



THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY 2022



THE MALTESE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF HAMILTON'S "BREAKFAST WITH SANTA", SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021 AT CARMEN'S BANQUET CENTRE

Photo by Adhele Townshend. Courtesy of Dr. Raymond Xerri (See pages 9-11)

**The Maltese Presence
in North America
Issue No. 34 January 2022**

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

This issue marks the beginning of the fourth year for this newsletter. As we were this time last year, we are still in the grip of the COVID-19 pandemic and coping with yet another variant, in this case the rapidly-spreading Omicron.

Unlike the January 2021 issue, however, when virtually no face-to-face activities within the various clubs for the month of December were reported, and there was a heavy dose of historical items, the present issue has only one short, historical article. Others have been crowded out by time-sensitive activities.

November of last year saw Mani Mifsud taking “aerial” views of the Maltese Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre Museum in Toronto and the Maltese American Community Club of

Dearborn’s “Craft Show”. This was followed in December by an explosion of events.

The Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton held its “Breakfast with Santa” on Saturday, December 4th, while “Christmas Festa Day” took place at the Maltese Center, NYC.

The next day, December 5th, the Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario held its “Children’s Christmas Party”.

Three events took place on Saturday, December 11th: “Christmas Dinner with Santa” at the Maltese American Community Club, the “Members’ Christmas Dinner Party” at the Maltese Center and the “Christmas Dinner Party” at the Melita Soccer Club of Toronto.

The Malta Band Club of Mississauga, Ontario held its “Members’ Dance” on Saturday, December 18th, as did the Malta United Society its “Members’ Christmas Party.”

Seasonal messages have been received from both the President and Prime Minister of Malta (pages 5 and 33-34).

On a sad note, the Maltese singer, songwriter and broadcaster, Enzo Gusman, has passed away (pages 28--29).

My heartfelt thanks to those who contribute in one way or another to the newsletter, be it proofreading, putting the issues on the web, sending in data and photos from the various organizations, providing Maltese recipes with a North American twist and submitting family stories. All this is helping to both disseminate and preserve current and past events relating to the Maltese in North America.

You are encouraged to use this newsletter to promote your organization and to help to keep the scattered Maltese North American communities informed and connected.

All issues and the latest “Table

of Contents” are to be found 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, should it be ideas you wish to share, desiring to be put on the free, bcc, electronic mailing list, etc.

A Happy New Year to all! May each and every one of us see better times in 2022.

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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.

Distractions Have to Be Cleared Away

....We have to straighten our paths so that we can be able to see clearly. Distractions have to be cleared away. The Word will help us to fill our emptiness, the void in our lives, so that we can truly live a full life....The true meaning of conversion is to return to the right place, to where you belong.

....The Word which took flesh in Bethlehem is the word which enlightens our path.

Our God Is Truly the Emmanuel

Sometimes we might find ourselves in the same situation as the people of John [the Baptist]'s time, We might have and be blessed with a lot of things in life. But still, we feel that there is something missing in our lives. Perhaps the crucial question, before asking what I should be doing, is, "What am I looking for? What do I really want in life?" I suspect that if we were to make a list of what we really want, joy or happiness would be somewhere at the top of that list. When you think about it, most of the stuff we do, we do it because we want joy. It's amazing how many people seem to have everything and yet lack true joy.

One person came into the world with the promise of joy. At His birth in Bethlehem, this is what the messengers from heaven sang; "Joy to the world." No one, no race, is excepted from this. The message of joy is for everyone....

John the Baptist's message [Lk. 3:10-14] is as relevant today as it was to his people back then. Helping others with what we have been given is a

constant in Jesus' teaching and life. He preached it, and He lived it. He constantly gave of Himself, until He reached the climax on the cross. This is the paradox of Christianity. Using the words of the great spiritual writer Ron Rolheiser, "As the Prayer of St. Francis puts it, we can never attain joy, consolation, peace, forgiveness, love, and understanding by actively pursuing them. We attain them by giving them out. That's the great paradox at the center of our spirituality."

The rest is relatively easy: just live what you are called to be....

The Son of God became human to give us life, joy and peace....The birth of Jesus is tangible proof that our God is not a far-away deity or ideal. He is truly the Emmanuel, the God-is-with-us."

Jesus Can Do Wonders in Our Lives

....we have Christmas once more to remind us that Jesus came into the midst of all this. He was born in poverty, lacking all basic securities. He came into a world full of turmoil and anxieties. As an unmarried mother, Mary had all her fears allayed as she allowed God to take over. Her song, the Magnificat, was one of praise, thanksgiving and joy. "The Almighty has done great things for me," she says, not allowing her humility to diminish God's powerful actions working in her.

We all have our moments of darkness, uncertainties, pains or problems in our lives. The story of Christmas tells us that Jesus is not embarrassed to enter into these realities. On the contrary, it is precisely in those stories that He wants to enter, to be re-born.

"Blessed is she who believed," Elizabeth said. Do we believe that Jesus can do wonders in our lives too, like He did in the lives of Mary and Elizabeth?

God Is with Us

....Not unlike, the world...[into which Jesus was born], our own world is far from perfect. Family problems, strained relationships, sicknesses and death and personal issues are all a reality in our world. And yet, the Jesus who was not afraid to enter into a broken world two thousand years ago, is not afraid to do so now. Whether it is in our troubled selves or in our divided home, Jesus comes to bring the same message of peace and hope, the story of Christmas says that God has not given up on us. It says God is with us, not over us, or judging us, or condemning us, or deserting us.

**“AERIAL” VIEWS OF
THE MALTESE CANADIAN MUSEUM ARCHIVES AND VISITORS CENTRE MUSEUM**

Richard S. Cumbo (Curator)



Photos Taken by Mani Mifsud, Tuesday, November 9, 2021

**MESSAGE OF GOOD WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR
TO MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**



**H.E. George Vella,
President of Malta**

Fellow Maltese,
Despite the physical distance, and the time you have spent away from these Islands, you remain close to us both in thought and in our hearts.

I am therefore pleased to take this opportunity to share these few words with you and wish you and your loved ones good wishes at this very special time of year.

Perhaps few expected that the situation in 2021 will be very similar to that of 2020. I admit that, like many, I hope we find a speedy and lasting solution to overcome the adverse effects of the pandemic. It however seems that this virus will continue to pose challenges that will keep changing and will likely last for a long time.

I appeal to everyone to listen to the advice given to us by science and to follow more closely the advice of professionals, including precautionary measures, such as vaccinations.

I believe that international cooperation, especially between affluent and less affluent countries, is crucial for us as one global family to move forward. Despite the geographical distances between us, we all remain committed to achieving the 2030 Sustainability Goals and ensuring that we leave no one behind.

Without detracting from the medical emergency created due to this pandemic, I am optimistic about the new year and wish for a better balance between the health challenges and the protection of fundamental human rights.

I must mention all the workers in the medical field

and salute them for the determination and resilience they've shown over the last few months as they have continued to be heroes for us all.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As this year approaches its end, I am all the more convinced that the events that continue to shape our country cannot be viewed from an isolated perspective, but in a regional and international context.

The effects of climate change, the humanitarian emergency which is becoming serious in some parts of the world, and the levels of inequality between the northern and the southern countries, continue to sustain an unfair system that is causing harm to our planet.

The sale and trafficking of weapons, especially in war zones and countries fighting extremist forces, continue to hamper our collective efforts for peace and unity. I appeal for more countries to recognise the damage caused by militarising politics and to ensure that international law is used as a tool to safeguard fundamental rights and not as a weapon of extermination.

I welcome the COP26 climate emergency talks held in Glasgow a few weeks ago. Through dialogue and mutual respect, these discussions show an international family that, although embracing many political divergences, is ready to work together to find a solution.

It is this dialogue-based unity that paves the way for a positive and lasting change.

Through my Office, I have also worked hard to strengthen dialogue between different sections in Maltese society. Despite the restrictions, I am pleased to say that during 2021, I chaired several conferences addressing national unity from different aspects. The Conference for National Unity held in February, the Conference marking 100 Years Since the Granting of the Constitution in April, and the

Conference on the State of the Nation in June, were important initiatives that brought together many different organisations, experts, and academics.

I am pleased to share with you that preparations are currently underway so that in March 2022, together with the Albabtain Cultural Foundation, I will be organising the second World Forum for Culture of Peace. Through international participation, this forum will serve as an important platform for discussion and a global catalyst for further building a culture of peace.

I invite you to be part of the local discussion as well and, through various opportunities, to get closer to the current affairs of the Maltese islands and to kindle in the younger generations an interest and love for the Maltese culture and language.

I am very fond of the latter as it is the most living expression of our nation and it continues to serve us in the best way, despite outside influences and new technology. Few people can boast of a unique language that has continued to evolve over the years.

I understand that many people have suffered greatly

because they could not travel to Malta and experience the warm embraces and the joy of meeting family members. Although technology has eased the separation, a picture on the phone or computer can never replace human contact.

I hope that over the coming months travel between countries will still be permitted and that you will be able to visit our country without issues. I, too, hope to be able to resume my visits to the communities of Maltese living abroad. A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of visiting Maltese patients receiving treatment in London and I also had the opportunity to meet several nuns and monks assisting them. These are heart-warming encounters, but they also instill hope and courage for a better future. As was the meeting I had with a good number of Maltese consultants in Surgery and Medicine holding high positions in the best hospitals in the United Kingdom. In conclusion, I want to once again wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas.

Above all, I wish you prosperity and health for a year full of happiness, peace, and love.

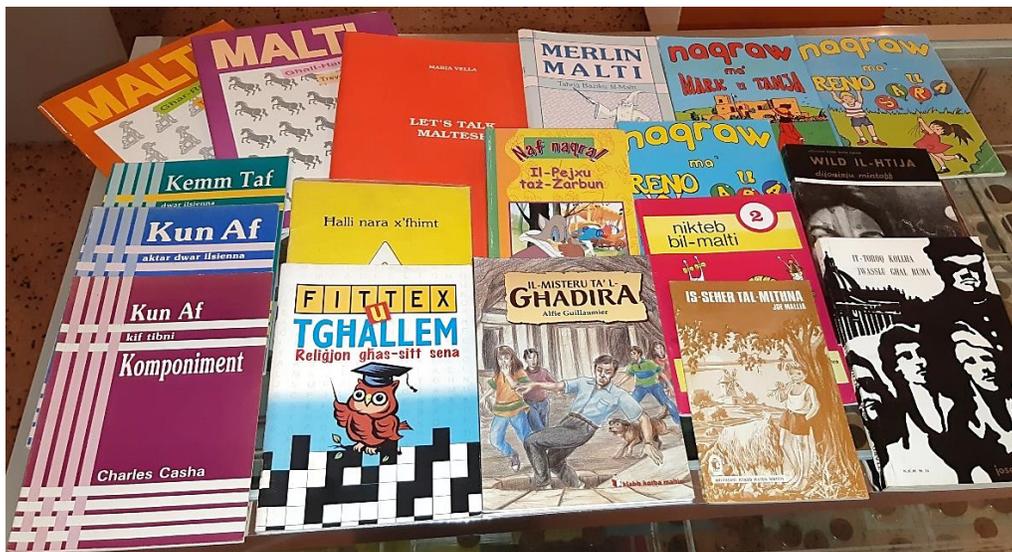
All the best.

MORE MALTESE-LANGUAGE BOOKS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC IN THE GREATER TORONTO AREA

Dan Brock

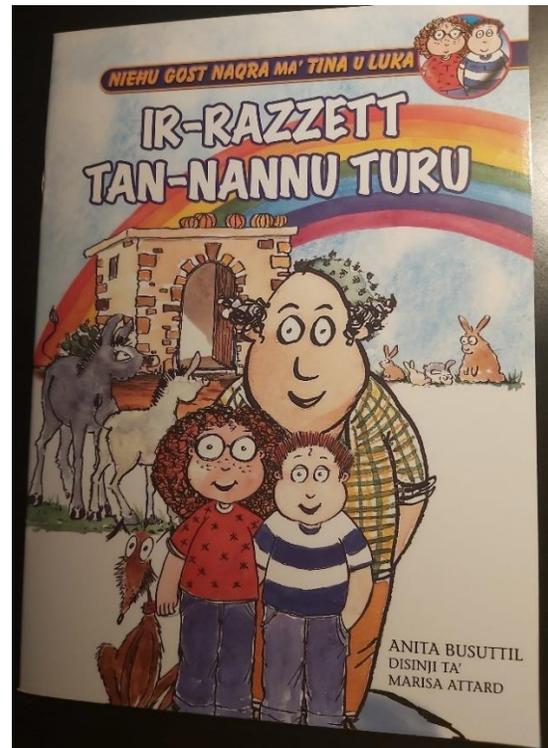
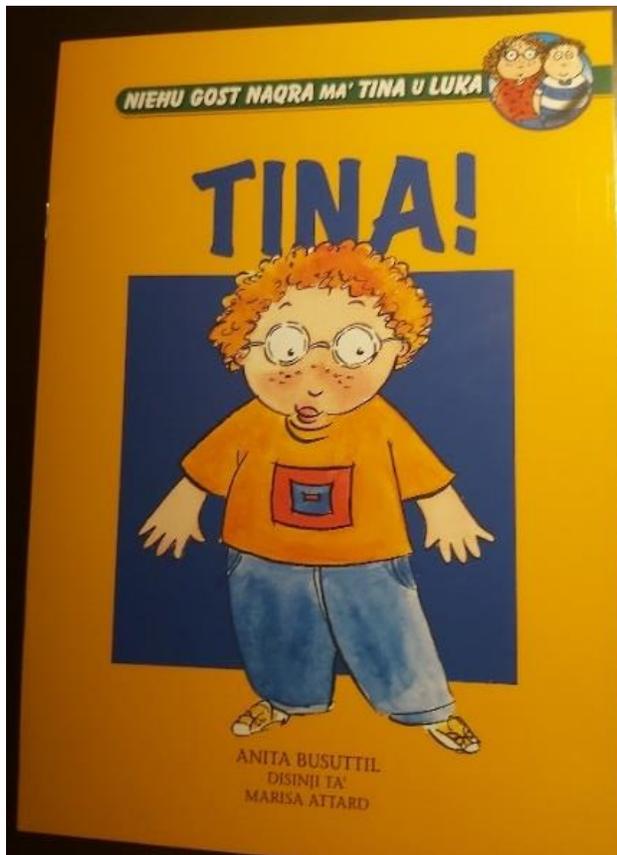
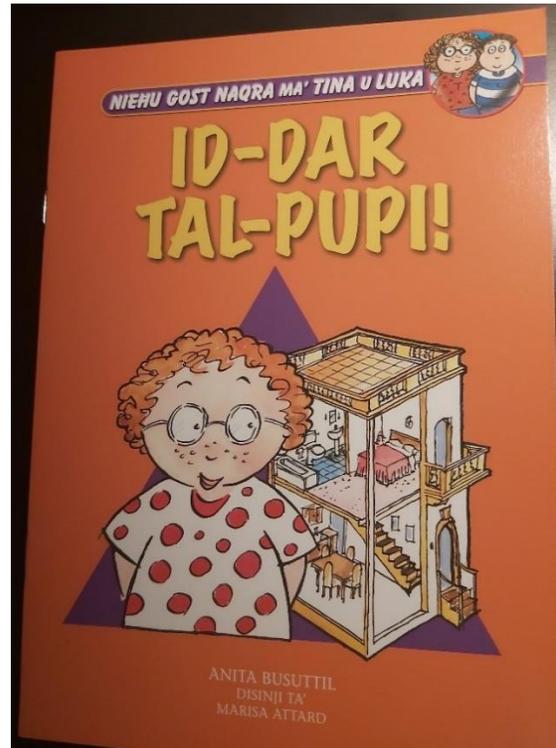
In the early part of November 2021, the Maltese-Canadian Museum/Archives at St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex received a collection of books

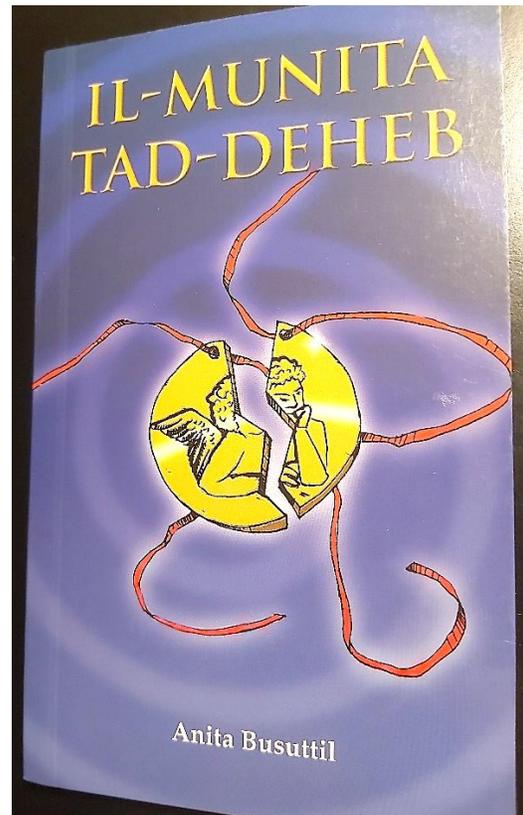
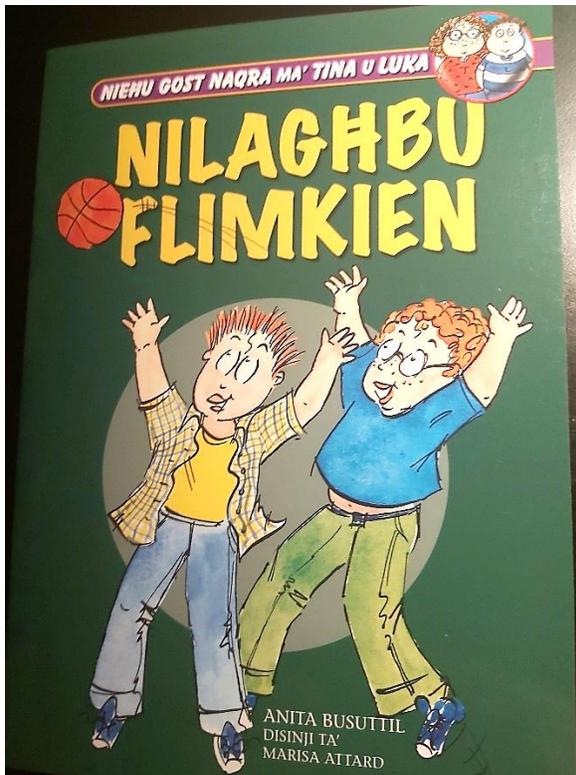
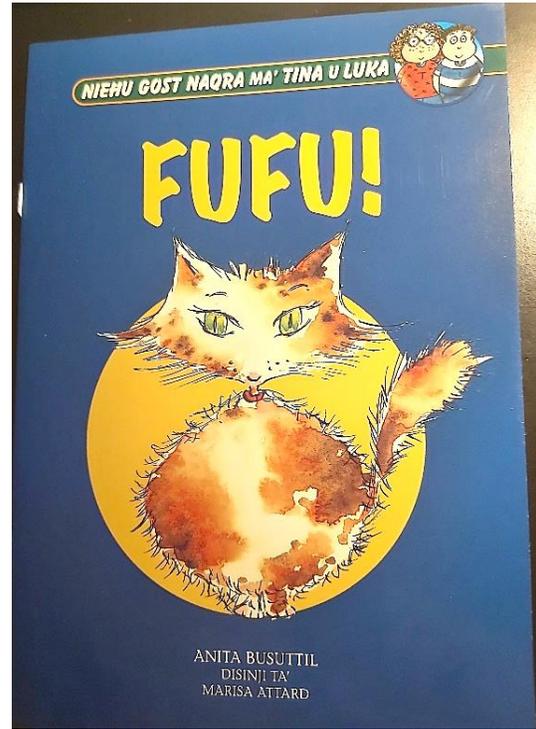
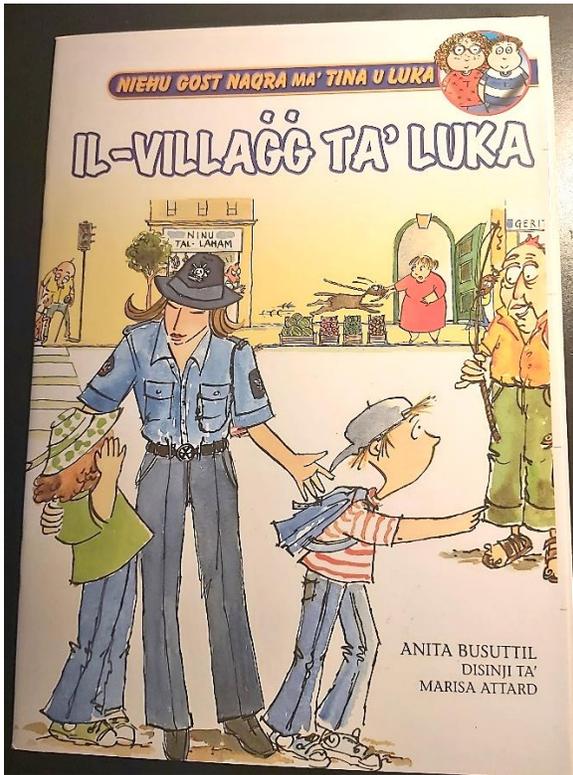
regarding learning the Maltese language. Most of the books are for learning basic Maltese. The benefactor of these books preferred to remain anonymous.



Knowing the importance of the museum/archives and its holdings, earlier this year Ms. Joanne Bugeya and her brother donated many expensive and rare volumes about Malta and the community in the Greater Toronto Area which were given in memory of their deceased parents. The Museum's collection of books is extensive in respect to the many subjects which it covers. Some volumes are well over 100 years old, and some of the ones in Maltese are written in "old" Maltese. Anyone wishing to make use of these books can visit the museum by appointment.

Among the children's books written in the Maltese language which have recently been donated to various Maltese Canadian libraries through the Consul General of Malta to Canada are the following by the Maltese author, Anna Busuttil, and illustrated by Marisa Attard. Marisa's "illustrative style is both spontaneous and fun with a sense of humour that appeals to children and hopefully adds to their love of reading."





BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Dan Brock

The Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH) held a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 4, 2021. Among those present was Dr. Raymond Xerri, Consul General of Malta to Canada, who was taken on a meet and greet tour to the various tables by Joseph Brincat, president of the MCACH



Dr. Raymond Xerri with Joseph & Agnes Brincat







Santa Greet the Children



There Were Activities for the Children



The Adults Were Anxious to Meet Santa as Well

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Peter Pace



*Peter is currently
President of the
Malta United Society
of Windsor, Ontario*

On Sunday December 5, 2021, the Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario, held its annual Children's Christmas Party. It was a huge success, with 25 children in attendance, along with their parents and grandparents.

Jangles the Clown provided the entertainment. There was a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus in the evening. An enormous thank you goes out to our volunteers and dedicated committee members. Without you this remarkable event would not have happened. A huge thank you goes out to Rose and Breanne Calleja for helping Santa make all the gifts and to Charyl Duran Zampa for taking the photos.



Jangles the Clown

**Santa's Elf Handing Out Homemade Cookies
to All the Children to Decorate**



**Miriam Ditty and Debbie Calleja
Made the Cookies for the Kids**



The Arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus



Carmen Linwood, Behind the Bar



Santa's Helpers, with Santa and Mrs. Claus



The Littlest Child Presented to Santa







Even the older children were able to visit with Santa and some got to sit on his knee.



Mike and Rose Pace, with Their Grandchildren



Manuel Calleja, with His Granddaughter



Carmen Zampa on Santa's Knee



Peter Pace (President), with His Daughter



Santa with Mrs. Claus and Their Elf



**Mike Pace and Carmen Linwood (Treasurer)
with Santa**



Rose Pace, with Her Granddaughter



Mrs. Claus Pays a Visit to One of the Tables



Carmen Linwood with Santa, Who Is About to Leave the Building

**THE TRILOGY'S
THIRD HISTORICAL NOVEL**

Dan Brock

On December 1, 2021, **Marthese Fenech** posted on her Facebook page the following anonymous review of her forthcoming third and yet publicly untitled historical novel as part of her trilogy on the Great Siege of Malta.

Wow, it's not very often that I enjoy every sentence of a novel. Your writing is beautiful, replete with intelligent formations of perspective. It dazzles. It's masterful. It dives into the poetry of political/historical events and swims leagues without tiring. Homer would be jealous. I am inspired.

What more could a writer ask for?

READERS' COMMENTS

Just to say happy holidays and to indicate my appreciation for all your work on your newsletter, a true gift to the Maltese community.

Charles J Vella, PhD, San Francisco, California

Thank you for your comprehensive newsletter. It is such a joy to see the activities of other Maltese communities across North America.

The Maltese Center, Astoria, New York

Congratulations on another very well-done newsletter! You have quite a mixture of news, history and food info!

Fr. Ed Vella, CSsR, Chicago, Illinois

Thank you for your dedication to this newsletter.

Peter Pace, President of the Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

What a labour of love this newsletter is. Thanks so much for the hard work and the many, many hours you put into it. It's such a great read.

Much appreciated.

Adrian Grima, Malta

VISITS TO MALTESE CANADIAN BUSINESSES IN THE GTA

Dan Brock

During the early part of December 2021, Dr. Raymond Xerri, the Consul General of Malta to Canada, was invited to two Maltese Canadian owned businesses in the Great Toronto Area (GTA).

John G. Borg is the president and CEO of KFL / EEE Logistics Solution Provider, a relatively new company which operates transportation routes throughout North America. KFL (Keene Freight Logistics) is situated on Britannia Road East in the heart of the Mississauga business hub.



Borg is no stranger to this business. His family conducted most of the transportation between Malta and Gozo for many decades in the last century and Borg himself has been involved in the transportation sector for the last quarter century.



John Borg and Dr. Raymond Xerri

On December 10th, Dr. Xerri visited The Bike Place on Dundas Street West in Toronto's Malta Village.



This business, owned by Louis Zammit, was established in 1985 and has always been Maltese Canadian owned and managed. It supplies new and used bicycles, parts and accessories, figure and used skates and skate sharpening service.



Louis Zammit and Dr. Raymond Xerri

Photos by Felicity Ann Xerr

VALETTA, ONTARIO

Dan Brock

Have you ever heard of this place? I hadn't until a few days ago, and yet it's only some 132 km (82 miles) southwest of London, Ontario, where I live.

It is now but a locality, not even a hamlet, in the municipality of Chatham-Kent and some 8 km (5 miles) northwest of the small farming community of Merlin. Situated in about the centre of what was East Tilbury the township office appears to have been located there by the late 1870s.

At that time, it was the "principal village of the township" and had "200 inhabitants".

It is located at the intersection of Middle Line and

Depot and Valetta roads. The area "was settled by Scots, with some admixture of immigrants from the north of Ireland." Most were Presbyterians. They formed a congregation in 1846 and soon after constructed a log church. This was replaced by a frame building in 1862 and a brick structure in 1904. This building, known as Valetta Presbyterian Church, still stands on the north side of Middle Line and west of Valetta Road.

While this community was named after the city in Malta, why it was so-named is unknown. It is suspected, however, that the name may have been extended to the community with the assigning of a post office here with the same name in 1864. In any case, this post office ceased to exist in 1915 but the name for the community continued.

CHRISTMAS FESTA DAY

Maltese Center, NYC

Christmas officially arrived at the Maltese Center on Saturday, December 4th. Our amazing talented elves were busy all month transforming the Center into a winter wonderland. Visitors were immediately wowed by the extensive model train exhibit and the Polar Express zipping around the tracks, the festive decorations, *presepu* with *gulbiena*, *It-Tina* Garden lit up, and the overall festive atmosphere.

Children dropped off their letters in the North Pole

mailbox and attended the children's Christmas party in the lower hall where more of our elves helped the kids make Christmas ornaments and frame keepsakes.

Afterwards everyone gathered outside for the tree lighting ceremony while Maltese Christmas music played.

All of a sudden Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and the MC Elf arrived! It was a chilly night and the children followed Santa inside to get their gifts and the adults returned to the warmth to enjoy the company and try their hand at conducting the trains.



The Maltese Presence in North America

January 2022

We had a good selection of those who came in their ugly sweaters even though some were too cute to be considered ugly, but we did have a happy winner!

We want to thank everyone for attending and making it a huge success. A big applause to our volunteers and members who donated their amazing skills and precious time to make this happen for everyone to enjoy.



CHRISTMAS DINNER WITH SANTA

Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci

It's been a long time since Santa and his elf came to visit the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn, but it was well worth the wait. The Club held its Christmas Dinner with Santa on Saturday, December 11, 2021. Admission was only \$15 for adults, \$5 for children under 10 yrs. old and any child under three got in free, a bargain for so much Christmas cheer.

The MACC Dinner Dance with Santa was back with style! Stunning new decorations and centerpieces decked the hall. An all-new backdrop of a fireplace mantle created a nice "homey" touch. I could almost feel the heat from the crackling fire. Hung in the corner next to our beautifully decorated tree, surrounded by gifts, it provided the perfect holiday setting for me to take family portraits before dinner. Many of the members said they'll be using the photo for their Christmas cards.



The Decorated Hall



The Decorated Stage



The Crèche



One of the Gorgeous Centerpieces



The Photo Center



Margaret & Mark Purdy



The Borg Family



A Visit from Detroit's Finest



**A Few of the Board Members
Who Made This all Happen**

Upon arriving, the kids and parents alike had a great time with all the new games and crafts. They especially enjoyed decorating their own Christmas cookies and making Christmas ornaments.



The Snowball Pitching Game



Delores Durkin with Her Daughter Lauren and Granddaughters



Lauren, One of Santa's Younger Helpers, and Mary Micallef



Kids Decorating Christmas Cookies



Little Reindeer Making Rudolph Tree Ornaments



More Rudolph Tree Ornaments.

The buffet-style dinner consisted of bread and salad to start, green beans, mostaccioli, Maltese-style baked potatoes (*patata fil-forn*), sausage with peppers and onions, and a new addition to the menu of chicken parmesan. Everyone raved about it. Festively decorated cakes were served for dessert.



**The Food Was Delicious,
Especially the Chicken Parmesan**



The Festive Cake

Santa and his elf, (who I named Christmas Eve), arrived after dinner and were greeted by the children screaming with joy. This year Santa and his elf were portrayed by John and Eve Muscat. Eve said it was so fun to see the children's excitement. Parents secretly brought a gift for their child to place under the tree. One by one, each child was called up to receive a gift handed out by Santa himself and Christmas Eve.



**The Christmas Tree
Surrounded with Gifts for the Children**



Santa Passing Out Gifts



Santa Getting Some Action



Santa and His Helper, Christmas Eve



Tom Muscat Gets to Sit on Santa's Knee

Photos courtesy of Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci and Margaret Muscat Purdy

DJ Mario kept the Christmas spirit going by playing all those classic Christmas melodies and even some new tunes that we love to hear this time of year.

It was such a wonderful feeling to be back in the Club celebrating the Christmas season with everyone again. There were so many new additions to the party--new decorations, new crafts and games and even a new menu--but my favorite new thing was all the new faces and young families in attendance. The MACC not only survived the yearlong shutdown, but we are thriving! Kudos to the new board and President Brian Vella for doing such a great job signing up new members. And thank you to all the dedicated volunteers who gave countless hours of their time and donated goods to put on this beautiful family event. What a great way to ring in the holiday season. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year. *Il-Milied it-Tajjeb u s-Sena t-Tajba* everyone! (See also page 44.)



**MALTESE CANADIAN SINGER,
SONGWRITER AND BROADCASTER,
ENZO GUSMAN, DIES**

Dan Brock

Enzo Gusman passed away peacefully at his home in Mississauga, Ontario, surrounded by his family, on Saturday, December 18, 2021. He was 74 years old.



Enzo suffered a near-fatal spinal cord injury in July 2020, which caused him to be hospitalized for nine months and left him a quadriplegic. He returned home in April 2021. It was complications from the spinal cord injury which ultimately caused his death.

Enzo was born in Sliema, Malta, on August 9, 1947. In 1960, at the age of 13, he took part in the Malta Song Festival held at the Radio City Opera House in Hamrun and transmitted on the now-defunct Malta's Cable Radio system run by Rediffusion. Enzo was to come first at this festival four times, in 1966, 1974, 1976 and 1995. He took part in other festivals and won in many, including Canzoni d'Oggi, Festival della Canzone Napoletana, Malta Song Festival, Malta Folk Festival and L-Għanja tal-Poplu. Discovered by Johnnie Navarro, the late Maltese comic, Enzo was invited as a resident singer on "Tic Tac," a program run by Rediffusion.

Educated at the Lyceum and the University of Malta, he joined Barclays Bank in 1965 and pursued a career in banking. He continued this after immigrating to Canada in 1979 with his wife, the former Carmen Schembri a well-known singer on the Maltese light music scene, and their two children, Johanna and Greta.

Meanwhile, having worked at Rediffusion in Malta as a disc-jockey, he also worked with CHIN Radio/TV, based in Toronto, after moving to the Greater Toronto Area. He was the first disc-jockey to include Maltese records on radio. Having volunteered his services to the Maltese-Canadian Society in Toronto, he was MC for its annual Miss Malta pageants.

On his temporary return to Xandir, Malta in 1991, Enzo worked at Bay Radio, PBS, Super One, Radio 101, NET TV and Calypso Radio.

As a singer, Enzo participated in several international song festivals, such as World Popular Song Festival, Tokyo, Japan; Festival Internacional De la Canción, Viña del Mar, Chile; Olympiad De La Chanson, Athens, Greece; Alexandria International Song Festival, Alexandria Egypt; Castlebar International Song Festival, Castlebar, Ireland; Cavan International Song Festival Cavan, Ireland; Istanbul International Song Festival, Istanbul, Turkey; Festival Menschen und meer Rostock, DDR; and Festival Golden Orpheus Slantchev Bryag, Bulgaria. His Major achievement was when he won the coveted First Prize at the Golden Orpheus Festival in Bulgaria. In Ireland, he was awarded the Best Foreign Artist at The Cavan International Song Festival, and in Turkey he was declared as the Best Interpreter in the Istanbul International Song Festival.

Enzo wrote and composed several of his own songs, many of which are still very popular in Malta

and in the Maltese Diaspora, such as “Fil-Pjazza tar-Raħal,” “Zepp u Grezz,” “Bis-Sewwa jew bid-Dnewwa,” “Zomm Idejk Fuqna,” “Għax Għadni Nħobbok,” “Telefonata mingħand il-Mulej,” “Illum il-Festa Tagħna” and “Aġhtini Pint’Oħra.”

In 2011 he was honoured on Republic Day (December 13th) with the *Midolja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika* (Medal for Service to the Republic).

On August 7, 2021, during the festival *L-Għanja tal-Poplu*, Enzo was awarded a special recognition for his great contribution to the Malta music scene. During the festival, which was televised on Television (TVM), he delivered a short video-message from his recovery bed.



MEMBERS’ CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY

Maltese Center, NYC

On Saturday December 11th, the Maltese Center of New York held its annual members only Christmas Dinner Party.

It was well attended by over 80 members and their guests who came from far and near to spend time enjoying a relaxing Christmas dinner.

Dishes and desserts were lovingly prepared by our volunteers and enjoyed by all.

It is our way to say thank you to all our members for supporting the Maltese Center.



CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY

Mary Ann Piscopo

On Saturday, December 11th, we at the Melita Soccer Club of Toronto held our Christmas Dinner Party. All who attended had a good time.

We had a Christmas sweater contest. The winner was Sharon Dalli.



(l to r) Frank Fenech, Mary Rose Kriewaldt, Sharon Dalli, Mary Ann Piscopo, Gloria Wieclawek and Lorraine Manarey



The Maltese Presence in North America

January 2022

The winners of the Christmas cheer raffle were Gloria Wieclawek and Louis Tonna.

We also had a 50/50 raffle. The winner was Lorraine Manarey. Gift baskets, donated by Dr. Raymond Xerri, our Maltese Consul General, were won by Ines Frendo, Joe Abela and Lorraine Manarey.



On behalf of the Executive Committee, the Women's Auxiliary and all the members of the Melita Soccer

Club, we want to wish all your readers a very Merry Christmas. *Il-Milied it-tajjeb.*



We look forward to our New Year's Eve Dinner Party on Friday, December 31st

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



**Dr. Raymond Xerri,
Consul General**

Looking back on 2021 and forward to 2022

I hope and wish all of you a good start to 2022! While this past year was another year of COVID-19, it has ended with Omicron taking over from Delta+ and we are back to the situation we were at the beginning of 2021. Yes, this is very frustrating and leaves a toll on all of us.

As your Consul General, I have consistently appealed to all Maltese Canadians to go the extra mile to care not only for our loved ones but also for

our extended family, friends and the Maltese Canadian community in general. Make the extra effort to contact by phone or by social media to say a word and to see if someone is in dire need of help or very lonely. This is the essence of being part of a real community.

Visited our community in the City of Hamilton

In December, I accepted the invitation made to me and my daughter, Felicity Ann, who was visiting me, by the Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH) to attend their first event, 'Breakfast with Santa,' after 18 months of pandemic. We thoroughly enjoyed it and the welcome given to my daughter and me, not only by the committee members but by the crowd that attended, was very much appreciated. It was great to see families, young and old, and so many children attending this event. Santa did a great job in crowning the event with his presence and the distribution of gifts, including to me.

Saying farewell to two who gave so much to us

It was very appropriate and fitting in paying tribute to Fr Karm Borg, MSSP, former pastor of St Paul The Apostle Maltese Canadian Parish and Marlene Muscat, Maltese Community volunteer, *Leĥen Malti* TV presenter and President of the Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo Branch), who both passed away and both had memorial masses celebrated in Toronto. These memorials took place at St Paul The Apostle Maltese Canadian Church and were very-well attended. Both individuals gave a lot to the Maltese Canadian community over the decades they lived in Toronto and amongst the community.

On behalf of my wife Marlene and children, I would like to thank the many who wrote, called, messaged and contacted my wife and me with their wishes for our 20th wedding anniversary and for a Merry Christmas and the New Year 2022. These messages have really touched our hearts and all are very much appreciated.

Once again 'Avoid non-essential travel'

On December 17th, the Canadian Government issued an update to those who intend to travel in the coming weeks. All unnecessary travel should be avoided. Please keep yourselves abreast with the latest travel information in relation to COVID-19. Check on the respective airline and airport websites for more accurate updates and follow the 'Consulate General of the Republic of Malta to Canada' postings for updates from Malta.

A heartfelt thanks to clubs, associations and Leĥen Malti TV

I would like to publically thank and express my sincere appreciation to all our Maltese Canadian clubs in Toronto, Mississauga, Hamilton and Windsor, the associations and the *Leĥen Malti* TV Group for all their work over the past year. Despite 2021 being a tough year because of the pandemic, you all continued working in the silence of your homes. I do know what it means to work in silence since I served on numerous non-government organisations and was president of the NGO Centre in Gozo for a number of years.



ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

CALIFORNIA

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

About 75 persons attended a bingo in November 2021.

Some events have had to be cancelled owing to a lack of numbers.



Finally, my health is not at its best, and I would appreciate your prayers.

May God bless both Canada and Malta.



NEW YORK CITY

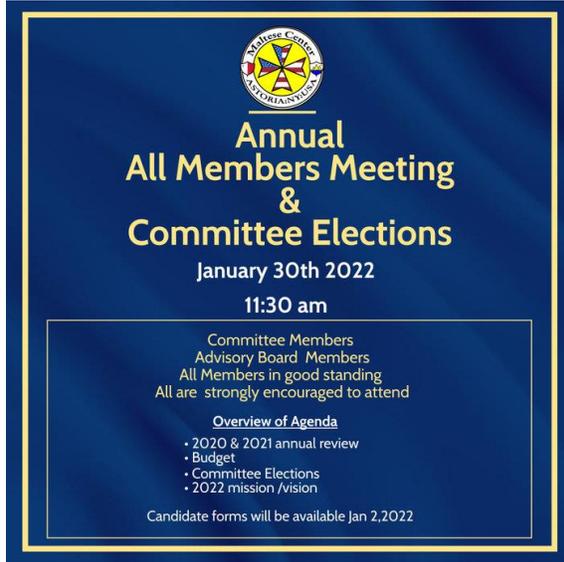
Maltese Center: Astoria

The **Christmas Festive Day** for everyone took place on Saturday, December 4, 2021. (See pages 21-22)

The **Members' Christmas Dinner Party** took place on Saturday, December 11th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. (See page 31)

Bingo was held at the Center on Sunday, December 12th, commencing at 1:00 p.m.

This year's annual **New Year's Eve Dinner Party** will be held on Friday, December 31st at the Astoria World Manor. Adults \$170; children under 12 \$70. The **Annual All Members Meeting & Committee Elections** are to take place at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, January 30, 2022.



The **New Year's Eve Celebration** will be held on Friday, December 31st.

The **Annual General Meeting and Elections** will take place on Sunday, January 23, 2022.

Melita Soccer Club

The **Christmas Dinner Party** was held on Saturday, December 11th. (See pages 29-30.)

The **New Year's Eve Dinner Party** will take place on Friday, December 31st.

The **Annual Meeting and Election** is to be held on Sunday, January 16, 2022.

For further information, contact the Club at 416-763-5317 or Mary Ann Piscopo at 647-290-4856.

LEHEN MALTI
(Maltese Voice)

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

OMNI BC
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

OMNI Alberta
Saturdays 2:00 p.m.

MICHIGAN

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

The second annual **Craft Show** was held at the Club, on Sunday, November 28, 2021. (See pages 34-40.)

The **Christmas Dinner with Santa** took place on Saturday, December 11th at the Club. (See pages 23-28.)

Friday, December 17th was **Pizza Night** at the Club, along with pastizzi, fish 'n chips, ravioli, etc.

ONTARIO

Hamilton

Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH)

Breakfast with Santa was held on Saturday, December 4th at **Carmen's Banquet Centre**. (See pages 1, 9-11)

Greater Toronto Area

Malta Band Club

The **Children's Christmas Party** was held on Sunday, December 12th.

The **Members' Dinner** was held on Saturday, December 18th.

London

A **luncheon** for members of the Maltese Canadian community of the London area and friends which was to be held at **East Side Mario's**, in the RioCan Shopping Mall, 94 Fanshawe Park Road East, on Thursday, December 16th was cancelled owing to the daily rise in COVID-19 cases and particularly the Omicron variant in the area.

Windsor

Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

The annual **Children's Christmas Party** was held on Sunday, December 5, 2021. (See pages 12-18)

The **Members Christmas Party** took place on Saturday, December 18th.

The Club is closed December 19th-January 15th for the holidays.

The first **ravioli dinner** of 2022 will be held on Saturday, January 15th. All members are asked to come out and support their club.

**END OF YEAR MESSAGE BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA
TO THE MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**



Dear citizens of Malta and Gozo,



**H.E. Robert Abela,
Prime Minister of Malta**

The success of our vaccination programme allowed us to return to normality.

Our sense of solidarity has also urged us to donate Covid-19 test kits and vaccines to our neighbouring countries Tunisia and Libya, as well as Rwanda, Ghana and Iran. I am pleased that our efforts were recognised by the World Health Organisation, and we are hailed as the EU's highest per capita vaccine donor.

While you might live miles away from the Maltese Islands, we are sure that you carry a piece of Malta in your hearts wherever you go.

Regrettably, this is the second consecutive year that we are celebrating Christmas and New Year amid Covid-19 restrictions, albeit in varying ways.

We remain steady in our fight against the pandemic, and have managed to contain the spread through a well-coordinated campaign and vaccination programme.

However, the situation is far from over, with the infection rate worldwide on the increase again. We must be vigilant and not let our guard down. Hence my appeal to all those who still haven't taken their vaccine, or those who are due to receive the booster - please move forward and be vaccinated.

Vaccination is key to protecting our societies from the disease.

Malta has the highest number of vaccinated people in all of the European Union, and I am pleased that the lives of many Maltese citizens were saved thanks to the vaccine.

And Malta will continue to assist in the global fight against the pandemic, providing support as and when necessary in a spirit of both solidarity and multilateralism, and to avoid disparities between nations.

Indeed, the interdependence among nations became more vocal due to the pandemic, and physical distances were somewhat dissolved, which underlined further the importance of multilateralism.

2021 was indeed a busy year for us.

The Government embarked on a number of projects and initiatives as part of our Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Malta also continued to play its part in the advancement of human rights worldwide, as we continue our excellent track record in striving for a more just and equitable society.

Furthermore, we are planning a carbon neutral future for Malta in order to limit the impact of climate change and prevent irreparable damage.

This target is also one of the five pillars of economic

growth and recovery from the pandemic, together with sustainable economic growth, good governance, education and infrastructural improvement.

Malta is looking onwards and upwards to a brighter future – and I want you to be part of it.

All the Maltese communities living abroad have a direct share in the work that Malta carries out on a national and international stage.

You can be catalysts of change to help our ambitions for our country to take shape. The physical distance should not stop us from taking initiatives and exploring new ways in which we can work together.

I invite you all to remain connected with your homeland, not only during this time of the year but throughout the whole year. Let us all cherish our rich traditions, culture and identity, by ensuring that we pass them on to our children.

A word of thanks also goes to the many Maltese missionaries working in different parts of the world to improve the lives of people who are deprived of the essentials. Their dedication is an inspiration to us all.

My wife and I would like to wish you and your families a joyful Christmas, and a new year full of good health, happiness and prosperity.

Saħħa!



CRAFT SHOW

Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci

The Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn kicked off the holiday shopping season with its second annual Craft Show on Saturday, November 28, 2021, between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The event drew a record number of shoppers. The show featured 11 tables of master crafters, artists and artisans selling their wares, many of which had a Maltese theme. So many were unique items not found in any store.



Our Vendors Setting Up

Table 1 – Prayer Chains





**Lisa Walker and Her Mom, Jackie
Selling Prayer Chains**

Lisa prays over each prayer chain she makes and each chain comes with a prayer. She can be reached at lastingimpress3@aol.com.

Table 3 – Graceful Stained Glass



By Grace Muscat-Harris

Visit her store on Etsy or find Graceful Stained Glass on Facebook.

Table 2 – LMP Designs Co.



Owned by Kara Shook

Kara specializes in personalized goods and gifts such as wooden signs, dish towels, T-shirts and notebooks. Orders may be placed on her Etsy Store or visit the LMP Designs Facebook page.



Table 4 – Petite Patriots



**Owned by Rachael Cini-Darin
Here with Her Husband Eric**

Petite Patriots specializes in high-end knitwear and apparel reflecting under-represented countries, such as Malta. Visit Rachael's Etsy store for a complete lineup of her products. You can also find Petite Patriots on Facebook.



Table 5 – Hooked on a Flame



**Hooked on a Flame
Owned by Michele Santangelo**



Michele combines her love for crocheting and candle making.

Table 6 – Goof Balls



**By Holly Skinner
Helping Her at Her Booth is Robin Townsend**

Holly makes these adorable ornaments out of golf balls.



Table 7 – Woodcrafts



By David Cachia

His table was very popular and he was nearly sold out by the end of the afternoon. The clock he made sold quickly. He also makes key holders, magnets and other fine woodcrafts.



Table 8 – Mary Hart



**Mary Is Helped Out
by Her Friend, Margaret Muncy.**

Mary customizes all kinds of things like, thermos cups, shirts, glass canisters, and more. She even makes Maltese themed Christmas ornaments. You can order her goods by emailing her at mhart920@gmail.com.



Table 9 – Carmen Grace Vella



Carmen Grace Vella a Master Quilter

Carmen Grace sews quilts, pillows, bibs, crib sheets, table runners, etc. She accepts credit card payments and PayPal. Contact her via email at cgvella@yahoo.com.



Table 10 – Al the Turner



Owned by Alfred Schembri

Talk about a master craftsman, Al creates the most amazing wood home decor. You name it, he can make it, stunning vases and platters, unique bowls, pizza cutters, crosses, bottle stops, pens, honey dippers, spinning tops and hand turned Christmas ornaments. His pepper mills were a very popular item and nearly sold out! Al the Turner has an Etsy store and Facebook page.



Table 11 – The Malta Store



Run by Rena Xuereb

Rena sells souvenirs she brings back from Malta.



She was also selling MACC items like cooler bags, Diane Gale Andreassi's *Maltese in Detroit* books and figolli cutters, and handmade jewelry by Rose Calleja.



Samples of Rose Calleja's Jewelry

A bake sale was also held with items baked and donated by the members. The proceeds from the sale will help pay for all the kids' games and crafts provided at the Halloween and Christmas parties. Delores Durkin and Rita Vella Cruz did a great job

with the sale.



Delores Durkin and Rita Vella Cruz at the Bake Sale Table

Of course, pastizzi were for sale, either to eat on the premises or take home frozen by the dozen. They flew out the door. Nearly everyone bought dozens of frozen pastizzi for their Christmas celebrations. Meanwhile Neil Durkin and Marty Micallef worked non stop to keep them coming fresh out of the oven.



Neil Durkin and Marty Micallef



Shoppers Enjoying a Quick Bite after Purchasing Their Treasures

Big thanks goes to Grace Muscat-Harris for organizing the event, to Margaret Muscat-Purdy and Mary Micallef for decorating, the day before, and tirelessly working the entire event, to Marty Micallef and Neil Durkin for keeping the pastizzi coming hot out of the oven and tending the bar, to Dolores Durkin and Rita Vella-Cruz helping with the bake sale and pastizzi sales and to Margaret Muscat-Purdy for providing the sandwiches. I further assisted selling the lunches and taking all photographs shown here.

A soup and sandwich lunch was also offered for shoppers to enjoy a quick bite after purchasing their treasures.

I donated a huge pot of cream of turkey with rice soup. It put my Thanksgiving turkey carcass to good use and was a perfect way to use up the leftover turkey. Needless to say, the pot was empty at the end of the day.



A Record Number of Shoppers Attended the Event

As of December 7, 2021, there have been 3,952 hits—over 200 per month--on the webpage of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco pertaining to The Maltese Presence in North America newsletter.



Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci

MICHIGAN REPRESENTATIVE DARRIN CAMILLERI HONOURED

Dan Brock

Among those awarded Republic Day honours by the President of Malta, H.E. Dr. George Vella at a special ceremony on Monday, December 13th, was Darren Camilleri who, last year, was re-elected for the third time to the Michigan House of Representatives. Representative Camilleri was awarded the National Order of Merit as an honorary member.

While only Maltese citizens are eligible to be appointed members of the Order, honorary membership “may be conferred on foreign nationals who have distinguished themselves by their service in the promotion and fostering of international relations or who have earned the respect and gratitude of the people of the Maltese Islands.”



Photo - DOI - Jeremy Wonnacott

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.omnitv.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:
Friday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

5221 Oakman Blvd, Dearborn, MI 48126
313-846-7077
info@malteseamericanclub.org
Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday & 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

joeshherri@rogers.com

Maltese Canadian Federation, The (Toronto)

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L5B 2R4
416-571-3944

joeshherri@rogers.com

Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre

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

Maltese Canucks

c/o 3336 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON,
M6P 2A4
416-909-7357/414-670-2662

carl@isqtransport.com/b_azzo18@yahoo.com

Maltese Center, NYC

27-20 Hoyt Ave. S. Astoria, NY 11102
718-728-9893

info@themaltesecenter.com

Opening hours:

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

Maltese Cross Foundation of California

PO Box 698, San Carlos, CA 94070

Maltese Culture Club of Durham

c/o 124 Ribblesdale Drive, Whitby, ON L1N 7C8
289-939-8377

mmpastizzi@gmail.com

Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area

maltesheritageassociation@gmail.com

Maltese Heritage Program (Toronto)

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

gormija@sympatico.ca

Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)

c/o_leprofess@aol.com

Melita Soccer Club Inc.

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

msc@melitasoccerclub.com

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

CHRISTMAS DINNER WITH SANTA AT THE MALTESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLUB OF DEARBORN



The Arrival of Santa



Another Full House

Photos by Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci