



# **THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA**



## **E-NEWSLETTER**

Issue 51

AUGUST 2023



**BISHOP GIOVANNI CEFAL, MSSP, OF THE  
PRELATURE OF SANTIAGO APÓSTOL DE  
HUANCANÉ, PERU WITH MS. DENISE DEMICOLI,  
CONSUL GENERAL OF MALTA IN TORONTO**

**The Maltese Presence  
in North America  
Issue No. 51 August 2023**

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Dr. Charles J. Vella

**Michigan**

Various members of the Maltese  
American Community Club of  
Dearborn

**MALTA**

Stephanie Schembri

**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

With functions held by the various organizations, I try to select photos which will give the reader some idea of all the activities which took place at the event and all the persons present. The annual appreciation picnic in San Mateo, California (pages 12-18), the tribute picnic in Milford, Michigan (pages 19-22), and both the welcoming of Bishop Cefai and Fr. David O'Connor of Peru (pages 23-26) and the car show (pages 30-32) at the Malta Band Club in Mississauga, Ontario are such examples.

In the July 2023 issue of this newsletter, it was noted that Robert Joseph Pace was the only Maltese to immigrate to Canada during the Second World War. It is now believed that George Thake, also a student, travelled to Canada on the same ship as Pace in September 1944. Of further interest was the discovery that George Thake was a son of Carmelo Thake, the official secretary to four of Malta's prime ministers and the elder brother of the comedian and actor Charles Thake. (See pages 5-8.)

Owing to the interest expressed in *Wirt Malta*, once published in Toronto and noted in the July 2023 issue of this newsletter, samples of the front cover of this magazine are posted on the back cover (page 36) of this issue.

If, over successive issues, you have noticed improvements in the layout of the newsletter, this is largely owing to the excellent suggestions of Maria Pia Gauci, one of the copy editors.

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."

Arrangements have now been made with Bernadette Bennie Blanco, the administrator of "Malta to Motown" on Facebook, to post this newsletter. Click onto <https://www.facebook.com/groups/405734643919052>.

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.

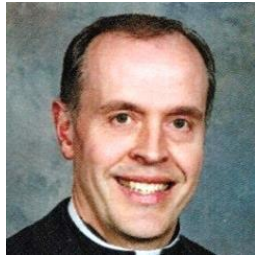
If you have ideas to share, wish to be put on the free, bcc electronic mailing lists, would like to learn the newsletter's advertising rates, I may be reached at [danbrock62@gmail.ca](mailto:danbrock62@gmail.ca). I envision those of Maltese birth or blood and their spouses in North America as one community, the Maltese community of North America. Therefore, the various Maltese organizations and associations on this continent are encouraged to use this e-newsletter to promote themselves and their activities. Thousands of persons read this newsletter each month and it reaches members of the Maltese clergy, government officials, and diplomats throughout the world.

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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 August 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

Each day, God presents us with many opportunities to offer our prayers to those who are in need. Every day appears to bring with it more praises to be grateful for and more struggles to overcome.

I got to thinking about the privileges of prayer. First, we are privileged to have a God who invites us at all times and in all situations to come with confidence in prayer. Psalm 17:8 says, "I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer." When we listen with heart and mind, we will hear God speak. God may speak through scripture, through another person through a 'still small voice' within, but God will indeed speak.

The Bible reminds us that God is truly eager to hear our petitions, and that He welcomes our prayers of thanksgiving.

We are extremely fortunate to have received a second blessing, which is the incredible opportunity to offer our prayers for others. I came across these words the other day in my prayer book. "Nothing draws us closer to other people than praying for them." Requesting God's intervention in one's life is an incredible privilege that is difficult to express in words. Answered prayers bring unmatched joy.

Have you ever had someone share their troubles with you and you offered to pray for them? When was the last time this happened to you? My hunch is that it comes fairly often. It's a privilege and responsibility.

We need to be persistent in our prayer. I try to keep a list of those for whom I am in prayer.

The list reminds me to pray specifically for them and track answered prayers.

As Catholics, we bring our prayers to Christ through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On Tuesday, August 22nd, the Church celebrates the memorial of the Queenship of Mary. It was proclaimed by Pope Pius XII in 1954. The church gave us this memorial because people have continuously addressed prayers of petitions and hymns of praise to Mary.

The Church turned to Mary, the Heavenly Queen, as a beacon of hope and safety in the destructive wake of World War II. Christians have long held that God gave a special grace to the Blessed Virgin Mary. And when Christians reflected upon the special connection between a mother and a son, they acknowledged the supreme dignity of the Mother of God

Let us humbly offer our petitions to Mary, the Queen of all creation, as we contemplate the privilege of prayer, relying on her intercession before her divine Son.



### READERS' COMMENTS

Many thanks for sharing. Interesting information.

Alf Mallia, Toronto, Ontario

I have not read all the contents but enjoyed what I have read so far. Good of you to do this.

Miriam Allistone, London, Ontario

I really enjoy receiving and reading your publications and I thank you for taking the time to compile such interesting articles. I learn a lot from you....

I sometimes take some of your articles and post them on our Motown site. It would be awesome if you posted your publications on our site when you release them.

Bernadette Bennie Blanco,  
Administrator, Malta to Motown

Your unfading enthusiasm to print a newsletter better than the one before, really shows in a new presentation you have just transmitted to me. I really loved seeing the photos of Maltese who have settled in Canada & America and even Australia. The smile on their faces and the sense of get together for a gathering or fenkata....really speaks volumes...

Once again thanks dear friend Dan. I love to receive your publication.

George Stagno Navarra, Malta



## OUR MONTHLY LUNCHEON

**Dan Brock**

The informal group of members of the Maltese community of London and their friends gathered together for lunch, on the afternoon of Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Mandarin Restaurant on Wellington Road South.

More than 30 were in attendance, including first-timers Connie Zammit and her daughter Marisa Zammit.



**Marisa Zammit and her mother, Connie Zammit**



**Connie Hislop, Janet Peckham, Loretta Brock, Mary Testa, and Janice & Charles Vella**



**Tony Galea, Judy Ayerst, Joyce Vella, and Ted & Barbara Gauci**



## GEORGE THAKE: ANOTHER MALTESE STUDENT IN CANADA DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR\*

Dan Brock

Last month, as I was working on the article relating to Robert Joseph Pace, believed to be the only Maltese to immigrate to Canada during World War II, Mark Caruana of NSW, Australia sent me an email stating that the Maltese passport applications for 1944 indicate that George Thake of Senglea, born on November 4, 1926 and the son of Carmelo Thake, was intending to go to Canada.

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

No. 28878

Date 25 AUG 1944

\* Surname of applicant to be written in Block Capitals and UNDERLINED.

(B.)

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS REQUIRING A SEPARATE PASSPORT. (b)

(a) Birkirkara, Malta - 24 August 1944.

I, the Undersigned, (b) Carmelo THAKE, Assistant Secretary to Govt. residing at 284, Fleur-de-lis Road, Birkirkara, Malta hereby declare that (c) George THAKE aged 17 1/2 years residing at 284, Fleur-de-lis Road, Birkirkara, Malta, of whom I am the (d) Father is a (e) British Subject by birth having been born at Senglea, Malta on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1926.

(For CHILDREN 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).)

his (her) Father paternal grandfather having been born within His Majesty's Dominions on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1926.

and not having lost the status thus acquired, I hereby request that a Passport may be issued to him for the purpose of travelling to Canada via U.K.

(f) I declare that he has not previously held or applied for a separate passport.

(g) I attach for cancellation the last Passport issued to him/her at \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed (b) Carmelo Thake Esq.

AND I, the Undersigned, (i) Joseph Alfred Archer of (address) 56/3 Rue St. Sana, Senglea, Malta hereby declare that to the best of my personal knowledge and belief the above-made Declaration of the said Carmelo Thake Esq. is true.

Signed Joseph Alfred Archer

Note - Two small unmounted duplicate photographs of the child must be produced, one of which must be certified on the back by the recommender. (See para. 6 of Regulations overleaf).

of Parent or guardian of child, age \_\_\_\_\_, sex \_\_\_\_\_, subject by Naturalisation \_\_\_\_\_, that are not must be notified, non-verifying of Regulations \_\_\_\_\_.

Recommendations from Recommending Officers should bear the printed stamp of the Office.

Signature of child. George Thake

CAUTION.

\* The attention of persons who are asked to sign this declaration is specially called to the fact that it can only be signed from personal knowledge of the applicant, and not from information obtained from other persons.

Date of presentation \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF CHILD.

Occupation (if any) Student

Age 17 years 9 months

(Domestic or ordinary place of residence) Birkirkara, Malta

Height 5 feet 6 inches

Colour of eyes Brown

Colour of hair Brown

Visible distinguishing marks or peculiarities \_\_\_\_\_

Received of the Passport Office 28878

Passport No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Recipient George Thake

25 AUG 1944

Courtesy of National Archives of Malta, Rabat, Malta

Thake is certainly an uncommon Maltese surname. According to Mario Cassar, in *The Was George Thake a direct descendant of William Surnames of the Maltese Islands*, it's of English and Carmela (Fenech) Thake? As every good origin and "is surely a 19<sup>th</sup> century import." He notes genealogist knows, one goes from what is at hand that in 1867, William Thake, from Walthamstow, and then proceeds to work backwards. London, England, married Carmela Fenech.

Further passport application data from Mark Caruana, substantiated by Stephanie Schembri, noted that Carmelo Thake of Senglea, accompanied by his wife, the former Vittoria Bonnici, and son George, born on November 11, 1926, were intending to travel to Sicily in late September 1929, to consult a doctor.



**Passport photos of Carmelo & Vittoria (Bonnici) Thake, 1929**

Courtesy of National Archives of Malta, Rabat, Malta

Carmelo (b. Sept. 17, 1896, Senglea), who was a clerk in the Civil Service, stated that he was the son of the late George Thake. This then would be young George Thake's paternal grandfather.

Further research revealed that the elder George Thake was born in 1868 and had married Felicita Mercieca. In addition to Carmelo, they had three other known children: Lawrence (b. April 30, 1908), William (b. Nov. 1, 1911), and Mary (b. Jan. 19, 1913).

The parents of George Thake, the elder, were none other than the William Thake and Carmela Fenech noted by Mario Cassar.

William Robert Thake (b. Oct. 16, 1842, Hackrey, Middlesex Co., England) was the son of William and Harriet Thake, according to Sam Thake who has traced his Thake ancestry back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century in England.

Carmela Fenech was a daughter of Giovanni Fenech and his second wife, Maria Fenech, of Valletta. Charles Said-Vassallo of NSW, Australia, has the Fenech line, like many other Maltese surnames, traced directly back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century in what is now Tunisia.

William R. Thake, an armourer in Her Majesty's Royal Navy, settled in Malta about 1865, having served on the HMS *Royal Oak*, a Prince Consort-class armoured frigate, during her tour of the Mediterranean.



***Royal Oak* with her funnel lowered and windsails rigged for ventilation, pre-1866**

He and Carmela were married in Valletta, on February 11, 1867, in a ceremony presided over by both the Anglican and Roman Catholic clergy. The couple lived at 79, Strada Vittoria, Senglea, and, in addition to George, had a daughter, Harriett.

As for William and Carmela Thake's grandson, the already noted Carmelo Thake, he married Vittoria Bonnici (b. December 16, 1887), who was also a native of Senglea. In addition to the aforementioned-George, they also had a son, Charles. More on him in a bit.

We left the younger George Thake applying for a passport in 1944 to travel to Canada. The travel and immigration records of Canada for this period not being open on line to the public, I could find no *actual* evidence of George being in that country.

Corroboration, however, that he *may* have come to Canada for awhile is gleaned from the fact that, early in September 1944, he boarded the Nederland Line ship *Christiann Huygens* in Naples and disembarked in Liverpool on September 9<sup>th</sup>. He was listed as a student in transit to Canada. Lo and behold, another student and fellow passenger in transit to Canada was none other than Robert Joseph Pace, profiled in the July 2023 issue of this newsletter! Moreover, both young men had left Malta for Naples on board the *Ville D'Oran* on the first leg of their journey. Thus, it is my opinion that George Thake, like Robert Pace, *did* spend some time in Canada as a student.





**George Thake's passport photo, 1944**

*Again, note the rust from the iron pin used to affix the photo to the passport application.*

Courtesy of National Archives of Malta, Rabat, Malta

The next we learn of George, he is a research clerk. In late October 1949, George and a statistician, Lawrence Pace, six years his senior, boarded the British India Steam Navigation Company ship *Oilwara* in the Grand Harbour and arrived at Southampton on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Their destination was the British Tabulating Machine Co. (BTM) in Letchworth, Herfordshire. This was the same company which was called upon to design and manufacture a machine to assist in breaking the German Enigma machine ciphers during the War!

I suspect Thake and Pace were headed for BTM for further training in their field, as the former was a civil servant when he departed from Malta in late 1950, on board the Zim Israel Navigation Line ship *Artsa* and arrived at Plymouth, UK, on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

His sister-in-law, the former Lina "Ninna" Agius-Gilbert (1931-2017) recalled that George was a student in England when he returned to Malta in the summer of 1953 to attend the wedding of his brother Charles (December 21 1927, Senglea-May 12, 2018, Malta).

Many will remember this well-known Maltese comedian and actor, Charles Thake.

His and George's father, Carmelo Thake, had risen to the top in Malta's Civil Service by this time. Carmelo had been appointed Official Secretary to the Prime Minister of Malta while Paul Boffa was in office and continued to hold this office during the prime ministerships of Enrico Mizzi, Giorgio Borg Olivier, and Dom Mintoff.



**Carmelo Thake's passport photo, 1949**  
**The passport application notes that he was an officer of the Order of the British Empire, as well as Official Secretary to the Prime Minister of Malta**

Courtesy of National Archives of Malta, Rabat, Malta

Thus, it should come as no surprise that when Carmelo's son, Charles, was married to Lina Agius-Gilbert at St. Ignatius Church, on August 2, 1953, in St. Julian's, the former prime minister and current minister of health and social services, Dr. Paul Boffa, was Charles' witness, while the then prime minister, Dr. George Borg Olivier, was Lena's witness.



**Lina and Charles Thake leaving St. Ignatius Church**

**Dr. Giorgio Borg Olivier is on our far front left and Dr. Paul Boffa on the far front right  
It is believed that George Thake is the person in the back row, between the groom and  
the bridesmaid and the bald person partially hidden by the bridesmaid is Carmel Thake**

Posted by Charles Thake on his Facebook page on August 2, 2014, the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of his and Lina's wedding.

George Thake appears to have taken up permanent residence in England after his brother's marriage.

In the first quarter of 1954, in Kensington, London, England, he married Hanna M. Munk.

Their first child, Mark Victor Carmel Michael, was born in Liverpool on January 19, 1957. The Thakes were to have two more children, a daughter and a son.

By the early 1960s, the family was living at 51 Mortlake Avenue, in Worcester, England.

It was in Worcester that George Thake died in the last quarter of 1977.

*\* My heartfelt thanks to Mark Caruana of NSW, Australia for alerting me to George Thake's 1944 passport application, to Charles Said-Vassallo, also of NSW, Australia, for providing key genealogical data on the Thake family; and again, to Stephanie Schembri of Customer Services at the National Archives of Malta for furnishing me with highly relevant documents relating to George Thake and other family members.*



## ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

### MICHIGAN

#### Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc

The annual **Festa tal-Vitorja** will be held on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, with the celebration of Mass at Most Holy Trinity Church at 11:00 a.m. and activities back at the Club, beginning at 1:30 p.m.



#### 14th ANNUAL FESTA IL-VITORJA SUNDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2023

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.  
1832 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48216  
Celebrating 83 Years in Corktown

For more information: Email  
maltese\_american\_benevolent\_soc@yahoo.com; Find us on  
Facebook; Check-out our website www.DetroitMaltese.com

Come Celebrate Our 14th Gathering for the  
Maltese Festa Il-Vitorja – Our Lady of Victory  
Celebrating the Birth of Our Lady, the Mother of God  
and the Victory of World War II –  
The Great Siege of 1565

Festivities will begin with a Mass Celebration at  
Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
1090 Porter Street, Detroit, Michigan 48226  
at 11:00 a.m.

Our Statue of Mary will be Processed around the Church  
and Receive its Annual Blessing

11 a.m. Mass at Most Holy Trinity Church  
Club will be Open Directly after Mass  
1:30 p.m. Food Available at Club



#### TRADITIONAL MALTESE FOOD FOR SALE

\$20 – Rabbit Stew  
\$14 – Baked Macaroni  
\$10 – Hamburger & Potato Chips  
\$3 – Hot Dog & Potato Chips

STOP BY THE CLUB BEFORE THE EVENT  
TO PURCHASE YOUR FOOD TICKETS  
& GUARANTEE YOUR MALTESE FOOD SELECTION  
LIMITED EXTRA MALTESE FOOD WILL BE MADE

SMART TV RAFFLE  
Tickets – \$5 Each or 5 for \$20

TELL ALL YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS!  
COME AND JOIN IN A DAY OF FUN WITH THE ENTIRE  
FAMILY!!!

FREE Kids Craft Table Activities  
BINGO – BINGO – BINGO

- Opportunities Available for  
Sponsorship & Advertising –  
Contact the Club for More Information

### FUNDRAISER

Vendor Tables are Available for Sponsorship  
by Members & Guests \*  
Limited 10X10 Spots  
Available Outside  
\$30 for Members  
\$40 for Non-Members

CALL OR EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION

### Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

The annual **MACC Bob Farr Tribute Picnic** was held on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. (See pages 19-21.)

**Salvino “Sam” Flask**, a longtime member and former president of the Club, passed away on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### NEW YORK CITY

#### Maltese Center: Astoria

**Il-Festa ta’ Santa Marija BBQ** was held in the garden at the Center on the evening of Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Il-Madonna tal-Vitorja** and **Victory Day** will be celebrated at the Centre with a **BBQ Party** on the evening of Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### ONTARIO

#### Greater Toronto Area *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.

The interview of **Bishop Giovanni Cefai, MSSP**, of the Prelature of Santiago Apóstol de Huanané, Peru, on Friday, a native of Żebbuġ, Gozo, by Joe Scerri, was first televised on the morning of Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.



### Malta Band Club

The **2023 Festa San Gaetano Celebration** was held at the Club on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Club hosted a **visit** by **Bishop Giovanni Cefai, MSSP**, on Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Cefai, was accompanied by **Fr. David O'Connor**, formerly of Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland. For the past few years, members of the Club have supported **St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mission Group's ongoing assistance** to Bishop Cefai and his community. (See pages 23-26)

The Club's **semi-annual general meeting** was held on the afternoon of Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

A **bus trip** to **Casino Niagara** in Niagara Falls, Ontario, took place on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Festa Santa Marija/Il-Vitorja** will be celebrated at the Club on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.



*The Malta Band Club Incorporated*  
proudly presents  
**Festa Santa Marija**  
  
*Il-Vitorja*  
**Saturday September 9, 2023**  
**at the Malta Band Club**  
(5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga)  
Doors open at 6:00PM, Dinner will be served at 7:00PM  
The Malta Band will perform festive marches for this event and a DJ will provide music for dancing.  
Menu for this evening will consist of penne pasta, veal parmigiana, potatoes, vegetables, pastries, tea & coffee.  
Members price: \$40.00 per person  
Non-members price: \$50.00 per  
Please book by no later than September 6!

The **Maestro Paul Gauci Concert** will take place on Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Melita Soccer Club, Inc.

A **bus trip** to the **Casino Niagara** in Niagara Falls, Ontario, took place on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

Another is planned for **Casino Rama** in Orillia on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a **Malta Day Dinner Party** at the Club on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.



**Save the Date**  
**2023 Maestro Paul Gauci Concert**  
**Saturday October 7**

### Maltese Canadian Cruisers

The Maltese Canadian Cruisers held their **August Show & Shine**, in tribute to Elio Caringi, at the **Malta Band Club**, between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. (See pages 30-32.)

### Maltese Canadian Federation

The Federation, in association with the Maltese Canadian Business Network Association, will hold the rescheduled **MaltaFest** at **Runnymede Park** in Toronto between 2:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

### St. Paul the Apostle Parish

By the weekend of July 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, the goal of \$10,000 for **ShareLife**, an **annual campaign** of the Archdiocese of Toronto, had been surpassed by \$2,380!

A **day trip** to the **Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre** and **Niagara Falls**, Ontario took place on Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Among those on this trip were **Bishop Giovanni Cefai, MSSP** who celebrated Mass at the centre, and **Fr. David O'Connor**. A luncheon followed the Mass.

The **Annual Parish Anniversary Dinner-Dance** will be held on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.



**London**

The Maltese community and friends held their **monthly luncheon** at the **Mandarin Restaurant** on Wellington Street in London on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. (See page 4.)

**Anthony “Tony” “Noni” Pavia**, a native of Zabbar, Malta and longtime member of the former Maltese Canadian Club of London, died at the age of 90 on Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>.



The **September luncheon** will be held at 12:30, on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at the **Swiss Chalet** on Wonderland Road South in London.

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

A **Paint Night** will be held at the Club on the evening of Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. For \$35 per person, one will be guided in creating his/her own masterpiece. Canvas, brushes, paint, easels, etc. will be provided. Maltese food and drinks will be available for purchase. At the end of the evening, everyone gets to take home their creations.

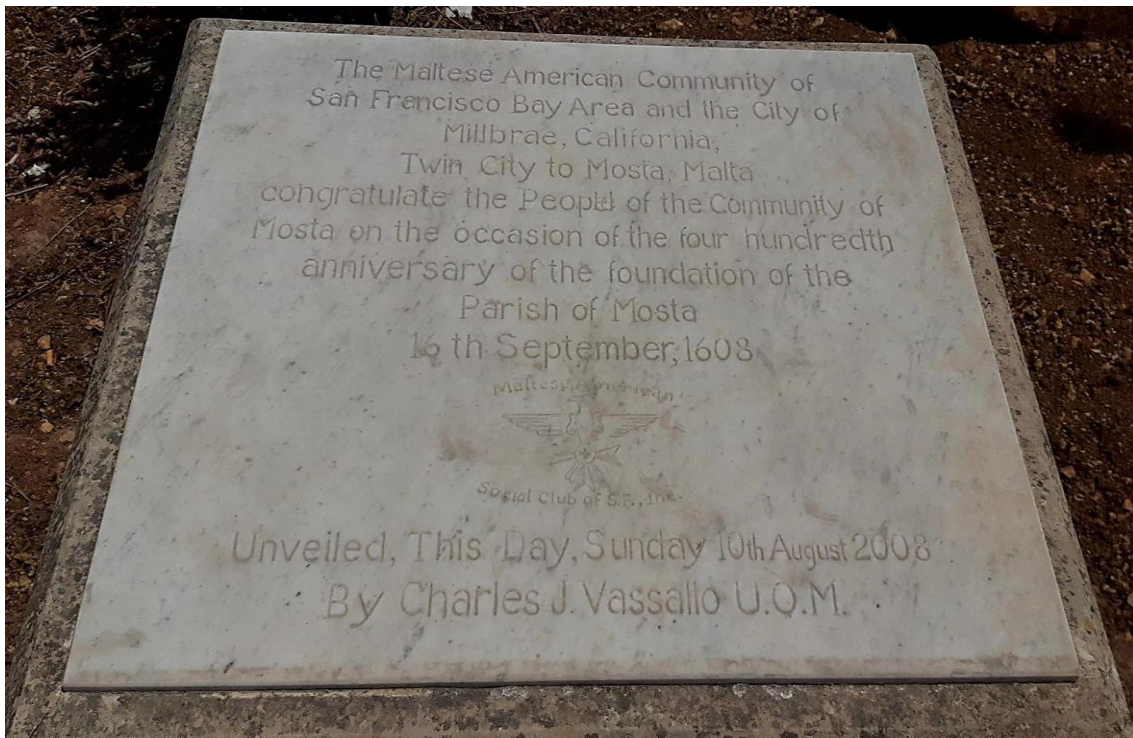
**SAN FRANCISCO****Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco**

The **Members' Annual Appreciation Picnic** took place at **San Mateo Central Park** on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>. (See pages 2-19.)

The **Santa Maria Dinner** was held at the Club on Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. (See pages 27-28.)

A **Casino Bus Trip** is planned for Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

A **Malta Day Gala** will take place on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.



**The memorial slab at the Mosta church set up by the Millbrae sister city in 2008**

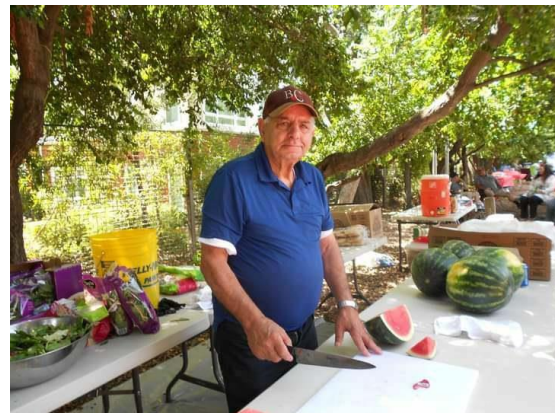
Courtesy of Rita Borg



**MALTESE-AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB  
MEMBERS' APPRECIATION  
& ANNUAL PICNIC**

**Rita Borg**

This picnic was held at San Mateo Central Park, San Mateo, California, on Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>.



















**The oldest member of the Club,  
Mary Azzopardi, age 99, with her granddaughter,  
Laurie Muscat Schribner**











Photos courtesy of  
Rita Borg and Laurie Muscat Schribner.



**BOB FARR TRIBUTE MALTESE PICNIC****Various Contributors**

This year the annual Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn Bob Farr Tribute Picnic took place on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. Like last year, it was held at Kinsington Metro Park in Milford, Michigan.

**Helping to set up**

Mass was celebrated, under the pavilion, at 11:30 a.m., again by Fr. Paul.







Rob Farr from Farr Florist, the son of the late benefactor, Bob Farr, supplied the hot dogs, burgers, buns, cheese, onions, and chili and sent out his best help, Al and Dave, to do the cooking



Tom Muscat on the left





Members were asked to bring a dish to share.



Oops, but the cake still tasted good



The adults found ways to socialize after the meal.



The kids had their own fun.



Even the sandhill cranes enjoyed the day.





**A VERY WARM WELCOME IS GIVEN  
TO BISHOP GIOVANNI CEFAL  
AND FATHER DAVID O'CONNOR**

**Malta Band Club**

On Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, the Malta Band Club had the pleasure of welcoming to the Club's premises, Bishop Giovanni Cefai and Father David O'Connor during their current visit to Toronto.

Both were given a very warm welcome by the approximately 160 people in attendance.



**With Milo & Rita Vassallo**







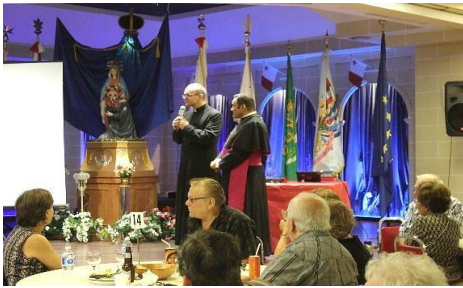
The MBC kitchen staff prepared a traditional Maltese “Fenkata” which was enjoyed by all.







Following the dinner, Bishop Giovanni and Father David spoke to a very attentive crowd about their mission in Peru and the hardships of the Peruvian people. They also talked about the various ways that the communities in North America can assist in their mission.



Special thanks to the executive committee, kitchen staff, bar staff and all the volunteers, members, and friends of the Malta Band Club that made this event such a great success.



Following the presentation about the Peruvian mission, Bishop Giovanni presented tokens of appreciation to St. Paul the Apostle Mission Group and the Malta Band Club. Various presentations were also made to Bishop Giovanni to assist with the ongoing demands of his mission.



Donations to assist Bishop Giovanni Cefai and his mission in Peru can be made through the St. Paul the Apostle Mission Group Facebook page.



## CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF SANTA MARIJA

Rita Borg

The feast of Santa Marija was celebrated with a small procession, followed by Mass, at the Maltese American Social Club of San Francisco on Saturday, August 12th. A very good turnout. Viva Santa Marija!







Mass is celebrated by Fr. Joe Hormick, COSJ

## THE PASSING OF DR. JOE AQUILINA\*

**Dan Brock**

I learned of the death of Dr. Joseph Nicholas Aquilina, of East Lansing, Michigan, on the day of his passing, Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, on the Facebook page of his daughter, Judge Rosemarie Aquilina.

While I have never met him in person, we had long telephone conversations and exchanged emails, beginning in the latter part of 2018 when I was doing research for the article relating to his family. The article appeared in the January/February 2019 issue of this newsletter.

Joe Aquilina was born in Qrendi, Malta, on March 7, 1935, to Nicholas "Nick" and Mary Rose (Ellul) Aquilina.



**Mary Rose and Nick Aquilina in later years**

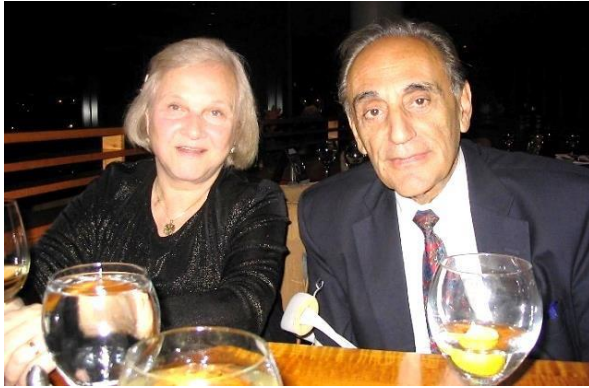
I learned of how Joe came out to the United States in November 1952 and joined his father in Detroit. Later, he enlisted in the American Army and served in France and Germany.

I also learned of how his life was saved on August 11, 1956, after missing his plane while oversleeping under a jeep, having been previously reading an article on Gina Lollobrigida in an Italian language magazine. One of the C-119s Joe was supposed to have been on, collided with another, shortly after takeoff, and all the passengers and crew members on the two planes were killed.

That same year, while returning to Germany from a month's leave in Malta and elsewhere, he was bumped by a captain on the flight from Paris to Frankfurt. Later, Joe learned that the plane had crashed and the captain who had taken his seat was killed.



Meanwhile, between these two “miraculous” events in Joe’s life, another of the many other reminiscences he shared with me occurred. This was his meeting of his future wife, Joanna, on the “Orient Express” from Paris to West Germany on the last day of August 1956, and how they were married exactly one year later.



**Joanna and Joe Aquilina in later years**

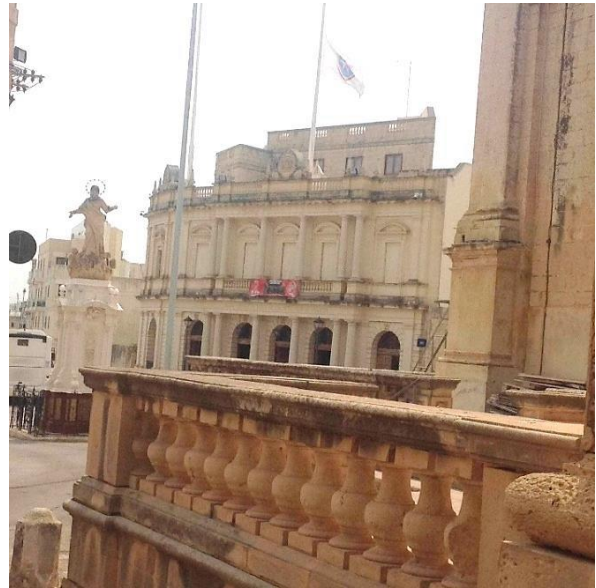
After attending medical school at the University of Munich, Joe completed his internship at St. Luke’s Hospital in Saginaw, Michigan, and urology residency training at the University of Iowa. He subsequently practised urology for more than 35 years in Saginaw, at St. Luke’s Hospital, St. Mary’s Hospital, and Saginaw General Hospital. He was able to perform surgery equally well with either hand and told me that the staff used to refer to him as the surgeon with the golden hands.

After his retirement in 2005, Joe started a small vineyard in Mendoza, Argentina. He also continued his study of history, religion, and languages. In addition to Maltese and English, Joe was fluent in German, Italian, and Spanish.

Prior to Parkinson’s disease limiting his mobility in recent years, Joe visited Malta and his native town of Qrendi on several occasions. Upon learning of Joe’s death, the town’s flag on the local council building was lowered to half-mast (see next column) and “half a dozen masses” were to be offered for the repose of his soul.

His Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, in East Lansing on Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Joe is survived by his widow, five children, 17 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and three siblings.



**Qrendi’s flag is lowered to half mast**



**Farewell Joe**

*\*I wish to publicly thank Judge Rosemarie Aquilina for providing the photos and further information about her father.*



**AUGUST SHOW & SHINE****Malta Band Club**

It was an excellent turnout for the car show on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Club with approximately 85 participants taking part. Special thanks to the Maltese Canadian Cruisers, Over 'N' Under Car Club, all the volunteers who made this event possible, and everyone that took the time to attend.













**MEMBERS OF THE  
MALTESE CANADIAN CLUB OF LONDON  
TRAVEL TO MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO FOR  
CARASSAUGA 2011\***

**DAN BROCK**

On Saturday, June 4, 2011, 40 of us travelled by bus from the Maltese Canadian Club on Charterhouse Crescent, and arrived at the Malta Pavilion, at the Malta Band Club, after 1:00 p.m.



**Yvonne Gatt, Frank Mifsud, Frank Gatt,  
John Spiteri & Loretta Brock in front rows  
en route to Carassauga**

After viewing some of the cultural exhibits, we watched and listened to the 30-piece Malta Concert Band perform. This was followed by the beautiful singing of Karen Polidano.



**Karen Polidano, flanked by Frank Mifsud,  
Dan Brock, and Mannie Micallef**

By this time, most of us had had a chance to purchase Maltese food for lunch. We then watched the Melita Dancers perform in folk dress. Some from our group later joined them in line dancing.



**Lynda Galea, Censa Vella & Mary Caruana  
join the Melita Dancers in line dancing**

After one of the members of the dance group related some Maltese folk stories, most of us took advantage of the free shuttle service to visit some of the other pavilions. Few, if any, of us got beyond the Hershey Centre housing the Africa, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, India, Philippines, and Turkey pavilions.

By the time most of us returned to the Malta Pavilion for dinner there was no *qarnita* left, but there was still plenty of *fenek* and other Maltese dishes and continuous entertainment. Sandwiched between the Melita Dancers were 90 minutes of music and song provided by "One 2 Four," the guitarist/singer France Grech, and Victoria Fragomeni.



**Margaret & Frank Calleja,  
Tessie & Joe Mallia and Carmen Harmsworth  
absorbed in the stage performance**

Photos courtesy of Tony Galea.

After being seen off by Tony Vella, Joe Attard and Virginia Church of the Malta Band Club, we boarded the bus and were back at our club before 10 p.m.

*\*This is based on an article which appeared in the July/August 2011 issue of The Maltese Canadian Club of London Newsletter.*



## 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-Xagħra  
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  
[joesherri@rogers.com](mailto:joesherri@rogers.com)

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

c/o 2387 Chilsworth Avenue, Mississauga, ON  
L5B 2R4  
416-571-3944  
[joesherri@rogers.com](mailto:joesherri@rogers.com)

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

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

**Maltese Canucks**

c/o 3336 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON,  
M6P 2A4  
416-909-7357/414-670-2662  
[carl@isgtransport.com/b\\_azzo18@yahoo.com](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](mailto:PO Box 698, San Carlos, CA 94070)

**Maltese Culture Club of Durham**

c/o 124 Ribblesdale Drive, Whitby, ON L1N 7C8  
289-939-8377  
[mmmpastizzi@gmail.com](mailto:mmmpastizzi@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  
[gormija@sympatico.ca](mailto:gormija@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](https://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



## SAMPLES OF THE FRONT COVERS OF *WIRT MALTA*

