



AICW Newsletter

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Donna Caruso reading at the AMICI Gallery and Museum in Maple, Ontario.

Donna Caruso's *Journey Without A Map*

A simple laundry clothes line provides the backdrop for Donna Caruso's reading in Toronto from *Journey Without A Map* her recently published book. Ms. Caruso also gave readings in Ottawa and Montreal.

Donna Caruso is an impressive raconteur and storyteller. She begins her "journey" with a recipe for pasta and good food and wine are central to her stories. She tells tales of her ancestral home in the Campania region of Italy from where her family immigrated to the United States. Donna subsequently moved to Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan where she resides as the only Italian-Canadian in town. Along the way Donna recounts family dinners, deaths, marriages and re-marriages and making ravioli among other stories.

In one story, Donna writes about her "caveman" grandfather, who despite marrying the daughter of the richest man in town, decides to go to America to be a somebody. His wife stays behind. He settles in New York City and sends money to her so she can join him, but instead she buys land. He goes back to Italy several times to persuade her and every time he returns she becomes pregnant.

The stories in *Journey Without a Map* are about blending old world ways to new American ways. Ms. Caruso's engaging style is steeped with humor. Her approach strikes a universal chord with anyone who has immigrated or wants to experience it. For more information or to order a copy of *Journey Without A Map* visit Donna Caruso's website www.incandescentfilms.com

Frank Iacobucci Centre hosts 2008 AICW Conference in November

The AICW is pleased to announce a three-day conference will be held at the Frank Iacobucci Centre, University of Toronto, November 14-16, 2008, titled "Envisioning Culture: Evolving Writing and Community."

The conference will assess the influence, and visibility of Italian Canadian writing since the founding of the AICW in 1986. It will focus on identifying or defining the impact of this writing on the Italian Canadian community and the more general Canadian literary landscape. To this end, the AICW proposes to engage individuals both from within and outside its ranks.

Call for papers and panel proposals, readings, and contributions by visual artists. Individual paper proposals: must include title, brief abstract (150 words) and full contact details. Proposals for panel sessions: must include title of the session, brief description of the focus and aims of the session, titles of individual contributions to the panel, a brief abstract of each, full contact details for each speaker and for the panel chair (if not one of the speakers).

Invitation to AICW members: Members are encouraged to read from their creative works. Maximum time allotted for each writer will be 10 minutes. AICW members must specify genre and submit a sample of writing (approximately 500 words or selected poems). **Invitation to visual artists:** You are invited to submit proposals to exhibit your work. All proposals must be submitted by 12 September 2008 to conferenceprogram@aicw.ca

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Giovanni Costa celebra il quattrocentesimo anniversario della città di Québec

In occasione del quattrocentesimo anniversario della fondazione della città di Québec, Giovanni Costa ha scritto un breve articolo in francese e in italiano dal titolo "J'aime Québec" e anche tre nuove poesie. L'articolo è stato incluso nell'antologia *Québec fontaine de vie et de progress - 1608/2008*, che è stata lanciata in occasione del "Salon du livre" a Québec (17-20 aprile, 2008). Giovanni Costa inoltre fa parte dell'Associazione "Écrivains Francophones d'Amérique de Québec (EFA) e anche per questo motivo l'editore dell'Antologia ha accettato il suo contributo letterario.

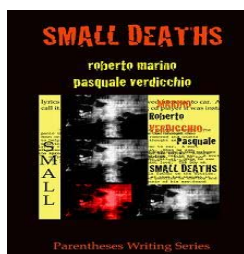
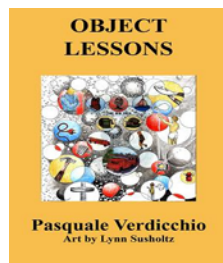


President Verdicchio Publishes Two Books

Way over on the California coast, AICW president Pasquale Verdicchio, has been busy with the publication of two books - not to mention his participation in planning for the upcoming AICW conference.

The first book, *Small Deaths*, is a collection of short prose by Robert Mariano and Pasquale Verdicchio.

The second book *Object Lessons* is a collaborative venture with Pasquale providing the words and artist Lynn Susholtz the images. "Object Lessons" was launched on June 14th at the Art Produce Gallery and coincided with the opening of San Diego's Push-Pull festival - an exhibition of 6 San Diego and 6 Victoria, British Columbia artists and writers. The Victoria leg of the festival will be held in October 3-20, 2008 at the Vancouver Island School of Art.



From L to R: Darlene Madott, Connie Guzzo MacParland, Nico Bignami and Gina Valle at the 2008 Blue Metropolis Festival.

AICW at the 10th Montreal Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival

This year the AICW was well represented at the prestigious Blue Metropolis Literary Festival held at the Delta Hotel in downtown Montreal from April 30th to May 4th.

The AICW organized two major events, the launching of the "Strange Peregrinations" anthology and a reading featuring five AICW members. The well-attended launch organized by Venera Fazio and Delia De Santis was held on Sunday, May 3rd, with readers, Venera Fazio, Nico Bignami, Delia De Santis, Gina Valle, Connie McParland, and Darlene Madott. Presenter, Giovanna Patriarca, kept the event jovial and light. The launch was followed by In Transito, a reading panel organized by Connie McParland and moderated by Gina Valle, with Nico Bignami, Donna Caruso, Michael Mirolla, Gianna Patriarca, and Francesca Piredda. The audience clearly enjoyed the readings in three languages from our member writers from different parts of the country.

Members Rita Amabili, Donna Caruso and Nico Bignami participated in other events organized by Blue Met, whereas, Delia De Santis, Darlene Madott, Licia Canton and D.C Iannuzzi each launched a new book through Longbridge Books. The Literary Festival also provided the opportunity for members from across Canada to meet, socialize and exchange ideas.



From L. to R. Connie MacParland, Nico Bignami, Mike Mirolla, Donna Caruso and Gianna Patriarca

The Oshawa Salotto Letterario

By Michael Mirolla

The Salotto Letterario, held Sunday May 25th at the Oshawa Italian Recreation Club in conjunction with the AICW, proved an extremely successful event.

Six readers entertained a full house with a wide range of poetry, fiction and even playful word etymology and multilingual proverbs—in English, Italian and a variety of dialects.

The readers—in order of appearance: Michael Mirolla, Licia Canton, Anthony D'Addese, Gianna Patriarca, Domenico Capilongo, and Isabella Colalillo Katz—also helped to stock the Club's new library, in the hope of further promoting the writing of Italian Canadians.

As always, Gina Valle's indefatigable behind-the-scenes and before-the-microphone work pulled the event together and moving along. Thanks also to the Oshawa Italian Recreation Club for its warmth and generosity and the mid-reading layout of much-appreciated refreshments.



Shining debut from Domenico Capilongo

By Rita Simonetta *Originally Published: Tandem Magazine 2008-06-08*

I Thought Elvis was Italian is an eclectic mix of themes that take readers on a journey from Japan to Rome to Toronto's St. Clair neighbourhood. And while the subject matters are far and wide (ranging from tender love to karate to Japan's daruma dolls), Italian-Canadian writer Domenico

Capilongo blends them seamlessly together with a tone that is equal parts assured and tough, as well as melancholic and tender. Family bonds and the Italian culture are inspirational subjects throughout many of the poems as in the titular poem "I Thought Elvis was Italian."

The publisher is Wolsak and Wynn. You can order a copy through them or Chapters or your local book store. For more on Domenico Capilongo's poetry please visit <http://domcapilongo.googlepages.com/>

Happy 90th Birthday to John Madott



AICW wishes belated birthday greetings to Toronto artist John Madott who celebrated his 90th on May 5th. John's paintings have graced many AICW events and book launches including the June 4th Longbridge Books launch at the Columbus Centre in Toronto.

Amabile awarded grant to write new book of poetry - *Night Window*

Winnipeg -George Amabile has received a Major Arts



Grant from the Manitoba Arts Council. George Amabile was awarded (\$25,000) to write and revise for publication a new book, *Night Window* (poetry) that explores the relationship between our private lives and crises in the public world of politics

and world events. George Amabile has a Masters from the University of Minnesota and a PHD from the University of Connecticut. He taught at the University of Manitoba for over 20 years, has published eight books, and has appeared in over 100 anthologies and periodicals. Amabile has given readings of his work across the country and internationally

Association of Italian Canadians in the Arts (AICA) Associazione dei Artisti Italo-Canadesi (AAIC)

The Association of Italian Canadians in the Arts is a forum where members can communicate directly with others through a bulletin board for those in the arts including visual art, design, photography, film, music, dance, new media, theatre, writing) in Canada and in the world. The public has access to the site, but only members can post or make changes to the content. To join go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Assoc_of_ItalianCanadians_in_the_Arts/ Benvenuti a tutti!

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 or fgiorno@rogers.com. Deadline for the next issue is May 10, 2008.

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SARS Isolation inspires Mel Sarnese to write provocative verse



In *The Leper's Cave* Mel Sarnese writes poetry that captured the drama and the trauma of her family's enforced quarantine in Toronto during the 2003 SARS crisis. In the midst of the city's panic over SARS, Mel Sarnese's family was ordered quarantined when her physician husband, who worked in a Scarborough hospital that treated the earliest SARS patients, and their teenage child displayed the flu-like symptoms that are an indication of SARS. The poems capture her thoughts and feelings of denial, anger, fear and finally, acceptance, while her physician husband and teenager fought the life-threatening disease. Mel Sarnese has appeared in literary journals such as *Quills* and *Labour of Love* and has

performed her own poetry on the CBC radio and TVOntario. She has featured at Clinton's at bar series

Montreal's Settimana

Italiana Montreal will be celebrating Italian cultural August 8-16 when it hosts Settimana Italiana. Events will be held throughout the Montreal and in Little Italy. AICW member Margherita Morsella is coordinating a reading for Italian-Canadian writers on August 16 and there will also be a special tribute honouring the 30th anniversary of the founding of Guernica Editions. For more information contact Margherita at mm2@qc.aibn.com

AICW poetry contest winners

Congratulations to the winners of AICW poetry contest. **1st prize** (500.00): Giovanni Costa, "Lacrime"; **2nd prize** (300.00): Sylvia F. Smith, "Snow Angels"; **3rd prize** (100.00): Gilda Morina Syverson, "On an Ordinary Day. More on this in the Fall '08 issue

New journal in Italy

"Scrittura Migranti" (Migrant Writings), a new journal that focuses on the writings of Italians around the world, has been launched by the Department of Italian Studies at the University of Bologna, Italy. "Scrittura Migranti" is a peer-reviewed journal that accepts contributions in Italian and many other languages. If are interested in subscribing or contributing to the journal please write to:

Rebecca Hopkins,
Editorial Committee, "Scrittura Migranti"
Dipartimento di Italianistica
Università degli Studi di Bologna, Italy
New York University, College of Arts and Sciences, Florence Campus
Via dei Bruni, 27
50139 Firenze. Italy

Guernica Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Guernica Editions one of the premier publishers of Italian Canadian literature is celebrating its 30th anniversary of its founding by Antonio D'Alfonso.

Publisher Antonio D'Alfonso last year published his a third novel: *L'Aimé* (Leméac, 2007)". This completes the trilogy on Fabrizio Notte, a failed filmmaker. D'Alfonso is completing a PhD at University of Toronto, on Italian ethnic films. In September he starts his term as guest writer at McGill University's French Department, teaching French film and scriptwriting.



On July 20, 2008 Guernica held a memorial-launch at Bar Italia for Malca Litovitz's *Slow Dancing* co-authored with Elana Wolf and *First Day*. While battling her cancer Malca was encouraged to write *Slow Dancing* with Elana Wolf and *First Day*. Malca died of cancer before either book was published.

Here are some of the books published in 2007 and 2008 by Guernica Editions:

Mary Melfi: Essays on Her Works, edited by William Anselmi.

Mary Di Michel: Essays on Her Works, edited by Joseph Pivato.

Maria Mazziotti Gillan: Essays on Her Works, edited by Sean Thomas Dougherty.

The Canadian Duce, Bruno Ramirez

The Last Woman, Claudine Bertrand, translated by Antonio D'Alfonso

The Graph of Roads by Gilles Cyr, translated by Patrick Williamson

The Undertaker's Wife, by Len Gasparini.

This Nothing's Place, by Pasquale Verdicchio.

First Day, by Malca Litovitz

Slow Dancing, by Malca Litovitz and Elana Wolff.

I Is Another, by Daniel Sloate.

Manifesto for a New Theatre, Pier Paolo Pasolini

Il Centro Siena Toronto ospita una lettura di Anna Foschi Ciampolini



In un antico palazzo nobiliare di Siena ferve una intensa attività letteraria ed intellettuale che getta un ponte fra due culture e tesse importanti contatti fra studiosi italiani e canadesi. Il Centro Siena Toronto fu fondato nel 1991 come centro di coordinamento delle attività di ricerca Toronto-Siena, anche se fino dal 1972 in collaborazione con il Woodsworth College di Toronto venivano organizzati a Siena dei *Summer Programme* di Italiano, e di Storia dell'Arte.

Ogni anno il programma di studio porta a Siena circa 120 studenti con i loro docenti durante il periodo estivo; inoltre, altri scambi di studenti laureati e docenti vengono effettuati nel corso dell'anno. Il Centro Siena, appoggiato all'Università di Siena e a quella di Toronto, è anche molto attivo nel promuovere la letteratura canadese organizzando conferenze, dibattiti e fornendo materiale audiovisivo.

Durante la conferenza del ventesimo anniversario della nostra Associazione, tenutasi a Vancouver nel 2006, avemmo la fortuna di ospitare la dinamica direttrice del Centro Siena-Toronto, la prof. Laura Forconi Ferri, che presentò un saggio sugli autori che hanno visitato e scritto opera su Siena. In quell'occasione si gettarono anche le basi per una collaborazione con la nostra Associazione. Infatti lo scorso 9 giugno ho avuto la possibilità di partecipare ad un pomeriggio letterario al Centro, insieme ad Antanas Sileika, direttore artistico della Humber School for Writers di Toronto, il quale ha fatto un interessante intervento su un interessante tema: *A Project to Publish Immigrant Writers in Toronto*, ed è davvero stato un privilegio ascoltare questo oratore arguto e informato.

Io ho letto il mio racconto "Volo in partenza" che nel 2007 vinse il primo premio "Città di Forlì-Auser" e ho avuto modo di parlare con il pubblico (non numerosissimo perché gli studenti erano in vacanza, ma attento e partecipe) delle emozioni e del viaggio spirituale che l'esperienza migratoria suscita in tutti coloro che la vivono.

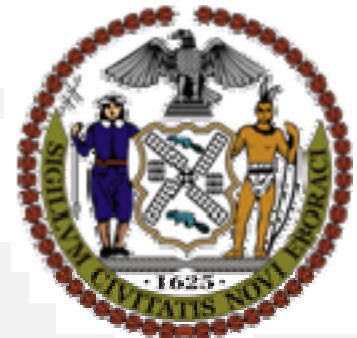
La giornata si è conclusa con la visione e la discussione del documentario di Paul Tana "Ricordati di noi", toccante rievocazione della popolarissima trasmissione comunitaria televisiva della domenica che a Montreal, negli anni '60-'70, per la comunità italiana rappresentava la continuità, il legame con le famiglie e il paese che i nostri emigrati avevano lasciato alle spalle.

Nel congedarsi, e qui devo confessare che lasciare Siena, a cui mi legano ricordi e vincoli familiari (la mia famiglia materna era originaria di questa splendida città) in un pomeriggio languido e pieno di sole mi è costato un poco di fatica perché già la sua magia e la sua bellezza mi stavano stregando, dicevo nel congedarsi, ci siamo ripromesse con la prof. Ferri di continuare questa collaborazione con l'associazione, che può portarci buoni frutti, sia per la diffusione dei nostri autori, traduzione di opere letterarie, contatti con ambienti accademici e di pubblico in Italia. Per leggere più dettagliatamente sulle attività del Centro, andare al sito www.sienatoronto.unisi.it

Italians in the Americas Conference: AICW Members in New York City

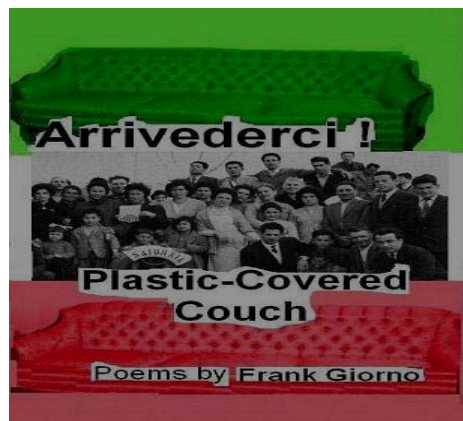
By Licia Canton

On April 24-26, the Calandra Institute at City University New York held the conference "Italians in the Americas." The speakers included AICW members Venera Fazio, Licia Canton, Peter Oliva, Rosanna Battigelli and John Calabro as well as York University professor Jana Vizmulder-Zocco.



AICW vice-president Venera Fazio presented "Reclaiming Our Magdalenes: The Case Histories, Angelina Napolitano and Filomena Losandro," Licia Canton (Accenti Magazine) spoke about "Literary Women: From Immigrant Daughters to Canadian Authors," former AICW president Peter Oliva presented "Constructing Emilio Picariello: Small-town Conception and Big City Media in Canada's Notorious 1922 Murder Trial," Rosanna Battigelli presented "The Impact of Language on Identity" and John Calabro (Quattro Books) presented "The Children of Immigrants; Who Speaks for Them?"

Praising and burying the plastic-covered couch



In *Arrivederci! Plastic-Covered Couch* (Lyricalmyrical Press), poet Frank Giorno explores the themes of transition and adaptation. The poems begin before birth and end before death. In between are poems about leaving Italy for Canada, childhood joys, a new language, adolescence, turmoil in the community and at home, pleasures and the quest for identity. The title poem connects the past conflicts with his parent's values (keeping the plastic-covered couch immaculate) - to a very different future. While his parents' deaths are mourned - the plastic-covered couch gets tossed out. We can't cling to the past it is time to move on. To obtain a copy please email the author at fgiorno@rogers.com

Lady Elisabeth Viscount launches "Nocturnal Laments"

Maria Marchelletta who writes under the pen Lady Elisabeth Viscount recently launched *Nocturnal Laments* (Beret Days publishing) at the Ontario Poetry Society reading in Cobourg, Ontario May 25, 2008. In *Nocturnal Laments*, the poet dives deep into her soul and re-emerges with mystical, poetic symbols of great beauty. She explores physical and emotional pain. Through poetry order is restored and suffering is redeemed. The poems are about transforming brokenness into precious beauty. Her work has appeared in publications including The Poet Band Company, the Ontario Poetry Society and the, Canadian Federation of Poets.

Longbridge launches three books

Longbridge Books launched three books at Toronto's Columbus Centre on, June 4, 2008 to a packed audience.

Almond Wind and Fertility by Licia Canton is a collection of 15 short stories that are peopled with characters negotiating between cultures. The author takes us to Sicily, a park in east end Montreal and a river bank where the courses of two young lives are altered. Her stories explore the subtleties, humour and the complexity of modern life.

Fast Forward and Other Stories by Delia DeSantis is a book packed with psychological intricacies. The 24 short stories in the collection examine the complex lives of everyday people caught in webs of their own making. She has the ability to capture realistic dialogue that draws the reader into the world of her characters that lingers on long after you finished reading.

Making Olives and Other Family Secrets, written by Darlene Madott is a collection of eight short. Madott draws inspiration from family recipes for making olives, live events in Canada and Italy. The short stories follow Madott's contemplation of events in her life and the importance of family, roots and connectedness. Madott writes about complex life issues so clearly that the readers will easily understand. For more information or to purchase a copy of the books email Longbridgebooks@gmail.com



L. to R. authors Licia Canton, Darlene Madott, Delia DeSantis and publisher Domenic Cusmano

Rossi Dresses Canadian To Sell in America

Author Erno Rossi found wearing a Tilley hat and suit on a New York book tour was an excellent way to boost book sales in the U.S. Wearing his outfit book sales doubled. The surge in his book sales proves there is a Canadian style of clothing that has wide appeal." Rossi is the author of two non-fiction oral histories, *White Death-The Blizzard of '77* and *Crystal Beach-The Good Old Days*. Visit him at www.whitedeath.com.

Playwright Canino plays on both sides of the border Buffalo- Frank Canino's play *The Angelina Project* received excellent reviews in Buffalo this past winter. Colin Dabkowski, Buffalo News, wrote: *The Angelina Project* is a refreshingly original play with some serious meat on its bones. It features lively, impressive writing; Anthony Chase ArtVoice Review raved ... "At the heart of Frank Canino's play is an irresistible story, the dark and gripping tale of Angelina Napolitano Canino structures the story as a mystery within a mystery..." In March, Canino was in Toronto for a public reading his play *The Three of Us*. Vinny and Avi adopt a baby, but will their relationship last past the bris and baptism? In April, he was in York City for a public reading of *The Altar Boys Picnic* his play about five priests who meet for a final reunion, which leads to a painful confrontation with their past and present.