



**Newsletter / Bollettino**  
**June 2011 / Issue 59**

**Association of  
Italian Canadian Writers  
Executive**

**President  
Licia Canton**

**Vice-President  
Jim Zucchero**

**Secretary  
Connie Guzzo-McParland**

**Treasurer  
Michael Mirolla**

**Communications Officer  
Luigi Monteferrante**

**Newsletter Editor  
Agata De Santis**

**Editorial Board  
Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni,  
Anna Foschi, Maria Ierfino  
& Alberto Mario DeLogu**

**Past President  
Venera Fazio**

## NOTA DELLA PRESIDENTE

Dear Members and Friends,

There's a birthday coming up: the AICW turns 25 in 2011! Our Association was founded at the Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver, in 1986. We are interested in hearing from members: send us your ideas for celebrating the AICW's 25th anniversary ([info@aicw.ca](mailto:info@aicw.ca)).



As this issue of our quarterly newsletter shows, there's a lot going on within our Association. Our writers are launching books, working on the next story or essay or conference paper and, on the executive, we are working on creating venues to feature these works. This spring, three very successful events were organized: Books and Biscotti (March 23), Arte Montreal (May 12) and the AICW event at Blue Met (April 30).

AICW members on our email list have recently received Calls to read at Montreal's Italian Week, to enter our writing contest (PAGE 6) and to participate at the 14th AICW biennial conference to be held at Dalhousie University, Halifax, March 23 to 25, 2012. The conference theme "Back to the Future" (PAGE 6) is open to interpretation, and we look forward to a record number of members attending the conference. Please feel free to forward the information to other writers and colleagues.

The AICW, in partnership with Guernica Editions and Accenti Magazine, has received a grant from Canadian Heritage – under the Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP) – to produce an anthology of creative writing and a scholarly volume on the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War (PAGE 6). The grant has allowed us to hire a part-time Project Manager. We have hired Agata De Santis, whose CV and experience stood out among the ten applications received.

Please consider submitting to one or both of these books. If you would like to know more, please write to [projectmanager@aicw.ca](mailto:projectmanager@aicw.ca).

And finally, the AICW has a Facebook presence: join us at Association of Italian Canadian Writers and at AICW Remembers the Internment of Italian Canadians.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a wonderful summer!

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

**Renew your membership with the AICW!**

**Become a member!**

[www.aicw.ca](http://www.aicw.ca)



## PASQUALE VERDICCHIO AWARDED FELLOWSHIP

Pasquale Verdicchio was recently awarded a Fellowship through the Institute of Advanced Studies at Warwick University, in the UK. To read details about the May visit, please go to: [http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross\\_fac/ias/visitingfellows/2010-11alpha/verdicchio/](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/ias/visitingfellows/2010-11alpha/verdicchio/)

Congratulations to Pasquale!

## UN NUOVO LIBRO IN OMAGGIO ALLA "SICILIA BEDDA" Anna Foschi Ciampolini

La Sicilia, ricca di tradizioni secolari, crocevia di culture diverse che si sono espresse in una fioritura artistica di enorme splendore, ha sempre fornito ispirazione a poeti e scrittori. Sparsi per il mondo, i Siciliani hanno diffuso la loro arte e il loro calore nei paesi dove il loro duro lavoro li ha ricompensati con la prosperità.

Due scrittrici italo-canadesi residenti a Sarnia, Ontario, Venera Fazio, siciliana purosangue e Delia de Santis, che lo è per affinità letteraria, hanno messo insieme nel 2006 un primo volume dedicato alla Sicilia, dal titolo *Sweet Lemons: Writings With A Sicilian Accent*, pubblicato da Legas-Sicilian Studies (Ottawa, New York). La rivista Italian America lo scelse come uno dei migliori libri dell'estate 2006. Incoraggiate dal successo dell'antologia e dalle numerose richieste di "bis", hanno da poco dato alle stampe il secondo volume di *Sweet Lemons: International Writings With A Sicilian Accent*, sempre con Legas, che raccoglie anche opera di scrittori non di origine siciliana ma che alla Trinacria si sono ispirati. Più di quaranta autori figurano in questa nuova antologia che offre una lettura affascinante, varia e avvincente fatta di racconti, poesie, memorie autobiografiche, saggi contemporanei e brani da opera di celebri scrittori siciliani come Elio Vittorini, Luigi Capuana, Andrea Camilleri ed altri. Citando dalla prefazione di Kenneth Scambray: "Sweet Lemons 2 is a collective resistance against the erasure of the Italian immigrant and post-immigrant narrative."

Tre scrittori locali sono stati inclusi nell'antologia: Sam Migliore, di famiglia originaria di Racalmuto, antropologo medico-visuale e docente a Kwantleen University con il brano: "Li Puci", Margaret d'Orazio Migliore, anch'essa antropologa culturale, con "Sicilian Oranges" e Anna Foschi Ciampolini con il racconto "A Travel Imagined." Con la collaborazione del Centro Italiano, l'Associazione Scrittori/Scrittrici Italo-Canadesi e il Club Siciliano è stato possibile organizzare una serata di sapore e colore prettamente siciliano per celebrare il lancio di *Sweet Lemons 2*. I tre autori hanno infatti letto brani dalle proprie opere durante la serata letteraria del 19 marzo scorso, tenuta nella sala del Museo del Centro Culturale Italiano, in occasione della Festa di San Giuseppe e del banchetto organizzato dal Club Siciliano. Per l'occasione e con molta gentilezza, la dinamica Presidentessa dei Siciliani, Stella Di Giorgio ha accettato di fare la presentatrice della serata. Stella, che indossava per l'occasione un bellissimo e vivace costume caratteristico dell'isola, ha introdotto gli autori e si è presa cura di promuovere l'acquisto delle copie del libro.

I volumi sono disponibili per l'acquisto presso il Centro Italiano e ci auguriamo che il pubblico, siciliano e non, si regali il piacere di una buona lettura.

## ARTE MONTREAL

On Thursday, May 12, the AICW held its first ever Arte Montreal at the Casa D'Italia. The evening featured an exhibit of art work (by Faustina Angiolina Bilotta, Frank Caracciolo, Adriana Coluccio, Loretta Giannetti, Ida Marinaro Fanzolato, Nadia Mytnik, and Fidel Ponce Ccana); five readings (by Tina Biello, Emilio Francescucci, Luigi Monteferrante, Michaela Di Cesare, and D.C. Iannuzzi); live music performed by SuperNova & The Big Red Giants; and finally a screening of the documentary film, *Mal'occhio*, by Agata De Santis. AICW members gathered for a social dinner the following evening.





## AN UPDATE FROM FRANK CANINO IN BUFFALO, NY

### READINGS

*Passing Through Forbidden Places* had its first public reading in the New Approach Playwright Festival in New York on February 22. The event was co-sponsored by Locus Theatre and Sink Or Swim Rep.

On April 25, The Drawing Board, a group of theatre professionals in New York, did a reading of *A Fine Week in Goa*, the screenplay which won first place in WildSound Canada's international competition last year.

Theatre of the Elephant staged an invitational reading of *16671* for Holocaust Remembrance Day, May 1, in New York at the Roy Arias Studio. Admission was free as a gift to the GLBT community, and their families & friends, in honour of the day.

### PRODUCTIONS

Love Creek Productions staged *Sara Plays Her Game*, on a program of short plays, May 20 to 22, at The Producers' Club in New York.

Three more Texas high schools produced *The Angelina Project* for the state competition this spring. This brings to sixteen the number of Angelina productions in the Lone Star State over the last six years.

### SCREENINGS

*Looking for Angelina*, inspired by my play, *The Angelina Project*, was shown again on PBS [Buffalo & Toronto] as the late night movie in December, January, and again in April.

## CANADIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE @ UNIVERSITY OF UDINE

From April 27 to 29, Anna Pia De Luca, President of the Canadian Cultural Centre of the University of Udine, hosted the conference, "The Canadian Cultural Mosaic as Metaphor." The program included readings by Caterina Edwards, Licia Canton and George Elliott Clarke; an exhibit of works by François Morelli and Juliana Pivato; and papers by Deborah Saidero, Joseph Pivato, Roberto Perin, Linda Morra, Olga Zorzi Pugliese, Smaro Kamboureli and Coral Ann Howells.



## ITALIAN-CANADIAN LITERATURE AND TRANSLATION IN BOLOGNA AND SIENA

On April 20, Prof. Elena Lamberti and Giuliana Gardellini organized a lecture series at the University of Bologna. Gabriella Iacobucci spoke about



"Translating Otherness: from Italy to Canada and Return and" and Licia Canton gave a presentation on "Writing Otherness, Bridging Cultures: Italian Accents in Canadian Literature." On April 21, at the Centro Siena Toronto, Prof. Laura Ferri hosted a translation workshop with translator G. Iacobucci and author L. Canton, whose stories in the collection *Almond Wine and Fertility* were translated into Italian by Filippo Mariano, Moira Mini, Francesca Noni, Marta Romanini and Tiziana Tampellini.



## ITALIAN-CANADIAN LITERATURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BANGOR

Maria Cristina Seccia

On the 4th of May a full-day seminar on Italian Canadian Writing was held at the University of Bangor in the United Kingdom. Caterina Edwards talked about her experience as a writer and read from *Finding Rosa*. Licia Canton presented "Books and Biscotti: What's New in Italian Canadian Writing" and read from *Almond Wine and Fertility*, "short stories for women and their men." Anna Pia De Luca and Deborah Saidero, from the University of Udine, gave papers on the transculturality of Italian Canadian women writers. The event was Initiated by Ph.D. candidate Maria Cristina Seccia and hosted by Prof. Laura Rorato, head of Italian at Bangor University. It was a great opportunity to promote Italian Canadian literature beyond Italy and Canada.



NOTIZIE





## ACCENTI MAGAZINE AWARDS 2011 WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The sixth annual Accenti Magazine Awards were held on April 29, 2011, at the 13th Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival. Hosted by actress and writer Stephanie Coco-Palermo and Publisher Domenic Cusmano, the 2011 Awards featured the winners of the sixth writing contest and of the fourth photo competition, "Capture an Italian Moment."

The winner of the Accenti Photo Competition and the recipient of the \$1000 prize is Marcel van Balken of Amstelveen, the Netherlands, with his photo "Fiat Garage Rome." Vincent de Groot of Saint Louis, France, won second prize for "Rome-Art." Robert Norton of Streetsville, Ontario, won third prize for "Guanti Bianchi." The judges were Agata De Santis, Amy Occhipinti and Marisa Portolese.

The winner of the Accenti Writing Contest and the recipient of the \$1000 prize is Elizabeth Cinello of Toronto with her entry "Food Companion Wanted." Nuala Ni Chonchuir of Ballinasloe, Ireland, won second prize with "Moon Hill." Terri Favro of Toronto won third prize for "Flora and Bruno." Honourable Mention went to Federico Moramarco of San Diego, California, for "The Surprise of Old Age." The judges were Carla A. Canonico, Shawn Malley, Elise Moser and Happie Testa. The reading committee included Ralph Alfonso, Liana Bellon, Delia De Santis, Loretta Gatto-White, Carmelo Militano, Luigi Monteferrante, Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni, Anne-Marie Scerbo and Carolyne Van Der Meer.

The 2011 Accenti Magazine Awards were sponsored by the Association of Italian Canadian Writers, Centro Scuola e Cultura Italiana, Columbus Centre, Italian Chamber of Commerce of Toronto.

Look for the first prize winning story and photo in the summer issue of *Accenti Magazine*. All winning stories and photos will be published in forthcoming issues of Accenti Magazine and Accenti Online.

For details and to enter the Accenti contests visit [www.accenti.ca](http://www.accenti.ca) Deadline: February 7th, 2012. Follow us on Facebook: Annual Accenti Magazine Writing Contest/Photo Competition.



### WEATHER REPORTS

By Carmelo Militano  
Olive Press

I am pleased to announce that my new poetry chapbook, *Weather Reports*, was launched at McNally-Robinson Booksellers on April 14, 2011. The launch was well attended by family and friends.

*Weather Reports* is published by Olive Press, a local co-op small press of which I am a member.

*Weather Reports, Feast Days*, a poetry collection, and *The Fate of Olives*, a prose work, are all currently available at McNally-Robinson and can be ordered by either phone or online.

### PIER GIORGIO DICICCO: ESSAYS ON HIS WORKS

Edited by Joseph Pivato  
Guernica Editions

A former president of AICW, Joseph Pivato has just published *Pier Giorgio DiCicco: Essays on His Works* (Guernica Editions). This collection includes essays by Licia Canton, Mary di Michele, Jim Zucchero, Domenic Beneventi, Linda Hutcheon and George Elliott Clarke. At the Toronto book launch on April 3, 2011, both Pier Giorgio and Joe Pivato spoke about the early development of Italian-Canadian writing.





## 2 - 30 GIUGNO / ONTARIO

Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni



June has been recognized as Italian Heritage Month by the Ontario legislature, and a died-on-the-order paper Parliamentary proclamation. The National Congress of Italian Canadians has planned a full calendar of events to mark the month. They have a website with a calendar of events. I think it would be good publicity for our writers to post any readings or book launches in June. This is a nationwide initiative, though the election call postponed the proclamation. The official website is: [www.italianheritagecanada.ca](http://www.italianheritagecanada.ca). The Event Coordinator is Donata Morandi. Her email address is: [donata@bell.net](mailto:donata@bell.net).

## 22 GIUGNO / TORONTO

Not So Nice Italian Girls and Friends presents "What Is a Man" with readings by: Valentino Assenza, Rocco de Giacomo, Luciano Iacobelli, Pasha Malla, Jason Paradiso, and Sam Pupa.  
Wednesday, June 22, 2011, 7:30 PM  
At Annex Live, 296 Brunswick Ave (south of Bloor) in Toronto.  
For further info, please visit:  
<http://notsoniceitaliangirls.blogspot.com>

## 27 & 28 GIUGNO / ONLINE

AICW REMEMBERS VIRTUAL 5 à 7  
The AICW, in partnership with Guernica Editions and Accenti Magazine, is very proud to announce the launch of *AICW Remembers the Internment of Italian Canadians*. *AICW Remembers* is a national project intended to increase public awareness and knowledge about the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War.  
The AICW is holding a virtual 5 à 7 on Monday June 27, and on Tuesday, June 28 from their offices in Montreal. Join them live from your computer at [www.ustream.tv/channel/aicw-remembers](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/aicw-remembers). This is your opportunity to learn about the project and to ask questions. Participants will be eligible to receive free copies of the AICW Remembers books.

## 29 GIUGNO / TORONTO

Wed, June 29, 2011 at Lula Lounge,  
1585 Dundas St. West, Toronto (west of Dufferin)  
Tel (416) 588-0307  
Door time: 7:00PM. Show start time: 8:00PM  
Admission: \$15  
Dinner reservations guarantee seating.

Michael Occhipinti & The Sicilian Jazz Project join forces with some of Toronto's most dynamic Italian-Canadian poets and spoken-word artists, including Domenico Capilongo, Gianna Patriarca, Luciano Iacobelli, Desi Di Nardo, Val Assenza, Giovanna Riccio, and Venus Gennaro, whose CD of Sicilian poetry features music by Dominic Mancuso. This unique evening of word and song will feature the SKP performing its own JUNO-nominated repertoire, as well as joining forces with the poets to create an improvised soundtrack.

## 12 al 14 AGOSTO / MONTREAL

The National Congress of Italian-Canadians (Québec region), in collaboration with the Association of Italian Canadian Writers, presents the fourth edition of literary activities during Montreal's Italian Week.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

4:00PM to 10:00PM  
The Writers Tent, corner St-Laurent & Mozart  
MEET THE WRITERS. AICW members will be in Little Italy to present their works, discuss their books, and answer questions about writing.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

12:00PM to 10:00PM  
The Writers Tent, corner St-Laurent & Mozart  
MEET THE WRITERS continues

1:30PM to 3:00PM  
The Gazebo, corner St-Laurent & St-Zotique  
READINGS IN THE PARK. An afternoon of readings by Italian Canadian writers.  
Prose readings by Licia Canton, D.C. Iannuzzi, & Michael Mirolla.  
Poetry readings by Ralph Alfonso, Anthony D'Addese, Frank Giorno, Ilona Martonfi, & Albino Matano.

3:00PM to 4:00PM  
The Gazebo, corner St-Laurent & St-Zotique  
AICW REMEMBERS THE INTERNMENT OF ITALIAN CANADIANS. A panel discussion on the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

12:00PM to 10:00PM  
The Writers Tent, corner St-Laurent & Mozart  
MEET THE WRITERS continues.



**AICW REMEMBERS THE INTERNMENT OF ITALIAN CANADIANS**  
**DEADLINE: August 15, 2011**

The AICW, in partnership with Guernica Editions & *Accenti Magazine* launches AICW REMEMBERS. The aim of the project is to increase public awareness and knowledge about the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War, in the hope of bringing about a greater understanding of broader issues such as racism and discrimination – in both historical and contemporary terms.

The project consists of the production and wide distribution of two companion volumes on the internment – in traditional print media and as electronic books. As well, selected material will appear in issues of *Accenti Magazine*.

One book will be devoted to scholarly material, with focus on critical analysis of the internment from a number of disciplinary perspectives, including historical, political, social, economic, legal, literary, religious and cultural analysis. The companion volume will consist of works about the internment with a creative focus: an anthology to include works in various literary genres (short fiction, memoir, poetry, and drama), and that may incorporate representation of visual arts such as photography, painting, sculpture and multimedia projects.

Academics, journalists, writers, and artists are encouraged to submit material for review. While the preference will be for unpublished works, published material will also be considered. As the books will be distributed free of charge, remuneration will consist of a copyright fee or a small honorarium for unpublished work.

For ease of consideration and distribution, please submit work as an email attachment in Word format to: [projectmanager@aicw.ca](mailto:projectmanager@aicw.ca). If submission by email is not possible, please send manuscripts (along with an electronic copy on CD or USB drive) to:

Association of Italian Canadian Writers  
7181 Beaubien  
P.O. Box 41  
Montreal, QC H1M 2Y2

Funded by the Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP)  
Citizenship and Immigration Canada

**AICW 2011 FLASH FICTION CONTEST**  
**DEADLINE: September 30, 2011**

Theme: "I'm just a stranger here myself." – finding one's bearings in a strange time, place or condition.

Maximum length: 500 words

Prizes: 1st prize – \$500; 2nd prize – \$250

Eligibility: Contest open internationally to writers of any cultural affiliation. Entries accepted in English, French, and Italian. Multiple entries welcome.

Unpublished work only - no simultaneous submissions.

Entry Fee: \$20 Canadian, and \$10 (Canadian) for AICW members for each entry.

Send cheque or money order payable to: Association of Italian Canadian Writers, to

AICW contest, c/o Michael Mirolla, 7 McMullen Drive, Stouffville, Ontario, Canada, L4A 7X4

For those with PayPal accounts the fee is \$22. Payment may be made to [mmirolla@rogers.com](mailto:mmirolla@rogers.com).

How to enter: Forward entries by email as a Word Document: double-spaced; numbered pages; title must appear on each page; entrant's name must not appear on the manuscript; include a separate cover page with title of entry, word count, author's name and contact information. Send entries to: [contest2011@aicw.ca](mailto:contest2011@aicw.ca)

Winners will be contacted by phone or email and posted on the AICW site.

**AICW 2012 CONFERENCE CALL FOR PARTICIPATION**  
**DEADLINE: October 1, 2011**

The AICW seeks submissions that engage with the theme "Back to the Future: Possibilities Since Pier 21." The conference will be held from March 23 to 25, 2012 at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS. The conference will explore what the future holds for Italian Canadian literature and culture in contemporary Canadian society, while recalling and contextualizing this progress from its origins in the Pier 21 arrival. Academics, writers and artists of all disciplines are invited to submit proposals in English, French or Italian.

Individual papers (20 min.): send a 200-word abstract and a 60-word biography. Preference will be given to critical papers based on recent publications or new work.

Panels: send a title for the panel and 200-word abstracts for each paper, as well as 60-word biographies and contact information for all panelists.

Literary readings (15 min.): send 60-word biography, a 500-word excerpt of the text to be read (prose or play) or 4 poems (max 40 lines). Preference will be given to readings (or performances) of unpublished work and forthcoming publications (released in 2012). Emerging and established writers are welcome.

Please note that once a proposal has been accepted, a conference registration fee (\$60.00) will be requested for presenters who are not AICW members in good standing.

Send submissions & queries to [conference2012@aicw.ca](mailto:conference2012@aicw.ca).