

Louisa Calio has been directing the Poet's Piazza at Hofstra University's Italian Experience for 5 years. She is an internationally published writer, was awarded the Barbara Jones and Taliesin prizes for poetry (Trinidad and Tobago), received a grant for her poems, *In the Eye of Balance*, a multi-media production, honored at Barnard College with other "feminists who changed America," and included in a book of the same title by Barbara Love. She recently exhibited her photography with poetry, "A Passion for Africa," at the Round Hill Resort in Montego Bay, Jamaica where she lives part of the year.

Jennifer Campbell has always lived in and around Buffalo, NY, where she is an English Professor. Her poetry has been published in *Earth's Daughters*, *A Hudson View*, *Skyline Magazine*, *The Buffalo News*, and *Artvoice*, a local arts and literary magazine. Her work has also been featured on www.PoetExpress.com and www.poetz.com, and in 2006 she won second place in *ByLine Magazine's* New Talent Poetry Contest and an honorable mention in *Skyline Magazine's* Winter Poetry Contest.

Janine Coyne's photo essay *Sicilian Journey* has been the subject of solo exhibitions most recently at The Italian American Museum in New York and The Riverside Metropolitan Museum in California. Her photographs are in the collections of The Brooklyn Museum, The Museum of The City of New York and The National Museum of Immigration at Ellis Island. Janine is a professor of photography at Kingsborough Community College and The College of Staten Island (CUNY).

Stephanie Dickinson's work appears in *Cream City Review*, *Mudfish*, *Green Mountain Review*, *PMS*, *StoryQuarterly*, *Feminist Studies*, *Columbia Journal*, *MacGuffin* and others. Stephanie and Rob Cook are coeditors of the literary journal, *Skidrow Penthouse*. Her *Half Girl* won the Hackney Award for best unpublished novel of 2002 and will be released this year by Spuyten Duyvil. Her story, "A Lynching in Stereoscope," appears in *Best American 2005 Nonrequired Reading* edited by Dave Eggers. Rain Mountain Press has just released her short story collection, *Road of Five Churches*.

Adriana DiGennaro was most recently Runner Up in the inaugural Perillo Prize poetry contest sponsored by the Italian American Writers Association, and her second book of poetry, *Acts of Contrition* was published this spring by Windstorm Creative. A graduate of Bennington College, she was on Red River Review's initial list of nominees in 2001 for a Pushcart Prize. Her first book, *Peripheral Vision*, was published by Writers Ink Press in 2001 and was favorably reviewed in *The Sunday New York Times*.

Gil Fagiani co-hosts the monthly open reading of the Italian American Writers' Association at the Cornelia Street Café. Two of his poetry collections have been published: *Crossing 116th Street: A Blanquito in El Barrio* (chapbook), and *Rooks* (book-length). His translations of poetry from standard and dialect Italian into English have appeared in various journals.

Joseph Farina practices law in Sarnia, Ontario. His poems have been published in several Canadian journals and the Anthology, *Sweet Lemons – Writings with a Sicilian Accent*. His poems have also appeared in some American publications, including *New York Magazine*, *Pyramid Arts* and *Fiele-Festa*. His first collection of poetry, *The Cancer Chronicles*, was published in April, 2006 by Serengeti Press.

Enzo Farinella, a journalist, was born in Gangi, Sicily and has been living in Ireland for 30 years. From 1979 to 1999 he served as the Cultural Attache of the Italian Cultural Institute in Dublin and is currently the Director of Casa Italia Cultural Centre (Dublin), as well as Editor of the journal, *Casa Italia*. Enzo's books include *Un'ombra sull'Europa – La Tragedia dell'Irlandia del Nord* (Pellicanolibri, 1990), *L'Irlandia: Terra di Magia – Ireland: Land of Magic* (Bonanno Editore, 1995) and *Italia-Irlandia – Irish-Italian Links* (Bonanno Editore, 1997).

Venera Fazio was born in Bafia, Sicily and emigrated to Canada with her family when she was a child and now lives in Bright's Grove, ON with her husband and their two children. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work and is co-editor of the anthologies *Sweet Lemons: Writings With a Sicilian Accent* (Legas, 2004), *Writing Beyond History* (Cusmano, 2006) and the forthcoming (2007) special edition of the journal *Italian Canadiana*, titled *Strange Periphrasings*. Her prose and poetry have been published in literary magazines in Canada and the United States.

Maureen Tolman Flannery, who was raised in Wyoming, is the daughter of a mixed marriage – a Mormon sheepman of Scottish descent and an Irish Catholic New Englander. Maureen's poems have appeared in over a hundred literary journals and fifty anthologies including *Calyx*, *Atlanta Review*, *Margin*, *Pedestal*, *Xavier Review*, and *Out of Line*. Place and ancestry figure prominently in her work. Her latest book *Ancestors in the Landscape: Poems of a Rancher's Daughter* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Polly Franchini has been an art director for many years and is now a small press publisher in Chelsea, New York City. She is of Irish and Italian heritage and has been exploring the complex literary traditions of these two cultures for many years. She has been published in *Poet Lore* magazine. She is currently working on translating five Italian regional cookbooks, including Eastern Sicily.

Martin Galvin's ancestors are from the Counties Cork and Kerry. His poems have been included in numerous national anthologies including *Best American Poetry 1997*, *Poets Against The War* edited by Sam Hamil and *DC Poets Against the War*. In addition to his book *Wild Card*, he has two chapbooks: *Making Beds* and *Appetites* and another accepted recently by Finishing Line Press. Still teaches workshops on poetry at the Writer's Center in Bethesda, MD. Still (and mainly, now) writing.

Danielle Grilli is a freelance writer, editor and graphic designer living in Echo Park, Los Angeles. A former poetry editor for the Muse Apprentice Guild and a contributing editor for Poetic Diversity, her work has been published in a variety of journals and webzines. Danielle recently issued a joint chapbook titled *Hunger Crossing* with poet Larry Colker and has two manuscripts currently under consideration for publication.

Joseph Hart is a playwright and theater director at Rutgers University. For many years he was a student of Joseph Campbell and a member of the Jung Foundation. His theater troupe of myth and folklore has toured internationally, and won the Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Festival. Recently his poetry took first honors at the Writers in Paradise National Writers Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Rosemarie Holz taught English many years at Fort Hamilton High School, Bay Ridge Brooklyn, where she now works as a librarian. In addition, she enjoys her job as Director of the Book Club of the Mediterranean Celtic Cultural Association whose mission is to promote the understanding and appreciation of various Mediterranean and Celtic cultures.

Antonietta Iacovino has a M.A. from Rutgers University. Her work has been published in *YM* and *Pology Magazine*. She currently lives in New Jersey and is working on her first novel.

Robert Lietz's poems have appeared in numerous print journals and e- journals. His eight published collections include *At Park and East Division*, *The Lindbergh Half-century*, *Storm Service*, and *After Business in the West*. "Dessert" is a poem from *Protection Avenue*, currently seeking a publisher.

Maria Lisella is a travel writer living in Long Island City, New York. Her poetry has been published in a number of journals and anthologies and will soon appear in *NY Quarterly* issues 63 and 64. She is a member of the online poetry circle, Brevitas and co-hosts the Italian American Writers Association's literary readings.

Shahé Mankerian spent his formative years in Beirut, Lebanon. After immigrating to the United States, he received an MA in English from UCLA. In 2003, he won both the Erika Mumford Prize and the Daniel Varoujan Award from the New England Poetry Club. *Edifice Wrecked* nominated his poem "She's Hiding My Keys" for the 2004 Pushcart Prize. In 2005, his play, *Vort (Worm)*, was adapted into a short film; it premiered at the Silver Lake Film Festival spring of 2006. His play, *Little Armenia*, recently debuted at Hollywood's Fountain Theatre.

David Massengill is an award-winning fiction writer who lives in Seattle. His short stories have appeared in *StringTown*, *The Raven Chronicles*, *3 A.M. Magazine*, *Rivet Magazine*, *Eclectica Magazine*, *Little Engines*, and *N.O.L.A. Spleen*, among other literary journals. He has also written nonfiction for American Book Review and Seattle Weekly.

Nick Matros has a BFA in playwriting from NYU and an MA in Italian literature from Middlebury College. He is currently at work on his first chapbook, *Poesie scritte col laptop: Poetry written by laptop*. He teaches Italian language on Long Island and lives in Queens, NY.

Dennis Maulsby's first book of poetry, *Remembering Willie, and all the others* received the 2005 Silver Medal Award from the Military Writers' Society of America. His poetry and short stories have appeared in *Lyrical Iowa*, *Peregrine*, *The North American Review*, *Tapestries*, *Brick & Mortar Review*. His poem, "6 June, Omaha Beach," was set to music for National Public Radio's *Themes & Variations*. His short story, "A Vietnam Physics Lesson," was published in the 2006 spring issue of *Types & Shadows*. His poem, "Paddy Morgan," won First Place in the 2006 Oak Hill Poetry Contest.

Teresa Méndez-Quigley was the Poet Laureate for Montgomery County in 2004. Her poem, "Dreaming in Italian," won Judge's Choice Award in the *Mad Poets Review* competition and first appeared in *Mad Poets Review*, Volume 16. She works in environmental health and is co-owner of HealthySpaces.com

Katherine Muth has spent most of her career as a trade reporter, writing articles on such arcane topics as the nation's postal system, natural gas storage and corporate philanthropy. She recently turned her attention to writing short fiction and poetry. This is her first published poem, and it celebrates the nine years she and her husband have been gathering with Scottish friends to honor Robert Burns on his birthday. She is at work on a young reader's book and continues to plug away at short fiction and poetry.

Perry S. Nicholas is an English professor at Erie Community College North in Buffalo, N.Y. His first chapbook in print is entitled *Stars That Cover You*. The poem, "Father's Toast," the lead poem in his second chapbook of the same name, has recently been nominated for the 2006 Pushcart Prize by *Skyline Magazines*. He recently shared first prize in the Skyline Winter Poetry Bash Contest for his poem "Comealong."

Joyce Nower is the author of three books of poetry: *Year of the Fires* (1983), *Column of Silence* (2001), and *The Qin Warriors and Other Poems* (2003), the last two published by Avranches Press. Recent poems have appeared in *Raven Chronicles*, *Earth's Daughters*, *The American Poetry Journal*, *Terminus*, *Slant*, *Worm 38*, and *Visions-International*. Currently she writes a column of poetry criticism called "Intersections" for *The Alsop Review*.

Mary O'Connor teaches English at South Dakota State University. Her poems and short stories have appeared in *Metre*, *Jacaranda Review*, *New Irish Writing*, *Columbia*, *Midwest Poetry Review*, *Briarcliff Review*, and other journals. She has won prizes (Academy of American Poets, Listowel Writer's Week Short Story Competition, Hennessey Award Finalist, and MacDowell Colony Fellowship) for both short fiction and poetry. Some of her poems have been read on NPR.

Jim Pignetti, at 17, found himself at Cooper Union, his gesticulations interpreted, investigated. Back in Astoria his tales of safaris to the land of Abstraction were met with scorn. Later, Jim nurtured a metal supply company on his windowsill. His metal now orbits the Earth. Jim is the co-creator of Brevitas, an online group devoted to short poetry. In summer, Jim tries, mostly fails, to crow *carcioffi* on a slate ridge above the Esopus. His greatest pleasure: eating his thorny flowers.

Frank Polizzi's poems and stories have appeared in *The Archer*, *Bitterroot*, *Electric Acorn* (Dublin Writers), *la bella figura*, *Paterson Literary Review*, *Urban Spaghetti*, *Wired Art* and others. He has participated in six joint presentations with Enzo Farinella, former Italian Cultural Attache in Dublin, on the similarities between Irish and Italian/Sicilian cultures, including a collaboration with the Glucksman Ireland House & Casa Italiana of NYU. He has spent the last four years completing the novel, *A Pity Beyond All Telling*, and is currently working on a second novel.

Donna Pucciani holds a Ph.D. in Humanities from New York University and has published approximately three hundred poems in the U.S. and Britain. Her chapbook of nature poems, *The Other Side of Thunder*, was released in 2006 by Flarestack in England. A full-length collection, *Jumping off the Train*, is forthcoming from Windstorm Creatives in 2007. Pucciani is active in the Chicago poetry scene and is Vice President of the Poets' Club of Chicago.

Farrah Sarafa is a poet, editor, teacher and cultural activist, currently doing graduate work at Columbia in New York City. Traveling most inspires her to poeticize the merest contact and fantasize things so simple yet delightful, such as chocolate. Poetry is her prime defense against forgetting detail.

Judy Wells is a faculty member in the Graduate Liberal Studies program at Saint Mary's College of California and was a featured reader in the Berkeley Poetry Festival, 2006. She is co-editor of *The Berkeley Literary Women's Revolution* (McFarland, 2005), essays on the rambunctious beginnings of Women's Studies at UC Berkeley in the 1970s. The poem, "Black Irish," appeared in her poetry collection, *Everything Irish*, published by Scarlet Tanager Books.