

My Writing Life

May 2020

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Greetings from a distance. I hope you are well and have what you need to sustain you in these still challenging times.


One of my good friends, who is sheltering alone, wrote me that she is asking everyone two questions: "What's the first thing you want to do when we get paroled? And what's the one thing from the old normal that you do not want to return to?" I'd love to hear your answers.

I've been writing, working on the fourth book in my First Light series. I hope to have it published by the end of 2020. In the meantime, Bellastoria Press will be reissuing one of my earlier out-of-print books, *Across the Table*. I'll keep you posted on when it will be available.

At home, we are preparing for the arrival of my younger son, his wife, and their infant daughter. They will be staying with us as he seeks work following his graduation from Duke University. As hopeful as we are that he'll be successful in his search, we're also grateful to have this opportunity to be with them and share in the delight of our new granddaughter.

What follows below is not a jigsaw puzzle to fill your time or some sourdough starter for your next batch of bread, but I hope it will give you some moments of enjoyment.

Take care.



Upcoming Opportunities to Connect



As many of us have, I've found myself adapting to life in the era of Covid. One of the real joys of my writing life over the years has been the opportunity to meet in person with readers, listen to their reactions to my books, and answer the questions that arise, especially my perennial favorite, "Where do you get your ideas for your stories?" Those opportunities have disappeared. But I've been fortunate in forging a new path to connect and engage with readers. Panel discussions with other authors, book club gatherings, and live-stream presentations are now the "new normal" for me. I hope you'll join me at one of my events coming up in June.

June 1, 2020

2:00 pm

Live Stream Presentation

LOVE THAT MOVES THE SUN:

The Challenging and Passionate Life
of Vittoria Colonna and

Her Relationship with Michelangelo Buonarroti

Ticketed Event

Sponsored by the Westchester Italian Cultural Center

Tuckahoe, New York

[Registration Required](#)

June 12, 2020

4:00 - 5:15 pm

Live Stream Presentation

A WRITER'S JOURNEY

From Italian-American Roots to
Award-Winning Novels

Free Event
Sponsored by
Harrison Public Library
Harrison, New York
[Registration Required for Zoom Link](#)

Supporting Local Bookstores

I've been grateful over the years for the support I've received from independent bookstores. In these challenging times, I ask you to consider purchasing your books from local retailers. Although they are closed to walk-in customers, most bookstores are filling orders. You can find an independent store near you through the website [IndieBound](#), or you can patronize one of the stores close to my own heart that carry my books.

Click on the image for a link to the store.

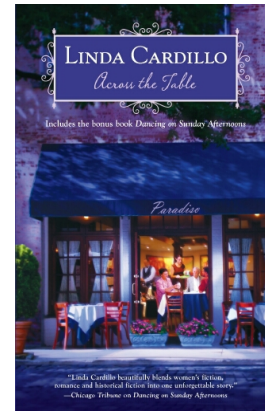
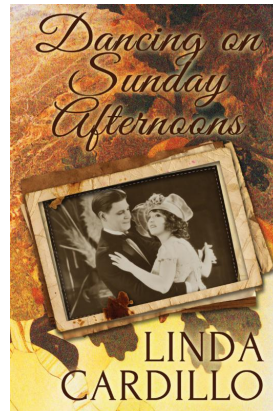
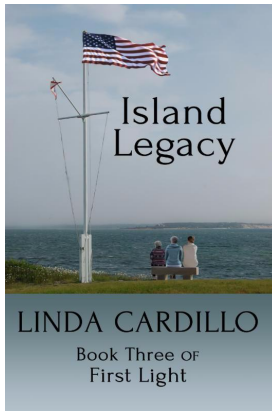
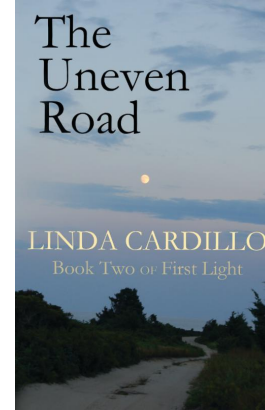
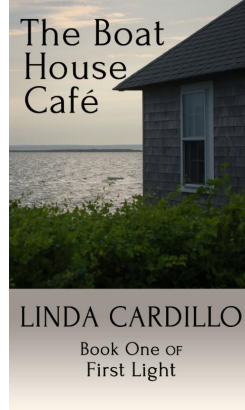
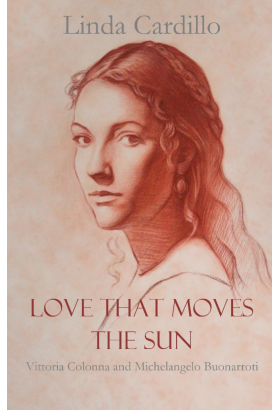


Thank you!

For Book Clubs

If your book club is considering one of my books as a selection, you may find the following questions helpful in facilitating the discussion and serving as a jumping-off point as you explore my stories. Please know that I'm happy to visit with you virtually--I even bring my own wine!

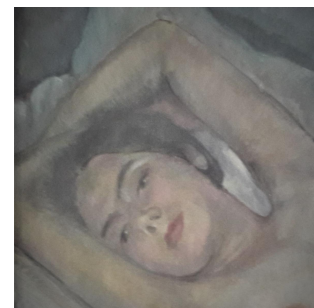
Click on the book for discussion questions.



A Viennese Lagniappe

My friend and Bellastoria partner [Ann DeFee](#) introduced me to the wonderful word *lagniappe*, a special treat or extra, unexpected gift. Here is mine to you.

Decades ago I encountered my husband's Tante Maia, a vivacious 90-year-old -- the kind of woman who inspires you to say "That's who I want to be when I grow up!"



*Tante Maia,
painted by her husband*

Elements of her life intrigued me and served as the seeds for a novel that, alas, never got picked up. I may one day finish it, but for now, I offer a taste of it as a small gift to brighten your day.

[Read on.](#)

[Visit my website!](#)

Linda Cardillo | linda@lindacardillo.com |

P.O. Box 298
Enfield, CT 06083

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