



**Newsletter / Bollettino
December 2012 / Issue 65**

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Italian Canadian Writers
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NOTA DELLA PRESIDENTE

Dear Members and Friends,

December seems to come around more quickly every year. The AICW and its members have been very productive in the last year. This fall in particular has seen many book launches and literary events as well as the Bressani Prize celebration. And there are always more projects to finish and to look forward to in the coming months.

In Toronto, from December 3 to January 2, you are invited to visit Columbus Centre's travelling exhibit "Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Times: Italian Canadian Experiences During World War II." (For more information please contact Louanne Aspillaga at 416-789-7011, ext. 335 or laspillaga@villacharities.com.) The exhibit will travel to eleven cities across Canada. The AICW, in partnership with Guernica Editions and *Accenti Magazine*, is proud to participate in this project which features our *Behind Barbed Wire: Creative Works on the Internment of Italian Canadians* and *Beyond Barbed Wire: Essays on the Internment of Italian Canadians* – a co-publication with Columbus Centre. You can download the free e-books at http://www.guernicaeditions.com/free_ebooks.php.

As the saying goes, if you want something done, ask a busy person for help. Our executive members have been very busy in the first few months of our new term. Delia De Santis, Giulia De Gasperi and Michael Mirolla worked on the membership committee. Agata De Santis produced the newsletter. Anna Foschi organized the AICW tent at Vancouver's Word on the Street. Giulia and Agata updated the AICW site. Venera Fazio, Maria Cristina Seccia and Domenic Cusmano began working on the 2014 conference. (It looks like it will be held in Montreal in the spring of 2014: to be confirmed.) Elena Lamberti, Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni and I completed the book, *Writing Our Way Home* (presentations and readings from the 2010 conference in Atri, Italy), which will be published by Guernica in spring 2013. Joseph Pivato and Adriana Davies organized a Books and Biscotti event in Edmonton. Other Books and Biscotti events were organized by Terri Favro, Darlene Madott and Rene Pappone. Thanks to everyone for contributing to the visibility and success of AICW activities and projects.



As you know, the Association of Italian Canadian Writers functions with a volunteer executive and we count on membership fees, which is our only source of revenue. We also accept donations.

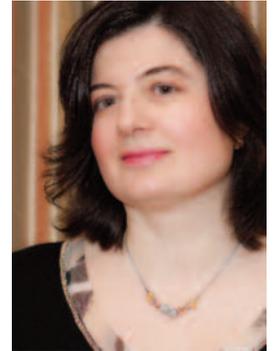
We are always ready to welcome new members: please tell your writer friends and colleagues about the AICW.

I am pleased that several members have benefitted from our discounted two-year offer. For the majority of members whose membership expires at the end of this month, I encourage you to take advantage of our two-year deal (a \$20 savings).

Thank you all for your continued support. Joyeuses fêtes! Buone Feste! Happy holidays to you and your loved ones! Best wishes for 2013!

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

**Welcome new AICW members!
Lucia Cascioli**





WEST COAST NEWS: VANCOUVER

- Anna Foschi

This year, for the first time in the Pacific Region, our Association was an exhibitor at the annual The Word on the Street Festival sponsored by the Vancouver Public Library-Central, in the heart of downtown. We had a table next to the Italian Cultural Centre's since we were both promoting and distributing our books about the Internment: *Beyond/Behind Barbed Wire* (Guernica Editions) for AICW and *InJustice Served* by Ray Culos for the Centre. By 2:00PM all the books were gone, but we continued to provide information and distribute brochures to the public. Most people had no awareness of this little-known historical episode and many expressed interest and gratitude for our effort to educate the Canadian public. It was a sunny Sunday and thousands of visitors were strolling around the Colosseum (Vancouver Central Library) enjoying the many activities offered at the Festival. It was good exposure for the AICW and our presence was made possible by our volunteers' generous donation of their time: Professor Emeritus Stefania Ciccone, her granddaughter Isabella, Mike Coviello, Director of the Italian Cultural Centre, historian Ray Culos, Editor Elspeth Richmond, and my daughter Francesca and husband Jeff.

F.G. BRESSANI AWARD

- Anna Foschi

The 2012 edition of the biennial F.G. Bressani Literary Prize culminated in the awards ceremony held at the Italian Cultural Centre on November 7, 2012.

George Amabile, winner of the poetry and short fiction category (a rare double take, indeed, in the history of the Bressani Prize!) and Lynne Bowen (non-fiction winner, with *Whoever Gives Us Bread*) were in attendance and read from their works. Vince Agro, the author of *The Good Doctor*, could not make it but Sophie Blom accepted the prize on his behalf and read an excerpt from his book. Ray Culos received the Italian Centre and Bressani Committee's Honourable Mention for his seminal work as a local historian, including his latest book on the internment: *InJustice Served*.

The Sicilian Club of Vancouver, represented by its President, Stella De Giorgio, presented a Certificate of Recommendation to Rosanna Lo Presti's collection of Poetry, *Giardinu d'Amuri*, written in Sicilian. Mario Inglese

from the University of British Columbia read a poem in Sicilian.

The President of the Italian Cultural Centre Society, Mike Cuccione, and the Consul General of Italy, Dr. Fabrizio Inserra, gave a short welcoming speech and also presented the awards to Amabile and Agro's representative. Among the distinguished guests, I should mention the Consul General of Ecuador, the Consul of Korea and former Bressani winner Victoria Miles.



The evening, hosted by Anna Foschi Ciampolini, ended with the public enjoying the delicious refreshments provided by the renowned Italian Centre's catering through the sponsoring of the Regione Lazio Cultural Society and the excellent wine generously donated by the Consul General of Italy. The musical entertainment was performed by talented local singer Patrizia Coletta.

A MEETING WITH PATRONS OF ITALIAN CULTURE

- Anna Foschi

The Board of Directors of Patrons of Italian Culture, a Los Angeles/San Diego based non-profit Italian-American Association dedicated to the promotion of Italian culture and heritage in Southern California, visited Vancouver's Italian Cultural Centre on October 20 on the occasion of their Annual Retreat.

We had a very lively and enjoyable meeting in the Centre's Museum, where I gave a presentation about our association and recurrent themes in Italian-Canadian literature. AICW member Osvaldo Zappa spoke about his novel *Giovanni's Journey*. The President of the Italian Cultural Centre, Mike Cuccione, and ICCS Board member Mike Coviello of the Commedianti Theatre Group, were also present.

Paolo Romano, the President of the Patrons of Italian Culture, writes: "This was a real treat for all our members, as we never had such opportunity to meet and discuss specific examples of the written experiences of Italians on past retreats, and especially with such a distinguished group of writers. Every one of us benefitted from the interesting exchange of information and we learned so much about your important work. The PIC Board voted unanimously to donate \$100 to AICW in recognition of 'our continued diligence and involvement in promoting the written Italian Canadian experience to the Vancouver community and all of Canada.'"



ALEXANDRE AMPRIMOZ, 1948 - 2012

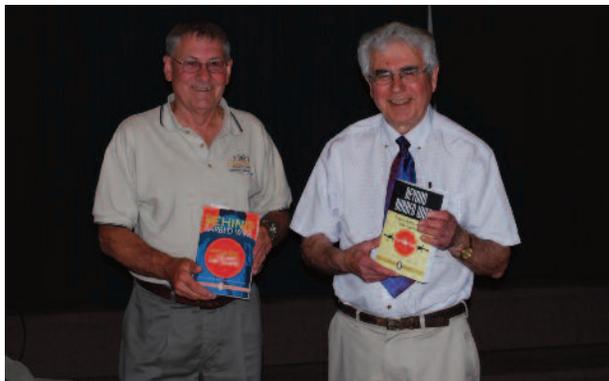
- Joseph Pivato

Canadian writer and academic Alexandre Amprimoz passed away on October 11th, 2012. Alexandre was one of the 17 poets included in *Roman Candles* (1978) edited by Pier Giorgio Di Cicco. He attended the Italian-Canadian Writers Conference in Rome in 1984. He contributed the essay, "Death Between Two Cultures: Italian-Canadian Poetry," to *Contrasts: Comparative Essays on Italian-Canadian Writing* (1985) which I edited. He co-wrote this essay with Sante Viselli of Winnipeg. He was generally involved in the early years of the AICW and always with a sense of humour.

Alexandre was one of those rare authors who wrote fluently in French and in English, and in two different styles, as I observed in some of my critical essays. He also wrote in Italian but published mostly in French more than 15 books of poems and academic texts such as *Bouquet de Signes* (1986). His twelve English books include collections of poetry and short stories such as *Hard Confessions* (1987) and *In Rome* (1980), which often had very satirical pieces such as "Too Many Popes." Among his many publications and translations across his three languages there were many articles on Italian-Canadian literature. He gave a paper and a literary reading at the second AICW conference at York University in March of 1988.

Alexandre was born in Rome in 1948, studied mathematics at Université Aix-Marseille in France before coming to Canada and earning an MA in French at U. of Windsor (1970) and a Ph.D. in French at U. of Western Ontario. From 1978 to 1985 he taught French at the University of Manitoba and then moved to Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, in 1985 where he remained for the rest of his life. As I look through the 19 books by Alexandre, which I have on my shelf for Italian-Canadian writers, I am impressed by his diverse literary achievements. He leaves behind his French wife Jeannette and their son. Alexandre will be missed by his family, his friends, and his admirers, including me.

BOOKS & BISCOTTI IN TRAIL



Colombo Lodge President Larry Martin and AICW member Joseph Ranallo at the June Books and Biscotti event which featured the AICW's volumes on the internment, *Behind Barbed Wire* and *Beyond Barbed Wire*.

MUSIC & WORDS BY JOE RUGGERI

Peppino (Joe) Ruggeri teamed up with Harmony House Ventures to publish his books and some of his songs. His songs can be found on the "ourharmony-house" channel on YouTube. His books, *Sketches of life in Sicily*, *The blueberry muffin*, *the parable of the prodigal son*, *Sicilia e i altri poissii siciliani*, *pumpkins and bears*, and *schizzi di vita in Sicilia*, are found at www.shop.harmonyhouse.ca.

AN UPDATE FROM CARMELO MILITANO

The July issue of *Poetry Quebec* featured my review of Mary di Michele's latest book, *The Flower of Youth*, *Pier Pasolini Poems*, while the August issue included my review of Bryan Senete's new poetry collection, *March End Prill*.

The August issue of *Northern Poetry Review* published my interview with acclaimed Canadian poet Lisa Robertson.

The September/October edition of *Pacific Rim Review of Books* includes my essay, "Seed Catalogue and The Sad Phoenician in an Italian-Canadian Garden: Homage as Montage." The essay was originally read at the University of Manitoba Writing Symposium in May 2012. The symposium was called Thirty Years of Manitoba Writing. The essay is a gesture towards the connection between the long poems of Robert Kroetsch and my development as a writer of Italian rural origins.

And finally, Professor Francesco Loriggio from Carleton University is editing (and translating) an anthology of Calabrian-Canadian poets to be published in Italy, and has kindly submitted several of my poems as well as an excerpt from my prose work, *The Fate of Olives*.

My poetry collection, *Weather Reports* (Olive Press, 2011), was short-listed for the 2012 F.G. Bressani award for poetry.

AN UPDATE FROM FRANK CANINO

In theatre news, *16671* was a finalist in Hudson River Classics Showcase Theatre. It was one of twelve finalists among 160 entries. *Sara Plays Her Game* came back. New York's Brief Acts Company repeated its award-winning production with the excellent team of director Irene Milos and actress Louise Tyrol from September 21 to 23 at the Sonnet Theatre in the Producers' Club in New York.

In film news, *The Swan Queen Meets the Radical Faerie* was chosen as a semi-finalist in the Rhode Island International Screenplay and Film Festival. The competition received a record number of 367 scripts. From these, 34 were selected as semi-finalists by an international team of adjudicators. After one last review, the final award winners will be announced in late October.



BOOKS & BISCOTTI IN AYLMEER

Rene Pappone held a Books and Biscotti event September 20, 2012, when he was a guest at the Aylmer Friendship Club, a group of retirees in Aylmer Sector of Gatineau, Quebec.

Pappone began the proceedings with an overview of the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War and then read from his recent book, *The Italian*, an historic novel in which the main character is arrested and jailed as an enemy alien. His speaking notes made references to the two anthologies on the internment, *Behind Barbed Wire* and *Beyond Barbed Wire*.

The event was well received by the 30 attendees, most of whom had never heard about the internment of Italian Canadians during the Second World War.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Lucia Cascioli is a Canadian writer. *Spiral*, her first thriller, was recently named Finalist at the 2012 Next Generation Indie Book Awards. Her writing is not limited to a specific genre. *Struck* is geared toward the adult reader and *Shifters* is for her young adult audience. Lucia enjoys cooking and baking and shares her passion for both in her cookbook, entitled *From Scratch to Finish*. *Letters to the Grave* is her fifth book. Lucia lives in the Greater Toronto Area and is a graduate of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
www.luciacascioli.ca

Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni, originally from the US, came to study at the University of Toronto. There she met Alberto Di Giovanni whom she married in 1972. They became involved in many aspects of the dynamic Italian Canadian community, especially the promotion of Italian classes in schools, and Italian Canadian culture through the publication of three anthologies, numerous articles, concerts, poetry readings, and theatre.

If you would like your biography included in a future installment of "Meet Our Members," please send in your request at the next call for submissions.

ACCENTI WRITING CONTEST

DEADLINE February 8, 2013

Send in your stories (in English) to *Accenti Magazine's* annual writing contest. First prize is \$1000 and publication.

Read the 2012 winning stories: Susan Musgrave's "Silent in Its Shout: A Long Weekend in Sicilia" in *Accenti 26* (Summer 2012); Eufemia Fantetti's "The Anthropology of Fire" in *Accenti 27* (Fall 2012); and Dorothea Helm's "Tradition" in *Accenti 28* (Winter 2013).

Go to www.accenti.ca and click on contests to find out more.

ACCENTI MAGAZINE: SPECIAL OFFER FOR AICW MEMBERS

Order your 2013 *Accenti* "Italian Moments" Calendar for just \$14.99 (plus postage and HST) before January 1, 2013, and receive a one-year subscription (4 issues) to *Accenti Magazine* for FREE! (Valid for addresses in Canada.) Details at www.accenti.ca/store/Calendars/. Simply write the letters AICW after your last name on the online order form.

Order a second *Accenti* Calendar and receive a two-year subscription (8 issues) for FREE.

Place your gift orders before December 10 to ensure your gift arrives in time for Christmas.

Also order by phone by calling Domenic Cusmano at 514-329-3254, ext. 101, or email accenti@accenti.ca.

ACCENTI MAGAZINE – GUEST EDITORS

Accenti Magazine welcomes Guest Editors Joseph Pivato (Spring 2013), Giulia De Gasperi (Fall 2012) and Laura Sanchini (Summer 2012). To order a specific issue or to subscribe, write to accenti@accenti.ca or visit www.accenti.ca.

6 DICEMBRE 2012 IN MONTREAL

The Yellow Door presents an evening of Poetry, Prose & Music, hosted by Ilona Martonfi, on Thursday, December 6, 2012.

Doors open at 7:00PM, Readings start at 7:30PM

\$5.00 at the door

3625 Aylmer, Montreal (between Pine & Prince Arthur)

Tel (514) 845-2600

Featuring:

Stephen Morrissey, whose latest book is *Girouard Avenue*,

Ian Ferrier, one of the core writer/performers in the North American literature scene,

Steve Luxton, who published five collections of poetry, most recently *In the Vision of Birds: New and Selected Poems* (DC Books, 2012),

Sheila Stewart, author of 2 poetry books, *The Shape of a Throat* (Signature Editions, 2012) and *A Hat to Stop a Train* (Wolsak and Wynn, 2003),

Peter Dubé, who has published 7 books, most recently the novel *The City's Gates*,

Jessica Magonet, McGill law student and poet,

Jack Hannan, author of *Some frames: Poems* (Cormorant, 2011), and short-listed for the A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry,

Milton Dawes with the Djembe (African Drum), one of the seven drummers who started the "tam-tam" on the mountain.

www.yellowdoor.org



Stations of the Heart

By Darlene Madott
Exile Editions

Darlene Madott's launch of *Stations of the Heart* on October 3, 2012, showcased her sixth book and was her third launch at the Columbus Centre. True to her Italian heritage, she served her own wine in bottles bearing the book cover. The launch was well attended by "sexual intellectuals," to coin the phrase used in the introductory remarks by Pal D'Iulio, Director of Villa Charities.

Madott's *Stations* are linked short stories which follow the secular stations of a fictional Francesca at various



stages of her life as she makes the choices that propel her toward her own cavalry and transformation.

Francesca tracks herself "like a coyote," circling back, contemplating the choices made, the irrevocable past

which is ever present and trails into the mysterious future. Ultimately, as with all Madott's fiction, *Stations of the Heart* is a work of celebration ending with the arduous, yet jubilant, "Cycling in Sardegna." At the end of this journey mother and son have taken together, Francesca's son contemplates the tumble of bikes and bodies that could have happened: "It's a good thing we didn't know what we were getting into.



We just put our feet to the pedal and went."

The *Stations of the Heart* launch video slideshow can be found at: <http://youtu.be/kar0ugkoMZc>.

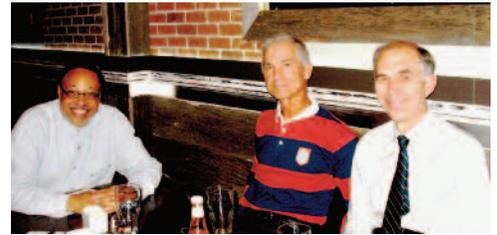
Madott invites you to visit her website, and follow the links for readings and trailer to the book, at www.DarleneMadott.com.

Africadian Atlantic

Edited by Joe Pivato
Guernica Editions

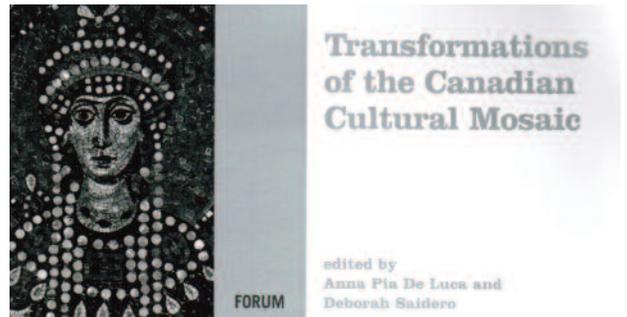
After decades of writing and publishing almost exclusively on Italian-Canadian writers, Joe Pivato has expanded into the post-colonial realm of African-Canadian literature. His new book, *Africadian Atlantic: Essays on George Elliott Clarke* includes 14 essays by critics from across Canada, Italy and Brazil. Pivato edited the collection and contributed the introduction and the final essay (on writing styles). This is the first book devoted to

the work of Clarke, an award-winning poet, playwright, librettist, and novelist. Clarke, who was



born into a Black community in Nova Scotia and now teaches at the University of Toronto, also has Italian connections. He wrote his play and opera, *Beatrice Chancy* (1999), while on a fellowship in Bellagio, Italy. The play was inspired by the tragic true story of the Cenci family murder and execution in Rome in 1599. His Nova Scotia play, *Whylah Falls* (1990), was translated into Italian and staged in Venice (2002) to a variety of Black music. Also in Venice, Giulio Marra edited a collection of Clarke's poems and plays which he translated into Italian, *Poesie e Drammi*, in 2012. Clarke has been invited to Italy many times as a poet, guest lecturer, and to conduct creative writing workshops. In 2002 he was keynote speaker at the AICW conference held in Toronto. His talk, "Let Us Compare Anthologies" examined the role of Di Cicco's *Roman Candles* (1978) and Herald Head's *Canada In Us Now* (1976), the first national Black-Canadian anthology. It can be found on the Clarke webpage in the Canadian Writers website at Athabasca University.

Africadian Atlantic was officially launched in Toronto by Guernica Editions on October 14, 2012, and involved remarks by Michael Mirolla, a reading by George Elliott Clarke and Pivato's comments on the essays in the book. The photo from the launch shows George Elliott Clarke, novelist Frank Paci, and Joe Pivato.



Transformations of the Canadian Mosaic (Forum 2012)

Edited by Anna Pia De Luca and
Deborah Saidero of the Università di Udine

Contributors to the volume include Joseph Pivato (*The Effects of Immigration on Art Genres: Father-Daughter Narratives*), Olga Zorzi Pugliese (*From Friuli to Canada: The Art of Mosaic Transformed*), Licia Canton (*Writing a Cultural Identity: From Italian Daughters to Canadian Authors*), Caterina Edwards (*Water*), Licia Canton (*Easter Morning*), Juliana Pivato (*Transcending the Present: Sounds That Words Make*), and George Elliott Clarke (*Sighting the Giallo in Ho Che Anderson's Graphic Texts*).



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Website / Site Web / Sito Internet: _____

Areas of interest / Champ d'intérêts / Interessi: _____

Biography / Biographie / Biografia (475 characters maximum / 475 caractères maximum / massimo 475 caratteri):

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AICW 2011 / 2012