

# THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



## E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 14

MAY 2020



**The Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada Must Also Work from Home**

(See Raymond Xerri's monthly message, pages 23-26)

**The Maltese Presence  
in North America**  
**Issue No. 14 May 2020**

*Editor*  
Dan Brock

*Copy Editor*  
Mona Vella Nicholas

*Contributors to This Issue*

CANADA

Ontario

Frank Attard

Consulate General of Malta to  
Canada webpage

Richard S. Cumbo

Fr. Mario Micallef

Brian Muscat

USA

California

Charles J. Vella

Maryland

Gabrielle Cutair Caldwell

Michigan

Rachel Darin

AUSTRALIA

New South Wales

Mary Camilleri

Mark Caruana

MALTA

Paul V. Azzopardi

**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

Here we are in the second full month of self-isolation as COVID-19 continues its deadly rampage. Activities within the Maltese Communities are almost at a standstill and many planned events have had to be cancelled. Some individuals and associations, however, have found innovative ways to stay in touch. (See "Monthly Message from the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada," pages 1, 23-26 and "Activities within the Maltese Communities," pages 13-15)

Some may wish to reflect on past pandemics and epidemics to hit North America and to read about the last major plague to hit the islands of Malta and Gozo. (See pages 16-17.)

The Coronavirus Pandemic has given additional time for some to complete and submit articles. Those by Gabrielle Cutair Caldwell, pages 5-7, and Charles J. Vella,

pages 10-13, are two such examples.

In the last issue, mention was made of Malta DNA & Genealogy, managed by Stephen Asciak on Facebook. My introduction to this led me to correspond with Michelle Kaloustian. Michelle, in turn, put me in touch with her mother, Mary Camilleri of Blacktown, NWS, Australia. The result has been our joint article "The Borg Family: First Maltese to Settle in Leamington and Later LaSalle, Ontario," pages 18-21, 28.

Further research on the early Maltese of Schenectady, NY and Detroit, MI has led to the unlocking of the mystery of the identify of the "Mr. J. Robertson" mentioned by the late Fr. Lawrence Attard in his pioneering work *The Great Exodus (1918-1939)*. (See pages 21-22.)

The anniversary of the publication of an article by Richard Cumbo has led to the reprinting of the first part here. (See page 15.) The anniversary of an event which took place in Hamilton, Ontario in May 1998, as led to it being commemorated in this issue as well. (See page 4.)

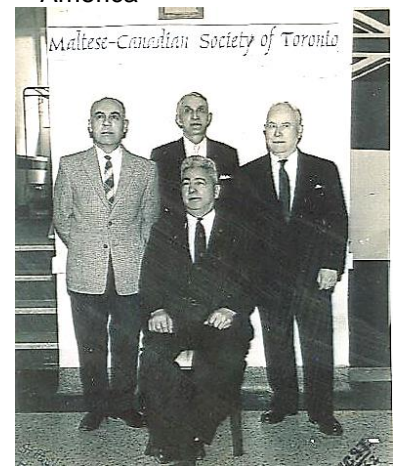
As with previous issues and as a handy reference for those of Maltese birth and blood living in North America in particular, a list of Maltese Organizations in North America as well as Gozo's Maltese Canadian Association is provided. (See pages 26-27.)

Work has already been begun on the June and July issues, thanks to submissions. Everyone is encouraged to send in news about the Maltese in your community, to make suggestions for articles and to submit articles. This is your newsletter and you and the various Maltese organizations and associations are encouraged to take ownership of it. The more you do so, the less the burden is on my shoulders and I can devote more time to coordinating items for each issue rather than writing articles and pouring over various books, newspapers, magazines, newsletters, etc. for material.

(Opposite photo courtesy of Richard S. Cumbo.)

**CONTENTS**

2. Editorial Comment
3. Pastor's Thoughts...
4. Tribute Paid to 15 Men Who Arrived in Canada in June 1948
5. Alphonso F. Cutaia, Jr.: Stepson of the Notorious Bank Robber Jimmy Logue
7. Reader Comments Relating to the April Issue
8. Paul V. Azzopardi: Financial Advisor, Stockbroker, Portfolio Manager, Author and Artist
10. A History of Maltese Immigration to the Bay Area Prior to the Second World War
13. Activities within the Maltese Communities
15. Multilingual Airwaves Means Personal Dedication for Maltese Producers
16. Pandemics and Epidemics in North America during the Past 200 Years and the Last Major Plague on the Islands of Malta and Gozo
18. The Borg Family: First Maltese to Settle in Leamington and Later LaSalle, Ontario
20. A Maltese Embassy in Ottawa?
21. Who Was "Mr. J. Robertson"?
23. Monthly Message from the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada
26. Maltese Organizations in North America



**The Founders**  
**Joseph Vassallo, Sr. (seated)**  
**l to r Anthony DeBatisse,**  
**Emmanuel Borg, John Zammit**  
**abs. Anthony Scicluna**

## GLEANINGS FROM THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

### PASTOR'S THOUGHTS...



*Fr. Mario Micallef, M SSP, is pastor of St. Paul the Apostle, Toronto, the only Maltese national parish in North America. These "Pastor's thoughts..." are extracts from his commentaries on the Sunday readings which are published in the Parish's Sunday Bulletin.*

#### **Life After the Resurrection Is Never a Return to the Old Life**

Never as this year have the pain, loneliness, uncertainty and fear that are evident in this story [the Easter mystery] resonated in our lives. Thanks to all that is happening due to the coronavirus, these are real feelings, not just elements in a story. As a priest I've had people speak to me about their fears during these days – fear for their own safety and for that of their loved ones. Fear that paralyzes them. I've heard people express doubt as to whether this will ever pass. I've heard many people speak of loneliness as social distance and isolation suddenly become our new household words. And yet, the story of Easter tells us that there is something, or someone, more powerful than all this.

Like those hours on the cross, the time we are living in can truly be a "sacred time". Irrespective of how long this will take and of what happens in the meantime, we believe that there is someone who is powerful enough to bring something good out of it. After all, it is the same One who brought order out of the primordial chaos.

And life after the resurrection is never a return to the old life. It is an introduction to a life that is better beyond human imagination.

#### **A Life That We Cannot Yet Imagine**

What most of us are experiencing this year creates feelings that are very similar of the ones the women in the gospel experienced. [Mt. 28:1] Behind the sometimes-eerie silence of our normally-busy cities, streets, street-cars and shopping centers, there is hidden a feeling of fear and hopelessness. Probably fear because of hopelessness because we are not to do anything about something. And, let's face it. there is also

the fear that took over the apostles as they ran away from it all and locked themselves up because, fair enough, they reasoned that now it would be their turn, after the Master. Isn't this the same fear that visits us as we lock ourselves in our homes, because we could be next?

The greeting the angel gave to the women at the graveside is the same greeting that we hear proclaimed...."Do not be afraid". Not because we are naive or stupid, unaware of the realities that surround us. But because we believe in a Jesus that is Risen. He who came out alive from the darkness of the tomb, in a way that could not have been imagined beforehand by those women who loved him, can somehow bring life out of our own darkness. And it will be a life that we cannot yet imagine.

#### **Let Us Turn to Jesus**

When we find ourselves going through difficult times in our lives, let us turn to Jesus. Let us not forget the powerful message of Easter, that he is stronger than all our problems put together. And with trust in his loving heart we sincerely pray, "Jesus, I trust in You."

#### **Let Us Allow Ourselves Some Leisure Time to Listen to Jesus**

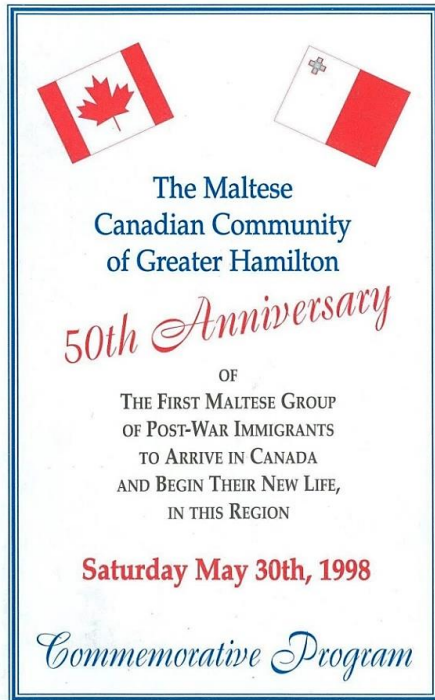
What a beautiful journey [Lk 24:13-35]! Not so much the journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus and back. The real journey of these disciples was the one their hearts made. It was journey from despair to hope, from death to life, from sadness to joy. It is the journey that you and I are invited to make during this Easter season. Yes, there is darkness around us. The longer this pandemic crisis lasts, the more we may be tempted to despair, hopelessness, depression and fear. Like the two walking disciples, let us allow ourselves some leisure time to listen to Jesus, to be with him inviting him into our own hearts and homes. Then, once we recognize him, let us share our experience with those who might need it in their own lives.

**Fr. Mario Micallef, M SSP  
St. Paul the Apostle Church,  
3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6  
1-416-767-7054**

*Vincent A. Testa was born in Malta on September 2, 1841. He entered the Society of Jesus on September 2, 1858 and was sent to the United States in 1863 where he continued his studies for the priesthood in Woodstock, Maryland. He was ordained in 1874 and sent to California. Fr. Testa died on December 26, 1918, and was interred in the Santa Clara Mission Cemetery, in Santa Clara.*

**TRIBUTE PAID TO 15 MEN  
WHO ARRIVED IN CANADA IN JUNE 1948  
Dan Brock**

On Saturday, May 30, 1998, at the Convention Centre in Hamilton, the Maltese Canadian community of Greater Hamilton honoured 15 men who were among those who had come out from Malta, on board the *Vulcania*, in June 1948, and had settled in Hamilton, Ontario.



Five of those honoured on this occasion, namely **Emmanuel Victor Attard, Julian Borg, Charlie Cassar, Joseph F. Tabone** and **Paul Vella**, were deceased.

Those present who were honoured were **Frank Borg, Arthur Buhagiar, John Francis Camilleri, Joseph Cassar, Wally Cauchi, Paul Chetcuti, Joseph Mizzi, Emmle Pace, Joseph Parascandalo** and **Frank Xuereb**.

John Francis Camilleri held a unique position among the men who disembarked from the *Vulcania*, at Pier 22, in Halifax, on June 28, 1948. He was the only one who was accompanied by his family, which consisted of his wife, Miriam, and their children: Silvio, Michael, Joseph and Gemma.

Not all had first gravitated to Hamilton or once there stayed. Paul Chetcuti had lived and worked a number of years in Brantford before moving to Hamilton. Emmanuel "Emmle" Pace had lived in Hamilton before moving to Brantford and then to Simcoe.

On easels in the lobby of the Convention Centre were reproductions of items from newspapers relating to the

departure from Malta and the arrival in Canada, and London and St. Thomas in particular, of those who sought a new life for themselves and their families. Material relating to those who had arrived a month earlier on the *Marine Perch* was also on display.

The all-inclusive admission for the dinner and entertainment was \$25. Those present sat at round tables seating eight.

Joe Fardell was master of ceremonies for the evening. After the welcome remarks the Canadian and Maltese national anthems were played by the Malta Band under the direction of Maestro Silvio Camilleri. Silvio was the eldest of the four children who accompanied their parents on the *Vulcania* in June 1948. After the introduction of the head table, Bishop Anthony F. Tonnos of the Hamilton Diocese said grace.

Then followed an excellent dinner which included a bottle of white and a bottle of red wine at each table.

Following dinner, there was a video showing Malta's history. Next came the introduction of the guests of honour and the presentation and greetings from Alfred Dalli, the consul general of Malta; Sue (Farrugia) Barnes, a Member of Parliament from London, Ontario and native of Rabat, Malta; Bob Morrow, Hamilton's mayor; Terry Cooke, the regional chairman; Bishop Tonnos and Adrian Borg-Olivier of Mid-Med Bank.

This memorable evening was concluded with a performance by the Malta Band.

I had the honour of being present at this momentous event, along with my wife, her four siblings from Brantford, Ontario, a nephew and their spouses. Had it not been for Len Connor of St. Thomas, we would not have known of this. Len had also arrived on the *Vulcania* in June 1948. His wife, Connie was a sister of Frank Xuereb. Connie and Frank's sister, Mary, was married to Joseph Parascandalo. Mary and her children had arrived in Canada on the *Vulcania*, in June 1949, one year after her husband. Also on this ship with the Parascandalos were my wife, her siblings and her mother, Josephine Scicluna, and Nina Gatt and her two daughters. Josephine's husband, Edward Scicluna, had also come out on the *Vulcania* in June 1948, and was a good friend of Paul Chetcuti and his family while the two families lived in Brantford. Nina Gatt's husband, Joe Gatt, was one of the men who came out on the *Marine Perch* in May 1948 and also settled in Brantford. Coincidentally, one of my brothers married Joe and Nina Gatt's eldest daughter.

Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives  
and Visitors Centre  
St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex  
3224 Dundas St. W.,  
Toronto, ON, M6P 2A3  
1-416-767-7054

**ALPHONSO F. CUTAIAR, JR.:  
Stepson of the Notorious Bank Robber  
Jimmy Logue**

**Gabrielle Cutair Caldwell**



***Gabrielle lives in Cecil Co., MD. She has previously worked for the State's Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Office and holds a Real Estate license. Currently a stay-at-home mom, her hobbies include music, photography and travel***

My last article, in the March/April 2019 issue of this newsletter, featured my 3rd great grandfather, Francis Cutaiar, Jr., of Baltimore, Maryland. His father was Joannes Paulo Francesco Cutajar/Francis Cutaiar of Birkirkara, Malta and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In this article, I would like to continue to focus on this branch of the family.

Francis Cutaiar, Jr. had six siblings. One of his brothers, Alphonso (1840-1900), had a son Alphonso F. Cutaiar, Jr. (1859-1940) with Mary Gahan (1841-1870) of Philadelphia. According to a source for the family, the two never married and there is no record of Alphonso, Jr. ever living with his father.

In 1870, Alphonso, Sr., is shown to be living with his mother, Amalia Cutaiar (widow of Francis of Malta) and two of his sisters. The census shows that he had another child, Eva, with a woman known only as Susan. The child only lived to the age of three.

In April 1882, it appears that Alphonso, Sr married a Mary Welsh. Other than a newspaper clipping, I haven't found any other information on that marriage.

In 1889, Alphonso, Sr. finally appears to have settled down for good and married Alice Shaw (1868-1902). The couple then had five children together, Francis P. (1889-1889), John Frank (1890-1964), Albena P. (1891-1893), Harry Shaw (1895-1967) and Alice P. (1896-?). We assume that Alice died in childhood, as there is no record of her after her mother's death in 1902. Son, Harry, was adopted by Alphonso, Jr. and his wife, as he was only seven years old.

When I began researching my family and poring over old newspapers, immediately there were hundreds of "hits" for the Cutaiar surname. I was initially very surprised, as I grew up under the impression that Cutaiar was fairly uncommon, as the Maltese spelling is Cutajar. I didn't know anyone else, other than immediate family, with that name. Most of these newspapers were from the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area, although they included various locations across the country. As I

opened each one, Alphonso Cutaiar, Jr. was the common thread.

On January 21, 1861, Philadelphia's notorious bank robber, Jimmy Logue married Mary Jane Andrews and lived with her for two years before they separated but never formally divorced. In an act of bigamy, he married again to Mary Gahan, Alphonso, Jr's mother. Alphonso was 18 months old at the time of the marriage.

Jimmy was born around 1837 to an Episcopal family and started stealing as a child. At the age of 10 he was first sent to the House of Refuge and again just four years later. During the years of his criminal career, he is said to have stolen over \$300,000. According to him, it came naturally and it is reported that he even told his physician as he was dying that "I couldn't help it. It was born in me." Jimmy's father was a tavern keeper and his mother owned a large piece of property later in life. She claimed that while she was pregnant with Jimmy, his father was spending all of their money on alcohol and not providing for the family. She starting stealing the money from his pocket while he slept. She believed this was the reason for Jimmy's thievery. He even attempted to use it as a defense in court later in life.



**Jimmy Logue in 1895**

*Daily Star*

The new family enjoyed a great deal of wealth, owing to Jimmy's business. He decided to sell the property where they lived, however, and plunged into crime until he got into trouble with the law. Mary went back to live with her father where she died on February 15, 1870.

The 1870 census shows Alphonso, then age 11, living with his maternal grandparents in a court that ran from Poplar Street to Sixth Street in Philadelphia. He is listed as "Alphonse Gahan." Coincidentally, Alphonse's father's family, the Cutaiars lived at 944 Poplar.



prison. After his release, Jimmy disappeared for a long time.

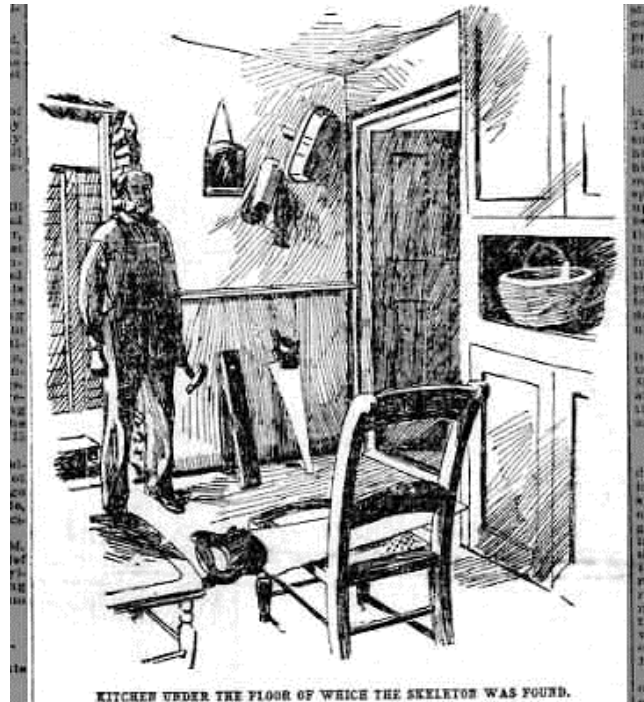
Meanwhile, Alphonso took one of the \$1000 bonds and cashed it in to present to his girlfriend, Sarah "Sally" Camp (1856-1923). She accepted it and shortly after agreed to marry Alphonso. They married in April 1879 and moved into the house in May. Jimmy had apparently disapproved of the marriage only a few months after the disappearance of Alphonso's aunt and stepmother. Alphonso and Sarah, as well as the neighbors around them, complained of a horrible smell coming from the kitchen. They assumed it was coming from a drain to the outhouse out back. The couple continued to live in the house for almost a year. The foul odor coming from the kitchen, however, made Sarah so sick that they were forced to move away.



Newspaper clipping, 1895

By March of 1880, Alphonso had sold the house. After that, there were many tenants who lived there.

Thirteen years later, on October 16, 1893, a carpenter was repairing the old house. As he tore up the floor boards in the kitchen, he discovered the skeleton of a woman.



Newspaper clipping  
(To be continued in next issue.)

#### READER COMMENTS RELATING TO THE APRIL ISSUE

Great work.

Reuben Gauci, Head of the Representative Office  
of the Republic of Malta, Ramallah, Palestine

Thanks for the newsletter, enjoyed reading it.

Mary Camilleri, Blacktown, NSW, Australia

Thank you for the very interesting issue of your newsletter which is so important to keep the Maltese diaspora in our consciousness through very informative articles.

Paul V. Azzopardi, Valletta, Malta

**LEHEN MALTI**  
**(Maltese Voice)**  
**OMNI 1 Southern Ontario**  
**Saturdays 8:30 a.m.**  
**Mondays 3:30 a.m.**  
**Tuesdays 11.30 a.m.**  
**Wednesdays 11:00 p.m.**  
**Thursdays 8:30 a.m.**  
**OMNI British Columbia/Pacific**  
**Saturdays 2:00 p.m.**  
**OMNI Alberta/Prairies**  
**Saturdays 2:00 p.m.**

**PAUL V. AZZOPARDI:  
Financial Advisor, Stockbroker,  
Portfolio Manager, Author and Artist**

**Dan Brock**

I first met Paul Azzopardi in May 2016 at a reception held for the late Fr. Henry Cassano at The Maltese Canadian Club of London.



**Fr. Manuel Parnis, MSSP, Paul V. Azzopardi  
and Fr. Henry Cassano**

Dan Brock

Paul's Azzopardi and Sammut relatives have their roots in Rabat, Malta. Both families can be traced back to at least the 1600s. Like most Maltese, Paul Azzopardi can say of his relations, "We are quite a migrant family!"

One of his dad's sisters, Antida, and her husband, Vince, immigrated to Australia in the 1960s. Theresa, a sister of Paul's mother, married a British commando soldier stationed in Malta and settled near Ipswich, UK in the early 1960s.

In June 1959, Joseph Sammut, a maternal great-uncle of Paul's immigrated to Windsor, Ontario, Canada. The rest of Joe's family joined him that August.

Nicholas Sammut, an older brother of Joseph's, and Joe Borg, a good friend and brother of Paul Azzopardi's maternal grandmother, boarded a ship in the Grand Harbour, on September 18, 1939. The bachelors were planning to immigrate to Australia but left the ship in New Zealand. There, Nick married Edna, a New Zealand girl, but Joe remained single though living in the same neighbourhood.



**Nicholas Sammut (3<sup>rd</sup> right back row)  
and Joe Borg (4<sup>th</sup> right front row)  
Customs House, Valletta, September 19, 1938  
Group About to Leave for Australia**

Courtesy of Dinny Parnis, Melbourne, Australia

Joe and Nick had an older brother, Lorenzo Sammut, who immigrated to Detroit, Michigan in May 1920 at the age of 16. There, Lawrence "Larry" Sammut later married a German woman and had two children, Charles Albert and Teresa.

As for the Sammut brothers' grandnephew, Paul Azzopardi, he was married to Jennifer nee Farrugia with two children, Warren Paul and Marie Claire, when he immigrated to Ontario in July 2006. Like his parents, Joseph and Pauline (Sammut) Azzopardi, he too was born in Rabat.

Before immigrating to Canada, Paul had obtained an Honours BA in accounting from the University of Malta in 1983 and then became a certified public accountant.

He first came to Canada on a visa in 1985-1987 and studied finance and investments at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and obtained an MBA at first class level.

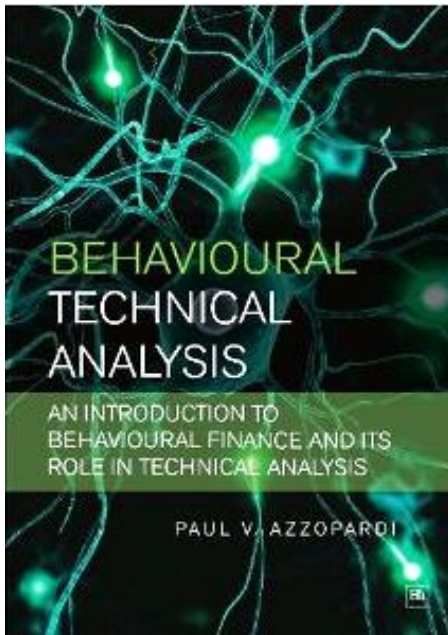
After his return to Malta, he became co-founder and managing director of Azzopardi Investment Management Limited in 1987. In 2006 he sold this firm and moved to Oakville, Ontario.

Meanwhile, he wrote the "Market View" column in *The Times of Malta* for 16 years. He was also a visiting lecturer at the University of Malta. The first of his three books, *Investment and Finance – a Common Sense Approach*, was published in Malta, in 2004, by Progress Press Publishers.

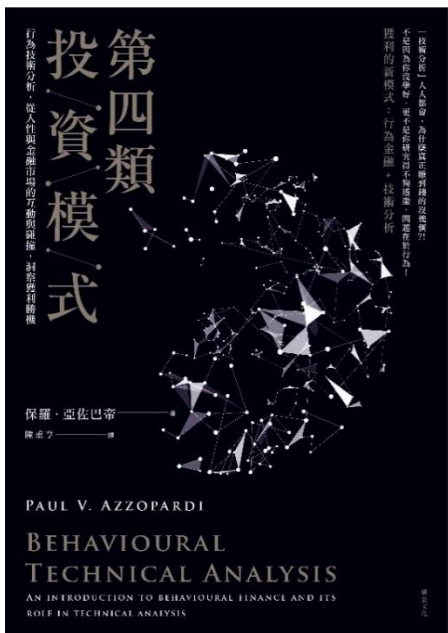
Between June 2009 and November 2012, Paul was president and portfolio manager of ConstantIncome Investment Management Inc. in Oakville. Before this he was involved in the research and writing of his second book, *Behavioural Technical Analysis*, published by Harriman House, UK, in 2010. The book was



subsequently republished in India in 2012 and in February 2020 a Chinese edition appeared.



2010 UK Edition



2020 China Edition

In addition to his financial and publishing endeavours, Paul found time between January 2010 and November 2012 to take calls as a volunteer at the Distress Centre in Oakville.

In 2012, Paul's third book, *Why Financial Markets Rise Slowly but Fall Sharply*, was published, again by Harriman House in the UK. This work was short-listed

as best technical book for 2012 by *Technical Analyst Magazine* of the UK.

In 2012 Paul joined an established fund management company as chief portfolio manager of funds and segregated accounts but in March 2015 the firm was sold. He also wrote regularly for *Canadian Money-Saver*. Moreover, Paul was an instructor for the Choosing Income Investments course, between October 2012 and September 2015 for the School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto at the Toronto and Mississauga campuses.

From childhood, Paul has been interested in drawing and painting and is largely self-taught. One of his works, a copy of the precious and miraculous icon in the Sanctuary of Our Lady in Mellieha, was installed in St. Paul the Apostle Church, Toronto, in 2016.



Painting Based on Icon in Mellieha, Malta

From 2016 to 2020 Paul served as board director at Bank of Valletta plc and on various board committees as well as board director on two other BOV group companies. This involved frequent trips to Malta to attend Board meetings, etc.

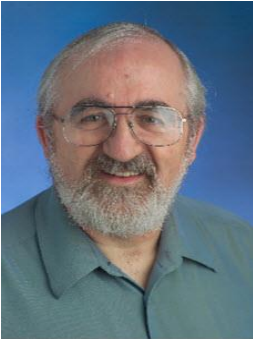


Paul V. Azzopardi

Earlier this year, Paul was appointed Deputy CEO of the newly-formed Malta Development Bank which has just issued a COVID-19 business support scheme. This has necessitated his moving to Malta, at least for the next few years. But his connection with Canada is still maintained. He still has his condo in Toronto and his now adult children are living in Oakville.

## A HISTORY OF MALTESE IMMIGRATION TO THE BAY AREA PRIOR TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Charles J. Vella, PhD



**Charlie's article "Maltese  
Immigration to the San  
Francisco Bay Area Project"  
appeared on page 20 of Issue  
1 (Jan./Feb. 2019)**

The first emigrants from Malta to the United States, apart from Giovanni Pace/John Pass, arrived in this country during the mid-eighteenth century via the city of New Orleans, Louisiana. Many Americans assumed Malta was part of Italy.

In some cases, "Born Malta, Italy" was put on tombstones of Maltese because of the confusion. (One sees this even reflected on immigration records in that Italy, not Malta, is used as the place of origin.)

At this time, and in the nineteenth century, however, the Maltese who immigrated to the United States were still scarce. In fact, in the 1860s, only between five and 10 Maltese immigrated to the United States every year. The majority of them were agricultural workers and, in the case of New Orleans, market gardeners and vegetable dealers.

In 1919, following World War I, Maltese immigration to the US increased. Thus, just in the first quarter of the 1920s more than 1,300 Maltese immigrated to the United States. Detroit, Michigan, with jobs in the expanding automobile industry, drew the largest share of immigrants.

It is believed that in the following years, more than 15,000 Maltese people immigrated to the United States, later obtaining US citizenship.

A significant percentage of early Maltese immigrants intended to stay only temporarily for work, but many ended up settling permanently. In addition to Detroit, other industrial cities such as New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Pedro, and Long Beach, California, attracted Maltese immigrants.

Later, after World War II, the Maltese Government committed to pay passage costs to Maltese people who wanted to emigrate and live at least two years abroad. The Island's government promoted Maltese emigration because of overpopulation. This program led to increased emigration by the people of the island and included the approximately 8,000 Maltese who arrived

in the US between the years 1947 and 1977.

The earliest references in the US censuses of Maltese in the Bay Area include the following:

1850 - no one born in Malta in San Francisco; only a total of 84 in all US.

1860 - seven people born in Malta living in San Francisco; but only one with a Maltese surname, J. Camilleri; only 14 in California and 118 in US

1870 - four people born in Malta living in San Francisco; but only one with a Maltese surname, Cassar (listed as Goss); only seven in California; 115 in US

1880 - 16 Maltese (seven Maltese surnames) living in San Francisco; only 23 in California; 188 in US

1900 - 11 Maltese living in San Francisco; 22 in California; 164 in US

1910 - 15 Maltese living in San Francisco; four families; 31 in California; 144 in US

1920 - 345 Maltese living in San Francisco; 66 families, a lot of sugar refinery (probably Spreckels' Western Sugar Factory beneath Potrero Hill), rope factory and wrecking company workers; there is a story that Fr. Theophilus Cachia OFM, who arrived in 1916, brought 200 Maltese to the Bay Area; there were 392 Maltese in California and 1218 in US

1930 - 590 Maltese; 264 families in San Francisco; almost all men were laborers; lots of sugar refinery, hog farm and janitor laborers; there were 668 Maltese in California and 4,527 Maltese in US

1940 - 640 Maltese living in San Francisco, 413 families; almost all men were laborers; 675 in California; and 4,399 Maltese in US (1,766 in Detroit; 1501 in New York)

Based on *The Great Exodus* (1989) by Fr. Lawrence E. Attard, pages 57-60, the following early history of Maltese immigrants to San Francisco is offered:

"Towards the end of the nineteenth century a few Maltese had found their way to the Pacific Coast of the USA. The report issued by the Emigration Committee of Malta on November 26, 1910, claimed that the Maltese in California numbered about two hundred.

"One member of that Committee, Dr. Charles Mattei, wrote that by 1911 he had helped five hundred emigrants to settle in North America, most of whom had told him that their final destination was to be California.

"Applicants who had received financial help from the V. Bugeja Fund between 1909 and 1911 had numbered about sixty-six men. Some of these intending emigrants had applied to emigrate to California.

"Two eminent members on the Emigration Committee, Professor Lawrence Manchè and Dr. Charles Mattei, were both strongly in favour of encouraging Maltese to settle in California. Mattei preferred the Golden State because that State was then going through a period of robust development where jobs outnumbered workers, particularly on the railroads. In 1910 there were Maltese employed by the North Pacific Railway at four dollars a

day. Dr. Mattei had been to California to see for himself and on one of his visits he said he met some sixty Maltese who had been in the State since 1900. These men also said that since they set foot in California they had never been out of work.

"The Royal Commission of 1911 had favoured emigration to British possessions within the Empire. The Commissioners however, mentioned California as one favourable exception to this rule and wrote encouragingly about prospects for intending Maltese emigrants to that part of the world. Most Maltese preferred San Francisco where they settled in the areas of San Bruno and the Bayview area, called "Butcherstown" [owing to nearby slaughterhouses]. In 1911 the Maltese population there was estimated at about two hundred."

"In 1913, the Malta Protective Society of California was formed to assist Maltese workers when they were in need and offer financial aid to women who lost their husbands to work place accidents (a form of Workers Compensation).

"In 1914 the Maltese community in and around San Francisco welcomed a Maltese priest to work there on a permanent basis. This was the Rev. Andrew Azzopardi[, OFM,] who soon organized his people into an ethnic parish. In 1915 the archbishop of San Francisco[, Edward Joseph Hanna,] bought a hall which had been built in 1874 and gave it to the Maltese to use as their own church. The hall was situated in the Bay View District. Eventually, the Maltese pastor also offered his services to other immigrants living in the area, especially to the Italians.

"After the retirement of the Rev. A. Azzopardi in 1919, another Maltese priest took over the running of the parish. This was the Rev. Theophilus Cachia[, OFM,] who had been living previously in a nearby parish. Both priests belonged to the Maltese Franciscans.

"Father Cachia modified and enlarged the hall. On February 12, 1922, the hall was consecrated as a church by the archbishop of San Francisco and was given the official title of St. Paul of the Shipwreck Maltese Church. The parish was situated at 1509 Oakdale Avenue.

"The Monitor' was the official organ of the archdiocese of San Francisco and on January 4, 1919, the editor published the obituary of a Maltese Jesuit who had died at the beginning of that year. The priest was the Rev. Vincent A. Testa who had been pastor of the Mission Church of Santa Clara. Father Testa was born in Malta in 1841 and emigrated to the U.S.A, when he was in his twenty-third year. He did his studies in Woodstock, Maryland, and was ordained in the U.S.A in 1874. He taught for twenty years in Saint Ignatius University in San Francisco. He died in Santa Clara and 'The Monitor' described him as 'one of the best known and most highly respected priests in California'.

"By the late twenties the Maltese population in and around San Francisco was about 5,000 (*CJV: error – only 590 by 1920 per US census*). When, during the Depression, emigration from Malta to the U.S.A. not only dwindled but also a number of Maltese decided to return to their country, the Maltese in California stood their own and were not as badly hit as their countrymen in Detroit and New York. According to Mr. Francis Grech, who was responsible for the Maltese Club of San Francisco, the Maltese in California were in a stable condition, even if some were out of work. That same club was busy with philanthropic work in the Maltese community. Mr. Grech claimed that the Maltese mixed well with other people, some men had married American women and most of them had decided to opt for American citizenship.



**Francis Grech, first president of the Maltese Club of San Francisco**

"Mr. Grech was himself a highly intelligent emigrant who had done his studies in engineering before he left for the U.S.A. He had worked on the Golden Gate Bridge and had been officially commended for his work. He was also very active within his ethnic community."

Towards the end of November 1929, 35 Maltese residents of San Francisco met to discuss the establishment of a Colonial Club. A committee was given the task of finding suitable premises for a meeting place. In January 1930, they rented the ground floor of a house at 1648 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco. The Maltese Club of San Francisco opened on February 1, 1930. That same month, a committee selected the first officers of the club: Francis Grech, President; C. Fenech, Vice-President; E. Micallef, Secretary; J. Azzopardi, Treasurer; C. Scicluna, Assistant Secretary; and R. Deguara, Assistant Treasurer. Hence, the "Maltese Club of San Francisco" was given birth.

An Inauguration Ball was held on opening day. "According to Mr. Grech, [the first president,] on the day the Club was inaugurated, most Maltese living in the Bay Area wanted to get inside. It was not possible for everybody to be accommodated and many had to be turned back.

"In his opening speech the President regretted the fact that some people had to be turned back but he assured

his hearers that his association was willing to cooperate fully with local authorities to help further the welfare of the Maltese living in the Bay Area. Mr. Grech also reminded those present of the importance of learning English if they wanted to be successful. He promised to organise classes so that those willing to learn English would be given the opportunity to do so. The President concluded his speech by auguring a bright future for the Club.

"In less than five years the Maltese Club of San Francisco had seven hundred and fifty enrolled members [although the census says differently] thus making it the major Maltese organisation in the area. The Club worked in cooperation with the Parish, and although Mr. Grech and Father Cachia did have their differences, they always put the well-being of their community above every other consideration."

Other Club members who were musically talented organized a jazz band which played at dances and picnics and even gave concerts. This "San Francisco Maltese Band" even played for the welcome of Archbishop Edward Hanna at his dedication of the St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church auditorium.



**San Francisco Maltese Band**

Photos from *The Great Exodus*

Very soon after, the "Melita Soccer Football Team" decided to join the Maltese Club, doubling the Club's membership. In 1932, the "Sons of Malta Soccer Team", as the Club's team was now called, won the Redmen Convention trophy in Santa Cruz.

"In October 1930, eight months after the opening of the Club, a Maltese Band was set up. The bandsmen, twenty-five of them, posed for their official photograph, resplendent in their new uniforms. The director of the

Band was Mr. Charles Fenech. When the bandmaster presented his first public performance, Father Cachia, the pastor of the Maltese parish, presented him with a Maltese flag. According to an observer from New York who happened to be visiting the Maltese community in San Francisco, the new band was the pride of the Maltese living in California. In March 1940 the Maltese Band celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the creation of the Parish. That same year was also the tenth anniversary of the Band and it was thought fitting to commemorate the two events.

"Charles Fenech wrote that the Maltese Band was popular with the Maltese and with the Americans. It was being invited for municipal, State and County engagements. In later years Maestro Fenech also set up a String Orchestra which played a number of hits which were in demand at the time.

"Besides the Band and the Orchestra, the members of the Maltese Club decided to organize a dramatic company which they named as "Vittoria". The director was Frank Cutajar. Plays like "Othello" were produced in Maltese translations because Frank Cutajar thought that there were many good dramatic companies in the area which were capable of presenting theatrical works in English. Only his "Vittoria" was able to give good entertainment in Maltese. Mr. F. Cutajar was also of the opinion that while integration was necessary there was no reason why the Maltese should lose their language and their identity.

"In 1930 Mr. Joseph Borg wrote a special play which dealt with the victory of the Maltese over the Turks in 1565. When the Club of San Francisco held its festivities on Malta's National Day, September 8, the play written by Joseph Borg formed an added attraction. The company "Vittoria" also presented three more plays in Maltese:

Pagliacciu,  
Il Kuncert ta' Teatrin  
Il Prinioli Misteriusi.

Mr. P.P. Vella was asked to give a lecture on the significance of the victory of 1565. When the talk was over, the curtain was raised, and a panorama of the Grand Harbor appeared. That scene was ably painted by Mr. Lawrence Camilleri. Then a boy dressed as a Knight of Malta, appeared on the stage to hoist a Maltese flag. This was greeted by a tremendous applause. Next followed the mystic prayer by the poet Dun Karm which was later to be adopted as the National Anthem of Malta: "Lil Din I-Art Helwa" which in English could be rendered as "To this Fair Land". The prayer was sung by the children's choir under the baton of Maestro Charles Fenech. The boys in the choir were dressed as Knights of Malta whereas the girls were in the traditional colors, white and red.

"Miss Esther Sherry sang her solo part which was enthusiastically received. She was asked to sing the

"prayer" again and again. Twelve tableaux vivants were presented. Three of these were received with great applause. The three depicted:

1. "Triumphant Malta Saluting the Blessed Virgin" with Miss Esther Sherry singing the Ave Maria accompanied by Mr. Charles Scicluna as violinist and Mrs. C. Frendo on the piano.
2. "La Valette Exhorting Malta" was presented by Emmanuel Falzon helped by his troupe called "Int Sabieha 0 Malta taghna". (You are so fair, Our Malta).
3. "Malta Mourning the Brave" which came as an epilogue to the raising of the Great Siege and the subsequent Christian victory of September 8, 1565.

"In November 1930, Mr. F. Grech, president of the Maltese Club of San Francisco, wrote to Malta to complain about the fact that his Club received no official recognition from the Maltese Government even though they did what they could to publicize Malta. He also mentioned the fact that his members had contributed a substantial sum towards the Malta War Memorial for Children. This they had done in spite of the hard times which were being experienced by most people living in America. Mr. Grech reminded his readers in Malta that Maltese immigrants living in the USA were working people who had to strive hard to earn their living.

"Mr. Grech also said that he and his members offered their assistance to those Maltese who arrived in San Francisco. He also pointed out that it was the policy of his Club to teach the children of Maltese migrants something about their culture and history. This they did by getting together on special occasions which were dear to the Maltese in Malta. Finally, Mr. F. Grech mentioned the activities which were being done by the "Vittoria" dramatic company, the Band and the String Orchestra and by their soccer team. He hoped to open a small lending library which would make available books in English and Maltese, to those who wished to find good books. The library would also help to combat illiteracy which was such a major drawback hindering the progress of a number of Maltese."

The Club's activities encouraged many other Maltese to enroll, so bigger premises became an indispensable necessity. In June 1931, the committee rented the large building, a former church, at 1789 Oakdale Avenue. The Club eventually bought the property, which remained its headquarters until 1995, when the Oakdale building was sold and the Club's present premises at 924 El Camino Real in South San Francisco became the Club's new home."

Emmanuel Briffa, the Montreal-based decorator of theatres, was born in Birkirkara, Malta in 1875, came to North America in 1912 and died in 1955 in Montreal.

## ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

**Dan Brock**

### The Bay Area, California

#### Maltese Heritage Association

Owing to the coronavirus pandemic, the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show scheduled for Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the San Mateo Elks Club was cancelled for this year.

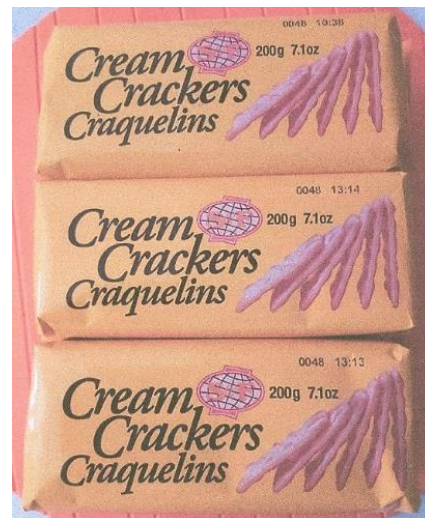
#### The Maltese Historical Society

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Elders' Luncheon originally scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled owing to the COVID-19 epidemic.

### The Greater Toronto Area, Ontario

#### Consulate General of the Republic of Malta

Cream Crackers Craquelins, manufactured in Malta and imported by S&F food Importers Inc. of Vaughan, Ontario, are sold in all 200 No Frills stores in seven Canadian provinces. They are also available in FreshCo.



### Lehen Malti

A Special Request

---

Lehen Malti would like to honour  
Front Line workers from our community.  
If you would like to propose  
someone you know  
Please send us their name and picture  
To feature them on our program  
Send to [lehenmalti@hotmail.com](mailto:lehenmalti@hotmail.com)

**New Feature For May 9th**

The Lehen Malti Group have proposed a new feature for the May 9th program. We would like to celebrate Mother's Day With you.

We are asking our viewers to send us their greetings for their Mothers via email to [lehenmalti@hotmail.com](mailto:lehenmalti@hotmail.com), along with a picture of their mom and her name.

We are also requesting a \$20 donation to accompany your request, and sent via e-transfer to the above address to air it.

The donation proceeds will benefit St. Paul the Apostle Church  
Cutoff date for receiving request is changed to May 2nd

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**



**Fathers Mario and Ivano Continue to Pray for Their Parishioners from within the Rectory**

**Maltese Canadian Cruisers**



*Celebrating Our 5th Anniversary*



**MALTESE CANADIAN CRUISERS**

**2020 Car Show Schedule**

**@ MALTA BAND CLUB**

5745 Coopers Ave Mississauga ON

**Sunday June 14th @10am**

**Sunday July 19th @10am**

**Sunday August 16th @10am**

**Sunday September 20th @ 10am**

**Contact: Club 905-890-8507 — John 416-524-2573**

**Maltese Canadian Federation**

Malta Celebration Day Imnarja 2020, scheduled for Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, has been cancelled owing to the COVID-19 situation.

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mission Group**

Owing to the COVID-19 situation in both Canada and in Peru, the planned trip to Huancané, Peru, on August 15<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, has been cancelled.

Other initiatives, such as the Group's commitment to help Bishop Giovanni Cefai in the new Education Facility in that city, will continue.

**Hamilton, Ontario**

The **Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH)** cancelled the bowling events which had been planned for Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> and the annual picnic scheduled for Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, owing to the COVID-19 situation

**Metropolitan Detroit**

**Maltese American Benevolent Society (Detroit)**

"I know the Figolli making class was rescheduled to the end of May for the Dearborn club but I am not certain that it will still be happening then.

Additionally, some really cool news from the Detroit club - Lou Grech-Cumbo recently hosted the celebration of Malta receiving the St. George Cross - he hosts a small celebration every year but this year it was done via a zoom call. This was a wonderful opportunity for us to not just connect with our culture, but to become familiar with what the St. George Cross means to Malta. Some of the people on the call included Representative Camilleri (D-Downriver), Edgar Grech Cumbo who is a docu-series creator of "Getting Worldly", and some of his scholarship award winners."

Rachael Darin

## Windsor

### Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

On Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m., there was a curbside pickup system in place for pastizzi orders. Kinnie, kunserva, qassatat and honey rings were also available, but in limited quantities. E-transfers and cheques were accepted. Orders were placed in trunks.

Another curbside pickup for frozen pastizzi and ravioli was held on the afternoon of Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Again, kunserva, qassatat and honey rings were available in limited quantities. Unfortunately, the club was temporarily out of Kinnie.

### Multilingual Airwaves Means Personal Dedication for Maltese Producers\*

**Richard S. Cumbo, O.S.J.**

Dedication, diligence, and perseverance are three ingredients which has helped to make the Maltese Radio program on CHIN Multilingual Radio a success. This April the programme celebrated its first 10 years. I say first 10 years because after interviewing the two gentlemen who produce the show it became apparent how strongly they feel about the successful continuation of the broadcast. The story of this Toronto-based radio show which can be heard throughout Southern Ontario is one of ups and downs and the main problem has been financing.

In the early part of 1971, Joe Zammit, one of the producers, had already been sending messages to Malta and reports for the Rediffusion in Malta. A friend, Joe Micallef<sup>1</sup>, solicited Mr. Zammit's support to start a radio broadcast for the Maltese community and Mr. Zammit readily agreed. The first contract with CHIN was signed by Joe Micallef and his wife Margaret and part of their responsibility was to personally sponsor the shows until they could find advertisers. Their first broadcast was on April 17, 1971 and news quickly spread to Malta of the success of the young program. Monsignor Philip Calleja, Director of the Malta Emigrants Commission contacted Joe Micallef to see if the radio could help to promote the popular rock group "The Malta Bums" which were touring the United States. The proceeds of their concerts were to be used towards the erection of a permanent building for the Emigrants Commission in Valletta.

Through this venture Joe Micallef and a few other individuals founded the Maltese Programme Fan Club. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Club. One of the original mandates of the Club was to support the radio program by promoting Malta's talent in Ontario through dances and concerts. Unfortunately, this did not continue, and in 1975 Micallef and Zammit asked the Toronto and Whitby Maltese organizations for financial support.

Initially this was successful. The first two years of the radio program looked promising and owing to their increasing popularity, Joe Micallef was asked by Graham Cable Television's Mr. Kip Moorcroft to start a cable television show. Joe agreed and the first shows were produced at the original studio at Bloor and Jane streets. When Graham moved to its new location on Scarlett Road, Micallef and Zammit held the first television telethon to raise funds for a kidney machine for Malta's St. Luke's Hospital. On one of the later T.V. shows, they had the entire Malta Band [of Toronto] on this set. Graham Cable claimed that it was the first time that such a large group had ever appeared at one time in the studio.

*(To be continued in next issue.)*

1. Victor Micallef, the Maltese-Canadian opera singer and member of the vocal group the Tenors (formerly The Canadian Tenors) is Micallef's son.

*\*This is reprinted, with minor changes, from the May 1981 issue of The Villager, Bloor West, Toronto, page A13.*

### PANDEMICS AND EPIDEMICS IN NORTH AMERICA DURING THE PAST 200 YEARS AND THE LAST MAJOR PLAGUE ON THE ISLANDS OF MALTA AND GOZO

**Dan Brock**

As we continue to face this COVID-19 pandemic and are both fearful and bewildered by it all, we should be aware that North America, and the world, has faced numerous pandemics and epidemics in the past and, for the most part, have survived them, albeit at the cost of thousands of lives.

I would like to list some of these deadly pandemics and epidemics which have broken out in North America during the past 200 years.

One of the pandemics we have had with us since 1981 is HIV/AIDS which has taken tens of thousands of lives in the United States and Canada alone. We also have memories of the H1N1/09 virus (swine flu) of 2009-10 and the SARS outbreak of 2002-04.

Other flu epidemics to hit North America have been the seasonal influenza epidemic in the United States in 2017-18 and the London flu of 1972-73. The Hong Kong flu of 1968-69 spread throughout North America. Of course, we are aware of the great Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-1920. North America was also hit by a flu pandemic in 1889-90 and earlier ones in 1857-59 and 1847-48.

Some of us can remember the poliomyelitis outbreaks of 1946, 1949 and 1952 in particular.

The United States suffered from yellow fever epidemics in 1841, 1848, 1850, 1852 and again in 1855.

The United States also had a typhus epidemic in 1832 and Canada in 1847-48.

One of the great scourges of the nineteenth century was cholera. It hit all of North America hard in 1832, the United States again in 1833, 1834 and 1848-49 and Canada in 1854. The Haiti cholera outbreak has been ongoing since 2010.

There have also been localized epidemics of note as well. Los Angeles suffered a pneumonic plague in 1924. The Bubonic plague struck San Francisco in 1900-04. It was continental-wide during 1855-60. Montreal had a smallpox epidemic in 1885 and British Columbia in 1862-63.

Dr. Raymond Xerri, Consul General of the Republic of Malta for Canada, noted in his message in the April issue of this newsletter, the plagues which struck Malta in 1592, 1675-76 and 1813-14. I will conclude this article by an overview of the latter, giving some insight into some of the measures taken more than 200 years ago to contain and stem one epidemic.

The Malta plague epidemic of 1813-14 (*il-pandemija tal-pesta tal-1813-1814*) was the last major outbreak of plague on the islands of Malta and Gozo. It occurred between March 1813 and January 1814 on Malta and between February and May 1814 on Gozo, and was officially declared to be over in September 1814. As Dr. Xerri pointed out in the last issue, the Malta plague of 1813-14 resulted in approximately 4,500 deaths, i.e. about 5% of the islands' population.

This particular plague outbreak had begun in Constantinople in 1812 and it spread to other parts of the Ottoman Empire, including Egypt. The disease was imported into Malta from Alexandria on board the brigantine *San Nicola* in late March 1813. Some of its crew members had contracted the disease and died, and although the vessel and crew were quarantined, the disease spread to the local population since infected cargo from the vessel was stolen and sold in Valletta. The disease appeared in the city in mid-April, and the outbreak was severe by mid-May.

The British colonial government took strict measures in order to contain the plague, although this was done too late to prevent the outbreak from spreading in its early stages. The urban area around the Grand Harbour was isolated from the rest of the island, and settlements with high mortality rates were cordoned off. Violations of these regulations were met with harsh penalties including death, and several people were executed for concealing their infection. The outbreak was particularly severe in the capital Valletta and its suburb Floriana, and in the villages of Birkirkara, Qormi and Żebbuġ.

The epidemic began to subside by late 1813 and it was believed to have been over by January 1814.

The disease, however, was inadvertently introduced into Gozo through contaminated clothes in February, and another outbreak occurred in the village of Xagħra.



**Hearse Used on the Island of Malta during the 1813 Plague  
Zabbar Sanctuary Museum**

Angelo Galea, a Gozitan who was in Qormi at the time of the outbreak, hid a box of clothes (including an *għonnella*) from the authorities and took them with him when he returned to Gozo in late February 1814. He died in his house in Xagħra on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, a couple of days after his arrival. Like the first case in Malta, it was not believed that he died of the plague and his funeral was held at the village's parish church.

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, Galea's daughter Rosa became ill and died soon afterwards at the hospital in Rabat (Victoria). There were fears that the plague had reached Gozo, and within a few days a number of Xagħra residents died of the disease. An outbreak of the fever was reported on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and it was confirmed to be plague five days later.

Thomas Maitland, Malta's first British governor, cut off all communication between the islands on March 8<sup>th</sup>, and the military was sent to cordon off Xagħra to prevent the spread of the plague to the rest of Gozo. The disease was successfully contained within the village, resulting in Gozo having a much lower death toll than Malta.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Joseph Said wandered out of his house in a state of delirium after being infected, and he was shot dead by the police. Another man was executed by firing squad, on March 31<sup>st</sup>, for concealing the disease. A farmhouse known as *tal-Qassam* located south of the village was requisitioned and converted into a hospital by March 19<sup>th</sup>. Known as the *Tal-Fewdu* plague hospital, it was led by the military doctor George McAdam. The dead were buried in a nearby field so as to limit the possibility of infection while transporting corpses. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, people who lived in houses where others had been infected were moved into a tented camp. The outbreak was already in decline by mid-April, but



McAdam contracted the disease and died on May 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>.

The last death from the plague on Gozo was on May 28<sup>th</sup>. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, family members of plague victims were taken to Ramla Bay and were told to bathe in the sea three times a day under police supervision. This was believed to disinfect them from traces of the disease.

The Maltese Islands were officially declared to be free from the disease on September, 8, 1814, and communication between the islands was restored on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **THE BORG FAMILY: FIRST MALTESE TO SETTLE IN LEAMINGTON AND LATER LASALLE, ONTARIO**

**Dan Brock and Mary Camilleri**

Among the 131 men who sailed out of the Grand Harbour on board the *Marine Perch*, on May 8, 1948 and disembarked at Pier 22, Halifax, Nova Scotia, on May 19<sup>th</sup>, was 37-year-old Frank "Cikku" Borg.

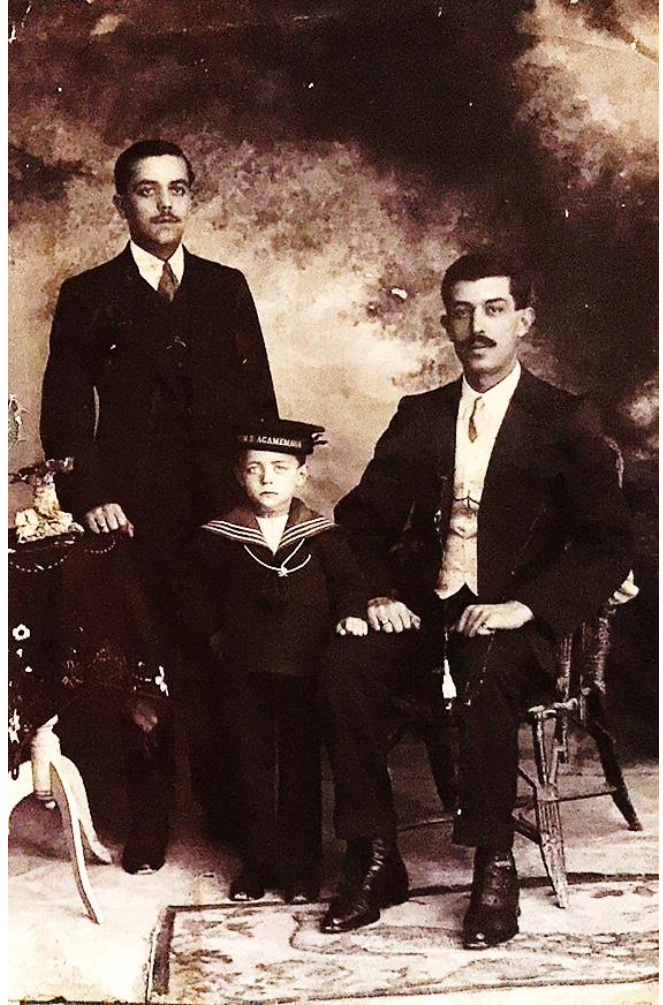


**Some of the Maltese Men During the Safety Drill  
on Board the *Marine Perch*  
in the Grand Harbour, May 8, 1948.  
Frank Borg Is Standing Second from Left**

Courtesy of late Frank Cauchi

Frank Borg was born on June 14, 1910, in Qormi to Bartolommeo and Consolata (Caruana) Borg. Bartolommeo "Albert" Borg, had been in the Merchant Marine and had travelled the world, visiting England, Australia, Canada and Detroit. In June 1913, Albert's

younger brother, Giorgio "George" Borg, had immigrated to Victoria, British Columbia. Later, he moved to Detroit where he became the residence caretaker of the American Social Club at 844 Michigan Avenue.



**Young Frank Borg, about 1916,  
with Two of His Borg Uncles**

After leaving Halifax, Frank travelled by special train with most of the other Maltese men to London, Ontario, where they arrived shortly before 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. (See photo on next page.) From there they were taken "in big army trucks" to the former World War II Royal Canadian Air Force bombing and gunnery station at Fingal, a few miles to the southwest of nearby St. Thomas. There, they were temporarily housed in Quonset huts.

It was probably from there that Frank and fellow Maltese passengers on the *Marine Perch*, Harry Fenech and Sam Bonello, went to Windsor, where they found employment and accommodation. While in Windsor,

Frank fell down a flight of stairs and was in a body cast for a while. Sometime afterwards, he was hired as a printer with the *Leamington Post and News* in Essex County to the west.

This move to Leamington earned Frank Borg the distinction of being the first Maltese to settle in this town. In his youth, Frank had apprenticed as a printer and book binder and later worked for Allied Malta Newspapers Ltd., the home of Malta's leading English language newspapers, *The Times of Malta* and *The Sunday Times of Malta*, officially set up by the Strickland family in 1939.



**Arrival in London, Ontario, May 21<sup>st</sup>  
of the Men from the *Marine Perch***

*The London Free Press*

Meanwhile, Frank's wife and children were living rent-free in an apartment on St. Ursula Street in Valletta owned by Mabel Strickland, co-founder and managing director of Allied Malta Newspapers Ltd.

Frank Borg and Rose Vassallo were married on January 28, 1940 in Floriana. Rose was born on October 26, 1915, in Pietà, the daughter of Joseph and Jane (Gatt) Vassallo.

Rose had three brothers who had immigrated to Detroit years earlier. Charles arrived in July 1920. Ten years later, he legally changed his surname to Vassar. Michael later followed suit after his arrival in Detroit. As for Tony, he accompanied Charles to Detroit after the latter's second return visit to Malta in 1938. Tony, however, returned to Malta sometime later. In 1957, he left his native land with his wife Romilda and their eight children for Melbourne, Australia. Their sister, Beatrice, who was married to Anthony Vassallo, immigrated to Toronto, in August 1952, with her husband and children.

In the intervening years between their marriage and Frank's departure for Canada, the Borgs were to have five sons: Tony, John, Bertie, Joe and Charlie.

Frank had a house built, by Johnson Noble, for himself and his family in Leamington. Once settled he was able

to send for his wife and children. Mabel Strickland even provided a maid of hers to assist Rose with the boys on the flight from Malta to Naples.

Rose and the children sailed from Naples, March 14, 1949, on board the *Sobieski*, and arrived at Halifax on March 26<sup>th</sup>.



**Wedding Photo of Rose and Frank Borg  
Floriana, January 28, 1940**



**(l to r) Bertie, Joe, Charlie, John and Tony  
with Their Mother Rose while Still in Malta**



**Rose in Front of Their House in Leamington with Some of the Neighbourhood Children and Tony, John, Joe, Bertie and Charlie (in kiddie car)**

Sometime after the family was reunited in Leamington, they moved to Kingsville, some 13 kms to the southwest. There, they became the second Maltese family as Paul Gaffan, who had also come out with Frank Borg on the *Marine Perch*, settled in Kingsville and was joined by his wife and nine children later in 1948. (This will be an article for the June issue.)

Frank got a job as a printer in Windsor and, by 1953, the family had moved to Front Road in LaSalle, now a bedroom community to the southwest of Windsor, where their daughter Mary was born. Not only were they the only Maltese family in LaSalle, but, apart from the Kornacker family, they were the only non-French-Canadian family.

While Frank and Rose Borg, "never went to social events of Maltese gatherings" they did maintain lifelong connections with Sam Bonello, Harry Fenech and Paul Gaffan, who had also sailed on the *Marine Perch* in May 1948, and George Bonavia and Tony Galea, who had come out on the *Vulcania* the following month, and their families.

Frank and Rose had three more children, in addition to Mary, after arriving in Canada. Frank and Paul were born before her and Manny afterwards.

On January 28, 1990, the entire family managed to get together to celebrate Frank and Rose's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Frank, Sr. died on January 26, 1992 and his widow Rose on August 23, 2006. They were survived by all nine children. At the time of Rose's death, there were 16 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Three of the children were still living in LaSalle, three in Windsor, one in Markham, one in Scarborough, Ontario, and one in Blacktown, NSW, Australia.



**Home on Front Road, LaSalle 1953  
(l to r) front row Paul and Frank  
middle row Charlie and Joe  
back row John and Bert**



**Rose Borg with Charlie, Mary, Manny and Joe,  
August 1958**



**(l to r) front row: Tony, Frank, Rose and Manny  
back row: Frank, Charlie, John, Mary, Joe,  
Bart and Paul**

## A Maltese Embassy in Ottawa?

Frank Attard\*

I remember vividly when nearly 35 years ago, on October 3, 1985, former Consul General of Malta, at the time honorary, John P. Pisani issued a press release to all clubs and Maltese organisations in Canada stating that the former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Alex Sciberras Trigona appointed him Consul General with jurisdiction over the whole territory of Canada.

I recently found the press release while flipping through the pages of the November-December 1985 issue of the Maltese Canadian Club of London Newsletter here in Toronto.

Canada is home to the second largest Maltese community outside Malta and yet the Maltese Government representation is limited to a Consulate General in Toronto and just four honorary consuls in some provinces, which cater for thousands of Maltese throughout this vast country and a Malta Ambassador to Canada in Washington DC.

The latter representation, for a number of Canadian Members of Parliament I knew and spoke with over the years with, is nothing but an insult for a great country such as Canada to be represented from the United States.

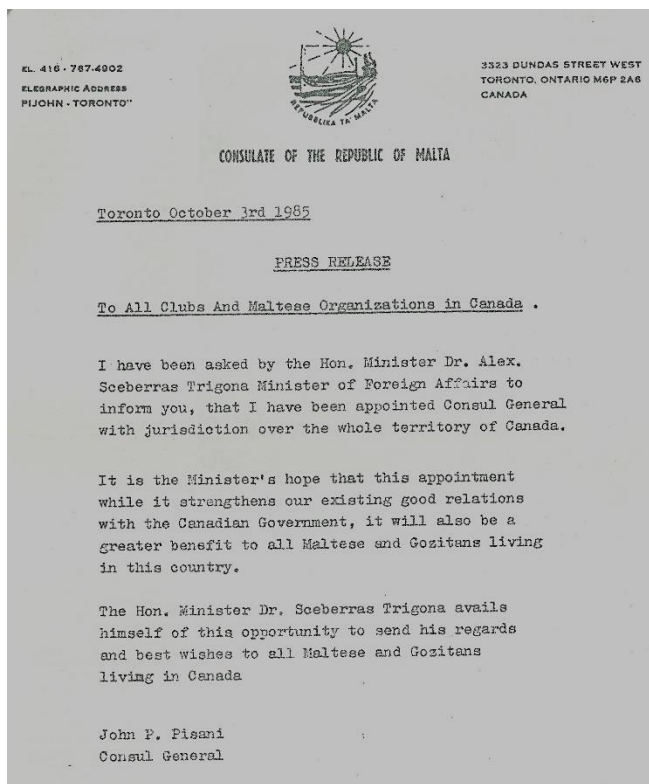
Why hasn't the Government of Malta ever considered opening an Embassy in Ottawa when in Australia where the largest Maltese communities outside of Malta live, there is a fully staffed Embassy in Canberra, a Consul General in Sydney and another in Melbourne and a number of honorary consuls in the other Australian States?

In the United States, where there are fewer Maltese than in Canada, there is an Ambassador and Consul in Washington D.C., an Ambassador in New York and Consul General in New York and more than a dozen honorary consuls in a number of American states.

Having worked as a journalist and programme producer of the only Maltese TV programme in Maltese in Canada for over 30 years, Lehen Malti, and after speaking to a number of my fellow Maltese-Canadian veterans we are committed to seeking the answer to this decades-old question – why didn't and why don't subsequent Maltese Governments since 1985 consider opening an Embassy in Ottawa?

Maltese-Canadians should not be treated less than Maltese elsewhere—we deserve diplomatic representation present in Ottawa!

*Frank's letter to the editor has appeared in the Gozo News, March 14, 2020 and Malta Sunday, March 29, 2020. Reprinted with permission of Frank Attard.*



### Consul General John P. Pisani's Press Release as Found in the November December 1985 Issue of The Maltese Canadian Club of London's Newsletter

#### Who Was "Mr. J. Robertson"?

Dan Brock

In his work entitled *The Great Exodus* (1918-1939), page 35, the late Fr. Lawrence E. Attard made reference to a "Mr. J. Robertson" whose father "had served with the Royal Army Service Corps and had settled permanently in Malta." This J. Robertson had been born in Malta and in a letter, dated July 7, 1920, stated: "I am one of the oldest emigrants from the Island of Malta. I have been resident of this country for twenty-six years. I give a helping hand to the newly landed, especially my compatriots from Malta."

Now from his letter, we learn that J. Robertson was living in Detroit at this time. But, could he have lived elsewhere in the United States over his more than 25 years of residence and for what did the "J" stand?

And then I remembered that the passenger list for the *Pannonia*, which arrived in New York Harbor on June 13, 1907, had two Maltese emigrants who gave James Robertson of 520 Center Street, Schenectady as their contact person.

Alfredo Bonnici was a native of Vittoriosa, living in

Paola and Giuseppe Castillo was born and living in Senglea. Bonnici, a blacksmith and married, was 33 years of age and Castillo was 31. The question is how did they know James Robertson?

As will later be demonstrated, I came to the conclusion that this James Robertson was the same person who was living on w 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan at the time of the 1910 Federal Census taken on that street on April 24<sup>th</sup>. He stated that he and his parents were born in Scotland and that he had immigrated to the United States in 1896. He was then single, boarded with John and Edith Delaney, both natives of New York, and gave his age as 36. At the time, he was a produce dealer in potatoes.

While I did not find him on the 1900 Federal Census, I believe him to be the same person who appeared on the 1920 census in Detroit.

This James Robertson said that his father was born in Scotland but that he and his mother were born in Malta and he had immigrated to the United States in 1895. He gave his age as 40 and declared that he was a machinist at an auto factory. His wife Mary stated she was born in Malta, as were her parents, and that she had arrived in the United States in 1916. The Robertsons were boarders at the residence of Napoleon and Josephine Doublet who had immigrated to the United States in 1910 and 1913 respectively.

Further research on Ancestry turned up Roberson's declaration of intention, dated June 24, 1922. Here he stated that he was born in Malta on December 8, 1876, and that he had arrived at New York, on board the *Majestic* on June 24, 1896. A subsequent search of the passenger list for the *Majestic*, which docked on June 25, 1896, did not list Robertson's name as a passenger.

He does appear on his passport application, dated May 29, 1896, in the form of his baptismal certificate issued the day before. Here, it was learned that he was born in Cospicua, on December 8, 1876, that he was baptized James Salvator Carmel Joseph Anthony Robertson and that his parents were James and M. Concepta (Lepre) Robertson. (See next page)

The declaration of intention, dated June 24, 1922, also stated that he was still a machinist but now lived at 321 La Belle Avenue, Highland Park, a suburb of Detroit. It also stated that his wife Mary had been born in Detroit.

Robertson's marriage record revealed that he was married on August 21, 1919, by a justice of the peace in

*The Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc. (M.A.B.S.I.) of Detroit dates back to 1930. By 1940, it was known as the Maltese American Social Club and its headquarters was at 844 Michigan Avenue. Its present name existed by 1952. In 1963 the Society moved to its present locatation at 1832 Michigan Avenue.*

Detroit and that his parents were James Robertson and the former. Alice Lepre. His bride gave her name as Mary Mizzi, the daughter of Joseph and the former Mary Attard. She further stated she was 29 years of age, had previously been married and lived in Highland Park, MI.

The passenger list for the *Patria* reveals that Maria Mizzi sailed from Naples on September 2, 1916 and arrived in New York Harbour on September 19<sup>th</sup>. She was listed as age 26, a housewife and the daughter of Giuseppe Cardona. Thus, we know that Mizzi was Maria or Mary's married name. With her was her sister, Evangelista Cardona, age 24. They were joining Guiseppe Vassar (aka Vassallo?) and his wife who lived at 233 Turnbull Avenue in Highland Park, MI. Interestingly Vassar is denoted as "father by adoption" of both women.

Maria (Cardona) Mizzi's passport application and accompanying documents reveal that she was born in Victoria, Gozo, on Nov. 21, 1889, and on October 26, 1902 had married Antonio Mizzi in the same city.

Both the 1930 and 1940 Federal Censuses denote that the Robertsons had a daughter, Lillian C. Robertson. A family history on Ancestry reveals that Lillian Cecilia Robertson was born in Highland Park on September 5, 1920 and in 1965 was married in David Mead (aka Dee Campbell, Jr. on Bahrain Island in Bahrain.

The Michigan Death Records reveal that James Robertson died in Detroit, at the age of 73, on March 1, 1950. He was living at 3794 Crane Street at the time.

The fact that not all of these "facts," recorded over time agree should be no surprise, at least to those researching such documents. People were sometimes mistaken and at other times deliberately lied.

What we can now say with certainty, however, is that "Mr. J. Robertson" of Detroit was in fact James Robertson, the son of James and M. Concepta "Alice" (Lepre) Robertson, who was born in Cospicua, Malta, on December 8, 1876 and who died in Detroit on March 1, 1950.

*Vincent Camilleri was born in Valletta, Malta, on May 28, 1885. His father was Michele Camilleri In May 1916 Vincent came to the United States, having travelled from Naples to New York on the Patria. He accompanied Maria (Cardona) Mizzi and her younger sister Evangelista Cardona. All three were going to the residence of Guiseppe Vassar who lived at 233 Turnbull Avenue in Highland Park near Detroit. Vassar was a friend of Camilleri. On November 1, 1921, Vincent married a woman, Carmela, with a six-year-old son, Frank. Carmela and Frank joined Vincent in the summer of 1923.*



Mr James Robertson  
son of Mr James  
Robertson aged  
19 years

1118  
29 5. 96

New York New York

UNIVERSIS ac singulis his litteris inspecturis fidem fieri ac Usum  
Ego subscriptus Vicarius Curiae SANCTI PERINSIGNIS COL  
LEGIATL PAROCHIALIS ECCLESIAE de titulo IMMACULATI  
CONCEPTIONIS BEATAE MARIAE VIRGINIS CIVITATIS CONSU  
ET in hunc tenorem quod tenetur signis No 18.

In 1896 notum hunc modo sequitur

Anno Domini Millesimo de (millesimo) Septuagesimo Secundo  
sive 1876 in die Duodecimo (12) mensis Decembris  
Admodum Reverendi Domini Antonius Arch. Coad. Albanese deff  
pro Curia de ...  
baptizavit in forma ...  
et M. Concepta Lepre  
Jacobus, Salvator, Carmelus, Joseph, Antonius

Patris in Georgius Darmanin } de Civ. Neapolitano  
Matris Rosa Vella figlia Sanita }

In quorum fidem ...  
Datum in Aula Capituli et pro loco SANCTI PERINSIGNIS COLLEGIATL ECCLESIAE

Mensis Junii 28 Mensis Maii An Domini 1896  
P. M. Josephus ...  
Vicarius Curiae

Baptismal  
Certificate  
of James  
Robertson  
Submitted  
as His  
Passport  
Dated May  
29, 1896  
Courtesy of  
National  
Archives of  
Malta

## MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA TO CANADA

**Il-bniedem jipproponi u Alla jiddisponi ... nkomplu  
nagħmlu s-sagrifiċju u nieħdu ħsieb xulxin**



**Dr. Raymond Xerri,  
Il-Konslu Ġenerali /  
Consul General**

Aħna l-Maltin u l-Għawdxin nħobbu nużaw l-espressjoni, 'il-bniedem jipproponi u Alla jiddisponi,' kull meta fil-ħajja kellna pjanijiet grandjużi u ma' jirnexxielek tagħmel xejn minħabba xi ħaġa 'l hinn mill-kontroll tagħhna. Hekk qed jiġri f'din il-gwerra li għaddejnin minnha tal-imxija COVID19.

Il-Konsulat Ġenerali ta' Malta fil-Kanada kellu pjanat lista twila ta' inizjattivi li bilfors riedu jiġu posponuti għal xi darb'oħra fil-futur. Fost dawn l-inizjattivi huwa l-kontinwazzjoni tal-program *Consul-on-the-move* fejn il-Konslu Ġenerali kien ser imur fil-provincji ta' Alberta u British Columbia fejn kien ser jattendi għall-ħtiġijiet konsolari tal-ħafna Maltin u Għawdxin li jgħixu Calgary, Edmonton u Vancouver; tħasret it-tnedija ta' żewġ esibizzjonijiet mill-isbaħ minn Malta kif ukoll iż-żjarat ta' diversi persunaġġi minn Malta, Għawdex u mill-Peru.

### **'Ix-Xitan ma' għandux ħalib'**

M'hemmx x'tagħmel, hekk ried il-Mulej. Espressjoni oħra li nużaw hi, 'ix-Xitan ma' għandux ħalib,' għal meta l-affarijiet li nkunu pplanana ma' jirnexxux. Inizjattiva oħra milqutgħa ħażin u li kienet ser tinvolvi lill-komunita' Maltija-Kanadiża kollha, kien il-proġett li ħolom l-Isqof Għawdxin, l-E.T. Giovanni Cefai li jinsab fil-Peru, fil-belt ta' Huaracane, ippreparata u kkordinata mill-Grupp tal-Missjoni tal-Parroċċa Maltija-Kanadiża ta' l-Apostlu San Pawl b'koordinazzjoni tal-Kappillan Dun Mario Micalleff. Diversi attivitajiet oħra tħasru bħalma huma l-Festi, diversi ikliet barra u ġewwa f'diversi bliet, kollox spiċċa 'baħar'.

Anke l-Ħames Konvenzjoni għall-Maltin li jgħixu Barra minn Malta li kienet ser tiġi organizzata bejn 6-7 t'Ottubru 2020 ġiet posposta għal Ottubru 2021. X'iridu nagħmlu, naqtgħu qalbna? Żgur li LE. Huma żmien li nużaw il-ħin mod ieħor, mall-familja, nagħmlu x-xogħolijiet fid-dar li qatt ma' kellna l-ħin nagħmluhom, inadfu d-dar jew il-garaxx mill-affarijiet li ma għadniex bżonn iżjed u ħafna iżjed.

**Man proposes and God disposes ... let's look out  
for each other as one Maltese-Canadian  
Community**

We Maltese and Gozitans like to use the expression, 'Man proposes and God disposes,' anytime we have made grand plans and succeed in doing nothing owing to something outside our control. This is what's happening in this COVID19 war.



The Consulate General of Malta to Canada had a long list of initiatives to implement during April and May and was forced to postpone them to an unknown future date. These initiatives included continuing the Consul-on-the-move program where the Consul General was to visit the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia to attend the consular needs of the many Maltese and Gozitans that live in Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. Two beautiful exhibitions brought over from Malta were cancelled, as well as visits of dignitaries from Malta, Gozo and Peru. There is nothing we can do; it's God's will.

### **Il-ħidma tal-Konsolat Ġenerali tkompli bla heda**

Bħala Konslu Ġenerali tagħhom flimkien mal-ħidma tal-amministraturi, Karen u Denise, qed nirrispondu t-telefonati u l-emails kollha tagħkom.



Jien assistejt 'l fuq minn 420 Maltin u Għawdxin li kienu hawn il-Kanada fuq btala u minħabba li l-linji tal-ajru li bihom waslu l-Kanada, ħarsu jew waqfu jopperaw lejn il-Kanada dawn ħutna spiċċaw weħlu hawn il-Kanada. Dawn kollha issa waslu lura Malta, f'it biss iddeċidew li jibgħu hawn sakemm tagħdi din il-buraxka tal-imxija COVID19, min minħabba raġunijiet ta' saħħa, oħrajn studenti jew għaliex għandhom cittadinaza doppji, Maltija-Kanadiża u għalhekk jistgħu joqgħodu l-Kanada kemm iridu, għaliex il-Kanada pajjizhom ukoll.

Għal darb'ohra l-Kalendarju tal-Attivajiet Maltin-Kanadiżi għax-xahar ta' Mejju mhux ser jiġi ppubblikat għaliex l-attivijiet kollha ġew kkancellati. Post il-Kalendarju ħadu program ta' ħidma. Bħala Konslu Ġenerali tagħkom qiegħed nagħmel wegħda miegħi nnifsi li waqt li nkun naħdem mid-dar nċempel 'fuq minn 20 telefonata sabiex inżomm kuntatt ma jaqta' qatt magħkom. S'issa ċempilt lill-membri tal-kleru tal-Parroċċa tal-Knisja Malta-Kanadiża ta' San Pawl Appostlu, lill-membri tal-Federazzjoni Maltija-Kanadiża, lill-membri tal-Klabbs u tal-għaqdiet kollha, lill-Konsli Onorarji Maltin madwar il-Kanada, qassissin, sorrijiet, reliġjużi, studenti, pensjonati u anzjani fil-djar tal-anzjani u fid-djarhom.

Nieħu ġost meta nċempel li xi persuna anzjana u tkun sorpriża għaliha li ċempiliha, ninduna li tkun tgħix hija kerha u tista' tkun ta' tbatija daqs il-mard fil-bniedem. Tħallix ġurnata tagħdi li maċ-ċempilx lill-għandix

### **'Ix-Xitan ma' għandux ħalib' (The devil has no milk)**

Another popular expression is, 'The Devil has no milk' meaning the devil is at work against our wishes, stopping our dreams from becoming reality. One other great initiative that had to be cancelled belongs to the whole Maltese-Canadian Community, dreamt by the Gozitan Bishop, H.E. Giovanni Cefai who serves in Peru, in the city of Huanané, prepared and coordinated by the St Paul The Apostle Mission Group led by Pastor Fr Mario Micallef. A number of other activities have been cancelled. Feasts and various dinner dances inside and outside in different Canadian cities are all off the radar for now.

Even the Fifth Convention for Maltese Living Abroad, which was going to be organised in Malta between 6-7 October 2020, is now postponed to October 2021. What are we to do, give up? Certainly NO. It is an opportunity to utilise time with family, doing odd jobs, such a house and garage cleaning, that were left undone owing to not having enough time.

### **The tireless work of your Consulate General**

As your Consul General, along with the good work of the administrators, Karen and Denise, we are answering and responding to all your calls and emails. We have assisted over 420 Maltese and Gozitans who were in Canada from Malta for one reason or another, on holiday, visiting family, studying, working, etc, because the airlines they booked their return flight to Malta with either stopped operations and/or cancelled flights, leaving them stuck in Canada. Now nearly all have arrived back home, with the exception of a few who stayed here in Canada to weather out COVID-19 and some for health reasons. Others are students. Most have dual citizenship, Maltese and Canadian, therefore allowing them to stay in Canada as long as they like, since Canada is also their country.

For another month, the Maltese-Canadian Calendar of Events will not be compiled and published, since all community events have been cancelled. Instead of compiling the Calendar, I took the initiative of calling at least 20 Maltese-Canadians everyday while working from home. So far I called the clergy of the St Paul The Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish, members of the Maltese-Canadian Federation, members of all the clubs and associations, Honourary Consuls of Malta throughout Canada, Maltese priests and nuns, religious, students, pensioners and the elderly in their own homes and in the homes for the elderly.

I enjoy calling elderly or lonely people and they sound surprised that the Consul General is calling them to see how they are. I realise that most are lonely and are thrilled to talk and such a phone call makes their day. The more time passes in the shadow of COVID-19 the



bżonn xi haġa, forsi xi xirja jew wehdha, u li t-telefonata tiegħi tkun bħal wens mixtieq u aktar maddum it-telefonata ninduna kemm tkun mixtieq il-maddum it-telefonata ninduna kemm tkun mixtieq il-persuna n-naħa l-oħra tat-telefon li tkellem lil xi ħadd u aktar nagħmel kuraġġ li ndum inkellha. Aktar ma jagħdi ż-żmien taħt is-sħaba tal-imxija COVID19 aktar qiegħed ninduna kemm is-solitudni medicina, għamli l-isforz biex tgħinhom.

U jekk inti persuna li ma' għandek li HADD, bħalma skoprejt f'dawn l-aħħar ġimgħat, għandna diversi persuni Maltin u Għawdxin f'diversi partijiet tal-Kanada jgħixu wehidhom u f'numru ta' djar tal-anzjani, jekk ma' nkunx ċempiltihom jien, ċempelli fuq 416 832 4607. Jiena kommess li nkompli jkun qrib tagħkom aktar minn qatt f'dan iż-żmien ta' iżolament qabel bil-mezzi tat-telekommunikazzjoni u t-teknoloġija.

### **Il-COVID19 serqetilha l-eroj tagħna**

Għadna f'stat ta' gwerra u qed niskopru li ħafna minn dawk li mietu s'issa mill-COVID19 huma l-persuni anzjani, vulnerabli fil-djar tal-anzjani. Irrnexxiehomm jiskansaw it-Tieni Gwerra Dinija, ħafna ġgieldu f'diversi gwerr, tal-Koreja, Vietnam, u oħrajn, dawn il-persuni huma n-nies li bnew lill-Kanada li ngħixu fiha illum u fl-aħħar ta' ħajithom, inħatfu mill-COVID19. X'traġedja dik! Jaqbdok il-biki.

Għal grazzja tal-Ħanin Alla, pajjiżna, Malta hija fost l-aktar pajjiżi li sa issa jiffaċċjali u ffrontat il-COVID19 bil-għaqqal u kellna riżultati fost l-aqwa fi-dinja, u ta' dan ġiet rrikonoxxutat internazzjonalment mill-Organizzazzjoni Dinija tas-Saħħa (WHO). J'Alla nkomplu hekk u noħorġu minn din il-gwerra nvizibbli fil-inqas żmien possibbli.

### **Kuntatt fuq Facebook**

Il-Konsolat Ġenerali tagħkom minn meta nedejna l-Facebook webpaġġ qajla għaddiet ġurnata li ma' kienx ippostjat informazzjoni ta' kull xorta għall-konsum tagħkom b'informazzjoni, avvizi, dwar l-istorji u attivajiet fil-komunita' Maltija-Kanadiża, personaġġi Maltin u Għawdxin li għamli isem fil-Kanada, videjos, ritratti u tant affarijiet oħra. Jiena kommess li nkompli dan il-proġett b'intensita' akbar u b'posts aktar frekwenti fejn ser niffoka fuq it-tagħlim tal-wirt rik Malti-Kanadiż.

### **Tinsewx tixtru wkoll min-negozji Maltin fil-Kanada**

Ixtri prodotti Malta. Meta tmorru għand tal-grocer, TINSEWX tmorru għand in-negozji Maltin biex tixtru qegħdin jagħmlu il-kumpliment tal-istaff tal-Konsolat, xorta tistgħu tikkuntattjawna jekk ikun hemm xi prodotti Maltin, dan mhux biss biex ikollna x'nieklu iżda' aktar u aktar sabiex nissupportaw lin-negozji Maltin biex intaffulhom ftit mit-tbatija u telf li jista' qed ikollhom minħabba l-COVID19 u meta tagħdi jkun għadd fadalilna negozji Maltin fil-Kanada.

more I realise that an elderly person living alone has suffering equal to one who has an illness. Do not let a day go by without calling your parents, brothers and sisters, neighbours and friends. Your voice is like therapy more powerful than the medication they take. And if you are a LONE person, as I realised there are quite a number in our community in different parts of Canada and in a number of homes of the elderly, you can call me at 416 832 4606. I am committed to be even closer than ever before to you all at this time of isolation through the means of communications and technology.

### **COVID-19 steals our heroes**

We are still living in a state of war and the more we discover who are the victims of COVID-19, the more we realise that more than half of them are our elderly, the most vulnerable in our community. These people managed to survive the Second World War, many fought a number of wars, from Korea to Vietnam, and these are the people who built Canada into the country it is today and at the end of their lives these heroes are being stolen from us by COVID-19. How tragic and sad! Thank God, in Malta, the situation is different. Malta has been recognised internationally by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as one of the countries that best handled the COVID-19 war. Pray to God the situation will improve and we are delivered from this invisible enemy.

### **Follow the Facebook webpage**

Your Consulate General has been active on Facebook ever since the webpage was established in July 2019. Not a day passes that I do not post information relevant to Maltese-Canadians: posts on information of all sorts, notices, posts about history and community events, Maltese and Gozitan personalities who left their mark in Canada, videos, pictures and many other factoids. I am committed to not only continuing this project, but intensifying the posts which will focus on exposing the rich heritage of all Maltese-Canadians.

### **Do not forget to support Maltese-Canadian businesses**

Buy Maltese products. When you make your grocery rounds, visit Maltese businesses, buy Maltese products and in this way you are ensuring that the future of Maltese products continues after the COVID-19 war. This way you are helping these struggling businesses in difficult times to manage to survive.

### **I am here at your service**

As your Consul General, despite being thousands of miles from my family and our country, I am here, amongst you, working from home as is the rest of the staff of the Consulate. We can be contacted, in case of

**Jien qiegħed hawn għalikom**

Bħala Konslu Ġenerali takom, jien qiegħed hawn fostkom, għalkemm bħalissa qed nařdem mid-dar kif qegħdin jagħmlu il-kumplament tal-istaff tal- Konsolat, xorta tistgħu tikkuntattjawna jekk ikun hemm xi emerġenza fuq [maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt) jew ċemplu fuq in-numru tas-soltu:- 416 207 0922 jew 416 207 0989 inkella f'każ ta' emerġenza fuq 416 832 4607. Jien u l-familja tiegħi nixtiequ minn qalbna nawguraw lill-ommijiet kollha, Jum l-Omm mill-isbaħ fil-10 ta' Mejju. Nixtiequ wkoll ġurnata mill-isbaħ f' *Victoria Day* (fit-18 ta' Mejju) jew National Patriot's Day f'Quebec, it-tluħ fis-sema tal-Mulej fil-21 ta' Mejju u l-Pentakosta fil-31 ta' Mejju.

O Mulej, bierək dejjem lil Malta u lill-Kanada u ořroghom minn din il-gwerra.

an emergency, at [maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt) or call at the usual numbers:- 416 207 0922 or 416 207 0989 otherwise at 416 832 4607. My family and I wholeheartedly wish all mothers a Happy Mother's Day on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Also, a Happy Victoria Day (May 18<sup>th</sup>) or National Patriot's Day in Quebec, Ascension Day on May 21<sup>st</sup> and Pentecost on May 31<sup>st</sup>. O Lord, always bless Malta and Canada and liberate us from this war.

*John Pisani was appointed to the newly-established post of Maltese Trade Commissioner and Honorary Consul for Canada as of May 1, 1972. On October 3, 1985 he became "Consul General with jurisdiction over the whole territory of Canada." He was succeeded as Consul General by Louis "Lou" Bondi in late 1986.*

**MALTESE ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA****Festa San Gejtanu Association**

c/o 5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga, ON L4Z 1R9  
647-232-8845

**Festa San Gorg Association of Toronto**

c/o 36 Sequoia Road, Vaughan, ON L4H 1W6  
905-216-8432/416-277-2291

**Gozo Club Toronto**

c/o 1205 Royal York Road, Toronto, ON M9A 4B5  
416-231-9710  
[gozoclub@gmail.com](mailto:gozoclub@gmail.com)

**Inanna on Stage**

[www.joannedancer.com](http://www.joannedancer.com)  
c/o 356 Pacific Avenue, Toronto, ON M6P 2R1  
416-707-2355  
[desertdancer001@yahoo.ca](mailto:desertdancer001@yahoo.ca)

**Knights of Columbus - Canada – Council # 12782**

c/o St Patrick's Church, 921 Flagship Drive,  
Mississauga, ON, N4Y 2J6  
905-270-2301 (Church)  
[stpatricksmi@archtoronto.org](mailto:stpatricksmi@archtoronto.org)  
Grand Knight Amadeo Cuschieri

**Lehen Malti**

<https://www.omnity.ca/shows/lehen-malti>  
c/o 2387 Chilsworthy Avenue., Mississauga, ON L5B 2R4

**Malta Band Club**

5745 Coopers Ave., Mississauga, ON L4Z 1K9  
905-890-8507

[www.maltabandclub.com](http://www.maltabandclub.com)  
[maltabandclub@bellnet.ca](mailto:maltabandclub@bellnet.ca)

**Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario**

2520 Seminole St., Windsor, ON N8Y1X4  
519-974-6719  
[maltaunitedsociety.windsor@gmail.com](mailto:maltaunitedsociety.windsor@gmail.com)  
Opening hours: Saturday 6:30 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

**Malta Village Association (Est. 1995)**

c/o 3256 Dundas Street West, Toronto M6P 2A3  
Tel: 416-769-2174  
Fax: 416-769-2174  
[maltabakeshopltd@gmail.com](mailto:maltabakeshopltd@gmail.com)  
att: Antonia Buttigieg

**Maltese American Benevolent Society**

1832 Michigan Ave. Detroit, MI 48216  
313-961-8393  
<http://detroitmaltese.com>  
Opening hours:  
Thursday & Friday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday 12:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
Sunday 12:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.

**Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn**

5221 Oakman Blvd, Dearborn, MI 48126  
313-846-7077  
[info@malteseamericanclub.org](mailto:info@malteseamericanclub.org)  
Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
10:00 am. – 1:00 p.m.  
Dinners served: Friday evenings 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
Before and after 7:00 p.m. first Friday Mass

**Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco**

924 El Camino Real, South San Francisco, CA 94080  
650-871-4611

[contact-us@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org](mailto:contact-us@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org)

Opening hours: Tuesday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
(every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month only)  
Thursday 5: p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
Friday 5:00 – 1:00 a.m.  
Sunday 9:00 am.- 5:00 p.m.

**Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH)**

c/o 381 Fairview Drive, Brantford ON N3R 2X7  
[mcach1964@gmail.com](mailto:mcach1964@gmail.com)

**Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo)**

c/o Trillium, Sqaq Nru 1, Triq it-Tigrija, ix-Xagħra  
Tel: 011 356 21560656  
[info@mcagozo.com](mailto:info@mcagozo.com)

**Maltese Canadian Business & Networking Association (MCBNA), (Toronto)**

c/o 2387 Chilsworthy Avenue, Mississauga, ON  
L5B 2R4  
416-980-1975  
[mcbna2018@gmail.com](mailto:mcbna2018@gmail.com)

**Maltese-Canadian Cruisers**

c/o 5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga, ON  
L4Z 1R9  
416-524-2573  
att: Gianni Borg

**Maltese-Canadian Cultural Association (Est. 2018)**

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON  
L5B 2R4  
416-571-3944  
[joesherry@rogers.com](mailto:joesherry@rogers.com)

**Maltese Canadian Federation, The (Toronto)**

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON  
L5B 2R4  
416-571-3944  
[joesherry@rogers.com](mailto:joesherry@rogers.com)

**Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre**

St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex  
3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A3  
416-767-7054

**Maltese Canucks**

c/o 3336 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON,  
M6P 2A4  
416-909-7357/414-670-2662  
[carl@isgtransport.com/b\\_azzo18@yahoo.com](mailto:carl@isgtransport.com/b_azzo18@yahoo.com)

**Maltese Center, NYC**

27-20 Hoyt Ave. S. Astoria, NY 11102  
718-728-9893

[info@maltesecenter.com](mailto:info@maltesecenter.com)

Opening hours:  
Wednesday and Friday 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Maltese Cross Foundation of California**

PO Box 698, San Carlos, CA 94070

**Maltese Culture Club of Durham**

c/o 124 Ribblesdale Drive, Whitby, ON L1N 7C8  
289-939-8377  
[mmpastizzi@gmail.com](mailto:mmpastizzi@gmail.com)

**Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area**

[maltesheritageassociation@gmail.com](mailto:maltesheritageassociation@gmail.com)

**Maltese Heritage Program (Toronto)**

c/o 59A Terry Drive, Toronto, ON, M6N 4Y8  
Coordinator: Carmen Galea  
416-766-5830  
[gormija@sympatico.ca](mailto:gormija@sympatico.ca)

**Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)**

[c/o leprofess@aol.com](mailto:c/o leprofess@aol.com)

**Melita Soccer Club Inc.**

3336 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A4  
416-763-5317  
[msc@melitasoccerclub.com](mailto:msc@melitasoccerclub.com)

Opening hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Friday 6:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6P 2A3  
416-767-7054  
[stpaulmssp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmssp@gmail.com)  
[www.saint-paul-maltese.com](http://www.saint-paul-maltese.com)

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mission Group**

c/o 281 Gilmour Ave., Toronto, ON M6P 3B6  
416-708-8627  
[giovanvel@sympatico.ca](mailto:giovanvel@sympatico.ca)  
[www.facebook.com/john.vella.1044186](http://www.facebook.com/john.vella.1044186)

**St. Paul the Apostle Youth Group (Toronto)**

3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON M6P 2A3  
647-524-1115  
[jason.borg@hotmail.ca/sborg@rogers.com](mailto:jason.borg@hotmail.ca/sborg@rogers.com)

## THE BORG FAMILY, ABOUT 1919



**Top row: Bartholommeo (b. 1882) (father), Frank (b. 1910)  
and Consolata, (b. 1880) (mother)**

**Bottom row: John (b. 1904) and Angelo (b. 1906)**

(See pages 21-24 for story.)