

THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 19

OCTOBER 2020



56th ANNIVERSARY OF MALTA'S INDEPENDENCE OBSERVED WITH A FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY AT MALTA PARK, TORONTO, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th

(Courtesy of the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada)

**The Maltese Presence
in North America**
Issue No. 19 October 2020

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

The past several weeks have certainly been busy ones as far as this newsletter has been concerned. Much has been learned concerning certain individuals who came to North America from Malta. Perhaps the most significant has been further information concerning the women who went to Jamaica. (See pages 15-18) A close second would be the account of the Mercieca family members who settled in Detroit. (See pages 7-9.)

Without a doubt, the most touching and agonizing article is the final instalment of the account of Carmelo Borg as written by his daughter Carmen Borg. She has done an amazing job in handling a very sensitive situation. (See pages 23-

25.) Fair warning, you might wish to have a tissue close by as you read this account.

Congratulations go to Lisa LiGreci. She had her October submission in to me before the September newsletter was even sent out! (See pages 5-6.)

I also wish to publically recognize Dr. Raymond Xerri, Consul General of the Republic of Malta for Canada. He has his finger on the pulse of the Maltese in Canada and continually keeps me abreast of what is happening within the Maltese Community in Canada, especially within the Greater Toronto Area. I would encourage other representatives of Malta in North America to share with our readers what is happening within their jurisdictions.

This month I'm grateful for the information received from the Maltese Canadian clubs in both Hamilton and Windsor. At the same time, I would like to reach out to the Maltese Center, NYC. This is about the only club in North America I have not heard from since this newsletter was initiated. As for the others, I realize little or nothing is taking place at present owing to this coronavirus pandemic.

I wish to thank the readers for their comments regarding the newsletter in general and the last issue in particular. Letters to the editor are also most welcomed and we have another one in this issue. (See page 4.) It goes without saying that opinions expressed by the readership are not necessarily those of the editor.

Once again, I have had an opportunity to profile a living Maltese personality. In this case it is Joseph Muscat who is both a visual artist and art and exhibition consultant living in Canada. (See pages 13-14.)

I'm always grateful to receive the weekly bulletins from St. Paul the Apostle Church and appreciate the thought Fr. Mario puts into his reflections, which I in turn share with you. (See page 3.)

Once more, I can be reached through dbrock40@worldline.ca, be it ideas you wish to share, etc.

I would like to wish a Happy Thanksgiving on Monday, October 12th to all those living in Canada. To our American readers, should the November issue not appear before November 3rd, my wish is that the most capable individuals are elected at all levels of government

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GLEANINGS FROM THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

Forgiveness

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS...



Fr. Mario Micallef, MSSP, 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.

There Is no Greater Love Than to Lay Down One's Life for the One You Love

....Jesus' steps took him to Jerusalem, and eventually up on the Golgotha. It was the greatest act of love, as he told us: there is no greater love, than to lay down one's life for the one you love. No wonder that Jesus then continues to teach the disciples about what being his follower means: it entails carrying the cross and losing one's life. I know that very often our understanding of "cross" is not what Jesus intended. Speaking of one's cross, Jesus never had in mind a sickness, a problem or lack of money. The cross Jesus carried on his shoulders, and the one we are expected to carry, is whatever it takes to live out a life of total self-giving love. Because, ultimately, it is only this that can lead us to real life. It is important to notice that Jesus does not speak only of losing one's life or of dying. These are not the end but, rather, a means for something better. It is losing one's life so that we will truly find it. It is dying so that we can experience the joy of the resurrection.

We Are One Body, the Body of Christ

...when someone is in sin, he is not in communion with the rest of the community. Remember that I can never be a Christian on my own. That's why the Eucharist, the sacrament of "communion" as we call it, is so central to our lives. Because in it we celebrate what we really are: one body, the body of Christ. Ultimately this is what makes our prayer effective....

The image used by the prophet Ezekiel...is very beautiful. "I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel" is his vocation. The watchman is always alert and, on the lookout, to make sure nothing bad befalls his people. As prophets, we too are called to watch over our brothers and sisters to help them from falling into dangerous situations.

Let's face it, we all go through difficult times in our relationships. Whether it's at work or college, within the family or with friends, sometimes we are going to either hurt the other person or get hurt by them. We all have different characters, and have different ideas, desires and priorities. We act differently and, above all, we all have our weaknesses which tend to get us into trouble. Without trying to trivialize the issue and make it sound simple, we can safely say that basically, when someone wrongs me, I have two options: harbor resentment or forgive. When speaking about this issue, I often hear people telling me, "but he/she does not deserve my forgiveness". Granted, but I believe that is where many people go wrong. Because, in reality, it is you who deserve to forgive the other person. Because unless you forgive, you cannot find peace; you are still under the power of the other person's evil action. You are not free!

Humanly speaking, forgiveness does not come easy. Indeed, it is not something for the faint-hearted! Our instincts tell us to seek revenge (which we sometimes disguise as justice), to get back at the one who hurt us. "Eye for eye and tooth for tooth", was the dictum in olden times. Jesus had a different policy. He, whose interest was in the whole human person and not just the spiritual aspect, knew that resentment never helped anyone. He lived forgiveness, and then he preached it....

....Forgiveness brings peace and freedom first and foremost to the one who forgives....we all need forgiveness. I know that I have wronged and hurt other people in my life, knowingly or unknowingly. I need to be forgiven and, as we ask God every time we pray the Our Father, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us".

God's Love Can Never Be Earned

....From the very beginning Matthew wants us to understand that the God of his Gospel is a God who gives us sunshine and rain not because we deserve it or because we do something to earn it, but simply because we need it. And since God is a good God who loves us, he gives us what we need, irrespective of how we live our lives. This is, indeed good news. Unfortunately, very often people tend to forget the fact that the gospel is good news. They turn religion into what we might call a meritocracy: I do good so that I can earn God's love and God's favors. Fact is God's love can never be earned. It's free and gratuitous. That was the constant message of Jesus throughout his life. God loves me not because I am good. God loves me because he is good, and that helps me to become good.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THIS NEWSLETTER

25 September 2020

What Am I Being Taxed For?

I just received a Malta Tax Form from the Maltese Government to file my taxes? For what? The last time I worked in Malta was in 1941 when I was still a teenager for 4 months before emigrating to Canada. I have less than 100 Euros in the bank and no property? I have not inherited anything. What is going on here, Mr Commissioner for Inland Revenue? Calling the Inland Revenue is like calling someone on Mars, no replies, one recorded message after another. When someone answers, the line cuts.

Does the Government need money? Well look for money elsewhere, I pay my taxes in Canada on the pension I earn and according to the Double Taxation Agreement between Malta and Canada, I either pay tax here in Malta or in Canada for the same matter, but not in both countries. This goes against this Agreement.

Who is catering for the needs of the Maltese return migrants in Malta? I appeal to the Department for Maltese Migrants within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to do their job, as it did when it was a Directorate and used to defend us Maltese who returned from other countries. We return migrants who came to retire in our homeland need a point of reference where we can air our grievances and government officials with stamina to defend us when we need.

Marija Camilleri,
Msida, Malta

MARK CARUANA AWARDED AN O.A.M. ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL...FINALLY

Dan Brock

Editor's note: Mark has been one of the principal contributors to this newsletter through his advice, articles and the sharing of his research, mainly pertaining to the passport applications and the earlier bills of health as held by the National Archives of Malta.

On Australia Day 2020, January 26th, it was announced by the Governor-General of Australia and Chancellor of the Order, H.E. General David Hurley AC that Mark Caruana of metropolitan Sydney, NSW was one of the 1,099 recipients of the Order of Australia and among the 549 recipients of the Medal (OAM).

As noted on page 10, in the February 2020 issue of this newsletter, Mark was to be invited to attend an investiture ceremony and be awarded the medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) (General Division) "For service to the Maltese community of New South Wales"

sometime in April or May of this year.

And then the coronavirus struck worldwide.

Consequently, it was not until Wednesday, September 9th, that the investiture ceremony in question, at which Mark was to receive his medal, was held.

Owing to the pandemic, the numbers in attendance were restricted and this was but one of several such ceremonies held for small groups of recipients. In Mark's case, it was held at Government House, Sydney and presented by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales. Mark was accompanied by his wife Antoinette and son Adrian.



Mark & Antoinette Caruana after being Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia

Rather than having the medal placed around the recipient's neck, as is the usual practice, owing to the present situation the honouree came forward and picked up the medal which was in its own special case on the table beside the Governor.

The investiture ceremony may be viewed by going to url www.governor.nsw.gov.au, clicking onto "Investiture Livestream" and scrolling to "Ceremony 4 Wednesday 9 Sept 2020." Mark's presentation of the OAM takes place some 13 minutes into the ceremony.

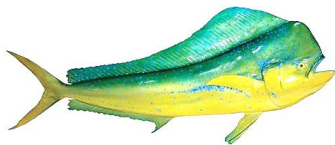
HUT LAMPUKI FIL-FORN BIL-PATATA U T-TADAM (ROASTED LAMPUKI WITH POTATOES & TOMATOES)

Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci



Last month Lisa shared with us her bigilla recipe. This month she gives us her lampuki recipe substituting branzino for lampuki.

It's finally lampuki season in Malta! I've ordered lampuki in Maltese restaurants during my visit. It is a delectable, Maltese signature dish. But what exactly is a lampuki fish? When I google my query, it says, "Lampuki is the Maltese name for Dorado or Mahi-Mahi". Both are common names for the dolphin fish. So, is it a dolphin fish? I'm confused because a dolphin fish is a very large brightly colored fish with a big head and large dorsal fin (not to be confused with a porpoise, which is a marine mammal that is commonly called a dolphin). When I google images of lampuki, however, it shows me two different types of fish: a dolphin fish and a smaller silver colored fish called lampuki.



Dolphin Fish



Lampuki Fish

So, which is it? For the purposes of this article, I'm choosing the smaller silver fish, because that is what the fish on my plate in Malta looked like.

From late August through December, lampuki migrate through the waters of Malta. Local fishermen use a technique known as *kannizzati* to catch them. They cut down palm tree fronds to weave into large flat rafts. The fishermen go out to sea in traditional fishing boats known as *luzzijiet*, recognizable by the brightly painted colors and eyes on its bow referred to as the Eye of Horus or of Osiris. They are said to protect the

fishermen while at sea.



A Luzzu

The rafts are then placed in the water. At around 12:00 noon, when the sun is high in the sky, the lampuki seek shade under the rafts. The fishermen wait until many fish have gathered before casting a net around them to pull them into the boat. This technique has not changed since the Roman times and is still used by some today.

I'm going to try and recreate the dish I was served in Malta for this month's recipe. Lampuki fish are not available where I live, so I will be using the branzino fish. It's the closest thing, in my opinion, to the picture of the smaller silver lampuki fish.



Branzino Fish

Public images from the internet.

Ingredients: (serves four)

- 4 whole lampuki fish, cleaned & gutted (your fishmonger will do this for you)
- 2 cups roughly chopped flat leaf parsley
- 1 cup fresh dill frond tips
- 2 Tbs. roughly chopped fresh mint leaves
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- ¾ cup water
- 30 green olives, sliced in half
- 5 medium-sized potatoes, sliced
- 5 small lemons (4 cut in half then sliced; 1 cut in wedges for serving)
- 4 medium sized tomatoes, chopped into 1-inch pieces
- 2 onions, sliced
- 6 Tbs. breadcrumbs (optional)
- 4 Tbs. capers, rinsed
- 1 Tbs. minced garlic
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. fennel seeds

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Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350° F
2. Prep your ingredients. Slice, chop, peel, & mince the vegetables, herbs, olives & garlic. (Save the stems of the herbs.)
3. Brush a large roasting pan with 2 Tbs. of the oil.
4. Make a bed for the fish in the center with the herb stems and 2 of the sliced lemons.



5. Brush the fish inside and out with more of the oil and season with some of the salt & pepper.
6. In a bowl, combine the parsley, dill, mint, & 1 tsp. of the minced garlic.



7. Fill the cavities of the fish with ½ of the herb mixture & remaining lemon slices.

8. Pour the water into the baking dish. Nestle the fish over the prepared bed.



9. Combine the onions, tomatoes, potatoes, olives, capers, fennel seeds, the remaining herb mixture, oil, salt & pepper into a large bowl and toss well.
10. Place the vegetable mixture evenly around the fish.



11. Roast on the middle rack of the oven for 1 hour.
12. After 40 minutes, sprinkle the bread-crumbs over the vegetables and continue roasting for the remaining 20 minutes.



13. You can serve the fish whole or remove the skin & flake the filets off the bones.
14. Serve with lemon wedges.



EDWARD MERCIECA WAS ALSO ON THE SOBIESKI

Dan Brock

Within hours of receiving the September issue of this newsletter, Carmen Parise of Saline, Michigan wrote that she had seen the article on Paul Said (pages 23-24) and went on to say: "My Aunt Carmen married Paul Said, who sadly passed away. I remember Censina, Paul Said's sister. My father Edward Mercieca was friends with Paul, and came on the same ship."

This intrigued me enough to check this out.

Sure enough, Edward Mercieca had come out on the Sobieski in March 1948, as did Paul S. Said.



Edward Mercieca's 1948 Passport Photo

Edward was 26 years old at the time, single, a ste-

ward by occupation and was accompanying his mother, Maria Carmela Mercieca, age 55 and listed as a housewife. They were both going to join Carmela's husband, Joseph Mercer, who lived at 1237 Perry Street in Detroit. Jean Picarelli, Carmela's daughter, was listed as the closest relative back in Malta.

Through further research on Ancestry and correspondence with Carmen Parise, Mark Caruana and Mary Borg, I learned more about the members of the Mercieca family who came to the United States.

Edward Mercieca was born on November 10, 1922 in Valletta to Giuseppe Mercieca and Maria Carmela Mercieca. Later, Edward married Mary Sant and had five children, including the aforementioned Carmen who married Mike Parise.

After his marriage, Edward moved to 2020 Junction Street, Detroit. He died in 2016 and was interred in Saint Hedwig Cemetery, in Dearborn Heights.

His mother, Maria Carmela Mercieca, was born on August 19, 1893, in Valletta to William Mercieca and Josephine Calleja.

Later she married her first cousin, Giuseppe Mercieca. Giuseppe was born on September 21, 1893 in Valletta to Giorgio "George" Mercieca and Elvira Borg.

Giuseppe described himself as a steward when he applied for a passport to New York in June 1920. His older brother, Richard, a merchant, born on November 18, 1890, had applied for his passport in early May of 1920. Both brothers, together with Giuseppe's wife and children, were then living at 56a Sda Zecca (Old Mint Street) in Valletta.

Richard Mercieca's Passport Application. Water Has Completely Destroyed His Image on the Photo

The two brothers made their way to Cherbourg, France where, on July 12th they set sail on the *Saint Paul* for New York. There, they apparently parted company, as Giuseppe was intending to join a friend, surnamed Azzopardi, at 307 East 63rd Street, NYC, while Richard was going on to Detroit where he had no apparent contacts.

Nothing further is presently known of Richard but within a year or two Giuseppe had returned to Malta.

He still described himself as a steward when granted a passport on November 30, 1927 to travel to the United States. Again, he sailed from Cherbourg and arrived in New York on board the *Mauretania* on December 27th. This time he was joining his friend Carmelo Magro who was living at 320 East 83rd Street, NYC.



**Giuseppe Mercieca's Photo
on His 1927 Passport Application**

This and the preceding document courtesy of
the National Archives of Malta

Giuseppe didn't stay long in New York as by February 1928 he was working as a machinist in Detroit and living at 2327 Trumbull Avenue. By this time, his name had morphed to Joseph Mercier and was later to become Joseph Mercer. On February 11th he declared his intention of becoming a naturalized American citizen.

We next find Joseph Mercer on the Federal Census, dated April 14, 1930 boarding at 2337 Harrison Avenue in Detroit with four single men from Malta. At this time, he was a messenger in a building. He stated that he was 25 years old when he married, thereby dating the year of his marriage to his first cousin as being about 1919.

For some 20 years, through the Great Depression and the Second World War, Joseph appears to have maintained a long-distance connection with his family back in Malta.

Meanwhile, he purchased the house at 1237 Perry Street in Detroit.

In late July 1947, Joseph was joined by his son Francis Mercieca, who was single and a carpenter at the time. Francis, who later changed his name to Frank

Mercier, came out on the *Marine Shark*, having left Malta on July 14th.



Frankie Mercier on His Wedding Day

Frank or Frankie was born in 1925. His closest relative or friend back in Malta was given as Frances Mercieca who lived at 139 Christopher Street in Valletta. He was later to marry Georgina Debrincat. The Merciers had no children. Frankie and Georgina returned to Malta, where Frankie died on November 6, 1993.

George, who was apparently the eldest of the Mercieca siblings, came out on the *Brasil* in July 1950 with his wife Carmela and daughters Mary and Josephine. From New York City, they took the train to Detroit and also found a house on Perry Street.

George was born in Valletta on April 17, 1920 and had married V. Carmela Vella, the daughter of John and Mary Melita (Muscat) Vella, on April 13, 1947, three months before George's brother Frank had left for Detroit.

Having dealt with George, Edward and Frank, this leaves us with only one other sibling, the aforementioned Jean Picarelli.

Carmen Parise and her cousin Mary Borg knew little about their aunt Jean, also known as Jennie and Gennie to them, other than that she had migrated from Malta to Australia, had children and lived in Roselle, a suburb of Sydney, NSW. Carmen remembered Jennie coming to Detroit about 1976, after the death of Jennie's mother in January of that year. She was accompanied by a daughter and granddaughter. According to Mary, her aunt Jennie died in December 2001.

While neither Carmen nor Mary could recall the name of their aunt's husband, who had died by this time, Carmen did know that he was a tailor and had taught his brother-in-law, Francis Mercieca (Frank Mercier) the trade.

I then enlisted the help of my good colleague, Mark Caruana of Marayong, NSW. Through him I learned that a Joan Picarelli had arrived in Australia from Malta, on board flight # AZ 1764 on February 28, 1967. She was accompanied by Mary, b. May 28, 1949, Edward,

b. October 30, 1950 and Mary L., b. Nov. 25, 1961. The address given for their destination was 1185 Elizabeth Street in Ashfield, a suburb of Sydney, NSW.



Jean Picarelli during Her Trip to Detroit, c. 1976

Now on September 9th the aforementioned Mary Borg posted a query on Malta DNA & Genealogy saying that she was looking for her cousins with the surname Picarelli who lived in Roselle, that the mother's name was Jennie and that she had a daughter named Karen.

Carmella Camenzuli replied to this query saying that she had found a Jennie Picarelli living in Ashfield with Joseph and an assumed daughter Loraine.

Carmella doesn't state the source or date of this information but I have come to the conclusion that this Jennie Picarelli of Ashfield is the same person as the Joan Picarelli who arrived in Australia in 1967 and that Joan's daughter Mary L. is the Loraine noted by Carmella Camenzuli. Thus, it would appear, at least to me, that Jean Mercieca had married Joseph Picarelli back in Malta in the late 1940s and that this is the same Picarelli, a tailor, who had taught tailoring to his brother-in-law Francis Mercieca (aka Frankie Mercier).

Now the Picarelli surname was quite rare in Malta, so rare that it is not even mentioned in Mario Cassar's *The Surnames of the Maltese Islands* (2003) even as an extinct surname in Malta. I believe that it originates in Malta only through Edoardo Picarelli, a musician, born in Salerno, Italy in 1884. He was living in Valletta by 1912 and at 160 Sda Vescovo (later renamed Archbishop Street) by 1927. Two known sons were Peter (b. 1912) and Carmelo (b. 1918). Both were born in Valletta and were tailors by the mid-1930s. It would appear that the Carmel Piccarelli (*sic.*) who came out on the *Asturias* from Malta and arrived in Australia on April 2, 1951 was the same person as Carmelo Picarelli the tailor. His destination was 3 Harnett St., East Sydney, NSW.

It is my belief that the husband of Jennie or Joan Picarelli, said to be Joseph, would have been a brother to Peter and Carmelo/Carmel.

Thus, the chance remark by Carmen Parise that her father, Edward Mercieca, had come out on the same ship as Paul Said, noted in the September issue of this newsletter, has led to the "discovery," again through networking, of several other members of the Mercieca family who also came to the United States.

HERITAGE LANGUAGE TEACHER

Richard S. Cumbo, O.S.J.

Heritage Programmes are made available to students of ethnic backgrounds in the language of their choice. These classes are set up with the co-operation of the Federal Government and the Metropolitan Toronto Separate School Board (for Catholic Schools).

Last summer, classes in Maltese and on Malta's culture were held in St. Cecilia and James Culnan Catholic schools. Owing to their success the classes were continued in December, 1977, through to May, 1978. This year the 160 to 180 students meet at St. Cecilia's School on Annette Street (Toronto, West.) The age group of the students ranged from four to 18 years, with parents showing a great interest.

Lessons were held on Saturday mornings for two hours. The teacher in charge is a former Maltese educational script writer from Sliema, Malta, Mrs. Antoinette Agius. She is assisted by her husband Dennis A. Agius, a linguist, Miss D. Zarb, and Mrs. M. Sammut. The students are divided according to age into four classes. Mrs. Agius stated that, as such, there is no formal curriculum. All four Maltese teachers, however, are former instructors. They are well experienced in filling the needs of the eager students.

Mr. A. Succi, the supervisor of the Heritage Programme for the Toronto Separate School Board has been very co-operative. Some of the text books were purchased directly from Malta. Mrs. Agius further stated that the relationship between the students, parents and teachers has been favourable. This was confirmed by the large turnout of parents at the May 27, 1978 open house. Mrs. Agius and her fellow teachers are appreciative of the Federal Government for encouraging the teaching of Maltese and the Maltese culture.

This is the first time that this has occurred outside of Malta.

**This article originally appeared on page 6 of Forum Melitense, vol. 4, nos. 3 & 4 (Summer-Autumn-Winter 1978). Some changes in punctuation and style have been made*

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

Maltin-Kanadiża – kemm intom fortunati u għandkom tkunu kburin bl-identità tagħkom fil-Kanada



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

Iċċelebrajna l-Indipendenza b'differenza

Il-kummenti tagħkom li kienu abbondanti u pożittivi ħafna, imlewni b'kuraġġ kbir.

Dan hu s-sentiment li ħassejt dak inhar tal-Ħadd, 20 ta' Settembru meta l-Konsulat Ġenerali ta' Malta fil-Kanada organizza Jum Malta fil-Kanada 2020. Immarkajna l-56 Anniversarju mill-Indipendenza ta' Malta b'dinjità minkejja r-restrizzjonijiet li gābet magħha l-imxija tal-COVID 19.

Bdejna biċ-ċerimonja tat-tluġħ tal-bnadar ta' Malta u tal-Kanada f'Malta Park, fil-Villaġġ Malti, fil-qalba tal-Belt ta' Toronto. Ċerimonja simbolika iżda sinifikanti u emozzjonanti għal bosta. Id-dmugħ tal-patrijottizmu f'għajnejna deher iqattar mal-bidu tat-tluġħ tal-bnadar u d-daqq tal-innijiet ta' Malta u tal-Kanada u finalment b'ċapċipa kbira. Din l-okkażjoni jġġib flimkien ir-rappreżentanti tal-Federazzjoni Maltija-Kanadiża, ż-żewġ klabbs u l-assoċjazzjonijiet kollha fil-Kanada. Huwa mument fejn l-identità u l-għaqda Maltija-Kanadiża iġeddu l-imħabba u l-lejaltà lejn Malta u l-Kanada u tkompli tradizzjoni sabiħa ta' għaqda bejn l-għaqdiet Maltin-Kanadiži kollha. Dan kollu sar fi għnien imsejjaħ Malta Park, li jinsab f'parti mill-Belt kbira ta' Toronto msejjaħ Malta Village, il-Villaġġ Malti.

Wara, minn ċerimonja soċjali u patrijottika għaddejna għal waħda religjuża u ta' ringrazzjament. Il-quddiesa solenni saret ftit passi 'l bogħod minn Malta Park, fil-Knisja-Omm tal-Maltin Kanadiži kollha. Il-fatt li l-Maltin-Kanadiži għandhom knisja f'parroċċa esklussivament tagħhom hija xi ħaġa li ebda komunità Maltija madwar kontinent Amerikan kollu māt tistà tgħid li għandha. Il-quddiesa solenni kienet talba sħiħa ta' ringrazzjament lil Alla tal-56 sena ta' Malta pajjiż indipendenti. Minkejja d-distanza soċjali li nponiet fuqna l-imxija tal-COVID 19, fil-knisja kien hemm sens ta' għaqda u umiltà quddiem ir-rigali tal-Indipendenza u l-progress kbir li għamel pajjiżna u ġensna.

Il-basktijiet bl-ikel u xorb tradizzjonali Malti kienu ċ-

Maltese Canadians – you are really lucky and should be proud of what you have and of your identity

We celebrated Malta's Independence with a difference

Your many positive comments fill me with courage to do more.

This is the sentiment I felt on Sunday, September 20th when the Consulate General of Malta in Canada organised Malta Day Canada 2020. We marked the 56th Anniversary since Malta's Independence with dignity despite the COVID19 restrictions.

We started the ceremony of the flag-raising of the Maltese and Canadian flags in Malta Park, in the heart of Toronto. A symbolic ceremony, but a significant and an emotional one for many. Patriotic tears trickled down our eyes from the minute the flags and anthems of Malta and Canada were hoisted on the poles and uttered from our voices ending with a lengthy clap. This occasion brings together representatives of the Maltese-Canadian Federation, the two GTA clubs and the other associations in Canada. It is a moment where Maltese Canadian identity and unity recharges the love and loyalty towards Malta the homeland and Canada our adopted land and continues the beautiful tradition of unity amongst all Maltese Canadians everywhere. All this happened in Malta Park, situated in a place called Malta Village in the heart of a great city, Toronto. Maltese Canadians are lucky to have a Malta Village, a Malta Park and the fulcrum of their Maltese Canadian identity – The St Paul The Apostle Maltese Canadian Parish and Church.

Afterwards we continued from a social and patriotic ceremony to a religious and thanksgiving one. Solemn Mass was celebrated just a few steps away from Malta Park in the mother-church of all Maltese Canadians. The fact that Maltese Canadians have a church and parish exclusively theirs is a situation no Maltese Community in the entire Western Hemisphere can claim to have. The Solemn Mass was an entire prayer of thanksgiving to God for the 56 years of Malta as an independent country. Despite the social distancing imposed by COVID19, the sense of unity, sense of humility in front of the gift of independence and huge progress registered over these decades in Malta and its people was very much felt in the St Paul The Apostle Church.

Bags stocked with traditional Maltese food and drink was the cherry on that day's cake! A very much welcomed idea by all. Pastizzi, qassatat, imqaret, honey rings, kinnie and more were given out. This tra-

ċirasa fuq il-kejk! L-ideja ntgħogħbot ħafna. Pastizzi, qassatat, imqaret, qagħqa tal-għasel, Kinnie u aktar, kollha jfakkruna fl-ikel li hu tagħna u li għalina huwa speċjali, u jgħibna ferħ u sens ta' komunità waħda, identità waħda, poplu u nazzjon wieħed – Malta u Għawdex.



Jum Malta fil-Kanada 2020 ntemmet bil-ftuħ ta' l-ewwel wirja li qatt ingabet minn Malta u ntweriet fil-Kumpless ta' San Pawl Appostlu f'Sala De Piro. Il-wirja kienet ta' natura storika li trattat l-istorja tas-servizz postali ta' Malta, imsejġha *'The Heritage of Postal Stamps in Malta.'* Bqajt impressjonat bil-mijiet ta' Maltin u Għawdxin, studenti minn diversi skejjel, akkademiċi u delitanti tal-filaterija minn madwar l-Provinċja ta' Ontarjo li marru jżuru din il-wirja.



ditional food reminds us that this food is ours and therefore special for us. It gives a sense of one community, one identity, one people and one nation – Malta and Gozo.

Malta Day Canada 2020 concluded with the official opening of the very first exhibition brought over from Malta and exhibited at the St Paul The Apostle Auditorium's De Piro Hall. This exhibition of a historic nature originates from a much-respected Maltese institution, the postal service, the Maltese Postage Stamp, therefore entitled, *'The Heritage of Postal Stamps in Malta.'* I was amazed by the hundreds of Maltese, Gozitans, students from many schools of different levels, academics and philately collectors from throughout the province of Ontario and beyond.



Are there feasts in Malta and Gozo in October?

Many believe that the Feast of Our Lady of Victories brings to an end the festive season in the Maltese Islands. This cannot be further from the truth since the feasts in Malta and Gozo are a year-round occurrence. In October, we find at least two feasts in Malta and two in Gozo. On October 3rd, we find the feast of Our Lady of Consolation in Valletta; the next day, October 4th, there is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary in il-Gudja; Our Lady of Pompei in Marsaxlokk and St Francis of Assisi in Tas-Sliema in Malta. On October 13th, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima in Gwardamanga is celebrated and finally on Sunday, October 25th, the Feast of Our Lady of Consolation in il-Gudja. In Gozo, the second Sunday of October. one finds the feasts of Our Lady as Patron Saint in l-Għasri and Jesus of Nazareth in ix-Xagħra.

Travelling to Canada from Malta is only allowed if its accepted as 'essential'

Since the resumption of flights on July 1st, 2020 to and from Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary and Montreal airports, hundreds of Maltese and Gozitans visited Canada for many reasons, holidays, such a visiting fam

Vjaġġar lejn il-Kanada huwa biss permessiv jekk hu essenzjali BISS

Mill-1 ta' Lulju 2020 meta reġġu bdew it-titjiriet regolari minn Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary u Montreal kienu l-mijiet ta' Maltin u Għawdxin li pprovaw jiġu għal btala fil-Kanada iżda' ġew irrifjutati u mibgħuta lura lejn Malta, għaliex iż-żjara tagħhom ma' kinitx ikkunsidrata bħala, 'essenzjali' mis-CBSA (Canadian Border Service Agency).

X'festi jiġu ċelebrati f'Malta u f'Għawdex fix-xahar t'Ottubru?

Ħafna jaħsbu li l-Festa tal-Vittorja timmarka tmiem l-istaġun tal-Festi fil-Gzejjer ta' Malta u Għawdex. Il-Festi f'Malta u Għawdex jibgħu jsiru s-sena kollha kif ser naraw f'dan il-paragrafu, fil-messaġġi u f'edizzjonijiet futuri. F'Ottubru nsibu mill-anqas żewġ festi f'Malta u tnejn oħra f'Għawdex. Fit-3 t'Ottubru jssir il-Festa tal-Madonna tal-Konsulazzjoni fil-Belt Valletta; l-għada l-Ħadd l-4 t'Ottubru nsibu l-festi tal-Madonna tar-Ruzarju fil-Gudja; il-Madonna ta' Pompei f'Marsaxlokk u San Franġisk t'Assisi f'Tas-Sliema, f'Malta. Fit-13 t'Ottubru hemm il-Festa tal-Madonna ta' Fatima f'Gwardamangia u finalment il-Ħadd, il-25 t'Ottubru nsibu l-festa tal-Madonna tal-Konsulazzjoni fil-Gudja. F'Għawdex fil-tieni Ħadd t'Ottubru hemm il-festi tal-Madonna bħala Patruna fir-raħal tal-Għasri u Ġesu Nazzarenu fix-Xagħra.

IMPORTANTI - Tinsix timla' l-formoli qabel issiefer lejn Malta.

Importanti li qabel tmur l-ajruport biex tmur Malta, tiegħu miegħek żewġ formoli maħruġa mid-Dipartiment tas-Saħħa ta' Malta sabiex tiddikjara s-sitwazzjoni tiegħek fir-rigward ta' l-imxija COVID 19.

Tinsix timposta l-Life Certificate

Il-pensjonanti kollha għandhom sal-31 t'Ottubru sabiex jimpostaw il-Life Certificates tagħhom lid-Dipartiment tas-Sigurtà Soċjali kif is-soltu jsir kull sena. Min ma jibagħtux jistà jkollu problemi sabiex jircievi l-pensjoni tiegħu.

Il-Festi l-oħra f'Ottubru

Nhar it-Tnejn, 12 t'Ottubru fil-Kanada u f'bosta pajjiżi fid-dinja tal-Punent tiġi ċelebrata t-Thanksgiving Day, Gurnata ta' Ringrazzjament fejn f'din il-ġurnata l-familji Kanadiżi jiltaqgħu u jiċcelebraw flimkien. Minkejja li mhix btala, il-Halloween jiġi ċelebrat nhar is-Sibt, 31 t'Ottubru pero' din is-sena x'aktar li jithassar minħabba l-imxija tal-COVID 19.

O Mulej, bierek lil Malta u lill-Kanada.

family, and were mostly refused entry into Canada on the basis that holidays and visiting family was not essential travel. Many were sent back to Malta by the CBSA (Canadian Border Service Agency). So before you book any flight to Canada PLEASE consult the Travel Advisory of the Ministry for Foreign & European Affairs of Malta in relation to travelling to Canada.

IMPORTANT – Do not forget to fill out the necessary forms before going to a Canadian Airport to travel to Malta

It is very important that you fill out the necessary forms issued by the Department of Health in Malta to declare your situations in regard to COVID-19 before you go to check-in at any of the four Canadian Airports bound for Malta. You can be refused check-in unless you have these forms with you and filled out.

DO not forget to mail your Life Certificate to Malta

All persons who received a pension from Malta have until October 31st, 2020 to mail their Life Certificates to the Department of Social Security in Malta as usually done each year. Those who do not send this certificate in time may have problems receiving their pension(s).

Other Canadian feasts in October

On Monday, October 12th, Canada, like many countries around the western world about this time of year, celebrates Thanksgiving Day, a day of thankfulness. Most Canadian families get together around the traditional turkey dinner. Despite not being a holiday,



Halloween is celebrated on Saturday, October 31st but this year might see a difference owing to COVID-19. O God Bless Malta and Canada.

**JOSEPH MUSCAT:
VISUAL ARTIST/ART & EXHIBITION CONSULTANT**

Dan Brock

Recently Joseph Muscat held a solo exhibition, entitled “Graphic Chats,” at the Propeller Gallery in Toronto, Ontario. (See poster below.) This show was originally scheduled for April 2020, and then we were hit by the worldwide coronavirus pandemic.



Over the years, Joseph’s work has been exhibited in over 100 solo and group shows in Canada, the United States, Europe and South America. He has taught at both the university and high school levels, participated in a number of arts organizations, artist-run centres and collectives and sat on national and local art juries while continuing to invent and create.

What this article proposes to do is give some background of this internationally-recognized Maltese Canadian visual artist and exhibition consultant.

Joseph Muscat was born in Birkirkara, Malta in 1949 to Joseph “Peppinu” and Theresa (Sciberras) Muscat.

Both his father, Peppinu, and grandfather Guzè were known decorators in Malta and Gozo and left a legacy of decorative art, gilding, faux or imitation marble, damask and exotic wood, Armar tal-festa, Carnival floats and grotesque masks and art restoration. Their work can be found at the Hamrun and Msida parish

churches, Palazzo Parisio in Naxxar, Duke of Connaught Band Club, Chapel in B’Kara and Dragonara Palace in St. Julian’s.

Although his father and grandfather were artists, young Joseph’s interest in pursuing a career in the arts was to come years later. As a boy he “lived for soccer, the sea, jumping from high places, and academics.” From the ages of 12 to 14 he attended the Lyceum in Hamrun. Then, in 1964, the family moved to Toronto and settled in the Junction, now popularly known as Malta Village.

Joseph had been an altar boy back in Malta and was immersed in parish life at St. Helen’s, B’Kara. This was to continue in St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto, where his father’s last decorative work was the church’s sanctuary ceiling. Having aspirations to become a priest, Joseph soon entered St. Mary’s Redemptorist College, in Brockville, Ontario, in 1965, then one of the few minor seminaries in English-speaking Canada.

Upon graduation from high school in 1968, and having enjoyed his years at St. Mary’s, Joseph decided the priesthood was not for him and pursued his university studies at York University’s Glendon College in Toronto.

Joseph writes that, “Halfway through my studies, I moved to Aix-en-Provence in the south of France to work on my French and supposedly to continue my studies at the université d’Aix-Marseilles. This too veered into a different path when I decided to leave the univeristé to join the Academie des Beaux-arts d’Aix, where I studied drawing and sculpture with a renowned sculptor, Francois Martinez. It was love at first sight. My life was to take a leap forward into the wonderful world of art and romance was soon to follow when I met my soul-mate at the university, where I was supposed to be completing my third year.”

Returning to Canada, he finished his studies at Glendon while taking art courses at both Glendon and the Ontario College of Art and earned a BA in sociology. He had intended to attend law school but instead earned a three-year diploma in Fine Arts at OCA in 1981, followed by a one-year degree in education at the University of Toronto.

Among the scores of exhibits of Joseph’s work, three having a Maltese connotation will be noted here.

He was invited to show a body of his work at the Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta in 1995. The exhibition, titled “Indigene,” consisted of some 30 acrylic paintings and colour pencil drawings depicting symbols from the two indigenous cultures of the Mediterranean and North America. One of his paintings was donated to the Museum’s Permanent Collection now known as Muza.

During the Convention of Leaders of Associations of Maltese Abroad and of Maltese Origin, held in Valletta in early 2000, Joseph participated in “Maltese Talents Abroad – Exhibition of Paintings and Sculpture by

Migrant Maltese Artists and Artists of Maltese Origin,” again at the Museum of Fine Arts.



**“Geomancer’s Move,” 1999
Shown at the 2000 Convention**

In 2003, he organized and curated “Art As Ritual,” an exhibition by Seven Canadian Artists of Maltese Origin—John Henry Borg, Anna Calleja, Joseph Calleja, Alfred Engerer, Francis Muscat, Joseph Muscat and Paul Portelli—at the John B. Aird Gallery at Queens Park in Toronto. This exhibition was officially opened by H.E. George Saliba, Malta’s High Commissioner to Canada and its Ambassador to the United States.

Carmelo F. Caruana is said to have been the first Maltese person known to have settled in New York City. He was born in Malta on August 28, 1804, the son of Dr. Lorenzo Caruana. On July 31, 1836, in Hunterdon, New Jersey, he married Rebecca F. Coxe. Rebecca was the daughter of Charles Davenport Cox and **Fortunata Caruana**, a native of Malta. By 1865 Carmelo was listed as an importer and lived in a frame house, worth \$18,000 in Brooklyn, with his wife, their sons, Lorenzo Carmelo and John L., his niece, Frances Caruana, a brother-in-law and four female servants. Carmelo died on April 9, 1895.



Joseph Muscat OSA AOCA

As with any great artist, Joseph’s style continues to evolve. On one occasion he related to an interviewer that thematic threads run through his art: “I’m eclectic in my work. I paint, draw and combine media; I also like to combine representational imagery with abstraction. The subject matter for my work tends to relate to environmental issues and awareness. I favour a kind of symbolism in my picture-building, often lightened with wit or whimsy”

**I’m grateful to Joseph Muscat and Dr. Raymond Xerri for their help in the preparation of this article.*

While some Maltese migrants found the winters in southern Ontario too cold and either returned to Malta or headed for California, **Agnes, aka Bipsy**, the wife of John **LaFerla** ended up in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories where she died on November 6, 2003 at the age of 89. While her maiden name is unknown, she may have lived in Toronto at one time, as her younger son, David Mark LaFerla (d. 2005) was living there when his mother died. The older son, John, was living in Yellowknife. At the time of her death Agnes had a grand-nephew, cousins and friends living in Malta. Her husband, John, who predeceased her, was probably Maltese as well as La Ferla is one of the Maltese surnames listed by Mario Cassar.

THE WOMEN FROM MALTA WHO JOINED THE SISTERS OF MERCY IN JAMAICA*

Dan Brock and Mark Caruana

In the September 2020 issue of this newsletter, we noted 26 women from Malta who, between the years 1912 and 1939, had applied for a passport to go to Jamaica. We concluded that all of these women “were joining or planning to be associated with the Sisters of Mercy in Jamaica.”

Now, thanks to Maureen Skorupa Keyes, archivist of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in Merion Station, Pennsylvania we know how it was that young women in Malta first learned of the work of the Sisters of Mercy in Jamaica and decided to join them. We also know something more about these women who ended up joining the Congregation.

Evelina Grech and Adelina Galea were noted in the September issue (page 15) as being the first of the women from Malta to apply to go to Jamaica.

Now in the book *“You Did It Unto Me”: The Story of ALPHA and the Sisters of Mercy in Jamaica* by the late Sister Mary Bernadette Little, RSM (nee C. Dorothy M. Little) we learn of how these two women became the “pioneers” of those who came out from Malta and joined the Sisters of Mercy in Jamaica. Moreover, we are informed that Sr. M. Bernadette had received the information from Evelina Grech herself who became known as Sr. Mary Gabriel Grech, RSM.

According to Sr. M. Gabriel, Mother Mary Magdalen Degenardt, the Superior of the Sisters of Mercy in Kingston, Jamaica at the time, wrote to an unidentified childhood friend of hers in England who had entered the community of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart and told her of the difficulties which had befallen the inhabitants of Jamaica as a result of the disastrous earthquake of January 14, 1907. Kingston was the hardest hit area on the Island and further destruction came about from fires.

Meanwhile, the “childhood friend” had been transferred to the convent run by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart in St. Julian’s, Malta and the letter was forwarded to her there. She was entrusted with working with the youth of the Island. Once a month, she would meet with members of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary and with them she shared the contents of Mother Magdalen’s letter. She then asked: “Would you like to do something for the poor suffering people of Jamaica? Perhaps you do not have much that you could give in a material way, but wouldn’t it be wonderful if you would give yourselves?”

While all were saddened by the contents of the letter asking for assistance, Evelina and another Sodality member, Adelina Galea, took the words of the Sacred

Heart sister to heart and decided to serve the Lord in Jamaica. They lost no time in writing to Mother Magdalen “who responded positively and encouragingly.”

In the September issue of this newsletter (page 15) we had left Evelina and Adelina boarding the *Sicilia* in the Grand Harbour, on August 16, 1912, for London “on the first leg of their journey to Jamaica.”

Thanks to Ms. Keyes we now know that Evelina, and presumably Adelina, entered the Alpha Convent of Mercy in Kingston, Jamaica on October 3, 1912. As earlier noted, Evelina became Sr. Mary Gabriel. Adelina was known as Sr. Mary Gertrude.

Sr. M. Gabriel (Evelina) Grech became a teacher of music and the classics and was a lover of the fine arts. She was fluent in Maltese, English, Italian, Spanish and French and was an excellent Latin teacher. She taught at the Convent of Mercy Academy, Alpha, in Kingston for many years, then at Mt. St. Joseph in Mandeville and St. Anthony’s Academy in Port Antonio.



Sr. M. Gabriel Grech at Mt. St. Joseph, Mandeville, Jamaica. She died in 1968 at the age of 85.

The story is told of how Sr. Gabriel’s knowledge of English was limited back in Malta to the extent that she was not familiar with idiomatic expressions. When Mother Magdalen had written that if Evelina and Adelina came to Jamaica they would be welcomed to “work in the Vineyard of the Lord,” Evelina took this literally and believed she was going to Jamaica “to till the soil and work in the fields so she left all her books at home.” Heretofore, “all she had ever seen of Jamaica was the depiction of a strong black man on a bottle of rum!”

Sr. M. Gertrude (Adelina) Galea was a Spanish teacher in several of the schools run by the Sisters of Mercy in Jamaica. For many years she was “the gentle, caring infirmarian of the sick sisters in the community....” Sr. Gertrude died on May 24, 1976 at the age of 85.

Georgina Borg, Maria Assunta Cauchi and Mary Sargent were noted in the September issue (page 16) as boarding the *City of Marseilles* for London in 1913. A fourth woman, Beatrice Bonici Mompalao, who originally intended to become a Sister of Mercy in Jamaica apparently had second thoughts, as she did not accompany the above and no information on her has been found in the archives of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

Giuseppa Pepe and Emelia Gauci boarded the *Sicilia* for London on September 17, 1913 but there is no

record of Giuseppa having joined the Sisters of Mercy in Jamaica and, as noted in the September issue, she was living in Sliema, Malta by April 1921.

Georgina, Maria Assunta, Mary and Emilia or Emily all entered the Alpha Convent of Mercy on October 17, 1913.

Georgina Borg became **Sr. M. Agnes** and was known to have “worked zealously on the wards at Bumper Hall during the time of the Spanish influenza”. She died on July 29, 1929 at the age of 35 and was interred in Calvary Cemetery, Kingston. According to Bazil Brown, a native of Jamaica currently living in Toronto, Canada, Calvary Cemetery was the place to be buried back in the day but is currently “really run down.”.

Sr. M. Mechtilde (Maria Assunta) Cauchi taught at Alpha Elementary School (now Alpha Primary and East Branch (now Holy Family) School on Laws Street in Kingston. She was one of two members of the community who, despite the hardship of ill health, travelled to Malta on a home visit prior to the outbreak of World War II and was compelled to remain in Malta until the conclusion of the War. She returned to Alpha in 1945 and died on June 12, 1962 at the age of 68.

Sr. M. Dolores (Mary) Sargent was to spend most of her ministry on the Alpha compound “among the ‘little people’ at the Infant School and at the Alpha Kinder-Preparatory where she was Headmistress as well as teacher.” In later years, she worked as assistant librarian at the Convent of Mercy Academy, a girls’ high school. She was noted for her devotion to the poor and a very fine sense of humour. She enjoyed gardening and making toys for little children. Sr. Dolores loved a party and somehow it seemed fitting that she was called home by God at the time that the Sisters of Mercy from all over the world had assembled at Alpha to participate in a conference and were, therefore, able to join in a celebration of her life. She died on July 25, 1992 at the age of 99 and was buried in Calvary Cemetery.

Sr. M. Angela (Emily) Gauci was among the first three sisters who were sent, in 1921, to establish St. Anthony Academy in Port Antonio. She was also the sister who accompanied Sr. Mechtilde to Malta before the Second World War. Sr. Angela did not return to Jamaica with Sr. Mechtilde in 1945 as she was diagnosed with tuberculosis and had to wait for word from her doctors as to when it would be advisable for her to make the long journey by sea. She returned to Jamaica in 1946 but died two years later, on July 9, 1948, at the age of 53.

Giuseppina Meli, Edith Beatrix “Beatrice” Scott and Caterina Vickers received their passports on August 18, 1914. All three were intending to travel to Jamaica and “take the veil.” Caterina Vickers, like Beatrice Bonici Mompalao the year before, appears to have had

second thoughts, as she did not board the *Moldavia* for London with Giuseppina and Edith Beatrice. At some point Giuseppina appears to have decided not to go to Jamaica, as there is no record of her joining the Sisters of Mercy there.

Sr. M. Scholastica (Edith Beatrice) Scott entered the Convent of Mercy, Alpha, on December 18, 1914. She died on October, 27, 1972.

Sr. M. Ignatius (Carmela) Miruzzi joined the Sisters of Mercy in August 1916 but later left the community.

Mary Josephine Grech and Maria Cuschieri applied to travel on Jamaica in March 1920 but there is no evidence that Josephine did so. **Maria Cuschieri**, on the other hand, entered the Convent of Mercy, Alpha on June 29, 1920 and took the name **Sr. M. Elizabeth**. She died on June 11, 1963, 18 days short of her 43rd birthday and was interred in Calvary Cemetery.

According to the late Sr. Mary Bernadette Little in her book on Alpha and the Sisters of Mercy in Jamaica, nine young women entered the Jamaica Community from Malta in 1930. In researching for our article which appeared last month, we had the names of eight of them, namely Polly Ann Borg, Adelina Borg, Iris Maria Camilleri, Paola Borg, Jessie Ellul, Stella Doris Cachia and Mary Sciortino, but had omitted Mary Bajada.

All nine obtained their passports between October and December 1929 and all apparently entered the Convent of Mercy, Alpha on January 13, 1930. Our lack of certainty is based on Ms. Keyes’ statement that: “The Sisters of Mercy in Jamaica did not keep standardized records until recently, so there are no files for some of the Sisters on the list, as well as some that were not found in our files at all. They either did not join the order or there is no record of them.”

In any case, Polly Ann Borg, Paola Borg, Jessie Ellul and Stella Doris Cachia did not stay. We do know that Stella Doris was dispensed from the community on July 5, 1930. Our inklings are that maybe homesickness played a major role in their decision to return to Malta.

Let’s now look at the five who did become sisters.

Adelina Borg was the youngest of 10 children of Michael and Annunziata (Briffa) Borg of St. Julians. She received the habit of the Sisters of Mercy and the religious name of **Sr. M. Madeline Sophie** on October 3, 1930 and made her perpetual vows on January 6, 1936.

Most of Sr. Madeline Sophie’s life as a sister was spent working with thousands of boys, wards of the court, who lived at the Alpha Boys School in Kingston. She also taught at Mt. St. Joseph in Mandeville, Kinder Prep School in Widcombe and in Black River. Sr. Madeline Sophie died in 2010 at The Claver Home, Kingston. Like the aforementioned Sr. M. Dolores Sargent, she was 99 years old when she died in 2010. She was buried in Dovecot Memorial Park (Cemetery)

in Kingston.



Adelina Borg, age 18



As Sr. Madeline Sophie

Sr. M. Theresa Francis (Iris Maria) Camilleri, a native of Senglea, died on July 19, 1996 at the age of 83.

Sr. M. Thecia (Mary Catherine) Lautier, a native of Kalkara, spent most of her years in elementary education and childcare in Gordon, Alpha, Boys Home at Hatfield and taught the boys to dream beyond the present. Small in stature but a giant in personality she was described as “outgoing, warm, cheerful, encouraging.” She had a love for animals, especially dogs. Prior to her death on May 31, 2004 at the age of 96 she lived at the retirement home at Widcombe. She too was buried in Dovecot Memorial Park.



Mary Catherine Lautier, age 26, later Sr. M. Thecia

Sr. M. Concepta (Mary A.) Sciortino, a native of Attard, died on January 27, 1938 at the age of 37 and was interred in Calvary Cemetery.

Mary Sciortino, age 19, later Sr. M. Concepta



Sr. Noelle Marie (Mary) Bajada, whose religious name was **Raphael**, like Sr. M. Gabriel, was a native of Sliema. During her career, she taught at St. Anthony’s Pres School, Port Antonio, Mt. St. Joseph’s Prep, Alpha Prep, Alpha Boys School, St. Mary’s Sav-la-Mar, Columbus in Ocho Rios and Mt. Mercy Kinder Prep. In 1942 she worked with other Sisters at the Gibraltar Camp for refugees. Unable to leave the camp, she opened a school for the children, prepared them for the sacraments and organized clubs, occasional picnics and movies. She also visited the sick in the Camp hospital. Sr. Raphael was known for her good sense of humor. In 1990 she became a Jamaican citizen. She died of pneumonia at the age of 82 on September, 15, 1995 and was buried in Calvary Cemetery.



Mary Bajada, age 16, later Sr. Noelle Marie

Mary Cini, age 19, and her younger sister, Yvonne, received their passports on July 30, 1938 to travel to Jamaica. Mary’s stated intent was to join the Sisters of Mercy. No intent is listed on Yvonne’s application. Ironically, there is no indication that Mary entered the Convent of Mercy in Kingston or even travelled to Jamaica with her sister.

Yvonne Cini, on the other hand, entered the Convent of Mercy, Alpha on August 27, 1938 and soon after was given the name **Sr. Theresa Rose**. It was probably after Vatican II that she reverted to her original name and became **Sr. M. Yvonne**. She died in 2002 and was interred in Dovecot Memorial Park.

Carmela Teresa Gatt and Marianna Refalo, ages 18 and 15 respectively, received their passports for Jamaica on August 14, 1939. Carmela Teresa’s intention was to join the Sisters of Mercy. Mariann’s was to work. There is no record, however, of either of them joining the Sisters of Mercy or even arriving in Jamaica.

In summary, we have the record of 27 women living in Malta from 1912 through 1939 who indicated on their passport applications that they intended to go to Jamaica and presumably serve in some capacity at the Convent of Mercy, Alpha, Kingston. At least 16 of them became members of the Sisters of Mercy there.

It is worth noting that, at a time when there was a high degree of illiteracy in Malta and many of the immigrants

from the Islands to North America could not even sign their name, virtually all these women were literate and some very highly educated.

**Our thanks go to Maureen Skorupa Keyes, archivist of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in Merion Station, PA, Sr. Paula Diann Marlin, RSM, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas South Central Archivist, Belmont, NC, Martin Hampton of Friends of the Malta National Archives and Dr. Bazil Brown of Toronto for their invaluable assistance.*

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

The Greater Toronto Area, Ontario Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre

After an absence of eight months the committee of the Maltese-Canadian Museum/Archives at St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex in Toronto was allowed back to the Museum to continue with its important work. Chairperson and pastor of St. Paul, Fr. Mario Micallef, MSSP stated that all the proper protocols must be followed. Luckily the area of the Museum/Archives is very large and proper distancing could be kept in addition to the wearing of a mask. The return took place on Thursday, September 24th. After a short impromptu meeting, the volunteers began cataloging, sorting and labeling a myriad of documents. The work at the Museum/Archives is a constant "work in progress".



Committee Members
(l to r) Mani Mifsud, Debbie Lightfoot,
Rita Kennie, Rose Cassar,
Fr. Mario Micallef, Chairperson and Pastor
and Richard Cumbo, Museum Curator.
(Absent: Carmen Galea and Mike Gouveia)

Courtesy of Richard S. Cumbo

Consulate General of the Republic of Malta

Following the shutdown in March owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the office reopened during the second week of August



Denise Falzon, Dr. Raymond Xerri, Karen Zahra

On the afternoon of Monday, September 14th, Dr. Raymond Xerri visited Joseph Muscat's exhibition Graphic Arts at Propeller Galley in Toronto. The exhibition ran from September 16th through October 4th.



Dr. Raymond Xerri with the Artist Joseph Muscat

The 56th anniversary of Malta's independence, September 21st, was celebrated on Sunday, September 20th with a flag-raising ceremony at 10:00 a.m. at Malta Park in Toronto's Malta Village. This was followed by the 10:30 a.m. Maltese-language Mass, at the nearby St. Paul the Apostle Church, attendance being by reservation only owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. At 12:00 noon the historic exhibition, The Heritage of Postage Stamps in Malta, was opened in the adjoining DePiro Hall. This exhibition continued through Friday, September 25th. (See pages 1, 10-11 and 21-22 for further details.)



Lehen Malti

A \$2,000 scholarship for the 2020-21 scholastic year is being offered. (See next column for details.)

Fr. Joseph Grima was entrusted in 2017 with the task of building, growing and nurturing the new parish of Blessed Frederic Ozanam in Markham, in the Archdiocese of Toronto, Ontario. This is the first parish in North America dedicated to Blessed Frederic Ozanam the founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Lehen Malti are pleased to announce their award of a \$2000 Scholarship for the 2020/21 scholastic year.

Qualification Details:

- Applicants must be of Maltese descent & live in Canada
- Submissions must be applicable for enrollment to Post Secondary Education or Training programs of Education Institutions recognized by the Ministry of Colleges, Training & Universities in Canada
- Applicants must submit a paper of no less than 1000 words on the Maltese Migration to Canada
- Applicants are also required to submit a personal video of no more than 5 minutes explaining why he/she are deserving of this scholarship.
- Deadline for receipt of applications is **October 31st, 2020**. All applications and videos must be submitted and receive by Lehen Malti by this date.
- Applications and videos can be sent electronically to Lehen Malti at:

lehenmalti@hotmail.com

As of Saturday, September 19th a new programming schedule came into effect as follows:

LEHEN MALTI (Maltese Voice)

OMNI 1 - Ontario
Saturdays 8:30 a.m.
Tuesdays 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m.
Wednesdays 11:00 p.m.
Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

OMNI BC
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.
Fridays 10:30 a.m.

OMNI Alberta
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

Fr. Ivano observed the silver jubilee of his priestly ordination on Wednesday September 16th. He gave thanks to God at the 9:15 a.m. Mass the next day. September 17th is very dear to Fr Ivano and to the Missionary Society of St. Paul as it marks the anniversary of the death of its founder, Mgr. Joseph DePiro, in 1933.

The 90th anniversary of the Parish was observed during this corona virus pandemic by having the regional bishop, Robert Kasun, CSB, celebrate both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses on Sunday, September 27th.

Fr. Ivano posted the following note in the Parish's bulletin for the weekend of October 3rd-4th: *My dear brothers and sisters of St Paul's Parish, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers, blessings, best wishes and gifts for my 25th anniversary*

of missionary priesthood. I also want to thank you for the gift of your faith that you share with me which strengthens my own and the service I give. It has been a true blessing to have had the chance to celebrate my 25th with you and Fr. Mario during our 90th anniversary of God's love and faithfulness for us all. It is a privilege to be part of these 90 years of a faith community. We continue to pray for each other as we walk into the future together. May our God bless you and your families. With love and gratitude. Fr. Ivano.



Fr. Ivano with the Pastor Fr. Mario
Courtesy of the Consul General of Malta to Canada

Malta Band Club

Leli Grech, former president and pillar of the Club, died on September 25th.



Hamilton, Ontario

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

With indoor gatherings of more than 50 not permitted,

owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MCACH Gala scheduled for Saturday, September 12th was cancelled.

It was decided that, owing to many of its events being cancelled because of the coronavirus, membership fees paid for the year 2020 will be honoured throughout 2021.

The 2021-2023 General Election meeting has been postponed until further notice. The present committee members will carry on their respective duties until the COVID-19 restrictions are removed or more than 50 persons can gather together.

Metropolitan Detroit

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

Hobż biz-żejt, pastizzi and Twistees were available at the Club on the evening of Friday, September 11th.

An emergency meeting was to be held on Sunday, October 4th to discuss hall and club renovations. This was open to paid up members only.

Windsor, Ontario

Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

After being closed for six months, owing to the coronavirus pandemic, the Society is planning to open its facilities as of 6:30 p.m., Saturday, October 17th to its volunteers, members and visitors. There will, of course, be restrictions such as the wearing of a mask or face shield, sanitizing one's hands upon entry and a limit of 18 persons at any time on the premises.

Phone-ahead orders will be taken as usual for cooked pastizzi. Frozen pastizzi and ravioli, as well as Kinnie will be available for sale.

THE MALTESE CANADIAN SOCIAL CLUB GUELPH INC. CELEBRATES MALTA NIGHT

Dan Brock

While leafing through some of the newsletters and the 1976-1980 anniversary booklet of the now defunct Maltese Canadian Social Club in Guelph I learned that it had a tradition of holding a dinner-dance on the weekend closest to the feast of *Il-Vitorja* (Victory Day), celebrated in Malta on September 8th.

It was probably at the dinner-dance held in 1979 that those present were entertained by Johnny Catania and the dancers from The Maltese Canadian Club of London who performed *Il-Maltija*.

Malta Night of 1980 was held on Saturday, September 13th at Holy Rosary Hall on Emma Street in Guelph. Music was provided by the band Milestone.

Music of the 50s and 60s was provided by "Wild Bill" from FM 108, following the dinner celebrating Malta Night on Saturday, September 25, 1982. The later date that year was owing to a double booking of the hall.

PRESS RELEASE
BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA FOR CANADA



JUM MALTA FIL-KANADA 2020

Il-Konslu Ġenerali tar-Repubblika ta' Malta fil-Kanada, Dr Raymond C. Xerri ppresida tlett avvenimenti li fformaw parti miċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet ta' Jum Malta fil-Kanada 2020 sabiex jimmarkaw is-56 Anniversarju mill-kisba tal-Indipendenza ta' Malta. Dawn l-avvenimenti saru l-Ħadd, 20 ta' Settembru 2020 bl-ewwel issir iċ-ċerimonja tat-tluġ tal-bandar ta' Malta u tal-Kanada fil-Malta Park, fil-Villaġġ Malti fil-Belt ta' Toronto fil-Provinċja ta' Ontario fil-Kanada.

Din iċ-ċerimonja bdiet b'diskors annwali u tradizzjonali mill-Konslu Ġenerali. Dr Xerri tkellem dwar l-importanza ta' iktar għaqda profonda fost il-Kommunità Maltija Kanadiża f'dawn iż-żminijiet ta' sfidi kbar. Dan qalu fil-presenża tal-President tal-Federazzjoni Maltija-Kanadiża, Joseph Sherri, rappreżentanti mill-Klabbs tal-Futbol Melita u tal-Banda ta' Malta kif ukoll ta' f'dax il-assoċjazzjoni Maltija Kanadiża li jinsabu fil-Provinċja ta' Ontario.

Wara dan id-diskors, il-Konslu Ġenerali Dr Xerri telgħa l-bandiera ta' Malta bħala r-rappreżentant tal-Gvern Malti segwit mill-President tal-Federazzjoni, s-Sur Sherri li telgħa l-bandiera Kanadiża fisem il-Federazzjoni Maltija-Kanadiża, iż-żewġ klabbs u l-Assoċjazzjonijiet Maltin-Kanadiża fil-Kanada. Din l-ewwel ċerimonja ntemmet bid-daq tal-Innu Malti u dak Kanadiż.

Immedjatament wara iċ-ċerimonja tal-Flag Raising, dawk prezenti attendew il-Quddiesa Solenni tar-Ringrazzjament għall-56 sena ta' Malta Independenti.

Il-Kappillani, Dun Mario Micallef u Dun Charles Michael Grech it-tnejn iċ-ċelebraw il-quddiesa fil-Knisja Maltija-Kanadiża dedikata lil San Pawl Appostlu, li tinsab ukoll fil-Villaġġ Malti. Wara l-quddiesa, Dr Raymond C. Xerri, il-Konslu Ġenerali tar-Repubblika ta' Malta fil-Kanada għamel diskors ieħor fejn enfasiża l-bżonn li kull membru tal-Komunità Maltija Kanadiża għandu jieħu Wara t-tqassim tal-basktijiet, il-Konslu Ġenerali Dr Xerri fil-presenża tal-Kappillan Dun Mario Micallef, inawgura wirja storika msejja, '*The Heritage of Postal Stamps in Malta*,' li bidiet tintwerà fil-Belt ta' Toronto ser iddur f'diversi bliet fl-Amerika ta' Fuq, primarjament fil-Kanada u l-Istati Uniti tal-Amerika. Mijiet ta' Maltin u

MALTA DAY CANADA 2020

The Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond C. Xerri presided over three events of Malta Day Canada 2020 to mark the 56th Anniversary of Malta's Independence. These events took place on Sunday, 20th September 2020 starting with a traditional flag raising ceremony at Malta Park, located in Malta Village, City of Toronto, Province of Ontario in Canada.

The Ceremony commenced with the traditional annual speech delivered by the Consul General. Dr Xerri spoke about the need for a deeper unity amongst the Maltese Canadian Community in these challenging times, in the presence of the President of the Maltese Canadian Federation, Joseph Sherri, representatives of the Melita Soccer Club and the Malta Band Club and from 11 other Maltese Canadian associations in the Province of Ontario.

Following his speech, Consul General Dr Xerri, as the Government of Malta representative, raised the flag of Malta, followed by Federation President Mr Sherri, who raised the Canadian flag on behalf of the Maltese Canadian Federation and other Maltese Canadian clubs and associations. This first ceremony ended with the singing of both Malta's and Canada's national anthems.

Immediately after the flag raising ceremony, all present attended a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving to mark the 56th Anniversary of Malta's independence.

Pastors Fr Mario Micallef and Fr Charles Michael Grech both celebrated Mass at the St Paul The Apostle Maltese Canadian Parish Church, also in Malta Village. At the end of the Mass, Dr Xerri delivered another speech where he emphasized the need that every member of the Maltese Canadian community must care for one another, especially our elderly members in these very challenging times. Once the Mass had ended, Dr Xerri handed out a bag with traditional Maltese food and drink to all attendees.

Dr Xerri, in the presence of Pastor Mario Micallef, then officially inaugurated a historic exhibition commencing its North American tour in the City of Toronto. Hundreds of Maltese Canadians and members from

Għawdxin-Kanadiżi kif ukoll membri ta' għaqdiet tal-filaterija li jinsabu fil-Belt ta' Toronto u l-madwar ġew sabiex jaraw din il-wirja. Din l-esibizzjoni ser iddum miftuħa san har il-Ġimgħa, 25 ta' Settembru 2020.

Dawn l-avvenimenti li ġew organizzati bħala Jum Malta fil-Kanada 2020 kienu possibbli permezz ta' fondi provduti mill-Ministeru għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej, Malta Post u l-Mużew Postali ta' Malta. Il-Konslu Ġenerali Dr Xerri rringrazzja lill-voluntiera tal-parroċċa Maltija-Kanadiża ta' San Pawl Apostlu tal-kooperazzjoni sfiha tagħhom sabiex Jum Malta fil-Kanada 2020 kien success.

READER COMMENTS RELATING TO THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Thank you again for such an informative publication....
Godfrey Baldacchino, Malta

...what can I say. Another great newsletter. I scanned through it first and saw so many interesting articles I couldn't wait to read it all. I almost cheated and wanted to read certain articles first, but took my time, made some Maltese tea, sat back and started with page one. Enjoyed every page. I think these newsletters just get better each month.

Rena Xuereb, Michigan

There is an article in this September Newsletter regarding Paul Said.

My Aunt Carmen married Paul Said, who sadly passed away. I remember Censina, Paul Said's sister. My father Edward Mercieca was friends with Paul, and came on the same ship. I am trying to learn about my mother and father's family too, so I wanted to help.

I forwarded the newsletter to my cousins (Paul Said's Family). Hopefully, they can get in touch with each other.

Carmen (Mercieca) Parise

Of the more than 100 ships built by Louis Shickluna or Louis Shickluna and his sons, at least four bore the Shickluna name. The *L. Shickluna* was built at Youngstown, NY about 1836. The *Louis Shickluna*, a passenger and package freight propeller, was built at St. Catharines, Ontario in 1870. The *Louis Shickluna*, a steam screw, was constructed in 1878 and measured 45 by 11 by 6 feet. Its tonnage was possibly 172. This steam screw was powered by a high pressure 25 h.p. Ferrow-Thrifts engine manufactured in Buffalo, NY. It had a bore of 10 ins. and a stroke of 12 ins. The *L. Shickluna*, a propeller tug, was built in 1880 and owned by N.S. & T. Co.

several philatelic clubs in the Greater Toronto Area visited and viewed the exhibition. The exhibition closed its doors on Friday, 25th September 2020.

All the above events were made possible thanks to funding provided by the Ministry for Foreign & European Affairs, Malta Post and The Malta Postal Museum. Consul General Dr Xerri whole-heartedly thanked the volunteers of the St Paul The Apostle Maltese Canadian Parish Church for their cooperation in making the events of Malta Day Canada 2020 a success story.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA
3280 Bloor St. W., Suite 1060, Centre Tower,
Etobicoke, ON M8X 2X3, Canada

REGARDING THE NEWSLETTER*

I would like to whole-heartedly thank you, Mr Dan Brock, for writing, editing and publishing the newsletter, *The Presence of the Maltese in North America*. As a 93-year-old Maltese Canadian and having lived in Canada most of my life, I do not have a computer or printer, nor do I have an email address and not even a telephone but I love reading and especially your newsletter, or if you allow me to say "our" newsletter. I now consider it part of me, my identity, my history, my heritage as a Maltese Canadian and good part of my reading life. Sometimes I read it even twice or more times over to make sure I did not miss out on anything. Mr Brock, your research, stories, writings and especially the photos you publish bring me so much joy, nostalgia, pride, reflection on my life and also tears of joy when I read most. Thank you, keep up the good work and God bless you.

John Borg,
Etobicoke, Toronto

*This letter was translated from the Gozitan dialect by Dr. Raymond Xerri.

I know you work very hard on this newsletter and I just want to say thank you for taking on a job which no one else was willing to do. You are doing a great service to the Maltese community in this part of our world and beyond.

Mona Vella Nicholas
Bay Area, California

Phillippe de Longvilliers de Poincy (1584-1660) was a French nobleman and Bailiff Grand Cross of the Knights of Malta. He governed the Caribbean island of Saint Christopher (now St. Kitts) from 1639 until his death in 1660, first under the Compagnie des Îles de l'Amérique and later under the Knights of Malta themselves.

CARMELO BORG: PART III GOING HOME

Carmelo Borg



In the September 2020 issue of this newsletter we left Carmelo Borg turning his back on his wife Kikka and their children. We will begin this final installment with a few more insights into the breakup of the marriage

Carmelo never could recall just how the whole thing went down only to say that Kikka was here one minute and gone the next. Was it the house? The people? He just didn't know. Kikka never gave their new life in America a chance. He had sacrificed so much to be together as a family unit.

Carmelo relived, over and over in his mind, the last big blowout that may very well have been the reason for Kikka's short stay. He came home from work and saw a tall Maltese man talking to his wife. He flew into a jealous rage when Kikka explained that he was a friend of theirs. Carmelo hurled accusations, accusing her of having a boyfriend, wanting a boyfriend, all kinds of unsubstantiated claims. His verbal abuse went on for sometime, leaving Kikka shocked and scared out of her mind. She had experienced his jealousy many times before, but never at this level. Fearful that Carmelo might become physically violent she took the kids to the safety of Carmel's Uncle Emmanuele Borg's home. Kikka was gone before Carmelo knew it.

By January of 1951, Kikka was back in Malta, not regretting her decision at first, but by the time she wrote to him in August she felt remorseful and needed her husband.

Carmelo was convinced that she had someone else in her life and all she wanted was his money. She didn't want his money; she needed it to support her and the children. Not only did he not send Kikka money, he never sent birthday cards, Christmas gifts, money for school clothes, nothing! He understood it to be over!

Carmelo tried to move on by keeping busy. He worked a lot of overtime. He worked for the weekends. Every Friday night he would get dressed up in his favorite sports coat and take the Grand River streetcar uptown to the Grande Ballroom for "Get Acquainted" night. The Grande was a renowned, live music venue, with an outstanding hardwood floor that took up most of the second level. There, he would meet up with his work buddies, find a girl and dance to the steady beat of the energetic Latin music. The fox trot, the mambo, and his favorite the cha-cha, took him to a place where he wanted to be, away from the memories of all that he had lost.



**Detroit's Grande Ballroom,
Corner of Grand River Avenue and Joy Road**

That's where he met my mother, Muriel, who fell for him hard. His good looks and charming personality swept her off her feet. They had a short courtship. Within six months they were at the Wayne County clerk's office applying for a marriage license. Carmelo didn't reveal that he was already married when filling out the application. He purposely checked the "NO" box where it asked if you were ever married before. It wasn't that he was pulling a fast one; he really believed that once Kikka left him it was for good. Feeling justified, the ramifications of such a move never entered his mind. He and Muriel were married in early 1953. Uncle Emmanuele, knowing the situation, chose not to attend the wedding.



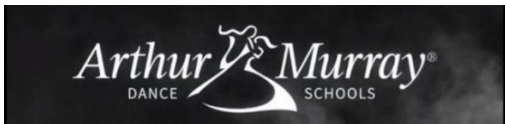
Muriel and Carmelo on Their Wedding Day, 1953

Carmelo became a millwright at Chrysler and provided a nice middleclass life for his new family.

He also became a professional ballroom dance instructor at Arthur Murray's Dance Studio and traveled all around the US and Mexico in competitions.



Carmelo Borg with a Partner at an Arthur Murray Dance Studio



Borg Family Portrait, with the Five Eldest Surviving Children, 1960

Meanwhile, after the death of her beloved mother, Stella Bezzina, in Malta, Kikka and her children moved to Australia in 1953.

Uncle Emmanuele had retired from Chrysler in Detroit and moved back to Malta, where he lived out his remaining days. He died in August of 1969. At the time of his death, Carmelo's half-sister, Mary, the one person who knew his whereabouts, finally let "the cat

out of the bag." No one knew why Mary chose that moment to inform Kikka of Carmelo's address when she had it all along. It was unfortunate that she had not done so earlier because Kikka still needed Carmelo's financial support. Raising his children by herself had always been difficult. It took the death of Uncle Emmanuele to get Carmelo's address out of Mary. Everything changed after that.

In late August of 1969, Anthony wrote from Australia to Carmelo, his absentee father, stating that he would be traveling through Windsor, Ontario, Canada, and asked to meet him and his half-brother and sisters. The father and son met at the prearranged place and time in Windsor. Carmelo stipulated to Anthony that he had to first agree to being introduced as a cousin, not his son. Carmelo did not want to create a scene, nor did he want to expose his secret. He thought about the situation and figured it was his best option. Anthony was deeply hurt that his father wouldn't introduce him as his son but reluctantly agreed to the deception because he came a long way and desperately wanted to meet his Detroit family. Once the agreement was made, Carmelo drove Anthony over the Ambassador Bridge to his home, where his family anxiously awaited.



Anthony Borg with His Half-Siblings, 1969

Muriel and the children greeted Anthony warmly. Smiling from ear to ear each family member gave long hugs. The whole family was giddy, buzzing with excitement, over the handsome 22-year-old. It was such an exciting time for everyone. Anthony brought his guitar and wooed the family in song with his sexy voice. It was a memorable day, indeed. A fond memory!

The good vibrations didn't last long as the family slowly figured things out. Carmelo's temper flared every

time anyone dared to confront him with what they thought was the truth. It was never clear if Muriel knew or not. If she did know, Carmelo may have convinced her that nothing would happen because Kikka was not in America. It is also possible that Carmelo may have explained that he would have divorced Kikka, but Malta didn't grant divorces. There were probably signs along the way that she ignored. Either way, Muriel found herself in a difficult situation. Eventually, the truth was known. Muriel accepted it with grace and dignity.

Emmanuela, Anthony's sister back in Australia, quickly and easily forgave her father and was perfectly happy just having a "Dad." She was over the moon! She always wanted a sister and now she had six. Some members of the family had a harder time accepting the reality, but for Muriel and Kikka what was done was done. In time, Muriel flew to Australia and met Kikka. The love and kindness that both ladies displayed did a great deal to heal the wounds of the past and aided in cleansing the sins of their husband.

On the other hand, Anthony took it hard. He was heartbroken that his father did not introduce him as his son, to the family.

In the end, what his father did to him, Carmelo did to Anthony. He could have chosen to do the right thing, but he didn't. It required a certain level of maturity that Carmelo did not have. It may have been from the effect of trauma that he experienced in his lifetime: the rejection of his father, the death of his mother, the war and Kikka leaving him, which left emotional scars that never completely healed. Eventually, through love and forgiveness and the passage of time, my father was able to make peace with everyone before his death in 2009.

A year before my father died, he allowed me to videotape his life experiences with the promise to write a book about his life—the good, the bad, and the ugly.

All he ever wanted was to live. Even when he was dying of cancer, he wanted to live.

His love for dancing started with he was a young teenager dancing at the outdoor venue, The Chalet, in Sliema. He danced up until the last month of his life. Not fast, but he danced. "I want to live" he would say.

My father loved life! He embraced the good feelings that came from being active. Life, to him, was then worth living. He was a happy-go-lucky man who had a mean streak. He was emotionally unavailable to his family but fun to be around. He was a secretive and complicated man. With his hard work and dedication, he had accomplished quite a bit in his long life. Even with his faults, I loved him so.

During our interviews, he would go on and on about his dream of a better life in America. After the war, Malta didn't have anything to offer him. He wanted what a lot of people wanted, to live out their dream in America the Beautiful!

The one thing he did ask of me was to take his ashes back to his homeland. I honored his wish by flying his cremains to Malta. I saved some to take to Australia where Anthony and Emmanuela still lived.

In Malta, I placed some in a potted tree in front of St. Helen's Church in Birkirkara where he was baptized. There, I sat in a pew of the empty church overcome with tears. As I prayed the tears flowed. To me, it felt like my grandmother, who is buried in the church, was happily reuniting with her beloved son. I stayed for quite a while just taking it all in. I also put some of his ashes in a potted tree in front of St. Dominic's Church in Valletta where he married Kikka. The remaining portion of cremains I took to Australia. Emmanuela, Anthony, his partner and I drove to a quaint suburb off the Central Coast of New South Wales called Copacabana, a perfect spot for a Latin dancer. We all spread his ashes over the stunning overlook which was just off the road. It was a beautiful sunny day!

Kikka's passing was in 2013, closing the book on the story of "Paradise Won: Paradise Lost."

This is my father's story.

I'm the family historian. I felt it was my job to find and keep family memorabilia for posterity. After my father's death, while going through his papers, I found tucked away in his wallet a worn, family photo. The photo was of my father, Kikka, Anthony and Emmanuela standing in front of their home in Detroit in 1950. This proved to me that he always had love in his heart for his first family right up until the day he died.



Editor's Note: Carmen's specialty is Maltese research. If interested in her assisting you in tracing your Maltese family history, feel free to contact her at maltamade@gmail.com. Check out her blog at BacktoMalta.blogspot.com.

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

Inanna on Stage

www.joannedancer.com
c/o 356 Pacific Avenue, Toronto, ON M6P 2R1
416-707-2355
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
Grand Knight Amadeo Cuschieri

Legion of Mary – “Our Lady of the Migrant”

c/o St Paul The Apostle Parish
3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto M6P 2A3
Tel: 416-767-7054
www.saint-paul-Maltese.com
stpaulmssp@gmail.com
President: Mary Vella

Lehen Malti

<https://www.omnityv.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
maltabandclub@bellnet.ca

Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

2520 Seminole St., Windsor, ON N8Y1X4
519-974-6719
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
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
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
Opening hours: Tuesday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
(every 2nd 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

Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo)

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

c/o 2387 Chilsworthy Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
416-980-1975
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

Maltese Canadian Federation, The (Toronto)
 c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON
 L5B 2R4
 416-571-3944
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

Maltese Center, NYC
 27-20 Hoyt Ave. S. Astoria, NY 11102
 718-728-9893
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
mmmpastizzi@gmail.com

Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area
maltesheritageassociation@gmail.com

During 1981-82 as part of its Heritage Language Program, The London & Middlesex Separate School Board in southwestern Ontario taught Maltese as one of its Saturday morning classes. This was open to all elementary school children and was taught by Mrs. Mary Testa. The father of one of the children, whose wife was Maltese, got special permission to take the class as well. The program started in London the first Saturday in October at St. Peter's College (formerly St. Peter's Separate School) but later was transferred to Catholic Central High School.

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

Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)
 c/o leprofess@aol.com

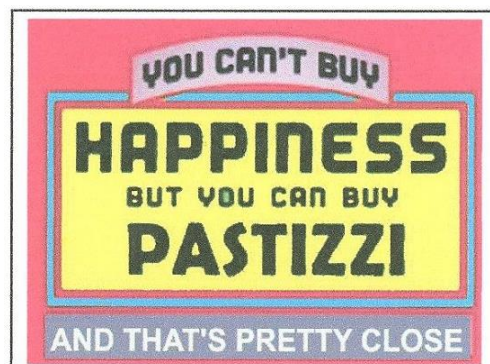
Melita Soccer Club Inc.
 3336 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A4
 416-763-5317
msc@melitasoccerclub.com
 Opening hours:
 Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 Friday 6:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.
 Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish
 3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6P 2A3
 416-767-7054
www.saint-paul-maltese.com
stpaulmssp@gmail.com

St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mission Group
 c/o 281 Gilmour Ave., Toronto, ON M6P 3B6
 416-708-8627
www.facebook.com/john.vella.1044186
giovanvel@sympatico.ca

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

St. Paul's Maltese Choir
 c/o St Paul The Apostle Parish
 3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto M6P 2A3
 416-767-7054
www.saint-paul-maltese.com
stpaulmssp@gmail.com
 President: Lino Debono



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF VICTORY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1945, TORONTO, ONTARIO



Courtesy of Richard S. Cumbo, Toronto

This Feast of Our Lady of Victory and the first Great Siege was celebrated in the old St. Paul's Hall, Dundas Street, Toronto by members of the Maltese Society of Toronto and Maltese from Detroit. Among those in the photo who have been identified are: Joseph & Carmela Cachia, Grezju Borg, Father Vincent Egan, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church, Joseph & Catherine Vassallo, Johnny Giordmaine (the magician), John "il-Gudra" Zammit and Charles Baldachine (MST President)

MALTA DAY DINNER/DANCE AT THE MALTESE CANADIAN CLUB OF LONDON, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 14, 2013



Frank Attard, Tony Vella and Ted Gauci



Roy LeBlanc as Elvis