



Newsletter / Bollettino March 2011 / Issue 58

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Italian Canadian Writers
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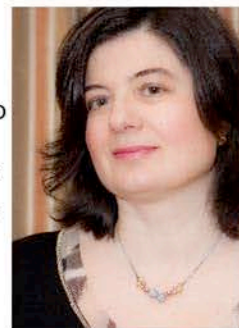
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Anna Foschi, Maria Ierfino
& Alberto Mario DeLogu**

**Past President
Venera Fazio**

NOTA DELLA PRESIDENTE

Dear Members and Friends,

It is my pleasure to serve as President of this Association. I first heard of the AICW as a graduate student. I attended the 1990 AICW biennial conference, in Ottawa, then organized by Francesco Loriggio. The AICW had been founded only four years prior. I have been an active volunteer with the AICW since 1996, having served as Vice-President, Newsletter Editor and Conference Co-organizer. Through this Association I met AICW co-founder Joseph Pivato, of Athabasca University, who encouraged me to publish my first essay on Italian Canadian writing. In 1998, then president Pasquale Verdicchio gave me my first official role as newsletter editor. It was a lot of work, but it was enjoyable and it put me in touch with many members and writers, building work relationships and friendships and that have lasted more than a decade.



The AICW has seen many changes in the past 20 years. Change is good. If we want an active, forward looking association, we need to involve everyone: established and emerging writers and artists. As you may know, there is a lot of work to be done and we are all volunteers.

The AICW executive, with member volunteers, and its new intern – John Partington from Bishop's University – have been working on various committees for the past few months. We are editing the anthology titled *Writing Our Way Home*. We have planned an AICW event on April 30th, during the 2011 Blue Met Festival, as well as a May 12th event called *Arte Montreal*. Our biennial conference is planned for March 23 - 25, 2012, at Dalhousie University in Halifax. (Details will be sent out soon.)

We have also launched a new literary series called *Books and Biscotti*, with the first event taking place in Toronto on March 23. Events under the "Books and Biscotti" banner will be held across Canada and will be publicized on the AICW website. If you would like to help organize a Books and Biscotti event in your city or town (perhaps by collaborating with other writing groups, cultural organizations, or publishers), please let us know.

At the 2010 AGM, members voted to increase the annual membership fee. The AICW website has been in dire need of a makeover for the past few years. It is hoped that the slight increase will give us the funds necessary to improve the website. If you have not paid your membership dues for 2011, I encourage you to do so by sending in your form (found on page 10) and cheque. Voting members are asked to submit an updated 75-word bio, which will be added to the website.

I would like to extend a warm Welcome to those who have recently become members. Thank you to long-time members who have renewed their commitment to our Association.

On a sad note, Quebec City poet Giovanni Costa passed away on February 3. He was a professor of Italian at Université Laval. Giovanni was a long-time member of the AICW and a good friend. He will be missed by many of us.

My best wishes for a healthy and fruitful spring!

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



CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS

Montreal members of the AICW got together for a Christmas Dinner on December 17, 2010. A good time was had by all. Photos by Domenic Cusmano.



LA NUOVA REALTÀ

On March 6, 2011, at the Centro Leonardo Da Vinci in Montreal, the Quebec Chapter of the National Congress of Italian Canadians celebrated International Women's Day. Under the theme, *La Nuova Realtà*,



the celebration began with the screening of Anita Aloisio's documentary film, *Straniera come Donna*. The screening was followed by a panel discussion between filmmakers Agata De Santis and Anita Aloisio, moderated by Margherita M. Morsella.

This year's woman of distinction award was presented to radio host and broadcaster, Ivana Bombardieri.



THREE CHEERS FOR MULTICULTURALISM!

In 2011, Gina Valle's documentary *The Last Rite* will be versioned into Arabic, Punjabi and Mandarin as it continues to air across Canada. In 2010, *The Last Rite* won best TV documentary by the Canadian Ethnic Media Association. The documentary examines how Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus ritualize death and prepare for it. This documentary explores why we fear death and why in the modern world we try everything possible to prolong life and hide the reality of death.

For more information, visit www.ginavalle.com.

A NEW BLOG ON THE SCENE

Agata De Santis has taken her years of experience in print and media to the next logical stage... a blog! www.italocanadese.com looks at arts, culture and community, from an Italian-Canadian perspective. She looks forward to highlighting the events and publications of fellow AICW members.

8 MARZO / STOCKHOLM

On March 8, 2011, Gina Valle's Legacies photo exhibit will open at the Canadian Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden in celebration of International Women's Day. It will remain at the embassy for the entire month and take part in La Francophonie and other national events scheduled by the Canadian Embassy. For more information, please visit www.ginavalle.com.

17 MARZO / MONTREAL

The Yellow Door presents an evening of Poetry, Prose & Music on Thursday, March 17, at 7:00PM, at 3625 Aylmer in Montreal. Entry costs \$5.00. The evening will feature Rana Bose, Steven Manners, Kelly Norah Drukker, Ralph Alfonso, Louise Carson, and Jeffrey Mackie. www.yellowdoor.org

18 MARZO / MONTREAL

You are cordially invited to a Guernica celebration of poetry, music and songs to honour the 2010 publications of Guernica's Italian, Italian Canadian and Italian American authors, with a special tribute to poet, Corrado Mastropasqua. Friday, March 18, 2011, at 7:00PM at Casa D'Italia, 505 Jean Talon East, Montreal.



From Italy: *Fosfeni* by Andrea Zanzotto; *Three Stations* by Antonella Anedda
From Canada: *Exhale, Exhale* by Cristina Perissinotto; *Light and Time* by Michael Mirolla
From USA: *Blood of My Blood* by Richard Gambino; *What We Pass On* by Maria Mazziotti Gillan

Music and songs by: Soprano, Michèle Hekimi; Trompettist, Vincenzo Guzzo; Pianist, Berta Rosenohl. Readings in Italian, English and Neapolitan by Domenico Di Donato, Fabrizio Intravaia, Linda Morra, and Lidia Russo
Presentation on the poetry of Corrado Mastropasqua by Professor Filippo Salvatore
Master of Ceremony: Marco Luciani Castiglia
Refreshments to follow presentations
www.guernicaeditions.com

20 MARZO / TORONTO

Agata De Santis' documentary film, *Mal'occhio [The Evil Eye]* will screen at Toronto's Female Eye Film Festival, as part of the "Supernatural Shorts and Feature" program on Sunday, March 20, from 11:00AM to 1:00PM at the Rainbow Cinemas Market Square, located at 80 Front Street. www.redheadproductions.com

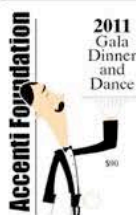
23 MARZO / TORONTO

AICW members and Italian Canadian writers interested in membership are invited to attend the *Books and Biscotti* reception in the Lower Gallery of the Columbus Centre, at 901 Lawrence Ave West (at Dufferin St) in Toronto, on Tuesday, March 23, 2011, from 7:00 to 10:00 PM. Light refreshments will be served. Writers interested in putting their books on display must contact Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni before March 20. Email: casa.digiovanni@sympatico.ca

2 APRILE / MONTREAL

The Accenti Magazine Foundation invites you to a special evening of entertainment!

Accenti Foundation
CULTURE • COMMUNITY • COMMITMENT



2nd annual Gala Dinner and Dance
Saturday, April 2, 2011
Buffet Roma, 8050 de Chamilly
(corner Jarry), St Leonard, Quebec
Cocktails at 5:30PM
Dinner at 7:00PM
Tickets: \$90 – includes cocktails, five-course meal, open bar and espresso bar all evening, midnight

buffet and fabulous prizes!

To purchase tickets online go to www.accenti.ca
Or reserve by email at lcanton@accenti.ca or (514) 329-3254, ext 106.

27 – 29 APRILE / UDINE

Prof. Anna Pia De Luca, President of the Canadian Cultural Centre of the University of Udine, will be hosting the conference "The Canadian Cultural Mosaic as Metaphor" on April 27 to 29, 2011. The program includes an exhibit of works by Italian Canadian visual artists François Morelli and Juliana Pivato, readings by Caterina Edwards, Licia Canton, Genni Gunn, and George Elliott Clarke, and papers by Joseph Pivato, Roberto Perin, Linda Morra and Smaro Kamboureli. Keynote speaker is Olga Zorzi Pugliese. For further information, please visit http://ccc.uniud.it/files/ccc/programma_mosaic.pdf.

28 APRILE / TORONTO

Join the (Not So) Nice Italian Girls & Friends for an evening of readings of poetry and prose on April 28, 2011, at 7:30PM at the Annex Live, 296 Brunswick Ave in Toronto (south of Bloor). The evening will feature Michelle Alfano, Anthony DeSa, Luigi Monteferrante, Giovanna Riccio and others! For more information please go to: <http://notsoniceitaliangirls.blogspot.com>.



29 APRILE / MONTREAL

The Accenti Magazine Awards 2011 will take place at the Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival on Friday, April 29, 2011, at 7:00PM, at the Holiday Inn Select Downtown Hotel, 99 Viger Avenue West, in Montreal.

The 6th Accenti Magazine Awards celebrate the winners of the 6th writing contest and the 4th photo competition.

Host: Stephanie Coco-Palermo

Awards presentation: first prize (\$1000), second prize (\$250) and third prize (\$100).

Readings of winning entries and display of winning photos.

Free admission. All are welcome.

www.accenti.ca

www.bluemetropolis.org



30 APRILE / MONTREAL

The Association of Italian Canadian Writers presents "Rhythm & Rhyme – The Musicality of Words" at the 13th Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival

Saturday, April 30, 2011, at 6:00PM

At the Holiday Inn Select Downtown Hotel, 99 Viger Avenue West, in Montreal

Host: Giovanna Riccio

Readings by: Ralph Alfonso, D.C. Iannuzzi, Ilona Martonfi, Carmelo Militano, Luigi Monteferrante, Cristina Perissinotto. Music: Glen Hall, Luigi Monteferrante.

Free admission. All are welcome.

Info: luigimonteferrante@yahoo.com

The 13th annual Blue Metropolis Festival runs April 27 to May 1. For details: www.bluemetropolis.org.

4 MAGGIO / BANGOR

Prof. Laura Rorato of Bangor University will host a seminar on Italian Canadian Studies in Bangor, North Wales. Speakers include Lica Canton, Anna Pia De Luca, Caterina Edwards, Deborah Saidero and Maria Cristina Seccia.

12 MAGGIO / MONTREAL

Mark your calendar...

AICW presents *Arte Montreal* on Thursday, May 12, 2011, from 6:00PM to 10:00PM, at the Casa D'Italia, 505 Jean Talon est, in Montreal

The interdisciplinary event will feature an art exhibit, readings, and a film screening. More details to come.

5 al 14 AGOSTO / MONTREAL

Mark your calendar...

The 2011 *Settimana Italiana di Montreal* - Montreal's Italian Week - will take place August 5 - 14, 2011.

This year, Settimana Italiana will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Unification of Italy. There will be exhibits, concerts, and the 4th annual AICW literary event.

This year's theme is *Esperienza*. There will be a \$250.00 prize for the best text (poetry, prose) written on this theme and what it represents for the Italian community. The prize shall be given during the literary event. Writers are invited to participate. AICW member Margherita Morsella will be sending out further details in the months to come.

**Submit
your news
and event
announcements
to the next
AICW Newsletter**

Submission deadline:
May 16, 2011

Publish date:
June 6, 2011

Email our editor at
[agata@
redheadproductions.com](mailto:agata@redheadproductions.com)

ARTE MONTREAL: GENERATION 2.0

Deadline: March 10, 2011

Submission Fee: \$15.00 CAD
(FREE for AICW members in good standing)
Event: May 12, 2011, Casa D'Italia, Montreal
Organized by the AICW

Arte Montreal is a multidisciplinary event that reflects the theme – Generation 2.0 – in all its expressive forms: writing, painting, sculpture, video, design, photography, graphics, and dance.

Artwork Submission Guidelines: Each artist may submit a maximum of 5 pieces. Please include: Artwork title(s); Artwork image(s) in either jpg, gif, or pdf; Artwork description (year, technique, etc.); Your bio (max 75 words written in third person); Your contact information. Selected artworks must be ready for display (framed or on canvas). Minimum size required for display is 16" x 20".

Writing Submission Guidelines: Each writer may submit any genre of writing – fiction, non-fiction, prose, or poetry, written in English, Italian, or French, published or unpublished. Poets may submit 3 to 5 poems (max. 40 lines each). Writers of Fiction/Non-Fiction must submit 1 text (max. 1000 wds). Please include: Title of work; Description of work (including year of completion or publication); Your bio (max 75 words written in third person); Your contact info. Selected writings will be limited to a reading of up to 6 minutes in length.

Please email your submissions to:
artemontreal@aicw.ca

Submission Fee: We only accept cheques at this time. Please send a cheque made out to Association of Italian Canadian Writers to:
Association of Italian Canadian Writers
7181 Beaubien, P.O. Box 41, Montreal QC H1M 2Y2

Writers and artists whose works are selected are **REQUIRED** to be present at the event (at their own cost). All artwork and reading proposals will be reviewed by a panel of judges. All applicants will be informed of the submission results in the first week of April.

2011 BRISTOL SHORT STORY PRIZE

Deadline: March 31, 2011

The 2011 Bristol Short Story Prize is open to all writers, UK and non-UK based, over 16 years of age. Stories can be on any theme or subject and entry can be made online via the website or by post. Entries must be previously unpublished with a maximum length of 3,000 words (There is no minimum).

The entry fee is £7 (about 11 CAD) per story. Full details at www.bristolprize.co.uk.

2011 LEVIS PRIZE IN POETRY

Deadline: March 31, 2011

Submission is open to all poets, regardless of their publication history. The judge will be Claudia Rankine. The prize winner will be awarded publication of a book-length collection and \$1000. Submissions accepted on-line (preferred) and by mail.

www.fourwaybooks.com.

LEAPFROG 2011 FICTION CONTEST

Deadline: May 1, 2011

Entry fee: \$30.

Adult fiction: literary and mainstream novels, novellas, and short-story collections, minimum 22,000 words. First prize: Publication contract offer with advance, plus finalist awards. Finalists: \$150 plus manuscript critique by finalist judges. Judges are Marge Piercy and the Leapfrog editorial staff. <http://www.leapfrogpress.com/contest.htm>

GUERNICA EDITIONS POET TO POET ANTHOLOGY

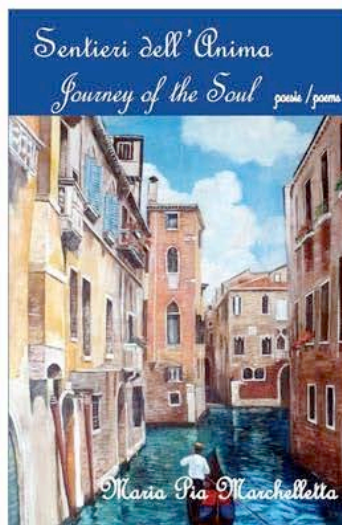
Deadline: June 30, 2011

Guernica Editions is seeking submissions for an anthology of poems devoted to poets. The anthology will comprise poems by Canadian poets for (about, or inspired by) other poets (not necessarily Canadian), accompanied by short prose pieces that tell the back story behind the poems. We're looking for poems of any genre of up to 60 lines, together with back stories of up to 250 words. The poems can be about poets living or dead, Canadian or non-Canadian. They can be experiential or speculative, sad, serious, humorous, or light, narrative or non-narrative, or any combination thereof – as long as they move us. Each poem must be accompanied by a back story telling what prompted the writing of the poem. Previously published pieces are admissible, provided the writer holds the copyright, but we prefer new/unpublished work.

Send 1 to 3 poems, each with an accompanying back story, to Michael Mirolla – either as a Word Doc email attachment to michaelmirolla@guernicaeditions.com – with "Poet to Poet Anthology" typed in the subject line – or by post to Guernica Editions, 489 Strathmore Blvd., Toronto, ON M4C 1N8. Please write "Poet to Poet Anthology" on the envelope. Email submissions are preferred. The authors of the selected poems and accompanying back stories will receive as payment two copies of the anthology, and will also enjoy a 40% discount on additional copies. www.guernicaeditions.com



IN STAMPA



SENTIERI DELL'ANIMA: JOURNEY OF THE SOUL

By Maria Pia Marchelletta

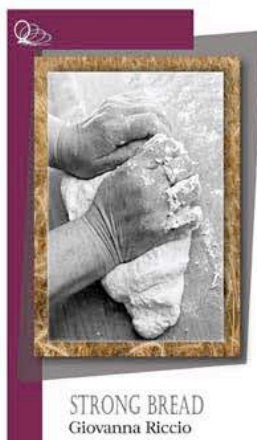
www.inourwords.ca

Advance Review

Le poesie di Maria Pia scritte con umiltà e sensibilità mettono in evidenza i racconti provenienti dall'intimità familiare. Le sue poesie sono esposte con un linguaggio semplice e lineare, piene della sua eccezionale fantasia e spesso evidenziano il desiderio malinconico di ritrovare le certezze ed i riscontri dei messaggi che ha nascosto nella memoria. Maria Pia's poetry articulates familial intimacy with keen sensibility and humility. Her poetic expression is simple, linear to an intensely perceptive imagination and accentuates the melancholic unearthing of the subliminal messaging of memory.

- Prof. Giuseppe Cappa, Basilicata, Italy

Maria Pia Marchelletta is a teacher, poet, artist, writer, editor, translator, and cultural event organizer. Her first collection of poems, *On the Wings of Dawn*, was released in 2009.



STRONG BREAD

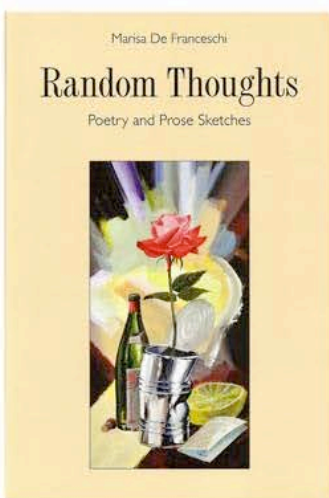
By Giovanna Riccio

Quattro Books / www.quattrobooks.ca

In *Strong Bread*, the elegantly crafted works of social and psychological realism, counterpointed with expressionistic and surrealistic textures, employ a language teeming with images, ideas and rhythms. This versatile book of travel poems, portrait, a long dramatic monologue, epistolary, and catalogue pieces will leave the reader emotionally and intellectually gratified.

Giovanna Riccio is a poet whose works have appeared in anthologies, newspapers, magazine and journals including *Descant* and *CV2*. Giovanna lives in Toronto where she organizes reading events.

The book will be launched in Montreal at the Blue Metropolis Festival, and in Toronto on May 17, 2011.



RANDOM THOUGHTS: POETRY AND PROSE SKETCHES

By Marisa De Franceschi

Longbridge Books / www.longbridgebooks.com

A welcome addition to Canadian literature, *Random Thoughts* is a collection of short prose sketches which express the often complicated feelings one may have for sons, daughters, husbands, sisters, friends, and the world at large. The sketches are sometimes lighthearted and whimsical, but they can also be poignant expressions of disappointment, disbelief, and distaste for what the writer is witness to. Although the tone may vary from piece to piece, the overwhelming drive and goal is to spotlight situations that will cause the reader to ponder what is really happening beneath the surface. The author's priorities are to entertain but also to encourage a rethinking of our relationships.

"These thoughts may be random, but they cut to the heart of life and allow the truth to bleed out," says author Margaret Haffner. "De Franceschi takes a moment, a feeling, an event and examines it inside and out under a warm, but

oh so probing light. The details of our lives may be different but everyone will find a resonance with her analyses. Her words present a melody of life set to verbal music composed by a master. *Random Thoughts* is a must read that you will return to again and again."

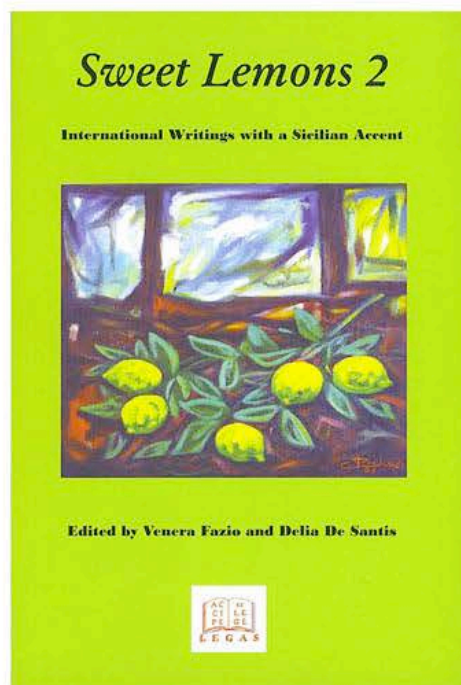
**PENANCE IS FOR THE WEAK**

By D. C. Iannuzzi

Longbridge Books / www.longbridgebooks.com

In *Penance Is For The Weak* – the sequel to *City of Sinners* – the murky worlds of municipal politics and organized crime collide to weave a tale of corrosive greed, blind ambition and ruthless retribution. Employing a writing style that reveals his shameless devotion to the film noir genre, D. C. Iannuzzi brings the raw emotions of his narrative to the fore through characterization, setting and tone. Iannuzzi earned Bachelor of Engineering and MBA degrees from Concordia University and, when he's not contemplating the darkness that lurks in men's souls, he earns his living as an Investment Advisor and Portfolio Manager. He lives in the former Ville d'Anjou on the island of Montreal with his wife and two daughters.

Penance Is For The Weak will be launched April 30th in Montreal, at the Blue Metropolis Festival.

**SWEET LEMONS 2:****INTERNATIONAL WRITINGS WITH A SICILIAN ACCENT**

Edited by Venera Fazio and Delia De Santis

Legas

Sweet Lemons 2: International Writings with a Sicilian Accent is a 400-page anthology, edited in Southwestern Ontario, with contributions from close to 90 authors.

Published by Legas of New York, but edited in Canada by Bright's Grove residents and AICW members Delia De Santis and Venera Fazio, the anthology celebrates Sicilian writers, culture, and immigrant experiences and includes the work of a number of award-winning writers.

"Encouraged by the success of the first *Sweet Lemons* anthology published in 2004, co-editor Delia De Santis and I decided a second volume might be equally rewarding," says Fazio. "The first volume sold out. It featured American and Canadian writers, was included on the Best of Sicily web site and was chosen by the magazine Italian America as one of their best picks for summer reading, 2006. For this second volume, the first of its kind, we took advantage of global networking and included not only North American writers but also authors of Sicilian heritage from other English speaking countries

such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. A few of Sicily's renowned authors, such as Andrea Camilleri, Elio Vittorini and Maria Messina (Medal of Gold, award winner) appear in English translation."

Roughly one-third of the contributors are Canadian and a number of them belong to the AICW. AICW members include Kenneth Scambray (preface), Darlene Madott, Bruna Di Giuseppe-Bertoni, John Calabro, Domenico Capilongo, Anna Foschi, Carmen Laurenza Ziolkowski, Michelle Alfano, Carmelo Militano, Salvatore Ala, Licia Canton, Jim Zuccherro, Loretta Gatto-White, Isabella Calalillo Katz and Giovanna M.R. Capozzi.

"Delia and I are also pleased to include the work of two American Book Award winners, Maria Mazziotti Gillan and Daniela Gioseffi as well as a contribution by Inge Israel, who was named Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France)," adds Fazio.

"As in the first book, this second volume explores the complexities of a Sicilian heritage. We know, for example, that Sicilians are often painted with a broad Mafiosi brush and that's one of the common myths about Sicilians that both books dispel. Like the first book, we believe this second one will also strike a cord with readers wanting to connect to their Sicilian heritage. For readers not familiar with Sicily, they will discover a unique island with a complex culture and a potent hold over her offsprings wherever they may live."

Books are available from Amazon.com, the editors, vfazio5@cogeco.ca, deliadesantis@yahoo.com, and the publisher, Gaetano Cipolla (gcipolla@optonline.net).

For further information contact Venera Fazio 519-869-2725 and /or Delia De Santis 519-869-6852



F.G. BRESSANI LITERARY PRIZE 2010 WINNERS

The Italian Cultural Centre is proud to announce the winners of the 2010 edition of the biennial F. G. Bressani Literary Prize.

POETRY Winner: Pasquale Verdicchio, *This Nothing's Place*. Shortlisted: Laurent Fadanni, *Cartographie Du Vertige*; Tina Biello, *Momenti*; Domenico Capilongo, *I Thought Elvis Was Italian*

FICTION Winner: Michael Mirolla, *Berlin*

Shortlisted: Lina Medaglia, *The Demons of Aquilonia*; Mary Melfi, *Italy Revisited*

SHORT FICTION Winner: Michelle Alfano, *Made Up of Arias*. Shortlisted: Michael Mirolla, *Fathers and Sons*

EMIGRATION FROM ITALY Winner: Caterina Edwards, *Finding Rosa*. Shortlisted: Ray Culos Vancouver, *Shoeshine Boys*

Awards were presented in November at the Italian Cultural Centre. The Italian Cultural Centre Society established the Biennial F. G. Bressani Literary Prize in 1986 during the celebrations for Vancouver's Centennial and the launch of the First National Conference of Writers. The 2010 Edition of the Bressani Prize was organized by the Italian Cultural Centre in collaboration with Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Vancouver and Regione Lazio Cultural Society.

Photo courtesy of Pasquale Verdicchio

BEHIND THE YELLOW DOOR

By Ilona Martonfi

It is Thursday evening at The Yellow Door and you are hearing poets and prose writers reading from their work. They stand just a few feet away from you. It is as though you are in someone's basement.

As founder, producer and host, I have been running The Yellow Door Poetry and Prose Reading Series since January 1999. I remember that our first reading was standing room only, and it has been great ever since. I enjoy networking and community-building with poets. I also host The Visual Arts Centre Reading Series at the McClure Gallery and co-host Lovers and Others, which will be held this year at Café Sarajevo.

The Yellow Door is home to folk stars, spoken word artists, and poets. Simplicity and hard work keep audiences coming back. Over the years, the coffee house has hosted the likes of Margaret Atwood, Leonard Cohen and Rufus Wainwright.

A typical Yellow Door season runs from August to May and consists of roughly 12 shows. The series receives financial support from the Canada Council for the Arts and The League of Canadian Poets. Twenty-five to 35 people attend our shows. A couple of times a year, we have a full house of about 50. Part performance, part acoustic experience, The Yellow Door always delivers the poetry. The authors' enthusiasm for their work is matched by the appreciative audience. The series has featured talented Montreal poets and prose writers including Governor General award winner Hugh Hazelton, Michael Mirolla, Catherine Kidd, Paul Serralheiro, Stephen Morrissey, Carolyn Zonailo, Endre Farkas, Carolyn Marie Souaid, and others. We have had musicians, as well as writers from out of town.

Sometimes publishers from Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver contact me to book one of their writers. Spoken word artist, Ian Ferrier, who has performed at numerous shows believes that The Yellow Door has been kind to the literary scene. Poet Carolyn Zonailo, who has read at The Yellow Door many times over the past ten years observed that it has a "collective sort of soul feeling."

The Yellow Door is located at 3625 Aylmer Street, in Montreal. Tel: 514-939-4173. ilona.martonfi@sympatico.ca

Originally published at www.poetry-quebec.com

Photo by Wilbert Dauphin





ITALIAN IMMIGRATION AND OUR DAILY BREAD: A POEM

By Maria Luisa Ierfino

I would like to dedicate this poem, "Daily Bread," to Father Tarcisio (Terry) Bagatin of the Scalabrinian Order. He was a Pastor at Our Lady of Pompeii Church when it was first built in Montreal in the late sixties, overseeing the construction and the congregation. A dedicated Scalabrinian for over fifty years he is also a published author, having published collections of poetry and cookbooks.

He now resides in Staten Island, New York, where there is a Centre for Migration Studies, founded by the Scalabrinian Order. It is considered a virtual think tank that supports scholarly research and public advocacy on immigration issues.

The focus of the Scalabrinian Order is to help the migrants around the world feel welcome and "at home." Oftentimes unscrupulous emigration agents would exploit the immigrants within their own countries. Leaving their native land with little or no money, the immigrants did not always speak the language of their chosen country and they would bid farewell to their families and to everything they grew to love.

The Scalabrinians aid the immigrants and their causes and help them "keep the faith." They help them get started in their newly promised land, ensure they have their daily bread and encourage them to live in congregation so they can help each other.

In Montreal, many of the early Italian immigrants congregated in the Goose Village (Goose Village, "u villaggiu" was the area adjacent to the historic Victoria Bridge, near downtown Montreal), and to this day they have a very fond recollection of how they were one united family, grappling with the same daily challenges. They generously helped and protected each other. They lived modestly, but their love for one another, was exuberant.

Daily Bread
For Father Terry

His Holiness offers incense and bread
I humbly accept and whisper AMEN

For the Holy Bread sustains me and gives me life
And I am forever thankful for this calling

The incense raises my spirits and brings me peace
As I practice my Spiritual Ministry

I am a Missionary
I feed the hungry
I care for the sick and elderly
I provide education

I travel with the migrants
Who give me hope
Because they are my daily bread

POSTSCRIPT: In 2012, the AICW conference will be held in Halifax where thousands of immigrants first landed in Canada (Pier 21) after many hopeful days at sea.

MODULO DI ADESIONE



AICW

c/o Michael Mirolla
7 McMullen Drive
Stouffville, ON L4A 7X4
Canada

Cheques should be made out to the name of the association. (Overseas: please send money orders)

Les chèques doivent être faits au nom de l'association (À l'étranger : il est préférable d'envoyer des mandats)

Gli assegni dovrebbero essere intestati all'associazione (Estero: si prega di inviare vaglia)

For further information, contact/ Pour plus d'information, contacter/ Per ulteriori informazioni, contattare: *Michael Mirolla; e-mail: michael.mirolla@alumni.ubc.ca*

Kindly pass this information along to other writers and artists who might be interested.

Nous vous prions de passer cette information aux autres écrivains et artistes pouvant être intéressés.

Si prega di diffondere queste informazioni agli altri scrittori e artisti che potrebbero essere interessati.

Definitions:
Definizioni:

(\$75) Voting member is a writer/author whose works has been published or exhibited. Benefits: vote, invitations to speak/read at events, recognition on the web site.

Socio con diritto di voto si intende uno/a scrittore/scrittrice o autore/autrice le cui opere siano state pubblicate o esibite. Vantaggi: diritto di voto, inviti a lettura e/o interventi durante avvenimenti letterari, biografia sul sito web.

(\$50) Associate/Friend: Someone who just wants to receive info from AICW, but does not care to vote, be invited to events or have his or her bio on the site.

Associato/Amico: Chi desidera ricevere informazioni dalla AICW ma non intende votare, ricevere inviti per gli avvenimenti o avere la propria biografia sul sito web.

(\$25) Published or unpublished/full-time student with ID.

Studenti a tempo pieno muniti di tesserino studentesco, con opere pubblicate e non pubblicate

(\$100) Supporter is anyone who wants to support the AICW. Receives info if so desires.

Socio Sostenitore: chiunque desideri sostenere l'AICW. Riceve informazioni se lo desidera.



ASSOCIATION OF ITALIAN-CANADIAN WRITERS
ASSOCIATION DES ECRIVAIN(E)S ITALO-CANADIEN(NE)S
ASSOCIAZIONE SCRITTORI/SCRITTRICI ITALO-CANADESI

Membership Form/ Formulaire d'adhésion/ Modulo di adesione

Name/Nom/Nome:
Address/Adresse/Indirizzo:
Postal Code/Code Postal/Codice Postale:
Tel. (Res)/Tél. (Rés)/.....
Tel. (Bus)/Tél. (Com)/Tel. (Lav.):
Fax:
E-mail:
Area of interest/Zone d'intérêt/Campo di attività letteraria:

CDN \$ 75.00 /\$75.00 (\$130 for two-year membership)
(Voting Member/Membre avec droit de vote/Socio con diritto di voto)

CDN \$ 50.00 /\$50.00 (\$80 for two-year membership)
(Non-voting Member - Associate)/(Membre sans droit de vote - Associé)/(Socio senza diritto di voto - Socio)

CDN \$ 25.00 /\$25.00
(Non-voting Member - Student)/(Membre sans droit de vote - Étudiant/-e)/(Socio senza diritto di voto - Studente)

CND \$ 100.00/\$100.00
(Supporter/ Supporteur/ Socio Sostenitore)

We need your voice and we need your support!/Nous avons besoin de votre voix et de votre soutien!/ Abbiamo bisogno della tua voce e del tuo sostegno!

Please mail the completed form accompanied by a cheque or money order to:

S'il vous plaît envoyer le formulaire complétée accompagnée d'un chèque ou un mandat à :

Si prega di inviare per posta il modulo completato, accompagnato da un assegno o un vaglia a: