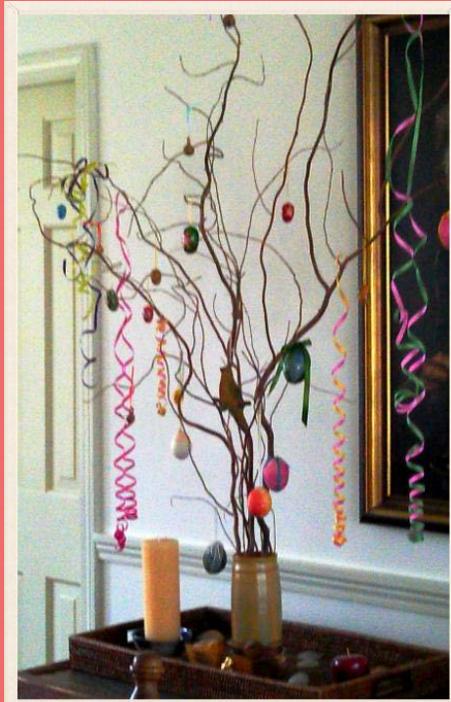


My Writing Life



April 2015

Dear Friends,

Despite the mammoth amount of snow we endured in New England this past winter, spring is finally emerging. My daffodils are poking their heads tentatively through the soil in a sheltered corner of my garden and I saw buds yesterday on my lilac bush. Our traditional Easter egg hunt actually was able to take place on the lawn, which until last week was covered in snow.

I hope that warmth and light are making their way into your world as well!

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda".

On the Road in the Coming Weeks

I'll be speaking at three upcoming events in April. If you are in the area, I hope you'll join me!

chico's

Friday, April 10, 2015
1:00-3:00 pm
Reading and Signing
Chico's
690 Bliss Road
Longmeadow, MA 01106

This is an experiment, so please help me explore this opportunity! The manager of the local Chico's invited me to come talk about and sell my books in the midst of the spring collection.

Stop by for a chat!



Thursday, April 23, 2015

5:30-7:30 pm

"Dazzling Courage: The Salons of the Ischian Circle"

National Organization of Italian-American Women

The Terrace Room at Metacomet Country Club

500 Veterans Memorial Bridge

East Providence, RI 02914

Registration required

Members \$20 | Non-members \$25

I'll be speaking about Vittoria Colonna and her circle of brilliant friends, an offshoot of my research for my historical novel, *The Poet*.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).



Saturday, April 25, 2015

11:30 am

Authors' Brunch

American Association of University Women

Atlantic Beach Club

Middletown, RI

I'll be joining authors Anne LeClair and Marguerite Vallaincourt for this AAUW annual event.

Bellastoria Press Reaches a Milestone!



After only one year, Bellastoria Press is celebrating! We recently exhibited at two events--the Women's Night of Comedy, sponsored by the Women Business Owners Alliance; and the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers. We are excited about all the new connections we made.

Our catalog now includes six women's fiction titles and four children's books! If you are a writer looking for a publisher, a reader of thought-provoking and emotional stories, or a member of a book club seeking discussion-rich books, please explore our offerings at bellastoriapress.com.

A Sneak Peek at Book Two of First Light

For everyone who can't wait till Book Two makes it out of my brain and onto the page, here is a "tasting spoon" of the opening chapter.

The drums throbbed in the clearing, a circle of six men, their faces lit by the crackling flames of the bonfire and their sticks pounding in unison as they chanted.

The boy stood on the periphery in the dark, his eyes closed, listening to the high-pitched keening of his father's voice and feeling the reverberation within his chest of the insistent rhythm. The rhythm of blood, of wind, of the waves crashing below the burial ground on the wet sand.

He had made his own hand drum when he was eight, guided by the long, scarred fingers of his father's hands. His father had no thumb on his left hand--a fishing accident--and yet he could weave a net, gut a rabbit and stretch a piece of hide across a frame as deftly as anyone else in the tribe. He had adored his father then. Imitated him. Listened to him.

But he was no longer eight. And the boy he had thought himself to be--Blue Turtle of the Chappaquiddick Wampanoag, the son of the sachem--had been lost in the intervening years. Years when he had careened between the labels of "Indian" and "Irish;" when he found himself more often than not on the outside, accepted by neither.



His own drum hung silent at his side. He fingered the wampum beads hanging around his neck, disks of quahog shell polished and strung by his grandmother.

Then he broke the drum over his knee, ripped the wampum from his neck and flung it to the ground, and turned away from the circle.

Josiah left the island that night. He was eighteen.

Thank you once again for continuing to read my books and share them with others.

You are my most loyal fans!

Warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda".