



# THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



## E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 52

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023



**MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE MALTESE AMERICAN  
BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, INC., DETROIT, MICHIGAN BEGIN  
THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF *FESTA TAL-VITORJA*,  
AT 11:00 A.M ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH  
WITH THE CELEBRATION OF MASS AT  
MOST HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**

**The Maltese Presence  
in North America  
Issue No. 52  
September/October 2023**

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**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

The last issue of this newsletter was sent out in late August and here it is the latter part of November before I am sending out the combined September and October issue! There are two significant reasons for this.

First, there is my involvement in many other endeavours, such as the presidency of The London and Middlesex Historical Society, the writing of scholarly articles for it, and the research and posting of historical data on three different websites on Facebook.

Secondly, there is the abundance of activities, particularly in October, of the many Maltese organizations within North America or related to the Maltese of this continent.

I wish to thank the individuals and associations who/which have been forwarding me information for the newsletter. In addition, I have shamelessly "borrowed" from the postings of Maltese organizations and individuals on Facebook. This is why some will be surprised to see their names listed as contributors to this issue!

The result has been that this issue is crammed full of activities which have taken place in the past couple months and notices of further events up to and including New Year's Eve.

Owing to the fact that November is nearly over and my wife and I will be spending some time in Malta, prior to Christmas, the next issue will, of necessity, combine the months of November and December. Hopefully, after that, I can get back to issuing the newsletter monthly.

The November/December issue will contain write-ups on events which have already taken place in November and perhaps one or two which were missed earlier, such as the 15<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad.

Hopefully, in the new year, I can get back to preparing articles promised to certain individuals a year or so ago. On page four of this issue is a gentle reminder to me from Joanne (Zammit) Prince.

**THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS  
CANADA**

**British Columbia**

Joseph Camilleri

**Ontario**

Malta Band Club

Mary Ann Piscopo

Mary Rose Aquilina

Nigel Klemenčič-Puglisevich

Richard S. Cumbo

Fr. Roy Farrell

Consulate General of Malta to Canada

**USA**

**California**

Evelyn and Dennis Simmons

Rita Borg

**Michigan**

Bernadette Bennie Blanco

C.c. Said

Frank Smitka

Margaret Muscat Purdy

**New York**

Maltese Center, NYC

**Washington, DC**

Embassy of Malta to the United States of America

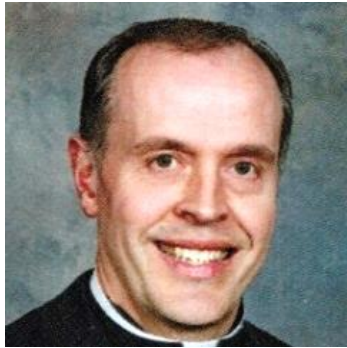
**MALTA**

Edwidge Borg

Karl Azzopardi

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

### From our Pastor's Desk...



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

### Parish Bulletin for September 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>

It is very important that we see the work we do, no matter what type it is, in relation to God's plan for His unfinished world. Our work really, when you think about it, is a partnership with God, nature, and our fellow human beings.

Someone should never view work as simply the expenditure of energy to complete a task.

Work is a profound way into a relationship with God and life around us. Thus, there is a fundamental spirituality associated with all human labour. All work has dignity, assuming it does not conflict with God's will and every worker is to be respected as a human being made in the image and likeness of God.

St. John Paul made several important points about work that we should reflect upon today.

- (1) Each person is called by God to contribute to the ongoing work of the new creation.
- (2) In our working with others, we become more human and develop the many gifts God has generously poured into our hearts.
- (3) It is crucial to acknowledge that work surpasses the physical level of existence. It must refresh our souls.
- (4) Justice demands that each worker receive a just salary and perform a just day's labour....

Let us look to Jesus, who went about working for the kingdom. He accomplished that by being a humble servant in our lives. We must put on the same attitude.

Whether we earn our daily bread as a bank president, college professor, or farmer, each of us is called to build up the kingdom of God. Our actions of doing so serve as a tribute to our beloved Saviour, who initially showed us the way of doing good work.

### Parish Bulletin for September 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>

September signifies a time to pursue our goals while reflecting on them. The time has come for students to resume their studies. People return to their homes from their cottages and overseas holidays. As a parish, the start of another pastoral year holds great importance. Throughout the summer months, we were consistently engaged in a variety of activities. We celebrated our usual Masses, quite a few funerals, a single wedding, and several baptisms. We embarked on a bus excursion to Niagara Falls that proved to be both enjoyable and restful, and we were delighted to have Bishop Giovanni and Fr. David with us.

Volunteers actively helped prepare the feast of the Assumption of our Lady, followed by a well-attended reception in the parish hall. Thank you for your unwavering support.

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, a day with religious and historical significance for the universal church and for our parish, we observed the birth of the Virgin Mary. For us Maltese, however, it is an occasion of celebration known as *Il-Vitorja*.

Our Lady's intervention caused the Turks to flee from our shores after their defeat in the Great Siege of 1565. Our forefathers strongly defended their Christian faith. Providentially, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1930, marks the founding of our celebrated parish church.

The 93<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary is an occasion to renew our commitment to our Catholic Christian faith at our parish. We achieved remarkable spiritual vitality in our parish. It is because of the tireless effort and unwavering devotion of our parishioners. It's important that we acknowledge and commemorate this significant moment in our history. We can build a hopeful future for our parish by committing to attending Mass every Sunday and staying on our spiritual path.

The first day of September marked my appointment as a pastor by Archbishop Francis Leo. The thought of collaborating with you in the future is a great honour and privilege that I deeply cherish. As we embark on our journey to live our baptismal call, I humbly request that you keep me in your prayers.



## FIRST STEPS TAKEN TOWARDS THE LAUNCHING OF CANADA'S OWN *MAGNA ŽMIEN* FOR THE MALTESE

Dan Brock\*

A meeting was held at 8:00 a.m., on Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, made up of Richard Cumbo, Nigél Klemenčič-Puglisevich, and Kealey Kennedy with Andrew Pace. This took place at the Elephant Shoe, a breakfast and brunch restaurant, at Dar l-Emigrant, Castille Place, in Valletta, Malta.



**Clockwise: Kealey Kennedy, Nigél Klemenčič-Puglisevich, Andrew Pace, and Richard Cumbo**

Andrew, whom Richard has known “for a few years,” is one of those connected with the *Magna Žmien* (Time Machine) project. According to its website, the project was set up in Malta as a grassroots movement in 2017, as part of Valletta’s title of European Capital of Culture 2018, to advocate for the digitization and preservation of unique home audio-visual collections consisting of photographic film, 8mm film, and audio-tapes. The purpose of this was “to form a community archive accessible to researchers and artists.”

The purpose of this seminal meeting at the Elephant Shoe, in the same building as the Malta Migration Museum, was to discuss the launching of a collaborative project with *Magna Žmien* to digitize and document the lives of the Maltese in Canada with a studio based out of the Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre in the St. Paul the Apostle Church Complex in Toronto.

What is envisioned is that the Maltese Canadian community would be encouraged to “share their stories, old photos, home videos, slides, negatives, film, audio cassette, and more,” which would then be digitalized and the originals returned to their owners.

As Richard has noted, a good scanner and other equipment will be required. As with the case of *Magna Žmien*, when in December 2019 it was provided with vital support by the Arts Council Malta’s Investment in Cultural Organisations, he hopes that some funding will be available from Malta for this Maltese Canadian project.

Meanwhile, Nigél and Kealey, who returned to Canada on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, plan to come to the Museum, hopefully once a week, to work on this Maltese Canadian initiative. As for Richard, he intends to have further meetings with Andrew before returning to Canada.

*\*My thanks to Richard Cumbo and Nigél Klemenčič-Puglisevich for providing the data for this article.*

After a successful festival and theatrical run, the film **CARMEN**, aired on CBC TV, in Canada, at 9:00 p.m., on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

Starring Natascha McElhone, and set in Malta about the 1970s, it was written and directed by Valerie Buhagiar and produced by Pierre Ellul, Coral Aiken, and Anika Psaila Savona.

## READERS’ COMMENTS

...thanks a lot for your August newsletter, which I always *forward* to most of my friends. Most of the articles are so interesting to read.

Like I always say: “Keep up the good work”.

Carmen Galea, Toronto, Ontario

Thoroughly enjoyed this issue. Been wondering when you were going to publish the story about my paternal grandfather Joseph S.A.G. Zammit and his wife Carmela Bugeja, of 159 Maria St Toronto. You did publish my maternal grandmother, Michelina Debono, and her husband, Thomas Vella. All from Malta. My mother, Mary Carmela Vella Zammit recently passed away on Aug 16 in Mississauga in her 102nd year. She was buried last week. My mom and dad, Joseph Zammit, were born in Toronto.

Joanne (Zammit) Prince, Mississauga, Ontario



## ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

### CALIFORNIA

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

The **Casino Bus Trip** took place on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

A **Malta Day Gala** was held on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. (See pages 18-23.)

A **Car Show** was held between 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

An **Autumn Day Luncheon & Gathering** took place at the Club on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. (See pages 29-31)

The **Holiday Market & Craft Fair** was held at the Club between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on Saturday, November 11.

A **Family Bingo and Pasta Dinner** will take place on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The **New Year's Eve Dinner Dance** will be held on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### MALTA

#### Maltese Living Abroad

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual Youth Forum for Maltese Living Abroad**, which was to take place on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. (See page 45 for had been planned.)

### MICHIGAN

#### Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

A **Craft Show and Bake Sale** is to be held at the Club on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.



September 1<sup>st</sup> marked the resumption of **First Friday Masses** at the Club, at 6:30 p.m. with **Fr. Joe Mallia** as celebrant and homilist and music provided by Theresa English. Doors opened at 5:00 p.m. and dinner started at 5:30 p.m.

A **Halloween Dinner Dance Party** was held on the evening of Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. (See pages 33-38.)

There will be a **Christmas Dinner with Santa** on the evening of Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>.



Music will be provided by the **Packin Heat Band** at the **New Year's Eve Party**, on the evening of Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.



**Maltese American Heritage Day** was observed at 9:30 a.m., on September 21<sup>st</sup>, at the State Capital, Lansing, Michigan with Senator Darrin Camilleri. (See pages 16-17.)

#### Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc

The annual **Festa tal-Vitorja** was 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. (See pages 1, 12-14)

#### NEW YORK CITY

##### Maltese Center: Astoria

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

The **Adult Halloween Party** was held on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. (See page 39.)

The **Kids' Halloween Party** was held at the Center on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.

At 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, **Fr. Anthony Saliba** celebrated an **All Souls Memorial Mass** at the Club.

#### ONTARIO

##### Greater Toronto Area

##### Maltese Canadian Federation

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

#### Consulate General of Malta in Toronto

**Malta Day** was celebrated in Toronto on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> with a flag raising ceremony in Malta Park at 10:00 a.m., Mass in St. Paul the Apostle Church at 10:30 a.m., followed by a reception in DePiro Hall at 11:30 a.m.

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

While in Malta, **Richard Cumbo**, the curator, and **Nigel Klemenčič-Puglisevich** and **Kealey Kennedy**, volunteers, met with **Andrew Pace** of the **Magna Żmien** (Time Machine) project to discuss the setting up of a similar project at the Museum Archives. (See page 4).

Also, while in Malta, Richard met with **Cindy Billard** of the **Malta Migration Museum** in Valletta and updated her on the progress of the Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives.

#### Malta Band Club

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

The **Maestro Paul Gauci Concert** was held on Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup>.

The **Children's Halloween Party** was held on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 2:00 p.m. (See pages 43-44.)

The annual **Members' Memorial Service** was held at the Club, at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. A **Bake Sale** took place after the service.

A **Luncheon & Social** was held at the Club at noon on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### MBC LUNCHEON & SOCIAL

will be presented on

**Wednesday November 15, 2023**

**Time: 12:00 Noon**

**Place: Malta Band Club**  
(5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga)

Menu: Appetizers, chicken breast, 1/2 rack of ribs, potatoes, coleslaw, pastries & coffee

**Price: \$35.00 per person**

For reservations, please contact John Azzopardi at (647) 271-8843, Leli Mercieca at (647) 461-8279 or the club directly at (905) 890-8507.

**Book early to avoid disappointment!**

A trip to a **Casino** took place on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

The **Candlelight Concert** will be held at the Club on Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5:00 p.m. **Dinner** will be available after the concert.

The Malta Band Club invites everyone to this year's

## Candlelight Concert

**Saturday November 25 at 5:00 PM**

**5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga**

**Concert & Dinner: \$25.00 per person**  
(Dinner menu will be roast beef, potatoes and vegetables)

**Concert Only: \$10.00 per person**

**Please join us as the Malta Band presents a festive concert to help us welcome the Christmas season at the club.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**





The **Kids Xmas Party** will take place on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A **Members Dinner and Dance** will be held on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

The **New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance** will take place on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### Melita Soccer Club

A **bus trip** to **Casino Rama** in Orillia took place on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

A **Malta Day Dinner Party** was held at the Club on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. (See pages 17-18.)

A **bus trip**, to the **Casino Niagara** in Niagara Falls, Ontario, took place on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Henry Gauci**, the past president of the Club, passed away on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.

A **Halloween Dinner Dance** was held at the Club on the evening of Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. (See pages 40-42.)

The Club's **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner** took place on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### Melita Soccer Team

On Friday November 17<sup>th</sup> the Melita soccer team held its annual **Christmas banquet** at **The Vue Event Center**. In previous years, the event, which has grown year after year, was kept exclusive. Last year, there were 81 attendees. This year, however, the adults only event was open and the team was planning on having 100 in attendance.

#### 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.

**Melita Soccer Club's**

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner**

**Saturday November 18**

Price \$35 per person, cash bar

Menu: **Hobz biz-zeit.**  
**Fried Rabbit & Potato Wedges. Salad. Cake**

*Doors open at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm*

Please call Marv Ann at 657 290 4856  
**BEFORE November 11**

A **Memorial Service** is planned to commence at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

A **Christmas Dinner Dance** will take place on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The **Annual Meeting** will be held, beginning at 1:00 p.m., on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The **Children's Christmas Party** will take place on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 2:00 p.m.



### St. Paul the Apostle Parish

**Fr. Roy**, who was appointed administrator of the Parish on February 1, 2023, was **appointed pastor** of this Parish, by the Archbishop of the Diocese of Toronto, Francis Leo, effective, Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, was the **93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary** of the **consecration of the Parish** held in 1930. To mark this occasion, **Fr. Pierre Farrugia, OFM**, celebrated the 9:15 a.m. **Mass in Maltese**. Following Mass, there was a **reception** in the **Parish Hall**.

During the weekend of September 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>, in commemoration of the Parish's anniversary, **coffee and cake** were available in the *lower hall* after each Sunday Mass.

A **reception** to commemorate **Independence Day** will take place in **Depiro Hall**, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass, on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

### Hamilton

#### Maltese Canadian Association of the City of Hamilton

The Association will be having its **Breakfast with Santa**, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 24 Poplar Avenue, Hamilton.



### London

The **September Luncheon** of the **Maltese community and friends** was held on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at the **Swiss Chalet** on Wonderland Road South in London. (See pages 15-16.)

A limited number of the group were invited to take advantage of a **two-for-one luncheon** at the **Mandarin Restaurant** on Wellington Road South in the city on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. (See pages 23-24.)

The **October luncheon** was held on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at the **Mandarin Restaurant** on Hyde Park Road in London. (See pages 27-28.)

A **Memorial Mass** took place at **Holy Family Mausoleum, St. Peter's Cemetery**, London, on the afternoon of Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Windsor

#### Malta United Society

A **Ravioli Dinner** took place at the Club on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

A **Patata I-Forn** Dinner was held on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

The yearly **Children's Christmas Party** will take place on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The annual **Members' Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.



## FAMILY'S MOVE FROM CANADA TO GOZO IS A BUREAUCRATIC NIGHTMARE

Karl Azzopardi



*Karl Azzopardi is Online Editor for Malta Today and an IGM press award (Human Stories) winner of 2019. This article appeared in Malta Today on August 28, 2023.*

Charles Mercieca, a man of both Maltese and Canadian descent, decided he wanted to move to Malta, seeking a new life for his family. Alongside his wife, Pamela, and their young son, he envisioned a fresh start amidst the tranquil landscapes of Gozo.

Their aspirations took an unforeseen turn, however, as they became entangled in a bureaucratic nightmare that would put their determination to the ultimate test.

In the pursuit of a better life, Charles encountered a series of bewildering obstacles that stemmed from the lack of crucial information given to them by several of Malta's authorities.

The journey that was meant to mark a new beginning became instead a frustrating odyssey, as authorities repeatedly omitted to provide the necessary permits, certifications, and legal documents required for a smooth transition.

It all started last year when Charles and Pamela felt Canada had become too expensive for them. "I had heard stories about Malta. I actually visited once or twice, and something inside me always told me I'd come back one day.

"We started off by speaking to the Maltese consulate in Canada to see what we needed for Pamela and the kid, as I was pretty much in the clear given I had a Maltese parent," he said. The couple decided to swap Saskatchewan, Canada for Gozo's Għajnsielem, and wanted to enroll their young son at the locality's primary school, which told them they needed proof of the father's citizenship.

Their child's enrolment into Għajnsielem Primary School was seemingly settled as the school administration granted approval. Inquiring about the necessary requirements, they were simply informed that proof of the father's citizenship would suffice.

An email was sent to Komunità Malta on 13 March 2023. Their correspondence was redirected to Identity Malta, which, in April 2023, requested the father's birth certificate. The journey then led them to the public registry, where a further twist awaited them – the need to legalize the birth certificate.



**Charles and Pamela Mercieca with their son**

Amid the maze of bureaucracy, each step seemed to open a new chapter of complications. As the birth certificate was duly registered, the family returned to Identity Malta, only to discover another hurdle: Charles Mercieca's absence from the system.

Birth registration accomplished, they went back to Identity Malta in Victoria, where the assurance was granted. A visit to the public registry followed, with an estimated three-week waiting period communicated.

"Identity Malta and Komunità Malta failed to tell me, while I was still enquiring from Canada, that my birth certificate needed to be legalized in Canada before coming over. I didn't find this out until I went to register my birth at the Public Registry, in April, when I was already here," Charles said. "It was supposed to be a three-week waiting period to have the Public Registry register my birth."

As the days edged closer to 11 May, a crucial date that marked a potential new employment opportunity for Charles, the family was faced with another problem.

The opportunity to work slipped through Charles Mercieca's fingers owing to the absence of necessary documentation.

It wasn't until the end of July or early August that the crucial legalized birth certificate, sent to Canada for processing, finally returned to him. After nearly four weeks had passed, he made a call to the Public Registry and was informed of issues with his certificate.

His frustration apparent, the matter was resolved within an hour. With the corrected certificate in hand, which he had collected from the Public Registry, he proceeded to Identity Malta, only to discover he wasn't present in their system.

The realization that it could take up to 15 days to rectify this situation sunk in. This was despite previous assurances from Identity Malta that the presentation of a registered birth certificate would facilitate the same-day issuance of a Maltese ID.

Charles found himself in a precarious situation, as the impending start date of his job loomed. The call to the Public Registry was directly related to this new job, one he risked losing if he couldn't start by 3 August, just a few days away.

This marked a period of approximately three months during which he remained unemployed while waiting for his documentation to be sorted.

"It's ridiculous. There was no turning back. And we had to go through all this. It is exhausting," he said.

### Customs and proof of previous employment

When the family arrived in Malta, they brought with them belongings of sentimental value, including heirloom china dishes and cherished personal items such as their son's clothes and bicycle.

Upon notification that their items had arrived in Malta, they were informed of an 18% VAT charge on the declared value, amounting to around 885 C\$, which would be refunded after a year. Additionally, they needed to engage a courier and pay fees for the transfer of the items from the shipyard to customs, along with an extra €146.

Engaging a courier opened yet another chapter of complexities. The family found themselves seeking answers and information, which proved elusive. The passage of 15 days carried the threat of a 3% surcharge on the declared amount.

The demand for a deposit left the Mercieca family puzzled. To release their possessions, they were required to prove their prior residency in the country of origin. In response, Pamela submitted her 2022 income tax records from Canada as evidence, noting that any additional proof resided within the very items held by customs.

Further complications arose when customs demanded 12 consecutive pay slips from the last year or a written declaration. The reason behind this request remained unclear to the family.

Pamela's inquiry into the nature of a written declaration was met with uncertainty, as she lacked the requested pay slips owing to a year of unemployment.

With a prospective resident permit application process taking up to six months, their financial strain would likely persist.

The looming deposit requirement cast a shadow on their financial stability. Charles Mercieca's frustration echoed the sentiment of many entangled in similar bureaucratic mazes.

This week, the family was told they would get their things next week, with the price reduced from 885 C\$ to almost half.

But the family still believes they had made a good decision coming to Malta, saying they are drawing a clear distinction between the country's authorities and her people.

"The people have been lovely, always trying to help us," they said. "Our boy absolutely loves Gozo and would never accept going back to Canada."

The family said they want to make their story known to the rest of the country.

"Maybe our ordeal will help others looking to make the move to Malta. This is not something anyone should go through, and maybe we can turn the situation a bit for the better," they said.

### IMQARET

Mary Rose Aquilina



*Imqaret*, date-filled pastries, are a popular Maltese dessert that we inherited from the Arabs. In fact, a similar dessert exists in the Maghreb cuisine named *maqrout*. The name refers to the characteristic diamond shape. In Maltese we tend to refer to them in the plural form *imqaret*, I guess because we never can stop to just one! Whereas the singular name is *maqrut*.

The *imqaret* you get from venders tend to be bigger. When I returned to Malta in my twenties for a three-year stint, I remember coming home from work and instantly smelled the *imqaret* that my aunt would buy when the street vendor came around. What a sweet warm treat I would find ready for me.

In Malta, *imqaret* can now be found on most of the restaurants' dessert menus, typically served warm with a side of ice cream or *ħelwa tat-tork* (Maltese halva) not to mention from several bakeries. These Would likely be baked and not fried!



The *imqaret* filling is mainly made of a thick date paste mixed with spices and citrus. For the best results, it's best to chop the pitted dates into small pieces and let them soak for about 30 minutes before cooking. Then cook together with the orange blossom water, orange zest, and spices. Once ready, it's important to let the paste cool completely as this will make it an even thicker paste with which to work.

Traditionally, the *imqaret* are fried, as their thin crispy dough is one of their signature traits. However, they can easily be baked.

As mentioned earlier, *imqaret* are of Arabic origin, introduced during the period of the Arab invasion of the island between 870 AD and the 11th century, while a similar sweet named *makroud* or *maqrud* or *makroud* exists across the sea in Tunisia, which is also popular across Algeria and Morocco with the names *makrout*, *maqrout*, *mqaret*, meaning diamond.

*Bigilla*, honey rings, stuffed peppers and marrows, ice cream, halva, and the list goes on, all have roots which come from our neighbouring Arab friends. But we'll leave those for another cooking session.

I just love these *imqaret* pastries and the fact that they are deep fried even better (although perhaps not for the waistline). Finish off with a dusting of sugar and pop them straight into your mouth or serve with ice cream. Lovely.

## INGREDIENTS

### For the dough

400g flour  
100g cold butter cubed  
1 tbsp orange flower water  
1 tbsp sugar  
½ tsp sugar  
½ tsp baking powder  
60ml water  
1 tsp aniseed liquor

### For the date filing

400g dates *pitted*  
zest of an orange  
1 tbsp orange flower water  
125ml water  
1 tsp cloves  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1 tsp aniseed

## INSTRUCTIONS

### For the dough

Add all the ingredients together, except the water, and combine everything well together.

Start adding the water gently and knead the dough. Knead for a few minutes until you get a nice soft dough.

Wrap the dough in a cling film and place in the fridge for about an hour.

### For the date filling

Chop the dates into small pieces and place in a bowl of water for about half an hour.

Remove the dates from the water and place them in a pot on low heat. Reserve the water and set it aside.

Together with the dates, add all the other ingredients and cook gently on low heat. While constantly mixing the mixture, add the water you had set aside. Keep cooking until the dates break down and a thick mixture is formed.

Place the paste in the fridge for about an hour.

## ASSEMBLY

Divide the dough and the filling into four portions.

On a floured surface, open each dough into a long rectangle about 50cm long and 10-15cm wide.

Layer the paste on the dough on one side, leaving a border.

Grab the small border over the date paste and close with the dough side over the date paste.

Press the dough down gently.

Cut horizontally into a diamond-shaped *imqaret* the size of your preference. I cut the dough into 10 pieces. You can cut them, however, as big as you like.

## FRIED IMQARET

Fill a large pot with vegetable oil.

Heat the oil to about 170°C.

Cook the *imqaret* in batches for about one minute on each side.

Place the cooked *imqaret* on a plate with tissue paper so that it absorbs the excess oil.

## BAKED IMQARET

Preheat the oven to 180°C.

Line a baking tray with parchment paper and sprinkle some flour on top.

Place the *imqaret* on the tray, leaving some space between them.

Bake for 20 minutes until they are golden brown.

**THE MALTESE AMERICAN BENEVOLENT  
SOCIETY CELEBRATES  
*FESTA TAL-VITORJA***

**C.c. Said\***

We began the celebration of our 14<sup>th</sup> annual Festa tal-Vitorja with 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at Most Holy Trinity Church on Porter Street in the Detroit neighborhood of Corktown. Corktown was the traditional centre of Maltese settlement in Metro Detroit.

Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Chuck Kosanke, Regional Moderator for the Central Region of the Archdiocese of Detroit.



The statue of Mary was processed around the church before receiving its annual blessing.



**Adam Said**









Following Mass, the Festa continued back at the Club. There was a choice of rabbit stew, baked macaroni, hamburger and potato chips, and hot dog and potato chips for lunch.



**Adam Said cooking the burgers and wieners**



**The Said Family**

After lunch, there was bingo for the adults and craft table activities for the kids.



THANK YOU to everyone who made a success of the day of our Annual Festa! Also, to everyone who participated by attending Mass, coming to the Club for lunch and our many vendors and ad sponsors! See you next year on Sunday, September 8, 2024!

\* C.c. Said is administrator of the Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc



## OUR MONTHLY LUNCHEON INCLUDED A COUPLE SURPRISES

**Dan Brock**

Nearly 40 persons attended the September luncheon of the Maltese community and friends in London and area, held on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Swiss Chalet on Wonderland Road South in London.

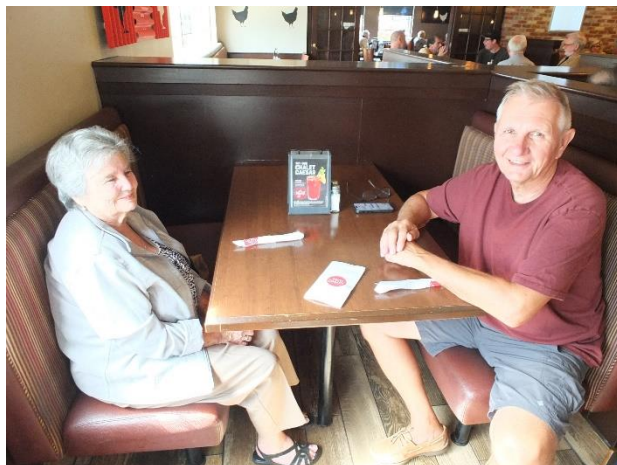
Swiss Chalet had a two-for-one Tuesday special this month at this particular franchise, which was the reason we changed our usual monthly get together from a Thursday.

Among those present, to our pleasant surprise, were Theresa Armstrong, Member of Provincial Parliament for Ontario for the riding of London-Fanshawe, and Peter and Sally Galea from Melbourne, Australia. Peter is the twin brother of Tony Galea of London, Ontario.



Owing to other commitments, Theresa was unable to stay for the luncheon, but it was great that she was again able to join us, as she used to do when we had our own club.

All agreed that the meal was excellent and we were fortunate to have a section of the restaurant to ourselves.



**Connie Zammit and her son-in-law  
Chris Charlinski**



**Clockwise: Helen Ditchfield, Mike Ditchfield,  
Terry Rogers, and Carol Hilton**



**Gena & Ted Gryn**



**Tony & Cena Vella**





**Miranda & Deo Catania**



**L to R facing the camera: Monica Micallef, Rose Micallef, Tessie Spiteri, and Melrose Paquet**



**Clockwise: Tony & Lynda Galea and Sally & Peter Galea**



**Clockwise: Connie Hislop, Janet Peckham, Ann Laroque, Theresa Armstrong, Jim McDonald, and Loretta Brock**



## **MALTESE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY**

**Dan Brock**

Maltese American Heritage Day was again celebrated, on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, at the State Capital in Lansing, MI, and hosted by Senator Darrin Camilleri.

## Maltese American Heritage Day

**September 21st, 2023**  
**100 N Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933**

**STATE SENATOR**  
**DARRIN QUIROZ CAMILLERI**  
 ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER



Lino Sammut received the Maltese America Leader of the Year Award; Tom Muscat and his daughter, Margaret Muscat Purdy, were recognized as Maltese Americans of the Year; and Rachael Cini Darin was given the Spirit of Malta Award.



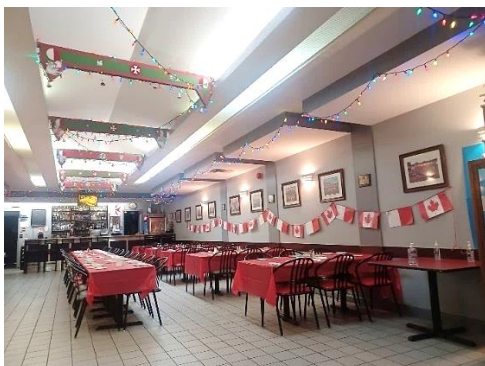
**Lino Sammut, Rachael Cini Darin,  
State Senator Darrin Camilleri,  
Margaret Muscat Purdy, and Tom Muscat**  
*Photo and information courtesy of Rachael Cini Darin*



### **MELITA SOCCER CLUB'S MALTA DAY DINNER PARTY**

**Mary Ann Piscopo**

A Malta Day Dinner Party was held here at the Club in Toronto the evening of Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.



**All is in readiness  
for the Malta Day dinner**

For Fr. Roy Farrell, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, it was his first visit to our club. As for Deacon Ray Frendo, he used to be a soccer player for our club many years ago.

Also in attendance was the Consul General of Malta in Toronto, Den Demicoli.



**Consul General Den Demicoli,  
with Sharon, Pauline, Mary Ann, and Gloria,  
dressed in Maltese folk costume**

Delicious food and socialization were had by all.



**Cheese tortellini chicken parmesan,  
potatoes, and veggies**





## MALTA DAY CELEBRATED IN THE BAY AREA

**Rita Borg**

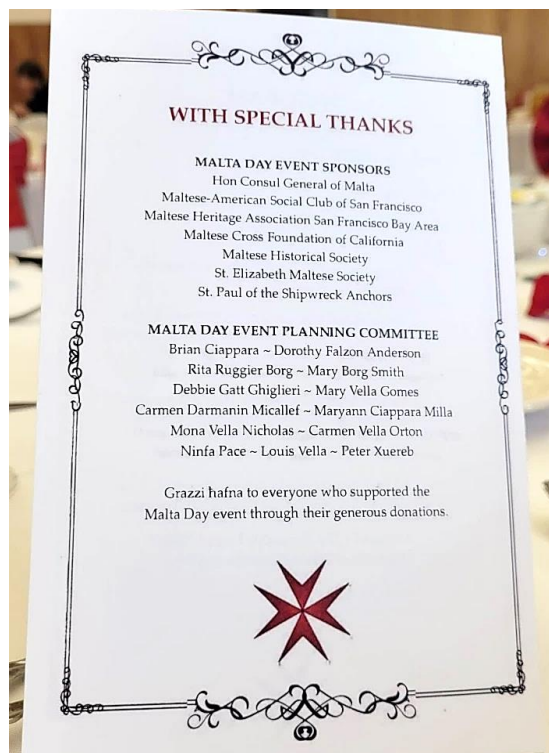
Several Maltese American organizations in the Bay Area came together to observe Malta Day at the Elks Lodge in South San Francisco, on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.



**Yes, the bakery misspelt VIVA,  
but that didn't affect the taste**







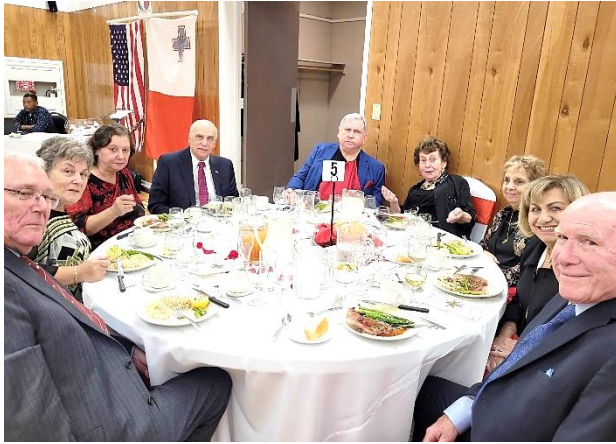




**Fr. Charles Puthota gave the invocation**











**The Hon. Consul General Louis J. Vella addressed the guests after the dinner**

Following the dinner, DJ Sean provided the music for dancing and Session Bassist/Vocalist Dave Rapa gave an awesome performance.



**Dave Rapa**



**Mona Vella-Nicholas, who appears on page 21, column 1, second photograph, with her daughter Shirley, is a founding member of this society and is its current president**





### **TAKING ADVANTAGE OF BRUNCH AT THE MANDARIN RESTAURANT FOR HALF PRICE**

**Dan Brock**

On Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Mandarin Restaurant on Wellington Road South in London, Ontario had a lunch for seniors at half price.

Members of the Maltese community who usually met at Springbank Park once a week during the summer took advantage of this, along with a few others, including two members of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada here in London. In all, there were some 30 of us.



**Sr. Mary Jo Fox, Loretta Brock,  
and Joe & Tessie Mallia**



**Lawrence Testa, Barbara & Ted Gauci,  
and Janice and Charles Vella**



**Clockwise: Mike Ditchfield, Helen Ditchfield,  
Jean & Lawrence Testa, Barbara & Ted Gauci,  
Joe & Tessie Mallia, and Tony Schembri**





**Rose Micallef, Mary Zammit,  
and Mannie & Monica Micallef**



**Sr. Dorothy, Tessie Spiteri,  
Melrose Paquet, and Charles Micallef**



**Tony & Censa Vella**



**JOSEPH CAMILLERI, AGE 73,  
EARNS A SILVER  
AT THE CHICAGO MARATHON 2023\***

**Dan Brock**

Joe "Crazy Legs" Camilleri is no stranger to readers of this newsletter. This septuagenarian marathon runner has been noted in both the February 2021 and October 2022 issues.

On Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, this 73-year-old, Maltese Canadian marathoner completed the Chicago Marathon 2023.



**Clockwise: Censa Vella,  
Marlene & Frank Mifsud, and  
Vincent & Lu Mifsud**



The Chicago Marathon is part of the well-known Abbott World Marathon Majors consisting of the Tokyo, Boston, London, Berlin, Chicago, and New York marathons.

This was also a race within a race, in conjunction with the Age Category World Championships. Out of 171 participants in his age group, Joe was third in the main event, and earned silver in the World Championships.





Besides the Chicago Marathon, Joe has already raced the Boston Marathon in 2018, and the London Marathon last October, where he won bronze.

In 2024, besides getting ready for the Vancouver Marathon, where he has already won the race twice, he is doing the Berlin Marathon, when he will be 74 years old! Of note, Camilleri started running in 2010 at 60. Since then, he has participated in a lot of races where most times he has finished in the top three, and has won quite a few of them.

Joe is originally from Hamrun, but he has been in Canada since 1972. He now lives in Victoria, British Columbia, with his wife Dorothy Fenech Camilleri, who supports him and attends almost all the races in which he participates.

One of Joe's favourite quotes, is "You are never too old to chase your dreams and goals."



*\*I wish to thank Joe Camilleri for providing the textual information and photographs for this article.*



## AN OFFICIAL VISIT PAID TO THE MALTA STUDY CENTER

### Embassy of Malta to the United States of America

On Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, Ambassador Dr Godfrey Xuereb and Dr Kay Xuereb, paid an official visit to The Malta Study Center based at the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) at St John University in Collegeville, Minnesota, some 70 miles (113 km) northwest of Minnesota.

The Ambassador, accompanied by the Hon Consul Chev. Joseph S. Micallef, the former Honorary Consul General of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and Mrs Michelle Warrington, the newly appointed Honorary Consul of Minnesota, was met by the Center's Director Dr Danile Gullo, who provided an extensive tour of the Library and then explained the work of the Malta Study Center.

The HMML's Malta Study Center has digitized archives, manuscripts, rare printed works, and art related to the history of Malta and the Order of Malta. The collection, which includes over 2.5 million digital images, has been collated from the National Library and the National Archives of Malta as well as from the Cathedral Archives of Mdina and the Diocesan Archives of Malta and Gozo. Documents were also digitalized from Heritage Malta's Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Arti, from the Malta Maritime Museum, and from private collections.



**Coat of Arms of Jean de la Valette**  
Archivum de Piro (FPMPL1 00133)

The collections now provide a rare opportunity to explore the institutional history of the Order of Saint John and how this is intertwined with the history of Malta.

The Malta Study Centre, founded in 1973, was the brainchild of Malta's Honorary Consul to Minnesota, Chev. Joseph S. Micallef, who until recently was also the Chair of the Friends of the Study Center.



**Left to right: Mrs Michelle Warrington,  
Chev Joseph S Micallef,  
Ambassador Dr Godfrey Xuereb,  
Dr Daniel K Gullo, and Dr Kay Xuereb**

The Ambassador also had the opportunity to discuss the work of the Malta Study Centre and the future collaborations with Malta with Dr Katrina Schulde, Director of Advancement; Mr Joseph Rogers, Chair of the Friends of the Malta Study Centre), and Fr Eric Hollas, who is the current Prior of Saint John's Abbey.

The Ambassador and the delegation were impressed with the repository of information and knowledge that now resides at the Malta Study Center. He thanked all those involved for helping preserve this important part of Malta's history and looked forward to expanding the work and collaboration between Malta and the Study Center.

The Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) was founded in 1965 as a response to the global threat of the Cold War and the loss of manuscripts and books in European libraries during World Wars I and II.

The idea to establish HMML was launched by St. John's University President Fr. Colman Barry. The organization was launched first led by Fr. Oliver Kapsner, a trained librarian and linguist. Both were monks at St. John's Abbey, part of a Benedictine community with a long-standing tradition of copying manuscripts.



## AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE MAYO CLINIC

**Embassy of Malta  
to the United States of America**

In mid-October, Ambassador Dr Godfrey Xuereb made an official visit to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. The Ambassador was impressed with the healthcare facilities offered by Mayo Clinic and the cutting-edge technologies being implemented in this health care system.

Ambassador Xuereb was greeted by the CEO of Mayo Clinic Dr Gianrico Farrugia. Dr Farrugia, who is Maltese born, explained the work of Mayo Clinic and the future visions he has for the institution. The two discussed how collaboration between Mayo Clinic and the Republic of Malta can be strengthened, also in light of the fact that there are a number of senior medical personnel at the Mayo Clinic who hail from the Maltese Diaspora.



**Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb  
and Dr. Gianrico Farrugia**

During his visit, Ambassador Xuereb and his wife had the opportunity to meet with some of the Maltese diaspora who work at Mayo Clinic and now call Rochester, Minnesota, their home. Ambassador Xuereb thanked all of them for being great Ambassadors for Malta and for contributing to health research which will benefit not only those who are treated at Mayo Clinic but also impacts positively health delivery globally.

## OCTOBER LUNCHEON - ANOTHER CHANCE TO GET TOGETHER

**Dan Brock**

On Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, the venue selected for lunch for the Maltese community and friends in the London area was the Mandarin Restaurant on Wonderland Road North.

While the turnout was smaller than that of the previous month, the chance to get together was no less appreciated.



**Tony Vella, Lu & Vince Mifsud**



**Barbara & Ted Gauci, Frank & Marlene Mifsud  
and Cena Vella**





**Connie Hislop, Janet Peckham,  
Barbara & Ted Gauci,  
and Frank & Marlene Mifsud**



**Helen Ditchfield, her daughter Debbie  
and son Mike**



**Charles & Janice Vella  
and Dan & Loretta Brock**



**Terry Rogers and Carol Hilton**



**Connie Zammit, Ted Gryn,  
Chris Charlinski and Gena Gryn**

*In the Autumn of 2003, Fr. Robert Cini, a native of Qormi, Malta, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Detroit, Michigan and chaplain of the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn, celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Toronto, Ontario.*

*Celebrating with him were Fathers Raymond Falzon, OFM, Domenic Cachia M SSP, Saviour Sammut M SSP, Jimmy Zammit OFM, and Emidio Cremona.*



**AUTUMN DAY LUNCHEON & GATHERING****Rita Borg**

Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> was the occasion of our Autumn Day Luncheon & Gathering at the Maltese-American Social Club on El Camino Real, South San Francisco, California.



**Eligio Vella, with the western hat and bolo (cowboy string) tie, and his sister, Mona Vella-Nicholas**







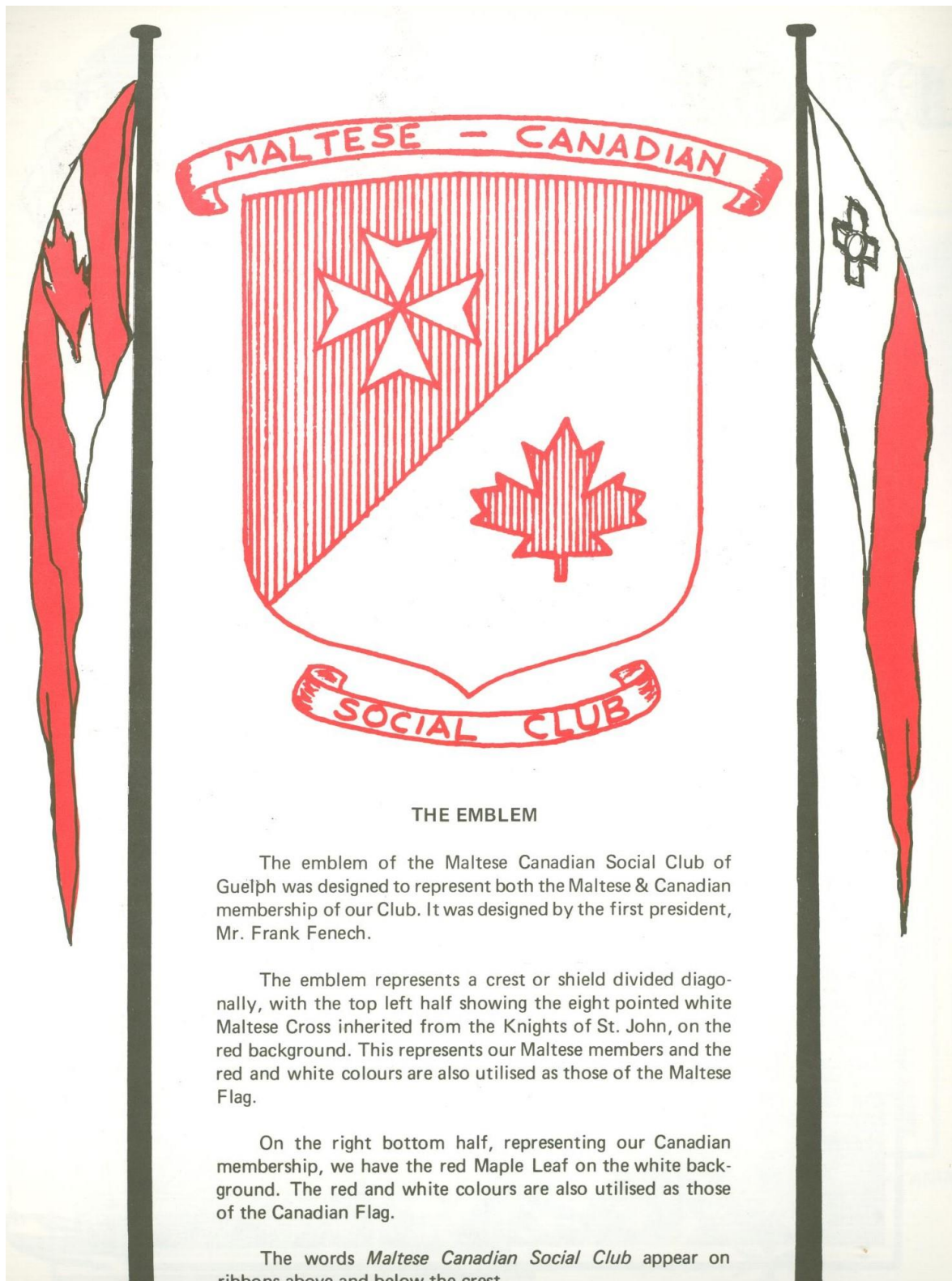
**L to R: Paige and Hailey,  
their grandmother Mona Vella Nicholas,  
and their great-uncle Eligio Vella**





## MALTESE CANADIAN SOCIAL CLUB GUELPH INC.

This club was founded in May 1976 and folded sometime after November 1985.



### THE EMBLEM

The emblem of the Maltese Canadian Social Club of Guelph was designed to represent both the Maltese & Canadian membership of our Club. It was designed by the first president, Mr. Frank Fenech.

The emblem represents a crest or shield divided diagonally, with the top left half showing the eight pointed white Maltese Cross inherited from the Knights of St. John, on the red background. This represents our Maltese members and the red and white colours are also utilised as those of the Maltese Flag.

On the right bottom half, representing our Canadian membership, we have the red Maple Leaf on the white background. The red and white colours are also utilised as those of the Canadian Flag.

The words *Maltese Canadian Social Club* appear on ribbons above and below the crest.



**HALLOWEEN DINNER DANCE PARTY****Margaret Muscat Purdy**

The Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn's Halloween Dinner Dance Party, was held on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

It started with the decorating and planning team consisting of Mary Micalciff, Rita Vella, Eve Muscat, John Muscat Tom Muscat, Louise Weglarz, and Mark Purdy. Joe Formosa did all the shopping and cooking singlehandedly! Others involved in the kitchen and serving were Neil and Doris Durkin, Marty Micalciff, Joe Borg, Tony Borg, John Abella and John Cassar. A huge thank you goes to Holly for stepping in and doing a wonderful job bartending! Thank you, John Muscat and Mark Purdy for help with getting the University of Michigan/Michigan State University football game on.

Kids' crafts, games, and other activities took place between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.



**Making slime, always a favorite**



**Two rolls and three minutes to wrap it up**



**Halloween crafts**



**And the winner is Scarlett**





**Dancing with balloons**

With so many awesome costumes, the hardest job of the evening was being a costume contest judge.



**Kids costume contest  
"Elsa" trying to bring "Anna" back**



**Trick or treating at each table**



**Best boys' costume, Maltese nannu with pipe in his mouth and bird on his shoulder**





**Best girls' costume. *Frozen's* Elsa and Anna (Maeve and Noella)  
Runner up best boys' costume Mario and Luigi (Zavier and Evan)**



**The bear hunter (Amelia)**



**Runner up best girls' costume dinosaur hunter (Scarlett)**



**The circus comes to town**





**Little dragon and her family**

Our spooky dessert judges were Karen Kobylinski and Marsha Szamatula.



**Spookiest Dessert Table**



**The sandlot baseball team  
Sonny & Allison Harris**



**The winner of the spookiest dessert,  
Miranda Micallef, Day of the Dead**



Our costume contest judges were Joe Borg and Tony Borg, as well as Paul Borg, who also doubled as MC for the contest.



**Adult individual costume contest**



**First place couples  
Gomez and Morticia (Michael and Miranda)**



**Best individual adult's costume  
Dorothy (Dorothy)**



**Winner of the best group costume contest  
Music bands of the 70s  
The Supremes, Sonny and Cher,  
The Village People**



What a trooper! My dad, Tom Muscat, who is about to turn 95, dressed as Sonny and did a skit with my sister-in-law, Eve, dressed as Cher.



**Miranda and Milenia**



**Snow White**



**Dinosaur hunters invaded**

The MACC Halloween Party 2023 was a huge success! We love DJ Jim Esparza who rocked out the tunes all night! A shout out to all the families that came and enjoyed the party.



**ADULT HALLOWEEN PARTY****MALTESE CENTER, NYC**

Thank you to all who joined us at the Center for the annual Adult Halloween Party on the evening of Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

The winners of the costume contest were: 3<sup>rd</sup> place the Spatula Skeleton Trio; 2<sup>nd</sup> place Luzzu; and 1<sup>st</sup> place Puppetmasters. Congratulations!





## **HALLOWEEN DINNER DANCE AT THE MELITA SOCCER CLUB**

**Mary Ann Piscopo**

Our Halloween Dance was held on the main floor of our club, here in Toronto, on Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>, with doors opening at 6:00 p.m.



Some of us wore costumes.





The delicious meal included pasta, roast beef, potatoes, veggies, and cake.







Dancing followed the meal.

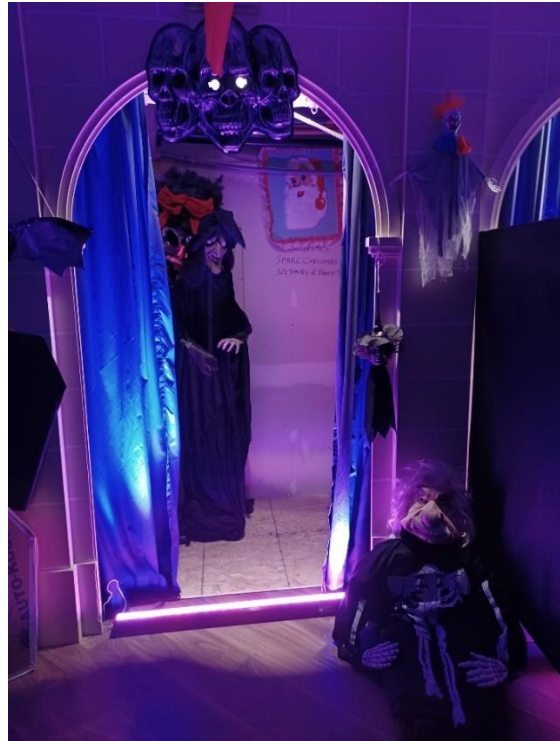




**CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY****Malta Band Club**

The Malta Band Club, in Mississauga, Ontario, welcomed many very interesting, little characters on the afternoon of Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 60 children, accompanied by their parents and families, visited the club for the annual Children's Halloween Party.

The children were treated to lunch, games, loot bags, and a visit through the haunted maze.





### A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS FOR THE MALTESE CANADIAN CLUB OF LONDON, ONTARIO FOR THE LATTER PART OF THE YEAR 1982

**Dan Brock**



Many thanks to Mary and Fred Portelli and all their helpers for organizing and coordinating this great event for the youth of our community!

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> – A dance celebrating Victory Day was held at St. Patrick's Hall. There was a cold buffet and music by a DJ.

Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> – The new bowling season began.

Oct. – A sign, donated by Joe Bugeja and hand-painted by Joe Busuttil was installed on the lot purchased on Charterhouse Crescent. The sign read: "Future Building Site of the Maltese Canadian Club."

Oct. – The Club applied for a Wintario Grant to go towards the construction of a building of its own.

Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> – A Halloween Dance was held at the Labourers Union Hall with a DJ and a cold buffet. This dance took the place of the *Lejla Maltija* which had to be cancelled owing to the illness of Johnny Catania.

Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> – A General Membership Meeting was held in the gym at St. Mary's Separate School.

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> – A dinner and dance, with a DJ, was held at the Labourers Union Hall. It was billed as Angus Nite with the meal consisting of hot roast beef and all the trimmings. The purpose of the event was to raise funds for the Club's future building.

Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> – The Club took part in the Multi-cultural Festival at Centennial Hall

Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> – The beginnings of the children's dance group for "Parata" started with the first practice held in the "A" cafeteria at Fanshawe College.

Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – The annual Children's Christmas Party took place in the afternoon at the gym at St. Mary's School

Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – The Members Christmas Dance was held in the evening in the St. Mary's School gym.

Dec. 31 – The New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance was held at the Labourers Union Hall on Clarke Sideroad.





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual Youth Forum for Maltese Living Abroad

IMAGINE... a new world to discover  
*the impact of climate change on present and future generations*

Date: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 | Time: from CEST 1800hrs onwards

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*"The Earth is a fine place and worth fighting for."*  
**Ernest Hemingway, Author**

Imagine a world without shape and form. A world without colour, sound and adour. Imagine... a world which neither breathes nor exhales, a world deprived of its own capabilities to recreate and regenerate new landscapes and wonder. Imagine; an ocean devoured by plastic, killing marine life through entanglement and starvation... Imagine human beings forced to leave their homelands due to the rise of sea levels or the insupportable heat or cold. Imagine... if humanity had to come together to address climate change through commitment towards the shifting to low or zero-emission power generation, embracing renewables, changing food systems, electrifying transport and developing a sound green infrastructure... Imagine if all people had to make their part to limit global warming ... what magnitude of opportunities this unprecedented collaboration will bring to our post-industrial society... We have all it takes to make the important leap... It depends however on our readiness to take decisions, employ alternative lifestyles, and learn to listen to nature.

Following last year's Virtual Youth Forum for Maltese Living Abroad which dealt with homegrown issues related to language culture and identity, this year the Ministry is organizing a Virtual Youth Workshop for Maltese Living Abroad on the topical subject of Climate Change with the theme IMAGINE. It is expected that during the said workshop young people from all over the world will come together to discuss pressing issues related to the rapid changing of the world due to global warming and come up with a set of recommendations which will be presented in an event organized specifically for this purpose in 2024 with the participation of government, civil society, and individuals. We strongly believe that issues related to climate change are constituent to the 'common heritage of mankind', which Malta so ably pioneered ahead of time through the development of the 'Convention on the Law of the Sea' and which young people should take the lead to address in tangible ways to ensure that pragmatic positive difference is made visible in the lives of people across the globe. The provocative IMAGINE theme chosen for the workshop is to bring together youth's idealism on the one hand and their enthusiasm to engineer change on the other.

To this effect the Virtual Youth Workshop will be holding 3 thematic breakout rooms with discussions that will come up with a declaration which will be presented to the President and the Minister for Foreign Affairs as well as included in the agenda of the Parliamentary Youth Advisory Committee for discussion. The Forum of this year will be addressed by Prof. Simone Borg, Malta's Ambassador for Climate Change.

### Thematic breakout sessions:

1. The plight of the young migrant – a phenomenon of our time
2. Changing lifestyles to become more eco-sustainable
3. Peace-building strategies and crisis mitigation in the face of urgencies emanating from desertification and the rise of sea levels



**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, Inc.**

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

**Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn**

5221 Oakman Blvd, Dearborn, MI 48126  
313-846-7077  
[info@malteseamericanclub.org](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

**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

**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

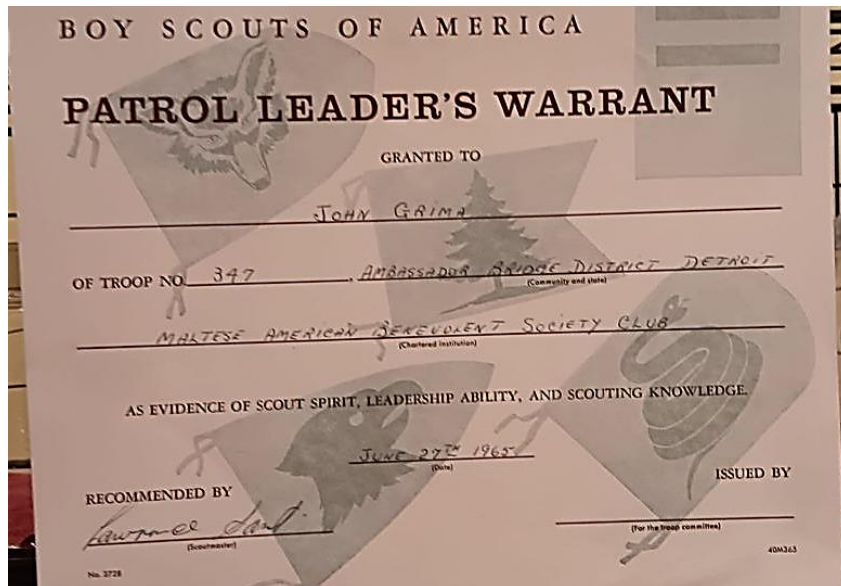


## SOME OF DETROIT'S MALTESE NOSTALGIA



Frank Smitka's family immigrated from Malta and settled in Corktown. They ran a restaurant that was located at 967 Michigan Avenue. This photograph was taken in 1946. Frank's mother, Rose is behind the counter. His uncle Emanuel was the cook and is standing with his left hand on the counter.

Posted on Facebook by Frank Smitka



Posted on Facebook by Bernadette Bennie Blanco