi much success!

The editorial committee of the AICW 30th anniversary anthology – Venera Fazio, Delia De Santis, Giulia De Gasperi and Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni – has received a great number of submissions and the evaluation process has begun. It is wonderful to see the support and dedication of past and present members. Venera Fazio, who spearheaded the 30th anniversary anthology, has had a very difficult year due to health issues. We wish Venera a prompt recovery.

We look forward to the AICW's 16th biennial conference, "Italian-Canadian Literature: Departures, Journeys, Destinations," to be held in Padula (Salerno), Italy from August 11 to 14, 2016. The conference organizing committee includes Domenic Beneventi, Giulia De Gasperi, Venera Fazio, Joseph Pivato, Maria Cristina Seccia and myself. I have been liaising with our hosts in Padula who are looking forward to welcoming us next August. I'd like to acknowledge the

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contribution of Enrico Padula, Gianfranco Cataldo, Antonio Casella and Carmine Pinto. We have received numerous proposals for literary readings, academic papers, film screenings and a visual art exhibit. A detailed program will be available in the coming months.

June will see our annual Books and Biscotti Literary Series during Italian Heritage Month. It isn't too soon to start thinking about organizing an event in your city. Please write to info@aicw.ca

As the holidays approach, we are thinking of our members who are facing challenges and health issues. In particular, our prayers are with long-time member Darlene Madott whose mother passed away on November 22. Frances Madott was a supporter and friend of the AICW. She will be missed.

Thanks to those who contribute in big and small ways to the success of the AICW.

Licia Canton
Past President

Celebrating the Literary and Cultural Contributions of Anna Maria Zampieri Pan



On June 16, 2015 our long-time member and Vancouver resident, Anna Maria Zampieri Pan, was inducted into the Hall of Fame at Il Centro, the Italian Cultural Centre of Vancouver for her life-long contribution to the Italian communities all over the world in in the field of

Arts and Culture.

Anna Maria, her husband Mario and their three children came to Canada from Vicenza, in the Veneto, in the 1980s settling in Vancouver and soon becoming a reference point to the Italian community of the area.

Anna Maria and her husband have dedicated all their lives at uncovering the experiences, big and small, of Italian immigrants whose departures, arrivals, ups and downs have been collected and presented in writing by Anna Maria during her long career as a journalist. After working for many years in Italy, then immigrating to Canada, she was editor of L'Eco d'Italia (Vancouver), while cooperating with L'Italo-Americano (Los Angeles), Il Corriere Canadese (Toronto), Il Messaggero di Sant'Antonio (EiE Padova) and others.

Anna Maria is also an accomplished author: *Missioni di Ieri, Frontiere di Oggi* (2007), *Personaggi e Persone* in two volumes published in 2008 and in 2014 respectively, and *Presenze Italiane in British Columbia* (2009).

During the evening of June 16, the local Italian community came together to celebrate Anna Maria and to thank her publicly for her tireless work in support of the Italians not only of Vancouver but of the entire world.

Congratulazioni Anna Maria e continua a raccontare le nostre storie e le nostre vite!

Giulia De Gasperi



Radici Translation & Wordcraft

Founder Giulia De Gasperi announces the launch of **Radici Translation and Wordcraft**, an online literary service provider designed for writers and authors who want to reach a new audience and readership abroad.

“At the foundation of this business lies the realization that there are a great number of talented Canadians and many literary works that do not receive the attention they deserve,” said Dr. De Gasperi, “thus missing the opportunity to be translated into another language.”



This is where **Radici Translation and Wordcraft** steps in, providing a much-needed service that will make the translation proposal process transparent and affordable.

With a focus on building a cultural bridge between Canada and Italy one book at a time, **Radici Translation and Wordcraft** offers a wide range of services tailored to the every need of authors and writers, from literary translation (English to Italian) to editing and proof-reading of Italian and English manuscripts.

The literary work of yet-to-be-translated Canadian and Italian authors will be showcased through two special sections: "Literary Blossoms" features Italian authors and their works whereas "Boccioli" is dedicated to Canadian authors.

To find out more, visit www.radici.ca

To contact Giulia write to: giulia@radici.ca

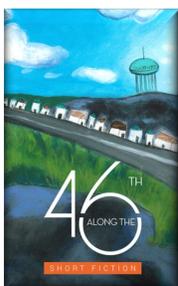
Lucia Cascioli's Poem



Lucia Cascioli's poem, *La Puglia*, has been published in the December issue of *Stile Magazine*. It can be found on page 22.

The link is: [Stile December January 2015 Vol 2 No 9](#)

New Stories, Readings by Rosanna and Nic Battigelli



Black as Tar, a short story by Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli, was included in a fiction anthology entitled *Along the 46th*, published by Latitude 46 Publishing in October 2015. The anthology of stories by 13 authors was launched at Verdicchio Ristorante in

Sudbury, Ontario, on November 14th, 2015.

Another story, *This Too Shall Pass*, will be included in a fictional migration anthology published by Guernica Editions, scheduled for release sometime in the fall of 2016.

Meanwhile, organizers of the AICW 16th Biennial Conference in Padula (Salerno), Italy in August 2016 have accepted Rosanna's proposal to read from her manuscript, *La Brigantessa*.

Nic Battigelli will also be reading a short story, *A Family Secret*, at the biennial conference. He has also done readings in Udine and New York City.

Frank Canino's New Listings



Frank Canino scored again with Sky Blue Theatre which sponsors the British Theatre Challenge, a festival of short plays in London. Last year *NightWalking* made it to the festival and received a top-three citation, and was later published online by Lazy Bee Publishers.

This year *Perfect* was one of 10 finalists that was produced in London, October 23-24 at LOST Theatre.

Frank's latest script in development, *Iffy & Izzy: Family Stories* had four readings as part of the Buffalo Infringement Festival in late July.

The Angelina Project had another full-length production November 13-14 by the University Players at the University of North Texas in Denton.

In addition, Wimberley High School in Wimberley, Texas did a full production December 7-12.

Bloody Sunday & Then Monday Reading Series had its last 2015 event October 18-19. Featured was Joy Scime's script in progress, *Dissonance*, which played to packed houses and enthusiastic responses.



See You in St. Paul's, a new 10-minute play, will be read at the Burchfield Penney Art Center on Friday, January 8, 2016.

Licia Canton in QWF's HIRE a WRITER Directory

The Quebec Writers' Federation is proud to announce the launch of its new curated web directory of writing coaches.

Licia Canton is one of the 12 writers-for-hire featured in the directory.

Whether you are looking for a writing coach, a mentor, or an experienced editor to help polish your writing, you'll want to take a look at www.hireawriter.ca. Check it out today!

Liana Cusmano's *Playdoh's Symposium*

Liana Cusmano's one-act play titled *Playdoh's Symposium* has been selected by the McGill Drama Festival to be produced in April 2016.

PLAYDOH'S SYMPOSIUM: Philosophy student Playdoh is at a house party, waiting for a girl who smells like the colour purple and who makes him feel complete. His best friend Sam tries to get to the bottom of Playdoh's infatuation with someone who insists on leaving him stranded in the friend zone, while Paul, the party host, is the mediator in a conversation that quickly turns to the fine line between self-abandonment and self-destruction. Sad, poetic and angsty, Playdoh's roommate Nick shares his own experience about what it's like to have an obsession that ravages you beyond recognition. Surrounded by empty red plastic cups and three people who care about him, Playdoh is the central figure in a symposium about what it means to be besotted, what it means to be betrayed and what it means to love not only your lover, but also your friends.

NEW MEMBERS

Nic Battigelli

Maria Oss-Cech Chiacchia

Cristina Pepe

Anna Villapiana

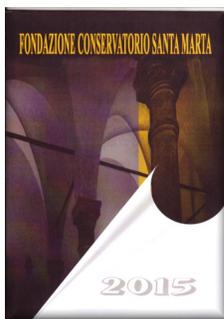
Gianmarco Visconti

If you would like your biography included in a future newsletter, please send in the information at the next call for submissions.



A Celebration of Traditional Female Arts and Creativity that Italian Immigrant Women Brought to Canada

May 29—31, 2015



From May 29 to 31, 2015, the Fondazione Conservatorio Santa Marta, based in Montopoli, Italy, organized the third edition of *Feminarte*, a three-day event celebrating the traditional female arts of embroidery, cross-stitch, needlepoint and needlework. The event included an exhibition of works by six Canadian artisans and seven Italians as well as an entire section dedicated to the Italian immigrant women who brought their traditional crafts to Canada.

In November 2015, The Fondazione published the Proceedings of the event, featuring my short story: *Nota dal Canada sulle pioniere che sapevano dell' arte del ricamo*. Other contributions focussing on Canadian art and literature include Carla Comellini's *Ricette e identità italo canadese: il caso di Mary Melfi*, a contribution by Dr. Angela Clarke, Museum Curator at Vancouver's Italian Cultural Centre and Nicoletta Barbarito's *Lavori femminili: tradizioni in Canada*.



The event was the result of the collaboration between Elettra Michelotti, the Curator, and Dr. Stefano Ghilardi, former President of the Fondazione. It was funded by the City of Montopoli, the Canadian Government and the Canadian Embassy in Italy.

Anna Ciampolini Foschi

The "26th Ezra Pound International Conference": a memorable event

Il castello di Brunnenburg, Dorftirol, Italia, dal 7 all'11

luglio 2015, è stato il luogo dove si è svolta la 26ma Conferenza Internazionale riguardante il famoso poeta e scrittore americano Ezra Pound. "Ezra Pound and the Green World" è stato il tema della Conferenza che ha riunito professori, ricercatori, studiosi e appassionati poundiani provenienti da tutto il mondo, Giappone compreso. Gli organizzatori sono stati il professor Walter Baumann, University of Ulster, il professor Siegfried Walter de Rachewiltz (nipote di Ezra Pound), University of Innsbruck ed il professor John Gery, University of New Orleans. L'accoglienza è stata fantastica! Gli stessi abitanti del castello, nipoti e pronipoti di Ezra Pound, ci hanno offerto la possibilità di assaggiare la cucina caratteristica tirolese preparata direttamente a vista e consumata sugli spalti del castello da cui si godeva un panorama mozzafiato delle montagne circostanti e della pianura dove si scorgeva in lontananza la cittadina di Merano. Il castello, abitato ancora dalla figlia Mary e dai nipoti diretti del grande scrittore, è stato teatro, non solo della Conferenza Internazionale, ma anche dei festeggiamenti in onore dei novant'anni compiuti da Mary de Rachewilts. La mia partecipazione alla Conferenza ha riguardato il seguente argomento: "Ezra Pound and Percy Windham Lewis: bonds between Poetry and Art in the 'vortex' of WW1". La letteratura, l'arte e la Prima Guerra Mondiale sono stati gli argomenti da me trattati nel mio intervento in lingua inglese. Una Conferenza all'insegna della letteratura, della poesia, dell'arte ma soprattutto del Green World, una delle passioni del grande scrittore. Uno scrittore che si trovò al centro di polemiche e controversie durante e dopo la Seconda Guerra Mondiale e che durarono per tutta la sua vita, vissuta tra Stati Uniti e Italia. È nel 1948 che egli pubblica i *Canti pisani*, che furono e sono ancora considerati da molti la sua opera più intensa. Pound iniziò la stesura dei *Cantos*, il suo poema epico modernista, nel 1925 e vi si dedicò per il resto della sua vita definendo l'opera epica un 'poema che racchiude una storia'. Si tratta del tentativo dell'autore di dare nuovo ordine alla storia sulla base della sua galleria di eroi e delle sue teorie economiche. I *Cantos* includono, tra gli altri, i ritratti di Ulisse, Confucio, del presidente americano John Adams, nonché del mercenario italiano Sigismondo Malatesta e condannano l'usura relegando gli inetti politici in una sorta di inferno dantesco. Ottocento pagine dopo, Pound ammetterà: "Non sono un semidio, non riesco a dargli un nesso". Uno straordinario testo quello dei *Cantos* con dettagli luminosi che si stagliano nell'oscurità. Opera intensa e iperbolica che offre infinite possibilità di interpretazioni e ricezioni e che sprigiona, anche a distanza



di anni, forza e fascino attraverso parole di pura poesia. E poesia è quella che compone Patrizia de Rachewiltz, figlia di Mary, e nipote diretta di Ezra Pound. Ecco una delle poesie da lei scritte, dedicate al grande nonno e lette personalmente durante la conferenza il cui titolo è:

**Summer 1958
(E.P. returns to Italy)**

**I was eight and he was coming.
A giant with large wings.
My plaits felt tight as ropes
hauling a ship into a safe harbor.
Freedom, a tough lady to please.
Worlds beyond mine, a name.
So huge, on the way down, we met
half way where it was steepest.
Passed the rose-bush and the cross
where I knelt and made the sign.
He walked in front it seemed to me
he was bouncing.
The mountains were closing in,
my heart stuck in my ribs.
How to kiss him, so tall, so steep,
so out of proportion. Yet somehow
I wish to remember his hand
on my cheek, the smile from above.
In retrospect all fear mellows.
I did not know then that even giants
have fears and suffer if put in a cage
like a beast.
Words sprung from there made eternal
as Brancusi's bird. Levitated and bent
as hot iron. A life of it.
When the sky grew dark he brought us
together like monks after a happy repast**

**and mesmerized us with his voice.
Spirals and depths and something
so sad.
He was old and tired as we stood together
on the Canale where the gondolas rocked.
Silence,
the ultimate cry for mercy.
If then I did not take his hand in mine
I close my eyes and know where there is
PARADISO.**

Parole e immagini struggenti che fanno di amore, di affetto e di dolore ma anche di paradiso. Una conferenza dove poesia e letteratura sono andate a braccetto e di cui conserveremo per sempre il ricordo. Una famiglia, quella dello scrittore e dei poundiani, che ha saputo far rivivere ancora una volta la forza poetica e carismatica di Ezra Pound. L'ultimo incontro si è avuto con l'escursione a Brixen e Gais, luoghi di nascita e d'infanzia di Mary de Rachewiltz e con l'inaugurazione di una stele di marmo bianco eretta alle falde della montagna che domina il villaggio di Gais. Quel Green World che ha visto più volte il poeta estraniarsi dal mondo circostante e immergersi in una spiritualità cosmica universale. Adesso resta solo l'arrivederci a Philadelphia 2017 per la 27ma conferenza! Sì, per un altro viaggio e un'altra magnifica esperienza letteraria, poetica e, perché no, umana!!

Dall'Italia a cura di Rosina Martucci, socia AICW

Licia Canton Completes Fall Literary Tour

On October 20 and 21 Licia Canton was in Halifax, Nova Scotia, for readings at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Dalhousie University and the Italian Canadian Cultural Association. The literary tour was funded by the Canada Council and the Quebec Writers' Federation.

Licia Canton was also featured in the CANADIANA READING TOUR SERIES in Bologna on November 3 and in Siena on November 5th. Her Italian



Licia Canton, second from left, was in Siena November 5 in the Canadiana Reading Tour Series. With her are, left to right, Laura Ferri, Laura Failli and Moira Mini. Photo by Andrea Borracelli



EVENTS



While in Siena, Licia Canton also spoke to students at Liceo Scientifico G. Galilei. L to R: Laura Failli, Licia Canton and Moira Mini. Photo by Andrea Borracelli

collection of short stories *Vino alla mandorla e fertilità* (edited by Laura Ferri and Moira Mini) was presented at the Centro Studi Canadesi "Alfredo Rizzardi" - hosted by Prof. Carla Comellini; and at the Liceo Scientifico G. Galilei in Siena - hosted by Prof. Laura Failli.



Licia Canton legge dal volume *Vino alla mandorla e fertilità* (2015) nella Biblioteca Comunale di Cavarzere Photo: Cavarzereinfera.it

On November 8th, Licia read from *Vino alla mandorla e fertilità* in her hometown, Cavarzere (Venezia).

Three Authors at Novella Night



Terri Favro Photo courtesy of Ayelet Tsabar

Join award-winning authors Terri Favro (*The Proxy Bride*), Carole

Novellas pack a punch -- quality reading for people short of time, spanning all forms and genres of fiction.



Gemma Files



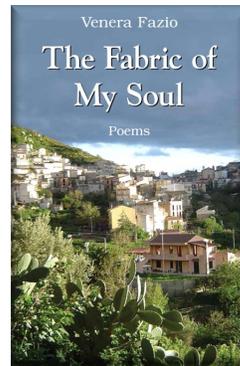
Carole Giangrande Photo courtesy of Brian Gibson

Giangrande (*Here Comes The Dreamer*), and Gemma Files (*The Worm in Every Heart*) for Novella Night on Tuesday, February 23 at 7 p.m. at the Annette St.

Public Library, 145 Annette St. (two blocks west of Keele), Toronto.

Books and Other Print

"THE FABRIC OF MY SOUL": L'AMORE PER L'ITALIA NELLE POESIE DELL'ITALOCANADESE VENERA FAZIO



MONTREAL\ aise - È appena uscito in stampa il primo libro della scrittrice italo-canadese **Venera Fazio** "**The fabric of my soul**", raccolta di poesie scritte in lingua inglese ed alcune delle quali tradotte in italiano. Pubblicato dalla **Longbridge Books** di **Montreal**, il volume raccoglie 25 anni di poesie ispirate dalle radici italiane e

siciliane dell'autrice.

Il "tessuto della sua anima" si trova nell'amore per la famiglia e per il paesetto di nascita. Le poesie in questo volume sono ispirate da cinque generazioni della famiglia in Sicilia e in Canada.

Nata a Bafia in Sicilia, Venera Fazio è conosciuta per aver curato sei antologie di scrittori italo-canadesi. È stata presidente dell'Associazione Scrittori Italo-canadesi. Ora vive a Bright's Grove, nell'Ontario. **(aise)**



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