



# THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



## E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 58

MARCH 2024



**H.E. DR. GODWIN XUEREB,  
MALTA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES SIGNS  
THE MALTESE CENTER, NYC GUEST BOOK**

See pages 19-21.

**The Maltese Presence  
in North America**  
Issue No. 58      March 2024

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**EDITORIAL COMMENT**

Well, here it is the middle of April and I'm just sending out the March newsletter!

A lot has happened to delay this issue. Two time-sensitive articles which required a good deal of research and rewriting were those relating to the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Countess of Ghajn Tuffieha (pages 9-11, 32) and the signing up of Louis Rees-Zammit by the Kansas City Chiefs (pages 28-29). In the end, I found both personally quite rewarding.

Then, there has been the flurry of activities of late in most of the organizations, especially the Maltese Centre, NYC. My thanks to those organizations which post their events with text and photos on Facebook.

Even better are those who forward me emails noting their activities and events. Here I'll single out three: St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Toronto (see pages 3 and 5), the Maltese-Canadian Museum in Toronto and its curator Richard Cumbo (see page 24) and the Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario and its president Peter Pace (see page 6).

Nor must I omit those who have sent me material, some as long as two years ago, which I have not yet worked into articles. These include Allyson Bozenski of Michigan; Marina Brasil of the Melita Soccer Club; Charles Said-Vassallo of NSW, Australia; Joanne (Zammit) Prince of Ontario; Anthony Bezzina of Malta; and E.M. Bannock of Wyoming.

These are just the ones I remember off the top of my head. If I have omitted anyone here just give me a nudge at [danbrock62@email.com](mailto:danbrock62@email.com). Rest assured I still have your material. As my wife will say, I don't throw anything out and my daughter describes me as a borderline hoarder.

Among the articles in this issue which may be of special value to some are those which pertain to the loss of the Maltese connection among the youth of the Diaspora (see pages 9 and 16) and what precautions to take when transferring your household possessions with you if planning on moving/returning to Malta.

Back issues of this newsletter and the latest "Table of Contents" are posted on the web page of the

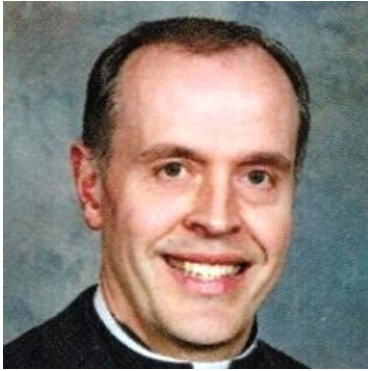
Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco at <http://maltese-americanscsf.org/home.aspx>. Click on to "News & Resources."

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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 February 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>

This weekend presents a unique opportunity for our parish to commemorate Malta's introduction to Christianity. The Acts of the Apostles describe in vivid detail that they would encounter an island and run aground there. Thankfully, they reached safety, only to find out that the island they had landed on was none other than Malta! The question we ask is: Does it fill you with a sense of pride in your Christian heritage?

This event took place just 27 years after Jesus ascended into his glory. In his providence and generous nature, Jesus blessed the Maltese people with a remarkable Apostle and Missionary. St. Paul's role was to spread the message of Christ - the message that God loves us and invites us into His kingdom. We should be grateful for this incredible occurrence! What could have been better news than this? A tiny island, practically unknown to many, receives the Good News that God has adopted the Maltese people as a part of his loving family.

### Parish Bulletin for February 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the success of our dinner and dance this past weekend to honor St. Paul, patron of Malta and our parish. It was a joyous and memorable occasion that brought us together as a community of faith and culture.

The first thank you is to the social committee for the delicious food they served and their amazing hard work and dedication. They started on Wednesday with the setup of the hall and then the remaining days preparing the food. It is amazing to see how they work so well together and then the hard work on Saturday of serving the food. The food was delightful and I want to thank them for their generosity and hospitality.

I am extremely grateful to the Master of Ceremonies for his fine words and for flawlessly managing the event. I also want to thank the entertainment person for providing us with music and dance that added so much to the evening. They made us feel the spirit of Malta and St. Paul through their talents and enthusiasm.

We were blessed to have Bishop Ivan Camilleri to attend the dinner and to celebrate the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday. I want to thank him for his presence and his gracious words. He reminded us of the importance of St. Paul's mission and message for our times.

I want to thank all those who attended and supported the event financially. The final tally revealed that the net outcome amounted to \$7,403.

We were blessed to have a number of younger families with their children. It created a very family-like presence and shows how we can continue to grow as a parish community. Let us continue to seek the wisdom of St. Paul by reading his letters in the Bible, which would be a good idea as we begin the holy season of Lent. May St. Paul intercede for us and guide us in our journey of faith.

### Parish Bulletin for February 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

As we continue our journey to Easter, Christ invites us to deepen our relationship with Him and to follow his example of love and service.

Lent is a time of grace, a time to renew our commitment to God and to our brothers and sisters in need.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1438) tells us that Lent is a time that is "particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies, pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works)." These practices help us grow in holiness, to purify our hearts, and to express our solidarity with the poor and the suffering. As a parish community, we have many opportunities to live out these practices during Lent.



### ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

#### MICHIGAN

**Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc**  
St. Patrick's Day was celebrated at the Club.



Grech-Cumbo  
Family Foundation

March 10, 2024

THE GEORGE CROSS SOCIETY OF MALTA INVITES YOU AND  
A GUEST TO OUR 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

*Cocktail Reception*

CELEBRATING THE 82<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGE CROSS  
BEING AWARDED TO THE PEOPLE AND THE ISLAND OF MALTA.

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT

THE GRECH-CUMBO FAMILY FOUNDATION

THURSDAY April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 AT 6:00 PM

MALTESE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

1832 MICHIGAN AVE.

DETROIT, MI

PLEASE RSVP TO LGC400@AOL.COM

300 Riverfront Drive 11K  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

#### Maltese American Community Club, Dearborn

An **Octopus Dinner** was held at the Club on Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

April 5<sup>th</sup> being the First Friday of the Month, **Mass** was celebrated by **Fr. Joe Mallia** at 6:30 p.m. with **Dinner**, consisting of Maltese food, being available either before or afterwards.

A sold out **Pastizzi Class** was conducted at noon on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Aprons, hats, hoodies, and t-shirts were available for purchase.



#### CALIFORNIA

**Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco**  
A **St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Dance** was held on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> with music by DJ Arthur De Vera.

A **Family Bingo and Pasta Dinner** took place on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

The two-day **Rummage Sale** is to take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

**Maltese American Social Club**



**RUMMAGE Sale**

**April 20 & 21, 2024**  
**9 AM - 4 PM**  
924 El Camino Real  
South San Francisco, Ca 94080

All proceeds will go to the  
Clubs 95th Anniversary & Malta Day Gala

**SALES ARE CASH ONLY**


Clothes, toys, furniture, books,  
tools, kitchenware & more

For donation drop offs please call:  
Rita Borg (650) 483-3957

#### NEW YORK

**Maltese Center, NYC**

IN LOVING MEMORY



June 2 1967 - January 28 2024

**PAUL ANGELO VALLONE**

We invite you to join us as we remember the light of our family and celebrate his legacy of love, kindness, and advocacy.

Visitation: February 1st, 2PM - 9PM  
Farenga Funeral Home  
38-08 Ditmars Blvd, Astoria, NY

Memorial Service: February 2nd, 11AM  
Saint Andrew Avellino Roman Catholic Church  
35-60 158th St, Flushing, NY

THE MALTESE CENTER COMMITTEE, ITS MEMBERS, AND THE  
MALTESE COMMUNITY SEND THEIR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO  
THE VALLONE FAMILIES.

KEEP THEM IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS  
MAY HE REST IN PEACE



A **Bingo** was held in the Lower Hall on the afternoon of Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. (See pages

The **Stations of the Cross**, led by **Fr. Anthony Saliba** took place on the evening of Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Following the service there was a **Meet & Greet** with **H.E. Dr. Godfrey C. Xuereb**, **Malta's Ambassador to the United States**, and his delegation. (See pages 20-21.)

A **Children's Easter Party** was held on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. The first 35 RSVPs received a free figolla. Easter candy was distributed by **Ambassador Dr. Godfrey Xuereb** and his wife, **Dr. Kay Xuereb**.

The annual **Good Friday Procession/Stations of the Cross** was conducted on the evening of March 29<sup>th</sup> at **Most Precious Blood Church**, in Astoria. The station representing the Crucified Jesus (*il-vara l-kbira*) was carried by the Maltese community. (See page 6.)

Another **Bingo** was held in the Lower Hall on the afternoon of Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

A **Mother's Day Bunch** with an Elvis impersonator will be held on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 p.m.

## ONTARIO

### Greater Toronto Area (GTA)

#### *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.

## Malta Band Club

The Club hosts dinner and social evening every Friday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. This activity has been happening for the past couple of years. A different menu item is presented each week with a price range from \$12 to \$20 depending on the item.

A **Spring Concert** was held at the Club on the evening of Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A **bus trip to Fallsview Casino** in Niagara Falls, Ontario, took place on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> was **Fenkata Night** at the Club.

Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> will be **An Evening with Musician Jessica Amaro**. She is a recipient of LA Music awards, Holly Wood Fame awards, and has topped Billboard charts.

**MALTA BAND CLUB INCORPORATED**  
**PRESENTS**

Jessica  
Amaro



**SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024**

<u>MENU</u>	Doors open at 6:00PM
Roast Beef	Dinner at 6:30PM
Potatoes	Show at 7:30PM
Vegetables	

Ticket Prices

Members: \$35.00 per person	
Non-members: \$50.00 per person	

For reservations, please contact Tony at (905) 450-5885, Virginia at (416) 873-6013 or the club directly at (905) 890-8507.

A **Vendor & Craft Show** will take place on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Maltese Canadian Federation

A **Town Hall Meeting** took place in the lower hall of St. Paul the Apostle Church, at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> following the noon Mass. (See p. 15.)

## Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre

**Noel and Carol Agius of Malta**, and close friend **Joan Carbonaro** made a special visit to the Museum on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. (See page 24.)

## Melita Soccer Club, Inc.

The **Carnival Dinner Dance** was held on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.

A **Bus Trip to Fallsview Casino**, Niagara Falls, Ontario took place on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

The **St. Patrick's Dinner Dance** will be held on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

A **Fallsview Casino bus trip** took place on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A **bus trip to Casino Rama** will take place on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

## St. Paul the Apostle Parish

A **Dinner & Dance** were held on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The dinner consisted of five courses.

A **Pancake Breakfast** of pancakes and sausages were served after the 9:15 a.m. Mass on Shrove Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Fr. Massimo Buttigieg** was available to hear **confessions** in both Maltese and in English, between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Hamilton  
Maltese Canadian Association  
of the City of Hamilton**

**The Way of the Cross Art Exhibit**, displaying the hand carvings of local artist Joseph Brincat of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord, was held at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Hamilton on February 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> and at St Francis Xavier Church Stoney Creek on March 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>.



The **5:30 Mass**, at St. Francis Xavier Church on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> was also attended by **Ms. Denise Demicoli**, the Consul General of Malta in Toronto. Ms. Demicoli and some of the members then met afterwards for coffee at the **Fortinos** near the south west corner of Queenston and Grays roads.

**London**

A **Monthly Luncheon** took place on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the **Swiss Chalet**, on Wonderland Road South. (See pages 7-8)

**Turtle Jack's** on Fanshawe Park Road West was the venue for the March 14<sup>th</sup> **Luncheon**. (See pages 17-18.)

**Windsor**

**Malta United Society**

The Club's **St. Patrick's Day Ravioli Dinner** took place at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

The next **Dinner**, a traditional Maltese **timpana**, with Caesar salad and dessert, was held on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

The **Annual General Membership Meeting** will be held starting at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. As well as the election to certain official positions there will be an amendment to the constitution to consider. A **Free Pasta Dinner** to those attending the meeting will be served afterwards.



**Presidents of the Maltese-Canadian  
Society of Toronto: 1938-1977**

- Angelo Cutajar, 1938-49; 1951-56; 1958-59
- Charles Baldacchino, 1950
- Frank Grech, 1956-57
- Charles Deidun, 1957-58
- Frank Vitellaro, 1960
- Alfred Fenech, 6 months
- Kt. Cdr. Frank Savona, 1961-66
- Chev. John Cordina, 1967-May 1972
- Chev. Alfred Goggi, May 1972-Jan. 1975
- Chev. Richard S. Cumbo, Jan.-Feb. 1975
- Andrew Vassallo, Feb. 1975-Jan. 1976
- Charles Aquilina, Jan. 1976-Jan. 1977

**GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Maltese Center, NYC**

The Maltese community had the honor of carrying the station representing the Crucified Jesus (*il-vara l-kbira*) from Most Precious Blood Church, on 36<sup>th</sup> Street, in Astoria, beginning at 6:30 p.m., Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.





**FEBRUARY LUNCHEON  
AT THE SWISS CHALET**

**Dan Brock**

On the afternoon of Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, over 35 of us “regulars” gathered at the Swiss Chalet, on Wonderland Road South, in London, Ontario for our monthly luncheon.



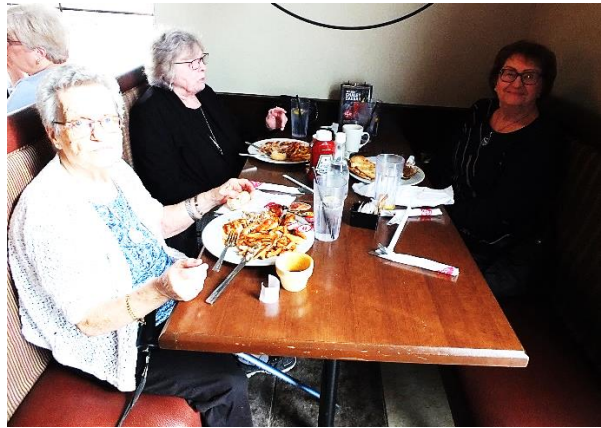
**Bernadette Gall, Mannie Micallef,  
Joe Gall, and Monica Micallef**



**Charles Vella, Connie Hislop,  
Janet Peckham, and Janice Vella**



**Mary Testa, Rita Galea, and Rose Mizzi**



**Cetta Fenech, Gloria Hefler, and Linda Clifford**



**Barbara Gauci, Sr. Mary Jo Fox, Sr. Florian  
Atkinson, and Sr. Dorothy Ann Howley**



**Frank & Marlene Mifsud, Barbara Gauci,  
Charles Micallef, Ted Gauci,  
and Jim McDonald**



**Melrose Paquet, Miranda Catania,  
Rose & Charles Micallef**





**Mike Ditchfield, Helen Ditchfield, Chris Charlinski, Lynda & Tony Galea, Carol Hilton, and Terry Rogers**



**Loretta Brock, Gena & Ted Gryn, and Dan Brock**



**Chris Charlinski and Connie Zammit**



**MARK ANTHONY PACE:  
FIRST MALTESE HIGH COMMISSIONER  
TO RESIDE IN CANADA\***



The President of Malta Dr George Vella, received H.E. Mark Anthony Pace, High Commissioner-designate of Malta to Canada, to hand him his Letters of Commission. He congratulated Dr Pace as he will be the first Maltese High Commissioner resident in Canada and wished him every success in his work.

An enjoyable two hours were spent over good food and great conversation.



The Foreign Affairs Minister, Ian Borg, announced some months ago that the Government nominated Mr Mark Pace for the role of Malta's High Commissioner in Canada. Mr Pace served as Malta's Ambassador for the Netherlands.

The largest community of Maltese descendants in Canada can be found in Toronto. From a commercial aspect, Canada is the ninth country with which Malta conducts the most business. These reasons incentivised the Maltese government to open up its first embassy in this country. The embassy will be located in the capital Ottawa, and since both countries are members of the Commonwealth, Malta's representation will be known as a High Commission.

Minister Ian Borg said that the embassy will further enhance the work which has already been carried out by the General Consulate in Toronto. Minister Borg remarked that Canada is the only G7 country in which Malta does not yet have an embassy. Through the High Commissioner, Malta will be strongly represented by the International Civil Aviation Organisation based in Canada. Apart from providing thousands of jobs, the aviation industry in Malta generated around €600 million per year towards the economy. Malta commenced its bilateral relations with Canada three months after Independence, and to this day the two countries share 11 bilateral agreements which cover various areas.

\* *Heretofore, Malta's Ambassador to the United States has also been the High Commissioner of Malta to Canada, the most recent being Dr. Godfrey Xuereb, with the highest-ranking representative residing in Canada being the Consul General in Toronto, the present Consul General being Ms. Denise Demicoli.*

*Reprinted from Maltese eNewsletter, issue 511 (Feb. 2024), 2, courtesy of Frank Scicluna.*

## **MALTESE COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA IS FAST DISAPPEARING\***

As the first-generation Maltese in Australia is ageing and shrinking rapidly in size, and institutions, associations, clubs and journals are closing down, the younger generations have shown little or no interest in continuing the Maltese language, culture, and traditions. This crisis is also evolving in other countries like Canada, USA and UK. The challenge that Maltese community organisations in Australia have been and are still facing is in engendering the interest and involvement of the younger Maltese-Australian generations in the Maltese language, culture, and traditions as well as in their Maltese heritage. We must ensure that the Maltese communities in Australia do not become extinct in a matter of a decade or two.

With the ageing of the Maltese-born first generation, the Maltese community in Australia appears to be facing a crisis: There are no young people coming up to take over the leadership of the Maltese organisations. While we may console ourselves that this is not a problem only within the Maltese community and, in fact, it goes right across other ethnic groups in Australia, in the case of the Maltese community, the problem is more pressing due to the smaller size of the community, which has shrunk by nearly 50% in the past 25 years. Most importantly, the Maltese language uptake in Australia seems to be declining, as can be seen from the difficulty in getting the minimum of 15 students selecting the Maltese language at the VCE, HCS or SACE level on a national level to ensure it retains its place in the Australian schools' curriculum.

This contrasts with the language uptake in other ethnic groups, which starts very early as it is compulsory, not just within their school system but also through their parents.

For instance, every Greek child goes to Greek language school every Saturday. It is the same with the Italians. The Italian government also funds Catholic schools in Australia to teach Italian. For these other ethnic groups, this early start in the language ensures an equally early identification on the part of the younger generation with the relevant culture.

There is no simple answer to the often-raised question as to why parents, who have chosen to identify themselves with their Maltese background and have been involved with the Maltese community in Australia for many years, have been unable to convince their children that they should also be involved in the life of the Maltese community.

Without the engagement of youth, the future of the Maltese culture, IDENTITY and language in Australia is at great risk. If the first generation accepts responsibility for not keeping up with the younger generations and is able to come up with better ideas "thinking outside the square" to engage them, the hope is that there would be enough of them, given their numbers, who would be interested in gradually taking over leadership. If people are proud of their background, the last thing they would want to see happen is to see the Maltese culture disappear completely.

In fact, it's already happening now. Act before it is too late. Even in my personal experience many times I found obstacles instead of support from those who claim they love the Maltese living abroad and the community.

*\*Editor's note: As is mentioned in this article the current retention of the "Maltese language, culture and traditions" in North America is as much in peril in North America as it is in Australia. I have personally witnessed this in London, Ontario.*

*Reprinted from Maltese eNewsletter, issue 513 (March 2024), 2, courtesy of Frank Scicluna, its author*



## **MALTESE NOBILITY IN CANADA: Countess Mary Frances Teuma Castelletti McCutcheon\***

**Dan Brock**

Countess Mary Frances Teuma Castelletti McCutcheon celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 6, 2024. A native of Ontario, Canada, she is the daughter of Pietro Paolo "Peter" Teuma Castelletti and his wife, the former Frances Helena Trout.

Peter, born in Rabat, Malta, on October 4, 1901, was the eldest child of Saverio and Concetta Teuma Castelletti.

Saverio Alfonso Teuma Castelletti and Maria Concetta Mallia married in Kalkara, Malta on November 10, 1900.

A carpenter by trade, Saverio immigrated to Canada, on board the *Teutonic* in Liverpool. The ship docked at Montreal on August 30, 1912. Saverio then made his way to Toronto.

The following year, he was joined by his wife, Concetta, and their three youngest children: Giuseppe, Giulietta, and Salvino. They had sailed from Trieste, on the *Polonia*, and disembarked at Quebec City in June 1913.

As for their two eldest children, the aforesaid Pietro Paolo remained in Malta with the family of his paternal uncle, Major Giuseppe Teuma Castelletti, at 3 Strada Reale (now Triq Repùblica) and continued his education there. Maria Grazia, who was born in 1905, had married, and had died in 1919.

The Teuma Castelletti family were living at 1245 Queen Street East, Toronto, when their sixth child, Robert Frederick, was born on September 19, 1915. At this time, the father was a carpenter for the Toronto Separate School Board.

The family was living at 97 George Street when the youngest child, Lorenzo "Lawrence Thomas", was born on June 12, 1917.

Meanwhile, Pietro Paolo, the eldest child, was still attending school in Valletta and while living with the family of his paternal uncle Major Giuseppe Teuma Castelletti.

It was Giuseppe who paid for his nephew's passage to Canada so that 19-year-old Pietro Paolo could be reunited with his family, then living at 3 Turner Avenue in Toronto. Pietro Paolo sailed on board the *Victorian*, from Liverpool, and landed at Quebec City on November 20, 1920.



**Passport Photo of  
Pietro Paolo Teuma Castelletti**

Courtesy of the National Archives of Malta

Pietro Paolo, now known as Peter, was a driver and living at 64 Gerrard Street West at the time of his marriage, on December 3, 1932, to Frances Helena Trout in the United Church on Eglington Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario.



**Frances and Peter Teuma Castelletti  
in later years**

Meanwhile his father had changed both occupations and surname, according to the 1931 Federal Census of Canada.

The family was now living on a general farm in Clarke Township, Durham Country where they were using the surname "Thomas". Saverio was going by the given name "Samuel". Salvino, Robert, and Lawrence were still living at home.



**Severino Alfonso Teuma Castelletti  
(aka Samuel Thomas)**

Samuel's wife, Concetta, died in Clarke Township in 1936.

Many decades earlier, in 1884, Samuel's oldest brother, later known as Fr. Francesco Saverio Teuma Castelletti, had become the 4<sup>th</sup> Count of Ghajn Tuffieħa with the death of their father, Pietro Paolo Teuma Castelletti, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Count.

This title had been created on January 7, 1792, and granted by Grand Maser Emanuel de Rohan Polduc to Ferdinand Teuma Castelletti and his issue in perpetuity.

The British Crown had recognized this title in 1878 while Pietro Paolo Teuma Castelletti was the 3<sup>rd</sup> count, having inherited the title with the death of his father, Giovanni Francesco Teuma Castelletti, the 2<sup>nd</sup> count, in 1825.

With the death of Fr. Francesco Saverio Teuma Castelletti, 4<sup>th</sup> Count of Ghajn Tuffieħa in 1959, and their brother, Major Giuseppe Teuma Castelletti having died without living issue in 1942, the title fell to Severino Alfonso Teuma Castelletti (aka Samuel Thomas) a general farmer in Clarke Township, Durham County, Ontario, Canada.

(At this time the 1991 American comedy film *King Ralph* comes to mind.)

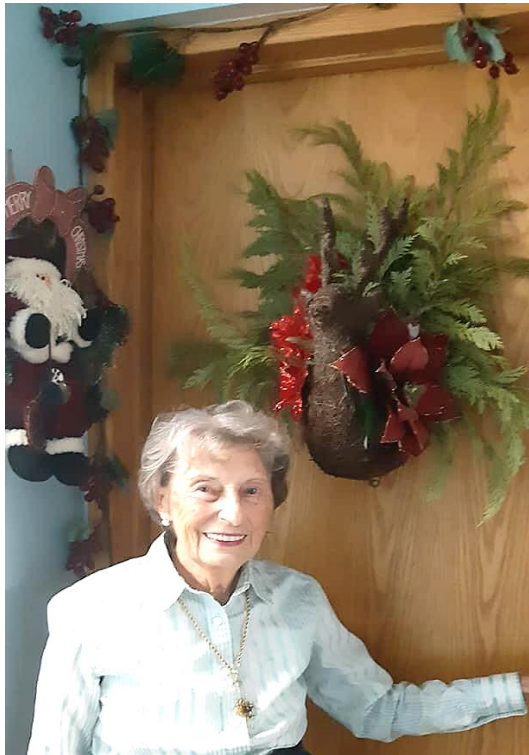
Samuel Teuma Castelletti, the 5<sup>th</sup> Count of Ghajn Tuffieħa, died on June 21, 1965. His eldest son and heir to the title, Peter Teuma Castelletti, had predeceased him just months earlier on March 15, 1965. Thus, the title fell to Peter's only child, Samuel's granddaughter, Mary Frances McCutcheon who became the 6<sup>th</sup> holder of the title as the Countess of Ghajn Tuffieħa.

Mary Frances Teuma Castelletti had married Donald Robert McCutcheon on September 27, 1952. The McCutcheons were to have four children between 1953 and 1963: Peter Donald, Thomas Kimberly, Donna Louise, and Maryfrances Penny.

In 1965, the family was living at 40 St. Lucie Drive in Weston, now a neighbourhood in the northwest part of Toronto. Mary Frances was a stenographer and Donald an equipment operator at the time. He passed away on February 12, 1988 and was interred in Glendale Memorial Gardens in Etobicoke.



As for to the actual title itself, Count of Ghajn Tuffieħa, it was never registered with the Committee of Privileges and remained dormant until 2001 when it "was brought out and presented to Mary Frances Teuma Castelletti.



**Mary Frances Teuma Castelletti McCutcheon,  
Countess of Ghajn Tuffieħa**

\* I wish to thank Charles Said-Vassallo of New South Wales, Australia, for alerting me to the Countess. (See also page 32.).



**In Praise of a Uniquely Exceptional  
Service to the Gozitan Diaspora  
Dr. Raymond Xerri\***

Date March 12, 2024

Dear Editor,

I have known many Maltese and Gozitan migrants for most of my life in the Province of Ontario and throughout Canada. They truly are migrants that helped build Canada into the country it is today. I have also learned that there are tens of thousands in other countries like Australia, the United States, France, the United Kingdom and others. When the Gozitans return back to their home-island Gozo, they are especially welcomed with a uniquely exceptional service offered by the Ministry of Gozo and Planning by means of the Gozo Diaspora & International Office.

This Office exists exclusively to assist Gozitans who migrate, return to Gozo, those who wish to re-emigrate and a whole range of free services related to the countries where most of Gozo's diaspora is found. These include Australia, the US, France, the UK and Canada. The latter is where I was born and where I lived until moving to Gozo recently.

My husband and I were assisted in gaining residency to live and start our business here in Gozo by an official I first heard about while he served in Toronto - Dr Raymond Xerri, the former consul general of Malta to Canada. The service offered by Dr Xerri, similar to his exceptional service in Canada since his reputation preceded him, was simply fantastic, friendly and very efficient.

Gozitans, wherever they live, should be thankful to have a professional like Dr Raymond Xerri that passionately works towards the betterment of Gozitans in Gozo and the Gozitan Diaspora. As a client and as a Rotarian, I strongly commend Raymond and his work and suggest to the Maltese Government to open a similar service for the Maltese once they return to Malta (as I'm told this as yet doesn't exist.)

The Pride of Gozo Award for Community Service he recently received from the Gozo Rotary Club is very much well deserved.



Dr Raymond Xerri's care for his fellow countrymen is reflected in the passion he puts to assist them as he did to my family. A heartfelt thanks goes to Dr Xerri - and to the Ministry for Gozo & Planning for creating this very useful service for Gozitans in Gozo and around the world.

Congratulations Dr. Xerri.

Tracy Lamourie PR

\* Reprinted from Maltese eNewsletter, issue 515 (March 2024), page 13.

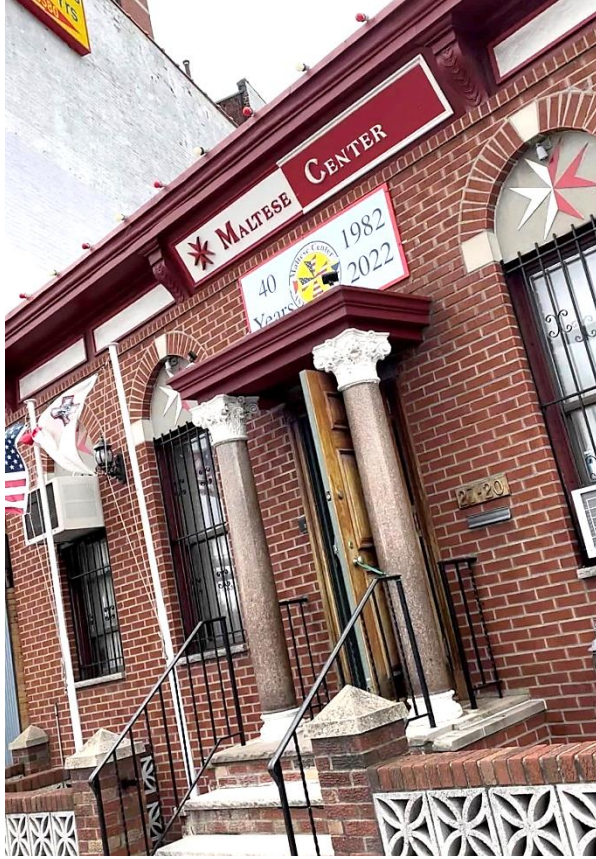
Dr. Xerri served as Consul General of Malta in Toronto prior to the present Consul General Ms. Denise Demicoli.



### BINGO AT THE MALTESE CENTER, NYC

Elizabeth Sciberras Stalzer

The afternoon of Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> was the occasion of another bingo held in the Lower Hall at the Maltese Center.









### ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

#### Melita Soccer Club

On Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, our club hosted its annual St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Among our guests was Ms Denise Demicoli, Consul General of Malta in Toronto.

Our St Patrick's Dinner Party was a success for all who attended. Good food, good company and good entertainment.



**Ms Denise Demicoli**

The evening featured a special performance by Irish dance multiple-award-winning Erica Muscat.



**Erica Muscat**







## TOWN HALL MEETING

### Various Contributors

The new executive of the Maltese Canadian Cultural Association held a Town Hall Meeting in the lower hall of St. Paul the Apostle Church, on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> following the 12:00 noon Mass.

The meeting was well attended and nothing but praise was heard of the work of Carl Azzopardi, the President, and the rest of the committee members.

Encouraging speeches were given by Ms. Denise Demicoli, Consul General of Malta in Toronto, and Paul Portelli.

Among others present were Victor Micallef of the Tenors\* and Carmen Galea, a former member and secretary of the previous Maltese Canadian Federation.

In short, people left with the belief that this young executive committee, who had done such a superb job of organizing the meeting, would continue to do its best to bring forward a new beginning to the Maltese community of the Greater Toronto Area and continue the Maltese heritage.

One of the upcoming events the Committee is putting its efforts behind is the Imnarja Malta Fest to be held on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>.



**Jason Mercieca, Victor Micallef, Joe Sherri, Carl Azzopardi, Denise Demicoli**



*\*The Tenors sang "Danny Boy" at the state funeral for Brian Mulroney, a former prime minister of Canada, at St. Patrick's Basilica, Montreal, Quebec, on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

## CRISIS – QUO VADIS? MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

**Frank Scicluna**

More than three quarters of Maltese and Gozitans have relatives who live abroad. Malta is a small country in size, but we have a big family spread all over the world – the Maltese Diaspora.

Maltese and Gozitans have been emigrating to all corners of the world for centuries. At first, most of our people who had to emigrate because of unemployment, overpopulation, and poverty, sought a better life in neighbouring Mediterranean countries like Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria. Then, since the 1900s, they started venturing to faraway countries like the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and Australia. Today there are Maltese, Gozitans and their descendants in around 194 countries, practically in every country in the world.

At this point in time those Maltese communities who emigrated between 1900 and the '70s are rapidly disappearing and unfortunately, they are not being replaced by the younger generations. This last decade we have witnessed the closure of several organisations, journals (*The Maltese Herald*, the *Voice* and several others), Maltese radio programs, schools, clubs, chaplaincies (very few priests left) etc. Other associations are struggling to survive. The future is looking grim. And the problem is too difficult to resolve.

The few of us who are left must understand that this is a crucial time to unite and join forces instead of pulling the rope in opposite directions.

The number of emails and comments that I have received from readers of the journal is unbelievable. Correspondence came from USA, Canada, UK and mainly Australia (NSW, Victoria and South Australia). They all agree that we are in dire straits. They lost a large number of Malta-bom individuals and associations etc.

I suggest we all get together and forget our differences and discuss the issue and find a way to reach the younger generations to continue the sterling work that the past and present generations managed to achieve to preserve the culture, identity and heritage of our homeland in the country where we live. First of all, we have to empower them and not patronise them. I urge the Government of Malta through the Council for Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA) and all the Maltese, Australian, Canadian and American associations to assist during this crisis before it is too late. This respected journal can be used as a tool of unity, communication and survival.

*Reprinted from Maltese eNewsletter, issue 514 (March 2024), 2.*

Dear Frank,

It is a sobering thought about what happened in the state of the Maltese community in Australia. It leaves me sad and at a dilemma as to what one can do.

I, who spent twenty-eight years teaching Maltese at the Saturday school, saw in a tangible way how hard it was to keep the program of the Maltese language growing. The marketing of the HSC was important to keep the language afloat. The hard work to battle Board of studies to be lenient to our small candidature of our language proved futile in the end. Assimilation, internet, the social media and social change in Maltese society all played a role in diminishing the importance of the Maltese Language in our community.

I believe that for decades we were not able to regenerate enough young blood to take over many aspects of the Maltese community initiatives. The same people stuck to their seats of power and did not lead the young to educate them in depth about what it means to be Maltese in modern times. We continued to feed the Maltese anachronistic activities that lost their meaning. The young saw nothing exciting in Maltese culture and we cut off ourselves from our mother country and therefore had little regenerative material to give to our young.

The way forward for us is first to keep the channels of communication with the Maltese community open. The aftermath of Covid changed many mindsets. It is important, without any emotions, to study the way forward without spending more time on what went wrong. We must pick up all the things that worked in the past and renew them to cater for families in our community. I think we did not put enough emphasis on our families to inspire them to lead their kids to study Maltese. In my teaching I always kept this as a priority and wherever possible talked to parents.

I hope that a new light is dawning and somehow, we start a new journey to have a vibrant Maltese community.

Carmen Galea  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

*Reprinted from Maltese eNewsletter, issue 514 (March 2024), 3, courtesy of Carmen Galea.*  
Issue 514 p. 3

### Executive of the Maltese Canadian Social Club of Guelph: 1980-1981\*

President:	Tony Camilleri
Vice President:	Joe Pavia, Jr.
Secretary:	Mark Cachia
Treasurer:	Jerry Muscat
Directors:	Victor Cassar
	John Pavia
	Mario Pavia

\* One of the many Maltese clubs in Ontario which no longer exist.



### TURTLE JACK'S WAS THE VENUE FOR THE MARCH LUNCHEON

**Dan Brock**

On the afternoon of Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, again over 35 of us “regulars” gathered for lunch. This time, it was at Turtle Jack’s on Fanshawe Park Road West in London, thanks to arrangements having been made by Melrose Paquet.

We were welcomed by Jessie Camenzuli, one of the service managers. Jessie had come into work on his day off to meet and greet Maltese-Canadians of his father’s and grandfather’s generations.



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



**Jessie Camenzuli, service manager at Turtle Jack’s**

The food was delicious and ample and the service and ambience great.



**Barbara & Ted Gauci**



**Clockwise: Joyce Vella, Connie Zammit, Marisa Zammit, and Lynda Clifford**



**Janet Peckham, Janice & Charles Vella, and Tessie Mallia**





**Joe Mallia, Dan & Loretta Brock, and Connie Hislop**



**Clockwise: Marlene Mifsud, Doris & Tony Schembri, Carmen Farrugia, Tessie Spiteri, Rose & Charles Micallef and Frank Mifsud,**



**Tony Galea and Terry Rogers**



**Clockwise: Melrose Paquet, Miranda & Deo Catania, Joe Gall, Mannie & Monica Micallef, Bernadette Gall, Tessie Spiteri, and Jennifer Paquet Cranney**



**Clockwise: Tessie Spiteri, Rose & Charles Micallef, Frank & Marlene Mifsud, Doris & Tony Schembri, and Carmen Farrugia**



**Clockwise: Mannie & Monica Micallef, Bernadette Gall, Jennifer Paquet Cranney, and Joe Gall**



**LOCAL RECOGNITION GIVEN TO A MALTESE-CANADIAN FAMILY IN KINGSVILLE, ONTARIO**

**Dan Brock**

The Grove Brewing Company, a micro-brewer in Kingsville, has been giving recognition to local individuals and businesses by creating “unique beers celebrating who they are and their positive impact on our community.”

On Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, the Company’s latest Dog Amber Ale, Hair of the Dog, was “available in cans, on tap, and for home delivery.”



In the words of the Grove Brewing company, “We brewed this Town Tango to mimic a cola [Kinnie] that is widely popular in Malta and the Mediterranean. A refreshing amber ale with notes of mandarin oranges and star anise, this beer embodies the history of one family’s impact on a small town.” That family is the Gaffin family, and its business, Apex Barbershop, goes back three generations in Kingsville to 1950.



An account of the Gaffin family who arrived in Ontario from Malta in 1948, can be found in the June and July 2020 issues of this newsletter.



**Second and Third Generation of Gaffin Family Barbers in Kingsville**



**A MEET & GREET  
WITH H.E. DR. GODFREY C. XUEREB**

**Maltese Center, NYC**

On the evening of Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, following the Stations of the Cross, members had an opportunity to see and chat with Dr. Godfrey Xuereb, the Maltese Ambassador to the United States, and his wife, Dr. Kay Xuereb.



**A luzzu figolla was gifted to the Ambassador**



**The team behind the figolli**



**Maltese Centre President Eddie Debono  
with Dr. Godfrey Xuereb**



**In the background is the Good Friday display**





Two of the volunteers



### GOOD FRIDAY DISPLAY

Maltese Center, NYC

This display was open to the public during the latter part of March. Among those who got to see it were Dr. Godfrey C. Xuereb and Dr. Kay Xuereb.











The morning of Thursday, March 11, 1948 saw 325 men, women, and children board the Polish liner *Sobieski* in the Grand Harbour bound for New York. Of this number, five were en route to Canada. At the Customs House a reinforced police force, together with emigration officials led by the Hon John J. Cole, Minister of Emigration, worked smoothly and efficiently to ensure that all went according to plan.



## A VISIT TO THE MALTESE-CANADIAN MUSEUM WAS ON THEIR "TO DO" LIST

**Richard S. Cumbo**

Over the years, since it first opened to the general public on January 29, 2017 the Maltese-Canadian Museum in Toronto has had many visitors. On Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, I had the pleasure of giving a tour to a couple from Malta who had first heard of the museum there. Noel and Carol Agius had put it on their "to do" list, and close friend and host Joan Carbonaro made arrangements with the curator for a viewing.



**Noel & Carol Agius with Richard Cumbo**

Photo courtesy of Joan Carbonaro

Incidentally Noel had spent many years of his life living in the "Junction". He had attended Saint Cecilia's School and Runnymede Collegiate Institute and did his undergrad degree at York University. Returning to Malta he completed his graduate degree at the University of Malta.

The couple now live in Sliema. Noel, who is originally from Hamrun, is currently employed as a senior lecturer at the University of Malta, Junior College, Msida. Carol, who is from Bormla (Cospicua), is a professional in digital mapping and works for a Belgian not-for-profit association.

While in Canada Noel visited many of his old haunts and even travelled to Ottawa to watch his favourite NHL team, the Chicago Black Hawks.

Their host and long-time family friend, Joan Carbonaro, is no stranger to the "Junction". As she once told me a few years ago she's a "Junction Girl". Joan and her six siblings are the children of Sam and Grace "Daisy" (DeBattista) Carbonaro.



**Noel & Carol Agius and Joan Carbonaro**



**Daisy & Sam Carbonaro, Joan's parents**

Sam Carbonaro was a well-known figure in the "Junction" community. Opinionated and oftentimes sadly misunderstood, his family always came first. He was very proud of his background and although he had left Hamrun decades earlier he had never forgotten his roots.

Sam served the community by his involvement in the Melita Soccer Club and the Maltese-Canadian Society of Toronto. A sad episode in his life was the loss of his son, lawyer David Carbonaro. Sam's daughter Joan and partner John Timmins have written a biography of her father's interesting life and hope to expand it to include the Maltese community in the "Junction".

Before leaving the Museum the three visitors expressed their impressions of what they had seen during the three-hour visit. Noel, Carol, and Joan were truly impressed with the contents of this unique institution. Carol wrote in the guest binder, that the work being conducted by the curator and his volunteers is truly a "labour of love".



## OUR CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY

Maltese Center, NYC

Our Children's Easter Party was held at the Center on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. The first 35 RSVPs received a free figolla. Easter candy was distributed by Ambassador Dr. Godfrey Xuereb and his wife, Dr. Kay Xuereb.



On the occasion of the feast of St. Paul held in St. Paul's Shipwreck Church in San Francisco in February 1949, His Lordship Mgr. Siegebald B. Kurz, o.f.m., Bishop of Terenuti, Prefect of Yunchow, China, preached about the shipwreck of St. Paul. He also stated how glad he was to visit the Island of Malta, one of the most religious places he had ever been to and to see the place where the shipwreck took place.

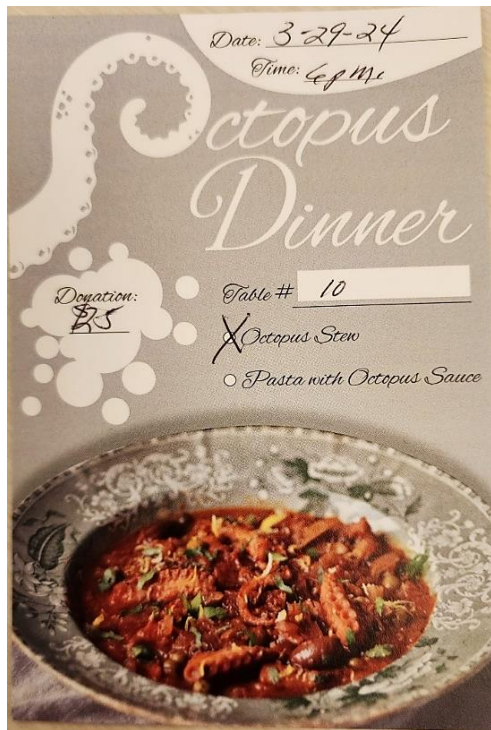
The 1991 Census noted 15,520 persons of Maltese origin living in Canada with 14,605 in Ontario, 430 in British Columbia, 204 in Quebec, 170 in Alberta, 85 in Manitoba, 25 in Nova Scotia, and 10 each in Newfoundland and in New Brunswick.



### COMING HOME TO AN OCTOPUS DINNER

Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci

I was seated with Elizabeth and Sam Sultana. I love this couple. Sam is quite the character.



Dinner started with a pastizz.

I had a great time at the Maltese American Community Club Of Dearborn on the evening of Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. It seems like forever since I've been to the Club for dinner. Everyone was happy to see me, came up and gave me a big hug. It's such a loving and caring community.

It was good to be back and seeing friends again, like Sam Sultana and Corktown Gerry.



There was plenty of Maltese bread.





Then came the pasta.



And like any self-respecting Malt, I washed it all down with a Var-ners. (That's my sad attempt to write Verners\* with a Maltese accent)



The octopus dinner always packs the house. It was a sell out event and the dining room was full!

And here's what we all came for. The octopus stew with Maltese roasted potatoes. It was absolutely delectable.



Cudos to everyone who volunteered from the organizers, to the kitchen and bar crew, the ticket takers, pastizzi and figolli sales, and the clean up crew. Well done everyone!

*\* Editor's note: Verners is to Metro Detroit what Kinnie is to Malta.*

**Carmel Camilleri** (aka Chuck, Charlie, and Chauf), a member of the Maltese American Community of Dearborn, died on March 16. He was born in Xaghra, Gozo on February 16, 1934 and sailed for the United States on board the *Nea Hellas* in September 1951. His destination was Detroit where he had brothers.

**Elsie Spiteri**, one of the founding members and long-time committee member of the Maltese American Community of Dearborn, passed away on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the age of 93. She was a daughter of Paul and Elvia Bonnici and grew up in the Governor's Palace with five siblings, her father being a chauffeur there. On August 26, 1951, Elsie married Horace Spiteri and that December the couple sailed to the United States on the *Nea Hellas*. There, they were to have a daughter and three sons.



**LOUIS REES-ZAMMIT  
OF THE KANSAS CITY CHIEFS  
AND HIS FAMILY CONNECTIONS  
ON THE FATHER'S SIDE**

**Dan Brock**

Super Bowl Champions, the Kansas City Chiefs, announced on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> that they had just signed 23-year-old European rugby star Louis Rees-Zammit to a three-year contract.

Louis Rees-Zammit was born on February 2, 2001, in Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales, the second child of Joseph Luis Zammit and Maxine Catherine Rees. His older brother, Taylor, was born on October 18, 1996.

Louis attended The Cathedral School, Llandaff, and played rugby for the school. He played youth rugby at the Cardiff Blues academy and was named in the Cardiff Schools Team of the Decade in 2020. At the age of 16, he moved to Hartpury College and from there to the academy of Gloucester Rugby.

Louis played as a winger for Gloucester in the English Premiership. He played for Wales at an international level, scoring 14 tries in 32 caps. In 2021, he won the 2021 Six Nations Championship with Wales and was subsequently named in the squad for the 2021 British & Irish Lions tour to South Africa.

In January 2024, Louis stunned rugby fans when he announced that he was leaving the Welsh national team to pursue his dream of playing in the National Football League (NFL)

Louis, whose favorite NFL player growing up was three-time Pro Bowl wide receiver DeSean Jackson, was one of 15 athletes from eight countries participating in the NFL International Player Pathway program. It was established in 2017 to provide elite athletes from around the world the opportunity to earn a spot on an NFL roster and increase the number of international players in the league.

The prospects spent 10 weeks training at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida, getting a crash course in practicing the fundamentals of football and learning the intricacies of a game most had never played.

They got a chance to showcase their skills at USF's pro day in front of 51 scouts representing 31 teams.



**The Rees-Zammit family  
Maxine, Louis, Joe, and Taylor**

Louis' mother, Maxine played netball for Wales, while his dad, Joe, played American football for the Haripur Cardiff Tigers and Oxford Saints in the 1980s. The latter was Louis' inspiration behind his switch to the NFL. Joe's parents were Joe Zammit and the former June Fettah.

June M. Fettah (1937-2024) was the daughter of Hassan Mohamet Abdu Fettah (1910-2012) and the former Maudrina Ella Bowen (1917-1980).

Hassan, a native of Cardiff, was baptised there in St. Mary's Anglican Church on August 26, 1910. He married Maudrina Bowen (1917-1989), in Cardiff, in 1935. By 1939, they were living on Christina Street, and Hassan was a ship's fireman on the S.S *Whitford Point*. Living in the same household was one Wagstaff Zammit. Nothing further is known of him.

Hassan's parents were Mohamet Abdul Fettah (c. 1887-1947) and Gertrude Helena Bridge. (c. 1891-1930). Mohamet was born in Alexandria, Egypt while Gertrude was a native of Cardiff.

By 1911 the Fettahs were operating a boarding house on Bute Street in Cardiff and their 11 boarders were all marine firemen with the merchant service.

As for Joseph Zammit, he was born in Paola, Malta, on September 27, 1933, to Luigi/Lewis Zammit and Teresa Fino. Luigi was born on May 6, 1909, the son of Francesco Zammit and Giuseppa Debattista. Teresa was the daughter of Paolo Fino and Catherina Zerafa of Zurrieq.

Lewis Zammit and Teresa Fino were married in Zurrieq on November 8, 1931 and were living at 35, Queen Street, Paola by 1951.

On August 3, 1951, their son, 18-year-old Joseph Zammit, a mechanic, applied for a passport to travel "to Sea." Presumably, he was joining the Merchant Navy as he was with the Merchant Navy, when he applied for the renewal of his passport on November 12, 1958.



**Joseph Zammit's Passport Photo**  
Courtesy of National Archives of Malta

Joseph “Joe” Zammit and June Fettah were married in Cardiff in July 1959. By 1964, they had two children, Donna T. and Joseph Luis, and were living at the Bute Castle Hotel on Nelson Street in Cardiff.



A later photo of Joe Zammit

Joe Zammit died on January 23, 2022. His funeral service was held “at St Mary’s Church in Cardiff.” Whether this was the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary of the Angels on King’s Road or St. Mary the Virgin, on Bute Street, belonging to the Church in Wales, where Joe’s father-in-law, Hassan Fettah, was baptised in 1910, is unclear.

Just days after receiving the sad news of the death of “Grampy Joe”, his grandson Louis Rees-Zammit took to the field for Wales in their Six Nations opener against Ireland in Dublin.

It was his Maltese heritage, through “Grampy Joe” that Taylor Rees-Zammit, Louis’ brother, qualified to represent Malta in the autumn of 2021. In October he made his international debut for Malta against Slovenia in Ljubljana.

Louis Rees-Zammit, aka “Rees Lightning” was in training in Florida with the NFL International Player Pathway program in February of this year when word was received that his beloved grandmother “Nany Joan” (Joan [Fettah] Zammit) had died. On Instagram, Louis shared a photo of the two embracing and wrote: “RIP Nany June. I love you so much. Heaven has gained the most caring woman.

*\* I wish to thank Fred Aquilina of California for alerting me to Louis Rees-Zammit’s tryout for the NFL and to Stephanie Schembri of the National Archives of Malta and Charles Said-Vassallo of NSW, Australia for their invaluable assistance in researching this article.*



## MOVING FROM CANADA TO MALTA? BE ADVISED

**Dan Brock**

On Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, Niġel Klemenčič-Puglisevich posted the following on the Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo) Facebook page: “Does anybody have any recommendations for a moving company for relocating to Malta from Canada (currently in London, ON)? We have lots of furniture and boxes to send to our new home in Malta in September. *Grazzi!*”

Charlie Mercieca replied: “I’m sorry but, watch out for Maltese Customs when your stuff does arrive. Be prepared for them (customs) to try their best to literally scam and extort thousands of euros to release your belongings. They will intentionally delay and give you vague answers on how you can get your stuff.

“I’ll give you an example: All we had shipped over here was a China cabinet and its dishes, some clothes, books and a few essential, personal items of sentimental value, as well as my son’s bicycle. Valued at roughly 800 and some odd CAD. Customs did exactly what I state here (delays, procrastination, vague answers.

“They do this intentionally so that you move past the 15 allowable days before they start to charge you rent.). On top of VAT etc., they tried to charge us 1100 euros. I stood up to them and said I wasn’t going to let them scam and extort me.

“The company we first hired to get our stuff from customs were sneaky as well. I stood up to all and ended up paying around 350 euros to get our stuff on top of what we paid the good guy we found (after the shady company left us high and dry) to get our stuff.

“He’s Canadian and very reasonably priced. Send me a DM so I can get you his name, if you like. I’m sorry for saying this all to you. I just don’t want to see you screwed over and want you to be prepared.”

Liz Bacon stated: “We used Viamar from Windsor [Ontario] to Malta. They were wonderful. [info@viamar.ca](mailto:info@viamar.ca).”

Lucy Boland observed: “We used DOM Transport in Malta (amazing people, they navigated everything on this side) and Monarch Shipping from Toronto.”

Marc Govè suggested Atlantic & Pacific Shipping <http://www.atlanticandpacific.com/index.html>.

Incidentally, this company is a regular advertiser on the weekly television program *Leġen Malti* out of Mississauga, Ontario.



## 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 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
Friday 5:00 p.m. – 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**

416-090-7357  
[info@themcca.ca](mailto:info@themcca.ca)

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

**Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area**

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

Myriam Spiteri Debono was sworn in as Malta's 11<sup>th</sup> president on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

She is the third woman, after Agatha Barbara and Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, to serve in this capacity.

She is also the third person from Gozo to be appointed to this office, following Anton Buttigieg and Ċensu Tabone.

Ms Spiteri Debono became the first president to be elected using the new constitutional reforms of 2020 including the new requirement of two-thirds parliament's approval to the presidential nominee.

**Maltese Heritage Program (Toronto)**

c/o 59A Terry Drive, Toronto, ON, M6N 4Y8  
Coordinator: Carmen Galea  
416-766-5830  
[qormija@sympatico.ca](mailto:qormija@sympatico.ca)

**Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)**

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

**Melita Soccer Club Inc.**

3336 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A4  
416-763-5317  
[clubmelita@gmail.com](mailto:clubmelita@gmail.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)  
[stpaulthepostle@archtoronto.org](mailto:stpaulthepostle@archtoronto.org)

**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](mailto:jason.borg@hotmail.ca)/[sborg@rogers.com](mailto: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)  
[stpaulthepostle@archtoronto.org](mailto:stpaulthepostle@archtoronto.org)  
President: Lino Debono

The inaugural flight of Malta's new airline, KM Malta Airlines Ltd, took place from Malta to Catania early Sunday morning, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The crew consisted of Flight Captain Denise Casolani, First Officer Warren Zammit, Flight Manager Paulianna Camilleri and cabin crew Nadine Ciantar, Annalise Micallef, and Paul Pulis.

This airline, headquartered in Luqa, Malta, replaced its predecessor Air Malta on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The new airline's initial route map included flights to 17 airports in 15 key European cities from Malta: Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Catania, Dusseldorf, London, Lyon, Madrid, Milan, Munich, Paris, Prague, Rome, Vienna, and Zurich.



# THE COUNTESS OF GĦAJN TUFFIEĦA CELEBRATES HER 90TH BIRTHDAY WITH FAMILY



Coat of Arms  
of the Countess of Għajn Tuffieħa

See pages 9-11