



# AICW Newsletter

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## Montreal Salotto A Festive Occasion



From left: Connie McParland, Mario Chieffo, Maria Spina, Cecilia Fazioli, Ida Fanzolato, Paolo Ruiz, Faustina Angiolina

Montreal Salotto Letterario organized by AICW secretary, Connie McParland, was held on December 09, at the PICAI offices.

The Salotto explored the works of authors Francesca Piredda and Paolo Ruiz who offered two different approaches to writing.

Francesca read a short excerpt from her new book *Bambina* which retells in minute details the life of a young girl living in Rome during the 1960's. Through the young girl's "reveries," the author reconstructed the lifestyle and mores of the characters and community around her. Francesca was inspired to write about her childhood by an image of light. Her writing is purely instinctive.

Paolo's approach to writing is quite different. He was inspired by the story of creation and researched a variety of science and philosophy texts before attempting to write about the personal journey of its narrator. The book, written in both English and Italian, will soon be published in Italy, and is aptly titled *The Journey*.

Being so close to Christmas, the group anticipated the coming festivities with refreshments, and good cheers. For the next Salotto, poet Corrado Mastropasqua, will give a presentation on Neapolitan poetry. Other presentations of interest to members are being planned for the coming months.

## BRESSANI LITERARY PRIZE accepting submissions

Submissions are being accepted for the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Biennial F.G. Bressani Literary Prize (2008) presented by the Italian Cultural Centre Society in Vancouver.

Rules and regulations and information on this long-running competition can be found on our website at:

[http://www.italianculturalcentre.ca/itoolkit.asp?pg=BRESSANI\\_LITERARY\\_PR](http://www.italianculturalcentre.ca/itoolkit.asp?pg=BRESSANI_LITERARY_PR)

The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2008

Prizes are awarded in four categories: poetry, novel, short fiction and creative non-fiction.

The Bressani Literary Prize was established as a biennial award by Vancouver's Italian Cultural Centre and local Vancouver writers in 1986 during the Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow Conference, the first national conference of Italian Canadian writers. The prize is named after Francesco Giuseppe Bressani (1612-1672), a Jesuit priest who wrote "Breve Relazioni d'alcune Missioni nella Nuova Francia."

The prize awards excellence in writing to Canadian writers. Past winners include Nino Ricci, Robert Harney, Michael Ondaatje, Peter Oliva, Joe Fiorito, Concetta Principe and Ven Begamudre.

For further information contact Ashli Komaryk-De Lucio Vancouver Italian Cultural Centre, Cultural Director  
Tel. 604 430 3337 - Fx 604 430 3331

[www.italianculturalcentre.ca](http://www.italianculturalcentre.ca)

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## Women in the Multiethnic City

On January 25-26, Prof. Luigi Bruti-Liberati, president of the Italian Association for Canadian Studies, hosted the conference "Women in the Multiethnic City" at the Università di Milano.

Over fifty speakers from Canada, Italy, UK, Germany and Poland presented papers. The speakers included Montrealers Bruno Ramirez, Licia Canton and Sonia Cancian as well as Torontonians Franca Iacovetta. Several presentations focused on Italian Canadian writing: Anna Fornari (Università di Padova) spoke of "Misrepresentation of Multiethnicity in Italian Canadian Anthologies."

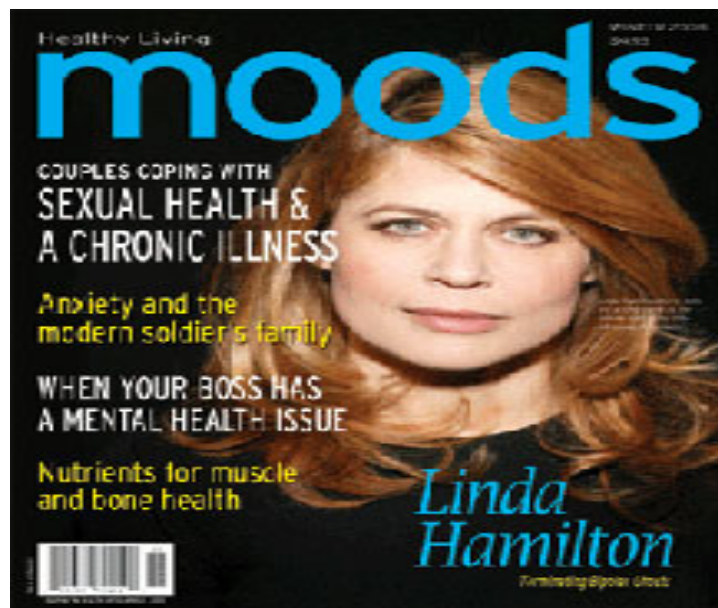
Anna Pia De Luca (Università di Udine) presented "Italian Women and Other Tragedies: The City in Gianna Patriarca's Poetry," Licia Canton (Accenti Magazine) spoke about "Montreal Women Writers of Italian Descent," Sonia Cancian (Concordia University) presented "The Tentacles of Kinship: Revelations from Private Letters to Italian Immigrants in Montreal, 1946-1971," and Deborah Saidero (Università di Udine) spoke about "Reformulations of Ethnicity, Gender and the Multicultural City."

## Absolutely FAB-u-lous



Fabrizio Napoleone has just published another short story this year. That now makes a grand total of seven. Lucky, eh? The book is titled **Coming Attractions '07** - an annual collection from Oberon Press. Fab's story "Steel Dust" is featured between two up-an-coming young Canadian writers - Anik See & Julie Paul. It's a Hamilton story.

You can get a copy from a couple of sources. Fabrizio recommends Bryan Prince - an independent book seller in Hamilton's Westdale neighbourhood - who has agreed to stock a few copies. "I like to support the small booksellers," Fabrizio says - for details go to: [www.princebooks.net](http://www.princebooks.net). Some Chapters in Hamilton and Vancouver will be selling copies or you can order from [www.chapters.indigo.ca](http://www.chapters.indigo.ca) Finally, you can order direct from the publisher: [www.Oberonpress.ca](http://www.Oberonpress.ca).



## Moods Magazine: readings for a healthy mind

*Moods* magazine is a visually attractive and informative national publication providing inspiration, information and support for anyone who has an interest in nurturing a healthy mind.

Individuals (or their family/friends) who have depression, bipolar disorder, addictions, anxiety, or eating disorders will find *Moods* an invaluable aid. Each issue features the personal success story of a celebrity and articles about healthy living (mental and physical), treatment options and current research. DiFilippo welcomes volunteer writers to contribute articles.

Rebecca DiFilippo is the founder and editor of *Moods* Magazine. Copies can be found in the waiting rooms of doctors, clinics and hospitals, and on newsstands. *Moods* emphasizes the preventative approach. "*Moods* is not only for people struggling with a mood disorder," says DiFilippo. "It is also being used in the workplace, universities and elsewhere as a preventative tool."

About 25% of Canadians will suffer from a mood disorder at some point in their life. The World Health Organization says, mood disorders will be the number one health problem by 2010.

DiFilippo resides in Mississauga and married into a first-generation Italian-Canadian family. DiFilippo, also a successful artist who shows and sells her work, has recently helped to develop an online art gallery for artists living with a mood disorder. You can visit this site at [www.touchedbyfire.ca](http://www.touchedbyfire.ca).

To find out more about *Moods* Magazine visit [www.moodsmag.com](http://www.moodsmag.com), where you can read Rebecca's and her daughter's story of how they have long battled with depression.

For further information please contact: Rebecca DiFilippo, Editor, *Moods* Magazine 377 Burnhamthorpe Rd. East, P.O. Box 29548, Mississauga, ON, L5A 4H2. Toll Free: 1-888-275-8007, Tel: 905-897-7793, E-mail: [rebecca@moodsmag.com](mailto:rebecca@moodsmag.com).

## Venus at Dusk Online Poetry

Feel like communing with and sharing your poetry online with a potentially global audience? Check out Venus at Dusk, an online poetry group, founded by Toni Calvello and Conrad Diodato.

Venus at Dusk is dedicated to "Poetry of a cosmic nature: visionings of distant moons, horizons and heavens; and the indissoluble link between star dust and us. It presents poetry at the dusky borders between space and light. It's for inspired lovers of verse, in both Eastern and Western traditions. Its goal is to work develop a new cosmic genre. But writers are free to explore any topic they like. To join visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VenusAtDusk/>

## From the Prairies

Joe Pivato writes that in 2007 he was busy editing the publication of **Mary di Michele's: Essays.**



### Prairie Report

**Caterina Edwards**, AICW pres. 1992-94, is working on two projects that will be completed in 2008: The Edmonton Cultural Capital Committee commissioned an essay from Caterina which she entitles "On the Border." It will be published in a collection in 2008.

The Italian Outreach Group will be staging Caterina's play, Homeground in 2008. It was originally staged in Edmonton in 1986 as "**Terra Straniera.**"

**Donna Caruso**, from Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, has a new book, **Journey Without a Map Growing Up Italian: A Memoir.** It will be released in March by ThistleDown Press. Caruso looks at how her cultural identity shaped her life. For more information visit [www.incandescentfilms.com](http://www.incandescentfilms.com)

## Cultural Nights in Mississauga

Each month the Mississauga Canadian-Italian Association hosts a cultural event at U of T's Erindale Campus.

In January, MCIA featured Woody Allen's **Broadway Danny Rose.** Michelina Trigiani, an avid film historian and Allen fan, provided commentary on the movie and it's significance to Italian culture. This zany Allen film examines the relationship between Danny Rose, an agent, and lounge singer Lou Canova. While managing Canova's come back Danny Rose becomes entangled in a Mafia vendetta. The film won Italy's Premio David di Donatello for Best Foreign Screenplay in 1985.

In February, Frank Giorno read poems from **Elvis in America** and new poems from his next book which will be published in June, 2008. On March 12th Josie Di Sciascio Andrews, will discuss her newly released book **How the Italians Created Canada**. For more info contact Giovanni Rosato 905--566-8808 or E-mail at [Giovanni.Rosato@ecolab.ca](mailto:Giovanni.Rosato@ecolab.ca)

## AICW Members at AMICI Gallery in Vaughan



L to R: Michael Mirolla, Darlene Maddot, John Calabro, Frank Giorno, Bruna Bretoni, Gianna Patriarca, Mario Ferri (AMICI), Lucy Di Pietro, (AMICI) Antonio Porretta (AMICI) and Gina Valle

Six writers belonging to the AICW participated in a moving reading in a rather unique setting in Maple, Ontario, just north of Toronto on January 20th, 2008.

The reading was sponsored by The Association for the Memory of Italian Canadian Immigrants, AMICI in partnership with AICW. The event was held in the impressive Gallery Hall in front of an appreciative audience.

The list of writers consisted of John Calabro, Bruna Di Giuseppe-Bertoni, Frank Giorno, Darlene Madott, Michael Mirolla and Gianna Patriarca. AMICI is a charitable organization working to preserve Italian immigrant stories, history, and promote contemporary Italian-Canadian culture. For more information on AMICI, please call 905-832-5200, or E-mail [info@amicimuseum.com](mailto:info@amicimuseum.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](mailto:ed@aicw.ca) or [fgiorno@rogers.com](mailto:fgiorno@rogers.com). Deadline for the next issue is May 10, 2008.

### AICW Executive 2006-2008

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## When Less is More

By Frank Giorno, AICW Editor

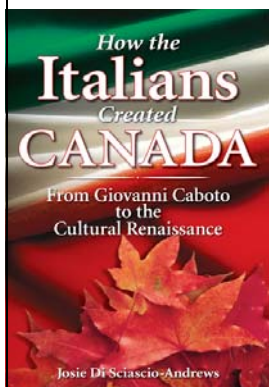
Toronto - The erratic ramblings of moderator Barry Callaghan cast a pall over what was billed as an evening of **Italian/Canadian Writers and Poets** held on January 30, 2008 at the Italian Cultural Institute, in Toronto, and sponsored by the Elia Chair in Italian Studies. The evening featured Gianna Patriarca and Carole Giangrande.

Mr. Callaghan was 15 minutes late for the introductions and then proceeded to inflict the audience with a 30 minute lecture that had no relationship to the evening's program. He had not bothered to familiarize himself with Gianna Patriarca's and Carole Giangrande's work. Both women sat patiently waiting to be introduced.

The role of the moderator is to set the stage for the author's and to keep the evening flowing. There is an assumption that the moderator is familiar with the works of the guest authors.

I am reminded of an incident at a Guernica book launch, one rainy November night in 2006 at the Bar Italia on College Street. An author was droning on and on with his introductory remarks when a voice from the back shouted, "Cut the bullshit and let's get on with the reading." It was Barry Callaghan who blurted out the statement. I hope in future that Barry Callaghan follows his own advice and let's the guest readers read.

## Contributions in Creating Canada



Author Josie Di Sciascio-Andrews takes an informative and entertaining look at how Italians have helped forge Canada. From the moment explorer Giovanni Caboto stepped onto Canadian soil, Italians have left their footprints on Canadian history. In the 1700s, Italians including Alphonse and Henri de Tonti came to New France to trade with the Natives and settle the vast land. In the 1800s, Italian

workers built the foundation for railways and highways into Canada's northern forests. Today, Little Italies are a part of every major Canadian city. The Italian-Canadian vote is even credited with helping keep Canada together in Québec's sovereignty referendum.

The book is available from Lone Pine Publishing at <http://www.lonepinepublishing.com/cat/9781896124148>. Copies will be available shortly at Chapters Indigo.

## WELCOME! BENVENUTI! BIENVENUE

The AICW welcomes our new members. A short bio follows.

### Sylvia Fiorita Smith

Sylvia Fiorita-Smith was born in Montreal to a family of immigrants, and worked very hard to understand and live in the middle of two separate cultures.

Sylvia is a member of the AICW and the West Island Writers' group. She contributed to two of their anthologies, *Winter Magic* and *Winter Memories*, and was published in *Curaggia: Writings by Women of Italian Descent*. She has been a guest reader at local coffeehouses and most recently at the Salotto Letterario at Toronto's Columbus Centre.

### Erno Rossi

Erno Rossi is a freelance writer-photographer, world traveler, outdoor columnist, best-selling author and former teacher of history, sociology and disaster survival. He was born in Port Colborne, Ontario. Erno's best known book is *White Death- the Blizzard of '77* which was recently featured on the cover of rock group Alexis on Fire's CD. The collaboration added a Juno nomination for best cover design to the many accolades Rossi has earned. He is a member of the [Canadian Authors Association](#) and [The Writers Union of Canada](#). To find out more about Erno Rossi please visit [www.whitedeath.com](http://www.whitedeath.com)

### Mel Sarnese

Mel was born in Toronto to parents from Campobasso in the region of Molise, Italy. She has been broadcast on CBC Radio and TVO. Mel's first book of poetry is titled *Iris Dewdrops* and she is presently working on her first novel. Mel hopes to enter the Humber School for Writers' summer workshop in 2008. She is the editor of The Poetry of Relationships. Mel is a member of the Canadian Authors Association and several other prominent writing associations including the Canadian Poetry Association.

### Josee Vandeguchte

Josee has written about her travel adventures, and she has just finished a book on her latest pilgrim walk to Spain. Born in Luxembourg, Josee came to Canada in 1956, as a young woman. She is an artist who is also focusing on sculptural pottery and painting. Josee's water colours are based on visions of roads she has walked on in foreign lands. She is a member of the Sarnia Artists Group.

### Strange Peregrination at Blue Metropolis

On behalf of the AICW and the Frank Iacobucci Centre for Italian Canadian Studies, University of Toronto, Venera Fazio and Delia De Santis have submitted a proposal to launch the anthology *Strange Peregrination* (Eds: De Santis, Fazio, Foschi Ciampolini) at the Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival, held April 30 to May 4, 2008.