



# THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



**E-NEWSLETTER**

Issue 50 JULY 2023

## CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MALTESE LANGUAGE CLASS PROGRAM AT THE MALTESE CENTRE NYC SUNDAY, JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup>



**The Maltese Presence  
in North America  
Issue No. 50 July 2023**

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**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

A wealth of activity has taken place, these past several weeks, within the various Maltese organizations in Canada and the United States. There have been luncheons, dinners, picnics, festas, the celebration of other occasions, and special visits.

Almost every day I found something to add for this issue. This, in turn, is part of the reason it is appearing so late in the month!

The most exciting news for Maltese Canadians of late has to be the announcement that the Republic of Malta is to establish a High Commission in Ottawa. Heretofore, the High Commissioner to Canada worked out of Washington, DC. (See page 4.)

What has been of great interest to me personally is the discovery of a lone Maltese immigrant to Canada during the Second World War and then making contact with a daughter of his in Boise, Idaho. (See pages 21-23.)

Another "blast from the past" is Mark Trzeciak's 1956 photo of the Maltese Soccer Club of Detroit. (See page 36.)

I'm grateful to all those who contributed material for this issue. Among these are first-time individuals like Miriam Allistone, Mary Anne Pace, and Stephanie Schembri. Thank you.

Owing 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://maltese-americanscsf.org/home.aspx>. Click on to "News & Resources."

If you would like to listen to Maltese-language radio programs I would suggest that you go to 3ZZZ by clicking onto the following url:

<https://www.3zzz.com.au/shows/maltese/>. You may contact Paul Vella in Australia at [paul.vella44@gmail.com](mailto:paul.vella44@gmail.com) to be put on the weekly mailing list.

If you have ideas to share, wish to be put on the free, bcc electronic mailing lists, would like to learn the newsletter's advertising rates, etc., I may be reached at [danbrock62@gmail.ca](mailto:danbrock62@gmail.ca).

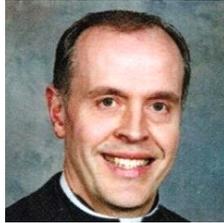
Organizations and associations in North America are encouraged to use this e-newsletter to promote themselves and their activities.

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**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH,  
TORONTO, CANADA**

**From the Desk of Fr. Roy...**



Dear Parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle,

*Fr. Roy Farrell, a diocesan priest within the Archdiocese of Toronto, is administrator of St. Paul the Apostle, Toronto, the only Maltese parish outside Malta worldwide.*

**Parish Bulletin June 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>**

The Feast of Corpus Christi, or the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (as it is often called today), goes back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. But it celebrates something far older: the institution of the sacrament of Holy Communion at the Last Supper.

On September 8, 1264, Pope Urban IV issued the papal decree which established the Feast of Corpus Christi as a universal feast of the Church. It was to be celebrated on the Thursday following Trinity Sunday.

As time passed, the celebration was expanded to include a Eucharistic procession. The Sacred Host was carried in a monstrance around the town, with hymns and litanies. The faithful would venerate the Body of Christ as the procession passed by.

\*\*\*

A common practice of blessing and distributing loaves of bread in honour of Saint Anthony [of Padua in Italy and of Lisbon or Alfama in Portugal] is known as Saint Anthony's Bread. It is traditional to give alms to those in need in appreciation for the blessings granted through the prayers of St. Anthony. Sometimes the alms are given for the education of priests. In some places, parents also make a gift for the poor after placing a newborn child under the protection of St. Anthony.

**Parish Bulletin June 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**

Through conversations I have had with fathers throughout the years, I have realized that the role of a father is exceptionally challenging. It requires a well-thought-out plan in order to be successful.

The foremost duty of a father is to be present. Being a father is more than just a biological function. Fatherhood is about providing the good soil for the seed to sprout.

It is important for fathers to consider whether they are satisfying God with their behaviour and with the values they import in their homes. Whom should we strive to please the most within our households? It is intriguing to contemplate what a home would look like if pleasing God were the controlling force for all aspects of it.

I came across a story that speaks for itself. A father was watching his young son trying to dislodge a heavy stone. The boy couldn't budge it. "Are you sure you are using all your strength?" the father asked. "Yes, I am," said the exasperated boy. "No, you are not," the father replied. "You haven't asked me to help you."

**Parish Bulletin June 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>**

I was looking forward to celebrating my first *Imnarja* this coming Saturday at the park. Because of the possibility of thunderstorms, the event has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date. Everything that occurs has a purpose.

Our social committee invites you to join us for a parish gathering on Saturday 2 PM - 9 PM and Sunday 10 AM - 2 PM.

The word *Imnarja* is derived from the Latin term *Luminare* – to illuminate. This was how the Maltese people expressed their joy in recognizing the June 29<sup>th</sup> feast. Depending on the village, there were different customs and traditions, [but only in Busketto Gardens was *L-Imnarja* celebrated].

This annual feast has been a tradition in Malta and Gozo for generations. It began during the Middle Ages, before the Knights of St. John, honoring Saints Peter and Paul. These trailblazers enabled Christianity to spread quickly across the globe. St. Paul is held in high esteem in Malta and Gozo. St. Paul has acted as a protector and guardian for the Island since he was shipwrecked there and introduced the Catholic faith.

This festival in Malta and Gozo is so important that it requires two days of celebration. Each year, locals and tourists alike look forward to the opportunity to indulge in the exquisite flavors of Maltese cuisine.

The parishioners speaking of past celebrations were filled with a joy that could be felt through their stories.

I am looking forward to having the leisure of meeting everyone this weekend.

**MALTA TO ESTABLISH A HIGH COMMISSION IN OTTAWA, CANADA**

**Dan Brock**

At last, the pleas of the Maltese community in Canada have been heard. H.E. Ian Borg, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, announced, on July 4<sup>th</sup>, that Malta would establish a High Commission in Ottawa in October of this year.

Heretofore, Canada has been the only G7 country in which Malta did not have an embassy.

This move will enhance bilateral relations between Malta and Canada as well as services already provided by the Consulate General of Malta in Toronto

Dr. Mark Anthony Pace, Ambassador to The Netherlands since 2020, has been nominated as Malta’s first resident High Commissioner in Canada.



**H.E. Dr. Mark Pace**

Dr. Pace has an impressive 28 years of diplomatic service to his credit. His career had taken him to Moscow, Washington, Strasbourg, Brussels, Ramallah, and Tunis before being posted to The Netherlands.

In addition to being fluent in Maltese, English, Italian, and French, Dr. Pace has a working knowledge of Dutch, Russian, and Spanish.

**ALEX DeBRINCAT TO PLAY FOR THE DETROIT RED WINGS**

**Dan Brock**

National Hockey League (NHL) right winger Alex DeBrincat, aged 25, has been signed to the Detroit Red Wings with a four-year, \$7.875 million contract.



Alexander DeBrincat, of Farmington Hills, Michigan, is the son of David and Tracey DeBrincat.

In 2014, he signed with the Erie Otters of the Midwest Division of the Ontario Hockey League. He was selected by the Chicago Blackhawks in the second round of the 2016 NHL Entry Draft. During the 2021-22 season with the Blackhawks, he had 41 goals and 37 assists. He played for the Ottawa Senators in 2022-23 and scored 27 goals with 39 assists.



**ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES**

**Dan Brock**

**CALIFORNIA**

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

A **Family Bingo & Pasta Dinner** was held at the Club on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. Dinner was served at 5:00 p.m. and bingo began at 6:00 p.m. (See pages 31-33.)

**GOZO**

**Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo)**

The Association celebrated **Canada Day** on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> with a **flag-raising ceremony** at 9:00 a.m. at the Emigrants' Memorial, Mgarr, Gozo and an **evening celebration** at the Country Terrace, beginning at 7:00 p.m. (See pages 24-26.)

Alternative plans were also in the works to hold a **barbeque**, around 5:00 p.m. on Canada Day, on Xwenji Beach near Marsalforn. Kids and pets would be welcomed. Canadian flags would be in evidence along with real Canadian beer, burgers, ribs, pork chops, T-bone steaks, and chicken wings, while listening to the music of Blue Rodeo, Diana Krall, Leonard Cohen, and Justin Bieber.

**NEW YORK CITY**

**Maltese Center: Astoria**

*L-Imnarja* and *il-Festa ta' San Ġwann* were celebrated at the Centre on the evening of Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. (See pages 9-10.)

The *Festa ta' Santa Marija* **BBQ** will take place at the Centre on the evening of Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.

**MICHIGAN**

**Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc**

A **luncheon** was held at noon on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, for the **President of Malta**, his **wife** and his **delegation** and **guests**. (See pages 7-8 and 32.)

A **novena** was held at the **Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit**, as a **celebration of Western European Culture**, including that of the Maltese, on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>.

**ONTARIO**

**Greater Toronto Area**

**Melita Soccer Club, Inc.**

**Fenkata** was held at the Club on the evening of Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. (See pages 13-16.)

A **bus trip** to **Niagara Casino** took place on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

This past Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, saw a **bus trip** to **Casino Rama**.

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

As a **Corpus Christi** procession could not be held outside the church, without a permit from the City of Toronto, a **Holy Hour** took place at 3:00 p.m., on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> within the church. There were four designated stops. Each station included a gospel passage, a prayer, and a period of silent prayer, concluding with the special **Corpus Christi** litany. Following **Holy Hour**, light refreshments were available in St. Joseph's Room in the Parish Hall.

Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> being the **Memorial of St. Anthony**, bread was blessed and distributed, following the 9:15 a.m. Mass.

With the cancellation of *L-Imnarja*, planned for Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, **St. Paul's Kitchen Committee** held a **bake sale** in the Parish Hall and made \$3,424 for the Parish.

By the weekend of July 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>, \$3,540 had been raised in the Parish towards the goal of \$10,000 for **ShareLife**, an **annual campaign** of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

**Malta Band Club**

A **Family Picnic** was held at the Club on the afternoon of Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. There were games for the children and *boċċi* and super *tombola* for the adults.

The Club will celebrate the village feast of Hamrun, Malta, by presenting the 2023 **San Gaetano Celebration** on Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup>. There will be great food, great music, and great company.

The members of the Malta Band Club have supported St. Paul the Apostle Mission Group's ongoing assistance to **Bishop Giovanni Cefai** and his community in Peru for the past few years. On Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, members and friends of the Club will have an opportunity to meet Bishop Giovanni and learn more about **his work in Peru** when he visits the Club for an evening of dining and socializing.

**The Malta Band Club**  
will be hosting a visit by  
**Bishop Giovanni Cefai**  
(VSSP, Prelature of Santiago Apostol de Huancaene, Peru)  
**Friday August 11, 2023 at 6:30PM**  
(5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga)

This will be an excellent opportunity to meet Bishop Cefai and find out more about his mission with the community in Huancaene, Peru. Dinner for this evening will be a traditional "Maltese Fenkata" (Chicken & fries will be offered as an alternate). To make a reservation for dinner, please contact Tony at (905) 450-5885, Virginia at (416) 873-6013 or the club directly at (905) 890-8507.

TICKETS: \$20.00 per person (please book by August 9<sup>th</sup>)

The **semi-annual general meeting** will take place at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Maltese-Canadian Cruisers**

The second **Show and Shine** of the season was held at the **Malta Band Club** from noon until 4:00 p.m., on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. (See pages 16-18.)

On Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, the third **Show and Shine** was held at the Malta Band Club from noon until 3:00 p.m. only, owing to the threat of rain.

**Maltese Canadian Federation**

Owing to the possibility of thunderstorms, *Imnarja MaltaFest* at Runnymede Park in Toronto on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> had to be **cancelled**. The Federation, in association with the Maltese Canadian Business Network Association, has rescheduled **MaltaFest** for Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Lehen Malti**

**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.

**Hamilton**

**Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH)**

The Association had a beautiful day, on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, for its **Summer Picnic** at **LaSalle Park** in **Burlington**. (See page 19.)

**London**

A picnic was held for the Maltese community and friends at **Springbank Park** on Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. (See pages 29-31.)

The next **luncheon** is planned for Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at the **Mandarin Restaurant** on Wellington Street.

According to the late architect Angelo Dougall, based on information he found in the *Jesuit Relations* in the 1640s, the Knights of Malta were asked to send Maltese soldiers to New France (now Canada for the most part) to protect the Jesuit missions among the natives. Angelo was a native of Senglea, Malta.

While living in Windsor, Ontario, between 1964 and 1978, he managed to find the time to do research on the Maltese of Canada and Michigan State at the Detroit Public Library's Burton Historical Collection and the Universities of Windsor and Toronto.

**LADIES' LUNCHEON  
WITH THE FIRST LADY  
AT THE MELITA SOCCER CLUB REVISTED**

**Dan Brock**

As noted in the June issue, a Ladies' Luncheon in honour of Mrs. Miriam Vella, the First Lady of Malta, was held at the Melita Soccer Club in Toronto at noon, on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Having recently joined the Melita Soccer Club on Facebook, I "discovered" several photographs, posted by H.E. George Vella, President of Malta, Denise Demicoli, Consul General of Malta to Toronto, and Mary Anne Piscopo, Secretary of the Melita Soccer Club, which I had not seen before. I'm now sharing some of them with our readership.





**JUNE LUNCHEON IN LONDON, ONTARIO**

**Dan Brock**

On the afternoon of Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, more than 20 of us gathered at The Pickle Barrel on Wellington Street for our monthly luncheon.



This, as we no longer have a club, is one of the ways in which we try to keep the Maltese community and friends in the London area in touch with one another.



**L-IMNARJA/SAN ĠWANN BBQ**

**Maltese Center NYC**

On the evening of Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, we held our *Imnarja/San Ġwann* BBQ event. We were honored to have the Ambassador of the Republic of Malta to the United States of America, H.E. Godfrey Xuereb, and his wife, Dr. Kay Xuereb, join us for the evening.



As you know a lot of planning goes into all our events to run smoothly. That day, after we set up the outdoor garden beautifully for the event, the winds picked up just after 6:00 p.m. and the skies darkened. Without hesitation this event was going to be, rain or shine, and everything, the tables, the food, and the drinks, was moved inside into the lower hall. Then it rained! We saved this event because of our volunteers; they rescued the event from being a damp one to a vibrant one! Thank you volunteers for your tireless dedication and thank you to the guests for attending and thank you Ambassador Xuereb for sharing the evening with us.

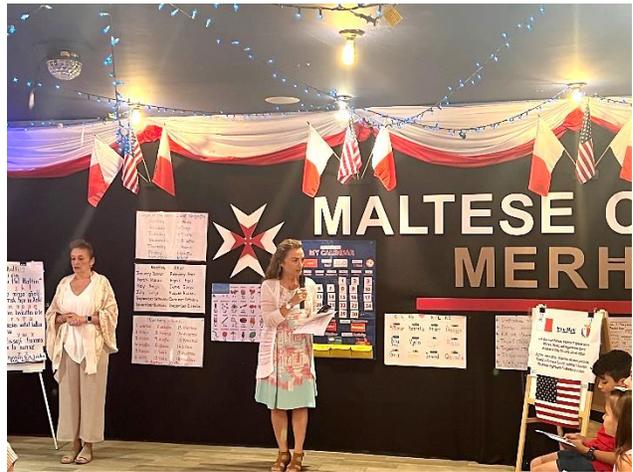




**CELEBRATING  
THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR  
MALTESE LANGUAGE CLASS PROGRAM**

**Maltese Centre NYC**

Our Maltese Language Class program ended for the summer break on Sunday, June 18th. We would like to thank our amazing Maltese language teacher Mrs. Rita Grech for creating another wonderful successful program for the children and this year for the adult learners. We are so blessed to have such a passionate teacher and dedicated volunteers that helped support her. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and donated to the program and activities.









**FENKATA AT THE MELITA SOCCER CLUB**

**Mary Ann Piscopo**

Fenkata, on the evening of Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> saw a full house with 68 in attendance.



We served only fried rabbit, potato wedges and veggies cooked by Tony Laloj Saliba.



The entertainment was *I-ghana*, the traditional folk song music of Malta. Philip Spiteri and Frank Apap were the singers, while the guitarists were Charlie Tanti, Charlie Micallef, Rocco Schembri, and Joe Astarita.





### JUNE SHOW & SHINE

#### Maltese Canadian Cruisers

For dessert there was watermelon and Italian rum cake.

The second Show & Shine of the season was held at the Malta Band Club in Mississauga, Ontario, on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.



Fun was had by all.



**MALTA BAND CLUB CAR SHOW**  
key sponsor

**MALTESE CANADIAN CRUISERS**

**JUNE SHOW & SHINE**

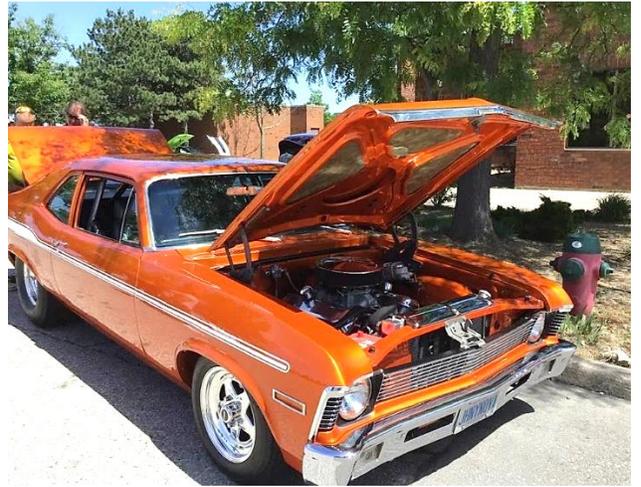
**SUNDAY JUNE 25**  
**12:00PM TO 4:00PM**

LOCATION  
MALTA BAND CLUB  
5745 COOPERS AVE, MISSISSAUGA, ON

TITLE SPONSORS

PARTNER SPONSORS







Best Truck



**A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A PICNIC**

**MCACH**

On Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., the Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH) held its Summer Picnic at LaSalle Park in Burlington, Ontario.



**WIRT MALTA  
THE LEGACY OF MALTA**

**Dan Brock**

*Wirt Malta* was a very fine magazine published by the Maltese Cultural Association (Canada) in Toronto. It contains a wealth of information relating to Malta’s culture and I treasure all 12 issues in my possession.

The first issue appeared in November/December 1991 and was sent out free to anyone believed to have been Maltese and living in Canada.

It was originally intended to be published bi-monthly but appeared less and less frequently, the twelfth, and apparently the last, issue appearing in the summer of 1996.

Joe Camilleri edited the first issue. He was succeeded by Alex Morana. Margaret Mifsud, who had been editor designate for issues four and five, became editor with issue number six which appeared in November 1993. The last issue for which she was editor was number ten (April 1995). The next two issues were overseen by its three managing editors: Paula Aquilina, Carmel Camilleri, and David Vella.

The fourth issue became the first to be sold internationally. By then, the magazine’s main objective was “to promote the Maltese identity and Maltese language among Maltese around the world.”

The subscription rate for four issues in Canada was \$12. Subscription services were also available in Australia, Malta, New Zealand, the U.K., and the USA.

**A VISIT FROM CHARLIE CAMILLERI**

**Maltese Center NYC**

On Friday June 30th we had a surprise visitor from Sydney, Australia, the Maltese singer and song writer Charlie Camilleri, singer of the beloved Maltese song "Roža Marie." It was a pleasure to welcome him and his family. And of course, he had a try at *boćć!*



### ROBERT JOSEPH PACE: ONLY MALTESE TO IMMIGRATE TO CANADA DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR\*

Dan Brock

Young Robert Pace left Malta, aboard the Allied troopship *Ville D'Oran* on September 4, 1944, to a port where he boarded an ocean-going troopship en route for Canada. He had received a scholarship to attend the Ontario Agricultural College (OCA, now part of the University of Guelph) in Guelph, Ontario.

According to his passport application, he was born in St. Julian's, Malta, on May 24, 1925, although in later documents he would give his place of birth as Sliema. By 1944, Robert was living at "Pitti" on St. Anthony Street in Balzan.

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO THE PASSPORT OFFICE AT LEAST FIVE CLEAR DAYS BEFORE THE PASSPORT IS REQUIRED.

No. 28852  
Date 26 AUG 1944

**DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY APPLICANT FOR PASSPORT. (A)**

Surname of applicant to be written in Block Capitals and UNDERLINED.  
A  
I, the Undersigned, (A) ROBERT JOSEPH PACE son of Robert Edgar Pace and Eleanora Cristiano Pace at present residing at Pitti, St Anthony Str, Balzan hereby declare that I am

FOR A MARRIED WOMAN OR WIDOW (to be struck out in other cases).  
Particulars of HUSBAND'S birth to follow.  
(1) wife of Robert Edgar Pace and that my husband is deceased  
(2) widow of Robert Edgar Pace and that my late husband was deceased having been born at St Julian's, Malta on the 24th day of May 1925.

FOR PERSONS BORN ABROAD, who derive British nationality from a father or paternal grandfather born within His Majesty's Dominions. (To be struck out in other cases).  
my (his) father Robert Edgar Pace being born within His Majesty's Dominions at St Julian's, Malta on the 26th day of April 1885.

and not having lost the status thus acquired, I hereby apply for a Passport for travelling to Guelph, Ontario, Canada for the purpose of studying at the college Canada (accompanied by my wife (and children under the age of 16), as indicated in the WIDOW, who do not possess separate Passports).

(f) I declare that I have not previously been granted any Passport whatever, and that I have made no other application for a Passport.

(g) I declare that all previous Passports granted to me have been surrendered for cancellation to a British Passport or Consular Officer, other than Passport No. 1234 which is now attached for cancellation, and that I have made no other application for a Passport since the attached Passport was issued to me.

(h) Signed Robert J. Pace

AND I, the Undersigned, (i) Robert Joseph Pace hereby declare that to the best of my personal knowledge and belief the above made Declaration and description of the said (1) Robert Joseph Pace is true, and that I can from MY PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE of him vouch him as a fit and proper person to receive a Passport.

Signed Robert Joseph Pace

Signature of Applicant: Robert Pace

Received of the Passport Office  
Passport No. 28852  
26 AUG 1944

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT:  
Age 19 years  
Profession Student  
Whether married or single Single  
Domicile or ordinary place of residence Balzan  
Maiden name of widow or married woman  
Place of birth St Julian's, Sliema  
Date of birth 24th May 1925  
Height 5 feet 7 1/2 inches  
Colour of eyes Grey  
Colour of hair Fair  
Visible distinguishing marks or peculiarities none  
Description of Wife of Applicant if to be included on the Passport.  
Name in full R  
Age  
Profession  
Place of birth  
Date of birth  
Maiden name  
Height     feet     inches  
Colour of eyes  
Colour of hair  
Visible distinguishing marks  
Signature of wife of applicant  
Children under the age of 16 if to be included on the Passport.  
Christian Names - Surname - Date of Birth - Sex  
(1)  
(2)  
(3)  
(4)  
(5)

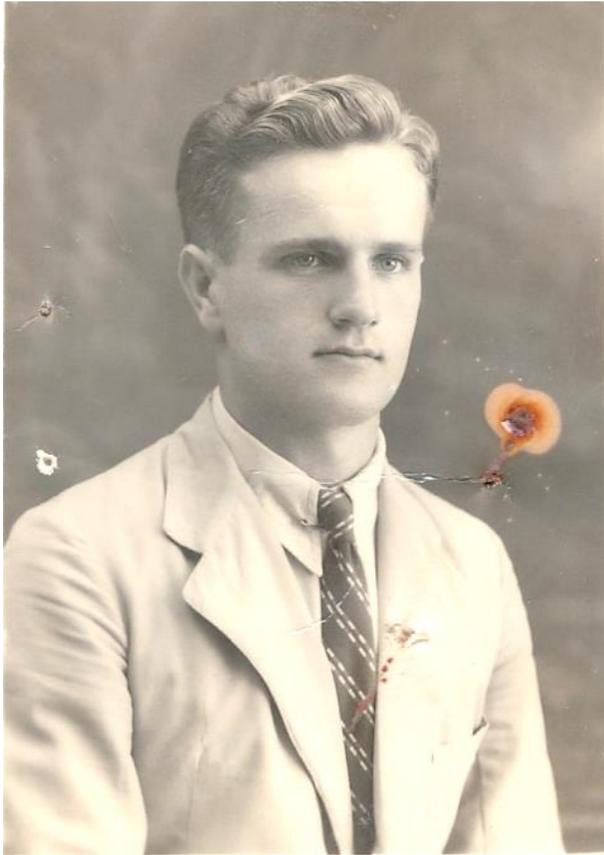
IMPORTANT.  
Applicants and persons recommending them are warned that should any of the statements contained in their respective declarations prove to be untrue the consequences to them may be serious.

26 AUG 1944

Courtesy of National Archives of Malta, Rabat, Malta

Robert was the youngest child of Robert Edgar and Eleanora (Cristiano) Pace who were living at 5 Phoenix Flats, Thorton Street in Sliema by 1948. His siblings were Louis, John, Mary, Paul, and Lucy.

After graduating in entomology—the study of insects—in 1948, Robert crossed over to the United States, at Port Huron, Michigan, on August 13, with the intention of joining his brother John, who was then living at 451 South Oxford Avenue in Los Angeles, California.



**Robert Pace's Passport Photo, 1944**  
**Note the rust stain from the iron pin**  
**used to attach the photograph**  
**to the passport application.**

On his record of naturalization, dated December 2, 1949, Robert was living at 681 Shatto Place in Los Angeles and described himself as an entomologist.

Sometime between 1948 and 1950, Robert's father had died and his mother immigrated to Los Angeles. At the time of the 1950 Federal Census, Eleanor was living with her unmarried sons, John and Robert, at 108 Shatto Place and was known as Lily. She was 40 years older than Robert, who was 17 years younger than John. John was employed as a mechanical engineer and Robert as an entomologist.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

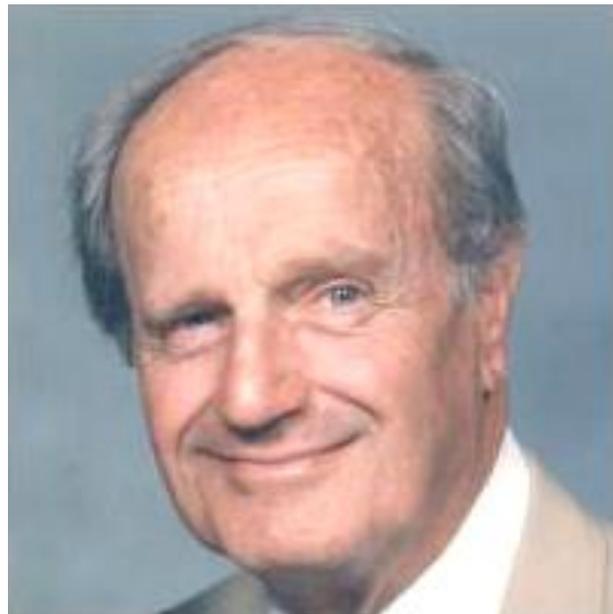
On August 23, 1952, in Hollywood, California, he married Gloria Elaine Seaman, who was nearly five years younger than him. They were to have two daughters: Cindy and Mary Anne.

Robert, commonly known as Bob, worked in sales in the chemical agricultural industry for 40 years. Of him it was said that he possessed "a sincerity that would allow him to sell charcoal to a chimney sweep."

Bob's work took him around California, then to Arizona and, in 1972, to Boise, Idaho, where he would live the remainder of his life in the family house built in 1972 at 10350 Elmorado Ct. Family members continued to live here until 2020.



**10350 Elmorado Ct., Boise, Idaho**



**Bob Pace in Later Years**

After retiring from sales, Bob embarked on a second career as Executive Director of the Idaho Agricultural Chemical Association.

An avid tennis player, Bob was a member of the Boise Racquet and Swim Club for many years. He was also accomplished at soccer and swimming, and enjoyed traveling.

Bob was a long-standing member of St. Mark's Catholic Church, on West Northview Street, in Boise. He died on July 1, 2012, and the Mass of Christian burial was held at St. Mark's on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Internment took place in Boise's Cloverdale Memorial Park. Bob's widow, Gloria Pace, died on January 9, 2023.

A few years ago, the trophies found a home at the Melita Soccer Club. Both large trophies were for playoffs. The names of all the winners over the years are engraved on both.



I would like to thank Bob and Gloria's daughter Mary Anne Pace of Boise, Idaho, Stephanie Schembri, of Customer Services at the National Archives of Malta, and Mark Caruana of NSW, Australia for their assistance in the preparation of this article.

*\* Mark Caruana and I have found but one other person of Maltese birth who came to Canada during the War, namely Barbara (Shoosmith) Parisi, also in 1944. As her parents were English and only in Malta a short while before returning to England, we don't consider her as Maltese.*



**RECENT DONATIONS TO TORONTO'S MALTESE-CANADIAN MUSEUM BY THE MELITA SOCCER CLUB**

**Richard S. Cumbo, Curator**

Through the cooperation of the Vice President of the Melita Soccer Club, Ms. Mary Ann Piscopo, two large trophies have been donated to the Maltese-Canadian Museum at St. Paul's Church complex.

For decades the Maltese-Canadian Bowling League was an active participant within the Maltese community. As a matter of fact, in 2001 it celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.





Two photo albums belonging to the league were also donated to the Museum. The Melita Club also donated many books in Maltese. These along with books donated by former Consul General of Malta Mr. Alfred Dalli have greatly increased the number of books in Maltese being housed at the Museum. Mr. Dalli had also donated various objects appropriate for the Maltese-Canadian Museum.

This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Melita Soccer Club.



**READERS' COMMENTS**

Wow! What splendid articles regarding President Vella and his wife, Mariam Vella, about their recent visit to Canada, and the U.S. in your June 2023 edition of "The Maltese Presence in North America."

The President and his entourage certainly had a very full agenda and fruitful discussions with many groups and various people.

I especially enjoyed the article regarding the Maltese-Canadian Museum in the Junction area of Toronto. Richard Cumbo, Curator, and his team of wonderful volunteers have worked tirelessly to bring this Museum to fruition, and they appreciate all the various artifacts that many Maltese people across Canada continue to donate.

Again, congratulations on another absolutely splendid publication that I am sure, I speak for many Maltese people, we look forward to reading each edition.

Mary Zarb, Mississauga, Ontario

Thanks for your journal. I read it from cover to cover ... and find it extremely interesting.

Frank Scicluna, Adelaide, Australia

I wanted to congratulate you on an excellent June edition of "The Maltese Presence in North America." I would be grateful if you could add me to your mailing list and also let me know if I can be of any help to the publication.

Dr. Godfrey Carmel Xuereb,  
Ambassador of the Republic of Malta  
to the United States

Well done, and as usual, I truly enjoyed reading most of the interesting articles.

Keep up the good work!

Carmen Galea, Toronto



**THE GOZO MALTESE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION  
CELEBRATES CANADA DAY**

**Dan Brock**

On Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Gozo Maltese Canadian Association celebrated Canada Day, an annual event among its members who had founded the Association in 1996.

The first order of the day was the raising of the Maltese and Canadian flags at the Emigrants' Monument and the playing of the national anthems.





**Dr. Raymond Xerri Places Flowers at the foot of the Monument**

The Monument itself was erected in April 2002 by the Association, with financial support from the late Charles Puglisevich of Canada, for all those of the Gozitan Diaspora.



Celebrations continued in the evening, again like the year before with a dinner at the Country Terrace in Mgarr, Gozo.





**Maltese Canadian Gozo**  
 Canada Day Celebrations in Gozo  
 Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023

At 9:00 in the morning we will raise the Canadian, European and Maltese flags and lay flowers At the Emigrants' Memorial, Mgarr, Gozo

**Evening Celebration At The "Country Terrace"**  
**7:00pm**

Fantastic company and dining in a breath taking view  
 Come and bring your friends to celebrate  
 Canada's 156<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**Dress Code: Smart Casual**  
**Adults: €30 Children under 12yrs: €15**  
**For tickets and more information please call or SMS**  
**Connie Grima: 7956 4269; Gina Hill: 7995 6376**  
**Alfred Camilleri: 9924 6043 or Email: [info@mcagozo.com](mailto:info@mcagozo.com)**

**Menu**

*Antipasto (Plated)*

Napoli, Vetriciana, Red Lester, Rocket salad, Grilled aubergine, pickled onions, Fresh Cheese, Basil, Cherry Vine Tomato, Grilled aubergine & grilled zucchini  
 Pasta ( by order)

Penne Al Napolitana Finished in tomato Concasse & a Basil emulsion  
 Tortellini al Ricotta & Spinach  
 Flamed with cognac, sauvignon blanc, mushrooms and ham finished in a creamy parmesan cheese  
 Fusilli Al salmone  
 Flamed with Richard, sauvignon blanc, a house smoked salmon sauce  
 Main course (By order)

**Chicken**  
 Pan roasted, garlic & herb, barbeque glaze  
 Fresh salmon (Norwegian)  
 Pan roasted, prawn bisque, herb & garlic, finished with creamy lemon sauce  
 Pork Tomahawk  
 Grilled pork served with aniseed & orange sauce  
 Beef "Tagliata" (Please note not more than medium cooked)  
 Grilled UMI AAA Black Angus flank steak served with shavings of Parmigiano & rucola

*Dessert*

Choc Cake with Canadian Flag  
 Half a bottle of wine and water per person Or a pint of beer





**TORONTO'S  
MALTESE-CANADIAN MUSEUM  
GAINS TWO MORE VOLUNTEERS**

**Richard S. Cumbo, Curator**

We welcome Mary Agius and Mary Zarb as the latest volunteers at the Museum.

The photo below was taken recently by Rita Aplit during a coffee break. Absent on this occasion were Marthese Fenech, Mike Gouveia, and Nigel Klemen Puglisevich.



**Seated: Carmen Galea, Debbie Lightfoot, Rose Cassar, Mary Zarb, and Mani Mifsud  
Standing: Mary Agius and Richard Cumbo**



**GOZITANS PAY TRIBUTE  
TO THE UNITED STATES  
ON INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**Dr Raymond C. Xerri\***



A gigantic US flag is flowing on a very tall (60 ft) pole at In-Nadur each year on the 4th of July. This symbolic gesture seen from most of the Maltese Islands serves as a tribute to the United States for providing thousands of Gozitans for over 250 years of migration to the USA and providing an opportunity for a better future, better job and pay, a better life. Gozitan return migrations with their accumulated wealth elevated substantially the standard of living in Gozo and its people.

Photos posted on Facebook by Emanuel Tabone and Dr. Raymond Xerri



**Observing Independence Day  
at home in Qala, Gozo**

\* Dr. Xerri, born of Gozitan parents in New York City, is the former Consul General of the Republic of Malta in Toronto.

## ĠBEJNA

**Mary Rose Aquilina**

*Ġbejna* is derived from the Maltese word *gobna*, which means "cheese". The *Ġbejna tan-nagħaġ* is a type of Maltese cheeselet made in Malta and Gozo. It is a small round cheese made typically from sheep or goat's milk, salt, and rennet. Most sheep's milk produced in Malta is used for the production of these small cheeses.

Milk in Malta was traditionally sold by milking goats on the streets and sold immediately as is. The unpasteurized milk sold was one of the causes of the spread of brucellosis (*deni rqiġ*; "Maltese fever") in the late 19th to the early 20th century. Themistocles Zammit is credited with stopping the pandemic.

Prior to Malta's accession to the European Union, the EU accepted Malta's request to protect the *gbejna* along with the traditional variant of *ricotta*.

### Preparation and varieties

Traditionally, *gbejna* is shaped in a cheese hurdle made of dried reeds, although now plastic ones are also used. They are generally dried in small ventilated rooms, with windows protected by a special mesh mosquito net. Nowadays for home preparation, one can find netted covers for picnic tables that work just as well.

It is said that originally sea water, rather than rennet, was used as a curdling agent. The *gbejna* is available both from pasteurized and unpasteurized milk.

*Gbejniet* are prepared and served in a variety of forms: fresh (*friski* or *tal-ilma*), sundried (*moxxa*, *bajda* or *t'Għawdex*), salt cured (*maħsula*), or peppered (*tal-bżar*).

The fresh variety has a smooth texture and a milky flavour and is kept in its own whey in a similar manner to mozzarella. The sundried variety has a more definite, nutty taste, and is fairly hard. These can be used grated instead of parmesan cheese on any dish. The peppered variety is covered in crushed black pepper and cured, after which it may be stored in oil or pickled in vinegar. Its sharp taste becomes stronger the more it ages, and it also develops a crumbly texture.

*Ġbejna* is also found in many other Maltese dishes such as *soppa tal-armla*. It is often added to pasta dishes or soup to enhance flavour, as a pizza topping or as filling for *ħobż biż-żejt*.

*Ġbejniet* are sold in fresh, dried, or cured forms and may be seasoned with pepper or other herbs. It is served deep-fried as an appetizer, cured on a mezza platter or even fresh as a filling for pasta.



### WHAT YOU WILL NEED

A non-reactive pot (stainless steel is the best)  
 Thermometer  
*Ġbejniet* Molds (*Qwieleb*)  
 Whisk  
 Dripping Tray  
 Insect Screen Cover

### INGREDIENTS

1 US gallon (3.78 litres) - 2% Milk  
 1 cup skim milk powder (optional)  
 2 junket rennet pills  
 4 tbsp cold water (to dissolve the rennet)  
 salt (sea salt is preferable) and black pepper

### METHOD

1. First thing we need to do is to warm the milk. Heat it to 98-100° F. Take the pot off the stove or the milk will continue to warm up.
2. We then need to add the rennet mixed with the water to the milk. The liquid form can be found online but must be kept refrigerated after using.
3. In a small bowl, crush 2 rennet tablets and dissolve completely in 4 tbsp of water
4. Pour the rennet solution or liquid into the milk, and whisk gently to dissolve the rennet completely.

5. Cover the pot and let stand for 30 minutes for the milk to start to coagulate

6. Using a knife, make vertical lines into the curd, making sure not to disturb the curd too much. Cover with lid, wrap the pot in a blanket (this is a very important step) and let the milk coagulate further

7. Pour out as much of the whey as you can. Scoop the curd mixture into the cheese baskets and place on a dripping tray.

8. Grab a handful of sea salt and sprinkle it on top. (If you're concerned about the amount of salt, remember that most of it will drain out with the whey and that salt is needed to preserve the cheeselets.) Cover with an insect screen for another 2.5 hours.

9. After 6-8 hours, flip the cheeselets on the other side (to obtain the mold imprint on both sides). Sprinkle with sea salt again and let drip for 6 hours. Do not forget to cover with an insect screen.

10. This results in fresh *ġbejniet*. They can be stored in a saline solution (1 litre of water with 15 gm of salt), placed in an air tight container, and refrigerated.

### All about Rennet

Rennet is the coagulant that is used to set a curd when making cheese. Traditionally rennet is made from an enzyme found in the stomachs of baby calves, goats, or lambs. Vegetable rennets are obtained from a type of mold, and there are also plant-based rennets such as thistle rennet. Rennet comes in tablet, liquid, and powder form.

To use your rennet, you first must dilute the desired amount in non-chlorinated water. (We use distilled water but if you have a good filter on your water source, that will generally take all the chlorine out of the water.) If using rennet tablets, just be aware that 1 tablet = 1 teaspoon and when you dilute it in the water it won't actually dissolve. Use your diluted rennet within 30 minutes or it will lose its effectiveness.

Rennet has a limited shelf life. Liquid rennet lasts for 7-8 months when refrigerated and tablets last for up to 2 years when stored in the freezer. If you are unsure how old your rennet is or whether or not it is still effective, you can do the following test:

- Heat 1 cup of milk to 90° F.
- Dilute ¼ tablet or ¼ tsp liquid rennet in ½ cup non-chlorinated water.

Take 2 tsp of the diluted rennet and add it to the milk.

- Stir gently for 30 seconds.
- If the rennet is working, the milk surface will form a slight film in 2 minutes and will have formed a firm curd within 6 minutes.

If not, it might be time to get some new rennet.



### THIS YEAR'S PICNIC HELD AT SPRINGBANK PARK

**Dan Brock**

It was a perfect day for this year's annual picnic for London and area's Maltese community and friends which was held in London's Springbank Park on Friday, July 7th. More than 40 were in attendance during the day.

The picnic was originally planned for Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, but the threat of heavy rain caused the date to be changed.



**Tony Galea brought the Canadian and Maltese flags which once belonged to the former Maltese Canadian Club of London**

Most had arrived by noon in time for lunch. Afterwards, many of the women played bingo with Mannie Micallef as the caller.





Meanwhile, most of the men played *b bocci bocci* *oççi* or watched.



Later, Linda Clifford introduced a few of those present to the card game known as Spite and Malice. The participants seem to enjoy this new card game.



One of the things which impressed me about this day's outing was the degree of helpfulness by many present for those with mobility or health issues.

Several deserve to be thanked for making the day the great success it was. Foremost among these is Melrose Paquet who arranged the location, date and time for the picnic, the rental of the pavilion and then, at the last minute had to quickly, albeit successfully, change the date owing to adverse weather conditions.

Among those present during the day were several who were making a first-time appearance at our picnic. Among these were Marisa Zammit and Miriam Allistone.



**Melrose Paquet and her daughter, Jennifer**



**Miriam Allistone, Tessie Spiteri,  
and Melrose Paquet**

Photos courtesy of  
Dan Brock and Miriam Allistone

### BINGO AND PASTA DINNER

Rita Borg

Another successful bingo and pasta dinner was held at the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco, on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>. Everybody had so much fun, lots of winners, good food, and good company. Thank you to all the volunteers for making this possible.





## MALTESE ORGANIZATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

### **Festa San Gejtanu Association**

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

### **Festa San Gorg Association of Toronto**

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

### **Gozo Club Toronto**

c/o 1205 Royal York Road, Toronto, ON M9A 4B5  
416-231-9710  
[gozoclub@gmail.com](mailto:gozoclub@gmail.com)

### **Inanna on Stage**

[www.joannedancer.com](http://www.joannedancer.com)  
c/o 356 Pacific Avenue, Toronto, ON M6P 2R1  
416-707-2355  
[desertdancer007@yahoo.ca](mailto:desertdancer007@yahoo.ca)

### **Knights of Columbus - Canada – Council # 12782**

c/o St Patrick's Church, 921 Flagship Drive,  
Mississauga, ON, L4Y 2J6  
905-270-2301 (Church)  
[stpatricksmi@archtoronto.org](mailto: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](http://www.saint-paul-Maltese.com)  
[stpaulmssp@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:lehenmalti@hotmail.com)

### **Malta Band Club**

5745 Coopers Ave., Mississauga, ON L4Z 1K9  
905-890-8507  
[www.maltabandclub.com](http://www.maltabandclub.com)  
[maltabandclub@bellnet.ca](mailto:maltabandclub@bellnet.ca)

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

2520 Seminole St., Windsor, ON N8Y1X4  
519-974-6719  
[maltaunitedsociety.windsor@gmail.com](mailto:maltaunitedsociety.windsor@gmail.com)  
Opening hours: Saturday 6:30 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

### **Malta Village Association (Est. 1995)**

c/o 3256 Dundas Street West, Toronto M6P 2A3  
Tel: 416-769-2174  
Fax: 416-769-2174  
[maltabakeshopltd@gmail.com](mailto:maltabakeshopltd@gmail.com)  
att: Antonia Buttigieg

### **Maltese American Benevolent Society**

1832 Michigan Ave. Detroit, MI 48216  
313-961-8393  
<http://detroitmaltese.com>  
Opening hours:  
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](mailto:info@malteseamericanclub.org)  
Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday & Saturday  
10:00 am. – 1:00 p.m.  
Dinners served: Friday evenings 6:00 p.m. – 10:00  
p.m.  
Before and after 7:00 p.m. first  
Friday Mass

### **Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco**

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

### **Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton (MCACH)**

c/o 381 Fairview Drive, Brantford ON N3R 2X7  
[mcach1964@gmail.com](mailto:mcach1964@gmail.com)

**Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo)**

c/o Trillium, Sqaq Nru 1, Triq it-Tigrija, ix-Xaghra  
Tel: 011 356 21560656

[mcagozo@hotmail.com](mailto:mcagozo@hotmail.com)

**Maltese Canadian Business Network Association (MCBNA), (Toronto)**

c/o 2387 Chilsworthy Avenue, Mississauga, ON  
L5B 2R4  
416-980-1975

[mcbna2018@gmail.com](mailto:mcbna2018@gmail.com)

**Maltese-Canadian Cruisers**

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

**Maltese-Canadian Cultural Association (Est. 2018)**

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

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

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

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

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

**Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre**

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

**Maltese Canucks**

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

[carl@isgtransport.com/b\\_azzo18@yahoo.com](mailto:carl@isgtransport.com/b_azzo18@yahoo.com)

**Maltese Center, NYC**

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

[info@themaltesecenter.com](mailto: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](mailto:mmpastizzi@gmail.com)

**Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area**

[maltesheritageassociation@gmail.com](mailto:maltesheritageassociation@gmail.com)

**Maltese Heritage Program (Toronto)**

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

[qormija@sympatico.ca](mailto:qormija@sympatico.ca)

**Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)**

[c/o leprofess@aol.com](mailto:c/o leprofess@aol.com)

**Melita Soccer Club Inc.**

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

[msc@melitasoccerclub.com](mailto:msc@melitasoccerclub.com)

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

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

[www.saint-paul-maltese.com](http://www.saint-paul-maltese.com)

[stpaulmssp@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/john.vella.1044186)

[giovanvel@sympatico.ca](mailto: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](mailto:jason.borg@hotmail.ca/sborg@rogers.com)

**St. Paul's Maltese Choir**

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

[www.saint-paul-maltese.com](http://www.saint-paul-maltese.com)

[stpaulmssp@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulmssp@gmail.com)

President: Lino Debono

## DETROIT'S MALTESE SOCCER CLUB – 1956

Prior to Its League Match at Patton Park between Dix Avenue and Woodmere Street

Mark Trzeciak



**Back Row: Charlie "Namu" Xuereb (coach), George \_\_\_\_\_,  
Carl Barrett?, Charlie Muscat, \_\_\_\_\_, Louis \_\_\_\_\_,  
Charles Boweman, John Gatt, Frank Mifsud (manager), Carmel Sapiano**  
**Front Row: Larry Tabone, Pius Xuereb?, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ Micallef, Tony Spiteri, \_\_\_\_\_**