
This month: AICW conference looking for sponsors, member news, and new books

AICW Newsletter

19 marzo 2024 alle ore 12:14

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AICW Newsletter, March 2024

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1. President's Letter

Dear AICW members,

Thank you to all AICW members who joined us for the first event of the Established Writers' series on February 10, 2024. We had the honour and pleasure of listening to some of our most talented writers: **Darlene Madott, Silvia Falsaperla, Carmelo Militano, Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli** and **Adriana Davis**. The next event of the series will take place on Saturday, April 13 from 2:00-3:15 pm ET and will feature readings by **Michael Mirolla, Nino Famà, Terri Favro, Anna Foschi** and **Connie Guzzo McParland**.

I would like to remind everyone that the **19th AICW Biennial Conference** will take place in Toronto, at York University and at the Columbus Center on September 27 & 28, 2024. The call for proposals went out and I am happy to let you know that we have received over 40 proposals. I can't wait to see everyone there.

I am pleased to inform you that **Guernica Editions** has agreed to be our publisher for the AICW 40th anniversary anthology. Thank you, Guernica Editions!

I would like to wish everyone a happy spring! May the beautiful weather bring a boost to everyone's creativity.

Your president,

– **Christine Sansalone**
AICW President

2. AICW News

Searching for Sponsors for 2024 AICW Conference

We are gearing up for the **September 2024 AICW Conference in Toronto**. We are seeking potential local sponsors and need your help! Suggestions include

local businesses, winemakers, or bakeries interested in supporting our biennial event. Your network matters! We welcome various forms of support and all contributions will be recognized in our conference promotional material. Send a message to **Rosaria Moretti** (morettir@yorku.ca) if you have any leads or connections to share.

3. Member News

"The Sun Over Mississauga," a poem by **Josie Di Sciascio-Andrews** has won [first prize](#) in the 2023 literary contest by Verbumlandiart, Antonio De Ferraris, Citta del Galateo in Italy. Also, her poem "The First Time I Heard Leonard Cohen" was nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Josie's poetry collection *A Jar of Fireflies* is in its second run, in an updated edition by Mosaic Press, April 2024.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign affairs provides funds for the translation of Italian books and audiovisual works in foreign languages such as English or French. AICW members are invited to direct your enquiries to **Happie Testa**: happie.testa@esteri.it.

Lucia Cascioli's short story, "Sam," is included in [Loss Lifespan Volume 9](#) by Pure Slush, an imprint of Bequem Publishing.

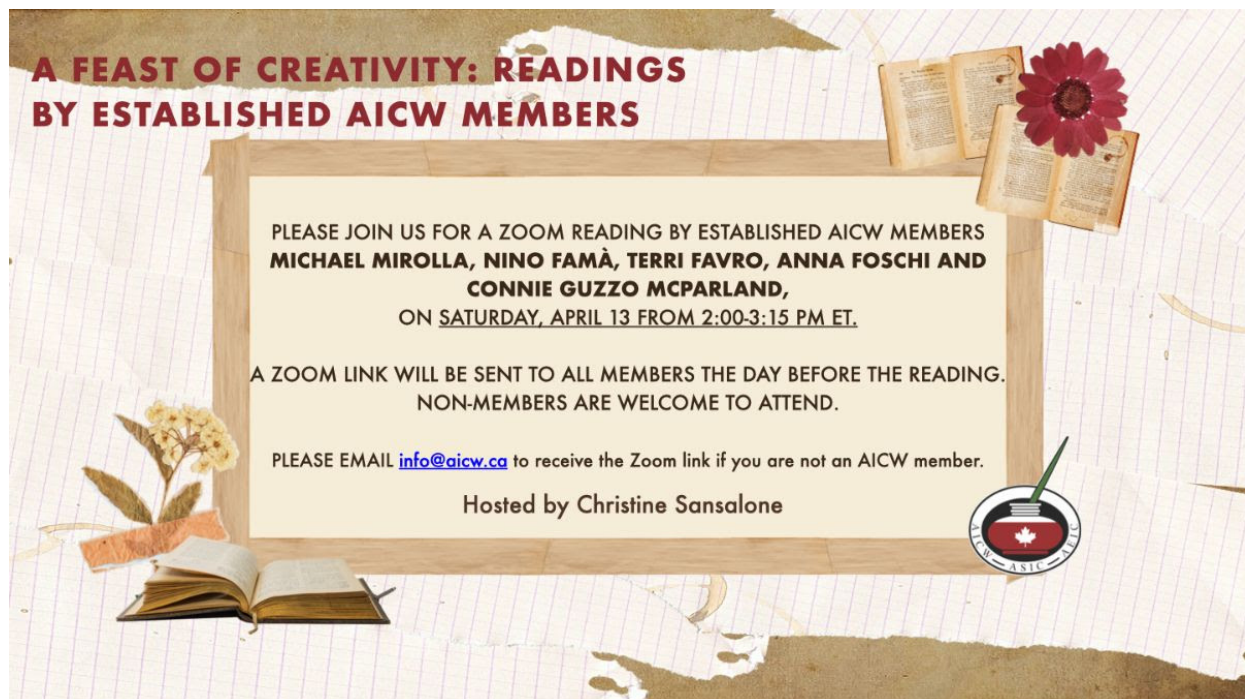


4. Events

The next evening of **readings by established AICW Members** will take place on Saturday, April 13 from 2:00-3:15 pm ET and will feature **Michael Mirolla, Nino Famà, Terri Favro, Anna Foschi and Connie Guzzo McParland.**

On Saturday, April 19 will be **Readings and discussion on Queer(ing) Italian-Canadian Poetry.** To celebrate National Poetry Month, poets will be reading from *Here & Now, Volume 2* on Zoom, which *Accenti Magazine* and AICW have partially funded.

The AICW is organizing the second edition of **Emerging Creative Voices**, which will take place Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 2.00 p.m. ET on Zoom. Stay Tuned!



5. Call for Submissions

Creative Writing Competition: Italiense / Italian American 2.0

The **University of Toronto Mississauga** and the **University of Tuscia** announce a competition aimed at Italian Canadian and Italian American writers who wish to revive Italiense / Italian American in their writings as the identity language of Italian communities emigrated to North America. This competition is part of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research

Council (SSHRC) funded research Italiense and its new developments: from endangered to a global language. The competition aims to enhance the cultural and linguistic aspects of Italiense or Italian-American as an identity language in contact, emphasizing the relationship between language and symbolic values and communicative aspects linked to the community.

Writers wishing to participate in the competition must produce a text of approximately 500 words on a topic of their free choice from everyday life. It can range from family dynamics at home, work-related scenarios, moments of community socialization, or extend to other contexts where Italiense or Italian-American can be utilized. The contribution should reflect the language, syntax structure, and the vocabulary used by Italiense / Italian-American speakers and should include a minimum of 20 Italiense words.

The submissions must include the first and last name, email contact of the author. The contributions will be used as part of our SSHRC research project. The submissions must be sent to **Salvatore Bancheri** (salvatore.bancheri@utoronto.ca) and **Simone Casini** (simone.casini@unitus.it) no later than July 15, 2024.

The judging panel will consist of 3 members. The panel will prioritize creativity, imagination, and originality in the execution of the submissions, as well as linguistic expression and the cultural proposal's suitability to the characteristics of Italian Canadian and Italian-American identity. Additionally, consideration will be given to the use of Italiense or Italian American as an identity language.

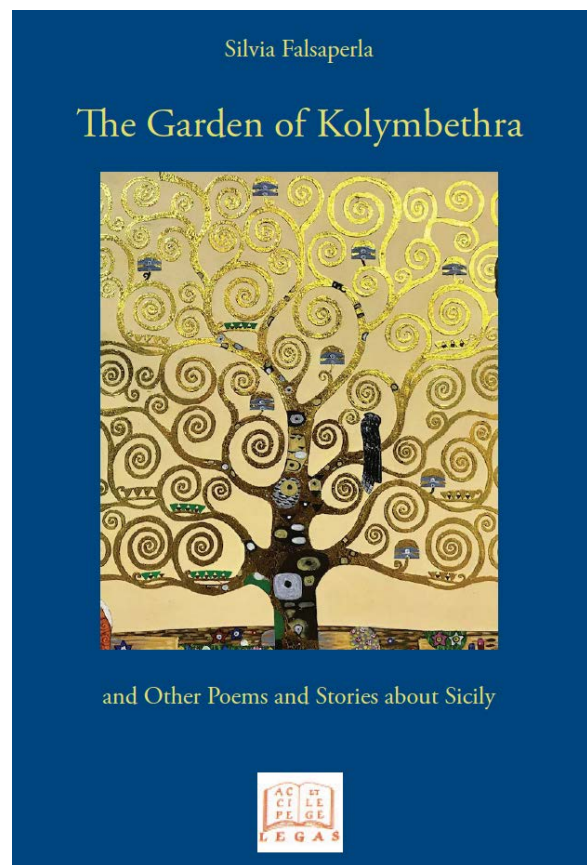
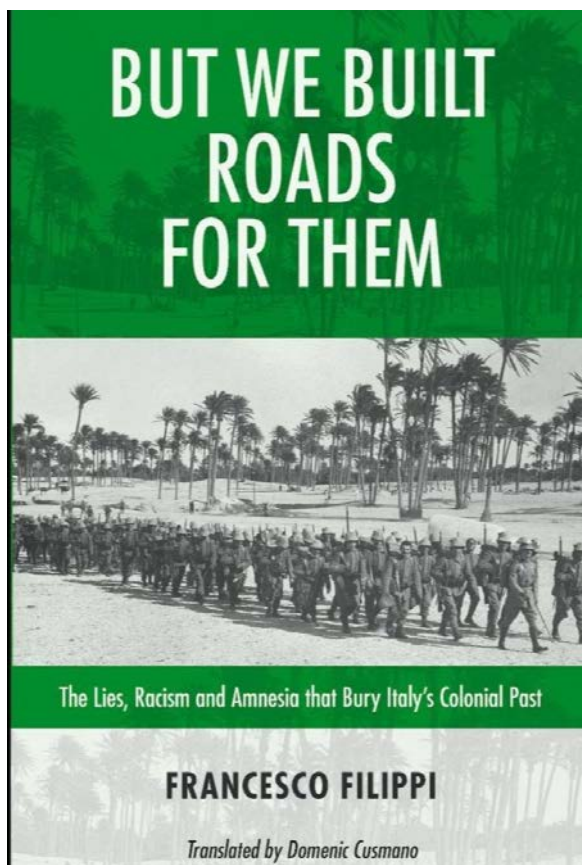
The first-place winner of the Italiense / Italian American 2.0 competition will receive a prize of \$300 CAD; the second-place winner will receive \$ 200 CAD, the third-place winner \$150 CAD, and the fourth-place \$100 CAD. Twenty-five prizes of \$50 CAD each will be awarded to the remaining participants, whose contribution has been of value by the judging panel.

6. New Books

Giaci and Me: A Mother's Journey of Loving and Raising an Autistic Child
by **Rita Miceli**

Rita Miceli, a voice of experience and empathy in the autism community, shares her intimate journey in [Giaci and Me: A Mother's Journey of Loving and Raising an Autistic Child](#). This memoir offers a window into Rita's innermost thoughts, realizations, and fears, providing a much-needed resource for caregivers and family members touched by autism. "I have so much Italian culture interwoven throughout the pages of my book as this is the essence of who I am and how I was raised which helped me navigate our journey."

But We Built Roads For Them: The Lies, Racism and Amnesia that Bury Italy's Colonial Past (Baraka Books, 2024) is the English translation by **Domenic Cusmano** of *Noi Pero Gli Abbiamo Fatto Le Strade: Le colonie italiane tra bugie, razzismi e amnesie* by **Francesco Filippi** (Bollati Boringhieri Editore, 2021). Click [here](#) to order the book.



The Reader's Companion to the Gothic Genre by **Joe Giampaolo**

This essay is the third instalment in the Reader's Companion collection and it is a brief history and analysis of the Gothic genre in British literature from its origins in the middle of the 18th century to the ghost stories and horror tales of the following Victorian era that shared much of the DNA with their predecessors. We will end this voyage into this fascinating topic with a case

study of Oscar Wilde's magnum opus, *The Portrait of Dorian Gray*. [Click here to pre-order.](#)

***The Garden of Kolymbethra and Other Poems and Stories about Sicily* by Silvia Falsaperla**

Legas is proud to announce the publication of **Silvia Falsaperla's** *The Garden of Kolymbethra and Other Poems and Stories about Sicily*. This is what **Pasquale Verdicchio** wrote about the book: "As Falsaperla writes in *What is in a Name*, 'My name is a negative compound', a telling verse (or contra-verse) that colors her collection. After all, how does one construct a map of belonging? Falsaperla dances between nostalgia and knowing, using the former to fuel an imaginary that traces a map toward who and what came before, building a space in which one's own identity might find expression."

***Here & Now, Volume 2: An Anthology of Queer Italian-Canadian Writing* edited by Licia Canton**

Here & Now, Volume 2 (Longbridge Books, 2024) features the work of more than 50 contributors. With an introduction by scholars **Paolo Frascà** and **Mirko Casagrande**, *Here & Now, Volume 2* continues the conversations prompted by *Volume 1* (2021) and gives a more complete account of today's reality. The volume was published with the support of Queer Studies in Quebec Research Group (ÉRÉQQ), Association of Italian-Canadian Writers (AICW), English Language Network (ELAN), Mariano A. Elia Chair at York University, Villa Charities, University of Birmingham, Frank Iacobucci Centre for Italian-Canadian studies and Accenti Magazine. *Here & Now, Volume 2* contributes to the fields of Canadian literature, Italian-Canadian writing, migration and diaspora studies.

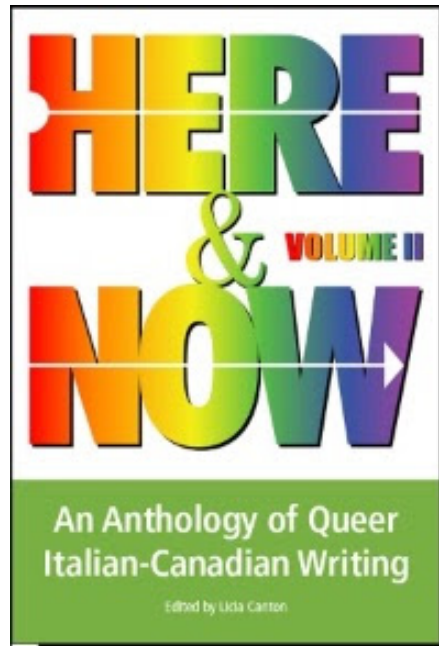
Save the date for book launch:

Thursday, May 2, in Montreal

Thursday, June 6, in Toronto

Thursday, June 20, in Vancouver

To purchase this book [please click here.](#)



7. Invitation to Submit

Thanks for subscribing to the AICW newsletter. The next newsletter comes out on **May 21**. To submit your items, please fill out a form by visiting <https://aicw.ca/submission/>. Deadline for all items: **May 7, 2024**.

If you are having trouble submitting, we've created a [short tutorial video](#) on how to submit an item for the AICW Newsletter using the online form.

8. Thank You / Credits

AICW Executive

Christine Sansalone, President

Maria Pia Spadafora, Vice-President

Licia Canton, Past-President

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