



# Association of Italian-Canadian Writers

## Associazione di scrittori/scrittrici italo-canadesi

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

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### Summer Time Swim

*A grizzly bear takes a cooling bath atop Grouse Mountain, BC.*

*June 2019*

*Photo by Francesca Foschi Mitchell*

### AICW on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram

Follow the AICW on Twitter [@AICWCanada](#) and Instagram [@aicwcanada](#) Watch events on [YouTube](#)  
If you are on [Facebook](#), please take the time to LIKE our page.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

Throughout the month of June, our members celebrated Italian Heritage Month and Pride Month with literary activities, online and in-person. We are thankful to Villa Charities for having organized virtual readings with AICW members Tina Biello, Christopher DiRaddo and host Anna Foschi on June 8; Guglielmo D'Izzia, Annalisa Panati and host Rosaria Moretti-Lawrie on June 22 ([see page 12](#)). On June 29, the Italian-American Studies Association organized a screening and discussion of the documentary film *Creative Spaces: Queer and Italian Canadian* (2021), made possible by the AICW and ÉRÉQQ ([see page 14](#)). The first in-person screening will take place in Montreal on July 21 ([see page 11](#)). Trailer: [https://youtu.be/6xu8\\_ZZbcLo](https://youtu.be/6xu8_ZZbcLo)

## Books and Biscotti Literary Series

The Association of Italian-Canadian Writers presents  
Bilingual Readings

Italian-Canadian Literature in Translation

Tuesday, April 12, 2022  
at 3:30 pm ET on Zoom

**Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni** (translation by Giulia De Gasperi)  
**Sonia Di Placido** (translation by Maria Pia Spadafora)  
**Liana Cusmano** (translation read by Christine Sansalone) and  
bilingual poems by **Giulia De Gasperi**

Hosted by Christine Sansalone

Please request link at [info@aicw.ca](mailto:info@aicw.ca)



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AICW is pleased to announce a new series: **Italian-Canadian Literature in Translation**. In April, National Poetry Month, we featured bilingual readings with poets and their translators. Watch the event: [Books and Biscotti April](#) Events were also held in May and June ([see page 9](#)). Join us on July 14 for the next event. Ask for the Zoom link by writing to [info@aicw.ca](mailto:info@aicw.ca)

The deadline for the Venera Fazio Poetry Contest has been extended to August 31, 2022. Send in your poems! ([See page 3.](#))

To mark its 40<sup>th</sup> 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. Click here for details. [https://aicw.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/AICW-40th-Anniversary-Celebration-Anthology\\_Call.pdf](https://aicw.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/AICW-40th-Anniversary-Celebration-Anthology_Call.pdf)

Italian-Canadian writers who are members of the LGBTQ+ community are invited to send their writing to a second anthology. See the Call for Submissions on [page 5](#).

We are pleased to announce that the next in-person AICW conference, "The Traces We Leave: Italian Canadians and Their Works," will be held at the University of Torino from September 28 to October 1, 2022. The program will be publicized shortly.

Welcome to our new and returning members. ([See page 22.](#)) Thank you for creating your profile at [aicw.ca](http://aicw.ca).

Thanks to the current executive for their work over the past two years. Grazie to Newsletter Editor Francesca Mitchell for her commitment to the AICW.

Have a great summer,

Licia Canton, President

# NEWS

## AICW Venera Fazio Poetry Contest



### **AICW Venera Fazio Poetry Contest**

**Deadline August 31, 2022**

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

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

# NEWS

## Accenti Workshops

Accenti Magazine is pleased to present free virtual workshops.

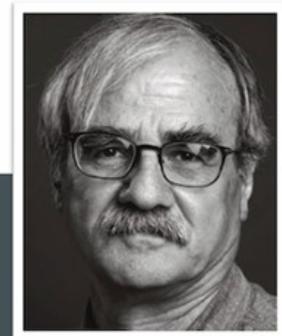
See details for ten workshops here: [Countering Isolation with Creativity – Accenti Magazine](#)

Workshop 3, **Photographs as Inspiration for Writing**, was led by AICW member Vincenzo Pietropaolo. Watch the video on Youtube: [Accenti's Countering Isolation With Creativity - Workshop 3: Photographs as Inspiration for Writing - YouTube](#)

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## COUNTERING ISOLATION WITH CREATIVITY

WORKSHOP 3 – PHOTOGRAPHS AS INSPIRATION FOR  
WRITING with **VINCENZO PIETROPAOLO**



A photograph is a story; its careful reading sets memories in motion and reveals layers of meaning that nurture the creative process. This workshop is divided into three parts: how to “read” a photograph; writing short descriptions of the selected photographs; discussion of the stories, written or to be written.

**Vincenzo Pietropaolo** has published over a dozen books. He is a contributing editor at *POV Point ofView Magazine* and a member of The Writers' Union of Canada.

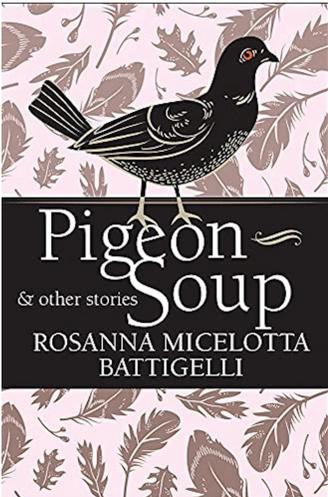
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Tuesday, June 28, 2022 • 2:00-3:30 pm ET, on ZOOM  
**Free Admission**

Click [here](#) to register and to learn  
about other workshops.

# NEWS

## International Award for Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli's *Pigeon Soup & Other Stories*



Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli's *Pigeon Soup & Other Stories* (Inanna Publications, June 2021) has been honoured as a finalist in the 2022 International Book Awards in the Fiction: Short Story category. A complete list of winners and finalists in each category can be found at:

<http://www.internationalbookawards.com/2022awardannouncem...>

Finalists are listed in alphabetical order. All finalists have equal merit.

From Jeffrey Keen, President & CEO of American Book Fest: "The 2022 International Book Awards received thousands of entries from all over the world. By placing in this year's awards, you have surpassed 80% of your fellow entrants. **CONGRATULATIONS!**"

## Call for Submissions: Second Anthology of Queer Italian-Canadian Writing

We are seeking literary contributions for a **Second Anthology of Queer Italian-Canadian Writing**. The first volume, *Here & Now* (2021), included more than 35 writers and a three-part introduction by scholars Domenic Beneventi, Michela Baldo and Paolo Frascà: <https://accenti.ca/product/here-now-anthology/> Publication was made possible by Queer Studies in Quebec Research Group (ÉREQQ), Frank Iacobucci Centre for Italian-Canadian Studies at the University of Toronto, University of Calabria, Association of Italian-Canadian Writers (AICW), English Language Arts Network (ELAN), Mariano A. Elia Chair in Italian-Canadian Studies at York University, Longbridge Books and *Accenti Magazine*.

**Submissions** can be on any topic or theme: fiction (short stories, flash fiction, excerpts of novels), nonfiction (memoir, travel, or personal essays), creative nonfiction and poetry (maximum 40 lines). Maximum 2000 words for prose. (Please query about plays and film scripts.) Preference will be given to original, unpublished texts in English. We will also consider published work (if author owns the rights) and English translations. **Contributors** must be Canadian of Italian origin who identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community.

# NEWS

Please send **queries** or the information requested below (as part of the email; no attachments) to [lcanton@accenti.ca](mailto:lcanton@accenti.ca) by October 31, 2022.

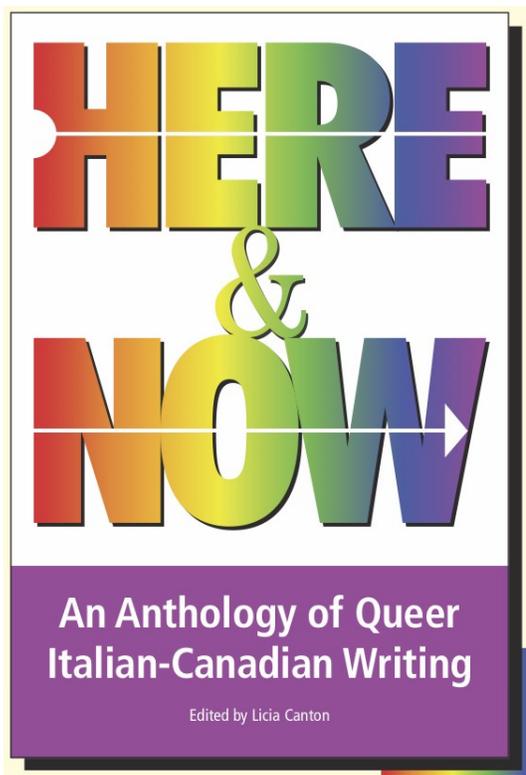
1. Full name and contact information.
2. The title of your text and genre.
3. A 100-word proposal or excerpt.
4. A 50-word biography.

Visit <http://www.queeritaliancanadian.com> to find out more about the project. See trailer of documentary film *Creative Spaces: Queer and Italian Canadian*, made possible by ÉRÉQQ and AICW: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xu8\\_ZZbcLo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xu8_ZZbcLo)

See also

<https://elia-chair.info.yorku.ca/from-the-white-desk-the-making-of-here-now-an-anthology-of-queer-italian-canadian-writing/>

**Thank you for sharing this Call for Submissions:**





The  
Newsletter  
with an  
Italian Accent

**Montreal, June 16, 2022** – Accenti Magazine is pleased to announce the finalists of the 2022 Accenti Writing Contest:

"Anywhere in the World" by **Rita Ciresi**

"Dining with the Gods" by **Damiano Pietropaolo**

"Mat Leave Diary" by **Felicia Zuniga**

"Suora Teresa Is Dead" by **Andria Sallese**

The Accenti Writing Contest awards a Grand Prize of \$1000, three runner-up prizes of \$100, and publication. We wish to thank the judges: Anthony Bonato, Konrad Eisenbichler, Giulia De Gasperi, Polly Phokeev.

**The Grand Prize Winner will be announced later this month.**

**Congratulations to the finalists!**

# EVENTS

## Books and Biscotti in Ottawa

by Anna Romano Milne



At the Ottawa Books and Biscotti on June 12, editor Licia Canton and contributor Jessica Carpinone read from *Here & Now: An Anthology of Queer Italian-Canadian Writing* (2021). (Photo by Sarah)

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, AICW members presented their works as part of Ottawa's *Settimana Italiana*. Dosi Cotroneo and I co-hosted the sold-out event, held at the Italian Canadian Historical Centre. Local authors Jessica Carpinone and Rene Pappone were invited readers, as well as Licia Canton and Domenic Cusmano who travelled from Montreal to be with us. The line-up of 10 presenters also included fellow members of Ottawa Independent Writers: Ermelinda Mancini, Bob Barclay, and Sharon Hamilton.

Organizing the event was a passion project for me. Officially, it was held in celebration of a beloved member of the Ottawa Italian Community, Luciano Pradal. Some of you may be familiar with his book, *Chronicles of an Ottawa Chestnut Lover*. Though I never had the pleasure of meeting Luciano before his passing, I came across his book in 2018 and it provided inspiration for my early writing.

There was an unofficial dedication as well: the one held quietly in my heart for my father who would have been 90 on this very day. And as an

added element of significance, the event took place on Saint Anthony's day, my father's *onomastico*.

This was the first time that I organized such an event, and, in fact, it was also my first time doing a reading! Special thanks to Licia who I felt was holding my hand virtually as I pulled together the last-minute details.

The event was made possible by Trina Costantini-Powell, President of NCIC (Ottawa Region), and the Canada Council for the Arts via The Writers' Union of Canada.



Sitting (left to right): Trina Costantini-Powell, Jessica Carpinone. Standing (left to right): Licia Canton, Domenic Cusmano, Anna Romano Milne, Dosi Cotroneo, Rene Pappone. (Photo courtesy of Anna Romano Milne)

# EVENTS

## Books and Biscotti in Vancouver



From left: Bruno Cocorocchio, Eloise Carbone, Jane Callen, Anna Foschi Ciampolini (host), Arianna Dagnino, David Bellusci, and Michael Cuccione, the President of the Italian Cultural Centre. (Photo uncredited)

After two years of virtual readings, finally *Books and Biscotti* returned to a live audience on June 09, 2022, at the Italian Cultural Centre. Five local authors read from their works.

After a lively exchange of questions and answers, the authors and the public mingled over coffee and a big batch of fabulous homemade biscotti that Cristina Pepe had lovingly baked for the event.

## Italian-Canadian Literature in Translation: Books & Biscotti Literary Series

Watch the May event: [Books & Biscotti Literary Series \(May 19, 2022\)](#)

### Books and Biscotti Literary Series

The Association of Italian-Canadian Writers presents  
Bilingual Readings

Italian-Canadian Literature in Translation

Thursday, May 19, 2022  
at 3:30 pm ET on Zoom

**Silvia Falsaperla** (translation by Rosy Martucci and Pier Angelo Piccolo)

**Darlene Madott** (translation by Maria Pia Spadafora)

**Nino Fama** (translation by Damiano Pietropaolo)

Hosted by Christine Sansalone

Please request link at [info@aicw.ca](mailto:info@aicw.ca)



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# EVENTS

Watch the June event: <https://youtu.be/hYsXMsmrq9I>

## Books and Biscotti Literary Series

The Association of Italian-Canadian Writers presents  
Bilingual Readings



Italian-Canadian Literature in Translation

Thursday, June 23, 2022  
at 3:30 pm ET on Zoom

**Caterina Edwards** (translation by Giulia De Gasperi)  
**Eloise Carbone** (translation by Anna Foschi)  
**Keith Henderson** (translation by Fiorella Paris)

Hosted by Maria Pia Spadafora  
Technical support by Christine Sansalone

Please request link at [info@aicw.ca](mailto:info@aicw.ca)

## Books and Biscotti Literary Series

The Association of Italian-Canadian Writers presents  
Bilingual Readings



Italian-Canadian Literature in Translation

Thursday, July 14, 2022  
at 5:00 pm ET on Zoom

**Licia Canton** (translation by Giulia De Gasperi and Maria Pia Spadafora)  
**Edoardo Maturo** (translation by Sandor Vezer)  
**Delia De Santis** (translation by Maria Pia Spadafora)

Hosted by Christine Sansalone  
Technical support by Maria Pia Spadafora

Please request link at [info@aicw.ca](mailto:info@aicw.ca)



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# EVENTS

## Queer and Italian in Montreal

Join us for a festive celebration of queer Italian-Canadian culture in Montreal. Violet Hour, in collaboration with Fierté Montréal Pride, the Istituto Italiano di Cultura Montreal and *Accenti Magazine*, will present a screening of *Creative Spaces: Queer and Italian Canadian* (Licia Canton, 2021), a short documentary that explores the intersections of queerness, creativity and culture with three Italian-Canadian writers living in Montreal. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion about the past, present and future of queer Italian-Canadian culture in the city featuring Gaspare Borsellino (Gruppo Italiano Gay e Lesbico di Montreal), Vee DG (CIAO – Canadian Italians Against Oppression), Steve Galluccio and others. Hosted by Christopher DiRaddo.

Thursday, July 21, 2022

7 PM to 9 PM

At the Istituto Italiano di Cultura Montreal (1200 Avenue du Docteur-Penfield)

In English

RSVP: [https://iicmontreal.esteri.it/iic\\_montreal/it/gli\\_eventi/calendario/2022/07/queer-e-italian-montreal.html](https://iicmontreal.esteri.it/iic_montreal/it/gli_eventi/calendario/2022/07/queer-e-italian-montreal.html)



# EVENTS

## In My Own Words

### Spotlight on Italian-Canadian Authors

Villa Charities organized free virtual readings of selected works by Italian-Canadian authors. Presented in collaboration with the Association of Italian-Canadian Writers. With financial assistance from the Canada Council for the Arts through The Writers' Union of Canada.

## In My Own Words

Spotlight on Italian-Canadian Authors



Tina  
Biello

Christopher  
DiRaddo

Guglielmo  
D'Izzia

Annalisa  
Panati

June 8 • 7:00pm

June 22 • 7:00pm



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THE  
WRITERS'  
UNION OF  
CANADA



# EVENTS

## Darlene Madott's Summer Solstice Garden Party

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**WINE, WORDS & WONDER  
SUMMER SOLSTICE  
GARDEN PARTY**

Hosted by Darlene Madott

To celebrate writers and  
renewed creativity  
during Italian Heritage Month

**Tuesday June 21, 2022  
6:30 pm - 9:00pm**



**FEATURED AUTHORS**

GIANNA PATRIARCA  
MICHELLE ALFANO  
DOMENICO CAPILONGO  
ANTONIA FAGGIPONTE  
ELIO IANACCI  
CAROLINE MORGAN  
DIGIOVANNI

Readings begin promptly at  
@ 7pm

Open Mic 1st sign-up & thereafter...

**RSVP and details:  
madott@dmfamilylaw.net**



Celebrating the solstice can be a beautiful reminder that our lives are part of a larger order, always changing, always renewing. AICW member Darlene Madott held a gathering of poets and writers in her garden in Toronto on June 21st. In addition to the featured writers, AICW members in Toronto and environs were invited to attend and to participate at the "Open Mic." Darlene says she felt compelled to do something to honour Italian heritage month and worldwide Indigenous Day, and to share her garden. The seeds for this idea were planted in early spring, when she appreciated that everything is amplified when shared, and life diminished when it is not.

Darlene Madott and Gianna Patriarca

# EVENTS



[www.ItalianAmericanStudies.net](http://www.ItalianAmericanStudies.net)

## Italian American Studies Association Webinar Series

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### The Queer and Italian Canadian Project

Licia Canton, Ph.D.  
with Domenico Beneventi, Ph.D.



Wednesday, June 29, 2022

4:00 PM EST

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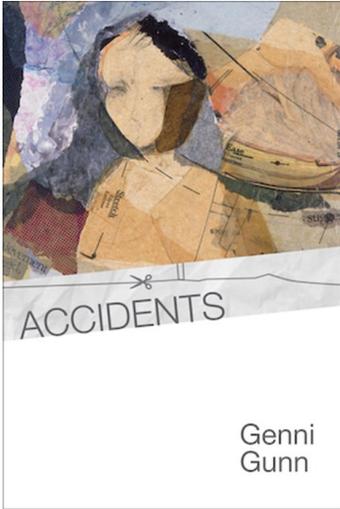
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To register please click or copy the link below:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_sXMbt5W9Tb68gTDmvrSMRA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sXMbt5W9Tb68gTDmvrSMRA)

# BOOKS AND OTHER PRINT

## News from Genni Gunn



I am pleased to announce the Italian publication of *Alla Ricerca di Iris* (Les Flâneurs Edizioni), a translation of my novel, *Tracing Iris*, (translation by Margherita Piva). I will be in Italy in the fall to promote it. Les Flâneurs website has more information: [Tracing Iris/Alla Ricerca di Iris](#)

This book has had a long life: it was made into a film, *The Riverbank*, in 2011. See the film trailer for it here: [Tracing Iris / The Riverbank](#).

My new collection of poems, *Accidents*, has been featured on All Lit Up: Poetry in Motion. Have a look here for the origins of this book: [Poetry in Motion: Genni Gunn](#)

And here is the book trailer for *Accidents*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcMhUgRXOCU>

## Looking Back as Writer

by Joseph Pivato

We live in the decade of memoirs. Every sports figure, ex-politician or journalist has published one or more memoirs. Some are ghost written. Poetry may be an antidote to all this pedestrian prose.

Recently two poets have been looking back: Gianna Patriarca with *This Way Home*, and Giovanna Riccio with *Plastic's Republic*. Patriarca's large volume (570 pages) includes poems from her previous eight books. She revisits people and events in her life. We meet many elderly immigrant women and men who are also looking back at their long lives.

these are the women  
who were born to give birth  
they breathe only  
leftover air  
and speak only  
when deeper voices  
have fallen asleep (29)

Patriarca begins with her own birth and her father's great disappointment that she was female, "mourning the loss of his

# BOOKS AND OTHER PRINT

immortality.” (30). “The Old Man” poem has the Italian translation on the facing page (62-63). There are poems in Ciociaro dialect (301 and 327) which Patriarca has self-translated. “Loreta, la calda” has an old woman speak frankly about her sex life (69). In “Daughters for Sale,” Rosaria explains that after the war and a dead brother she was married by proxy to “a man from a photograph” (71). “Notes on Aging” a long poem, observes, “lately it seems all words are about loss / always about leaving” (111). With her powerful language Patriarca gives these silenced people a voice.

There are moving poems on the death of her mother, her aunt and her grandmother all taking the final journey home and so we see another meaning for the title, *This Way Home*.

Giovanna Riccio also looks at the condition of women as captured in the form of the doll, Barbie which has influenced the self-image of young girls for seven decades. The voices here are different generations of Barbies and their inventors. The poem on the creation of the Black Barbie ends with,

So in Style Black dolls whose distinct skin  
tones, angular cheekbones  
back the same difference: their  
lips full-er, hair curli-er, hips broad-er (38)

With an engaging mixture of argumentative prose-poems and conventional verse, Riccio deconstructs the powerful Barbie phenomenon. In “Human Barbie” she explains,

The first time Barbie came for the freckled babe  
*I want to look like that*, sounded  
in Cindy’s six-year-old psyche—even so,  
she might have let her Mensa-to-be (61)

All the young girls and women who begin to collect Barbies and their equipment come to see their own bodies as malleable, like the plastic of Barbie’s form. The plastic’s republic encourages the search for physical perfection through plastic surgery.

The politics of Barbie are also international as Valeria, the Ukrainian Barbie explains to Justin, a narcissist,

If you’re not too busy ogling that dodgy  
snob reflection in your looking glass or  
screen, note that I wrote in Ukrainian  
not in Russian.... (71)

By using the voices of women who question male chauvinist ideas that they had internalized, Patriarca encourages younger women to free themselves, to become who they want to be. Likewise, Riccio’s subtle irony attacks a culture of superficial images personified by Barbie. Both volumes are published by Guernica.

# BOOKS AND OTHER PRINT

## **Poems in Response to Peril: An Anthology in Support of Ukraine.**

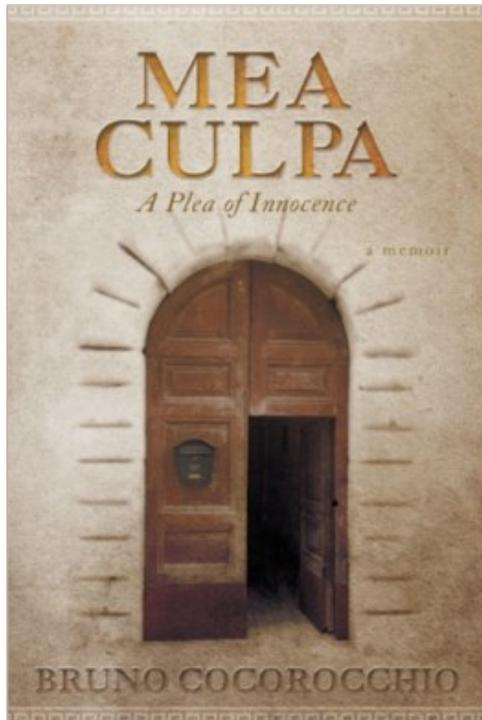
**Edited by Penn Kemp and Richard-Yves Sitoski (Pendas Productions/ Laughing Ravens Press: 2022)**

This stirring collection of Canadian poems came together from an invitation on Facebook weeks after the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces in February 2022. Penn Kemp, former poet laureate of London, Ontario and Richard-Yves Sitoski, poet laureate of Owen Sound, called upon Canadian writers to take part in a nation-wide poetry reading on Zoom to give voice to our shocked reactions to such brutal aggression. On April 2, 2022, there were 39 poets reading their work over a Zoom call that lasted 3 hours. Richard-Yves Sitoski coordinated this large gathering with the resources of the Owen Sound Public Library. The common thread was our anguish and heartbreak, driven by the quote from W.H. Auden that "poetry makes nothing happen" but he adds "it survives, / A way of happening, a mouth."

After that long afternoon, the poems were collected, identified, and put together in record time to create this excellent book which includes poems by AICW member Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni, and by George Elliott Clarke. The publication can be ordered directly from **Laughing Raven Press, rsitoski.com** Also see [www.pennkemp.weebly.com](http://www.pennkemp.weebly.com) Surplus funds are donated to a Ukrainian charity.

# BOOKS AND OTHER PRINT

## MEA CULPA: A PLEA OF INNOCENCE BY BRUNO COCOROCCHIO



### About the Book

A powerful memoir that dives deep into the childhood and psyche of the author, **MEA CULPA: A Plea of Innocence** chronicles the lifelong struggle of a boy—and later a man—to gain his parents' approval. Longing particularly to ease his mother's ever-present pain, he carries a misplaced guilt into every aspect—and relationship—of his life.

In a series of vignettes, the reader is transported back in time to a small mountain village in post-war Italy. Amidst ruins and famine, a young family grapples with poverty. Growing up in such dire circumstances, the only coping strategy for the young boy is to imagine himself as a Roman centurion in command of an army. Adding to his stress is a mother who constantly draws him into a relationship that requires blind devotion and cruel sacrifice. Her craftiness and guilt-inducing methods are revealed in detail, making this a suspenseful narrative about survival.

*The author chronicles his story with admirable, even courageous candor - An impressively forthcoming yet idiosyncratic recollection. - Kirkus Reviews*

[MEA CULPA | Kirkus Reviews](#)

### About the Author

Bruno Cocorocchio graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Engineering from the University of Toronto in 1974. In later years, he began to further develop his writing skills. In 1995, he enrolled in a film studies program at Ryerson University in Toronto, which included scriptwriting, and in 2007, he attended a one-year media studies program at Seneca College. From 2012 to 2016, he took courses in non-fiction creative writing and in memoir writing at the University of Toronto and the University of Victoria respectively.

Bruno lives in Sidney on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada with his wife, who has been instrumental in bringing this book to fruition.



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through FRIESENPRESS

[www.brunococorocchio.com](http://www.brunococorocchio.com)  
[Bruno.cocorocchio.author@gmail.com](mailto:Bruno.cocorocchio.author@gmail.com)

# MEMBER SHOWCASE

## In the Event

by Genni Gunn

of an earthquake stay calm Avoid panic  
If indoors crouch under desk or table if outdoors  
find an open space no trees nothing to fall Conceal  
fear with vigour Protect your temples  
head and neck Recoil from windows  
After the shaking stops expect aftershocks

when your lover departs after the shock  
wears off your heart is a drained lagoon a panic  
attack Keep curtains drawn the windows  
barred against the tidal wave Outdoors  
wind seethes Stay calm Erect a temple  
in your head and wear a smile Conceal

the blistering grief In the event of fire conceal  
the burns and scars Avoid the aftershocks  
move to a Buddhist country Gold leaf a temple  
make rice become a monk and never panic  
despite the trucks of soldiers Stay calm Outdoors  
walk barefoot and when inside open the windows

to welcome birds cicadas death through windows  
of your own design a phoenix perhaps concealed  
in a nest of boughs and spices weary of its solitary life outdoors  
what scarlet plumage in the heat of night what aftershock  
to see the pyre the gold-tinged feathers when the fire strikes don't panic  
collect the ashes in an egg of myrrh and take them to the temple

of the Egyptian god spend time in Heliopolis the City of Sun a temple  
to optimism There's no alternative only the fall from windows  
a hundred storeys down leaps into raging currents don't panic  
a twist of rope skid marks on a switchback road the sky congealed  
in limbs of green Stay calm Lie in the sun and welcome aftershocks  
under your skin Let grief surge through you an outdoor

spring bound for the estuary Stay calm Move out of door-

# MEMBER SHOWCASE

ways into the light Believe in miracles build temples  
in the air beware the pyrotechnics the aftershocks  
new lovers skin voices that haunt you in the widowed  
night In the event of earthquakes conceal  
emotion in the desert of yourself Stay calm Don't panic

in the event of an event outdoors impending death build windows  
to escape from eternal arks for floods temples for disbelievers all to conceal  
the aftershocks bridges to span the sudden gulps the panic

## THE BLUE SUITCASE

by Frances Garofalo

The powder blue suitcase beckons,  
barely visible in the chiaroscuro of the closet.  
He fetches it gingerly.  
With a snap of the silver enclosures, he carefully opens the well-worn  
lid.  
He stares at the cache of documents, treasured letters and postcards  
from across the ocean.  
Blue and white chevron-edged envelopes with elaborate stamps stare  
back at him.  
Shifting over time, the once neat piles create a vivid collage of blue,  
red and white  
against the dull interior.  
The dutiful son, he sifts through the envelopes to find one in particular.  
He extracts the onion-skin letter, crammed with flowery declarations  
of affection from his family.  
Scanning the contents, he is once again riveted by the words.  
The trunks are .... Empty  
Four words that strike him to the core.  
Overcome by anxiety, shame and a sense of urgency, he reads the  
stark phrase once more.  
His sisters' trunks should have been full of linens and fine housewares,  
*but*  
*they are still empty.*



# MEMBER SHOWCASE

His father, a shadow of his former self, is gravely ill.  
Crushing poverty and illness exact their toll on him.  
Unable to escape the burden of his family *dovere* and their never-ending needs,  
it falls upon him, the eldest son, to send money for dowries to fill the trunks.  
Like he had done many times before, he places a money order and short note  
in the envelope, sealing and readying it for the long journey.  
Quickly closing the suitcase, he slides it into the closet to await the next missive from Italy,  
and the next tearful request.  
With a long sigh, he makes one of many trips to the post office to mail the letter,  
fulfilling his duty once again.

# NEW MEMBERS

## Adelina Fabiano



Adelina Fabiano is a first-generation Italian-Canadian. Her parents courageously immigrated from a southern village in “La Sila,” of Calabria, to Calgary in the 1970s, instilling deep and wholesome roots. She identifies strongly with her Italian heritage, valuing the beauty of the language, culture, and Mediterranean landscape; she equally reveres the vast prairies and Rocky Mountains.

Inspired by her maternal grandmother, a gifted poet and orator, Adelina is grateful to her grandmother for imparting wisdom and her ability to find beauty in all things. Adelina is following suit and published a book of poems dedicated to her beloved grandmother called “One Sweet Pomegranate,” and a children’s book called “The Perfect Dandelion,” about self-worth.

Adelina has been an educator for 18 years. Her writing is inspired by the world around her and her passion in child development, psychology, and human potential. She is currently completing a graduate degree in Counselling Psychology.

## Anna Romano Milne

Anna is a second-generation Canadian living in Ottawa, Ontario. Her parents were born in the region of Molise, Italy.

As a career public servant, Anna has spent the last three decades using the power of prose to shape Canadian public policy. With economics degrees from the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, one of her proudest moments remains receiving the Writer’s Craft Award from her Grade 13 English teacher.

Passionate about the Italian immigrant experience, Anna began writing in 2019, contributing several stories to Ottawa’s Italian community newspaper *L’Ora di Ottawa*. She is currently working on a collection of poems.

Anna is a member of Ottawa Independent Writers and the Ottawa *Settimana Italiana*.



# NEW MEMBERS

## Anneliese Schultz



A Bread Loaf Scholar and Pushcart Prize nominee, Anneliese completed her MFA at UBC, and was shortlisted for the 2016 HarperCollins/UBC Prize for Best New Fiction. Her fiction has been widely published, including in "The Toronto Star", as well as recognized by the Writers' Union of Canada, the Bath Short Story Award, the Surrey Writers' Conference, the Alpine Fellowship, and more. She has won the "Stone Canoe" Prize for Fiction, and the "Enizagam" and ALSCW Fiction Awards.

Having lived in Italy in the '70s, Anneliese has grad and post-grad degrees in French and Italian, and taught Italian at UBC for decades. She lives in Vancouver in a crazily creative German-Punjabi household.

## Sándor Anthony Vezér

Sándor Anthony Vezér is a trilingual Canadian of Italian and Hungarian origin with a BA in Geographic Analysis from Ryerson University and a Master's Degree in Creative and Humanistic Translation from the University of Valencia, Spain. In 2020, after having read his favourite book for the second time, he contacted its Italian author, started his publishing company, Giovan8 (Giovanotto), and successfully negotiated its English translation rights. In June 2021, Giovan8 translated and published its English edition and in December 2021, Giovan8 completed the series. Giovan8 just secured the English translation rights for its 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> books.

Go, Giovan8, Go!





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