

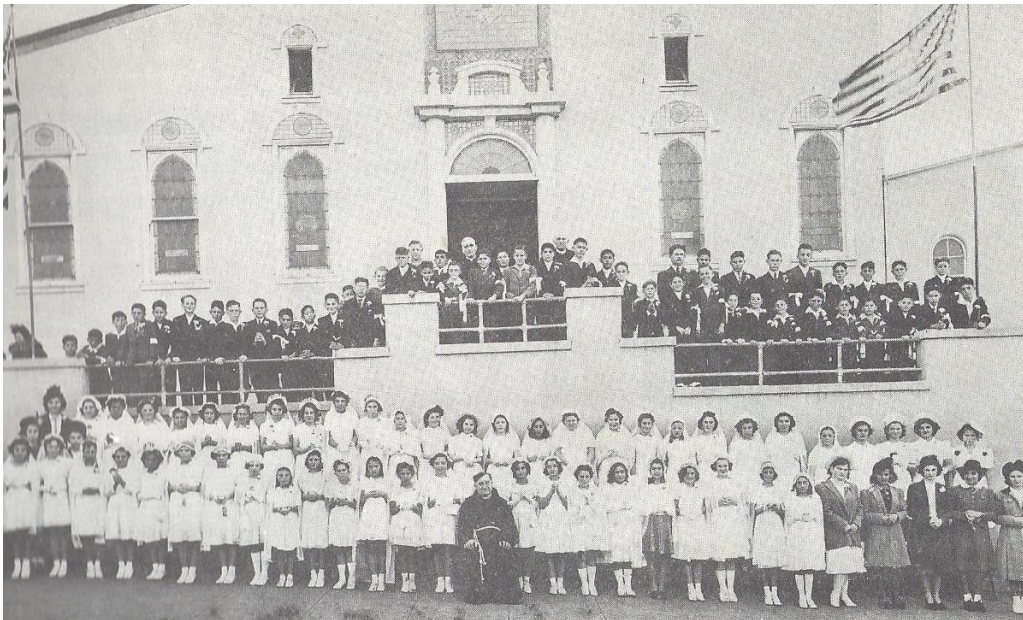
# THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



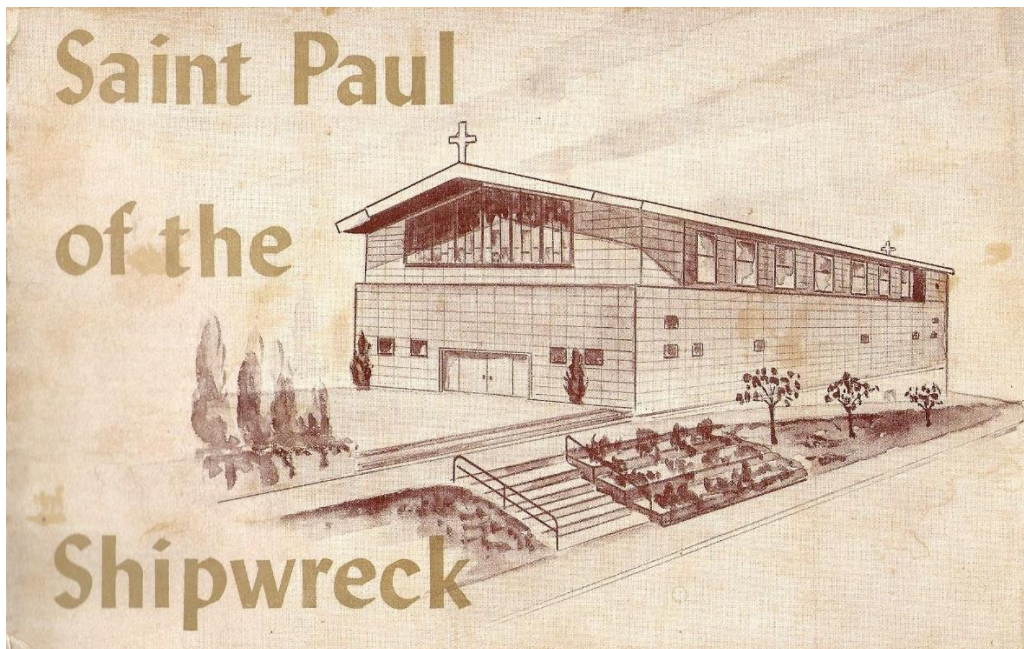
## E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 16

JULY 2020



Façade of the Original St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church, 1940



Front Cover of 1962 Booklet Relating to St. Paul of the Shipwreck Parish, San Francisco  
Showing the Architect's Sketch of the New Church

Courtesy of Fred Aquilina

**The Maltese Presence  
in North America**  
Issue No. 16 July 2020

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**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

More and more, you the readers are taking ownership of this newsletter. Since, even before the first issue appeared in January 2019 you were making suggestions for such a newsletter and contributing articles. This has since been followed by offers to proofread the issues and to post the back issues and the Table of Contents on the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco website. Moreover, you have referred others to me to add to the email lists or have taken it upon yourselves to print off copies to give to others.

*The Maltese Presence in North America* as has now been "included in the Register of non-governmental organizations set up outside Malta and which are involved in the promotion and protection of the interests of Maltese living abroad." Thus, this newsletter is yet another voice with The Council for the Maltese Living Abroad and the

Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs for the Maltese living throughout all North America.

This issue of the newsletter contains three items pertaining to charter flights between Toronto and Malta in years past (pages 5-7) and travel agencies in Toronto and in London, Ontario catering to the Maltese in 1980 (pages 7, 24).

From the other side of the continent we have the account of St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church when it was the heart and soul of the Maltese community in and around San Francisco. (See pages 1, 7-10.)

The second part of the account of the Gaffan family of Kingsville, Ontario is found on pages 11-12.

For those having a culinary aptitude a Maltese recipe for *kapunata* (caponata in English) with a North American touch is to be found on pages 21-22.

Those of an academic inclination may find the official correspondence between Malta and Great Britain as it related to possible immigration to Canada in 1910 of interest. (See pages 16-20.)

As in previous issues, the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada has provided valuable information for Maltese Canadians as well as for Maltese currently in Canada during this COVID-19 pandemic. (See pages 13-16.) If you have this newsletter printed and stapled, it will naturally open to the first page of this monthly message for easy reference.

Again, owing to the Coronavirus, there is little to report from the Maltese communities throughout North America. (See page 4.) The one ray of hope, however, is the limited opening of St. Paul the Apostle Church, Toronto, for weekend and weekday Masses. You are asked to remember Fr. Mario Micallef, the Pastor, in your prayers as he is recuperating from bypass surgery.

Once again, my sincere thanks to all those who have contributed in one way or another to the production and distribution of this newsletter. (See the upper left-hand

portion of this page.)

Two of the articles in the works for the August issue are on the lives of Monsignor Paul J. Gauci of the Diocese of New Orleans and later Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Carmelo Borg of Detroit. Carmelo's family life and family background were not those of the typical married, Maltese male immigrant to North America following the Second World War.

"ma i'm going out"



"see you!"



"au revoir!"



"adios!"



"bye!"



"out? where? with who? why? who'll drop you? when will you come? every day out out. is this a house or a hotel? how much money will you spend? uff. no time for parents. only going out. when i die, then you'll know."

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## GLEANINGS FROM THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

### PASTOR'S THOUGHTS...



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

#### **The Gift of the Holy Spirit**

How often in our lives do we find ourselves like those disciples [on the eve of that first Pentecost], perhaps paralyzed by our own fears, or enslaved by our own mistakes or those of others? Like those disciples in the upper room, we feel lost, confused, not knowing what to do or, if we know it, not having enough strength to do it....The Holy Spirit which we all received in our baptism is the fulfilment of Jesus' promise that he would never leave us alone. The Spirit of God gives us peace in troubled moments. It gives us wisdom to understand what we should do in difficult situations. It gives us courage and strength when we know that, on our own, we fall short of expectations.

This is God's gift to us. Let us never forget what we have been given, and make good use of it in our lives.

#### **We Are Created in God's Image**

When we say that we are created in God's image, it does not mean that God looks physically like me! We are in God's image in our togetherness, in our communion with each other....Some elements from the feast of the Holy Trinity can help us understand the implications of all this. We believe that the persons of the Trinity are all equal and distinct. Yet, the communion is so strong that it is one God that we speak of, not three.

Being created in God's likeness, we are all equally important and distinct personalities. We are different to each other, not better than any other. And yet, we are not created for loneliness. We need each other. We are made for relationships, for communion.

Unfortunately, this communion has been broken by our sinfulness. We remember that, again in that very first book of the bible, sin brought division in us....Having seen this, God immediately promised to remedy this situation. We know that this promise was fulfilled in the

coming of Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection reconciled us once more to God, among ourselves, and with nature.

When I think about myself as a human being remembering that I have been created in God's own image, I remember that I have been created for communion, to build relationships. It is there that I find my fulfillment.

#### **Following Jesus Is Not for the Faint-hearted**

....When Jesus tells us to do exactly as he does, he is basically telling us to love everybody, irrespective of who they are or what they have done! Yes, following Jesus is not for the faint-hearted!

This is what we are living out every time we celebrate the Eucharist. During Mass we listen to those words, over and over again: "Do this in remembrance of me." As we slowly start coming back to our churches it's good to remember that this is the command I am expected to live in my daily life, as I leave the church building after Mass. What I celebrate in church I am called to live outside of it. "Do this" is asking me to give my life to others, whiteout holding anything back, irrespective of what the "other" might be. Otherwise my celebration would be a contradiction.

Humanly speaking, this might be difficult to do....doing what Jesus is asking me to do sometimes defies all human logic and reasoning. But it is worth taking the risk. The results might surprise us.

#### **Do Not Fear**

....Thanks to our baptism, we are all called to participate in the mission of Jesus. Whatever we happen to be in our little world, be it at work, at home, or amongst our friends, we are called to bring good news: to help people understand that there is a God who loves and who cares. This is the news that Jesus constantly proclaimed in his life here on Earth. There will be times when this will not be easy, particularly when we will have to live out what we are trying to convey to others. Jesus' message was a continuous message of love, loving neighbour, loving your enemy, unconditionally forgiving, constantly giving of yourself and dying to yourself for others. Some may take advantage. Others might make fun of you, especially when you don't take advantage to advance simply because you want to do the right thing, or when they see you constantly trying to forgive those who harm you. This is where the words "do not fear" will make sense. Irrespective of how difficult it seems, God will be accompanying us and giving us the strength necessary to do what we are being called to do.

## READER COMMENTS RELATING TO THE JUNE ISSUE

Congratulations on another successful issue! I appreciate contributors being so generous with their stories and opening up their personal family albums for us to see. I'm touched by how similar the stories are and [that] the common threads of family love and tradition still carry on today.

Joan Mizzi-Fry, Orillia, ON

...looks great, and thanks again for your excellent work for the Maltese community.

Paul V. Azzopardi, Malta

What a great newsletter!

Fr. Ed Vella, CSsR, Tucson, AZ

Another excellent issue.

Richard S. Cumbo, Toronto

...thank you for the newsletter sent, which is quite informative.

Ivan Vassallo, Counselor,  
Consulate of Malta, Algiers, Algeria

## ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

### Dan Brock

#### The Greater Toronto Area, Ontario

##### Consulate General of Republic of Malta to Canada

During June, Consul General Dr. Raymond Xerri gave his fourth bag of blood since arriving in Canada. This represents his 91<sup>st</sup> blood bag over 28 years. He has donated blood while in Malta, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

##### Lehen Malti

As with mothers on Mother's Day, this Maltese-language television program invited the viewer to send in an email with the name of one's father, his photo, a short message and a donation of \$20 per photo. On Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> these were first aired on the half-hour program.

##### St. Paul the Apostle Parish

Weekday Masses resumed on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, followed by the weekend Masses commencing Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, all in accordance with the strict rules laid down and health safeguards to be observed during this COVID-19 pandemic.

On Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> Father Mario went to the hospital for bypass surgery which went well. He asks that we kindly keep him in our prayers. Father Ivano is the Administrator of the Parish in Fr. Mario's absence.

#### London, Ontario

The summer picnic planned at Weldon Park, in Arva on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> was cancelled, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Metropolitan Detroit

##### Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

While the Club is now open in the morning hours on a temporary trail basis for the regulars who like to come in for morning coffee and conversation, the executive board is holding off opening the Club as such until possibly sometime in July and in accordance with the new regulations mandated for both staff and members.

#### New York

##### Maltese Center, Astoria

The Center has been closed since March 9<sup>th</sup>. As of June 11<sup>th</sup>, it must remain closed as it does not qualify for Phase 1. Phase 1, when permitted, will consist of sanitizing the premises, organizing a volunteer cleaning crew, appealing for cleaning and sanitizing supply donations and health and safety training. Presently, "The situation is dynamic and continuing to change daily...."

### LEHEN MALTI (Maltese Voice)

#### OMNI 1 Southern Ontario

Saturdays 8:30 a.m.

Mondays 3:30 a.m.

Tuesdays 11.30 a.m.

Wednesdays 11:00 p.m.

Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

#### OMNI British Columbia/Pacific

Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

#### OMNI Alberta/Prairies

Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

## CORRECTIONS TO THE JUNE ISSUE

It was Joan Madigan of London, ON not Joan Mizzi-Fry of Orillia, ON who came up with the suggestion that this newsletter carry Maltese recipes. My apologies to both Joans for the mix up.

Note that the *faldetta/ghonnella* and fisherman's outfit as seen in the photograph on page 16 were made by Tessie Bugeya, not her daughter Joanne Bugeya.

## FLIGHT 112B – MALTA TO BUFFALO, NY - JULY 30-31, 1960

**Dan Brock**

At one time it was possible to fly “directly” between North America and Malta. There were also chartered flights. One such flight occurred on July 30-31, 1960 from Malta to Buffalo, NY, by way of Shannon, Ireland and Gander, Newfoundland, Canada. The plane was a Lockheed 1049H Super Constellation owned by Capitol Airways, Inc.



**A Restored L-1049H Super Constellation  
in Full Trans World Airlines Colours**

Capitol Airways was founded in the United States on June 11, 1946. By 1956 it had entered the international charter flight market operating a fleet of Lockheed Constellations. The L1049H could carry up to 120 people. Flight 112B, which touched down in Buffalo on July 31<sup>st</sup>, consisted of seven crew members and 109 passengers.



**An L1049E Super Constellation  
Owned by Capitol Airways**

It would appear that the intended destination of this flight was Toronto not Buffalo as, according to Edward Farrugia, then a 20-year-old passenger on this flight, the round-trip charter had been organized by St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto to partake in the XIX centenary celebrations of St. Paul's shipwreck (60 A.D.) held in Malta on July 3-25, 1960. These centenary festivities were to culminate in the coming of the Papal Legate to Malta and a radio message from Pope John XXIII to the Maltese people.

The plane left Toronto on July 4<sup>th</sup>, stopped at Gander and Shannon for refueling and arrived in Malta on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Of the 109 passengers on the return flight, the eldest was 80-year-old Paul Debattista of Toronto, who was travelling with his 31-year-old daughter, Mary Debattista. The youngest person on board was four-year-old Michael Cachia of Toronto who appeared to have been travelling with his father Michael Cachia and uncle Ludgard Cachia.

Of the 108 adult passengers, they were about evenly divided between males and females, with the number of males being 56.

One hundred of the passengers were natives of Malta, seven were born in Canada and one each in Scotland and in Germany. Most of the seven born in Canada were definitely of Maltese blood.

Only one of the passengers was destined for the United States rather than somewhere in southern Ontario. This person was Paul Farr, an American citizen living in Astoria, on Long Island, NY. He had been born in Valletta in 1908 and had immigrated to the United States on board the Roma in February-March 1929. Sometime thereafter he had succumbed to the pressure in the United States to “fit in” and had anglicized his surname from “Farrugia” to “Farr.”

Of the 108 passengers living in Ontario, 87 lived in Toronto and another eight in what is now the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)—three in Scarborough, one in Rexdale (now a part of Toronto), two in Cooksville (now part of the city of Mississauga) and two in Downsview (now part of the district of North York).

The remaining 13 lived west of Toronto—one in Oakville, one in Burlington, seven in or near Brantford and four in London.

Of the 87 living in Toronto, 36 lived within “The Junction.” Ten lived on Dundas Street West, seven on Maria Street, four on St. John's Road, three each on Clendeman Avenue, Gilmore Avenue and Annette Street, two each on Lincoln Avenue and Runnymede Road and one each on Evelyn and Fairview avenues.

While the changing of one's surname to “fit in” in the United States is rather common by non-Anglo-Saxons –

I had an uncle who changed the Russianized form of the Polish *Ząbek* from *Zombek* to Beck – Canadians tend rather to just change the spelling of their surname to make it easier for native-born Canadians to spell or pronounce. Thus, the Polish *Górski* may end up Gurski. We are all familiar with the ship builder Louis Scicluna and later his two nephews, Joseph and Salvatore, changing the spelling of their surname to Shickluna. Occasionally, the Maltese surname Scerri becomes Sherri.

Some Maltese in Ontario have dropped a letter or two in their surname and changed the way it's pronounced to accommodate native-born Canadians. Thus, Scicluna may become Sicluna and Farrugia became Farrugie. One of the passengers on Flight 112B was Virginia Seberras of Toronto who was born in Malta in 1926. It would appear that the original surname was Sciberras. While the surname of Ambrose, his wife Pauline and their daughter Phyllis of Brantford appears on the passenger list as "Ciantar," in fact they had changed it to "Cantar."

Among the passengers, there were nine with the surname Vella and eight with the Farrugia surname, nine if we include Paul Farr of Astoria. Seven each had the surname Camilleri and Grech. Six were surnamed Cachia or Baldacchino and five Mifsud.

Some passengers had such less common Maltese surnames such as Deguara, Ferriggi, Giacomotte, Lautier and Tirchett.

We can be grateful that this particular flight was diverted to Buffalo rather than the intended destination of Toronto, otherwise we would have not had access to the passenger list. Since 1935 all passenger lists of those disembarking in Canada have been closed to the public, the 70-year ruling notwithstanding

### **MALTESE CHARTER FLIGHTS AND TRAVEL AGENCIES IN "THE JUNCTION": SOME REMINISCENCES**

**Richard S. Cumbo**

The area known as the "Junction" in West Toronto saw a huge influx of Maltese immigrants from the 1950s up to the 1980s. The thriving community required all types of services to accommodate the needs of Maltese Canadians. Owing to becoming established and financially stable many migrants began having thoughts of visiting their homeland. To satisfy this need the then Maltese Franciscan parish of St. Paul the Apostle, with the assistance of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto, began organizing charter flights to Malta. Most of the executive members of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto were very much involved with the

parish and therefore were readily available to assist the Franciscans. In conjunction with the celebration of St. Paul's shipwreck on Malta in 60 A.D., a charter flight was organized in 1960 for those wishing to visit Malta.

In 1968, after being in Toronto since 1951, my parents were able to visit their birthplace and took me along with them. It was on one of these charters; at the time the price was either \$199.00 or \$299.00 per person. Flights left Toronto, stopped off at Gander in Newfoundland to refuel, then off to Shannon, Ireland before heading off to Malta. Thinking back now I can't imagine flying to Malta wearing a suit and the women were also suitably dressed. The dress code now is very casual.



**Fr. Godfrey Micallef (far right)  
Assists the Staff at the Toronto Airport**



**Carmen Attard, Richard Cumbo and Josephine Aquilina on Tarmac at Shannon, Ireland Airport**

With changes in various flight regulations these charters became unprofitable by the early 1970s and were discontinued. I do recall that when I became

involved with the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto in April, 1971, the Society was involved with a charter leaving that summer.

The late 1960s saw the establishment of two "Junction" Maltese travel agencies: "Stellini Travel" founded by realtor Eric Stellini in 1968 and "Melita Travel Service" founded by Charles Aquilina. As time progressed more agencies were formed, competing in a very limited market. These new ones were the "Maltese Unity Association of Canada" with the main purpose of organizing trips to Malta, "C.C. Travel" founded by Charles Calleja and "G.I.C. Travel" owned by Patrick Xuereb.\*

With a much decreasing Maltese population in the "Junction" by the late 1980s, most of the agencies closed. The only one still in operation is "Melita Travel Agency". Paul Refalo bought the business from Charles Aquilina in 1984. For just over 50 years "Melita Travel" has been a great supporter of the community and has provided a dependable service to the Maltese community. The offices of this company are now closed because of COVID-19. Owner Paul Refalo and long-time employee Paul Grixti are not sure when "Melita Travel" will re-open.

\* See back cover for advertisements at the time of three of these.

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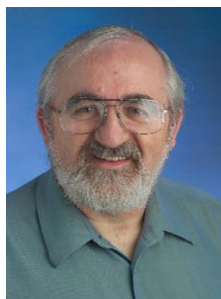


**Maltese Children in Canada, 1952**

Fr. Lawrence E. Attard, *The Safety Valve* (1997), 48

## ST. PAUL OF THE SHIPWRECK CHURCH, SAN FRANCISCO\*

Charles J. Vella, PhD



*In the last issue Charlie shared his childhood memories of growing up Maltese-American during the 1950s and 1960s in San Francisco.*

In 1914 the Maltese community in and around San Francisco welcomed a Maltese Franciscan priest, Father Andrew Azzopardi, OFM, to work here on a permanent basis. Fr. Andrew was born in Zebbug, Malta on February 9, 1870. After his ordination in 1895 he distinguished himself among the Maltese migrants in Egypt from that year until 1909. Sometime thereafter he was sent to the United States and to California.

Soon after his appointment to serve the Maltese community in San Francisco, Fr. Andrew founded the ethnic parish of St. Paul of the Shipwreck. In 1915, Archbishop Edward Joseph Hanna bought a hall, built in 1874, and gave it to the Maltese to use as their own church. The hall was situated in the Bay View District. Eventually, its pastor Fr. Andrew also offered his services to other immigrants living in the area, especially to the Italians.

When Fr. Azzopardi retired on November 15, 1919 and returned to Malta, Fr. Theophilus Cachia, OFM, another priest from the Maltese province of the Franciscans, who had been an assistant pastor at Immaculate Conception Church, became pastor at St. Paul's.

Fr. Theophilus was born on July 3, 1891 in Sliema, Malta, and was ordained on May 29, 1915. He emigrated from Malta, by way of Naples, Italy on November 24, 1916 and arrived at New York on the ship the *Canopic* on December 10<sup>th</sup>. By 1916 he was living in San Francisco. He registered for the WWI draft on June 5, 1917 at 3215 Army St., San Francisco, and listed himself as age 25, and a Franciscan Father, employed at the Italian Church at 3255 Folsom Street.

Fr. Theophilus was to serve as pastor of St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church for 34 years, from 1919 to 1953. During this time, he enlarged and remodeled the original frame church building, installing concrete foundations, a stucco front, and a concrete stairway and bulwark. The hall was consecrated in a dedication mass on February 12, 1922 by Archbishop Hanna and was given the

official title of St. Paul of the Shipwreck Maltese Church. The parish was situated at 1509 Oakdale Avenue.



**Fr. Theophilus Cachia, OFM, Feeding the Pigeons**

In the Fall of 1947, the parish purchased the corner house at 1515 Oakdale and Lane Streets, to serve as a new rectory. Plans were to make the previous residence into parlors and offices, while the garage of the new rectory would be converted into a social and catechism hall. The yard space was converted into vegetable gardens, and in the front garden a terra-cotta shrine, made by Father Luigi Sciocchetti, was erected in honor of Our Lady of Fatima.

At the same time, the church was enlarged by knocking down the partition separating the church and the small hall adjacent to it. The seating capacity was thereby boosted from 300 to 450. The total redevelopment plan was completed by December 1948.

On December 23, 1949, Fr. Novellon Smith, OFM, of the Dutch Province, was appointed temporary assistant pastor of this church. He had been residing here in order to pursue studies in the history of Chinese philosophy, prior to his departure for missionary work in China. He left in March 1952.

Fr. Theophilus transferred administration of the parish from the San Francisco Archdiocese to the Santa Barbara Franciscan Province. Many in the Maltese community disagreed with this decision. He died on September 24, 1959 and is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma, CA.

In June 1953, Fr. Theophilus was succeeded as pastor of St. Paul of the Shipwreck by Fr. Benvenute Bavero, OFM.

Fr. Benvenute was born in North Hollywood on January 1, 1919. His parents named him Michael and he had nine siblings. His family church was the Church of St. Charles. He graduated from Bakmann Grammar School and in September 1932 entered St. Anthony's Seminary in Santa Barbara and graduated in June 1938. He received his B.A. degree at Mission San Louis Rey College in June 1941. From July 1941 until March 1945 he studied theology at Mission Santa Barbara. He was ordained a priest on June 11, 1944 by Bishop Joseph T. McGucken, and celebrated his first Mass in his parents' parish, at St. Joseph's Church in Los Angeles.

On March 8, 1945, Fr. Benvenute was assigned as assistant pastor of St. Paul of the Shipwreck and soon became more popularly known as "Father Benny." In May 1950, he was requested by the Very Reverend Father Provincial to go to Assisi, to guide pilgrims and hear confessions during the Holy Year. He returned at the end of November the same year. Fr. Benvenute Calleja of the Franciscan Province of Malta, arrived here on January 14, 1952. He served as assistant pastor until the summer of 1955. In 1956, Fr. Augustine Portelli, of the Franciscan Province of Malta, became the new assistant pastor for the next two years. Fr. Benny was appointed pastor of St. Paul of the Shipwreck on June 22, 1953.

During the years that followed he provided the parish with a school staffed by Maltese Franciscan Sisters and a new convent, church, rectory and auditorium-gym. In 1955, the beloved Fr. Benny purchased the condemned buildings and surrounding property of Bret Harte Public School, also known as the Potato School, for \$1. The school name reflected a building without wood floors, and a yard primarily comprised of a vegetable garden. The expense of renovating and repairing the property was astronomical, but parishioners gave their time to fund raising commitments and worked around the clock to make Fr. Benny's vision of a church and school a reality.

In 1955, the Franciscan Sisters of Charity of Malta accepted the pastor's invitation to establish a foundation in America and staff the school. So, on August 11, 1956 seven Sisters arrived here: Mother Olympia and Sisters Lidwina, Gervasia, Lucilla, Stefana, Imeldina and



Danielina. They resided at Mount Saint Joseph's until their new convent was ready on March 23, 1957. Dedication of the convent was held the following day, with the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Maher officiating.



Fr. Benvenute "Benny" Bavero

St. Paul of the Shipwreck School was opened in October 1956. On October 14<sup>th</sup>, it was dedicated by His Excellency, Most Rev. Merlin Guilfoyle, Auxiliary Bishop of San Francisco. The teaching staff was completed, on October 5, 1957, when Sisters Dositea and Armanda arrived from Malta.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new church were held on July 24, 1960, and the new hall and auditorium were dedicated on March 2, 1962.

Fr. Benny's great legacy of ministering to young people through education and outreach has been lovingly brought forward and nourished by the valiant and often sacrificial efforts of succeeding pastors and the hard work and support of a dedicated and faithful laity.

Other Franciscan assistant pastors included: Fathers Mathias Curtin (1956-1959), Epiphanius Lewis (1958), Lorenzo di Virgilio (1959-1961), Urban Ha'big (1959)—he was the religious superior of this Franciscan group—Bertram Van Slyke (1960) and Vitorin di Alessandro, (1961).

Fr. Urban, who celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee as a priest in 1961, was elderly and very hard of hearing. On one

occasion I was next in line for the confessional and a very attractive young lady had entered it to do her confession with Fr. Urban. Suddenly I and half the church heard Fr. Urban say very loudly "You did what?". I went and sat down, deciding to wait for another less deaf confessor!

Fr. Benny took a sabbatical from his pastoral duties in 1983 and then retired. He was subsequently assigned as a confessor at St. John's Lateran Church in Rome, Italy. In 1988, Fr. Benny was assigned as associate pastor to St. Barbara's Parish (Old Mission Santa Barbara). He celebrated his golden jubilee as a Franciscan on March 10, 1990 at St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church. Fr. Benvenute died on October 12, 2007 and is buried at the Old Mission in Santa Barbara.

Both Fr. Theophilus and Fr. Benny dedicated their lives to the spiritual care of the Maltese community of the Bay View of San Francisco. I hope that this little historical portrait gives a small tribute to these two true Franciscans.



**Fr. Benny with One of His Protégés,  
Charles J. Vella, at the End of Novitiate  
in Old Mission San Miguel, 1964**

*\* My thanks to Fred Aquilina for providing data from the 1962 historical booklet "Saint Paul of the Shipwreck."*



First Communion Class of 1953 in Front of the Hall. The Old Church Is Partially Seen to Our Left



Altar Boys of St. Paul of the Shipwreck, 1962

## THE GAFFAN FAMILY: FIRST MALTESE TO SETTLE IN KINGSVILLE – PART II

**Janene Gaffan & Dan Brock**

In the last issue Robert Gaffan had been traced from his birth in Turkey to his arrival and subsequent marriage to Maria Zammit in Malta, to his immigration to Canada, to his gaining employment as a barber in Windsor, Ontario and to his finding a house for his wife and nine children near Kingsville.

Robert “Bob” Gaffan had rented the former home of the late Jack Miner from his son Ted. Bob’s friends had fixed the place up in anticipation of the arrival of the Gaffan family.

Maria Gaffan and the children were among the many wives and children of the men who arrived in May and June 1948, who sailed from Malta to New York on board the Yugoslavian ship the *Radnik* in October 1948. From New York they travelled by train, via Montreal, to Windsor.

On the arrival of the family at the Canadian National Railways station in Windsor, on the afternoon of Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, they were met by their husband and father. Bob Gaffan was accompanied by Ted Miner in his car and Charles Irwin of Leamington in his car to drive the large family to their new home in Canada.

A photographer and reporter from the *Windsor Star* were also present and both a photo and write-up on the Gaffan family appeared in the Monday issue of the newspaper. Bob proudly reported that of the more than 500 Maltese in Ontario his was the largest family. The nine children from eldest to youngest consisted of Catharine, age 16, Helen, James, Morris, Joyce, Gloria, Ted, Rose and 10-month-old Charles.



**The Gaffan Family Reunited, October 30, 1948**

*Windsor Star*, Nov. 1, 1948, p. 17

Josephine Miner, Ted’s wife, had stayed behind to prepare a welcoming meal for the family. In addition, the Miners had provided clothes and toys for the children.

Meanwhile, Bob would have to continue to travel by bus from the Miner property to his place of work, some 26 miles distance, in Windsor.

In 1950, an opportunity arose to rent the building at 21 Main Street in nearby Kingsville and Bob fixed it up as a barber shop. Later, he purchased it.



**The Barber Shop as It Appeared in December 1961**



**Façade of the Barber Shop, 2016**

At about the same time as Bob set up his business in Kingsville, the family moved there to a house on Pearl Street. Later, they moved to Mill Street East and finally to Spruce Street where Bob and Maria's two eldest daughters, Kay and Helen, still live.

By the spring of 1951 there were two additional children: Martha and Paul.



**Baby Paul Gaffan, Born April 13, 1951,  
on His Mother's Lap,**



**The Gaffan Family at Home 1957**

Paul was to become a hairdresser like his eldest sister, Catherine "Kay" Gaffan, while the eldest sons, Jim and Morris, for a time, became barbers like their father.



**The Three Gaffan Barbers, c. 1961-1962  
(l to r) Bob and His Two Sons, Jim and Morris**

After Bob's death in 1982 Jim took over the barber shop known as Gaffan's Apex Barber Shop. Jim's sons, Tony and John, became the third generation of barbers at this iconic shop and still continue to work there.



**The Three Gaffan Barbers, 2016  
(l to r) Tony, Jim (father) and John**

Bob's wife Maria died in 1994 and was buried beside her late husband in Greenhill Cemetery, Kingsville.

As for Bob's mother Basilica (Gaetano) Gaffan, she continued to live in the apartment over Bob's former barber shop in Vittoriosa until her death in 1966. She had thought of coming to Canada at one time but never did.

*\* We would like to thank Kay, Helen and Jim Gaffan, Bob and Maria's eldest children, for supplying us with both information and photos for this two-part article*

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

### Il-Konsolat Ġenerali misteni jiftaħ lejn l-aħħar Lulju



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

L-imxija COVID19 ħarbtet il-ħajja ta' kulħadd, kbar u żgħar, sew f'Malta kif ukoll fil-Kanada u madwar id-dinja. Sfortunatament, jekk din il-pandemija tixbaħ b'xi mod il-pandemija tal-1720, tal-1820 jew tal-1920 mela l-imxija tal-2020 ser tibqa' magħna għal żmien li ġej sakemm titlaq jew tinstab vaċċin għaliha. Kellna wħud minn ħutna Maltin-Kanadiżi li mietu bil-COVID19 u għalhekk hemm bżonn inkunu viġilanti sabiex din l-imxija ma' tkomplex tisaq persuni mill-komunita' tagħna.

L-istat ta' emerġenza li ġie iddikjarat mill-Premier tal-Istat ta' Ontario, Doug Ford fis-17 ta' Marzu li għadda għadu kif ġie estendut ta' l-inqas sal-15 ta' Lulju u għalhekk la darba l-istat ta' emerġenza jibqa', l-Konsolati Ġenerali ta' Malta u tal-pajjiżi l-oħra f'Toronto se jibqgħu magħluqin. La darba tispicċa din is-sitwazzjoni, nibdew nippreparaw sabiex jinfetaħ il-Konsolat Ġenerali għall-pubbliku.

Biex tkunu tafu meta' ser jiftaħ il-Konsolat Ġenerali araw il-paġna fuq Facebook u jssibu avvizi kullimkien.

#### **Miżuri ġodda sabiex iżżur il-Konsolat Ġenerali**

Il-bini li fih jinsab l-Konsolat Ġenerali, L-Uffiċċju tas-Sindku tal-Belt ta' Toronto, l-Uffiċċju tal-Premier tal-Istat ta' Ontario u l-Uffiċċju tas-Supretendent tas-Saħħa Pubblika tal-Gvern Federali Kanadiż ippubblikaw ir-regolamenti u l-miżuri li kull min iservi lill-pubbliku jrid jimplementa sabiex jaqdi u joffri servizzi lill-pubbliku.

Għalhekk huwa mportanti ferm li timxu ma' dawn it-tibdiliet fil-proċeduri meta tiġu għal xi servizz fill-Konsolat Ġenerali ta' Malta f'Toronto. Apparti d-dokumenti relatati mas-servizz li tixtiequ u l-flus biex jithallas is-servizz, tridu iġġibu magħkom ukoll maskra u ingwanti tal-lastiku jew tal-plastik. Importanti ħafna li jekk dakinhar tal-appuntament ma tkunux tifilħu ċemplu biex tinformawna u tiġux, minflok morru f'wieħed miċ-

### The Consulate General is expected to re-open towards the end of July

COVID-19 has changed the lives of everyone, young and old, in Malta, Canada and rest of the world. Unfortunately, if this pandemic is anything like the ones in 1720, 1820 or 1920 then COVID-19 will remain with us until an effective vaccine is found. Our Maltese Canadian community has had its share of loss of life and this is why we must remain vigilant to avoid further losses in our community.

The Province of Ontario's Premier Doug Ford declared a state of emergency in March and has extended it a number of times up to July 15<sup>th</sup>. As long as the state of emergency remains, Consulate Generals of most countries represented in Toronto will remain closed. Once the state of emergency is lifted, then we will prepare to gradually reopen the Consulate.

Keep yourself informed about when the Consulate will reopen by following the 'Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada' Facebook webpage.

#### **New measures to strictly follow when you visit the Consulate General Office**

The management of the building where the Consulate General is situated, the Office of the Mayor of Toronto, the Office of the Premier of Ontario and the Office of the Health Superintendent have all published regulations and measures in the name of public safety and health which must be followed by all offices offering services to the general public.

Therefore, it's vital that the changes in procedures are followed by all who are seeking some form of service from the Consulate General of Malta to Canada. Apart from the documentation you need and the funds to pay for the service you are seeking, bring with you a facial mask and rubber gloves. It is very important that if you are not well or have symptoms pertaining to COVID-19, call us and cancel your appointment and instead visit one of the COVID-19 testing centres throughout the GTA. If the test is positive follow medical advice. If the test is negative, however, which means you do not have COVID-19, then when you reschedule an appointment bring with you the certificate that your test was negative.

When you arrive in the lobby of the Consulate call us to inform that you have arrived since someone must come down the elevator and accompany up to the 10<sup>th</sup> Floor where the Consulate is situated. Access is strictly by

Ċentri tat-testijiet tal-COVID19 biex tagħmlu t-test. Jekk għandkom il-COVID19 imxu fuq il-pariri mediċi li tingħataw, iżda' jekk it-test joħroġ negattiv, jiġifieri li m'għandkomx il-COVID19, meta tiġu għall-appuntament il-ġdid ġibu magħkom iċ-ċertifikat li juri li intom ħriġtu negattiv għall-COVID19.

Meta taslu fil-lobby tal-Konsulat tridu ċċemplulna fuq it-telefon tal-Konsolat sabiex xi ħadd mill-istaff jinżel għalikom bl-elevator għaliex ma tistgħux titilgħu waħidkom. Sa żewġ persuni biss jistgħu jtilgħu fl-elevator fl-istess ħin. Qabel ma tidhlu fil-lift ufficjal mill-Konsolat Generali jrid jeħdilkom it-temperatura u jistaqsi sitt mistoqsijiet li li tridu twegbuhom kollha. Jekk it-temperatura taqbez in-normal jew xi mistoqsija ma' tintwegibx ma' titħallewx titilgħu fuq l-elevator għall-għaxar sular fejn tinsab il-Konsolat Generali. F'dak il-każ tintalbu biex toħroġu mill-bini u tmorru f'wieħed miċ-Ċentri għat-testijiet tal-COVID19.

Fil-każ li jkun kollox sew, intom tkunu akkompanjati fl-elevator lejn l-għaxar sular fejn tintalbu biex taħslu jdek kom bl-ingwanti b'kollox, bis-*santizer* li ħa jkun hemm malli tidhlu fil-kamra tal-istennija tal-Konsolat Generali. Importanti li tinzamm id-distanza ta' żewġ metri f'kull ħin u kullimkien. L-istess jekk jintużaw it-toilets, l-idejk iridu jinħaslu b'wieħed mis-*sanitizers* li hemm f'dejn l-elevators.

### **Appuntamenti ġodda**

Minħabba l-għeluq tal-Konsolat Generali waqt l-imxija tal-COVID19 kellna nħasru mijiet ta' appuntamenti. Però dawn l-appuntamenti xorta nżammu u l-persuni ikkonċernati ser jiġu ikkuntattjati qabel jinfetaħ il-Konsolat Generali. Fil-każ li xi ħadd ma jiġix ikkuntattjat, importanti ħafna li jibgħat email fuq [maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt) sabiex jidhol fis-sistema u fil-kju tal-appuntamenti. L-email irid ikollha kemm jista' jkun dettalji per eżempju għaliex għandek bżonn l-appuntament: għaċ-ċittadinanza, għall-passaport, minħabba l-pensjoni, informazzjoni, kummerċ, sejjer Malta? L-iskop hu li forsi s-servizz ikun jista' jingħata mingħajr ma' jkollok bżonn tmur il-Konsolat. Apparti li nifrankawlek triq, nkunu nistgħu innaqqsu n-numru ta' appuntamenti li kull ma jmur qiegħed jizdied. Għalhekk jekk għandek bżonn appuntamenti, ikteb email kemm jista' jkun malajr lil Karen jew Denise sabiex tiddaħħal fis-sistema tal-appuntamenti.

### **Il-Posta bejn il-Kanada u Malta**

Il-Canada Post għada ma tatx permess illi l-posta lejn Malta tintbagħat fil-mailing room ta' Brussell minn fejn normalment tgħaddi l-posta mill-Kanada lejn Malta. Mall-ewwel li nkunu nformati li s-servizz reġa' għan-

access card and only two persons are allowed to take the elevator and up to five people at a time can wait in the waiting room. Before taking the elevator, the official will take your temperature and ask you the standard questions. If the temperature is high and questions are not answered satisfactorily, you will be accompanied to the exit of the building and recommended to visit a COVID-19 testing centre.

In case all is fine, you will be accompanied in the elevator to the 10<sup>th</sup> Floor and asked to sanitize your hands with gloves on at one of the Sanitizing Units next to the elevators or at the waiting room of the Consulate General. The same applies if you make use of the wash rooms.

### **New appointments**

The Consulate General of Malta to Canada has a list of hundreds of cancelled appointments because of COVID-19 and hundreds of requests for appointments once reopening. These appointments have been compiled and clients will be contacted when the Consulate reopens. In case someone is not contacted, it is important to send an email via [maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt) to be placed into the appointment system.

The email must include details, like for example, citizenship, passports, pensions, information, trade, investments, going to Malta, etc. The reason for the email is not only to inform that you are seeking an appointment, but also to determine if the service can be done by post or other means. This would, besides saving you time, assist us in facilitating matters. If you need an appointment please send an email addressed to Karen or Denise.

### **Postal service between Canada and Malta**

Canada Post has still not released mail earmarked for Malta which is currently found in a mailing room in Brussels where all mail to Europe from Canada is sorted. Keep tuned to the Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada Facebook webpage to be informed when this service returns to normal.

### **Life Certificates of Pensioners**

The 800 pensioners who receive some form of retirement pensions from Malta must present their Life Certificates by the 30th October 2020 and need it stamped at the Consulate. Please email via [maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt) to be given an appointment.

normal navżawkom.

### **Il-Life Certificate tal-pensjonanti**

It-800 pensjonant li jirċievu xi forma ta' pensjoni minn Malta u jridu jipprezentaw il-Life Certificate tagħhom sat-30 t'Ottubru u għandhom bżonn timbru mill-Konsulat jiktbu email fuq [maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt](mailto:maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt) sabiex jingħataw appuntament.

### **Jekk ddeċidejt li tibqa' hawn matul il-COVID19 jew inti emigrant fil-Kanada**

Dawk il-Maltin li għal xi raġuni baqgħu fil-Kanada matul il-COVID19 u kellhom japplikaw sabiex jestendu l-visa tagħhom mad-Dipartiment tal-Immigrazzjoni, għandhom jinfurmaw lill-Konsolat Ġenerali b'email, ta' x'ser jagħmlu. Jekk ser jibqgħu fil-Kanada, importanti li jikkonsidraw li jimlew *Formola D – Regjistrazzjoni Volontarja għall-Maltin li jinsabu msefrin jew jgħixu barra minn Malta*. Formola D tinsab fuq il-websajt tal-Ministeru għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej [www.foreignaffairs.gov.mt](http://www.foreignaffairs.gov.mt). Din il- Formola għandha timtelha, tiġi ffirmatha u mibgħutha bil-posta fuq l-indirizz tal-Konsolat Ġenerali ta' Malta. L-istess jgħodd għal min hu emigrant Malti ġdid fil-Kanada.

### **Għal dawk li ser isiefru lejn Malta mill-1 ta' Lulju**

Mill-1 ta' Lulju 2020, dawk kollha li jgħixu f'wieħed mill-pajjiżi kkonsidrati bħala 'safe corridors,' ser ikunu ntitulati li jmorru Malta mingħajr bżonn ta' ċertifikat li m'għandhomx COVID19. Dawn lanqas mhu ser jkunu mitluba li jagħmlu l-14-il ġurnata kwarantana meta jaslu Malta. Dawn il-pajjiżi huma:- l-Awstrija, Cipru, ir-Repubblika Ċeka, id-Danimarka, l-Estonja, il-Finlandja, l-Ungerija, l-Iżlanda, l-Irlanda, il-Ġermanja, il-Latvja, il-Litwanja, il-Lussemburgu, in-Norveġja, l-Italja (minbarra l-Emilia Romagna, Lombardia u Piemonte), Franza (minbarra l-Ile-de-France), is-Slovakkja, L-Isvizzera, il-Ġreċja, il-Kroazja, Spanja (minbarra il-Belt ta' Madrid, il-Provinċji ta' Katalunja, Castilla-La Mancha, Kastilja u Leon) u l-Polonja.

Iżda', kull min sejjer Malta minn pajjiżi oħra, li jinkludu l-Kanada u l-Istati Uniti tal-Amerika, u għandu bżonn jgħaddi minn dawn il-pajjiżi Ewropej li semmejt hawn fuq, ikun irid jagħmel dikjarazzjoni fejn tgħid li l-passiġġier irid iqatta' 14-il ġurnata f'wieħed minn dawn il-pajjiżi msemmija hawn fuq (fl-Ewropa) qabel ikompli l-vjaġġ tiegħu/ha lejn Malta. Imbagħad meta wieħed jasal Malta, ma jkunx hemm bżonn ta' kwarantana.

Dawn ir-regolamenti tas-saħħa jistgħu jinbidlu skond iċ-ċirkustanzi wara l-15 ta' Lulju 2020. Għal aktar informazzjoni segwu l-paġna tal-Facebook tal-Konsolat u xerdu l-kelma ma' tal-familja, qraba u ħbieb.

### **For those who decided to weather COVID-19 in Canada or are new migrants from Malta in Canada**

Those Maltese and Gozitans who have decided to stay in Canada during COVID-19 and who were expected to apply for an extension of their stay in Canada at the Department of Immigration should inform the Consulate General of their presence by email, and are highly encouraged to fill, sign and forward Form D – Voluntary Registration of Maltese travelling and/or Living Abroad—found on the website of the Ministry for Foreign & European Affairs at [www.foreignaffairs.gov.mt](http://www.foreignaffairs.gov.mt). This Form should be filled in, signed and sent by post to the Consulate General of Malta. The same applies to newly arrived Maltese migrants in Canada.

### **For those travelling to Malta after July 1<sup>st</sup>**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 anyone residing in one of the following countries considered as 'safe corridors,' will be entitled to travel to Malta without the need to present a swab test certificate or to be in quarantine upon arrival: Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Italy (with the exception of Emilia Romagna, Lombardy and Piemonte), France (with the exception of Ile-de-France), Slovakia, Switzerland, Greece, Croatia, Spain (with the exception of Madrid, Catalonia, Castilla-La Mancha, Castile and Leon) and Poland.

Anyone travelling to Malta from other countries via the above-mentioned destinations, including Canada and the United States, however, will need to sign a self declaration, stating that the passenger has spend 14 days in one of the above-mentioned countries prior to continuing his/her trip to Malta.

Please note that health regulations are subject to change depending on the situation as from 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020. To keep in touch with the latest information, please follow the Consulate General's Facebook webpage.

### **Consul-on-the-Move**

Owing to COVID-19, the Consul-on-the-Move sessions in the cities of Vancouver, British Columbia and Calgary and Edmondton in Alberta have been postponed to a future date.

### **The Maltese Canadian Community Calendar of Events – August 2020**

The Consul General is preparing to publish the August 2020 Maltese Canadian Community Calendar of Events and, therefore, I welcome a list of events amongst the Maltese community around the world.

**Consul-on-the-Move**

Minħabba l-imxija tal-COVID19, il-Consul-on-the-Move li kellu jsir fil-Belt ta' Vancouver, fil-Provinċja ta' British Columbia u fil-bliet ta' Calgary u Edmondton fil-Provinċja ta' Alberta ġew postposti għal xi żmien fil-futur meta jkun adegwat.

**Il-Kalendarju Malti-Kanadiż tal-Attivitajiet – Awwissu 2020**

Il-Konslu Ġenerali qed jaħseb sabiex jerġa' jibda joħroġ il-Kalendarju Malti-Kanadiż tal-Attivitajiet fil-Komunita' għall-Awwissu 2020 u għalhekk min ser jorganizza xi attivita' fil-komunitajiet Maltin madwar il-Kanada jibgħat email fuq l-email tal-Konsolat.

**Niċċelebraw Jum il-Kanada b'galbu**

Nixtieq nawgura lill-Maltin-Kanadiži kollha ċelebrazzjonijiet sbieħ ta' Jum il-Kanada mall-familji tagħkom. O Mulej bierek lil Malta u lill-Kanada.

**Let us celebrate Canada Day**

As your Consul General of Malta to Canada, I wholeheartedly wish all Maltese Canadians a Happy Canada Day. O Lord, bless Malta and Canada.



**PLANS TO DIRECT EMIGRATION TO CANADA IN 1910  
AS PART OF A SOLUTION TO MALTA'S HIGH DEGREE OF UNEMPLOYMENT**

*Editor's note: The following appeared in Maltese Forum, vol. 9, no. 2 (Summer 1983), pages 4-8, published and edited in Toronto by the late C.A. Caruana. It should be read in conjunction with Chapter 4, "Canada: The Second Choice," especially pages 37-39, in the late Fr. Lawrence E. Attard's Early Maltese Emigration (1900-1914) (1983)*

Council Paper 32 / 1910-11

Laid on the Table  
on 20<sup>th</sup>. April,

1911

CORRESPONDENCE

with regard to

EMIGRATION

III CANADA

\*1\*

Governor Sir Leslie Rundle<sup>1</sup> to the Earl of Crewe.<sup>2</sup>

MALTA

No. 82

THE PALACE, VALLETTA

9<sup>th</sup> June, 1910

My Lord,

I have the honour in inform Your Lordship that it has recently been suggested to me that any Maltese who proposed to proceed to the United States of America in search of employment should be advised by the Government to proceed to Canada instead.

2. In 1908, His Majesty's Consul General in New York<sup>3</sup> informed my predecessor<sup>4</sup> that there was no pros-

1. General Sir Henry Macleod Leslie Rundle (1856-1934) was governor and commander-in-chief of Malta from 1909 until 1915.

2. Robert Offley Ashburton Crewe-Milnes (1858-1945), the Earl of Crewe, Secretary of State for the Colonies between April 1908 and Nov. 1910.

3. Courtenay Walter Bennett, CIE (1855-1937) was British Consul-General in New York between 1907 and 1915.



pect of employment for Maltese in the United States owing to the number of working men who were already out of employment, and that it was a serious question whether Maltese should be sent to the United States at all, as they do not as a rule succeed there. I enclose a copy of Mr. Bennet's dispatch for you.

3. While it is clear that there is no opening for Maltese in the United States, I consider that it would not be right to advise emigrants to proceed to Canada without first ascertaining what prospect there is of their making a living there. It must be borne in mind that Maltese who go abroad in search of employment and fail to obtain it are sooner or later repatriated at the expense of the government of Malta, and it is therefore necessary to approach the question of emigration with great caution.

4. Under the circumstances I should esteem it a favour if Your Lordship would be good enough to cause enquiries to be made of the High Commissioner for the Dominion as to whether there is any opening for Maltese emigrants, and if so what classes of labour are required.

5. Your Lordship will remember that similar enquiries were recently addressed to the Agents General of New South Wales and Western Australia and the reply was that none but agriculturists and female servants were required.

6. There is no disguising the fact that the principal difficulty in connection with the emigration of Maltese lies in the circumstance that the labouring classes cannot speak any language but Maltese. This difficulty might, however, be overcome by sending a few men who can speak English as interpreters, provided that there is an opening for a sufficient number of people. Moreover, if a Maltese colony were formed in Canada or any other British possession, there is no doubt that they would be accompanied by clergy of their own nationality.

7. The Maltese labourer is strong, hardy, thrifty and temperate, and if any outlet could be found for the ever-increasing surplus population of these Islands, it would be a great relief both to the Government and the people themselves.

The Right Honourable  
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, etc.  
Leslie Rundle,  
Governor

\*2\*

The Earl of Crewe to Governor Sir Leslie Rundle

MALTA  
No.91

DOWNING STREET  
2<sup>ND</sup>. August, 1910.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 82 of the 9<sup>th</sup>. of June relative to a suggestion that Maltese emigrants should be encouraged to proceed to Canada rather than to the United States of America and to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of the letter received (12<sup>th</sup>. July) from the High Commissioner for Canada<sup>5</sup> on the subject.

I have &c.  
CREWE.

Governor  
General Sir H. M. L. RUNDLE  
K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.Co. &c.

Enclosure to Dispatch No. 91 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 1910  
17, Victoria Street,  
London. S. W.  
12<sup>th</sup>. July, 1910.

4. General Sir Henry Grant (1848-1919) was governor of Malta from 1907 until 1909.

5. Donald Alexander Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal (1820-1914) was High Commissioner for the Dominion of Canada in Great Britain (1896-1914).

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup>. ultimo (No. 18107/1910) transmitting copy of a dispatch from the Governor of Malta, in which it is suggested that Maltese emigrants should be encouraged to proceed to Canada rather than to the United States.

In regard to the general question raised by the Governor of Malta as to what classes of labour are required to Canada, I am to state that the demand is practically confined to farmers, farm labourers, men who are willing and able to go upon the land, and female domestic servants; and that to enable a definite statement to be made as to whether there is any opening in Canada for emigrants from Malta more detailed information as to the class of men who would be sent out should be furnished.

Meanwhile I enclose, for the information of the Governor of Malta, a copy of "The Law and Regulations of Canada respecting Immigration and Immigrants."

I am &c.  
(Sd.) W. L. Griffith.<sup>6</sup>

The Under Secretary of State.  
Colonial Office. S. W.

—  
\*3\*

Governor Sir Leslie Rundle to the Earl of Crewe.

MALTA  
No. 132

THE PALACE, VALLETTA.  
5<sup>th</sup>. August, 1910.

My Lord,

With reference to my dispatch No. 82, of the 9<sup>th</sup>. June last, I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that the question of emigration would now appear to be becoming more pressing, as there is a continual fall in the demand for labour, and the number of persons who are leaving the Island in search of employment elsewhere is on the increase. This, in itself, would appear to be desirable: but unfortunately, cases occur of a man selling his furniture to emigrate, failing to establish himself abroad and being returned destitute, at the expense of the Colony, in a worse state than before. This misdirected emigration might be avoided or, at all events the number of failures might be diminished, were some well-considered scheme devised.

2. Under the circumstances, I would suggest, for your Lordship's consideration the desirability of taking advantage of the Lieutenant Governor's presence in England and of requesting him to place himself in communication with the High Commissioner of Canada with a view to drawing up, if practicable, some scheme under which Maltese of the labouring classes could be assisted to emigrate to the Dominion.

3. Sir Edward Merewether<sup>7</sup> has now served in Malta for nearly eight years, and the knowledge he has acquired of local customs and conditions would, I feel sure, prove of great value to the High Commissioner in the consideration of this important question.

I have &c.  
Leslie Rundle,  
Governor.

The Right Honourable  
The Earl of Crewe, K.G., &c.

—  
\*4\*

The Earl of Crewe to Governor Sir Leslie Rundle.

6. *W.L. Griffith was Permanent Secretary to the High Commissioner of the Dominion of Canada in Great Britain.*

7. *Sir Edward Marsh Merewether (1858-1938) was Lieutenant Governor and Chief Secretary of Malta from 1902 until 1911. His predecessor as Chief Secretary was Sir Gerald Strickland.*

MALTA  
No. 112

DOWNING STREET  
31<sup>st</sup>. August, 1910

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 32 of the 5<sup>th</sup>. of August, relating to the question of the emigration of Maltese to Canada, and to inform you that Sir E. Merewether has been put into communication with Lord Strathcona, and also with the Agent General for Queensland<sup>8</sup>, in reference to this matter.

I have &c.

CREWE.

Governor

General Sir H. M. L. RUNDLE  
K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., &c.

—  
\*5\*

Sir E. M. Merewether to the Earl of Crewe

MALTA  
No. 176

THE PALACE, VALLETTA.  
10<sup>TH</sup>. October, 1910

My Lord,

With reference to the enclosure to Your Lordship's dispatch, No. 91, of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. August last relative to the question whether there is an opening for Maltese emigrants to Canada, I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that since my return to the Colony, I have caused further enquiries to be made with regard to the classes of men who would be likely to emigrate from Malta.

2. The men who are leaving these Islands at present in search of employment, can hardly be said to belong to the classes of labour for which there is a demand in Canada, i.e. farmers, farm-labourers, and men who are able to go upon the land.

3. The majority of the agriculturists in Malta occupy small holdings of less than 10 acres. They have little or no capital and most of them are in the hands of middle-men who advance them money, and to whom they are bound to sell their corps practically at any price that the middle-men choose to give them. It could not, therefore, be expected that any of them would take up free grants of land, but they might make good farm-labourers when they become accustomed to modern methods of farming.

4. Another point that may be mentioned in this connection is that the agricultural class would probably be the last to leave the Island, and as long as they can keep body and soul together in Malta, they will not go elsewhere.

5. Generally speaking, the Maltese leaving the country are unskilled labourers, vigorous men inured to hardship and fatigue, and well able to do rough jobs, such as pick and shovel on roads, railway construction works, etc. There are, however, a considerable number of artisans now seeking employment who belong to the following classes, viz: carpenters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, fitters, plumbers, shoemakers, stonecutters, etc.

6. With regard to female domestic servants, it may be mentioned that there is now no dearth in Malta of young women able to read and write English who would probably make good domestic servants in British Colonies, but it is, unfortunately, very difficult to induce them to leave their country by themselves.

I have &c.

E. M. Merewether  
Officer Administering the Govt.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup>. Sir Thomas Bilbe Robinson (1853-1939) was Agent-General for Queensland, Australia in London, England, from 1910 until 1919.

<sup>9</sup>. Governor Leslie Rundle must have been out of the Colony or indisposed at this time.

The Right Honourable  
The Earl of Crewe, K.G., &c.

Reference to previous correspondence  
Acting Governor's dispatch No. 176 of 10<sup>th</sup>. October, 1910

MALTA  
No. 152

DOWNING STREET,  
18<sup>th</sup>, November, 1910

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you for your information the paper noted below on the subject of the proposed emigration of Maltese to Canada.

I have &c.  
L. Harcourt.<sup>10</sup>

The Officer Administering  
the Government of Malta

Date: 1910: 7 November.

Description: From High Commissioner for Canada.

Copy  
C. 5/82

17, Victoria Street,  
London S. W.  
7<sup>th</sup>. November, 1910.

Sir,

With reference to the unofficial letter from Sir C. P. Lucas<sup>11</sup>, dated the 25<sup>th</sup>. ultimo [i.e. October], covering copy of a dispatch from Lieutenant Governor of Malta, as to the suggested emigration of Maltese to Canada, I am directed to state that the High Commissioner has given consideration to the detailed information which has been supplied and, having regard to all the circumstances, he is of the opinion that the Canadian Government would decline to encourage the emigration from Malta to the Dominion of the unskilled labourers and artisans referred to in this correspondence.

Apart from the difficulties of language and the difference in the climatic conditions, the only employment that emigrants from Malta could be sure of obtaining in Canada is farm work.

I am &c.  
(Sd.) W. L. Griffith.

The Under Secretary of State<sup>12</sup>  
Colonial Office, S. W.

<sup>10</sup>. Lewis Vernon Harcourt (1863-1922) succeeded the Earl of Crewe as Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 3, 1910.

<sup>11</sup>. Sir Charles Prestwood Lucas (1853-1931) was head of the Dominion Department in the Colonial Office. An historian as well, he had written A History of Canada 1763-1812 (1909)

<sup>12</sup>. John Edward Bernard Seely (1868-1947) was Parliamentary Under-secretary of State for the Colonies from 1908 until 1911.

## KAPUNATA (CAPONATA)

**Lisa LiGreci**



*Lisa serves as a trustee on the Executive Board of the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn, MI and is a volunteer photographer and teaches cooking classes at the Club.*

I know this recipe probably varies from town to town and every family makes their own variation. I learned this recipe from my mother who learned it from her mother. I'm assuming the recipe had been handed down through the generations. This is a perfect recipe for summer. My mom loved gardening and when all the tomatoes, peppers and zucchini were harvested, she would can dozens of quarts that would last all year. I did make one small change to the recipe with the addition of summer squash. I just think it makes the dish look prettier and more colorful.

Here is my recipe for Kapunata  
Use organic ingredients if you can.  
This recipe will yield 6 to 7 quarts.

Ingredients:



8 zucchini  
8 summer squash  
6 medium onions  
6 green bell pepper  
9 Roma tomatoes - blanched and peeled  
6 garlic cloves - thinly sliced  
2 cups thickly sliced green Sicilian olives  
1½ cups capers  
18 oz. tomato paste  
18 oz. water  
¾ cup olive oil  
1 cup apple cider vinegar

1 cup flat leaf parsley roughly chopped  
¾ cup fresh mint leaves roughly chopped  
4 tsp. salt  
1 tbs. pepper

Directions:

1. I clean my veggies in a mild organic dish soap and warm water solution then rinsed well. No need to buy expensive veggie washes made from chemicals you can't pronounce.
2. Blanche and peel your tomatoes
3. Chop all vegetables into ½-1-inch pieces if you like the pieces smaller, cut them how you like them.

*Side Note:* Don't throw away your scraps. Save the peels and stems of all the ingredients, (except the mint), add some carrot and celery to make a lovely vegetable stock. Simply cover them with water, bring to a boil, cover and simmer 2-3 hours then strain it. Use the stock for soups, sauces or even to cook rice in to add flavor. If you don't have time, just bag them up and put them in the freezer and make the stock later.

4. In a large stainless-steel stock pot, sauté the garlic slices in olive oil until golden brown. (Do not use an aluminum pot, as it is highly reactive with acidic foods such as tomatoes and vinegar which are used in this recipe.)



5. Add the tomato paste and cook until it softens. Slowly stir in the water.
6. Add the zucchini, summer squash, peppers, onions and tomatoes. Stir to incorporate. Cover and cook on



medium heat for 15 minutes stirring often to avoid scorching the bottom of the pot.

7. Add the remaining ingredients: olives, capers, parsley, mint, vinegar and salt & pepper. Cook another 15 minutes or until the vegetables are cooked through.

8. Refrigerate overnight. It's always better the next day.



## 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  
[desertdancer001@yahoo.ca](mailto:desertdancer001@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

### Lehen Malti

[https://www.omnity.ca > shows > lehen-malti](https://www.omnity.ca/shows/lehen-malti)  
c/o 2387 Chilsworthy Avenue., Mississauga, ON  
L5B 2R4

### 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  
[joesherry@rogers.com](mailto:joesherry@rogers.com)

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

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON  
 L5B 2R4  
 416-571-3944  
[joesherry@rogers.com](mailto:joesherry@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  
 416-909-7357/416-670-2662  
[carl@isgtransport.com/b\\_azzo18@yahoo.com](http://carl@isgtransport.com/b_azzo18@yahoo.com)

**Maltese Cross Foundation of California**  
 PO Box 698, San Carlos, CA 94070

**Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)**  
 c/o [leprofess@aol.com](mailto:leprofess@aol.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 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  
[qormija@sympatico.ca](mailto:qormija@sympatico.ca)

**Melita Soccer Club Inc.**

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

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 Friday 6:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.  
 Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.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  
[stpaulmssp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmssp@gmail.com)  
[www.saint-paul-maltese.com](http://www.saint-paul-maltese.com)

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mission Group**

c/o 281 Gilmour Ave., Toronto, ON M6P 3B6  
 416-708-8627  
[giovanvel@sympatico.ca](mailto:giovanvel@sympatico.ca)  
[www.facebook.com/john.vella.1044186](http://www.facebook.com/john.vella.1044186)

**St. Paul the Apostle Youth Group (Toronto)**

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

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