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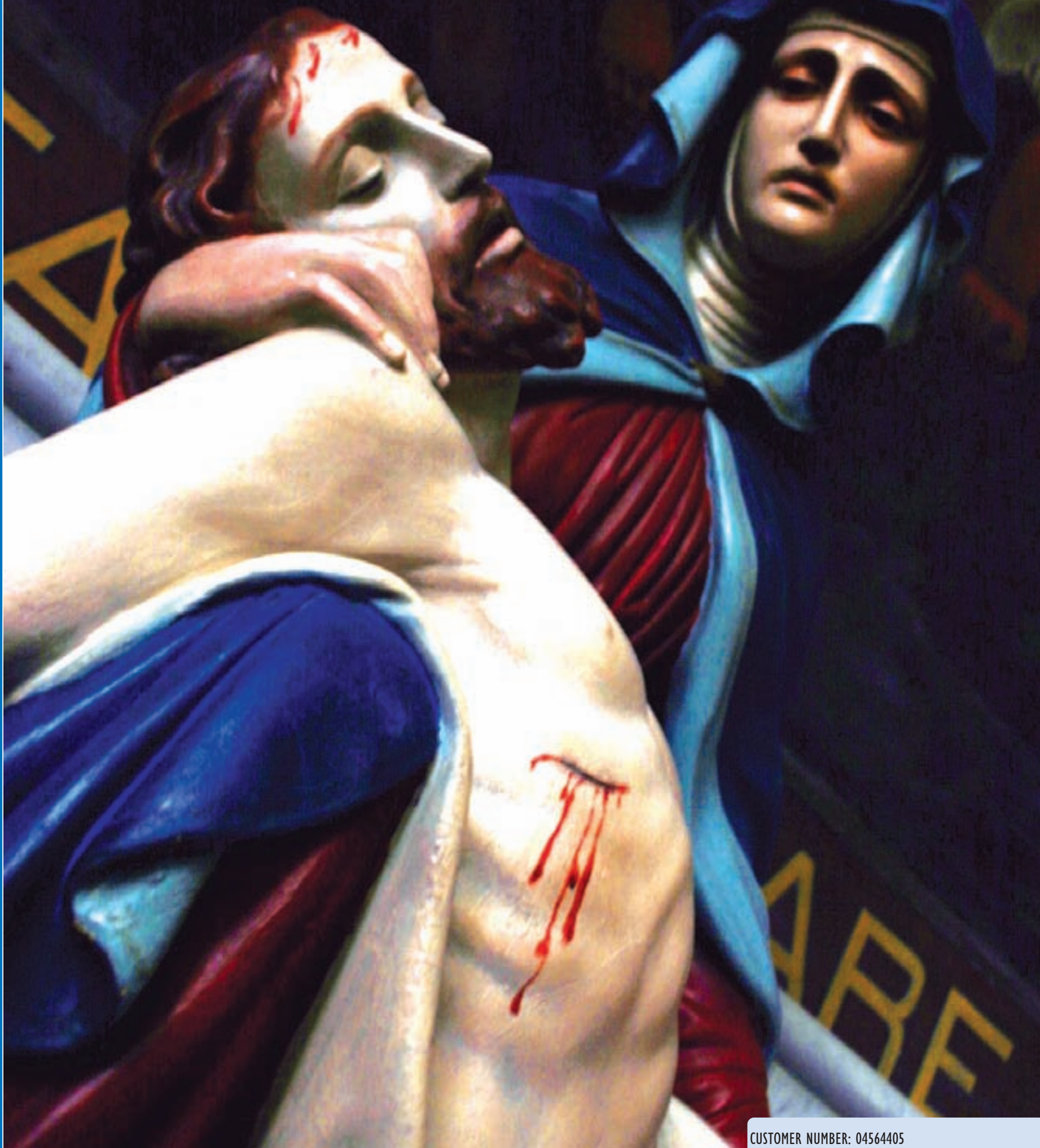
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Christ has died, Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again

Buona Pasqua Happy Easter



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Church

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# City-Wide Rapporto da Ottawa Il VIOXX di nuovo alla ribalta?

Di Carletto Caccia

Continua la storia dell’antidolorifico VIOXX. Proprio in questi giorni le autorità americane della Food and Drug Administration hanno di nuovo approvato questo farmaco e rilasciato il permesso per il suo ritorno sul mercato malgrado il parere negativo dello scienziato David Graham. Secondo lui, oltre 80.000 degli infarti occorsi negli Stati Uniti sono dovuti all’effetto dell’antidolorifico VIOXX. La decisione delle autorità americane è accompagnata dal mandato categorico di avvertire il consumatore sui potenziali danni che il farmaco può causare al sistema cardio-circolatorio. Merita notare che lo stesso David Graham, funzionario presso la Food and Drug Administration, ha espresso il suo disappunto per la decisione presa a favore del VIOXX.

Qui in Canada la situazione è differente. Il ministro della Sanità dovrà decidere a proposito del VIOXX quando avrà ricevuto la domanda di approvazione dalla società produttrice, la società Merck & Co. Permettere la ripresa delle vendite in Canada non sarà una decisione facile: furono infatti le ricerche condotte da uno scienziato canadese a rilevare, a suo tempo, il rischio posto dall’antidolorifico. Questo avvenne nel maggio scorso quando i ricercatori dell’Istituto of Clinical Evaluative Sciences di Toronto notarono che il rischio che corrono i pazienti anziani di essere ospedalizzati per disturbi cardiaci è superiore all’ 80 per cento. Questa scoperta forzò la Merck & Co. a togliere il VIOXX dalla circolazione.

La morale della favola è di fare attenzione con i farmaci in generale e gli antidolorifici in particolare: i rischi per la salute sono alti, come lo sono pure gli interessi finanziari delle case farmaceutiche. Intanto, la storia del VIOXX continua in una atmosfera di incertezza e verrà seguita nei mesi a venire.



## Una serata d’opera

Di Luciano Pradal

Il titolo del manifesto che annunciava la serata avrebbe potuto essere:

Una eccezionale Serata d’ Opera!

Infatti è questo che Maria Pellegrini ci ha offerto sabato 22 gennaio, quella sera una tempesta di neve infuriava su Ottawa, c’è voluto molto coraggio per i numerosi amici ed ammiratori di Maria Pellegrini, uscire di casa per andare a questa serata ma siamo stati tutti molto soddisfatti.

Una volta entrati nella Chiesa St. Luke the Evangelist su Somerset, l’atmosfera era già più calda, quando poi il canto ha cominciato, accompagnato al piano dal Maestro Walter Delahunt, tutti in sala hanno potuto dimenticare il freddo e la tempesta che imperversava fuori.

Al programma c’erano le arie più famose di Verdi, Puccini, Giordani, Donizetti, Gounod, Mozart ed altri, una bellissima scelta e varietà di arie che erano magnificamente interpretate dalla Pellegrini stessa, da Gerard Fauvelle tenore, Eugene Oscapeila baritono, Fred Bradley basso, per elencarne qualcuno, tutti bravissimi!

Bellissimo e veramente interessante è stato l’ esordio di due studenti di Maria Pellegrini, Brian Muma basso e Franco Perrotta tenore.

È stato una bella esperienza assistere all’entrata sul palcoscenico del giovane Brian che cercava di superare il

primo momento d’impaccio, sembrava, e forse era, la prima volta che faceva fronte ad un folto pubblico, Brian ci ha regalato una bella interpretazione di “Caro mio ben” di Giordani e “Lasciatemi morir” di Monteverdi della quale è stato apprezzato anche per la sua chiara dizione.

Dell’altro studente di Maria Pellegrini, Franco Perrotta tenore, il pubblico presente ha apprezzato la voce educata ed armoniosa mentre interpretava “Addio fiorito asil” e “Recondite armonia” di Puccini.

Sia Brian che Franco erano preparati molto bene a questo esordio, molti del pubblico presente desiderano rivederli ancora e presto, auguriamo loro che un giorno possano calcare le orme, la carriera ed i successi della loro mentor, Maria Pellegrini.

È stata una serata di “Bella Opera”, con molti applausi e molte emozioni per tutti, sul palco, nella platea e nella galleria, è stata soprattutto una serata di “Bella Opera” perchè, oltre che ascoltare le belle arie e voci dei cantanti e quella di Maria Pellegrini, abbiamo assistito alla “bella opera” che Maria fa per promuovere l’Opera insegnando ai giovani e dando loro l’opportunità di esibirsi in spettacoli come questo.

Sono certo, e con me lo erano altri spettatori, che vedremo presto i giovani Brian e Franco ad esibirsi ancora, dopo il successo del loro esordio ed anche grazie all’interessamento della loro mentor, Maria Pellegrini.

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# Trans-Atlantic

## Italians dominate papal choice

World Peace Herald  
By Roland Flamini

Two Italian cardinals and a German, with an Argentinian as a long shot, head the list of most-likely candidates to succeed Pope John Paul II who was hospitalized February 24th for the second time in less than a month. The Vatican said the 84-year-old pontiff was able to breathe on his own following a tracheotomy operation, but the surgery raised questions how much longer John Paul II, who has Parkinson's disease, will be able to continue to lead the world's 1 billion Roman Catholics.

The upbeat medical bulletin from the hospital did little to stop speculation about the papal succession. It is widely believed that John Paul II has written a memorandum on how to proceed should he become incapacitated — a situation not foreseen in church law. Only a handful of senior prelates are likely to know the contents of the pope's instructions.

But when the pope dies, the election of a new pope will follow a well-established, minutely detailed procedure; 119 cardinals under the age of 80 meeting behind closed doors in the Vatican will pray to the Holy Ghost for guidance before every ballot, even as they participate in a historic selection process that would not be unfamiliar to a Washington politician.

Long usage has limited the choice to one of the cardinals themselves and the Italian word "papabile" — literally "popeable" — is applied to prelates who seem to have the qualities necessary to be elected. While it's considered both unseemly and counter-productive for a cardinal to campaign on his own behalf, there are always others ready to advance his cause.

Father Andrew Greely, the American sociologist and best-selling author once said in the conclave — as the papal election is called — the qualities of the various front-runners are scrutinized and discussed in smoke filled rooms, the same as they would be in any old-style Chicago political ward. According to an old Vatican saying, he who enters the conclave a pope comes out a cardinal; but speculation has not always proved wrong.

For many, the man at the top of the list of papabili now is Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, though he turns 78 in April. The German-born prelate has been head of the Congregation (department) for the Doctrine of the Faith for the past 23 years. He is only one of three remaining cardinals who voted in the conclave

25 years ago that elected Pope John Paul II: all the other electors received their red hats — the symbol of their elevation - from the present pope. To his detractors, Ratzinger is rigid and doctrinaire: to his admirers his firm hand guides the church along true conservative lines. With no polls to rely on, accurate assessments are hard to come by. Still, Ratzinger's "candidacy" for the papacy is

pontiff's close associates. Ruini himself is not considered papabile, but 70- year-old Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi, the archbishop of Milan, and Cardinal Angelo Scola, the patriarch of Venice certainly are definite papabili.

Tettamanzi's detractors say he comes as close to running for the papacy as he can without breaking the rule against campaigning. A moral theologian, he is said to have provided

addressing an issue that is certain to loom large for the next pope — the church's relations with Islam. In 2003, he founded a learning center in Venice called Studium Generale Marcianum open to Christians who live in the Islamic world.

Opus Dei is involved in running the Marcianum, which is named after St. Mark, the patron saint of Venice. Scola also recently launched the magazine Oasis, which explores the relationship between Islam and Christianity and is published in five languages, including Arabic and Urdu. An intellectual and a disciple of the Swiss Catholic theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar, he is close to the Italian organization Communion and Liberation and taught theology until appointed to the ancient Venice see.

Should Pope John Paul recover sufficiently, some Vatican specialists expect him to create more cardinals, and the move is expected to add another Italian papabile to the list. He is Archbishop Agelo Comastri, 60, until recently bishop of Loreto. Comastri headed the Vatican Jubilee celebrations in 2000. Noted for his skill as a preacher, he was chosen to deliver last year's series of Lenten sermons for the pope and members of the Vatican Curia - a signal honor - and, according to Sandro Magister "held everyone spellbound." Shortly afterward Comastri was appointed to a senior post in the Vatican.



The Pope is being treated in Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital for his second breathing

said to have wide support in the church.

He has been one of the present pope's closest collaborators, and his backers feel he represents continuity of the typically Wojtylian battles that have distinguished this pontificate, such as the defense of life, clerical celibacy, and the so-called "antropological challenge," the confrontation between the Christian vision of man and the one that reduces him to a part of nature. Sandro Magister, the prominent Vatican correspondent, says Ratzinger's supporters want him "to repair the failures of (Vatican Council II) and to guide the Church along a sure path."

If he is not destined to be the new pope, Ratzinger is expected to be a "grand elector," an influential voice in who is chosen as the next successor to St Peter. Another influential figure is Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the pope's vicar as bishop of Rome and another of the

a lot of the expertise for Pope John Paul's seminal 1998 papal document on bioethics. He has strong conservative credentials, but he has spoken out against mistreatment of immigrants, and in favor of moral restraints on the process of economic globalization. Progressive groups such as the Community of Sant'Egidio like him: he has backed the Sant'Egidio initiatives on ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue, which is possibly why observers say his support from the arch-traditionalist Opus Dei movement - which has gained considerable influence in the Vatican during this papacy - was once strong, but now seems to have waned.

Two of the last four popes - John XXIII, and the ill-fated John Paul I - were elected from the same office now held by Cardinal Scola. Can the present patriarch of Venice make it a three? Scola, 63, has gained attention by

Some observers were drawing parallels between Comastri and Pope Paul VI who as Archbishop Giovanni Battista Montini of Milan was considered a virtual shoo-in following the death of his mentor Pius XII in 1958, but was not eligible because he was not yet a cardinal.

He was then elected in 1963, following the death of John XXIII.

If the Italian candidates cancel each other out, a possible alternative would be the Argentine Jesuit Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the 69-year-old archbishop of Buenos Aires, a man who combines intense spirituality and authoritative strength. His election would be ironic because Bergoglio is known to dislike of the pomp and circumstance of the Vatican, and visits Rome as infrequently as possible. At home, his simple life-style is legendary, often riding the bus from the modest apartment where he lives (and cooks his own meals) to his office in the center of the city.



## Un Nuovo Libro di Ermanno La Riccia

“La Padrona” un libro appassionante che raccoglie una bella storia d’amore e la lotta di due giovani per conquistarsi la libertà di volersi bene.

Dopo i successi dei due libri di racconti “Terra Mia” e “Viaggio in Paradiso”, Ermanno La Riccia torna nelle librerie con un romanzo, “La Padrona”, una drammatica storia d’amore, piena di colpi di scena, scritta con un linguaggio vibrante.

Si possono acquistare copie de “La Padrona” nella redazione del Postino oppure chiamate 567-4532

# Trans-Atlantic

# Venice turns to future to rescue its past

New York Times  
By Elisabeth Rosenthal

When Jane da Mosto scrambles from the water taxi onto the front steps of her family's ancient palazzo on the Grand Canal, her gaze is tinged with mourning.

The once glorious Casa da Mosto is now little more than a decaying, waterlogged shell of a building, the rising and increasingly salty water of Venice lapping at the door and eating away at its walls.

"One day it will just fall into the canal," said Ms. da Mosto, a researcher with Corila, a consortium of groups studying the Venice lagoon in hopes of saving it.

Now, a daring multibillion-dollar construction project sponsored by the Italian government is just getting under way, in an effort to meet that goal. But many, including Ms. da Mosto, are skeptical that it will be enough. "I don't like to think about where Venice might be in 100 years," she said. "It's so overwhelming and sad. Maybe it will be closed off as a lake. Maybe it will be underwater and tourists can see it from a glass-bottom boat."

The Venice lagoon is one of the world's most delicate and unstable ecosystems, a unique place where saving a dying natural habitat is crucial to preserving human culture and history: centuries of art and architecture sit within the nature preserve and will be lost if the lagoon succumbs.

And that has prompted increasingly passionate debates here about radical plans now under way to save it - plans that push at the limits of scientific knowledge and engineering capacity.

At the heart of the debate is tension between those who believe in the power of human technology to thwart the forces of nature and those who worry that Italy's master engineers, in their hubris, may only further complicate Venice's problem.

The centerpiece of the Italian government's ambitious plan - called the Moses Project, after the parting of the Red Sea - is a series of 78 gargantuan movable underwater dams that would rest on the floor of the Adriatic Sea, massive barriers that would be mechanically raised above the surface when needed to block extraordinary high tide surges. Such tides, which generally now occur a few times a year, produce devastation in Venice that is rapid and, at times, disastrous, like the flood of 1966.

A prime project of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, the high-tech barriers have a political weight that matches their physical heaviness, 300 tons each, and their \$4.5 billion price.

"These barriers are a huge environmental intervention on a scale never done before," said Alberto Scotti, the project's chief engineer, who is as confident and pragmatic about the plan as others are emotional.

Critics worry that the huge barriers could further upset nature's delicate balance. They note that the barriers do nothing to allay the city's day-to-day deterioration, a result of more subtle forces in the dying lagoon, requiring less glamorous solutions.

Slowly sinking land and slowly rising water have left many building walls perpetually underwater. Increasing salt content in the ca-

nals threatens the city's foundations. The death of plant life on the lagoon bed has turned once variegated channels into conduits for rushing water that pours into the city every time there is a sea squall.

"At the moment, everyone is focused on the barrier - which is very scary because it is a very inflexible and untested solution," said Ms. da Mosto, co-author of "The Science of Saving Venice," a book sponsored by Venice in Peril, a British nongovernmental organization.



Workers repair the channel of the drained Squero di San Trovaso.

"A lot of scientists think it will do the job, and a lot think it won't," she added. "I can't tell you what the solution is, but you also need to stabilize the environment. And what I do know is that the lagoon is immensely complicated, and the more one relies on diverse and reversible solutions the better."

With comprehensive computer models and feasibility studies, Mr. Scotti stands behind his design. "We have checked everything with modeling," he said with a hint of exasperation. "We have models for the morphology of the lagoon. We can reproduce the wind, weather and tides. And our models suggest this will work and will have no negative environmental impact."

Patching up Venice's continuing wounds is already an obsession, and a full-time job, for city officials and residents.

On a recent day in the Squero di San Trovaso, home of Venice's famed gondola workshops, the canals had been drained dry for repairs. Dozens of workers from Insula, a public-private partnership that maintains the canals, are poring over each centimetre of wall, patching up areas of decay and pumping foam through bright green hoses into the walls

in order to reinforce them.

"Venice has to be maintained like a boat: you take it out of water and repair it," said Giorgio Barbarini, the driver of a water taxi. "Venice is falling apart because it is hard to maintain a whole city like that."

From an evolutionary standpoint, Venice's decline is perhaps inevitable. Lagoons, with their marshes and brackish waters, are transitional coastal ecosystems, tending to become freshwater lakes or to blend in with the adjacent sea over time. That process

da Mosto said. Predictions of the phenomenon's eventual effect on the Adriatic vary widely: some scientists estimate a rise due to global warming of just three inches and others suggest the change may be nearly a yard.

Already, water routinely fills piazzas and seeps into churches. It backs up into homes through the sewers. It corrodes building walls never meant to be submerged. While the foundations of Venetian palazzos were built of materials that withstand water, the walls are brick and porous.

"Lots of money has gone in to replastering and replacing walls brick by brick. We call it the sacrificial layer," Ms. da Mosto said. "But in a few years it is crumbling."

Against this backdrop, designers of the Moses Project often seem perplexed at the resistance in the city they have vowed to save. There were years of negotiations with local officials and environmental groups before construction got under way in May 2003.

Mr. Scotti noted that the project involved not just the barriers, which will be completed by 2010, but also plans to reinforce building walls to protect them from lesser floods, and designs to re-establish wetlands as well. Critics contend that these features are poorly developed afterthoughts.

"People here just accept floods and boots as part of life," Mr. Scotti said. "But living in this condition puts them at a big disadvantage compared to people in Milan and Rome. This will mean a change of life for them."

Mr. Scotti's engineering challenge was enormous, both in terms of the tidal force and the government's requirement that the barriers (far out at sea) be invisible when not in use, a decision that many say unnecessarily added millions to the project.

Teams are now building artificial breakwaters to attenuate tides. Over time, thousands of steel poles will be pounded into the floor of the lagoon. To house the barriers, cement blocks, measuring about 66 yards by 44 yards by 12 yards will be embedded in the sea floor.

It is the very size of the project that terrifies skeptics, who fear that such a huge endeavour will further disturb the lagoon. While the Venice lagoon has been studied extensively by scientists, much of the work was done locally and never coordinated or presented in scientific journals, Ms. da Mosto said. As a result, the complicated ecosystem remains poorly understood, she said.

But designers say they will build slowly and with extraordinary care to create a new safe haven for Venetians - even if it does not conform to the lagoon's natural form. "Look, there is no natural environment to recover here in Venice anymore," Mr. Scotti said. "It has been changed by man for hundreds of years."

"What is important is to create a lagoon with a lot of possibilities of life," he continued. "The shape will not be natural. The plants will not be the same. There will be artificial material. There are no books on how to build a lagoon."

"We are human, so of course we are not able to reproduce what God made before."

## Trans-Atlantic

# Fiat asks Italians to keep cheering its turnaround

The Economic Times Online

Struggling Fiat appealed to national pride on Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, taking out full-page newspaper adverts urging Italians to support their industrial icon as it battles to revive car sales and return to profit.

“Keep cheering for us,” Fiat’s chairman and chief executive cried out from the light blue page, the same colour as Italy’s soccer strip.

Fiat once controlled 60 per cent of Italian auto sales but as trade barriers came down and foreigners arrived in the car-mad country, Fiat Auto’s market share slumped and last year hit an all-time low of about 27 per cent.

The crash in car sales triggered Fiat’s worst-ever crisis and raised the spectre that the Turin-based group could sell the auto unit to General Motors, which already owned 10 per cent and was fighting to avoid buying the rest under a “put” option.

Last week, GM gave Fiat back its stake in Fiat Auto and \$2 billion for Fiat to cancel the put option that allowed it to sell, leaving the Italians facing a tough turnaround alone.

“Today is an important day for us, because today Fiat is totally Italian again,” chairman Luca di Montezemolo and CEO Sergio Marchionne wrote in the advert that ran on the back of every major newspaper.

“Or, if you prefer, Italy has taken back Fiat. It has taken back an asset that has belonged to it forever. It has taken back a heritage that

has been part of our history, of our culture, for more than a century,” they added.

“It is an important step for us to face the challenges ahead. We believe in ourselves.

When Marchionne won the GM divorce, papers were full of praise for their saviour, likening him to David beating Goliath.

But management knows that congratula-

Marchionne, who last week took over as Fiat CEO, knows the group needs to produce better cars faster and has said he is looking for partnerships to share development costs on new models with other automakers. Savings are vital in Fiat Auto’s plan to pull back to profit in 06 because car sales are expected to remain flat this year.

New models often boost sales, but analysts say the Fiat Croma estate due out in the spring is unlikely to rack up huge sales as Fiat is not a strong player in the family-car segment.

The new Punto, Fiat’s best seller, is not due out until September.

Any new cars planned today will take about three years to flow down the pipeline, so for now Marchionne has to work with launches planned by managers who left the company through a revolving door that is still turning.

Last week, Marchionne ousted Herbert Demel from the top spot at Fiat Auto, and industry sources say Martin Leach, the head of Fiat’s sporty Maserati Marque, is due to follow this week.

The last thing Fiat needs is another change of management and strategy.

Papers reported that Marchionne held a weekend meeting with top Fiat Auto managers and urged them to keep working on models, platforms and markets.



The Fiat Punto is the company’s best selling model.

Keep cheering for us.”

Italians have long decried the demise of Fiat, the country’s largest private employer and a symbol of pride in a nation where most businesses are tiny on a world scale.

tions are not enough. Other adverts in Sunday’s newspapers offered foreign cars with financing deals and free offers that Fiat can’t afford and new, attractive models that Fiat can’t offer.

# Managing family gatherings during the Easter holiday

Easter is the time for Catholics and Christians to celebrate the life and resurrection of Christ. With the sweet chocolate bunnies and brightly coloured Easter eggs also comes the pressure and intensity of family gatherings. As with other holidays, there are often high expectations of how the family gathering “should” go. We believe that everyone should get along and everything should go perfectly from the perfectly cooked turkey or lamb to the perfectly behaved children. However, expectations don’t always meet reality which leads to unwanted stress for the hosts and guests alike.

Here are some suggestions to help you enjoy a stress-free Easter holiday:

**Expect some tension between family members.**

There is no such thing as a perfect family where everyone gets along ALL of the time regardless of what you see in the movies and on television. If there is normally tension or conflict between certain family members then expect the pattern to continue regardless of the special occasion. It would be ideal if they could all make peace and just play “nice”, but it may not be realistic.

**Accept that someone may get angry and let it pass.**

Instead use this time to focus on strengthening your family ties where possible especially with those you don’t get to see too often throughout the year.

**Avoid trying to control others’ interactions to meet your expectations.**

There are some things in life that you simply can’t control and that includes your relatives. They are who they are. Try not to let their negative outbursts ruin your celebration.



By Roslyn Franken, M.A.  
Life Strategies Coach

**Let go of your need to be perfect.**

Things don’t always work out as planned. If you’re the host and your turkey or lamb is a bit dry, or Uncle Joe forgot to bring the dessert, so what? It’s not the end of the world. Take it in stride and make the best of it. Your guests should be grateful for all the planning and work you did to host the evening. If you’re a guest then take a moment to thank the cook for all the hard work regardless of whether the turkey is dry or dessert is less than perfect.

**Delegate tasks.**

With busy schedules and the pressures of daily life, there’s no reason why the host should have to take on all of the responsibility. Why not make it a potluck and get everyone to bring their favourite Easter holiday dish? This will help take off some of the pressure and give you less worries and more time to relax.

**Plan ahead.**

Start preparing well enough in advance to avoid last minute panics. This includes inviting your desired guests and delegating tasks as you wish. You then want to make a “To Do” list including all the items you need to shop for and getting out any special holiday dishware you may wish to use so you’re not scrambling for it at the last minute.

**Plan activities for the children.**

Plan on having some after dinner activities and games for them to play. If they’re kept happily busy then the adults can have a more joyful evening as well.

Family togetherness can often bring up tension and irritability. Expect it. Accept it. Try to not to control it. Let go of your need to be perfect and don’t be afraid to get others involved by delegating tasks. Remember to plan ahead, take things in stride and most importantly have some fun!

Roslyn Franken, M.A., is a Life Strategies Coach helping people get more out of life. For more information visit [www.stepbeyondtoday.com](http://www.stepbeyondtoday.com).

## Arts & Entertainment

# Lisa Scottoline enriches legal thrillers with personal details

Sun-Sentinel  
By Oline H. Cogdill

Writers use myriad sources for their ideas. Best-selling author Lisa

Scottoline only had to look to her heart — and history — for the plot of her most recent legal thriller.

During World War II, Scottoline's immigrant grandparents were declared enemy aliens by the federal government, as were many other Italian-Americans. In 1942, the FBI raided the Philadelphia rowhouse where Giuseppe and Maria Scottoline had lived for 30 years, and confiscated a flashlight and a radio — items the agents claimed could be used to signal the enemy.

This little-known family history, which Scottoline's father told her over lunch when he knew he was dying of cancer, became the foundation for the author's 11th novel, *Killer Smile*.

"Naturally, I told him I was going to write about it," Scottoline said.

"You want to tell a really good story with some backdrop to it. But I soon realized that the underlying emotional issue of [*Killer Smile*] was going to be about grief and loss."

While much has been written about the 120,000 Japanese-Americans and Japanese resident aliens imprisoned during WWII, approximately 10,000 Italians also were forcibly relocated away from the U.S. coastlines. Nearly 600,000 Italians living in America were required to register as enemy aliens; many were confined to "exclusionary zones" and forced to observe dusk-to-dawn curfews. These rules cut through all economic and social positions: The parents of baseball star Joe DiMaggio were not allowed to visit their son's San Francisco restaurant because it was outside their "zone."

At the time the FBI was searching the Scottoline home, their son, Frank — Lisa's father — had just enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, and eventually would be sent to Italy to fight for the Allies. The conversation with her father was the first time Scottoline heard about the search. Her grandparents never mentioned the raid, though they kept their alien registration cards; a photocopy appears in the back of *Killer Smile*.

"They were terribly ashamed and embarrassed," said Scottoline, 49. "They spoke very little English, so they only had a remote understanding of what was going on. What they did understand is that because they were Italian, men came into their homes. They loved America. To them, the accusation was as bad as a conviction would have been — to be called a traitor by a country that they had adopted and loved."

"As soon as I found that out, I understood a lot about my family. [My grandparents] were very proud of being Italian, but they were afraid to [be proud of it] outside the house. My first name is not traditionally Italian. They didn't want us [grandchildren] to learn Italian. The message was, 'You'd better assimilate or people [bad things can happen to you]'"

It's not unusual for Scottoline to use a part of her personal legacy as the basis for a plot. Her novels often touch on issues she has dealt with in her own life, as well as Philadelphia's

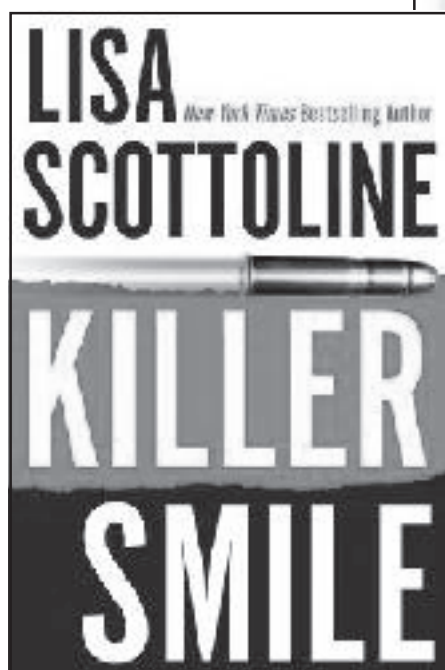
life, culture, history and politics. But most of all, her legal thrillers always have a grounding in Italian-American culture.

"You have to deal with something that really matters to you for the characters to matter about somebody else," she said during a recent telephone interview.

"I write a lot about identity, and the way to do that is to write about Italian identity. But in my books, each character has some sort of ethnicity, whether it is Italian, Jewish or Irish. Philadelphia is a perfect place to write about it. Because of the authority with which I speak about Philadelphia, readers can go, 'Oh, that's just like the area in which I live.' They can understand the neighborhood because it relates to them."

The approach has worked well for this

her child in the wake of a divorce. She told herself that she would go back to work if she failed to sell a novel before she maxed out her five credit cards, each with a \$10,000 limit. She got to \$38,500, finished her novel, briefly returned to the legal profession, and then quit for good with a contract under her belt.



lawyer-turned-writer. Timing helped: Scottoline's first novel, "Everywhere That Mary Went", hit the bookstores in 1993, when readers were in the throes of a frenzy for legal thrillers courtesy of John Grisham and Scott Turow. Built around an all-women's law firm, Scottoline's novel offered a fresh take on the genre with its broad strokes of humor, snappy dialogue and lawyers who were friends as well as colleagues.

Scottoline's debut, released in paperback, was nominated for an Edgar Award. *Final Appeal*, her second novel and also a paperback, won the Edgar and launched her into hardcover. Her last six novels have appeared on the New York Times Best Sellers List, as well as other lists around the country. People magazine has called her "the female John Grisham."

"Lisa has a unique style," said her editor, Carolyn Marino at HarperCollins. "Her books are fast-paced thrillers with engaging characters. She has an individual voice and she writes with great wit."

Scottoline began her law career as a general litigator in 1981, but after her daughter was born, she wanted to be a full-time mother. An English major, she decided to try writing, living off credit cards to support herself and

Scottoline also took a different route to writing a series. Instead of one protagonist, the author built her novels around the all-female law firm of Rosato & Associates, focusing on a different character in each novel. The heroine in one novel would be a supporting character in the next.

"I call it my cake-and-eat-it-too series," said Scottoline. "I really love series, but I didn't think I could organize myself enough to do one. And it wouldn't feel fresh to me. I wasn't sure I could make it work writing about the same person. A lot of wonderful people do make it work, like Sue Grafton, but I couldn't. But I also didn't want to let the characters go and I wanted to explore them in depth. I really have an ensemble series like *Boston Legal*."

Her next novel, *Devil's Corner*, coming in June, will be a rare stand-alone entry revolving around a young, tough female prosecutor who is working on a large drug trial.

"Devil's Corner is about what has happened to cities since the crack cocaine epidemic and how this affects

neighborhoods," she said. But like her other works, it's "about who you are and how you are affected by where you came from. Your background gives you a frame of reference."

While Scottoline's popularity rests chiefly on her prose, her personality has proven a bonus. She often brings cupcakes to her book signings and makes it a habit to try to remember the names of bookstore owners and fans she meets. She's been known to go out to dinner with book club members.

"I feel attracted to people who read me. Books do that. If readers really like a book, they connect to a person, and if they like what I wrote I am in love with them," she said.

"She's a very warm, approachable person," said Joanne Sinchuk, owner of

Murder on the Beach Mystery Bookstore in Delray Beach. "She not only remembers my name from year to year, but all my staff, and most of the customers' names. She seems to really care about people, and that comes through to the reader in her books."

Scottoline also connects to readers through her Web site

([www.scottoline.com](http://www.scottoline.com)). She sponsors a monthly trivia contest, gives tote bags to readers who can prove they've bought at least two of her novels, and tries personally to answer e-mails. A couple of years ago, she invited Web readers to edit a chapter of a novel in progress. She received more than 5,000 responses and incorporated about 10 suggestions, she said.

To keep her novels timely, Scottoline often wanders around the courthouse, sitting in on trials, checking research at the clerk's office and people-watching. In addition to her writing, her life revolves around her daughter, now 19 and a college freshman, and her dogs — three golden retrievers, a Corgi and an aged poodle.

As a frequent leader of writers' workshops, especially for lawyers who want to be authors, Scottoline said she enjoys the opportunity to act as a mentor to other aspiring authors.

"All of us who are published authors were once unpublished; it's giving back," she said.

Did you know?

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8x10.....\$15.00  
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## Features

# Agora@graziella.it

## 100 anni di relatività:

### Albert Einstein ed il suo genio

Di Graziella Labocetta



Dedicato a mio figlio Giuseppe per tutte le attenzioni nei miei confronti a riguardo di questa mia passione

Gli studiosi dell'anatomia hanno spesso volte formulato delle supposizioni sulla "diversità" del cervello di Einstein, secondo le quali una parte era più ampia del normale e che così si spiegherebbe la sua genialità. Einstein è celebre per le sue intuizioni. Egli aveva come dei flash di luce attraverso i quali poteva captare ciò che gli altri non potevano. Ma la sua straordinarietà consisteva nel fatto che lui non si fermava solamente ad osservare e supporre, lui prendeva per scontato, ancora prima di dimostrarlo, ciò che nella sua mente si produceva. Il pensiero costituiva già la prova. Poi, con un taccuino ed una penna metteva su carta i calcoli. Lo scrivere, ultimo atto della sua intuizione, era la sua firma. In tal modo gli altri potevano visualizzare i suoi concetti. Il documento scritto non era per lui. Era per gli altri.

Nacque, per errore, ad Ulm, Württemberg, in Germania. Dico per sbaglio perché Albert non aveva le caratteristiche di un Tedesco, tanto che, vestito di estremo coraggio, rinunciò alla sua cittadinanza per acquistare quella statunitense. Per il suo spirito libero e la sua feconda immaginazione sarebbe dovuto nascere a Napoli, o perlomeno, ad Atene dove avrebbe trovato un terreno più consono alle sue inclinazioni. Semplicissimo fino allo scandalo non si curò mai né dell'aspetto fisico, né della pubblicità, né del denaro (lasciò infatti tutto il premio nobel alla sua prima moglie, Mileva). La sua ricchezza era l'insaziabile appetito verso i misteri dell'universo. Einstein era innamorato di quel mistero; era affascinato

dalle probabilità dello spazio; si meravigliava e rimaneva attonito a guardare in alto e scrutare le stelle, il cielo, il movimento dell'universo.

A febbraio del 1921 veniva insignito del Premio Nobel per la Fisica per la teoria della relatività. Ad un giornalista che gli chiedeva di spiegare in parole povere la teoria, così rispose: "Se metto un dito dentro l'acqua bollente, un minuto sembra un'eternità. Se sono, al contrario, con una bella donna, un'ora sembra un minuto. Questa è la relatività."

Naturalmente, Einstein era dotato non solo di una intelligenza superiore, ma anche di senso d'umore intelligente. La volta che la regina d'Olanda l'invitò a palazzo per una partita di scacchi, Albert Einstein arrivò a corte alla sua maniera, scialbo, coi capelli spettinati ed all'uscire si presentò dicendo: "Buona sera, ho un appuntamento con la regina per una partita a scacchi." e

rendeva veramente superiore.

Avremo un altro Einstein? Ai posteri l'onore di scoprirne uno. Da parte mia, sono più che sicura che, anche se ci dovesse essere un altro scenziato che lo supererebbe o si farebbe

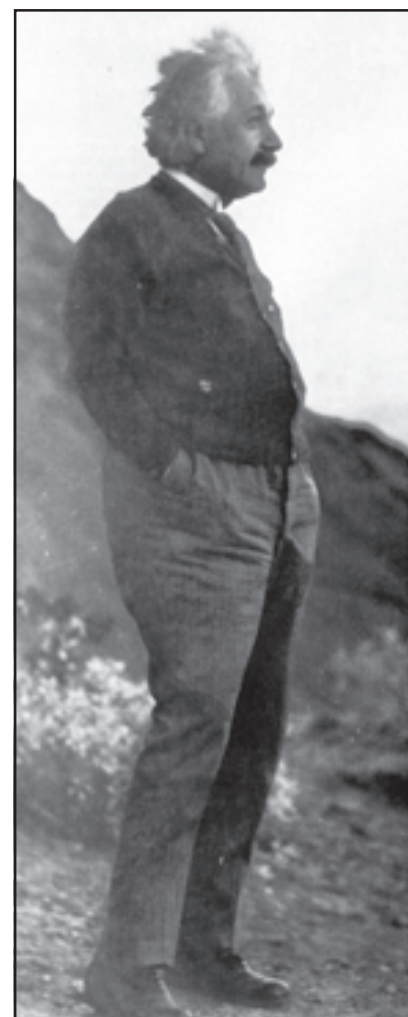
notare, mai si troverà un uomo-scenziato di pari semplicità di spirito e d'immaginazione senza limiti. Se fossi vissuta ai suoi tempi, l'avrei amato. Una massima sua che mi affascina e spesso volte mi consola e la seguente: "I grandi spiriti hanno sempre incontrato una violenta opposizione nelle menti mediocri." A casa mia, sulla parete sopra il computer, ho un magnifico poster di lui, che mio figlio Giuseppe mi ha regalato, con questa precisa massima.

Il sogno di Einstein era quello di trovare una legge naturale semplice, unificatrice che spiegasse tutte le manifestazioni dei fenomeni fisici, in altre parole il creatore dell'universo, quello che noi cattolici riconosciamo come Dio.

$$E = mc^2$$

La massa è energia potenziale. Nel mondo di Newton un'asticella di un metro ha la stessa lunghezza ovunque nell'universo. Nel mondo di Einstein

l'asticella diventa più corta a mano a mano che la velocità aumenta. Spazio e distanza assoluti non esistono. Se spazio e tempo sono distorti, cosa allora è costante? Einstein intuì che tale costante era la velocità della luce. La luce viaggia alla velocità di 186,282 miglia al secondo. Il risultato di ciò è che spazio e tempo appaiono diversi per qualcuno che non viaggia, ma che osserva il movimento. Einstein ci offre l'esempio di un treno che a mano a mano che accelera alla velocità della luce, il tempo sul treno sembrerà più breve per l'osservatore, ed il treno sembrerà altresì più corto e pesante. L'equazione più famosa nel mondo della scienza ci dice semplicemente che una minuscola quantità di massa sprigiona un'enorme quantità di energia. Quando un atomo di uranio 235 si divide,



perde circa 0.1 per cento della sua massa. Quella minima quantità è sufficiente per produrre l'enorme energia di una bomba atomica.

La mia supposizione

Mi piace pensare che la luce di cui si parla nelle esperienze extra corporali sia la matrice della luce come noi la conosciamo e che pertanto, come afferma Einstein, è lo stop al passar del tempo e dunque l'eternità. Noi avremmo allora una fetta di questa eternità sulla terra, che consiste appunto nella luce intesa come fonte di ogni verità e di tutte le conoscenze. Quello che sto cercando di dire è che se l'uomo cerca la luce che è simbolo di chiarezza, le tenebre scompaiono. Si teme soltanto ciò che non si conosce. Se l'uomo cerca la verità in tutte le manifestazioni e l'accetta e la studia e la diffonde, cessano le paure, le lotte, le guerre, la caccia al potere perché ogni essere, ogni nazione ha la sua propria verità che va scoperta, studiata, capita ed alla luce di questa verità l'ignoranza cessa di esistere e si diventa sapienti dell'altro e, quando si conosce a fondo qualcuno, la trasparenza è tale che sarebbe inutile mentire o ricattare o minacciare; L'altro lo saprebbe immediatamente; saremmo dei libri aperti. Pauroso? No! Sarebbe favoloso. Utopia? Sì, ma non per coloro che ci credono e cercano senza stop. Questa "luce" è la legge semplice che governa l'universo e siccome le esperienze extra corporali ci dicono che si tratta di una luce che non solo brilla di uno splendore indescrivibile, ma che anche basta solo trovare l'equazione abbraccia, io affermo che la legge in assoluto è L'AMORE.

#### To My Dear Fellow Men

Manuscripts of endless weight  
Some quite good, some second rate  
The mail does bring me every day  
Without a rest or long delay

I am not a wicked man  
And want to help all I can  
Everyone whom cruel fate  
Has selected to create

Science and philosophy  
And riddles of psychology;  
Cure-alls for humanity  
And, of course, much poetry.

Each one thinks that only he  
Has his parcel sent to me  
And his rage turns to a tirade  
If my answer is delayed

O, my dear man, do admit  
That there is a close limit  
To the bit of intellect  
Which is up there in the head.

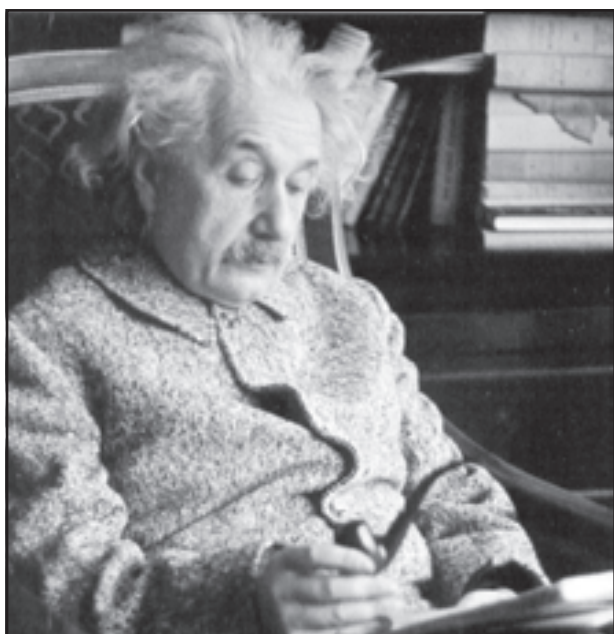
To those who choose to persevere  
Let me whisper in their ear:  
Oh Holy Florian, great Saint!  
Please spare my house, let others faint!

This little prayer I recite  
With deep devotion every night

-Albert Einstein 1953

l'uscire: "Chi devo annunciare?" "Sono Alberto," rispose lui con tutta la semplicità di questo mondo. Per tutta risposta l'uscire chiamò l'autobulanza e lo fece spedire all'ospedale. La regina, conoscendo la sua puntualità, e non vedendolo arrivare, si preoccupò e dopo aver chiesto informazioni, capì cosa fosse successo e mandò qualcuno a liberarlo.

Io l'adoro per questa sua libertà di azione che lo



## Features

## A school with a view

By Melissa Ioannoni

For as long as I can remember, I have wanted to study and live in Florence. I have often imagined what it would be like to walk along the streets once inhabited by Italy's most beloved literary and artistic geniuses. Determined to fulfill my dream, in May of last year, my love for the Italian language and Renaissance art led my sister and I to study Italian for a month in Florence. As I note in the following recount of my adventure in Florence, I not only gained an education in the Italian language, but also a taste of *la dolce vita*.

Florence is the ideal place to study Italian. Rich in history, the city is home to the most influential artistic masterpieces of the Renaissance and is also the birthplace of the Italian language. During the Renaissance, Latin was still the language of nobility and consequently the language in which all literary works were written. However, a man by the name of Dante Alighieri was the first poet to produce a serious work of literature using a language other than Latin, he opted instead to communicate his prose in a language used by his local Florentines and made one of the most significant linguistic contributions ever. It was Dante's notable oeuvres, including *De Vulgari Eloquentia* and *Divine Comedy*, written in the vernacular that led to the evolution of the language's current mellifluous sound.

Knowledge of the Italian language, which Dante was instrumental in shaping, is key to fully understanding and appreciating Italy and all of its splendor. Learning the Italian language opens

a window onto a culture that is as magnificent and diversified as its landscape. The Italian language cannot merely be learned in a classroom, it must be lived, whether it is used to buy an espresso at your favourite café or for directions to a museum. Thus, studying Italian in Florence is the perfect opportunity for someone looking for a unique educational and cultural experience.

Though there are many schools offering Italian language courses to foreigners, we chose to attend Istituto Italiano. The school is situated in the heart of the city, on Via Martelli, steps away from Santa Maria del Fiore (the Duomo). It is on the third floor of a stunning three-storey *palazzo*, with majestic red-carpeted stairs and is equipped with an elevator. The Institute's Director, Stefano Burbi, is enthusiastic, welcoming

and attentive to the needs of his students. His commitment to ensuring standards of excellence in teaching at the Institute is quite evident in the highly skilled and trained members of the Faculty. The school is recognized by the Italian Ministry of Public Education and offers Italian language courses, ranging from absolute beginners to a specialization course for teachers of Italian abroad. In addition, the school has both an Art and a Music Department, which offer classes in Italian culture, art, music and cuisine. Students have access to the Internet, a library with an extensive collection of literature and films and a grand piano for any music enthusiasts. The Institute also arranges accommodations in Florence for students enrolled at the school. We were given the choice to stay at a pension, apartment or with a family. We lived with a kind and hospitable woman, whose love of art and Florence made our stay that much more enjoyable. We have become good friends with her and write to her often. I recommend staying with a family because it allows you the opportunity to practice your Italian, experience life as a local and build lasting friendships.

On our first day of school, we attended an orientation session organized for all students new to the school. New students undergo a verbal and written Italian language assessment

in order to be assigned to the appropriate class level. In addition to the varying class levels, there are also different levels of intensity of Italian language study. We decided to choose the Classico language course, which consisted of four hours of class daily. There were ten students in our class. We had two language teachers, one taught grammar and the other, facilitated the conversational component of the class. Each day, class began at 9 a.m. with two hours of grammar instruction, followed by another two hours of conversation practice.

Each day after class, we had the afternoon free to explore the city on our own. We took the opportunity to visit the many famous museums and churches through out the city. We had the luck of learning from the local tourist office that during Cultural Heritage Week, which usually occurs at the end of May, admission to Florence's museums is free! The Institute also organized afternoon activities three times a week, all included in the course fee. Activities included: lectures on Italian film and opera; and walking tours of city sites often unknown or inaccessible to most tourists. My most memorable afternoon excursion was

our visit to the Teatro Verdi, named after the 19th century Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi, who produced such spectacular operas as *Aida*, *Il Trovatore* and *Un Ballo in Maschera*. The *Teatro* currently stages many performances ranging from ballets to operatic concerts and was built upon what used to be a prison. Along with our Art History Professor we toured the theater and then descended into the basement to explore the cells that once imprisoned Florence's most dangerous. The experience was extraordinary and made possible through the school. On the weekends, the school also coordinated out of city tours (not included with course fees) to the most picturesque destinations in Italy. We were fortunate enough to have traveled to the Cinque Terre, exploring the quaint seaside villages and following along the scenic coastline trails of the Italian Riviera with an informative and energetic guide provided by the school.

Through the excursions arranged by the school, we forged many friendships and were able to explore Florence and its surrounding countryside together. The school also organized a dinner every Friday for students at one of Florence's many restaurants. Along with the Institute's Director, Stefano Burbi, we exchanged stories and advice over Chianti wine and savory Tuscan dishes. At these jovial events, I often reflected on how proud and amazed I am by how many

people are learning to speak Italian. In my class, I was able to meet individuals with diverse backgrounds from around the world. Although our cultures may have differed, we all had one thing in common; we all could speak Italian. At Istituto Italiano, I was able to meet a Belgian globetrotter, a Mexican biology professor, a bank associate from Liechtenstein, an English film student, a Japanese mosaic artist, and a couple from Ottawa, to only name a few!

My time spent in Florence has deepened my admiration and adoration of this beautiful Renaissance city. I returned to Canada with more than panoramic views: I vastly improved my Italian, cultivated new friendships, developed a stronger sense of my own Italian heritage and experienced life, Florentine style. With plans to return soon and like many who have come before me, I have adopted the city as my second home.



Caffe Gilli, my favourite destination for an espresso before class



A view of Brunelleschi's dome of Santa Maria del Fiore.



The winding trails of the Cinque Terre.

# Features

## Black & White Opera Soiree an artistic and financial success



Photos by Giovanni

The National Arts Centre and Opera Lyra set the stage for a night of classic elegance and great music at the eighth annual Black and White Opera Soiree. The annual winter benefit was held on Saturday, February 19, at the NAC.

More than 700 well-dressed people attended the event which helped raise \$250,000 for Opera Lyra and the NAC Orchestra.



Acclaimed stage and screen actor Colm Feore came in from New York, where he is currently rehearsing for his role in Julius Caesar on Broadway to host the event.

The charismatic Feore replaced original host Christopher Plummer, who had to bow out for personal reasons.

NAC's Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly developed the evening's program, entitled "From Vienna to Broadway." The evening's main event was the concert which featured melodies from some of the best-loved operettas and Broadway musicals of the 20th century – from Franz Lehár to Cole Porter to Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Coloratura soprano, Tracy Dahl, baritone Theodore Baerg, and tenor Chad Freeburg, all dazzled the crowd with their performances, which also featured the NAC Orchestra and the Opera Lyra Ottawa Chorus.

Proceeds from the evening go towards developing and maintaining the level of artistic excellence of the NAC Orchestra and Opera Lyra Ottawa performances.



1. Opera Lyra's CEO and general director Michael Dobbin and Amanda Forsyth, principal cellist of the NAC orchestra. 2. Mayor Bob Chiarelli, daughter Katie, chef Kurt Waldele and wife Suzanne Beauchemin. 3. Former ballerina Veronica Tennant and NAC president and CEO Peter Herrndorf. 4. Marie Patenaube, chorusmaster Laurence Ewashko and colouratura soprano Tracy Dahl. 5. Ambassador of Iceland Gudmundur Eiríksson and Sandra Abma. 6. Erin Giakoumelos, Forsyth, Maral Melhem, Reuben Tom Kee. 7. Shannon Day-Newman, Don Newman. 8. Michael Potter, wife Veronique Dhieux. 9. Pierre Barbeau, wife Ruth Foster (Bell Canada), Peter Webster. 10. Bob Hicks, host Colm Feore, Jane Morris. 11. Forsyth, husband Pinchas Zukerman, Music Director of the NAC orchestra, and Lesley Forsyth.

Features

Padre Camillo Vasco  
Menchini ci ha lasciato  
per sempre

Conductor Franco  
Mannino dies at 80

Di Loris Palma

L'ultimo suo saggio letterario, di pochi mesi fa, lo titolava "Bricole," quasi fosse un segno premonitore della fine del banchetto terreno. Forse per un suo intimo presentimento "Briciole" è l'ultimo saluto che ci ha inviato, quale retaggio della sua vita operosa e zelante fatta di tante coraggiose imprese, vissuta con tanti di noi qui alla Difesa.

La raccolta di queste "Briciole" sono i frammenti della sua vita, dei suoi ricordi, dei suoi pensieri, del suo spirito vivo e della sua missione dedicata al sacerdozio dell'Ordine dei Servi di Maria a Viareggio ove s'è spento la notte di Natale.

Nella presentazione di questo suo ultimo lavoro letterario, Lui stesso dice: "Le chiamiamo "Bricole" non per indifferenza o per disprezzo ma perchè care e per noi preziose anche se piccole."

Caro Padre Menchini queste "Bricole" sono per noi altrettante care e preziose perchè ricorderemo il Sacerdote con tanta passione, ricorderemo l'uomo pieno di vigore, erudito, amante della musica e delle lettere.

A lui dobbiamo tutta la collana di libri degli italiani che hanno scoperto il continente americano, da Cristoforo Colombo a Paolo Toscanelli, da Giovanni Da Verrazzano a Giovanni Caboto ed anche a ricordo del primo missionario italiano Padre Francesco Guiseppe Bressani.

Fra le altre sue imprese ricorderemo la costruzione della Cappella dei Battesimi, la sala Juventus a l'aver terminato negli anni 59-60 la decorazione della chiesa della Difesa con il dipinto della Trinità della cupola centrale ad opera di Guido Nincheri.

Per Tutto questo e per tutto l'affetto che ci ha sempre dato rivolgiamogli un pensiero di gratitudine ed un perenne ricordo. All'Ordine dei Servi di Maria le più sincere condoglianze.

Playbill Arts, NY,NY  
By Emily Quinn



The National Arts Centre lowered its flags to honour of Franco Mannino who died in Italy on February 1 at age 80. The Sicilian-born Mannino studied piano and composition at the Rome Conservatory, and came to Ottawa in 1982. In 1986 he was appointed principal guest conductor, a position he held until 1989.

Mannino made four recordings with the NAC Orchestra, and led the Orchestra on tour including its first tour to Asia in 1985. The NAC is dedicated the Orchestra concerts on February 3 and 4 to his memory.

Walter Prystawski the NAC Orchestra's founding concertmaster said, "Franco Mannino was a wonderful conductor and composer who brought an Italian warmth and generous spirit to his work with the NAC Orchestra. He had a million dollar smile that we will miss."

A composer, pianist, conductor, novelist, and playwright, Franco Mannino was one of Italy's most distinguished artists. He conducted operas and concertos all over Italy, as well as Europe and North America, Japan, and was the first Italian artist to be invited to conduct the orchestras of Peking and Shanghai in China. He composed over 440 works including opera, ballet, oratory symphonies, chamber music and music for the theatre. He wrote music for more than a hundred films, most significantly those of Luchino Visconti, including Death in Venice.

Franco Mannino has received innumerable

awards, prizes, and acknowledgments, including the gold medal awarded by the President of the Italian Republic. His NAC Orchestra recording, Canadian Classics Vol. II, won the "Grand Prix du Disque" from the Canadian Music Council.

Franco Mannino last conducted the NAC Orchestra in 1993, in a programme that included a performance of North Country which is being performed on this week's concerts dedicated to his memory. He returned to the National Arts Centre in June 2004 as a special guest for the NAC's 35th anniversary celebrations.

The Way She Waved Hello

Apoem by Renato Rizzuti

There was something in the way she waved hello  
That really broke my heart  
That Italian woman in the doctor's office  
Who waved hello to the receptionist  
A warm friendly hello  
Yet a shuddering cry for help  
A wave with her right hand  
A strong tanned right hand  
That laboured to raise a family  
That laboured at a factory job  
That caressed the heads of her babies  
That put money into envelopes  
To send back to family in Italy  
That plucked red ripe tomatoes from her garden  
I could tell that she was Italian like me  
She was very well dressed  
All Italian women dress up for the doctor  
Wrapping the outer shell to hide the ailing inner self  
Her hair colouring hid her natural grayness  
She sat across from me  
She wore a gold religious chain  
With a medallion of the Virgin Mary  
I was wearing my gold religious chain  
With a medallion of Jesus Christ

We shared that unspoken yet so dramatic Italian Catholic moment  
Her face was world-weary and the bags under her eyes indicated  
A lack of sleep or maybe too much crying  
That gut-wrenching crying of an ailing immigrant woman  
Whose mind and body bear the scars of a Canadian harshness  
Forever feeling out of sync in the strange adopted country  
Missing the natural comfort of Italy  
In the stale sterile air of the waiting room  
I want to let out an anguished cry  
For I truly feel for her  
This woman  
This Italian woman  
As I feel for my mother  
And my mother in law  
Who also toiled long and hard to raise children and raise money  
At harsh daytime jobs  
I hope that the doctor can heal her  
This woman  
This Italian woman  
Who sits across from me  
With a look of melancholy  
Yet with some degree of hope  
That the doctor will ease her suffering  
I will pray for her

This woman  
This Italian woman  
I will pray to the Virgin Mary  
I will pray to Jesus Christ  
I will light a candle for her  
In the middle of a dark night  
For this woman  
This Italian woman  
Perhaps the doctor will heal her  
Perhaps my prayers will be answered  
And maybe then  
This woman  
This Italian woman  
This tragically Italian woman  
Will find peace  
And smile a warm Italian smile  
And there will be a change  
In the way she waves hello  
With her hand  
Her right hand  
A strong cheerful gesture  
From this woman  
This Italian woman  
This happy Italian woman

Features

Sicilia:  
Bella, gentile,  
tutta da vedere

Di Luciano Pradal

È stata una bellissima esperienza, vivere per alcuni giorni in Alia, città giardino in Provincia di Palermo e da lì ogni giorno visitare differenti città, villaggi e luoghi storici. Dopo questi giorni sono più che mai convinto che la Sicilia è bella, gentile e tutta da vedere. La Sicilia è terra di

Molte città e villaggi sono arrampicati sui pendii dei colli sovrastati da castelli che dominano le vallate, l'ambiente ci immedesima a vivere la vita e la storia di chi li hanno costruiti e d'un tratto ci s'accorge dell'enorme patrimonio artistico storico e culturale che è stato affidato a questa terra.

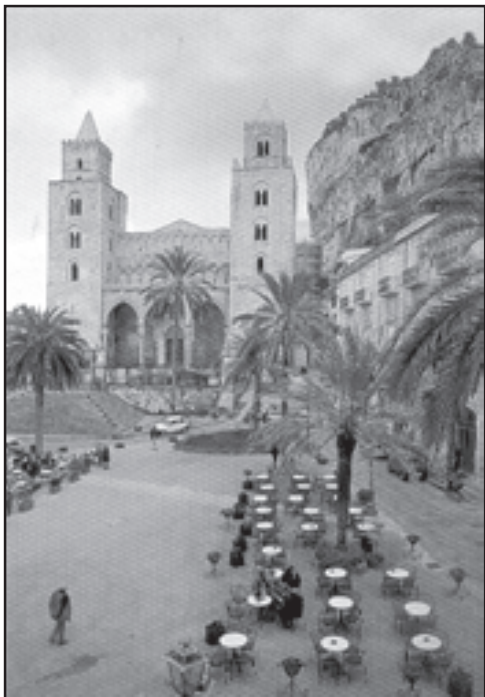
E così di giorno in giorno; abbiamo visitato e siamo sempre stati sorpresi d=approfondire le nostre conoscenze sulla Sicilia, la sua cultura, i suoi abitanti.

Percorrendo le campagne non si può fare a meno di notare che i paesaggi autunnali sono come elaborati merletti, ogni lembo di terra, anche il più piccolo era arato e pronto a ricevere il grano. Era tempo di vendemmia, l'uva era matura, fragrante, zuccherina, sana, maturata al sole ed all'aria pura, è stata un'esperienza gustarne qualche grappolo, l'avevo chiesto ad un proprietario, un anziano, che gentilmente mi diede il permesso di servirmi liberamente.

In Alia, ove abbiamo abitato, ci siamo sentiti a nostro agio; tutte le persone che abbiamo incontrato le abbiamo trovate molto gentili. Con Francesca, l'adetta all'Ufficio Turistico, abbiamo visitato

le Grotte della Gurfa che datano del 5-4 Millenio avanti Cristo, pensiamoci bene, delle grotte che servivano d'abitazioni funzionali già cinque o sei mille anni prima di Cristo!

Come quando abbiamo visitato la Valle dei Templi in Agrigento, visitando le Grotte di Gurfa non si può rimanere insensibili alla dimensione dell'essere umano d'allora, e ci si chiede inesorabilmente: ADove ci porterà il progresso attuale?"



Piazza Duomo



Pittoresca stradina del centro storico



Il vecchio porto



Specialità dolciarie: la "scattata" speciale ed unico dolce di mandorla; "il Buccellato," tipico dolce di Natale, "U panuzzu di San Brasi," "Li sfingi di San Giuseppe," "il cannolo," ripieno di crema di ricotta fresca, "la muffulietta" scacciata ripiena di verdure e ricotta



ALIA: Via Regina Elena

tradizioni, d'arte, di storia, di cultura, di paesaggi incantevoli, di cibi dai sapori unici, è terra di gente gentile, di castelli, di mari è una terra insomma, tutta da vedere. A Palermo abbiamo visitato, tra l'altro, il Palazzo Reale Sede del Governo Regionale, il Giardino Botanico, Musei, Chiese, abbiamo vissuto a Palermo la vita di ogni giorno. A Monreale abbiamo visitato la Cattedrale e siamo rimasti in estasi contemplando i magnifici mosaici, il Chiosco dei Benedittini. In Agrigento abbiamo visitato la Valle dei Templi che ci ha lasciati stupefatti da tanta bellezza e magnificenza, abbiamo visitato il bellissimo e funzionale Museo Archeologico Regionale. Abbiamo vissuto a Cefalu, caratteristica cittadina sul mare; a mezzogiorno ci siamo trovati a passeggiare per le viuzze di Cefalù, c'erano profumi di cucina casalinga nell'aria, e voci di bambini che, a tavola, tra il tintinnio delle posate, consumavano il pranzo con i famigliari; è stata un'esperienza camminare scalzo sulla spiaggia e lasciarsi accarezzare dalle onde calde del mare.

The skinny on thick towels

Kansas City Star  
By Cindy Hoedel

When you step out of the shower dripping wet, sure, your plush towel feels soft and warm. But five minutes later you may still be damp. There's a drier solution, and the Italians have figured it out. Europeans prefer lightweight, waffle-weave towels especially for use at the pool or in a sauna. But for the most part, Americans are hooked on terry loops. "It's another example of the 'bigger is better' way of thinking in the U.S.," said Ursula Terrasi, owner of a bath store in Kansas City and a native of Italy. "Americans think towels should be big and fat." Lisa Payne uses waffle-weave towels herself, but she has little luck swaying customers. "They want the fattest towels they can get," she said. The exception is people who have traveled overseas and used waffle-weave towels in another country.

Designer Eric Negrete loves the way they absorb, but that's not the reason he bought a set when he moved from a large house to a condo. "I threw away the thick towels because my linen closet was so small." Waffle-weave towels are popular at day spas, where they're used because they are so absorbent. In the United States, the only waffle-weave bath towels widely available are manufactured in Europe. They cost from \$24 for a hand towel to \$50 or more for a bath

sheet. Labor costs for milling and weaving are higher in Europe, and more traditional manufacturing methods are employed there. Companies don't employ cost-saving techniques such as using the selvage (woven edge) of the fabric as the side of a towel rather than finished seams. For now, there is no inexpensive waffle-weave towel. A poor alternative is a thin, lightweight terry towel with long loops. Japanese makers are offering towels that

have a more casual look than the elegant, traditional European waffle weave and are less expensive, and are easing into the America with terry baby towels and blankets. Some Americans are familiar with similar waffle-weave technology in specialty products that are made of microfiber, not cotton. The Aquis hair-drying towel is one example. The secret of its absorbency is the same: The honeycombed, highly textured weave creates more surface area for soaking up water. Even if waffle-weave towels are slow to take off, they may be exerting an influence on terry towels. The newest lines of some luxury terry towels are thinner and softer than in years past. The latest towel trend is blends of wood fibers and cotton. Just like clothing made with Tencel, a product called Legna (the Italian word for "wood") made in Italy by SDH feels noticeably softer than 100 percent cotton. Legna towels are 70 percent wood fiber and 30 percent Egyptian cotton, but the loops are 100 percent wood fiber.



# Features

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- write about your community, memories, opinions or tell us a story
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- send your articles and ideas to

information@ilpostinocanada.com  
www.ilpostinocanada.com

## 8 Marzo

Un poem di Adriana Labocchetta

8 Marzo..... Una data che oggi viene festeggiata nel ricordo di un giorno lontano bruciato per volere umano.	considera la donna all'uomo uguale  Di ruoli e diritti parità, autonomia e libertà.
Tra fumo, fiamme e urla disperate morirono quelle donne sole e abbandonate	Giallo è il fiore che simboleggia della femminilità il suo posto d'onore nella società
Il loro sacrificio martoriato ha dato vita ad un vasto sindacato	Regalane un rametto a chi come te è degno di rispetto
Il suo motto, oggi internazionale	

# Lettera per la Comunità Italo-Canadese di Ottawa

Cari membri della comunità,

Il Consiglio d'Amministrazione desidera aggiornarvi sui recenti avvenimenti concernenti Villa Marconi e, in particolar modo, sulla vendita del terreno vacante. Prima di iniziare, tuttavia, vorremmo precisare che, come Direttori, attribuiamo molta importanza al ruolo che svolgiamo quali amministratori fiduciari per conto dei nostri residenti, della comunità, e dei soci di questa organizzazione. Riconosciamo che Villa Marconi è uno dei punti di riferimento per la comunità Italo-Canadese di Ottawa. Sappiamo che è il risultato di anni di duro lavoro, dedizione e sacrifici. Siamo fieri di essere associati con Villa Marconi e stiamo facendo tutto il possibile per poterle assicurare un successo di lunga durata.

Ogni organizzazione incontra ostacoli e periodi difficili durante la propria vita. Villa Marconi non è diversa dalle altre organizzazioni. Come saprete, la sua situazione finanziaria è fragile. Infatti, da quando Villa Marconi ha aperto i battenti nel 1999 non ha ancora operato con un bilancio in cui le spese corrispondano alle entrate per cui viene a trovarsi ogni mese a corto di circa 30,000 mila dollari. La gestione della casa di cura è rigorosamente regolata dal Ministero della Sanità, per cui si presentano poche opportunità per ridurre i costi o aumentare le entrate. Quando la costruzione ha avuto inizio parecchi anni fa, alcuni consulenti avevano raccomandato che 125 posti letto avrebbero generato un certo margine di profitto, che, comunque, non si è ancora verificato. Attualmente, soltanto le case di cura che gestiscono 160 posti letto o più riescono a chiudere il bilancio in pareggio.

Il costo totale per acquistare il convento Holy Cross e costruire i 125 posti letto è stato di 20 milioni di dollari. La nostra casa di cura ha un mutuo di circa 12.3 milioni di dollari, pagabile fino al 2034. Ha inoltre contratto debiti nella forma di "pagherò cambiari" per 1.7 milioni di dollari (garantiti dal terreno vacante) con creditori privati. La maggior parte di queste cambiali sono ripagabili a febbraio 2006, eccetto per 200,000 mila dollari la cui scadenza è a giugno 2005. C'è inoltre da considerare che i creditori possono richiedere di essere ripagati in qualsiasi momento. Nell'arco di un anno Villa Marconi paga interessi e costo del debito per 1 milione di dollari, 100,000 mila dei quali ai creditori privati. Queste somme sono notevoli per qualunque organizzazione, e ancor più per una organizzazione a scopo non di lucro come la nostra.

Nell'autunno del 2004, Villa Marconi si è trovata in serie difficoltà finanziarie. Sono stati consultati parecchi esperti per assisterci con la situazione e ogni possibile opzione è stata presa in considerazione. Fortunatamente, Villa Marconi è stata capace di assicurarsi ulteriori prestiti per superare quella difficoltosa congiuntura economica, ma tali aiuti finanziari erano solo di natura temporanea. Noi abbiamo continuato ad impegnarci per trovare soluzioni a lungo termine. A novembre e a dicembre 2004 abbiamo lanciato un appello chiedendo l'appoggio della comunità, spiegando loro anche le possibili alternative di utilizzo del terreno vacante. La comunità ha risposto positivamente al nostro appello, ma il supporto finanziario di cui avevamo bisogno era di gran lunga maggiore.

Dall'agosto 2004, l'attuale Consiglio d'Amministrazione ha valutato diverse alternative per il terreno non occupato, con l'intenzione di generare entrate per Villa Marconi. Avremmo preferito sviluppare o edificare noi stessi su questo terreno, oppure farlo in società con terzi. Tuttavia ci sarebbero voluti almeno dai 12 ai 18 mesi prima di poter iniziare a costruire, e sarebbero state necessarie considerevoli risorse finanziarie e tempo che Villa Marconi semplicemente non aveva.

Verso la fine di gennaio Villa Marconi ha ricevuto un'offerta a breve termine non sollecitata di 2 milioni di dollari per l'acquisto del terreno vacante. È stato a questo punto che il Consiglio d'Amministrazione ha deciso di notificare immediatamente la comunità. Senza indugio, sono stati pubblicati annunci presso i giornali locali per informare la comunità e per incoraggiare ulteriori offerte interessate all'acquisto. Abbiamo ricevuto altre sei offerte le cui cifre variavano

tra 1.1 e 1.5 milioni di dollari. Il termine breve stabilito per la presentazione delle offerte era imposto sia dall'offerta che avevamo ricevuto, sia dagli immediati bisogni finanziari della nostra organizzazione. Non era certo inteso a limitare la partecipazione della comunità.

La pubblicazione dell'annuncio ha suscitato molte domande da parte della comunità. Abbiamo accettato l'invito da parte del Congresso Nazionale degli Italo-Canadesi a prendere parte ad un incontro pubblico per ascoltare le preoccupazioni della comunità. Nei giorni successivi all'incontro, abbiamo invitato a Villa Marconi vari esponenti della comunità per meglio presentare loro la nostra situazione finanziaria. Questo gruppo ha collaborato insieme per valutare possibili alternative. Noi del Consiglio d'Amministrazione abbiamo sinceramente apprezzato e seriamente preso in considerazione i punti di vista e le opinioni espresse dai membri della comunità.

Dopo aver ponderato a lungo la situazione, abbiamo deciso di procedere alla vendita del terreno vacante ad un costruttore edile locale. Crediamo che le condizioni di mercato siano quelle giuste e che il prezzo di vendita sia un prezzo eccezionale se si considera l'attuale stima del valore del terreno e il suo costo originale. (Il costo originale di questo terreno ammonta a meno di 1 milione di dollari). A conclusione del contratto di vendita sarà annunciato il nome del compratore. Ci impegniamo ad essere trasparenti nei vostri riguardi e ad informarvi di tutto, ma a tempo dovuto. Riconosciamo che avete il diritto di essere informati.

Questa operazione ci permetterà di ottenere risultati ottimali per Villa Marconi e i suoi residenti. La vendita del terreno permetterà all'organizzazione di ripagare i creditori privati facendoci così risparmiare circa 100,000 mila dollari in interessi annuali. La vendita del terreno, inoltre, porterà a Villa Marconi un aumento di liquidità e ci permetterà di apportare miglioramenti nella gestione al fine di ottenere un bilancio in pareggio.

La vendita del terreno, non si deve affatto considerare la soluzione finale. I prossimi 12 mesi saranno cruciali. Se questo affare venisse ritardato per qualsiasi motivo, creerebbe una situazione di grave perdita per Villa Marconi, i suoi residenti e la nostra comunità. Continuiamo ad avere bisogno del vostro appoggio morale e finanziario. Ora più che mai, vi chiediamo di collaborare con noi per sostenere Villa Marconi, i suoi residenti e la comunità che serviamo.

Come Direttori di Villa Marconi, abbiamo svolto il nostro compito onestamente ed esplicitamente, e abbiamo agito con diligenza ed integrità. Sappiamo di aver preso la decisione giusta per l'organizzazione e per i suoi residenti. Siamo impegnati più che mai a far sì che Villa Marconi si distingua come una delle migliori case di cura di Ottawa e dintorni. Crediamo che i nostri obiettivi potranno essere raggiunti solo lavorando assieme, con ulteriore dedizione, sacrificio e appoggio comunitario.

In conclusione, vorremmo ringraziare tutti coloro che, nelle passate settimane hanno espresso i loro timori, ci hanno posto domande e preso parte ai nostri incontri offrendo i loro commenti. La vostra partecipazione è stata per noi molto preziosa e ci ha commosso il vostro attaccamento a Villa Marconi. Un grazie va a tutte le persone che continuano a promettere il loro sostegno per Villa Marconi. È davvero incoraggiante vedere il vostro forte impegno. Alla fine, se continuiamo ad essere uniti e fiduciosi, le possibilità per Villa Marconi saranno illimitate.

Distinti saluti,

Il Consiglio d'Amministrazione di Villa Marconi

*Buffone, Gino / Campagna, Rick / Cibischino, Walter / De Toni, Robert / Filoso, Angelo / Giorgio, Pina, / LeClair, Mike / Mastrogiacomo, Vince / Mion, Luigi / Nicolini, Gino / Pecora, Marcello / Talarico, Ross / Appolloni, Lucio (Direttore Onorario)*

# Features

## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL with Giovanni

—Jeffery Poissant (EMDI)

**Horoscope sign and Birth date?** Capricorn, Jan 4, 1973.  
**Birth Place and Parents Roots?** Riverside Hospital, Ottawa. Mother Debbie from Ottawa, Father John from Scotland  
**Do you have a nickname?** Mattcando, Fingerz, any mangled pronunciation of my last name.  
**The ultimate concert attended?** The last 4 Peter Gabriel tours.  
**What is your favourite movie?** Several! The Dark Crystal, Blade Runner, The Iron Giant, Dangerous lives of Alter Boys, Waiting for Guffman, Hellboy, the Experiment, Dark City, Frailty (I have a rather extensive movie collection, I just love movies in general, especially the really obscure films that Hollywood ignores).  
**Favourite childhood TV show?** The Muppet Show, Carol Burnett, The Sunday Morning  
Movies that used to be on PBS, they would play old black and white movies like Abbot and Costello or sometimes an old Flash Gordon pic. And Hercules (the old one where all the monsters looked the same and made the same HSSSS sound)  
Favourite car? My CRV  
**What articles of clothing do you like to see on the opposite sex?** Anything that adds an air of elegance to a woman. A well tailored business suit or an evening ensemble that has an air of sophistication. Note, I am a heterosexual male, but as someone who also designs and makes his own clothes, I can appreciate how clothes fit and look on people.  
**Favourite cocktail?** Rum and diet coke  
**Favourite colour?** purple  
If you could travel to anywhere in the world, where would it be? And why? New Zealand & Australia because they are two of the few places I have not yet been too.  
**What is a recent fad that you admit to trying?** I'm really into



### Matt Fictner & Sid

Matt has created and performed puppet characters for film, television and stage for industry giants Jim Henson Associates, Warner Brothers, Disney and the BBC. Matt has performed alongside such legends as actress Betty White, actor/magician Harry Anderson and the one and only Swedish Chef (Muppets). Matt's ingenuity is continuously evolving and he has created many award winning, international projects. Performer, artist, designer, inventor, sculptor and many other titles too numerous to list here, Matt brings his vast knowledge of diverse media to every project he is involved in.

Website: [www.smithandquick.com](http://www.smithandquick.com)

gadgets, the last fad I was into was the little micro radio controlled cars that where the size of a Matchbox toy. I'm really a big toy-fan, I think I'll be buying toys until I'm old and grey.  
**What is your greatest fear?** Having all my hard work go unappreciated.  
**Favourite music group?** Blue Man Group, Afro Celt Sound System, Ozrich Tentacle and Tosca.  
**Something the world would be surprised to know about myself?** I am a REIKI Master, and what is referred to as an energy sensitive.  
**Favourite books?** The Alchemist (Paulo Coelho) / How To Think Like Leonardo da Vinci (M. Gelb) / the entire Hellboy collection (Mike Mignola) / Good Omens (Terry Pratchett & Neil Gaiman) / Neverwhere, American Gods and anything else by Neil Gaiman.  
**Favourite food?** Sushi, actually I think it's just the love of Wasabi. Does a favourite hot sauce apply? I love Franks Red Hot.  
**Do you enjoy cooking?** I love to cook for friends. I have some favourite recipes but I'm always game to try and create something new.  
**Your greatest achievement?** That is something that would be difficult to explain in text form. But, if anyone ever wants to know, I would be happy to tell them in person.  
**Your best quality?** I'm creative and resourceful.  
**Your pet peeve?** My biggest pet peeve is boastful people who talk the talk and make promises yet are incapable on delivering what they promise.  
**Your greatest love?** Life and my dogs.  
**Qualities you like the most in your mate?** That they are truly themselves and know who they are.

# An Open Letter to the Italian-Canadian Community of Ottawa

Dear Community,  
The Board of Directors wishes to take this opportunity to share with you further details on recent events involving Villa Marconi, and most notably the sale of the vacant land. Before beginning, however, we would like to emphasize how importantly the Board takes its role as trustees for the residents, the community and the members of the organization. We recognize that Villa Marconi is a landmark for the Italian-Canadian community of Ottawa. We recognize that it is the result of years of hard work, dedication and sacrifice. We are very proud to be associated with Villa Marconi and we are doing everything possible to ensure its long-term success.  
Every organization experiences bumps, roadblocks, and difficult times during its history. Villa Marconi is no different. As you are aware, its financial position is fragile. In fact, since Villa Marconi opened its doors in 1999, it has not yet operated at a point where revenues meet expenses. The current shortfall is approximately \$30,000 per month. The long-term care operations are highly regulated by the Ontario Ministry of Health, which means there are few opportunities to increase revenues or cut spending. When construction was initiated several years ago, consultants recommended that a 125-bed facility would generate cash positive returns. However, this has not yet occurred. Presently, only long-term care facilities with 160 beds or more are breaking even.  
The total cost to buy the former Holy Cross convent and construct our 125-bed facility was \$20 million. Our facility carries a mortgage of approximately \$12.3 million, payable until 2034. Our facility also holds promissory notes payable of \$1.7 million (secured by the vacant land). The majority of the notes have a term ending in February 2006, however \$200,000 of these notes are due in June 2005. All promissory notes can be withdrawn on demand. On an annual basis, Villa Marconi pays \$1 million in interest and debt costs, of which approximately \$100,000 pertains to the promissory notes. As you can appreciate, these are sizeable commitments for any organization, let alone a not-for-profit community organization like ours.  
In the fall of 2004, Villa Marconi found itself in serious financial difficulty. Experts were brought in to assist with the situation and every possible option was considered. Fortunately, Villa Marconi was able to secure several loans to overcome this challenging juncture, but this financing was temporary in nature. We continued with our efforts to find a longer-term solution. In November and December 2004 we made an appeal for assistance to the community and explained the possible alternatives for the vacant land. The appeal was well received, but the financial support we required was much more substantial.  
Since August 2004, the current Board had been evaluating alternatives for the vacant land with the intention of generating a positive return for Villa Marconi. Our preferred intention was to develop the land and/or enter into a joint venture with a third party developer. However, it was determined that it would take at least 12 to 18 months to begin construction and that significant financial resources and time would be required – resources and time that Villa Marconi simply did not have.  
In late January, Villa Marconi received an unsolicited offer to purchase the land for \$2 million, with a limited acceptance period. It was at this time that the Board immediately decided to notify the community. Without delay, advertisements were placed in the local newspapers to inform the community and to encourage further interest and offers. We received 6 additional offers, varying in price from \$1.1-\$1.5 million. The short deadline was dictated

both by the offer in hand and by the immediate financial needs of the organization. The short deadline was not intended to limit the involvement of the community.  
The posting of the notices generated many questions from the community. We accepted an invitation from the National Congress of Italian Canadians to attend a public meeting on the matter and to hear the concerns of the public. Several days later, in an effort to continue to be transparent, we invited various community representatives to Villa Marconi to further explain our financial situation. This joint group collaborated to evaluate possible alternatives. The Board genuinely and seriously took the views and opinions of the community to heart and we greatly appreciated your concerns.  
After much deliberation, the Board decided to proceed and sell the vacant land to a local home builder. We believe the market conditions to be right and the sale price to be exceptional based on the current assessed value of the land and its original cost. (The original purchase price for this parcel of land was less than \$1 million.) When the transaction closes, the identity of the purchaser will be disclosed. We will continue to be transparent and we will share all information with you at the appropriate time. We agree that you have a right to know.  
This transaction will achieve an optimum result for Villa Marconi and its residents. The sale of the land will allow the organization to extinguish its secondary financing and will also save the organization approximately \$100,000 in annual interest costs. The sale of the land will also provide Villa Marconi with much needed cash flow and will permit additional time to carry out organizational improvements and work towards a break-even point.  
The sale of the vacant land is by no means the final solution. The next 12-months are critical. If this transaction is delayed for whatever reason, Villa Marconi, its residents and our community stand to lose significantly. We continue to need the community's financial and moral support. Particularly now, we ask you to work with us to support Villa Marconi, its residents and the community it serves.  
In carrying out our role as Board members, we have been honest and forthright, and have acted with integrity and diligence. We know the right decision has been made for the organization and its residents. We are committed to ensuring that Villa Marconi achieves the distinction of being a leading provider of long-term care in the Ottawa region. By working together and with further dedication, sacrifice and community support, we are confident our goals can be achieved.  
In conclusion, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who, over the last several weeks, has voiced a concern or raised questions during the past several weeks as well as everyone who has attended meetings to provide their input. Your participation was invaluable and we were moved by your compassion for Villa Marconi. Thank-you to those who continue to pledge their commitment to Villa Marconi. It is encouraging to see such strong support. In the end, if we continue to be united and faithful, the possibilities for Villa Marconi will be endless.

Respectfully yours,

The Board of Directors of Villa Marconi

Buffone, Gino / Campagna, Rick / Cibischino, Walter / De Toni, Robert / Filoso, Angelo / Giorgio, Pina / LeClair, Mike / Mastrogiacomo, Vince / Mion, Luigi / Nicolini, Gino / Pecora, Marcello / Talarico, Ross / Appolloni, Lucio (Honorary Director)

# Community

## Literary Contest

The Italian Week 2005 Organizing Committee is pleased to announce a national Literary Contest for **POETRY, SHORT STORIES and TRANSLATION**. The contest is open to any Canadian citizen as well as to Italian citizens currently residing in Canada, with the exception of Committee members and their families.

Entrants may submit **one** or **two** works in each of the following categories:

- **Poetry:** in Italian, maximum: 50 lines per poem.
- **Short Story:** in Italian, minimum: 500 words, maximum: 4000 words per short story.
- **Translation:** English translation of an Italian piece of Classical Poetry, maximum length: 130 lines per poem.
- **Two** copies of each entry must be submitted, **one of which** must contain: name, surname, address, telephone number, e-mail.
- No fax or e-mail submissions accepted.
- Unedited submissions only.
- Entries will not be returned to authors and are to remain the property of "Settimana Italiana".
- The Judging Committee intends, by previous agreement with the authors, to publish the best entries.
- Typed submissions must be mailed and postmarked no later than April 29, 2005 to the following address:

**Ital Canada/Settimana Italiana**  
**Concorso Letterario**  
**1026 Baseline Road**  
**Ottawa, ONT.**  
**K2C 0A6**

Two prizes in each category will be awarded:

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$400.00**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$200.00**

Winners will be notified by phone and the names will be announced during the Opening Ceremony of "Italian Week 2005" on Thursday, June 9, 2005, Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West.

## Concorso Letterario

Il Comitato Organizzatore della "Settimana Italiana 2005" di Ottawa indice un concorso nazionale di **POESIA, NARRATIVA e TRADUZIONE**. Il concorso è riservato ai cittadini canadesi e ai cittadini italiani residenti in Canada, con l'esclusione dei membri, e relativi parenti, del Comitato Organizzatore e della Commissione giudicatrice.

I concorrenti potranno inviare **uno** o **due** testi per ogni sezione::

- **Poesia:** in lingua italiana, lunghezza massima: 50 versi per ogni componimento.
- **Narrativa:** in lingua italiana, lunghezza minima: 500 parole, lunghezza massima: 4.000 parole per ogni testo.
- **Traduzione:** versione inglese di un testo di un poeta classico della letteratura italiana, lunghezza massima: 130 versi per ogni poesia.
- Per ogni prova i concorrenti devono inviare **due** copie **di cui una** recante: nome, cognome, indirizzo, numero di telefono ed eventuale e-mail.
- Non saranno accettati i lavori inviati via fax o e-mail.
- Saranno ammessi solo testi inediti.
- Tutti gli scritti ricevuti non verranno restituiti, ma rimarranno negli archivi della "Settimana Italiana".
- La Commissione giudicatrice si riserva di procedere, previa consultazione con gli autori, alla pubblicazione delle opere ritenute migliori.
- Gli elaborati, dattiloscritti, dovranno pervenire entro e non oltre il 29 aprile 2005 (farà fede il timbro postale) al seguente indirizzo:

**Ital Canada/Settimana Italiana**  
**Concorso Letterario**  
**1026 Baseline Road**  
**Ottawa, ONT.**  
**K2C 0A6**

Per ogni sezione sono previsti due premi :

**1° Premio: attestato e \$ 400.00**  
**2° Premio: attestato e \$ 200.00**

I nomi dei vincitori, preventivamente informati telefonicamente, saranno annunciati giovedì 9 giugno 2005, durante l'inaugurazione della "Settimana Italiana 2005" al Municipio di Ottawa, 110 Laurier Avenue West.

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Italo Tiezzi and Marcus Filoso

**Carly Stagg**

**Tel: (613) 567-4532**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL**

# Community Calendar/Eventi Comunitari

## March/Marzo

3: 3rd Annual Women's Filo  
St. Anthony's Soccer Club  
Info: Ivana Baldelli 830-7565  
ivana.baldelli@ottawa.ca

5: Kidney Foundation fundraising dinner  
Call Mario Frangioni at 230-7166

5. Canadian Organic Growers  
Seedy Saturday Ottawa  
Seed exchange and sale and garden lectures  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Algonquin College T-102, 1385 Woodroffe Ave.  
Free admission

6. Pretorese Reunion - Riunione Pretorese  
An arts and craft exhibition of the Pretorese culture, connecting the past with the present.  
Esposizione d'arte e articoli artigianali e culturali, che collega il passato con il presente.  
Villa Marconi 2:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.

12. Club Carpineto Romano  
Easter Dinner and Dance  
St. Anthony's Soccer Club  
6 p.m. Tickets \$40  
For tickets call Aurelio Burri 521-5422

14. Seeds of Hope organic gardening course  
Bethany Baptist Church, Nepean  
7-9:15 p.m.  
6 evenings for \$55, includes seeds, soil, the "Community

Garden Guide" and organic refreshments  
Zdena 226-5023 to register

15: Ghost Writing? or Lying in Stone?: Can we believe Roman Building Inscriptions? presented by James Anderson, University of Georgia  
8:00 pm  
Auditorium of the National Library and Archives 395 Wellington Street

15. Pellegrini Opera Fundraiser  
Villa Marconi Centre  
Cocktails at 6:30 p.m., dinner 7p.m.  
Tickets \$40  
Information: (613)798-1479

17. Seeds of Hope organic gardening course  
Tucker House  
7-9:15 p.m.  
6 evenings for \$55, includes seeds, soil, the "Community Garden Guide" and organic refreshments  
Zdena 226-5023 to register

18. L'Età d'Oro di Villa Marconi annuncia  
Celebrazioni mensili dei compleanni  
11:00 am (anticipato di una settimana perchè il 25Marzo è Venerdì Santo)

20: Opera Lyra Young Artists Programme  
National Gallery of Canada  
This competition recital will be followed by the presentation of the Vivian Asfar Memorial Award for Vocal Excellence presented each year to a young member of the

Opera Lyra Ottawa Young Artists Programme

## April/Aprile

2: Ballo di Primavera a Villa Marconi  
727-6201

3- Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association  
Spring Charity Auction  
Music scholarship for Big Sisters, Big Brothers Ottawa  
6 p.m., Admission \$20 at door  
Centurion Center, Imperial Room  
170 Colonade Rd. S. Nepean

## May/Maggio

14: Festa della Madonna di Cardineto organized by the Rapinese Association  
Call Lorenzo Micucci 731-3805

## June/Guigno

Canada Day Festival at Andrew Hayden Park  
June 30th - July 3rd  
For More Information call 567-4532



**Bob Chiarelli,  
Mayor**  
**At your service!**  
Mayor's Office  
110 Laurier Avenue West  
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(or Info 24/7: 580-2400)  
E-mail: bob.chiarelli@ottawa.ca  
Web: ottawa.ca



**Bob Chiarelli,  
Maire**  
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(ou Info 24/7 : 580-2400)  
Courriel : bob.chiarelli@ottawa.ca  
Web : ottawa.ca



**Working With The  
Community  
Lavoro Per La  
Comunità**

**Diane Holmes**

City Councillor / Conseillère municipale  
Quartier Somerset Ward  
110, av Laurier Ave. O./W., Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1  
tel: 580-2484 fax: 580-2524  
Diane.Holmes@ottawa.ca www.dianeholmes.ca



**PRETORESE REUNION**  
Welcome  
Friends - Relatives  
"An Arts & Craft Exhibition of the Pretorese culture,  
connecting the past with the present"  
Sunday, March 6, 2005  
Villa Marconi  
1026 Baseline Road  
2:00 - 5:00  
Free admission / light refreshments  
Video...music...exhibits...draw...fun...fun...fun!  
Demonstration of Homemade 'Pasta alla Chitarra'  
For further information, please call:  
Olimpia 225-8558 Maria 731-6854 Romana 836-5645 Mario 852-6757 (President)



**RIUNIONE PRETORESE**  
Benvenuti  
Simpatizzanti  
"Esposizione d'arte e articoli artigianali e culturali,  
che collega il passato con il presente"  
Domenica, 6 Marzo, 2005  
Villa Marconi  
1026 Baseline Road  
2:00 - 5:00  
Entrata gratuita / con un Piccolo Rinfresco  
Video...musica...esposizione...sorteggio...divertimento!  
Demonstrazione : 'Pasta alla Chitarra'  
Per informazioni Chiamate:  
Olimpia 225-8558 Maria 731-6854 Romana 836-5645 Mario 852-6757 (President)

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# IL POSTINO

## L'eta D'oro Birthday Celebration!



## Valentines Day Celebration at Casa Abbruzzo

