



Newsletter / Bollettino September 2012 / Issue 64

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Italian Canadian Writers
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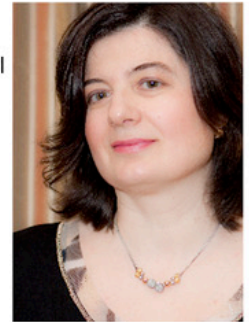
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NOTA DELLA PRESIDENTE

Dear Members and Friends,

The end of summer is here and a new AICW executive begins its two-year term. It is my pleasure to serve a second term as President of the AICW with new volunteers as well as returning experienced executive members. Our new executive is a diligent and determined group of creative writers and academics. Soon we will begin working on the 2014 biennial conference. Suggestions for venues and themes are welcome. If you'd like to volunteer to work on the conference or the AICW contest or any other committee, please write to communications@aicw.ca.



Last June, our pan-Canadian Books and Biscotti Literary Series during Italian Heritage month was very successful (see pages 2 and 3), and we are already making plans to repeat it in 2013. Events will also be held in the fall and winter. The success of Books and Biscotti depends on the involvement of members. If you would like to organize an event in your city, or if you already have a scheduled launch or reading that could be part of our Books and Biscotti series, please write to our Communications Officer, Giulia De Gasperi, at communications@aicw.ca.

This past August, the AICW participated at Montreal's Italian Week – August 17 to 19 in Little Italy – with readings in the park and a booth which featured members' books, films and prints (see page 4). On August 19, Venera Fazio and Delia De Santis launched the AICW's volumes on the internment and showcased Sarnia's literary talents (see page 3).

The AICW, in partnership with Guernica Editions and *Accenti Magazine*, is proud to participate in the new travelling exhibit being produced by the Columbus Centre (tentatively called "Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Times: Italian Canadian Experiences During World War II"). The exhibit will travel across Canada and will feature our volumes, *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. Please note that you can download the free e-books at http://www.guernicaeditions.com/free_ebooks.php.

These are exciting times at the AICW as the work of more and more of our members is getting attention. Tell us about your recent events or publications by sending details to our Newsletter Editor, Agata De Santis, at agata@redheadproductions.com.

If you have not already done so, please send in your membership fees for 2012 and take advantage of our two-year discount – a \$20 savings. Voting members are encouraged to send in an updated bio which will be added to the website at www.aicw.ca.

Thank you to long-time members for your continued support and a warm Welcome to new members.

Best wishes for a very productive fall!

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

Welcome new AICW members!

Giancarlo Gabbrielli
Laura Sanchini



BOOKS & BISCOTTI IN NEW YORK

On June 5, 2012, the New York edition of Books & Biscotti took place at St. Mark's Bookshop Book. Jens-Martin Eriksen and Frederik Stjernfelt presented their new book, *The Democratic Contradictions of Multiculturalism*. The event was organized by Maria Piccone.



BOOKS & BISCOTTI IN WINNIPEG

AICW members held a reading on June 7, 2012, at the Giovanni Caboto Italian Cultural Centre in Winnipeg to celebrate Italian Heritage Month. The event was planned by the Executive Director of the Centro, Mirella De Santis.

Approximately 15 people attended the reading and it was well received. Books were given away, a few were sold, coffee was drunk and biscotti were eaten... and of course the reading. Photo above: Carmelo Militano.



BOOKS & BISCOTTI IN EDMONTON

Hosted by the Ital-Canadian Seniors Association, the Edmonton Books and Biscotti event was held on June 10 and included readings by Adriana Albi Davies, Caterina Edwards, Jessica Kluthe, Michale Lang (in the photo), Monica Meneghetti, Louis Munan and Joe Pivato. Mark your calendars: the next Books and Biscotti is scheduled for October 28. (Photos courtesy of Carlo Amodio.)

BOOKS & BISCOTTI IN TORONTO

Books and Biscotti at Columbus Centre on June 12, 2012, organized by Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni.

Left to right: Anthony Pignataro, Josie Spina, Nino Famà, Giovanna Riccio, Darlene Madott, Vince Agro, Bruna Di Giuseppe-Bertoni, Luciano Iacobelli, and Gianna Patriarca. Photo by Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni.



BOOKS & BISCOTTI IN TRAIL

Joseph Ranallo

On the evening of Tuesday, June 12, 2012, the Trail, BC, Cristoforo Colombo Lodge made history when it hosted the Books and Biscotti event that paid tribute to the 600 plus Italian Canadians who, during WWII, were rounded up like criminals and were brutally sent to one of three internment camps near Kananaskis, Petawawa, and Fredericton. For the first time since its inception in 1905, the Lodge held a common dinner meeting for both its men's and the women's factions. Approximately 120 members attended, an impressive turnout for a small city ethnic association. The event was significant for the Lodge because, among those interned, were four of their past male associates, each a pillar of honesty, integrity, and strength. Their only crime was their Italian heritage. Although each of the affected families had been invited to participate in the event, three respectfully declined and a fourth, the family of Fioravante (Fred) Tenisci, prominently featured in Ray Culos' *Injustice Served*, sent a written statement that was read by Larry Martin, the current Lodge president. These absences speak volumes about the lingering emotional scarring that the internments generated. Although the camps have long since been shut down, the pain and humiliation of the internment is still acute and intense.





BOOKS & BISCOTTI IN ANTIGONISH

Books & Biscotti was hosted by Cape Breton writer and AICW member Sheldon Currie and his wife Dawn at the People's Place Library in downtown Antigonish on June 13, 2012. Several individuals from the town of Antigonish and from Saint Francis Xavier University took part in the evening. Professor Currie presented *Behind Barbed Wire* and *Beyond Barbed Wire*. One participant shared pictures of the years she spent in Italy while people mingled speaking English and Italian. Two plates of biscotti baked by Dawn and coffee and tea helped to create a relaxing and familiar environment.

The evening brought together a group of people interested in all things Italian. Some of these individuals have an Italian background and look forward to possibilities to remember and explore this important component of their lives. Others simply want to learn more about a culture that is inspiring and interesting. It is hoped that this will be the first of many more meetings that celebrate and support Italian culture.

Photos Courtesy of Céline Papillon.



BOOKS & BISCOTTI IN WOODBRIDGE

The Woodbridge edition of Books & Biscotti took place on June 23, 2012, at the Chapters in Woodbridge. It was a two-day event and the following writers participated: Cristina Rizzuto, Bruna Di Giuseppe-Bertoni, Carlo Gabbrielli, Maria Antonel, Rosanna Lo Presti, Fiore Paniccia, Anthony Pignataro, Maria Zarrone and Darlene Madott. The event also included the great Geronimo Stilton, the "fa-mouse" Italian children's book character, who greeted his young fans. Balloon décor in the "tricolore" was provided by a fabulous local business, Pacha Balloons. Chapters Store Manager, Lisa Mitchel, provided her own baked cookies to make the event true to its name.

BOOKS & BISCOTTI IN SARNIA

The Sarnia, Ontario, launch of *Behind Barbed Wire* and *Beyond Barbed Wire* took place on August 19. The event was sponsored by the Dante Club and the Italo-Canadian Cultural Club/Laziali di Sarnia. Jim Zucchero, co-editor of the two books and past vice-president of the AICW, gave a most informative talk on the importance of bringing to light and preserving the historical facts of the internment. Venera Fazio read her prose piece titled "Song of My Heart" and Delia De Santis read her short story "An Ordinary and Innocent Outing," both from *Behind Barbed Wire*.

Three other local writers launched their books and read: Norma West Linder, poetry from *Adder's-tongues*; James Deahl, poetry from *Rooms the Wind Makes*; and Caroline Di Cocco, excerpts from *Memory and Identity*. The well attended event was made special by the musical entertainment provided by singer/song writer Elena Feick.

In the photo: Jim Zucchero reading at the Sarnia Books and Biscotti event.





AICW AT MONTREAL'S ITALIAN WEEK

The National Congress of Italian-Canadians (Québec Region), in collaboration with the Association of Italian Canadian Writers, presented the fifth edition of literary activities during Montreal's Italian Week. Thanks to members who participated (either on the stage or backstage): Ralph Alfonso, Elettra Bedon, Licia Canton, Domenic Cusmano, Giulia De Gasperi, Agata De Santis, Terri Favro, Connie Guzzo McParland, Dominic Iannuzzi, Elena Lamberti, Ilona Martonfi, Albino Matano, Michael Mirolla. Thanks to volunteers Maria Bucaro, Ron Edding, Alison Alfonso, Decio Cusmano, Liana Cusmano, Sal Mirolla, and Erica Morassutti. Martin Stiglio, new Director of the Italian Cultural Institute, attended our readings in the park. It was his first event in Montreal.



L to R: (first row) Maria Bucaro, Licia Canton, Terri Favro, Martin Stiglio; (second row) Domenic Iannuzzi, Albino Matano, Ilona Martonfi, Elena Lamberti



L to R: Alison Alfonso, Ralph Alfonso, Michael Mirolla

ACCENTI MAGAZINE AT MONTREAL'S ITALIAN WEEK

Accenti Magazine had a very busy kiosk during Montreal's *Settimana Italiana*, August 17-19. Capture an Italian Moment photos – featuring winners of past *Accenti* photo contests – were on display. The 2013 *Italian Moments* calendar includes winning and non-winning photos. To purchase the calendar or photos, write to accenti@accenti.ca or call 514-329-3254 (104) or visit www.accenti.ca to find out more!

AN UPDATE FROM FRANK CANINO

Frank Canino has been heavily involved in writing for the screen for the last two years. Among other projects: *Aleksandar Leaving* made it to the final Top 13 in the Canadian Short Screenplay Competition. It was chosen from several hundred entries from 21 countries including Canada, US, UK & Australia. His Feature Film, *Via Crucis: A Way of the Cross*, has received six citations, including the FilmMakers International - Platinum Prize in the drama category. Other awards include Finalist in the Screenplay Search Screenwriting Competition, and Quarter-Finalist in the Write Movies International Contest and Cynosure Screenwriting Awards.



INTERNATIONAL SHORT STORY CONFERENCE

Last June, Michael Mirolla and Licia Canton were guest writers at the 12th International Conference on the Short Story in English. Hosted by Prof. Maurice A. Lee, Dean at the University of Central Arkansas, the conference welcomed short story writers and academics from around the world. It was held in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The international anthology, *Bridges: A Global Anthology of Short Stories*, edited by Maurice A. Lee, was launched at the conference. The volume includes forty stories from some of the world's best short story writers, representing fifteen countries. The anthology, which features acclaimed writers Clark Blaise and Bharati Mukherjee, also includes new stories by Licia Canton – "In the Stacks" – and Michael Mirolla – "Becker, My Brother." You can purchase copies at <http://www.temenospublishing.com/lee.html>.

In photo: Michael Mirolla, Licia Canton, Maurice Lee, Liana Cusmano. Photo by Jamie O'Connell.

ITALOCANADESE.COM RE-LAUNCHES AS ONLINE MAGAZINE

Italocanadese.com started as a simple idea. Founder Agata De Santis realized that first, second and third generation Italian Canadians who had an affinity for their culture were ignored by traditional Italian Canadian media. The traditional Italian-language publications, radio programs and community television shows – with little or no presence online – simply did not keep up with how the new generation gets its news and information. Equipped with years of experience covering the Italian-Canadian community as a freelance writer and reporter, Agata set out to create a blog about "all things Italian Canadian." It was a labour of love for two years, until Agata decided it was time to turn Italocanadese.com into the online magazine she always imagined it could be. The new Italocanadese launched in August of 2012. The new design features a team of contributors covering news, arts & culture, community and events.

www.italocanadese.com



COMMEMORAZIONE DELL'INTERNAMEATO 1940-45: CRONACHE DA VANCOUVER

Anna Foschi Ciampolini

Il pubblico di Vancouver e specialmente la nostra comunità italiana hanno accolto con grande interesse la rievocazione e l'opera di informazione sull' internamento degli italo-canadesi durante la seconda guerra mondiale. Come organizzatrice locale, avevo relativamente poche speranze di attirare pubblico per il primo e impegnativo avvenimento del mese di giugno organizzato con la collaborazione del Centro Culturale Italiano, e mi aspettavo un gruppetto sparuto di pubblico anche perché vi erano state in precedenza altre serate sull'argomento. Invece ho avuto la piacevole sorpresa di trovare una piccola folla nella bella sala del Museo del Centro. Per *Facing the Storm: Italian-Canadian Internees in WW2*, ho avuto la fortuna dell'adesione di due autori di grande livello: Ray Culos, storico locale amatissimo dalla comunità e autore di *InJustice Served*, in apertura ha rievocato episodi descritti nel suo libro, e la commediografa e attrice Lucia Frangione che ha letteralmente incantato gli spettatori recitando brani da "Fresco" e da "CaffèEspresso". In chiusura, ho letto un brano tratto dal mio racconto pubblicato in *Behind Barbed Wire*. Alle letture si alternavano brani musicali cantati da Damiano Angoli alla fisarmonica e accompagnamento elettronico, tutti pezzi scelti da un repertorio di canzoni migranti composte nell'arco di oltre un secolo da "Mamma mia dammi cento lire" a "Il ragazzo della Via Gluck". Damiano è davvero un Renaissance Man dai molti interessi: biologo, ha lavorato alla University of British Columbia con il Cardiovascular Research Group, cantante e fisarmonicista, web designer, appassionato sportivo e subacqueo in apnea, ora ci è stato purtroppo rapito da una offerta di lavoro in una università degli Stati Uniti. Non potrei chiudere la descrizione della serata al Centro Italiano senza riconoscere il debito verso Angela Clarke, la Curatrice del Museo, che è stata di grande aiuto nell'organizzare la logistica e il rinfrasco che attendeva gli ospiti al termine.

La ruota della fortuna è invece girata in senso inverso in occasione del secondo avvenimento dedicato agli Internati, svoltosi a Burnaby e organizzato in collaborazione con la Burnaby Public Library-McGill Branch la sera del 20 giugno. Pochissimi spettatori anche se gentili e interessati. Il gruppo di autori era veramente un gruppo di eletti: la storica Lynne Bowen, che presentava il suo ultimo libro: *Whoever Gives Us Bread*, una intensa e documentatissima indagine storica sugli italiani della B.C., Robert Pepper-Smith il cui ultimo affascinante e complesso romanzo *House of Spells* è appena uscito, Osvaldo Zappa, autore di *Giovanni's Journey*, il quale ha in passato incontrato di persona alcuni superstiti dell'esperienza dell'internamento. Nella doppia veste di presentatrice e lettrice c'era anche la vostra Anna Foschi. Ancora una volta ho ammirato la cortesia e la professionalità di Robert e Lynne, i quali vivono nell'isola di Vancouver e hanno affrontato una trasferta per essere presenti all'avvenimento alla Biblioteca accettando con grazia e stile la scarsa presenza di pubblico.

L'ultimo appuntamento con il tema dell'Internamento sarà domenica 30 settembre al festival The Words on the Street, patrocinato dalla Vancouver Public Library, una manifestazione che attrae annualmente migliaia di visitatori. La nostra Associazione, che già in passato ha partecipato varie volte con successo al Festival, si è assicurata un tavolo fra gli espositori per esporre e distribuire le due antologie dedicate all'internamento.



Top photo: Anna Foschi Ciampolini
Bottom photo: Osvaldo Zappa



SETTEMBRE 2012 / TORONTO

AICW member Terri Favro invites you to three fall events: a reading from *TOK Volume 6: Writing the New Toronto* at The Word on the Street, Toronto, September 23, 2:00PM, with *Diaspora Dialogues*; the launch of her Ken Klossky Award-winning novella, *The Proxy Bride*, on Thursday, September 27 at Quattro Books' new home, Q Space, 382 College Street – to confirm time visit www.quattrobooks.ca; and the launch of the graphic novel, *Bella and the Loyalist Heroine*, published by Greyborders Books. For launch dates and locations, please visit www.terrifavro.com.

30 SETTEMBRE 2012 / VANCOUVER

Organized by Anna Foschi, the AICW will have a table at the Words on the Street festival in Vancouver.

14 OTTOBRE 2012 / TORONTO

Joseph Pivato has published a new Guernica book, *Africadian Atlantic: Essays on George Elliott Clarke*. The volume includes 14 essays on the poetry, plays, operas and novels of this African-Canadian author with Italian literary connections. The Toronto book launch will be on Sunday, October 14, from 3:00PM to 5:00PM at the Supermarket retro-bar in Kensington Market. Other new Guernica books at this launch include: Frank Paci, *Playing to Win*; Sonia Di Placido, *Exaltation in Cadmium Red*; Marisa Labozzetta, *Sometimes it Snows in America*; and Eugene McNamara, *Dreaming of Lost America*.

ACCENTI PHOTO CONTEST

Enter *Accenti Magazine's* annual "Capture an Italian Moment" photo contest. First prize is \$1000 and publication. Deadline is October 31, 2012. *Accenti Magazine* also has an annual writing contest (in English) with a \$1000 first prize. The deadline is February 8, 2013. Read the 2012 winning story "Silent in Its Shout: A Long Weekend in Sicilia" by Susan Musgrave in the summer issue of *Accenti*. Go to www.accenti.ca and click on contests to find out more.

ACCENTI MAGAZINE GUEST EDITORS

Accenti Magazine welcomes Guest Editors Laura Sanchini (Summer 2012) and Giulia De Gasperi (Fall 2012). To order your copy or to subscribe, write to accenti@accenti.ca or visit www.accenti.ca

Accenti Magazine seeks Guest Editors for forthcoming issues in English. This is a volunteer position, with a very small honorarium. Applicants should be passionate about Italian Canadiana and have experience as editor of an English-language publication. The Guest Editor will work directly with the editor-in-chief, the publisher, contributors and graphic designer to produce an issue of *Accenti Magazine*. Applicants must have excellent writing, editing and proofreading experience, as well as excellent interpersonal skills. Graphic design and formatting talents are assets. Expression of interest should include a 150-word bio outlining experience as editor as well as a tentative table of contents and a cover letter stating why applicant wants to be an *Accenti* Guest Editor. Send to accenti@accenti.ca. *Accenti* thanks all applicants, but only those selected will be contacted.



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