

# THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



**E-NEWSLETTER**

Issue 30

SEPTEMBER 2021



**MASS BEING CELEBRATED AT THE MACC ANNUAL  
BOB FARR TRIBUTE PICNIC, KENSINGTON METROPARK,  
MILFORD, MI, SUNDAY, AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup>**

(Photo courtesy of Rena Xuereb)  
(See pages 28-29 for story)

**The Maltese Presence  
in North America**

**Issue No. 30 September 2021**

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Evelyn and Dennis Simmons

**AUSTRALIA**

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**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

As I write this editorial, it is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. We in North America can well remember where we were and what we were doing when we heard the news of the first plane crashing into the World Trade Centre, just as many of us remember learning that President John F. Kennedy had been shot and fewer the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Page 18 has a note on the only person of Maltese descent known to have perished in the attack on the North Tower and page 30 has one on a firefighter of Maltese descent who escaped death that fateful day.

The past several weeks have seen even more submissions than usual to this newsletter. In fact, some have

had to be delayed to the October issue.

One of the contributions appearing in this issue is Mike Cutajar's tribute to his late uncle, Joe Cutajar. I found it so poignant that it was made the feature article of this issue. (See pages 19-22.) Gerry Abela's family mementos of the 1950s appears on page 36 or the outside back page if printed off in booklet form. It too sheds light on Maltese immigrants in Metro Detroit.

Items of particular interest to Canadians planning to travel to and from Malta are to be found in the monthly message of the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada (see pages 14-15) and Marc Gové's recent experiences in travelling from Canada to Malta by way of Germany (see page 17).

While we are currently in the fourth wave of the Covid pandemic, the fact that the majority of persons over 12 years of age have been fully vaccinated in both Canada and the United States has led to the easing somewhat of restrictions and more activities within the various Maltese communities. This is reflected in the section on activities within the Maltese communities (see pages 1, 4-10), Dr. Raymond Xerri's monthly message (see pages 14, 15-16), Rena Xuereb's accounts of a first Friday of the month Mass and dinner (see pages 28-29) and the annual Bob Farr Tribute Picnic (see pages 28-30) and Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci's upcoming pastizzi making demonstration (see page 10-11) and Michigan's Maltese American Heritage Day (see page 11).

Lisa is also to be thanked for her Maltese recipe for *balbuljata* (see pages 22-23) and Mary Rose Aquilina for her *soppa tal-perżut u piżelli bi-pupetti tal-bulubif* (see pages 23-26).

Once again, I'm grateful for Fr. Mario Micallef's spiritual insights, based on the Sunday readings (see pages 2) and Richard S. Cumbo's contributions, based on his interest and years of research and writing pertaining to the culture of the

Maltese in the Greater Toronto Area (see pages 27 and 31-33).

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 ideas you wish to share, wishing to be put on the free, bcc, electronic mailing list, etc.

**CONTENTS**

2. Editorial Comment
3. Pastor's Thoughts...
4. Activities within the Maltese Communities
10. Pastizzi Making Demonstration
11. Maltese American Heritage Day
12. Readers Comments
12. The Malta United Society of Windsor Ontario.
13. Toronto Historical Board's Heritage Fair, Fort York, September 26, 1982
14. Monthly Message from the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada
17. Specialized Maltese Canadian Diaspora and History Library A Friend of Malta, Ian H. Mitchell Donates Publications to the Consulate General of Malta to Canada
18. Travelling from Canada to Malta during these Uncertain Times
19. Uncle Joe Cutajar: A Tribute
22. *Balbuljata* (Maltese Eggs with Tomatoes)
23. *Soppa tal-Perżut u Piżelli bi-Pupetti tal-Bulubif* (Ham and Pea Soup with Corned Beef Patties)
27. The Malta Day Committee
28. First Friday of the Month Fish Dinner with French Fries
28. MACC Annual Bob Farr Tribute Picnic
31. Some of the Exhibits in the Museum Archives and Visitors Centre, Toronto
34. Maltese Organizations in North America
36. Abela Family Memorabilia

**GLEANINGS FROM THE SUNDAY BULLETIN**

**PASTOR'S THOUGHTS...**



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

**God's Compassionate Love  
Never Fails His People**

....How often in our lives do we feel overwhelmed by what we think God is asking of us? When we are faced with the problems of our families, of our Church, or in our own lives, we often feel too little and hopeless. Here I remember that famous phrase uttered by St Paul in one of his letters: "When I am weak, then am I strong." In moments like this I realize that I am no better than anybody else. I cannot rely on my inadequate resources alone. I have to rely on God's help. Like the little boy of the gospel [with but five barley loaves and two fish], all I can do is give my all and do my best. God does not expect me to do the impossible, then He will do the rest.

God's compassionate love never fails His people. However, more often than not, it has to pass through our hands, the hands of his disciples.

**Jesus Is the Bread of Life**

There are many things in our lives that are important. Jesus' words do not deny this. Family, relationships, work, friends, and so many other things with which we fill our daily lives. They are all important, but some things are naturally more important than others....it would be good if we were to ask ourselves where does Jesus and his teaching stand in all this. Our first reaction might be that Jesus is really important for us. After all, we do say our prayers; a good number of us go to Church regularly (a smaller number now of course, due to pandemic

restrictions); some of us may regard ourselves as more committed Christians because we might belong to some Church group or do a daily bible reading. Jesus tells us that He is the bread of life, which means that everything we do in our lives has to be nourished by Him. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God," He said in another instance. Jesus IS the Word, the bible reminds us. Is everything I do in my life being enlightened by the words and teaching of Jesus? To be able to do this we have to be constantly nourished by Him. Meditating on His word is one way of doing it. Celebrating the Eucharist is another....

What is certain is the fact that, without Him, we cannot do much good.

**Be Nourished: The Journey Is a Long One**

Very often we become like those people of the gospel. We seek to satisfy our immediate needs, and often turn toward God, asking Him in our prayers to fulfil our desires. When He does not, we either start grumbling like the people of the gospel or seek to put an end to everything like Elijah wanted to do [1Kings 19:4-8]....We may not see the light at the end of the tunnel. We may get discouraged, disillusioned, or even outright depressed. In moments like these, we are encouraged to listen to that gentle voice telling us: Get up, and eat. Be nourished, because the journey is a long one.

**Mary's Example Encourages Us to Trust,  
and to Believe**

Our Mother Mary can help us a lot in our desire to follow Jesus. Like each one of us, she had her dreams, her plans, her desires. However, she did not allow any of this to interfere with God's plans for her.....The faith which Mary showed at the Annunciation continued to carry her throughout her whole life. Her assumption into heaven is, then, only the climax of a life fully lived in being attuned to God's word....

I am sure that each and every one of us has moments in our lives when we ask, "How can this be?"—moments when we simply wonder what God has in mind. We live through times when we are tempted to do our own thing, rather than listening to God's voice. Mary's example encourages us to trust and to believe. With her help and with her prayers, we too can arrive at our destination, reaching the peak.

**ACTIVITIES WITHIN  
THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES**

**Dan Brock**

**MICHIGAN**

Join Rep. Camilleri for



**MALTESE AMERICAN  
HERITAGE DAY**  
at the Capitol

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT 22 | 11am**  
Michigan State Capitol Building  
100 N Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933

**Metropolitan Detroit  
Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn**  
The first Friday of the month fish dinner with French  
fries was held on August 6<sup>th</sup>. (See page ?? for photo  
story.)



The Maltese Falcon

**MACC's Online Newsletter**

**EVENTS COMING UP:**

**HALLOWEEN PARTY**  
Join us for a Dinner Party/Dance that includes  
games and many prizes! Adult Dinner \$15, Children  
\$8 (Children under 5 - free)  
**OCTOBER 23rd at 5:30**

**RABBIT DINNER**  
Or oven baked chicken dinner. \$5 pasta dish for  
children 12 and under  
**NOVEMBER 6th DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 \$20**  
**MEMBERS and \$25 for non-members**  
Call Rita at 313-846-7077

Contact the club for more details  
Phone: 313.846.7077



The Maltese Falcon

**MACC's Online Newsletter**


**EVENTS COMING UP:**

**PASTIZZI MAKING DEMONSTRATION**  
Back by popular demand! Learn to make a Maltese  
favorite and cook just like your Nanna! Members are  
\$10 and Non-Members \$15  
Email [margaretpurdy@gmail.com](mailto:margaretpurdy@gmail.com)  
or Call Rita at 313-846-7077  
**SEPTEMBER 25th or 26th AT 2:00 PM**

**AMBASSADOR OF MALTA  
DINNER/ENTERTAINMENT**  
Please help us in welcoming Keith Azzopardi,  
Ambassador of Malta to the Usa and celebrating  
Malta National Day. \$30 for Members and \$35 for  
Non Members  
**OCTOBER 2nd Doors open at 5:30, Dinner to  
start at 6, Entertainment at 8!**

**FOR LARGE PARTIES PLEASE CALL THE CLUB  
AHEAD OF TIME**

Contact the club for more details  
Phone: 313.846.7077



The Maltese Falcon

**MACC's Online Newsletter**

**EVENTS COMING UP:**

**CRAFT SHOW**  
Save your money on black friday and support  
locally/Maltese owned business!  
**November 28th 11- 4**  
Grace: [Grace4glass@yahoo.com](mailto:Grace4glass@yahoo.com)

**CHRISTMAS DINNER**  
It's the most wonderful time of the year! Join us for  
dinner with Santa, and please provide a present  
from Santa for any child you are bringing to the  
Christmas Party.  
**Please Call: 313-846-7077 to reserve your tickets**  
**MUST BE PURCHASED BY DECEMBER 5th**  
**Adult \$15**  
**Kids 3-10 \$5**  
**Kids under 3: FREE**

Contact the club for more details  
Phone: 313.846.7077

**Maltese American Benevolent Society**



**12th ANNUAL FESTA IL-VITORJA  
SUNDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.  
1832 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48216  
*Celebrating 81 Years in Corktown*

For more information: Email  
[maltese\\_american\\_benevolent\\_soc@yahoo.com](mailto:maltese_american_benevolent_soc@yahoo.com); Find us on  
Facebook; Check-out our website [DetroitMaltese.com](http://DetroitMaltese.com)

Come Celebrate Our 12th Gathering for the  
Maltese Festa IL-Vitorja – Our Lady of Victory  
Celebrating the Birth of Our Lady, the Mother of God  
and the Victory of World War II –  
The Great Siege of 1565

Festivities will begin with a Mass Celebration at  
Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
1050 Porter Street, Detroit, Michigan 48226  
at 11:00 a.m.

Our NEW Statue of Mary will be Processed into Church and  
Receive its Inaugural Blessing



11 a.m. Mass at Most Holy Trinity Church  
Club will be Open Directly after Mass  
1:30 p.m. Food Available at Club

**TRADITIONAL MALTESE FOOD FOR SALE**

- \$15 – Rabbit Stew
- \$10 – Baked Macaroni
- \$5 – Hamburger & Potato Chips

**STOP BY THE CLUB BEFORE THE EVENT  
TO PURCHASE YOUR FOOD TICKETS IN ADVANCE  
AND TO GUARANTEE YOUR MALTESE FOOD  
SELECTION – LIMITED EXTRA MALTESE FOOD WILL  
BE MADE – ONLY PAID TICKETS WILL BE HONORED  
THE DAY OF THE EVENT**

- 50/50 RAFFLE TICKETS & PRIZES**
- Tickets – \$1 Each or 6 for \$5
- Cash Prizes – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

**TELL ALL YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS!  
COME AND JOIN IN A DAY OF FUN WITH THE  
ENTIRE FAMILY!!!**

- Opportunities Available for  
Sponsorship & Advertising –  
Contact the Club for More Information

The Club will Open Directly after Mass

Food will be Available for Purchase at the Club between  
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Vendor Tables are Available for Sponsorship  
by Members & Guests \*  
Limited 10X10 Spots  
Available Outside  
\$30 for Members  
\$40 for Non-Members  
**CALL OR EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**NEW YORK CITY**

**Maltese Center: Astoria**

**Festa Ta' Santa Marija** was celebrated with a barbeque on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, at which time the Centre was visited by TVM. The article and broadcast may be seen by going to the following URL.

<https://www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/the-maltese-of-new-york-keeping-maltese-culture-alive/>



**Il-Vitorja barbeque party** was held on Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. There was music, food and drinks. Admission was by a \$25 donation.



**Malta's United Nations Embassy**

The Republic of Malta has purchased a new location for its embassy. The new building is a former

residence on 48<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City and is close to the UN headquarters. The four-story building, which cost just over €8 million (over \$9.36 US million), is in the process of being transformed from apartments to offices. With the evolution of Malta's diplomacy and the increase in staff, the building on 35<sup>th</sup> Street has become inadequate for the embassy's needs.

Ambassador Vanessa Frazier, Malta's permanent representative to the UN, and her staff are currently involved in a campaign for Malta's election, in June 2022, to be one of the 15 countries sitting on the UN Security Council for 2023-2024.

**ONTARIO**

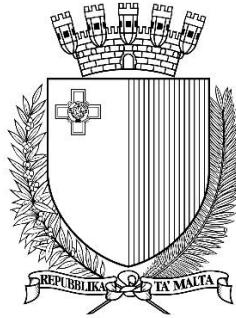
**The Greater Toronto Area, Ontario**

**Consulate General of Malta to Canada**

**Shannon Galea**, first athlete ever representing Malta in the International Bobsleigh & Skeleton Federation and health and physical education teacher with Ontario's Durham District School Board, visited the Consulate on Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.



**Dr. Raymond Xerri and Shannon Galea**



The Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada would like to advise the public of the following events being held to celebrate the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Malta's independence:

**Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**1<sup>st</sup> Maltese Citizenship Ceremony**

at 1800hrs

**2<sup>nd</sup> Maltese Citizenship Ceremony**

at 1930hrs

St Paul The Apostle Maltese Canadian Church – Upper Hall  
3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3

\*Attendance only by invitation and limited to the number indicated due to COVID19 measures

**Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**Flag Raising at Malta Park**

At 10:00 am

3179 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario

**Solemn Mass celebrated at the  
St. Paul the Apostle Maltese Canadian Church**

At 10:30 am

3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario

## **Opening of three Exhibitions at the Lower Hall**

At 1130hrs

### **Portraits of Prominent Maltese Personalities**

(Photographs by Tony S. Mangion and in conjunction with the Office of National Archives of Malta)

### **Traditional Maltese Balconies**

(Balconies by Michael Andrew Camilleri)

### **Traditional Maltese Bamboo Tools**

(Various Maltese and Gozitan craftspeople)

Exhibition will be open:

From Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

0900hrs – 12 noon

1400hrs – 1600hrs

**A bag of traditional Maltese Foods will be given to each family who attend the opening of exhibition**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Maltese Citizenship Ceremony**

at 1800hrs

### **4<sup>th</sup> Maltese Citizenship Ceremony**

at 1930hrs

St Paul The Apostle Maltese Canadian Church – Upper Hall

3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6P 2A3

\*Attendance only by invitation and limited to the number indicated due to COVID19 measures

**Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada**

**Tel: 416-207-0922**

**Email: [maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt)**



**Dr. Anthony Galea** of Toronto, who specializes in sports medicine and is founder of the Institute of Human Mechanics, visited the Consulate on Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.



**Dr. Raymond Xerri and Dr. Anthony Galea**

**Malta Band Club**

**Festa San Gejtanu** was celebrated at the Club on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Classic car shows** were held, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., in the parking lot on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. The next shows will be on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.



Courtesy of Consul General of Malta to Canada

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada presented a **book donation** to the Club's library on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. See page 14 for further details.

**Festa Santa Maria and il-Vitorja** were celebrated at the Club on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Tickets were \$35 and a full COVID-19 vaccination was required. The doors opened at 6:00 p.m. and dinner was served at 7:00 p.m. The menu consisted of *ħobż biż-żejt*, roast beef, potatoes and other vegetables, pastry and coffee.

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

Because September 8<sup>th</sup> fell on a Wednesday this year, the **feast of Our Lady of Victories** was celebrated at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

On Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, the **57th anniversary of Malta's Independence**, the Parish will be celebrating this event in collaboration with the Consulate General of Malta. (See page 33? for further details.)

**London**

At noon, on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 32 members and friends of the Maltese community gathered for

**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.

lunch at The Pickle Barrel on Wellington Street South in London. This was the first gathering since February 2020, owing to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

The next luncheon is scheduled at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, at The Springs Restaurant on Springbank Drive, in London.

For several weeks this summer, members of the Maltese community have gathered, once a week, at Springbank Park in London. The group have brought their own lawn chairs, lunch and drinks while visiting and generally observing social distancing owing to the ongoing pandemic prior to all being fully vaccinated.



**Windsor**

**Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario**

On Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, the Club had an all you can eat penne dinner, meat or plain, with two different sauces from which to choose, a salad and a bun. Cost was \$12 per person. The doors opened at 6:30 p.m. and dinner was served at 7:00 p.m.

On Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Club is having a ravioli dinner. Owing to the COVID-19 restrictions, only 25 tickets will be sold. Price \$12 for 12 ravioli or \$6 for 6. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Dinner served at 7:00 p.m.

**CALIFORNIA**

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

was cancelled owing to the small response.

**Family Pasta Dinner and Bingo** is scheduled for Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**PASTIZZI MAKING DEMONSTRATION**

**Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci**

Back by popular demand is the two-day, pastizzi making demonstration which I will be conducting at the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, starting at 2:00 p.m. each day. The cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.



**A Photo Taken at the Demonstration in 2019**



**Making the Dough, 2019**

The pastizzi demonstration is always one of the most popular club events of the year and always sells out to standing room only crowds. This day the number of tickets will be limited to 100 per day in compliance with CDC Covid requirements.



**Those Attending the Demonstration in 2019**

Fresh baked or frozen pastizzi will be available for purchase.

**MALTESE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY**

**Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci**

Michigan is to honor Maltese Americans at the State Capitol in Lansing with a celebration of Maltese heritage. The event will coincide closely with Malta's Independence Day on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Join Michigan's first State Representative of Maltese descent, Darrin Camilleri, to celebrate Maltese American Heritage Day. Rep. Darrin Camilleri will deliver a resolution on the House floor to declare September 21<sup>st</sup> Maltese American Heritage Day.



**Rep. Darrin Camilleri  
Delivering His Opening Remarks  
on Thursday, September 19, 2019**

Festivities will begin with a brief opening ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda at 11:00 a.m. I will have the honor of singing both the American and Maltese National Anthems. The Maltese American of the year will be announced. There will be keynote speakers for the event and attendees will be treated to a guided tour of the capitol building and lunch will be provided.

The event is free of charge. If you would like to attend, please respond to the Facebook event that has been created at this link.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/268553584832189/?ti=ls>

If you wish to carpool, a group from the Dearborn Maltese Club will be meeting at the Livonia Meijer parking lot on Schoolcraft and Middlebelt at 9:00 a.m.



**The Group Who Attended  
from Metro Detroit in 2019**

### READERS COMMENTS

Tassew prosit u fuq kollox interessanti. Nieħu pjaċir ikolli l-ħargiet tal-imgħoddi.

Joseph C Camilleri, Malta

Thank you so much for your August Issue of 'The Maltese Presence in North America' which is full of interesting articles.

Thanks also for the very comprehensive updated copy of the contents for all the issues to date.

However, I mainly wanted to thank you for your dedication, sacrifices, hard work and devoted time that you freely give for the publication of such an informative Newsletter/Publication related to migrant Maltese in Canada and North America.

Nazzarene Zerafa, Australia

I have thanked you before, but want to thank you again for the work you are doing to preserve our history and passing it down to those of Maltese heritage. Your newsletter is a trove of historical information of the Maltese. Look forward to every edition. I always learn something about the country of my birth. Due to its size, and previous occupation by so many nations, the contributions of the Maltese people to the world in terms of art, science, and humanitarianism are underappreciated and under-publicized. Thanks to your dedication, passion and labor, your voice [*The Maltese Presence in North America*] is helping to bring Malta to the forefront.

Fred Aquilina, California

Well done! Very interesting. As always.

Maria Pia Gauci, Malta

Dear Readers

At present I am doing research on Maltese Christmas traditions. In the 50s and 60s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many Maltese left the Islands to settle abroad. I am keen to know whether Maltese Christmas traditions have been kept alive by Maltese living abroad.

I would like to know whether you have done or do any of the following in the country in which you now live:

1. Made or brought cribs (*presepi*) from Malta and decorated them with vetch (*gulbiena*), canary seed or wheat grains (*qamħ*).
2. Had a Christmas lunch consisting of capon (*ħasi*) broth or hen (*tiġieġa*) broth, timpana (involving a type of pasta), capon or hen with potatoes and vegetables, trifle (*sufle*) and wine.
3. Sent Christmas cards to Maltese families in the

country in which you presently live as well as to Malta.

4. Decorated your home's interior with colourful paper.

5. Taken part in a procession with the figure of the Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve.

6. Had an image of the Baby Jesus decorated with vetch (*gulbiena*), canary seed, wheat grains (*qamħ*) and lit by small colourful candles placed around it.

7. Given your children or grandchildren monetary presents (*l-Istrina*) on New Year's Day.

8. Sung Maltese carols in homes, at churches or in public places.

If so, I am looking forward to receiving such information from you. I can be reached at my email address: [jccam0009@gmail.com](mailto:jccam0009@gmail.com).

If sufficient material is received from the Maltese living abroad, I will devote a chapter of my book to it.

Wishing success and health to each and every one of you. *Is-Saħħa*.

Thanks

Joseph C Camilleri

### THE MALTA UNITED SOCIETY OF WINDSOR, ONTARIO

Dan Brock

The *Maltese E-Newsletter*, # 359 (August 2021), published in Australia, noted on page 21, that "The Melita Soccer Club is presently the oldest Canadian Club in all of Canada established, in 1963.

This fact was questioned by one of our readers who believed that The Maltese United Society of Windsor, Ontario is older. I sent an email to its current president, Peter Pace, who after making several inquiries, learned that the Windsor club was founded in 1952. This indeed makes it the oldest existing Maltese Canadian club in Canada.

On page 8 of the March/April 2019 issue of *The Maltese Presence in North America*, Mike Pace, in his article entitled "The Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario" noted that the Society saw a new president "Around 1953...." This was the closest he was then able to get to the year in which the Society actually came into existence.

Thanks to the statement in the *Maltese E-Newsletter*, we now know the date—1952—of the founding of the Windsor club. Next year will be the 70<sup>th</sup> year of its continued existence.

**TORONTO HISTORICAL BOARD'S HERITAGE FAIR, FORT YORK, SEPTEMBER 26, 1982**



**Alderman Bill Boytchuk, MCSTs Ms. A. Zammit, MCST & Toronto Historical Bd. member R. Cumbo, MBC-Joe Gatt**



**Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto, Est. 1922 (MCST) & Malta Band Club, Est. 1971 (MBC) in Toronto Historical Boards "Heritage Fair" at Fort York on Sept. 26, 1982. L. to R. President Joe Gatt of the Maltese Organizations Committee, Est. 1974, (MOC), MCST's Ms. Malta-1982-Antwanette Zammit, Charlene Cumbo, behind her former MCST Band Conductor now MBC Band Conductor Mro. Paul Gauci, Mr. A. Camilleri, MBC Secretary. Richard Cumbo, 2017**

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

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



**Providing the tools for those in the Maltese Canadian Community who want to learn the Maltese Language, Culture and History**

Central to the mission of a Consulate General is to promote the country it represents, in our case, Malta, its language, culture and history in the host country. For the past few months, the Consulate General of Malta to Canada has prepared and compiled a good number of publications, school texts and educational aids, mostly in the Maltese language to be donated to the various libraries of Maltese Canadian institutions and clubs in Canada. These publications, school texts and educational aids have been donated by many organisations such as the Ministry of Foreign & European Affairs, Department of Education, Heritage Malta, the University of Malta and a number of its Institutes, Gozo and the Gozitans Series and other organisations.

In July, the Consulate General of Malta to Canada had made a donation of such tools to the Melita Club S.C. and the same was donated to the Malta Band



**Donation of materials to the Malta Band Club**

Club on Sunday, August 29th. In the coming months, the Consulate General will be presenting similar donations to other Maltese Canadian organisations. Providing the right tools for Maltese Canadian children, youth, adults and the elderly to learn the Maltese language, culture and history helps in maintaining the vital link between Maltese Canadians and their ancestral country – Malta and Gozo – for generations to come.

**Travelling Canada-Malta-Canada**

The last few weeks, the Consulate General of Malta to Canada has been inundated with telephone calls, emails and messages concerning the requirements for travelling Canada-Malta-Canada. Yes, one can travel to Malta, but all require a negative PCR test and must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in Malta regardless if one is fully vaccinated in Canada. If you want to quarantine in your private home/rented accommodation in Malta, one must acquire permission from the Superintendent of Public Health (SPH) in Malta by writing to [covid19.vetting@gov.mt](mailto:covid19.vetting@gov.mt). Alternatively, and if permission is not forthcoming from the SPH, one must quarantine in a designated hotel and pay the bill. Please note that none of the 13 Canadian Provincial and territorial receipts/certificates are recognised by the Superintendent of Public Health in Malta. For full details consult the updated issued on August 23, 2021 as follows:

*All passengers are required to present a completed Public Health Travel Declaration and Passenger Locator Form link (PLF). As from the 16th of August 2021, passengers will only be allowed to submit their passenger locator form (PLF) via the online EUPLF platform which can be accessed at <https://app.euplf.eu/#/>. They can then present the submitted PLF with the QR code at check in and on arrival in Malta in digital format or as a print-out. Paper copies of the passenger locator form will no longer be distributed and will not be accepted at check-in or on arrival in Malta.”*

*All passengers are required to present a valid vaccination certificate recognised by the Superintendent of Public Health (age 12+), which at present are the following:*

- The Maltese vaccination certificate issued by the Ministry for Health.
- The EU Digital COVID vaccination certificate, issued by EU, EEA and non-EU countries connected to the EUDCC gateway. The EU Digital COVID vaccination certificate now includes certificates from Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, Ukraine and Vatican City.
- The United Kingdom NHS (paper or digital) Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccination Certificate.
- The UAE Al Hosn vaccine certificate.
- The UAE Vaccine certificate issued by the Dubai Health Authorities with a readable QR Code.
- The Turkish Vaccine certificate of full course of vaccination.
- The United States CDC Covid-19 Vaccination Record Card: accepted until 31 July 2021. As of 01 August 2021, this will need to be verified through the VeriFLY app to be accepted as a valid vaccination certificate. The VeriFLY app is available on both Google Play (<https://bit.ly/2Wkqfrl>) and Apple App Store (<https://apple.co/3x8K0zn>). Go to <https://go.daon.com/verifyapp> for Verify FAQs.
- The Serbian “Digital Green Certificate” with a readable QR Code.
- The Albanian Digital Covid certificate.
- The Covid 19 vaccination certificate issued by the Ministry of Public Health, Doha, Qatar.
- The Gibraltar, Jersey and Guernsey vaccination certificates.
- Australia COVID-19 Digital Certificate – full course and 14 days after last dose as verified through Medicare Express Plus App.
- COVID Vaccination Certificates showing only 1 dose of a vaccine requiring 2 doses, regardless of whether after recovery or not.
- COVID Vaccine Certificates with less than 14 days from the final dose
- COVID Vaccine Certificates not on the accepted list

Persons coming from “red” listed countries who do not have one of the above will need to present a PCR test done not more than 72 hours before the journey and shall undergo mandatory quarantine at their own expense. Further details are found here:

<https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Documents/mitigation-conditions-and-guidances/Standards%20for%20quarantine%20of%20unvaccinated%20travellers%20entering%20the%20Maltese%20Islands%20V4%2027.07.21.pdf>

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

For further clarifications on matters relating to the health protocol measures or vaccine certificates kindly contact Malta government COVID-19 helpline at +356 21324086.

#### Consular Issues:

For COVID-19 consular related issues one can also contact the Situation Centre at the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs on:

Helpline: (356) 22042200

Email: [sitcen.mfea@gov.mt](mailto:sitcen.mfea@gov.mt).

#### **Malta celebrates its 57th Anniversary since Independence**

The Maltese Islands will be celebrating 57 years since Malta was granted Independence and the Consulate General of Malta to Canada will be commemorating this important event by organising another edition of Malta Day Canada. The programme is attached on pages 7-8 and all are invited to participate and attend the prepared events up to the capacity limit at all venues and events. Malta - Happy Independence Day!

The following certificates are **NOT VALID** for travel to Malta:

- COVID Recovery Certificates



DOI - Photo - Pierre Sammut

**Welcome and Congratulations**

Maltese Canadians have welcomed Fr Giovann Tabone MSSP to the St Paul The Apostle Maltese Canadian Parish and look forward for his service to the Maltese Canadian Community. Fr Tabone is from in-Nadur, Gozo and is a student here in Toronto soon to commence his studies.



Congratulations to Maltese Canadian flamenco guitarist and an exponent of nuevo flamenco, Maestro Roger Scannura, for being awarded the Silver Global Music Award. Welcome and congratulations!



**Attend Maltese Canadian Events and support our Associations and Clubs**

COVID19 has disrupted our lives and the long list of events that were scheduled to be organised by the Maltese Canadian parish, clubs, associations and organisations. Many of these events are not just events but fundraising activities and serve as the life-line of these important institutions. Being unable to organise such events is a severe blow to the financial wellbeing of these organisations.

Maltese Canadians need to help these organisations by participating, attending and contributing to sustain them so they will be able to pay the bills that will continue to roll in despite being closed and/or unable to organise such events. Please support Maltese Canadian events.



FESTA SANTA MARJA AND IL-VITORJA

THE MALTA BAND CLUB

5745 COOPERS AVE, MISS

SATURDAY SEPT 11<sup>TH</sup> 2021

WITH BAND PARTICIPATION

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 P.M.

DINNER SERVED AT 7:00P.M.

MENU

HOBZA BIZ ZEJT, ROAST BEEF DINNER, POTATOES AND VEG

PASTRY AND COFFEE

PRICE \$35

PLEASE BOOK BY SEPT 5<sup>TH</sup> 2021

PLEASE NOTE THAT COVID VACCINATION IS A REQUIREMENT.

**Labour Day and Malta Day - Canada in Canada and September is the month of il-Vittorja and Independence Day in Malta**

Malta Day – Canada is celebrated during the third weekend of September, the closest weekend to September 21st, Malta’s Independence Day.





In Malta, the month of September is synonymous with the feast of *Il-Vitorja* – Our Lady of Victories, a feast which commemorates important events in the history of Malta.

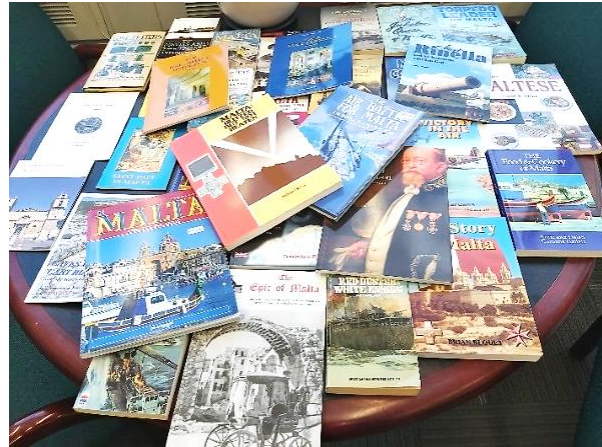
Finally, on behalf of my wife Marlene and my family, I wish you and your families an enjoyable Labour Day. Let us continue to care for each other. Whenever we can, call each other and spend some time talking to our elderly. Zoom or use other social media means which keep the distance between us but if possible visit them. A phone, skype or zoom call or a chat on messenger can make the day for someone that is lonely.

O Lord, always bless Malta and Canada!

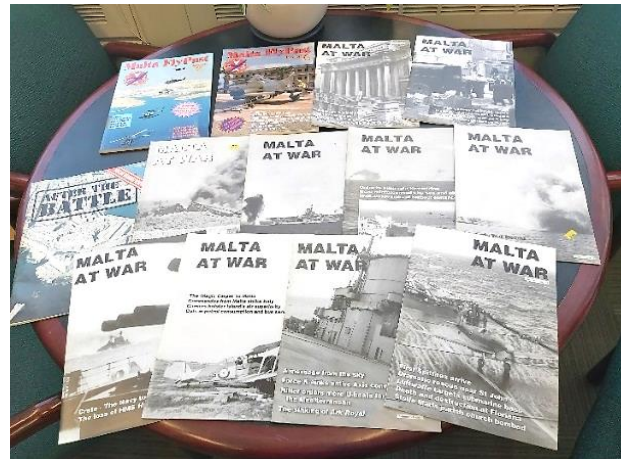
**SPECIALIZED MALTESE CANADIAN  
DIASPORA AND HISTORY LIBRARY  
A FRIEND OF MALTA, IAN H. MITCHELL  
DONATES PUBLICATIONS  
TO THE CONSULATE GENERAL  
OF MALTA TO CANADA**

A couple of months ago, a specialized Maltese Canadian Library was established by the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada with the aim of assisting Maltese Canadian academics and students studying Maltese Canadian diaspora history and their ancestors. Donations of publications, multimedia tools and educational aids have

been entrusted to the Library.



Several students of all academic levels have already made use of this resourceful library and have been assisted and encouraged by the Consulate General of Malta to Canada to pursue their studies in one or more aspects of Maltese Canadian Diaspora history.



Ian H. Mitchell, a friend of Malta, has donated publications to the library from his life-time family collection. Consul General Dr Raymond C. Xerri thanked Mr Mitchell for responding to Dr Xerri's public appeal and for this much welcomed and useful donation, whilst continued to encourage others to follow by example.

**TRAVELLING FROM CANADA TO MALTA DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES**

**Marc Gové**

*Editor's note: On pages 14-15, Dr. Raymond Xerrl has provided official Maltese government data on travel to and from Malta. I wish to thank Marc Gové of Brampton, ON for allowing me to share these Facebook postings with the readers.*

**Posted on Facebook, Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:40 a.m.**

Our journey starts to Malta. Sharing our flight experience.

Arrived at Pearson (Toronto) airport at 2:00 pm. We were at our gate at 3.00 pm.

We had boarding pass in hand and printed forms (Negative PCR, passenger locator form, vaccine certificates).

We used our Maltese Passports. (We are dual citizens).

All our documents were examined before our luggage was put on the conveyor.

At boarding we were flagged and stopped. Apparently, we were told that Malta has a travel advisory, but due to the fact that we were travelling with our Maltese passports we were allowed to board.

Arrived in Frankfurt and again we were checked for passports and all documents before we transferred terminals.



**Deb and Marc Gové at Pearson Airport**

So far so good.

We are waiting for our flight to Malta.

I will post part 2 of our journey when we arrive in Malta.

**Posted on Facebook, Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:19 a.m.**

Part 2 of our journey to Malta.

We boarded our Air Lufthansa with just our boarding pass.

Arrived in Malta on time, picked up suitcases then proceeded to Malta Health Authority Desk. They were prompt and lines were short. We were directed to a desk.

We presented our paperwork and Maltese Passports. Looking through the paperwork we were told they do not accept Canadian vaccine certificate. At this time, we made every effort to explain that our certificates were notarized and with our health card we can validate the certificates. At this point the young gentleman went to look for a supervisor. This took some time and from behind the partition we could hear the supervisor say we do not accept Canadian Certificates.

Next step, fill out some more forms so that we could quarantine at our flat.

So here we are 14 days, a quarter of our stay, in quarantine.

On a positive note, we were met at the airport by our good friend and neighbour Joe who took us to our flat.

Thank you.

Just some notes:

Print your paperwork. It's easier than trying to pass your device or looking for documents.

So, time will tell in this new world we live in.

Stay well, stay safe.

**Victim of 9/11**

**Brian Joseph Cachia**, age 26, was among the 2,977 people who perished on September 11, 2001, the only victim of Maltese descent. He worked as a technical support specialist for Cantor Fitzgerald on floor 103 in the North Tower of the World Trade Centre. He was the son of Joe and Sabrina Cachia. His grandfather, Joseph, had immigrated to the United States from Zabbar during the Second World War.

## UNCLE JOE CUTAJAR: A TRIBUTE

**Michael Cutajar**

Fire has always been a riotous thing. If we respect it, it can do marvelous things for us, but if we heed to carelessness in its use, then we are looking disaster right in the face. My ziju Ġużeppi (Uncle Joe) left us on Saturday the 7th day of August 2021. He was in the hospital surrounded by his family as he passed into eternity at 2:30 p.m. He had learned the unfortunate hard way what gasoline and fire can do to a person if they are not handled correctly and with respect. And after several days in the Burn Unit at Detroit Receiving Hospital, where he received great care, at 88 years of age he passed on, the only uncle I had in the United States. His burns were bad enough that he was indistinguishable while covered in bandages to treat his serious wounds. It is a very sad time for me because of the long bond between us going back to the early 1960s.

Uncle Joe spent his boyhood and especially his formative years living in Ħal-Qormi, caught up, like the rest of Malta, in hunger and in the strife of war. Malta was the only place not under Nazi/Fascist control in all of mainland Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa during the early years of the Second World War. And Malta was smack in the middle of all of it. He was just a boy of seven in June of 1940 as the next great siege in Malta was beginning. While American kids went safely to school, Uncle Joe spent the next few years in and out of air raid shelters and in school only when it was possible, many times running to shelter during what was an ongoing school lesson. It was clear that it had left a mark on him and also his siblings, my uncle Gaetano and aunt Agatha who were all about the same age.



**95 St Francis Street, Ħal-Qormi  
Birthplace and Home of Joseph Cutajar**

When he was a teenager, Ġużeppi began training as a tailor with his older cousin George who lived on the opposite side of St Francis Street right across from the Pjazza ta' San Franġisk in Ħal-Qormi.



**Pjazza ta' San Franġisk**

Uncle Joe worked as an apprentice and journeyman in Malta, for 13 years and even had his own tailor shop.



**Uncle Joe (right) with His Apprentice**

He then asked my father to do the necessary paperwork to get him to the United States with his soon to be wife Censina. Uncle Joe and Aunt Vinnie were married in Ħal-Qormi on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1959 and soon were on a ship to Naples to transfer to the ship that would take them to the United States. They were 17 days at sea, traveling with Uncle Joe's cousin Felix Gatt and his wife Maria, who were married the same day and by the same priest as Uncle Joe and Aunt Vinnie but in the nearby village of Hamrun.

## The Maltese Presence in North America

The two couples reached Detroit on the 29th of November 1959. Upon arriving in Detroit, Uncle Joe and Aunt Vinnie came to live with us on Washburn Street in Northwest Detroit and Felix and Maria Gatt went to live with Felix's brother Salvu in Southwest Detroit.



**13994 Washburn Street, November 1959**

Being a Tailor by trade, Uncle Joe found several jobs tailoring in men's clothing stores downtown and would later use his trade as a second job to earn more money. As a young boy, I still remember the yellow jacket that he made for me which went down past my waist.



**Me in My Yellow Jacket  
with My Mother and Sisters**

September 2021

It wasn't long before Uncle Joe recognized where he truly was and what he was missing out on. Detroit in 1960 was still a heavy industrial town that paid well and had plenty of work for unskilled labor. Much to the dislike of my father, whom he often found himself in debate with, Uncle Joe decided that the tailor trade in America was not for him. He soon exchanged his sewing machine for a spot on the assembly line at Chevrolet Gear and Axle until about eight years later when he found a job at Ford making automotive upholstery. He often argued with my father who was paternalistic towards Uncle Joe on many fronts.

I remember Uncle Joe pulling a fast one with a used car he bought that my father for whatever reason told him not to purchase. We went to church on a Sunday in our family car, a 1954 Ford. When we returned from St Brigid Church, there was this car in the garage that my parents had no knowledge of as to who it belonged. My mother called the Detroit Police who sent out a scout car. The officers at that time could not determine right away who owned it either. They told my parents that they would have a police wrecker come out and pick it up. As the police were driving away, my mother noticed Uncle Joe walking up the sidewalk from afar. He had his hands in his pocket with an ear-to-ear grin on his face! My dad asked him if the car was his; and of course, it was. I remember my dad being quite angry and words flying from his mouth in Maltese while Uncle Joe just listened.

For about five years, both our families lived in the same neighborhood around St Brigid Parish.



**Uncle Joe and Aunt Vinnie's  
First House on Cherrylawn Street**

In 1965, Uncle Joe and Aunt Vinnie moved from

## The Maltese Presence in North America

their corner red brick two-story home on Cherrylawn to a new subdivision in an area north of us known at the time as Utica. That part of Utica, with still some farm land all over, would soon turn into Sterling Heights.

I missed seeing him and his family at church on Sundays and now our relationship would be more based on holidays because of the distance between residences.

As I got older, Uncle Joe always treated me more like a friend than a nephew. We always had something to talk about, especially cars, and he had a couple of them that I wanted when I was young. As I was growing up, I used to marvel at his 58 Chevrolet Belair and later 66 Pontiac Tempest with the overhead cam 6-cylinder engine that was part of the legacy of General Motors's engineer and executive, John Delorean.



**Uncle Joe's 1966 Pontiac Tempest  
with Overhead Cam 6**

A good part of our relationship was the many hours I spent working on his machines, many times having to go over to fix something he couldn't make run or had been worked over by a whole handful of people and was in a real mess by the time I got to it.

In 1976 Uncle Joe decided to become a part time

September 2021

farmer. He wanted acreage and, from the new home that he bought in 1965 in Sterling Heights, he and his family moved to Romeo to an old farm house that he and Alex, his oldest son, worked on to slowly modernize. The area was all farm country then and Uncle Joe had 10 acres of it.



**Uncle Joe's Farm and House in Romeo**

Romeo was a real joy to visit with all the apple orchards everywhere and the little shops that were in the small town. Uncle Joe would always be raising some type of livestock, including chickens, pigs and cattle. I remember an incident when he had a bull and the fence could not restrain him. A neighbor down the street let Uncle Joe know that his bull was in this man's yard so Uncle Joe took his Ford 9N tractor and tied the bull to the tractor and "walked it home."

Back then, in farm country, a lot of things moved by rail and it was no different in Romeo. I remember a train derailed out there in the late 70s. I still have a spike from the rail. Today all the rails are gone, replaced by bike paths that crisscross the landscape and go for miles. But the neighborhood has also changed with much development since 1976.

About nine years ago Uncle Joe had to have open heart surgery. His heart surgery went well and he continued on until he developed congenital heart failure a couple of years ago. He was 86 then but his mind told his body he was 40. Uncle Joe needed to move to a different house and, with much persuasion, did so. But he still liked to keep busy on the farm, especially with his garden. There, he would be gone all day in the summer with a jug of water while his family worried about him. He was always stubborn that way.

I was there many times this year in the late winter and early spring when he was having heart issues. The medical team was able to get them under control with the drainage of his lungs and by medication. So

## The Maltese Presence in North America

once again, he decided he needed to get out and get moving on his tasks, despite all of our collective telling him otherwise. At 88 years old he decided to plant a garden in his new yard and to do so he needed to remove trees. He was hand cutting these tree roots and it looked like he had taken out about 10 when I went there after his funeral. I also saw the huge brush pile that he was attempting to burn.

It, unfortunately, is not well known enough that while a person is pouring gas on wood or anything else, that before they light a match, the area around the fire pit is **filling with fumes**. Once the match is struck, the vapors can and often do explode with extreme force. The flames will leap from the gas fumes enveloping anyone close to the fire. It is my belief that this is exactly what happened. My aunt Vinnie was telling him to roll on the ground to put out the fire which he finally did but after sustaining severe burns.

He was rushed to Henry Ford Hospital in Clinton Township and then immediately moved to the Burn Unit at Detroit Receiving Hospital where he remained until Saturday. I talked to him and he would open his eyes, the only thing exposed, signaling he understood. He was in great pain and all of us actually were relieved when he peacefully slipped away.



**Last Photo of Uncle Joe**

I will miss him, knowing him for six decades and he always being ready with some crazy funny story or act to make us laugh. He made friends with everybody and is a legend in Romeo.

I will always remember when I was a teenager spinning records in my room at Thanksgiving. He and his family had just arrived. He walked with his coat on into my room and pointed to the turntable with his massive hands and said "Maybelline". Which it was, the Everly Brothers' version, that is.

September 2021

When I was in the hospital for several months, he, Aunt Vinnie and their children were there every opportunity available to come see me. I counted on those visits because they made me feel so not left alone while in a not so happy place. That was such a terrible time for me. But they brightened my life for a while with their visits.

This is a terrible time for me. I was angry with the news when his son David called me crying at 8:00 am. I didn't even know at first who it was. I had to tell David to let me get composed. Then I realized who it was and understood the tragic news. Uncle Joe just could not let his mind accept that he was now living in an 88-year-old body and it caught up with him.

Uncle Joe, you have left my heart very heavy. I always dreaded when this day would come. This earthly loss of another family member to me is just a reminder of God's sovereignty over all and that this world is only a passing of time. It is the only thing we as humans have and never will control and that is time. As each generation passes, eventually their legacy except for a few will also pass. I think that Uncle Joe's legacy will be a much more lasting one. I really do believe that we, including his younger grandchildren who spent many hours with him, will be telling stories for many years to come

*Saħħa ħabib...* (Goodbye my friend). Until we all meet again in the comfort of our Savior.

Love, your loving nephew Mike (Mikiel).

## **BALBULJATA (MALTESE EGGS WITH TOMATOES)**

**Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci**



*Lisa's offering in the August issue of this newsletter was imqarrun fil-forn (Maltese baked macaroni).*

It's the dog days of summer. Everyone is on the go with summer activities trying to make the most of these last few weeks of summer. I myself have been traveling a lot this year. But, when I'm home I don't want to use my oven and heat up my kitchen to make a big meal, so an easy breezy recipe is called for. For me, this means *balbuljata*. It is a popular Maltese breakfast that

The Maltese Presence in North America is made with a handful of ingredients. Just eggs, tomatoes, onions and some seasoning. Now that tomatoes are in season, this is the perfect time of year to make this dish served with some toasted *ħobża Maltija* (Maltese bread) or any crusty bread that is available to you. Even though *balbuljata* is a traditional Maltese breakfast, this dish can be eaten anytime of the day. It's quick, easy and your kids will love it!

**INGREDIENTS:** Serves two

- 4 large eggs
- 1 medium tomato
- 1 small onion
- 1 garlic clove
- 1 Tbs. parsley
- 1 Tbs. tsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. butter
- Salt and pepper to taste



**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Prep your ingredients: Peel and dice the onion, peel and mince the garlic, chop the parsley, and measure the rest of the ingredients.
2. Blanche the tomato in boiling water for 30 seconds. When it is cool enough to handle, peel off the skin. Slice it in half to remove the seeds.



3. Dice the tomato flesh into quarter inch pieces.
4. Heat the olive oil over medium high heat in a non-stick skillet.
5. Sauté the onion until it becomes translucent and just starts to brown.
6. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute.
7. Add the tomato and simmer until all the liquid is cooked away and the mixture is somewhat dry.
8. Scramble the eggs with the salt and pepper.
9. Turn the heat down to low and add the butter.
10. When the butter has melted, stir in the eggs.
11. Cook until the eggs are set, stirring with a rubber spatula or wooden spoon.
12. Mix in the parsley while the eggs are cooking.
13. Serve with toasted crusty bread.

**SOPPA TAL-PERŻUT U PIŻELLI  
BIL-PUPETTI TAL-BULUBIF  
(HAM AND PEA SOUP  
WITH CORNED BEEF PATTIES)**

**Mary Rose Aquilina**



*Last month's issue featured Mary Rose's pudina (Maltese bread pudding).*

One of the reasons I enjoy cooking Maltese dishes, other than the fact they remind me of my mother and the three years I spent in Malta in the '70s before getting married, is the fact that Maltese cuisine has the capacity to stretch a meal to feed a big family.

Moreover, it could take any leftovers from one meal (if any were left) and turn them into a completely different and hearty dish for another.

One would never dream of throwing away leftovers. So oftentimes the Maltese would take a somewhat expensive cut of meat and creatively prepare two different meals out of it. Such is the case of a ham on the bone. Of course, the ham would be served

perhaps for a Sunday family meal and the leftover bone and meat would be turned into another dish.

Of course, a whole ham leg would still be too expensive to purchase today for most families. But we can easily find smoked “picnic” shoulders that are less costly but still capable of producing two different meals. They are readily found in our supermarkets along with the more lean, smoked turkey leg or thigh. Either cut of meat is delicious and affordable. For this recipe, I am using the turkey leg because its only for the two of us, my husband and me, but one can easily produce a larger quantity if you use the leftovers and bone from a smoked shoulder.

So, with the combination of the smoked turkey bone with the holy trinity of vegetables (chopped onion, carrots and celery if desired) along with reconstituted dried split peas, herbs and simple vegetable stock/water, we can create a hearty and satisfying soup.

I like to also prepare some corned beef patties to serve on the side with fresh crusty bread. Sometimes I will even spread the patties over the bread with a little HP sauce over it and turn it into a sandwich. So, I have given you the recipe for those as well.

*L-ikla t-tajba!*

## HAM & PEA SOUP

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 cups dried split peas (green or yellow)
- 2 small onions chopped
- 2 ribs celery chopped
- 3-4 carrots chopped
- 1 ham bone (with some meat left on it) or a smoked turkey leg or thigh
- 4 slices bacon
- 6-8 cups water or vegetable stock (enough to cover the bone & vegetable well)



### METHOD

- The night before making the soup, soak the dried peas by covering well with water (the peas will absorb the water overnight so be

sure to cover the peas with double their volume in water. Any excess water left can be drained before continuing... or not.

- The next day, drain the peas and start making the soup.



- In a deep pot, start by frying the chopped bacon, then add the onions, carrots and celery until they are softened a bit for about 8 minutes on medium to high heat.



- Add the meat and vegetable stock, marjoram if you are using, Season with salt and pepper to taste. (Remember the smoked meat will be salty so take note.)





- Remove the ham bone or turkey leg from the soup. Take off all the meat from around the bone, chop roughly and return to the soup.
- Serve the soup loose and chunky, or smooth and thick by mashing it with a hand blender or in a food processor to the texture you like.

**Tip:** You can serve the soup with a touch of curry and/or curried dumplings in it. Dumplings recipe below.

**For the dumplings:**

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- salt and pepper to taste
- touch of curry powder to your taste
- water to bind

**Method:**

- In a bowl, mix all the dry ingredients and add just enough water to form a slightly elastic dough.
- Tear off pieces of dough the size of about 1 inch round. (It will expand.)
- Roll with floured hands to form a ball. Toss into the bubbling soup until cooked.... for the last 5-10 minutes of cooking. It will expand as it remains in the hot soup.



- Add the ham/turkey bone and bring to a boil.



- Lower the heat and allow the soup to simmer until the vegetables are tender and that the peas have broken down in texture.
- Remove the meat off the bone



**CORNED BEEF PATTIES**

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 3 medium potatoes, boiled and mashed
- 1 x 370g can corned beef
- 1 egg
- 2-3 cloves garlic minced or grated
- Optional: cooked and mashed carrots or sweet potatoes
- Fresh or dried parsley (to your taste)
- Salt and pepper to taste (Watch the salt because of the saltiness in the corned beef.)
- Fine bread crumbs seasoned by your favourite dried herbs (basil, oregano, paprika and chili flakes) to your taste.



**METHOD**

- In a good-sized bowl, mix the mashed potatoes, mashed carrots and diced corned beef until mixed evenly.



- Add the egg, garlic, and parsley.
- Add salt & pepper to taste.
- If you find the mixture too wet, add some of the fine breadcrumbs to tighten it.



- Once the ingredients are well mixed, take a handful of the mixture (or use a large ice cream scoop) about a heaped 1/2 cup and form into a patty (should be about 3/4 inch thick and 2 1/2 - 3 inches in round).



- Once shaped, cover the patty with the seasoned breadcrumbs
- When you finish shaping the patties, heat a shallow frying pan and coat with a thin layer of olive or vegetable oil and heat till it starts to sizzle.
- Place the patties in the hot oil and cook until the underside is golden brown. Gently flip over to the other side and fry for another 2'3 minutes until golden



- **Remember:** all the ingredients are pre-cooked, and you just want to be able to bind the mixture and heat it through.
- When done, gently lift and place on a paper towel to absorb any excess oil.
- Serve alongside the Ham & Pea Soup accompanied with fresh crusty bread.



**THE MALTA DAY COMMITTEE**

**Richard S. Cumbo**

The Malta Day Committee was founded by the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto in 1974 with representatives from the various Maltese Canadian clubs in Toronto. The Committee soon was renamed the Maltese Organizations Committee. In February 1983, it became the Federation of Maltese Organizations. In 1988, on December 8<sup>th</sup>, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Federation was incorporated federally as the Maltese-Canadian Federation. In the letters patent, it states that permission had to be obtained from the Maltese-Canadian

Society of Toronto allowing the use of the name "Maltese-Canadian."

Below is a recent restoration of a framed presentation, in December 1977, to the Maltese Unity Association of Canada (MUAC). This Association only existed for about 15 years. Henry Formosa, in the lower centre photo, had been one of its founders. Dennis Agius, who was speaking at the City Hall Cenotaph, is currently Professor Dionysius A. Agius, emeritus professor of Arabic Studies and Islamic Material Culture: Senior Research Fellow at the University of Exeter, Exeter, England. The restored presentation is on display at the Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre, St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex, Toronto.



**MALTA DAY COMMEMORATION, SEPTEMBER 8, 1977, CITY HALL CENOTAPH, TORONTO**

Photograph courtesy of Richard S. Cumbo

**FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH  
FISH DINNER WITH FRENCH FRIES**

**Rena Xuereb**

The Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn, Michigan held its first Friday of the month fish dinner with French fries on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Also available was baked fish with Maltese baked potatoes, *aljotta* (fish soup), salad, ravioli, *mqarrun il-forn* (baked macaroni) and *ross ill-forn* (baked rice) dinners as well as pastizzi.

Mary Debono led in the praying of the Rosary before Mass.



**The Bar Area**



**Mary Debono Praying the Rosary with Us**

Fr. Linus Kinyua, originally from Kenya, now pastor of St. Alphonse Parish in Dearborn, filled in for Fr. Joe Agius for the first Friday Mass.



**Fr. Linus Kinyua**



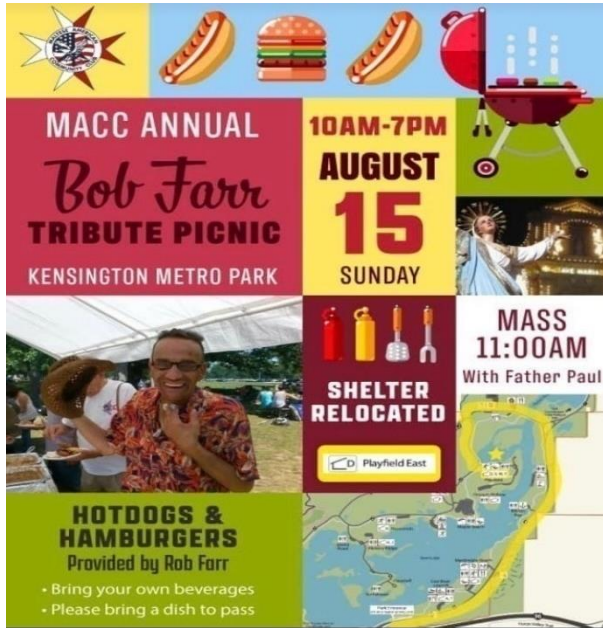
**Members Enjoying Their Dinner**

**MACC  
ANNUAL BOB FARR TRIBUTE PICNIC**

**Rena Xuereb**

The Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn, Michigan held its annual Bob Farr Tribute Picnic at Kensington Metropark, Milford, on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.





Emily Pace Vella Doing the Readings

Fr. Paul Tarabay, OMM, celebrated Mass with us. He is a priest of the Maronite Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is originally from Lebanon. Fr. Paul regularly offers Mass at Spiritus Sanctus Academy and the Ave Maria Foundation Chapel in Ann Arbor.



Members Participating in the Mass Outdoors



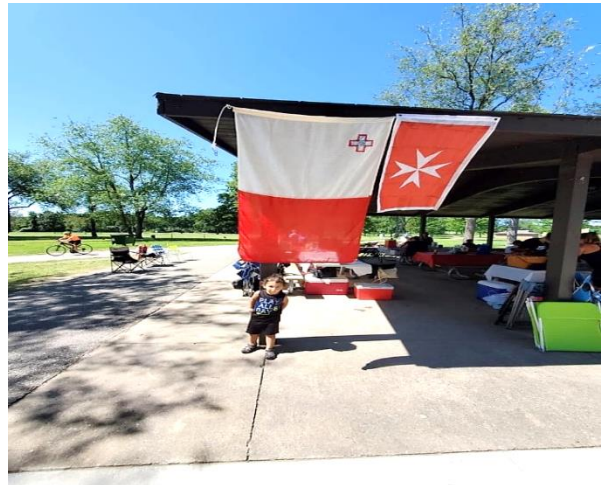
Fr. Paul Tarabay, OMM



Bob Farr's Loyal Staff, Al Robinson and David Thompson, Came Out to Cook for Us



**Our Hungry Members  
Lining Up for the Barbeque**



**One of the Kids at the Picnic**



**Getting Ready to Eat Under the Pavilion**



**Kids Having Fun in the Craft Area**



**Fr. Paul Says Grace**

**Firefighter Escaped Death on 9/11**

**Anthony Gurrera**, age 33, a New York City firefighter of Maltese descent, was given the day off the night before 9/11. Seven of his colleagues were not so fortunate and perished with the collapse of one of the towers. On hearing, over the radio, of the airplanes crashing into the World Trade Centre he rushed to his firehouse and then to the horrific site. His parents are Anthony, Sr. and Catherine (Galea) Gurrera. His maternal grandparents, Joseph and Grace Galea, were from Żejtun.

**SOME OF THE EXHIBITS IN THE MUSEUM ARCHIVES AND VISITORS CENTRE, TORONTO**

**Richard S. Cumbo, Curator**

After an absence of nearly one year due to Covid-19, the Maltese-Canadian Museum/Archives team was permitted to return to the museum. Covid-19 protocols still had to be followed--masks, distancing, etc. The first day back was on Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. We were met and welcomed by Father Ivano Burdian, MSSP of St. Paul the Apostle Church. That day only two volunteers were able to attend, namely Madlene Cumbo and Marthese Fenech (not the author), and we spent that first day cleaning all the display cases and general overall housekeeping.

On Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, volunteers Rose Cassar, Marthese Fenech, Debbie Lighthouse, Michael Gouveia and I met to continue with regular on-going museum/archival work. This constitutes the constant filing, dating, sorting, preserving, stamping and even improving some of the exhibits. Because of the generous donations made by individuals, this type of work is never ending.

Recently, in memory of her parents Tessie and Charles Bugeya who had been dedicated members first of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto, then the Malta Band Club, Joanne Bugeya and her brother David have made a substantial donation of various items. Thanks to the Bugeya siblings the museum is now home to five *ghonnelli* or *faldetti*. We had three; they donated two more. A larger collection of Maltese costumed dolls, Maltese glass and the intricate and beautiful Maltese lace are just some of the many items which they donated. The museum library has more volumes owing to their book donation, some of which are very old.

Exhibits which have been improved are the costumed doll exhibit, the Malta glass collection, Maltese/Gozitan lace display and a new large exhibit of crochet doilies handmade by various Maltese women.

In the past year, others have also made donations, for example Dame Violet Sillato, O.S.J. in memory of her husband Knight Commander Michael Sillato, K.O.S.J. and Mr. Robert Debatisse in memory of his parents Antoine and Virginia Debatisse. Robert's father had been one of the founders of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto in 1922 and an avid bandsman. His wife Virginia was deeply involved with St. Paul the Apostle Church and was a

committee member of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto.

We hope that in the not-too-distant future we will be open to the public. I thank the constant cooperation of Fathers Mario and Ivano of St. Paul's and the dedication of the hard-working museum/archives team.





**Maltese Glass**



**Dolls Dressed in the Traditional Maltese *Faldetta***





**Maltese /Gozitan Handmade Lace  
Much of It Donated recently by Joanne Bugeya**

## 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.omnity.ca › shows › lehen-malti>  
c/o 2387 Chilsworthy 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  
[joeshherri@rogers.com](mailto:joeshherri@rogers.com)

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

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

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

**Maltese Heritage Program (Toronto)**

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

**Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)**

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

**Melita Soccer Club Inc.**

3336 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A4  
416-763-5317

[msc@melitasoccerclub.com](mailto:msc@melitasoccerclub.com)

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 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](https://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

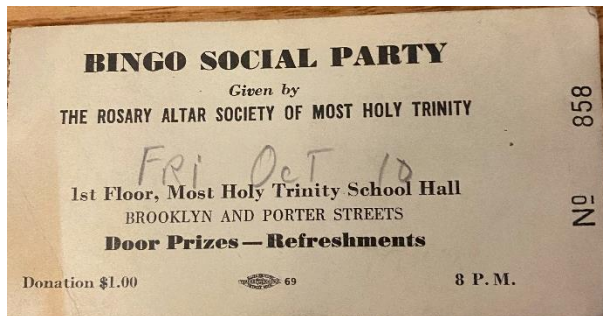
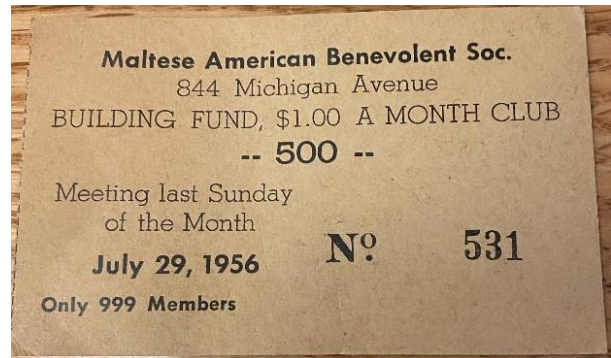
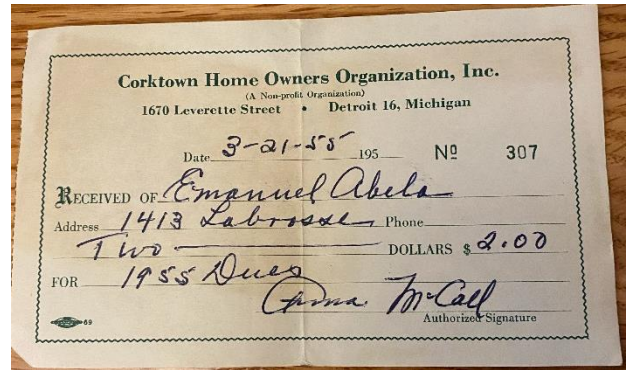
**ABELA FAMILY MEMORABILIA**

**Dan Brock**

The following were found by Gerry Abela in a box containing family mementos. Gerry has kindly allowed me to share these glimpses into the activities of a Maltese American family living in Detroit's Corktown in the Fifties.

Emanuel Abela (1912-1975), Gerry's father, had immigrated to Detroit, from Sliema, Malta, on board the *Sobieski* in March 1948. Back in Malta, he had been a fitter. Frank Musa, the father of Emanuel's wife, Rosaria Lucy (1917-2008), was already living at 4005 Howard Street in Corktown. Rosaria and her then three children—Carmen, Joseph and Mary Rose—came out on the *Sobieski*, by way of Naples, in November 1949. Emanuel was living at 1031 8<sup>th</sup> Street, more than a block south of Howard, at the time. The Abela family was to live at 1413 Labrosse Street, three blocks north of Howard, in the Fifties.

Gerry was the only child of Emanuel and Rosaria to be born in the United States.



Either 1952 or 1958

