

THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 26

MAY 2021

**Malta
To
MOTOWN**

Friday, April 30th 6PM

Meet with old friends and
make some new ones!

5221 Oakman Blvd, Dearborn, MI 48126



MALTESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLUB OF DEARBORN, APRIL 30, 2021

(See pages 10-12)

**The Maltese Presence
in North America**
Issue No. 26 May 2021

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

We are now in the 15th month of this covid pandemic. COVID-19 is bad enough, but now there are variants which spread more rapidly and are more deadly. Meanwhile, more and more people, especially the younger generation, are getting fed up with all this and are unnecessarily risking their lives and the lives of others.

All this helps us to better appreciate what it was like for people living during the time of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic or World War II.

Meanwhile hope is on the horizon with the vaccine rollouts worldwide and most people adhering to government controls.

At the time of writing, the United States has seen more than 37 percent of its citizens vaccinated. In contrast, the percentage in Canada is less than 18. While the

US is producing the vaccine not only for itself but for other countries as well, Canada is totally dependent on other countries for its vaccine.

Fifty years ago, Canada was one of the world's leaders in vaccine production but, since the time of Brian Mulroney's Progressive Conservative Government (1984-93), the federal government seems to have turned its back on taxpayer support of research and development in this area.

In this issue one can sense the great contrast between living on the American and Canadian side of the Detroit River.

Michigan is starting to open up, a case in point being the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn. Thanks to Rachael Darin, Mary Micallef and Lisa Buttigieng-LiGreci we have much to report from the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn. (See pages 1, 8-9, 10-12)

Meanwhile, there is a province-wide lockdown in Ontario. The Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario is still offering curbside pickup on Saturday afternoons but public Masses are no longer celebrated at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Toronto. (See pages 8, 9)

As with the March 2021 issue, I've again given the "centerfold" position in this issue to Lisa Buttigieng-LiGreci's recipe. In addition to the recipe itself for stuffed artichokes, Lisa has provided us with an extensive history of the artichoke and some interesting facts. (See pages 15-19)

April 2021 saw the deaths of two inspirational men. Michael Cutajar writes about his gentle uncle Guzeppi Galea, his mother's last surviving sibling. (See pages 5-7) I have written about Mario Vella, one of the longest living persons in Canada with ALS. (See pages 13-14, 28)

A new feature you will notice with this issue is the use of a header including the name of the newsletter, the issue number and date. This was suggested by one of the contributors to each issue as a means of facilitating matters for those copying certain articles to file or to send to others. Those of you who receive *The Voice of the Maltese* and the *Maltese e-Newsletter* from Australia are familiar with this useful feature.

As with each issue, two pages of Maltese organizations in North America have been listed with telephone numbers, email addresses, postal addresses and hours of opening, where possible.

Thanks to the kindness and efforts of Evelyn and Dennis Simmons of California, all 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>. Click on to "News & Resources."

If you have ideas to share or wish to be put on the free, bcc electronic mailing lists, etc., I may be reached at dbrock40@worldline.ca.

CONTENTS

2. Editorial Comment
3. Pastor's Thoughts...
4. Miss Malta Pageant, May 15, 1971
5. Ziju Guzeppi "Joe" Galea: In Tribute
7. Activities within the Maltese Communities
10. Malta to Motown
13. Mario Vella: "His Spirit Lives On"
15. Maltese Stuffed Artichokes (Qaqoċċ *Mimili*)
20. Letters to the Editor
23. Monthly Message from the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada
26. Maltese Organizations in North America

GLEANINGS FROM THE SUNDAY BULLETIN**PASTOR'S THOUGHTS...**

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

Hope Triumphs in the Face of Despair

....For the second time in a row, we are celebrating Easter overshadowed by a pandemic. Some of us have been through the virus experience themselves. Some have lost jobs. Others have lost loved ones. All of us have been through moments of hopelessness, of not being able to see the end of it.

In the midst of all this we are celebrating Easter. The resurrection speaks of hope triumphing in the face of despair.

Go Out, Forgive, Heal

....Often, we are scandalized by a Church that is wounded. We doubt the validity of the community we form part of. And yet, it is only there that we can meet the risen Christ. On the road to Damascus St Paul recognized that Jesus Christ and the church were one and the same thing. Jesus invites Thomas to put his hand and fingers in those wounds. The apostle had to learn that he was not to be scandalized by those obvious reminders of what evil can do. He had to acknowledge them knowing, however, that they did not have the last say. In spite of what had happened on Good Friday, Jesus is alive. Those wounds did not stop him from coming out of the tomb to see his friends again. And he gives that broken, wounded community a mission: to go out, to forgive, to heal.

....We are also invited not to let our own brokenness paralyse us. With the power of the Holy Spirit given to us by the risen Christ, let us be true bearers of the merciful love which we all continue to receive.

We Are Not Alone in Our Struggles

....It has been more than a year now that we have been living in the shadows of a pandemic....We go through feelings of frustration, anger, loss of hope and the desire to question God's presence in all of this. Moreover, while these past months have been hard for many of us, these feelings can come to any of us in any time during our lives. It could be because of the unexpected loss of a loved one, a moment of crisis in our relationships, something bad that happens, or even just without any explanation at all. In these moments Jesus reminds us that, while we are going through all this, we are not alone. Even though we might not really recognize him, he journeys with us and gently helps us to live through these experiences, eventually coming out of them even better than before. That is the story of the resurrection....

Once we live through such an experience and acknowledge it, Jesus invites us to share it with others, to witness to what he has done for us in our lives. This we do mostly by the way we live our lives. Sometimes, we might need to use words too.

God's Love Is Unconditional

....The central theme found in all of St John's writings is this: the great, unconditional love that God has for each one of us. It is a love freely given; we do not receive it because we deserve it, and we do not have to do anything to earn it! Reflecting on this, St Paul would say, in his letter to the Romans, that God loved us when we were still sinners, still his enemies. Some people find it very difficult to understand this, because we are accustomed to love people who love us or who, at least, we like and to do things so that we earn the love of someone else. God does it the other way around. He loved me first, and this makes it possible for me to start loving others, including Him....

God's love is freely given. It is up to us whether we want to accept it or not. Once we experience this love, it comes only naturally then that we would want to share it with others....As followers of Christ, we are all called to share God's love with others. Some are called to share in Jesus' ministry of being shepherds, willing to offer their whole lives for the flock. Others have other callings, other vocations. As baptized, we are all called to share the love we have received from God with others, who may so desperately need it.

MISS MALTA PAGEANT, MAY 15, 1971***Dan Brock**

The 1971 Miss Malta Pageant, hosted by the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto (M.C.S.T), was held under the distinguished patronage of Senator Paul Martin, Sr. (1903-1992). Viewed as one of the most left-wing members of the Federal Liberal Cabinet, he played an important role in the fight against polio and overseeing the founding of hospital insurance in Canada. He was also instrumental in the acquisition of American nuclear weapons for Canadian Forces. While he lost the bid to become leader of the Liberal Party on three occasions, his son, Paul Martin, Jr., would succeed him and become Prime Minister of Canada (2003-06).



M.C.S.T. Members Welcome Senator Martin
(l to r) Josie Mizzi, Virginia Debatisse, Richard Cumbo, Senator Martin, John R. Cordina
(M.C.S.T. President) and Nicholas d'Ombrain
(Senator Martin's Executive Assistant)

Back Row -L. to R.-
Charles Farrugia,
Publius Falzon,
Joe Caruana,
Frank Camilleri,
Espidito Falzon,
Leo Vassallo &
Richard Cumbo
Front Row-L. to R. -
Louis E. Borg,
Josephine Mizzi,
Monica Scannura
(Miss Malta, 1970),
John R. Cordina,
Virginia Debatisse
& Alfred Goggi.



* I wish to thank Richard S. Cumbo for providing the photos and names.

ZIJU GUZEPPI "JOE" GALEA: IN TRIBUTE

Mike Cutajar

Ziju Guzeppi died in Malta on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.



Better known as Uncle Joe, he was born on December 12, 1932 in the village of L-Imsida. L-Imsida is located in Malta next to what is a sea inlet called Msida Creek. It was the home of the Torpedo Depot during World War II and a target for hundreds if not thousands of aerial attacks by the Axis air forces during the 2½-year-siege. Malta was a British colony since the early 19th century, where the Royal Naval Mediterranean Headquarters was at that time. Later, during the late 1930s, the headquarters was moved to Alexandria, Egypt because of the rising threat of fascism in Europe, a concern that in fact soon followed with unrelenting treachery.

Uncle Joe suffered his first tragedy with the loss of his older brother Manuel, who in 1935 contracted a deadly bacterium of its time, pneumonia.

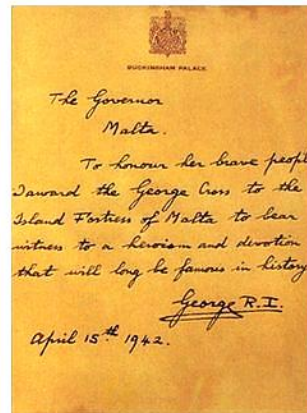
Uncle Joe spent the war years, as a boy, like all the rest of the population, tired and hungry, enduring the sieges, starvation and aerial bombardment, especially from the Nazi Stuka Dive Bombers and their "fear sirens" that would resonate loudly a screaming sound while on torpedo dives in L-Imsida, solely for the purpose of creating fear and hysteria. This continued until the decimation of the island took a hiatus from the daily bombing in September 1942, following more than two years of daily Axis bombing and strafing sorties that covered the Islands.

During that time, his father, my maternal grandfather Gerolamo Galea, worked at the British Naval Yard at Manoel Island, home of the submarine fleet.

My own father, Felix Cutajar, was employed at the main base, the Naval Dock Yard at Cottonera, where working during wartime raids was inevitable and without any protection other than the ground-to-air-batteries and the Royal Air Force that were positioned around the Island to repel the repeated attacks. My mother used to tell me how much they feared for my grandfather's life every day as he was at work, wondering if he would survive that day.

The George Cross Medal

Presented to the Island of Malta and its Inhabitants for acts of Heroism of war in the Siege of Malta by Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy during the Period 11 June 1940 – 20 November 1942, Two and one half years of enduring countless Air Raid attacks and Naval Blockades, Creating much suffering to the Maltese inhabitants Presented by King George VI on April 15th 1942



George Cross Medal –
Guzeppi Galea

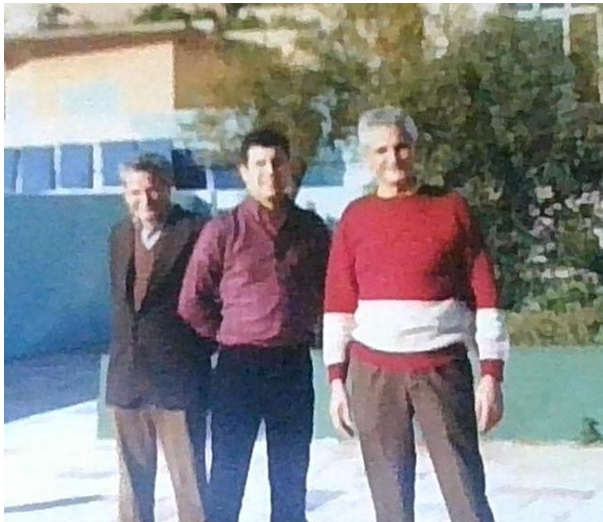
Uncle Joe went to work at the Royal Naval Base and Dockyard in 1947, was trained as a millhand on milling machines and remained there until 1989, when he was offered an early retirement, as the RN Dockyard had become a private company after the British had left and employment started to slow down. I visited the facility on business in 2000 and was amazed at how the men worked, literally under an open canopy close to one of the drydocks.

I met Uncle Joe when I was 14 and visited the Island for the first time. I was sitting in front of Grandmother's house on a dining room chair and noticed him as he got off the bus when he came home from work that day. He came up to me, kissed me on my head and told me in English that he was my uncle

Joe. I soon found out that I was so unused to someone like him. He was quiet, gentle, not outgoing but friendly to everyone. The next day, a Saturday, he told me he was going to Sonny's barbershop and wanted to know if I wanted to go with him. I needed a haircut, so I said ok.

It was the early 70s and hair on men, teenagers in particular, was at a new standard—long. Before I could even flinch, Sonny had me in that chair and with his hand-operated shears cut my hair to the length that was close to that of a three-week recruit in the boot camps of the US Military. I was not happy even though Sonny kept telling me what a great haircut I had received for 25 Maltese cents.

My uncle did not have any real friends, just cousins and of course for that time period he had me and my family. But I was the one that stayed with Uncle Joe and my grandmother, Antonia (Grech) Galea, the most, because I met some friends, liked a girl—but was too shy to do anything about it—and I loved being by the sea. I also enjoyed staying with my grandmother, who treated me like a king, even shining my shoes or making me shine them. She always made sure I was looking my best. Uncle Joe would go with us to the swimming spots in Malta where they mainly had deep water edges, that is, you jumped in and were already in 5-10 feet of water right off the shore. I spent a whole summer like a duck in water with him and Uncle Alfred “Fred”, his younger brother who died of pancreatic cancer in 2004.



Uncle Joe, Me and Uncle Fred

As a boy, Uncle Joe was a strong swimmer and once swam from the mainland to St Paul's Island. He played his share of football (soccer), too. We spent much time travelling around to the weekend festivals where each village would celebrate the patron saint of its church. It was a most memorable time of my life.

Before my first visit to Malta, I had only seen my Uncle Joe's image in pictures, like many of my other relatives, and I wondered what they were like?

I remember one photo in the early 1960s when Uncle Joe had a 1957 Hillman Minx and girlfriend. The latter was the reason that he left the Muzew—a Catholic order of laymen in Malta. Unfortunately, I am quite sure that my grandmother disapproved this action (which is upsetting to me) and, being the obedient son, he was, Uncle Joe severed his connection with the girl. Sadly, it would be the only love relationship in his lifetime. He later got rid of his car too.





I knew he loved cars because he would ask me to send him car brochures, which I would get for free in the United States. He would try to give me money, but I would not accept it from him. I had worked for several years before I came to Malta and saved up money, finding that it stretched a long way there, although I did let him pay the 25 Maltese cents for that "summer" haircut.

One of the later horrors Uncle Joe had to endure was the time the Mosta police in Malta woke him up out of a sleep at 11:00 p.m. on a Saturday in 2014, to come and identify his sister, Josephine, who was laying in the middle of Constitution Street in that city. She had been killed by a driver who ran her down while texting, and then hit another person trying to enter his car. After Uncle Joe identified the body, the police told him to "Go home and go to sleep". When I called the station in Mosta, they would not tell me anything other than the basics. Even years later, when I wanted to find out what the outcome of the accident investigation was, they refused to give me any specifics.

Uncle Joe loved animals, always having cats and letting in strays every day to give them something to eat. I remember him always asking my grandmother for a little something to feed a dog that he would see every day at the gates of the Dockyard every morning.

The only time he left the Island, other than to cross over to Gozo, was to Lourdes on a pilgrimage. He never came to see us in the United States, although he was once going to and then suddenly backed out. I always thought he may have been afraid of airplanes, seeing so many in their demise during the Second World War.

Uncle Joe, your life was long as compared to many. Don't worry, your memory will live on in my mind as I sit and reflect upon the goodness, kindness and of course calm that was anomalous for a Maltese. I

only wished that eight thousand miles had not separated us, as I do for my other relatives on the Islands, for I would have been there for you without hesitation.



Let Jesus shine his perpetual light upon you as we mourn your grace, strife, sacrifice, toil, dignity and life on earth.

Saħħa Ziju Guzeppi. Until we meet again.
Love Nephew (Neputi) Mikiel Cutajar

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

The Greater Toronto Area, Ontario Malta Band Club

The Executive Committee wishes to thank all those who participated in the Club's Easter Fundraising and most of all the volunteers who help to make this a very successful fundraising drive.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

With the province of Ontario accounting for some 50% of all the daily COVID-19 cases and deaths in Canada, the provincial government announced, on Friday, April 17th, that further restrictions would be implemented provincewide until at least Thursday,

May 20th. Consequently, public Masses have been temporarily cancelled.

Fr. Mario Micallef, the pastor, has been in Malta for some months, owing his mother's terminal illness, subsequent death and restrictions owing to the current pandemic. He was scheduled to return to Canada on Friday, April 17th and got as far as England but was not allowed to board the plane for Canada.

As a priest of a religious community working in the archdiocese of Toronto, Fr. Mario has something akin to a work permit. With the current rules surrounding the pandemic, however, the Canadian government is only allowing Canadian citizens, people with permanent resident permits and those with working permits for essential services into the country.

Despite the fact that Fr. Mario had a letter from the Archdiocese stating that he had left Canada for Malta earlier for compassionate reasons and the intercession of both Dr. Raymond Xerri, the Consul General, and His Excellency Keith Azzopardi, High Commissioner to Canada living in Washington, the pastor's ministry was apparently deemed "non essential" and he had to return to Malta.

To add further insult to injury, Fr. Mario was placed back in quarantine in Malta for 14 days even though he had been out of the country for a few hours!

Lehen Malti

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.

**Metropolitan Detroit
Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn**

The Club has dine-in and carryout every Friday, starting at 6:00 p.m. The big event in April was "Malta to Motown." (See page 1 and pages 10-12)

The photos below, of Friday evening, April 2nd at the Club are courtesy of Mary Micallef.





The Club's next event will be a classic car show and contest. It will be held on Saturday, June 5th

from 1-5 PM.

Cars of any age and motorcycles are welcome to enter the contest. Vehicles will be provided with a dash placard and one will win an owners' choice award. One needs to pre-register. Entry donations are appreciated. In case of rain the event will be moved to Sunday, June 6.

You don't have to be a club member to attend or to enter your vehicle in the contest. Just come to check out these classic Motown beauties, enjoy live music, a BBQ pulled pork meal and of course, pastizzi and drinks.

The Club is also holding the board member election soon. To nominate someone (even yourself) to run for a board position, you can fill out a nomination form at the Club. Nominations are due by June 4th. You must be a member in good standing for at least one year to run for a board position. Election committee volunteers are sought to oversee the election.

**New York City
Maltese Center: Astoria**

Game Day was held on April 24th. Doors opened at 12:00 noon. One could enjoy the upper hall, patio and large private backyard. There were billiards, bocce, darts, love games and music all day.

**Windsor
Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario**

Despite the province-wide lockdown, owing to the high number of COVID-19 cases and the variants, the Club is still open for curbside pickup of pastizzi and Kinnie on Saturdays between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

MALTA TO MOTOWN

Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci

This last year has been a challenge for us all and the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn, MI (MACC) is no different. Having to close its doors to what is a lifeline to many of its members was probably one of the toughest decisions the Club's executive board members has had to make. But while the doors were closed, the executive

board did not just sit idly by. They were busy making plans for the future and used the down time to deal with a problem that seems to be plaguing many social clubs across the country, dwindling membership numbers because their current members are aging out. The board came up with some new and exciting events to add to the 2021 calendar of events to attract younger new members. One of these was Malta to Motown to celebrate both the Motown music explosion in the 60s and the Maltese immigration to the Corktown area in Detroit.



On Friday, April 30th the MACC hosted its first official themed event since the pandemic quarantine. Malta to Motown was a dinner event featuring Detroit themed menu items and products made in Detroit like Coney Island hot dogs, Better Made potato chips, Sander's bumpy cake and Boston coolers made with Vernors ginger ale and Stroh's

ice cream. It's called a Boston Cooler, but it's really a Detroit thing. Boston cooler got its name from Detroit's Boston Boulevard and its proximity to Dr. Vernors original soda fountain. Others say it's named after Detroit's Boston Edison neighborhood. Both theories have their skeptics. The Detroit fare was coupled with Maltese favorites like ravjul,

(ravioli) ross il-forn, (baked rice) imqarrun il-forn (baked macaroni) and pastizzi which are regular menu items.



Coney Island Hotdogs with Fries and a Boston Cooler Made with Vernors Ginger Ale and Stroh's Vanilla Ice Cream



**Chuck Berry
Enjoying His Sander's Bumpy Cake**

Motown music played through the sound system for a nostalgic blast from the past. The Club was decked out with Motown themed decorations and vintage pictures of Detroit. Old pictures of club members and their relatives also donned the walls. Members were asked to bring a picture of themselves either in Detroit or Malta to enter a raffle for a free dinner.



A 50/50 draw was also held to raise funds for the club.

**Rita Vella-Cruz
and Her Granddaughter Natalie
Who Helped Sell 50/50 Tickets**



Malta to Motown was a huge success. Thanks to social media, the event attracted guests all the way from Ohio and Indiana. Eight new members were signed up.



The Decorated Dining Room



**Mary Micallef and Jo Axiak
Taking Dinner Orders**



John Cassar and Marty Micallef in the Kitchen

MARIO VELLA: "HIS SPIRIT LIVES ON"**Dan Brock**

Mario Vella died in London, Ontario at the age of 49. Having battled Lou Gehrig's disease for more than 25 years, he was one of Canada's longest living ALS survivors. Eighty percent die within two to five years of diagnosis.

As he battled this disease, Mario never let it affect his fighting spirit. He was an avid sports fan and liked to attend rock concerts. His favourite team to watch was the Dallas Cowboys, even if they hadn't won a superbowl since 1995. He also followed Western University's Mustangs, the local university

football team.

While it was as if his mind were encased in concrete, Mario was a joy to converse with through one of his caregivers and I always left his presence feeling somehow uplifted.

Over the years, he raised money and awareness to support ALS research at the Robarts Research Institute in London and the London Health Sciences Centre through his annual golf tournaments.

His annual Victory Against ALS dinner and dance fundraisers were held either at The Maltese Canadian Club of London or the Marconi Club and I was privileged to attend some of these.

As a child and teenager, Mario played hockey.



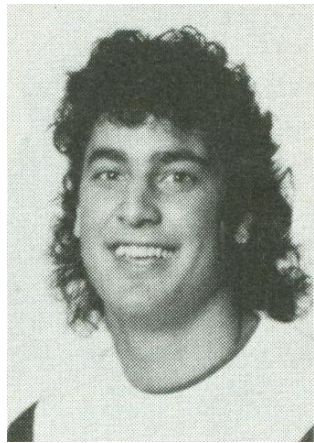
Mario Is in the Middle Row, Second Boy from the Left

While attending Catholic Central High School (CCH) in London he played both hockey and football. Paul Gleason, a teacher at CCH, coached

Mario in hockey and as a lineman in football during the school's 1988 championship. Mike Circelli, Mario's senior football coach and another teacher at

CCH, stated recently that, "When Mario played football at CCH, he would go through the wall for me. He was tough as nails. There's nobody on this Earth I respect more than him."

I too was a teacher at CCH during this time but did not have the privilege of teaching Mario. It was only in later years, as a fellow parishioner at St. Justin's Church that my wife and I first got to meet Mario, his parents, Sandra and Fred, and his daughter Kennedie. We vividly remember watching him carrying the oil of the sick down the aisle one Easter Sunday. By this time, ALS was showing its affects on both Mario's mobility and speech.



Mario in Grade 12, 1988-89



Mario with His Daughter Kennedie at Her Graduation from High School, June 26, 2014

The devotion of Mario's parents, his daughter, other members of the Vella family and his care-

givers throughout the past 25 years is both legendary and inspiring in itself.



Tony & Censa Vella, Fred Vella, Mario Vella and Joyce Vella at a Mario Vella's Victory against ALS Dinner/Dance, March 3, 2018

Mario's father, Fred, a native of Paola, Malta, came to Canada as a teenager in 1955 on board the *Arosa Sun* which docked in New York Harbor on August 1st. With Fred were his mother, Maria Giuseppa (Mizzi) Vella, his maternal grandmother, Raffaella (Ellul) Mizzi and his three younger siblings: Tony, Joyce and Joe. Fred's father, Joe, had come out to London, Ontario in 1954 on the ship *Nea Hellas* which docked at New York on May 2nd. With Joe was his second eldest child, Mary. They had come out to join the eldest child, Cetta, who was married to Frans "Joe" Fenech.

Cetta had arrived in New York Harbor, on May 15, 1953, on board the *Jerusalem*, with her two children, Charlie and Lourdes Mary. They then proceeded to London where their husband and father was then living.

Joe Fenech had disembarked from the Italian passenger ship *Argentina*, at Halifax, Nova Scotia, on August 21, 1951 and proceeded by train to Edmonton, Alberta. Before the end of the year, however, he had made his way back east, first to Windsor, Ontario, then to Leamington and finally to London where he remained until the end of his life.

There the Vella family also established roots and Fred and Sandra were married and had two children, Joe and Mario.

Even with the death of Mario, the planned bottle drive will still be held at Forest City Community Church, May 29th, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Mario's legacy continues.

MALTESE STUFFED ARTICHOKE (QAQOĊĊ MIMLI)

Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci



As with the March 2021 issue, Lisa's Maltese recipe is again being used as the "centerfold" feature.

It's springtime in the northern hemisphere and you know what that means? It's artichoke season! Well, it's artichoke season in the fall too, but hey c'mon, it's Spring! Springtime is my favorite time of year. Not only because the long, dark frigid winter is over, or because the trees are filled with beautiful blossoms, or the flowers start blooming, (can you tell I love Spring?), but as a child, it meant my mother was going to make Maltese stuffed artichokes, or as it's called in Malta, *qaqoċċ mimli*. They are my all-time favorite vegetable.

In Malta, wild artichokes are a native plant. In fact, the scrubland on the Dingli cliffs is covered with wild artichokes, and are now in full bloom. Wild artichokes don't produce a large bud, but both the flowers and stems can be eaten. The Maltese use the leaves of wild artichoke for medicinal purposes as a tonic for high fever and more.

The artichoke itself is the flower bud of a thistle plant in the sunflower family and is one of the world's most ancient foods known to man.

The history of artichokes:

According to Greek mythology, the first artichoke was a young girl named Cynara who lived on the small Greek island of Zinari in the Aegean Sea. She caught the eye of the Greek God Zeus, while he was visiting his brother Poseidon. The beautiful young woman wasn't frightened by Zeus, so he seized the opportunity to seduce her. He made her a goddess and brought her to his home on Olympia to be his mistress where he enjoyed many trysts whenever his wife, Hera, was away. Cynara soon grew homesick and snuck away back to the world of mortals to visit her mother. Upon discovering Cynara's deception, Zeus was enraged and hurled her back to earth, transforming her into the plant we

now know as the artichoke.

In reality, the artichoke's origins date back to 371-287 B.C. The Greek philosopher and naturalist Theophrastus, wrote of them being grown in Italy and Sicily.

In 77 A.D., wealthy Romans enjoyed artichokes prepared in honey and vinegar, seasoned with cumin

Between 800 and 1500 A.D., the artichoke was cultivated, most likely in monastery gardens, and transformed into the plant we recognize today.

In the 16th century, the Italian noblewoman, Catherine de Medici, who was married to King Henry II of France is credited with making artichokes famous.

The Dutch introduced artichokes to England, where they grew in Henry VIII's garden at Newhall in 1530.

In the 1800s, French immigrants brought artichokes to the United States when they settled in the Louisiana Territory and Spanish immigrants brought them to California. Though the first commercial artichoke fields were developed in Louisiana, by 1940 they had all but disappeared there. Nearly 100% of all artichokes produced commercially in the U.S. are now grown in California.

Fun facts about artichokes:

Did you know that in the 16th century, only men could eat artichokes? Women were prohibited from eating them as they were considered an aphrodisiac and thought to enhance sexual power.

Did you know that artichokes were once illegal in the State of New York? In the 1920s, mafia member, Ciro Terranova, or "Whitey" aka "Artichoke King," monopolized the artichoke market by purchasing all the artichokes shipped to New York from California. He resold the artichokes at 30-40% profit, terrorized distributors and produce merchants and launched an attack on the artichoke fields, hacking down the plants with machetes in the dead of night. These "artichoke wars" led New York's Mayor La Guardia, to declare "the sale, display, and possession" of artichokes in New York illegal. The Mayor admitted he loved artichokes, and a week later, he lifted the ban.

Did you know Marilyn Monroe was the first official California Artichoke Queen in 1949?

How to buy artichokes:

When shopping for artichokes, select the ones that feel heavy and solid. Lighter ones are older. Look

for closed heads. The leaves should be firm, compact and tight. The artichoke should squeak when you squeeze it. The color should be green or purple and green. If they are turning brown, that means they are old and the leaves are oxidizing. If the stem is slimy, don't buy it.

The most common and readily available variety of artichoke is the Globe Artichoke. You may find them in two different shapes. One is a large round artichoke with short wide leaves, a much larger heart and thicker stem. The other is smaller with longer leaves that taper on the end to form a conical shape and a thinner stem. Each have their pros and cons depending on what you are going to do with them. You may find baby artichokes as well. Baby artichokes are fun because with just a little trimming, you can eat the whole thing. Its petite size comes from being picked from the lower part of the plant.



Now that you have your artichokes what the heck do you do with them? In this recipe I will explain how to prep, stuff and cook them. But first let's talk about the stuffing technique itself and what shape works best. Personally, I like the ease of stuffing only the center of the artichoke. If you like a lot of stuffing and a bigger heart, the larger round artichoke is best for this technique. Another technique is to fill not only the center, but each individual leaf. The longer conical shape works best for this as the leaves are longer and will hold more stuffing. I will include both techniques in this recipe. Even though I only stuff the center, I prefer to use conical shaped artichokes. The big round ones don't have as much meat on the shorter leaves and they are tougher. Also, they take longer to cook because of their larger size. The conical shaped artichoke, although it has a smaller heart, yields more meat on the leaves, and let's face it, half the fun of eating an artichoke is scraping the meat off the leaves with your teeth.

Although my mother never prepared potatoes and

endive with her stuffed artichokes, as I researched the history of artichokes and compared recipes with my Maltese friends, I found that it is very typical to do so in Malta. In keeping with Maltese tradition, I am including the potatoes and endive with this recipe. It is an option you can leave out if you choose to do so. Enough said, let's get to it! Here is the recipe to make Maltese stuffed artichokes. (*qaqoċċ mimli*).

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 artichokes
- breadcrumbs made from 4 slices of bread, preferably Maltese, Italian or some sort of sour dough
- ½ cup sliced green olives
- ¼ cup capers
- ¼ cup fresh parsley, minced
- 2 anchovy filets, minced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper
- 4 Tbs. olive oil + more for drizzling
- ½ cup white distilled vinegar
- 2 Tbs. red wine vinegar
- 1 lemon
- 5 medium-sized potatoes
- 1 head curly endive
- Additional salt for soaking the artichokes



DIRECTIONS:

1. Start by soaking your artichokes in salted water for at least ½ hour while you prepare your stuffing.
2. Wash the whole head of endive and set aside. Do not remove the leaves from the core,
3. Tear apart the bread into small pieces or pulse in a food processor to make bread crumbs.
4. Mince the garlic, anchovies and parsley. Slice the olives.
5. Prepare the stuffing by mixing the breadcrumbs, parsley, olives, anchovies, garlic and capers together.
6. Add the olive oil and toss until all the breadcrumbs are moist and the stuffing binds together. Add more if needed.
7. Season with salt and pepper. Taste for seasoning.



8. Peel the potatoes and slice in half lengthwise. Set aside in the salted water with the artichokes.
9. Fill a large bowl halfway with water, slice the lemon in thick slices and squeeze the juice in the water. Toss the slices in the water. Keep the water nearby as you work with the artichokes.
10. To prep the artichokes. Cut off the very top of the artichoke. A serrated knife works best for this task.



11. Now hold the artichoke by the stem and pound the artichoke on your work surface to loosen the leaves. This will help you when prying the artichokes open to fill. Don't be shy, give it a good pounding.
12. Next, cut the stem off flush with the bottom so they stand upright. Don't throw away the stems.



13. Cut away the tough fibrous outer skin of the stems to reach the tender white inner flesh. Dice the peeled stems into pieces and add to the stuffing.



14. Working with one artichoke at a time, pluck off the bottom layer of smaller leaves.
15. Using a pair of kitchen shears, go around and cut the thorny tip off the remaining leaves. NOTE: If you are going to stuff the leaves individually, skip this step.



16. Pry open the leaves of the artichokes to expose the center leaves.



17. Using a sharp paring knife, cut away the center leaves, cutting on an angle pointing to the center, and pull them out.



18. At this point you should be able to see the hairy choke of the heart. You can either scrape it out now with the tip of a spoon to make more room for filling, or just leave it. I leave it. It's a lot of work to scrape it away and it's much easier to remove the choke after it's cooked and tender.



19. Place the artichoke in the lemon water. The acidulated water prevents them from oxidizing and turning brown. Repeat the process with each artichoke.



20. To stuff the artichokes, fill the center with the stuffing. Pack it in tight.



21. If stuffing the individual leaves, stuff the center first. Then, starting with the outer layer, place a little stuffing in each leaf. Work your way around until each leaf is stuffed. Press the artichoke leaves together once finished to help hold everything in place.



22. Place the potatoes flat side down in a large pot. Put the stuffed artichokes, stem side down, on top of the potatoes.



23. If you only filled the center of the artichoke, fill the pot with water until it comes almost half way up the artichokes. If you stuffed the individual leaves, use just enough water to cover the potatoes. You don't want to submerge the leaves.



24. If you are not using potatoes, place the artichokes in a steam basket. Fill the pot with enough water until it just comes through the very bottom of the basket.



25. If you don't have a steam basket, just place the artichokes on the bottom of the pot and fill until the water is almost halfway up the artichokes. Do not use this method if you stuffed the leaves. No matter what method you use, be sure to keep an eye on the water level while cooking. Refill if it evaporates so

you don't scorch the bottom of the artichokes or potatoes.

26. Pour the white vinegar in the water. I also add salt and the lemons from the acidulated water.
27. Place the head of endive over the artichokes. Drizzle with some olive oil and red wine vinegar.



28. Cover the pot and bring it to a boil. Lower the heat and simmer with the lid on for about 1 hr., depending on the size of your artichokes.
29. The artichokes are done when a leaf is easily removed, or a knife meets little or no resistance when poked through the center.
30. Take the artichokes out of the water and allow them to cool a bit.
31. This is not typically Maltese, but I serve my artichokes with some sort of dipping sauce, either melted butter, a vinaigrette, or hollandaise. You'll need a bowl to place the leaves in once you have finished scraping the flesh with your teeth, and don't forget to remove the hairy choke before you eat the heart.



Yes, making stuffed artichokes is a lot of work, but it's a labor of love and well worth the effort. I do hope you try to make them. I think you'll love them as much as I do.

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

Il-Konsolat Ġenerali ser jkompli jimxi mad-direttivi tal-awtoritajiet tas-saħħa mill-1 ta' Mejju ser nagħluq minħabba l-lockdown



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

Qegħdin fit-tielet mewġa ta' din l-imxija COVID-19. B'halma kont ikkumentajt sena ilu, din hija gwerra kontra għadu nvizibbli li mhux għalkemm jitleq, mhux għalkemm nirbħulu u sfortunatament fadliina aktar żmien x'nikkombattu.

Mill-1 ta' Mejju 2021, il-Konsolat Ġenerali tar-Repubblika ta' Malta għall-Kanada ser ikun għal darb'ohra magħluq għall-pubbliku minħabba t-tielet lockdown u ordni sabiex noqgħodu d-dar. L-appuntament pendent ser jiġu skedati mix-xahar ta' Ġunju 'l quddiem meta nisperaw li l-lockdown jispicċa.

Biex tnaqqas il-problemi meta ssiefer lejn Malta mill-Kanada, siefer bil-passaport Malti

Il-qagħda tal-imxija COVID-19 f'Malta, għall-grazzja t'Alla reġgħet baxxa ħafna. Għalhekk mill-10 ta' Mejju ser jinfetħu r-ristoranti u minn Ġunju l-pjan hu li Malta tibda tilqa' t-turisti b'ammont akbar. Jekk inti jew membri tal-familja tiegħek, befsiebhom iżżuru Malta dan is-Sajf, il-parir huwa li minħabba l-ordni ta' 'essential travel' ser tibqa' u l-Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA) tista' twaqqaf lil min qiegħed jivvjaġġa f'passaport Kanadiz 'il barra mill-Kanada – għalhekk ivvjaġġaw bil-passaport Malti. Jekk tivvjaġġa lejn Malta b'passaport Malti u tgħid li sejjer lura Malta, is-CBSA s'issa ma' waqqfu lil ħadd milli jsiefer lejn Malta minn Jannar li għadda. Min jixtieq japplika jew igedded il-passaport Malti, għandu jċempel lill-Konsulat Ġenerali tar-Repubblika ta' Malta għall-Kanada fuq 416-207-0922 jew jibgħat imejl fuq maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt. Thallux għall-aħħar għaliex l-ammont ta' appuntamenti huwa sostanzjali.

The Consulate General will continue to follow the directives issued by the health authorities and will close to the public once again due to the lockdown

We are in the third wave of COVID-19. As I had commented last year, we are in a war against an invisible enemy that will not go away easily, is not easily beaten and unfortunately we still have quite a way to go to beat it.

From May 1st, 2021, the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada will once again have to close its doors to the general public owing to a third provincial lockdown. All appointments will be rescheduled for the month of June, when hopefully the lockdown will be removed.

To minimize your problems travelling from Canada to Malta, use your Maltese passport

The COVID-19 numbers in Malta are, thank God, negligible. The Government of Malta has announced that on May 10th restaurants can open and June should see Malta welcoming tourists in bigger numbers. If you, or a member of your family wish to visit Malta this summer, because of the 'essential travel' restriction for Canadian Passport holders, which will remain in place administered by the Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA), travel with your Maltese passport. If you travel with your Maltese passport and you state that you are returning home to Malta, the CBSA so far have not stopped anyone travelling to Malta since January 2021. Whoever wishes to apply for or renew their Maltese Passports please call the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada at 416-207-0922 or send an email via maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt. Because of the high volume of appointments, we highly suggest you call in as soon as you can.

An informative and educational flyer, Malta and Canada have a lot in common

Maltese Canadians are very proud of their Maltese heritage and this is evident in the large number of requests for information about the migration history of Maltese families to Canada and return migration, requests for information on how one can research their family history and general research about the Maltese Islands.

Fuljett informattiv u edukattiv, Malta and Canada have a lot in common

Il-Maltin Kanadiżi huma ferm kburin bil-wirt Malti tagħhom u dan jidher sew fin-numru dejjem jikber ta' talbiet, lill-Konsolat Ġenerali tar-Repubblika ta' Malta għall-Kanada, għal informazzjoni dwar l-istorja tal-emigrazzjoni tal-Maltin lejn il-Kanada u lura Malta, informazzjoni dwar l-istorja tal-familja u ricerka ġenerali dwar il-Gżejjer Maltin.

Waqt il-lockdown tal-2020, iddeċidejt li noħloq serje ta' fuljetti informattivi u edukattivi, *Maltese Canadian Studies Series*, bħala referenza utili għall-Maltin-Kanadiżi. Minkejja li hemm distakk fiziku bejn Malta u l-Kanada, bħad-differenza fil-kobor u l-popolazzjonijiet, però hemm hafna komuni bejn is-sistemi tal-Gvern taż-żewġ pajjiżi kif ukoll similaritajiet bejn iż-żewġ popli.



Preżentament, qiegħed nirriċerka u nikteb aktar fuljetti simili li ser jitqassmu lill-pubbliku b'xejn fil-korrispondenza tal-Konsulat Ġenerali.

Żewġ kotba kapolvuri dwar Malta fi Żmien l-Ordni ta' San Gwann minn Marthese Fenech

L-awtriċi Maltija-Kanadiża, Marthese Fenech, ippublikat żewġ rumanzi, diġà *best-sellers* miktuba fl-isfond ta' Żmien l-Ordni ta' San Gwann f'Malta. L-ewwel wieħed, bl-isem, *Eight Pointed Cross*, huwa miktub fl-isfond tal-Assedju t'Għawdex tal-1551 filwaqt li t-tieni wieħed, *Falcon's Shadow* huwa dwar l-Assedju l-Kbir ta' Malta tal-1565. Kien ta' pjaċir kbir

During the 2020 lockdown, I decided to respond to this demand and create a series of informative and educational flyers, entitled, *Maltese Canadian Studies Series*, to serve as a useful quick reference for all Maltese Canadians. Despite the physical size and population differences between Malta and Canada, there are many common grounds, in the respective political systems and history as well as people-to-people common ground.

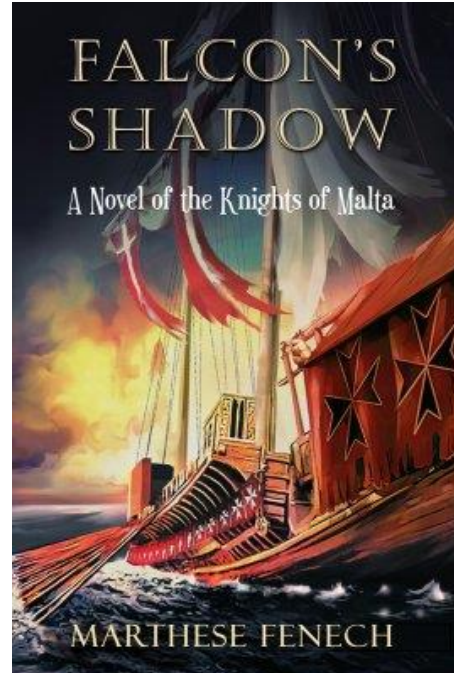
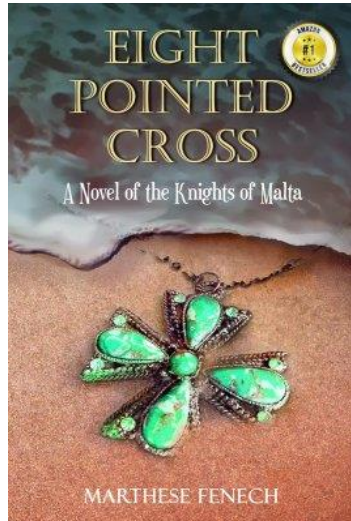


Presently, I am researching, and writing similar flyers to be handed out to the public visiting the Consulate General's Office.

Two masterpiece novels by Marthese Fenech with the Order of St John as their backdrop

Maltese Canadian author Marthese Fenech has published two novels. Already best-sellers, they are written in the context of the rule of the Order of St. John in Malta as their backdrop. The first book, *Eight Pointed Cross*, is written after the Great Siege of Gozo in 1551 whilst the second novel, *Falcon's Shadow* has the Great Siege of Malta of 1565 as its background. It has been my great pleasure assisting Marthese in reaching her goal of publicising her two novels here in Canada and around the world and especially amongst the Maltese and Gozitan Community here in Canada.

għalija li ngħin lil Marthese tilhaq it-tir tagħha li ż-żewġ kotba jkunu magħrufa u mixtrija madwar il-Kanada u d-dinja, u l-aktar fost il-Komunità Maltija u Għawdxija fl-istess Kanada.



Rumanz ieħor, *Everyone but Faiza*, tal-Professur John P Portelli

Dejjem pjaċir kbir tiegħi li npoġġi fuq il-Facebook webpajġ tal-Konsolat Generali tar-Repubblika ta' Malta għall-Kanada avvizz jew tnedija ta' ktieb ieħor tal-awtur Malti-Kanadiż, il-Professur John P. Portelli. Din id-darba rumanz ieħor minn tiegħu msejjaħ, *Everyone but Faiza*. Nawgurawlu aktar suċċessi!

Victoria Day fil-Kanada, l-Ewwel ta' Mejju f'Malta u l-bidu tal-Istaġun tal-Festi

Fix-xahar ta' Mejju fil-Kanada jiġi ċċelebrat Victoria Day fl-24 ta' Mejju ta' kull sena li hija btala pubblika f'ħafna mill-pajjiż. Il-borra tieqaf u tagħmel wisa' għall-isbuħija inkredibbli tar-Rebbiegħa Kanadiża. Fil-Gżejjer Maltin, Mejju jibda bil-festa tal-ħaddiem tal-1 ta' Mejju fejn San Gużep Haddiem huwa wkoll assoċjat ma' din il-ġurnata. Malta tfakkar is-17-il sena ta' meta saret membru tal-Unjoni Ewropea. L-għada, il-ħadd, 2 ta' Mejju sew il-ħamrun kif ukoll Birkirkara jiċċelebraw il-festa ta' San Gużep, segwiti mill-festa tas-Salib Imqaddes fit-3 ta' Mejju f'Birkirkara wkoll. Fid-9 ta' Mejju, is-Swatar jiċċelebraw l-festa tal-Qaddis Malti, San Ġorġ Preca, u l-Belt Valletta dik tal-Madonna ta' Liesse. L-istess Belt Valletta tiċċelebra l-festi ta' Sant'Wistin fis-16 u Santa Rita fit-22 ta' Mejju. L-Annunzjata

Another novel, *Everyone but Faiza*, by Professor John P Portelli

It is always my pleasure to support through the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada webpage notices and launches of publications by authors like Maltese Canadian. John P. Portelli. This time it's a novel called *Everyone but Faiza*. I wish him more successes!

Victoria Day in Canada, May 1st and the beginning of Festa Season in Malta.

Victoria Day is celebrated in most provinces of Canada on May 24th. Snow slowly dissipates and Spring gradually starts to blossom. In the Maltese Islands, May commences with the feast of May Day associated with St. Joseph The Worker. Malta will remember the 17th Anniversary since joining the European Union. The following day, May 2nd, both il-ħamrun and Birkirkara will celebrate the feast of St. Joseph, followed by the feast of the Holy Cross on May 3rd, also in Birkirkara. On May 9th is-Swatar celebrates the feast of a Maltese saint, St George Preca, and the feast of Our Lady of Liesse in Valletta. Also in Valletta, the feasts of St Augustine on the 16th and St. Rita on the 22nd of May are celebrated. In Ħal Tarxien, the feast of the Annunciation and in Gwardamanga, the feast of

f'Hal Tarxien u l-Madonna ta' Fatima f'Gwardamangia, jaħbtu t-tnejn fit-23 ta' Mejju. F'Għawdex hemm festa waħda biss, dik ta' San Pawl Nawfragu fit-30 ta' Mejju fil-Munxar.

Fl-aħħarnett, f'ismi, f'isem marti Marlene u familti nixtieq lil kull wieħed u waħda minnkom Victoria Day mill-isbaħ minkejja din il-gwerra tal-COVID-19 u l-varjanti li għaddejjin minnha. Komplu agħtu każ ta' xulxin, ċemplu lil xulxin u qattgħu f'it ħin titkellmu mall-anzjani tagħna fuq it-telefon, fuq Zoom jew b'mezzi oħra fejn tista' żżomm id-distanza, u ara jekk għandhomx bżonn l-assistenza tagħkom sa fejn tistgħu. Tinsewx li s-solitudni hija kerha wisq. Telefonata jew bi skype, zoom jew messenger tista' tagħmel id-differenza għal min jgħix waħdu. O Mulej, bierek dejjem lil Malta u lill-Kanada!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Dan Brock,
Please allow me to congratulate you for a wonderful newsletter with 24 pages that is truly packed with many subjects about the **Maltese Presence in North America**.

So very interesting to read about different aspects of the Maltese / Gozitan society, describing the way of life in Malta and the traditional habits that have been carried to the country of adoption where thousands of our citizens have taken up residence, away from the Maltese shores. Well done indeed.

I wish to introduce myself as the **President of Għaqda Ex-Studenti Liċeo / Association of Lyceum Past Students (ALPS)**, founded in 1994 by one of the Liċeo masters. His name was Dr. Guido Saliba who had wished to bequeath to the Maltese society something that brings Lyceum Past Students together from all walks of life and to wherever they may be in this world. The bond that had started in the classrooms of our beloved best school in Malta, still exists in the over 900 members who form **ALPS**. In 2019, we celebrated our Silver Jubilee and we now already have embarked on the next twenty-five years when, in 2044, the association will be half a century old. Many of us will have departed this planet earth but for those who come after us and continue to lead **The Association of Lyceum Past Students**, there is going to be a fountain of activities, duly recorded in our archives of all we have achieved in our first 26 years of existence.

I'm quite confident there are a few hundred Mal-

Our Lady of Fatima are both celebrated on May 23rd. In Gozo there is only one feast in May, that of St. Paul The Apostle, celebrated in il-Munxar, also on May 23rd.

Finally, on behalf of my wife Marlene and my family, I wish you and your families a Happy Victoria Day, despite the war on COVID-19 and its variants amongst us. Let us continue to care for each other, whenever we can call each other and spend some time talking to our elderly, zoom or use other social media means. This keeps the distance between us but at the same time we attack loneliness and offer a hand where we can. A call or skype, zoom or messenger can make the day for someone who is lonely.

O Lord, always bless Malta and Canada!

tese ex-Lyceum students who have immigrated to Canada and America and would like to reminisce about the roots of their childhood school days.

We have our own web-site

www.alpsmalta.com and our e-mail address alpsmalta@gmail.com.

At the end of the 25th anniversary celebrations **ALPS** printed its **CHANTICLEER, a 108-page special edition magazine** that is full of many nostalgic episodes, all recounted by Liċeo past students who have written of experiences from their youth that can never be erased from their hearts and minds.

Perhaps, I may ask you to kindly feature somewhere in your next publication, some details of this strong and very beneficial old boys' association, that continues to carry in high esteem the name of **IL-LIĊEO***. Thousands of Maltese and Gozitan scholars have taken their secondary education at the Lyceum, that has seen them strive to achieve the highest posts wherever they are in the world. From the Lyceum of Malta, we have seen a cardinal, many bishops, members of parliament, presidents of Malta, a prime minister, university professors, architects, members of the clergy, lawyers, judges, magistrates, teachers at all levels of education, highly-qualified engineers in every sector of industry and many other trades and respectable professions that are too innumerable to recall and mention and who are scattered around the globe.

Your valued assistance to reach out to our Lyceum schoolmates from many moons ago would be

greatly appreciated.

In thanking you in anticipation, I send my best regards and wish you and your publishing committee every success for the future.

Sincerely,

George Stagno Navarra

President - ALPS

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**Editor's Note: Il-Liċeo, now better known as San Ġorġ Preca College Hamrun Secondary School, was opened in Hamrun about 1955 and has its origins in the old Lyceum of Valletta.*

Hey Dan!

As an author, words tend to come to me naturally. However, finding the words to convey the depth of my gratitude sometimes poses a challenge. Now is one such time, as I thank Consul General of Malta in Canada, Dr Raymond Xerri, for his championing of my work and his tireless support of Maltese-Canadian artists.

I was born the youngest of five in Toronto to Maltese parents, both active in the Maltese-Canadian community. I am a novelist, screenwriter, professional editor, and high school teacher. Raymond Xerri, an inveterate storyteller and historian himself, has been instrumental in spreading the word about my bestselling historical novels, *Eight Pointed Cross* and *Falcon's Shadow*, and creating anticipation around the forthcoming third novel in my *Siege of Malta* series. His sharing of my television and media appearances has garnered tens of thousands of views across the globe, the kind of publicity an author dreams about.

An advocate of the arts, Raymond Xerri has graciously put me in touch with editors and the arts community around Malta to increase coverage of my novels. He also plans to submit my third novel to

the Toronto International Festival of Authors, an event I have longed to participate in since I began my career. Twenty years ago, I attended the festival as an aspiring writer and imagined that one day I might take part as a featured author.



**Marthese Fenech with Consul General
Dr. Raymond Xerri**

Given that my novels are set in sixteenth-century Malta, it is beyond gratifying to have the support of the Maltese community. Through his promotion of my novels, Raymond Xerri has actively sought positive recognition for my efforts to publicize and celebrate Maltese culture through the arts.

I am often asked about my goals. Seeing my novels come to life on the screen is my biggest dream. For years, I have wished someone—a director, a producer, an actor—would approach me about adapting my books. Anytime a film is being produced in Malta, I'd pray the director would pop into a bookshop and pick up one of my novels and contact me.

Suddenly, it dawned on me that I am capable—I

did write the novels, after all.

That revelation guided me towards a book-to-script screenwriting course. I have since started adapting my first novel and am currently drafting a pilot episode that I hope to pitch to streaming services as well as HBO, and the History Channel in the next few months. Nothing would bring me more joy than experiencing the fortitude, resilience, and tenacity of the Maltese play out on the screen—big or small. Approaching studios with such a project is a daunting task, but one Raymond Xerri will help facilitate. I look forward to the realization of my dream, of connecting not only the Maltese community but the world with one of the most incredible stories of valour and triumph to grace the annals of history, the Great Siege of 1565.

I wish Dr Raymond Xerri and his wonderful colleagues continued success, and I hope he plans to stick around as our consul general for years to come. Without a High Commission in Ottawa, Maltese Canadians need such a talented, energetic, well-networked and an internationalist like Dr Xerri, who has worked hard and is offering hope to the Maltese Canadian Community, a Consul General many of us have been long wishing for.

—MARTHESE FENECH, TORONTO

Contact Information:

EMAIL: info@marthesefenech.com

WEBSITE: <https://marthesefenech.com>

Dear Mr Brock,

The Canadian Consul, Mr Xerri kindly recommended that I may contact you.

I am writing to introduce myself and my organisation to you and your colleagues at The Maltese Presence in North America e-newsletter.

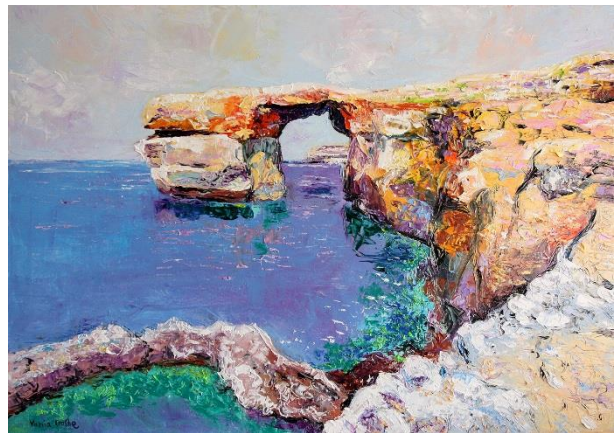
My name is Laura Swale. You may know me from my past work as the Arts and Culture Coordinator for the Times of Malta or through the visual arts events run by my company, Allura in Malta.

Allura is an award-winning start-up established just two years ago to showcase Malta's creative talent, with a particular focus on identifying and spotlighting both established and up and coming painters. I am writing with a view to presenting original fine art made in Malta by some of the country's leading contemporary artists.

To view the Allura Art collection click here: <https://www.allura-art.com>

I am contacting you to inquire as to whether you may be interested in featuring Allura Art and the artists it represents in your newsletter or other media outlets, or if you would be open to another form of collaboration.

The Allura Art collection is growing, but currently features ten local painters, each carefully selected following a number of years of knowledge accrued working within the arts sector in Malta. Many of these artists produce work based on the Maltese landscape or context and all are based in Malta or Gozo. We have chosen artists who look set to be the collectable artists of the future.



Due to its location and size, Malta is known to be a particularly challenging place for artists looking to further their careers, with a tiny fraction ever managing to paint full-time due to its limitations. We would like to help these artists to sell their outstanding work both locally and overseas.

If I may be so bold, and of course if you are impressed with our artworks, perhaps you might also consider recommending Allura to art-lovers in your network or advising us on reaching the Maltese diaspora in Canada, as we would like to approach them to see if they may be interested in purchasing artwork. Ultimately our aim is to provide opportunities for our artists to move closer to their goal of becoming full-time artists by selling work, while at the same time presenting beautiful original pieces worthy of collection.

With warm regards,
Laura Swale

[Allura Art](https://www.allura-art.com) - original contemporary art
[Allura Malta](https://www.allura-art.com) +356 9958 3389

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.omnitv.ca › shows › lehen-malti>
c/o 2387 Chilsworthy Avenue., Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
Contact Person: Joe Sherri
416-571-3944
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
joeshherri@rogers.com

Maltese Canadian Federation, The (Toronto)

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
416-571-3944
joeshherri@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
gormija@sympatico.ca

Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)

c/o leprofess@aol.com

Melita Soccer Club Inc.

3336 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A4
416-763-5317
msc@melitasoccerclub.com

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

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

St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mission Group

c/o 281 Gilmour Ave., Toronto, ON M6P 3B6
416-708-8627
www.facebook.com/john.vella.1044186
giovanvel@sympatico.ca

St. Paul the Apostle Youth Group (Toronto)

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

St. Paul's Maltese Choir

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

IN TRIBUTE TO MARIO VELLA: 1971-2021



February 14, 2015



June 8, 2020



EMPTIES ARE FULL OF OPPORTUNITY

THE NEXT... BOTTLE DRIVE 4 MARIO

bring refundables to
Forest City Community Church
 3725 Bostwick Rd, London
Saturday, May 29, 2021
10AM to 3PM

Mario has been living with ALS for 25 years.
 Your contributions help support him in his strive for "Victory Against ALS".
 AND Mario turns 50 on May 29th... come celebrate WITH him!

Donations accepted: Debit/Credit/Cheque "Mario Vella's Victory Against ALS"
 Etransfers bottledrive4mario@gmail.com
gofundme.com/f/mario-velas-victory-against-als

Questions? Contact Sheila Thomas 519 719 2561

MARIO VELLA'S VICTORY AGAINST ALS

