

# THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



## E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 29

AUGUST 2021



**SITE OF THE RUNNYMEDE LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY, TORONTO, ONTARIO,  
WHICH WILL CONTAIN 50 BEDS SPECIFICALLY FOR MALTESE CANADIANS,  
THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021**

(Courtesy of the Office of the Premier)

(See page 4 for identity of persons in photo and pages 24-25 for story)

**The Maltese Presence  
in North America**  
**Issue No. 29 August 2021**

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**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

As more people are becoming fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and its variants we are seeing more activities taking place within the Maltese clubs and church in Canada and the United States. This is seen on pages 19-22 and 31-32 of this issue.

The Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada shares with the reader the fact that the first long-term care facility in the Western Hemisphere specifically for those of Maltese birth or blood is to be provided within the Runnymede Long-Term Care Facility currently under construction in Toronto, Ontario. (See pages 1, 24-25)

For those interested in other current activities within the Greater Toronto

Area you are encouraged to read all of Dr. Raymond Xerri's monthly message (see pages 24-27), the press release from the office of the Consulate General of Malta to Canada (see page 28) and pages 19-20 of "Activities within the Maltese communities."

This issue has not one but two Maltese recipes with North American adaptations. The one for *imqarrun fil-forn* (Maltese baked macaroni) (see page 14) has been submitted by Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci of Michigan and that for *puđina* (Maltese bread pudding) (see page 17) is from Mary Rose Aquilina of Ontario. This is Mary Rose's first contribution to the newsletter and it is hoped we will see many more from both her and Lisa.

The presentation of these recipes to the reader is a very important and valued aspect of Maltese culture which it is hoped will be implemented by those of Maltese blood of the second, third and fourth generations living abroad and will be a very useful asset to those of neither Maltese birth nor blood as well.

The last of the three-part account of the Maltese Sisters of the Sacred Heart who first travelled to Chicago appears on pages 5-10. We hope to give an account in the next issue of four Maltese Sisters of the Sacred Heart who were first posted to Albany, New York upon first arriving in the United States.

The August 2019 and September 2019 issues contained accounts of chain migration to the San Francisco Bay Area. This issue deals with an example of chain migration to Toronto during the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. (See pages 22-23.)

Two articles which focus on members of the younger generations of those of Maltese blood are those updating the reader on the further recognition and work of the historical novelist Marthese Fenech (see pages 13-14) and the devotion of Ava Said to her Maltese heritage and her paternal grandmother through her artistry (see page 4).

I regret to inform the readers that, owing to a number of factors, this will be the last issue in which the

bilingual monthly messages and press releases coming from the Consulate General of Malta in Canada will appear in this newsletter. Henceforth, they will be printed in English only. The good news is that virtually all the readers of this newsletter are fluent in English. I would be remiss if I did not publicly thank Dr. Raymond Xerri for his contributions to date in both of Malta's official languages and for his understanding and acceptance of the change, beginning with the September issue.

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>.

I may be reached at [dbrock40@worldline.ca](mailto:dbrock40@worldline.ca), be it potential submissions, ideas you want 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.*

**We All Have a Mission in Life**

....As asking whether we are worthy followers of Christ, we all have a mission in life. Sometimes we become too aware of our own weaknesses and brokenness. A feeling of self-doubt may take over us and we start asking whether we are worthy of God's callings, or whether we are up to standard for what is expected of us. I know that, throughout my 30 years of priesthood, I went through such moments myself....If it is God that is asking us to do whatever our vocation entails (whether it is raising up a family, being a priest, fulfilling a ministry in the community, etc.) we may rest assured that God is going to give us all we need to fulfil our vocation. After all, it is His work not ours.

....God never abandons His people. He always sends people to encourage us, challenge us, and help us on our journey. Sometimes I myself may be invited to become a prophet, to bring God's good word to someone who needs it. The message...is twofold:

- \* If God is entrusting me with a mission in my life, I need not fear by concentrating solely on my weaknesses. I am convinced that God gives me all need to fulfil my mission.
- \* If God is using someone else to tell me something, I should not refuse God's message because of the other person's weaknesses. It's the message that counts, not the messenger.

**Let Us Find Time to Be Alone with Jesus**

....We all go through our often-busy lives without

much thought – and sometimes without much rest. Work, family, social activities (in non-Covid times, of course), other commitments do not allow us much time for rest, reflection or thinking. We need time to stop, to re-charge our internal batteries!....

....As Christians, we all profess our love for Jesus, and we all know how beautiful it is to be in the presence of a loved one, sometimes even without the need of any words being uttered. Jesus knows our human nature very well....

During these days let us find some time to move away from our daily routines and be alone with Jesus. Let us allow him to re-charge our batteries, so that we can see things the way He sees them and be truly compassionate with our neighbor.

**We Need Each Other,  
and Are Gifts to One Another**

....I am never a Christian just for my own sake, so that when I die, I go to heaven. That is good, but not enough. If it were only about me and my salvation that would be too selfish, and selfishness and Jesus do not go together very well! Besides, it is a natural fact that when I experience something beautiful, I would want to share it with others. Very often we speak of evangelization or of the Church being missionary. Some people might think that we are here speaking of those people who go to other countries, or that we should force everyone we meet to become a Christian. Pope Francis then speaks about evangelization, and he almost always likes reminding us that it is not proselytism. That's a big word...which basically means forcing others to change religion. The most basic part of evangelization, or of our life as Christians, is the way we live and the example we give. In the book of the Acts of the Apostles there are instances when people wanted to become Christians simply because they saw how the followers of Christ lived: how they shared their life, how they loved each other. When we live as true followers of Christ others will eventually start asking, "What do they have that I do not?" I suppose a good question to ask ourselves today would be: Does the way I live my life attract people to Jesus? How do I deal with people who hurt me or with those who are less fortunate in life than I am? Does the way I love others reflect the way Jesus loves Me?

....we are not self-sufficient. We need God's help in our lives if we [are] to live as good Christians....

We need each other, and are gifts for one another.

**A SPECIAL GIFT**

**Dan Brock**

Seventeen-year-old Ava Natalia Said, a very perceptive and talented young woman, lives in Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan. She has always been intrigued by her Maltese heritage and the stories told to her by her nanna, Marianna (Sultana) Said, of her life and experiences growing up in Xaghra, Gozo.

In the summer of 2018, Ava had the opportunity to visit Malta with her nanna, father, brother, aunts, uncles and cousins. The beauty of the Island of Gozo stayed with her so much that she decided to hand-paint a pair of tennis shoes as a gift for her nanna.

These shoes were given to Marianna Said to make this year's Fourth of July special and to remind her of her trip to Gozo with her granddaughter in 2018.



**Marianna Said and Her Granddaughter, Ava Said, Xlendi, Gozo, June 2018**



Photos courtesy of Nicholina Said-Michalski

\* I wish to thank Nicholina Said-Michalski and Ava Said for making this article possible. Nikki is Ava's aunt and godmother.

**Persons in Photo on Front Cover**

(l. to r.) Joseph Gulizia, President and Chief Executive Officer, Universal Care; Joe Sherri, President of the Maltese Canadian Federation; Dr. Raymond Xerri, Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada; Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Christine Hogarth, MPP Etobicoke and Lakeshore; Connie Galea-Dejak, President and Chief Executive Officer, Runnymede Healthcare Centre and Nick Migliore, Board Chair, Runnymede Healthcare Centre

Ava included on the shoes some of the things which reminded her most of her visit. These were the Maltese cross, the Said and Sultana family emblems, temples and other buildings, flowers, landscapes and sunsets.

**MALTESE SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART TO CHICAGO - PART III\***

**Dan Brock, Carmen Vella, Mark Caruana**

The June issue gave an account of the two sisters who arrived at the Sacred Heart Convent in Chicago in 1932. This was followed, in the July issue, by the six sisters who arrived in 1933. The last of the 12 sisters in total arrived in 1934. They were Sisters Maria Consiglia Debono, Maria Melita Attard, Maria Carmela Gilson and Agnes Micallef.

All four applied for their passports on June 20, 1934. These were issued on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sometime thereafter, they boarded a ship for Naples. From there, on August 7<sup>th</sup>, they embarked aboard the *Rex*. With them was a Swiss Sacred Heart sister, Philomena Baumgartner, who was going to the Convent of the Sacred Heart in St. Louis, Missouri. The ship stopped at Genoa on August 8<sup>th</sup>, where more passengers boarded. The four sisters from the Sacred Heart Convent in St. Julian's, Malta, were among those disembarking at New York on August 15<sup>th</sup>. From there, they travelled by train to 6250 Sheridan Road in Chicago.

**Maria Consiglia Debono** was born on January 13, 1907, in Lija, one of five children of Carmelo and Dolores (Agius) Debono. She was baptised, made her first holy communion and was confirmed at the Transfiguration of Jesus Church (*Trasfigurazzjoni*) in Lija.



**Sr. Consiglia's Passport Application Photo, 1934**

From childhood, Consiglia wanted to become a sister. She got to meet and know the Religious of the Sacred Heart who came to her village and, when she was 18 years old, was asked to go to the Sacred Heart Convent in St. Julian's to show the sisters how to work the stocking machine. It was while staying at the Convent that week that Consiglia decided to join this Society.

She and her sister Rita were both received into the Religious of the Sacred Heart on July 1, 1927. Of the 12 Maltese sisters who went to the Sacred Heart Convent in Chicago, from 1932 through 1934, Sr. Consiglia had been the first to join the Society in St. Julian's.

After serving in the school dining room from her arrival at the Convent on Sheridan Road, Sr. Consiglia was transferred, in 1935, to Barat College in Lake Forest, Illinois, worked in the sacristy and vestry and did housekeeping duties until 1938. Her next posting was St. Joseph's School in Atherton, California, where she did the same work as at Lake Forest. The federal census of 1940 found her at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in St. Joseph, Missouri.



**Aerial View of the Convent of the Sacred Heart**

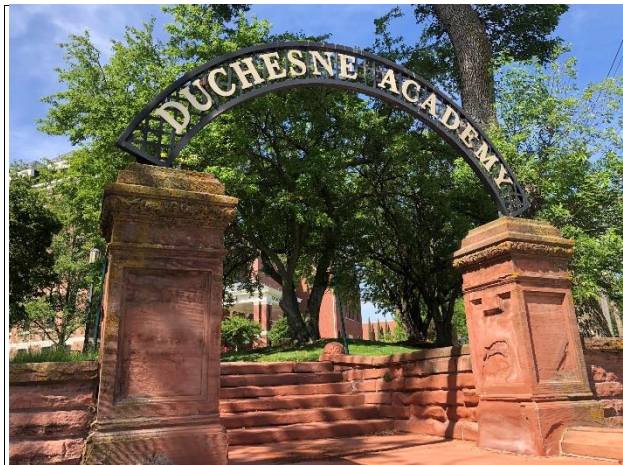
Founded in 1853, Convent of the Sacred Heart was established as the first Catholic school in St. Joseph. The Academy of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart received its charter from the Missouri legislature on December 13, 1855. The shining dome on top of the Convent became a St. Joseph landmark for captains of steamboats on the Missouri River. In 1901, at the request of Maurice Francis Burke, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Joseph, the Sacred Heart sisters opened Cathedral School for elementary students. In 1920, the Convent opened at 12th and Messanie as a day school. The Sacred Heart sisters then left Cathedral School and the Benedictines took over its



operation as an elementary school. Convent of the Sacred Heart High School celebrated its centennial in 1953 with a two-week long observation. The St. Joseph *News-Press* announced the opening of the celebration in its April 26, 1953 edition. That same year the Sacred Heart order expressed to Bishop Charles Hubert Le Blond a desire to leave St. Joseph, but he declined their request. Nuns were needed to teach in their colleges and the order was having difficulty covering the difference between tuition and the actual cost to educate. In 1959 the Benedictine nuns agreed to open a new girls' high school and the Convent was allowed to close. There were 60 girls in the final graduating class in 1960—the 104<sup>th</sup> commencement for the school.

As for Sr. Consiglia, she was again at Barat College, by September 1941 working in the sacristy and vestry. Her next posting was in 1954 to Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart in Omaha, Nebraska. There, she served as refectorian in the community dining room and aide in the vestry.

Duchesne Academy was established in 1881. Between 1908 and 1968, it also operated as a college. Today, at 3601 Burt Street in the Midtown area of Omaha, it is home to a college-preparatory high school for girls and a coed preschool.



**Main Entrance to Duchesne Academy**

Sr. Consiglia returned to Barat College in 1961 and worked in the vestry, infirmary and on the knitting machine. While, at Barat College, she was issued American citizenship on May 3, 1966. In 1978 she was again transferred to Duchesne Academy in Omaha, where she was engaged in parish work.

On retiring to Oakwood in Atherton, California, Sr. Consiglia took great pleasure in knitting baby sweaters and booties and making toys.



**Sr. Consiglia Debono, RSJC**

Her death occurred on December 17, 1989. Like Sr. Paulina Xuereb, who was profiled in the June issue, Sr. Consiglia was buried in Oakwood Community Cemetery.



**Gravestone, Oakwood Community Cemetery, Atherton, CA**

**Maria Melita Attard** was born to Riccardo and Michelina (Ciappara) Attard on April 9, 1907 in Qormi. Later, having already given birth to nine children, Michelina died after giving birth to twins, one of whom died four days later. The family was consequently raised by Riccardo.

Melita entered the Society of the Sacred Heart in St. Julian's on July 2, 1930. Upon arriving at the

Convent in Chicago in 1934, Sr. Melita served as school refectorian and did housework. Her final vows were taken in 1939.

San Diego College for Women opened in 1952 in its then-only building, Founders' Hall. Sr. Melita was to spend a year here.



**Sr. Melita's Passport Application Photo, 1934**

That same year, she was transferred to the San Francisco College for Women, where she worked as housekeeper for the next three years. Her whereabouts between 1942 and 1945 are uncertain, but on April 2, 1945, when she applied for American citizenship, she was doing housework at 2400 Turk Street (now Turk Boulevard) on the San Francisco College Campus.

Meanwhile, in 1937, Charles Francis Buddy had become Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego. In March of that year, he travelled to San Francisco and met with Mother Rosalie Clifton Hill, RSCJ. Bishop Buddy envisioned a Catholic college for women and another for men in San Diego.

In 1945, we find Sr. Melita serving as refectorian, housekeeper, supervising visits and helping in the kitchen in San Diego. That same year, Bishop Buddy gave 15 acres on a barren mesa in Linda Vista through Mother Hill to the Sacred Heart Sisters. This was to become the campus for the San Diego College for Women and would be named Alcalá Park. Sr. Melita was among the six nuns who helped lay the groundwork and is most probably in the December 12, 1949 photo in the next column. The



**Bulldozing for the Construction of the San Diego College for Women  
Note the Presence of Five Sacred Heart Sisters**

Meanwhile, Sr. Melita and her companions had opened an after-school program for children in San Diego's Old Town. This, for Sr. Melita, was the first step in a campus outreach effort. She taught religious education, prepared children for their first holy communion and developed assistance programs for children and their families. In 1945, she had applied for American citizenship.

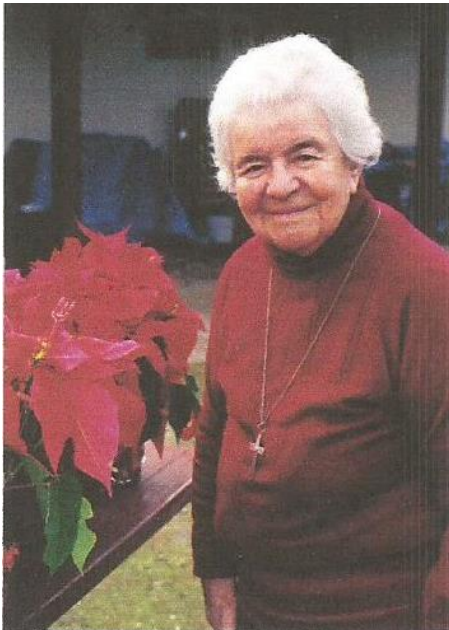


*Maria Melita Stcard*  
**Photo and Signature on Declaration of Intention [to Become an American Citizen], April 2, 1945**



From 1953 through 1967, Sr. Melita served at Forest Ridge in Seattle as refectorian, housekeeper and in the vestry.

She returned to San Diego in 1968 and worked as refectorian and housekeeper. Sister Melita, who was with the Women's College when it merged in 1972 with a separate Men's College to become the University of San Diego, continued her affiliation with the University until retiring in 1998. Her duties also included serving as Eucharist Minister at Sharp Memorial Hospital and visiting convalescent homes. Sister Melita was a real connector with people and very hard working; she would get on the bus and out into the community, supporting people suffering hardships.



**Sr. Melita Attard, RSJC**

In retirement, after moving to Oakwood Convent of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, being "very industrious and generous, always serving other people," she kept on working with students and schools. For example, she assisted a Montessori program at St. Joseph's School.

Her death occurred at Oakwood on September 17, 2005. Like Sisters Paulina Xuereb and Consiglia Debono, Sr. Melita's remains were interred in Oakwood Community Cemetery. At the time of her death, she was 98 years old and the last survivor of the six founding members of the San Diego College for Women.



**Gravestone, Oakwood Community Cemetery, Atherton, CA**

**Maria Carmela Gilson (aka Ghilson)** was born in Sliema on September 5, 1911 to Dominic and Teresa (Pisani) Gilson. Her mother was from Valletta and her father from Vittoriosa. Teresa died when Carmela was very young and her widowed husband then married her twin sister. Dominic had three children by his first marriage and two more by his second. All five were raised by his second wife.

Carmela first planned to become an Ursuline sister. At the age of 19, however, she decided to join the Society of the Sacred Heart and entered the convent at St. Julian's on March 25, 1931. While there, she worked in the school linen room, the kitchen and the sacristy. Her first vows were taken on January 7, 1934, six months before preparing to be sent to Chicago.



**Sr. Carmela's Passport Application Photo, 1934**



According to Sr. Carmela, she and her fellow sisters had to wait three weeks in Naples before the *Rex*, "a beautiful ship," sailed for the United States. While she was to say that there were two bishops on board the *Rex*, the ship's passenger list only contains the names of two priests, Fathers Augusto Ferrassi of Italy and Mesa Guillermo Garcia of Mexico.

While at the convent in Chicago, Sr. Carmela worked in the laundry, did the ironing, made caps, helped in the sacristy and did general work. In 1939, she was sent to San Francisco, where she also helped in the sacristy and did general work. Sr. Melita Attard was also at the San Francisco College for Women at this time. Sr. Carmela's next posting was in 1943 to Forest Ridge in Seattle where, for the next nine years, she helped in the vestry making habits for the religious. On August 14, 1945, she applied for American citizenship.

She left Seattle for Duchesne Academy, Omaha, in 1952. There, she worked in the vestry, cafeteria and sacristy and also did housework and worked on caps. She was here when Sr. Consiglia Debono arrived in 1954. Four years later, in 1958, Sr. Carmela was transferred to Lake Forest, Illinois where she worked in the vestry, laundry, the Academy dining room and the infirmary and also did general work. She returned to Omaha in 1962, but later went back to Chicago. In August 1972, she left for Malta.

Her memories of her time in the United States were happy ones, especially serving the college students in the dining room. During these years, she had kept in touch with her family back in Malta as well as her relatives who were also in the United States.

On her return to Malta, she was posted to Fgura where she did parish work and regularly visited the residents at Id-Dar tal-Providenza in Siġġiewi. Sr. Carmela was transferred to the convent in St. Julian's in 1975. There, she did some home visiting and housework.

She was sent to Roehampton, London, England in 1977 where she worked in the linen room. A Sacred Heart community and school for girls were established at Roehampton in 1850, on the site where Digby Stuart College now stands.

In 1986, Sr. Carmela returned permanently to Malta. Until 1995, she was at St. Julian's, where she helped in the kitchen, did playground supervision, helped at the Duchesne Library and engaged in other work around the house. She also stayed at Fgura where she did various services for the

community.

Sister Carmela next went to the Tal-Virtù community for elderly nuns, where she served to the best of her ability until 1999, when she had to stop active service owing to her advanced age. There, she died on December 2, 2001.



**Sr. Maria Carmela Gilson, RSJC**

Sr. Carmela was remembered as "a hardworking person, very quiet and reserved, with a very high standard required of herself and others."

**Agnes Micallef** was born on November 10, 1911 in Sliema, to Michele and Carmela (Miller) Micallef. As a child she attended the Sacred Heart Rosary School in St. Julian's.

It was on June 11, 1931 that Agnes entered the Society of the Sacred Heart in St. Julian's. Her first vows were taken on January 7, 1934.

On arriving at the Sacred Heart Convent in Chicago in August of the same year, Sr. Agnes served in the infirmary and did general work until 1939. In the latter year, she was transferred to Lone Mountain in California for a brief period. While there she became a professed nun. Later that same year, she was posted to Menlo Park where she served as infirmarian until 1941.

Sr. Agnes worked in the dining room and did general work at 2222 Broadway, in San Francisco, between 1942 and 1972. She became an American

citizen on May 5, 1945.



**Sr. Agnes' Passport Application Photo, 1934**



**Sr. Agnes Micallef, RSJC**

She returned to Malta in 1972 and, on joining the Sacred Heart Community in Fgura, served in the sacristy and did parish work, the parish apostolate

and housework. From Fgura, Sr. Agnes was transferred to the Community in Żejtun, where she served in the sacristy and was caterer for the Community.

Seven years later, in 1979, she moved to the Sacred Heart Community at Tal-Virtù where she served as caterer and helped in the kitchen. In later years she became devoted to the Apostolate of Prayer.

Her death occurred on June 10, 2006.

In studying the lives of the 12 sisters who first came to Chicago between 1932 and 1934, one is struck by the humble tasks they performed throughout most of their lives as religious, e.g. serving in the refectory, sacristy or vestry, working in the laundry, doing housework or making caps or habits, often while serving in educational institutions run by their community.

One is also struck by their longevity. Four Sisters—Paulina Xuereb, Agnes Micallef, Melita Attard and Carmela Gilson—lived into their 90s and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Sr Melita Attard being over 98 years old when she died. Sr. Agnes Micallef was the last survivor of the 12, dying on June 10, 2006 at the age of 94.

*\* In preparing the last of this three-part account of the sisters of the Sacred Heart who travelled from Malta to the Convent in Chicago in the first half of the 1930s, we are again indebted to the archival holdings of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart in St. Julian's, Malta, the National Archives of Malta and Sr. Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, Provincial Archivist USA, St. Louis, Missouri, USA.*

**Arrigo Azzopardi (aka Henry Pardi)**

*Arrigo Azzopardi, the son of Antonio and Mary Elizabeth (Calleja) Azzopardi, was born in Valletta on August 1, 1897. Arrigo declared himself a machinist when he left Naples, on board the Dante Alighieri, on November 5, 1916 and arrived at New York on December 10<sup>th</sup>. His destination was Detroit where his brother, Alfred, was living at 169 Elizabeth Street. By December 26<sup>th</sup>, Arrigo had decided to change his name to Henry Pardi and declared that he intended to become a naturalized American.*

*Henry crossed over into Ontario in 1917 and signed up in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force in Hamilton. By April 1919, he was living in Point St. Charles (now Pointe-Saint-Charles) to the southwest of Montreal, Quebec. There, on December 16, 1920, he married Mary Esther Lucy Murell. "Harry" died on September 6, 1988, in Placerville, El Dorado, California.*



**YOUTUBE VIDEOS RELATING TO THE MALTESE-CANADIAN SOCIETY OF TORONTO\***

**Dan Brock**

The following videos have recently been uploaded to YouTube by Alfred Fenech.

[https://youtu.be/HeoL-2F2\\_o0](https://youtu.be/HeoL-2F2_o0)

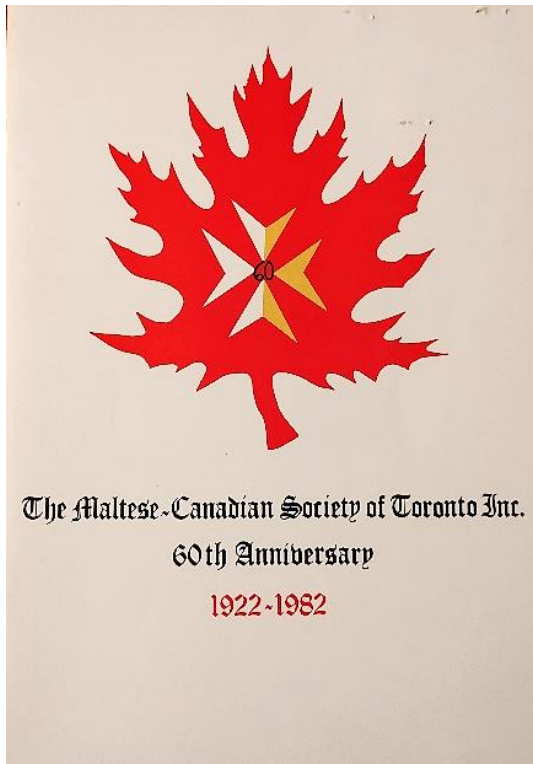
<https://youtu.be/TjLkKx8bMxA>

<https://youtu.be/DEwEW1G4SWI>

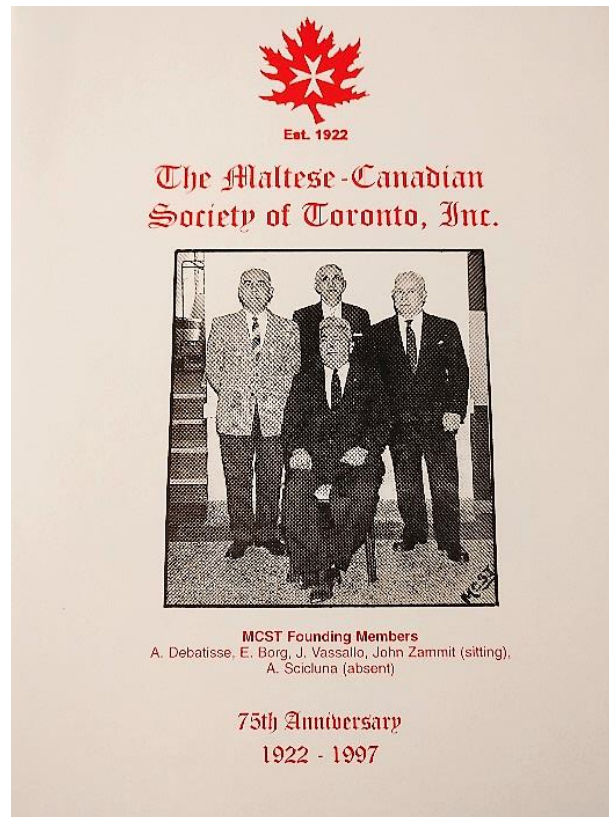
<https://youtu.be/W8spzLE7-F0>

<https://youtu.be/oEFu1PiO6uA>

The first video—[https://youtu.be/HeoL-2F2\\_o0](https://youtu.be/HeoL-2F2_o0)—is a brief history of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto (MCST), marking its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, from its founding in 1922 until 1982. It is narrated by Richard S. Cumbo who was also responsible for both the research and script. Joseph Zammit was the cameraman and did the sound dubbing.



The second and third videos in this *Djarju Malti* series—<https://youtu.be/TjLkKx8bMxA> and <https://youtu.be/DEwEW1G4SWI>—document the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the MCST, held on Sunday, September 28, 1997 at 235 Medland Street in the “Junction,” Toronto. The music is provided by Joseph Micallef. Sam Cassar, assisted by Rose Gambin, did the camera work. Sam also edited the video and audio. Joe Camilleri, who was featured in both the February and June 2021 issues of this newsletter, was the official photographer. Among the guests of honour were Dr Alfred Sant, Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta, Dr. Mark A. Micallef, Malta’s Ambassador to the United States and High Commissioner to Canada, Alfred Dalli, Malta’s Consul to Canada, and his wife, representatives of the various Maltese Canadian organizations in the Greater Toronto Area and dignitaries representing the federal, provincial and municipal governments.



Part One was the celebration of the Mass, by Fr. Raymond Camilleri, OFM, at St. Paul the Apostle Church on Dundas Street in Toronto. After the

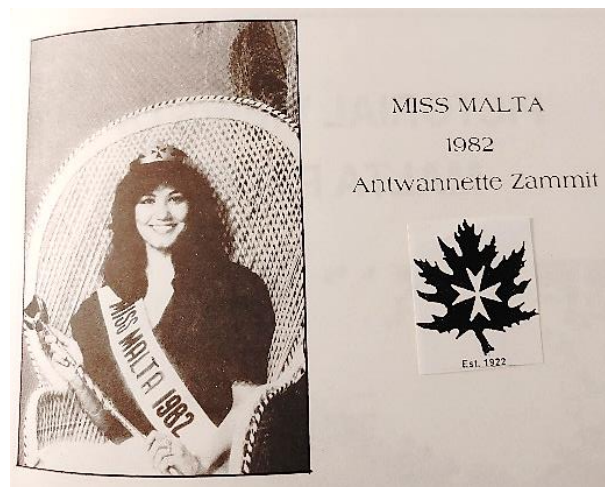
readings, Connie Galea-Dejak welcomed everyone, making special note of the dignitaries present and outlining the day's events.

Ms. Galea-Dejak was master of ceremonies for the reception which followed, as is shown in Part Two. Several brief speeches were documented, including that of Dr. Alfred Sant, and several presentations were made. The Malta Band Club's musicians, under the direction of Sam Caruana are seen performing for those present.

The fourth and fifth videos in this Fencam Digital Video Production—<https://youtu.be/W8spzLE7-F0> and <https://youtu.be/oEFu1PiO6uA>—documents the Miss Malta of Toronto Pageant of 1983. Again, the videos were done by Sam Cassar, with Joseph Micallef providing the music.

Part One begins with a message by Alfred Goggi, then President of the MCST. This is followed by an interview of Richard S. Cumbo, who did much of the work behind the scenes in setting up this and other Miss Malta of Toronto/Miss Malta of Canada pageants from 1971 through 2003, as noted in the March 2021 issue of this newsletter. The interviewer was Gina Hili, host of *Servizz Xandir Malta* television. Six of the 13 contestants are then shown being interviewed. With Enzo Gusman as MC, all 13 contestants later appear individually on the runway in their "Sunday wear." After presentations to the MCST by various dignitaries, the appearance of the young women in swimsuits takes place.

Part Two begins with further presentations, including a plaque being given to Miss Malta 1982, and acknowledgements. This is followed by the appearance of the 13 Miss Malta contestants in formal gowns. Each candidate is then asked a question to which she responds. Later, the third, second and first runners-up are announced, followed by the selection of Miss Malta 1983. She is then crowned, provided with a sash, cape and sceptre and seated on a throne. Among the gifts received by Miss Malta 1983 is a free trip to Malta, provided by Melita Travel Service of Toronto. The video ends with photos being taken of all 13 young women with the Mayor of Toronto.



\* I wish to thank Richard S. Cumbo for bringing my attention to these online videos and providing the photographs for this article.



**MARTHESE FENECH  
GAINS FURTHER RECOGNITION  
AS A WRITER OF HISTORICAL NOVELS\***

**Dan Brock**

Marthese “Mar” Fenech is no stranger to this newsletter. She and her historical novels are featured in both the January 2021 and June 2021 issues.



**Mar Fenech at the “Hobbiton” Set  
near Matamata, North Island, New Zealand**

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, Mar posted on her Facebook page: “Tonight, I had the tremendous honour of being the European Union Book Club featured guest on the invitation of the High Commission of Malta (with special thanks to Keith Azzopardi, Melanie Bonnici Bennett, and Raymond C. Xerri). For an hour and a half, I had the opportunity to answer some wonderful questions from readers of my novels from many corners of the globe.”

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, she followed up with another post, sharing her Spring 2021 interview with Patrick J. Zammit, editor of the online magazine *Il-Pont*. One of the points Mar makes, in this five-page article, is that during the Great Siege of 1565, women too played a pivotal role in Malta’s defence. This is certainly seen in the yet unpublished and untitled third novel in the character of Katrina (Montesa) Falsone. Just as “Niko,” Mar’s Siberian husky, has a cameo role as “Louie,” a stray wolf-dog who saves the life of one of the protagonists in *Falcon’s Shadow*, Mar’s second novel in her trilogy, I suspect that something of Mar herself can be seen in Katrina. (See photo in column 2.)

In issue no. 381 (July 2021) of the *Maltese e-News-*

*letter*, freelance writer, Caroline Curmi mentions five Maltese spies during the Great Siege of Malta in 1565 (see page 6). They are Andrew Zahra, James Pace, Anton Cascia, Francis Xerri and Toni Bajada. Caroline also notes Toni Bajada’s exploits in swimming between the cities of Birgu (Vittoriosa) and Isla (Senglea) under the cover of darkness, relaying crucial information to the Knights and Maltese people.

I was mindful of the fact that Mar Fenech has interwoven accounts of spies and Maltese men swimming between Senglea and Birgu and from Fort St. Elmo, at the foot of Mount Sciberras (Valletta) to Birgu during the Great Siege in her yet-to-be-published third novel.

Then on page 7 of the same free e-newsletter, Caroline Curmi gives the reader some insights into Dragut, the brilliant tactician and fighter within the Ottoman Empire’s fleet, who enslaved virtually all of Gozo’s population in 1551 and figured prominently in the Great Siege. We initially meet the corsair Dragut in *Eight Pointed Cross*, Mar’s first novel. In 1551, he attacked Mdina, Malta, found it too well defended and then overwhelmed Gozo. In Mar’s third novel Dragut plays an important role in the Great Siege of 1565.

As noted in the June issue of this newsletter, Mar’s third novel in her trilogy is to be launched on May 18, 2022, the 457<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day the first shots were fired marking the beginning of the Great Siege.



**Mar Fenech the Archer**

For more than a decade, Mar has been hoping someone would approach her about adapting her novels into a mini-series. Last, February, while still under the stay-at-home order, because of COVID-19, she decided to do something about this herself.

She enrolled in a book-to-script course, tailor-made for authors looking to adapt their novels.

After taking a couple of weeks to complete a pilot episode, she paid for script-coverage by a script consultant who declared the episode ready to pitch. "So, for the past few months, I have been voraciously querying producers and directors in hopes one will want to take on this project and bring my story to the screen. The response has been overwhelmingly positive and allowed me to forge some excellent and meaningful connections within the industry."

Mar has also entered several international screen-writing competitions with hopes of garnering some attention and financial backing for her project. On July 14<sup>th</sup>, her pilot script *Empires of Smoke*, based on her novels, was selected to be included in the Toronto Lift-Off Film Festival.

Meanwhile, once she puts the final touches to her third novel, Mar intends to start mapping out a fourth. This will likely focus on the Battle of Lepanto which took place in 1571. There might even be a fifth novel, a prequel to *Eight Pointed Cross*.

*\* I wish to thank Mar Fenech for the use of her photographs and for sharing with me what she has been up to the past several months.*

**READER COMMENTS**

Newsletter is looking more classy...  
Claudia Caruana, New York

Another excellent issue, congrats.  
Richard Cumbo, Toronto

As usual, a BIG thank you for your July issue of "The Maltese Presence in North America". This issue had very interesting articles indeed. I always make sure to 'forward' your issue to most of my friends.  
Keep up the good work!  
Carmen Galea, Toronto

I just saw the newsletter! Wow! I am so impressed! What a great service you are doing by sharing the great stories of the Maltese in our community. It is beautiful.  
Nikki Said Michalski, Michigan

Congratulations for continuing to produce this very informative and interesting newsletter.  
George Xuereb, Toronto

**IMQARRUN FIL-FORN  
(MALTESE BAKED MACARONI)**

**Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci**



*Lisa is a regular contributor to this newsletter who has provided us with many traditional Maltese recipes over the past several months, together with his-toric background and her own personal twist to the preparation.*

When it comes to Maltese comfort food, there is nothing more comforting than *imqarrun fil-forn*, Maltese baked macaroni with a meaty tomato sauce. Imqarrun fil-forn has origins in Sicily, but made its way as a staple in the Maltese kitchen. This popular baked macaroni dish is similar to another traditional dish called *timpana*, but much easier to prepare without the pastry crust and other ingredients that some people would shudder to imagine eating. I'll keep those ingredients a secret for now, as I plan on making *timpana* in a future article.

The pasta is combined with a meaty tomato sauce and baked until the top edges and corners are burnt to a delightfully crunchy consistency. Yes, I said burnt. Let's face it, the burnt pieces are the best part of the dish. As children, my brothers and sisters would fight over the burnt edges, vying for the corner pieces. The recipe below is for a simple, typical version of this dish, but each cook has her/his own version for making *imqarrun fil-forn*, from a sprinkle of nutmeg or curry to the addition of fresh peas, hard boiled eggs, pancetta or ricotta cheese. I encourage you to play with the recipe to make it your own!

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 lb. dried macaroni (straight, not elbow)
- 1 lb. lean ground beef, pork, or a combination of both
- 1 large onion
- 3 large garlic cloves
- 1 can of tomato paste (6 oz.)
- 12 oz. water
- 4 large eggs
- 6 Tbs. grated Parmesan cheese, divided



- 3 Tbs. very fine bread crumbs or semolina
- 3 Tbs. regular bread crumbs
- 4 Tbs. vegetable oil, divided
- 1 tsp. salt + 2 Tbs. for the pasta water
- 1 tsp. pepper

Serves 6-8



**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Measure and prep your ingredients. Peel and chop the onion; peel and mince the garlic and blend 3 Tbs. of regular bread crumbs to a very fine flour-like consistency using a blender, an electric spice mill or a food processor.
2. In a large skillet, heat 3 Tbs. of the oil over medium-high heat. Add the onion; cook for a few minutes until the onion has softened. NOTE: I use vegetable oil vs. olive oil because it is economical. Olive oil loses its flavor when cooked so it's not worth the extra expense to cook with it.
3. Clear a spot to add the garlic, cook for one minute until fragrant, then incorporate with the onion.



4. Add the ground meat, stirring to break it up. Continue to cook until completely browned, approx. 10 minutes.
5. Clear a space to add the tomato paste and let it cook for one minute, then combine with the meat.



6. Season with salt and pepper.
7. Slowly stir in 12 oz. of water. Turn the heat down to low; cover and simmer for about 30 minutes. Stir it occasionally. If the mixture is getting dried out, add a little water.



8. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
9. While the sauce is simmering, bring 4 quarts of water to a rapid boil; add 2 Tbs. of salt.
10. Drop in the dry pasta and stir immediately. Stirring prevents the pasta from sticking together. Do not add oil to the water! The oil will prevent the sauce from adhering to the pasta. Return to a rapid boil and stir occasionally.

11. Cook the pasta until al dente, about 10 minutes. It will finish cooking in the oven.
12. While the pasta is cooking, prepare a 13 x 9-inch baking dish by brushing all sides with the remaining 1 Tbs. of oil. Sprinkle in the fine bread crumbs or semolina and shake it around to coat all sides.
13. Check the seasoning on your sauce. Add more salt and pepper if needed.
14. Drain the pasta, but do not rinse it. The starch helps the sauce stick to it.
15. In a large bowl, gently toss the sauce with the cooked pasta.



16. Beat the eggs in a separate bowl, then mix in 3 Tbs. of the Parmesan cheese. Add this mixture to the pasta.



17. Pour the pasta into the prepared baking dish. Don't smooth it out, I like some of the noodles to stand up straight exposing the edges so they get crunchy when it bakes.



18. Combine the remaining 3 Tbs. of grated cheese with the regular bread crumbs and sprinkle over the top of the pasta.
19. Bake for approx. 45-60 minutes. Cook for 45 minutes until golden brown on top or until it reaches the "doneness" you desire. If you are like me, keep it in for the full hour to get those burnt edges.



20. Let cool for about five minutes before you dig in.



21. Serve and enjoy!





## **PUDINA (MALTESE BREAD PUDDING)**

**Mary Rose Aquilina**



Mary Rose is Associate Producer for *Lehen Malti*, the Maltese television program in Canada. With the arrival of her first grandchild, her former semi-professional cake decorating and sweets business is now more of a hobby

Maltese are renowned for their ingenuity, whether it's mechanical, agricultural and most of all their ability to create a meal from whatever is on hand. The *puđina* is their adaptation of the English bread and butter pudding while under British rule during World War II and as part of the British Commonwealth. Their ingenuity and sense of wasting nothing, however, helped to put an Arabic twist to the recipe and behold we have *puđina tal ħobż*

There is no standard recipe for this dish because the exact ingredients vary from family to family and relies on what's available in the baking pantry. I love it because it is simple to make, tasty and lives up to our reputation of wasting no food ... just reinventing it.

As much as we love *puđina*, the traditional version may not have been so healthy by modern standards because of the inclusion of a substantial amount of melted butter or margarine, brown sugar and white bread (which tended to dry up quickly). I don't use most of these, except the bread, but rather rely on any leftover baked goods (cookies, cake ends, etc.) which get ground up in the food processor, stored in a zip-lock bag and stashed in the freezer. Whole wheat or multigrain bread ends make up a good part of my recipe as well.

The moisture needed is replaced with juice and other flavourful liquids as well as milk or simple water or yogurt if I have them on hand. Sugar is easily replaced with the left over and more flavourful baked goods, crumbs as well as the dried fruits. The only ingredient that can't be omitted is the chocolate and I use semi sweet or unsweetened cocoa powder.

This delicious treat can be served warm with a dollop of warm custard or, as I prefer it, cold, sprinkled with sesame seeds or sliced almonds before baking. A nice cup of tea or coffee or even a

glass of cold milk and I'm back in my mom's kitchen!

I make this recipe as a means to clear out my baking pantry of bits and pieces of leftover ingredients, but be sure they are not stale!

- A. You can include all or some, based on your bread base amount and ingredient preferences.
- B. The trick is to still end up with a moist slightly loose mixture before baking to leave you with a solid but moist finish after baking.
- C. Don't get disheartened by the list of ingredients and length of recipe. You can choose to put in whatever you like and have on hand and use enough amounts to not overfill the batter and only taste those ingredients...it's all in keeping it to your preferences, what you have on hand and the right texture!

### **Ingredients**

- 500g (19 ozs.) (or more) Stale rolls/bread (any kind), torn into bite sized pieces
- 1¼ cup fresh milk which can be replaced with orange juice or a combination of juices (not lemon)
- 1 orange, juice and zest
- Zest of a tangerine if you have
- Zest of 1 lemon
- ¾ - 1 cup chopped dried fruit (apricots/citrus peel/raisins/glazed cherries - based on what you have on hand)
- 3 Tbsps - dessicated coconut
- 100g (3½ ozs.) chopped dates
- ¾ cup finely chopped walnuts or almonds, or ¾ cup combined. Don't chop too large or too fine.
- 2 tbsp apricot jam or marmalade (or whatever there is in the pantry)
- 3 tbsp sugar (omit this if you are adding leftover cookie/cake crumbs- add only if needed after tasting final mix)
- 2 tbsp cocoa powder (more or some chocolate syrup if you like more of a chocolate flavour or darkness)
- ¼ - ½ tsp nutmeg
- ¼ - ½ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ - ½ tsp ginger
- ¼ tsp cloves (if you like strong flavoured spices)
- (Spices can be replaced by 1½ tsp mixed spice. NOT Allspice)
- 2 tbsp custard powder (to help bind the mixture). I have at times added a small

packet of dry flavoured gelatin (Jello) crystals ... orange or lemon)

- If I have any on hand, I have also added ready-made pudding cups.
- 1-2 tsp good vanilla essence
- 2 Tbs Amaretto, whisky, brandy or anisette (your preference)
- Any of: almond slices, glazed cherries, sesame seeds, coconut to sprinkle over the *puđina* half way in baking process (so they don't overcolour)



**Method:**

1. Immerse the torn bread in a bowl of water for a few minutes to soak up moisture.



2. Pour the wet bread into a colander and squeeze as much water out as possible.
3. In a medium pitcher, mix all the wet ingredients including the marmalade and have some water handy if additional moisture is needed.
4. In a large bowl, combine the remaining ingredients and mix with a wooden spoon or your hands to get a good sense of how moist your batter is.



5. Let it stand for about half an hour for the mix to absorb the maximum moisture and decide if it needs any more moisture before baking it.
6. The mixture should be able to jiggle a bit in the bowl and not be showing a liquid surface once it's rested.



7. Preheat the oven to 180°C (355°F) and line a 23 x 28 x 4cm (9 x 11 x 1½") baking dish with parchment paper. Grease any side that is not covered with the parchment paper.
8. Fill the pudding mixture into the lined baking dish and bake in the oven for about 30 minutes.
9. At this point sprinkle your choice of decorating ingredient(s) and continue baking until the top of the pudding is firm and springy and you can see the beginning of cracks. Insert a skewer to check if the pudding is done. (The skewer should come out clean with no batter still on it.)





- 10. The pudding can be served with custard or ice cream... I prefer to cut it up in reasonable slices or squares once cold, so I can have it any time and share if I want to. (Did I tell you this is my favourite baked good to make ...never the same ingredients twice !!)
- 11. Keep refrigerated and wrapped in cling film or foil, once cooled, until ready to eat and take out what you will be serving ahead of time to come to room temperature.



**The Finished Product**

**ENJOY !!**

**ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES**

**Dan Brock**

**The Greater Toronto Area, Ontario**

**LEHEN MALTI**  
(Maltese Voice)

**OMNI 1 - Ontario**  
Saturdays 8:30 a.m.  
Tuesdays 3.30 a.m., 11:30 a.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.

**Consulate General of Malta to Canada**  
Fr. Chris Cauchi, the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows

Parish in Etobicoke of the Greater Toronto Area, as of July 25<sup>th</sup>, paid a courtesy visit to the Consulate.



**Fr. Chris Cauchi**  
**with Consul General Dr. Raymond Xerri**

**Malta Band Club**

With the provincial easing of COVID-19 regulations on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, the Club is once more open.

Dr. Raymond Xerri, Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada, was one of the visitors to the Club mid-afternoon on Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>.





*Festa San Ġejtanu*  
**FENKATA**  
 @ Malta Band Club  
**Saturday August 7th**  
 Doors Open @ 6:00 pm  
 Dinner Served @ 7:00 pm



**RABBIT**  
 SPAGHETTI OR FRIES  
 PASTRY & COFFEE

**\$25.00**

**Please order by  
 August 5th 2021  
 Call 905-890-8507**

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU  
 MUST BE VACCINATED



**MALTA BAND CLUB**  
 5745 Coopers Ave. Mississauga L4Z 1R9  
 Donation of \$5.00 Per Vehicle Suggested



**Sunday August 15th (10am to 3pm)**

50/50 Draw      Ton Of Prizes      Judged Show



**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

Tony Saliba of Melita Maintenance has completed a new pathway in front of the rectory. It is more stroller and wheelchair accessible than previously. There is now a landing of sufficient size to make it easier to enter the rectory once the door is opened.




**MALTA BAND CLUB**



**2021 Car Shows**

August 15th  
 August 29th  
 September 12th  
 September 26th  
 (10AM – 2PM)

5745 Coopers Ave. Mississauga, ON L4Z 1R9



**Fr. Jimmy Zammit, OFM**

Fr. Jimmy Zammit, OFM, has been elected Definitor of the Franciscan Order for the next six years. This means that he will be one of the team of friars who work closely with the Minister General of the



Franciscans in Rome in the governance of the Order. Fr. Jimmy grew up in St. Paul the Apostle Parish and has generously given his assistance to the Parish when needed, as in the present situation with Fr. Mario's absence.

On the evening of Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 young people from the parish community were confirmed by Auxiliary Bishop Robert Kasun. Owing to the current pandemic, attendance was by invitation only. Others wishing to watch the ceremony could access it on YouTube and Facebook.

**Melita Soccer Club Inc.**

The easing of COVID-19 restrictions also saw the reopening of this club as well. Admission, however, is restricted to 25 fully COVID-19 vaccinated members.

Dr. Xerri was one of the visitors to the Club early on the afternoon of July 18<sup>th</sup>.



Through Dr. Xerri, books and educational materials relating to Malta have been donated to the Club.



**Some of the Material Donated to the Melita Soccer Club Library**

**Windsor**

**Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario**

The Club is open on Saturdays from 6:30 p.m. Cooked pastizzi and qassatati are available, as well as other items, including Twistees and Galletti—plain and gbejna flavoured—and Diet Kinnie.

The Society intends to hold its first-ever yard sale in the Club's parking lot, on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, between 8:00 a.m and 1:00 p.m. The last day to drop off any unused items is Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. If anyone in the Windsor area has something to donate, arrangements for pick up or drop off at the Club can be made through Peter Pace, President at 519-990-7848 or the Club at 519-974-6719.

Dr. Raymond Xerri, Consul General of Malta to Canada will be visiting the Club sometime in early September.

**Metropolitan Detroit**

**Maltese American Benevolent Society Inc.**

The Society held a Steak & hamburger fundraiser on the evening of Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. In addition to one's choice of either steak or hamburger, there was potato salad, pasta salad, baked beans, and dessert.

The General Membership Meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday October 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn**

The doors of the Club will open at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>—the first Friday of the month--for a fish dinner with French fries. Mass will follow at 7:00 p.m.

The annual Bob Farr Tribute Picnic will be held, rain or shine, at the new location—Playfield East—on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>—Festa Ta' Santa Marija. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Paul Tarabay at 11:00 a.m. Hot dogs and hamurgers will be provided by Bob Farr. Bring your own drinks and consider bring a dish to share.

Malta's Ambassador to the United States, Keith Azzopardi and a Maltese singer will be attending the dinner at the Club on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tickets

are \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Tickets will be first come first served when they go on sale. No tickets will be sold at the door. Ticket sales will stop one week before the date of the dinner. Members will be limited as to how many tickets they can purchase. Membership card must be shown.

**New York City  
Maltese Center**

Festa Ta' Santa Marija will be celebrated at the Center on Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> with food, drinks and music. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. a donation of \$25 is requested.

**Gozo**

**Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo)**

The Canada Day celebrations took place at Alfred Camilleri's Ir-Razzett, Xaghra, the same place they were celebrated 25 years ago. (See pages 31-32.)

**CHAIN MIGRATION:  
A TORONTO EXAMPLE**

**Dan Brock**

Many in the Greater Toronto Area will remember the late Anthony Debattista who, in 1922, was one of the founders of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto. He had first arrived in Canada, at Quebec City, on November 8, 1920, as the 15-year-old **Antonio DeBattista**, on board the Canadian Pacific Line oceanliner the *Scandinavian*. He then would have taken the train to Toronto to be reunited with his father, Paolo.

**Paolo Debattista** was born in Rabat, Malta on June 27, 1877, to Guiseppe and Maria Magdaline (Calleja) Debattista. He was baptised the same day, at St. Paul's Church, Rabat, as Giovanni Maria Salvatore Giuseppi but, for some unexplained reason, became known as Paolo. He was literate and married to the former Maria Grazia Bugeja and, by 1920, had five living children: Antonio, Guiseppe, Giovanni, Elena and Paolino.

Paolo Debattista, whose passport had been issued on January 8, 1918, had sailed on the *Guiseppe Verdi* from Genoa on March 12<sup>th</sup>, and arrived at New York, on April 1<sup>st</sup>. With him was **Antonio Attard**, age 45. Antonio was married to the former Cristina Bugeja and gave 14 Widmer Street, Toronto as the address of his brother-in-law, Vittorio Bugeja. Paolo gave the same address as that for his uncle, Paolo

Camilleri. It is assumed, therefore, that Maria Grazia (Bugeja) Debattista, Cristina (Bugeja) Attard and Vittorio Bugeja were siblings.

Antonio Attard was born in Rabat on June 13, 1872, and baptised the same day at St. Paul's Church. His parents were Giovanni Baptista and Carmela (Sillato) Attard. Antonio, who was illiterate and a stone mason, was living at 4, Strada Hal Bajada at the time his passport was issued on December 1, 1917.



**Antonio Attard's Passport Application Photo, 1917**

**Vittorio Bugeja**, Antonio Attard's brother-in-law and the assumed brother-in-law of Paolo Debattista as well, was born in Rabat on October 2, 1883, the son of Paolo Bugeja. Vittorio, who was illiterate, had been a field labourer between 1902 and 1910. His passport for Canada had been issued on March 3, 1913. At the time, he was single and lived on Strata Hal Bajada in Rabat. Intending to become a railway labourer in Canada, he had sailed on the *Floride* from Le Havre on March 15<sup>th</sup> on his way to Montreal and had disembarked at Halifax on April 7<sup>th</sup>. By the winter of 1918, he was living on Widmer Street in Toronto.

As for **Paolo Camilleri**, Paolo Debattista's uncle, he was born in Qormi on September 20, 1872. His passport for Canada appears to have been issued on April 21, 1917. By this time, his father, Antonio, was dead and Paolo was married to Crocifissa, more commonly known as "Fissa." The couple were living at 37, Strada Collegio, Rabat at the time. Paolo Camilleri, who was literate, had been variously listed as a mechanic and mason while living in Malta. The latter appears to have been more likely the case. He had sailed from Genoa, on June 16, 1917, on board



the *Giuseppe Verdi* and had arrived at New York on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. With him were two teenagers, Michele Micallef and Giuseppe Zahra, both illiterate, unmarried and labourers. All three gave Giuseppe Micallef, of 183 Richmond Street, Toronto as their contact. Giuseppe was listed as a friend of both Paolo Camilleri and Giuseppe Zahra and the father of Michele Micallef.

**Giuseppe Micallef** was born in Rabat on January 31, 1877 and was illiterate, as was his wife Giuseppa (aka Teresa). By 1913, he was a carpenter and lived on Strada Conte Ruggiero. Giuseppe was issued a passport on February 28, 1913 and was one of the 70 migrants selected by Dr. Charles Mattei, Secretary of the Malta Emigration Committee, and destined for Victoria, British Columbia. Giuseppe was one of the 50 who boarded the *Sicilian* at Le Havre on July 2, 1913, arrived at Quebec on August 5<sup>th</sup>, was in Toronto on August 7<sup>th</sup>, arrived in Winnipeg on August 8<sup>th</sup> and reached Victoria on August 11<sup>th</sup>. As there was a scarcity of work in Victoria, half the group soon decided to leave Victoria and went to Calgary where they found work on the railways. Giuseppe Micallef may have been among this group and, from there may ultimately have drifted back to Toronto where he was living by the spring of 1917. Meanwhile, he had sent for his 14-year-old son, Michele.

**Michele Micallef**, was born in Rabat on September 13, 1902 and, by 1913, was living at 10, New Road, behind St. Dominic's Square, in Rabat. His passport to Canada was issued on May 18, 1917. As he was underage, his mother signified her consent by placing an X on the passport application where one's signature would normally go.



**Michele Micallef's Passport Application Photo, age 14, 1917**

**Giuseppe Zahra** was born in Dingli on March 10, 1898 and baptised the same day at Santa Marija Assunta Church (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven) in the same village, 2 km (1.2 miles) southwest of Rabat. The baptismal certificate, which accompanied his passport application, stated that his parents were Carmelo and Felicita (Abela) Zahra. Carmelo parents are given as Louis and Xaveria (Borg) Zahra and Felicita's as Francesco and Margarita (Bugeja) Abela. Giuseppe's passport was issued on July 28, 1916.



**Giuseppe Zahra's Passport Application Photo, age 17, 1916**

In this brief sketch, we see that Vittorio Bugeja was the first to arrive in Canada in 1913 and ultimately made his way to Toronto. It was through Dr. Charles Mattei that Giuseppe Micallef arrived in Canada in 1913. It's quite possible that he and Vittorio Bugeja were acquainted back in Malta and even related. Once settled in Toronto, Giuseppe Micallef arranged for his son, Michele, to join him. Two acquaintances of Michele Micallef accompanied him to Canada in 1917, namely Paolo Camilleri and Giuseppe Zahra. Through their relationship with Paolo Camilleri and Vittorio Bugeja, Paolo Debattista and Antonio Attard came to Toronto in 1918. While Paolo Debattista arranged for his wife and children to join him in 1920, only his eldest son, Antonio, did so. Why the rest of the family didn't join Paolo is a story for another issue.

*\* I wish to thank Robert Debatisse, the son of Antonio Debattista (aka Anthony Debatisse) and Mark Caruana for their assistance with this article. The photo-graphs are courtesy of the National Archives of Malta.*

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

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



**Il-15 ta' Lulju 2021 – ġurnata storika u sar  
akkwist kbir għall-komunità Maltija Kanadiża tal-  
lum u tal-ġejjieni**

“Aħna l-Maltin biss ma’ għadniex fejn immorru meta nsiru anzjani?”, “Kull komunità u nazzjon rappreżentat fil-Kanada għandu dar tal-anzjani, minnbarra aħna, il-Maltin!” Għal deċenji sħaħ din kienet il-karba ta’ bosta Maltin u Għawdxin li għexu f’ajjathom fil-Kanada. Fl-15 ta’ Lulju 2021 konkretament ingħata bidu sabiex din il-ħolma ta’ snin u ta’ ġenerazzjoni sħiħa, dan il-bżonn hekk kbir u fuq kollox id-dinjita’ vera li jixirqilha l-komunità tagħna fil-Kanada b’mod partikolari dawn il-persuni l-aktar fil-bżonn u l-aktar vulnerabbli.

Il-bini tal-Kumpless għall-Kura fit-tul tal-Isptar Runnymede ġew ‘Malta Village’ hija ħolma kbira li f’itit ħasbu li jaraw f’ajjathom jekk qatt, iżda issa qiegħed issir realtà. Dan il-Kumpless ser ikollu sular sħiħ f’50 sodda ddedikat speċifikament għall-persuni Maltin u Għawdxin li għandhom bżonn il-kura fit-tul f’ambjent kompletament Malti. Dan il-Kumpless ser ikun l-uniku kumpless li huwa kulturament-sensittiv għall-Maltin u l-Għawdxin f’din in-naħa tad-dinja, jiġifieri mhux biss fil-Kanada iżda wkoll fil-kontinent Amerikan kollu.

Kien snin ilu li grupp ta’ Maltin bdew ix-xogħol sabiex jaħdmu lejn din il-ġurnata, Joe Sherri li illum huwa l-President tal-Federazzjoni Maltija Kanadiża kien wieħed minn dawn il-persuni li ħadem bla heda u nbotta bil-kbir din l-ideja li jkun hemm post fejn min hu verament fil-bżonn ta’ kura fit-tul isib mhux biss post imma wkoll f’ambjent familjari, dak li jambracča lill-kultura Maltija fil-Kanada.

Dan ix-xogħol iltaqgħa mall-ħidma inġenjali u bla waqfien tas-CEO u President ta’ Runnymede Hospital, il-brava Maltija Kanadiża Connie Dejak li l-enerġija, l-inizjattiva, intelligenza u l-perservanza tagħha assigurat li 50 sodda minn kompleks sħiħ ikunu ddedikati biss speċifikament għall-persuni

**July 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 – an historic day and a  
gain for the Maltese Community of today and  
future generations**

“Only we Maltese have no place where we can go when we get old.”; “All communities and nationalities represented in Canada have a place where the elderly can spend their last days, only us Maltese do not!” For decades this was a popular complaint amongst Maltese and Gozitans living in Canada. On July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 we concretely saw the beginning of the realisation of this dream of years and of a whole generation who came to settle in Canada. This need, and above all the true dignity which our Maltese Canadians desire, in particular those members of the community most in need and most vulnerable is becoming a reality.

The construction of the Runnymede Long-term Care Facility in the heart of Malta Village is truly the realization of a great dream that many never thought would materialise in their lifetime. This Facility will be dedicating a full storey with 50 beds specifically for Maltese and Gozitans who require long-term care in a completely Maltese setting. This, so far, is the only such culturally-sensitive facility not only in all Canada but also in the Western Hemisphere.



**Dr. Raymond Xerri and Joe Sherri, July 15<sup>th</sup>**

It was decades ago when a group of Maltese started to lobby for such a facility. Joe Sherri, the present president of the Maltese Canadian Federation was one of these persons who has worked tirelessly and lobbied for this idea not only where those who really



Maltin u Għawdxin jew persuni ta' dixxendenza Maltija u Għawdija. Ma nistax ma' nsemmiex l-imħabba u l-patrijottizmu li għandha Connie Dejak għall-pajjiżna u verament hija xi haġa ta' minn jammira fil-karattru tagħha.

Dak inhar ta' l-Ħamis, 15 ta' Lulju 2021, il-Premier tal-Provincja ta' Ontario, Doug Ford, il-Ministru tas-Saħħa ta' Ontario, Rod Phillips kif ukoll s-Sinjura Dejak bdew ix-xogħol ta' tħaffir tal-parkeġġ ta' taħt il-Kumpless u għamlu d-diskorsi tal-okazzjoni fejn ilkoll tkellmu dwar l-importanza ta' dan il-proġett mhux biss għall-Provincja ta' Ontario imma wkoll għall-Komunità Maltija fil-Kanada.



Ma ninsà qatt iż-żjara tiegħi fl-Isptar Runnymede f'Mejju tal-2017 meta kont niffirma parti mid-Delegazzjoni Presidentali li żaret il-Kanada u l-Istati Uniti u speċifikament dan is-sit li kien għadu fuq il-pjanti. Dan inhar il-kap tad-Delegazzjoni l-E.T. Marie-Louise Coleiro-Preca, il-President tar-Republika ta' Malta ta' dak iż-żmien kienet ddawret dawra mas-sit u f'isem il-Gvern u l-poplu ta' Malta għamlet donazzjoni b'risq dan il-proġett hekk importanti għall-Maltin u l-Għawdxin fil-Kanada. Dan il-proġett mistenni li jilqgħa l-ewwel Maltin u Għawdxin fih fil-15 ta' Lulju 2023.

**Qabel tiddeċiedu li tivvjaġġaw lejn Malta  
ċċejkaw it-travel advisory fuq il-website jew il-  
Facebook webpagġ tal-Konsolat Generali ta'  
Malta għall-Kanada**

F'Lulju messejna l-inqas numru ta' kazijiet ta' COVID19 f'sena. L-Imxija tal-COVID19 għadha magħha u ser tibqa' magħna għal aktar żmien minħabba l-varjanti li qegħed jinfirxu l-aktar fost dawk li għadhom jew iddeċidew li ma' jirċevux il-vaccin.

need such long-term care can receive it but in an environment that embraces Malta's culture in Canada.

This lobbying has converged with the ingenious mind of Runnymede Hospital's Maltese Canadian President and CEO, Connie Dejak. Full of energy, initiative, intelligence and perseverance, Mrs Dejak has managed to secure 50 beds to be dedicated specifically to those of Maltese birth or ancestry. I cannot not comment on the patriotic love of Connie Dejak of Malta which is an admirable part of her character.

On Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, the Minister of Health of Ontario, Rod Phillips, as well as Mrs Dejak broke ground for the building of the underground carpark beneath the Facility. They all delivered speeches emphasising the importance of such a project not only to the Province but also to the Maltese Community in Canada.

I recall vividly my visit to Runnymede Hospital in May 2017 when I formed part of a Presidential Delegation which visited Canada and the United States of America and this area was still drawn up on plans. During the visit, the head of the delegation H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro-Preca, the President of the Republic of Malta at the time, was shown these plans and on behalf of the Government and People of Malta, she presented a donation towards the realisation of this important project planned and aimed at realising a dire need of the Maltese Community in Canada.

This project is expected to welcome the first Maltese and Gozitans on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Before you decide to travel to Malta  
always check the travel advisory  
on the website and Facebook webpage  
of the Consulate General of Malta to Canada**

July saw the lowest number of COVID-19 cases in Canada in a year, especially in the province of Ontario. COVID-19 and its variants are still with us and there are no signs that it's going away given the havoc the variants are causing in many countries around the world. In Malta, we experienced a full week with no cases until tourists returned and numbers started to spike of Delta and Delta+ (Indian variant) and amongst those who did not take or decided not to be vaccinated. The Canadian Federal Government has continued to maintain its federal order of 'essential travel only' where travel is not only discouraged but also restricted by the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA). Despite the intention

F'Malta rajna ġimgħa sħiħa b'ebda kaz ta' COVID19 u f'salt bdew telgħajn il-każijiet minħabba l-varjant Delta u Delta+ (tal-Indja) importat mit-turisti li ġew minn barra. Fil-Kanada kollha rajna nuqqas gradwali ta' każijiet tant li fil-provinċja ta' Ontario fl-aħħar ta' Lulju kien hemm biss mitt każ. Il-Gvern Federali Kanadiż xorta waħda baqa' jzomm l-ordni federali ta' 'essential travel only' sew għall-Kanadiżi kif ukoll għall-barranin deħlin u ħerġin mill-pajjiż. Minkejja li l-Kanada mistenija tiftaħ l-frontiera tagħha mall-Istati Uniti fil-21 t'Awwissu, din l-ordni federali mistennija li tibqà.

Għal l-aħħar zviluppi għal min jixtieq isiefer lejn Malta jkompli jsewgi il-posts fuq il-Facebook webpajġ tal-Konsolat Generali ta' Malta, 'Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada' jew iċċempel fuq 416-207-0922 jew 416-207-0989. Minbarra f'hekk tistgħu tikkonsultaw lill-websajt ufficijali tal-Gvern Malta fuq

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/travel.aspx>

### **Il-ħidma sabiex ix-xogħol kollu li ma setgħax isir fil-lockdowns jsir kemm jista' jkun malajr...id-domanda għaċ-ċittadinanzi u passporti dejjem tikber**

Lulju kien xahar ieħor rekord ta' appuntamenti u ħruġ ta' ċittadinanzi u passporti Maltin. L-istaff flimkien miegħi ħadmu bla heda sabiex jaqdi dawk l-appuntamenti li kienu tħasru f'Jannar, Frar u Marzu li għadda minħabba l-lockdown li sar f'dak il-perjodu. L-appuntament pendent ser jiġu skedati għax-xahar ta' Awwissu ser ikunu dak li kienu sabbiliti f'April u Mejju ta' din is-sena u dawk li huma urġenti ħafna. Għalhekk l-appell tiegħi hu li jekk għandek bzonn appuntamenti sabiex tapplika għaċ-ċittadinanza u/jew passaport Malti fis-sitt xhur li ġejjin, għamel dan mill-aktar fis possibbli sabiex jien u l-istaff tal-Konsolat Generali jkollna ideja tajba ta' l-ammont ta' appuntamenti u l-volum ta' xogħol li jkun jirrekjedi. Dejjem nisperaw li ma jkollniex lockdown ieħor.

### **Ferħ liema bħalu meta wieħed jara l-Klabbs u l-Knisja Maltija Kanadiżi miftuħin mill-ġdid.**

Is-16 ta' Lulju kienet ġurnata oħra importanti fejn il-Melita Soccer Club u Malta Band Club f'Toronto u l-Klabb ta' Windsor kollha fetħu wara li n-numri tal-COVID19 niżlu għal ftit aktar minn mija fil-Provinċja ta' Ontario. Hassejt ferħ kbir meta erġajt rajt it-tbissima fuq wiċċ il-membri taż-żewġ klabbs Maltin li setgħu jaraw, jitkellmu u jissoċjalizzaw flimkien wara xhur magħluqin id-dar. L-istess ferħ ħassejtu wkoll

to reopen the American-Canadian border on August 21<sup>st</sup>, this federal order will continue to stand.

To obtain the latest developments for those who still wish to travel to Malta PLEASE follow and read the posts on the Facebook webpage of the Consulate General of Malta to Canada, 'Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada' or call on 416-207-0922 or 416-207-0989. Besides these posts kindly consult the official Government of Malta website on <https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/travel.aspx>

### **Long hours to be able to catch up with what could not be done during lockdowns in the least time possible ... request for Maltese citizenships and passports have quadrupled**

July was another month of records with respect to Maltese citizenship and passport appointments. The staff and I have been working tirelessly to attend to appointments that were cancelled in January through March 2021 because of the lockdown. The pending appointments to be scheduled for the duration of the month of August will be those of last April and May and those that are very urgent. Therefore, I appeal to all those Maltese Canadians who require an appointment to apply for Maltese citizenship and/or passports in the coming six months. Please contact us at the earliest so the Consulate staff and I can plan and have a good idea of the amount of appointments and the volume of work required. Keep your fingers crossed that we do not enter another lockdown from September onwards.

### **A joyful feeling seeing Maltese Clubs and the Maltese Canadian Church full of people once again**

July 16<sup>th</sup> was another big day where both the Melita Soccer Club and the Malta Band Club in Toronto and the Maltese Club in Windsor all opened up for their respective members as COVID-19 cases were just over 100 in the Province of Ontario. I was thrilled to see so many happy faces in both Toronto area clubs, I will be visiting the Windsor club for the first time in mid-September, and look toward to seeing them chatting and socialising together after months locked up at home. The same joy was felt when the Maltese Canadian Church of St Paul The Apostle was completely open again and I was able to return to Mass after my ordeal which landed me at St Joseph's Hospital. Thank you Fr Jimmy Zammit for your kind words and wishes on behalf of the parish.



meta attendejt għall-ewwel darba l-quddiesa wara li kelli nidhol l-isptar ta' San Gużepp ta' Toronto, fil-Knisja ta' San Pawl Apostlu. Grazzi lil Fr Zammit tal-kliem sbieħ u x-xewqat f'isem il-parroċċa.



**Melita Soccer Club, 18 ta' Lulju**

Nixtieq nifraħ lil Fr Zammit f'għeluq l-40 sena mis-saċerdozju tiegħu kif ukoll il-ħatra ġdida tiegħu bħala l-ewwel Definitorju Ġenerali Malti għall-Ordni Franġiskana, elett mill-Collegio Internazionale San Lorenzo da Brindisi fil-Belt ta' Ruma, l-Italja. Awguri u l-ħidma t-tajba għas-sitt snin li ġejjin.

**Jum Ċiviku il-Kanada u x-xaħar ta' Santa Marija f'Malta**

Fit-tieni jum tax-xaħar t'Awwissu fil-Kanada jiġi ċelebrat b'tala msejtna Jum Ċiviku fejn ħafna Maltin Kanadiżi jerħula lejn il-kampanja fejn jmorru l-cottage jew ħdejn waħda mit-32,000 għadira li hawn il-Kanada. F'Malta, ix-xaħar ta' Awwissu hu sinonemu ma' l-akbar festa tas-sajf Malti dik ta' Santa Marija u l-kult kollu marbut magħha bħalma hi t-tifkira tal-Konvoj ta' Santa Marija.

Fl-aħħarnett, f'ismi, f'isem marti Marlene u familti nixtieq lil kull wieħed u waħda minnkomm Jum Ċiviku mill-isbaħ u din is-sena ser inkun barra mill-lockdown. Komplu agħtu każ ta' xulxin, ċemplu lil xulxin u qattgħu f'tit ħin titkellmu mall-anzjani tagħna fuq it-telefon, fuq Zoom jew meżzi oħra jekk ma' tkunx tistgħu żżurhom...tinsewx li s-solitudni hija kerha wisq. Telefonata jew skype, zoom jew messenger tista' tagħmel id-differenza għal min jgħix waħdu.

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



**Malta Band Club, July 18<sup>th</sup>  
Masks May Be Removed if Seated**

I congratulate Fr Zammit in his 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a priest and his prestigious election as the first ever Maltese Definitor General for the Franciscan Order, elected by the Collegio Internazionale San Lorenzo da Brindisi in Rome, Italy. Congratulations! I wish him all the best in his mission for the next six years.

**Civic Day in Canada and August is the month of Santa Marija in Malta**

Civic Day is celebrated in Canada this year on the second day of August and many Maltese Canadian families will take the opportunity to take some holidays in the countryside and stay at their cottages mostly found around one of the 32,000 lakes from coast to coast to coast in Canada. In Malta, the month of August is synonymous with the largest summer feast – *Santa Marija* – and all the events surrounding this megafeast – one being the memory of the arrival of the Santa Marija Convoy during World War II.

Finally, on behalf of my wife Marlene and my family, I wish you and your families an enjoyable Civic Day. 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 which keeps the distance between us but if possible visit them. A call, Skype, Zoom or Messenger can make the day for someone who is lonely.

O Lord, always bless Malta and Canada!

**THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF MALTA TO  
CANADA  
DONATES BOOKS AND EDUCATIONAL  
MATERIALS TO THE  
MELITA SOCCER CLUB LIBRARY**

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada has recently donated books and educational materials to the Melita Soccer Club Library, one of Toronto's oldest Maltese Canadian Libraries. The Melita Soccer Club is presently the oldest Maltese Canadian Club in all of Canada, established in 1963. The Melita Soccer Club (formerly known as the Maltese Canucks), participates in soccer matches in Toronto and in the very popular annual match with the Maltese Dolphins based in the Tri-State Area surrounding New York City

The books and educational materials are primarily publications, exercise textbooks, CDs, colouring books, lithographs, CDs and DVDs to learn the Maltese language, the history of the Maltese Islands, Malta and Gozo's Diaspora worldwide, publications about Malta and Gozo, education, commerce, archaeology, culture and religion.

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada compiled these publications from an array of Malta Government Ministries, agencies, institutions, banks, chambers and companies. These publications were mostly donated by Heritage Malta, the University of Malta, Arts Council Malta, Malta Enterprise, the Malta Films Commission and the Ministry for Foreign & European Affairs.

While presenting the donation to the Melita Soccer Club President, Mr George Xuereb, the Consul General of Malta to Canada, Dr Raymond C. Xerri encouraged the committee to use these publications and educational materials to attract, teach and transmit Malta's rich identity, heritage, culture and history. "Go ahead and entice Maltese Canadian youths to want to learn of their origins and ancestry - Malta and Gozo can open new doors of opportunities, a whole new world for Maltese Canadian youths in areas of education, commerce and entrepreneurship where their dreams can come true." President Xuereb thanked Dr Xerri for this donation and all the initiative he is taken to bring together the Maltese Canadian community, especially the youth.

**IL-KONSULAT ĠENERALI TA' MALTA GĦALL-  
KANADA  
TAGĦMEL GĦOTJA TA' KOTBA U MATERJAL  
EDUKATTIV LILL-LIBRERIJA TAL-MELITA  
SOCCER CLUB**

Il-Konsolat Ġenerali ta' Malta għall-Kanada riċentiment ipprezentat għadd ta' kotba u materjal edukattiv lill-Librerija tal-Melita Soccer Club, waħda mill-eqdem Libreriji Maltin Kanadiżi fil-Kanada kollha. Fil-preżent, imwaqqaf fl-1963, il-Melita Soccer Club huwa l-eqdem Klabb Malti Kanadiż. Illum it-tim tal-Klabb tal-futbol tal-Melita huwa magħruf bħala, Canucks li jilgħab fil-league tal-futbol f'Toronto u jippartecipaw fil-logħba ta' kull sena u popolari ferm bejn il-Canucks u t-tim magħmul minn żgħażaġħ Maltin-Amerikani bbażati f'New York, I-Istati Uniti tal-Amerika.

Il-kotba u l-materjal edukattiv huma primarjament pubblikazzjonijiet, kotba universitarji, CDs, kotba tat-tpiġġija, lithographs u DVDs sabiex jiġi mgħalliem l-ilsien Malti, l-istorja tal-Gżejjer Maltin, dwar id-Dijaspora Maltija u Għawdxija madwar id-dinja, pubblikazzjonijiet dwar Malta, Għawdex, l-edukazzjoni, l-kummerċ, l-arkeoloġija, l-kultura u r-religjon.

Il-Konsulat Ġenerali ta' Malta għall-Kanada għabar xelta ta' pubblikazzjonijiet minn ministeri diversi tal-Gvern Malti, aġeniziji, istituzzjonijiet, banek, kmamar tal-kummerċ u kumpanijiet fost oħrajn. Mogħtija minn Heritage Malta, l-Università ta' Malta, il-Kunsill tal-Arti, l-Malta Enterprise, il-Malta Films Commission u l-b'mod partikulari l-Ministeru għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej.

Waqt il-preżentazzjoni tad-donazzjoni lill-President tal-Melita Soccer Club, George Xuereb, il-Konsul Ġenerali ta' Malta għall-Kanada, Dr Raymond C. Xerri inkoraggixxa lill-Kumitat sabiex juża dawn il-kotba u materjal edukattiv sabiex jattira, jgħalliem u jittrasmetti l-identità, l-wirt, l-kultura u l-istorja sinjura ta' ġensna. "Heġġu liż-żgħażaġħ Maltin Kanadiżi sabiex jitgħallmu dwar l-oriġini tal-antenati tagħhom – Malta u Għawdex – fejn jistgħu jinfetħu l-bibien ta' opportunitajiet, dinja oħra fil-edukazzjoni, il-kummerċ u l-innovazzjoni fejn il-ħolm tagħhom jista' jssir realtà." President Xuereb irringrazza lil Dr Xerri għal din l-għotja u l-inizjattivi kollha li qiegħed jieħu b'risq il-kommunità Maltija Kanadia, b'mod partikulari favur iż-żgħażaġħ.



## MALTESE ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

### **Festa San Gejtanu Association**

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

### **Festa San Gorg Association of Toronto**

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

### **Gozo Club Toronto**

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

### **Inanna on Stage**

[www.joannedancer.com](http://www.joannedancer.com)  
c/o 356 Pacific Avenue, Toronto, ON M6P 2R1  
416-707-2355  
[desertdancer007@yahoo.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.saint-paul-Maltese.com)  
[stpaulmssp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmssp@gmail.com)  
President: Mary Vella

### **Lehen Malti**

<https://www.omnitv.ca › shows › lehen-malti>  
c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue., Mississauga, ON  
L5B 2R4  
Contact Person: Joe Sherri  
416-571-3944  
email [lehenmalti@hotmail.com](mailto:lehenmalti@hotmail.com)

### **Malta Band Club**

5745 Coopers Ave., Mississauga, ON L4Z 1K9  
905-890-8507  
[www.maltabandclub.com](http://www.maltabandclub.com)  
[maltabandclub@bellnet.ca](mailto:maltabandclub@bellnet.ca)

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

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

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

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

### **Maltese American Benevolent Society**

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

### **Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn**

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

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

924 El Camino Real, South San Francisco, CA  
94080  
650-871-4611  
[contact-us@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org](mailto:contact-us@Maltese-AmericanSCSF.org)  
Opening hours: Tuesday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
(every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month only)  
Thursday 5: p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
Friday 5:00 – 1:00 a.m.  
Sunday 9:00 am.- 5:00 p.m.

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

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

**Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo)**

c/o Trillium, Sqaq Nru 1, Triq it-Tigrija, ix-Xagħra  
Tel: 011 356 21560656  
[mcagozo@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mcbna2018@gmail.com)

**Maltese-Canadian Cruisers**

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

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

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

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

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON  
L5B 2R4  
416-571-3944  
[joesherri@rogers.com](mailto: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@isgtransport.com](mailto:carl@isgtransport.com)/[b\\_azzo18@yahoo.com](mailto:b_azzo18@yahoo.com)

**Maltese Center, NYC**

27-20 Hoyt Ave. S. Astoria, NY 11102  
718-728-9893  
[info@maltesecenter.com](mailto:info@maltesecenter.com)

Opening hours:

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

**Maltese Cross Foundation of California**

PO Box 698, San Carlos, CA 94070

**Maltese Culture Club of Durham**

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

**Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area**

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

**Maltese Heritage Program (Toronto)**

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

**Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)**

[c/o\\_leprofess@aol.com](mailto:c/o_leprofess@aol.com)

**Melita Soccer Club Inc.**

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

Opening hours: Monday to Thursay and Saturday  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6P 2A3  
416-767-7054  
[www.saint-paul-maltese.com](http://www.saint-paul-maltese.com)  
[stpaulmssp@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/john.vella.1044186)  
[giovanvel@sympatico.ca](mailto: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](mailto:jason.borg@hotmail.ca)/[sborg@rogers.com](mailto: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](http://www.saint-paul-maltese.com)  
[stpaulmssp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmssp@gmail.com)

President: Lino Debono

**CELEBRATING CANADA DAY AT IR-RAZZETT, XAGHRA, GOZO**

**Canada Day 2021 Raising Of The Flags**



The Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo) celebrated Canada Day at “Ir-Razzett.” This rental villa, under the shadow of Ta’ Koka Windmill, Xagħra, consists of six bedrooms with two terraces overlooking the courtyard swimming pool. The villa also contains a kitchen, living room, three bathrooms with showers and another toilet by the pool.







First eight photos courtesy of Emanuel Tabone.  
Last photo courtesy of Joseph Zammit.