

## — Author Information — Mary Saracino —



Mary Saracino ♦ Denver, Colorado  
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**Hometown:** Seneca Falls, NY  
**Occupation:** Writer; also teaches creative writing classes and Divine Feminine workshops  
**Education:** B.A. English, The College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN; Masters coursework American Studies/Women's Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN  
**First book:** *No Matter What*, a novel (1993, Spinsters Ink)  
**First published piece:** "On Being Italian American: An Introspection", *Sinister Wisdom*, 1990  
**Interests:** Travel, reading, watching independent & foreign films, baking, walking/hiking

### Publications

#### Books

- ♦ *The Singing of Swans*, a novel, Pearlsong Press, Nashville, TN, forthcoming, October 2006.
- ♦ *Voices of the Soft-bellied Warrior: A Memoir*, Spinsters Ink Books, Denver, CO, October 2001.
- ♦ *Finding Grace*, a novel, Spinsters Ink, Duluth, MN, October 1999.
- ♦ *No Matter What*, a novel, Spinsters Ink, Minneapolis, MN, September 1993.

#### Anthologies

- ♦ "A Talk with the Moon," *Writing by Italian Canadian and Italian American Women*, Fitzhenry & Whiteside (pending, Spring 2006), Gina Valle, Ed.
- ♦ "The Piggly Wiggly and the Black Madonna," *She is Everywhere*, iUniverse (May 2005), Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum, Ed.
- ♦ "Ravioli and Rage," *Don't Tell Mama! The Penguin Book of Italian American Writing*, Penguin Books, September 2002, Regina Barreca, Ed.
- ♦ "Smoke and Fire," *The Milk of Almonds: Italian American Women Write about Food and Culture*, The Feminist Press, September 2002, Edvige Giunta and Louise DeSalvo, Eds.
- ♦ Italian translation, excerpt from *No Matter What*, published in *Tuttetorie*, an Italian literary journal, March 2001.
- ♦ "Dusty, the Wonder Dog," *Chicken Soup for the Pre-Teen Soul*, October 2000.
- ♦ "Sunday Rounds," *Hey Paesan! Writings by Lesbians and Gay Men of Italian Descent*, Three Guineas Press, Oakland, California, November 1999, Tommi Aviccolli Mecca, Giovanna Capone, and Denise Leto, Eds.

#### Literary & Cultural Journals

- ♦ "Valentino, Puglia, & Seneca Falls," *Italian Americana: a cultural and historical review*, Summer 2000, Carol Bonomo Albright, Ed.
- ♦ "My Italian Aunts," *Voices in Italian Americana: a literary and cultural review*, Vol. 10, Number 2, 1999, Anthony J. Tamburri, Paolo A. Giordano, and Fred L. Gardaphé, Eds.

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*The Singing of Swans* by Mary Saracino | Pearlsong Press, October 2006  
original trade paperback, 6 x 9, 348 pages, \$20.95 | ISBN-13: 978-1-59719-006-0  
ISBN-10: 1-59719-006-3 | Contact: Joanne Morgan, Pearlsong Press, 615-356-5188  
joannemorgan@pearlsong.com | www.pearlsong.com | Page 1

- ◆ “On Being Italian-American: An Introspection,” *Sinister Wisdom*, Issue 41, summer 1990, Janet Capone and Denise Leto, guest editors.

## Poetry:

- ◆ “Derailed,” *The New Verse News Online Journal*, newversenews.com, May 13, 2006.
- ◆ “Mothers Will Make Peace,” *The New Verse News Online Journal*, newversenews.com, April 30, 2006.
- ◆ “Laying Down the Law,” *The New Verse News Online Journal*, newversenews.com, March 31, 2006.
- ◆ “Mardi Gras,” *The New Verse News Online Journal*, newversenews.com, March 1, 2006.
- ◆ “I spy a spy,” *The New Verse News Online Journal*, newversenews.com, February 22, 2006.
- ◆ “Breakfast on Special K Street,” *The New Verse News Online Journal*, newversenews.com, January 29, 2006.
- ◆ “New Orleans Watermelons,” *The New Verse News Online Journal*, newversenews.com, January 6, 2006.
- ◆ “Recipe for Yellowcake,” *The New Verse News Online Journal*, newversenews.com, September 2005.
- ◆ “Enforcing the Peace,” *The Pedestal Magazine*, Thepedestalmagazine.com, October 2004.
- ◆ “Shock & Awe,” *The Pedestal Magazine*, Thepedestalmagazine.com, October 2004.
- ◆ “My Three Grandmothers,” mothertongued.com, September 2004.
- ◆ “The Blessings of Ravioli,” *Writers Who Cook*, an anthology of recipes, prose & poetry, Herringbone Press, 1995.

## Professional Memberships

- ◆ PEN America, 2002–present
- ◆ National Writers Union, 2001–present
- ◆ Colorado Authors League, 1999–present; Board Secretary 2002–2003
- ◆ American Italian Historical Association, 1998–2004

## Honors & Awards

- ◆ 2005, Writer’s Residency Award, Norcroft: A Writing Retreat for Women.
- ◆ 2000 Salvator & Margaret Bonomo Memorial Prize for Literature, co-winner, for “Valentino, Puglia, & Seneca Falls”, a personal narrative published in *Italian Americana*, Summer 2000.
- ◆ 1999 Colorado Authors’ League “Top Hand Award”, Adult Fiction Mainstream/Literary, *Finding Grace*.
- ◆ 1999 ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Finalist, Children/Young Adult category, *Finding Grace*.
- ◆ 1995 Writer’s Residency Award, Norcroft: A Writing Retreat for Women.
- ◆ 1994 Minnesota Book Award finalist, fiction category, *No Matter What*.
- ◆ 1991-1992 Loft Mentor Series program participant, fiction category.

## Education

- ◆ MA coursework completed, American Studies, 1978–1980, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- ◆ BA, English, 1976, The College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, spring 1976.

## Pertinent Book-related Information

### For Denver-Area / Colorado

- Mary has lived in Denver since 1997.
- Teaches creative writing classes.
- Worked as a writing tutor at the **Community College of Denver** from January 2003–December 2005.
- Teaches workshops on the Divine Feminine
  - Reclaiming Our Mother
  - Ancient Images/Modern Icons (a hands-on art history/ceramic studio workshop) sponsored by the **Art Students League of Denver**
- All three previous books (*No Matter What*, *Finding Grace*, *Voices of the Soft-bellied Warrior*) were reviewed by the Rocky Mountain News.
- Did a book reading at the renowned independent bookstore The Tattered Cover for *Finding Grace*.

### For Minneapolis / St. Paul/Minnesota

- The main character (Madalene Ross) in *The Singing of Swans* lives in Minneapolis.
- Mary lived in the Twin Cities area for 30 years.
- Graduated from North St. Paul High School, North St. Paul, MN.
- Graduated from The College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN in 1976 with a BA in English.
- Attended graduate school at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, in the M.A. program in American Studies from 1979–1981, where she began formal studies of women’s spirituality and comparative religion.
- *No Matter What* (Mary’s first novel) was a 1994 fiction finalist in the **Minnesota Book Awards**.
- Accepted into the **1991–1992 Loft Mentor Series program**, where she was mentored by visiting nationally known fiction writers and poets and participated in a reading of her work in progress.
- Twice awarded a writing residency at Norcroft: A Writing Retreat for Women in Lutsen, MN.
- Interviewed by Mary Ann Grossman (books editor, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*) for *Finding Grace*.
- Interviewed by *MN Women’s Press* for *Voices of the Soft-bellied Warrior*.
- Public Radio/Wisconsin’s Jean Feraca, “Conversations with Jean Feraca,” interview for *Voices of the Soft-bellied Warrior*.
- WCCO Radio interview on “The Morning Show” for *Voices of the Soft-bellied Warrior*.
- “Write On Radio,” KFAI (independent public radio station) interview for *Finding Grace* & *Voices of the Soft-bellied Warrior*.

### For western New York State & New York City Area

- The main character in *The Singing of Swans* is Italian American.
- Mary was born in Seneca Falls, NY (western NY, Finger Lakes region) and lived there until she was 13.
- She is the daughter of first generation Italian immigrants.
- She was raised Catholic and attended St. Patrick’s Parochial School in Seneca Falls, NY.
- Her father and three of her four brothers currently live in western NY.

- Guest speaker at Nancy Caronia's writing class, New Jersey City University, Jersey City, NJ, for *Finding Grace*.
- Guest speaker at Edvige Giunta's memoir writing class, New Jersey City University, Jersey City, NJ, for *Voices of the Soft-bellied Warrior*.
- Reading, 2003 American Italian Historical Association (AIHA) annual conference, Chicago, IL.
- Panel presentation at the 1998 American Italian Historical Association (AIHA) annual conference, Hunter College, New York, NY.
- Reading from *No Matter What*, 1998 AIHA conference evening showcase of writers.

### *For the Bay Area in California*

- *The Singing of Swans* focuses on the Divine Feminine.
- Mary took part in two Dark Mother study tours (2001 to Sicily; 2004 to Sargegna) led by Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum, professor in the Women's Studies graduate program at the California Institute of Integral Studies.
- The 2001 Dark Mother Study Tour to Sicily greatly influenced the subject matter of *The Singing of Swans*.
- Spring 2002 guest speaker at Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum's class on the Dark Mother at the California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA.
- Mary has been an independent scholar of the Divine Feminine since 1976.
- Teaches workshops on the Divine Feminine in the Denver metro area.

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