



# AICW Newsletter

Bollettino dell'ASSIC

Bulletin d' AEIC

Issue 55

Fall 2007

## Heart Warming AICW Salotto in Toronto



Guest Readers at Toronto Salotto seated (LtoR) Licia Canton, Venera Fazio, Silvia Fiorio-Smith; Standing (LtoR) Nino Famá, Gerardo Colacci, Sonia Di Placido, Delia DeSantis, Gina Valle and Egidio Marchese.

**Toronto** - The Toronto Salotto Letteraio held on November 4, 2007, a crispy fall, day at the Columbus Centre was a very heart-warming event. Despite the small turnout it was a quality event.

Licio Canton, guest reader from Montreal, read a story titled "The Vespa Ride" from her latest book about her memories of childhood in Italy. Licia then introduced Venera Fazio who read from the anthology *Writing Beyond History* (Cusmano, co-edited Canton, De Santis, Fazio).

Delia De Santis launched *Strange Peregrinations: Italian Canadian Literary Landscapes* (Proceedings of the 20th anniversary AICW conference) which she co-edited with Venera Fazio and Anna Foschi Ciampolini (published by The Frank Iacobucci Centre). Another Montreal guest, Silvia Fiorito-Smith read "A Fig Tree".

*(Toronto Salotto continued on Page 2)*

## Desperately Seeking Tony Vilar

By Peter Oliva

**Calgary-** "The True Legend of Tony Vilar," a Calabrese "mockumentary" was the surprise hit of the Calgary International Film Festival in September.

Peppe Voltarelli, the film's screenwriter and lead actor embarks on a voyage from Buenos Aires to New York seeking the once-internationally renowned Argentinean crooner Tony Vilar, who was really Calabrese singer Antonio Ragusa before he immigrated 1960's. Vilar's massive hit single "Quando calienta el sol," earned him worldwide acclaim, but then he suddenly disappeared. More than 30 years later, Voltarelli searches for Tony.

At the premier, Voltarelli and Giuseppe Gagliardi the director provided insider stories on its creation and performed original songs from the film.



In the *True Legend of Tony Vilar*, Gagliardi traces Vilar's life and music and in the process also discovers lively, at times eccentric Italian communities abroad with their

emphasis on food, family, and "Guido bling."

It's a wonderful comedy about a man who dropped out of society after losing his confidence. It is the director's first feature film (he's made two shorts, previously), and it marks a strong debut for Peppe Voltarelli, a talented folk-singer in his own right.

*Variety* critic Jay Weisberg called it "a warmhearted, tongue-in-cheek look at the Italian Diaspora." That's well earned praise considering that when they started to search for Vilar from Calabria, Buenos Aires to New York, they didn't know what they would find. The film cost \$100,000, took three weeks to film and over two years to edit.

### In This Issue

La Collana "Radici"	P.2
My Etruscan Face	P.2
Lisa Carducci's China	P.3
Accenti Contest	P.3
Scrittice locale vince premio	P.3
AICW Contest	P.4
Books Recently Published	P.4
Upcoming Events: Ray Culos	p.4

(Toronto Salotto continued from Page 1)

Gerardo Colacci, a AICW new member, presented his art work entitled, "The Raindance," which is a stone relief depicting a Native Indian, and is hand painted with minerals from Ontario.

Sonia Di Placido, member of the AICW editorial board, read poetry from, "**Writing Beyond History**".

Egidio Marchese a fatto un presentazione del libro **Hermann W. Haller, "Tra Napoli e New York. Le macchiette italo-americane di Eduardo Migliaccio,"** (Editore Bulzoni, Roma 2006). La sua recensione integrale del volume è pubblicata in *Italian Canadiana*, Vol.20 (2006), online nel sito (<http://www.bibliosofia.net/files/HeW.htm>).

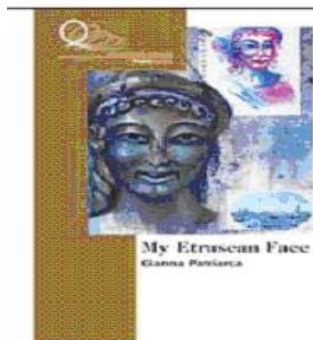
Nino Famà read two passages from *La stanza segreta*, Caltanissetta-Roma: Sciascia Editore, 2004. The novel isa about a Canadian youth who returns to his grandfather's hometown looking for an identity. (see [www.ninofama.ca](http://www.ninofama.ca)).

Many thanks to Gina Valle for her excellent work in organizing the 2007 AICW Toronto Salotto Letterario.

## Comunicato Stampa: *La collana "Radici" a Italia Rai*

Sarà la nota cantante e presentatrice TV Gigliola Cinquetti, conduttrice del programma di Rai International, Italia Rai, a intervistare Antonio Corbisiero, direttore editoriale de "Il Grappolo" s.a.s. Venerdì 26 ottobre, alle 15,30 ora di New York, Corbisiero parlerà in mondovisione a tutto campo della fortunata collana che ospita opere fondamentali della cosiddetta letteratura dell'emigrazione italiana all'estero. Dal successo dell'autobiografia SON OF ITALY di Pascal D'Angelo a CRISTO TRA I MURATORI di Pietro Di Donato, dal pamphlet sul "caso" Tresca di Ezio Taddei al poeta "maudit" italo-tunisino Mariano Scalesi. Antonio Corbisiero parlerà anche del Centro Studi internazionale per la letteratura d'emigrazione di Mercato S. Severino, sorto con la collaborazione del Comune della città della Valle dell'Irno, in provincia di Salerno e di incontri a cui ha partecipato in Italia e all'estero per dare voce ad un patrimonio inestimabile per l'identità e la memoria collettiva del nostro Paese. La Cinquetti si collegherà dallo studio di Saxa Rubra con lo scrittore Pietro Corsi a Los Angeles che nella collana "Radici" ha pubblicato la sua autobiografia L'ODORE DEL MARE.

## Launching My Etruscan Face



Gianna Patriarca launched her seventh book, **My Etruscan Face** in Toronto's historic Heliconian Hall on October 24th, 2007. The poems in **My Etruscan Face** again point to Gianna Patriarca being a creative force that blossoms and yields works that are accessible, endearing and moving.

**My Etruscan Face**, Ms. Patriarca's sixth book of poems is her first published by Quattro Books of Toronto. She has been a presence in the Toronto's poetry scene since the publication of her first book *Italian Women and Other Tragedies* (1993), Her poetry is celebrated across Canada and the United States.

Toronto critic Heather Mallick says "Patriarca is writing about the walls between the generations and the way immigrants have to learn to love themselves again."

Fred Gardaphe of Fra Noi magazine (Chicago) describes Patriarca's writing as "straight talk that sings with beauty and power."

*Other works by Gianna Patriarca: Daughters for Sale* (1997), *Ciao Baby* (1999), *The Invisible Woman* (2001) and *What My Arms Can Carry* (2003). For more information on Quattro Books please visit their website at [www.quattrobooks.ca](http://www.quattrobooks.ca)

## The Association of Italian Canadian Writers

The AICW newsletter is published 3 times a year. Your articles and notices of upcoming events are welcome. Please send your submissions to *Newsletter Editor* Frank Giorno [ed@aicw.ca](mailto:ed@aicw.ca) or [fgiorno@ca.inter.net](mailto:fgiorno@ca.inter.net). Deadline for the next issue is December 10 2007

### AICW Executive 2006-2008

*President* Pasquale Verdicchio San Diego, USA  
[pverdicchio@yahoo.com](mailto:pverdicchio@yahoo.com)

*Vice-President* Venera Fazio, Bright's Grove, ON [vp@aicw.ca](mailto:vp@aicw.ca)

*Memberships/Treasurer* Delia De Santis Bright's Grove, ON  
[mem@aicw.ca](mailto:mem@aicw.ca)

*Secretary* Connie Guzzo McParland, Montreal, [sec@aicw.ca](mailto:sec@aicw.ca)

*Newsletter Editor* Frank Giorno [ed@aicw.ca](mailto:ed@aicw.ca) or [fgiorno@ca.inter.net](mailto:fgiorno@ca.inter.net)

### Editorial Board

Anna Foschi *Past President* [larthia@direct.ca](mailto:larthia@direct.ca), Vancouver  
Sonia Di Placido [bambola557@yahoo.com](mailto:bambola557@yahoo.com), Toronto  
Maria Luisa Ierfino [maria.ierfino@connexim.ca](mailto:maria.ierfino@connexim.ca), Montreal  
Jim Zuccheri [jzuccher@uwo.ca](mailto:jzuccher@uwo.ca), London, ON

## McMaster: Italian-Canadian Culture in the 21st Century

On Saturday, November 3, 2007, several AICW members gave presentations at a conference titled "Italian-Canadian Culture in the New Millennium" organized by professors Paolo Chirumbolo, Franco Gallippi and Vikki Cecchetto of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Licia Canton spoke about "*Writing Women: Keeping It Together*" and read from her forthcoming collection "*The Butcher's Daughter*". John Calabro gave a paper titled "Who speaks for the children of immigrants?" and read from his ficiton. Venera Fazio and Delia De Santis talked about "*Sweet Lemons: Re-claiming Our Motherland*."

## Carducci: A region through its people

Well known for her interviews all around China, Lisa Carducci has been invited by the Information Bureau of the Government of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China to visit the region for the third time and write a book about it.

The French version of the work will be out by the end of the year and an English version will follow.

In spring 2008, Lisa will visit Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region with the same purpose. "China has five autonomous regions of national minorities, and they are worth to be better known and praised," Lisa says. "After Ningxia, I will continue with Tibet, Inner Mongolia and Guangxi." pages (2-35328-007-2). Si può ordinare presso l'autrice: [carducci\\_lisa@yahoo.fr](mailto:carducci_lisa@yahoo.fr)

### Third Annual Accenti Magazine Writing and Photo Contests

Fiction, nonfiction, creative nonfiction. Send in your stories in English by December 31, 2007. Over \$1,000 in prizes plus publication, and an opportunity to read your winning story at the 10th Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival in May 2008. For complete rules and entry form, visit <http://www.accenti.ca/>

#### Accenti Magazine Photo Competition

Capture an Italian Moment and send it in by December 31, 2007. Top Prize is \$1000 and publication. Winning entries will be displayed at the 10th Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival in May 2008. Details at <http://www.accenti.ca/>

## Scritture locale vince il premio letterario Comune di Forlì/Auser

**Anna Foschi Ciampolini**, collaboratrice del Marcopolo, membro del direttivo della AICW, e del Comitato Premio F.G. Bressani-ICCS, ha vinto il Primo Premio per la Sezione "Migranti" della IX edizione del Concorso Storia e Storie dal tema "Il Senso dei 5 Sensi" promosso dal Comune di Forlì, Circostrizione 5 e AUSER Volontariato di Forlì con il racconto ***Volo in partenza***.

L'iniziativa è promossa da *Comune di Forlì-Circostrizione 5 ed Auser Volontariato Forlì* con la collaborazione di: *Centro per la Pace "Annalena Tonelli"*, *Comitato Volontari Parco Incontro, Centro di Educazione Ambientale "La Còcla"*, *Amnesty International GR. 225, Coop Adriatica* e *Unipol Banca*.

La cerimonia di premiazione si svolgerà domenica 30 settembre presso il Parco Incontro di via Ribolle Forlì (Italia) alla presenza delle autorità cittadine. La cerimonia si configurerà quale evento centrale all'interno della suggestiva festa "Fantasie d'Autunno". Il Comune di Forlì pubblicherà un volume che raccoglie le opere vincitrici e quelle dei finalisti.

## Italian California Novels

*Queen Calafia's Paradise: California and the Italian American Novel*, by Kenneth Scambray, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press: 2007.

"It probably comes as a surprise to many that there is such a thing as the Italian American novel in California. Kenneth Scambray's new book makes clear that there is. And though it is true that the novels of John Fante rightly loom very large in this book, it is also true that several other California writers of Italian descent sufficiently balance out the Fante opus to make us realize that Italian American fiction in California weighs large and will weigh larger still in the future. Thus we find in-depth analyses of classics like Jo Pagano's *Golden Wedding*, Lorenzo Madalena's *Confetti for Gino*, and P.M. Pasinetti's *From the Academy Bridge*, as well as lesser known, more contemporary novels like Dorothy Bryant's *Miss Giardino* and Steven Varni's *The Inland Sea*."

Review by Lawrence DiStasi, from American Italian Historical Association, Western Chapter, Spring, 2007, Newsletter,

## "Views from beyond the City Limits"

On Saturday, September 29, 2007, Caroline di Giovanni, Licia Canton and Darlene Madott were on a panel titled "Views from beyond the City Limits" in Woodbridge, Ontario. The panel was organized by the Italian Canadian Studies at York University and explored the topic of understanding of the Italian Canadian Experience Beyond "Little Italy".

Darlene Madott's parents have lived in Woodbridge for over 20 years. Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni, a non-Italian, has been adopted into the community through marriage. Licia Canton is from Montreal. The objective of these three women was to raise questions and provoke a discussion beyond the here and now. Some of the issues presented were expectations of Vaughan residents, youth and language, connections to Italy and the role and status of women. A lively debate followed the discussion.

## BOOKS RECENTLY PUBLISHED

**Rita Amabili-Rivet**

**Saffia: femme de Smyrne**,  
Novalis, 2007 (en français)  
Femmes pasteurs dans l'Église  
catholique: fiction ou réalité?

**Elettra Bedon:**

**Le chemin de Marie**, Novalis,  
2007 (en français) Meditations  
on the Rosary's mysteries.

**Erminio G. Neglia**

**THE ETERNAC**

**PARNK, Myth, Satire and  
Drama**. 2007, Biographical  
Publishing Company, Prospect,  
Connecticut. It's divided in two  
parts: Stories and two  
comedies.

**Pier Giorgio Di Cicco**

**"Municipal Mind"**

**Manifestos for the Creative  
City"**. Sir Wilfrid Laurier  
Press. (City Building Books)  
collection of essays written by  
DiCicco on the importance of  
writing, art, culture to the life  
of the city.)

**Michael Mirolla**

**The Boarder** (Red Lead Press,  
2007): a novel set in during the  
days of the War Measures Act;  
featuring a naive philosophy  
lecturer, and a friend who may  
be blowing up buildings  
[http://www.redleadbooks.com/  
boarder.html](http://www.redleadbooks.com/boarder.html)

**Hothouse Loves & Other**

**Tales** (PublishAmerica, 2007):  
a collection of fiction featuring  
everything from Captain  
Cook's undocumented trips to a  
time-travelling private  
detective,  
[http://www.publishamerica.co  
m/shopping/shopdisplayproduc  
ts.asp?Search=Yes](http://www.publishamerica.com/shopping/shopdisplayproducts.asp?Search=Yes)

**Vincenzo Pietropaolo**

The 08 Toronto Tree  
Portraits Calendar is out, for info  
416-782-4923  
vpietropaolo@sympatico.ca

**D. DeSantis, V. Fazio, A. F.**

**Cimpolini. Ed., Strange  
Peregrinations**. (Frank Iacobucci  
Centre.) *Strange Peregrinations:  
Italian Canadian Literary  
Landscapes* (From the 20th  
anniversary AICW conference)

**Ray Culos** The History of the  
Italian Community in Vancouver  
(see article on p.4)

**Garden Variety, ed. Lily  
Contento** **Quattro Books**

60 poets write about flowers in  
*Garden Variety*. The collection  
was conceived and edited by Lily  
Contento the owner. See  
[www.quattrobooks.ca](http://www.quattrobooks.ca)

**Gianna Patriarca "My  
Etruscan Face" (Quattro  
Books)**

Gianna Patriarca's sixth  
book of poems, *My Etruscan  
Face*. (See P.2) See  
[www.quattrobooks.ca](http://www.quattrobooks.ca)

**Egidio Marchese**

**Hermann W. Haller, "Tra  
Napoli e New York**. Editore  
Bulzoni, Roma 2006, pp. 271, 20  
euro. La mia recensione integrale  
del volume è pubblicata in *Italian  
Canadiana*, Vol.20 (2006), p.185

**L. Canton D. De Santis V.  
Fazio, Writing Beyond History**  
(Cusmano Publishing). An  
anthology of Italian-Canadian  
literature

**Scambray, Kenneth** (see p.3)

*Queen Calafia's Paradise:  
California and the Italian  
American Novel* (Fairleigh  
Dickinson University Press: 2007

**GG Awards:** Playwright Salvatore Antonio, is  
nominated for a Governor General's Award for *In  
Gabriel's Kitchen* a play about a family's grief and  
denial after a member commits suicide. Winners to be  
announced Nov. 27 in Montreal.

## Upcoming Events

**Exploring Vancouver's Italian Past Thursday, January  
24, 2008, 7:30 p.m.** The History of Vancouver's Italian  
Community **Speaker: Ray Culos**



The acting of Bruno Gerussi, the  
jurisprudence of Angelo E. Branca, the  
cuisine of Umberto Menghi and the  
elegant sculptures of Charles (Carlos)  
Marega are just but a few contributions  
of Vancouverites of Italian heritage.  
Speaker Ray Culos will talk about the  
Italian Community, their journey in  
Vancouver. Ray Culos, born in  
Vancouver in 1936, had a 37 year  
career with the *Vancouver Sun*, the  
*Province* and the *Southam Newspaper*

Group. He also contributed to a regular column in *L'Eco d'Italia* in  
the 1970s. Culos and his family were interviewed for the now  
classic *Opening Doors, Vancouver's East End* (1979). He is author  
of *Vancouver's Society of Italians* (1998). In 2005, Ray Culos was  
honoured with the Italian Canadian of the Year Award.

**Bambina, Il sua prima romanza!** Francesca Piredda una scrittrice  
canadese e italiana, residente a Ottawa, sta pubblicare il sua prima  
romanza, **Bambina (The Porcupine's Quill publisher)** con lancio  
a Montreal 29 novembre 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Nicholas Hoare,  
Greene Avenue e Sherbrooke West., Westmount. For more  
information [twocities2003@yahoo.com](mailto:twocities2003@yahoo.com)

**About Angelina:** Frank Canino writes that **The Angelina Project**  
will be staged at Buffalo's Alleyway Theatre on Jan. 31, 2008. The  
film, **Looking for Angelina**, has been aired on OMNI TV along  
with a 50 minute documentary, **Angelina Found**. To buy copies  
of the DVD go to [www.lookingforangelina.com](http://www.lookingforangelina.com).

## AICW first annual literary contest.



The AICW is holding its first annual literary  
contest beginning with a poetry competition in  
2008. The contest will be rotated between  
poetry, fiction and non-fiction. Prizes will be  
awarded for 1st (\$500), 2nd (\$300) and 3rd  
(\$100) place.

### Contest Rules:

- Limit of 5 unpublished poems per writer each no longer than 40 lines
- Submissions accepted in English, French, and Italian.
- Send 3 copies of typed manuscripts; manuscripts will not be returned.
- Place title on each numbered page without your name.
  - On a separate sheet add title, your name, address, telephone  
number, e-mail and word count.
- You must be a Canadian writer and/or a writer of Italian descent.
- The deadline for submissions is **February 15, 2008**

### Entry Fee:

Non-member entry fee: \$15.00 (Cdn or US).

Member entry fee \$10.00 (Cdn or US)

Make checks or money orders out to AICW.

Send entries and fees to AICW, c/o Delia De Santis, 2961 Delia  
Crescent, Bright's Grove, ON, Canada N0N 1C0.

Winners will be announced in the AICW Newsletter and website  
([www.aicw.ca](http://www.aicw.ca)) Information: e-mail Venera Fazio ([vfazio5@cogeco.ca](mailto:vfazio5@cogeco.ca)).  
Submissions not complying with the above criteria will be disqualified.