



**Association of Italian-Canadian Writers**

**Associazione di scrittori/scrittrici italo-canadesi**

**Association des Écrivain(e)s Italo-Canadien(ne)s**

#### **Executive**

Licia Canton **President**

Delia De Santis **Vice President**

Cristina Pepe **Treasurer**

Giulia Verticchio **Secretary**

#### **Editorial Board**

Christine Sansalone *Communications Officer*

Gianluca Agostinelli *Social Media Officer*

Anna Foschi Ciampolini *Newsletter Chair*

Francesca LoDico

Rosaria Moretti-Lawrie

Annalisa Panati

Maria Cristina Seccia *Past-President*

Maria Pia Spadafora

#### **Newsletter Committee**

Anna Foschi Ciampolini

Francesca Foschi Mitchell *Editor*

Christine Sansalone

Maria Pia Spadafora



***AICW Newsletter Issue 100!***

**AICW on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram**

Follow the AICW on Twitter [@AICWCanada](#) and Instagram [@aicwcanada](#)

If you are on [Facebook](#), please take the time to **LIKE** our page.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

We are pleased to announce the AICW-Bressani Prize shortlists. Congratulations! (See page 6.) Next fall, four \$1000 prizes will be awarded: First Book, Poetry, Fiction, Nonfiction. We acknowledge the work of 12 jury members and the support of sponsors Villa Charities, Federazione delle Associazioni Venete del Québec, and Associazione Italo-Canadese del "West Island" (Montreal). Thanks also to the organizing committee: Giulia De Gasperi (Chair), Domenic Beneventi, Dennis Maione, Christine Sansalone.

We have completed the AICW "Relaunch" project funded by the Government of Quebec's Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers, with the English Language Arts Network (ELAN) and *Accenti Magazine* as project supporters. (See page 4.) We are grateful to everyone who took the survey and sent in suggestions for future activities, and to members who shared their knowledge and skills during the mentorship program. Thanks to Maria Pia Spadafora and Giulia De Gasperi for working on the project, and to Cristina Pepe and Delia De Santis for their assistance.

## Rapid Fire Readers

Anthony Portulose  
Annalisa Panati  
Elio Iannacci  
Dosi Cotroneo  
Chris DiRaddo  
Rosanna Battigelli  
Darlene Madott  
Domenic Cusmano  
Silvia Falsaperla  
Lucia Cascioli  
Eloise Carbone  
Licia Canton  
Caroline Di Giovanni  
Carmelo Militano

At the Rapid Fire Readings on February 26, members shared some of their most recent writing. Thanks to the fourteen writers who participated and to Christopher DiRaddo, Maria Pia Spadafora and Delia De Santis for working on the event. Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/QcGXPMdptb0>

Calling all poets! The deadline is approaching for the Venera Fazio Poetry Contest (See page 9.) Calling authors and translators! (See page 9.)

Welcome to our new and returning members. (See page 18.) If you haven't done so, please create your profile at [aicw.ca](http://aicw.ca).

Thanks to Giulia Verticchio and Gianluca Agostinelli for keeping members informed, and to Executive Members for their volunteer work behind the scenes: Delia De Santis, Cristina Pepe, Christine Sansalone, Maria Cristina

Seccia, Anna Foschi Ciampolini, Maria Pia Spadafora, Annalisa Panati, Rosaria Moretti-Lawrie. Grazie to Newsletter Editor Francesca Foschi Mitchell for her commitment to the AICW.

Best wishes for Easter. Joyeuses Pâques. Buona Pasqua.

Happy Spring to all,  
Licia Canton, President

# NEWS

## That's 100 Issues!

Our AICW Newsletter started in November 1986. Joseph Pivato, who was the first editor, ran it till July 1994, Issue 21. At the time, "It was photocopied and sent out by Canada Post," Pivato states.

Today, we have reached a small but significant milestone: our 100<sup>th</sup> issue.

This would not have happened without the commitment of all editors and other volunteers, past and present, who gave their time to our AICW newsletter. We want to thank all of them:

Joseph Pivato, Marino Tuzi, Licia Canton and Domenic Cusmano, Frank Giorno, Agata De Santis.

Anna Foschi Ciampolini, who took over in December 2014, with Issue 72, was then joined by a newly formed newsletter committee currently made up of Maria Pia Spadafora, Christine Sansalone and Francesca Foschi Mitchell.

Association of Italian-Canadian Writers - Newsletter  
Association des écrivain(e)s italo-canadien(ne)s - Bulletin  
Associazione scrittori/crittrici italo-canadesi - Bollettino

**Vancouver to Host 1998 AICW Conference**  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, will host the 1998 AICW Conference on November 13-14, 1998. The conference will be held at the Vancouver Convention Centre. The theme of the conference is "The Italian-Canadian Experience". The conference will feature a variety of activities, including a keynote address, a panel discussion, a round table, and a reception. The keynote address will be given by the Hon. Jean Charest, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology. The panel discussion will be moderated by the Hon. Jean Charest and will feature the Hon. Jean Charest, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, and the Hon. Jean Charest, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology. The round table will be moderated by the Hon. Jean Charest and will feature the Hon. Jean Charest, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, and the Hon. Jean Charest, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology. The reception will be held at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

**Vancouver accueillera la conférence AICW 1998**  
Vancouver, Colombie-Britannique, Canada, accueillera la conférence AICW 1998 le 13-14 novembre 1998. La conférence sera tenue au Centre de conférences de Vancouver. Le thème de la conférence est "L'expérience italo-canadienne". La conférence comprendra une variété d'activités, y compris un discours d'ouverture, un débat, une table ronde et un dîner. Le discours d'ouverture sera donné par l'honorable Jean Charest, ministre de l'Industrie, de la Science et de la Technologie. Le débat sera présidé par l'honorable Jean Charest et comprendra l'honorable Jean Charest, ministre de l'Industrie, de la Science et de la Technologie, et l'honorable Jean Charest, ministre de l'Industrie, de la Science et de la Technologie. La table ronde sera présidée par l'honorable Jean Charest et comprendra l'honorable Jean Charest, ministre de l'Industrie, de la Science et de la Technologie, et l'honorable Jean Charest, ministre de l'Industrie, de la Science et de la Technologie. Le dîner sera donné au Centre de conférences de Vancouver.

**Vancouver ospita la conferenza AICW 1998**  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, ospita la conferenza AICW 1998 il 13-14 novembre 1998. La conferenza sarà tenuta al Vancouver Convention Centre. Il tema della conferenza è "L'esperienza italo-canadese". La conferenza includerà una varietà di attività, tra cui un discorso di apertura, un dibattito, un tavolo rotondo e un ricevimento. Il discorso di apertura sarà tenuto dall'onorevole Jean Charest, ministro dell'Industria, della Scienza e della Tecnologia. Il dibattito sarà moderato dall'onorevole Jean Charest e includerà l'onorevole Jean Charest, ministro dell'Industria, della Scienza e della Tecnologia, e l'onorevole Jean Charest, ministro dell'Industria, della Scienza e della Tecnologia. Il tavolo rotondo sarà moderato dall'onorevole Jean Charest e includerà l'onorevole Jean Charest, ministro dell'Industria, della Scienza e della Tecnologia, e l'onorevole Jean Charest, ministro dell'Industria, della Scienza e della Tecnologia. Il ricevimento sarà tenuto al Vancouver Convention Centre.

**NOTA DELLA PRESIDENTE**  
Dear Members and Friends,  
Last spring, I received thoughtful replies to present the AICW anthology during Our Italy Week. This was an expression of great interest in the AICW newsletter and in the book. I am pleased to report that the anthology is now available on the AICW site. I plan to launch the anthology in the next few weeks. The anthology is a collection of stories, poems, and essays by Italian-Canadian writers. It is a tribute to the Italian-Canadian experience and to the rich cultural heritage of our community. I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it. The anthology is available on the AICW website at [www.aicw.ca](http://www.aicw.ca). I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it. The anthology is available on the AICW website at [www.aicw.ca](http://www.aicw.ca).

**President**  
Licia Canton

**Vice President**  
Joseph Pivato

**Secretary / Paper President**  
Michael Birkitt

**Treasurer**  
Michael Birkitt

**Communications Editor**  
Gianna Di Santis

**Newsletter Editor**  
Agata De Santis

**Editorial Board**  
Domenic Cusmano (Chairman)  
Christine Sansalone  
Anna Foschi Mitchell  
Maria Pia Spadafora

**Association of Italian Canadian Writers**  
@AICWCanada

AICW Newsletter / Issue 85 / page 1

Association of Italian Canadian Writers  
Associazione di scrittori/crittrici italo-canadesi  
Association des écrivain(e)s italo-canadien(ne)s

**Executive**  
Licia Canton President  
Gianna Di Santis Vice President  
Christine Sansalone Secretary  
Anna Foschi Mitchell Treasurer

**Editorial Board**  
Domenic Cusmano (Chairman)  
Christine Sansalone  
Anna Foschi Mitchell  
Maria Pia Spadafora

**Newsletter Committee**  
Licia Canton  
Christine Sansalone  
Anna Foschi Mitchell  
Maria Pia Spadafora

**AICW Newsletter Issue 100!**

**AICW on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram**  
Follow the AICW on Twitter @AICWCanada and Instagram @AICWCanada  
To receive our Newsletter, please email [info@aicw.ca](mailto:info@aicw.ca) or call our office

AICW Newsletter / Issue 100 / March/April 2022 / page 1

## AICW Receives Covid-19 “Relaunch” Grant

by Giulia De Gasperi and Maria Pia Spadafora

In Spring 2021 the Association of Italian Canadian Writers (AICW) received a grant as part of an initiative to help relaunch the arts and culture sector during and post Covid-19. The AICW used the grant to assess its activities and establish priorities going forward. The grant was provided by the Government of Quebec’s Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers, with Quebec’s English Language Arts Network (ELAN) and *Accenti Magazine* as project supporters. Maria Pia Spadafora and Giulia De Gasperi were hired to manage the project, which consisted of three initiatives: a mentorship program and two surveys.

The first of these, the “Relaunch Your Passion for Writing” Mentorship Program, was developed within the context of the continuing climate of uncertainty around Covid-19. The aim was to benefit writers and aspiring writers whose projects were forced to the side because of Covid-19. Ten English-language writers in Quebec earned the opportunity to improve their writing skills by working with professional writers during the ten-hour remote mentorship. A public Call for Mentees was announced on the AICW site and circulated on social media, while AICW members were invited via email to send an expression of interest to be mentors.

Ten mentees were paired with ten established writers who are members of the AICW. Each pair of mentors and mentees agreed on the details of the mentorship between them. For fiction, the mentors/mentees were Chris DiRaddo and Anthony Portulose; Darlene Madott and Lea Beddia; Monica Meneghetti and William Wellman; Domenic Cusmano and Russell Fralich; Michael Mirolla and Jennifer Deleskie; Genni Gunn and Irene Aguzzi; for non-fiction, Licia Canton and Jessica Little; Jim Zucchero and Andy Kozina, Liana Cusmano and Anna Maiolo; for poetry, Carmelo Militano and Jeanne Schoenwandt. Mentees who completed texts during the mentorship were invited to submit them to *Accenti Magazine* for consideration.

Comments about the “Relaunch Your Passion for Writing” Mentorship Program were very positive:

“It has been an absolute delight. I worked with a talented writer, mentor, and coach whose insight gave me constant cause for reflection and growth. I have a better grasp on my writing approach.”

“I thank the AICW for having provided me with the opportunity for accompaniment in my writing process.”

“I appreciate my mentor’s expertise, judgement, and critiques. It was a pleasure working with her.”

“The mentorship was a genuine boon to me. My gratitude to the AICW.”

The second part of the project involved a survey sent to AICW members in August 2021. Members were asked to assess, among other things, pre-Covid in-person events, and current online activities, as well as the newsletter, website, and contests. They were also asked for suggestions on how to improve future AICW activities and events. Thirty percent of members responded. Among the highlights:

# NEWS

- a majority of respondents reported that they joined the Association to socialize with other writers, meet published authors, and read their works at public events.
- 86.2% of respondents were interested in reading their work at future public readings.
- 34.5% of respondents would join a volunteer committee.
- of respondents who follow the AICW on social media, 31% do so on Instagram, 27% on Twitter.
- most respondents find the AICW Newsletter a great source of information, though a majority also finds the newsletter format and design obsolete.
- the AICW's most sought-after activities are:
  - conferences and workshops.
  - "Books and Biscotti" events.
  - "Shut Up and Write".
  - "4 chiacchiere in italiano".
- a majority of respondents were satisfied with the "Venera Fazio Poetry Contest" and the AICW Bressani Literary Prize.
- there was equal satisfaction with the AGM on Zoom and with past in-person AGMs.

The third and final part of the project involved a more general survey about knowledge of AICW and its activities sent to the public at large in November 2021. The survey was circulated specifically among about 4500 readers of *Accenti Magazine*. The response rate was two percent. In general, respondents indicated that:

- they attended AICW events or activities to socialize with writers; to meet published authors, and to build on their writing credentials.
- respondents who were non-members of the Association or who have never participated in its events or activities reported that they would join mentorship programs, Zoom events, public readings and events, "Shut Up and Write," conferences, book presentations and literary forums.
- activities and events that respondents would like to see in the future include readings, conferences, presentations by authors within and outside the Italian community, book reviews, and writing and editing workshops.
- respondents also reported that they would like to see future activities in hybrid form, a combination of virtual and in-person events.

Survey respondents were invited to enter a draw. Prizes included books and an AICW membership. The winners are Luigi Spadari, Rene Pappone and Giovanna Capozzi.

Since the AICW is managed by volunteers and has limited resources, establishing a list of priority activities was essential. The next step will be for the AICW Executive to review and analyze all the data and organize events that reflect the needs of its members.

# NEWS



## The 2022 Edition of the AICW Bressani Literary Prize Shortlists Announced

### FICTION

*The Afrikaner*, Arianna Dagnino

*The Family Way*, Christopher DiRaddo

*The Undertaking of Billy Buffone*, David Giuliano

### FIRST BOOK

*The Transaction*, Guglielmo D'Izzia

*tiny ruins*, Nicole Haldoupis

*Cracker Jacks for Misfits*, Christine Ottoni

### NON-FICTION

*Land of Triumph and Tragedy: Voices of the Italian Fallen Workers*, Paola Breda

*From Sojourners to Citizens: Alberta's Italian History*, Adriana A. Davies

*Driven: The Secret Lives of Drivers*, Marcello Di Cinto

### POETRY

*Crito di Volta: An Epic*, Marc Di Saverio

*Re-Origin of Species*, Alessandra Naccarato

*Plastic's Republic*, Giovanna Riccio



Federazione delle Associazioni  
Venete del Québec



# NEWS

## Accenti Magazine Announces 2nd Poetry Contest

See details at <https://accenti.ca/poetry-contest/rules/>

A graphic for the Accenti 2022 Poetry Contest. On the left is a stylized black and white feather with a red outline on a red background. To the right, the word 'Accenti' is written in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font, with a blue dot above the 'i'. Above 'Accenti' is the year '2022' in white. Below 'Accenti' is the text 'Poetry Contest' in red, 'Grand Prize: \$1000' in black, and 'and publication in Accenti' in black. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Deadline: May 31, 2022' on a black background and 'Enter now' on a red background.

**2022**  
**Accenti**  
**Poetry Contest**  
**Grand Prize: \$1000**  
and publication in Accenti  
**Deadline: May 31, 2022** **Enter now**

# NEWS



## Call for Submissions AICW 40th Anniversary Anthology

The Association of Italian-Canadian Writers (AICW) was founded in Vancouver in 1986. To mark its 40th anniversary, in 2026, the AICW will publish an anthology of poetry and prose. AICW members as well as established and emerging Canadian writers of Italian origin are invited to submit.

### Submission Guidelines:

We are especially interested in creative work that explores the themes of friendship and love.

**Poetry:** Up to 3 poems, for a maximum of 30 lines each in length or the equivalent, for example, 2 poems of 45 lines each.

**Prose:** Fiction (excerpts of novels, short stories, flash fiction), non-fiction (memoirs, travel pieces and personal essays), one-act plays, and dramatic monologues up to 1500 words.

All submissions must be unpublished and may be in English, French, Italian or an Italian dialect. Unpublished translations may be considered if the original is copyright free.

### No simultaneous submissions.

If you are interested in contributing, please send an expression of interest and the information requested below (as part of the email; no attachments) to [AICWanthology@gmail.com](mailto:AICWanthology@gmail.com) by **December 31, 2022**.

1. Full name and contact information;
2. The working title of your text and genre;
3. A 100-word proposal or excerpt;
4. A 50-word biography.

**Please Share:** The AICW appreciates your help in disseminating this Call for Submissions to your contact lists and on social media.



# NEWS

## Call for Proposals

### Italian-Canadian Literature in Translation



The AICW is introducing a new Zoom reading series to showcase our members' works that have been translated in Italian, English or French. If you have poetry, fiction or non-fiction translated from Italian to English/French or from English/French to Italian, please consider submitting a proposal to the AICW by **April 10, 2022**.

Readings of the original text and translation should be no longer than 15 minutes, and should preferably be read by two different speakers. The author must be an AICW member in good-standing. Preference will be given to recent works.

The first poetry event will take place in April, during poetry month. Other events will be scheduled in the coming months. Proposals should include the following:

- Name of writer; name of translator
- Title of original work (date of publication); title of translated work (date of publication)
- Name of person reading translation, if not read by translator

All proposals should be sent to [info@aicw.ca](mailto:info@aicw.ca)

## AICW Venera Fazio Poetry Contest



### Eligibility

This contest is open to everyone worldwide.

No pseudonyms.

By entering this contest, you confirm that this is your original unpublished work.

### Prizes

First prize, \$150; Second prize, \$75; Third prize, \$50; One Honourable Mention.

### Submission Criteria for ONE entry.

Three poems of up to 40 lines each or 1 longer poem of up to 140 lines. Submissions can be in English, French, or Italian.

### Judging

Blind judging, entrant's name must not appear on the submission.

# NEWS

## Deadline

May 31, 2022

## Entry Fee

Twenty dollars (\$20) **for ONE entry**. Limit of 2 entries per person. Payment can be made by e-transfer at the e-mail address: [treasurer@aicw.ca](mailto:treasurer@aicw.ca), or by mailing a cheque made out to the Association of Italian Canadian Writers to:

AICW, c/o Delia De Santis  
2961 Delia Crescent  
Bright's Grove, ON N0N 1C0  
Canada

## How to Submit

Please send entries to [dpds2961@outlook.com](mailto:dpds2961@outlook.com) and [info@aicw.ca](mailto:info@aicw.ca) or **to the above address**. Mailed submissions must be postmarked no later than May 31, 2022.

## Note

Please provide a cover letter with name, address, telephone number, email address and title(s) of poem(s). Emailed submissions must be sent as a Word file. Mailed submissions must be typed. Poems must be single-spaced, with the title(s) appearing on each numbered page. No previously published or simultaneous submissions. **Manuscripts will not be returned.**

Submissions that do not comply with the above criteria will be disqualified.

Winners will be contacted by e-mail or phone. Their names will be published on and circulated in the media.

For more information, please write to Delia De Santis at [dpds2961@outlook.com](mailto:dpds2961@outlook.com).

## Some Comments by Joseph Pivato

### Anniversary Number 40

Recently there was a call for contributions for an anniversary anthology. For such an anniversary we should try to include some of the older writers who have supported AICW over these 40 years. Here is a list of some of these people: Amprimoz, Beneventi, Bonanno, Buonomo, Caccia, Clarke, Cooke, D'Alfonso, De Luca, di Michele, Di Cicco, Godard, Golini, Gunew, Harel, Hutcheon, Lequin, Loriggio, Michelut, Micone, Minni, Moyes, Niccoli, Paci, Padolsky, Rando, Saidero, Salvatore, Sciff-Zamaro, Simon, Spagnuolo, Stellin, Tuzi, Verdichio, Viselli, Zuccheri and others. Some are no longer with us.

# NEWS

## Kenneth Bagnell: The Man Who Wrote *Canadese*

Kenneth Bagnell passed away on February 15, 2022 at age 87. In 1989 he published, *Canadese: A Portrait of the Italian-Canadians*, a very positive account of Italians in Canada. Bagnell did his research by personally interviewing hundreds of Italians across Canada in the 1980s. He devotes ten pages to Italian-Canadian writers whom he contacted: Maria Ardizzi, Fulvio Caccia, Antonio D'Alfonso, Pier Giorgio Di Cicco, Mary di Michele, Marco Micone, Frank Paci and Joe Pivato.

## For Black History Month

On March 4, Joe Pivato interviewed George Elliott Clarke about his research work and writing on Black Canadian history and literature. The event was available live on Zoom.

## Pivato at the University of Calgary

On March 24 and 25, Joseph Pivato will give two lectures on Italian-Canadian writers and on Pier Giorgio Di Cicco. He has been invited there by the Italian Studies program in Calgary and Professors Francesca Cadel and Eleonora Buonocore.

## A Letter by Osvaldo Zappa



West Vancouver-based Osvaldo Zappa published an open letter about the war in Ukraine in the local newspaper *North Shore News*. Follow the link:

[Letter: Ukranian war refugee has seen this story before - North Shore News \(nsnews.com\)](https://www.nsnews.com/story/ukrainian-war-refugee-has-seen-this-story-before)

# EVENTS



## The Association of Italian Canadian Writers Press Release

### 2022 ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH Books and Biscotti Literary Series

The Association of Italian Canadian Writers presents *Books and Biscotti*, a literary event featuring readings by local AICW members: David Bellusci, Eloise Carbone, Jane Callen, Bruno Cocorocchio, Arianna Dagnino and Anneliese Schultz.  
Host: Anna Foschi Ciampolini, AICW co-founder.

**Thursday, June 09, at 6:30 P.M. Italian Cultural Centre**

*(In the Boardroom)*

**3075 Slocan Street, Vancouver**

*Books and Biscotti* is part of a series of events held across Canada in June to celebrate Italian Heritage Month. To find out more, visit [www.aicw.ca](http://www.aicw.ca)

Contact person: Anna Foschi Ciampolini [anna@foschimitchell.ca](mailto:anna@foschimitchell.ca)

## Comunicato Stampa

### BOOKS AND BISCOTTI IN GIUGNO, MESE ITALIANO 2022

L'Associazione Scrittori/Scrittrici Italo-Canadesi presenta *Books and Biscotti*, una serata letteraria dedicata ad autori italo-canadesi della British Columbia: David Bellusci, Eloise Carbone, Jane Callen, Bruno Cocorocchio, Arianna Dagnino and Anneliese Schultz.  
Presentatrice: Anna Foschi Ciampolini, co-fondatrice ASSIC.

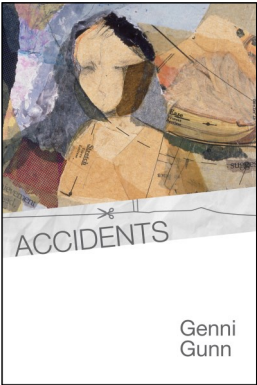
**Giovedì 09 giugno, alle ore 18:30 al Centro Culturale Italiano**

3075 Slocan Street, Vancouver

Books and Biscotti fa parte di una serie di eventi organizzati in tutto il Canada durante il mese di Giugno, dedicato al retaggio culturale italiano. Per maggiori informazioni, visitare [www.aicw.ca](http://www.aicw.ca).

# BOOKS AND OTHER PRINT

## A New Poems Collection: *ACCIDENTS* (Signature Editions, April 2022) by Genni Gunn.



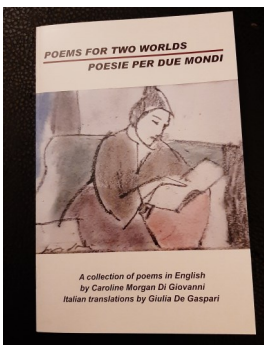
In elegant language which peels back masks to discover a self “folded inside these pages,” Genni Gunn’s *Accidents* exposes links hidden in childhood and in the body to the essence of family, time, and place. It’s the knowing, Gunn says, that “joins us to the ghost limbs of our past.” Gunn’s poetry illuminates found objects, their connections coalescing into an autobiography of perception itself.

— Marilyn Bowering, author of *What is Long Past Occurs in Full Light*

Although Genni Gunn lives in Vancouver, her poems traverse the globe and take readers along for a ride through a world where familial ghosts reside. The memories those spirits bring, often unsettling, ring true as bright shards of glass in sunlight. These poems sometimes inhabit wild places where “...buildings [are] slowly stifled by tentacles of vines” yet may still head uptown to the mostly sedate streets of the poshly manicured Shaughnessy district. Although life in these pages is an ongoing theatre, frequently “...a theatre / of regrets,” the dramas that play out also offer hope through these days of fear and isolation.

— Heidi Greco, author of *Glorious Birds*

## New Book by Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni

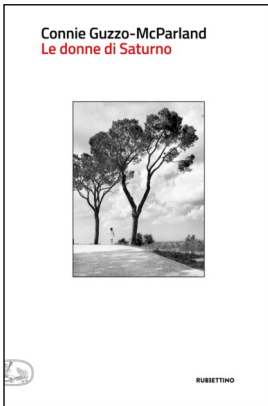


Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni announces the publication of *Poems for Two Worlds/Poesie per due mondi* a collection of poems in the original English version with Italian translations by Giulia De Gasperi. (G.F.Graphics. Inc.:2021)

This book is available by contacting Caroline at [casa.digiovanni@sympatico.ca](mailto:casa.digiovanni@sympatico.ca)  
The \$20 price includes postage anywhere.

# BOOKS AND OTHER PRINT

## Italian Publication and Other News from Connie Guzzo-McParland:



Connie Guzzo-McParland would like to announce the publication of the Italian translation of her two novels, *The Girls of Piazza D'Amore* and *The Women of Saturn*, into one novel, *Le Donne di Saturno*, published by Rubbettino Editore. If travel conditions permit, a formal presentation of the book is planned at the Salone del Libro in Torino this coming May. The book may be acquired in Italy through Amazon.it , Rubbettino Editore and at bookstores; In North America, it is available at Amazon.com or through the author by emailing: [ledonnedisaturno@gmail.com](mailto:ledonnedisaturno@gmail.com).

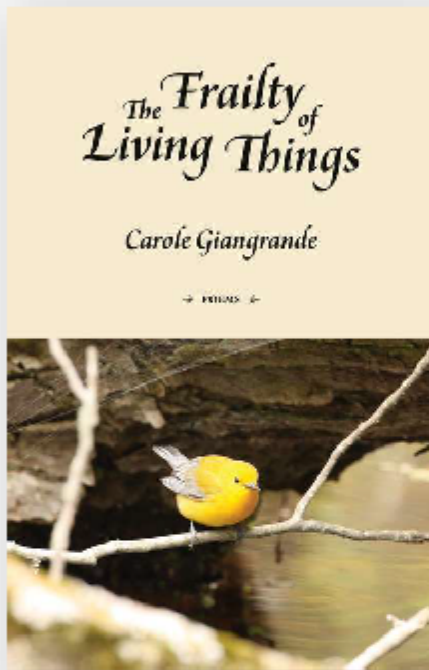
Connie is also happy to announce that her third book, a biography of the operatic Quilico family, *An Opera in 3 Acts*, will be published in the fall of 2022 by Linda Leith Publishing. The story told in Lina, Louis, and Gino Quilico's three distinct voices will be published simultaneously in both English and French versions. More information will follow.

# BOOKS AND OTHER PRINT

## *The Frailty of Living Things*

Poems by

**Carole Giangrande**



*The Frailty of Living Things* weaves together thoughts and reflections from the pandemic: isolation and loneliness, but also hope, compassion and a touch of humour. These poems speak to the impacts of our social illnesses, while drawing consolation from the beauty of the natural world.

From "Pruning Indoor Plants in Quarantine:"

I gather them

like questions that cannot be answered, only lived, removing ageing tendrils, watering the new; sensing that time has given me

this moment to shape and prune my life, to contemplate the frailty of living things, held in the mystery,

the beauty of attention.

Carole Giangrande is the award-winning author of ten prose works for adults and one children's book. Her most recent novel, *The Tender Birds* (2019), won the 2020 Independent Publishers Silver Medal for Literary Fiction. Her poetry has been widely published and her poetry collection *This May Be The Year* is forthcoming from Inanna in 2023. Born and raised in the New York City area, she now lives in Toronto. Visit [www.carolegiangrande.com](http://www.carolegiangrande.com).



Published by Aeolus House

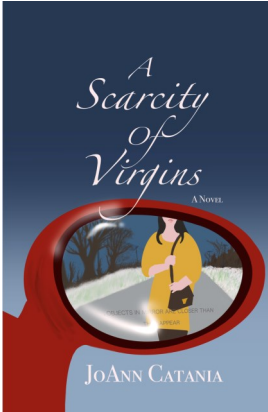
[info@aeolushouse.com](mailto:info@aeolushouse.com)

ISBN 978-1-987872-39-2

40 pages \$15.00

# MEMBER SHOWCASE

## An Excerpt from JoAnn Catania's Novel *A Scarcity of Virgins*



My mother takes away the lentils she's been sorting through, and while waiting for the espresso machine to percolate, puts out tiny cups and saucers and miniature spoons that look like playthings. She also brings out a plate of *cucciddata* — fig-filled cookies that each year are part of her Christmas baking. They are my favourite. "Would it be too much trouble, *cori meu*, for Vittorio to take me to visit *lu Papà e la Nonna*," she asks, "*e lu ziu e la picciridda?*" — my uncle and the little one, at the cemetery before Christmas, to bring them wreaths? The little one is a younger cousin who died years ago.

"I can take you the cemetery, *Mamma*." I'm going out on a limb here. It's an hour-and-a-half drive to the other end of the city where the cemetery is located, if I don't take the highway, which I *won't*. A non-Catholic cemetery — but it doesn't matter to my relatives. What matters is that they were permitted to erect an upright gravestone, which is far more impressive than the flat ones the Catholic cemeteries will only allow. My father, my grandmother, and my uncle are all buried there to keep each other company, and my little cousin who was run over by a car.

"We'll need to buy four pots of *crisatemi*," my mother says.

Chrysanthemums — flowers for the *dead*, not the living, I remind myself. Valentin had known. "*Mamma*, why didn't you tell me that time we went to visit *Nonna* in the hospital, that I shouldn't bring her that pot of chrysanthemums? They're flowers for the dead."

My mother's face flushes. She begins gathering up the espresso cups, busying herself so I don't notice her discomfiture. "It's just a superstition," she says, sloughing it off.

"But *Nonna* *believed* it."

"Your aunt took them away as soon as we left," my mother says, as if that had erased the clumsiness of my gesture.

"Why can't you open your mouth and speak?" I say angrily. "Say what you want to say, instead of always being afraid of upsetting someone. Why have you always tried so hard to spare our innocence, to protect us from — *everything?*"

My mother looks at me, bewildered, hurt. "*Maria Rita*," she says, "you've never spoken to me like that before."

There is a knock at the door, for which I am grateful — the serviceman from the gas company. On inspecting the furnace, he finds a faulty fan belt, replaces it, and quickly leaves. The house, when I leave shortly afterwards, is already warming. My mother is smiling happily, my previous outburst forgotten. Everything is as it should be, as it has always been. My mother comes to see me off at the front door, watches as I put on my jacket and slide into my high leather boots tucking in my jeans. "With those boots and pants," my mother observes, shaking her head, "you look just like a man."



# MEMBER SHOWCASE

## Pink Dresses and White Mary Janes

by Frances Garofalo

Pretty pink dresses and white Mary Janes,  
gossamer skirts, lace bodices and fine strands of pearls,  
perfect poses, laughter and smiles  
captured in rescued photos of misty memories.  
Black and white images plucked from the obscurity of time,  
tattered and faded emissaries from the past.  
Behind the smiles lay the hopes and dreams of our immigrant parents,  
wishes for a better life, validation of their sacrifices and journeys from afar.  
*Fare una bella figura* – so important to make a good impression for our family.  
We must shine, do our best, excel,  
make progress and move forward for the new generations.  
Curated, idealized portraits sent to relatives we revere,  
affirmations of how far we've come and how far we have to go.  
Treasured memories of family gatherings, touchstones of our lives,  
So ephemeral, so fleeting, so achingly beautiful.  
Don't look back, look forward they say,  
But the past lives in our present,  
Never forgotten, always in our hearts.



# MEMBER SHOWCASE

## A Lifetime of Wars

by Joseph Pivato

My father was a lucky man in two ways: he survived the Second World War and he left Europe for Canada.

My father was an Alpino soldier and when Italy signed the armistice with the Allies in September 1943, he became a prisoner of the German forces occupying Italy. He was able to escape; many others did not. The Allied armies fought the German army all the way up the Italian peninsula for two years. My father married my mother in 1945 as the German forces were retreating out of Italy. I was born in 1946 into a country devastated by Fascism and war. We came to Canada in 1952.

In 1956 the Hungarian people rose up to free themselves from Russian domination. The Russians sent tanks into Budapest and crushed the revolt. Thousands of Hungarians escaped out of the country; many came to Canada. When I was in high school in Toronto (1961-66) some of my classmates had been Hungarian refugees as children.

If my parents had emigrated to the USA, I would have been drafted to fight in the Vietnam war (1964-73). And my life could have ended there. About 60,000 Americans died there. When I attended York University in Toronto (1966-70) there were many American students who had come to Canada to escape the draft to Vietnam. It was a very unpopular war.

In 1968 my family made our first return trip to Italy. After visiting relatives in Veneto, Friuli and Toscana we went to see Rome. While there we noticed newspapers with big photos of tanks. The Russians had sent tanks into Czechoslovakia in order to stop the liberal reforms of the elected government. The Prague Spring was crushed.

In 1991-2001 there was a civil war in Yugoslavia which involved separate but related ethnic conflicts and wars of independence. There were atrocities, ethnic cleansing, and other war crimes. It is estimated that 130,000 people died. NATO had to intervene to stop the conflicts. When we visited our cousins in Friuli during that decade, we sometimes met refugees from this war. Friuli is on the border with Slovenia and near Croatia.

Now we have the Russians invading Ukraine in an attempt to impose the will of Putin on a free country. We see Russian tanks again. The Ukrainian people are heroically fighting back against a big Russian army. Unlike the Hungarians in 1956 and the Czechs in 1968, they have military, financial and humanitarian help from the free world. We have seen volunteers from North America go to Ukraine to support the fighting. David did defeat Goliath.

We can understand why Hungary and the Czech Republic are now welcoming thousands of refugees from Ukraine. And we in Canada are also welcoming them.

# NEW MEMBERS

## Irene Aguzzi



Irene Aguzzi completed a Master's Degree in English Literature (creative writing thesis) at McGill University. Her career included heading up communications locally at Montreal's Centaur Theatre Company and nationally, at The Kidney Foundation of Canada. A member of the Quebec Writers Federation, she continues to work on freelance projects and her own short stories. In 2021, she participated in the AICW's "Relaunch Your Passion for Writing" Mentorship Program.

## Bruno Cocorocchio

Italian-born Bruno Cocorocchio came to Canada with his parents in 1964 when he was 12 years old. In 1974, Bruno graduated with a B.A.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Toronto. From graduation to retirement, a span of roughly fifty years, Bruno devoted much effort to the technical discipline for which he had trained while simultaneously developing writing skills. In 2022 Bruno published his first book, a memoir titled, MEA CULPA: A Plea of Innocence.

Currently, Bruno and his wife live in Sidney by the sea, on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada.



## Teresa Manduca

## William Lawrie (Student Member)



**BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!  
DEVENEZ MEMBRE AUJOURD'HUI!  
DIVENTA SOCIO OGGI!**

**CONTACT INFO / COORDONNÉES / DATI PERSONALI:**

First Name/Prénom/Nome:		Middle Name/ Deuxième prénom/ Secondo nome	
Last Name/ Nom de famille/ Cognome		Salutation/ Titre/ Titolo	
Street / Adresse / Via e numero civico			
City / Ville/ Città		Province/State / Province/ État / Provincia	
Country / Pays / Stato		Postal Code / Zip Code/ Code postal / CAP	
Telephone/ Telefono (home / maison/ casa)		Telephone/ Telefono (work / travail / ufficio)	
Email		Website / Site Web / Sito Internet	
Areas of Interest / Champ d'intérêts/ Interessi			
Biography/ Biographie / Biografia (475 characters max)			

**New or Returning Member:**  New/ Nouveau / Nuovo  Renewal / Renouvellement /Rinnovo

**Choose One**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$100.00 CAD</b> —Voting member/ Membre votant / Socio con diritto di voto (1 year/an/anno)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$175.00 CAD</b> —Voting member/ Membre votant / Socio con diritto di voto (2 years/ans/anni)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$100.00 CAD</b> —Associate member / Membre associé/ Socio Ordinario (1 year/an/anno)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$175.00 CAD</b> — Associate member / Membre associé/ Socio Ordinario (2 years/ans/anni)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$25.00 CAD</b> —Student member/ Membre étudiant / Socio student (1 year/an/anno)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$100.00 CAD</b> —Supporter / Sostenitore

*Please make all cheques payable to the Association / Les chèques doivent être faits au nom de l'association/ Gli assegni debbono essere intestati all'associazione*

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

*S'il vous plaît envoyer le formulaire complété accompagné d'un chèque ou un mandat à:*

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

**International: please send money orders.** *À l'étranger: il est préférable d'envoyer des mandats. Estero: si prega di inviare vaglia.*

**Association of Italian Canadian Writers  
2742 East Georgia Street  
Vancouver, BC V5K 2K2 Canada**