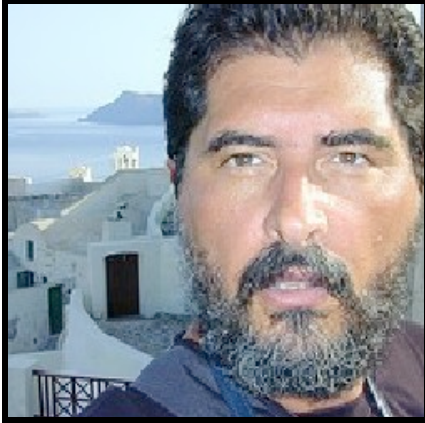




AICW Newsletter

Issue 53

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President Pasquale Verdicchio



Vice President Venera Fazio

Your AICW executive 2006-2008

Welcome to the new Association of Italian Canadian Writers (AICW) Executive Committee for 2006-2008. President Pasquale Verdicchio is a founding member of the AICW and a past president (1994-1996 and 1996-1998). Pasquale is the Director of the University of California Education Abroad Study Centers in San Diego.

Venera Fazio from Bright's Grove, Ontario (near Sarnia) returns as vice-president. Venera has published poetry and short stories in journals and anthologies across North America.

Delia De Santis, also from Bright's Grove, returns as treasurer. Delia's prize-winning work has appeared in anthologies including, *The Anthology of Italian Canadian Writing*, 1998.

Connie Guzzo McParland, Montreal, returns as secretary. She has completed a novel/ M.A thesis, *Girotondo* at Concordia University and an excerpt won second prize at the *Premio Letterario Cosseria* (2005, Italy).

Newsletter editor Frank Giorno, from Toronto, is new to the AICW. Frank has worked as a journalist and civil servant.

The editorial board is composed of Anna Foschi Ciampolini who lives in Vancouver where she is a writer, journalist and translator. Maria Ierfino from Montreal is a first time member. She has an [M.A. in Canadian Literature \(the poetry of Irving Layton\)](#). Sonia Di Placido, Toronto, is also a new member. Her first book of poetry, "Vulva Magic", was published in 2004. Jim Zucchero London, Ontario is an academic counselor at University of Western Ontario, where he is completing his PhD in English.

Your Newsletter: As the new editor I would like to get your opinion on the following: Should it be sent via email? Should it continue on paper? What should we call this newsletter? Is the generic title AICW Newsletter good enough? Or is there a more inspiring title out there? Please email me, Frank Giorno, at fgiorno@ca.inter.net or any members of the executive and express yourself.

Vancouver's Society of Italians Volume III

While most Italians settled in Vancouver during the 1950s and 60s, a number of earlier settlers had been living there since the beginning of the 20th century, like Pietro Culos, who arrived in 1907.

Ray Culos, dedicated his recently published "*Vancouver Society of Italians*" to his family's 100 years of community service. This, Culos' third volume on the history of Vancouver's Italian community, focuses on Vancouver's Italian Cultural Society and the Italian Cultural Centre building. The book provides a detailed account of the renovation of the aging Main Hall, rental facility that is a major source of revenue for the centre. Today, an aging population and declining membership among young Italian Canadians, raises concerns for the Centre's future.



Author Ray Culos



Re-opening of Vancouver's Cultural Centre

Anna Foschi Ciampolini, in her review of Culos' book in the *Canadian Ethnic Studies/Études ethniques au Canada* described the Centre's opening in 1977 as for the local Italian community, a cathartic experience in which the community's deep emotions, past tensions, and fervent hopes all came together in a moving redemption."

"Culos writes passionately, with a vivid and engaging prose style," says Ms. Foschi Ciampolini. "His affection for the institution vibrates throughout..." To order a copy of *Vancouver Society of Italians, Volume III* 204 pp. \$39.95 email: rayculos@shaw.ca. or call 604-298-4683.

Mille Grazie, Peter and Joe. Our gratitude and thanks to outgoing President Peter Oliva (2004-2006) and long time newsletter editor Joe Pivato. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. We send you a well deserved *Ciao e Grazie!* P.S. Please keep writing!

“L’odore del mare” L’ultimo libro di Corsi

(Story Reprinted from Gazzetta Del Molise Larino 26/09/06)



Si è tenuto sabato sera, nella suggestiva Sala Scipione Iasio a Casacalenda, la presentazione dell'ultima fatica di Pietro Corsi dal nome “L’odore del mare.” “Il mio è un racconto che attraversa la mia vita fino al congedo dalle navi crociera avvenuto nel 1992 – ha ditto l'autore – Mi sono voluto sedere dinanzi ad una pagina Bianca per raccontare del giardino della mia vita.”

Nella serata kalendina erano presenti oltre al sindaco di Casacalenda, Nicola Eugenio Romagnuolo, anche Antonio Corbisier, editore del libro, che con la collana “Radici” raccolto le testimonianze di numerosi italiani emigrati all'esterno che si riaffacciano sulle proprie radici. Le relazioni sul volume sono state poi affidate ai professori universitari Francesco D' Episcopo e Sebastiano Martelli, i quali ne hanno ampiamente il contenuto letterario. Durante la serata si sono avute anche le letture di tre brani estrapolati dal libro effettuate da Pietro La Barbera. Tra i presenti in sala Emilio Putalivo, socio di Nick Ciamarra nella rivista. “Il Cittadino Canadese” dove l'autore ha trascorso un' importante esperienza lavorativa prima di prendere la strada del mare.

Fall Salotto in Toronto

Gina Valle once again crafted an exciting line up for the AICW's fall Salotto Letterario held on October 22, 2006 at the Columbus Centre. The first reader Bruna Bertoni read from her works about Pier 21 and its meaning for immigrants entering Canada. Josie Di Sciascio-Andrews read from her work *Dining with Cultural Assimilation*. Her poem to her mother won first prize in the Ontario Poetry Society (TOPS) Winsome Word Contest. Frank Giorno read selections from *Elvis in America* and his poem *Restless Chain* that placed second in the TOPS contest. Sheila Wright read, *The Nature of Italy*, based on her travels around her husband's home town near Naples. It won first prize in the 2006 Accenti Magazine Contest. John Madott displayed his paintings of Italian landscapes and villages while Vincenzo Pietropaolo ended the afternoon with a slide show on his photo essay “Not Paved with Gold” about 1970s Toronto.

Our Sympathy: The AICW extends deepest sympathy to Delia De Santis and her family on the death of her father, Saverio Petrucci, on October 21 after a valiant struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Mr. Petrucci was 89 years old.

Toronto WordStage Reading Series

Toronto WordStage is a reading series that features established Canadian authors reading with emerging writers. Wordstage aims to reflect Toronto's diversity by providing an inclusive venue for readings. The series began on January 12, 2006 as the brain child of Allan Briesmaster, AICW member John Calabro, Beatriz Hausner, and Luciano Iacobelli. The readings run the second Thursday of each month at the Cervejaria, 842 College St. Four authors read each night. The readings range from the experimental to mainstream.



C. Blackwood, L., Iacobelli, B. Hauser & J. Calabro

Each reader brings work of good literary quality. Their energy and personality connects well with the diverse audience made up of different ages and backgrounds. WordStage attracts a younger group along with others who do not ordinarily attend readings. With free admission there is no monetary barrier. Each WordStage event offers the audience a lively, entertaining evening with friends and excellent food and beverages. For more info contact John Calabro at jcalabro28@hotmail.com.

Upcoming readings: Jan 11, 2007: Michael Wex, Rafi Aaron, Russel Smith and Sonia D'Agostino February 8, 2007 Tony Nardi, Eric Koch, Jill Battson and Priscilla Uppal March 8, 2007 Paul Wilson, Andrea Jarnai, Pierre L'abbe, Sonia Di Placido

"Gli amici italiani" per la "World Poetry Series" presso la Vancouver Public Library

Vancouver, BC.- Lunedì 30 ottobre, Anna Foschi Ciampolini ha letto dal suo racconto "Gli amici italiani" per la "World Poetry Series" presso la Vancouver Public Library-Main Branch World Poetry Series, uno dei più noti e prestigiosi avvenimenti letterari della città, viene da anni organizzato dalla Ariadne Sawyer e dal poeta e romanziere di origine cilena Alejandro Mujica Olea. WPS diffonde un bollettino di informazione via e-mail e trasmette anche una rubrica di letteratura a Vancouver Co-op radio. (per maggiori informazioni su World of Poetry: ariadnes@uniserve.com)



Left, Anna Foschi Ciampolini

Napoleone Conquers Steeltown

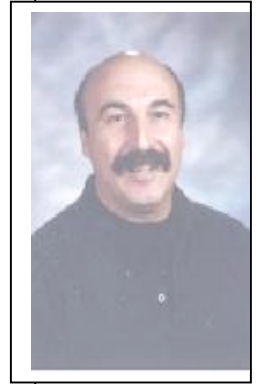
In October, 2006 Hamilton writer Fabrizio Napoleone won the 2006 F.G. Bressani award for short fiction. The prize was awarded by the Vancouver Italian Cultural Centre and presented on Oct. 27th. Fabrizio was also nominated for an Arts Hamilton Literary Award in the short fiction category. One of his short stories will be appearing in *Coming Attractions* the Oberon Press' annual short story collection.

F. Napoleone, wins 2006 Bressani Award



"Fate of Olives" in Winnipeg

On November 23, Olive Press launched "The Fate of Olives" by award winning poet Carmelo Militano (photo, right). The launch took place at McNally- Robinson Booksellers, Grant Park. The book can be ordered on line at www.mcnallyrobinson.com/ and then follow the links to purchase. Olive Press, a small independent co-op press, is seeking work from known and unknown writers. Send a sample of your work, a bio, and stamped self addressed envelope to :Carmelo Militano Olive Press, 670 Centennial St., Winnipeg, MB. R3N 1R2 For more information about Carmelo Militano visit www.poets.ca/linktext/direct/militano.htm



Importante premio in giornalismo attribuito ad

Ermanno La Riccia (adapted from Il Corriere Italiano, Ottobre 2006)*

Ad Ermanno La Riccia è stato assegnato il Primo Premio Internazionale in Giornalismo per il Trentennale— uno speciale riconoscimento per l'articolo « La Voce dei Protagonisti» apparso sul Messaggero di Sant' Antonio nel mese di marzo.

Con questo premio è stato pure messo in rilievo il lavoro che Ermanno La Riccia compie da anni come scrittore di articoli su diversi giornali, tra cui il nostro, a favore dei nostri connazionali e dei problemi associati all'esperienza emigratoria.

Ci fa piacere segnalare che, nello stesso concorso, il nostro carissimo amico, molto conosciuto tra i nostri lettori, Padre Luciano Segafreddo, Direttore del Messaggero di Sant'Antonio, edizione per gli italiani all'estero, ha vinto il Primo Premio Internazionale Emigrazione per la Saggistica, con il saggio: «I Veneti del Benelux».

"Writing Beyond History"

Una recensione di Gloria Chiappani Rodichevski (Milano) del libro curato dalla scrittrice montrealese Licia Canton e dalle scrittrici di Bright's Grove, Delia De Santis e Venera Fazio.

Montreal/Milano - Canadesi dalle più o meno lontane origini italiane, le quali hanno lasciato un'impronta indelebile nel loro modo di essere e nel loro esprimersi attraverso una lingua letteraria. Canadesi accomunati da una necessità cogente: scrivere. Non solo, cioè, scrittori che della scrittura hanno fatto la propria attività principale, ma anche la più svariata e affascinante fauna professionale: docenti universitari, jazzisti, critici letterari, attori, cantanti, traduttori, artisti visuali. Il risultato di tale comune esigenza interiore è il volume edito nel 2006 a Montreal da Cusmano: "Writing Beyond History."

Sintetizza bene Licia Canton, nella sua Introduction: Un libro, che raccoglie scritti in inglese e in italiano, in prosa e in versi, nei quali l'Italia fa capolino o è la protagonista indiscussa. Dunque per me il volume ha rappresentato un'esperienza pregnante. Anch'io, infatti, avverto cogente il bisogno di scrivere per comunicarmi e per comunicare. Cosciente di tutto questo, concluderei con un monito. Non releghiamo lo scrivere a puro atto estetico. Proponiamoci invece di partire - con la nostra scrittura - da quella storia trascurando la quale negheremo irrimediabilmente le nostre radici e giungeremo in breve a veder crollare tutti i pali di sostegno, in uno squallido trionfo dell'effimero sé.

Lyricalmyrical launches works of two AICW members in 2006.

Luciano Iacobelli's Lyricalmyrical Press held two launches in 2006. Each launch featured the works of four writers. The May 10th launch featured *Elvis in America* the first collection of poems by Frank Giorno, who combines social and personal reflections with a humorous touch. The title poem compares America of 1776 to young singer circa 1956. The poem parallels the rise to power and eventual corruption of the American ideal as epitomized with by corpulent Elvis prior to his death. *Hyphen* explores the soul caught between the mother country and host country and fitting into neither.

The October 4th Lyricalmyrical launch featured John Calabro's reading from his new collection of short stories *Somewhere Else*. The book is a collection of related short stories about people who for one reason or another would prefer to be somewhere else.

For more information email Luciano Iacobelli at liacobelli@yahoo.com

Featuring Gianna Patriarca

Congratulations to AICW member Gianna Patriarca whose work in 2006 was featured in *College Street—Little Italy*, and in *Celebration—33 Inspiring Canadian Women of Italian Origin*, published by Mansfield Press.



Guernica Editions' launches books by Colalillo-Katz, Mancuso, Repetto and Bélanger

Antonio D'Alfonso of Guernica Editions not only launched the works of Isabella Colalillo-Katz, Nick Mancuso and Vittoria Repetto and others, but he also translated and read the poems of Quebecois writer Paul Bélanger.

The launch took place at Bar Italia on November 7, 2006. Ten books were launched by Guernica Editions including, *The World Forgotten* by Paul Bélanger. Bélanger read his well-crafted, lean and insightful poems in French followed by D'Alfonso's adroit reading of his skillful translation of Bélanger's work.

Light Remains by AICW's Isabella Colalillo-Katz ...are stark, meditations, imagistic, hopeful and lyrical on the paradigmatic nature of love and truth," said Toronto Poet Laureate Pier Giorgio Di Cicco. While B.W. Powe liked *Light Remains* for "...its nakedness, its dream filled ease and streaming ... these are special meditations that in their reveries revive...".

Mediterranean Men by Nick Mancuso contains short stories that are both poignant and humorous. Mancuso a renowned actor adds to his writing credits with a superb reflection on the state of Mediterranean men, women, divorce and howling dogs. In "*not just a personal ad*" Vittoria Repetto, gives us a direct and witty eye on life. From "*she is doing the dishes*" to not "*just a personal ad*", Repetto writes with a tongue in cheek delivery that eroticizes daily chores.

Per un pugno di terra / For a Fistful of Soil

By Diego Bastianutti Zeisciu Centro Studi, 239 p.

"Diego Bastianutti offers the most complete gamut of his lyric to date: together with well-considered themes of exile and the grappling with painfully new milieus", writes Sergio M. Gilardino of his third book of poems *Per un pugno di terra*. Bastianutti has trust in human existence and the wisdom that governs it Gilardino adds. His poetry is a redeeming experience whose core is formed by a trauma that his verses express but cannot mitigate. The poems tell of the universal exile who dreams of the ever more distant garden while inhabiting a world all the more disquieting.

For copies: email talaria@telus.net or visit www.diego-bastianutti.com. \$25 Cnd - \$22 USA plus \$5 (postage)

"Fast Forward" scritto da Delia De Santis e tradotto in italiano

Il racconto "Fast Forward" scritto da Delia De Santis e tradotto in italiano da Gabriella Iacobucci con il titolo "Andare avanti" ha ricevuto menzione nel Premio di narrativa "Alla luce delle Mainarde".

Questo Premio Internazionale si svolge nell'antica e celebre abbazia benedettina di San Vincenzo al Volturno, nel Molise, ed è nato con l'intento di promuovere la forma artistica della scrittura e insieme far conoscere il territorio molisano che si trova ai piedi della bellissima catena montuosa delle Mainarde. Con il premio, La "Residenza Valle Fiorita" ha offerto una settimana di soggiorno per quattro persone.

La Residenza Valle Fiorita si trova a Rocchetta al Volturno (Isernia), uno dei paesi del Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo, in uno splendido scenario naturale.

La menzione ricevuta per il racconto "Andare avanti" è la prima assegnata a uno scrittore straniero di origine italiana. La prima edizione del Premio, lo scorso anno, ha ottenuto l'Alto Riconoscimento del Presidente della Repubblica Italiana con il conferimento di una medaglia d'argento.

Quattro Books goes to press in 2007

The organizers of the Toronto WordStage reading series have formed a new literary press. *Quattro Books* is now registered as a business partnership, consisting of Allan Briesmaster, John Calabro, Beatriz Hausner, and Luciano Iacobelli. Quattro will publish four books a year, each from a different "line" reflecting the partners' interests and vision for the press. The first book by Gale Zöe Garnett is being launched February 28, 2007, at the Drake Hotel in Toronto.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Buon Anno

Happy



New Year!