

THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 44

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2022



**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY, SATURDAY DECEMBER 10TH
MALTA UNITED SOCIETY OF WINDSOR, ONTARIO**

(See page 31.)

**The Maltese Presence
in North America
Issue No. 44
November-December 2022**

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Owing to a number of other commitments, I was unable to produce a stand-alone newsletter in November. Consequently, the months of November and December have been combined into one issue.

A number of items are, therefore, dated but at least they will be preserved for posterity.

In fact, I selected Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci's article on the Halloween dinner dance, held at the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn as this issue's feature article. (See pages 21-27, 40.)

Although we are less than a week away from Christmas, I'm sure you will agree that the work and effort the club members put into that Halloween event certainly merits special recognition.

With Carmen Vella and Mark Caruana, I was finally able to complete one of several articles which have been on the back burner for more than a year.

In this case it is the account of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart who were sent from Malta to Albany, New York in the early 1930s. (See pages 13-20.) This, in turn, will form part of an article which is scheduled to appear in *The Sunday Times of Malta* later this month.

Hopefully, over the next several months, some of the others will see the light of day in this newsletter.

The major news item for the Maltese community within North America, in my opinion, is the withdrawal of the Missionaries of the Society of St. Paul from St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto and the question as to whether the Parish will remain a Maltese national parish. (See page 9)

My thanks to the various clubs and individuals who provided material for this newsletter. I would encourage all clubs to send forward information, including photos of events within your organization. At least post such photos, etc. on your Facebook page so that I can, with your permission, access and use such material in this newsletter.

Thanks to the kindness and efforts of Evelyn and Dennis Simmons of California, 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://malteseamericanscsf.org/home.aspx>. Click on to "News & Resources."

If you have ideas to share or wish to be put on the free, bcc electronic mailing lists, etc., I may be reached at danbrock62@gmail.com.

May you have a Blessed Christmas and all the best in the new year.

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GLEANINGS FROM THE SUNDAY BULLETIN

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS...



Fr. Mario Micallef, MSSP, was until October 12th, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle, Toronto, the only Maltese national parish in North America. This "Pastor's thoughts..." is an extract from his commentary in the Parish's Sunday Bulletin for the weekend of October 8th-9th.

A Farewell

What we mean and are to each other can never be taken for granted. As I move on, a living memory of you will stay etched somewhere in my heart. And this will always find a spot in my daily prayer-time, as I share intimate time with my God.

May God's blessing abundantly fill your hearts and those of your loved ones.

Editor's note: Fr. Mario left Canada on Wednesday, October 12th, en route to help the MSSP mission in Peru. The present plans are for him to stay there until after Christmas, and then to return to Malta where he will be spending time with the MSSP community and with his family.

SUNDAY REFLECTIONS

Editor's note: With the departure of Fr. Mario Micallef, the Sunday Bulletin for St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto has been posting Sunday Reflections from volume 28 of the Living with Christ booklet

The Effectiveness of Prayer

Because prayer is a means by which we grow in relationship with God, prayer is surely transformative. We may not see it immediately, but the Lord is constantly working in our lives. Our prayers, just like every wave, have an effect. They can transform fear into courage, weakness into strength, uncertainty into confidence, loneliness into friendship. There is no intention too small or too great for our Lord. He longs for us to come to Him and meet Him in prayer. As you reflect on your prayer life, know that God hears you and will come to your aid.

Like waves rushing constantly to the shoreline, may we persistently run to our loving Father with all our

intentions. Then, let us wait in faith for the fruits of our prayers, certain that God will act in our favour.

Myriam Dupuis, no. 10, page 88

Humility

We are called to be humble....

Humility and gratitude are interconnected. Being grateful is to see everything as gift....

....Our faith calls us to receive God's gifts, including every breath we draw in, with a deepening humility. We ourselves are a gift from God and the only gift we have to return is gratitude.

Kelly Bourke, no. 10, page 113

Curiosity

...Jesus was passing through town. [Lk. 19: 1-10] And one of the people in the town was curious. Presumably Zacchaeus had a relatively successful life, as Luke describes him as rich. And yet he was seeking more. In the same way, we may pray for more....

Let us go forth today, curious about the gift that Jesus has for us. Perhaps his presence in our house is the answer to the prayer that is the root of our curiosity.

John O'Brien, no. 10, page 137

We Are Called to Think in Spiritual Terms

Often a loved person who has passed on may remain very real to us. Yet sometimes we can clutter up our minds with questions and doubts because, like the Sadducees [Lk. 20: 27-38], we start with an incorrect premise. Jesus calls us to think in spiritual terms.

Beth Porter, no. 11, page 53

Trust in the Lord

....In our day we watch the news and see the human suffering from war and natural disasters. Jesus assures us that these are signs from heaven. He encourages us: "I will give you words and wisdom...not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

How do we endure? In his wisdom, the Lord draws us close to him in times of trouble. The omnipotent God loves and invites us to trust him. The martyrs had this intimate trust in Jesus. St. John Paul II spoke the words of Christ to the people of Poland during the fall of communism—"Be not afraid" – illustrating the power of this trust in God.

It is said that to get to Easter Sunday, we have to go through Good Friday. This is our path home.

Denis Grady, OFS, no. 11, page 83

**ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD**

Mona Vella-Nicholas

This year's meeting of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) took place in Valletta, Malta at Palazzo Parisio, the building on Merchants Street which houses the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade. The Council, which met on October 27th-28th, was opened on Thursday, the 27th, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Dr. Ian Borg.



**Convening of the meeting
by Minister Dr. Ian Borg**

The meeting was chaired by Mr. John Buttigieg, Director of Consular Services and the CMLA. He was assisted by Mr. Joseph Xerri, Secretary of the Council.

Council members representing their communities abroad came from Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States were all present. I had the honor of being one of the two Maltese American representatives. Malta also had a representative in attendance.

The agenda consisted of proposals submitted previous to the meeting by Council members. These proposals addressed the concerns and needs of the various communities with regard to their relationship to Malta.

The Council members also heard from guest speakers Rev. Fr. Anton D'Amato, Director of the Migrants Commission; Mr. Klaus Pederson from Trade Malta; Mr. Kenneth Gambin, COO of Heritage Malta; and Ms. Maryann Cauchi, Director of Arts Council Malta.

The highlight of the two days occurred on Friday, when Council members were driven to the Presidential Palace in Attard, where they met and had tea with H.E. Dr. George Vella, President of Malta. Dr. Vella spoke of the importance of the Maltese diaspora to the idea of a Greater Malta, a Malta which embraces communities of Maltese all over the world as an extension of the people living on the isles themselves.



Group photo taken at Palazzo Parisio

Photos taken from Facebook page of 14th Annual Meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad

**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA
TO THE UNITED STATES**

Owing to ongoing refurbishment works, as of December 5th, and until further notice, the Embassy is relocated at

C/O WeWork Fir 2:
1333 New Hampshire Ave. NW
Washington DC, 20036

**ACTIVITIES WITHIN
THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES**

Dan Brock

NEW YORK CITY

Maltese Center: Astoria

The annual **Children’s Christmas Party** was held on Sunday, December 11th. (See page 35.)

The **New Year’s Eve Party** will be held in the lower hall, starting at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, December 31st.

ONTARIO

Greater Toronto Area

Malta Band Club

The **Kids Hallowe’en Costume Party** was held at the Club on the afternoon of Sunday, October 30th.

A **Memorial Service** took place at 3:00 p.m. at the Club on Sunday, November 13th.

A **Candlelight Concert**, featuring **The Malta Band**, was held on the evening of Saturday, November 26th.



The **Christmas Dinner Dance** was held on Saturday, December 10th. There were games for the children, a visit from Santa and, after the dinner, dancing followed.

Festa tal-Kunċizzjoni took place on Saturday, December 17th. The new statute was unveiled. Imqarrun was served.

A **Gala New Year’s Eve Dinner-Dance** will be held at the Club on Saturday, December 31st.

Maltese Canadian Federation

The Federation held its **Annual Seniors’ Christmas Dinner** on the afternoon of Sunday, December 11th, in the **Depiro Hall** at **St. Paul the Apostle Church**. This also included a performance by **The Malta Band**.

Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre

The launching of **Ash Fall**, the last book in Marthese Fenech’s trilogy, *A Novel of the Knights of Malta* took place here on Saturday, December 10th, between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m.



Mar Fenech with her husband Brad Marks

Photo by Stephen Fenech



**The museum team of volunteers,
along with helpers Madlene and Kealey,
during the book launch**

Melita Soccer Club

A **Memorial Service** was held at the Club at 7:00 p.m., on November 18th.

The **Children’s Christmas Party** took place on Sunday, December 11th.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

Fr. Mario Micallef, MSSP, the former pastor, arrived safely in Arequipa, Peru, after leaving Toronto Airport on Wednesday, October 12th.

Fr. Dominic Cachia, MSSP, arrived from Malta on Monday, October 17th. He will be helping Fr. Ivano until sometime after Christmas.

It has been announced that the **Missionary Society of St. Paul** is **withdrawing its priests** from the Parish once the Archdiocese has a priest or priests in place to assume the pastorate of this parish early in the new year. (See page 9.)

A **Parish Dinner Dance** was held on Saturday, October 22nd.

An **Annual Mass** was held at **Assumption Cemetery** in Mississauga, at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 6th.

Mass was held on Friday, November 11th, at 7:00 p.m. at **St. Paul's** for those whose funeral was celebrated in the parish during the past 12 months.

The annual **Parish Helpers' Thanksgiving Mass** was held on Saturday, November 19th, at 5:30 p.m., followed by a **dinner**.

The **Anointing of the Sick Mass**, took place on Sunday, December 11th, at the 12:00 Mass, and will be followed by the **Seniors' Christmas Dinner** hosted by the **Maltese Canadian Federation**.

The **Annual Christmas Concert** was held on Saturday, December 16th and featured **The Malta Band** and **St. Cecilia's School Choir**.

Midnight Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, December 24th.

A **New Year's Eve Dinner-Dance** will take place on Saturday, December 31st. There will be a seven-course meal with one bottle of red wine and one of white wine on each table. Champagne will be served at midnight. Tickets are \$60 for adults, \$25 for children ages 5-12 and free for children under 5.

London

The Maltese group and friends enjoyed a **luncheon** on Thursday, October 20th, in the Knights Room at The Pickle Barrel on Wellington Road South. The winners for an appetizer at The Pickle Barrel were Tony Galea, Miranda Catania and Monica Micallef.

A **dinner** was held at the **Portuguese Club** on the evening of Thursday, November 24th. (See pages 28-29.)

The group enjoyed a **luncheon**, on Thursday, December 15th, at the **Mandarin Restaurant** on Wellington Road South. (See page 36.)

Windsor**Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario**

Tony Zarb, a big part of the Maltese community, passed away on the morning of Saturday, October 15th. A celebration of his life was held at the Club on the evening of Wednesday, October 19th.

On Saturday, December 10th, the Club held its **Children's Christmas Party**. (See pages. 1, 31.)

A **Christmas Social** was hosted by the Club on Saturday, December 11th, for all members, family, and friends.

METROPOLITAN DETROIT**Maltese American Benevolent Society**

The **2022 Children's Christmas Party and Raffle** was held on the afternoon of Sunday, December 18th.

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

The **Halloween Dinner Dance** was held on Saturday, October 22nd. (See pages 21-25, 40)

Father Joe celebrated a **Remembrance Mass** at the Club. This was followed by a **dinner**.

A **Craft Show** was held on Sunday, November 27th. (See pages 11-12.)

A **Christmas Party** took place on Saturday, December 10th. (See pages 32-34.)

SAN FRANCISCO**Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco**

On Saturday, November 12th, a **Family Bingo and Pasta Dinner** was held.

The **Children's Christmas Party** took place on Saturday, December 10th.

The **New Year's Eve Dinner Dance** is to be held on Saturday, December 31st.

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.

NINETY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF MY PARENTS' WEDDING

Rena Xuereb

It was on November 3, 1929, at the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows in St. Paul's Bay, Malta, that my mother, Giuseppa Gauci, age 20, and my father, Giovanni Xuereb, age 19, were married.



My parents on their wedding day



READERS' COMMENTS RELATING TO THE OCTOBER ISSUE

Another amazing newsletter. It is absolutely fabulous and you do a fantastic job putting this all together – so much information – wonderful colour – and eye-catching news.

Thank you so much for providing us all with this newsletter....

I keep all of your newsletters in an A4 arch lever file for easy reference and further reading.

Marion Atkinson,
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

I have been so excited to read the newsletter today!

I am so excited and beyond grateful for the outstanding job you did on my parents' piece! The entire newsletter is amazing and I have created a distribution list on my email and will be sending it out.

No doubt there will be people who will want to join your data base.

Thank you just seems inadequate; you making this article possible is just amazing.

Thank you from my heart ...

Diane Demarco Markavich
Metro Detroit

Your preparation of another informative newsletter is highly recommended.

It is to be realised that for such a publication, many hours of work have been dedicated and the end result of course, is so satisfying to the readers. I truly enjoy receiving and reading every edition of the newsletter that you transmit.

I look closely at the articles and the photos that are inserted therein. You must have been extra busy searching archives and making enquiries with many Maltese families settled in North America. Looking at the photos and subtitles, can give some idea of the enthusiasm that is put into your work. Well done, Dan, and keep doing what you have started to enlighten us readers with more information and historical origins of the first Maltese immigrants who settled in Canada & America.

They were brave taking a decision to leave their homeland Malta/Gozo and find their country of adoption where they have built a new life. At the same time, they enriched the Maltese nation with greater popularity from their achievements.

Once again, I thank you, dear Dan, and I wish you, greater success for the future.

George Stagno Navarra
Sliema, Malta

Dan, as always, thank you so much....

You continue to bring the Maltese communities together through this publication.

Mabel F. Higgins
Sarnia, Ontario

I would like to thank you for your newsletters. I really enjoy reading them. Like many Maltese, I have relatives in both the US and Canada....

Dr. Albert Friggieri,
Ambassador (non-resident) to Switzerland and
Liechtenstein, Valletta, Malta

I really enjoy reading the newsletter every month and I thank you for all you do to keep the Maltese presence in North America.

Louise Grech Weglarz
Metro Detroit

Thank YOU... for your newsletter!

As usual, it's very interesting, and I always "forward" your newsletter to many of my friends here in Canada.

Kind regards, and keep up the good work!

Carmen Galea,
Toronto

Very nicely done and informative.

John Zarb, Luna Pier, Michigan

Another wonderful publication.

Thank you for doing this.

Rachael Cini Darin
Metro Detroit

Well done for keeping the Maltese community alive and connected through the e-newsletter, and thank you for putting it together every month. I enjoyed reading it; the content is rich and resourceful.

Nicki Conti



**MARY BORG:
ANOTHER HOUSEKEEPER TO A PRIEST
RELATIVE IN NORTH AMERICA?**

Dan Brock

In the September 2022 issue mention was made of the film *Carmen*, directed by Valerie Buhagiar. The central character in the movie *Carmen* was the housekeeper for her older brother the priest until his death. Valerie found inspiration for the film from the real-life account of her aunt Rita, the youngest daughter in the family, who was the housekeeper for her older brother the priest.

The same issue of the newsletter contains an account of Gioacchina Grech, who immigrated to Alberta, Canada to become the housekeeper for her cousin, Fr. Antonio "Anthony" Sammut, and remained his housekeeper, as he moved from parish to parish, until her death in North Sacramento, California.

Another such example in North America is that of Maria "Mary" Borg. She was born in Vittoriosa, Malta, on March 19, 1887, and apparently continued to live at home, unmarried. Her occupation on her passport application was given as "housewife," i.e. housekeeper for her widowed father.



Maria "Mary" Borg, 1929 passport photo

After the death of her mother, her father, Giuseppe Borg, a merchant, presumably in Vittoriosa, decided to immigrate to Detroit with his daughter, Maria, and live with his son, Fr. Michael Borg.

Giuseppe "Joseph" Borg, a widower, was born in Senglea, on February 7, 1853, a son of Michael Borg. Prior to leaving Malta, he and Maria were living at 60 Strada Torre San Giovanni, in Vittoriosa.



Giuseppe Joseph Borg, 1929 passport photo

Photos courtesy of National Archives of Malta

On August 21, 1929, he and Maria set sail on the *Olympic* from Cherbourg and arrived in New York Harbour six days later. Their contact person back in Malta was Giuseppe's sister or daughter-in-law, Carmela Pellicano of Żebbuġ.

We find Joseph and Mary living with Fr. Michael Borg at the time of the US federal census of 1930. As Joseph Borg was not on the 1940 census, it is assumed he had died by that time.

Mary Borg, is found still living with her brother the priest on the 1940 and 1950 census. Interestingly, no occupation was given for her on all three censuses and it can only be assumed that she kept house for her brother, Fr. Michael Borg.

While Fr. Borg died on April 18, 1963, and was interred in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Detroit, nothing further is known of his sister Mary Borg. She seems to have lived a quiet life in almost total obscurity.



**PRIESTS OF THE
MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST. PAUL
TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM ST. PAUL
THE APOSTLE PARISH, TORONTO**

Dan Brock

Some weeks ago, it was announced by Superior General Fr. Mark Grima, MSSP, that the Society, after more than 23 years, would be withdrawing its priests from St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto, Canada. The withdrawal is scheduled by or around the end of January 2023, once the Archdiocese of Toronto has a priest or priests in place to assume the pastorate of St. Paul's.

As Fr. Ivano Burdian, MSSP, the current administrator of the parish, was quick to note: "the Parish will NOT close. It is the MSSP mission that will come to an end. I will be here until a new administrator or pastor has been appointed by the Archdiocese.

Beware of the gossip. If you hear something that is not from the MSSP or the Archdiocese, please check it out with us."

A few weeks later, Robert Kasun, CSB, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese' Central Region sent out a letter stating that: "For the foreseeable future, the Archdiocese of Toronto has no plan to close the parish. We hope the parish can work with the Archdiocese in keeping the parish alive and flourishing as best as possible."

The great concern, within the Maltese community in the Greater Toronto Area in general and St. Paul the Apostle Parish in particular, is Bishop Kasun's penultimate paragraph.

"The Clergy Personnel Committee of the Archdiocese is already working hard to secure a new pastor for this parish. Kindly offer your prayers that a pastor may be found even at this time of year when priest transfers are not usual. Finally, I invite you to offer 'even more prayers' that a pastor may be found 'who also speaks the Maltese language' because they are extremely rare and difficult to find."

Understandably, the withdrawal of its priests from St. Paul's has been a difficult decision for the Society. One of the reasons given is the lack of vocations and the present MSSP priests being spread too thin, in some cases, among many of the missions the Society serves.

A major factor, however, according to the Superior General, Fr. Mark Grima, MSSP, was the refusal by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship in Canada to renew Fr. Mario Micallef's Visitor Record (three-year working permit). An account of this refusal was noted on page 19 of the October 2022 issue of this newsletter.

On an historical note, it was in early 1999 that the Maltese Franciscan priests departed from administering to the parish and were succeeded by Maltese speaking priests of the Missionary Society of St. Paul.

Looking beyond the survival of St. Paul the Apostle Parish is the question as to whether it will continue as a Maltese national parish. It is the only such parish in all North America! Will it, too, suffer the same fate as St. Paul of the Shipwreck Parish in San Francisco or, worse, that of St. Paul Maltese Parish in Detroit?

**A FOUNDER OF
THE MALTESE CANADIAN SOCIETY
OF LONDON CLAIMED BY DEATH**

Albert Grech passed away at the Village of Glendale Crossing retirement complex in London on October 14th at the age 87.

Albert, along with Charlie Camenzuli, Tony Cauchi, Jimmy Vella, Tony Vella, and Joe Zammit were the founding members of what became The Maltese Canadian Society of London.

At the founding meeting, held at Mary Immaculate Church, on Sunday, March 27, 1977, Albert was elected vice president.

JOSEPH MUSCAT LAUNCHES HIS BOOK DESCRIBING HIS LIFE AS A VISUAL ARTIST*

Dan Brock

On Saturday and Sunday, November 26 & 27, JOSEPH MUSCAT launched his art memoir book: **Joseph Muscat - An Art-Infused Life** at Fenix Studio on Sheppard Avenue West in North York.



It was three years ago that this renowned Maltese Canadian artist “embarked on an ambitious project: putting together words and images to document my career as a visual artist.”

During that time, he gathered, organized, and colour corrected hundreds of pictures of his work, as well as pictures of colleagues, family, teachers, exhibitions, events, and anything which played some part in his 40-plus year career.

To get this job done, Joseph was “First and foremost” assisted by Victoria Doudoumis, who had started out with him as a student intern from Guelph-Humber University and who then took on the task of graphic designer, and “stuck around through the entire process.”

The editing of the text was done by Port Perry writer Lucy Black. David Kaye, of the former David Kaye Gallery, was responsible for “the very original Forward.” Of course, “a host of other people” contributed to the book in one way or another. All are acknowledged on the first page of his book.

This hard-cover book consists of 287 pages, with over 800 photos of artwork, people, events, and exhibitions. Colour Innovations of North York was the printer.



As only 100 copies were printed and the work contains hundreds of high-quality illustrations in colour, the book sells for \$177 Canadian plus taxes where applicable in Canada as well as shipping. If interested, please contact the artist at muscat@interlog.com. E-transfer or Wire transfer are accepted using the above email address.

** My thanks to Joseph Muscat for providing me with the material for this article.*

CARMEN

Valerie Buhagiar’s *Carmen* is the official submission of Malta for this year’s Oscars.

The film stars Natascha McElhone and is available across Canada now on demand through cable providers—Bell Telus, Rogers, Shaw Cogeco and Eastlink—and is also available to rent or to buy on Apple, the Cineplex Store and Google Play.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW

Margaret Muscat Purdy

Our annual Christmas Craft Show was held at the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn on Sunday, November 27th.

Pastizzi and soup were sold for lunch. Tom Muscat, my father, had made a big pot of minestra at his home.

Thank you, Grace Muscat for organizing and setting up the vendors. Thank you to all the vendors who lugged all their wares up and down the steps and setting up. Thank you, Mary Micallef, Rita Vella, Rena Xuereb, and Neal and Doris Durkin for our most gracious kitchen help, and Marty Micallef and Joe Borg for bartending and crowd control! Last, but not least, a huge thank you to all our members and friends for coming out in this nasty rain and supporting our club!! 😊



Grace Muscat Harris' glass art and jewelry



Mary Anne Hart's shirts and wood work



Vicky Muscat's knitting



Carmen Vella's Maltese gifts



Petite Patriots' apparel



Alfred Schembri's wood making



Michelle Sant Angelo's candle making



Rena Xuereb and Mary Micallef



Neal & Doris Durkin



Marty Micallef and Joe Borg

MALTESE SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART SENT TO ALBANY, NEW YORK

Dan Brock, Carmen Vella, Mark Caruana

In the June, July and August 2021 issues of this newsletter, we have traced the lives and postings of the 12 Sisters of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) who were first sent to Chicago from Malta, between 1932 and 1934. This article will focus upon the four Maltese RSCJ—Marianna Debono, Rosaria Gauci, Angela Attard and Antonia Camilleri—whose first posting upon arrival in the United States was Albany, New York.

The first to arrive were Sisters Marianna Debono and Rosaria Gauci. Both had taken their first vows on January 12, 1931. On August 2nd they left Malta on board a vessel which stopped at Syracuse before they disembarked in Naples. There, they spent a few days waiting other newly-professed nuns who arrived from Rome. The group sailed from Naples on board the *Saturnia* and arrived in New York on the 15th, thus becoming the first members of their congregation from Malta to be posted in North America.

Their first stop was the College of the Sacred Heart in the Manhattanville section of northwestern Manhattan in New York City. The College had origins dating back to August 1841 when the RSCJ established an academy at 412 Houston Street in the southeast corner of Manhattan Island facing the East River.



An aerial photo of the former campus of the Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart in the Manhattanville section of northwestern Manhattan in New York City, taken from the south looking northeast

After spending the night in Manhattanville, Sisters Marianna and Rosaria travelled to Sacred Heart Convent in Kenwood,



Sacred Heart Convent,
Kenwood, Albany, New York

As noted on pages 12-13 of the July 2021 issue of this newsletter, “The Sisters of the Sacred Heart had first arrived in Albany, New York in 1852 and opened a convent and school on North Pearl Street. They soon outgrew this location and in 1859 purchased ‘Kenwood’ the estate of the late Jared Rathbone in the hamlet of Kenwood. In subsequent years, the mansion was pulled down and new buildings were constructed for both the convent and academy. In time, all of the hamlet of Kenwood was annexed by Albany.”

Sr. Marianna Debono was born and baptised in Mellieħa, Malta, on January 23, 1904, the tenth child of Serafino and Marianna (Sammut) Debono. Confirmed as an infant, Mariana received her First Communion, at the age of six, on June 10, 1910.

While primary school was available to all Maltese children at the time, it had not yet become compulsory. Marianna attended up to the third grade but stopped to help at home taking care of one of her sisters’ children and her two younger brothers. She also helped her brother Stephen on the farm, and when she returned home, she would help her mother do the housework. She had happy memories of her childhood and later was to resume her studies when living at Kenwood.

As a child, Marianna used to attend catechism classes. It was during these classes that she first felt her vocation to become a nun and give herself to God. As she grew older her vocation became even stronger. One Sunday in 1927, together with Rosaria Gauci, Rosanna Camenzuli and Rosaria’s mother, she walked all the way from Mellieħa to visit Sister Stella Galea, at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in St. Julian’s.

It was then that Marianna decided that she wanted to join the Society of the Sacred Heart. She entered the convent in St. Julian's a year later, on July 6, 1928. When it was time to say "goodbye" to her mother who had accompanied her to the Convent, Sr. Marianna was later to describe it as a sacrifice made with love and joy. During her time at St. Julian's, she worked on the farm.

As for **Sr. Rosaria Gauci**, she was born in Mellieħa, to Andrea and Carmela (Abela) Gauci on September 30, 1905. Rosaria was baptised the day after she was born, and confirmed October 27, 1907 when she was but 25 months old. She was seven when she received her First Communion in 1911.

Rosaria started going to school at the usual age but was not interested in book learning and soon stopped. The family had a bakery and Rosaria preferred to look after the huge oven. This meant, among other things, collecting firewood, thorns and other material for the fire needed to heat up the oven.

In addition to the bakery, the family also collected salt from the nearby coast. Sea water trapped in natural and man-made "salt pans" would in time dry out in the sun, leaving behind a mound of dazzling white, coarse salt. People collected this salt for their own needs or to sell it and the Gauci family did likewise.

As a young girl, Rosaria would go with two or three brothers and sisters from Mellieħa to Ghajn Tuffieħa, to the south, to collect salt or L-Aħrax, to the north, to gather firewood. Both destinations were a good distance from their home. The children would set out very early in the morning, especially in the summer, to beat the heat, and eat their breakfast of bread and tomatoes on the way

Meanwhile, at a very young age, Rosaria began to go to night school, where she learned to read and write. During the First World War, her father would tell her to go and buy the newspaper and read it to him, as he wanted to keep in touch with events.

Later, a mission was conducted in the parish church, *Twelid tal-Vergni Marja* (Nativity of the Virgin Mary), in Mellieħa by Fr. Edgar, a very holy priest. It was during this "mission week" that Rosaria began thinking of becoming a nun. As noted above, she walked with her friends Rosanna Camenzuli and Marianna Debono, along with Rosanna's mother, to the Convent of the Sacred Heart in St. Julian's on a day in 1927. All three ultimately joined the RSCJ, Rosaria on the same day as Marianna.

Both Sr. Marianna and Sr. Rosaria were to become professed nuns at Kenwood in Albany, New York on July 30, 1936. Previously, both worked there in the community infirmary. Sr. Rosaria was sent to Overbrook, Philadelphia in July 1932. The next month, Sr. Marianna was joined at Kenwood by Sisters Angela Attard and Antonia Camilleri of Malta.

As noted in the June 2021 issue of this newsletter, Sisters Angela and Antonia sailed from Naples on board the *Saturnia* and arrived in New York Harbor on August 17, 1932. They were accompanied by two other Maltese RSCJ, Agnese Grech and Annunziata Micallef. The latter two were en route to the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Chicago where they would become the first Maltese members of the Congregation there. With them on the cross-Atlantic voyage were two Canadian-born RSCJ sisters, Mary Lahey and Annette Archambault, who were returning to the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Montreal.

Sr. Angela Attard, a daughter of Horatio and Carmela (Azzopardi) Attard, was born in Żejtun, Malta on October 9, 1907. She was to have fond and happy memories of her childhood in a closely knit family.

Her father was depicted as a quiet, hardworking, loving and religious man who went to Mass daily at 5:00 a.m.. Her mother was described as a tender, kind and religious woman always ready to help members of the family and outsiders.

Angela entered the Society at St. Julian's, at the age of 19, on February 1, 1927. While at the Convent there, she served as an infirmarian. As noted, she left Malta for Kenwood in 1932.



Sr. Angela Attard, RSCJ, passport photo

Courtesy of the National Archives of Malta

Sr. Antonia Camilleri, the eldest child of Mosè and Paula (Mifsud) Camilleri, was born in Lija on September 30, 1907. She was baptised the next day. At the age of six, in 1914, she received her First Communion and, in accordance with the custom in Malta at the time, was confirmed the following year.

An intelligent child, after her primary education, she went on to Secondary Central School in Lija from 1921 to 1925. In December 1925, she sat for the Oxford General Certificate of Education examinations and obtained good results in six subjects. She left school with a fluency in Maltese and English and a working knowledge in Italian. Then, at the age of 18, she attended the Training School at Valletta, and became an elementary school teacher, a post she held till 1928.

On January 4, 1929, Antonia entered the RSCJ convent at St. Julian's and made her first vows on July 26, 1931. The following year, she accompanied Sr. Angela Attard to Kenwood. There, Sr. Antonia worked at sewing in the Vestry until sent to Elmhurst in Providence, Rhode Island in 1933.

As noted earlier, **Sr. Rosaria Gauci** had been sent to Overbrook, Philadelphia, where she was to remain for the next 20 years.

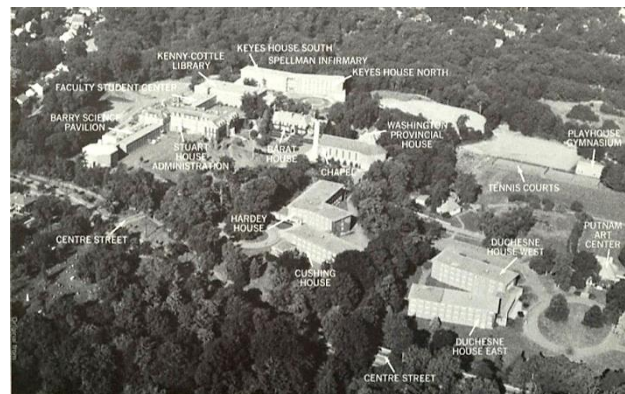


Aerial view of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Overbrook, 1937

The Convent of the Sacred Heart at Overbrook had its origins in 1865 with the renting of the house in Philadelphia for the newly-founded The Philadelphia Day School of the Sacred Heart. This school was soon after moved to the Edwards House at 1334 Walnut Street. In 1886, it moved to the newly-constructed building at 1819 Arch Street and was renamed Convent of the Sacred Heart. It was moved to its Overbrook campus, on the corner of City Line Avenue and Haverford Road in 1924.

While at Overbrook, Sr. Rosaria worked in the children's refectory, the infirmary and the community linen-room, helped in the community vestry and did general work. She returned to Kenwood in July 1936 for about a month, and together with Sister Marianna Debono, she made her final profession.

Between 1952 and 1967 she was at Newton College of the Sacred Heart, a small women's liberal arts college, which opened in 1946, in Newton Centre, Massachusetts. There, Sr. Rosaria again worked in the community refectory and was also put in charge of the domestic staff and other secular workers.

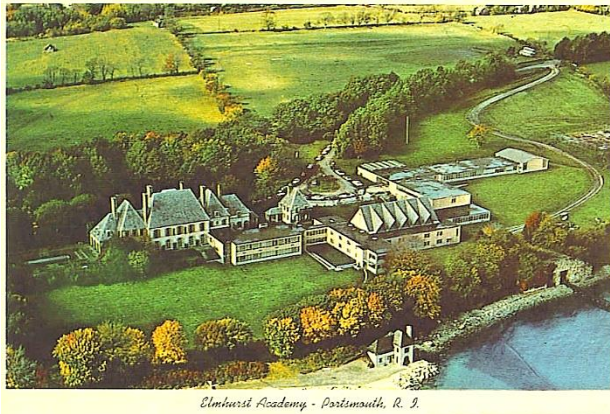


Aerial view of Newton College of the Sacred Heart

In 1967 Sister Rosaria went to the Elmhurst Academy of the Sacred Heart in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. There, she worked in the linen room, the infirmary and the dispensary as assistant infirmarian. She also had charge of the guest rooms and did 'black work' embroidery.

The Diocese of Providence had purchased the nearly 30-acre estate, "Elmhurst", of the late Dr. William Grosvenor in 1872. The buildings then became the home of the Elmhurst Academy of the Sacred Heart for the education of girls from elementary through high school.

By 1960, the buildings were in rough shape and a decision was made to purchase the waterfront area of "Glen Farm," consisting of the manor house and 43 acres. The manor house came to serve as a dormitory for boarding students. Classrooms, a chapel, the convent, and a dining hall were added to the complex.



Aerial postcard view of the second Elmhurst Academy of the Sacred Heart

Sister Rosaria went to Malta for a three-week visit in May 1968. This visit meant a lot both to Rosaria and to her family. She returned to Malta for good on July 13, 1971. Her first posting was at St. Julian's, where she did housework and helped in the community infirmary.



Sr. Rosaria Gauci, RSCJ

In 1972 she was one of the 14 founding members of the community at Fgura. She and the other nuns soon found themselves involved, especially in babysitting, in the parish which was run by the Carmelite Fathers. She was put in charge of cooking for the community for a while. Sister Rosaria was gifted at making soft toys, constantly producing beautiful ones to be sold in aid of Dar tal-Provinda at Siġġiewi.

In 1977 she joined the infirmary community at Tal-Virtù. As she was still fairly active, she helped in the work at the house as well as continuing her toy-making for Dar tal-Provinda. Later, her sister Spiridiona also joined the community at Tal-Virtù, Rabat. The two sisters would spend many hours working together, collecting used clothes for the poor, sorting them out, rejecting what was not good, cleaning, and mending others as necessary and making parcels of the finished work. Some of the clothes went to families they knew, while the bulk was taken to Dar tal-Provinda or sold in aid of the same Home.

As the years went by, Sister Rosaria began getting weaker and weaker and slowing down. Her sight grew dimmer and she was no longer able to make as many toys as before. She died at Tal-Virtù, at the age of 85, on January 17, 1991.

Sr. Antonia Camilleri was the second of the four Maltese sisters to leave Kenwood. In 1933, she was sent to the Elmhurst Academy of the Sacred Heart in Providence, Rhode Island. There Sr. Antonia spent the next 30 years serving as infirmarian. This was on an earlier site than the one to which Sr. Rosaria Gauci would be sent in 1967.



Postcard view, dated 1907, of the original Elmhurst Academy of the Sacred Heart

Sr. Antonia continued as infirmarian after being posted to Miami, Florida in 1963. In 1966, she took a one-year course at the Lindsey Hopkins Centre there and graduated the following year, at the age of 50, in practical nursing. Meanwhile, she carried out duties as sacristan at Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart in Coconut Grove, Miami.

This school was founded in 1961. Its oldest building, El Jardin, was built in 1918 and donated to the Society of the Sacred Heart by the O'Neil family.



Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart

Upon obtaining her diploma, at the age of 50, in 1967, Sr. Antonia returned to Elmhurst and was put in charge of the infirmary. Two years later, in 1969, Sr. Antonia was transferred back to Kenwood to look after the sick religious.

Meanwhile, in 1965, she had become a naturalized American citizen. On her return to Malta in 1971, she had to renounce her American citizenship in order to once again become a Maltese citizen. Joining one of the three communities in St. Julian's, she carried out duties as community infirmarian.

Sr. Antonia joined the Community at Fgura, in 1974, where she immersed herself in parish work. She looked after the parish church and, like Sr. Rosaria Gauci who was still at Fgura, also did a great amount of babysitting for the parishioners. Her kindness and warmth attracted people who would come to her for advice or simply to pour out their troubles to her.

In 1976 Sr. Antonia was put in charge of the newly opened Duchesne Children's Library in Fgura which was housed on the top floor of the community building. Within a short time between 100 and 150 children, most of whom were of ages from five upwards, were coming to borrow books every week. There were also some three-year-old children as well. Soon after, an adult section was opened for the parents who accompanied their children.

Besides her work in the library, from time to time, Sr. Antonia would also invite the members to some function or other to celebrate a Society feast or Christmas.

Between 1977 and 1978, Sr. Antonia was asked to go to live for a short while in a newly-opened small house for the Sacred Heart nuns at Pietà but she still went to Fgura twice a week to open the library. She was back at Fgura in the summer of 1978 and in 1979 did a course in book processing for libraries of religious institutes.

In 1982, Sr. Antonia was made Superior at Fgura, a responsibility she carried till 1987. She helped in the Parish preparing children for their First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Among these children were those of returned Maltese migrants who settled in Fgura and who could hardly speak any Maltese. As Superior she opened wide the Community doors to groups who needed space to meet. Among these were the Fgura Girl Guides, Brownies and the Legion of Mary. The priest in charge of diocesan vocations held regular monthly meetings for Fgura boys in the house. Other groups of children or adults would use the chapel for Mass or for prayer.

Between August 1987 and March 1989 Sr. Antonia became Community Bursar.



Sr. Antonia Camilleri, RSCJ, in later years

By 1988 her health started deteriorating and in 1989 she joined the community at Tal-Virtù where she was once again reunited with Sr. Rosaria Gauci. Sr. Antonia died at Tal-Virtù, Rabat, on January 9, 1989, at the age of 81.

Leaving Kenwood in 1935, **Sr. Angela Attard** was sent to the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan where she did parlour service, worked in the vestry and the sacristy and was of service to house guests.

This site was obtained in 1867 by the Society of the Sacred Heart and, the next year, a small public school was built on the property. The construction of a boarding school for the teaching of girls was planned in 1885. The school was built in 1887 and the chapel was added in 1899. The late 1920s saw the building of a new education building and the renovation of the chapel.



**Academy of the Sacred Heart,
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan**

For a time in 1942, Sr. Angela lived in Manhattanville, New York where she worked in the community refectory. Later that year, she was transferred to the Portry in Washington, DC, where she did housework and worked on caps.

Sr. Angela returned to Kenwood in 1946 where she worked in the vestry and continued making caps.

She was transferred to Rochester, New York in 1950, where she worked as a refectorian and on caps.

The Academy of the Sacred Heart in Rochester dated back to 1855 and was originally located on North St. Paul Street. In early 1864, it opened in an imposing, Italianate-style residence with three floors above a half-basement on Prince Street. Almost immediately, an extension was made to the rear part of the building. A further extension was made in 1869, which later served as the school's library. A new building was added to the north side in 1875 and a new chapel constructed in 1890. New facilities were added in 1938.



Academy of the Sacred Heart, Rochester, NY

Between 1958 and 1963, Sr. Angela resided at the Convent of the Sacred Heart on East 91st Street, in Manhattan, New York City and carried on the same duties as in Rochester and at the Portry.

The school was founded in 1881 and originally housed in a Manhattan brownstone on Madison Avenue. In the 1930s, it moved to the former Otto H. Kahn House on East 91st Street and in 1940 the Community acquired the James A. Burden House next door as well.



Convent of the Sacred Heart, Manhattan, NYC

Sr. Angela's next posting was the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich, Connecticut where she served, from 1963 until 1969 as refectorian and engaged in housework.



**Sacred Heart Greenwich,
formerly Convent of the Sacred Heart,
1177 King Street,
has origins dating back to 1847**

Sr. Angela worked as aide in the treasury of the Nottingham Convent of the Sacred Heart, 175 Nottingham Terrace, in Buffalo, New York between 1969 and 1971.

The property had been donated to the Sisters of the Sacred Heart by Edward Lang Miller in 1960. The mansion was then modified for use as a school and the third floor was converted into a cloistered residence.



Convent of the Sacred Heart

From July until September 1969, Sr. Angela was in Malta visiting family after an absence of 37 years. She described her visit as very emotional and noted how all the family contributed to make her stay with them a very happy one.



Sr. Angela Attard, RSCJ, in later years

Sr. Angela's last posting was in 1971 to the Community at Kenwood where, in later years, she did community service and dedicated herself to prayer. Described as a gifted seamstress, she enjoyed expressing her creativity through arts and crafts. Although diminutive in stature, she had a large heart and a contagious smile that warmly welcomed those around her and reflected her inner joy.

Sr. Angela died at the age of 99, at the Pax Christi Community, on March 10, 2007, having outlived all the other RSCJ sisters who had come out from Malta, as well as her 11 siblings.

Sr. Marianna Debono remained at Kenwood until August 1938 when she was sent to Manhattanville in New York City. There, as in Kenwood, she worked in the infirmary. Sr. Angela Attard joined her for a short time in 1942. Sr. Marianna returned to Kenwood in August 1943.

She and Sr. Antonia Camilleri returned to Malta in 1968 for three weeks to visit family. It was probably at the beginning of 1989 that Sr. Marianna returned to Malta a second time, this time with Sr. Adeline Attard, who had been sent to Chicago in August 1933.

In 1972, Sr. Marianna was posted at "Oakwood" in Atherton, California. Oakwood Retirement Center for the Sisters of Sacred Heart had opened just the year before on the Sacred Heart Schools campus. While there, she had an opportunity to visit with her brother and his family.



Oakwood, 140 Valparaiso Avenue, Atherton, CA

Sr. Marianna returned to Kenwood in 1973 and worked in the infirmary until 1976. In her later years, she was the sole aide of the Mistress of Health and tended to the needs of the sick sisters. On the day she died she was helping to feed a sick sister.



Sr. Marianna Debono, RSCJ

Sr. Marianna had remained very active until the end, taking part in activities at the convent. She painted, did handiwork, and accompanied sisters who had to go to the hospital. She could be serious but also have fun and loved to pray.

She died at Kenwood, at the age of 85, on October 24, 1989.



VELLA FAMILY PUMPKINS

Dan Brock

Since 2005, the Vella family of San Francisco have been carving fresh pumpkins and drilling foam ones. These are posted at <https://charlesjvellaphd.com>. Scroll down to “Pumpkins at Halloween” and see what has been achieved over the years. The work is truly amazing!

This year, the family “put out 143 pumpkins. Charlie and Maya Vella and James Richard carved 41 fresh pumpkins” for four days—only five “molded out.” Eleven new foam pumpkins were drilled by Charlie. “The rest were foam pumpkins from recent years.”

At least 800 visitors dropped by, iPhones in hand. Many have made this visit an annual event and the Vellas received many comments of appreciation for their hard work, originality, and dedication.

If you have had family who settled in the Bay Area you might be interested in checking out another of Charlie’s passions by scrolling up to “Genealogy” and then clicking on to “Maltese Immigration to San Francisco Bay Area.”

CELEBRATING MY DAD’S BIRTHDAY

Margaret Muscat Purdy

My dad, Thomas Muscat, was born in Żebbiegħ, Malta on November 14, 1928. Until he came to the USA in November 1947, he had no idea what a birthday was. Six days after his arrival, his aunt, with whom he was living in Corktown, Detroit, made Dad his first birthday cake to celebrate his 19th birthday.

This November, the family gathered to help Dad celebrate his 94th birthday.



Family gathering for my dad’s 94th birthday

By coincidence, my dad, me, my daughter Hannah, and her son Xavier were each born 30 years apart.



Dad (94), me (64), Hannah (34), and Xavier (4)

HALLOWEEN DINNER DANCE PARTY

Lisa Buttigieg-LiGreci

The Halloween Dinner Dance Party, held at the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn on the evening of Saturday, October 22nd, was a huge success!

Putting together an event like this is no easy task. It literally takes months to prepare, from planning the event festivities, menu, and drink specials to shopping for food, liquor, decorations, games, prizes, and crafts for the kids. Then there's the actual work of cleaning, setting up and decorating the hall, cooking the food, setting up the bar, and putting together the music play list. Then cleaning everything up afterwards.



The entrance



The table centerpiece



Cute little ghosts for the window treatment



The photo backdrop



The lit-up stage



The kids loved the craft tables as they decorated their trick or treat bags



Lots of fun games for the kids



**The games were fun too!
A new game this year,
Halloween Twister, was a big hit**



Here, two girls are playing corn hole and ring toss.



Going for a bullseye in the hatchet throw game



Time to dance



The mummy wrap is always great fun

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this party a success!

First and foremost, there's Margaret Muscat Purdy, our entertainment director who pretty much does most of the work. Then, there's her party cohorts, Mary Micallef and Eve Muscat. Rita Vella Cruz looked after the tickets and flyers.



Rita Vella Cruz and Rena Xuereb on ticket duty

Mary Micallef, John and Eve Muscat, Rena Xuereb, Tom Muscat, Shirley Vella, and Mark Purdy, the Boo Crew, were in charge of decorating and hall setup



After the Boo Team had been decorating the hall for two days

Joe Formosa oversaw the shopping and, starting at 6:00 a.m., the cooking of our delicious dinner. Marty Micaleff, John Abela, Joe Borg, and Doris and Neal Durkin were the kitchen and food servers.



Time for dinner

The menu consisted of baked chicken, sausage and peppers, mostaccioli, roasted potatoes and green beans. We also had mac n' cheese and chicken nuggets for the kids.

Thank you to everyone who brought a spooky dessert.

Mary Motowski, Joe Borg, and Shirley Vella were the costume judges.



The dessert table was packed full with sweet treats

Mary, Melina and Marty Micallef were in charge of the music playlists and setup. Brian Vella, Holly Ivy and Paul Borg looked after the bar.



Holly Ivy behind the bar



Adult costume contest

John and Eve Muscat, Rita Dachs, Carmen Koch, Mike Halloran, Mark Purdy, Hannah and Chuck Tully, Heather, Anthony and Frank Aquirre, Shirley Vella, Doris and Neal Durkin, Mary and Marty Micallef, Joe Borg were the cleanup party.



Boo Crew volunteers. Marty Micallef, Doris & Neil Durkin and Mary Micallef

I did the photographing, editing, captioning, and posting of the party pictures, was the MC, and ran the costume contest.



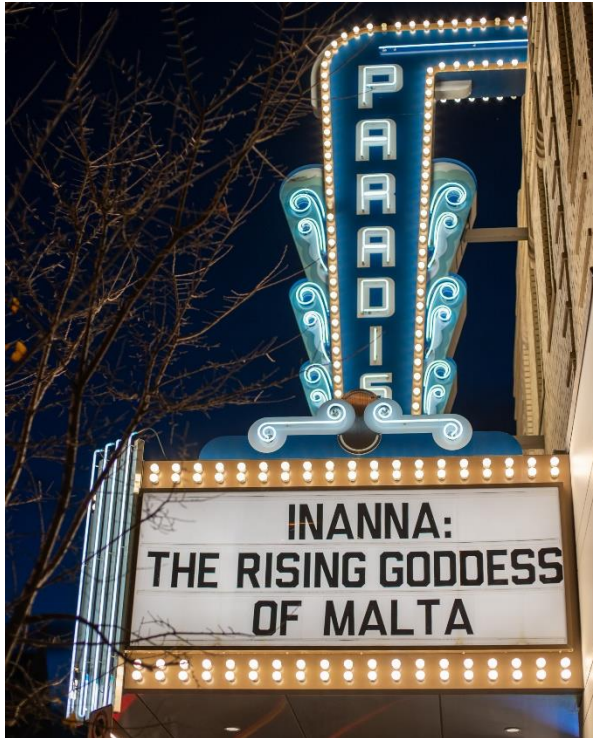
Me as MC with the children

To our members and friends who attended our party and supported our club keeping it relevant and active, we would like to thank you all.

**INANNA
THE RISING GODDESS OF MALTA***

Dan Brock

On Saturday, November 5th, at Paradise Theatre, on Bloor Street in Toronto, the 90-minute film production *INANNA – The Rising Goddess of Malta* was shown. The creative genius behind this project is JOanne Camilleri.



The film being viewed at the Paradise Theatre

The reader was introduced to JOanne on pages 22, 32-33 and 36 in the January 2021 issue of this newsletter.



As for Inanna, she was the ancient Sumerian goddess of love, sensuality, fertility, procreation, and, also, of war. She later became identified by the Akkadians and Assyrians as the goddess Ishtar, and further with the Hittite Sauska, the Phoenician Astarte and the Greek Aphrodite, among many others.

The film is based on the epic poem of the most famous myth of the goddess, "The Descent of Inanna," found written on a cuneiform 5,500 years ago.

In an attempt to save her ego, Inanna mistakenly kills her sister's husband, instead of Gilgamesh (her past lover). To right this wrong, Inanna must admit her fault and begs forgiveness from her sister, the guardian of the Underworld.

As Inanna descends to her sister's realm, she is challenged to change her selfish ways at each of the seven gates by removing her seven degrees of the divine representing the chakras (centres of vital energy), increasing her enlightenment at each passage.

When she reaches the Underworld, her sister does not forgive her, and Inanna is killed. She is brought back to life, but for her to leave the Underworld, someone must replace her. Damuzi, her current lover, proves to be unfaithful and is sent to the Underworld for six months of the year. When Damuzi and Inanna are apart—that is, in fall and winter—the land is infertile. When they are together—in spring and summer—the land becomes fertile and fruitful. This Sumerian myth parallels the Greek myth of Persephone and Demeter.

In examining the papers presented at the First International Conference on Archaeology of the Ancient Mediterranean at the University of Malta in September 1985, I could find no mention of the goddess Inanna.

Cristina Biaggi did note, however, that “The worship of the Great Goddess was universal from the upper Paleolithic to the late Neolithic in Europe and the Near East. She also stated that “The Maltese Goddess figures from the late Neolithic (3200—2500 B.c.) stand out as unique expression of the creators' conceptions of the numinous”, i.e. the supernatural or mysterious.

Giulia Battiti Sorlini observed that the religion of Demeter “might have been just the revival of a much more ancient religion, the religion of the Goddess [Inanna?] and its mysteries as they were carried out in the Maltese megalithic temples, before those rituals were tinged and suppressed by the people of the later Maltese sequence.”

In any case, JOanne Camilleri's art project was originally funded as a live theatre production by the Canada Council for the Arts. As JOanne stated back in December 2020: “the work I hope to share with Malta, Gozo and the masses is a 90-minute two-act, 14-scene multi-media, dance musical of the story of the Goddess of Fertility. The entire production will feature professional circus, belly dance, projection animation, and an original score with live music and vocals.” COVID, however, made it impossible to have this story of Inanna as a live production.

Therefore, it was decided to switch to producing this as a film to be followed by a question-and-answer session, as was the case with the initial launching of Valerie Buhagiar's *Carmen* at Varsity Cinema on August 19th of this year. (See the August 2022 issue, page 16, of this newsletter.)

It is the desire of JOanne that one day a live production of *INANNA* may take place at one of the Neolithic temples in Malta or Gozo.

Ms. Sorlini has written that: “The temples themselves might indeed have represented the cavity of the womb of the Goddess, where people could enter and experience an almost tangible state of communion with Her.”

* My thanks to Joanne Camilleri for material supplied, including the photos, for this article.

DEATH OF FORMER COUNCILLOR OF THE TOWN OF WHITBY, ONTARIO

Joseph E. Bugelli, a native of Żabbar, Malta, died on Tuesday, November 1st. He was 75 years old.

He had served a total of five terms as Councillor, representing Ward 2 in Whitby, beginning in 1978. He had been the unsuccessful Liberal candidate for the riding of Durham West in the provincial election of 1977.

For six years, Joe was on the Board of Directors for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. He served as Chairman of the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority for 11 years.

In 1991, he was elected as the Whitby representative to the Durham Separate School Board and served for one term.

His two-volume autobiography, *Immigrating to Canada*, was published early in 2013.



Ayla Hicks with Santa (aka Dan Brock), 2013, at the former Maltese Canadian Club of London

THE PASSING OF SAM CASSAR*

Richard S. Cumbo

The Maltese-Canadian community of West Toronto “Junction” mourns the passing of long-time resident and volunteer Saviour “Sam” Cassar. He died on Wednesday, November 16th, at the age of 76.

It was appropriate that, on November 21st, at the Lynette Funeral Home, along with Sam’s photo and Gozitan license plate, his camera was present.



Born in Fontana, Gozo, on November 1, 1946, he is survived by five of his seven siblings. Here in Canada, this proud Gozitan was a member of Toronto’s Gozo Club.

For decades Sam was behind that camera filming various and many events which took place in the Maltese community. The Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto’s annual “Miss Malta Pageant” was one of his favourites, as well as the Maltese-Canadian Federation’s yearly *L-Imnarja* picnic. Sam felt that it was important to chronicle the happenings in the community, events at St. Paul the Apostle Church, the Malta Band Club, the Melita Soccer Club, the Gozo Club, etc.

Sam had been married to Rose for 25 years and, like “The Brady Bunch”, he brought three sons into this marriage—Andre, Salvinu, and Mario—and Rose brought in three daughters—Shirley, Christine, and Julie. During, Sam’s nearly three months of hospitalization at St. Michael’s Hospital, Rose was daily at his bedside and he was frequently visited by his sons and step-daughters.

Sam’s funeral Mass was conducted at St. Paul the Apostle Church, on November 22nd by Father Dominic Cachia, MSSP. A large number of mourners attended the service and later the burial at Assumption Cemetery in Mississauga.

Sam, you were a good and loyal friend to many, always taking the time to chat and lend a hand to those for whom you cared.

** I wish to thank his widow Rose, my right-hand person at the Museum, for supplying the photo and some of the information used here.*



**THE PRESEPU AT THE MALTA BAKE SHOP
DUNDAS STREET, TORONTO**



Courtesy of Antoinette Buttigieg

DINNER AT THE PORTUGUESE CLUB

Dan Brock

As a break from our usual monthly luncheons and in light of the approach of the Christmas season, Tony Galea arranged that our informal group of Maltese Canadians and friends living in the London, Ontario area, have a buffet dinner at the Portuguese Club on Falcon Street in East London. This took place on the evening of Thursday, November 24th.



Jim McDonald, Joe & Carmen Gentile, Rita Galea, and Mary Testa



Marlene & Frank Mifsud, Charles & Rose Micallef, Cena & Tony Vella, and Mannie & Monica Micallef



The line begins for the buffet dinner



Alex & Mary Brigid Bezzina, Madeleine Barnette, Mary Vella, and Elsa Zammit



Loretta Brock, Janet Peckham and Janice Vella



Charles Vella, Dan Brock and Ted Gauci

Following the meal, a few got up to dance to the music provided by Tony Vella.



Gloria Heffler and Rose Micallef



Rose & Charles Micallef



Lynda Galea & Tony Galea with their great-grandson and his parents



Terry Rogers, Lynda Galea, Carol Hilton, and Helen Ditchfield

Photos courtesy of Dan Brock and Tony Galea



The *presepe* of Albino & Victoria Ellul as set up in their home in London in 2012.

Note the *pasturi*.

(Photo by Albino Ellul)

**ROMBLU TAL-MILIED
(CHRISTMAS YULE LOG)**

Mary Rose Aquilina

One of my ultimate favourite Christmas treats has to be the Maltese Christmas Log. Every year, during the month of December everyone starts to prepare their preferred log ahead of the festivities. It is the ideal treat to have on hand when visitors come to visit, a delicious gift, or simply an addictive treat to have at home to enjoy with some coffee or mulled wine! In my family the Christmas log task has always been my aunt's. Every year, she prepares what is a Maltese Christmas log. A huge quantity of logs is prepared for us to enjoy and to share with our friends and family!

Christmas logs or yules—a cylindrical dessert covered in chocolate and made to look like a tree's trunk—are basically a tradition all over the world. The most popular logs or yules are made of a sponge cake and filled with a creamy filling which then gets rolled to form a cylinder. The Maltese Christmas log, however, is different.

The Maltese Christmas log is in a way a hybrid of the more famous dessert chocolate salami by the Italians, although there isn't that much similarity between the two. The base of the Christmas log consists of crushed butter biscuits and condensed milk. Additionally, a mixture of nuts is added. Usually, the most commonly-used are hazelnuts and walnuts. This, however, is really up to your likings! The next ingredient – candied cherries or mixed fruits – might cause a bit of a debate around your dining table but I personally think it adds some extra sweetness!

Traditionally, Christmas logs are decorated with a dust of icing sugar and small Christmas figurines, such as a Christmas Father, a snowman, a tree, etc. The choice, however, is up to you!

Il-Milied it-tajjebMerry Christmas.



INGREDIENTS: For the log

- . 450 g digestive biscuits finely crushed
- . 100 g mixed candied fruit
- . 100 g candied cherries (green or red or both)
- . 100 g crushed almonds
- . 100 g crushed hazelnuts
(toasted, skins removed)
- . 100 g walnut pieces
- . 1 tin (300 ml) condensed milk
- . ½ to 1 cup of liquor of your choice
(brandy, Kahlúa, or whisky)

METHOD:

- . Mix all dry ingredients together.
- . Add condensed milk and mix well.
- . Add the liquor slowly until moist but not wet.
(With this generous hit of liquor, it is definitely a dessert for adults.)
- . Form the log into the desired shape and size and refrigerate at least 2 hours (Your yield can be 2 logs that are each 10" x 2½" in diameter.)

INGREDIENTS: For the chocolate covering

- . 150 g melting chocolate (chocolate chip covering discs found in bulk stores)
(This will cover one log. You can choose to cover the second log with the same amount of white or dark chocolate.)

METHOD:

- . While the log is cooling in the fridge, melt the chocolate in a bowl over simmering water (not boiling) and keep warm until ready to cover the log.
- . Pour or spoon melted chocolate over cooled log and spread to cover. Work quickly as the chocolate can start hardening fast over the cooled log.
- . You may want to run a fork over the melted chocolate to resemble bark. Decorate with gold or coloured sprinkles or any other decorations of your choice.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
MALTA UNITED SOCIETY OF WINDSOR**

The Society held its annual Children's Christmas Party this year on Saturday, December 10th.



Photos courtesy of Anna White

OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Margaret Muscat Purdy

Our Christmas Party, held at the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn on Saturday, December 10th was, I believe, the best one yet. The hall and everything looked so festive!



My father, Tom Muscat, my brother, John Muscat, and Shirley Vella, preparing some of the decorations



There was great food, prepared by Joe Formosa and Paul Borg, music, provided by Jim Esparza, our DJ, entertainment, and a visit from Santa!



Rita Vella and Mary Micallef



Marty Micallef, our first vice president, thanking everyone before calling up the guests by table for the buffet dinner



Our DJ Jim Esparza



Santa (my brother John Muscat) gives a high five



Our bartender McKenna Vella



Elf (Eve Muscat, aka Christmas Eve) and Santa with Kate and Lauren Lund, two of the helpers on this evening



Even Santa (our treasurer, Jason Schembri) had a great time at the party!

Merry Christmas everyone and Happy New Year!



The children with Santa and Elf



Tom Muscat and my husband, Mark Purdy in charge of the 50/50 draw



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE CENTER*

Maltese Center NYC

A big thank you to our volunteers who transformed the Center into a place full of warm holiday spirit for everyone of all ages to enjoy...[on Sunday, December 11th] from organizing the children's party, the children's choir singing Maltese Christmas songs, building the outdoor hot chocolate stand, decorating the Center and lower hall, and the Hess truck display [to] our elf, Mrs. Claus, and Santa Claus. Thank you everyone for joining us at the Center and making it the vibrant place it is for the NYC Maltese community.



* Maltese Center NYC, Facebook page, accessed December 13, 2022

DECEMBER LUNCHEON IN LONDON

Dan Brock

Despite freezing rain earlier in the morning, the streets were wet but not icy and more than 30 of our group, largely consisting of those of Maltese birth or blood, met at the Mandarin Restaurant on Wellington Road South on Thursday, December 15th for lunch.



And the winner of the complimentary lunch buffet is Charles Vella

Among our group were three first-timers: Nigel Klemenčič-Puglisevich, his girlfriend Kealey Kennedy and James Catania.

Nigel is currently working on an MA in public history at the University of Western Ontario. He had an article on the Puglisevich family here in Canada in the February 2021 issue of this newsletter.

James lives in San Ġwann, Malta and is currently visiting his brother Deo Catania and Deo's lovely wife, Miranda.

While Nigel and Kealey were at least 40 years younger than virtually all the rest of us, and were about the only ones in our party who were not eligible for the 20% senior's discount on their meals, they really seemed to enjoy our company.

It turned out that some present knew the Puglisevich family back in Msida, Malta and were quite happy to trade memories of the family with Nigel. I also learned that Nigel's maternal grandmother was from Marsa, Malta, grew up on St. Michael's Street, lived but a couple doors from where my wife, Loretta, lived at the time and remembers playing with her as children. We're talking about at least 73 years ago folks!

The restaurant provided a complimentary lunch buffet to our group and the winner of the draw for this was Charles Vella. In turns out that Charles is also from Marsa!

In spite of the cold and rainy weather, we all seemed to have had an enjoyable couple hours together.



Frank & Yvonne Gatt's house, London, 2006-07
 Courtesy of the late Frank Gatt



Nine reindeer and Santa Claus grace the front lawn of the Bugeja home, London, 2009-10

Courtesy of Joe Bugeja

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, Inc.

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

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

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

**CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES
AT THE MALTESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLUB OF DEARBORN,
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND**



(See pages 21-25.)