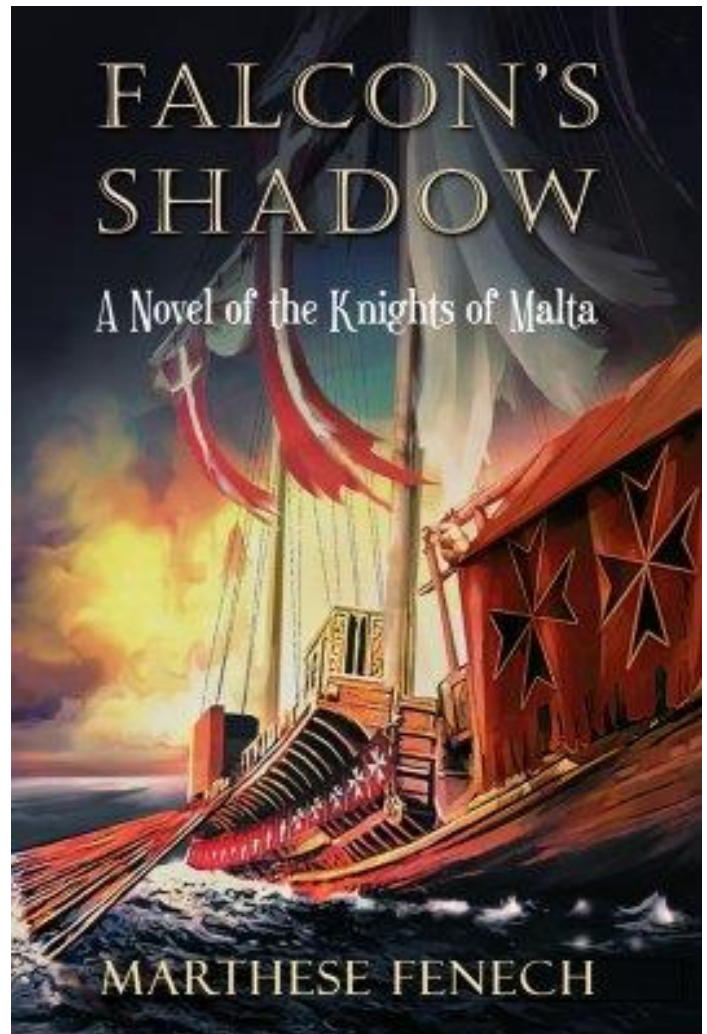
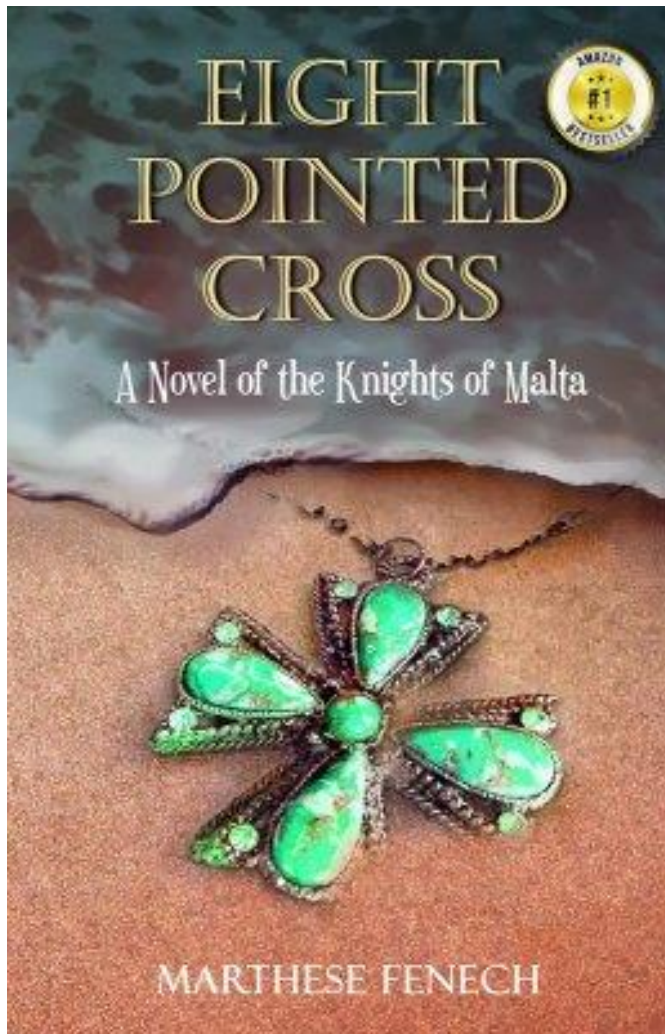


THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 22 JANUARY 2021



**TWO BESTSELLING, AWARD-WINNING HISTORICAL NOVELS SET IN 16TH CENTURY MALTA
BY MALTESE-CANADIAN WRITER MARTHESE FENECH**

(See pages 19-21)

**The Maltese Presence
in North America**
Issue No. 22 January 2021

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

With this issue, the third year of this newsletter begins.

Among the many people to whom I'm most grateful is Mona Vella-Nicholas of California's Bay area. From the very first issue, she has been here proofing virtually each and every article and most of the other items.

A rough estimate of the readership of each issue is around 20,000. Two of the individuals largely responsible for this are Dennis and Evelyn Simmons of San Francisco. Through them, all the issues and the latest "Table of Contents" are posted on the web page of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco at <http://maltese-americanscsf.org/home.aspx>.

Dr. Raymond Xerri has been a great champion of this newsletter, almost from the moment he stepped off the plane at Toronto Pearson Airport to assume the posting of Consul General of the Republic of Malta for Canada.

This newsletter would be the poorer were it not for the research assistance provided by people like Mark Caruana and Charles Said-Vassallo of Metropolitan Sydney, NSW, Australia and the ongoing permission by Dr. Charles Farrugia to publish documents from the National Archives of Malta. Closer to home, Richard S. Cumbo of Toronto has been of invaluable assistance with advice and items for the newsletter.

Fr. Mario Micallef, MSSP, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Toronto, like his predecessor, Fr. Manuel Parnis, MSSP, has been most faithful in seeing that copies of the Sunday Bulletin are forwarded to me, that a page devoted to spiritual insights might accompany each issue.

Last May, Joan Mizzi-Fry of Orillia, Ontario had suggested that the newsletter have "true authentic" Maltese recipes. I asked that the submitter of each recipe provide some background as to how she/he obtained the recipe and what, if any, adaptations were made to it within a North American setting. To date, such prescribed recipes have been received from Dr. Charles J. Vella of the Bay Area and both Rena Xuereb and Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci of Metropolitan Detroit.

For the contents of this issue, special thanks goes to Dr. Raymond Xerri for forwarding end of the year messages to the Maltese Diaspora from the President, Prime Minister and Minister for European and Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Malta. He has also provided information on the musical "Dance of the Rising Goddess – Inanna"

Michael Cutajar has shared with the reader information on his father's first years in Detroit and service in the Korean War.

Chuck Vassallo's innocent query about a great uncle has led to a study of the Maltese who settled in Stamford, Connecticut and what it was that drew them there.

Mel Hamelin got in touch with me through Dr. Raymond Xerri and this, in turn, has led to an account of a third-generation, Maltese Ca-

nadian who for many years called "The Junction" home.

Marthese Fenech learned of me through Richard Cumbo and I was inspired to write an article on her and her two historical novels.

I wish to conclude by extending to each of you all the best in the new year and pray to God that we may get this current worldwide pandemic under control so that our lives may return to normal.

Again, I invite you to contact me at dbrock40@worldline.ca, be it ideas you wish to share, wishing to be put on the free, bcc, electronic mailing list, etc.

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GLEANINGS FROM THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

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.

God Is Always with Us

....Let us not allow the fact that we are not going to church [because of the current pandemic] lead us into a spiritual slumber....God is always with us. Sometimes we tend to forget this reality. God is with us in so many different ways in our lives. He is with us in the sacraments. Even though we cannot celebrate Mass, we can still pay the occasional visit and spend some time with Him in church. It helps! He is with us through His word, which we can read any time during the day. He is with us in the silence of our homes, whenever we decide to take some time off from our normal routine and use it for a short prayer-break.

Then He comes to visit us in other ways too. Remembering the gospel when he told us "whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do for me," he comes to visit us in the face of the other person: the relative who is in trouble (whether it's his fault or not it doesn't matter!), the beggar on the street, the neighbour who needs some help, the sick or lonely person who is longing for a visit or a phone call. Indeed, our God is never too far from us!

Good Times Are Coming

Both John [the Baptist] and the people around him knew that, no matter how strong their desire of conversion is, they cannot do it on their own. The Holy Spirit, who will be gifted to the people by Jesus, will make this possible. This is the Spirit you and I have received in our baptism.

....Good times are coming when "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed." God will show himself as

the shepherd who feeds his flock and carries his lambs in his bosom. Jesus is the incarnation of our God, a God who loves and who cares. This is, indeed, good news.

...let us, too, prepare the way for the Lord to really come into our lives. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to show us what needs to be changed or improved in our lives, and to give us the strength to do it.

Let Us Make Space for Christ's Coming in Our Lives

....Like St. Paul we all have our problems in life. That's human nature, life with its ups and downs. However, unlike St Paul, instead of rejoicing and giving thanks, we often grumble and complain. Let's face it, whether you believe or not problems are not going to change. If there is sickness, an unexpected death, a loss of a job, an injustice occurred, faith is not going to change it. What can change is how you live through that certain situation of negative experience.

....Maybe one mistake that we often do in our lives is that of trying to do God's work, to be our own little gods. We want to decide what's right or wrong, what's good or bad for us....It is only through Him [Jesus] and in Him that we can find our happiness and peace.

Let us make space for his coming in our lives...

God always Takes the Initiative

....God always takes the initiative. He is always in charge.

....Christmas is a gentle reminder that God knows exactly where we are and comes to pick us up.

Christmas in 2020

We have just celebrated the strangest Christmas of our life. And yet, in its strangeness, it helped us realize what is really important. Yes, we probably missed the office parties, school parties, school or parish concerts, and other get-togethers usually associated with this time of the year. More poignantly we missed the traditional family gatherings many of us are accustomed to during Christmas-time. Being in the small nucleus of our immediate family helped us appreciate what we often take for granted—the sense of belonging to a wider family.

This year's situation has made it even harder on people who are experiencing difficulties in their family-life—people going through broken relationships, people who have lost loved ones, people living through unresolved family feuds. Physical separation from other relatives, simply heightened the pain and loneliness in such situations.

**Messaġġ irrekordjat ta' xewqat
għall-Milied u għas-Sena l-Ġdida
mill-Eċċellenza Tiegħu George Vella
għall-Maltn li jgħixu barra
4 ta' Diċembru 2020**



Għeżiež Maltn u Għawdwin li tgħixu barra minn xtutna,

Hu ta' pjaċir għalija, li għat-tieni sena konsekuttiva, qed nibgħat f'ismi, f'isem marti Miriam, u l-kumplament tal-Poplu kollu tagħna, l-isbaħ xewqat ilkom kollha, għall-Milied u s-Sena l-Ġdida.

Din is-sena kienet twila u diffiċli għalina lkoll. Tista' tgħid kull wieħed mill-pajjiżi fejn tgħixu, inkluż Malta, ġie milqut mill-imxija tal-pandemija tal-COVID-19.

Ħafna minna esperjenzaw lockdowns twal. Xi wħud għadhom għaddejjin. Sfortunatament tlifma wkoll membri għeżiež għalina u li tajjeb li nsellmu l-memorja tagħhom f'dan iż-żmien.

Żammejna 'l bogħod minn xulxin, mhux għax xtaqna, iżda bħala turija ta' mħabba u respett.

Għamilna saġrificċji, iżda tgħallimna wkoll.

Adattajna għaċ-ċirkostanzi. Rajna kif dawwarna dawn ir-restrizzjonijiet f'ġesti ta' altruwiżmu u ta' solldarjetà li fil-fatt qarrbvjuna akar lejn xulxin.

F'dinja mgħaġġla, sibna l-ħin ukoll li nitkellmu aktar ta' spiss.

Għarafna għalhekk, li d-distanza qatt ma kienet problema li tifridna. Sibna mezz kif inqattgħu sigħat nitkellmu, permezz tal-mezzi tat-teknoloġija moderna, meta f'ċirkostanzi normali ma konna qatt naħsbu li danjusta' jkun possibbli.

Jiena nawgura li, meta din il-pandemija tispicċa, nibqgħu nsibu l-ħin għal xulxin. Ċert li fi żmien fil-qrib, se nkunu nistgħu nerggħu nżuru lil xulxin bla restrizzjonijiet. Sakemm naslu s'hemm, ibqgħu f'kuntatt ta' spiss, speċjalment ma' dawk li huma l-iktar fil-bżonn jew li jeħtieġu attenzjoni speċjali.

Naħsbu f'min anki fi żmien ta' Festi, jinsab waħdu.

Dan huwa l-veru spirtu tal-Milied. Dan hu li dejjem

**Recorded message of good wishes for
Christmas and New Year by His Excellency
George Vella for Maltese living abroad
14th December 2020**



Dear citizens of Malta and Gozo living abroad,

It is my pleasure, that for the second year in a row, I am sending on my behalf, on behalf of my wife Miriam, and the rest of all our Nation, the best wishes to all of you, for Christmas and New Year.

This year has been long and difficult for all of us. You could say that each of the countries where you live, including Malta, has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most of us have experienced long lockdowns. Some of us, still are. Unfortunately, we have also lost loved ones and it is fitting to salute their memory during this period.

We kept our distance from each other, not because we wanted to but as a sign of love and respect.

We made sacrifices, but we also learned.

We adapted to the circumstances. We have seen how we turn these restrictions into gestures of altruism and solidarity that have truly brought us closer together. In a fast-paced world, we also found times to talk more often.

Thus, we realised that distance was never a problem separating us. We found a way to spend hours talking, through modern technology, when under normal circumstances we never thought it would be possible.

I augur that, when this pandemic ends, we will continue to find time for each other. I am convinced that soon, we will be able to visit each other again without restrictions. Until then, stay in touch often, especially with those who are most in need or who need special attention.

Let us keep in mind those who, even during these

spikka fil-karattru Malti. L-għaqda u l-imħabba lejn il-familja tagħna hu dak li vera jgħodd. Id-distanza qatt ma tista' 'tibdel dawn il-valuri.

Niltlokkom għalhekk li meta tkunu qed iżzejjnu s-sigra tal-Milied jew tarmaw il-presepju, iżzomm f'moħħkom il-familji u l-ħbieb tagħkom hawn Malta. Tajjeb li tipparteċipaw bis-sħiħ fit-tradizzjonijiet tal-pajjiż adottiv tagħkom, iżda żommu wkoll ħaj il-wirt Malti tagħkom.

Ibqgħu Maltim fi drawwietkom. Fejn tistgħu ħaddmu l-Malti u għallmuh lil uliedkom u n-neputijiet tagħkom.

Għalina, intom tibqgħu dejjem parti mill-familja tagħna speċjalment f' dawn il-ġanet, għax inħossu n-nuqqas tagħkom magħna. Nittama li dawk li xtaqu jkunu Malta għall-Festi iżda ma setgħux jivvjaġġaw minħabba r-restrizzjonijiet, ma jdumux ma jaqtgħu xewqithom u jkunu fostna f' qasir żmien.

Jien irrid nieħu din l-opportunità wkoll biex nirringrazzja lil dawk kollha fostkom, li waqt dawn iż-żminijiet diffiċli, kienu minn ta' quddiem sabiex jiżguaw is-saħħa u s-sigurtà tal-komunitajiet tiegħkom. Jiena ċert li xogħolkom tagħmluh mingħajr interess u b'ħafna dedikazzjoni.

Għeżiež ħutna,

Lilkom ilkoll, kif nagħmel mal-familji tagħkom f'Malta, ngħaddilkom messaġġ ta' tama. Ejjew ilkoll in-segwu d-direzzjoni maħruġa mill-awtorijiet tas-saħħa rispettivi sabiex inżommu lit kulħadd b'saħħtu.

Din li se tintemm kienet sena iebesha. Niftakru iżda li l-festi tal-Milied u t-tifsira kbir tagħha mħumiex imħassra jew imtappna, sakem aħna stess nibqgħu nrawmu l-valuri tagħna ġewwa fina.

Jiena nagħaq dan il-messaġġ billi ngħidilkom li fejn intom - aħna kburin bilom. B'dak li tagħmlu turu lid-dinja li l-kobor ta' pajjiż ma jinsabx fid-daqs ġeografiku tiegħu, iżda fin-poplu tiegħu.

Jien nawgura lilkom u lill-familji tiegħek Milied hieni u mimli ferħ u mħabba. Nixitqilkom ukoll sena ġdida mimlija risq, hena u fuq kollox is-saħħa.

Insellmilkom

festivities, are alone.

This is the true Christmas spirit. This is what always stood out in the Maltese character. What really matters is the togetherness and love of our family. Distance can never change these values.

Therefore, I ask you that when you are decorating the Christmas tree or setting up the crib, keep in mind your families and friends here in Malta. It is good to participate fully in the traditions of your adoptive country, but also keep your Maltese heritage alive.

Stay Maltese in your traditions. Where possible, use the Maltese language and teach it to your children and grandchildren.

For us, you will always be part of our family especially during these days, as we miss your presence. I hope that those who wished to be in Malta for the holidays but could not travel due to the restrictions, will be able to do so in the very near future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those of you who, during these difficult times, have been at the forefront of ensuring the health and safety of your communities. I am sure that you do your job with no interest for personal gain and with a lot of dedication.

Dear brothers and sisters,

I want to send a message of hope to all of you, as I do to your families in Malta. Let us all follow the guidelines set by the respective health authorities in order to protect each other's health.

The year that is going to end was a tough one. However, we should keep in mind that the Christmas festivities and their great significance will not be ruined or tarnished, as long as we continue to nurture our values within us.

I will conclude this message by telling you that wherever you are – we are proud of you. Through all your actions, you show the world that the greatness of a country is not in its geographical size, but in its people.

I wish you and your families a Christmas full of joy and love. I also wish you a new year full of prosperity, happiness and above all health.

All the best.

**Messaġġ mill-Prim Ministru ta' Malta
Dr. Robert Abela
lill-Maltin li Jgħixu Barra minn Malta**



Qed nibgħat dan il-messaġġ għall-ewwel darba f'bħala Prim Ministru tal-Maltin u Għawdxin. Ninsabu kemm ninsabu 'l bogħod minn xulxin, nibqa' dejjem imsaħħar bil-valuri sbieħ li jgħaqqduna u li sawru l-identita' tagħna bħala Maltin matul il-milja tas-snin.

Dawn il-valuri ta' poplu bieżel u reżiljenti ħarġu fid-deher matul is-sena li waslet biex tintemm. Sena li matulha d-dinja kollha, inkluż pajjiżna għex żmien ta' sfida kbira minħabba l-pandemija tal-COVID-19. L-imxija ħarbtitilna l-ħajja tagħna ta' kuljum u l-istil ta' ħajjitna kien jinħtieġ li jinbidel radikalment.

Nistqarr li ma kinetx faċli. Ftit ġimgħat wara li assumejt l-irwol ta' Prim Ministru, pajjiżna kellu jaffronta din l-isfida bla preċedent.

Izda meta nħares lura nħossni kburi bil-ħidma li rnexxielna nagħmlu bħala pajjiż magħqud u flimkien. Għalkemm ma kellna l-ebda manwal li jiggwidana, xorta bħala pajjiż, irnexxielna nibqgħu għaddejjin. Għamilna dan għax imxejna b'għaqaq u għax għandna sistema ta' saħħa b'saħħitha, bi professjonisti u bi frontliners f'diversi oqsma li ħadmu fuq li ħadmu biex taw dak kollu li jistgħu għal pajjiżna. Fuq kollox il-poplu Malti u Għawdxin li kien magħna u kkopera biex żammejna s-sitwazzjoni taħt kontroll.

Tul is-sena ħdimna kemm flaħna sabiex żammejna l-bilanċ bejn is-saħħa u l-għajxien tal-familji tagħna. Bil-miżuri li ħadna fil-Pjan ta' Riġenerazzjoni Ekonomika, pajjiżna żamm fost l-inqas rati ta' qgħad fl-Unjoni Ewropea. Konna ta' spalla għal eluf ta' negozji u familji. Il-wage supplement u l-iskema tal-vouchers taw nifs qawwi lill-ħaddiema f'pajjiżna.

Issa aktar minn qatt qabel irridu nħarsu 'l quddiem. L-avanz f'dak li huwa vaċċin se jagħti nifs kbir lid-dinja, mhuxl-inqas lilna sabiex immorru lura għan-normalita li konna drajna biha.

Hemm bżonn li nitilqu niġru u bil-miżuri li ħadna għandna l-opportunita li nagħmlu dan f'qasir żmien.

Fil-ġimgħat u x-xhur li ġejjin se nissoktaw bir-riformi

**Message from the Prime Minister of Malta
Dr. Robert Abela to Maltese Living Abroad***

I am sending this message for the first time as Prime Minister of the Maltese and Gozitans. No matter how far apart we are, I am always enchanted by the beautiful values that unite us and that have shaped our identity as Maltese over the years. These values of a bustling and resilient people have come to light over the coming year, a year during which the whole world, including our country, lived through a time of great challenge due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The move has disrupted our daily lives and our lifestyle had to change radically.

I confess it wasn't easy. A few weeks after assuming the role of Prime Minister, our country had to face this unprecedented challenge.

But when I look back, I feel proud of the work we have managed to do together as a united country. Although we had no manual to guide us, still as a country, we managed to keep going. We did this because we have been wise and because we have a strong health system, with professionals and frontliners in various fields who have worked hard to give everything they can for our country. Above all, the Maltese and Gozitan people were with us and cooperated to keep the situation under control.

Throughout the year we worked as hard as we could to maintain the balance between the health and livelihoods of our families. With the measures we have taken in the Economic Regeneration Plan, our country has maintained among the lowest unemployment rates in the European Union. We have been the backbone of thousands of businesses and families. The wage supplement and the voucher scheme gave a great breath to the workers in our country.

Now more than ever, we need to look ahead. Advances in vaccines will give the world a big leap, not least to us to get back to the normalcy we were used to.

We need to start running and with the measures we have taken we have the opportunity to do so in the short term.

In the coming weeks and months, we will continue with the reforms our country needs to make. This year we have carried out historic reforms to strengthen our country's institutions and the rule of law, reforms that have not only been welcomed and

li jeħtieg jagħmel pajjiżna. Din is-sena wettaqna riformi storiċi biex saħħaħna l-istituzzjonijiet ta' pajjiżna u s-Saltna tad-Dritt. Riformi li mhux biss intlaqgħu u għew imfaħħra mill-istituzzjonijiet Ewropew iżda li tqiesu mudell għal pajjiżi oħrajn.

Il-missjoni ewlenija tal-Gvern immexxi minni tibqa' dik li nwieżnu lil dawk l-aktar li għandhom bżonn u nippremjaw il-bżulija tal-familji u n-negozji tagħna. Dan se nagħmluh bil-miżuri soċjali li ħabbarna fil-Budget għas-sena d-dieħla fosthom żieda oħra fil-pensjonijiet, titjib fiċ-children's allowance u l-In-Work Benefits, żieda fir-rata tal-Carer at Home u assistenza akbar għal persuni b'diżabbilita severa.

Bħala parti mill-viżjoni tagħna għal pajjiżna se nkomplu nimmodernizzaw l-infrastruttura ta' pajjiżna u nibnu infrastruttura industrijali ġdida li se toħloq eluf ta' impjegji ġodda u ta' kwalita'.

Fl-istess waqt se ninvestu bis-saħħa fl-ambjent biex sal-2050 pajjiżna jkun ħieles mill-karbonju. Ma' dawn se ninvestu f'aktar spazji miftuħa u żoni ta' rikreazzjoni biex inkomplu ntejbu l-kwalita tal-ħajja tal-familji tagħna.

Se naraw li l-oqsma vitali tas-saħħa u tal-edukazzjoni jibqgħu jkunu ta' prijorita'.

Fuq kollox se nibqgħu ngħibu lil Malta tagħna, l-ewwel u qabel kollox għax persważ li l-Maltin u l-Għawdxin magħquda se jimxu 'l quddiem.

Minn qalbi f'ismi, f'isem marti Lydia u binti Giorgia Mae u f'isem il-Gvern, nawguralkom Milied ħieni u Sena Ġdida mimlija paċi u mħabba.

praised by the European institutions but have been considered a model for other countries.

The main mission of my government remains to support those most in need and reward the zeal of our families and businesses. We will do this with the social measures we announced in the Budget for next year, including another increase in pensions, improvements in children's allowance and In-Work Benefits, an increase in the Carer at Home rate and greater assistance for people with severe disabilities.

As part of our vision for our country we will continue to modernize our country's infrastructure and build a new industrial infrastructure that will create thousands of new and quality jobs.

At the same time, we will invest heavily in the environment so that by 2050 our country will be carbon free. In addition, we will invest in more open spaces and recreation areas to further improve the quality of life of our families.

We will ensure that the vital areas of health and education continue to be a priority.

Above all, we will continue to bring our Malta, first and foremost because I am convinced that the united Maltese and Gozitans will move forward.

From the bottom of my heart, on behalf of my wife Lydia and daughter Giorgia Mae and on behalf of the Government, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a New Year full of peace and love.

**Editor's note: As the Prime Minister's message was provided in Maltese only, I have taken the liberty of having it translated into English for the benefit of those not able to read Maltese.*



**Maltese Emigrants at the Customs House
Prior to Boarding the *Sobieski* for the United States, Friday, March 12, 1948**

The Times of Malta, March 13, 1948, p. 7

**MESSAGE FROM EVARIST BARTOLO
MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN & FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA**



Gheziez hutì,

Xtaqt zortkom fix-xhur li ghaddew imma ma stajtx minhabba l-Covid-19.

Nittama li fix-xhur li gejjin inkun nista' nivvjagga u nigì narakom.

Bhall-hafna eluf ohra li nghixu fil-gzejjer Maltin ghandi qrabati f'pajjizi differenti u allura meta nzur pajjizi ohra fejn jghixu Maltin u Ghawdxin ma nhossnix qed inzur pajjiz barrani. Inkun qed inzur lil tal-familja, mhux biss dawk li jigu minni, izda tal-familja Maltija. Il-familja Maltija hija ferm ikbar min kemm ghandna jghixu fil-gzejjer taghna.

Ghandna Maltin u Ghawdxin jghixu f'pajjizi ohra f'kull naha tad-dinja kwazi daqskemm ghandna jghixu fil-gzejjer taghna. Tajjeb li nzommu hajjin ir-rabtiet ta' bejnietna u nsahhuhom.

Ahna fejn ahna nistghu nhobbu lill-pajjizna u lill-poplu taghna waqt li nkunu parti shiha u hajja mis-socjeta' fejn qeghdin.

F'dinja fejn tant zdied it-tahlit ta' popli, razez, nazzjonalitajiet, ilsna u kulturi differenti aktar hemm cans jizdiedu l-kunflitti bejnietna.

Imma aktar ukoll hemm ic-cans li jekk naghmlu sforz genwin u difficli kemm hu difficli nitghallmu nghixu flimkien u nirrispettaw lil xulxin aktar hemm cans li naghrfu li ahna ahwa lkoll tal-familja umana li tgħix f'din il-planetja u hafna mill-isfidi kbar li ghandna quddiemna nistghu neghelbuhom biss, mhux billi niggieldu u nkunu ghedewwa ta' xulxin izda billi nahdmu flimkien għall-gid komuni.

Awguri 2021

Evarist



Evarist Bartolo

Dear Countrymen,

I would have liked to visit you in recent months, but I couldn't due to COVID-19. I hope that in the coming months, I would be able to visit you.

I must tell you that whenever I visit other countries, especially where there are Maltese and Gozitans, it's as if I'm visiting not just another country, but a country where my fellow countrymen are living. It's as if I'm visting someone belonging to my family – not necessarily my immediate family but part of the Maltese and Gozitan family.

Because wherever we are; and there are Maltese and Gozitans living in the rest of the world as much as there are of them living in our islands; it's important that we keep in touch with each other, it's important that we strengthen our ties. And we can love our country while at the same time, be part of the society where we are living.

In a world where so many people are mixing with each other, travelling to different countries, there is more of a chance for conflicts to happen. But at the same time, if we really learn to live together and to make an effort to learn how to live together and respect each other, we can form part of the human family who lives on this planet.

Most of the challenges that we have can only be faced if we face them together. Not become each other's enemies, but facing them together and to work for the common good.

I really wish you well for the year 2021

Evarist

The brig *Urano*, owned by A. & S. Galea of Valletta, was the first Maltese vessel to carry cargo directly from Malta to the United States. It arrived safely at New Orleans on April 19, 1850 after a voyage of 50 days.

The master of the vessel was presented with a silver medal by Malta's Chamber of Commerce for his achievement.

ALJOTTA (MALTESE FISH SOUP)

Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci



The December issue featured Lisa's recipe for Maltese pumpkin pie (torta tal-qara ħamra)

Malta's history has had a great influence on its cuisine. Ruled by many foreign powers, its dishes and tastes were adapted to cater to those who ruled the Islands. Aljotta is one such dish.

In June of 1798, Napoleon captured Malta. Even though he was there for only six days, he left approximately 4,000 soldiers behind to guard the Islands as he sailed off for an unsuccessful attempt to conquer Egypt. This very well could be the time aljotta was created. It is a Maltese fish soup believed to be an adaptation of bouillabaisse, a traditional Provençal fish stew originating from France. Unlike bouillabaisse, it is not meant to have large pieces of fish or seafood. Aljotta is a brothy soup made with delicate white fish, herbs, tomatoes, and **plenty** of garlic. The name itself, *aljotta*, comes from the Italian word *aglio* for garlic.

Every family has its own version. Some use only fish, others prefer more kinds of seafood. I added shrimp to mine to enhance the flavor. Plus, I just really love shrimp. I hope you enjoy my adaptation of aljotta. It's a perfect dish to warm you on a cold winter's day.

Advance warning. You will need cheesecloth and cotton twine to prepare this recipe. If you don't have it, no biggie, but it does make removing the fish from the broth much easier and I highly recommend using it.

INGREDIENTS: FOR FISH STOCK:

- The head, tail and fins of 1 fish
- Shells from ½ lb. of shrimp
- 8 cups cold water
- 2 carrots, roughly chopped
- 2 onions, roughly chopped
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme
- 3 sprigs fresh parsley
- 1 bay leaf
- 5 peppercorns

FOR THE ALJOTTA

- 1 whole fish approximately 1 lb. Any light, white meat fish will do. (I used pompano) 1 lb. of filets with the skin on may be substituted.

NOTE: This recipe calls for a whole fish in order to develop the best possible flavor in the broth.

- ½ lb. shrimp, peeled, deveined, & chopped into small pieces or left whole, however you like it.
- 8 cups fish stock. (If you don't make stock, store bought is perfectly fine)
- 6 fresh diced tomatoes, or 2 cups canned tomatoes
- 2 medium yellow onions, finely diced
- 1 head of garlic (about 10-12 cloves), sliced thin

NOTE: If you don't want to eat the garlic, crush the whole cloves to allow the flavor to release into the soup, then remove them before serving.

- ½ cup rice
- 3 Tbsp. fresh mint leaves, minced
- 3 Tbsp. fresh parsley leaves, minced + more for garnish
- 1 Tbsp. dried marjoram leaves (if using ground marjoram, use ½ the amount)
- 1 Tbsp. tomato paste
- 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- Juice of one lemon + zest for garnish
- 1 tsp. salt + more for seasoning
- ½ tsp. pepper + more for seasoning



Aljotta Ingredients

FOR FISH STOCK:

1. Clean your fish by removing the guts and cutting away the head, tail and fins. (Your fishmonger can do this for you.)
2. Peel and chop the onions.
3. Wash and chop the carrots. No need to peel them.
4. Place all the ingredients in a pot and cover with the cold water.
5. Bring almost to a boil over high heat. (Do not let it come to a boil.)
6. Reduce heat to low and simmer, uncovered, for 30 minutes.
7. Strain the stock and discard the solids.

FOR THE ALJOTTA:

1. Prep and measure all your ingredients.
2. In a large pot, sauté the onion in olive oil over medium high heat until soft and golden brown. About 10 minutes.
3. Push the onions to the side, add the garlic and sauté another minute or two until fragrant and just starting to brown. Then mix with the onions.
4. Create another space in the pot to add the tomato paste. Cook for a minute, stirring to soften, then incorporate everything together.



5. Slowly mix in the stock to smoothly blend with the tomato paste, dissolving any lumps.
6. Add the tomatoes, herbs, and the salt and pepper to the pot. Bring the mixture to a boil.



7. Wrap the fish, (both whole or filets), in cheesecloth, tie it up in a bundle with cotton twine, and add it to the pot. Reduce the heat, cover and simmer for 20-30 minutes until the fish meat is white and soft. The cheesecloth helps to prevent any bones and other pieces from dispersing in the soup and aids in easy removal from the broth.
8. Using tongs, remove the fish bundle from the pot and set aside to cool.



9. Strain the soup into a large bowl, saving the broth and strained ingredients separately.
10. Some recipes omit the strained ingredients and serve as a broth with the rice and fish, or serve the fish separately with potatoes for a main course. At this point you can decide how you want to serve it. If you decide to omit the strained ingredients, leave them out in step #13. If you left the garlic cloves whole, now is the time to fish them out.



11. Allow the fish to cool enough to handle it. If using whole fish, use a fork to remove the skin and separate the meat from the bones. Discard the bones. Flake the flesh apart with your fingers to feel for tiny bones. If using filets, you still have to remove the skin and pick out any bones.



12. Meanwhile, as the fish is cooling, bring the broth back to a boil. Lower the heat, add the rice, cover and simmer until the rice is tender. About 15-20 minutes.
13. Add the shrimp to the broth. Return the fish meat and strained ingredients back into the pot. Cover and simmer until the shrimp are translucent and cooked through. (About 2-3 minutes depending on how big the shrimp pieces are.) Traditionally the soup should not have large pieces of seafood, but I like my shrimp whole.



14. Add the lemon juice.
15. Check for seasoning and add additional salt and pepper if needed.
16. Serve hot with lemon zest and parsley garnish. Serves 8.



THE VASSALLOS AND OTHERS OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT: PART I-THE EARLY YEARS

Dan Brock & Chuck Vassallo

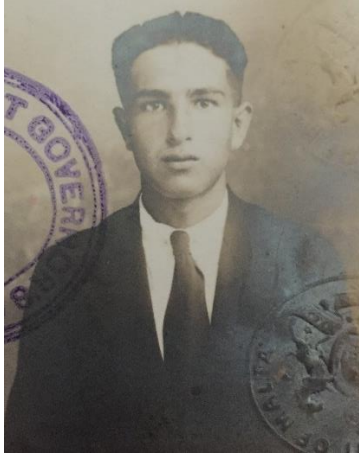
After reading "The Vassallos of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada" in the December 2020 issue of this newsletter Chuck Vassallo of Illinois wrote the following to its editor:

I am curious to learn of the Vassallos in Nova Scotia. My father had told me of an uncle of his named John who, in the early 1900s, most likely between 1905 - 1910, booked passage to Sydney to reunite with a brother who had migrated to Australia. Unfortunately, for this young man, most likely a teenager, the passage he had purchased for Sydney departed for Sydney, Nova Scotia instead. Apparently, after many months, he located a Maltese person who had sent a letter to Bormla, Malta, to locate John's family, as to his whereabouts. He never did return to Malta. Most likely he has grandchildren and great-grandchildren residing in Nova Scotia. I would love to communicate with them.

Dan Brock's interest was piqued and he immediately started research on this, via Ancestry and through his colleague, Mark Caruana, of NSW, Australia. Unfortunately, nothing could be found regarding this particular John Vassallo.

Through correspondence, however, between Dan and Chuck a story began to unfold of the Vassallos and other Maltese of Stamford, Connecticut.

Chuck's father, Giuseppe "Joseph" Vassallo, arrived in New York Harbor, on board the *Majestic*, on January 6, 1931. Single at the time, he planned to join an older, as yet single brother, Angiolino "Angelo Charles", who had arrived on the same ship on April 17, 1928.



Joseph Vassallo, Passport Photo, 1930

Angelo and Joseph Vassallo's parents were Carmelo and Teresa Vassallo. Carmelo had married his first cousin once removed, Teresa Vassallo. Teresa's brother, Luigi, had died in the Battle of Jutland when the HMS *Black Prince*, Royal Navy, sank on May 31, 1916.

Angelo Vassallo's original destination was New York City, but by 1930 he was rooming in Stamford, CT and was a moulder at a lock shop, according to the 1930 US federal census.



Angelo Vassallo

Also rooming at the same boarding house, 539 Pacific Street, was a fellow Maltese immigrant, Guiliano L. "Julian" Rapa. He too was a moulder at a lock shop. Rapa, who was single and six years older than Angelo, was a native of Xaghra, Gozo and had arrived at New York City, his destination, on board the *Nieuw Amsterdam*, on May 23, 1920. His last residence in Malta had been in Paola, the adjoining town to Tarxien, the birth place of Angelo and Joseph Vassallo.



Julian Rapa, 1920

Courtesy of National Archives of Malta

Also living in Stamford by 1930 were Joseph Cassar and Carmelo Debattista. They too had arrived in New York Harbor in 1920. Both were married. Joseph was a machine fitter at a ball bearing company and Carmelo a lock assembler at a lock shop.

Joseph Cassar's wife, Rosa, was German. Sometime after her death, between 1930 and 1937, Joseph returned to Paola, the town of his birth.



Joseph Cassar, 1937

Courtesy of National Archives of Malta

As for Carmelo Debattista, he was joined by his son Jimmie in 1924, his daughter Angelina in 1929 and a cousin, Mike Farmilo, in 1930.



Michele "Mike" Farmilo, 1930

Courtesy of National Archives of Malta

Angelina Debattista, also known as Giovanna and Jenny, married the aforesaid Julian Rapa in February 1932. They were to have three children: Mary, Angelo and Joan.

Meanwhile, a second son of Carmelo Debattista, Nazzareno, had arrived in March 1931. Carmelo probably accompanied his son, Nazzareno, back to Malta in August 1936. In any case, he remained in Paola, on Sda. Palma, possibly because his wife, Carmela, refused to leave Malta. As for Nazzareno, he returned, still single, to Stamford in October 1938. By early 1940, he had his name legally changed to Nazareth De Bate.

Yet another Debattista sibling, Giuseppe F. "Joseph", possibly the youngest family member, had arrived in Stamford in May 1938. The parents, however, remained in Malta.

Meanwhile, in addition to Angelo and Joseph Vassallo, there was yet another Vassallo family living in Stamford by the early 1930s.

Salvatore Vassallo, like the mother of Angelo and Joseph Vassallo, was a native of Cospicua. His last residence before leaving Malta had been Paola. As such, it is almost certain that he was already acquainted with the aforementioned Giuseppe Cassar, a native and resident of that town. Both men had boarded the *Nieuw Amsterdam*, in Boulogne, France on May 13, 1920 and disembarked at New York 10 days later. Both gave New York City as their destination but later migrated to Stamford, CT.

Unlike Cassar, however, Vassallo was married with four children.

By early 1928, Salvatore Vassallo had returned to Malta, most probably to make arrangements to bring out his family. By early March 1928, he was back in Stamford.

The following year, in late April 1929, his wife, the former Carmela Chetcuti of Senglea, and three of his children—Michelina "Lena", Perigna Josephine "Pera" and Maria "Mary"—arrived in New York Harbor on board the *Vulcania*.



Maria and Carmela Vassallo, 1929

Courtesy of National Archives of Malta

The son, Charles, remained in Malta until 1930, presumably to complete his schooling, and disembarked from the *Saturnia* on March 18th.



Carmelo "Charles" Vassallo, 1930

Courtesy of National Archives of Malta

The Vassallos were reunited and living at 213 Pacific Street, Stamford, at the time of the 1930 census. Salvatore was a moulder, Lena a lock assembler at a lock shop and Pera a waitress at a restaurant. Presumably Charles and his younger sister, Maria, were attending school.

Now, when Angelo Vassallo arrived in 1928, he stated that Salvatore Vassallo was his cousin. By 1934, Angelo had married Salvatore's daughter, Pera, and their first child, Charles, was born in June 1934. The couple was to have two more children: Joseph (1938) and Maryann (1942).

Angelo, Pera and Charles spent some four months in Malta in 1936 before returning to Stamford in December.

The following year, Angelo's brother, Joseph Vassallo, returned to Malta and arrived back in Stamford in April 1938 with his new bride, Lorenza G. "Lorraine", daughter of Constantio and Concetta Farrugia of Tarxien. They were to have three children also: Theresa, Charlie C. (the co-writer of this article) and Connie G.

While Carmelo "Charles" Xuereb gave his destination as Stamford when he arrived at Providence, Rhode Island, in December 1930, he does not appear in Stamford on the 1930 census and it's believed he had gone to live in New York City where he had a cousin, George Xuereb.

Meanwhile, like most of the Maltese living in Stamford, Joseph Vassallo was employed by Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company, the leading employer in the area. In fact, it was this manufacturer of Yale locks which drew the first Maltese who settled in Stamford. Of the 13 persons, including women and children of Maltese birth living in the city in 1930, it's believed that eight were working at the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company.

To be continued.

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

The Greater Toronto Area, Ontario Malta Band Club

The Club will be open for take out of frozen and cooked pastizzi on Thursday, January 7th (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) and Sunday, January 10th (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.).

Individual annual memberships are \$65 and family memberships are \$100.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

Owing to the lockdown in the Toronto area and Masses having to be cancelled until further notice, the Archbishop of Toronto did give permission for the reception of the Blessed Eucharist in the church on Christmas. No more than 10 persons, including the minister and a volunteer, were present and people had to book ahead. Six services were held on Christmas Eve and two on Christmas morning.

Lehen Malti

Nigel Lemenčič-Puglsevich, a second-year student at Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario, was the winner of the \$2,000 scholarship awarded for the 2020-21 scholastic year by Lehen Malti. Applicants had to be of Maltese descent, living in Canada and a post-secondary school student. Each applicant was to submit a paper of no less the 1,000

words on some aspect of Maltese migration to Canada and a personal video of no more than five minutes explaining why he/she was deserving of this scholarship. Deadline for submissions was October 31, 2020. (See issue of October 2020, page 19.)

LEHEN MALTI (Maltese Voice)

OMNI 1 - Ontario
Saturdays 8:30 a.m.
Tuesdays 3.30 a.m., 11:30 a.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.
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

New York City

Maltese Center: Astoria

On Sunday, December 6th, the Center presented its first live ZOOM show *Il-Maltin Tagħna* with Ms. Francesca Cassar, Consul in York at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations. Bestselling and award-winning author of *Eight Pointed Cross* and *Falcon's Shadow*, Ms. Marthese Fenech, was the show's guest on the afternoon of December 13th. The Magna Żmien Foundation, whose aim is to preserve memories of Malta's audiovisual heritage, was featured on December 20th.

As of early December, the Centre had received \$6,000 in donations, or some 40% of its goal.

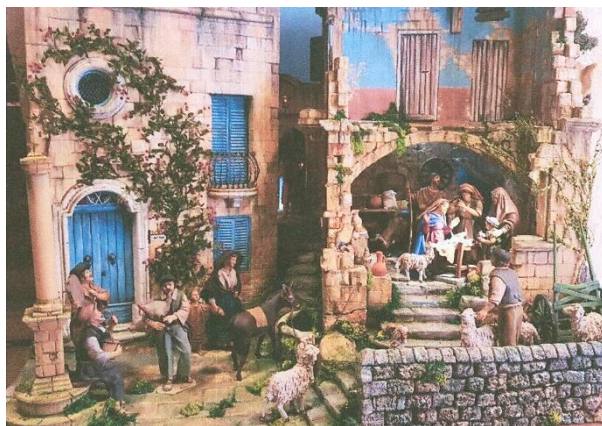
Beginning on December 12th, the auction, "7 days of Christmas" was held. All monies raised were considered a donation and went towards the appeal to help offset ongoing operating costs during this pandemic.

Washington, DC

Embassy of the Republic of Malta to the United States

The winners of the nativity scene as set up at the Museum of the Bible were Adrian Gatt and Raymond Zammit, with figures (*pasturi*) by Jesmond Micallef. The nativity crib (*presepiju*) is set in a Maltese house which was partially demolished

during the Second World War. For further information, go to <https://fal.cn/3ckAH>.



Metropolitan Detroit

Maltese-American Community of Dearborn

While the facilities are still closed as such, owing to the coronavirus, the Club will be opened on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for the payment of memberships and the purchase of pastizzi and Twistees.

Windsor

Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

The club was open on the evening of Saturday, December 12th but, owing to COVID-19 restrictions, was limited to 10 people inside. Orders for pastizzi and ravioli could be picked up between 6:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

With further restrictions, the club was open only for parking lot pick-up orders for pastizzi, ravioli, kunserva, qagħaq tal-għasel and Kinnie between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 19th.

MEET MEL HAMELIN

Dan Brock



Mel Hamelin

Mel Hamelin was born into a French and Maltese family and grew up on Vernon Street in Toronto's "Junction" or "Little Malta." Her maternal grandparents were Frank and Theresa Mifsud. They and their then three children—Rose, Joseph and baby Charles, had sailed from Malta to Halifax, Nova Scotia, on board the S.S. *Brasil* in June 1950. On their arrival in Halifax, they took the train to Toronto.

Interestingly, Frank had been born in Toronto in 1918 to Emanuel and Carmela (Briffa) Mifsud, natives of Msida, Malta who had arrived in Toronto in 1912 and 1913 respectively. Emanuel died sometime between 1919 and 1928. Carmela remarried in May 1928 and moved to Detroit with her new husband, John Joseph Cauchi of that city, and her four youngest children, including Frank.

Meanwhile, after arriving in Toronto in 1950, Frank and Theresa were to have three more children: Sam, Fred and Mel's mother, Cathy, the youngest. At first the family lived in East Toronto but later moved to Vernon Street in The Junction.

Frank was well-known for his pastizzi, served with coffee, at a sit-at counter in the Mutual Cigar Store, which was operated by two brothers-in-law on Dundas Street, across from what is now the Malta Bake Shop.

Tragedy befell the family in May 1975 when Frank and his youngest son Fred drowned in Wellers Bay near the Bay of Quinte, on which they had a family cottage, after they had gone out fishing.



Memorial Card
for Frank Mifsud and His Son Fred

Mel never met her nannu, Frank Mifsud, or her uncle Fred, as they died before she was born. She grew up with her parents in her nanna's home on Vernon Street in The Junction.

Her parish church was St. Paul the Apostle on Dundas Street, now the only Maltese national

church in North America. She further immersed herself in the Maltese culture by attending language classes at James Culnan Catholic School on Willard Avenue. This school was popular with the Maltese in and around the Junction and Mel also at-

tended regular classes there until graduating from grade 8 in 1994. She then enrolled at Bishop Allen Academy, in the Queensway-Humber Bay neighbourhood of the Toronto borough of Etobicoke, graduating in 1998.

HOME LINES MEDITERRANEAN LINES INC. SOUTH ATLANTIC LINES INC. ORIGINAL TO PASSENGER

TOURIST CLASS DAY TRIP **PASSAGE TICKET AND CONTRACT N° W 22705**

FROM *Montreal* TO *Halifax* CODE *554* RATE *(\$55.40)*
 PER VESSEL *SS BRASIL* SAILING *4/6/50* AT *1500*

NAMES OF PASSENGERS		AGE	FARE	TAXES	TOTAL
MR. FRANCIS MIFSUD	AD	1	62.10	-	62.10
MRS. THERESA MIFSUD	AD	1	62.10	-	62.10
MISS ROSE MIFSUD	5/5	5/2	31.50	-	31.50
MASTER JOSEPH MIFSUD	5/5	5/2	31.50	-	31.50
BABY CHARLES MIFSUD			3.11.6		3.11.6

ISSUED in accordance with exchange list:

Prepaid Ticket Return Ticket Exchange Order Deposit Receipt Total passage fare *\$191-1-6*

City: *Toronto*, *Canada*

TAXES: *1-10-*

U.S. Head Tax

TOTAL *\$192-11-6*

WHEN ISSUED FOR ROUND TRIP TRANSPORTATION, THIS COUPON MUST BE EXCHANGED AT COMPANY'S PORT OFFICE

THE CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE, AND SET FORTH ON THIS PAGE AND THE OVERPAGE, TO WHICH PASSENGER, EXPRESSLY AGREE AND WHICH ARE TO APPLY AND GOVERN THE RELATIONS WHATEVER THEY MAY BE BETWEEN PASSENGER AND THE CARRIER, MASTER AND VESSEL IN EVERY CONTINGENCY WHATSOEVER AND WHERESOEVER OCCURRING AND EVEN IN THE EVENT OF OR DURING DEVIATION OR UNSEAWORTHINESS OF THE VESSEL AT THE INCEPTION OF THE VOYAGE OR SUBSEQUENTLY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tourist Class Passage Ticket for Frank Mifsud and His Family on Board the SS *Brasil*, June 1950



Theresa Mifsud (seated) with Her Surviving Children - Sam, Rose, Cathy, Joe and Charlie



Mel with Her Nanna, Theresa Mifsud, in the Front Yard on Vernon Street

Mel attended the Toronto School of Business in 2001-02 and received the Dawn Drysdale Memorial award for academic excellence, leadership and team spirit. The next seven years were spent climbing the corporate ladder. In 2004-05 she had moved with her partner to Thompson, Manitoba.

There, she later was hired as an executive assistant with the Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation. In 2009, Mel obtained a diploma in civil tech engineering from Red River College and became one of the planners for the Northern Manitoba region. This region encompassed Snow Lake on the west, Cross Lake on the east and the town of Gillam in the north.

After leaving her husband, whom she had married in 2010, Mel took a Manitoba real estate course. Between 2013 and 2016, she was a realtor in Winnipeg. There, Mel earned two sales awards and made "impactful changes with the Manitoba Realtor Action Network by bringing affordable housing to the indigenous population living and working off the reserve.

In 2016, her life took a sudden turn and she became pregnant and chose to live with relatives in the unincorporated community of Port Dover, in Norfolk County, Ontario.

After months of not working and being a stay-at-home mom with a beautiful baby daughter, she craved finding an outlet for creative energy, but was unsuccessful in finding part-time work in any of the main shops on Main Street in Port Dover.

It was after much soul-searching, contemplating how a person like herself with all her education, knowledge and experience, could not find part-time employment that she realized "no one could afford to pay the minimum wage for the hours one must employ a part-time person."

In an "eureka" moment: the solution for these small businesses was "help which could be expensed rather than incurred as a cost of business."

Down to the last \$74 in her account, Mel took \$60 from it and registered her conceptual business with ServiceOntario. She then took the cardboard backing off her paper pad and printed and distributed 10 business cards. The next day she had eight new clients and The Personal Professional was launched.

As the business expanded and knowing that accessibility was the key which a small community could not provide, Mel returned to the Greater Toronto Area with her small daughter.

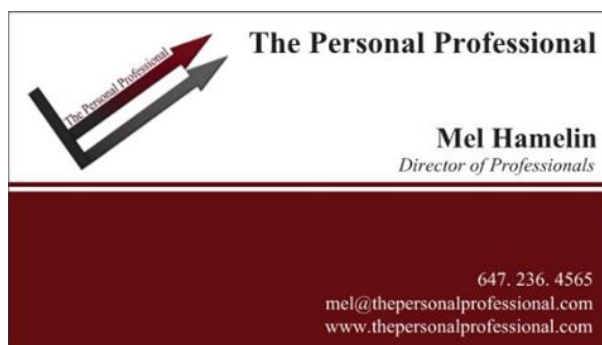
Three years later, Mel writes:

The Personal Professional provides professional entrepreneur services with a set of skills, education, value and passions that are simply not offered

through administrative level services.

The service caters to the entrepreneur's direction, growth and development and is produced in the form of writing, effectuation, licensing, research and communication.

We solve entrepreneur time restrictions to strategically plan and execute projects, problem solve, and develop growth with excellence while maintaining current demands.



In January 2020, Mel set up a Facebook group entitled Maltese Canadian Business Group. This not-for-profit, private group site, which she hosts, was set up "for everyone in the Maltese community to come together to share and source Maltese business in Canada. The link is

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/173758397211743>

This account of Mel's life and career is yet another example of how challenges can become positive, life-altering opportunities if one faces them head on.

** I would like to express my thanks to Mel Hamelin for the assistance she has provided me in re-searching this article.*

New Year's Eve Dances in Detroit December 31, 1955

The **Knights of Malta, Post 129, Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League** organized a dance at St. Andrew's Hall, 341, E Congress Street.

The **Malta George Cross, Post 150** organized a dance "at Michigan."

The **Maltese-American Society of Detroit** held a dance at its premises, 344 Michigan Avenue.

The following were elected by the **Maltese-Canadian Society of Windsor, Ontario** for 1956-57; A Portelli, Hon. President; H. Smith, President; M. Grech, Vice-President; J. Marmara, Secretary; P. Vassallo, Treasurer and A. Farrugia, Asst. Secretary.

READER COMMENTS RELATING TO THE DECEMBER ISSUE

The Borg story starting on page 32 is excellent!
Jeffrey Vaillant, former President of the
California Genealogical Society

Great Job Dan!

Mike Cutajar, Michigan

On behalf of myself and my family, I want to thank you for all the work that you do putting together the newsletter. It is absolutely first class in content and presentation....Please be safe, and keep doing what you are doing, assembling the Maltese family together.

Sam Magro, Ontario

First off let me commend you on the hours of work you are doing to get out this newsletter - especially since you have so many articles that you have researched and written about. Don't know how you do it. But, thanks! With regard to the current issue on the Christmas message narrated by young boys, it caught my attention. As a child in Malta, I do not remember this happening at our parish in Gzira. However, my wife not only remembers this Christmas tradition at Our Lady of Victory church in Mellieha, but had hinted of being able to attend Christmas eve back at her childhood parish. So, in 2017, we spent Christmas in Malta (what a fabulous place to spend Christmas) so she could fulfill her wish.

The afternoon of Christmas eve, we spent at her cousin's home in Mellieha. Mariam, her cousin, is a piano teacher and the parish organist. She confirmed that the tradition of the child narrating the Christmas story was alive, so we told her we would certainly attend Midnight Mass and that we would be there around 11:30. She suggested that we get there earlier so we could get seats and also to attend the pre-Mass organ and choral concert. She was right. By 11:00 the church was filled with worshipers and seating was getting tight. At 11:00 the congregation was treated to an organ concert of Christmas music by Mariam. Wonderful and heart-warming organ sounds resounded throughout the magnificent church. It was magical and uplifting. Later, the choir went to their places on the altar and accompanied Mariam by singing Christmas carols. You could feel the uplifting of the congregation's souls as they sang along quietly. Some shed tears of joy.

As we scanned the faces of the choristers, we

spotted another familiar face, her cousin Maria, one of the parish secretaries. During one of the Christmas readings, another cousin, Efrem, ascended the pulpit to do the reading. Cousins were everywhere. Playing the organ, singing in the choir, reading the Testament.

We waited anxiously for the rendition of the Christmas story by the young boy. The moment finally arrived. The audience was still, and an altar boy, about 9 years old, dressed in a red cassock and white surplice strode out reverently to the front of the altar. But wait. Another boy then followed and stood a few feet beside the first boy. Holy smokes! They were twins. You could hear the attentive parishioners whispering in surprise as the twins began their memorized recitation of the Christmas story. They were masterful: facial expressions, inflections, hand gestures—never missed a word. They were well prepared. The twins each took turns in interacting with the other as the story unfolded. I'm sure there were tears shed by the congregants as they heard the innocent voices proclaim the narrative of Christ's birth. Hearing those boys was worth all the effort and expense for our Christmas visit. No wonder my wife wanted to return again to experience the feeling.

At the end of the Christmas Mass, Mariam magnificently filled the church with Christmas organ music as the procession of lectors, altar boys, the twins and the clergy majestically walked outside the church. There was one more surprise in store for us. Following tradition, after Mass, the Mellieha parish ladies had set up tables with refreshments. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, Maltese desserts, biscuits, etc. The quiet of Christmas eve was overcome by the boisterous voices of the parishioners exchanging Christmas greetings, and typically Maltese, one had to almost shout to be heard. During this exchange of greetings, one of the cousins brought the priest, who had celebrated the Mass and had now changed out of his vestments, to our circle of cousins. He was introduced to us (Fr. Joe Caruana) and then the cousin told my wife that the priest was a cousin on her dad's side. Talk about surprises.

Christmas of 2017 will be one that is fondly remembered. I wonder how much of this will change in Mellieha in 2020? I fear that with the Wuhan, Chinese flu much of the celebrations will change in Malta as well. Too bad if it does as precious memories will not be made.

Fred Aquilina, California

MARTHESE FENECH: AWARD-WINNING WRITER OF HISTORICAL NOVELS*

Dan Brock

Marthese Fenech is no stranger to many of you, owing to her two bestselling and award-winning novels, *Eight Pointed Cross* and *Falcon's Shadow*, set in 16th century Malta.

Marthese, better known as Mar to her acquaintances, is the youngest of five children born in Toronto, Ontario, to Maltese parents.



Mar with the Family's Life-Sized Knight, 1982



An Early Attempt at Story Telling, 1984



The Fenech Siblings: Louis, Stephen, Carmen, Marthese and David, August 2011

Her father, Alfred Fenech, is from Mosta and immigrated to Toronto in 1958 in search of work, having an older sister, Mary, already living there.

Mar's mother, Doris Grixti, is from Birzebbuga. She relocated to Canada in 1960 and joined an older brother who lived on the outskirts of Weston in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

It was through St. Paul the Apostle Church in the Junction that Mar's parents met. For decades, Alfred has been very active in the Maltese community. Since the late Fifties, he has been the organist at St. Paul's. He produced and anchored a public access Maltese news broadcast, *Bejnietna l-Maltin* (*Between Us Maltese*), in Toronto for many years. Alfred also ran an annual telethon to raise money for *Id-Dar tal-Providenza* (House of Providence) in Malta.



Alfred, Doris and Marthese in Singapore

Mar still has relatives living in Mosta and in Birzebbuga. As her parents have property in the latter town, she spent almost every summer in Malta for the first 12 years of her life. Later, she would return every two or three years and has continued to do so until COVID-19 struck.

While attending Monsignor Percy Johnson Catholic Secondary School in Rexdale, northern Etobicoke in the GTA Mar discovered that history was her favourite subject.

I loved to learn about daily life in the Middle Ages, communication and the importance of scribes and town-criers, the development and enforcement of laws, the cause and outcome of battles, the roles of different institutions, the use (and misuse) of medicine, the creation (and banning) of art and literature, and most of all, the perspectives of the people, their motivations, their resilience.

After graduation, Mar enrolled in a journalism program at Humber College in Etobicoke. Media Arts seemed like the best path towards doing what she loved and getting paid for it.

Upon graduating, she quickly discovered, however, that working as a full-time journalist would not allow her the time to go after what she really wanted, a career writing fiction. She freelanced for a few magazines but never committed to the profession. The skills she developed throughout her time at Humber, however, stayed with her.

She then started a career in publications and worked on the first historical novel she had set out to write several years earlier.

Mar soon realized that the office job she currently held was not for her. A career as a high school teacher beckoned, but entry to teachers' college required a degree.

The problem was if she quit her job, she would lose her income. The solution came when she enrolled in Athabasca University, which offered distance learning, enabling her to accept a part-time job working with high school students with special needs.

Mar completed a four-year Bachelor of Professional Arts in Communication with a minor in English in a year and a half and then enrolled at D'Youville College in Buffalo, New York where she obtained a Master's Degree in adolescence education.

Since then, she has balanced writing fiction, teaching high school on a contractual basis and providing editorial service for clients.

The inspiration for her *Siege of Malta* trilogy came about in July 2000 when she travelled to Malta for a pre-college vacation.

...I intended to spend my days at the beach, my nights bar-hopping, and every second sharing

laughs with good friends. I checked off every box, every day.

But this trip became so much more when my friend suggested we go to the capital city, Valletta, to check out The Malta Experience, an audio-visual masterpiece that showcases the Island's incredible seven-thousand-year history.

The moment the Great Siege of 1565 played out on the screen, everything changed. Suddenly, the battle I'd heard so much about came to life for me as never before.

The siege tested the resilience and fortitude of this little island and its people in ways I could hardly comprehend.

It's an underdog story for the ages.

Just like that, the idea to write a novel based on this epic battle took root.

Yet, so few people I'd encountered outside of Malta had even heard of it.

Perhaps, in my small way, I could help remedy that.

*Twenty years later, I am finishing up work on the yet-untitled third novel in my *Siege of Malta* trilogy. The story was just too big to fit into a single volume.*

Eight Pointed Cross, the first volume in this trilogy, was published in August 2011 by BDL (Book Distributors Limited) of San Gwann, Malta. A second edition was released in March 2020.

Mar's account of how she immersed herself in its writing is mindboggling. The following is but one instance of how she researched her subject.

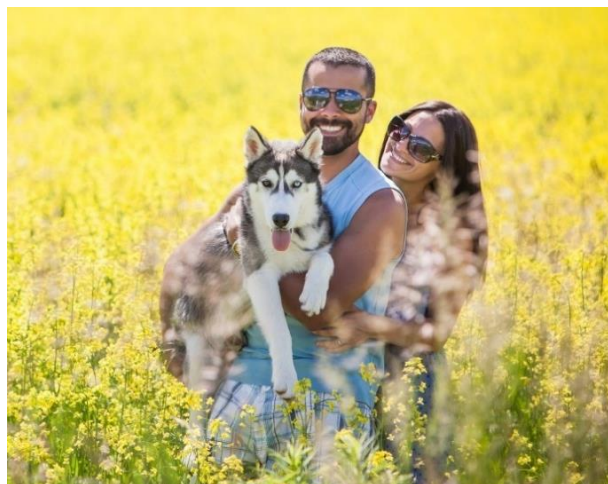
One August day, I took the bus to the seaside village of Birgu, one of my main settings, and spent an afternoon on the wall of Castile—essentially, a stone oven. For three hours, I stood on that battlement and wrote detailed notes describing everything I felt, like the way the sweat would bead and run down my face or arm, pool in the dimple of my knee. I ignored every impulse to find shade or drink water. Though effective, it was hugely reckless and idiotic, and I was rewarded with heatstroke and a day spent in bed, shivering, sweating, cramping, and convinced I contracted the plague.

But it was still nothing compared to what those who fought in the Siege likely experienced. From May until September, they boiled tar over open flame and handled incendiary weapons beneath a relentless sun. How the defenders endured such heat while clad in fifty pounds of armour is beyond me.

The second book in this trilogy, *Falcon's Shadow*, also published by BDL, appeared in July 2020. The third, as yet untitled, is scheduled for release in late 2021 (or early 2022).

During the first COVID-19 lockdown, in the spring

of 2020, Marthese thought that perhaps she could do her part to help those struggling with boredom by providing some affordable escape to the reading public. Consequently, she dropped the price of the digital version of *Eight Pointed Cross*, across all Amazon marketplaces, to 99c. Within hours, the novel hit number one on Amazon's best seller list. Since then *Falcon's Shadow* has also attained the number one position. At one point, both novels occupied the first and second spots.



Brad, Marthese and "Niko", 2014

Marthese, who lives north of Toronto with her husband, Brad Marks, has donated a percentage of the sales to Conquer Covid-19 charities. Additionally, she and her husband have used proceeds from the surge in book sales to order boxes of nitrile gloves for the frontline staff at Southlake Hospital in Newmarket, Ontario.



Marthese, near Bradford, Ontario, August 2018

In early December 2020, *Eight Pointed Cross* took gold and *Falcon's Shadow* silver in the Coffee Pot Book Club's Book of the Year awards. Her books,

together with Margaret Atwood's *The Testaments*, were selected as books of the month, November 2020, in one of Mosta, Malta's bookstores.



On Sunday, December 13th, Marthese was the guest on the ZOOM series *Il-Maltin Tagħna* hosted by the Maltese Center of New York: Astoria, New York.

Apart from being an accomplished writer and high school teacher, Marthese is also fluent in Maltese and in French. A former kickboxing instructor and a licensed archery coach, she surfs, snowboards, scuba-dives, climbs, skydives, throws axes and practices yoga in her spare time.



**Marthese Snowboarding,
Mont-Tremblant, Quebec, 2019**

For further information or to sign up for Mar's newsletter, go to <https://marthesefenech.com>

** I would like to express my thanks to Marthese Fenech for patiently responding to my questions and supplying me with photos, as I sought to get information beyond what is online and in the introductions to her books.*

**NEWS YEARS' EVE CELEBRATIONS
THE MALTESE CANADIAN CLUB OF LONDON, ONTARIO**

2011/2



2015/6



2012/3



2013/4



2016/7



2014/5



2017/8



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

**Malta kburija bikom Maltin Kanadiži ...
irnexxielkom bi ftit soldi jew liri fil-but meta ġejtu
l-Kanada, bnejtu familji tajbin u rrenxexjtu fil-
ħajja...uħud minnkom għamlu suċċess kbir**



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

Mill-miżerja u qtugħ il-qalb minħabba nuqas ta' opportunitijiet f'Malta u Għawdex tal-imghoddi, eluf telqu xtut pajjiżna sabiex ifittxu futur aħjar għalihom u għal uliedhom. Mimlijin enerġija ħadmu bla qeda sabiex rabbew lil uliedhom b'għożża, bi stil u b'valuri li ġabu magħhom minn Malta u Għawdex f'ambjent kompletament ġdid. L-għan tal-Maltin u l-Għawdxin ta' l-ewwel ġenerazzjoni kien li jixtru dar, bażi għall-familja. F'ħafna każijiet dawn il-familji żgħar xtraw *cottage*, dik li f'Malta nsejñulha d-dar tas-Sajf jew ta' ħdejn il-baħar. Din ġeneralment inxtrat fil-kampanja meraviljuża tal-Kanada jew ma' ġenb xi għadira li dan il-pajjiż għandu bil-bosta.

Din il-baži soda li kkrejat l-ewwel ġenerazzjoni fil-Kanada serviet ta' pjattaform sabiex uliedhom setgħu jagħmlu passi ta' ġgant lejn futur aħjar. Futur li ħadmu għalih l-ġenituri tagħhom. Dawn il-passi jfissru li l-Maltin-Kanadiži saru parti mill-klassi medja fil-pajjiż addottiv tagħhom, wħud saru sinjuri u mexxejja fl-oqsmha partikolari tagħhom

X'insibu komuni bejn il-Kanada u Malta

Fil-messaġġ ta' Diċembru, ktibt lista ta' diversi aspetti fil-Kanada li jew huma differenti minn dawk f'Malta jew m'għandiex bħalhom. F'dan il-messaġġ ser nikteb dwar proġett li ħdimt fuqu waqt il-lockdown ta' bejn Frar u Awwissu li għadda. Għamilt lista ta' affarijiet li huma komuni sew għal Malta kif ukoll għall-Kanada. Bħal ma hemm ħafna affarijiet differenti fiż-żewġ pajjiżi, daqshekk iehor hemm komuni:-

- (1) Iż-żewġ pajjiżi għandhom l-abjad u l-aħmar bħala l-kuluri nazzjonali u l-kuluri fil-bnadar rispettivi tagħhom. Iż-żewġ bnadar jgħorru simboli, fil-każ ta' Malta l-George Cross u tal-Kanada l-werqa Maple;

Malta is proud of Maltese Canadians, many of you coming to Canada with just a few shillings or liri in your pockets. You built good families and succeeded in life; a good number have managed to reach the top

Moved by poverty and a lack of opportunity in Malta and Gozo in the past, thousands left our islands to chase a better future for themselves and their children. Fired with energy, they worked tirelessly to raise their children with love and instilled in them the values brought over from Malta and Gozo although grown in a completely new environment. The main goal of the first generation of Maltese and Gozitans was to own their own home, the base for their family. In most cases, Maltese first generation families even managed to buy a cottage (the equivalent of a summer home in Malta close to a village by the sea). In Canada the cottage is either in the breathtaking countryside or on the shore of one of the many lakes with which this country is blessed.

These strong foundations created by these pioneering generations in Canada served as a solid base for their children to be able take to their dreams and succeed. This step or steps ahead meant that Maltese Canadians moved to the middle class and a good number became rich and leaders in their particular areas.

Malta and Canada have alot in common

In my December message, I shared a few aspects of Canada and Canadian life which are different or very different than in Malta. In this message, I will be writing about a project I worked on during the COVID-19 shutdown between February and August last. I researched a list of what is common in Malta and in Canada. As there are many differences there is a lot in common:-

- (1) Both countries' flags have red and white as their national colours. Canada's flag has three equal parts and Malta has two. Both flags have images on them: the George Cross in the case of Malta and the maple leaf in the case of the flag of Canada.
- (2) Both National Anthems of Canada and Malta are prayers with reference to God, both requesting God's protection;
- (3) Malta and Canada are bilingual countries with English being the common language, whilst the Maltese language

- (2) L-Innijiet Nazzjonali tal-Kanada u ta' Malta huma żewġ talbiet lil Alla sabiex jħares liż-żewġ pajjiżi;
- (3) Sew f'Malta kif ukoll fil-Kanada, insibu żewġ lingwi uffiċċjali, fil-Kanada l-Ingliż u l-Franciż u f'Malta l-Malti u l-Ingliż;
- (4) Malta kienet kolonja Ingliża mill-1813 sal-Indipendenza fl-1964, filwaqt li l-Kanada kienet kolonizzata fl-1763 u baqgħat kolonja sal-1931;
- (5) Il-Maesta Tagħha r-Reġina Eliżabetta II kienet il-Kap tal-Istat Malti għal għaxar snin u 83 ġurnata mill-21 ta' Settembru 1964 sat-13 ta' Diċembru 1974 meta Malta saret Repubblika. L-istess Reġina ilha l-Kap tal-Istat Kanadiż mill-5 ta' Frar 1952 u hija rrapprezentata mill-Gvernatur Ġenerali;
- (6) Sew il-Parlament tar-Republika ta' Malta kif ukoll il-Parlament tal-Commonwealth tal-Kanada jiffunzjonaw abbażi tal-mudell parlamentari tal-Ingilterra, Westminster; u,



Dar il-Parlament (Parliament House)

- (7) Il-Kanada saret membru tal-Commonwealth fl-1931 waqt li Malta saret sena wara l-Indipendenza, jiġifieri, fl-1965. Fil-messaġġ ta' Frar ser inkompli nżid mall-lista ta' dak li huwa komuni bejn il-Kanada u Malta.

Donazzjoni ta' pittura, 'Dun Karm fuq Dundas' lill-Konsolat Ġenerali ta' Malta fil-Kanada

Joseph Muscat huwa artist rinomat fil-Kanada fejn tella' lista' twila ta' esibizzjonijiet artistici fil-qalba tal-Belt ta' Toronto, fl-Ewropa u fl-Istati Uniti tal-Amerika. Ftit xhur ilu mort nara esibizzjoni ta' Muscat fil-parti artistika tal-Belt ta' Toronto u kont impressjonat bl-arti tiegħu u waqt li konna nitkellmu wrieni f'it mill-arti l-aktar li tinteressani b'mod partikolari, l-arti bl-element tad-djiaspora Maltija-Kanadiża. Kont impressjonat mhux f'it bix-xogħol artistiku tiegħu, bit-teknika, bis-simbolizmu u bl-artis-

is the other language in Malta and French is the other language in Canada;

- (4) Malta was colonised by England in 1813 until the Instruments of Independence were granted in 1964 when Malta became an independent country. Canada was colonised in 1763 and remained a colony until 1931;
- (5) Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was head of state of Malta for 10 years and 83 days from independence on September 21, 1964 to December 13, 1974 when Malta became a republic. The reigning British monarch is Canada's legal head of state and H.M. Queen Elizabeth II has been Canada's head of state since February 6, 1952, a total of more than 68 years. The Governor General is the acting or *de facto* head of state of Canada;
- (6) The Parliament of the Republic of Malta and the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Canada are both designed on and managed on a Westminster model; and,



Centre Block, Parliament Hill, Canada

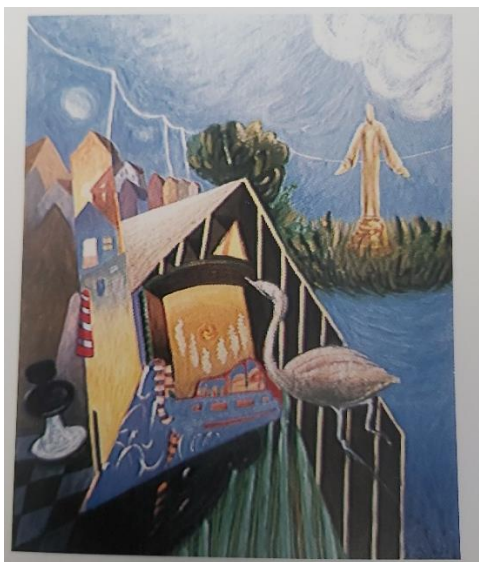
- (7) Both countries are members of the Commonwealth, Malta since its Independence in 1965 and Canada since 1931 by means of the Statute of Westminster.

I will continue the list of commonalities in both Canada and Malta in the February message.

Painting Donation, 'Dun Karm fuq Dundas,' (Fr Carm on Dundas) to the Consulate General of Malta to Canada

Joseph Muscat, a renowned Maltese Canadian

artistiku tiegħu, bit-teknika, bis-simboliżu u bl-imħabba tal-arti ta' Muscat sew għall-art twelidu, Malta, kif ukoll għall-art addottiva tiegħu, il-Kanada. Muscat ddecieda li jagħmel donazzjoni ta' biċċa arti, msejġha, 'Dun Karm fuq Dundas.' Dan il-kapolavur huwa simbolu tal-identita' Maltija-Kanadiza u għandu l-elementi kollha fih li jara l-bidu tal-maġġoranza tal-Maltin u l-Għawdxin fil-Kanada fil-Villagġ Malti.



Dun Karm fuq Dundas

Muscat ddecieda li jagħmel donazzjoni ta' biċċa arti, msejġha, 'Dun Karm fuq Dundas.' Dan il-kapolavur huwa simbolu tal-identita' Maltija-Kanadiza u għandu l-elementi kollha fih li jara l-bidu tal-maġġoranza tal-Maltin u l-Għawdxin fil-Kanada fil-Villagġ Malti.

Ftit tal-ġranet ilu, Muscat gie l-Konsulat Ġenerali ta' Malta u formalment għadda lill-Konsolat din il-pittura li issa sabet postha fil-Kamra tal-Laqqgħat fejn ser tkun apprezzata għas-snin li ġejjen minn ħafna li jużaw din il-Kamra.

Aktar persunaġġi Maltin-Kanadizi jkomplu jagħmlu unur lil Malta u lill-Kanada

Kuljum li nservi lill-pajjiżi fil-Kanada ninduna kemm hemm Maltin-Kanadizi li għamlu suċċess f'dan il-pajjiż. L-artist Joseph Muscat huwa żgur wieħed minn dawn l-ambaxxaturi Maltin ta' pajjiżna li jgħix 'il bogħod minn xtutna. F'dan il-messaġġ nixtieq nitkellem dwar il-bijologista taċ-ċelloli staminali, l-Professor Assocjat, Derrick J. Rossi membru tal-Huwa mwieled f'familja medja Maltija f'Toronto fil-5 ta' Frar 1966, Rossi mbagħad studja fl-Universita' Staminali li jaf il-bidu tiegħu fil-Belt ta' Toronto.

artist, has a long list of exhibitions over the years organised in the heart of Toronto, in Europe and the United States. A few months ago, I visited his recent exhibition in the artistic part of the City of Toronto. I was very impressed with Muscat's art and he showed me particular art which interests me most, Diaspora Maltese Canadian art. I was very impressed with the technique used, the symbolism and the love for art by Muscat, both towards his birth country, Malta, and his adaptive country, Canada.

Artist Muscat decided to donate a piece of art to the Consulate General of the Republic Malta to Canada, entitled 'Dun Karm fuq Dundas.' This masterpiece symbolises the Maltese Canadian identity and has all the elements which describe the beginning of the majority of Maltese and Gozitans in Canada at the Malta Village.

Just a few days ago, Muscat visited the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta and formally donated this painting, which has been placed in the Meeting Room of the Consulate and will be appreciated by many for years to come.



Joseph Muscat

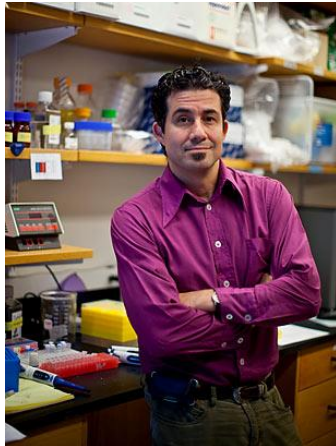
More Maltese Canadian personalities continue to make us proud in Malta and in Canada

Everyday that passes by serving my country here in Canada, I realise the large number of Maltese Canadians who have made a success for themselves and their families. Artist Joseph Muscat is one such Maltese ambassador in Canada. In this message, I would like to mention another, stem cell biologist, Associate Professor Derrick J. Rossi.

He was born in a working class family in Toronto on February 5, 1966. Rossi, who studied at the University of Toronto and aquired a doctorate from the University of Helsinki, is a member of the Institute of

Fakulta' fl-Universita' ta' Harvard fl-Istitut ta' Ċelloli Huwa mwied f'familja medja Maltija f'Toronto fil-5 ta' Frar 1966, Rossi mbagħad studja fl-Universita' ta' Toronto u akkwista dottorat mill-Universita' ta' Helsinki u sar professor b'fellowship fl-Universita' ta' Stanford.

Huwa ko-fundatur ta' Moderna Therapeutics waħda mill-kumpaniji fid-dinja li ħolqu l-vaċċin kontra l-imxija tal-COVID19, ko-fundatur tal-Intellia Therapeutics, Magenta Therapeutics, Stelexis Therapeutics u issa CEO ta' Convelo Therapeutic. Dr Rossi huwa eżempju ta' kif minn sempliċi familja emigranta minn Malta fil-Kanada, rnexxielu jibbrilla fis-sugġett li għażel f'ħajtu u żgur kull Malti u Għawdx i għandu jkun kburi b'Maltin-Kanadiži bħal Dr Rossi



Dr. Derrick Rossi

Jannar – Min qal li l-festi spiċċaw...għadhom jibdedw!

Wara l-ftuħ ta' sena ġdida u l-ewwel ftit ġranet bħala ċelebrazzjoni ta' dan, mall-ewwel jibdedw l-festi b'Sant'Antnin Abbati fir-Rabat, Malta fl-10 ta' Jannar. Fis-17 tax-xahar hemm il-festa liturġika ta' San Bastjan f'Hal-Qormi; fl-24 ta' Jannar l-ewwel qassis Malti, l-Isqof San Publiju ċelebrat il-Floriana u fir-Rabat (Malta); fil-25 ta' Jannar hemm il-festa ta' San Ġiljan fl-Isla f'Malta u s-Sagra Familija fl-Iklin. L-għada, is-26 ta' Jannar tiġi ċelebrata l-Konversjoni ta' San Pawl fl-Imdina u ta' San Pawl l-Eremita f'Wied il-Għasel, il-Mosta. Fil-Belt Valletta fit-28 ta' Jannar tiġi ċelebrata l-festa ta' Sant'Wistin ta'Alcwanu u San Ġuda Taddew fil-villaġġ tal-Kappara.

Fl-añharnett, f'ismi, f'isem marti Marlene u familti nixtiequ lil kull wieħed u waħda minnkomm għeżiż Maltin-Kanadiži kull fejn tinsabu f'dan il-pajjiż sabiħ, sena (2021) tajba mimlija sañña, ġid u paċi.

O Mulej, bierek dejjem lil Malta u lill-Kanada!

Stem Cells within Harvard University and received a fellowship at Stanford University. He is the co-founder of Moderna Therapeutics, one of the companies which created a COVID-19 vaccine, co-founded Intellia Therapeutics, Magenta Therapeutics, Stelexis Therapeutics and now is the CEO of Convelo Therapeutics. Dr Rossi is an example of how from working class migrant families in Canada, Maltese Canadians have managed to reach such successful heights in their particular areas and I am sure all Maltese and Gozitans are proud of achievers like Dr Rossi.

January – Who said there are no feasts...they are about to restart!

After the opening of the New Year and the few days of celebrations that follow, feasts in the Maltese Islands restart with the feast of St Anthony the Abbott in ir-Rabat, Malta on January 10th. On the 17th, there is the liturgical feast of Saint Sebastian of Hal-Qormi; January 24th is the feast of the first Maltese saint, Bishop Saint Publius, celebrated in Floriana and at ir-Rabat (Malta); on January 25th there is the feast of Saint Julians in l-Isla, Malta and the feast of the Holy Family of l-Iklin. The next day, January 26th, is the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, celebrated in l-Imdina and St Paul The Hermit in Wied il-Għasel il-Mosta. In the capital, Valletta, on January 28th the feast of St. Augustine of Alcwanu is celebrated and Saint Jude Thaddeus in the hamlet of il-Kappara.

...

Finally, on my behalf, my wife Marlene and my family, we wish you and your loved ones and all Maltese Canadians wherever they may be in this beautiful country, a happy 2021 full of health, prosperity and peace.

O Lord, always bless Malta and Canada!

ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND EMIGRANTS CONVENTION

Dan Brock

The second Emigrants Convention, denoted at the Convention of Leaders of Associations of Maltese Abroad and of Maltese Origin was held in Malta from January 25th through February 1, 2000.

The first such convention was held in Malta, in July 1969.

The theme of the first session on Tuesday, January 25th was "Maltese Connections Overseas." Among the morning speakers were Richard S. Cumbo, a freelance Maltese journalist from Toronto, and the late Larry Zahra of Dearborn Heights, MI

and Consul General of Malta. Richard spoke on the "Present Situation of Maltese in Canada" while Larry's presentation was on the "Present Situation in the United States of America."

Among the morning speakers on the theme of "Preservation of Maltese Culture and Language" on Wednesday, January 26, were Richard S. Cumbo and Claudia M. Caruana, the latter from Elmont, NY. Richard's topic was "Preservation of Maltese Culture and Language in Canada" while Claudia's talk was entitled "How many Maltese and those of Maltese Descent are Keeping their Culture Alive Now – New York."

Thursday's theme was "The Elderly and Services Available to Them." The morning speakers from Canada and the United States respectively were Milo Vassallo, the Consul General of Malta and Charles Demicoli, from Middle Village, NY. Milo's presentation was entitled "Challenges of an Ageing Society – Canada" while Charles' was entitled "The Elderly and Services Available to them – New York."

Friday's theme was "Youths and their Achievements." Among the morning speakers were Joseph Portelli of Toronto and Claudia Caruana. Joseph spoke on Maltese-Canadian Youth and their Achievements while Claudia's talk centered on "Malta Memories of a Second-Generation, Maltese-American Woman."

The theme on Monday, January 31st was "Citizenship and Bilateral Agreement." Milo Vassallo and Larry Zahra were the speakers for Canada and the United States respectively but their presentations were not printed in *Proceedings and Report* (Malta: 2000).

Tuesday's theme was "The Maltese Migrant and Religion." Among the morning speakers were Fr. Mark Demanuele, MSSP, of St. Paul the Apostle Church, Toronto and Fr. Julian Cassar of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, Pleasant Valley, NY. Fr. Mark's topic was "The Maltese Migrant and Religion – Canada." Fr. Julian's topic was "Maltese Emigrants and Religion – United States."

Other participants at this convention from Canada were Joe Hili of Mississauga, ON, Joseph Magro of Winnipeg, MB, Joseph Muscat of Toronto, ON, Charles Puglisevich, Honorary Consul General from St. John's, NL and Albert E. Vella, the representative of the Bank of Valletta in Canada, and from the United States, Frank Asphar of the American Foundation for Maltese Charities Inc, from Mt. Vernon, NY, Beth Fiteni of Huntington, NY and Clotilde Mifsud of Portsmouth, NH.

Paintings and sculpture by migrant Maltese artists and artists of Maltese origin were also exhibited. This included works by Stephen Paul Abela, Joseph

Calleja and Joseph Muscat of Canada and Joseph Borg and Jean Busuttill Zaleski of the United States.

GIUSEPPA PEPE: ONE OF THE WOMEN WHO TRAVELLED TO JAMAICA

Dan Brock

The September and October 2020 issues of this newsletter contained articles on several women from Malta who went to join the Sisters of Mercy in Kingston, Jamaica. One of these was Giuseppa "Giuseppina" "Josephine" Pepe.



Giuseppa Pepe, 1921

Courtesy of the National Archives of Malta

In the October issue it was noted that "there is no record of Giuseppa having joined the Sisters of Mercy in Jamaica..." In fact, for whatever reason, she was in Jamaica for less than a month before she left the Island, presumably to return to Malta. What follows is an account of what we know of her from ship passenger lists and passport applications.

Giuseppina Pepe was born in Cospicua on August 26, 1881. Her father's name was Antonio. She was living with family members at 38 Sda Fosse (Ditch Street) Paola when she applied for a passport, on September 16, 1913 to join the Sisters of Mercy in Kingston, Jamaica. The passport was issued the next day and that very day, September 17th, she and Emelia Gauci, who was to become Sr. M. Angela of the Sisters of Mercy, boarded the *Sicilia* in the Grand Harbour for London, England. It was presumed somewhere from an English port that the two women boarded a ship for Jamaica.

Giuseppa or Josephine Pepe did not stay long on the Island, for on October 23rd she set sail on the *Carl Schurz* and arrived in New York Harbor on October 28th en route for Gibraltar on board the *Barbarossa*.

The S.S. *Barbarossa*, launched in 1896, and its sister ships were an entirely new type of vessel.

These ships could carry an unusually large quantity of freight, as well as a large number of passengers in the three classes. The first class could accommodate at least 250 passengers, the second class 300 and the steerage 1,600, all entirely separate from the freight space.

Somehow, Giuseppa made it back to Malta from Gibraltar, as she was still single and living at 5 Sda. Tonna, Sliema when she applied for a passport to Tunis, Tunisia, on April 15th, 1921. Presumably she had close relatives living there at the time. Her younger brother, Carmelo, had applied to go to Algiers, Algeria in 1913 and still younger brother, Giovanni, would apply to go to Tunis for work in 1925.

Nothing further is known of Giuseppa Pepe presently.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

December 8, 2020

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to the Commonwealth of Canada Dr. Raymond Christian Xerri, for his abilities, enthusiasm and constant support, giving of his time and guidance and being Canada's mentor in all capacities to the Maltese and Maltese-Canadian community here in Toronto, Canada.

I am a second-generation Maltese - Canadian and I am a full-time professional choreographer, instructor, artistic director and performer in theater, fusion Middle Eastern arts and contemporary circus here in Toronto, Canada. I am so compelled to write this letter and express my thanks and how truly wonderful and expansive it has been for myself and for the arts community I work with in Toronto to have Dr. Raymond Xerri as our Consul General.

Consul General Raymond Xerri, by displaying a variety of avenues and resources, made it possible for me to connect with Malta to potentially produce an artistic project that is connected to Malta's pre-history. I have sourced and researched ways to connect and get closer and better acquainted with Malta regarding my artistic work but found it very difficult to connect. It was only when I had the opportunity to meet our most recent Consul General Raymond Xerri that I was able to take the necessary steps to connect with Malta.

The work I hope to share with Malta, Gozo and the masses is a 90-minute two-act, 14-scene multimedia dance-musical of the story of the Goddess of Fertility. The entire production will feature professional circus, belly dance, musicians, vocals and

narration. My vision was to present this project in Malta, Gozo at the Astra Theater but now with COVID-19 we will present this story here in Toronto, Canada on November 18th, 19th, 20th, 2021 at the Redwood Theater, during which the presentation of the Goddess of Fertility will be streamed live to the world as a "pay what you can" with proceeds to go to the preservation of the Neolithic Temples Ggantija on the island of Gozo and Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra on the island of Malta.

Dr. Raymond Xerri has by example been undeniably an exceptional leader here in Canada, not only to the first-generation born in Malta with an allegiance to her history, but also supporting, educating and encouraging the second and third generation Maltese – Canadians of the importance of being the best we can be and by staying connected to our community, we can flourish personally and in our careers as Maltese – Canadians.

I look so forward to reaching out further and connecting with Malta's citizens and acclaimed artistic community to one day present what is amongst the oldest stories in history, the ancient story of the Goddess of Fertility.

I wish Dr. Raymond Xerri and his hard-working team here in Canada the very best!

Joanne L Camilleri

<https://www.joannedancer.com/>

FELIX MICHAEL CUTAJAR PART II – FIRST YEARS IN AMERICA AND HIS SERVICE DURING THE KOREAN WAR

Michael Cutajar



In the December 2020 issue of the newsletter we left Felix Cutajar on board the SS Sobieski, in March 1948, en route for New York Harbor.

After entering New York Harbor on 29, March, 1948 and passing through Ellis Island, Felix Cutajar eventually took a train from Penn Station to Detroit. He had already arranged to live with a family, the Pantallerescos of 1341 Porter Street. This was the custom of the time. Young Maltese men who were leaving Malta for better opportunities in Detroit would find boarding at homes of other Maltese in the Corktown District. It was a win-win for both the established families and the immigrants, as it

provided income for the families and a residence with the benefits of caretaking with meals and laundry for the young immigrants.

My father's first job was at the Greyhound Bus Garage on Fort Street at that time as a mechanic. He later found an opportunity for more money to work at the Dodge Main Plant in Hamtramck and went to work there until they had a strike shortly after he was hired. The issue was over a 30 cent pay raise. The job change would be a trade-off. He would have to give up his skills to take a mundane unskilled job in a factory. As the strike continued, my father, who was still helping to financially support his family in Malta, took a job at Ford Motor Company, at the Dearborn Assembly Plant, Rouge Complex, Dearborn, Michigan, which at the time was the largest manufacturing complex in the world.

It contained a steel mill, coke ovens that converted coal to clean coke for steel making, a glass plant, metal stamping, engine plant, and a frame plant and its own power plant, that on 1, February, 1999, had a massive explosion as a result of lack of safety procedures, killing six employees. Rouge Dearborn, even had its own port for the off-loading of raw materials from the Great Lakes and ocean shipping, with the capacity to berth ocean going vessels. His first job at Ford was the transfer of body panels from one line to another. My father worked the part transfer job at Ford for two years and three months while living with the Pantalleresco family.

Although he was not satisfied with his job and its lack of cognitive requirements, he still devoured the United States and the standard of living, dressing always impeccably and with nice cars. He bought a used 48 Pontiac Convertible but soon traded it in for what is a classic car today—a 1950, two-door dark blue Mercury. But soon he would be forced to sell that Mercury, as the Cold War would suddenly turn hot in one section of the world.



Felix with His New 1950 Mercury

During the late 1940s and early 1950s many Maltese in Corktown were forced out of their homes. This was also the case with St Paul's Maltese Church, which was located at 4th Street and Plumb and the Maltese club at 844 Michigan Avenue. This was because of the construction of the John C. Lodge Freeway, which ran right through the neighborhood, displacing many Maltese.



**Corktown, Detroit before Urban Renewal
Showing Briggs (Tiger) Stadium
and the Detroit River**

Many moved to the growing suburbs and many others to locations in Detroit, especially Northwest Detroit. In 1950, the Pantalleresco family and my father, moved to Northwest Detroit to a newer brick home and neighborhood at 16671 Cruse. It was a neighborhood close to where we as a young family lived during the first half of my childhood at 13994 Washburn in the 1960s, after living at 1730 Labrosse in Corktown for a couple of years.

Several weeks after the move to Cruse Street, on 25, June, 1950, 75,000 well-armed North Korean Army (NKA) regulars with military hardware including tanks and artillery, supplied by the Communist Chinese State and the Soviet Union, crossed over the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) at the 38th parallel of the Korean Peninsula in an attempt to take Seoul and ultimately South Korea. The intention, although a violation of the agreement made in WWII, was to unify the country under the control of the North Korean Supreme leader, Kim Il-Sung, a political puppet to Mao Zedong and Joseph Stalin. He was also the grandfather of North Korea's present supreme leader, Kim Jong Un.

President Harry S. Truman had dictated his "Truman Doctrine" (The official declaration of the Cold War) with the intention of containing Communist aggression and its attempted takeover of countries around the world. The Doctrine would be the impe-

tus for the US and UN entrance of military deployment into South Korea (And several years later, the same in South Vietnam) to join with the poorly equipped South Republic of Korean Army (ROK). By the time the US and UN forces landed at Pusan Harbor, the ROK had already been pushed all the way back into a corner of the south-eastern portion of Korea with the city of Pusan as its stronghold. When the US and UN entered the war's land, sea and air operations the total US-UN force was already surrounded by the NKA forces. This perimeter section around Pusan was the line of defense that the US and UN forces fought to break through. It wasn't until the later risky landing of UN, US Army and US Marine forces at Inchon in the Yellow Sea that they prevailed successfully in splitting the NKA, causing them to retreat north.

Within two and a half months of the NVA invasion, on a September morning, my father would receive his draft notice by mail and on Wednesday, 13, September, 1950, was inducted into the US Army, where he and other Regular Army and US Army draftees traveled by train from Detroit to Fort Knox, Kentucky for Basic Training. As far as the US government was concerned, he was now Government Issue (GI) Army of the United States: AUS 55 567 835 and not officially Felix Cutajar anymore. He remained in that status directly and indirectly until his honorable discharge on 25, September, 1956, nearly three months after he was married on 1, July, 1956.



GI AUS 55 567 835

Arriving at Fort Knox and after 14 weeks of basic training, including infantry training and 20-mile hikes with full packs, gear and rifle, graduation from basic

training came with his next orders to Field Artillery School (FAS). But before FAS, my father had a 30-day leave, where he returned to Detroit and the residence on Cruse Street. Thirty days later it was off to the Field Artillery School at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he became part of the 41st Field Artillery Battalion, graduating with Battery "A" in June of 1951. Following another 30-day leave back to Detroit, his orders were to travel to Korea to join an Artillery Battery of the Second Army Division. Soon he was on a train to San Francisco to embark on the troop ship, USNS *General A. W. Brewster*, for a 12-day sea voyage, first to Yokohama, Japan and ultimately to the Korean Peninsula, in July 1951.

What was supposed to be a quick war, possibly over by Christmas of 1950, had turned into a full out war as the Chinese directly entered the war with the covert support of the Soviet Union. By the war's end, as many as 1.5 million Chinese had entered the war as enemy combatants, severely shifting the tide in numbers of ground forces to North Korea and its allies.

President Truman had ordered an offensive halt at the 38th Parallel with the idea that he could negotiate a peace treaty. In defiance of Truman's orders, however, General Douglas MacArthur who conducted the war from Japan, never setting foot in Korea, ordered a continued push north, past the 38th, almost to the Yalu River—the border with China. This was the impulsion for the direct entrance of the Chinese Peoples Volunteer Army (PVA) on 19, October, 1950 as the PVA crossed the Yalu River by the tens of thousands and also, unknown to many, the Soviets, who covertly used Soviet pilots to fly MIG-15 jets that they supplied, marked with North Korean markings for air cover fire and bombing support. Actually, both China and the Soviets were directing the war almost from the beginning and later entered as full belligerents, conducting operational orders much more so than Kim Il-sung. It also would soon mark the end of General MacArthur's career in the US Army.

Several months after the entrance of China and the Soviet Union, US and UN forces were now on the defensive again and would slowly retreat fighting to get below the 38th Parallel, finally holding the line south of Seoul. Within that course of time, the PVA and NKA would cross the 38th and recapture Seoul. It was at this time that my father would disembark the troop ship at Pusan and join his unit in July of 1951 close to the capital city of Seoul. His orders assigned him to a Second Division artillery battery where he was a fire control specialist.



**Felix Cutajar (left)
with One of His Squad Members, Korea**

Meanwhile, Seoul had been severely reduced as a result of the ongoing back and forth fight for ground between the two opposing forces for the capture of that city. My father witnessed much of the population heading south as refugees fled to get out of the fighting. It was during this time he would be baptized in blood and fire as a witness of unimaginable horror and suffering: the use of napalm, endless artillery barrages and the deaths of part of his squad. While part of his squad was in a bunker that he had just left earlier, an artillery barrage began and a substantially-sized shell made direct contact with his assigned bunker, killing four and severely injuring several others. Night and day patrols were required of his assigned battery and involved search and destroy missions to clear enemy sappers.

On 2, February, 1952, my father received new orders and was reassigned to the Second Division 38th Infantry Regiment 1st Battalion. There was suddenly a substantial need for more infantry to shore up at the line and stop the attempted push from Chinese (PVA) and North Korean troops (NKA) on the near endless pursuit for control of the city of Seoul and later successful push back of the PVA and NKA north to the 38th Parallel. He remained part of the 38th Infantry 1st Battalion with his army issue M1 Carbine service weapon, (a weapon that fires a pistol round and is not best suited for infantry operations) for over four months, finally leaving the Battalion for the rear at Koji Du on 10, June, 1952 and on 11, July, 1952 to Busan, from where he flew to Camp Mower, Japan.



Felix Cutajar Leaving Korea, July 1952

Seven days later he boarded a troop ship on the 18th of July, returning to the Port of Seattle, Washington on the 30th. From there, and on the same day, he boarded a train from Seattle to Camp Carson, Colorado, where he finished his military obligation and was mustered out of the active US army in September of 1952, transferring into the inactive reserve. Thus, he spent a full two years in the active United States Army and four years in the inactive reserve.

The war in Korea would go on for another year until a brokered truce was established on the 27, July, 1953, re-establishing the 38th Parallel as the boundary between North and South Korea. It remains that way today 67 years later and is a conflict that has never been reconciled by an official treaty to conclude the hostilities other than an agreement to a cease fire. The Korean War remains as one of the most historically deadly and destructive conflicts of the modern era with approximately 33,686 US casualties and over 3 million total casualties, of which there were proportionally more civilian casualties than in WWII and Vietnam.

To be continued.

The SS *Sobieski* was launched in 1939. Between 1947 and 1950, it sailed on the Genoa-Halifax-New York route under the Polish flag. The ship was sold to the Soviet Union in 1950 and renamed the MS *Gruziya*. It was scrapped in Italy in 1975.



‘DANCE OF THE RISING GODDESS – INANNA’ MUSICAL

2020 was a very difficult year for all of us. It was particularly hard, however, for those who work in the area of The Arts and Culture. The Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada has been closely following developments in these areas and lending a hand to negatively affected Maltese Canadian notable artists through closures brought about by COVID-19.

Joanne Lourdes Camilleri, Maltese Canadian artistic director, performer, choreographer, instructor and producer in Middle Eastern dance and performing arts at the University of Toronto, Hart House, is one such artist who is well-known in Canada, Europe and in the United States where, over the past two decades, she has performed in many films and television projects.

The presentation of **Dance of the Rising Goddess - INANNA** is a full length 90-minute, two-act, 14-scene, multimedia dance-musical. The entire production will feature professional circus, belly dance, musicians, vocals, narration and circles around Malta’s goddess of fertility story.

Renowned Maltese Canadian artist Camilleri will be assisted by Chris Hall (composer, arranger and producer), Keith Holding (director, technical director and producer) and Maltese Canadian Isabel Camilleri, (one of Canada’s renowned costume designers).

This production, in Maltese named for Camilleri’s Maltese ‘grandmother,’ in Maltese ‘in-nanna’, referring to all her grandmothers since antiquity, is part of a dance company called ‘Ancient Rumbblings’ which is based in Toronto, Canada. In 2020, Camilleri and her sizeable cast were scheduled to perform this show in Malta. COVID-19, however, has prevented this production from being performed at the Astra Opera Theatre in Victoria, Gozo for this year. It is predicted, however, to be performed on May 14th and 15th, 2021.

In the meantime, the premiere performance will be on November 18th, 19th and 20th, 2021, at the Redwood Theatre in the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, Canada.

With the financial support from Malta and the generous assistance from the Consul

General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond C. Xerri, artist Camilleri's cast is planning to fly to Malta in 2021 to perform this unique spectacle in the Maltese Islands.

In the launch of the official poster for this spectacle, producer Joanne Camilleri wholeheartedly thanked the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada for the constant and consistent logistical and financial support.

Finally, Consul General Dr Raymond C. Xerri stated that this production is not only unique to the Maltese Islands, it's an original artistic masterpiece with enormous potential in a variety of spheres, which not only narrates one of our civilization's oldest stories but has all the elements and hallmarks to transcend into a permanent Maltese heritage production which can be treasured by all Maltese and millions of tourists who visit our islands alike.



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
desertdancer007@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.omnity.ca › shows › lehen-malti>
c/o 2387 Chilsworthy Avenue., Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
Contact Person: Joe Sherri
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email lehenmalti@hotmail.com

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)

c/o Trillium, Sqaq Nru 1, Triq it-Tigrija, ix-Xagħra
Tel: 011 356 21560656

mcagozo@hotmail.com

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

joesherri@rogers.com

Maltese Canadian Federation, The (Toronto)

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
416-571-3944

joesherri@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@isqtransport.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

mmpastizzi@gmail.com

Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area

maltesheritageassociation@gmail.com

Maltese Heritage Program (Toronto)

c/o 59A Terry Drive, Toronto, ON, M6N 4Y8
Coordinator: Carmen Galea
416-766-5830

qormija@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

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

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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
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stpaulmssp@gmail.com

President: Lino Debono

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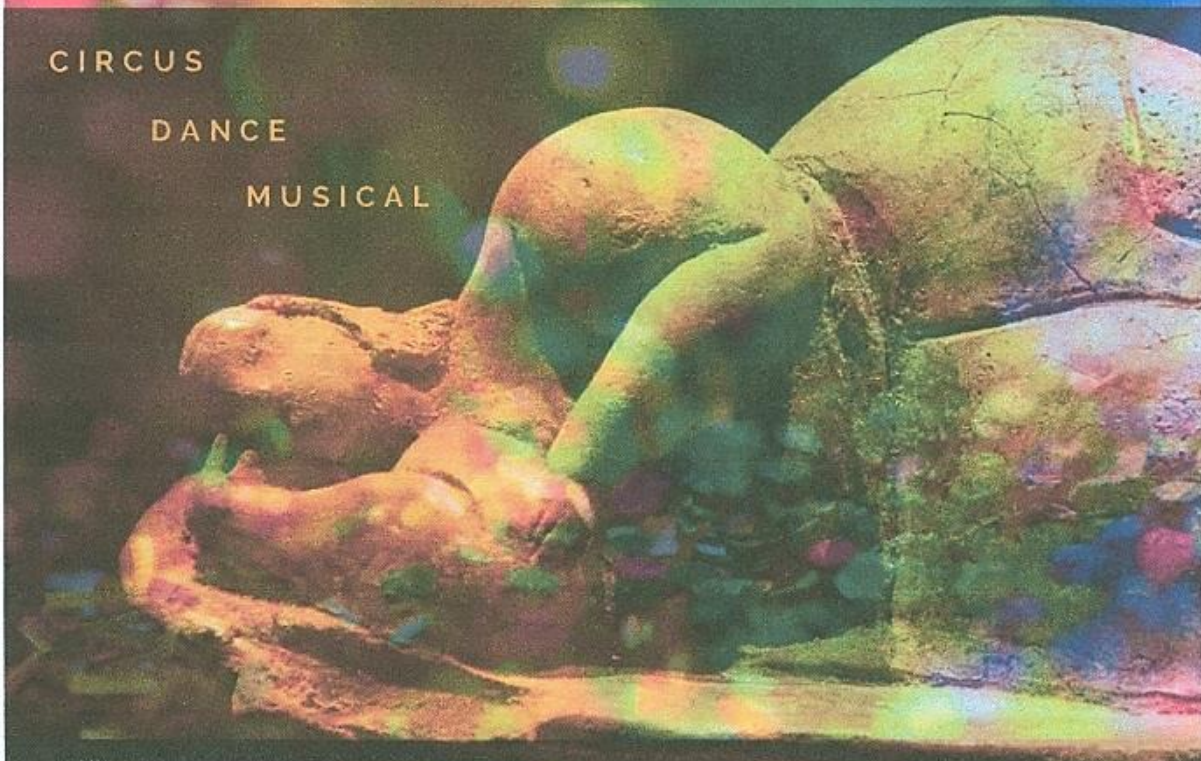
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ARTISTIC PRODUCTION & CHOREOGRAPHY
JOANNE CAMILLERI
CO-DIRECTED WITH **CHELSEY FAWCETT**
MUSIC COMPOSER & LYRICS BY **CHRIS HALL**

CIRCUS
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See pages 28, 32-33 for further information.