

THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 48 APRIL-MAY 2023



AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA
TO THE UNITED STATES,
DR. GODFREY C. XUEREB,
OFFICIALLY PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO
PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN
IN THE OVAL OFFICE
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19th

The Maltese Presence in North America Issue No. 48 APRIL-MAY 2022 Dr.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

November-December 2022 issue, accounts of both Len Connor and 12. Activities within the Maltese commitments prevented me from producing (pages 21 and 27), the Easter 15. Luncheon with a Difference, A stand-alone newsletters for both party of the Detroit's Maltese Club 18. Another Member-Driven April and Mav.

been my presidency of The Ontario, in 1963 (page 11), the 21. One of the Last Pioneers of London and Middlesex Historical late Carmelo Caruana's love affair Society and the writing of articles with Malta Street in Scarborough, 22. Time in a Postcard: A Glimpse for its quarterly newsletters and Ontario (page 20), and Richard the Historian, its annual scholarly Cumbo's account of a new publication.

Another has been the amount of 1970s in Toronto (page 5). indepth research required for The historical items in this issue 27. Emmanuel Salvatore Fenech articles for the present issue have surrounding the 1950 postcard contributors. family (pages 6-8).

Two items of special interest in Qrendi, Malta, a co-author of the Godfrev Xuereb Canada (see pages 1 and 13) and Maltese parish outside Malta. the planned visit of H.E. George Thanks to the kindness and pages 12, 13, and 14).

Club of Mississauga, Ontario has americanscsf.org/home.aspx. been particularly active and I must Click on to "News & Resources." 19. and 25-26.)

While we heretofore haven't danbrock62@gmail.com. heard from the Maltese Canadian Association of the City Hamilton, this issue notes the event held at St. Francis Xavier Church in Stoney Creek in March and the planned hosting of the visit of the President of Malta and his delegation later this month. (See pages 14 and 28.)

This issue contains several articles of historical interest. There's that centered around a postcard sent in 1950 (pages 22-24), the now extinct Carcas surname in Malta (pages 6-8), the 10. Our March and April early location of the Malta Band Once again, as for the combined Club in Toronto (page 4), the 11. Joan's Sixth Birthday have Emmanuel Salvatore Fenech in 1949 (page 8), Joan Spiteri's One of those commitments has sixth birthday party in London, 20. Malta Street Maltese radio program in the 25. ELViS..is back!...and, he's

introduced two namely Tessie (pages 22-24) and the Carcas Spiteri the mother of Joan (page 11) and Anthony Bezzina of

this issue are the appointment of Carcas family article (pages 6-8). as As with every issue to date, Ambassador of the Republic of page 3 has been set aside to Malta to the United States and as provide spiritual seasonal insights High Commissioner Designate to by the priest in charge of the only

Vella, President of Malta, to the efforts of Evelyn and Dennis United States and Canada (see Simmons of California, all issues and the latest "Table of Contents" In chronicalling the activities of are posted on the web page of the the various clubs throughout Maltese-American Social Club of North America, the Malta Band San Francisco at http://maltese-

thank its Executive for posting If you have ideas to share or photos from its events on wish to be put on the free, bcc Facebook. (See pages 13-14, 15- electronic mailing lists, etc., I may be reached at

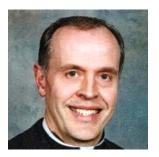
CONTENTS

- 2. Editorial Comment
- 3. From the Desk of Fr. Roy...
- 4. Malta Band Club Nostalgia
- 5. Abandoned by the Curia
- 5. Readers' Comments
- 5. Wirt Malti
- 6. Carcas: An Extinct Surname in Malta
- 8. Easter Party at the Maltese Club, Detroit, April 17, 1949
- 9. Kawlata (Pork and Vegetable (quo2)
- Luncheons
- Communities
- Luncheon
- 1948 Dies at the Age of 103
- of Two Immigrant Families Surnamed Grech
- got 'Friends'!!
- new 28. Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton at St. Francis Xavier Church, Stoney Creek, Ontario.

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH, TORONTO, CANADA

(The only Maltese parish outside Malta worldwide.)

From the Desk of Fr. Roy...



Parish Bulletin for April 1st

....As we move through Holy Week, the triumph of Palm Sunday is transformed into the tragedy of Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

Through our scripture readings, we can attain a better perspective on the deeper, salvific meaning of these events.

The Old Testament passages, from Isaiah's "servant songs," narrate the story of God's suffering servant who is wrongfully punished and executed. This servant was the example to which Christians could comprehend Jesus' death.

The Gospels portray the last days of Jesus as being filled with the mounting hostility of the religious figures and the remarkable understanding that his most devoted disciples would deny and betray him. At the Last Supper, Jesus asked His disciples to "Do this in memory of me." And so we have, down through the centuries.

That high-point of Holy Week and the entire Christian year is found in the "Triduum"—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil.

I'm looking forward to celebrating my first Triduum with you. Let's remember to pray for each other and work together to celebrate our faith with devotion and reverence....

It is an immense privilege to be the administrator of the parish. I am profoundly grateful for your prayers and continuous help.

Parish Bulletin for April 8th

....It is an absolute joy to greet you during this feast of all feasts [Easter]! Thank you for welcoming me so generously and positively to the parish. Every day, I thank God for the opportunity to serve you.

Għezież parruċċani ser nieħu din 'l-opportunità' f'din il-festa tal-Għid il-Kbir, festa fuq il-festi kollha biex nibgħat lill-familji kollha l-isbaħ xewqat, barka u sliem! Grazzi talli lqajtuni b'dan il-mod tant ģeneruż u pożittiv. Nirringrazzja lil Alla talli tani din l-opportunità Il naqdih f'din il-parroċċa Maltija-Kanadiża! L-Għid it-Tajjeb lil kulhadd!

....While we are so thankful for the Cross of Christ, we remember it was the Resurrection only three days later that proved His sinless life and death on the Cross were valid and accepted by the Father as payment for sin.

The Word of God tells us that through one man, sin entered this world, yet it was through one man that sin's penalty was dealt with! Let us reflect on these words from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 5:15 – "But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!"

Let us never forget that Jesus came to address the consequences of sin. The good news is that through Him, we have that freedom. During the 50 days of Easter, let us take time to meditate on the saving work of Jesus' death and resurrection. The Risen Lord did it for us!

We've received life, so let's be givers of life! Use your words to bless and encourage one another, especially during this time that people are a bit more open to hearing the Good News of the Gospel!

Parish Bulletin for April 30th

....By being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, we are called to show our love and reverence to God by engaging in multiple ministries, including priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and single life.

We must beseech the Lord of the harvest to dispatch laborers as a faith-filled community. Guided by the example of our patron saint [St. Paul] it is our duty to both pray and support those who have been appointed to specific roles.

....We should strive to live faithfully under the commands of the gospel devotedly serving the Lord and our neighbor.

Parish Bulletin for May 7th

....The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful especially dedicates to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a moving tribute of faith and love paid to the Queen of Heaven.

MALTA BAND CLUB NOSTALGIA

Malta Band Club

The Malta Band Club has been serving the community since 1971.

The Malta Band started rehearsing in the hall of St. Paul the Apostle Parish after parting ways with The Maltese Canadian Society of Toronto in the late 1960s.

The first club location of The Malta Band Club was in the area of Dundas Street West and St. John's Road which is now the site of Malta Park.

St. John's Anglican Church was built on this site in 1890 and in 1923 the parish was moved to a new church at Humberside Avenue and Quebec Avenue.

The old church building was used by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) after the church relocated. The Malta Band Club operated from the lower level of this building for many years.

The following are a few pictures of the building before the club moved in.



Looking west, about 1923, along Dundas Street West, where St. John's Road meets Dundas Street.

The YWCA (former church) is the building seen behind the Polarine billboard



The YWCA building is seen behind the Esso service station



The YWCA building as seen looking southeast

The building was demolished in 1978 to create space for Malta Park.



The former YWCA and Malta Band Club site

ABANDONED BY THE CURIA*

The Voice of the Maltese

The Curia, the hub of the Archdiocese of Malta, has officially announced that they have no secular priests available to work among the Maltese living in Australia and Canada.

It is another blow, mainly to the many thousands of Maltese who left Malta currently in the twilight but separated from their mother Catholic Church by huge distances.

Maltese-speaking priests are needed more than ever. They came across the seas with the masses in the fifties/sixties, etc.

Most of them rendered required religious and other related functions under challenging conditions. Most Malta-born living in major cities in Australia and Canada have been pleading and harassing the Curia and other religious orders in Malta for many years. These elderly communities are in desperate need of Maltese-speaking priests, similar, if not more so, than most of the out-post missions Malta looks after in third world countries.

Thousands of Maltese have abandoned their Catholic religion as the shepherd left the flock. Jehovah's Witnesses and other Evangelical faiths are clocking many converts.

The situation in Australia, especially in NSW, South Australia and Queensland, is desperate. It gets worse when the priests of the Missionaries of the Society of St Paul (MSSP) get older with no recruits in sight. Even the Dominican nuns packed up and left the care of the elderly. Indeed, we have been abandoned. What a shame!

*Editor's Note: I wish to thank Lawrence Dimech for permission to reprint this from page 3 of issue number 296. On March 4th of this year, a special award of recognition was given to The Voice of the Maltese, through its co-editors, Joseph Cutajar and Lawrence Dimech, by the Institute of Maltese Journalists (Istitut tal-Gurnalisti Maltin, I-IGM) in its 31st edition of the Malta Journalist Awards. This is the first time such an award has been extended to a Maltese publication outside Malta.

In the Autumn 1980 issue of the *Maltese Forum*, Carmelo Caruana noted: "Chronologically and Historically speaking, the First Convention for Maltese in Canada and the U.S.A. was held in Toronto in 1946. The organizer was Mr. Joseph Edward Doublet of New York, and over 400 persons attended."

READERS' COMMENTS

Grazzi u prosit tassew.

Mario Sammut, Hon Consul for Malta in Australia

Yes, give yourself a big pat on the back; you do an amazing job getting the newsletter out to us every month. Bravo I say.

Rena Xuereb, Michigan

Thank you for this month's e-newsletter, always a pleasure to receive and read it!

Nicky Conti, NYC



WIRT MALTI

Richard S. Cumbo, OSJ

Editor's note: This item also appeared in the Spring 1978 issue of Forum Melitense.

WIRT MALTI (Maltese Heritage) is the name of the new Maltese radio programme on C.H.I.N. International Radio Station. The two gentlemen producing this Maltese communicative programme, however, are not new to the community. Mr. Joseph Zammit and Chev. Joe Micallef have been a hardworking team since 1971. While Graham Cable Television was still stationed near the corner of Bloor and Jane streets, they were producing a Maltese T.V. programme.

The T.V. show went through many transitions, as well as the radio programme that had grown from it. One of the main problems had always been, and apparently still is, the financial backing of these productions. WIRT MALTI may be heard every Thursday, on station 100.7 FM for half an hour, beginning at 10:30 p.m.

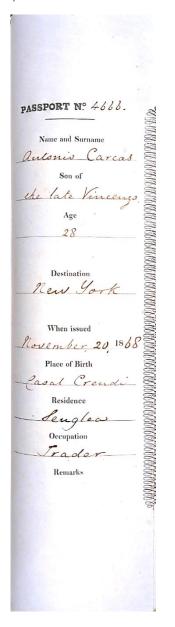
Maltese history and current events help to fill the interesting half hour. Chev. Micallef stated that if more support were received from the Maltese community, especially the organizations, the programme could be lengthened. Joe Zammit, who arrived in Toronto from Gozo in 1968, handles the technical aspect of the production. This year marks the 10th anniversary since he has been sending Christmas messages to Malta. Chev. C. Mizzi is assisting the radio show as a public relations officer.

CARCAS: AN EXTINCT SURNAME IN MALTA

Dan Brock, Mark Caruana, Anthony Bezzina

The Carcas surname came to the attention of Mark Caruana and Anthony Bezzina through their study of Qrendi-born passport applicants.

At the National Archives of Malta is passport number 4666, issued to **Antonio Carcas** on November 20, 1868.



It shows that he was a son of the late Vincenzo Carcas. Antonio was 28 years of age, planning to go to New York, born in the village of Qrendi, living in Senglea, and earning his living as a trader.

Antonio was again issued a passport, 19 years later, to travel to New York on April 22, 1887. Parish records show that he was born in Qrendi on June 7, 1836, to Vincenzo Stefano Carcas and his wife, the former Maria Antonia Mifsud.

Vincenzo was the notary from the village of Kirkop who had drawn up the contract, signed on December 18, 1836, commissioning the Senglean sculptor Antonio Chircop to design a unique statue for the parish church in neighbouring Qrendi, showing Our Lady elevated on the clouds while being raised to heaven.

As for Antionio Carcas, to date, no evidence has been found that he ever set foot in the United States, either in 1887 or earlier in 1868.

Interestingly, on November 14, 1868, two individuals, **Carmelo Carcass** and **Salvatore Carcasso**, disembarked from the *Chiarina* at New York City, having boarded the Italian bark in Leghorn (Livorno), Italy. Both were born in Malta and listed themselves as mechanics. Carmelo had given his age as 42 and Salvatore stated he was 25. Both travelled steerage with two other Maltese men, Angelo Vella and Luigi Zammit. (See ship's passenger list on next page.)

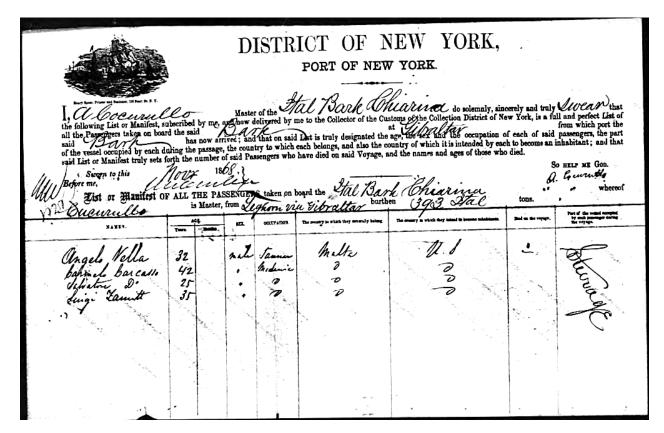
Again, nothing further is known of Carmelo and Salvatore after arriving in the United States.

Now, the aforementioned **Antonio Carcas** is known to have had two brothers: **Carmenus Giovanni**, born in Vittoriosa on July 1, 1825, and **Salvatore**, who was born on January 31, 1839.

It is believed that Carmenus Giovanni Carcas and Carmelo Carcasso are one and same, likewise for Salvatore Carcas and Salvatore Carcasso.

Now their already-noted parents, **Vincenzo Stefano Carcas** and Maria Antonia Mifsud, the daughter of Gio Alberto Mifsud and Teresa Galea, were married, July 25, 1820, in Porto Salvo Church, run by the Dominican Friars, in Valletta.

Their son, the aforesaid Salvatore Carcas, married Margarita Cassar, the daughter of Rosario and Rosa Cassar, in Senglea, on March 5, 1861.



person as their Valletta, on March 22, 1798.

married Francesca Salamone (b. Carlo Satariano.

St. Paul's Shipwreck Church on November 11, 1685, in Porto Salvo Church. 1770.

As for Vincenzo Stefano Carcas, he was the Stefano is known to have had at least five son of Antonio Carcas and Francesca siblings: Giuseppe Adriano (b. March 21, 1771. Salamone and is believed to be the same Valletta), Generosa Saveria Teresa Cladetta son Vincenzo Antonio (b. November 6, 1723, Valletta), Salvatore Giovanni, born in St. Paul's Shipwreck Parish, Giuseppe (b. November 1, 1725, Valletta), Francesco, who first married Elena De Antonio Carcas, the father of Vincenzo and Ambrogio in 1753 and later Francesca son of Stefano Carcas and Liberata Carbone, Decaro/De Caro in 1759, and Bartolomeo, who 1775, married Rosa Nicolas in 1761.

Valletta), the daughter of Dr. Egidio Salamone Antonio Ludovico Carcas, the father of and Vincenza Naudi, on November 10, 1795. Stefano and son of Giuseppe Carcas and Anna In addition to Vincenzo, Antonio and Francesca Ciovet, married Giovanna Laura Sciberras, the had a daughter, Aloisa, who was born in 1810 daughter of Giuseppe and Margarita Sciberras, and on February 7, 1830, in Valletta, married on February 13, 1718, in St. Paul's Shipwreck Church.

Stefano Carcas, the father of Antonio and son Giuseppe Carcas, the father of Antonio of Antonio Ludovico Carcas and Giovanna Lujdovico and son of Giovanni and Francesca Laura Sciberras, married Liberata Carbone, the Carcas, married Anna Ciovet, the daughter of daughter of Baldassare and Maria Carbone, in Antonio and Caterina Ciovet, on November 26,

Now, Mario Cassar has noted, in his seminal that this surname originated in Malta with work The Surnames of the Maltese Islands Giuseppe Carcas, or perhaps, his father (2003), that the surname Carcas is currently Giovanni Carcas, in the latter part of the extinct in Malta. Therefore, it's quite possible seventeenth century.



EASTER PARTY AT THE MALTESE CLUB, DETROIT, APRIL 17, 1949



Walter Carwan, Robert Carwan, and Nino Abela are among those seen in this photo. From the collection of the late Germanis Demarco



At least two vessels built by Louis Shicluna at The other, a 196-ton three-masted schooner, his shipyard in present-day Ontario were measured 138 ft. x 24 ft. x 8 ft. (42.06 m x 7.32

was built in 1853, at a cost of \$15,000.

m x 2.44 m), and was built in 1879. It was lost One, a 320-ton (290.24 tonnes) barkentine on Lake Huron and its registry was closed in 1912.

KAWLATA (Pork and Vegetable Soup)

Mary Rose Aquilina

Il-kawlata is a traditional Maltese dish which is slowly being forgotten. It is really a complete dish with such a large variety and quantity of vegetables, beans, pork, and pasta.



Originally the pasta used in the soup was macaroni. Personally, I do not use any pasta and prefer to include legumes like butter beans. If you don't have the time to soak the dried beans and cook them ahead of time, you may use the canned beans (your preference of bean type) to save time. Most times I soak the dried beans for a few hours, then boil them in well salted water, drizzled with oil to keep the water from frothing and overflowing while the beans are cooking.

I have known my grandmother to prefer using pig's feet rather than the hock. Both are tasty but a hock has a bit more meat to it. How many of you remember salted pig's feet hanging on hooks at the butcher's? I was mesmerized by them hanging on hooks or my grandmother "meshmeshing" them once she boiled them. I don't indulge in them often because of the fat content, but aaah savouring the gnawing for every little morsel, especially when they are smoked or cured!

The popularity of pork and its presence in various dishes in the Maltese cuisine could be attributed to Malta being at the edge of the Christian world and probably the last frontier before entering the Muslim culinary world to the East. A pig is also an animal that does not care for too much fuss when being raised nor large pastures to graze, certainly not a regular occurrence to be found on a rocky island.

In addition to pork dishes such as grilled pork chops, the exclusive dominance of pork in the indigenous Maltese sausages, makes them a wonderful addition to dishes like *kawlata* (predominantly a vegetable soup) or *ross fil-forn* (baked rice), a common practice in the Maltese cuisine for centuries. Accompanying Mom or Dad to the local bakery, carrying our dish of pork roast to be baked there, on our way to church on Sunday...all those wonderfully blended aromas of everyone's Sunday lunch was a real treat to the senses.

INGREDIENTS



- 1 onion diced
- 2 cloves garlic crushed
- 500-600g pork hocks or pig's feet (skin and all) or any other cut that is fatty like shoulder (not centre cut chops)
- 400g sausages sliced (fresh not cured which would be saltier)
- · 3 celery sticks diced
- · 2 carrots diced
- 1 kohl rabi diced
- 500g cabbage chopped (regular green or savoy... savoy is milder)



- 1 tomato chopped
- · 1 tsp coriander seeds lightly crushed
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tbsp tomato paste
- 2 medium potatoes chopped
- 2-3 cups cooked butter beans (or any white bean you like)

- · 2 litres water
- 1 tbsp vegetable stock (powder or cube)
- 1 small bunch parsley chopped for garnish (or dried)
- Grated Parmesan cheese for garnish
- Oil for frying (canola or sunflower)

METHOD

- In a large soup pot on medium heat fry the onion for 5 minutes in your choice of oil until softened.
- Add in the garlic, pork hocks and sausages.
 Continue frying for another 5 minutes until browned.
- Add all other ingredients except the stock and water. Fry for a few minutes.



 Add in the water and stock and bring to a hoil



- Reduce to a slow simmer and leave on the stove top for a good couple of hours (until the pork hock is cooked and starts to come off the bone)
- Remove the pork hock, skin it. (Don't throw that out!...Just remove any excess fat.)
- The skin can be sliced and crisped up to serve with the soup. The meat can also be removed off the bone and served in the soup or on the side.
- · Add in the parsley and serve!

OUR MARCH AND APRIL LUNCHEONS

Dan Brock

Eighteen individuals who, for the most part, are former members of the defunct The Maltese Club of London Ontario, met at Tony's Place on Dundas Street for lunch on Thursday, March 23rd.

We were given a private room. To the happy surprise of most, if not all of us, the meal was buffet style. Loretta and I have been going to Tony's for decades and were not aware, even when we gathered here for family celebrations, that we could have had a buffet style meal set up for us, rather than individually ordering from the menu.



The meal, at a set price, included bread rolls, salad, pasta, a variety of pizzas, small portions of pre-cut panzeratti, and a variety of cold and hot drinks. As one dish or plate emptied, another was brought to the serving tables. No one left hungry.



Charles & Janice Vella, Connie Hislop, Janet Peckham, Loretta Brock, and Brian Groulx



Mary Vella and Madeleine Barnette



Terry Rogers, Carol Hilton, Tony & Lyda Galea, Mike Ditchfield, Helen Ditchfield, and Lisa Patton



Terry Rogers, Carol Hilton, Mannie & Monica Micallef

Our next luncheon took place on Thursday, April 20th at the Mandarin Restaurant on Wellington Road South. Over 30 of us were present on this occasion.

The Pickle Barrel, in the same plaza as the Mandarin Restaurant, will be the venue for the luncheon to be held on Thursday May 25th.



JOAN'S SIXTH BIRTHDAY

Tessie Spiteri

Our daughter Joan Spiteri's sixth birthday was celebrated with a party on March 28, 1963, in the unfinished basement of our home at 1617 Borden Street.

We had those parties every year without a lot of fuss, but made sure the children had cake and ate and enjoyed themselves playing games. Those were the good old days.



(I. to r.) Josie Spiteri, Joan Spiteri, Joanne Gatt, Laurence Mizzi, Laurence Schembri, Freddie Gatt, and Raymond Gatt

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

CALIFORNIA

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco A family bingo and pasta dinner were held on Saturday, April 15th.

On Saturday and Sunday, April 22nd-23rd, a rummage sale was held.

Cinco De Mayo took place on May 5th.

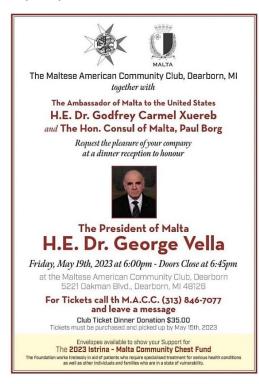
A Mother's Day Dinner Dance took place on the evening of Saturday, May 13. The buffet was catered by **Dominic's** and the music for the dance was provided by **DJ Sean**.

Sunday, June 18th.

MICHIGAN

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

with Dr. Godfrey Xuereb, the Ambassaor of Malta to 36th Street, between Broadway and 34th Avenue, in the United States, and Paul Borg, the Honorary Queens, New York, on April 7th, between 6:30 p.m. Consul of Malta, will be at the Club on the evening and 11:00 p.m. The Maltese community carried the of Friday, May 19th.



NEW YORK CITY Maltese Center: Astoria

Lejla Maltija, held at the Center on Saturday, March 25th, was a great success.



Fr. Anthony Saliba conducted an Easter prayer The Father's Day luncheon will be held on service at the Center, at 7:00 pm., on Saturday, April 1st.

> The Kids Easter Party took place at the Center on the afternoon of Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

The Good Friday Procession/Stations of the The President of Malta, Dr. George Vella, together Cross was held at Most Precious Blood Church, statue of the Crucified Jesus (il-vara l-kbira).

> Bingo took place at the Center, at 1:00 p.m., on Sunday, April 16th.

> Maltese language classes began, only for those registered, on Sunday, April 23rd.

> A Mother's Day Bingo Brunch was held on Sunday, May 7th, at 1:00 p.m.

> An Open House and Meet and Greet of Dr. George Vella, President of Malta, Mrs. Vella, and the Delegation will take place on the evening of Sunday, May 21st.

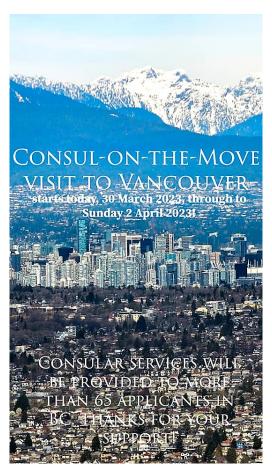


Majjalata & Memorial Day BBQ will be held on Dr. Godfrey Xuereb is High Commissioner the evening of May 20th.



ONTARIO Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Consulate General of Malta in Toronto

As part of the Consul-on-the Move program, the Consul General was in Vancouver, British Columbia from Thursday, March 30th through Sunday, April



designate of Malta to Canada. He is also the Maltese Ambassador to the United States.

Dr. George Vella, the President of Malta, will be visiting the United States and Canada towards the end of May. He and his delegation, including Dr. Godfrey Xuereb, will be in Toronto during May 26th-28th and in Hamilton on the afternoon of Saturday, May 27th. GTA venues include, Melita Soccer Club, Malta Band Club, Malta Park, and St. Paul the Apostle Church.

Malta Band Club

A luncheon completely run and organized by member volunteers was held on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 4th. (See pages 15-18.)

The **Friday evening meals** continue to be served. The performance of ELViS..is back!...and, he's got 'Friends'!! took place on the evening of Saturday, April 29th (See pages 25-26.)

Another member-driven luncheon was served at the Club on Wednesday, May 10th, at noon. (See pages 18-19.)

The 52nd Anniversary Celebration & Dance will take place on the evening of Saturday, May 20th.





St. Paul the Apostle Parish

A priest was available to hear **confessions** in **Maltese**, as well as in **English**, between 6 and 7 p.m., on Wednesday and Thursday, March 29th-30th. **Fr. Jimmy Zammit, OFM**, presided over the 10:30 a.m. Mass on **Easter Sunday**. **Bishop Robert Kasun**, the regional bishop, presided over the noon Mass.

Hamilton

Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH)

On Wednesday, March 15th, at St. Francis Xavier Church, in Stoney Creek, the Association paid tribute to members of the community who had died during the past year. This was followed by a tour of a miniature exhibition of sacred statues. Among those present were Ms. Denise Demicoli, Consul General of Malta in Toronto.

The Association will host the President of Malta, his wife, and the Hon. Minister for Home Affairs, at 2:20 p.m., Saturday, May 27th, at Liuna Station, 360 James Street North, Hamilton.

London

The informal association of members of the Maltese community and friends met at Tony's Place on Dundas Street for lunch on Thursday, March 23rd and again on Thursday April 20th at the **Mandarin Restaurant**. (See pages 10-11.)

The May 25th **luncheon** will be held at **The Pickle Barrel**. (See page 11.)

Windsor

Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

The **Club** is **open** every **Saturday** from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Hot and fresh traditional **Maltese food** is available, with cold **Kinnie** at the bar.

On **Good Friday**, April 7th, **fish** and **ricotta pie dinners** were served. The fish dinner consisted of a 5 oz., beer battered halibut filet, fresh cut fries, coleslaw, a lemon, and homemade tartar sauce. The ricotta pie dinner consisted of a large piece of ricotta pie, a salad, and bread and butter. All meals included dessert, coffee and tea. Half servings, at half price were available for children under the age of 12.

A **Spring Vendors Event** was hosted on Saturday, April 23rd, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Vendors from across the City had their crafts or products available for sale. Maltese food and barbecued hotdogs and hamburgers were also sold.

The **Annual General Membership Meeting** took place on Sunday, April 30th, starting at 3 p.m. Elections for various positions on the Executive were also held.

In the May 1980 issue of the Maltese-Canadian Social Club Guelph Inc., the president, Tony Camilleri, announced that there had been a good turnout for the general meeting and a new committee was in place.

The Fifth Anniversary Dance had been a big success.

The Club's main fund-raising project, the hockey pool, was almost at its season's end and a new project, the selling of Wintario tickets, had been embarked upon.

The Maltese soccer team had been in training for over a month and had started its Wednesday night games.

A LUNCHEON WITH A DIFFERENCE

Malta Band Club

On the afternoon of Tuesday, April 4th, the Malta Band Club hosted a luncheon for approximately 80 members and friends.

The unique difference with this event is that it was completely organized and run by member volunteers who approached the Executive Committee with an idea about one month ago. The Committee readily accepted their offer, which resulted in an excellent afternoon at the Malta Band Club.







Everyone in attendance was served an excellent meal which consisted of traditional Maltese bigilla, antipasto, rigatoni pasta, lamb, vegetables, and potatoes.







This was followed by fruit platters, pastries, and coffee.















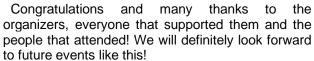
















Malta Band Club

Beginning at 12:00 noon, on Wednesday, May 10th, the Club held another member-driven luncheon. This proved an excellent way to enjoy a fantastic meal, socialize with friends, and offer support to our club.















MALTA STREET¹

C.A. Caruana

commemoration of Malta, the Conqueror of the something I should have done 26 years ago. formidable Ottoman Empire in 1565 and the Unsinkable Carrier of World War II (1940-1944).

As far as my knowledge is concerned, the Province of Ontario has at least two streets named after Malta, one in the thriving Municipality of Scarborough (suburb of Toronto) and the other one in the Islington area in Toronto proper.

Malta Street in Scarborough is a side street known for its tranquillity, its soul-uplifting atmosphere and its impeccable cleanliness. Its unspoiled beauty has been bestowed by mother nature with plentiful trees, flowers, backyard gardens and front lawns of the attractive buildings that line up the pretty little street on both sides.



The first time I unexpectedly went walking nonchalantly down this street was in September are in colour, hence their reproduction in black and Canada with my family, and eventually settled beauty that nature, aided by the loving, meticulous definitively in the Beaches Area, a few blocks away care of the inhabitants, has so amply enriched from the dividing line between Scarborough and Scarborough's Malta Street. Toronto.

At the time I was homesick and went for a long walk along Kingston Road until, inadvertently, I turned into an inviting side street; it was Malta Street. At the sight of this heavenly nook, I recaptured my composure and managed to dispel 2 my homesickness for ever.

It was then that I decided to come back to Malta Street and take a few photographic shots that would help me out in the ups and downs of mv new environment with its many aspects so different from There seem to be quite a few countries which my island home across the ocean. But I have shown their admiration for the courageous, procrastinated owing to circumstances beyond my valiant, and victorious Little Island, located in the control and never went again to Malta Street until middle of the enclosed Mediterranean Sea, by last summer, to enjoy both the street's exceptional naming one or more streets in perpetual honour and beauty and take as many pictures as possible-





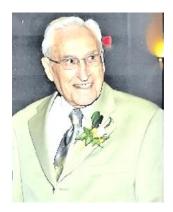
The readers of Maltese Forum can judge for themselves whether my efforts were worthwhile. Naturally enough, the photos I took of Malta Street 1956, hardly a year after I had immigrated to white does not and cannot bring alive the majestic

A few editorial changes have been made to this article by the late Carmelo Caruana which appeared in the vol. 8, no. 1 (Spring 1982) issue of Maltese Forum. Not all his photographic images were used Most of the pages in the Maltese Forum were printed by using a stencil on a Gestetner.

ONE OF THE LAST PIONEERS OF 1948 DIES AT THE AGE OF 103

Dan Brock

Len Connor, who was born in Cospicua, Malta, in March 1919, and who lived in St. Thomas, Ontario, passed away on Saturday, May 6, 2023, in his 104th vear.



Leonard J. "Len" Connor (1919-2023)

He was one of over 500 men who immigrated to Canada in May-June 1948 on either the Marine Perch (May) or the Vulcania (June). Len came out on the latter and was joined by his wife, Maria Cettina "Connie", and children, Patrick and Antonia "Nanette" that October. Margaret and Susan would be born in Canada.

My first acquaintance with Len Connor, a few decades ago, was through a letter he wrote to a close colleague, Reggie Miller, who was the general secretary of the General Workers Union (G.W.U.) and editor of the then bilingual newspaper, The Torch, in Malta. Len's letter appeared in the August 1948 issue of The Torch. In it, he stated:

We had a welcome at Halifax by the Canadian Red Cross, and books and cigarettes, tea, cakes, etc. were in abundance, free of course. We finally arrived at our several years. destination, Fingal Camp, from there we were gradually dispersed to different places. I was only at the Camp for Church in St. Thomas. The Mass of Christian Burial three days, when the car with the manager of was celebrated for him on Wednesday, May 10th, at Weatherhead Co. of Canada took six of us. He told us to 10:00 a.m. Burial took place at Holy Angels get in his car to show us his factory. We left, but on the way, he stopped the car at a hotel and we were treated to a meal. After that he showed us round his workshops and introduced us to his men. Then we went to his office to discuss our terms of employment. We agreed to the rate of £14 [about \$745.50 in today's Canadian dollars], and grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

that is just a start. In the meantime, the manager had one of his scouts hunting rooms for us which he finally found and then the firm's truck was sent to fetch our belongings from the Camp. The firm provided us with maps to help us find apartments for our families. The chief engineer of the firm took me for a tour of the city [St. Thomas] and then to his farm where he gave me a meal. Different from the employers in Malta, eh?

Len, who was the youngest of 10 children, received his formal education in Malta, and spent a few years in England as a youth.

He worked on the dockyards in Malta and graduated as a tool and die maker. Len was picked by the British at the time to undergo top secret training for new gunsights for military use. Although he was never in the military, he was called upon during the Second World War to assist in many formats with the Allies.

Len was the first Recording Secretary for the G.W.U., founded in 1943. Others who were in that initial group became Prime Minister of Malta, President of the Union and Member of the United Nations for Malta.

En route by train to the former air force camp near Fingal, some 12 km southwest of St. Thomas, he was offered a job in Quebec for the Department of National Defense but turned it down.

After working two years for Weatherhead Co. of Canada, Len went to the Clevite of Canada Limited plant, in 1950, also in St. Thomas, as a tool and die maker and set-up man. Over time, he became supervisor, general foreman, plant manager, and ultimately general manager before retiring in 1985.

It was Len who told me of the 50th Anniversary of the 1948 arrivals which was being held at the Convention Centre in Hamilton on May 30, 1998. As my father-in-law had come out on the same ship as Len in June 1948, my wife, some of her siblings, their spouses and I also attended and that was the first time I got to meet Len in person.

We kept in touch by telephone over the next

Len was a founding member of St. Anne's Catholic Cemetery.

Connie, his wife of 69 years, had died in 2012 and their daughter Nanette in 2015. He was survived by three children, 12 grandchildren, 28 great-

TIME IN A POSTCARD: A GLIMPSE OF TWO IMMIGRANT FAMLIES SURNAMED GRECH*

Dan Brock

Australia, and I received an email from Richard particular ship, during the years 1949-1950. Cumbo, curator of the Maltese-Canadian Museum attached a postcard of the ship Italia.

This postcard had been donated to the Museum by Rose Cassar, one of the volunteers. Richard asked if we had heard of this ship as "apparently it was used to transport migrants in the mid 1940s."

A search of the databases Mark and I have built up over the years revealed that Maltese immigrants Late in March of this year, Mark Caruana of NSW, came to Canada by way of New York on this

The ship, depicted in the postcard below, was the Archives and Visitors Centre at the St. Paul the one purchased by the Italian Home Lines in 1948 Apostle Church Complex in Toronto. In it he and operated as a transatlantic line and cruise ship between 1948 and 1964.



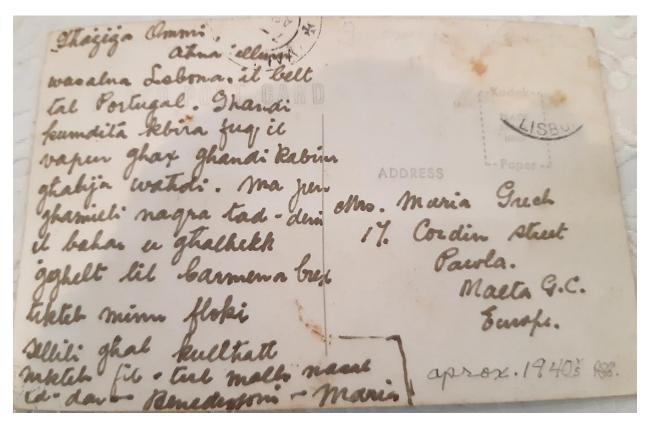
MS Kungsholm, about 1930

The vessel itself was originally build in Germany by The Kungsholm was requistioned by the U.S. cruising out of New York.



Blohm & Voss for the Swedish American Line. It Government in 1942, renamed the John Ericsson. was named the MS Kungsholm and operated and used as a troopship before being sold to the between 1928 and 1941 on transatlantic services Italian Home Lines in 1948. The Italia was sold in from Gothenburg to New York City as well as 1964 and became the hotel ship Imperial Bahama. It was scrapped in Spain in 1965.

> The postcard itself is currently in the possession of Rose Cassar of Toronto. It was written on behalf of her mother Ursula "Maria" Grech to Rose's grandmother, Maria Grech, who was living in Pawla (Paola), Malta. As the postmark was on the stamp and the stamp had been removed, most likely by a family member who collected stamps, the family did not know the year the postcard had been sent, but believe it to be "aprox. 1940's."



Returning to the database, I learned that Maria Grech and her two-year-old daughter, the present actually wrote the postcard"? Both Maria Grech, an Rose Cassar arrived in New York Harbor, on board emigrant, and Maria Grech, living in Paola, were the Italia, on April 12, 1950.

Further search revealed that the Italia had sailed from Malta on March 31st and had stopped at one person who fits the bill, and that is Carmen Palermo, Naples, Lisbon, and Halifax before Grech Like Maria Grech, her destination too was arriving at New York City. Thus, we can place the Toronto. postcard as having been written and posted in Lisbon in early April 1950.

Below, is an English translation of the message on the back of the postcard for those, like myself, who sisters-in-law. More on this later. are unable to read Maltese.

Dear Mum,

Today we arrived in Lisbon, the capital city of Portugal. I have all the amenities on the ship as I have my own cabin. Mum, I experienced some seasickness, that's the reason I asked Carmen to write to you on my behalf. Give my best regards to all. I will write more in detail as soon as I get home.

God bless - Maria

The question is: "Who is this "Carmela" who obviously acquainted with her.

Now the passenger list for the Italia reveals only

With Carmen were her three children: Giovanna, age 5, Mary, age 2, and Joseph, age 11/2.

My first thought was that Maria and Carmen were

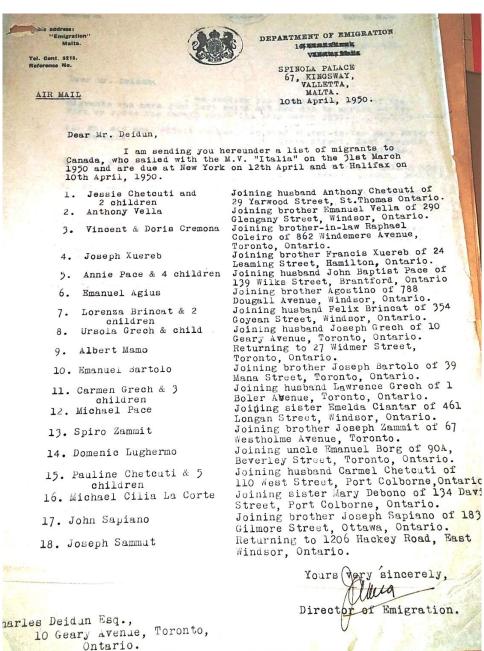
The Italia's list of emigrants departing from Malta on March 31st and found in the Archives of Malta in Rabat, Malta, did not provide me with any additional information.

The letter sent by the Department of Emigration in Malta to Charles Deidun of Toronto was, however, a whole different matter!

Here, we learn that Ursula (aka Maria) Grech was joining her husband, Joseph Grech, at 10 Geary Avenue, which also happened to be the same address as that of Charles Deidun.

We also learn that Carmen's husband was Road, in Toronto.

Charles Deidun was president of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto. On March 9, 1950, the Director of Emigration had first written to him stating that he was sending Deidun a list of Lawrence Grech and that he was living at 1 Boler migrants who had just left Malta, by what ship, and when they were expected to arrive at New York. The director further stated that he would be sending the Society such lists on a regular basis.



joined the Society in 1971, found the "many, many the National Archives of Malta. boxes of documents", many in bad state owing to It was on these lists, during one of my trips to mould, behind the stage. Knowing the value of such Malta, that I found both Grechs. items, he spent a year "putting everything in Lawrence Grech was one of the men who had Archives Canada).

A few years ago, these documents were examined Union Station. by Marc Sanko, then working on his doctoral dissertation on the Maltese of Detroit and Toronto while at West Virginia University. Mark was kind which can be learned from an item, such as a 73enough to send me scanned copies of many of year-old postcard, my intent has also been to point these lists of Maltese emigrants who were en route out to the reader some of the sources which can be

The purpose in sending these lists to Charles acknowledge the value of networking. Deidun was that the members of the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto might meet these newly-arrived immigrants at Union Station in Toronto, when they got off the train, and assist them in accommodation, employment, and adjusting to the Canadian way of life.

But I digress, let's get back to the individuals noted in the April 1950 postcard.

Through Rose Cassar, I learned that her mother's actual name was Ursula but that she went by Maria, as we see on the postcard. Ursula "Maria" Grech was the daughter of Michael and Salvina Grima. Her husband, Joseph Grech, was the son of Emanuel and Maria Grech.

As Joseph, had two sisters, Giovanna and Nina, but no brothers, we can eliminate Carmen Grech as Ursula "Maria" Grech's sister-in-law. In fact, Rose Cassar is not aware of the family of Lawrence and Carmen Grech also living in Toronto.

My final quest, relating to this postcard, was to learn when Joseph Grech and Lawrence Grech immigrated to Canada. As no record of them disembarking at New York City was found, I concluded that they must have arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax.

These letters from the Department of Emigration Unfortunately, the Canadian Government has not were part of a number of items which, many years made the passenger lists of arrivals disembarking at ago, were in the possession of the Maltese- Canadian ports of entry, beyond 1935, available to Canadian Society of Toronto, located at 3278 the public. But all is not lost! It was Mark Caruana of Dundas Street West, in the lower part of The Australia who, several years, ago, made me aware Flamingo Banquet Hall. Richard Cumbo, who had of the aforesaid embarkation lists of passengers at

chronological order," and, as the Society no longer come out on the Marine Perch in May 1948. Joseph had any use for the contents of these boxes, Grech, like my father-in-law, Edward Scicluna, had Richard, in 1974, arranged for their donation to the come out on the Vulcania in June 1948. After Public Archives of Canada (now Library and disembarking at Pier 21, these men would have boarded a train which initially took them to Toronto's

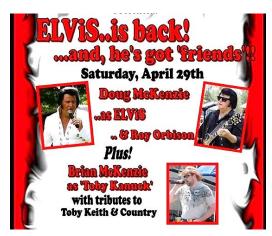
> As well as ferreting out some interesting facts consulted in one's own research

> *I wish to thank Rose Cassar, Richard Cumbo, Mark Caruana, Carmen Galea, and Marc Sanko without whose help this article, at least as it presently stands, could not have been possible.



ELViS..is back!...and, he's got 'Friends'!!

Malta Band Club



A great crowd was treated to a very entertaining evening on Saturday, April 29th, at the Malta Band Club. The evening started at 6:00 p.m. with an excellent dinner served by the MBC kitchen staff.

Music celebrity impersonators Doug and Brian McKenzie took to the stage at 7:00 p.m. and transformed into Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison, and Toby Keith to kick off the musical portion of the evening. The music was non-stop with performances of all the greatest hits of the three music legends. Special thanks to the MBC executive committee for their efforts in presenting this fantastic evening at the Club!









EMMANUEL SALVATORE FENECH

Dan Brock

Wednesday, April 26th was the 58th anniversary of the death of Infantryman Emmanuel Salvatore Fenech who held the rank of Specialist Four in Company B, of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, USARV, in the United States Army.



Emmanuel, the son of John M. and Josephine Fenech, was born on December 6, 1945, probably in Mosta, Malta.

John was the son of Joseph Fenech of 142 Hope Street, Mosta. He immigrated to the United States, on board the Vulcania, in April 1948, and joined his brother Paul at 1807 Leverette Street in Detroit.

Four-year-old Emmanuel, disembarked from the Saturnia, at New York, on January 7, 1950, along with his mother, Josephine Fenech, and older brother, Salvatore, and was reunited with his father, John, who still resided at 1807 Leverette Street.

The Fenech family was living at 1536 Dragoon Street, in Detroit when Emmanuel joined the US Army. His tour of duty in South Vietnam began on Memorial, Panel 18E, Line 92, in Washington, DC. September 15, 1966.

Only 21 years old, he was killed in action by enemy small arms fire in Pleiku Province on April 26, 1967.

He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device, Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Vietnam Service Medal with One Service Star, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Emmanuel's body was recovered, returned to the United States, and interred in St. Hedwig Cemetery, Dearborn Heights, Michigan.

FERECH Emmanuel S.				ST. Hedwig Dearborn Mich. Rem 18 of reverse side must be completed. See attached
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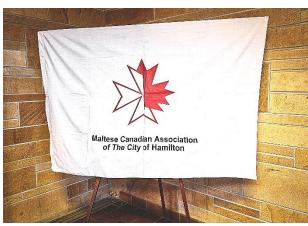
His name appears on the Vietnam Veterans



MALTESE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF HAMILTON AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH, STONEY CREEK ONTARIO













Photos courtesy of Ms. Denise Demicoli, Consul General of Malta in Toronto