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Italians in Canada: 150+ Years: A National Conference in Sudbury, Ontario, on Italian Canadian Writers

By Paul Colilli, Laurentian University

The Italian Studies Program at Laurentian University was proud to work in collaboration with the Association of Italian Canadian Writers (AICW) to present a national conference in Sudbury, Ontario, on September 15-16, 2017 on the Italian presence in Canada. The proceedings took place at the Società Caruso (September 15) and at Laurentian University (September 16). The conference, with speakers from throughout Canada and elsewhere, featured academic papers and literary readings that deal with the themes of origins, acculturation and aspirations in Italian Canadian literature and culture. There was also a book exhibit of the authors' publications. Laurentian is an ideal place for a conference dealing with Italian Canadian writing given the prominent role of Italian Canadian studies in the course offerings, research and creative work of its Italian Studies Program.

The two-day conference consisted of eleven sessions, five focussed on readings from literary works and six featuring academic papers and presentations. The titles of some of the sessions provide a concrete indication of the thematic thrusts that define the conference: *The Literary and Linguistic Archives of Italian Canadian Life; Documents from before and during the War Years; Constructing/Reconstructing Italian Canadian Lives; Photographing and Writing Cultural Identity; Between Creation, Economics and Linguistics; The Markets and Produce of Cultural History*. In the end, however, while the academic papers, presentations and readings all have different methodologies and objectives, they share a common thread which is to document, critique and represent what we can simply term an "Italian Canadian cultural history."

History is one, albeit a major, component of an ethno-linguistic identity that is poised to confront the challenges of the future that will inevitably entail a radical

AICW on Facebook and Twitter

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NEWS

rethinking of the identity itself. In a variety of different ways, the readings and presentations explored the dynamics of a tension that see the past and the future competing to define the nature of the present-now. What is truly exceptional about what the conference offered is that we have poetry, prose, theatre, academic critique and cultural exposés that use their own disciplinary specific language, mode of thinking and of representation to offer multi-variegated perspectives on experiences that speak to the past, present and future. In fact, since we will be editing the selected proceedings of the conference, the published document that will be transmitted to posterity will be a record of how in a specific place and at a specific time Italian Canadian writing confronted the challenge of creatively and critically imagining what it means to live under the aegis of a marker that was transitioning from an identity defined by ethno-linguistic difference, to one where the difference is bridged given that Canada considers itself no longer defined by language and ethnicity.

The presenters included Salvatore Bancheri, Nic Battigelli, Licia Canton, Silvia Caporale-Bizzini, Simone Casini, Domenic Cusmano, Marisa De Franceschi, Delia De Santis, Ron Edding, Nino Famà, Terri Favro, Frank Giorno, Connie Guzzo-McParland, Keith Henderson, Diana Iuele-Colilli, Damien Laframboise, Pat Marcuccio, Rosanna Micelotta-Battigelli, Erminio Neglia, Gianna Patriarca, Cristina Pepe, Vincenzo Pietropaolo, Pier Angelo Piccolo, Matthew Poggi, Rosetta Rosati, Christine Sansalone, Frank Spezzano, Jim Zuccherro, Jessica Leonora Whitehead.

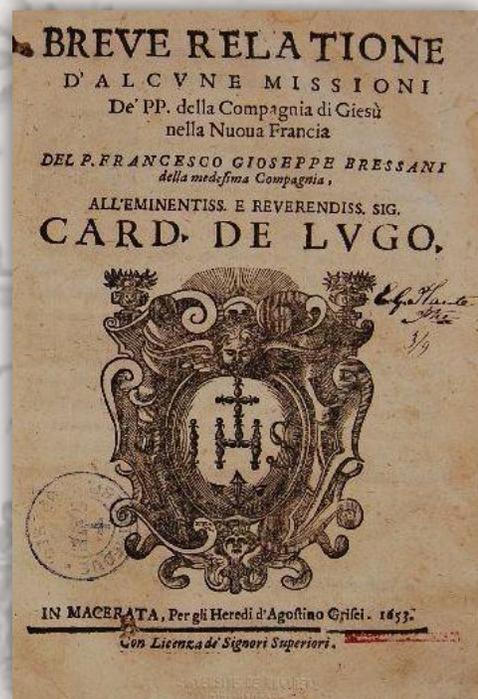
For more information please contact Paul Colilli (pcolilli@laurentian.ca).

The Association of Italian Canadian Writers (AICW) and
The Italian Studies Program, Laurentian University
Sudbury, Ontario, Canada

present

the 31st Anniversary Conference of the AICW

ITALIANS IN CANADA 150+ YEARS



September 15 – 16, 2017

Laurentian University

September 15th • Heritage Hall • Società Caruso
September 16th • C-112/C-114 • Laurentian University

Presenters: Salvatore Bancheri • Nic Battigelli • Licia Canton • Silvia Caporale-Bizzini • Simone Casini • Aldo Colangelo • Domenic Cusmano • Marisa De Franceschi • Delia De Santis • Ron Edding • Nino Famà • Terri Favro • Venera Fazio • Frank Giorno • Connie Guzzo-McParland • Keith Henderson • Diana Iuele-Colilli • S. Karthik Kumar • Damien Laframboise • Pat Marcuccio • Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli • Michael Mirolla • Erminio Neglia • Gianna Patriarca • Cristina Pepe • Vincenzo Pietropaolo • Pier Angelo Piccolo • Matthew Poggi • Rosetta Rosati • Christine Sansalone • Frank Spezzano • Jim Zuccherò • Jessica Leonora Whitehead





AELAQ's Inside the Frozen Mammoth

Episode 7: Licia Canton & Kenneth Radu

Episode 7 of the AELAQ podcast [Inside the Frozen Mammoth](#) is one of the funniest and most intimate episodes yet. It features Licia Canton in conversation with Kenneth Radu. Listen to two very different writers find common ground in their experiences of migration, language, money and writing.

Visit <http://aelaq.org/podcast/> to listen!

Licia Canton is the author of the collection *Almond Wine and Fertility* (Longbridge Books), stories set in Montreal. She is also a literary translator and founding editor-in-chief of *Accenti Magazine*. A two-time winner of the Quebec Writers' Federation award for best English-language fiction, Kenneth Radu has recently completed a new collection of stories scheduled for publication by DC Books in early 2018.

Editor's note: The AELAQ is Association des éditeurs de langue anglaise du Québec.

Darlene Madott Short-Listed for the CVC Award



Darlene Madott. Photo by Mark Tearle

AICW member Darlene Madott has been short-listed for the Carter V. Cooper short fiction award sponsored by Gloria Vanderbilt through Exile Editions.

Her short story *Winners and Losers* grows out of her legal background of 31 years in the practice of law in Toronto. She is currently at work on a collection of linked short stories, focussing for the first time on her

legal practice. She believes her courageous departure from partnership in downtown Toronto has led to an exile which enabled this work. The other work that has consumed her for more than two years, *Dying Times*, has not yet been submitted to a publisher for potential publication.

Madott, who practices family law, is also an award-winning writer of seven books. She has twice won the Bressani Literary Award, once for the title story of *Making Olives and Other Family Secrets* (Longbridge Books 2008, the *Ripasso* 2nd ed., 2014) and for her collection *Stations of the Heart* (Exile Editions 2014).

This is the second time her fiction has been short-listed for the Carter V. Cooper award.

Website: www.darlenemadott.com

Call for Papers/Proposals

Roots, Routes and Recognition: Italian Canadians in Literature and the Arts

17th Biennial Conference of the Association of Italian Canadian Writers (AICW)

WINNIPEG, SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2018

The Association of Italian Canadian Writers (AICW), in collaboration with Italian Studies in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at the University of Winnipeg, is accepting proposals for its 17th Biennial Conference to be held at the University of Winnipeg, Manitoba, **September 27-29, 2018**. The conference invites academic papers, literary readings (poetry, prose or plays) and artistic works in Italian-Canadian literature and culture that engage with themes of heritage, passages and appreciation.

Writers and artists, academics and researchers from all disciplines are encouraged to submit proposals to present new (or posthumous) creative or critical works in Italian, English or French. Graduate students and emerging writers are encouraged to participate. Possible topics include the following:

- Engaging with tradition in contemporary texts
- Writing and transmitting cultural memory
- Representations of place, space, and (dis)location
- Italian diaspora and globalization
- Cinema and the visual arts
- Culinary culture and literature
- Science and technology
- Translation and self-translation
- Representations of queerness

Other topics not mentioned above will also be taken into consideration.

For academic papers (20 minutes), please send 200-word abstract and biographical information (60 words). For panels of two or three papers (20 minutes each), send 200-word abstract for each paper as well as bio (60 words) for each presenter and contact information for all panelists.

For literary readings of 15 minutes, please send a 200-word excerpt of the text to be read (prose or play) or four poems (max. 40 lines) along with biographical information (60 words). Preference will be given to readings and performances of new works.

The deadline for all proposals is March 31, 2018. Please note that once a proposal has been accepted, a conference registration fee (\$100.00) will be requested for presenters who are not full members of the AICW in good standing. Please send all submissions and queries to:

**Sante Viselli (s.viselli@uwinnipeg.ca) / (204) 786-9987 and
Rosaria Moretti-Lawrie (r.moretti-lawrie@uwinnipeg.ca)**

Visit <http://aicw.ca/> to find out more about the Association of Italian Canadian Writers (AICW).



Serata di successo per *Books and Biscotti* a Vancouver

di Anna Ciampolini Foschi

L'edizione 2017 di *Books and Biscotti*, presentata il 27 giugno scorso, ha riscosso molto successo di pubblico. Questa è una grande soddisfazione perché dopo più di tre decenni passate a promuovere e organizzare avvenimenti culturali in questa città posso affermare con sicurezza che la nostra comunità italiana è più incline a disertare questi avvenimenti che a frequentarli. Come sempre, il Centro Culturale Italiano di Vancouver ha gentilmente offerto alla nostra Associazione la saletta e un piccolo rinfresco e la bella giornata di sole ha contribuito a fare affluire un bel numero di spettatori.

Il programma era vario e piuttosto dinamico, dato che le letture d'autore erano alternate con tre "a solo" di danza contemporanea interpretati da Carolina Bergonzoni, giovane e talentuosa artista della danza che si è da poco tempo stabilita a Vancouver. Carolina collabora con Vancouver Fringe Festival, Dance in Vancouver BC Buds, The Dance Centre, e altre importanti istituzioni artistiche della nostra città. Dopo la sua esibizione di apertura, sul podio delle letture si sono alternati Robert Pepper-Smith che ha letto brani tratti da: *Sanctuary*, il suo ultimo romanzo che appartiene alla trilogia intitolata *The Orchard Keepers* e Monica Meneghetti con letture dal suo volume *What the Mouth Wants: A Memoir of Love, Food and Belonging*. Il pubblico ha applaudito più volte riconoscendosi in molte delle situazioni tratteggiate da Monica. Carolina Bergonzoni ha poi interpretato altri due brani di danza che il pubblico ha dimostrato di apprezzare tributandole un sonoro applauso e ha ceduto il palcoscenico (si fa per dire perché si tratta solo di uno spazio di fronte agli spettatori) a Cristina Pepe che ha presentato e commentato una interessantissima serie di fotografie scattate durante la Conferenza AICW svoltasi a Padula nel 2016. Questo le ha dato l'occasione per parlare della nostra Associazione e delle attività che svolge. A conclusione, la vostra cronista Anna, che svolgeva il ruolo di presentatrice, ha preso la parola per introdurre: *Long Way to Go: My Life Journey in a New Country*, una

piccola pubblicazione autobiografica di Achille Bozzetto, immigrato da Breganze (Vicenza) in British Columbia negli anni '60. Il volumetto è anche un ritratto di un'epoca pionieristica e uno stile di vita ormai quasi scomparso. L'intera famiglia Bozzetto era arrivata da Kelowna, portando anche alcune bottiglie del pregiato vino della loro azienda vinicola e una piccola folla di amici, parenti e sostenitori si era data appuntamento per ascoltare le memorie di Achille e congratularlo. Achille Bozzetto, autodidatta, possiede una spontanea e fresca vena come scrittore e il suo raccontare scorre piacevolmente. Come curatrice della pubblicazione, ho avuto modo di conoscere da vicino la famiglia Bozzetto: lavorare insieme nella stesura delle memorie è stato interessante e toccante dal punto di vista umano.

Un ringraziamento doveroso va anche a Vito Bruno, il produttore di Telitalia e Radio Amici trasmessi a Vancouver e nella Columbia Britannica, che prima dell'evento mi ha intervistato per radio consentendomi di pubblicizzare la serata, e a "Siamo Vancouver", trasmissione radio del Centro Italiano, condotta presso Vancouver Coop Radio dai giovani Lorenzo Schober e Nicole Righetti che organizzano le pubbliche relazioni del Centro stesso.



Books and Biscotti in Ottawa on June 11, 2017. Readings by Frank Spezzano, Keith Henderson, Licia Canton, Monica Meneghetti, Domenic Cusmano, and Piero Piccolo. Thanks to NCIC (Ottawa) President Trina Costantini-Powell. Photo by Rita Cucca



Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli reports the second annual Books and Biscotti event, held June 10, 2017 in Sudbury, was "very well received." Presenters were, l to r, Franca Dominelli Lisi, Diana Iuele-Colilli, Rosanna, Nic Battigelli, Emily DeAngelis, and Maria Coletta McLean. Photo courtesy of Robin DeAngelis



Montreal Books and Biscotti at Casa d'Italia, June 8, 2017. Readings by Licia Canton, Domenic Cusmano, Connie McParland, Monica Meneghetti, Keith Henderson and Piero Piccolo. The conversation went on as everyone sipped coffee and enjoyed the biscotti. Thanks to Laura Del Bosco and the Casa d'Italia. Photo by Sandro Di Girolamo

September and October Launches, Festivals and Readings with Terri Favro



Terri Favro's second novel, *Sputnik's Children*, was published this spring by ECW Press. The book was favourably reviewed by the Globe and Mail, Canadian Living and CBC Books, and was included on book lists by CBC's Cross Country Check-Up and CBC Toronto's afternoon radio show

Here and Now.

Sputnik's Children will be featured at Toronto's Word On The Street Book & Magazine Festival's Great Books Marquee on Sunday, September 24 and at BookFest Windsor, October 20–22.

Terri is the 2017 established writer for the Ontario Book Publishing Organization's What's Your Story, East Toronto? launch event on Sunday, September 17 at the East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Avenue, Toronto. For more information, visit www.open-book.ca/events

Terri's third novel, *Once Upon a Time in West Toronto*, published by Inanna Publications, will be launched on Thursday, October 5 between 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at

the Women's Art Association of Canada, 23 Prince Arthur Avenue in Toronto. All are welcome at the party.

For information about the book, visit <https://www.inanna.ca/index.php/catalog/once-upon-time-west-toronto/>

At 7 p.m., Monday September 25, Terri will be in Peterborough, Ontario, participating on an author panel about cross-genre writing at Theatre On King, 159 King Street in Peterborough, Ontario. \$10 admission or PWYC.

At 7 p.m., on Tuesday, October 3, Terri will be reading at the St. Catharines Public Library, 54 Church Street, as part of the Niagara Writers series. Free admission.

On Monday, October 23, 5:15 p.m., Terri will read from *Once Upon a Time in West Toronto* at the Wonderful Women Writers series at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, 252 Bloor St. West, 2nd floor. Free admission.

AICW Members in the United Kingdom

Last June, AICW members Maria Cristina Seccia, Licia Canton, Maria Pia Arpioni and Laura Rorato gave papers at the Society for Italian Studies conference in Hull, United Kingdom.



Front row (l to r) Licia Canton, Maria Cristina Seccia, Laura Rorato; back row (l to r): Rachel Haworth, Michela Baldo, Chiara Piola Caselli, Claudio Brancaleoni. Photo by Decio Cusmano

The conference was organized by professors Rorato and Haworth of the School of Histories, Languages and Cultures at the University of Hull.

Licia Canton also gave public readings in Hull and at the London School of Economics.



EVENTS



Licia Canton speaks to students at the London School of Economics. *Photo by Decio Cusmano*

This September, AICW President Maria Cristina Seccia joins the University of Hull as a full-time professor.

The event was presented by the Casa d'Italia, Guernica Editions, Accenti Magazine and Redhead Productions in collaboration with Montreal's Italian Week and the Association of Italian Canadian Writers.



Licia Canton reads in Hull, United Kingdom. *Photo by Decio Cusmano*



Connie Guzzo-McParland and Marisa De Franceschi at the book table. *Photo by Domenic Cusmano*



Front row (l to r): Gianna Di Lalla Marà and members of the Club Voci Migranti della Casa d'Italia, Connie Guzzo-McParland; back row (l to r): Marisa De Franceschi, Licia Canton, Christina Sforza, Liana Cusmano and Agata De Santis. *Photo by Domenic Cusmano*

***Il viaggio* at Montreal's Italian Week**

More than 120 people attended "il viaggio" literary event at the Casa d'Italia on Wednesday, August 9, 2017.

The evening featured literary readings by Gianna Di Lalla Marà and the Club Voci Migranti della Casa d'Italia, Connie Guzzo-McParland, Licia Canton, Marisa De Franceschi, Liana Cusmano, and Christina Sforza.

There was also a screening of Agata De Santis' short documentary film, *Immigrant "Landed"*; and an exhibit of paintings by Giovanni Angeloro titled *Les Sept Mers*.

Homemade biscotti were offered by local Italian Canadian associations.



AICW at Montreal Italian Week 2017



Connie Guzzo-McParland, Antonio Maggio, Michaela Di Cesare, Licia Canton, Christina Sforza.
Photo by D. Cusmano



(l to r) Connie Guzzo-McParland, Christina Sforza, Angela and Eva Lo Dico, Liana Cusmano, Michaela Di Cesare, Licia Canton, Francesca Lo Dico. Thanks to Angela and Eva Lo Dico (Fiorista San Remo) who offered each author a rose. *Photo by Tamara, Centaur Theatre Company*



AICW member Christina Sforza volunteers at the Writers' Tent. *Photo by L. Canton*

The Italian Studies Program at Laurentian University
presents

PUBLIC READING BY DR. LICIA CANTON



Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

J.H. Desmarais Library
(Brenda Wallace Reading Room)
Laurentian University
Sudbury, Ontario

Admission is free.
Everyone is welcome.
Info: PColilli@laurentian.ca

An English-language writer in Montreal, Licia Canton has also published stories, poems and essays in French, Italian and Venetian dialect. She is a literary translator and self-translator. She is the author of the short story collection *Almond Wine and Fertility* (2008), published in Italy as *Vino alla mandorla e fertilità* (2015). The founding editor-in-chief of *Accenti Magazine*, she has also published nine volumes as editor, including two on the internment of Italian Canadians. She holds a Ph.D. from Université de Montréal and an M.A. from McGill University. She lives in Montreal with her husband and their three children.

Dr. Canton's writing touches on immigration, traditions, and cultural and culinary heritage. In 2013, following a car accident that left her bedridden, Dr. Canton turned to writing to help her deal with depression. She will read excerpts from recent publications, including "The Motorcycle," "The Woman in the Red Coat" and "Healing, One Story at a Time."

The Canada Council for the Arts and the *Roadmap for Canada's Official Languages 2013-2018 Education, Immigration, Communities.*

CALABRIA SOCIAL CLUB OF SUDBURY

presents

Stories in Sudbury



Nic Battigelli

Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli

Licia Canton

Rosetta Rosati

Sunday, September 17, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

Salute Coffee Shop, 2195 Armstrong St., Sudbury

Everyone is welcome!

With financial assistance from The Canada Council for the Arts through The Writers' Union of Canada.



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Waiting for Chrysanthemums:
Marisa De Franceschi's new novel



Marisa De Franceschi Photo
 courtesy of Marisa De Franceschi

Award winning author Marisa De Franceschi has just published a new novel: *Waiting for Chrysanthemums* (Longbridge Books), "a classic whodunit mystery that will keep readers turning the pages to the very end . . ."

Marisa read from her book at Settimana Italiana, Casa D'Italia in Montreal this past August. She also gave writing workshops and presented her new book at the Fogolar Federation of Canada Congresso (Montreal), where she received the Bepo Franzel Literary Award. The award is given to a Canadian writer with roots in the Friuli region of Northeastern Italy.

Marisa De Franceschi is the author of the prose poetry book *Random Thoughts* (Longbridge Books), the short story collection *Family Matters* and the novel *Surface Tension* (both with Guernica). She is the editor of the landmark anthology *Pillars of Lace: The Anthology of Italian-Canadian Women Writers* (Guernica) and *The Many Faces of Woman* (River City). She has twice been the recipient of the Okanagan Short Story Award. She has also contributed to many anthologies.

Marisa was born in Muris di Ragogna, Udine, and came to Canada with her parents in 1948 when she was two years old. She taught Furlan at the Windsor Fogolar this past year and has been active in the club since its inception.

Accenti Magazine invites you to read recent articles at www.accenti.ca.

August 2017

[The Darkness You Hold](#)
 by Linda Morra

[Mushrooms Like Paper-Thin Memories](#)
 by Giulia De Gasperi

[Every Novel Has a Soundtrack](#)
 by Terri Favro

[Preserving Summer's Latecomers](#)
 by Elizabeth Cinello

June 2017

[The Hog Slaughter: February 1862](#)
 by Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli

[The Motorcycle](#)
 by Licia Canton

[L'arte sa nuotare: Florentine Street Art Blends the Old with the New](#)
 by Tania Zampini

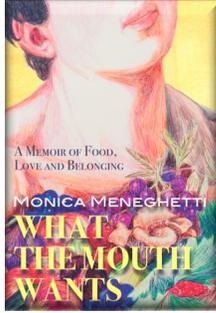
[History of a Dress](#)
 by Liana Bellon



The Magazine with an Italian Accent



Monica Meneghetti Book Launch



What the Mouth Wants: A Memoir of Food, Love and Belonging

WHERE: Il Centro Italian Cultural Centre, Vancouver

WHEN: Monday, Sept. 18, 2017 at 7 p.m. in Room 5

WHO: Monica Meneghetti, with guest Lara Varesi

WHAT: This sensual memoir offers an intimate glimpse into the author's unique life journey through the mouth-watering lens of food. The youngest child of an Italian immigrant family finds her identity at odds with her traditional upbringing. Through risk, courage, and heartbreak, she ultimately redefines and re-creates family and identity according to her own alternative vision.

"Through vivid, dream-like vignettes, Monica Meneghetti explores that which sustains families, both biological and chosen, through loss and growth. Written with the precision of a recipe and the lyricism of a poem, *What the Mouth Wants* approaches difficult or misunderstood topics— the death of a parent, childhood and ancestral trauma, bisexuality, and polyamory—with sensitivity and honesty." ~ Sierra Skye Gemma, winner of a National Magazine Award and National Newspaper Award

FREE ADMISSION. Books available for sale and signing.

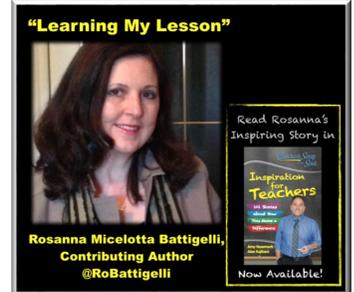
Monica Meneghetti

Writer • Instructor • Translator

<https://monicameneghetti.wordpress.com>

Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli's Recent Publications

Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli's story, *The Hawk*, appears in a special fall issue of *VIA: Voices In Italian Americana* (Vol. 28.2), a literary review dedicated to the culture of Italians in North America. The issue, edited by Nick DiChario, is dedicated to contemporary Italian folktales. <http://www.bordigherapress.org/VIA.html>



Poster by Alex Kajitani, photo by Nic Battigelli

Deborah Starewich has designed a beautiful cover for this special edition of *VIA*. It is a stunning piece of art by the Italian painter Alessandro Andreuccetti. <http://nickdichario.com/.../italian-folktale-cover-design-re.../>

On August 19, Rosanna held a book event at the Greater Sudbury Public Library (New Sudbury Branch) for *Chicken Soup For The Soul: Inspiration For Teachers*. Her story, *Learning My Lesson*, is published in the book.



Rosanna at the library. Photo by Nic Battigelli



New Book of Poetry by Josie Di Sciascio-Andrews



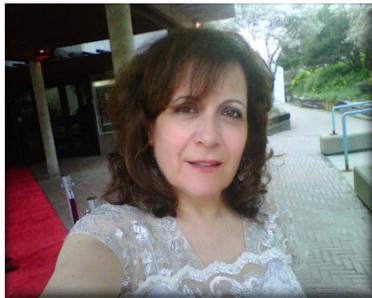
Josie Di Sciascio-Andrews, host and coordinator of the Oakville Literary Café poetry and prose reading series, is releasing a new collection of poems and photography

entitled *Sunrise Over Lake Ontario* (Espresso Bar Publishing) in September 2017.

Gracing the cover of her poetry is a painting by artist and poet John Kinsella who recently won first place in the Tom Thompson Canadian Art Prize. A book launch will be announced for early fall.

In other news . . . Josie's review of Isabella Colalillo-Katz's book of poetry titled *Marlene Dietrich's Eyes* (Ekstasis Editions) is featured in the latest issue of the University of Toronto's journal *Italian Canadiana* as well as in *Canadian Poetry Review*.

In September, Josie will be showcasing her poetry at 100 Thousand Poets for Change in Toronto alongside Max Layton, Robert Priest, Masha Barber, Dane Swan, Pat Connors and Donna Langevin. The event, Josie says, "is a benefit to raise money for the Shannen's Dream Campaign (<https://fncaringsociety.com/shannens-dream>), devoted to the cause of getting the Canadian government to fulfill its long overdue treaty obligations by building safe and comfortable schools for indigenous students on native lands."



Josie Di Sciascio-Andrews, *self portrait*



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