



THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 57

FEBRUARY 2024

THE 100th BIRTHDAY OF WALTER ATTARD IS CELEBRATED AT THE MANDARIN RESTAURANT IN LONDON, ONTARIO

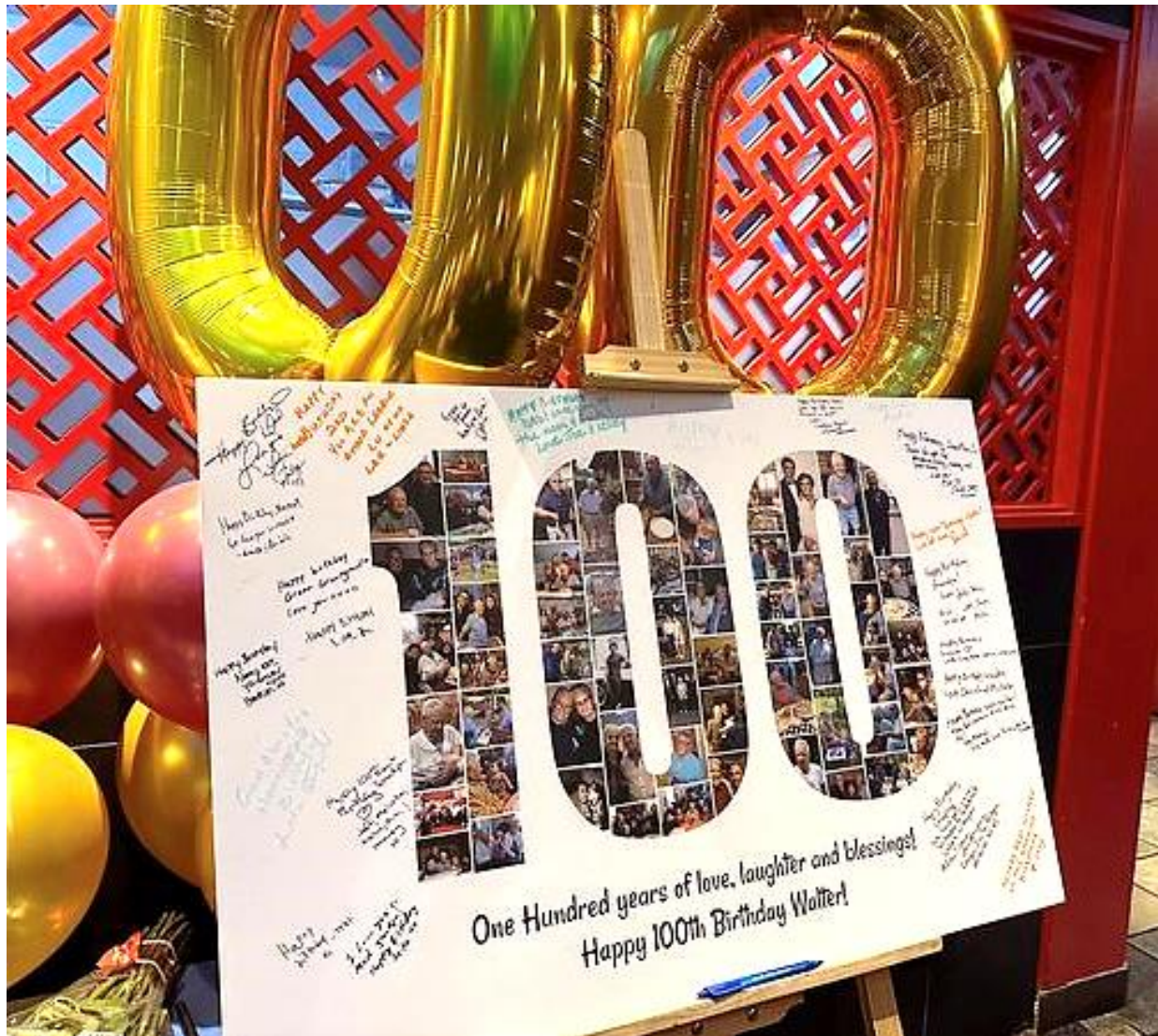


Photo courtesy of his son, Wally Attard.

**The Maltese Presence
in North America
Issue No. 57 February
2024**

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Several group and individual events have taken place among the Maltese in North America during the past several weeks.

On December 12, 2023, Joseph A. Galea, a third-generation Maltese-American was sworn in as Mayor of the Village of Monroeville, Ohio. (See page 6.)

A Maltese baking demonstration was held at the Maltese-American Community Club in Dearborn, Michigan, on January 14th. (See pages 6-8.)

On January 16th, Fr. Raymond Falzon, OFM, a former pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto, paid a visit to the Maltese-Canadian Museum. (See page 9.)

That same day, Walter Attard of London, Ontario, became only the fifth known person of Maltese birth in Canada to have achieved the distinction of reaching the age of 100 years. (See pages 1, 10-11.)

Two days later, the local group of Maltese Canadians and friends also living in the London area held their monthly luncheon at one of the two Mandarin Restaurants in that same city. (See pages 11-12.)

A volunteer appreciation Mass and dinner were held at St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex in Toronto on Saturday, January 20th. (See pages 13-15.)

The Greater Toronto Area artist, Joseph Muscat, has an interesting showing at the Propellor Art Gallery in Toronto, using his late mother's treasured silverware. (See page 16.)

The seventh year of the opening of the Maltese-Canadian Museum to the public was marked with an open house on Sunday, January 28th.

This issue concludes with an article, written in 1984 by the late Carmelo Caruana, regarding the award-winning professional photographer Charles V. Vella of the Greater Toronto Area. (See pages 20-21.)

Back issues of this newsletter and the latest "Table of Contents" are posted on the web page of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco at <http://maltese-americanscsf.org/home.aspx>.

Click on to "News & Resources."

If you have ideas to share, wish to be put on the free bcc electronic mailing lists, would like to learn the newsletter's advertising rates, etc., I may be reached at danbrock62@gmail.ca.

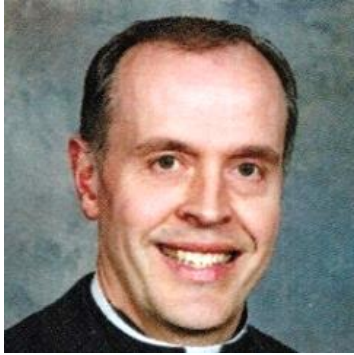
The various Maltese organizations and associations in North America are encouraged to use this e-newsletter to promote themselves and their activities.

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**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH,
TORONTO, CANADA**

From our Pastor's Desk...



Fr. Roy Farrell, a diocesan priest within the Archdiocese of Toronto, is pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Toronto, the only Maltese parish outside Malta worldwide.

Parish Bulletin for January 20th-21st

In this week's pastor's corner, I would like to emphasize the significance of praying for unity among Christians. I would like to invite all to join us at an upcoming event scheduled for this coming Sunday, January 21st, at 4pm at St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Cathedral 455 Ferrier St. (Steeles Ave. E. & Warden Ave.), Markham. Please join Archbishop Francis Leo and a diverse group of Christian leaders in praying for the restoration of full visible unity, as willed by Jesus Christ for the Church. The Livestream for this event is available for access at: <https://bit.ly/WPCU2024live>. I would like to offer some insight into the historical context of this annual event.

In 1908, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was established as the Octave of Christian Unity, placing significant emphasis on the act of prayer for the unity of the church. Father Paul Wattson, cofounder of the Graymoor Franciscan Friars, proposed the dates of the week. He conceived of the week beginning on the Feast of the Confession of Peter, the variant of the ancient Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, on 18 January, and concluding with the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul on 25 January.

Pope Pius X granted his official blessing to the concept, while Benedict XV actively promoted its observance across the Roman Catholic Church. To emphasize the relationship between Christian unity and the Petrine See, Wattson temporarily renamed the observance as the "Chair of Unity Octave".

In the mid-1920s, Protestant leaders further suggested an annual period of prayer for Christian unity, taking place before Pentecost Sunday, the customary observance of the Church's birthday. If you cannot attend this upcoming event, I would like to encourage you to pray for its success and to explore opportunities for engaging with fellow Christians in our neighbourhood and the wider community.

Parish Bulletin for January 27th-28th

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who volunteer your time and talent to serve our parish in various ways. You are the living examples of stewardship, generosity, and hospitality that make our parish a vibrant and welcoming community. As your pastor, your recommitment during the 4:30 p.m. Mass deeply moved me last Saturday. It was a truly beautiful demonstration of your strong faith and love for God and His Church. I am truly thankful to God for the many gifts and blessings He has given to both you and our parish community.

I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation of the delicious potluck and the inspiring volunteer testimonies. We have a lot of dedicated volunteers who love God and our parish. They serve with great devotion. I also want to invite and encourage those who have not yet joined any ministry to consider doing so. There are many opportunities for you to share your gifts and talents with others, and to grow in your relationship with God and the parish family. Whether you are interested in liturgy, music, catechesis, outreach, or social activities, there is a place for you in our parish. If you are interested in joining a ministry, please contact the parish office to complete the screening process and to meet with me, Fr. Roy. I would love to get to know you better and to help you discern what ministry is best suited for you. A parish that welcomes is a parish that grows. We are a welcoming community that reflects the love of Christ to all. Thank you for being part of this wonderful parish and for your generous stewardship. May God bless you and your families.

**ACTIVITIES WITHIN
THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES**

Dan Brock

MICHIGAN

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc

The **Annual General Meeting** was held, beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 28th. The 2024-25 **Executive Board** is as follows:



Maltese American Community Club, Dearborn

A **Maltese Baking Demonstration** was held at the Club, beginning at 2:00 p.m., on Sunday, January 14, 2023. (See pages 6-8)

The **First Friday of February Meal and Mass** were held at the Club on February 2nd.

The **St. Paul's Feast and Rabbit Dinner**, to be held on the evening of Saturday, February 10th, is sold out!

NEW YORK

Maltese Center, NYC

A **Bingo** was held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 14th.

Another **Bingo** is being held on Sunday, February 11th, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

The annual **St. Paul's Mass** will be celebrated by Fr. Anthony Saliba, at 7:00 p.m., on Saturday, February 17th. A complimentary **Ravioli Dinner** with follow after Mass.

ONTARIO

Greater Toronto Area (GTA)

Lehen Malti

LEHEN MALTI
(Maltese Voice)

OMNI 1 – Ontario
Saturdays 8:30 a.m.
Tuesdays 11:30 a.m.
Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

OMNI BC
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

OMNI Alberta
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

Malta Band Club

A **Luncheon and Social** will take place at the Club starting at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, February 21st.

MBC LUNCHEON AND SOCIAL

WHEN: FEBRUARY 21ST 2024
TIME: 12:00 NOON
PLACE: MALTA BAND CLUB
5745 COOPERS AVE MISSISSAUGA
MENU: APPETIZERS, PASTA AND CHICKEN PARMIGIANA.
PRICE: \$35.00 PER PERSON

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL:
TONY VELLA AT 905 450 5885.
VIRGINIA AT 416 873 6013
CLUB AT 905 890 8507.

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

Maltese Canadian Federation

A **Town Hall Meeting** is planned in the lower hall of St. Paul the Apostle Church, at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, March 10th.



Excitement in the air, beats in our hearts! Join us at **Maltafest 2024** on **June 22nd** at **Runnymede Park** – where the Maltese Canadian Federation brings you the ultimate fusion of music, entertainment, delectable bites, a buzzing beer garden, and a kids’ zone that promises joy for all ages. Let’s make memories that resonate with the rhythm of a fantastic summer day! 🎵🍷🌮 #Maltafest2024



Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre

The **Museum** was **open to the public** from 9:00 a.m. until just after the 12:00 noon Mass, on Sunday, January 28th, to commemorate its seventh anniversary of being open to the general public. (See pages 17-20.)

Melita Soccer Club, Inc.

A **bus trip** to **Casino Rama** took place on Saturday, January 27th.

The **Carnival Dinner Dance** is being held on Saturday, February 10th.

The **Fallsview Casino bus trip** will take place on Saturday, February 24th.

The **St. Patrick’s Dinner Dance** will be held on Saturday, March 16th.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

A **Volunteer Appreciation Mass and Dinner** were hosted on Saturday, January 20th. (See pages 13-15)

A **Dinner & Dance** is being held on Saturday, February 10th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The dinner is to consist of five courses.

On **Shrove Tuesday**, February 13th, a Pancake Breakfast, consisting of pancakes and sausages, will be held, following the 9:15 a.m. Mass.

London

A **Luncheon** for the Maltese group of the area and friends was held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at the **Mandarin Restaurant** on Wellington Road South. (See pages 11-12.)

Another **Luncheon** will take place on Thursday, February 22nd at the **Swiss Chalet**, on Wonderland Road South at 12:30 p.m.

Windsor

Malta United Society

The first **Ravioli Dinner** of the new year was held on Saturday, January 27th, at 6:00 p.m.

A **General Members’ Meeting** will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 17th. The kitchen and bar will be open during the meeting.

**JOSEPH A GALEA:
MAYOR OF MONROEVILLE, OHIO**

Godfrey Carmel Xuereb*

Mr. Joseph A Galea was elected to the office of Mayor of the Village of Monroeville, Ohio, and was sworn in on December 12, 2023.



Swearing-in ceremony as mayor on December 12, 2023, at the Monroeville Municipal Complex, Monroeville, Ohio. L to R: Tom Gray, Village Administrator; Bonnie Beck, Fiscal Officer; James Barney, Solicitor; Joseph A Galea, Mayor; Melissa Fries-Seip, former mayor; and Gary Lyons, Police Chief

Mr Galea is a proud member of the Maltese diaspora and was born in Dearborn, Michigan to Joseph and Beverlee Galea. His father's parents, John and Lily, were both born in Birkirkara, Malta before World War II. His grandfather John immigrated to Detroit and began working for General Motors after which he sent for his wife Lily and his daughter Catherine. They immigrated in 1952 and his father was born in Detroit in 1953. Mr Galea graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in history from the University of Florida in 2008 and a juris doctor (law) degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio in 2021. He is a full-time attorney at the law firm of Murray & Murray Co, LPA in Sandusky, Ohio. Mr Galea moved to the Village of Monroeville, Ohio in 2020 and was elected to the village's council in 2021. In 2023 he was elected the village's mayor with his term beginning January 1, 2024. Monroeville is a historic village that was founded in 1868 and has a population of 1,300. It is situated halfway between Cleveland, Ohio and Toledo, Ohio. <http://monroevilleohio.com/>

*Dr. Xuereb is Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to the United States.

Editor's Note: Malta-born Tony Perici was mayor of Twinsburg, Ohio, between 1976 and 1987. An article relating to him appeared in the May/June 2019 issue of this newsletter



Qaghag Ta-l Gunglien (Maltese Biscuit)

MALTESE BAKING DEMONSTRATION

Margaret Muscat Purdy

Maltese Baking Day took place on Sunday, January 14th, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

The cooking demonstration at the Maltese-American Community Club here in Dearborn, Michigan was a big success. There were three Maltese cookie recipes demonstrated. Sesame Rings, (Qagħaq tal-Gunglien), Almond Macaroons, (Biskuttini tal-Lewż), and Honey Rings, (Qagħaq tal-Għasel).

My sister, Rita Dachs, made our mom's recipe for Qagħaq tal-Gunglien (sesame seed biscuits).

- 6 cups flour
- 1 lb brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- Juice of 2 oranges
- 1 stick of butter softened
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp anise seed
- Peel of 2 oranges
- Dash ground cloves
- Dash allspice



Mix flour and brown sugar in a large bowl. Make a hole in the flour mixture. Put in eggs and juice of oranges and mix. Add softened butter. Mix together. Add baking powder, anise seed, peel of 2 oranges, cloves and allspice. Mix together with hands until just blended. If too dry can add some water to be able to roll dough into a long roll. Roll into sesame seeds. Cut into 6 inch long pieces and make into doughnut shape. Bake at 350 for 15-16 minutes



Rita Dachs and qagħaq tal-ġunġlien



Qagħaq tal-ġunġlien

Esther Formosa stepped in for Rita Vella and made Rita's recipe for Biskuttini tal-Lewż (almond macaroons).

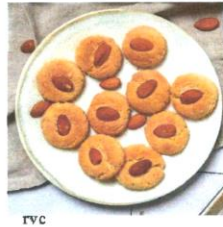
Biskuttini tal-lewz

ALMOND MACAROONS

Maltese pastries come in many varieties dependent on family tradition, local custom, feast days and special occasions. These almond macaroons are an essential part of this tradition and are known as "biskuttini tal-lewz."

INGREDIENTS

- 8 oz. Almond Paste
- 8 oz. Sugar
- 2 large egg whites (at room temperature)
- Rice Paper 3 sheets
- Slice Almonds for garnish
- Makes 2 1/2 dozen



rvc

METHOD

- Pre Heat oven at 325
- First shred the almond paste before mixing in the sugar. This will make it easier to mix.
- Add in the sugar and blend in well before adding the egg whites.
- Add egg whites and beat until mixture is smooth and no lumps appear.
- Lay the rice paper on baking sheets.
- Drop mixture by rounded tablespoon, keeping 2 inch distance between one another.
- On each cookie place a sliced almond and lightly press.
- Bake in a preheated oven at 325 for about 12 - 15 minutes until lightly browned.
- Remove cookies from the oven and let them cool for a few minutes. Once they are cooled trim off rice paper on sides of cookies.
- Store in air tight container.



Esther Formosa and biskuttini tal-lewż



Biskuttini tal-lewż

Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci made her recipe for Qagħaq tal-Għasel (honey rings).



Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci and qagħaq tal-għasel



Qagħaq tal-għasel

Lovely ladies made the most delicious baked goods and we had plenty of yummy samples! The club soon smelled like Nanna's kitchen! Everyone reminisced about how their nannas made them and it was fun hearing all the different variations!



Holly Ivey served beverages at the bar, Rena Xuereb and Mary Motowski served hot fresh pastizzi, sold merchandise, memberships, and rabbit dinner tickets! Most of all thank you to everyone who, despite the arctic weather that descended upon us, braved the cold and supported our club and kept Maltese traditions going!

**FR. RAYMOND FALZON, OFM,
PAYS A VISIT TO
THE MALTESE-CANADIAN MUSEUM**

Richard S. Cumbo, Curator

On Tuesday, January 16th the former pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Franciscan Friar Father Raymond Falzon visited the Maltese-Canadian Museum. Father Raymond is considered the founder of what is now the Maltese-Canadian Museum.

Originally the "museum" started in the 1980s as a collection of church artifacts, documents, religious vestments, etc. along one wall of the large upper hall at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 3224 Dundas Street, West, Toronto. Over the years various donations were added to the collection, and in time some Maltese community organizations were represented as well.

The museum is home to Maltese associations which now no longer exist, for example the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto (1922-2019), Maltese Programme Fan Club, Hibernians Soccer Club, 172nd Scout Group, The Maltese-Canadian Club of London, and many others.

The museum team took advantage of Fr. Raymond's visit to have a short photo shoot with him.



**Front row: Rose Cassar, Marthese Fenech,
Father Raymond, and Carmen Galea.
Back row: Mike Gouveia,
Mani Mifsud, and Richard Cumbo**

Photo by Rita Apalit

In the photo below, the talented and artistic Father Raymond is shown standing behind a collection of chess pieces he made during the period of 1989 to 1990. He entitled the handmade individual ornate characters "Undefined Borders". It expresses the sensitive and at times volatile situation found in Malta during the 1970s and 80s between the Church and State. The major life like individuals depicted in each piece were active at the time representing the Church and State.



Photo by Mani Mifsud

During his tour of the museum, Fr. Raymond informed the curator and volunteers that he had donated a piece of the sash which had belonged to Marie Louise, the second wife of Napoleon Bonaparte. This sash is now on display.

Through Fr. Raymond's generosity and that of others, the Maltese-Canadian Museum is a unique institution home to many valuable and important artifacts and documents.

The *Times of Malta* for Tuesday, February 13, 1951, note that its correspondent in Windsor, George Bonavia, had reported that the Maltese immigrants, who had been awaiting allocations at the Ajax Camp east of Toronto, had been given employment. The only exceptions were two individuals who had their return passage booked on the *Saturnia*, which was to sail from New York Harbor on Saturday, February 17th.
Twenty-three more Maltese immigrants were expected to arrive in Canada during the week of February 11th. Their passage had been arranged prior to the temporary suspension of emigration from Malta.

WALTER ATTARD CELEBRATES HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY AMONG FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Dan Brock*

On the evening of Tuesday, January 16th, family and friends joined Walter Attard at the Mandarin Restaurant, along Wellington Road South in London, Ontario, in celebration of his 100th birthday.

Walter, the son of Joseph and Mary (Mifsud), Attard, was born in Birgu (Vittoriosa), Malta, on January 16, 1924.

On January 22, 1949, at the Parish Church in Paola, Walter married Martha Vella of that town.

In June 1951, Martha's brother, James "Jimmy" Vella had left home to join his girlfriend, Mary Debono, who had left Malta the previous April to join her sister and brother-in-law, Concetta "Connie" and Albert "Bert" Pellegrini, who were living in London, Ontario, Canada.

Bert was one of the more than 300 "pioneering" men who had sailed for Canada on board the *Vulcania*, in June 1948. His wife, Connie, and their two children, Mary "Madeline" and Carmela "Carmen", had followed in October of that year.

By the summer of 1951, the Attards had also decided to follow Jimmy Vella and the Pellegrinis to London. On September 21st of that same year, he disembarked from the *Argentina*, in New York Harbor on September 21st. Like his brother-in-law Jimmy Vella before him, Walter spent a few days with his brother-in-law Frank Vella and Frank's wife Anna in New York City before continuing his journey to London.

He soon found his own accommodations on the east side of Wilson Avenue and work at Tilbest Foods Ltd. on the east side of Wharncliffe Road South and made arrangements for his wife, Martha, and their two children, Mary and Lee, to join him.

Martha and the children arrived in New York Harbor, on board the *Nea Hellas*, on December 18, 1951. No doubt Martha's brother, Frank Vella, was there to meet her and she and the children spent a few days with him in New York City before proceeding to London.

Meanwhile, Walter's boss, Mr. Peachie, at Tilbest Foods, had taken a liking to this recent immigrant from Malta and the difficulties facing Walter's family as it prepared for its first Christmas in Canada.

As he and his family would not be home at Christmas, he insisted that Walter and his family spend Christmas in his house. He also contacted the Salvation Army.

Imagine the surprise, joy, and thankfulness of the Attard family when members of the Army showed up with winter clothing, toys for the children, and a \$10 food voucher. As Walter's youngest son, Wally, was later to relate, his parents were able to purchase two bags of groceries and still have change left from that voucher!

Over the next several years, Walter and Martha were to have three more children: Joe, Charlie, and Wally.

To the best of my knowledge, Walter Attard is only the fifth Canadian of Maltese birth to have reached the age of 100.



**(l to r) Front row: Walter Attard and his youngest son, Wally.
Back row: Lee, Joe, and Charlie Attard.
Absent, their sister, Mary.**

Photos courtesy of Wally Attard.

Vincent Mifsud of Vancouver, BC was 100 years old when he died in 1982. Carmela Farrugia of London, ON, died at the age of 106 in 2005. Emmanuel Schembri, also of London, passed away at the age of 104 in 2019. Len Connor, of nearby St. Thomas, ON was 103 at the time of his death in 2023. (See the August 2019, March 2020, July 2019, and April-May 2023 issues respectively of this newsletter.)

As there is at least one male Maltese native who is currently 99 years of age and living in London, Ontario, the area appears to be very conducive to longevity among the Maltese.

**I wish to extend my thanks and gratitude to Wally Attard, Walter's youngest child, for his help and assistance in preparing this article.*

JANUARY LUNCHEON

Dan Brock

Over 20 of us braved the cold weather and poor road conditions to meet for lunch, on Thursday, January 18th, at the Mandarin Restaurant on Wellington Road South in London, Ontario.

A newcomer to our luncheon was Michael Zammit of New Jersey, who was visiting his mother, Elsa Zammit and brother, Paul.



Clockwise: Melrose Paquet, Michael Zammit, Elsa Zammit, Mary Vella, Joe & Tessie Mallia, Jennifer Paquet, and Charles Micallef



Lynda & Tony Galea, Jim McDonald, and Helen Ditchfield



Charles Micallef, Melrose Paquet, Rose Micallef, Bernadette & Joe Gall, and Paul Zammit



Helen Ditchfield and Mike Ditchfield



Connie Hislop, Janet Peckham, Loretta Brock, and Barbara & Ted Gauci



Janet Peckham, Loretta Brock, and Barbara Gauci

Melrose Paquet's birthday was observed after the meal.



Charles Micallef, Melrose Paquet, and Rose Micallef

In November 1993, George Bonavia, then living in Ottawa, Ontario, wrote that the majority of Maltese immigrants came to Canada after the Second World War and mainly settled in Ontario, with the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) being the largest Maltese community in Canada.

According to the Canada 1991 census, there were 15,520 people of Maltese origin in the Country with 14,605 living in Ontario. British Columbia reported 430, Quebec 204, Alberta 170, Manitoba 85, Nova Scotia 25, and 10 each in Newfoundland and New Brunswick 10.

Of those living in Ontario, 10,470 lived in the GTA; 845 in London; 605 in Oshawa; 545 in Windsor; 500 in Hamilton; 315 in St Catharines; 145 in Ottawa-Hull; 105 in Kitchener; and 10 each in Sudbury and in Thunder Bay.

In other cities in Canada, there were 225 in Vancouver; 160 in Montreal; 75 in Winnipeg; 65 each in Calgary and Edmonton; 30 in Victoria; 15 in Halifax; and 10 in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Cited from *Wirt Malta: The Legacy of Malta*, vol.1, no. 7 (March 1994), page 7

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION
MASS AND DINNER**

Richard S. Cumbo

An event took place at Toronto's St. Paul's Church on the evening of Saturday, January 20th, in appreciation to the many volunteers serving St. Paul the Apostle Maltese-Canadian Parish. The pastor Father Roy Farrell, Maltese-Canadian Deacon Ray Freno and parish secretary Ms. Rita Apalit, with the assistance of the hardworking members (volunteers) of the social committee, organized this annual activity.

The evening started with Mass. Afterwards, all went to the lower floor of the parish hall.

Representatives of various parish ministries/groups were present, for example, lectors, musicians/choir, eucharistic ministers, ushers, Maltese-Canadian Museum personnel, counters, and more.

Those present in St. Paul's Lower Hall numbered about 80. All feasted on a delicious array of home-cooked food.



Debbie & Mark Gove (Josie's daughter and son-in-law), Josephine "Josie" Micallef (age 87), and her youngest daughter, Therese. Josie's parents, the Fenechs, came to Canada in the 1920s and lived on Gilmour Avenue in the Junction for many decades.

Photo courtesy of Kealey Kennedy



Some of the volunteers present

Photo by Richard Cumbo



(L. to R.) Seated: Christine Mifsud, Marthese Fenech, Madlene Cumbo, and Carmen Galea. Standing: Mani Mifsud, Richard Cumbo, Nigel Klemenčič-Puglisevich, and Mike Fenech

Photo courtesy of Kealey Kennedy

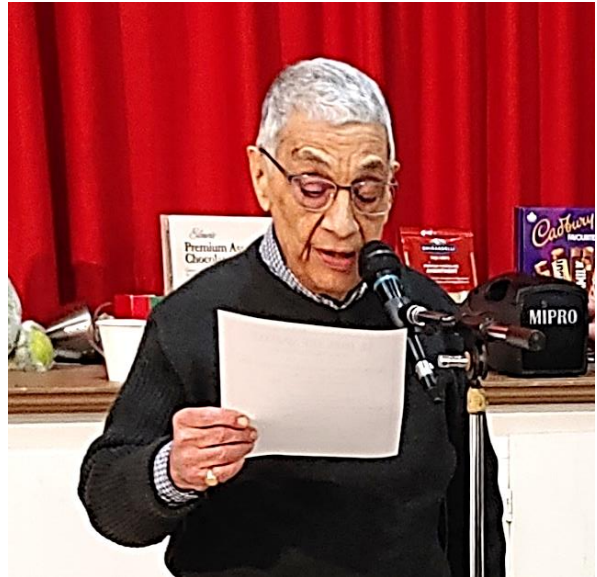
Many won prizes in the lottery which took place.

The master of ceremonies was Godwin Darmanin. During the evening, he introduced Ms. Joanne Saragosa and Mr. Ian Saliba who spoke about volunteerism and the importance of it in the community.



Joanne Saragosa and Father Roy during the lottery

Photo courtesy of Kealey Kennedy



Godwin Darmanin

Photo courtesy of Rose Cassar

A special added event was the 86th birthday of parish singer/organist Alfred Fenech. Present with him were his wife Doris and son David.



Alfred Fenech (centre) with son David and wife Doris

Photo courtesy of Kealey Kennedy



Lector Ms. Joanne Saragosa speaking about her volunteerism experiences over many years

Photo courtesy of Rose Cassar



Altar server Ian Saliba speaking about his experiences in volunteerism

Photo courtesy of Rose Cassar

Father Roy thanked everyone for attending the Mass and the dinner, he added that the strong sense of volunteerism at St. Paul's is what strengthens the parish and community.



Father Roy, St. Paul's pastor speaking about the importance of volunteerism

Photo courtesy of Rose Cassar



Kealey Kennedy and Nigel Klemenčič-Puglisevich

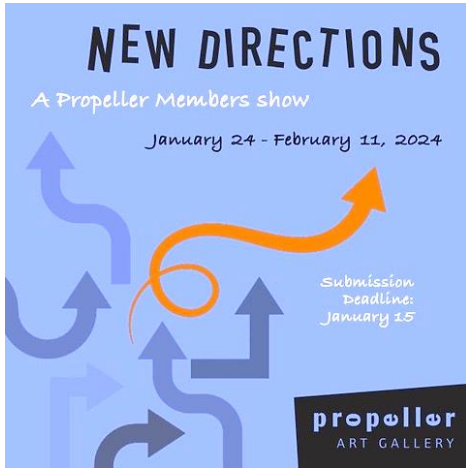
Photo courtesy of Kealey Kennedy, taken by David Fenech

During the first half of 1983, the activities of the Maltese Canadian Social Club of Guelph, Ontario, included a Valentine's Dance at Holy Rosary Hall on Saturday, February 12th; a Stag at the Orange Hall on Friday, March 25th; a General Meeting at the Victoria Road Recreation Centre on Sunday, April 16th; an Anniversary Dance at the UE Hall on Saturday, May 7th; a Garage, Rummage, & Bake Sale on Saturday, May 28th.

JOSEPH MUSCAT'S LATEST CREATION

Dan Brock*

Propeller Art Gallery, 30 Abell Street, Toronto, Ontario, has a members show, entitled New Directions, which opened on January 24th and will run until February 11th.



Among the exhibitions is the work shown below by Joseph Muscat.



TREASURE 2024

Silver plated items, tar paper, acrylic, silverleaf
Installation
60 x 54 in

Joseph Muscat is a Maltese Canadian visual artist and art and exhibition consultant who lives in the Greater Toronto Area. A biographical sketch of him appeared in the October 2020 issue of this newsletter.

Of "Treasure 2024" Joseph writes: "My mother's silver, once reverently housed in a display cabinet, was off limits and never used but treasured. Now that Mom has been gone for three years, her treasure is celebrated for all to see in this New Directions show. After all, our mothers are our biggest treasures."



The Artist with his creation

**I wish to thank Joseph Muscat for providing the photos and information for this article.*

**OPEN HOUSE AT TORONTO'S
MALTESE-CANADIAN MUSEUM**

Richard S. Cumbo, Curator

On Sunday, January 28, 2024 the Maltese-Canadian Museum celebrated its seventh year since it opened its doors to the general public.



Over 50 came to view the unique collection of artifacts and the information on the Maltese community in Canada. Some of the attendees were the Consul General of Malta Ms. Denise Demicoli, artist Joseph Muscat and his wife Kathy, author Mar Fenech and her husband Brad, and the secretary of the Maltese-Canadian Federation, Ms. Magdalena Falzon, who attended on behalf of the Federation's new president, Carl Azzopardi.



Front row (l to r) Kathy Boschen, her artist husband, Joseph Muscat, author Mar Fench, Ms. Denise Demicoli, Consul General of Malta in Toronto; and Marthese Fenech.

Back row: Brad Marks, Richard Cumbo, and Niġel Klemenčič-Puglisevich

Courtesy of Kealey Kennedy



The volunteers with some of the guests

Photo courtesy of Kealey Kennedy



(l to r) Rose Cassar, Kealey Kennedy, Tessie Vella, Alfred Fenech, and Carmen Galea

Courtesy of Kealey Kennedy



Digitization of some documents
Kealey Kennedy (centre) with brother Terry
and Curator Richard Cumbo
 Courtesy of Denise Demicoli



Ryan Fenech and his mother,
Museum volunteer Marthese Fenech
 Photo by Richard Cumbo



Museum volunteers
Rose Cassar and Carmen Galea
 Courtesy of Denise Demicoli

The library contains many books in Maltese and in English which may be signed out. It contains various subjects on the history of Malta, life in the Maltese villages, Malta at war, and much more.



Courtesy of Denise Demicoli



Checking out the large coin display

Courtesy of Denise Demicoli

Chairperson Fr. Roy Farrell of St. Paul's was pleased with the success of the event and thanked the curator and museum volunteers for their dedication and hard work. Refreshments were provided in St. Paul's Lower Hall by the very active social committee of St. Paul the Apostle Church.



**(l to r) Front row: Ava Skurski and her twin sisters, Sofia and Olivia
Middle row: Paul Skurshi, his wife Kathy Fenech, and her parents, Janina & Philip Fenech
Back row: Richard Cumbo**

Courtesy of Kealey Kennedy



Artist Joseph Muscat & his wife Kathy Boschen and author Mar Fenech & her husband Brad Marks

Courtesy of Kealey Kennedy

On Tuesday, February 27, 2007, at Nassau Community College, Garden City, New York, Prof. Steve Paterno gave a lecture entitled "Malta: An Ancient Civilization in the 21st Century." His uncle, surnamed Formosa, had constructed the Maltese Cross on the ceiling in the Lower Hall of the Maltese Centre in Astoria, New York.



Eddie Puglisevich, his daughter Diana Klemencic, and his grandson Nigel Klemenčič-Puglisevich

Courtesy of Kealey Kennedy

The collection was started about 35 years ago by the Franciscan priest and artist Raymond Falzon of St. Paul the Apostle Church. Initially it comprised church memorabilia (old vestments, religious artifacts, etc.) relating to St. Paul's.

In time, other Franciscans (e.g. Father Andrew Cuschieri, OFM) began donating their private collection, for example coins, stamps, medals, etc. All of this further enhanced the growing collection. The collection already had in its possession old photos, documents, and a 1934 trophy belonging to the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto (1922-2019).

With the demise of six Maltese clubs in the Junction during the late 1980s and 90s, more was added to the collection.

It was during the pastorship of Fr. Manuel Parnis, MSSP, it was decided that the collection/museum should be opened to the general public. This took place on January 29, 2017, Fr. Manuel appointed its first curator, myself, and he himself became the first chairperson.



CHARLES V. VELLA MASTER OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS

Camelo Caruana*

Charlie Vella, as he is popularly known, was a teenager living in Malta when he bought his first camera. It was a big moment, but hardly an event that would suggest he should choose photography as a career, or if he did, that he might become a Master of the Photographic Arts.

But that's the way things turned out. Last August [1984], at a packed banquet in Toronto, he stood to the applause of his peers—many of the finest photographers in Canada were in attendance—and stepped forward to be declared a Master of the Photographic Arts by the President of the Professional Photographers of Canada.



Charles V. Vella receiving the Master of Photographic Arts Award

It is a well-deserved recognition. As Canada Packers' Staff Photographer for the past 12 years, he carried out demanding assignments in almost every category of commercial and industrial photography.

Large colour prints on the walls of his well-equipped studio at the Toronto plant are forceful acknowledgments of his skill. Several of the prints have won awards at major national photographic print shows. He's particularly proud that four of his prints are in the loan collection of the National Archives of Canada at Ottawa. It is appropriate recognition, since Charlie acquired most of his photographic skills after arriving in Canada in 1962.

Although he didn't know it at the time, the turning point of his life came when he transferred from the Toronto plant's Sales Analysis Department to its print shop.

There, he met Walter Cosman, a gregarious and enterprising photographer who was technically attached to the print shop but was industriously carving out a photographic niche in the company by running a makeshift studio behind supply stacks in a stationery storage area.

When Walter learned that Charlie was interested in photography, he encouraged the young man to improve his photographic skills. A short time later, Walter became the company's first full-time staff photographer. When a new studio was established in a former test kitchen at the Toronto plant, Walter asked Charlie to join him.

By the time Walter left the company in 1973, Charlie had completed several courses in photography and, with the knowledge and experience he had gained in the studio, he was well qualified to take over as Staff Photographer.

Since then, he has continued to polish his craft and hold accreditation in commercial, industrial, and audio visual still photography with the Professional Photographers of Canada.



But much of his ability as a photographer has come by doing. He says there's no teacher like experience. And experience he has had—in plenty.

He routinely carries out assignments of one kind or another for every division in the Company, and for most operations within those divisions.

Although he is called up to photograph everything from beef to boilers and portraits to product displays, more and more of his time is devoted to food photography.

One reason is that he has a close working relationship with Processed Meats Marketing Services, whose photographic needs are largely product related. Another is that Charlie has become a skilled food photographer, one of the most difficult of all photographic disciplines to master.

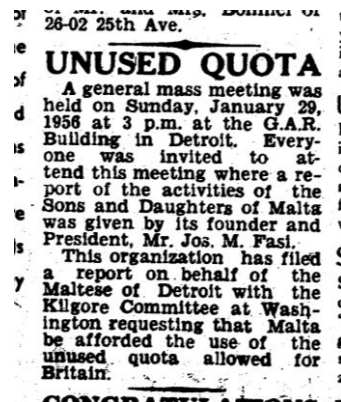
“There’s much more to it than most other forms of still photography,” he claims. The choice of lighting is tremendously important in setting the mood. The tableware and other accents must be appropriate to the setting and enhance the product. The product itself must be unblemished, as near perfect as possible. Every detail must be thought out beforehand. And even then, it may take the better part of a day to get just the effect we want.”

His award-winning food photography has appeared in product advertisements, sales brochures, on display panels at food fairs and restaurant shows, and for in-store promotions.

But, if food photography is the piece de resistance of his photographic menu, the rest of the fare is not to be slighted. He is resident photographer to the Maple Leaf publication, produces slides for audio-visual presentations, photographs products for sale brochures, takes portraits, photographs products for quality control standards, illustrates corporate publications, does ultra-violet photography for research, photographs processing lines and equipment, and carries out scores of other photographic assignments.

**This article, with slight changes, appeared in vol. 11, no. 1 (Spring 1985) of Maltese Forum, pages 17-18. This was the last issue of this periodical and appeared after the death of its editor C.A. “Camelo” Caruana.*

Charles Vincent Vella was a visual communication/professional photographer at Canada Packers Ltd./Maple Leaf Foods between May 1962 and March 1990. He is currently retired and living in Brampton, Ontario



The above item appeared in the *Times of Malta*, Tuesday, February 7, 1956, page 12, column 3

MALTESE ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

Festa San Gejtanu Association

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

Festa San Gorg Association of Toronto

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

Gozo Club Toronto

c/o 1205 Royal York Road, Toronto, ON M9A 4B5
416-231-9710
gozoclub@gmail.com

Inanna on Stage

www.joannedancer.com
c/o 356 Pacific Avenue, Toronto, ON M6P 2R1
416-707-2355
desertdancer007@yahoo.ca

Knights of Columbus - Canada – Council # 12782

c/o St Patrick's Church, 921 Flagship Drive,
Mississauga, ON, L4Y 2J6
905-270-2301 (Church)
stpatricksmi@archtoronto.org
Grand Knight Amadeo Cuschieri

Legion of Mary – “Our Lady of the Migrant”

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

Lehen Malti

<https://www.omnity.ca › shows › lehen-malti>
c/o 2387 Chilsworthy Avenue., Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
Contact Person: Joe Sherri
416-571-3944
email lehenmalti@hotmail.com

Malta Band Club

5745 Coopers Ave., Mississauga, ON L4Z 1K9
905-890-8507
www.maltabandclub.com
maltabandclub@bellnet.ca

Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

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

Malta Village Association (Est. 1995)

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

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.

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

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

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

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

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

Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH)

c/o 381 Fairview Drive, Brantford ON N3R 2X7
mcach1964@gmail.com

Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo)

c/o Trillium, Sqaq Nru 1, Triq it-Tigrija, ix-Xagħra
Tel: 011 356 21560656
mcagozo@hotmail.com

Maltese Canadian Business Network Association (MCBNA), (Toronto)

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
416-980-1975
mcbna2018@gmail.com

Maltese-Canadian Cruisers

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

Maltese-Canadian Cultural Association (Est. 2018)

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
416-571-3944
joesherri@rogers.com

Maltese Canadian Federation, The (Toronto)

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
416-571-3944
joesherri@rogers.com

Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre

St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex
3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A3
416-767-7054

Maltese Canucks

c/o 3336 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON,
M6P 2A4
416-909-7357/414-670-2662
carl@isqtransport.com/b_azzo18@yahoo.com

Maltese Center, NYC

27-20 Hoyt Ave. S. Astoria, NY 11102
718-728-9893
info@themaltesecenter.com

Opening hours:

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

Maltese Cross Foundation of California

PO Box 698, San Carlos, CA 94070

Maltese Culture Club of Durham

c/o 124 Ribblesdale Drive, Whitby, ON L1N 7C8
289-939-8377
mmpastizzi@gmail.com

Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area

maltesheritageassociation@gmail.com

Maltese Heritage Program (Toronto)

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

Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)

c/o leprofess@aol.com

Melita Soccer Club Inc.

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

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

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

St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mission Group

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

St. Paul the Apostle Youth Group (Toronto)

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

St. Paul's Maltese Choir

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

INTRODUCING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MALTESE CANADIAN FEDERATION

The Executive Committee



Carl Azzopardi



Jason Mercieca



Lisa Fenech



MALTESE CANADIAN FEDERATION



Magdalena Falzon



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