



# THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



**E-NEWSLETTER**

Issue 56

JANUARY 2024

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER/DANCE MALTA BAND CLUB, MISSISSAUGA**



*Malta Band Club, Facebook Page*

**The Maltese Presence  
in North America  
Issue No. 56 January 2024**

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**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

This issue begins the sixth year since the launching of the newsletter. I would like to pay tribute to the memory of the late Albert Vella of Scarborough, Ontario. At the time, it was he who gave me the most encouragement and who came up with the idea and format for "The Table of Contents."

The New Year's Eve celebrations are the main focus of this issue. If all the Maltese organizations in North America had posted or sent accounts of this event, the issue would have been twice as long.

Again, I encourage the various organizations to make use of this venue. This is YOUR newsletter. Let your sister organizations know what has taken place or is planned by your club, etc. This is one way of unifying the Maltese diaspora in North America.

Before the appearance of this newsletter, one reader was unaware that there were Maltese clubs, other than the one to which she belonged, in North America.

Some readers live far away from any Maltese organization and find this newsletter a great way to stay in touch.

I would like to express my public thanks to Ms Denise Demicoli, Consul General of Malta in Toronto, for her 2024 message (see pages 5-6) and her kind words towards me and the others associated with the newsletter. Here I'm thinking of Mona Vella-Nicholas, Mark Caruana and Maria Pia Gauci in particular.

Ms Demicoli is also responsible for drawing our attention to the changes to the authentication of Canadian certificates and official documents, as of January 11, 2024. I suspect her office will be inundated with queries regarding these changes.

Thanks goes to Margaret Muscat Purdy (see pages 6-10), Malta Band Club (see pages 1,12-13, and Mary Vella Gomes (see pages 15-19, 20) for posting the photos of the New Year's Eve celebrations at their respective clubs. Again, it would have been great to have such postings from the other Maltese organizations in North America.

I must also thank Margaret for her assistance in preparing my "fun" article relating to the Muscat family and other Maltese connections. (See page 14,)

If you have an interest in your Maltese family history, I would encourage you to consult Charles Said-Vassallo's Maltagenealogy online, as well as other sources. Charles deserves the deep gratitude of all those of Maltese birth or blood for his dedication to the Maltagenealogy project and for giving us free access to it. One way you can "repay" him is by providing further data or corrections.

While there was nothing from Fr. Roy Farrell in the last issue, there was more than enough in the parish bulletin of the weekend of December 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> alone for this issue.

With the conclusion of my two-year term, at the end of this past December, as president of The London and Middlesex Historical Society, I should now be able to find the time to work on articles for this newsletter which have been on the backburner for at least two years in some cases.

Back issues of this newsletter and the latest "Table of Contents" are posted on the web page of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco at <http://maltese-americanscsf.org/home.aspx>.

Click on to "News & Resources."

If you have ideas to share, wish to be put on the free, bcc electronic mailing lists, would like to learn the newsletter's advertising rates, etc., I may be reached at

[danbrock62@gmail.ca](mailto:danbrock62@gmail.ca).

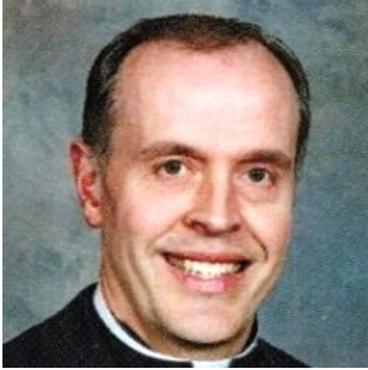
All the best in the new year to you and your loved ones.

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**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 December 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup>**

On the first Sunday after Christmas, the Church invites all of us to reflect on the beauty of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They are the perfect model of love, faith and obedience for all Christian families. By meditating on the Holy Family, we can learn how we are called to live in our own homes and grow in holiness.

St. Josemaria Escriva says that "in the home of the Holy Family in Nazareth, Jesus, Mary and Joseph sanctified their ordinary life, without doing anything spectacular or newsworthy. They led a life that was to all appearances, the same as that of their neighbours, a life that was important, not because of the material things they did but because of the love that they put into these things."

Essentially, the Holy Family did ordinary things with extraordinary love. They too had to work, cook meals, clean the house, and wash their clothes and every other regular activity that we too perform. Yet, endowed with love for one another, these seemingly minute tasks became great sources of sanctification.

For example, when Mary prepared a meal for her family, she did it with care and gratitude, offering it to God as a sacrifice of praise. When Joseph worked as a carpenter, he did it with diligence and honesty, honoring God with his labor. When Jesus obeyed his parents and helped them in their chores, he did it with humility and joy, pleasing God with his obedience.

We too should look to be stewards in our own homes by using our time and gifts to serve our family. One tangible thing we can avoid is complaining about performing house chores but rather strive to see them as an opportunity to love our family members, and by extension, love Christ.

For example, when we wash the dishes, we can thank God for the food we have and pray for those who are hungry. When we tidy up our rooms, we can offer it for the souls in purgatory who are waiting for God's mercy. When we help our siblings with their homework, we can share our knowledge and skills with generosity and kindness.

As we strive to be stewards in our parish communities, let us also follow the model of the Holy Family and be stewards in our own homes and, by extension, our parish communities as well.

For example, when we attend Mass, we can participate actively and reverently, joining our prayers and sacrifices with those of the Holy Family. When we volunteer for a ministry, we can do it with enthusiasm and responsibility, serving God and His people with the spirit of the Holy Family. When we support our parish financially, we can do it with gratitude and generosity, giving back to God what He has given us through the Holy Family.

By meditating on the Holy Family, we can learn how to live in our own homes and grow in holiness. The Holy Family did ordinary things with extraordinary love, sanctifying their daily life. We too can do the same by being stewards in our own homes and using our time and gifts to serve our family with love and sacrifice. We can also follow the model of the Holy Family in our parish communities, participating, volunteering and supporting with the same love and sacrifice. In this way, we can become holy families that honor God and bless others.

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The solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, January 1<sup>st</sup> is the oldest of all Marian Feasts. A Church father in describing Mary stated, "Nothing is equal to Mary, nothing but God is greater than Mary...."

We recall Mary's role in salvation history. From the first moment of her conception her life was centered in God. Through the Annunciation, Mary returns that love. In fear and trembling, Mary gives a total response of faith to the angel Gabriel: "Let it be done to me according to your Word." She makes a total response of love and her YES" is a sign of her faithfulness. The Church puts forth Mary to guide us on our journey of faith through this valley of tears. She will form us and bring us close to her Son.

**ACTIVITIES WITHIN  
THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES**

**Dan Brock**

**CALIFORNIA**

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

A **New Year's Eve Dinner Dance** took place on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. (See pages 14-19, 20.)

**MICHIGAN**

**Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc**

The **New Year's Eve 2024 Potluck Dinner** was held on December 31, 2023.

**Maltese American Community Club, Dearborn**

The **New Year's Eve Dance** was held at the Club on December 31, 2023. (See pages 6-10.)

A **Maltese Baking Demonstration**, featuring **Qagħaq tal-Għasel (Honey Rings)**, will take place at the Club, beginning at 2:00 p.m., on Sunday, January 14, 2023.

**NEW YORK**

**Maltese Center, NYC**

The **New Year's Eve Party** took place on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

A **Bingo** was held in the Lower Hall on the afternoon of Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**ONTARIO**

**Lehen Malti**

<p><b>LEHEN MALTI</b> (Maltese Voice)</p> <p>OMNI 1 – Ontario Saturdays 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. Thursdays 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>OMNI BC Saturdays 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>OMNI Alberta Saturdays 2:00 p.m.</p>
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**Melita Soccer Club, Inc.**

A **bus trip** to **Casino Rama** is planned for Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

The **Fenkata/Carnival Dinner Party** will be held on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The **Fallsview Casino bus trip** will take place on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Malta Band Club**

A **New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance** was held on the evening of December 31<sup>st</sup>. (See pages 1, 12-13.)

**Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives**

The **Maltese-Canadian Museum**, with **Magna Żmien**, is preserving Maltese-Canadian memories through digitisation and we need your support!

We're seeking out monetary and equipment donations. We hope to raise money to support this project and to purchase equipment and supplies. If you're able to help, please deliver cash donations to St. Paul the Apostle Church (3224 Dundas St W, Toronto) in an envelope addressed to the Maltese-Canadian Museum or to a member of the Museum team.

**Equipment Needed:**

1. Flatbed scanners
2. Negative and Slide Scanners
3. Super 8/8mm Film Scanners
4. Cameras
  - DSLR with detachable lenses
  - Tripod
5. Book Scanner

Help us safeguard our heritage for future generations. Message us if you have questions or for more info. You can also email us at [maltesecanadianmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:maltesecanadianmuseum@gmail.com)

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

A **New Year's Eve Dinner-Dance** was held on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> and flowed seamlessly from start to finish.

The next **dinner and dance** will take place on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.

**London**

A **luncheon** for the Maltese group of the area and friends is planned for Thursday, January 18, 2024, at the **Mandarin Restaurant** on Wellington Road South.

The executive committee of the **Women's Auxiliary** at **The Maltese Center**, Astoria, NY in 2006 consisted of:

- Pauline Zammit, president;
- Rose Meilak, secretary;
- Rita Bajada, treasurer;
- Tessie Cutajar, vice president;
- Nancy Muscat, assistant secretary;
- Alice Borg, assistant treasurer; and
- Mary Muscat, membership

## 2024 Message from the Consulate General of Malta in Toronto

Dear readers of the Maltese Presence in North America,

Greetings from the Consulate General of Malta in Toronto. The past year has been one marked by a number of major events, epitomised by the visit to Canada by His Excellency the President of Malta, Madam First Lady and the Hon. Minister for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality, in May 2023. The visit reaffirmed the commitment of Malta's highest authorities towards outreach and connection with Maltese living Abroad.

Locally within our Maltese community in Canada, there were other notable developments. Hundreds of volunteers from our community in this extensive country have showed up and contributed massively to organising numerous events throughout the year: from the weekly dinners to gala dinners, concerts, picnics, festive celebrations, to commemorations of Malta Day. To the associations, clubs and groups that support the thriving of our community in Canada, I wholeheartedly extend my deepest gratitude and augur that in 2024 and the coming years we can keep working closely to coordinate events and community activities more effectively.

In October 2023, the Maltese-Canadian Federation of Associations has transitioned on to a new executive committee under the direction of newly elected President Mr Carl Azzopardi. The Consulate General of Malta in Toronto remains committed to providing support as necessary to the Maltese-Canadian Federation and to all groups and associations as much as possible. While thanking past representatives and executive members of the Federation for their invaluable contribution to our Maltese community here, I wish all the best to the new committee with a mission of continuity and reinvention as required.

In 2023, the Melita Soccer Club celebrated its 60-year anniversary from its inception – luckily a few of the founding members were present to commemorate this momentous occasion and to reminisce on their efforts throughout the years. The Maltese-Canadian Business Network Association also marked its 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary since its establishment. Whether long or short, the history and the lessons learnt serve our various community associations well into the future.

All Maltese community associations and groups are kindly invited to submit their calendars of events so we can assist in promotion.

As time goes by, the need to attract future generations of Maltese in Canada is ever more evident. In the last year, our Consulate General in Toronto has contacted several Maltese families, new arrivals settling in Canada. As many of you can relate, such a move is never easy despite the commodities that modern-day technology and information provide us with. Each Maltese community organisation together with our office should embark on an action-focused process to provide a point of contact to the new Maltese persons and families calling Canada home.

Every day I am astounded by how marvelously our community has done across Canada and am humbled by the ever-increasing requests for Maltese citizenship applications by 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation applicants. In 2023 our office in Toronto processed over 700 citizenship applications, and a monthly average of 40 passports totalling to almost 500 passports and hundreds more registrations. We are committed to keep providing consular services to the best of our ability and resources. Thank you for your patience in accessing such services. Our office communicates regularly with different departments, offices and authorities to ensure the provision of services is as smooth as possible. We understand that the processes may seem daunting to some, however, will keep doing our best to explain and assist you along the way.

Maltese citizenship provides a deeper sense of belonging and kinship, with the privileges and duties that come along with it. Acquiring Maltese citizenship through descent opens new horizons and possibilities like never before and should not be taken for granted. As Maltese citizens we are intrinsically connected by millennia of culture, history, traditions and resilience. Our generosity shines bright: generosity towards charitable causes and to each other. Ask anyone who was born abroad to Maltese parents and grandparents who visits Malta, and they will most likely tell you how much they instantly relate to Maltese in Malta and Gozo. The connections run deep: may you find the time to explore this connection in the coming year.

In 2024 we will be commemorating several momentous events, namely the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary since Malta acquired Independence on 21 September 1964, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since Malta became a Republic on 13 December 1974 and 20 years since Malta joined the European Union on 1 May 2004. We welcome

you all to participate in any upcoming events that will be organised. Finally, a word of appreciation to Dan Brock and collaborators who make the *Maltese Presence in North America* possible. It's truly an honourable mission that Dan Brock embarks on, on a regular basis, to share news, research and insights from our Maltese Community in Canada and the United States to a wide audience. Dan, the mastery with which you carry this task on and the connections you have forged throughout the years are impeccable – keep up the great work!

Best wishes to you all for a prosperous New Year,  
Denise Demicoli  
Consul General of Malta in Toronto



### NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE MALTESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLUB OF DEARBORN

Margaret Muscat Purdy





This was the Club's first New Year's Eve party in some 18 years.







Rocking in New Year's Eve MACC style with Packin' Heat.



Allyson Bozenski, the lead singer, is a maternal granddaughter of Paul and Jane Micallef, both of whom are members of the Club.



**NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE  
MELITA SOCCER CLUB  
Tuesday, December 31, 2019**



**NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE  
THE MALTESE CANADIAN CLUB OF LONDON  
Friday, December 31, 2010**





**CONSULATE GENERAL  
OF MALTA  
CANADA**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

#### **Changes to the authentication of Canadian certificates and official documents from 11 January 2024**

From 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 onwards, all original official documents will need to go through a new authentication process known as the **APOSTILLE** process in order to be used and recognised outside of Canada.

This applies to:

- Birth certificates
- Marriage certificates
- Civil Union certificates
- Death certificates
- Court-issued official documents e.g. Divorce decree / minor custody / Law orders / etc.
- Powers of Attorney from outside of Ontario, Canada, etc.

Uses of these documents in Malta include registration of these certificates at the Identita` - Malta Public Registry as well as Powers of Attorney as requested by notaries/lawyers in Malta.

Registrations of births, marriages, civil unions, divorce decrees, and death certificates in Malta require **apostilled, original certificates issued by the Province in which the event occurred.**

Registering such certificates is required for persons who have acquired Maltese citizenship, have been born outside of Malta and have not had their births registered in Malta yet, or have changed their surnames legally after marriage/divorce. This is an essential step between acquiring Maltese citizenship and applying for a Maltese passport.

You must get your official original certificates apostilled at the competent authority according to the province or territory that they are issued from. A full list of Competent Authorities that will issue apostilles and more information about the Apostille Convention and how it will change authentication services is available at: <https://bit.ly/48iHbPE>

Scan here:



Official certificates that will have been authenticated by Canadian Provinces/Global Affairs Canada until 10 January 2024 will still be accepted for counter-authentication by the Consulate General of Malta after this date.

Kindly note that authenticated documents prior to 10 January 2024 still require the counter-authentication step by the Consulate General of Malta in Toronto before being fully finalised for processes or recognition in Malta.

Thanks for your cooperation.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE MALTA BAND CLUB

### Malta Band Club

The new year was welcomed in grand style Sunday night at the Malta Band Club as a full house said goodbye to 2023 and greeted the start of 2024. The evening began with an excellent antipasto bar followed by a delicious steak and seafood dinner.



A fruit and pastry bar was setup for everyone's enjoyment as 2023 was coming to a close.



The Sweet Table

Our DJ for the evening had the dance floor busy all evening and champagne was served as the countdown to 2024 took place.

Special thanks to the MBC executive committee, the kitchen and bar staff, the hall setup crew and everyone that made the choice to be at the Club on New Year's Eve.

Thanks to everyone for your support in 2023 and we look forward to seeing you at the club in 2024!



### READERS' COMMENTS

Thank you for your editorial, very informative and keep me posted with my fellow Maltese in North America.

Joe Borg, NSW, Australia

Another informative and interesting issue of "The Maltese Presence in North America".... Thank you for reproducing the late Knight Commander Frank Savona's' article from Carmenu Caruana's "Maltese Forum".

Richard S. Cumbo, Ontario

So sorry about my delay in thanking you so much for your interesting newsletter! As usual, you provide us with lots of interesting articles. I always make sure to 'forward' to most of my friends here and overseas.

Thanks again, and keep up the good work!!!

Carmen Galea, Ontario

Thank you for this issue and all the previous ones that you have sent us. They are all filed on our servers.

Dr. Stephen Borg, Senior Manager – Legal Deposit, National Bibliographic Office, Floriana, Malta



## THE BROTHERS MOSCATI... and a few other relatives

**Dan Brock**

My interest in family history (genealogy) goes back some 60 years, when I started working on the various lines of my parents and grandparents. It was only natural, therefore, that I branch out to do the same for my wife, Loretta, here in London, Ontario.

Her maiden surname was Scicluna and that of her mother was Muscat. My mother-in-law, the late Josephine (Muscat) Scicluna of Brantford, ON, was of great help, more than 40 years ago, in assisting me to get started with both the Scicluna and Muscat family trees.

This work was later augmented through interviews and correspondence with Loretta's relatives and researching the church sacramental records in Malta and the Adami collection of marriages at the Bibliotheca in Valletta. The real breakthrough came with the discovery of Charles Said-Vassallo's Maltagenealogy, a free online web site.

During our recent trip to Malta, a couple of the grandchildren of one of Loretta's aunts on the Muscat side asked if I would send them what I had on the Muscats so they could figure out how various family members, descended from siblings of their paternal grandmother, were related.

This in turn spurred me on to clean up some of the entries for the various generations which Charles Said-Vassallo had, originating with Giulio Moscati, a 15<sup>th</sup>-century Calabrian pirate who, according to legend, had a Maltese grandfather.

Meanwhile, for the past few years, I've been corresponding with Margaret Muscat Purdy of Howell, Michigan. She has been one of the contributors of material for this newsletter. Through Margaret, I learned that her brother John of Canton, MI was also interested in his family history.

This ultimately led to John Muscat emailing me a copy of the Muscat family tree chart which the renowned Maltese genealogist, Joseph Borg, had prepared for him.

Joseph Borg had traced John's Muscat lineage back 12 generations beyond him to Lorenzo Muscat and his wife, Domenica Zammit. According to Charles Said-Vassallo, however, Lorenzo's surname was still Moscati and his wife's surname was Borg, not Zammit.

In any case, it turns out that Lorenzo Moscati/Muscat, was a great-great-great-grandson of Giulio Moscati the pirate and also just happened to be a direct ancestor of my wife.

Now Lorenzo had a son, Giacobbo or Giacomo who had three known sons – Giovanni Maria, Pietro, and Mattiolo – all of whom married in the early 1650s.

It is from Giovanni Maria that John Muscat and his sister Margaret are directly descended while my wife Loretta is a direct descendant of Mattiolo Moscati.

This makes John and Margaret's father, Tom Muscat of Dearborn Heights, MI, a ninth cousin of Loretta's through the Muscat line.

Now what about Pietro, the third son of Giacomo Muscati? Well, it turns out that a direct descendant of his is none other than Joseph Muscat, the former Prime Minister of Malta. Dr. Muscat's, great-great-grandfather, Carmelo Muscat, is a ninth cousin to Tom Muscat of Metro Detroit, the father of John Muscat and Margaret (Muscat) Purdy and my wife, Loretta, of London, ON.

Of course, we know that, through marriages over the generations, the Michigan Muscats, my wife, and the former Prime Minister of Malta, have to be more closely related.

In fact, as a student, young Joseph Muscat stayed with the family of Tom Muscat's brother, another Joseph Muscat, in Malta.

According to the genealogist, Joseph Borg, no Maltese on the mother's side is more distantly related than a sixth cousin. I suspect that, for the most part, they are more closely related.

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This little piece shows how, with a little work, it was possible to show that the Muscats of Metro Detroit and beyond, the former Prime Minister of Malta, and my wife, are all related through but a single Maltese surname.

I'm truly convinced that with the amount of material available just online itself, anyone of Maltese descent should be able to trace his/her relationship to virtually any other person of Maltese descent, especially through a common surname.

Now, it was noted earlier that Loretta's maiden surname was Scicluna. Through the material online posted by Charles Said-Vassallo, I was able to show how my wife was related to Louis Shickluna, the first Maltese settler in Canada; Giuseppe "Iċ-Ċisk" Scicluna, who established Malta's first privately-owned bank; and Charles Scicluna, the present Archbishop of Malta.

Moreover, again though the work of Charles Said-Vassallo, I've been able to trace the Scicluna line, and that of a few dozen other Maltese surnames directly back, through the emirs (Muslim governors) of Malta and Sicily, to Husayn a-Kalbi (800-860) of the Arab Banu Kalb tribe in present-day Tunisia.

Again, it may be said that virtually all Maltese on their mother's side can trace their lineage back to this tribe in North Africa and beyond.

This Banu Kalb tribe mainly dwelt in the desert and steppe of northwestern Arabia and central Syria. It was involved in the tribal politics of the Byzantine Empire's eastern frontiers, possibly as early as the 4<sup>th</sup> century. By the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the Kalb had largely adopted Christianity. During the lifetime of Muhammad, a few of his close companions were Kalbites. It was during the conquest of Byzantine Syria by the Muslims, however, that large numbers of the Kalbites converted to Islam.

**MALTESE-AMERICAN  
FAMILY SOCIAL CLUB  
NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE**

**Mary Vella Gomes\***

*\* Mary Vella Gomes is President of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco.*

Here in South San Francisco, California, we celebrated the end of 2023 and the arrival of 2024.











# MALTESE-AMERICAN FAMILY SOCIAL CLUB NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



*Courtesy of Mary Vella Gomes,  
President, Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco*