



### **Rosa Rachele Award**

Rosa Marsico Petruzzelli (1900-2001), was born in *Acquaviva delle Fonti* in 1900, worked as a peasant as a youth, immigrated to New York in 1919 after WWI, and worked as a seamstress finisher in sweatshops in New York City. She lived to be 100 & ½. Expert in needlecrafts, Rosa left many garments as a legacy. She worked around the clock to fix, mend, grow, tend, everything around her, the land, people, objects, anything that needed mending. She was known for her quick wit, blue-eyed sparkle, tenacity in healing, focus, organization, survival and thriving— a spirit of *sopravvivenza*. In 2001 a peach tree sprouted where she'd tossed pits out her daughter Rachele's window. That tree fed the neighborhood and gave rise to generations of peach trees.

Rachele Petruzzelli Lanzillotto (1926-2016), Rosa's youngest daughter, was born in the Bronx and survived a two-story fall out a window on 7/16/1928, the feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. After groundbreaking surgeries at Bellevue Hospital in New York City, the oldest public hospital in the USA, Rachele learned to walk again and danced the rest of her life. A hairdresser and manicurist by trade, Rachele survived years of domestic violence after WWII. She sustained her spirit with a love of colors and beauty culture. She carried on her mother's legacy of needlecrafts, blue-eyed sparkle, wit, sarcasm, street smarts, progressive thinking, seeing through to the heart of political issues, and uplifting all around her with a kind word and uplifting spirit.

This memorial scholarship offers mentorship in the creative workshop: "RRRROAR" by artist Annie Rachele Lanzillotto, the youngest daughter of Rachele, and granddaughter of Rosa.

If you'd like to nominate someone for the Rosa Rachele Award, email: [StreetCryIncorporated@gmail.com](mailto:StreetCryIncorporated@gmail.com)