



## Association of Italian Canadian Writers

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

It is my pleasure to begin a second two-year term as AICW President. I welcome the new executive and look forward to working together.

This fall has seen many literary events and book launches as well as the Bressani Prize celebration in Vancouver, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities of Guernica Editions in several cities, and the AICW conference in Winnipeg to mention only a few. Our thanks go to the Winnipeg conference organizers Sante Viselli, Rosaria Moretti-Lawrie, Chris Bidinosti and Carmelo Militano for all of their work. Member George Amabile was also at the conference and we congratulate him on winning the Bressani Prize. Congratulations also go to past-president Licia Canton for receiving the very prestigious international Premio Italia nel Mondo 2018, a recognition of her work in culture and literature for the past two decades.

We have begun discussing the 2020 AICW Conference. We will send information as soon as it becomes available.

We are very pleased to have two young writers on our executive: Giulia Verticchio and Christina Sforza. Through their efforts, we have started an AICW youth group in Montreal and hope that this will spread to other cities. If you know anyone who aspires to become a writer, let them know about the AICW youth group.

We welcome new members: please tell your friends and colleagues about the AICW. In a few weeks, you will receive notice to renew your AICW membership. Please consider taking advantage of our two-year deal. **Thank you** all for your continued support. **Welcome** new members!

We want to hear about your events and publications. Please send your photos and details whenever there is a Call from the Newsletter Committee.

I hope you have a productive fall and wonderful holidays.  
Maria Cristina

Dr Maria Cristina Seccia, AICW President

## AICW on Facebook and Twitter

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## A Warm Welcome to the 2018-2020 Newsletter Committee Members

By Anna Foschi Ciampolini

During the recent elections for the 2018-2020 AICW Executive, Josephine Atri, Domenic Beneventi and Christina Sforza, members of the AICW Editorial Board, stepped forward to serve in the Newsletter Committee. Our quarterly newsletter requires a considerable amount of work and I am grateful to all of them for accepting to share the “blood, sweat and tears” that accompany every new issue. Is this exaggerated? Not quite, considering that the previous committee members, Rene Pappone and Cristina Pepe helped to set very high standards for our publication. Thank you, Josephine, Domenic and Christine for coming onboard.

This Newsletter special edition will come out when the Holiday Season will be already knocking at the door. Therefore, I take the opportunity to wish a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year to the our Executive and to all our AICW members and supporters.

## George Amabile vince l'edizione 2018 del Premio Letterario F.G. Bressani

di Anna Foschi Ciampolini

La consegna del Premio Letterario F.G. Bressani, sponsorizzato dal Centro Culturale Italiano di Vancouver, si è svolta la sera del 16 ottobre 2018 nella



George Amabile e Anna Foschi in attesa dell'inizio della cerimonia. Foto di Luca Conte, Bibliotecario del Centro Culturale Italiano

sala del Museo. George Amabile è il vincitore di questa edizione con la raccolta di poesie *Martial Music* (Amabile, George. 2016. Signature Edition. Winnipeg.)

Dopo la lettura della motivazione per l'assegnazione del premio eseguita da Brad Cran, Poeta Laureato della Città di Vancouver e giudice letterario per l'edizione Bressani 2018, l'autore, che aveva già vinto nel 2012, ha ricevuto il trofeo e l'assegno di \$5,000 dalle mani della presentatrice della serata, Anna Foschi Ciampolini e si è a lungo intrattenuto con il pubblico rispondendo alle domande e creando un dialogo ricco di spunti e interesse. Al termine dell'avvenimento, la conversazione fra Amabile e gli intervenuti è proseguita attorno al buffet offerto dal Centro Italiano e arricchito dai vini pregiati offerti dal Console Generale d'Italia a Vancouver.



L to R Anna Foschi, George Amabile, e Giulio Recchioni, Direttore Culturale del Centro Italiano. Foto di Luca Conte, Bibliotecario del Centro Culturale Italiano



George Amabile riceve il premio Foto di Luca Conte, Bibliotecario del Centro Culturale Italiano

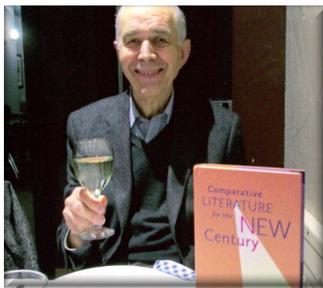
## NEW BOOK BY JOSEPH PIVATO & GIULIA DE GASPERI

The title, *Comparative Literature for the New Century*, is meant to suggest new directions for the academic study of literature that include Italian-Canadian authors such as Mary di Michele, Frank Paci, Genni Gunn, Antonio D'Alfonso, Caterina Edwards, Gianna Patriarca, Dore Michelut, and several others. The contributors include Maria Cristina Seccia, Deborah Saidero, Anna Pia De Luca, Gaetano Rando and honorary Italian, George Elliott Clarke.

After introducing this new book at our exciting AICW conference at the University of Winnipeg, Joe Pivato launched it at the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto on



Linda Hutcheon and Joe Pivato. Photo by Juliana Pivato



Joe Pivato at the University of Winnipeg.  
Photo by Licia Canton

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. Linda Hutcheon, who wrote the foreword for the book, was there to encourage the students specialised in ethnic minority writers. The event took place in the Linda Hutcheon Seminar Room. (See photo of Linda Hutcheon and Joe Pivato).

In Edmonton Joe had another book launch (Oct. 16) at the University of Alberta. He spoke about the need to have a book on Comparative Literature that presents Canadian perspectives on such issues as immigration, ethnic identity, translation and women authors and that counteracts the American cultural wars on these questions. The reception in Edmonton was very positive. (See the photo of Joe with the book cover).

Joe's co-editor Giulia De Gasperi could not take part in these book launches because she had moved from PEI to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in September. *Comparative Literature for the New Century* is published by McGill-Queen's University Press. The next book launch for this volume will be at UBC, Vancouver, on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## McNally Robinson Booksellers & Ekstasis Editions are pleased to present Carmelo Militano launching *Lost Aria*

Saturday November 17, 7:30 pm  
Grant Park in the Travel Alcove, Winnipeg



*Lost Aria* is a collection of eight short stories each using a cinematic eye and sensual detail whether set in Canada, the ancient city-states of Italy, Rome or Winnipeg. Each story is a mediation on erotic desire, its consequences, the shifting mysterious tides of the heart

and how our relationship to literature and art shape our memory, perceptions, and experience.

Carmelo Militano is a Winnipeg poet and prose writer born in Cosoleto, Italy. He is the author of two poetry collections: *Morning After You* and *The Stone Mason's Notebook*. His prose work includes *The Fate of Olives*, a memoir and travelogue, and the novel *Sebastiano's Vine*. He is the winner of the F.G. Bressani poetry award, 2004 and his prose work has been short-listed for several awards.

## Licia Canton received one of the Premio Italia nel Mondo Awards for 2018.

By Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni



L to R: Corrado Prisco, Licia Canton, Alberto Di Giovanni, Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni. Photo credit Luigi Pullano Photography

On October 25, 2018, in the Montecassino Banquet Hall in Toronto, AICW member and past-president Licia Canton received the

Premio Italia nel Mondo Award

for excellence in professional activity and contribution to the greater community. I had the pleasure of introducing Licia, citing her achievements as a writer and editor, a mentor for other writers, and especially for her 22 years as an active participant in the Association of Italian Canadian Writers. She has served as President of the AICW several times, spending many volunteer hours organizing the biennial conferences, and taking part in panels. Of the four honorees that night Licia was the only woman, the only representative of a cultural career, and the single representative from Montreal.

The Premio Italia nel Mondo Award is given by the Fondazione Italia, founded in 1994 in Rome. The President is Corrado Prisco, who was present in Toronto for the award gala. The bi-annual Premio event has travelled around the



world, shining the spotlight on individuals who promote their Italian heritage and culture in countries with Italian diaspora populations. This year the Fondazione Italia vice-president for Canada was Alberto Di Giovanni, himself a recipient of the award in 1996. The other Canadian recipients this year included Fausto Gaudio, founder and CEO of Italian Canadian Savings Credit Union; Toni Varone, successful entrepreneur; and Joseph Mancinelli, labour leader, international vice-president of LIUNA. The 700 guests at the dinner cheered as each of the four winners made their acceptance speeches. Among the Special Guests in attendance was Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, a great admirer of Italian culture. Another highlight was the arrival of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who congratulated each of the honorees and addressed the crowd with enthusiasm. "Licia Canton uses stories to bring people together and inspire us to reach for a better world," said Prime Minister Trudeau. Mr. Trudeau was especially pleased to meet Licia and Domenic Cusmano as fellow Montrealers.

Watch the OMNI video report: <https://www.facebook.com/OMNINewsItaliano/videos/365992614139950/>

Darlene Madott's article in Accenti: <http://www.accenti.ca/online-features/people/premio-italia-nel-mondo-2018-darlene-madott>

## Volunteer Recognized for Service

By Rene Pappone

Francesca Foschi Mitchell, a non-member of the AICW, has been formally recognized by the 2016-2018 executive for her voluntary work.

In a letter to Francesca, July 17, 2018, President Maria Cristina Seccia expressed the gratitude of the executive for her "selfless contribution of time, talent and energy as a member of the AICW's newsletter committee" over the past 4 + years.

"A sincere thank you for your hard work and diligence," the President wrote. "As a token of our

appreciation a small gift is being sent to you . . ."

Earlier, in her President's message, carried in the June 2018 edition of the AICW newsletter, Maria Cristina had expressed gratitude for

Francesca's "great contribution" to the association. Her July letter and gift, a weather station with a clock, reinforced the association's appreciation for all Francesca has done.

Francesca became involved with the newsletter committee when it needed someone with her technical skills to put together the quarterly publications.

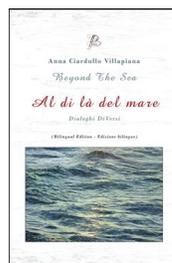
"I worked from day one with Francesca and can tell you that she put in a lot of long hours over time," said Rene Pappone, who retired from the AICW executive and the newsletter committee at the end of August 2018. "She deserves a lot of credit for what she has done to help us to accomplish our mission."



Francesca Foschi Mitchell.

## Scrittrice italo-canadese presenta il suo nuovo libro

di Anna Ciardullo Villapiana



Anna Ciardullo Villapiana, socia di AICW dal 2015, ha recentemente pubblicato il suo terzo volume di poesie dal titolo Al di là del mare, Dialoghi DiVersi/Beyond the sea, Edizioni I Rumori dell'Anima, Roma, 2018.

Il volume è stato presentato in Italia il 15 Settembre scorso, nella sala multimediale di Castello Colonna a Genazzano, in provincia di Roma, dove poeti e scrittori provenienti da diverse parti d'Italia e dall'estero si sono riuniti per celebrare la poesia.

Il volume è accompagnato da un cd in cui le poesie vengono lette, interpretate e musicate da artisti locali e da un cantautore italiano.



Sono previsti altri incontri per la presentazione del libro in Italia e in Canada. Il 21 Dicembre a Roma, il 28 Dicembre e il 4 Gennaio a Cosenza. Altri eventi a data da destinarsi.

L'autrice ha avuto inoltre la gioia di vedere il suo libro consegnato nelle mani di Papa Francesco.

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## AICW's Youth Group

By Licia Canton



Front row, l to r: Annalisa Panati, Nadia Floriani, Liana Cusmano; Back row, l to r: Christina Sforza, David Fomari, Tania Zampini, Cristina Clemente. Photo by Licia Canton

On November 12, the first meeting of the AICW's youth group was hosted by Tania Zampini of Triple E, at the new Centre de la culture italienne in Montreal.

Seven young people were present to listen to mentor Licia Canton speak about her experience as a writer and editor, and to listen to readings and tips by AICW members Christina Sforza, Liana Cusmano and Annalisa Panati. The objective is to hold monthly meetings in a welcoming atmosphere that will encourage creative expression. The hope is that this group will grow as more people hear about it. Find out more by writing to [info@aicw.ca](mailto:info@aicw.ca) or [tripletravel@gmail.com](mailto:tripletravel@gmail.com)

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## VIVA LA BRIGANTESSA!

di Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli

Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli participated in the AICW 17th Biennial Conference (Winnipeg, Sept. 27-29). She took part in "Author Palooza" at the Centennial Library in Sault Ste. Marie, ON and in Wordstock Sudbury 2018 Literary Festival. Her novel *La Brigantessa*, was

officially released by Inanna Publications on Oct. 20th, followed by the Toronto launch on Oct. 25th at the Women's Art Association of Canada, and the Sudbury launch on Nov. 4th at the *Società Caruso Club* in the Heritage Hall. <https://www.inanna.ca/index.php/catalog/la-brigantessa/>



Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli.

Rosanna wrote a guest blog for Gail Anderson-Dargatz's website on "Building Character" (in *La Brigantessa*): <https://www.gailanderson-dargatz.ca/cms/index.php/resources/35-guest-blogs/336-rosanna-micelotta-battigelli-on-building-character>

A link to a review: [https://www.amazon.ca/Brigantessa-Rosanna-Micelotta-Battigelli/product-reviews/177133553X/ref=dpx\\_acr\\_txt?showViewpoints=1](https://www.amazon.ca/Brigantessa-Rosanna-Micelotta-Battigelli/product-reviews/177133553X/ref=dpx_acr_txt?showViewpoints=1)

In May and August 2018, Harlequin UK published two of Rosanna's books, and she was offered another 3-book contract.: [https://www.amazon.ca/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_1?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=rosanna+battigelli](https://www.amazon.ca/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_1?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=rosanna+battigelli)

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

<https://twitter.com/RoBattigelli>



Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli with her book Viva La Brigantessa!



## *A Daughter's Memory*

Bruna Di Giuseppe Bertoni.

Diario di un Tufarolo/Diary of a Tufarolo.

Joye de Plume Books. Toronto. 2018.

*The author's father, Emilio Di Giuseppe, was born in Tufo di Carsoli in the province of L' Aquila. Like so many young men and women of his generation, he had to confront the darkness of those times. Writing a diary helped him to find the strength to survive. Brunna Di Giuseppe Bertoni's loving memory of her father's life of hardship and anguish as a soldier during the Second World War pays homage to the courage and resilience of a generation faced with unspeakable horrors.*

*(Editor's note by Anna Foschi Ciampolini)*



It was my father who felt compelled to write his story. He learned to write in prison during the war. He had a diary but when we came to Canada it was misplaced. He wrote a new diary during 1965/66. - One month before he passed away in 1992, he told me about the diary and asked me to "do something with it". It took years for me to complete his diary. It was very hard to understand, very hard to read how hard his life was during his childhood, during the war and then during the post war period. I felt that his life, like the lives of many other young men like him, suffered the same consequences. I published the book to honour his courage and those who also had the same painful experience.



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