

Newsletter / Bollettino September 2011 / Issue 60

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NOTA DELLA PRESIDENTE

Dear Members and Friends.

September has arrived and deadlines are coming fast! [See Page 5]. I encourage you to enter our writing contest and to propose a reading or presentation for our 14th biennial AICW Conference to be held at Dalhousie University, Halifax, March 23-25, 2012. Please share the information with others who may be interested.

AICW members may also be interested in the international biennial short story conference organized by Prof. Maurice Lee [See Page 5]. In 2010 Michael Mirolla, John Calabro and I participated as Italian Canadian short story writers, and it was a worthy experience.



As you know, 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 two books and a series of magazine articles on the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War [See our ad on Page 4]. The project was featured during Italian Heritage Month with a virtual discussion on June 27-28. You can see the video at www.ustream.tv/channel/aicw-remembers. Information sessions and a panel discussion were also held in August during the Settimana Italiana di Montreal [See Page 2].

We have received numerous creative and critical submissions from our members and other writers. The books will be available in March 2012. As per our grant guidelines, the books will not be sold; rather, they will be donated to libraries and cultural centres. If you would like to receive a complimentary copy, or if you have questions about the project, please write to projectmanager@aicw.ca. Follow the project on Facebook and help us to increase our visitors: "like" AICW Remembers the Internment of Italian Canadians.

We are also working on the anthology titled Writing Our Way Home, which features the creative and critical writings presented at our last conference in Italy in June 2010. We plan to launch this book at our conference in Halifax.

And let's not forget our literary series "Books and Biscotti." We are looking for volunteers to organize events in various cities. If you'd like to get involved, please write to info@aicw.ca.

Behind the scenes, we have been working on the AICW website. You may have noticed the new section on the AICW Remembers Project. We have been collecting updated 75-word bios from our members – these will be online once the new site is launched, soon. Thank you for your patience thus far.

On a sad note, AICW member John Madott passed away on July 28. Our condolences to daughter Darlene and the Madott Family. John will be missed. You may recall that one of John's paintings graces the cover of our 2010 AICW anthology *Reflections on Culture*.

We are also saddened by the passing of Frank Caucci. As Joe Pivato writes on page three, Prof. Caucci translated the works of several well-known Italian Canadian writers.

As many of you know, our Association was founded 25 years ago this month. I'd like to thank everyone who has supported the AICW over the years. We hope to mark this occasion during our biennial conference in Halifax, next March. Send us your ideas for celebrating the AICW's 25th anniversary to info@aicw.ca.

A warm welcome to those who have recently become members. Thank you to long-time members for your continued support.

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

Welcome new AICW members!

David Bellusci, Tina Biello, Robert Calderisi, Adrianna Coluccio, Giulia De Gasperi, Stefania Di Iulio, Elena Lamberti, Rosanna Lopresti, Linda Morra, Oriana Palusci, Maria Piccone, and Anna Zampieri Pan.

SETTIMANA ITALIANA DI MONTREAL

The AICW had its own tent and events at this year's Settimana Italiana di Montreal. From August 12 to 14, the AICW played host in the Writers' Tent at the corner of St Laurent and Mozart streets in Little Italy, where members had an opportunity to promote and sell their books. Thanks to members and friends who volunteered at the AICW tent.

On Saturday, August 14, the AICW held *Readings in The Park*, with members Ralph Alfonso, Licia Canton, Anthony D'Addese, D.C. lannuzzi, Ilona Martonfi, Albino Matano, Michael Mirolla, and hosted by Maria Bucaro.

Later that day, the AICW held a panel discussion on the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War. Panelists included Michael Mirolla (Guernica Editions), Domenic Cusmano (Accenti Magazine), Nick Di Pietro (descendent of internee) and researcher Joyce Pillarella. This was an opportunity to promote the AICW's new project, AICW Remembers The Internment of Italian Canadians.





MAL'OCCHIO TV PREMIERE

Agata De Santis' documentary film, *Mal'occhio [The Evil Eye]*, made its Canadian television prermiere on CBC on August 20, 2011. A week before, the film had an encore screening at the Settimana Italiana di Montreal; it had premiered at the 2010 edition of the festival.

The DVD is now available for sale at community screenings and by contacting Agata directly via her website at www.redheadproductions.com. In the next few months the documentary is scheduled for Italian community screenings in Toronto, Boston, New York and Australia. Agata hopes to bring the film to as many Italian groups as possible.

NOTIZIE DI ELETTRA BEDON

Elettra Bedon, oltre a scrivere poesia e narrativa, si occupa anche di traduzione letteraria. Nel 2009 ha tradotto dall'inglese, con il titolo *La logica formale delle emozioni*, il libro *The Formal Logic of Emotions* di Michael Mirolla; nel 2010, dal francese, *In mio figlio vivrai per sempre*, dal romanzo *Guido, le roman d'un immigrant* di Rita Amabili-Rivet; nel 2011, dall'inglese, *Fratelli*, dal romanzo dallo stesso titolo di Joseph Recapito, tutti e tre per la EDARC Edizioni. Precedentemente aveva tradotto, dall'inglese, brevi lavori di autori italocanadesi e canadesi per Bibliosofia Canada.

AN UPDATE FROM FRANK CANINO

Thanks to director Irena Milos and actress Louise Tyrol who ably performed my 10-minute monologue, Sara Plays Her Game, on a program of short plays under Love Creek Productions' Brief Acts Company May 20 through May 22 at the Producers Club in New York. The production was cited for several awards, including Best Actress for Louise.

I'm back in the RLTP New Play Workshop, developing my next draft of *Passing Through Forbidden Places*. Look for news of its public reading in September in Buffalo.

Via Crucis [A Way of the Cross] screenplay on which I worked as first writer has garnered the following citations so far: Honorable Mention from The Indie Gathering International Film Festival held in August in Cleveland, OH; Quarter-Finalist from the Write Movies International Contest. Via Crucis was one of about 200 scripts selected for the citation out of 800 submissions.

Looking for Angelina had another showing on PBS [Buffalo/Toronto] on Saturday, April 9 in addition to more airings on OMNI cable in Toronto. Order your own copy, which includes an excellent 50-minute documentary, from Platinum Image Film: www.platinumimagefilm.com.

In addition, the film is slated for another showing at Toronto's Arts & Letters Club on Sunday, September 25. Check the following website for time and details: www.artsandlettersclub.ca.

The Montgomery County Women's Shelter received \$1,000 from The Woodlands High School Theatre Department from box office proceeds from their award winning stage production of *The Angelina Project* under director Connie Godwin. This was the 16th production of the play in the Texas state-wide theatre competition over the last five years. The final adjudicator commented, "Wow, wow, wow! It broke my heart. Thank you."

RITA AMABILI PRESENTA IN MIO FIGLIO VIVRAI PER SEMPRE

Lo scorso 18 giugno, nella splendida cittadina di Numana, in occasione dell'incontro annuale del Consiglio Dei Marchigiani All'Estero, l'autrice



toccato il cuore delle persone presenti.

italo canadese Rita Amabili ha presentato alla diaspora marchigiana il suo romanzo storico sull'immigrazione italiana in Canada: In Mio Figlio Vivrai Per Sempre. In presenza delle comunità italiane provenienti da 14 paesi diversi, il suo libro ha

Il giornalista della RAI Giancarlo Trapanese ha intervistato la scrittrice, ricordando agli spettatori la difficoltà dell'essere strappati dalla terra natale per andare – senza possibilità di ritorno – verso l'ignoto. Insieme, hanno rilevato le difficoltà, il coraggio, il razzismo e la miseria di questi antenati che hanno vissuto un'esperienza ancora attuale e dolorosa.

Rita Amabili è stata sorpresa e commossa nel rendersi conto, dai discorsi dei molti spettatori che l'hanno raggiunta dopo lo spettacolo, e nel corso della cena grandiosa che l'ha seguito, che il percorso umano dei suoi personaggi, disseminato nello stesso tempo di trabocchetti e di cooperazioni inaspettate, è stato comune a parecchi membri della diaspora italiana presenti al suo intermezzo culturale nel cuore dell'Italia dei suoi antenati.

ACCENTI MAGAZINE LAUNCHES ITS NEW WEBSITE

New Feature: Are you planning a poetry reading, an art exhibit, a film screening, a concert, a fundraiser? Let Accenti readers know. The Accenti Arts Calendar section is an open and free listing of cultural and artistic events – a unique opportunity to promote your activities, showcase your organization, find out what's happening on the cultural and artistic scene, and connect with people. Post your event for free!

Visit the Accenti site to read articles and to watch the 2011 Accenti Magazine Awards video: Elizabeth Cinello reads from her winning story "Food Companion Wanted" and Terri Favro reads from "Flora and Bruno." The 2012 "Italian Moments" Calendar (featuring Accenti contest photos) is now available. Visit www.accenti.ca.

IN MEMORIAM - JOHN G. MADOTT (1918 - 2011)

John Madott saw life with the passionate eye of the artist, its colour, texture, rhythm and form captured on his canvasses. He loved his family well and unconditionally, and he filled our world with laughter, opportunity and the encouragement to embrace our gifts, to take risks, to be. His perspective and vision will continue to touch all who love him and who shared life's stage with him: his wife and devoted partner of 67 years, Francesca (nee Spadafora); his daughters, Valerie (Joseph), Darlene, and Francine (Charles); his grandchildren, Vanessa, Ross, and Marcus; his extended family and friends.

Our husband and father passed away on July 28, 2011, in his 94th year. The family would like to extend a sincere thank you to the dedicated nurses, doctors and staff of York Central Hospital for their compassionate care of our father in the past five months.

We continue to see him through his landscapes, as we saw him in life: vibrant, colourful, and exhilarated by the adventure of painting each new vista.

IN MEMORIAM - FRANK CAUCCI

Frank Caucci died on August 19, 2011, in Chicago. He was a Canadian academic and translator who had taught at McGill and Acadia University but since 1986 was teaching French and Canadian Studies at Indiana University Northwest in Gary, Indiana. In 2002 Frank earned a MSW and transferred to the Division of Social Work at IUN.

He translated Pier Giorgio Di Cicco's Tough Romance into French as Les Amours difficiles (Guernica, 1990) and Mary di Michele's Bread and Chocolate into Pain et chocolat (le Noroit, 1996). These are two very creative translations. He published numerous articles on Canadian writers such as Neil Bissoondath and Marco Micone. His book Les Voix d'éros: La poésie amoureuse de Paul Éluard et Pablo Neruda, appeared in 1989 and his edited work Nancy Huston: A Critical Collection in 2008.

Many of us first met Frank Caucci at the third conference of the AICW organized by Francesco Loriggio at Carleton University (Ottawa) in 1990. He gave a paper on Di Cicco's poetry and became a strong supporter of Italian-Canadian writers. When I edited Caterina Edwards: Essays on Her Works in 2000 Frank contributed the essay"Cinderella Revisioned: The Female Persona in Caterina Edwards, Genni Gunn, and Mary di Michele." Over the years many of us lost touch with Frank.

His daughter, Emmanuelle Caucci read a Mary di Michele poem at his funeral.

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13 SETTEMBRE / MONTREAL

An Evening of Poetry, Prose & Music at the Visual Arts Centre, School of Art / McClure Gallery 350 Victoria Avenue, Montreal, Tel (514) 488-9558

Tuesday, September 13, 2011. Doors open at 7:00PM. Readings 7:30PM. Admission: \$5.00 at the door. Producer/host Ilona Martonfi. www.visualartscentre.ca

- H. Nigel Thomas, Spirits in the Dark, shortlisted for Hugh MacLennan Fiction award. Latest collection of short fiction, is Lives: Whole and Otherwise.
- Nelly Roffé, Literary translator from Spanish into French. She gives readings & conferences on poetry & exile, North African literature, & tango.
- Kelly Norah, Drukker Poetry & creative non-fiction in *The Malahat, Room* & other journals. Second prize for poetry, 2006 CBC Literary Awards.
- Harold Hoefle's debut novel, *The Mountain Clinic* (Oberon, 2008) was the finalist for the 2009 QWF Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction.
- Beverly Akerman, author of a first book of fiction, The Meaning of Children (Exile Editions, 2011).
 Winner, 2010 Richards Prize.
- Erika White writes and gardens on the island of Montreal. With R. de Smit she also runs Broken Rules Press.
- Milton Dawes One of the seven drummers who started the "tam-tam" drumming on the mountain.
 Read some of his writings at miltondawes.com.

5 OTTOBRE / TORONTO

Descant/ Sicily issue, co-edited by AICW members Michelle Alfano and Venera Fazio will be launched on Wednesday, October 5, starting at 7:00PM at Grano Restaurant, 2035 Young Street, in Toronto. This special issue of Descant features writings by a number of AICW members including Darlene Madott, Salvatore Ala and Gianna Patriarca. The evening will include readings by contributors and dinner for \$25.00 for all those who RSVP to production154@descant.ca.

9 OTTOBRE / BOSTON

Agata's De Santis' documentary film, Mal'Occhio [the evil eye] will screen as part of Boston's Italian Heritage Month festivities. The screening is hosted by Italia Unita.

Sunday, October 9, 2011
3:00PM to 5:00PM
Zumix Firehouse, 260 Sumner St,
East Boston, Ma 02128
Donation request: \$5.00 admission.
Free for *Italia Unita* members.
The screening with be followed by a Q&A with the director.
More info: www.italiaunitaorg, or www.redheadproductions.com.

25 OTTOBRE & 15 NOVEMBRE TORONTO

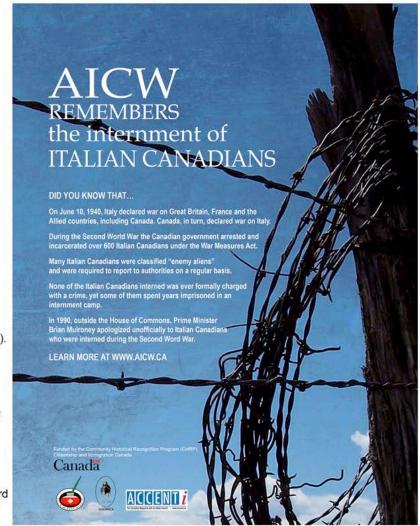
Quattro Books will be launching its Fall 2011 titles on October 25 and November 15, at 7:00PM, at the Supermarket Restaurant (268 Augusta Avenue, Toronto).

October 25:

Surrender by Peter Learn Jumping in the Asylum by Patrick Freisen Without Blue by Chris D'Iorio In The Mind's Eye by Barbara Ponomareff Rain Dance by Viktor Mitic

November 15::

When the Earth by Lisa young
Constance, Across by Richard Cumyn
And tell tulip the summer by Allan Graubard
The Ballad of Martin B. by Michael Mirolla
Mahler's Lament by Deborah Kirshner







AICW 2011 FLASH FICTION CONTEST DEADLINE: EXTENDED to October 31, 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.

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

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.

ACCENTI WRITING & PHOTO CONTESTS DEADLINE: February 7, 2012

Accenti Magazine is proud to announce its 7th Annual Writing Contest and 5th Annual Photo Contest. First Prize for each contest is \$1000 and publication in Accenti. Second and third place winners receive \$250.00 and \$100.00 respectively. Winning entries will be presented at the Accenti Magazine Awards during the 14th Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival, April 18-23, 2012.

The Accenti Magazine contests are open to all writers and photographers, established and emerging, worldwide. Accenti's writing contest is open to fiction and nonfiction on any topic; and Accenti's photo contest asks participants to "Capture an Italian Moment" anywhere in the world. Past writing contest winners include Elizabeth Cinello (2011, Toronto) Loretta Di Vita (2010, Montreal), Ivano Stocco (2009, Valencia, Spain), Paul French (2008, Toronto), Maria Francesca LoDico (2007, Montreal) and Sheila Wright (2006, Warkworth, Ontario). Photo winners include Marcel van Balken (2011, Amstelveen, The Netherlands), Amy Occhipinti (2010, Toronto), Robert T. Norton (2009, Toronto) and Nick Colarusso (2008, Montreal).

For more information, please visit www.accenti.ca.

SHORT STORY TRADITIONS: BRIDGES TO MODERNITY AND BEYOND

This conference will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, on June 27-30, 2012. The registration fee is \$250 US. AICW members interested in participating should contact Dr. Maurice Lee at MauriceL@uca.edu.

The Flower of Youth: Pier Paolo Pasolini Poems by Mary di Michele ECW Press, 2011

In 2004, Mary di Michele – a Montreal-based poet, novelist and member of the collaborative writing group, Yoko's Dogs – visited the northern Italian region of Casarsa to research an historical novel about Pier Paolo Pasolini. A highly controversial figure in life, Pasolini was an Italian film director, writer, poet and intellectual whose homosexuality and outspoken leftist political opinions frequently put him in the spotlight. His life has been the subject of numerous biographies and histories.

The Flower of Youth is by turns passionate and painful, a gay coming of age set against the backdrop of war-torn Italy, as di Michele portrays the battle within and the battle without that haunted Pasolini throughout his life. The poems follow a narrative structure loosely based on the life and feelings that Pasolini himself described in the memoir of his youth, Atti impuri or Impure Acts (published posthumously several years after his murder in 1975). This powerful collection shows di Michele to be a poet deeply interested in the dramatic voice.

Mary di Michele is the author of ten previous books, including a volume of selected poems, *Stranger in You*, and the novel *Tenor of Love*. She lives in Montreal, where she teaches at Concordia University in the creative writing program.

THE EH LIST AUTHOR SERIES will host a reading with Mary di Michele on Tuesday, October 11, at 7:00PM, at the Toronto Public Library, located at Runnymede Branch, 2178 Bloor Street West, in Toronto.

MODULO DI ADESIONE 💿





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

Area of interest/Zone d'intérêt/Campo di attività letteraria:-------------------Address/Adresse/Indirizzo: Postal Code/Code Postal/Codice Postale:------Fax E-mail: -----

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)

(Non-voting Member ·· Student)/(Membre sans droit de vote ·· Étudiant/·e)/ (Socio senza diritto di voto - Studente) CDN \$ 25.00 /\$25,00

(Supporter/ Supporteur/ Socio Sostenitore) CND \$ 100.00/\$100,00

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!

S'il vous plaît envoyer le formulaire complété accompagné d'un chèque ou un Please mail the completed form accompanied by a cheque or money order to:

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

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

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

Nous vous prions de passer cette information aux autres écrivains et artistes Kindly pass this information along to other writers and artists who might

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

Definitions:

Definizioni:

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

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 letture 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

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

(\$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

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