



November 2010 vol13 no1

# 3 IS THE MAGIC NUMBER

BY SARAH LOLLEY

**Fess up:** you've fantasized about it. Between planning the dust cover photo for the book you're working on and daydreaming about which actor would play your protagonist in the film adaptation, you've imagined the entire scene: the shock and exhilaration of hearing your name, the applause, the rush of media coverage, the prize money...

But every year, only a select few writers are short-listed for the country's "big three" literary awards—the Governor General's Award (often referred to as "the GG"), the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Rogers Writers' Trust Awards—and this year, a trio of QWF members were among them. Johanna Skibsrud's novel *The Sentimentalists*, about a complex father-daughter relationship that evolves when his long-buried memories of the Vietnam War surface, was short-listed for the Giller Prize. Merrily Weisbord's non-fiction book *The Love Queen of Malabar*, a memoir of her relationship with the beloved and controversial Indian writer Kamala Das, was short-listed for the Writers' Trust Non-Fiction Prize. Kathleen Winter's debut novel, *Annabel*, about a hermaphroditic baby born in 1968 in remote coastal Labrador who is raised as a boy but whose female self eventually emerges, is up for the Giller, the GG and the Writers' Trust Fiction Prize.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7...

NOT ACTUAL WRITER PICTURED

THIS YEAR'S SHORT-LISTS FOR THE "BIG THREE" CANADIAN LITERARY AWARDS INCLUDED A TRIO OF QWF MEMBERS. BEFORE THE AWARDS CEREMONIES BEGAN, WE ASKED THEM ABOUT THE THRILL—AND THE ANGST—OF GETTING SHORT-LISTED.



QWF PRESIDENT

*Elise Moser*



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## *QWF has never been so*

*busy!* Our membership continues to expand, as does our programming. Our profile has been rising along with the profiles of many individual members, including those nominated for national awards this fall: Johanna Skibsrud, Kathleen Winter, and longtime QWF board member Merrily Weisbord. Then, of course, there are the fabulous nominees for our own QWF awards, to be presented at the QWF Gala on November 23 (see pages four and five for the short list). Just for Laughs' Andy Nulman will host this year's gala; I hope to see you there!

At October's board meeting, we were fortunate to welcome new board member Linda Morra. Linda teaches at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, and will be strengthening our contacts in the Eastern Townships' thriving cultural scene. She is the animating spirit behind the newly founded LUQ, the Literary Umbrella of Quebec, which will facilitate opportunities for English-language literary venues throughout the province to "share" writers on tour.

Two years ago, we circulated our member survey. You asked for new chairs in the office. Check! See the piece on page three for more details.

You asked for more opportunities to interact with your Francophone counterparts. Check! On October 12, Reading: Un acte d'amour / Lire : An Act of Love, was held at the Sala Rossa. Co-organized with UNEQ and animated by Stanley Péan, our panel of Francophone and Anglophone writers discussed Quebec books, followed by a general schmooze. Featured translators Sheila Fischman and Rhonda Mullins and authors Gil Courtemanche and Yves Beauchemin were in the audience.

You also asked for writing retreats. Check! Board member and haiku poet Angela Leuck has worked hard to organize a two-day poetry retreat with award-winning Edmonton-based writer Shelley Ann Leedahl, to be offered next May.

In September, Lori and I had the privilege of presenting to the Senate Committee on Official Languages (see our text on the QWF website). We were in good company: the Quebec Drama Federation, ELAN, and the Quebec Community Newspapers Association rounded out the morning of exchange on the status of Quebec's English-language arts and culture sector.

All this expansion is stretching our already-tight resources. Lori and our fundraising committee have been working hard to find new prize sponsors, and we will be ramping up that effort in the coming months. We are also exploring new channels for government funding. QWF enjoys an excellent reputation for solid management—for making the most of what we've got. Working closely with our budget, and with Lori, I know this fine reputation is well-deserved. It is frustrating to spend so much time and effort seeking funding when we could be doing the work at the core of our mandate. But some of the steps we are taking now should pay off in the future, relieving us of some of the constant pressure to find cash. Fingers crossed (and sleeves rolled up!). We'll keep you posted—and you keep us posted, too: if you have an idea for a source of support—or if you ARE a source of support—or if fundraising committee work appeals to you, please call or email Lori! ¶

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**Editor in Chief:** Byron Rempel

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**Qwrite Editorial Board:** Kate Orland Bere, Lance Jones, Sarah Lolley, Elise Moser, Fiona O'Connor, Raquel Rivera, Gina Roitman, Lori Schubert

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Merrily Weisbord

La Quebec Writers' Federation remercie le Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, et le Conseil des arts de Montréal, de leur appui financier. The QWF also thanks the Canada Council for the Arts and Canadian Heritage for their financial support, as well as QWF members for their generosity.



# LIVRES COMME L'AIR

IAN MCGILLIS FINDS HE HAS A LOT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT—AND THEN, NOT SO MUCH



We writers love to complain. Get two or more of us together and what you'll often hear is a gripe-fest of symphonic proportions. We complain about deadlines, about editors, about having too much to do, about not having enough to do. We complain that there's too much emphasis on awards these days, then we complain when we're left off the shortlists. Our lower backs are sore, we've got creeping carpal tunnel syndrome, the bubble jet (or whatever you call that thing in our printers) isn't working. And then there are the times—all too frequent if we're paying attention—when we're reminded of writers who've got real cause to complain.

When I was asked to participate in Livres comme l'air, a program sponsored by UNEQ, the Quebec branch of P.E.N., and Amnesty International, in which Quebec writers send a dedicated copy of one of their works to an oppressed writer abroad, I was paired with **Eldaniz Elgun [pictured above]**, a writer and journalist from Azerbaijan. My knowledge of the political tensions between Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan remains, despite my best attempts at research, superficial at best. What I do know, thanks to UNEQ, is that Mr Elgun has seen his work banned, and has himself been subject to death threats, arrest and detention simply for having reported the truth as he saw it in a region with one of the worst records in the world for persecution of writers and journalists. His bravery is something neither I nor most other writers in Canada can begin to comprehend, and I was humbled to send a copy of my novel to him. In my dedication I expressed the hope that my book, a story of a very Western childhood, might nonetheless reach out to him across cultures and very different circumstances. I also made a pledge to myself: I would try to complain a lot less. ¶

Ian McGillis

*Livres comme l'air will present the participating Quebec writers, reading their dedications, at this year's Salon du livre de Montréal on Friday, November 19 at 8:00 p.m. in le Carrefour Desjardins. There will also be a booth (#50) set up for the duration of the Salon du livre, where you can read the authors' dedications and bios of the imprisoned writers, and sign a petition to protest their treatment. Volunteers from Amnesty International will be on hand to answer questions.*

# PLEASE BE SEATED

THINGS ARE GETTING DOWNRIGHT COZY IN THE QWF OFFICE



## A bunch of rickety,

mismatched chairs in the QWF office have now been replaced by a set of beautiful—and comfortable—new red chairs. On September 3, we announced a campaign to raise money for the purchase, and by the end of the month they'd been sponsored, delivered and tucked in around the workshop table, with a few to spare stacked up on the side. The reviews from fall workshop attendees have been fabulous, but you should come by and try them out yourself!

While you're in the office, be sure to take in the lovely plaque on the wall, thanking the sponsors! And because we feel that you just can't thank such generous sponsors too much, here they are again:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Jennifer Boire                            | Anthony Joyette         |
| The family of                             | Julie Keith             |
| Dr. Andrew John Miller,                   | Robert Landori-Hoffmann |
| in honour of his inestimable              | Linda Leith             |
| literary gifts                            | Alison Newall           |
| Cheryl Braganza and Jocelyn Watson        | T. F. Rigelhof          |
| Endré Farkas, in honour of Elias Letelier | Cora Siré               |
| Carol Fitzwilliam                         | Anonymous               |
| Robert Graham,                            |                         |
| in honour of Colin McDougall              |                         |

And let us not forget the valiant group of veteran workshop participants, under the rubric of "Poets & Playwrights," who, under the leadership of Jan Jorgensen and Pauline Clift, chipped in to sponsor that fifteenth chair!

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Beverly Akerman | Carole Lavolette  |
| Joanne Carnegie | Dale Matthews     |
| Pauline Clift   | Claudine Parker   |
| Colleen Curran  | Heather Pengelley |
| Bonnie Farmer   | Rosemarie Schade  |
| John Fretz      | Paris Sea         |
| Jane Gilchrist  | Cora Siré         |
| Kelly Howarth   | Nicholas Stameris |
| Jan Jorgensen   |                   |



# shortlist



## The 2010 QWF Awards

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 7:00 PM RECEPTION 8:00 PM PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY  
LION D'OR, 1676 ONTARIO E. (PAPINEAU METRO), MTL

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION ON THE NOMINATED AUTHORS AND BOOKS, GO TO [HTTP://QUEBECBOOKS.QWF.ORG](http://quebecbooks.qwf.org)



### QWF PRIZE FOR CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

**Catherine Austen** for *Walking Backward*, Orca Book Publishers

**Caryl Cude Mullin** for *Rough Magic*, Second Story Press

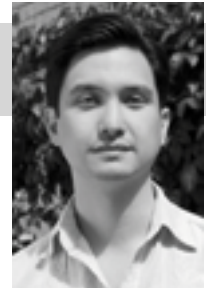
**Monique Polak** for *The Middle of Everywhere*, Orca Book Publishers

### PARAGRAPHE HUGH MACLENNAN PRIZE FOR FICTION

**Doug Harris** for *YOU Comma Idiot*, Goose Lane Editions

**Jeffrey Moore** for *The Extinction Club*, Penguin Group (Canada)

**Miguel Syjuco** for *Ilustrado*, Penguin Group (Canada)



### QWF FIRST BOOK PRIZE



**Larissa Andrusyshyn** for *Mammoth*, DC Books

**Doug Harris** for *YOU Comma Idiot*, Goose Lane Editions

**Sean Mills** for *The Empire Within*, McGill-Queen's University Press





**MAVIS GALLANT PRIZE FOR NON-FICTION**

**Avi Friedman** for *A Place in Mind: The Search for Authenticity*, Véhicule Press  
**Frank Mackey** for *Done with Slavery*, McGill-Queen's University Press  
**Cleo Paskal** for *Global Warring*, Key Porter Books

Tickets: \$15 (\$10 for full-time students)  
available at the following bookstores: Argo, Babar  
en ville, Bibliophile, Clio, Paragraphe, The Word;  
at the QWF office;  
and at the door, space permitting.  
www.qwf.org / (514) 933-0878 / info@qwf.org

Hosted by Andy Nulman  
Music by Pompey & the Bebop Patrol  
Cash bar  
Book table by Paragraphe Books

Meet the winners of the QWF Awards,  
the 3Macs *carte blanche* Prize, and  
the Quebec Writing Competition.



**A. M. KLEIN PRIZE FOR POETRY**

**Kate Hall** for *The Certainty Dream*, Coach House Books  
**Michael Harris** for *Circus*, Véhicule Press / Signal Editions  
**Erin Moure** for *O Resplandor*, House of Anansi Press

**QWF GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES  
OUR PRIZE SPONSORS:**

Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-Fiction,  
sponsored by Champlain, Dawson, Heritage,  
John Abbott, and Vanier Colleges.

Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction,  
sponsored by Paragraphe Bookstore

A. M. Klein Prize for Poetry,  
sponsored by Jacques Nolin

QWF Prize for Childrens'  
and Young Adult Literature,  
sponsored by Babar Books

Prix de traduction Fondation Cole  
commandité par La fondation Cole

**PRIX DE TRADUCTION FONDATION COLE –  
ANGLAIS/FRANÇAIS**



**Paule Champoux** for *Québec, ville du patrimoine mondial*, Éditions Sylvain Harvey  
David Mendel's *Quebec, World Heritage City*, Éditions Sylvain Harvey

**Hélène Rioux** for *Notre Mer Nourricière*, VLB Éditeur  
Taras Grescoe's *Bottomfeeder*, Harper Perennial

**Michelle Tisseyre** for *Sans limites : la vie exceptionnelle des jumelles Rhona et Rhoda Wurtele, olympiennes et pionnières du ski au Canada*, Éditions Histoire Québec  
Byron Rempel's *No Limits : The Amazing Life Story of Rhona and Rhoda Wurtele—Canada's Olympian Skiing Pioneers*, Twinski Publications

# Member News



Send your news to [info@qwf.org](mailto:info@qwf.org) (please keep to a 60-word limit) with “Member News” in the subject line—and you’ll be entered in a draw to win a beautiful book!

## THIS ISSUE:

*Real Stories of Big Cat Rescues*  
*Tales from the Exotic Feline Rescue Center*

by Melanie Bowlin,  
contributions by Audra Masternak,  
Photographs by Stephen D. McCloud,  
published by Indiana University Press

### This issue’s winner is:

JILL MURRAY

*Members of the Qwrite Editorial Board and staff are not eligible for the quarterly prizes.*

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**Vikki Stark** has become a blogger for *Psychology Today* magazine. Her blog is called “Schlepping Through Heartbreak” and is located at: [www.psychologytoday.com/blog/schlepping-through-heartbreak/](http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/schlepping-through-heartbreak/).

“Hotel Paris,” a short story by **Leesa Dean**, came out this summer in *The New Quarterly*, along with an interview in the features section titled “Where I want to be: introducing Leesa Dean.” A non-fiction essay titled “Cycle” was published in *The New Quarterly*’s Summer Extra, and Leesa Dean was a finalist for *Matrix* magazine’s 2010 Litpop Award for fiction.

**Ann Diamond** was a featured poet at the Festival international de poésie de Trois-Rivières in October. Her essay, “Letters from Josef,” appears this month in *GEIST* magazine. She and Montreal writer **Sheila Arnopoulos** are profiled in the September-October 2010 Issue of *WOTmag*: [www.wotmag.ca/subscribers2010/Sep-Oct-2010-AY&7\\$JEYHS876s9344550K/welcome.htm](http://www.wotmag.ca/subscribers2010/Sep-Oct-2010-AY&7$JEYHS876s9344550K/welcome.htm)

**Abby Paige**’s poems are published in the current issues of *Saranac Review* and *Spiral Orb* ([www.spiralorb.net/](http://www.spiralorb.net/)). Her solo show, *Piecework: When We Were French*, will be on tour in New England and Quebec this winter. All the dates and info are on her site: [www.abbypaige.com](http://www.abbypaige.com).

**Merrily Weisbord**’s book, *The Love Queen of Malabar*, was a finalist for the Writers Trust Non-Fiction Prize. The book was launched Nov. 3, at the new Concordia EV Building.

Author **MaryAnn Hayatian** has published a new children’s book, *Cookie, A Cat’s Tale*. It is available through [www.flutterflypages.com](http://www.flutterflypages.com) and in selected bookstores.

Both **Jill Murray** and **Paul Bracegirdle** have had their latest books chosen for the Canadian Children’s Book Clubs—a selective list of 22 middle-grade and YA titles to be recommended to schools for student-directed book clubs in the 2010/2011 school year. Murray’s book is *Rhythm and Blues*, and Bracegirdle’s, *Unearthly Asylum*.

QWF member **Marijke Vroomen-Durning** and fellow Montreal author Wendy Helffenbaum have been published in an essay anthology entitled *Fits, Starts & Matters of the Heart – 28 True Stories of Loss, Love and Everything in Between*. Marijke and Wendy are the only two Canadian authors in the book. The collection shares “the joy and angst at the root of all relationships, through stories of family and friends, lovers and exes, even pets and rock stars.” The book is currently available through Amazon.com.

**Dale Matthews** has won first prize in the Ontario Poetry Society’s Glosa Poem Competition for her poem, “Glosa for Wallace Stevens.”

**Cheryl Braganza** participated in the Piper’s Frith Writer’s Retreat in Newfoundland last summer, in a wooded sanctuary on a cozy corner of Placentia Bay. The poetic retreat was led by Mary Dalton; Jessica Grant (*Come Thou Tortoise*) and Kevin Major (*A History of Newfoundland*) led the fiction and non-fiction groups.

**Claude Lalumière**’s *The Door to Lost Pages* appears from CZP in April 2011. Claude has two stories out this autumn: “Ted’s Collection,” *The Seventh Black Book of Horror*; “Vermilion Dreams: The Complete Works of Bram Jameson,” *Tesseract 14: Strange Canadian Stories*. His next *Lost Myths* ([lostmyths.net](http://lostmyths.net), with Rupert Bottenberg) performance is at Blue Sunshine (3660 St-Laurent) on January 8, 2011.

**André K. Baby** has published his first novel, the thriller *La Danse des évêques*, with les Éditions Marcel Broquet. It is available in bookstores across Quebec and will be launched at the Salon du livre de Montréal.

**Michelle Franklin** has published her first book, *The Commander and the Den Asaan Rautu*, and it is now available on Amazon.com and B&N.com. She will be signing books at Expozine in Montreal. Look for her upcoming winter reading at Chapters in Montreal as well. ¶

The announcement was a complete surprise to all three writers. When Johanna Skibsrud learned via a cell phone call from her agent that she had been nominated for the Giller, she was in the Cluny gardens near the Sorbonne in Paris, where she is doing research for her Ph.D. dissertation. She hadn't even known her book was being considered. "It was quite off my radar," she said. Merrily Weisbord was also shocked by the news of her short-listing for the Writers' Trust, which came via answering machine message from Don Oravec, the executive director of the organization. "I didn't know that the book was nominated for this prize. It was the last thing I expected," she said.

For Kathleen Winter, the surprise—and excitement—was three-fold. Her debut novel *Annabel* was short-listed for all of the "big three" awards, putting her in the same rare category as *The Golden Mean* author Annabel Lyon whose book was similarly nominated in 2009. "I know how many writers are out there and how many good books, and I know how rare it is to receive this kind of recognition," Winter wrote via email. "One of these nominations would be a highlight of a lifetime. Three in one year, for my first novel, is an incredible honour."

The obvious next question: who did you tell first? "My close family," Winter wrote. "It has been great fun because they have watched me writing for years." Weisbord rushed to tell the two friends that "helped me the most, editorially and by supporting me through the ten-year period that the book was written: Linda Gaboriau and Ann Charney." She also called the woman to whom she had turned for help with the language and the cultural questions that her manuscript raised, Savithri de Turreil. Skibsrud phoned her mom and her sister. "It was fantastic to tell them. We really shared the excitement. They know how important the book is to me." Sadly, one person she could not share the news with was her father, whose stories from the Vietnam War inspired the book. He passed away in 2008, having only read an earlier version of the novel.

Although every nominee hopes for a win, just being short-listed has made a big difference to all of them, they said. "Sales of *Annabel* have immediately gone up, and I have had more offers of foreign rights," Winter wrote. "People have invited me to literary events leading well into 2011." Weisbord said she has relished the validation that has come with the nomination. "A lot of what we discuss [in the book] is about what it's like to be a woman in our different cultures: intimacy, sexuality, love, desire, marriage. These things... could be dismissed in our society as not being profoundly philosophical or intellectual. So it's wonderful to have this nomination which speaks to the writing of the book: the craft and the seriousness of the exercise."

It wasn't easy to stay calm while waiting for the announcement of the winners (November 2nd for the Writers' Trust, November 9th for the Giller, and November 16th for the GG). Winter said she was coping thanks to a combination of vitamin B complex, herbal bedtime pills, a reduction in coffee, and the presence of her husband, "an extremely calm, down-to-earth person". Skibsrud turned to retail therapy: after our interview, she headed out to scour Paris' vintage stores for a suitable awards ceremony dress. As for Weisbord, "I'm just trying not to think about it," she said. "I've had advice from people who've been up for these awards before. They said just enjoy the party." ¶

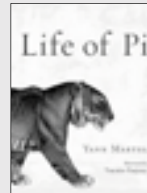
## SOMETHING IN THE POUTINE?

## PAST PRIZE-WINNING MONTREALERS



• **2000:** Jeffrey Moore wins the Commonwealth Writer's Prize for Best First Book for *Prisoner in a Red-Rose Chain*

• **2001:** Anne Carson wins the T. S. Eliot Prize in 2001 for *The Beauty of the Husband*



• **2002:** Yann Martel wins the Man Booker prize for *Life of Pi*

• **2007:** Heather O'Neill wins the Canada Reads award for *Lullabies for Little Criminals*



• **2008:** Rawi Hage wins the Dublin IMPAC for *De Niro's Game*

• **2008:** Miguel Syjuco wins the Man Asian Prize for *Illustrado*



"Reading: Un acte d'amour/Lire: An Act of Love" unfolded on October 12 at the Sala Rossa. Co-organized by UNEQ and QWF, this bilingual "love-in" (as host Stanley Péan put it) brought together Anglophone and Francophone writers to discuss Quebec books they love. Ranging from Mavis Gallant's Montreal to Anne Hébert's English town of Griffin Creek, from Charles Taylor's view of modernity to Jocelyne Saucier's portrait of mid-century, the conversation engaged a diverse audience of writers, translators, and literature lovers. Librairie Olivieri and Paragraphe Bookstore were on hand to sell books to those inspired by the event. Pictured above are the panellists, L-R: Mauricio Segura, Louise Desjardins, Claire Holden Rothman, and Dimitri Nasrallah.



Licia Canton is a Montreal writer, editor, translator, and literary critic. President of the Association of Italian



PHOTO: LÉO PELLETIER

Canadian Writers, she is also the editor-in-chief of *Accenti Magazine* and author of a collection of short stories entitled *Almond Wine and Fertility*. In line with *Accenti's* celebration of "Italian influences on Canada's cultural and literary heritage," Qwrite's **Fiona O'Connor** talked to Licia about her work and its connection to the broader tradition of Italian Canadian writing.

**FO:** To start, I'd like you to tell me a bit about your writing and where, if at all, you see your heritage fitting into it.

**LC:** I write short stories and essays. As an essay writer I am a regular contributor to the University of Toronto journal *Italian Canadiana*, and my articles focus on Italian Canadian writers and their works. That was the subject of my Ph.D. thesis. It was through my academic writing that I became involved with the Association of Italian Canadian Writers 16 years ago. My cultural heritage has influenced my path as an academic writer, which in turn led to my creative writing. I was inspired to write short stories after having studied Italian Canadian fiction.

**FO:** There is a well-established tradition of Italian Canadian literature, which is of course diverse within itself. What defines this genre, and how important is it for you?

**LC:** I was first introduced to Italian Canadian literature through Darlene Madott's *Bottled Roses*, a collection of short stories. Novels by Frank Paci, Nino Ricci, Fulvio Caccia and Antonio D'Alfonso have certainly inspired me, but the writings of women—Marisa De Franceschi, Caterina Edwards, Mary Di Michele, Mary Melfi, Delia De Santis and Madott—stayed with me and inspired me to write my own stories.

As a fiction writer it is important for me to be a part of Italian Canadian tradition, though it is as important for me to be considered an English-language writer in Quebec and a Canadian writer. As a critic, I hope to follow in the footsteps of my mentor, Joseph Pivato, and to contribute to a better understanding of Italian Canadian literature within the Canadian literary scene.

**FO:** Your book of short stories, *Almond Wine and Fertility*, takes the reader to a variety of different places: physically, culturally, and in time. Is there a setting—geographic or otherwise—that inspires you most when writing?

**LC:** Not really. A few of my stories are set in urban or rural Italy and others in Montreal. But most are simply set in the kitchen or the classroom or in an apartment.

**FO:** Tell me how and why you became involved in *Accenti*?

**LC:** I am co-founder of the magazine with Domenic Cusmano, my business and life partner. The Italian-language weeklies which served our parents and grandparents no longer speak to or for our generation and that of our children. We saw a need for an English-language publication that would be relevant to the new generations across Canada, one that would also be a vehicle to reach out beyond the Italian Canadian community and speak about our hybrid culture to the rest of Canada.

**FO:** One of the aims of *Accenti* is to bridge diverse communities with shared interests and appreciations. Which communities does the magazine aim to reach?

**LC:** I like to think we bridge the cultural and arts communities, the academic and literary communities as well as communities of Italian Canadians across Canada. For although we share the same roots, Italian Canadians in Vancouver are different from those in Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. I also like to think we are bridging generations. Through stories they read in *Accenti*, young people are finding out about their grandparents' and great-grandparents' life journeys, whether they are Italian or not. We are also bringing Canada to audiences in Italy. *Accenti* has been featured on television cultural programs and print media in Italy, studied and discussed in graduate theses, on university panels, here and in Italy.

**FO:** With so many of our national magazines headquartered in Toronto, it's great to have one that claims Montreal as its birthplace. Would you say that the publication reflects perspectives that are in any way unique to Montreal?

**LC:** Because we are in Montreal, I believe that we have greater sensibilities towards others and we tend to be more inclusive. Montreal is a very open and welcoming place to live and work.

**FO:** What can we look forward to in the next issue of *Accenti*?

**LC:** A feature on the internment of Italian Canadians during WWII, an article on the discovery of a Jewish tradition in Southern Italy which goes back 2000 years. Every issue also features a winning story from the *Accenti* writing contest. The next issue includes a compelling story, by former Montrealer Sigal Samuel, about a Jewish girl who goes to confession as a research exercise for her novella about a Catholic girl who was raped. ¶

*Accenti Magazine is now accepting submissions for its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Literary Contest and 4<sup>th</sup> Photo Competition, open to all writers and photographers. This year's literary contest has no topic restriction, and winning entries will be presented at the 2011 edition of the Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival. First prize for each contest is \$1000 and publication in *Accenti*. The deadline is February 18, 2011. For contest rules, please visit <http://www.accenti.ca>.*