



## Association of Italian Canadian Writers

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear AICW members,

It is my pleasure and honour to start serving as AICW president. The current executive began its term last month, September 2016, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing executive members Giulia De Gasperi, Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni and Joseph Pivato for their outstanding contribution to the success of our Association. Special thanks go to our former Vice President Giulia De Gasperi, who devoted her time to the AICW with extreme enthusiasm, passion and professionalism in the last few years. I would also like to thank the new executive committee for volunteering their time and the new members for their interest in our Association.

The AICW attracted several new members because of our 16th conference, 'Italian Canadian Literature: Departures, Journeys, Destinations,' held in the southern Italian town of Padula (Salerno), from August 11 to 14, 2016. The conference committee is particularly proud of the success of this conference and would like to thank again all participants for their precious contributions and the local committee for their warm welcome, hospitality and great help.

The dialogue and interaction between literary authors and academics is undoubtedly the strength of our biennial conferences. The resulting discussions at our 2016 conference were possibly even more fruitful than usual thanks to the different cultural perspectives offered by our participants, based not only in Canada, the U.S. and Italy, but also in the UK, Germany and Spain. This conference has given our members the opportunity to gain visibility and promote their work in a different area of Italy, where our hosts, together with local artists and academics, were impressed with how Italian culture is expressed in the arts beyond Italian national borders. Padula revealed to be a particularly inspiring venue for our participants: Val del Diano, the area where it is located, was the venue of significant battles which led to the Unification of Italy in the nineteenth

## AICW on Facebook and Twitter

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century and it was also the point of departure of migrant flows directed to South America in the early twentieth century. Padula was therefore the ideal venue for a conference where the construction of Italian national identity, transnationality and mobility were at the basis of our literary readings and academic presentations. Last but not least, Padula is geographically in a marginal geographical position with yet a great cultural potential testified by the resulting development it is undergoing. This has reminded our participants of the position of Italian Canadian literature within the Canadian literary system and has favoured further reflections.

The AICW will continue to promote Italian Canadian literature within the Canadian literary system as proven, for instance, by its annual participation at the Blue Met Festival, which is an excellent opportunity to give visibility to our members and their works. As the creative product of transnationality, however, Italian Canadian literary works should also be promoted beyond Canadian borders, hence the importance of having a biennial conference in Italy and the participation of such an international audience. Of course, we will seek new opportunities to participate in events which give our authors the chance to reach new readers. At the same time, we also aim to increase the interaction with a) literary translators, who allow Italian Canadian literature to travel across Canadian borders and b) academics, who acknowledge the value of Italian Canadian literature beyond its marketability and who can suggest new critical and theoretical approaches to our literary body. From this perspective, the 16th AICW conference has been a point of departure indeed – a point of departure for new directions on which the new executive committee will work thanks to its enthusiasm, passion, dedication, and in particular thanks to your support.

Best wishes for a productive and inspiring autumn,  
Dr Maria Cristina Seccia  
AICW President

## Obituary Francesca L'Orfano

Francesca L'Orfano, a long-standing member of the Canadian Society for Italian Studies, died October 2, 2016 in Ottawa. She was a former member of the AICW and the organizer of the 2002 biennial AICW Conference in Toronto. For further information about her career and funeral arrangements, visit <http://cole.permavita.com/site/FrancescaLOrfano.html>

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## Licia Canton's Literary Activities

Last spring, Licia Canton was writer-in-residence at the Liceo Marco Belli in Portogruaro. She also presented her literary work at Università La Sapienza in Rome.

Licia Canton has recently published:

"What Our (Grand)Parents Taught Us: Bridging the Rural and the Urban in (Italian) Canadian Writing" in *Green Canada*, edited by Oriana Palusci

"Healing, One Story at a Time": <https://qfwrites.wordpress.com/2016/05/30/healing-one-story-at-a-time-by-licia-canton/>

"Refuge in the Vineyard" and "Polenta and Radicchio: Growing Up Venetian in Montreal-North" in [canadianliteraryfare.org](http://canadianliteraryfare.org)

"Dinner at Enrico's" in *Influence and Confluence, East and West: A Global Anthology of the Short Story*. Ed. Maurice A. Lee. Shanghai: East China Normal University Press.

"The Motorcycle" in *A Second Coming*. Ed. Don Mulcahy. Toronto: Guernica. The story appears in Chinese in H. Jin's volume *An Encounter in the Global Village*. Shanghai: East China Normal University Press.

"The Shape of a Smile," "The Most Extraordinary Man in the World" and "Forsaken" in *Italian Canadiana*, 30, *Exploring Voice*. Eds. Fazio and De Santis.



## Searching for Information About Sculptor

### Guido Casini

By Anna Foschi Ciampolini

I am looking for any information or photographs about the life and works of sculptor Guido Casini, who immigrated to Canada in 1926 and lived in Montreal where he was commissioned to sculpt several important monuments, including the statue dedicated to Giovanni Caboto. He died in Montreal in 1981. Casini was my mother's cousin. I am currently in the process of organizing a commemorative event in his hometown of Castelfiorentino (Florence), sponsored by their Cultural Affairs Department. I would greatly appreciate if you could contact me at [larthia@shaw.ca](mailto:larthia@shaw.ca).

## Another Doctorate for Italian Canadian Literature

On August 23, 2016, Tiziana Nannavecchia successfully defended her doctoral thesis at the University of Ottawa. The external examiner was Joseph Pivato, Professor Emeritus at Athabasca University.

Tiziana's topic was Translating Italian Canadian Immigrant Writers into Italian. She focussed on English language writers such as Mary Melfi and Joe Fiorito who have been published in Italian translations in the old country. Of the more than 100 active writers, only



Joseph Pivato and Tiziana Nannavecchia after her successful PhD defence. *Photo courtesy of M. Redi*

about 25 have been translated into Italian. Tiziana conducted a critical analysis of the translation processes that many works went through in order to appear in Italy.

Joseph Pivato, along with other members of the examination

committee, suggested that Tiziana make some judicious revisions and corrections to her manuscript and then submit it for publication in Canada.

Tiziana's PhD supervisor was Dr. Luise von Flotow, former director of the School of Translation and Interpretation at the University of Ottawa.

Joseph Pivato estimates that there have been approximately 20 MA and PhD theses on Italian Canadian literature since 1990. He has been the external examiner on several in Canada and Italy.

## Licia Canton and Domenic Cusmano in HIRE a WRITER Directory

The Quebec Writers' Federation has created a curated directory of its members who offer professional writing and editing services.

### Its objectives are:

to provide aspiring and emerging writers in all genres with a list of qualified professional writers whom they can hire to give them advice, feedback, or editorial assistance on their manuscripts; to give QWF members who have appropriate professional credentials a place to advertise their writing, coaching, consulting and editorial services.

AICW members Licia Canton and Domenic Cusmano are featured in the Quebec Writers' Federation directory.

Whether you are looking for a writing coach, a ghostwriter, a mentor, or an experienced editor to help polish your writing for publication, write to Licia at [lcanton@accenti.ca](mailto:lcanton@accenti.ca)

Write to Domenic at [600@cusmano.com](mailto:600@cusmano.com) if you are looking for critiquing, manuscript evaluation, translation and revision of translated texts, printing consulting and self-publishing advice.



## Update on the 30th Anniversary Anthology

The editorial committee working on the AICW's forthcoming 30th Anniversary Anthology is now working one on one with contributors in order to edit, proofread and finalize submissions, reports Giulia De Gasperi.

The contributions have been divided among the four editors – De Gasperi, Delia De Santis, Venera Fazio and Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni – and (we are) “working diligently toward having all texts ready and collated into one single document as soon as possible,” added De Gasperi.

“If you submitted a piece but haven't heard from us yet, do not worry,” she said. “An e-mail will soon be on its way.”

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## Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli Wins Third Place in Story Contest

The Canadian Authors Vancouver announced September 30 that Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli took third place in their story contest with her entry “Alligator Shoes.” The winning entries will be published in the National Voices 2016 Anthology and will be posted for one year on the Canadian Authors Vancouver website: [www.canadianauthors.org/vancouver](http://www.canadianauthors.org/vancouver)



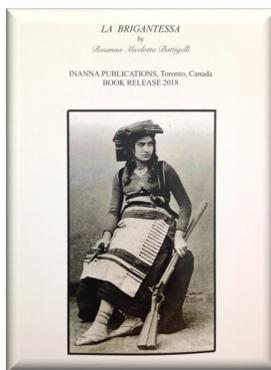
Rosanna Battigelli at Guernica's Fall Launch, September 11. Photo courtesy of Nic Battigelli

The Violet Hour Magazine also includes an interview with Rosanna in the Author Spotlight segment. <http://violethourpress.com>

On October 1, Rosanna read a chapter from *La Brigantessa* which appears in the Violet Hour Magazine's second issue, released at the Sudbury Public Library, MacKenzie Branch. *La Brigantessa*, previously awarded an OAC Writers' Works in Progress Grant, will be published in 2018 by Inanna Publications. [www.inanna.ca](http://www.inanna.ca)

On September 11, she read an excerpt from her story “This Too Shall Pass” in *A SECOND COMING: Canadian Immigration Fiction*, an anthology edited by Donald F. Mulcahy and published by Guernica Editions (2016). The anthology and other releases were launched by Guernica at Supermarket Restaurant, Toronto. [www.guernicaeditions.com](http://www.guernicaeditions.com)

While attending the AICW's biennial conference in Padula, Italy, August 11-14, Rosanna read two chapters from *La Brigantessa*.



Publicity poster for Rosanna's *La Brigantessa*, scheduled for publication in 2018. Photo by Rosanna Micoletta Battigelli

“Vincenzino,” a chapter from *La Brigantessa*, will be published in November in Sudbury, Ink, a Sudbury Writers' Guild Anthology.

[www.sudburywritersguild.com](http://www.sudburywritersguild.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/rbattigelli>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rosanna-battigelli-3a049359>

<https://twitter.com/Robattigelli>

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## Curtains Up on Frank Canino's Works

Several works by playwright Frank Canino are being staged in Canada and in the U.S. this fall.

Frank directed a reading from his two-part drama, *Two Holidays*, on Sunday, October 2 at the Arcadian Room Theatre, 680 Queen's Quay in Toronto. The drama deals with current issues of assimilation and refugees.

Toronto Cold Reads will be sponsoring a reading from Frank's *Perfect* in late November at the Black Swan Tavern, 154 Danforth Avenue in Toronto. This short piece was originally produced in London last fall as part of the British Theatre Challenge Festival.

Westcliffe Centre Arts/Jones Theatre in Colorado staged the première performance of *Final Gift*, Frank's newest 10-minute play, on the first weekend of October.

Sarasota Follies Senior Theatre in Florida will present his short monologue, *Sara Plays Her Game*, in early November.



## AICW Conference: 'stimulating and diverse'

By Cristina Pepe

The AICW's 16th biennial conference 'Italian Canadian Literature: Departures, Journeys, Destinations' was held in Padula (SA), Italy, August 11-14, 2016. The conference was dedicated to Anthony M. Pignataro (1949-2016). Thirty-eight speakers, AICW members and friends came from across Canada, Italy, the United States and the United Kingdom.

As a first time attendee and presenter, I found the conference program stimulating and diverse. It included academic/critical papers, literary readings and poetry in English and Italian, a documentary screening and a video tribute to long-time members Delia De Santis and Venera Fazio . (To see the video go to <https://vimeo.com/177017638>.) We also had a presentation of artwork and sneak peeks at some upcoming and newly released books. The book sales table was a popular place. I wish I had brought a bigger valigia to take them all home in!

The conference took place at La Certosa di Padula, a Carthusian Monastery and UNESCO World Heritage Site built in 1306. The monastery kitchen could have been the setting for 'Masterchef: Medieval edition'. Between the incredible setting and the presentations, the urge to create was inevitable. In between sessions I scribbled notes, wrote my first poesia in italiano, and planned my next series of artwork, the 'Casalinga' series. I noticed I was not the only one feeling motivated and scribbling down ideas.

There were social events, too. On our first night in Padula, there was a festival featuring the re-creation of a famous event from 1535, the making of a frittata with 1,000 eggs. The contraption it was made in looked like a colossal pizzelle iron that flips over and rolls across a massive fire pit! We spent a memorable evening in Monte San Giacomo, courtesy of the Centro Studi Palazzo Marone. A moving speech about the significance of writing and literature by local author

Barbara D'Alto left me speechless. We were all given a copy of her book to take home. A reception followed, featuring a buffet of delicious local specialties. I didn't know melanzane could be prepared so many different ways! On the last evening we attended a reception at Casa Padula, the ancestral home of Enrico Padula, former Console Generale D'Italia in Montreal. His relatives were involved with Garibaldi's Mille in the fight for Italian Unification. The house was filled with historic memorabilia.

The most memorable thing about the conference was having the opportunity to meet and network with others whom I have so much in common. Special thanks to the Padula organizing committee, Nova Civitas and coordinator Gianfranco Cataldo for keeping us on track. I am looking forward to the next AICW conference in 2018!

*Turn to pages 16—19 for a photo feature on the AICW conference in Padula, Italy*



## Giulia De Gasperi, Caroline di Giovanni and Joseph Pivato Are 'Retiring'

Giulia De Gasperi, AICW Vice-President, Caroline di Giovanni and Joseph Pivato have announced that after long service as editors and officers of our association they are stepping down to focus on other work. They did not stand for office when the new executive was announced in September. They will remain members of the association.

"Over the years Giulia, Caroline and Joe made valuable contributions to our association and to Italian Canadian literature, touching the lives of countless writers, young and old, along the way," said Anna Foschi Ciampolini, newsletter editor in paying tribute to them. "They were prominently involved in editing/publishing many books and were frequent presenters at AICW conferences."

Caroline fondly recalls her work in Italian Canadian literature. "I guess I can start in 1984 before the famous first gathering that organized the Association in Vancouver in 1986. Two years earlier, with support from my husband Alberto and Centro Scuola e Cultura Italiana in Toronto, I picked up from Pier Giorgio Di Cicco's ground-breaking anthology, *Roman Candles* (1978). The anthology that became *Italian Canadian Voices . . . 1946-1983* included prose selections as well



Giulia de Gasperi. Photo by Lara Bello

as poetry. Guided by Prof. Julius Molinaro, and assisted by Vilma Tullo and Prof. Robert Harney, I wrote letters to Italian Canadian writers across the country who had published a story, a novel, or a book of poetry. Letters with stamps! Waiting for the postman! Actually, it was a wonderful project, and I became

acquainted long distance with Dino Minni, Joseph Pivato, George Amabile, Mary Di Michele, and all the others who graciously agreed to be part of the book. Antonino Mazza was engaged to write an English translation of Mario Duliani's book, *La Ville sans Femmes* (1945). We included one chapter to open the anthology. The story of wartime internment of Italians in Canada came as a shock to many, at that time.



Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni  
Photo by Mark Tearle.

After that anthology was published, and the AICW became a viable organization, I went about my other life as a school trustee, a graduate teaching assistant, and a mother. Several other good anthologies took shape in the 1980s, bringing together many of the works by emerging writers from the talented and creative Italian Canadian population. Bilingual, trilingual, coast to coast, the literary culture was becoming enriched by the works of so many writers who were bringing to life the experiences of families from the Italian diaspora. The warmth of the Mediterranean culture was encountering the frosty Canadian winter; change was inevitable!"

AICW Newsletter Committee put three questions to Giulia, Caroline and Joe.

### Newsletter Committee: When did you join the association?

**Giulia:** I joined in 2011.

**Caroline:** It was at the biennial conference in Toronto in 2008. Why such a long time? I was busy doing everything but literary work. However, I have always been a good reader, paying close attention to the developing careers of many of our friends within the Italian Canadian community, especially in Toronto, and at University of Toronto. I was urged to do a second version of *Italian Canadian Voices*, to include such writers as Nino Ricci and Darlene Madott as well as reproducing most of the original edition. That volume came out in 2006. At that point I had retired from



other jobs, and was able to concentrate on editing and writing my own poetry.

**Joe:** I joined in September 1986. I had to join because I was made President, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

### Newsletter Committee: What was your most important contribution to the AICW?

**Giulia:** I think my biggest contributions were the roles I played within the executive: I was Communications Officer from 2012 to 2014 and Vice-President from 2014 to 2016.

**Caroline:** I participated as a panelist in 2006 and 2008, and then I was able to help organize the biennial conference in Atri, Abruzzo in 2010, making good use of the connections made by the Centro Scuola-School Board summer programs held there for many years. After that conference, I was one of the editors of the conference volume, *Writing Our Way Home*. Ironically, after that, I haven't been able to attend the subsequent conferences. My participation has been by e-mail, and occasional Books and Biscotti events at the Columbus Centre.

**Joe:** My most important contribution to the AICW came in the first few years, keeping it going and organizing the second conference at York University in 1988. This gave us some academic recognition as writers. And the early newsletters.

### Newsletter Committee: What are you focussing on now?

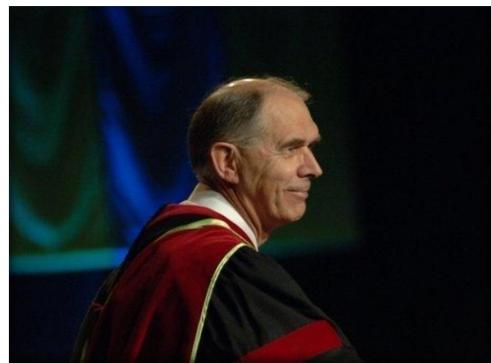
**Giulia:** Last November I launched Radici Translation and Wordcraft [[www.radici.ca](http://www.radici.ca)], a small literary agency specializing in translation proposals of literary works. I work mainly with Canadian and Italian authors who hope to have their works translated into Italian and English or French, respectively. I am focusing on making connections, building relationships with authors, agents and publishers and on having direct

contacts with individuals in charge of acquisitions. There is a lot of great literature being written in both countries that remains unknown to the wider international community. I hope to make a difference.

**Caroline:** Currently I am immersed in family responsibilities, spending time caring for grandchildren. I am also able to concentrate on my own poetry, hoping to publish a third collection within the next 18 months.

**Joe:** I have edited a number of books on Italian-Canadian writers and other authors. Now I am working on my own book of essays dealing with personal and professional activities.

Said Anna, "On behalf of the Newsletter Committee, I'd like to offer Giulia, Caroline and Joe best wishes as they begin a new chapter in life."



Joe Pivato



September 20, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 2016 F.G. BRESSANI LITERARY PRIZE WINNER

Vancouver, BC CANADA

IL CENTRO Italian Cultural Centre is excited to announce the winner of the 2016 edition of the biennial F.G. Bressani Literary Prize.

The Prize was created to stimulate and enhance the literary production of works by Canadian authors of Italian origin and is named after the Jesuit priest Father Francesco Giuseppe Bressani (Rome, 1612 - Florence, 1672) the first Italian missionary to Canada. Father Bressani published a significant book (*Breve Relatione*, «Brief Relations») which is considered to be one of the first Italian-Canadian literary works.

The winner of the 2016 edition of the F.G. Bressani Literary Prize is:

**Michael Mirolla**, *Lessons in Relationship Dyads* (Red Hen Press, Pasadena 2015)

The winner of the 2016 edition of the Prize will receive the award on **Thursday, October 27, 2016, at 6:30pm in the Museum at the Italian Cultural Centre** (3075 Slocan Street, Vancouver).

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT LUCA CONTE, LIBRARY COORDINATOR  
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## AICW Members Attended Conference in Bergamo



Rosetta Rosatti and Licia Canton. *Photo courtesy of Licia Canton*

In early June, AICW members Rosetta Rosatti, Licia Canton and Lucia Cascioli attended the Landscape of Wine Conference in Grumello del Monte (Bergamo).

The conference was co-organized by member Maria Pia Arpioni and Marco Paperini, both of whom attended the AICW Padula conference.

Licia Canton gave the keynote paper "The Canadian Palate: From Vineyard to Literary Landscape / Il Sapore canadese: dal vigneto al paesaggio letterario" and read a new story titled "Refuge in the Vineyard."

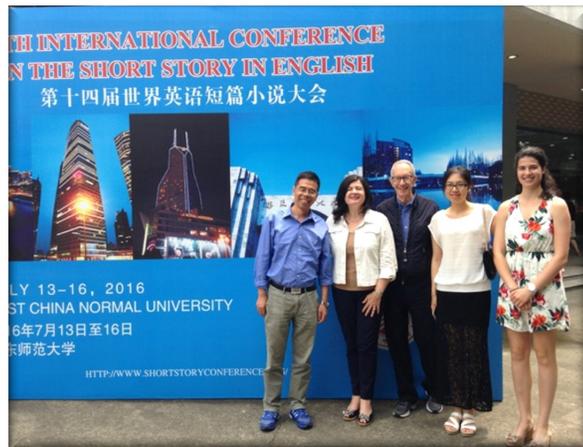
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## Italian Canadian Writers at International Short Story Conference in Shanghai

In July 2016 the International Short Story Conference in English was held in Shanghai, China. AICW members Liana Cusmano, Licia Canton and Domenic Cusmano read short stories at the conference.

Licia Canton gave the workshop "Writing the Story: From First Draft to Final Version." She was a panelist in the plenary "Writers vs Scholars: Who Owns the Text?" and in the closing plenary "Do East and West Meet in the Short Story?"

The next Short Story Conference will be held in Singapore in August 2018. Anyone interested in reading or giving a paper on the Italian Canadian short story can write to Licia at [lcanton@accenti.ca](mailto:lcanton@accenti.ca) We hope that a greater number of AICW members will attend in 2018.



Liana and Licia with conference organizers Hengshan Jin and Lu Sun and conference participant Ira Natel (centre). *Photo courtesy of Licia Canton*



Liana Cusmano, Conference Director Maurice A. Lee and Licia Canton



James Rottman Fine Art Presents

# Vincenzo Pietropaolo

## HAVANA | *City at a Crossroads*

October 13, 2016 - October 30, 2016



*"I photograph the human condition. Photography is a way of life for me, like an innate language. It is the unceasing search for those ordinary moments that resonate with the timelessness of lives lived, a simple gesture or momentary glance perhaps, all those little miracles of daily life that move us to a deeper appreciation of human existence as individuals, and propel us forward collectively toward the realization of greater social goals."*

Dear friends,  
James Rottman Fine Art  
is cordially inviting you to  
**Vincenzo Pietropaolo, Havana**  
*City at a Crossroads*

Charlotte Hale & Associates Gallery  
588 Markham Street, Toronto

October 13 - 30, 2016

Tuesday - Friday: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.,

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**OPENING RECEPTION:**

With artist in attendance

Saturday, October 15, 2016, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Charlotte Hale and Associates Gallery  
588 Markham Street, Toronto, ON

**Artist Talk:** Sat. Oct. 22, 2016, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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Limited seats available

A printed exhibition catalogue is available

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## Carmelo Militano's New Book of Poetry



Carmelo Militano launched his third book of poetry *The Stone Mason's Notebook* which includes a suite of poems centred around the modernist painter Amedeo Modigliani.

Carmelo Militano, an F.G. Bressani Award poetry winner (2004), launched his third book of poetry *The Stone Mason's Notebook* (Ekstasis Editions) with special guest poet George Amabile, also a Bressani poetry award winner (2012). The event took place September 7, 2016 at McNally-Robinson Booksellers in Winnipeg,

Militano has also written a novel, *Sebastiano's Vine* (Ekstasis Editions 2013) and an Italian travelogue/memoir *The Fate of Olives* (Olive Press, 2006). He is currently working on a short story collection tentatively called *An Oneiric Education*.

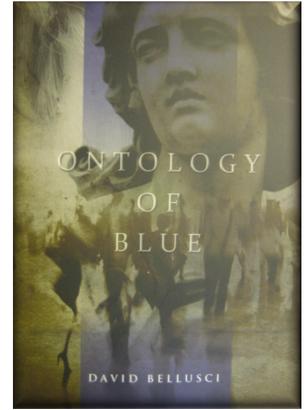
## David Bellusci's Ontology of Blue

An existential collection of poems reflecting on fundamental human experiences—nature, family, love, community and death.

In this new volume of poetry, David Bellusci penetrates the seemingly unanswerable question. Does life have meaning? By the end of this collection, the reader is moved to seek an answer. Bellusci engages the reader to re-think experiences such as the

common sound of Autumn rain, the misery of a Colombian border town, or the layers of history in Roman ruins.

David Bellusci was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. He holds a BA in English Literature (University of Toronto), MA in Linguistics (University of Calgary), MFA in Creative Writing (University of Nebraska), and PhD in Philosophy (Dominican University College, Ottawa). His poetry has been read in Canada, USA and Italy, and his writing has been published in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK and USA. He has lived in Zimbabwe, South Africa, France and Italy.



## Secondo Volume di Personaggi & Persone

### Premessa dell'autrice

In *Personaggi & Persone*, (Anna M. Zampieri Pan. *Personaggi & Persone. Vol II*, Ital Press 2014, ISBN 978-0-9809040-1-7) appaiono 44 profili di persone da me conosciute negli ultimi sei anni, due in più che nella prima raccolta *Personaggi & Persone* del 2008. Faccio notare l'assenza di volti nella terza sezione di ritratti, sostituiti da due braccia intrecciate sul globo terrestre.

Ecco la sintetica storia di queste due donne nel capitolo di pagina 91 intitolato...

### ANIL E AURELIA il coraggio di rischiare

di Anna M. Zampieri Pan

La giovane, lucidi capelli corvini, carnagione bruno-olivastra,





corporatura minuta e ben proporzionata, si muoveva composta e sicura nell'ampia cucina della villa padronale. Dalla dispensa ai fornelli, dal tavolo delle vivande al buffet, e quindi nella ricca sala da pranzo dov'erano riuniti famiglia e amici. Sorriso appena accennato, sguardo attento, *Anil* appariva tuttavia immersa in un pensiero lontano. Indossava un ampio grembiule quadrettato sopra un grazioso abito festivo. Era il giorno di Natale. La scortava il marito, un bel giovanotto dall'aspetto dignitoso: sembrava l'ombra di una dama designata a funzioni delicate e importanti. Un'ombra tuttavia che, in concreto, stava sbrigando l'apparente disordine costituito da piani di lavoro da ripulire, pile di piatti da lavare, decine di bicchieri da asciugare, pentole e posate da riporre dopo averle ben lucidate.

La solita curiosa, spinta dall'esigenza di rapporti umani e dal desiderio di risposte reali, conversando con loro apprese trattarsi di una delle molte coppie di immigrati sud-asiatici in cerca di futuro nel continente europeo: per se stessi e per la figlioletta di pochi anni, lasciata in custodia alla nonna nel tormentato paese d'origine. Ambedue in possesso di buona educazione e di studi superiori, *Anil* svolgeva un ruolo di baby-sitter e cameriera presso una famiglia della ricca borghesia veneta, lui si occupava di lavoretti part-time in attesa di lavoro fisso, non importa se adeguato alla laurea posseduta. Il pensiero dell'intervistatrice correva in parallelo ai molti giovani italiani, tecnici, laureati, specializzati che - alla ricerca di opportunità nei paesi supersviluppati del mondo - stanno accettando incarichi umili, mai rinunciando a sperare. Tra loro anche parecchie ragazze: non più costrette, come in tempi lontani, al lavoro in fabbrica, ma pur sempre lontane dalla famiglia, dagli affetti e dalla terra natale. E spesso in condizioni precarie.

Nello stesso periodo natalizio, un'anziana donna italo-canadese, vedova e di salute cagionevole, condivideva le fredde giornate invernali e i parchi pastici con una giovane filippina, una delle migliaia di "badanti" che - immigrate nei paesi dell'opulento occidente "in crisi" - stavano servendo persone non più autosufficienti e nuclei familiari incapaci di

provvedere da sè. Per *Aurelia* erano lontani i giorni dell'emigrazione nel continente nordamericano, ben più di mezzo secolo prima. Aveva lasciato il paesino del meridione d'Italia col cuore in tumulto, ma s'era fatta coraggio. Piena di energia giovanile e di speranza, s'era rimboccata le maniche per aiutare il marito nella piccola bottega commerciale e allevare il figlio procurandogli educazione e benessere. Era fiera di quanto aveva conseguito, ma ora suo figlio era preso dagli affari in un paese orientale emergente e lei era rimasta sola. Non fosse stato per quella ragazza estranea che si prendeva cura di lei, la grande casa le sarebbe apparsa più vuota di sempre, inutile. A quanto erano valsi i suoi sacrifici?

L'anziana donna fissava in silenzio la giovane filippina - anch'essa sola e lontana dalla patria di nascita - e rifletteva sul fenomeno delle italiane di origine prevalentemente contadina diventate per necessità bambinaie, cameriere e serve nelle famiglie dei cittadini benestanti del nord. E riandava alla storia del grande esodo verso il continente americano di cui essa stessa era stata parte. Ondate emigratorie costituite per almeno la metà da donne degli strati più umili della popolazione. Donne lavoratrici che in emigrazione - rischiando il rischiabile, perdendo e vincendo - avevano potuto riscattarsi dalla povertà, dall'ignoranza, dalla supremazia maschile, da false gerarchie di classi e di valori. Migrando. Camminando. Costruendo. Oggi sono le giovani del terzo mondo a sostituirle. È uno dei nuovi volti dell'emigrazione al femminile. Una componente della grande famiglia umana che si sta muovendo dolorante verso una sognata e non impossibile cittadinanza globale.

**Nota dell'autrice:** i due caratteri descritti riguardano donne reali. Per ragioni di privacy solo i nomi sono fittizi.



## Sole, Senza Sole

**ESTRATTO DA:**



Aldo Colangelo, "Sole, senza Sole", (110 donne italiane di Toronto, Canada)

Edizioni Doc.et, Toronto, Canada, 1998  
ISBN-09685131-0-7

### *Il mito migratorio come spinta al sogno*

Donne italiane emigrate dall'ultimo dopoguerra in poi. Incubi e sogni. Prima, con i loro uomini, affrontano guerre, privazioni, lutti, distruzione, invasioni. Dopo l'8 settembre 1943, alleati-nemici che diventano amici, ed alleati-amici che diventano nemici. Con il dopoguerra, come Italiane, madri, sorelle, mogli, fidanzate, o figlie di Italiani, hanno pochi amici e tanti nemici, in Europa ed altrove.

Dopoguerra: povertà, alle volte estrema, grandi sacrifici per lavorare, a fianco dei padri, fratelli e mariti, nei paesi, nelle terre proprie, o del padrone, a mezzadria, a cottimo, come manovalanza stagionale, alle volte in fabbriche o a servizio nelle famiglie dei "signori", in città. Incubi di povertà permanente, di ristrettezze eterne, di sistemazioni provvisorie, di speranze da scartare. Sogni di terre distanti, ricche, fertili, dove, con il lavoro abbondante e ben pagato, avrebbero potuto ricostruire le proprie speranze e raggiungere il benessere troppe volte sognato perché

ascoltato, come in un racconto per bambini, da chi le aveva visitate, quelle terre, e vi aveva lavorato, fino al momento del viaggio di piacere, al nostro Paese, o a quello, definitivo, del rientro.

Miti di benessere e ricchezze, miti di libertà, descritte da altri, e di cittadinanza da esercitare nella loro pienezza; rivincite contro il destino che aveva fatto nascere povere molte delle nostre emigrate, là, nel paese natío. Nomi dolcissimi, di terre lontane, che suonavano a fiaba: America, Argentina, Australia, Brasile, Canada, Uruguay, Venezuela. Sillabare di prodotti agricoli da coltivare, animali da allevare o ricchezze da estrarre dagli Eldorado dei nuovi e nuovissimi mondi: cacao, caffè, canna da zucchero, cotone, grano, bestiame da cortile, da stalla, da pascolo; carbone, ferro, minerali, legnami, petrolio. Scelta di beni di consumo, utensili od oggetti da comprare ed usare per future opulenze: articoli d'abbigliamento e vestiti, case, macchine, apparecchi elettrodomestici, mobili, tappeti. E, poi, soldi, soldi, tanti soldi. Tanto denaro, da riempirne i materassi, i portafogli, i salvadanai e le banche.

Soldi da investire in Italia, al paese, per l'agognato rimpatrio, o nel nuovo Paese in cui rimanere, per sempre, senza poter o voler ritornare in una patria amata e disprezzata, perché vista povera o ingiusta, indifferente o incapace di aiutare tutte le sue creature. Una Patria troppo spesso governata da chi era stato causa del dolore (ancora presente, dopo decine d'anni di espatrio) della separazione, forse definitiva, dal paese, dalla contrada, dal cascinale, dal campo, dal monte, dalla collina, dal bosco amato o dal ruscello saltellante tra i sassi, ma che sembrava amica solo a chi, ormai da troppo tempo, ne era lontano e che, nel ricordo, riusciva, poi, a perdonare un distacco senza ritorno. Sogni di spazi economici e sociali da occupare: di libertà sconosciute ma sempre sperate, in cui poter realizzare i propri desideri, senza gli intoppi dei poteri della sopraffazione. Antichi incubi, nuovi sogni, miti, desideri e tanti, tanti progetti da realizzare, a qualunque costo, per i figli e per sé stesse, da parlarne, poi, ai paesani, durante la vacanza in Italia, per riabbracciare chi vi era rimasto, ma anche per provare che con il lavoro, e lo spirito di sacrificio, si poteva vincere, là, nell'Eldorado scelto e condiviso con i parenti, gli amici vecchi



e nuovi e con coloro che avevano avuto la forza, o la disperazione, della grande avventura dell'emigrazione.

Lasciando il sole

Guerra, dopoguerra, privazioni, sogni, trepidazioni, partenze per le terre di fiaba, qualunque lavoro a qualsiasi paga. Grandi sacrifici in persona e della famiglia. I primi soldi, i primi risparmi, le prime compere, la prima casa, i primi mobili. L'enorme solidarietà scambiata, attraverso i tempi, con parenti e compaesani, per aiutarsi a vicenda nelle accoglienze, nel lavoro, nelle scarse certezze e nelle cupe delusioni. Vittoria contro la malasorte e le avversità naturali e sociali, queste ultime tante volte create, a bella posta, da certi ambienti, ostili all'immigrato, perché lavoratore tenace e a buon mercato.

In queste righe, ed espressioni, abbiamo cercato di riassumere l'avventura migratoria vissuta, durante gli ultimi 50 anni di permanenza all'estero, da tanti di noi, che abbiamo lasciato il nostro sole, il nostro paese, i nostri cari, le nostre delusioni e le nostre rabbie ma portando, con noi, la nostra psiche collettiva e i nostri ricordi personali. Con la coscienza crescente che non potevamo far nulla con la loro perdita, nel tempo e nello spazio.

Sì, è vero: indietro, rimanevano il sole e l'Italia e il luogo di nascita, intatti, là, nei loro posti, ma se ne andavano, a poco alla volta, i genitori, qualche fratello o sorella, diversi amici e paesani e una parte delle nostre anime tormentate; perfino una parte del nostro amore genuino che, privo della linfa che solo la convivenza ci può dare, viveva ormai troppo di ricordi sbiaditi, deformati e perfino mal interpretati da una memoria che cercava di resistere all'erosione del ricordo (mille volte ripetuto, per "riviverlo" con la stessa intensità della sua ispirazione reale), o alla spietata indifferenza del nuovo ambiente sociale in cui ci si era inseriti. Ed è così che tanti, troppi di noi, rimanevamo e siamo rimasti, "fuori" d'Italia, a ricordare e a soffrire.



## Dr. Frances Garofalo

Dr. Frances Garofalo of Thunder Bay is a retired educator, having served as teacher, curriculum coordinator, principal and superintendent for the Thunder Bay Catholic School Board.

She received a BA, BEd and MEd from Lakehead University. After her retirement, she undertook doctoral studies at the University of Toronto, graduating in June, 2015. Her research focused on the role of district leaders in supporting principal professional learning, effective district practices in school improvement initiatives, and the use and effectiveness of virtual learning platforms in professional development.

Dr. Garofalo led board and community research in literacy and numeracy development, Aboriginal education initiatives and the development of community hubs. She also served on the Ontario Ministry of Education Curriculum Council, providing strategic program advice to the Minister of Education.

She is currently researching the role of women in the post-war immigration process to Canada, and has submitted her work for publication. Dr. Garofalo is fluent in French, Italian and, to a lesser degree, Spanish. She enjoys spending time with her family and travelling.

## Carole Giangrande

Carole Giangrande is a novelist and author of eight books, including the award-winning novella, *A Gardener On The Moon*; the novels *An Ordinary Star* and *A Forest Burning*; the novellas *Midsummer* and *Here Comes The Dreamer*; and a short story collection, *Missing Persons*. She's worked as a broadcast journalist for CBC Radio, and her fiction, poetry, articles and reviews have appeared in Canada's major journals and newspapers. Her new novel, *All That Is Solid Melts Into Air*; will be published in 2017.

## Keith Henderson

Keith Henderson has published three previous novels: *The Restoration*, DC Books, 1994; *The Beaker*, DC Books, 1990; and *The Roof Walkers*, DC Books, 2013; a collection of political essays from when he was Quebec columnist for the *Financial Post*, *Staying Canadian*, DC Books, 1997; and a prize-winning book of short stories, *The Pagan Nuptials of Julia*, DC Books, 2006. He led a small provincial political party in Quebec during the separatist referendum of 1995 and championed English language rights and the "poison pill" strategy of partitioning Quebec if ever Quebec partitioned Canada, positions covered in full length articles in the *Los Angeles* and *New York Times* as well as on CBS 60 Minutes. His latest novel *Acqua Sacra*, dealing with corruption in both Quebec and Abruzzo, will appear in October.

## Frank Spezzano

## Dennis Maione

## Luigi Monteferrante

## Vincenzo Pietropaolo

## Eva P. Sañudo

## Renée Sgroi

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

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# Photo Gallery



Book table and registration with Maria Cristina Seccia and conference attendees. *Photo courtesy of Domenic Cusmano*



Tour of Padula museums with Enrico and Milena Padula and AICW members. *Photo courtesy of Gianfranco Cataldo*



Monte San Giacomo dinner with Eva Nossam, Maria Cristina Seccia, Licia Canton, Lianne Moyes, Cristina Pepe and Astrid Fellner. *Photo courtesy of Domenic Cusmano*



Launch of Exploring Voice edited by Venera Fazio and Delia De Santis. *Photo courtesy of Domenic Cusmano*



Dinner at Hotel Certosa with Halldor Colangelo, Teresa D'Alessandro, Manuela Cipri, Cristina Pepe, Domenic Cusmano, Licia Canton, Aldo and Carmen Colangelo. *Photo courtesy of Domenic Cusmano*



Panel with Maria Lisella, Eva P. Sañudo and Gil Fagiani. *Photo courtesy of Domenic Cusmano*



# Padula Conference 2016



La Certosa with new member Laura Rorato, Licia Canton, Maria Cristina Seccia and Padula poet Emilio Sarli. *Photo courtesy of Domenic Cusmano*



Padula's Mayor Imperato with AICW President Domenic Beneventi. *Photo courtesy of Domenic Cusmano*



Jim Zucchero and Pietro Vitelli. *Photo courtesy of Domenic Cusmano*



Licia, Maria Cristina, Raffaele, Marco, new members Luisa Marino and Maria Pia Arpioni, Silvia Falsaperla and Gilda Mancuso. *Photo courtesy of Domenic Cusmano*



Official welcome by Padula and AICW representatives. *Photo courtesy of Domenic Cusmano*



Manuela Cipri and Silvia Falsaperla. *Photo courtesy of Domenic Cusmano*



Festa della frittata with Licia Canton, Padula conference co-ordinator Gianfranco Cataldo, Cristina Pepe and Maria Cristina Seccia. *Photo courtesy of Domenic Cusmano*



# Padula Conference 2016



Domenic Cusmano and Eufemia Fantetti. *Photo courtesy of Licia Canton*



Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli reading from her upcoming novel *La Brigantessa* *Photo courtesy of Cristina Pepe*



Stories about Women, Literary Readings. Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli, Delia De Santis, Pietro Vitelli and Aldo Colangelo *Photo courtesy of Cristina Pepe*



La Certosa di Padula *Photo courtesy of Cristina Pepe*



View of Padula from La Certosa *Photo courtesy of Cristina Pepe*



Boiler and hood in the Monastery kitchen *Photo courtesy of Cristina Pepe*



# Padula Conference 2016



The 1,000 egg frittata maker *Photo courtesy of Cristina Pepe*

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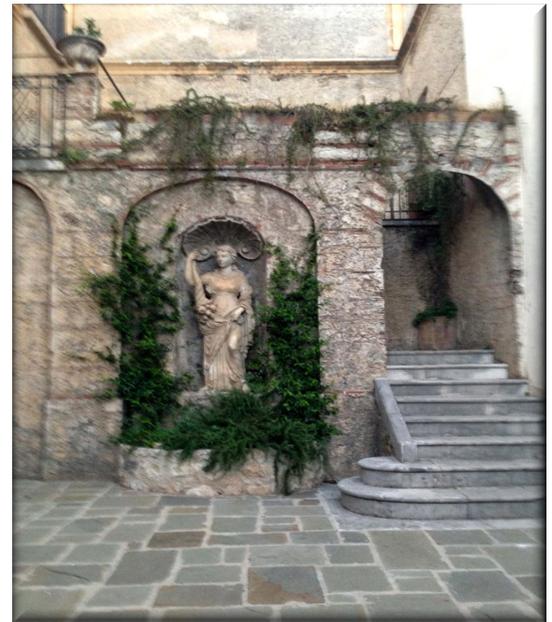
Morning view from my room, Hotel Certosa *Photo courtesy of Cristina Pepe*

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View from our conference room *Photo courtesy of Cristina Pepe*

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Courtyard, Casa Padula *Photo courtesy of Cristina Pepe*

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