

THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

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(Photo courtesy of Margaret Muscat Purdy.)
(See pages 29-32 for story.)

The Maltese Presence in North America

Issue No. 31 October 2021

Editor

Dan Brock

Proofreader

Mona Vella-Nicholas

Copy Editors

Mark Caruana

Maria Pia Gauci

Contributors to This Issue

CANADA

Ontario

Mary Rose Aquilina

Consulate General of Malta to

Canada webpage

Richard S. Cumbo

Marthese Fenech

Mary (Pavia) Melvin

Fr. Mario Micallef

Joan Mizzi-Fry

Mary Ann Piscopo

USA

Michigan

Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci

Margaret Muscat Purdy

California

Evelyn and Dennis Simmons

AUSTRALIA

New South Wales

Mark Caruana

Stephen Asciak

MALTA

Gozo

Emanuel Tabone

EDITORIAL COMMENT

It's in part owing to the increasing amount of activities and the number of submissions, often one or more each day, that this issue has been delayed some three weeks more than usual. As most of these submissions were time sensitive, I couldn't postpone them to the November issue. The result has been this issue being the largest to date—44 pages!

This is in part owing to a relaxation of regulations as this fourth wave of the COVID-19 seems to be gradually abating in many areas with the number of the fully vaccinated

continuing to rise. Along with more and more individuals and organizations keeping me abreast of what is happening in their areas, additional family histories are being submitted. In this later instance, Joan Mizzi-Fry's "Memories of the Maltese Canadian Society of Toronto: A Child's Perspective" (see pages 33-36) comes to mind. Last month, it was Mike Cutajar's tribute to his late uncle Joe Cutajar and Gerry Abela's family mementos.

You are encouraged to send in such materials. In the course of doing so, you are organizing portions of your family history so that it is not lost to future generations and, at the same time, you are honouring your parents, grandparents, etc. who were courageous enough to seek a better life for themselves and their children in an often-alien environment.

Along with the regular menu of articles and columns, this issue contains two new features.

One is a piece in interview format. See Mark Caruana and Dan Brock's "Stephen Asciak and Maltese DNA & Genealogy, pages 23-27. The article itself points the reader to yet another method of researching and preserving one's family history.

The other is an article entitled "Preserving a Piece of Maltese Canadian History. (See page 41.) This allows me to show how one Maltese Canadian left his "mark" on an iconic structure in London, Ontario, while giving some insight into my own research regarding the City's history which has fascinated me over some 55 years.

Coincidentally, Mary (Pavia) Melvin, the daughter of Maltese immigrants to London, factors into both articles and my deep appreciation goes out to her for sharing two items of family history with me.

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

I may be reached at

dbrock40@worldline.ca, be it ideas you care to share, wishing to be put on the free, bcc, electronic mailing list, etc.

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GLEANINGS FROM THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS...



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

I Will Follow Him

I'm sure that, for many of you, the name Peggy March doesn't ring a bell. Back in 1963, 15-year-old "Little Peggy March" claimed the number 1 spot on the charts with her single "I Will Follow Him."

....If I want to follow someone, I have to know that person. It doesn't matter what other people think of her/him. What matters is who that person is for me. It is a personal knowledge coming out of an ever-growing personal relationship. The way two lovers see and know one another is different to the way other people know them.

....the role of the disciple is to follow, not to lead the master. His place is, therefore, behind the master, not in front of him. The disciple lets the master lead, and then walks in the master's footsteps....let us ask ourselves the question, "Who is Jesus for me"? It's not what others have told me about Jesus. What my parents, teachers, catechists or priests told me about Him as I was growing up was very important, but not enough.

To really know Jesus, I need to enter into a real, living relationship with Him....He wanted people to come to know Him through personal experience, not through hearsay. As a disciple, I also have to learn to follow, to allow Him to lead the way....Aren't most of our prayers about asking the Lord to change some situation which we do not particularly like?

Walking in Jesus' footsteps means living the same life He lived: a life of selfless, self-giving and life-giving love. That is what passion, death and resurrection is all about. Because true love implies dying

to oneself to give life to others. Some might say that this is not easy. Peter...found it difficult, but eventually he made it. If Peter made it, we can too. As the song goes:

*I will follow him
Follow him wherever he may go
There isn't an ocean too deep
A mountain so high it can keep me away.*

**When We Serve the Least Ones Among Us
We Serve Jesus Himself**

....He [Jesus] knows quite well what we are made of. He is well aware of both our desire to follow him and of our weaknesses. Every time we fall, He picks us up and helps us to learn something from that experience. Thus, the fall becomes an opportunity of growth.

....when we serve the least ones among us, we serve Jesus Himself. Being a disciple of Christ means welcoming and serving everyone, irrespective of who that person is.

....As we strive to continue to grow as followers of Jesus, we ask Him to help us to allow our lives to be led by those values which St James speaks of in his letter: to be peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.

**We Are All Important Members in Christ's Body
which Is the Church**

....Through our baptism we have all received God's spirit and we are all active members of this living body which we call Church. This is something that is also very dear to St. Paul with his vision of a Church that is a body, with all the different members having an important role to perform. For Paul there is no one member who is more important than the other – we are all different with different roles, all of which are necessary for the full and proper functioning of the body.

....as Christians we are all important members in Christ's body which is the Church. Am I aware of that? What is my role, as a baptized person, in my community?

Then this brings with it certain responsibilities. As a living member of the Church, my life has to be a living witness to what I believe in. An important question to ask myself would be: Am I living in a way that helps other people come closer to God? Or is there a difference in the way I live my everyday life to what I say I believe as a follower of Jesus?

LAST TWO HOMES OF THE MALTESE-CANADIAN SOCIETY OF TORONTO

Richard S. Cumbo



In 2000 the Malta Band Club sold their building to the M.C.S.T., they moved to Mississauga, Ont.

The last two homes of the MALTESE-CANADIAN SOCIETY OF TORONTO, Est. 1922. Until the M.C.S.T. bought their first home from the Malta Band Club in 2000, they used rented premises along Dundas Street West. Since all of their funds over the years were used to financially aid St. Paul the Apostle Church they were unable to purchase a building till 2000. Top photo former home of the Malta Band Club-235 Medland Street-2000 to 2004. Bottom photo, M.C.S.T. last home- 3132 Dundas Str., W. From Jan.23, 2004, until the club closed and building sold in August, 2019. Richard Cumbo, Aug.13,2021.



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

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



“Maltese Canadians – I can comfortably hold my head high and speak with pride about the very good life you have managed to create for yourselves and your families. Malta is proud of your extraordinary achievements ... you are exemplary citizens and ambassadors of both Malta and Canada.”

The above title sums up my traditional Independence speech for 2021. I know for many it was unexpected and yet others shed tears listening to me, but I meant and believe every word I said. Thank you. Your many positive comments make the extra efforts of my staff, volunteers and myself more than worth it.

For the second consecutive year, despite COVID19 restrictions, together we managed to organise Malta Day Canada 2021, to commemorate the 57th Anniversary since Malta’s Independence.

This year we were able to organise two out of four Maltese Citizenship Ceremonies on Saturday, September 18 where I distributed Maltese Citizenship Certificates to this year’s recipients at the Maltese Canadian Museum, Archives and Visitors Centre, situated in Malta Village in the heart of the great city of Toronto.

The ceremonies all started with a prayer by Assistant Pastor Fr Ivano Burdian, MSSP, a few words by Joe Sherri, President of the Maltese Canadian Federation, and a speech I delivered. All ceremonies were organised by Natasha Delicata and Amanda Vella, both administrators of the Consulate. Photography was provided by Ryan Zammit of RJZTV.com and others.



Fr. Ivano Burdian, MSSP



Joe Sherri



Dr. Raymond Xerri



**One of the Recipients
of the Maltese Citizenship Certificate**
(See also page 44)

On Sunday, September 19th, we started the ceremony of the flag-raising with a prayer delivered by the new comer priest from Gozo, Fr Giovann Tabone, MSSP, a ceremony seeing the raising of the Maltese and Canadian flags in Malta Park, in the heart of Toronto. It is not only a symbolic ceremony, but a significant and an emotional one for many. Patriotic tears trickled down our eyes from the minute the flags were hoisted up the poles and anthems of Malta and Canada were uttered from our voices, ending with a lengthy clap. This occasion brings together representatives of The Maltese Canadian Federation, the two Greater Toronto Area (GTA) clubs and various associations in Canada. It is a moment where Maltese Canadian identity and unity recharge the love and loyalty towards Malta, the homeland, and Canada, the adopted homeland, and continues the beautiful tradition of unity amongst all Maltese Canadians everywhere. All this happened in Malta Park, situated in a place called Malta Village in the heart of a great city, Toronto.



Afterwards we moved from a social and patriotic ceremony to a religious and thanksgiving one. The Maltese organisation representatives walked from Malta Park to St Paul's Church in procession with their flags and banners. Solemn Mass was celebrated by Fr Giovann Tabone, after I presented a bouquet of flowers at the altar and all the clubs and associations placed their respective flags and banners at the altar. The fact that Maltese Canadians have the luxury of having a church and parish exclusively theirs is a situation no Maltese Community in the entire Western Hemisphere can claim to have. The Solemn Mass was an entire prayer of thanksgiving to God for the 57 years of Malta as an independent country.





I could see the patriotic love in the many tears shed during my fairly emotional speech. Your comments to me after Mass confirmed my thoughts and showed your appreciation for me uttering such words about Maltese Canadians and yes, as if nobody has ever said such words, I stand by every word I uttered. Despite the social distancing imposed by COVID-19, the sense of unity, sense of humility, joy and festive atmosphere owing to the gift of independence and huge progress registered over these decades by Malta and its people was very much felt in the St Paul The Apostle Church.

Following the Solemn Mass all were directed to witness the inauguration of three exhibitions at the St Paul The Apostle Auditorium's De Piro Hall. After I opened the exhibitions, Fr Giovanni Tabone said a prayer and blessed them.



The three exhibitions were:-

(1) **'Portraits of Prominent Maltese'** – an exhibition of 64 photographic portraits of President and Prime Minister of Malta, judges, authors, actors, people in sports, artists, comedians and others, all of which are the work of the renowned Maltese photographer, Tony S. Mangion.



(2) **'Traditional Maltese Wicker Tools'** – an exhibition of 11 very different Maltese and Gozitan traditional wicker tools which are no longer used by Malta's population today, mostly replaced by plastic and steel items. It consisted of a wicker-bottle for olive oil and/or vinegar, a hay wicker basket, a Gozitan fisherman's pot, a fishmonger's wicker, a grape wicker basket, a fruit and vegetable wicker basket, a egg wicker basket, a wool and sick bobbin wicker basket and a robust wicker basket.





(3) 'Traditional Maltese Balconies' by Maltese Canadian Michael Andrew Camilleri featuring a number of miniature Maltese traditional balconies of different designs and colours expressing the craftsmanship of Mr Camilleri.

Bags stocked with traditional Maltese food and drink was the cherry on that day's cake! A very much welcomed idea by all. *Pastizzi, qassatat, imqaret, honey rings, Kinnie, galletti, kunserva* and more.

This traditional food reminds us that this food is ours and therefore special to us. It gives a sense of one community, one identity, one people and one nation – Malta and Gozo



On Sunday evening an additional two Maltese Citizenship Certificate ceremonies were organised by the Consulate at the same venue and in the same format. I would like to thank my staff, volunteers and the many Maltese Canadians who attended and appreciated a piece of Malta brought to Canada to celebrate the closeness of Malta and Canada and Maltese and Canadians.

How things change – change in an instant – Travelling Canada-Malta-Canada

As from Friday, September 17th, Malta started to accept Canadian vaccine receipts/certificates. Passengers bound for Malta are required to upload their vaccine receipts/certificates into an app called VERIFLY with EMA (European Medicines Agency) approved vaccines; two doses of Pfizer, Moderna or AstraZeneca (or a combination of any of these), or one dose of Janssen. This applies to those who have taken both EMA approved vaccines and 14 days have passed from the last dose taken.

Thus far, this new arrangement does not apply to Canadians or Maltese Canadians vaccinated in the Province of Manitoba. Therefore, Manitobans travelling to Malta must quarantine for 14 days and provide a negative PCR test 72 hours prior to arriving in Malta. The same rules apply to children, age five to 11, of all Canadian provinces and territories. VERIFLY is working towards obtaining the same arrangement for Manitobans.

Basically, you are requested to; (1) upload your COVID-19 receipt/certificate; (2) complete a public health travel declaration form as well as a passenger locator form which can be downloaded from: <http://www.maltairport.com/declarationforms> and to be presented upon arrival. (3) Once you have completed the passenger locator form, you are to scan the QR Code on the VERIFLY app. (4) Last, kindly ensure that you have completed the final checklist on the VERIFLY at least four hours prior to arrival in Malta.

What a month! Meeting with Maltese Canadian Stars! What an Honour!

Besides the Malta Day Canada 2021 celebrations mentioned above, September was a memorable month in receiving Maltese Canadian stars at the Consulate:-

- ❖ Maltese Canadian Olympian Shannon Galea, from Montreal;



- ❖ Maltese Canadian physician and writer, Dr Anthony Galea from Campbellville;



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- ❖ Maltese Canadian craftsman Michael Andrew Camilleri from Mississauga;



- ❖ Gozitan Canadian Christopher Saliba, RMCP from Woodbridge to be stationed in Fort Nelson, British Columbia;



- ❖ Gozitan Fr Giovanni Tabone, MSSP studying at the University of Toronto;



- ❖ and Maltese Canadian Brian Abela, sales representative of the Abela Real Estate Group, Vaughan.



Besides this privilege, I present a donation of educational materials to both Maltese clubs in Toronto and attended the Il-Vittorja Dinner and two car shows at the Malta Band Club and the Malta Day *Fenkata* at the Melita Soccer Club.

Are there feasts in Malta and Gozo in October?

Many believe that the Feast of Our Lady of Victories brings to an end the festive season in the Maltese Islands. This cannot be further from the truth since the feasts in Malta and Gozo are an all-year-round occurrence. In October, we find at least two feasts in Malta and two in Gozo. On October 3, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Consolation in Valletta; the next day, October 4, there is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary in il-Gudja, Our Lady of Pompei in Marsaxlokk and St Francis of Assisi in Tas-Sliema in Malta. On October 13, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima in Gwardamangia and finally on Sunday, October 25, the Feast of Our Lady of Consolation in il-Gudja. In Gozo on the second Sunday of October, one finds the feast of Our Lady as Patron Saint in I-Ghasri and Jesus of Nazareth in ix-Xaghra.

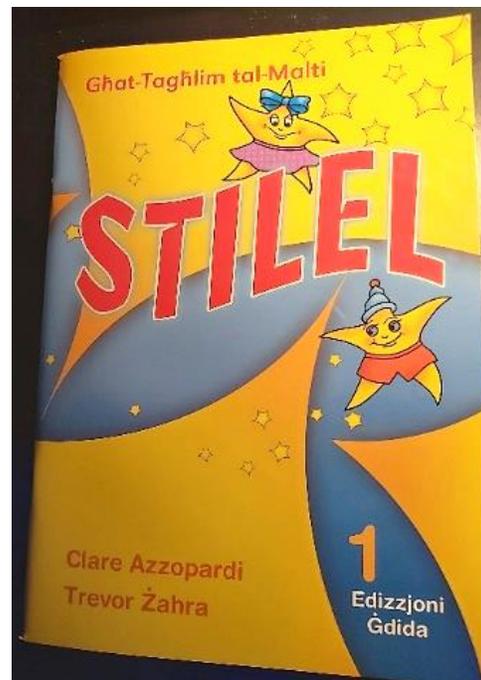
Finally, on behalf of my wife Marlene and my family, I wish you and your families an enjoyable Thanksgiving Day on Monday, October 11, celebrated in Canada and many countries around the western world. It's a day when most Canadian families get together and celebrate the traditional turkey dinner. Despite not being a holiday, Halloween is celebrated on Sunday, October 31st, but this year there might be a difference owing to COVID-19. Do not forget that COVID-19 is still around in full force, so remember to contact that lonely relative or friend near or far to check if they are fine. O God Bless Malta and Canada.

General itself.

In the near future, copies of the same publications will be provided to the Library of the Malta United Society of Windsor and to the Runnymede Long-Term Care Facility Library.

Following a number of calls from Maltese Canadian parents and students, it has been decided that all the educational materials donated, set according to category, be circulated.

The following are samples of educational items related to learning the Maltese language. If you are a member of any of the aforementioned clubs, you can request to make use of them.

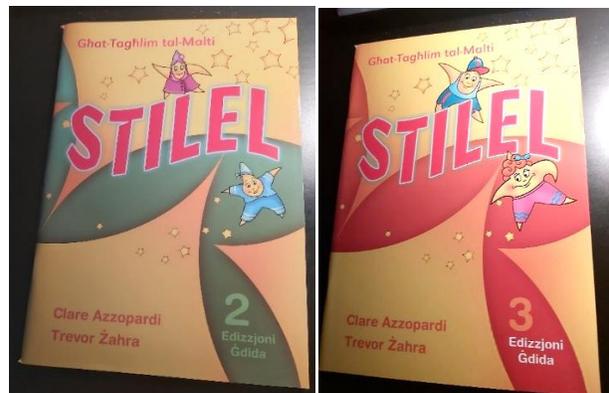


MALTESE CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWS 🍁

Dr Raymond Xerri

More Maltese-language educational materials are available at three libraries and will soon be at four locations in the GTA and beyond.

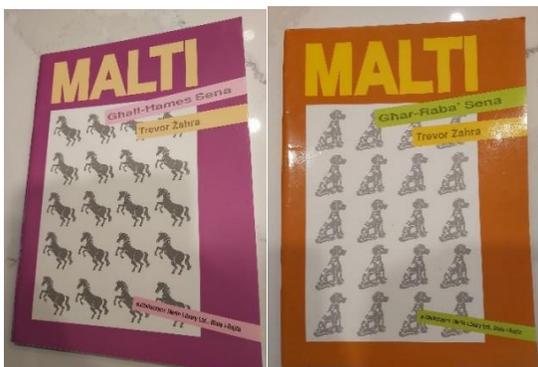
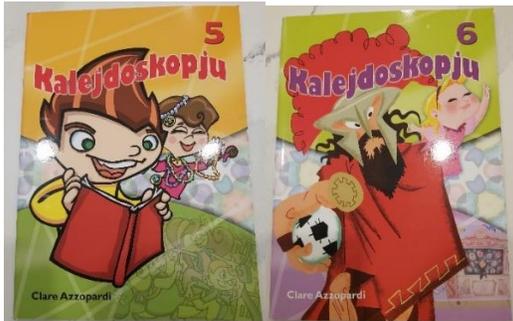
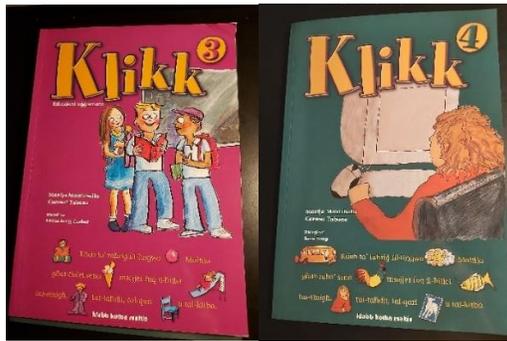
The Consulate General of Malta to Canada recently compiled over 200 educational items from various institutions around the Maltese Islands, and has donated copies of each to the Libraries of the Melita S.C., the Malta Band Club and the Consulate



**CONSTABLE CHRISTOPHER SALIBA,
RCMP***

Dan Brock

Constable Christopher Saliba is believed to be the first Gozitan Canadian from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Training Academy in Regina, Saskatchewan.



Further educational materials will be shown in future posts.



So far, there have been a handful of Maltese Canadian Mounties. Bert J. Borg joined the force in 1965. He knew of one other Maltese Canadian Mountie, Vincent Aquilina, when working in the London and Toronto area. This may be the same person whose wife was in my Canadian history summer course at the University of Western Ontario (now Western University) in the mid-1970s, but I thought his name was Joseph Aquilina.

As for Constable Saliba, his parents are Peter and Doris Saliba, natives of Victoria, Gozo. He is a graduate of Toronto's Western Technical Commercial High School, Seneca College and Humber College. At the latter, he was an honours student in the Police Foundations program.



Constable Saliba with His Proud Parents

Upon Constable Saliba's recent graduation, a reception was held for him, in the evening of Tuesday, September 14th, in Woodbridge, Ontario, at the home of Mary Aquilina, a family friend who is also from Victoria, Gozo. Dr. Raymond Xerri, Consul General of Malta to Canada, was the guest of honour.



Doris Saliba, Christopher's mother, who was a lace expert within her community back in Gozo and now within the Gozitan community in the GTA, gave Dr. Xerri a framed sample of her work as an expression of the respect and appreciation the Saliba family has for him.



Constable Saliba and Dr. Raymond Xerri

Constable Saliba will be posted in Fort Nelson, British Columbia for the next four years.

**I wish to thank Dr. Raymond Xerri who provided the photos and much of the textual data, Constable Christopher Saliba and Mary Camilleri of Melbourne, Australia, Bert Borg's sister, for making this article possible.*

FENKATA AT THE MELITA SOCCER CLUB, TORONTO*

Dan Brock

On Saturday September 25th, the Melita Soccer Club of Toronto celebrated Malta Day by having its first function, a *fenkata*, since reopening after the COVID-19 pandemic. Fifty-five people attended. Because of the pandemic restrictions, all three floors were used.

Hobż biż-żejt (bread with oil) was the appetizer, followed by rabbit stew and spaghetti, then *bajtar tax-xewk* (prickly pears) and cake for dessert.



Among those present were Fr. Mario Micallef, MSSP, who had just returned to Canada after several months in Malta, Fr. Giovanni Tabone, MSSP and Dr. Raymond Xerri, the Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada.

Owing to pandemic protocols, Dr. Xerri was required to deliver the following brief speech three times, once on each floor.

It is great to be back together as Club members, families and friends around tables. Malta is waiting for you all to visit her now that most restrictions have been removed. 2021 has seen the largest increase ever of new Maltese citizens and passports. Please do your extra effort to support all Maltese Canadian clubs by attending their events, becoming members and encouraging family members and friends to do the same. Looking forward to seeing you all in more such events.



Fun was had by all who attended and they were able to enjoy some *għana* (Maltese folk music) as well.

** I wish to thank Mary Ann Piscopo, Secretary of the Melita Soccer Club and Dr. Raymond Xerri, Consul General of Malta to Canada for providing both the photographs and textual material for this article.*



Readers' Comments

What you do is so important to the community. We need to tell these stories before the story tellers are gone.

Joan Mizzi-Fry, Orillia, Ontario

Thanks lots...especially for your excellent work with the newsletter. I love every iota of it. Well done! Keep it up!

Maria Pia Gauci, Malta

**AMBASSADOR KEITH AZZOPARDI
CELEBRATES MALTA NATIONAL DAY
IN METRO DETROIT***

Dan Brock

At 11:00 a.m., Saturday, October 2nd, Mass was celebrated at Most Holy Trinity Church in Corktown, Detroit by Mons. Charles Kosanke.

This was followed by brunch held at the Maltese American Benevolent Society on Michigan Avenue. Along with Ambassador Azzopardi and Mons. Kosanke, other dignitaries present were current State Representative Darrin Camilleri, former State Representative Belda Garza, candidate for City Council Hector Santiago and Hon. Consul for Michigan Paul Borg.



Those present were able to see and hear the popular Maltese singer, Jasmine Abela.



**Ambassador Keith Azzopardi
with Mons. Charles Kosanke,
Most Holy Trinity Church**



Ambassador Azzopardi and Jasmine Abela



An evening dinner/entertainment was held in Ambassador Azzopardi's honour at the Maltese American Community Club in Dearborn. There were introductions by Brian Vella, the Club's President and by Second Vice President, Rita Vella Cruz. The American and Maltese national anthems were sung by Allyson Bozensk and Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci. Dearborn Heights Councilman, Ray Muscat then led those assembled in prayer before the meal, this being the first formal dinner event since the COVID-19 quarantine and the first in the newly-renovated hall.



**Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci
with Rep. Darrin Camilleri**

Jasmine Abela provided the evening's entertainment by singing both American and Maltese hits.



**Ambassador Azzopardi
with Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci**

** Text and photos were mainly taken from the Facebook website of the Maltese American Benevolent Society and the Maltese America Community Club of Dearborn. A special thanks goes to Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci for some of the photos and textual data.*

**MALTESE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY
IN MICHIGAN***

Dan Brock

This year, Maltese American Heritage Day was declared at the Capital Building in Lansing, Michigan on Wednesday, September 22nd. Members from both the Dearborn Maltese American Community Club and The Detroit Maltese American Benevolent Society witnessed Representative Darrin Camilleri declare a proclamation on the House floor and watched as the House voted to pass the resolution.

Leader Award went to Tanya Caruana and The Spirit of Malta Award was presented to Joseph Said. Each award was presented in a framed special tribute certificate from the state of Michigan, and signed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II and State Representative Camilleri.

Maltese American Heritage Day 2021

Schedule of Events

11-11:30 am: Maltese American Heritage Day Ceremony
Capitol Rotunda

- Performance of *L-Innu Malti* (Maltese National Anthem) and *The Star Spangled Banner* – Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci
- Remarks from Rep. Camilleri
- Presentation of Awards
 - » Maltese American Community Leader of the Year
 - » Spirit of Malta Award
 - » Maltese American of the Year Award

11:30 am - 12:15 pm: Guided Tour of Capitol
Capitol Building - Ground floor, East Wing

12:30-1:30 pm: Lunch
Speaker's Library, Capitol Building - Second Floor

Thank you for attending today.
State Representative Darrin Camilleri
RepCamilleri.com • (866) 725-2929
Wednesday, September 22, 2021



As part of the celebration, a ceremony was held in the rotunda of the Capitol building beginning with opening remarks from Rep. Camilleri followed by Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci singing both the American and Maltese national anthems.

Representative Camilleri, after further remarks, then presented this year's awards. The Maltese American of the Year Award went to Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci. Two new additional awards were presented this year as well. The Maltese American Community



After the ceremony, the attendees were treated to a guided tour of the capitol building and a luncheon in the Senator's Library.



Congratulations and thanks are owed to the honorees for the volunteering of their time and talents to the betterment of the Maltese American

community in Michigan.

** I wish to thank Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci for providing the textual data and photographs.*

**QAGHAQ TAL-ĠULĠLIEN
(SESAME SEED COOKIES)***

Mary Rose Aquilina



Last month's issue featured Mary Rose's soppa tal-perżut u piżelli bil-pulpetti tal-bulubif (ham and pea soup with corned beef patties).

As I'm preparing this recipe, I'm feeling very nostalgic. Besides being my favourite cookie as a child, it also reminds me a lot of my uncle Vic. He was a favourite in the family with the best imitation of slapstick comedy and sense of humour. Norman Wisdom was his favourite ... need I say more? He was in the British Navy as a cook before joining the rest of my mom's side of the family here in Canada. His life was to be rather short-lived but he left us with tons of memories, humour and some special recipes that we all associate with his presence. When we mention some of these recipes at family gatherings, we never refer to them with just the name of the recipe but "Uncle Vic's recipe for...." So, this one's for you, Uncle Vic!

This is a very buttery cookie with a taste of citrus and the warm spicing from the anise seeds (If to your liking you can even add ½ tsp of ground cloves). These are a lovely bite to accompany a cup of tea or a cappuccino...or just because you want one...or two ...or more. Who's to know? Enjoy.



Note: If you wish, you can also either replace a bit of the butter with 1-2 tablespoons of Tahini, which is sesame paste. (You can find this at Middle Eastern stores, but likely at regular grocery stores). If your dough comes out a bit too soft to hold its shape, just add a tablespoon of flour at a time until it reaches the consistency that allows you to form a ball simply by rolling between the palms of your hand and roll into the cigar shape (refer to pictures). I hope you get the opportunity to try these. You won't buy another tea-dunking cookie again!

Ingredients

- 550 grams flour – 3½ to 4 cups
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 200 grams butter – 7 oz. or just under 1 cup
- 150 grams sugar- 5 ½ oz. - just under 1 cup
- 2 eggs
- Zest and juice of 1 orange and 1 lemon
- 1 tsp ground cloves (optional)
- 1 tbsp anise seeds
- Sesame seeds (about 1 cup)
- Milk and a pastry brush



Method

- Preheat the oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Sift together the flour, baking soda and baking powder.



- Rub in the butter with the sifted flour mixture.



- In a separate bowl mix with a hand or stand-up mixer the sugar, eggs, orange, lemon juice, ground cloves and anise seed.



- Add the flour mixture to the wet mixture gradually until it forms a dough. If the dough appears wet, gradually add more flour till it does not feel wet.



- Start forming the cookie rings by taking a piece of dough the size of a walnut and form into a thin sausage about 6 inches long and 1/2 an inch thick.



- Slightly overlap the ends to form a circle and squeeze lightly.



- Brush the top of the cookie lightly with water or milk. Sprinkle the seeds over the cookie.
- Place cookies on a baking sheet covered with parchment paper and bake in the preheated oven for 10-15 minutes till golden. Rotate pan half-way through baking time.

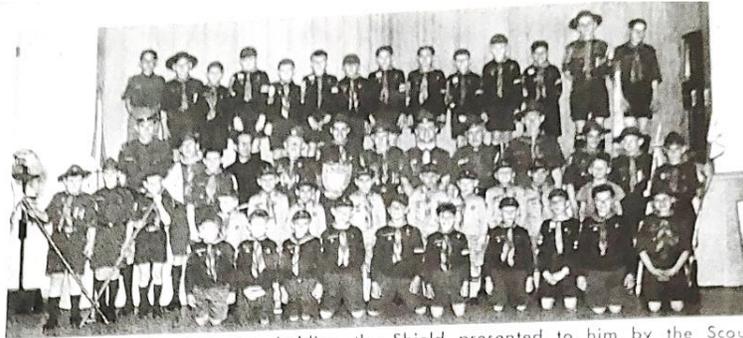


* I wish to thank the Lehen Malti television program for permission to use the photos for this article.

Marthese Fenech's pilot script *Empires of Smoke*, based on her historical fiction works centering on the Great Siege of Malta, has been named a finalist in the Los Angeles International Screenplay Awards, a quarter-finalist in the NYC International Screenplay Awards and a top 12 finalist in the Circe Historical Screenplay Competition.

St. Paul's Maltese Catholic Church, 2219 Fourth Street, in Detroit, was an important part of Corktown's large Maltese community until it was demolished in the mid-1950s for the construction of the Lodge Freeway.

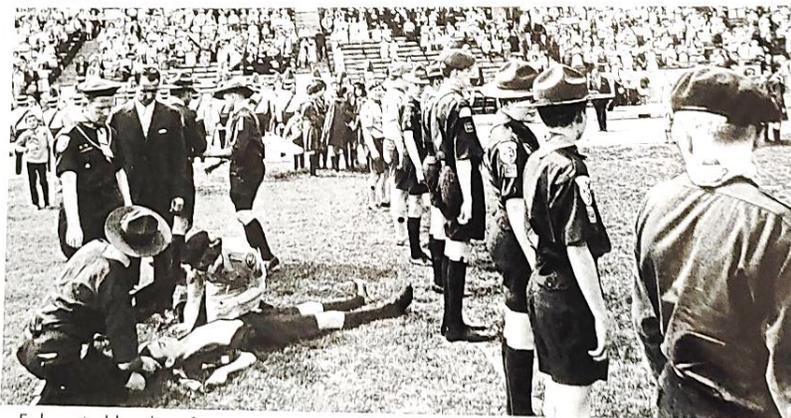
Detroit's first Maltese church was an old church building at Fort and Plum streets, purchased in the 1920s during the pastorate of Fr. Michael Borg. Fr. Borg had arrived in Detroit in November 1920



Mr. W. Sweet, Scout Master, holding the Shield presented to him by the Scout Commissioner on July, 1965, on behalf of the Cubs and Scouts of the Parish.



St. Paul the Apostle's Cubs win C.Y.O. Religion Trophy on October, 1967. Mr. Vello, Scout Master R. Flint, Mr. Kenny and Chaplain Fr. S. Camilleri, O.F.M., are also in the photo.



Exhausted by the afternoon heat-wave, a St. Paul the Apostle's Boy Scout faints at the C.N.E. Grandstand on Rosary Sunday.

THE CUB AND SCOUT MOVEMENT AT ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH WAS FORMED IN 1958 THROUGH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF FATHER LAWRENCE BONAVIA, O.F.M. PARISH PRIEST. FOR DECADES THE 172ND TROOP WAS ACTIVE AND VERY SUCCESSFUL IN THE MALTESE PARISH.

RICHARD CUMBO, CURATOR-SEPT.2021

**MEMBERS OF THE MALTESE CANADIAN
ASSOCIATION (GOZO) CELEBRATE
THANKSGIVING***

Dan Brock

Thanksgiving was celebrated on Saturday, October 16th at Alfred Camilleri's "Tal-Peffu Farm," Nadur, Gozo.



The New Gate

Alfred, who lived over 30 years in the west end of Toronto, Canada, not only hosted the gathering but did the cooking as well.



Alfred Camilleri at the Barbeque

Among those present was Gina Hili, the former host of a Maltese television show in Toronto, Canada, now retired and living in Gozo.



Gina Hili



** My thanks go to Emanuel Tabone for the photos and textual data.*

**STEPHEN ASCIAK
AND MALTESE DNA & GENEALOGY**

Mark Caruana and Dan Brock

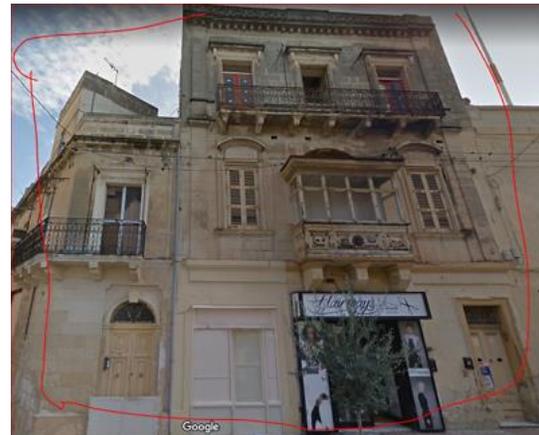
Editor's Note: This is another in a series of articles appearing in this newsletter in an effort to give direction to the reader in researching her/his Maltese ancestry. In the July 2019 issue, Mark Caruana wrote about Charles Said-Vassallo of New South Wales (NSW), Australia and his web site maltagenealogy.com. (See pages 5-6.) Mark then informed us of the value of the bills of health and passport applications found at the National Archives of Malta in Rabat, Malta. (See November 1919, pages 6-8, December 2019, pages 4-8 and January 2020, pages 4-6.) Like Mark and Charles, Stephen Asciak also resides in NSW, Australia.



Where My Mother Lived and Grew Up on Strada Reale (Main Street; Triq Il-Kbira), Birkirkara



**Stephen Asciak
Taken in 2018 at the Mdina Medieval Festival**



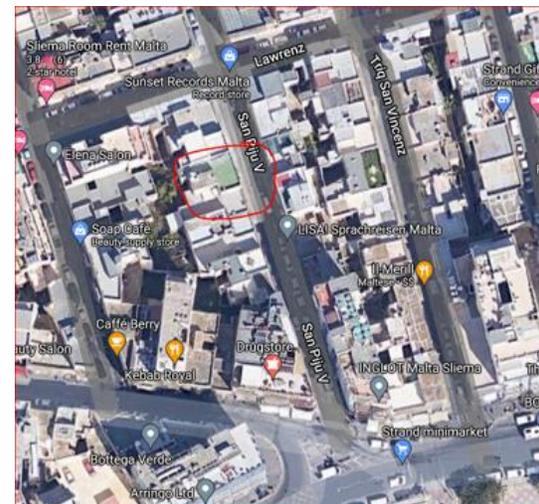
Mark: Stephen, tell me a bit about your Maltese background.

Stephen: Both my parents are Maltese. My father, Joseph Asciak, is 94 years old, from Sliema and my mother, Ursola Asciak, is 91 years old, from Birkirkara.

My mother's maiden name is Buhagiar. Her mother, Carmen Buhagiar, and grandmother, Ursola Grima, lived on Strada Reale, Birkirkara and operated a convenience shop on the ground floor of their residence. My grandmother and great-grandmother, also sold *Il-preseppi* (cribs). The shop was known as *Ta' Orslica*.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Buhagiar operated a taxi service (*karozzini*) from that address.

My father grew up at no. 10 St. Pius V Street in Sliema where his parents, Rosario Asciak and Adeodata Xuereb, lived from the 1930s.



Where My Father Lived and Grew Up on St Pius V Street (San Piju V), Sliema



My grandfather Rosario Asciak served as a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy from 1907 to 1954.



Rosario Asciak

My father arrived in Australia in 1952 and worked on the Snowy Mountain Scheme. He went back to Malta in 1961 to marry my mother. They returned to Australia in 1962 and settled in Melbourne Victoria.

I was born in Brunswick, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, on 22 Aug 1964. It was not until 2015, that I discovered I was a Maltese citizen by birth as my parents were unaware of Article 9 of the Maltese Citizenship Act (Cap.188) being deemed to not to have ever ceased to be a citizen of Malta as I was born before 21 September 1964.

In my childhood upbringing, Maltese was spoken, but from the commencement of school, my mother being a teacher, focused on speaking in English as she was concerned with our integration in school. I have a fairly good understanding of the Maltese language. I do my best reading, but unfortunately my speaking is limited.

M: What inspired you to start this website?



S: In my 20 years plus of doing my own family research and assisting others, many questions have arisen from my studies in family ancestry. It became clear that some of the information people have published does not have the supporting evidence to back their claims nor have they considered other sources outside Malta.

In my own research to discover my family history, it has been through DNA testing that has helped in refining my research. It has helped me to hone in on geographical regions in Europe in my search for answers of my family's origins before Malta.

It is through my own experiences that inspired me to proceed ahead to develop a website that can cater to Maltese and those with Maltese heritage to discover the real truths of their family heritage.

M: Why is the word DNA important and is included in the name?

S: In 2006 I did my first DNA test. The test was done to test the Maltese myth that the Asciak/Axiak family name is of Semitic origin. The use of phonetics in deciphering the origin of a surname is not a science and can never provide proof of your origins. Over the millennium, Malta has had many conquerors who brought to the island their influences. We can see through the historical records how family surnames have changed. In my own family surname research, we find, from the 13th Century onwards, various written formats of my family name. Some examples are Ashac, Axac, Axach, Haxac, Hasciach, Axiach, Axiak and Asciak.

I will not go into the technical side of DNA research, except to note that the Y chromosome in the DNA is only passed down from father to son. It is a unique marker. Through this we can confirm whether men sharing the same surname are in fact actually descended from the same ancestor. Like a surname being passed down from father to son, it is the Ydna that is proof of this connection.

In my own Ydna project of men who share the Asciak/Axiak/Axiaq surname, I have established a block that is of an illegitimate line with a common ancestor in the 16th century and that the other block of men does share the common ancestor Manfred Axac (Jurat) of the 15th Century.

Also, with the Asciak Ydna project I am studying the Agius paternal lines. I have a number of Agius men who have done a Ydna test, and it clearly shows that both the Asciak and Agius paternal lines have a common heritage and paternal ancestry before arriving in Malta in the 13th to 14th century. This connection was before the advent of the use of surnames.

DNA is your unique marker, and thus why it is in "Malta DNA & Genealogy"; it is identifying the true unique ancestry of your Maltese Heritage.

There are websites that tout that many Maltese are descended from Arabs of the 12th-13th century. I have already proven on many of the listed surnames that their claim is false. Sometime back, it was said of the Said surname that it was directly descended from the Ottoman Caliphs; this has also been proven to be untrue as the Ydna evidence shows the individual concern is more likely to be descended from a slave brought to Malta in the 16th century.

I do not deny that there is Semitic ancestry, but it is in a smaller number of Maltese. Recent studies at the University of Malta are showing that the majority of Maltese have their roots in Italy, and when you do genealogical research into a family's past, you can see the paper trail matching up with the DNA research.

It is only through Ydna testing that the true origins of your paternal line will be revealed.

M: Has the website grown over the years?

S: The website is still in its infant stage. I am currently in the process of launching a new website which will encompass in more detail the DNA research as well as the genealogical work.

M: Any satisfying moments of success?

My satisfaction comes from helping other Maltese and those who are of partial Maltese descent in discovering their roots. With the addition of DNA studies, it has helped in identifying missing links in the genealogical paper trail. It is of great pleasure helping those who do not know their heritage and greatest of all is helping people to find their biological parents. DNA testing has helped to establish the connection.

M: Do you experience any challenges or difficulties?

The greatest challenge and difficulty is many Maltese people are entrenched in their beliefs, their political persuasions and are reluctant or not interested in finding the truth of the origins of their family history. It is disturbing today that the same fallacies of the late 19th and early 20th century are still being pushed onto the Maltese when in fact the science and the historical research provides evidence that contradicts their beliefs.

Dan: Often I see samples of pedigree charts, which you have crafted, on the Malta DNA & Genealogy website. How did you get interested in drawing up these charts with the family coats of arms?

S: It goes back to my father's 90th Birthday, when I created the first paternal line chart for our family surname.

In terms of the family coat of arms, it is an area of interest with me and through a good friend in Malta, Dr. Charles Gauci, I have a number of his books and look to his advice in respect to arms of Maltese families.

D: How do you go about developing them?

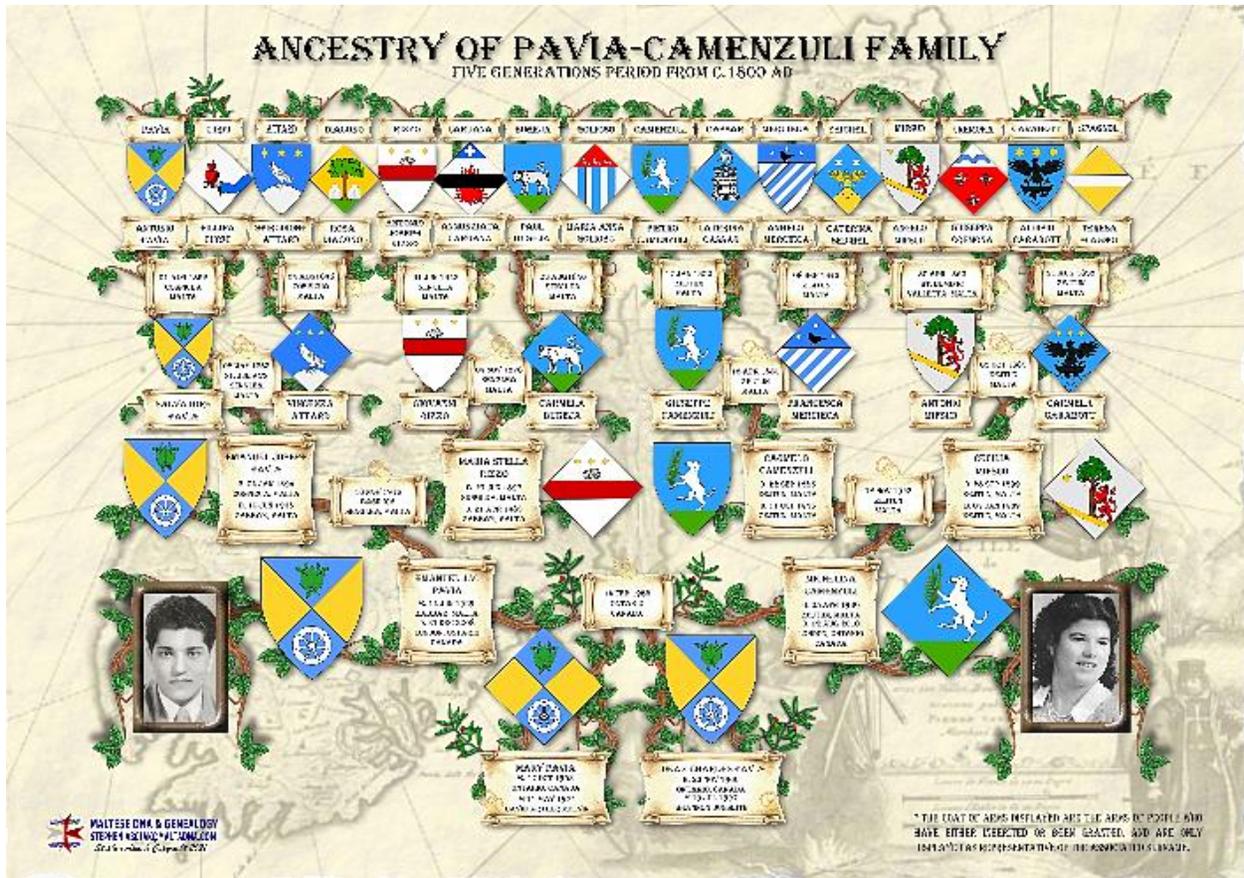
S: I use digital graphic software to design and create the images.

D: It would be useful for the reader to have some idea of the price range, in Australian dollars, to have one of these charts done.

S: Pricing is dependent on the amount of time, research and design work that is involved, but as a gauge, prices for the family or paternal charts start from \$290.00. This cost is only to generate the digital chart. Printing, framing and postage need to be priced separately depending on the client's location and selection of frame. I do recommend that it is more economical for the client to arrange for his/her own framing. I am happy to arrange the print and post if required.

D: What is the cost for having a second, third, etc. copy done to give as gifts to other family members, e.g. parents to give to each of their children, etc.? These look like great documents to have framed and mounted on one's wall.

S: Discounts do apply for multiple orders from the same client. Again, it is dependent on the amount of research and design work that is involved. If a substantial amount of work is done on the initial chart, there is up to 25% for additional charts.



A Sample of Stephen Ascik's Pedigree Charts

Courtesy of Mary (Pavia) Melvin, Springford, Ontario, Canada

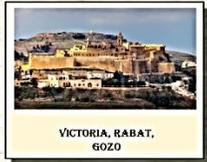
THE EARLIEST RECORD OF XUEREB IS XUERES, 1350 A.D., DOMINICAN FATHER ANDREA XUERES OF THE CHURCH IN SIRACUSE, SICILY (FRA. GIO FRANCESCO ABELA, 'DELLA DISCRITTONI DI MALTA', P.545)

IN THE 1419 MALTESE MILITIA LIST, XUEREB IS NOTED AS XUERES. (GODFREY WETTINGER, THE MILITIA LIST OF 1419-20.)

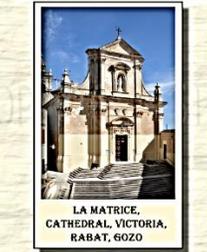
29TH SEPT 1545, NOTARIAL ACTS OF MALTA, BY GUGLIANO MUSCAT, IN THE TESTAMENT OF GUGLIELMO XUEREB, HIS FATHER AGOSTINO IS NOTED DECEASED AT THAT TIME. THEY WERE FROM RABBATO DE LA NOTABILE, MDINA.

FROM THE HISTORICAL RECORDS THE FATHER OF AGOSTINO XUEREB MAY BE GUGLIELMO XUEREB WHO DIED 1440 A.D (FRA. GIO FRANCESCO ABELA, 'DELLA DISCRITTONI DI MALTA', P.545) GUGLIELMO IS THE FATHER OF BARTOLOMEO XUEREB WHO MARRIED THE DONNA IMPERIA SILLATO IN 13 SEPT 1487 (NOTARIAL ACTS OF MALTA, GIGANO ZABARA). THE DECENDENTS OF NOBILE BARTOLOMEO 'TOMEO' XUEREB WERE PROMINENT MEMBERS, JURATS, CAPTAIN OF ARMS, DOCTORS, JUDGES AND MAGISTRATES OF MDINA.

IN 1551, THE POPULATION OF GOZO WAS DECIMATED BY THE SUCCESSFUL ATTACK OF THE OTTOMAN TURKS, TAKING AROUND 5500 GOZITANS INTO SLAVERY. XUEREB WAS NOT IN THE NAME LISTED AMONGST THE 300 OR SO SURVIVORS. FROM 1561 WE SEE A NUMBER OF XUEREB MEN MIGRATING TO GOZO FROM MALTA. IN 2ND SEPT 1560, DEMETRI XUEREB - SON OF GUGLIELMO XUEREB, BROTHER OF AMBROGIO XUEREB, MIGRATED WITH HIS SON GIACOMO TO GOZO. (STANLEY FIORINI, THE RESETTLEMENT OF GOZO AFTER 1551.) AMBROGIO FOLLOWED HIS BROTHER TO GOZO.



VICTORIA, RABAT, GOZO



LA MATRICE, CATHEDRAL, VICTORIA, RABAT, GOZO

MALTESE DNA & GENEALOGY
STEPHEN ASCIAK@MALTADNA.COM
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XUEREB



1500 A.D.

1600 A.D.

1700 A.D.

1800 A.D.

1900 A.D.



GUGLIELMO HAD THREE SPOUSES. 1ST SPOUSE IS UNKNOWN AND THE 3RD WIFE WAS ELEANORA (NOTARIAL ACTS OF MALTA, BY GUGLIANO MUSCAT, 29TH SEPT 1545)

SPOUSE PARENTS COA*

* THE COAT OF ARMS DISPLAYED ARE THE ARMS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE EITHER INHERITED OR BEEN GRANTED, AND ARE ONLY DISPLAYED AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ASSOCIATED SURNAME.

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**PASTIZZI MAKING DEMONSTRATIONS
AT THE MALTESE AMERICAN
COMMUNITY CLUB OF DEARBORN***

Dan Brock

This year's pastizzi making demonstrations, held on Saturday, September 25th and Sunday, September 26th, were again a big success. By holding it as a two-day event, it was possible to keep the classes smaller and easier for everyone to see.

There was a very good turnout and everyone really seemed to enjoy themselves. The demonstrations were just another way the Club preserves and teaches Maltese traditions. It was especially rewarding to see so many young people in attendance and eager to learn the Maltese ways.



Stretch the dough thin enough to see through.



Dab the Crisco, don't smear it.



**Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci
conducts the demonstrations.**



**Lisa teaches
her unique dowel rolling technique.**



A finished roll of dough.



To fill a pastizz, spread a piece of dough to a 3-inch diameter.



Look at all those layers!



Saturday's class was a small intimate group of about a dozen people.



Ricotta cheese filling



A much larger group of over 60 attended Sunday's demonstration.



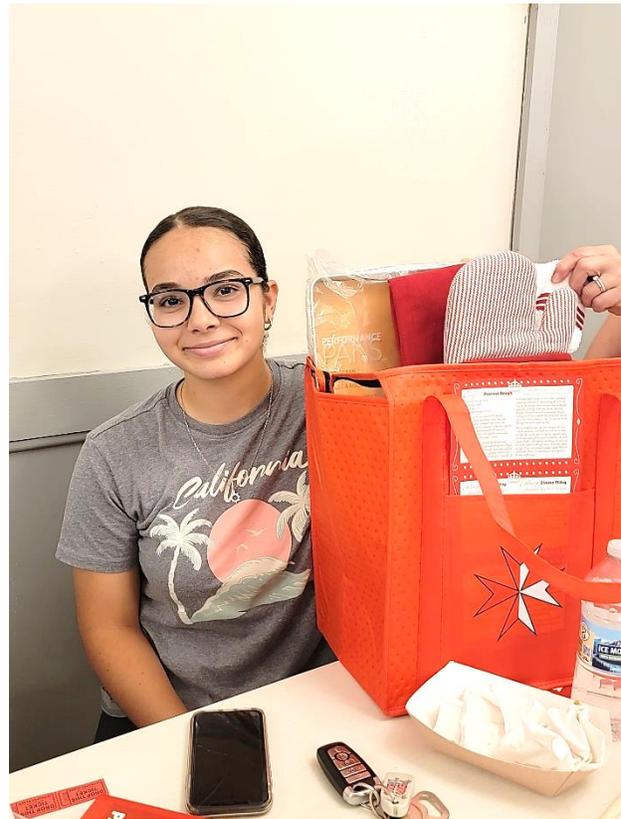
The demonstration was interactive, letting everyone come up and see how the dough should feel, like a baby's *patata*.



Everyone got to fill a pastizz.



A roll of dough is ready to fill



Our door prize winners received kitchen tools and ingredients to make pastizzi.



Lisa Kolbusz DeFelice and Rita Vella Cruz

Lisa Kolbusz DeFelice & Rita Vella Cruz were just a few of the many dedicated volunteers who give of their time and effort to make events of this kind a success. Special thanks also go out to Margaret Muscat Purdy, Marty and Mary Micallef, Rena Xuereb, Jo Axiak and McKenna Vella who worked behind the scenes organizing and working this event.

Everyone received recipe cards to take home with recipes for the dough, ricotta, meat, pea and two corn beef fillings.

Of course, there were pastizzi for sale to eat at the Club or to buy frozen to take home and bake.



** I wish to thank Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci for the textual data and Margaret Muscat Purdy for the photographs.*

LOCAL MPP VISITS THE MALTESE-CANADIAN MUSEUM ARCHIVES AND VISITORS CENTRE*

Dan Brock

When Parkdale-High Park riding MPP Bhutla Karpoche, who is of Tibetan background, came canvassing at the Cumbo household, in support of one of the Federal candidates running in the area, Richard Cumbo invited Bhutla to pay a visit to the Museum Archives on Dundas Street.

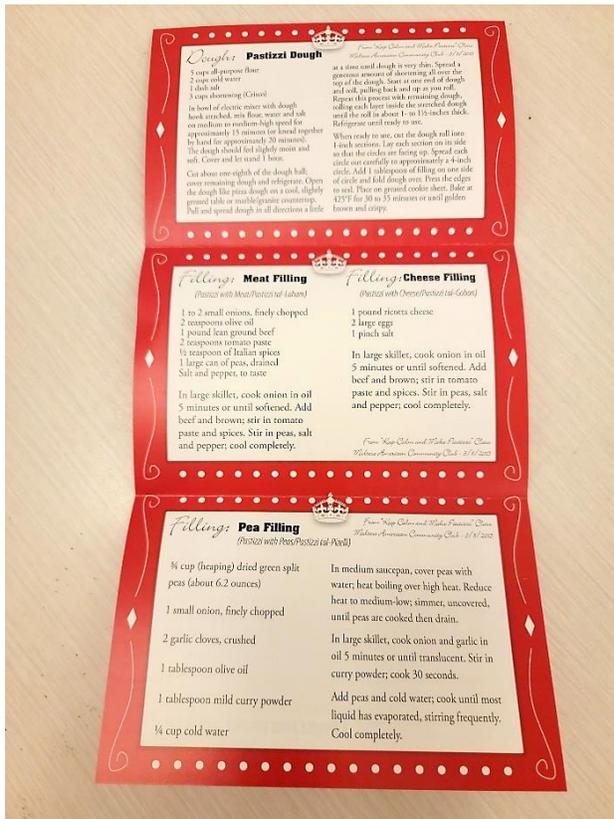
Some three weeks later, on Thursday, September 16th, Bhutla and her aide Dechen Tenzin took Richard up on his offer. They were “awe struck with this ‘gem’ which is found in West Toronto ‘Junction’.”

Later that day on Facebook Bhutla posted: *Did you know that we have Little Malta in the Junction?*

It was such a pleasure to visit the Maltese-Canadian Museum to learn more about the Maltese community's long history here in Parkdale—High Park & Toronto.

I had always passed by the centre but had never been inside and I was fascinated by the collections in the museum, from archival material to fossils to coin collections and the library/research centre. It's got almost everything!

Special thanks to curator Richard Cumbo for the invitation and the tour. Thanks also to the wonderful



volunteers Mani, Marthese, and Debbie for the warm welcome.

Make sure to check out this gem of a place in our community. It's open to the public for free!

During the tour, Richard asked Bhutla if she would like to try on one of the Museum's *ghenienel*. She said she would love to as long as it did not offend anyone. Richard assured her that no offense would be taken and that Prince Harry's wife, the former Meghan Markle had done the same when visiting Malta. Bhutla then did so. Richard is pretty sure that this was the first time ever that a member of provincial or Federal government in the Great Toronto Area had ever put on an *ghonella*.

The 20 minutes that Bhutla and Dechen had scheduled for the visit stretched out to an hour as Bhutla was completely enthralled with what she saw and what the Museum had to offer.



Bhutla with Richard Cumbo, the Curator, and Volunteers Mani Mifsud, Deborah Lightfoot and Marthese Fenech

Following the signing of the guest book, Bhutla was presented, by Richard, with a small memento marking her visit.

She and Dechen then stayed for refreshments.



The Covid-19 Mask Bhutla is Wearing Just Happens to Complement the Ghonella.



Bhutla Signing the Guest Book

** I wish to thank Richard and Bhutla for the textual data and Bhutla's office for the photos.*

**MEMORIES OF THE MALTESE
CANADIAN SOCIETY OF TORONTO:
A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE**

Joan Mizzi-Fry



Joan Mizzi-Fry spent more than 40 years working in broadcast news, communications and tourism. Today, she enjoys her 'next chapter' with husband Ron, furry kids and perusing other creative opportunities. She finds comfort in being only a two-hour drive from freshly made pastizzi and Kinnie.

In the late sixties, I was in junior high school in Toronto. It was around the time my parents became involved with the Maltese Canadian Society of Toronto – M.C.S.T. I don't have the exact dates – I will leave that to community archivist Richard Cumbo. Richard has worked tirelessly to maintain the history of the Maltese in Toronto. Special thanks to him for his hard work! These are my own personal recollections...so here it goes.

My parents, Josie and Paul Mizzi, immigrated to Toronto from Qormi, Malta at different times. It was a common practice in post war Malta for the husband to emigrate to find work and establish a home in either Canada, Australia, America or the UK.



**My Parents' Wedding Photo
August 1943, Qormi, Malta**

In 1951, Dad landed in Toronto, finding work and eventually buying land in the Township of York, where our future home would be built. In 1954, Mom followed with my three older siblings, Carmen, Georgina and Joe. My younger brother Frank and I are the "Made-in-Canada" branch of our family. Like so many others immigrating to a new country, getting used to a new culture was challenging and yet they managed to build a life and prosper in Toronto.



Passport Photo of My Mom and Three Oldest Siblings, 1954



Mom and Dad in Toronto, 1954

My dad was a carpenter by trade as well as a professional musician. His carpentry skills helped to support our family. Music, however, was his passion. He learned to play the tuba as a boy while a resident at St. Patrick's Orphanage in Sliema. Born in 1924 in Tripoli, Libya, his mother passed away when he was two, giving birth to his younger brother who did not survive. Dad lived with his dad in Libya until he was about 10. Feeling Dad needed more care, my grandfather sent him to St. Patrick's Orphanage where he learned carpentry as well as playing the tuba. Dad told me that music "saved his life" as a child. Adjusting to the orphanage was hard but music provided a much-welcomed distraction.

Music opened many doors for him in Toronto, including performing with the distinguished 48th Highlanders of the Canada Military Band. He was thrilled when he was asked by the Malta-born orchestra conductor/legend, Paul Gauci, to help establish a band comprised of Maltese musicians in Toronto. With the support of the M.C.S.T. committee, the band began to take shape. While Dad was busy helping to recruit musicians, Mom would help out at the M.C.S.T. club, too. At that time, it was located in the basement of the Flamingo Club on Dundas Street West.

For Mom, it was a new experience after raising five kids and taking care of the house. She would eventually join the Executive Committee and began her first experience working within an organization. Both of my parents were passionate about their new roles within the community.



**MCST Display at Humber College, 1975
Caron Galea (Miss Malta), Nicholas Leluk, MPP, My Mom, Ms. Galea and Richard Cumbo**



**The Band in the Basement
of the Flamingo Club, About 1970
My Dad Is on the Far Left with the Sousaphone**



At the Malta Band Club Years Later

For us kids, it was a chance to mingle with Maltese kids we would otherwise not meet. By the early seventies, some of the Maltese immigrants had moved away from the Junction area and immersed themselves into their local communities. Before joining the M.C.S.T., we would only venture to the Junction to visit friends or go to Mass at St. Paul the Apostle Church. I was one of the first babies to be baptized there in the new church in April, 1956.

Thanks to the Club committee, numerous cultural events were planned which we would otherwise not experience. Sharing our Maltese heritage wasn't limited to the Club's basement facility. I recall my high school, York Memorial Collegiate Institute, was hosting a multicultural event in 1972 and asked students to submit a request to book a display table. I was one of two students of Maltese heritage at the school. Richard Cumbo was very resourceful and pulled together a display. Not only did we have an impressive presentation including photos, books, Maltese lace and miscellaneous artifacts, Mom and a few other family friends provided traditional foods. The table was loaded with a wide selection of savoury/sweet treats, including *pastizzi* and *qassatat* to name two.



**Maltese Display at Festival of Nations.
York Memorial Collegiate Institute, 1972**

It was a bonding experience for me and my Maltese heritage. I had always been proud of my Maltese roots and being somewhat unique because

we were from a historically significant archipelago. Thanks to the event, however, I could share this pride with my friends and teachers.

The Maltese Canadian Society of Toronto no longer exists. Numerous other clubs, however, are thankfully thriving and serving the community.

Fast forward to today, Mom and Dad have passed on leaving behind a large, close-knit family. My kid brother and I are now dual citizens of Malta. We keep in close contact with our families in Malta, Australia and the UK.

I now live about two hours north of Toronto. I'm happy to say, however, we stay connected with the Maltese community via the tv program, *Lehen Malti*. Plus, we attend functions such as Festa San Gorg where we enthusiastically share our experiences, love of family and food and so much more. I get a warm, fuzzy feeling when I come across someone with a Maltese surname. I have to ask: what part of Malta they are from. It is my sincere hope, the younger generation is asking the same question and experiencing the same feeling I do when I come across another person of Maltese heritage.

** I wish to thank Richard S. Cumbo for supplying some of these photos.*

LITTLE MALTA IN ASTORIA

Eirene Arholekas

Editor's Note: *This was published in Give Me Astoria on August 31, 2021*

New Yorkers typically know Astoria as an ethnic enclave of Greeks, Italians, Brazilians, Colombians, and now, Midwesterners. While the neighborhood has adapted and slightly changed its identity with each succeeding wave of migration, what most people may not realize is that before Astoria was "Little Athens," it was "Little Malta," thanks to Maltese Americans who put their stamp on our history. In fact, the Maltese Center, an unassuming, brick building crested with the red Maltese cross at the foot of the RFK Bridge has been the gathering place for the cultural community since it opened in 1982. In 2008, the street in front of the Center was renamed "Malta Square" to commemorate the legacy of the community in the neighborhood.

**ACTIVITIES WITHIN
THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES**

Dan Brock

**CALIFORNIA
San Francisco**

Members of the Maltese community accompanied by Honorary Consul Louis Vella met outside the office of the Mayor of San Francisco on the occasion of Malta's National Day.



Photo taken from Facebook website of Embassy of the Republic of Malta to the United States

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

A **family pasta dinner and bingo** was held on Saturday, October 2nd.

The Graton Casino Bus Trip will take place on Saturday, November 6th. For reservation or any questions, call Mary Smith at 650-692-0413.

**MICHIGAN
Metropolitan Detroit**

Malta's Ambassador to the United States and High Commissioner to Canada, **Hon. Keith Azzopardi**, was welcomed to Holy Trinity Church and the **Maltese American Benevolent Society** in Corktown, Detroit and the **Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn** on Saturday, October 2nd as the Maltese American community celebrated Malta's National Day. (See pages 15-16 for further details.)

Maltese American Benevolent Society

The Society is now open on Thursday evenings and on Sundays. Come visit us for good company, conversation, food, drinks and music!

Two sessions of **Holiday Wreath Making with Mary** were to be held. The first was on the evening

of Thursday, October 21st and the second will take place on Thursday, October 28th.

The General Membership Meeting was held on the afternoon of Sunday, October 24th.

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

October 1st being the **first Friday of the month**, Mass was celebrated by Father Joe Mallia at 7:00 p.m. Traditional Maltese food was available both before and after Mass. As there were not many in attendance for the Rosary before Mass, it was omitted this month.

October 8th being the second Friday of the month, the Club served *ħobż biż-żejt*, along with fried or baked fish dinners, and ravioli. Fresh, hot baked *pastizzi* was also available.

Back after two years, the Club hosted a **Halloween Dinner Dance Party** on Saturday, October 23rd. The doors opened at 5:00 p.m. and kids games, crafts and fun took place between 5:30-6:30 p.m. Dinner, consisting of Italian sausage with green peppers, potatoes, etc., was served at 7:00 p.m., followed by trick or treating and costume contests for all ages. Prizes were awarded to singles, couples and groups. Two categories were children and adults. Those attending were asked to bring a spooky dessert for a contest. The spookiest dessert got a prize. The upstairs hall was decorated and a cash bar was open. DJ Mario provided great dance music till 11:00 p.m.



NEW YORK CITY

Maltese Center: Astoria

Maltese artists Mariella Cassar-Cordina & Tricia Dawn Williams, Aaron Bezzina and Alex Camilleri are exhibiting their work at the Austrian Cultural Forum, 11 East 52nd Street, New York City, between September 22, 2021 and January 7, 2022. This New York-based exhibition, free to the public, is funded

and coordinated by **Arts Council Malta** with the support of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Malta to the UN.

On Friday, September 24th, the Maltese Center's *Il-Maltin Taghna* aired an interview with visual artist **Aaron Bezzina**, one of those whose work is currently on view at the Austrian Cultural Forum New York and Undercurrent DUMBO. Aaron is a Maltese based artist who was selected by Arts Council Malta to represent Malta in un/mute-10002 a three-month online residency.

Also on September 24th, the **Hon. Evarist Bartolo, the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs**, his delegation, **Keith Azzopardi, the Ambassador of Malta to the United States** and representatives from the **Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations** in New York were welcomed at the Maltese Center NYC. Those in attendance had to respond to the invitation beforehand and were required to show proof of vaccination, such as NYS Excelsior Pass with photo ID upon entry.



Hon Evarist Bartolo and Delegation



Hon. Evarist Bartolo and Ambassador Keith Azzopardi



Maltese Center Committee members welcoming Hon Evarist Bartolo Minister of Foreign and European Affairs with delegation

Photos taken from Facebook websites of Maltese Center: Astoria and Embassy of the Republic of Malta to the United States

The Maltese film **Luzzu** will open in New York on Friday, October 15th, at the **Quad Cinema**. The film won a Sundance Jury Prize for its lead actor **Jesmark Scicluna**, a real-life Maltese fisherman, and was written, directed, and edited by Alex Camilleri. The Maltese Center will host a live interview on **Il-Maltin Tagħna** with director **Alex Camilleri** on Sunday, October 10th.

Toronto

LEHEN MALTI
(Maltese Voice)

OMNI 1 - Ontario
Saturdays 8:30 a.m.
Tuesdays 3.30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays 11:00 p.m.
Thursdays 8:30 a.m.

OMNI BC
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.
Fridays 10:30 a.m.

OMNI Alberta
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

ONTARIO
London

On Wednesday, September 29th, 32 members of the Maltese Canadian community and friends met for **luncheon** again at **The Pickle Barrel** near the northwest corner of Wellington and Commissioners roads.



Most of the Group



Celebrating Helen Ditchfield's Birthday

The next **luncheon** is to be held at the **Swiss Chalet**, in the Rio Can Shopping Mall, at 92 Fanshawe Park Road East at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 28th.

Malta Band Club

Classic car shows were held, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 19th, with the season finale being on Sunday, October 17th, between 12:00 (noon) and 4:00 p.m.



PASTA NITE

WHERE: MALTA BAND CLUB
5745 COOPERS AVE MISS.

WHEN: OCTOBER 30TH 2021

TIME : DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM



SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS

PRICE: \$12.00

PLEASE CALL TO RESERVE 905 890 8507



WHEN: SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7TH 2021
 START: 1:00 PM
 FOR LUNCH OR AFTER BINGO THERE WILL BE
 BAKED ZITI (GHAGIN IL FORN)
 AND RICOTTA PIES FOR SALE.
 PLEASE ORDER AHEAD 905 890 8507
 THANKS



MALTA BAND CLUB
 5745 COOPERS AVE, MISSISSAUGA, ONT. L4W 1M5
 PRESENTS
 THEIR ANNUAL CONCERT PERFORMED BY THE MALTA BAND
 SATURDAY NOV 20TH 2021
 DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM
 CONCERT STARTS AT 6:30 PM SHARP
 ROAST BEEF DINNER WILL BE SERVED FOR \$25.00
 CONCERT ONLY \$10.00

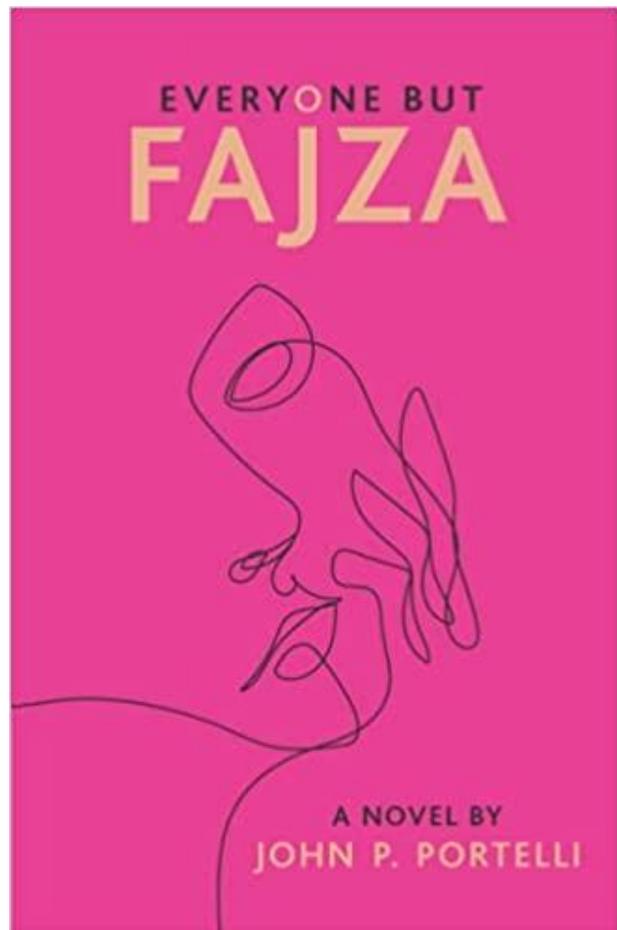


Windsor

Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

On Saturday, October 16th, between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., the Club had a **ravioli dinner** served with tomato sauce, salad, rolls and butter, dessert and coffee or tea. The cost was \$12 for a dozen ravioli or \$6 for six. Tickets were available at the Club or by calling 519-990-7848. Seating was limited, owing to COVID-19 regulations and one had to have one's vaccination certificate to enter the building. All ages were welcomed.

BOOK LAUNCH: EVERYONE BUT FAJZA*



Everyone But Fajza is to be launched on Friday, October 29th, between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., by Social Justice Education, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). This new novel is written by award-winning author, poet and Professor Emeritus at OISE, John P. Portelli.

One can register for this online event by going to

<https://oise-utoronto.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvdeGhrTkoH9Vp0VKg6kdcBw8xetunlpxl>

One will be able to join in conversation with special guest authors John Baldacchino, Josie Di Sciascio-Andrews and Hollay Ghadery.

About the Novel:

Media reports erupt when Fajza is discovered with gunshot wounds, unconscious and abandoned next to one of Toronto's most violent high schools. As she lays in a hospital bed, those closest to her must grapple with the hand each of them played in her uncertain future. Through their narratives, an image of Fajza emerges; the wife of a prominent businessman, a child of Maltese immigrants, a woman struggling to find her identity, a jealous sister. As we hear from everyone but Fajza herself, we are immersed in a captivating tale of family, migrant life and tensions between traditional and progressive values. Are we more than a collection of people's impressions? Who is at fault when everyone is to blame? Will Fajza survive to tell her own story? A page-turning story of resilience and loss. Everyone but Fajza beautifully captures the complexity of the migrant experience in Canada.

* Information provided by Office of Consul General of the Republic of Malta to Canada

PRESERVING A PIECE OF MALTESE CANADIAN HISTORY

Dan Brock

The first Blackfriars Bridge, a wooden affair, was constructed in 1830-31 over the north branch of the Thames River in what is now London, Ontario. Several wooden bridges succeeded it including the one overseen, about 1842, by Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski.

"Perhaps the most famous of all the early Polish settlers" in Canada, Gzowski demonstrated the bridge's soundness by instructing the soldiers of the British garrison, then stationed in the town, to march across it while Gzowski himself stood beneath. By 1850, however, this bridge also had to be replaced.

The Blackfriars Bridge constructed in 1875 was London's first iron bridge. The 219-foot (66.8 m) bowstring arch bridge was built by the Wrought Iron

Bridge Co. of Canton, Ohio. Over the years, it was to have many "facelifts." One of these took place in 1956.

Among the men who worked on this bridge that year was Emmanuel "Lee" Pavia. Lee, a native of Żabbar, Malta, who arrived in London in 1950. A welder by trade, who had worked at the dockyards back home, his first job in the city was as a welder at the Canadian National Railway (now CN) car shops in East London. It was here that he was given the nickname "Cisco" which remained with him the rest of his life. Later, he was hired on at General Motors Diesel where he was employed for 32 years.

It was while he was laid off by GM in 1956 that he got hired on to do restoration work to the 81-year-old bridge. In doing so, Lee ended up welding his surname "PAVIA" to one of the bridge's arches.

By the early part of this century, Blackfriars Bridge had come to be recognized, not only as the oldest surviving bridge in London but one of the few remaining bow-type bridges in North America.

When it was reported in the news that this bridge might be totally rebuilt, Mary Melvin, Lee's daughter, started making calls to City Hall in the hope that the "PAVIA" piece of the bridge might be retained by the family. In this she was successful and this small portion of the original 1875 bridge, with her dad's "signature," is now in her possession.



Over an 18-month period, in 2017-18, the bridge was removed, disassembled and rehabilitated offsite and then reassembled. It was once more reopened to the public on December 1, 2018.

* Thanks goes to Mary (Pavia) Melvin for both the photograph and textual information.

MALTESE ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

Festa San Gejtanu Association

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

Festa San Gorg Association of Toronto

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

Gozo Club Toronto

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

Inanna on Stage

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

Knights of Columbus - Canada – Council # 12782

c/o St Patrick's Church, 921 Flagship Drive,
Mississauga, ON, N4Y 2J6
905-270-2301 (Church)
stpatricksmi@archtoronto.org
Grand Knight Amadeo Cuschieri

Legion of Mary – “Our Lady of the Migrant”

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

Lehen Malti

<https://www.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

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

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

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

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

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

Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH)

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

Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo)

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

Maltese Canadian Business & Networking Association (MCBNA), (Toronto)

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

Maltese-Canadian Cruisers

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

Maltese-Canadian Cultural Association (Est. 2018)

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
416-571-3944
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@isgtransport.com/b_azzo18@yahoo.com

Maltese Center, NYC

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

Opening hours:

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

Maltese Cross Foundation of California

PO Box 698, San Carlos, CA 94070

Maltese Culture Club of Durham

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

Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area

maltesheritageassociation@gmail.com

Maltese Heritage Program (Toronto)

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

Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)

c/o leprofess@aol.com

Melita Soccer Club Inc.

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

msc@melitasoccerclub.com

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday and
Saturday

	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Friday	6:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Sunday	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6P 2A3
416-767-7054

www.saint-paul-maltese.com

stpaulmssp@gmail.com

St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mission Group

c/o 281 Gilmour Ave., Toronto, ON M6P 3B6
416-708-8627

www.facebook.com/john.vella.1044186

giovanvel@sympatico.ca

St. Paul the Apostle Youth Group (Toronto)

3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON M6P 2A3
647-524-1115

jason.borg@hotmail.ca/sborg@rogers.com

St. Paul's Maltese Choir

c/o St Paul The Apostle Parish
3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto M6P 2A3
416-767-7054

www.saint-paul-maltese.com

stpaulmssp@gmail.com

President: Lino Debono

SOME RECIPIENTS OF MALTESE CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATES

