



AICW Newsletter

Bollettino dell'ASSIC

Bulletin d' AEIC

Issue 54

Spring 2007

Women's day talk celebrates 10 Italian-Quebecoise writers



In the photo: (sitting) Salvatore Bancheri (Director of the Frank Iacobucci Centre), Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni, Liana Cusmano, Alberto Mario DeLogu, Licia Canton, Michele Lettieri (Associate Dean of Humanities, University of Toronto), Egidio and Irene Marchese.

Toronto - To mark International Women's Day, Montreal writer and literary critic Licia Canton presented "The Women Next Door: Quebec Writers, Italian Accents" at the Frank Iacobucci Centre for Italian Canadian Studies, University of Toronto. She spoke about the act of writing and ten women's contribution to Quebec literature: Carole David, Bianca Zagolin, Lisa Carducci, Fiorella De Luca Calce, Elettra Bedon, Rita Amabili-Rivet, Tiziana Beccarelli-Saad, Mary Melfi, Mary di Michele and Elena Randaccio.

"It was important for me to speak about their writing and the conditions in which they write, but also to focus on the visual image of each woman ... to see the woman behind the literary production." "Canton said.

The editor-in-chief of *Accenti Magazine*, Licia Canton's writing deals with issues that link Canada and Italy.

Blue Metropolis literary festival

Montreal --The AICW, in collaboration with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Montreal hosted an event titled WRITING and MEANING at this year's Blue Metropolis Festival in Montreal. The theme of this year's Festival was Libert  d'esprit / Free Spirits.

The event featured John Calabro, Marcello Di Cintio, Joe Fiorito and Francesca Lo Dico. The authors read from their works and discussed their personal trajectories in creating meaning from their fictional and non-fictional worlds. Poet Carmine Starnino moderated the discussions.

The session was held on Thursday April 26 at 6:00 PM, at the downtown Montreal Delta Hotel, and it was followed by another event, VITA, a trilingual discussion on the Italian immigrant experience, hosted by broadcaster, Marianna Simeone, and featured Italian writer Melania G. Mazzucco, and Italian Canadian writers, Carole David, Mary di Michele, and Joe Fiorito.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Giovanni Pillonca of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura for his support of our Association and Italian Canadian writers. The Blue Met festival featured about 250 writers, translators, musicians, journalists and publishers from all around the world for five days of literary events in English, French, Spanish, Italian and other languages.

Some of the participants at Montreal's Blue Metropolis Literary Festival

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2007 is heaven for Gianna Patriarca

2007 started out well for Gianna Patriarca and she hopes it continues to shine throughout the year. On January 13 the CBC Television program Toronto Living hosted by Mary Ito, featured Gianna in an interview and she read her full poem College Street on national television.

On January 15, Random House launched *My Wedding Dress*, an anthology of memoirs, which included one of Gianna's short stories. February was a busy month with Gianna reading as part of The Public Library's Keep Canada Reading Series, on February 7th at the Yorkville Library. On February 15th Gianna was a guest author at the annual Book Lover's Ball, a black tie affair held at the Liberty Grand in Toronto, tickets were \$250.00 and proceeds go to help the Public Library System. Then on February 21st Gianna read at the Artists' Play Studio Theater in Toronto. February 27th Gianna taped a reading for Teletatino that was aired on March 19th, St. Joseph's Day which is also father's day in Italy. After a brief pause in March, Gianna went to Chicago in April to participate in a reading organized by Professor Theresa Carilli. Later this year Gianna's book **of poetry** *My Etruscan Face* will be published by Quattro Books of Toronto.

Montreal Hold's Salotto Letterario

Montreal's Salotto Letterario resumed its activities on January 28th at the Café Paparazzi, in Little Italy, and has since taken off in full force. The following AICW member writers, as well as some non-members, have participated at the last three readings: Antoinette Martello, Alberto Mario deLogu, Nico Bignami, Maria Francesca lo Dico, Fulvio Caccia, Connie McParland, Claudio Antonelli, Ilona Martonfi and Francesco Pisani.

We would like to thank Dr. Mulas of the PICAI who has graciously agreed to make available for us the PICAI headquarter's conference room, where we have held our two last meetings. Each month the Salotto Letterario features three writers who read from their works and then engage in stimulating discussions with the audience.



Sweet Lemons: call for submissions

Co-editors Delia De Santis and Venera Fazio are accepting submissions for a sequel to the anthology *Sweet Lemons: Writings with a Sicilian Accent* (2004). This second anthology, will also celebrate Sicilian culture, writers and immigrant experiences. Manuscripts may include poetry, short stories, book chapters, essays, memoirs, brief dramas, folklore and English translations of writings by Sicilian writers.

Unpublished and previously published material will be considered. Submissions, in English only, may be e-mailed as a MS Word attachment if sending by regular mail send single-spaced, hard copy. Include a stamped **self-addressed** envelop for a response and include a cover letter with your contact information: Writers may submit a maximum of five poems and/or up to 5,000 words for fiction/non-fiction/dramas/translations.

Writers of Sicilian origin need not necessarily write about their heritage. Non-Sicilian authors may submit if the content of their work pertains to the objective of the anthology. We are also interested in submissions by writers from South America, Australia, New Zealand, England and Ireland.

Contributors should query one of the editors before submitting. Venera Fazio 2377 Schafer Court, Bright's Grove, ON Canada N0N 1C0 vfazio@hotmail.com or Delia De Santis 2961 Delia Cres. Bright's Grove, ON Canada N0N 1C0 delidesantis@yahoo.com

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. Deadline for the next issue is September 1, 2007

AICW Executive 2006-2008

President Pasquale Verdicchio San Diego, USA
pverdicchio@yahoo.com

Vice-President Venera Fazio, Bright's Grove, ON vp@aicw.ca

Memberships/Treasurer Delia De Santis Bright's Grove, ON
mem@aicw.ca

Secretary Connie Guzzo McParland, Montreal, sec@aicw.ca

Editorial Board

Anna Foschi *Past President* larthia@direct.ca, Vancouver

Sonia Di Placido bambola557@yahoo.com, Toronto

Maria Luisa Ierfino maria.ierfino@connexim.ca, Montreal

Jim Zuccheri jzuccher@uwo.ca, London, ON

E se parlassimo della Cina

E se parlassimo della Cina è la più recente pubblicazione di Lisa Carducci. In 66 articoli, il libro, abbondantemente illustrato, presenta la cultura popolare e l'artigianato, alcune delle 56 etnie della Cina, diversi luoghi, vari aspetti della società, le feste e leggende, e l'architettura.

E se parlassimo della Cina, Beijing, Foreign Languages Press, 2007, 245 pagine (978-7-119-04778-1). Quasi contemporaneamente usciva *Vivre la Chine à ma façon*, Beijing, FLP, 2007, 291 pagine (978-7-119-04801-7).



Lisa Carducci vive in Cina dal 1991. Nel corso del 2006, Lisa Carducci ha vinto due premi di pubblicazione in Francia. *Voyage*, Prix d'édition poétique de la Ville de Dijon 2006, 88 pages (2-9519696-8-6) *L'Œuf à deux jaunes* (nouvelles) Prix d'édition Val de Seine, Editinter, 2006, 126 pages (2-35328-007-2). Si può ordinare presso l'autrice: carducci_lisa@yahoo.fr

Accenti Magazine Awards - Winners Announced

Montreal - The second annual *Accenti Magazine Awards* were held on April 27, 2007, at the 9th Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival. **Maria Francesca LoDico** of Montreal won first prize (\$1000) for *The Disappearing Sicily*, **Laura Fee** of Duncan, BC, won second prize (\$250) for *The Old Woman of Corniglia*, and **Helen McLean** of Toronto won third prize (\$100) for *Speaking Italian Like a Canadian*. The winning essays will be published in forthcoming issues of *Accenti Magazine* and *Accenti Online*.

Sonia Di Placido at Wordstage

Sonia Di Placido read poems from her collection *Vulva Magic* at the March 8th Wordstage reading in Toronto. The playfully erotic poems captivated the audience judging by the hearty applause. Sonia is a member of the **AICW** Editorial Board. *Vulva Magic* is published by Lyricalmyrical Press.

Quattro Books launches two

Quattro Books a new publishing house successfully launched its first two books, *Room Tone* by Gale Zoë Garnett and *Interstellar* by Allan Briesmaster in February at Toronto's Drake Hotel.

Quattro Books was founded by four Toronto writers, (AICW member) John Calabro, Luciano Iacobelli, Alan Briesmaster and Beatrix Hausner. The first offerings from Quattro were critically well received and a review of each book appeared in the *Globe and Mail*.

In September Quattro will publish three books. *My Etruscan Face*, a collection of poems by AICW member Gianna Patriarca, *Mushmelon*, *Boy Talmudist* by Michael Wex, and an anthology of poetry about flowers called, *Garden Variety*.

For more information on Quattro Books please visit their website at www.quattrobooks.com

Three Sarnia- area writers featured in Ode to a Flattened Toad Features

The writings of members Delia De Santis, Venera Fazio, Joseph Farina, and Carmen Ziolkowski are featured in the forthcoming anthology *Ode to a Flattened Toad*, ed. Heather Rath, River City Press, 2007.

This anthology, available in April, celebrates the Writing Group, WITS (Writers in Transition, Sarnia). For over 40 years, the members of WITS have nourished each other's creativity and encouraged the efforts of beginning writers. WIT members, past and present contributed prose and poetry as well as personal essays reflecting on their participation in WITS. *Ode to A Flattened Toad* was launched on April 22, 2 p.m. Liochiel Kiwanis Community Centre, Sarnia.

Not Paved With Gold Photo Exhibit

Toronto photographer, Vincenzo Pietropaolo's photographic exhibit *Not Paved With Gold* is on display at New York at the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum until June 30th. The show features a selection of photographs taken of the Toronto's Italian Canadian community in the 1970s. For more information please visit www.garibalidimeuccimuseum.org

Militano nominated for Manitoba's Eileen McTavis Skyes Award

Winnipeg - Congratulations to Carmelo Militano for being nominated for the Eileen McTavis Skyes award for his book *The Fate of Olives*. The award is for the best first book of any genre written by a Manitoba writer. "It was an honor just to be nominated," said Militano. The awards, sponsored by the Manitoba publishers and writers association were announced on April 28.

In Praise of Irving Layton

In *High Spirits: A Sacred Collection of Prose and Poetry*, Maria L. Ierfino, quotes Irving Layton on the essence of the creative process being the beauty that springs from the "fertile muck."

Ierfino gave tribute to Irving Layton at the April 2006, Italian Canadian Writers Cultural event that was sponsored by The Dante Alighieri Society of Montreal, the Italian Cultural Institute of Montreal and the Association of Italian Canadian Writers. In her tribute, Ierfino described how Layton, who died on January 6, 2006, celebrates the dualities of life...the light and the dark, the ying and the yang...from the chaos of life experience emerges order, beauty and quintessential art.

In 1993 Layton became the first non-Italian to win the Petrarch Prize for Poetry. The Italian Nobel committee twice nominated him for the Nobel Prize for literature.

You can get a copy of *High Spirits* by contacting Maria at maria.ierfino@bell.ca To read more about her tribute to Irving Layton please go to the www.aicw.ca

Recently Published

Pasquale Verdicchio's 'O Cuorp' 'e Napule is published in: Naples and the Cinematographic Body of Culture in Italian Neorealism and Global Cinema. Laura E. Ruberto and Kristi M. Wilson eds. Detroit: Wayne State Univ. Press, 2007. <http://wsupress.wayne.edu/film/worldcinema/wilsonrf/wilsonb.html>

Nico Bignami "Toccata e fuga" ("Touch and Go") Storie di aviazione, di Cina e di foreste canadesi" (Bagno a Ripoli - Firenze: Edarc Edizioni, 2006) [disponibile anche alla "Libreria Italiana" di Montréal]

Gisele Amantea. The King v. Picariello and Lassandro. Published by the Frank Iacobucci Centre. The King v. Picariello and Lassandro is a visual narrative of the real-life story of Filumena "Florence" Lassandro and Emilio Picariello, Italian immigrants who were hanged in 1923 for the murder of an Alberta Provincial Police officer.

Canto d'Amore: Mary di Michele

Una ghiotta lettura propone il romanzo della scrittrice italo-canadese Mary di Michele, **Canto d'amore**, in cui



due donne raccontano gli anni trascorsi accanto al grande tenore Enrico Caruso, dandocene un ritratto intimo e veritiero, Ravvivato da gustosi aneddoti e da ritratti di personaggi dell'epoca. Basandosi su una puntuale ricerca di testimonianze di prima mano e sullo spoglio di una nutrita corrispondenza, l'Autrice ci ricorda che, come la protagonista di "Tosca", Enrico Caruso visse d'arte ma visse anche d'amore, e qualche male lo fece alle donne che – prima in Italia e poi negli Stati Uniti – condivisero per anni la sua vita.

Loverso Edwards' Alberta Wrtings

Caterina Loverso Edwards won the creative non fiction prize for CBC Radio's Alberta Anthology Competition for her piece, "Who Remembers" which appeared in the 2006 Alberta Anthology.

Caterina also contributed to three publications last fall. Her essay, "Dancing Apart" appeared in the book *Big Enough Dreams*. Caterina's short story, "Assimilation", as well as an extract from her novella "A Whiter Shade of Pale" appeared in Caroline Di Giovanni's new edition of *Italian Canadian Voices*. "Assimilation" is also being reprinted in the current magazine of the Italian Chamber of Commerce of Toronto.

Loverso's radio drama "The Great Antonio" was rebroadcast on February 11 and 12 as part of Sunday Showcase's Little Italies Series.

Love With An Italian Bite

Toronto --Nothing warms the hearts of Canadians more than a red hot Valentine's Day celebration in the middle of a brutally cold and snowy February.

On February 13th, Toronto's Art Bar Reading series celebrated Valentine's Day with Love with An Italian Bite, an evening organized and hosted by Gianna Patriarca.

True to form there was a raging blizzard outside, but inside the Victory Café sizzled to the hot, humorous, romantic, sweet and erotic verses by local and Italian-Canadian writers including, Val Assenza, Frank Giorno, Luciano Iacobelli, Bruna Bertoni, Sonia D'Agostino, Sonia Di Placido, Allan Briesmaster, and Gale Zoë Garnett.