

THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 59 APRIL 2024



ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE MISSION GROUP WALK-A-THON

Photo courtesy of John Vella (Story on page 9.)

The Maltese Presence in North America Issue No. 59 April 2024

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Here it is the end of May, and of this newsletter. My only excuse is that I value quality more than pages 11-3 and 18-20. looking at the clock, or in this case the calendar. Consequently, Maltese in North America also americanscsf.org/home.aspx. needs to be preserved and this is Click on to "News & Resources." one of the mandates of this newsletter.

The article on the celebration of how the Maltese in a given area to to that area.

Another such example is the the various Maltese clubs in North are encouraged to use this e-America.

In the March issue, an article on and their activities. the St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Melita Soccer Club in Toronto appeared on pages 14-15. Mention was made of the "special performance by Irish dance multiple-award-winning Erica Muscat.

Recently I received an email Mary Ann Piscopo, administrator of the Melita Soccer Club's Facebook page, stating: "Just wanted to let you know that the Embassy of Malta in Dublin contacted me to get the Irish dancer's phone number.

All because of your Wow. newsletter!"

This is very gratifying to me as one of the intended purposes of this newsletter is to assist in making connections within the Maltese diaspora.

I'm very pleased with Rena Xuereb's book on stories her mother shared with her, and plan to do an article on it for the May issue. In the meanwhile, a little about the book may be found on page 15.

The Maltese Embassy in Washington, DC and the Maltese Consulate in Toronto had I'm just completing the April issue memorable events taking place during the month of April. (See

Back issues of this newsletter and the latest "Table of Contents" some of the events are no longer are posted on the web page of the current but have now entered the Maltese-American Social Club of realm of history. The past of the San Francisco at http://maltese-

If you have ideas to share, wish opening day for the Detroit Tigers to be put on the free, bcc (see page 6) is an example of electronic mailing lists, would like learn the newsletter's within the Diaspora have adapted advertising rates, etc., I may be reached at danbrock62@gmail.com.

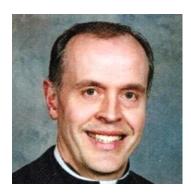
The various Maltese organizations celebration of St. Patrick's Day by and associations in North America newsletter to promote themselves

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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 April 13th-14th

Here are some ways to pray during this Easter season:

An Easter Prayer "Good and gracious God, as we greet the signs of Spring, we give you praise for the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. May the promise of immortality and the triumph of justice and love over death inspire us to live the promise given to us, reaching out to the poor and marginalized, and being neighbor to all those we meet."

Joyous Time of Year "May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear. And may Christ, Our Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide."

Share the Faith: Easter is a beautiful liturgical season to share our faith and evangelize. Here are some suggestions:

Read the Acts of the Apostles - Immerse yourself in the excitement of the early disciples as they responded to Jesus' mission. Discuss the insights with friends or family members.

Invite Someone to Mass - invite a friend or family member who may have been away from the Church.

Share the Love - Show interest, love, and concern to everyone you meet and build relationships that can lead to sharing your faith.

Let us use this time to grow in our spiritual life and to spread the joy and hope of Easter to all. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we approach the solemnity of Pentecost, and may our hearts be open to the renewal it brings.

Parish Bulletin for April 20th-21st

Let us unite in prayer and ask the Lord to guide those He has chosen to serve in these sacred vocations, the priesthood and religious life. As a Catholic parish, fostering vocations and encouraging young men to consider the priesthood is a noble endeavor.

Here are some prayers you can incorporate: Prayers for Vocations:

"Almighty and eternal God, in your unfailing love, you provide ministers for your Church. We pray for those whom you call to serve as priests. Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve your people. May their lives and service call your people to respond to your Spirit among us."

"O God, Father of all Mercies: Send your graces upon those you have called to gather the fruits of your labor. Preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service to you. Open the hearts of your children to discern your holy will."

"Loving and Generous God: Help us grow in love and service of our Church. Bless us by raising up dedicated leaders from our families and friends who will serve as priests, sisters, brothers, deacons, and lay ministers."

"Loving God: Call from among us more men and women who will serve you as religious. By their way of life, may they provide a convincing sign of your Kingdom for the Church and the whole world."

He said to them, 'Come and See.' (John 1:39): "God of all nations, we are grateful for the first Catholic missionaries and explorers. Inspire young men to explore God's potential call to the priesthood."

Remember, prayer is powerful. By praying fervently for vocations and creating a supportive environment, our parish can play a vital role in nurturing future priests and religious. May God bless your efforts!

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all who attended the Seder Meal. Your presence was a blessing to our community. A special note of gratitude goes to the volunteers on the social committee, who worked tirelessly to set up and prepare a delicious meal for us all. Your dedication and service did not go unnoticed. The success of events like the Seder Meal is a testament to the strength of our parish community.

It is the collective effort of many hands and hearts that brings us together in fellowship and faith. I encourage more parishioners to consider volunteering; your time and talent are invaluable gifts that help our parish thrive. Together, let us continue to build a community of faith, hope, and love.

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

CALIFORNIA

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco A Family Bingo and Pasta Dinner took place on Saturday, April 13th.

The two-day **Rummage Sale** was held on Saturday and Sunday, April 20th-21st.

A **Mother's Day Dinner Dance** took place on Saturday, May 11th

A **Father's Day Luncheon** will be held on Sunday, June 16th

MICHIGAN

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.
Opening Day for the Detroit Tigers on Friday,

April 5th, was observed at the Club. (See page 6.)
The annual **Grech-Cumbo Family Foundation Cocktail Reception** was held at the Club on

Maltese American Community Club, Dearborn

Thursday April 18th. (See page 14.)

The **Pastizzi Class** conducted at noon on Sunday, April 7th was a great success. Aprons, hats, hoodies, and t-shirts were available for purchase. (See pages 7-8.)

The annual **Show and Shine** is set for Saturday, June 8th, between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m.

NEW YORK

Maltese Center, NYC

A **Bingo** was held in the Lower Hall at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 7th.

A **Mother's Day's Brunch**, with **Bingo** and an **Evis Impersonator** took place at the Center on the afternoon of Sunday, May 5th.



ONTARIO Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Leñen Malti

LEĦEN 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

A **Vendor and Craft Show** was held on Saturday, May 4th. This will be noted in the May issue.

A **Club Luncheon** was held on Wednesday, May

The **Anniversary Dance** took place on Saturday May 18th.

A Car Show was held on Sunday May 26th.

The **St. George Dinner Dance** will take place on Saturday, June 8th.

Maltese Canadian Cultural Association



Maltese-Canadian Museum Archives and Visitors Centre

A Coffee and Cake Surprise was held for Nidel Klemenčič-Puglisevich and Kealey Kennedy on Tuesday, April 16th. (See page 10.)

Melita Soccer Club. Inc.

A bus trip to Casino Rama in Orillia took place on Saturday, April 27th,

A bus trip to Fallsview Casino, Niagara Falls, Ontario, took place on Saturday, May 25th.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

Fr. Roy Farrell's 25th anniversary as a priest

was celebrated on Wednesday, May 8th, with a Mass at 9:15 a.m. followed by a reception in the Lower Hall.

St. Paul the Apostle Mission Group

Saturday, April 13th, to support the building of a secondary school in Huancané, Peru. (See page 9.)

London

A **Monthly Luncheon** took place on Wednesday, April 24th at The Pickle Barrel, on Wellington Road South. (See page 16.)

Another **Luncheon** was held on Thursday, May Road South.

on Friday, June 28th

Windsor

Malta United Society

A traditional Maltese Timpana Dinner, with Caesar salad and dessert, was held on Saturday,

place on Sunday, April 28th, consisting of regular Veterans Association; The Gozitan Club; Radio Wirt business, committee elections and constitutional changes. A Free Pasta Dinner for those attending the meeting was served afterwards. (See page 21.)



George "Wedges" Tabone (1935-2024). member of the Maltese community in Toronto, passed away on Saturday, April 13th. He was the or other agricultural pursuits. husband of the late Carmen (Muscat) Tabone and is survived by his children, Chuck, Mike, and Lorraine, their children and grandchildren, and three sisters.

MALTESE ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTEE*

Chev. Charles A. Caruana

This highly respected Committee originated in the 70s. In the late 60s, the Rev. Lawrence Bonavia, in co-operation with Chev. C. Caruana founded The Toronto Maltese Council. All the Organizations have two representatives on the Council Board. For two consecutive years the representatives chose Chev Caruana as the Chairman. Owing to factions and cabals initiated and sustained by two of the societies, the Council eventually decided to form a National Committee. It seems that the Organizations had then approached Chev. Charles Mizzi to accept the position of Executive Secretary, a post he has retained ever

Until now the Committee has changed its official The Mission Group held a Walk-A-Thon on name three times, adopting in turn - Malta Day Committee. Maltese Council, and Organizations Committee. This latter name it has since retained.

The objective of the Committee is to lead on special annual occasions or on other social occasions that might arise. Each year, the Committee organizes Malta National Day, on or close to September 8th, when the two Great Sieges 30th, at the Mandarin Restaurant on Wellington of Malta (1565 and 1940-1944) are solemnly commemorated. It also holds the Annual Senior A Picnic is planned at Springbank Park in Byron Citizens' Christmas Dinner. The Annual General Meeting of the Committee is held in rotation in the various member clubs.

The following Societies are at present participating in the Committee of Maltese Organizations: The Maltese Canadian Society of Toronto; The Melita Soccer Club, Inc.; The Malta Band Club, Inc.; The Maltese Unity Association of Canada, Inc.; The The Annual General Membership Meeting took Maltese Programme Fan Club; The Maltese Malta Programme, CHIN; The Catholic Women's League; The Ushers Committee of St. Paul the Apostle Church; and The St. Paul's Scouts Group.

> * Editor's Note: This is an edited extract from page 18 of the Maltese Forum, vol. 8, no. 1 (Spring 1982)

> Over 150 Maltese came to the United States in 1870, many of whom became prosperous in farming

> In 1919-1920, 2,000 Maltese migrated to the United States, over half of them settling in Detroit. The United States had a Maltese population of over 20.000 by this time.

(See Maltese Forum, volume 8, no. 4 (Winter 1982),

CELEBRATING OPENING DAY FOR THE DETROIT TIGERS

Tanya Caruana

Some of the members celebrated at the Maltese American Benevolent Society in Detroit on Friday, April 5th. This was opening day, the first at-home baseball game of the season for the Detroit Tigers. Detroit hosted the Oakland Athletics of California at Commerica Park on Woodward Avenue. The Tigers are in the Central Division of the American League while the Athletics are in the Western Division.











The game started at 1:10 p.m. with football's offensive tackle of the Detroit Lions, Penei Sewell, delivering the ceremonial first pitch. The Tigers won the game 5-4.

PASTIZZI AND TORTA DEMO

Margaret Muscat Purdy

On Sunday, April 7th, we at the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn had the distinct honor of having Margaret Young Ray (who makes all the *pastizzi* for our club) teach a *pastizzi* demo for 60 people with hands on demos!

Margaret learned the art of *pastizzi* making from her mother, Imelda Young. Some of you may remember her. Margaret, as her mother did, never measures her ingredients but definitely added humor to her lighthearted ways! Everyone that attended really enjoyed the demo.



Our first helper, Cathy Micallef of Windsor, Ontario, kneading the dough



Rolling out the dough



Our second helper, rolling the dough, was from Brian Skolnick's group



Me passing around the steps



Margaret also added a nice surprise teaching us how to use the same pastizzi dough to make a (belly button) to show it has cheese in it and ricotta and peas torta!

Margaret places a piece of dough in the center sprinkles it with sesame seeds.



Margaret making torta







Pastizzi and minestra were on the menu for lunch. Thank you, Dad (Tom Muscat), for once again supplying the soup! Thank you, Margaret for so graciously volunteering your time to support our club. Also, I would like to thank Rita Vella Cruz, Mary Micallef, Mary Motowski, Doris Durkin, and Rena Xuereb for selling pastizzi, merchandise, soup and memberships and Holly Ivey for volunteering to help us out at the bar! We hope to see pictures of people that are planning get togethers to make the pastizzi after the demo!

Sunday March 29th marked the inaugural flight of Malta's new airline, KM Malta Airlines. Flight KM640, left Malta International Airport for Catania, Sicily at 6:00 a.m.

The plane was piloted by Captain Denise Casolani and First Officer Warren Zammit, accompanied by Inflight Manager Paulianna, and cabin crew members Nadine, Annalise, and Paul.

KM Malta Airlines has flights to 17 destinations in Europe.

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc. Executive Broad - 2024-2025

President: Carmen Nino Vice President: Mary Zammit Tanya Caruana Secretary: Sandra Micallef-Chaverria Treasurer: Sergeant at Arms: Eleno Sammut Trustees: Lily Micallef Joe Said open

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE MISSION GROUP'S WALK-A-THON

John Vella

On Saturday, April 13th, the St. Paul the Apostle Mission Group, of Toronto, Ontario, held a Walk-A-Thon. The purpose of this fundraiser was to help Bishop Giovanni Cefai, MSSP*, to break ground in the near future for his very first secondary school in Huancané, Peru.



Starting out from St. Paul the Apostle Church

Our Mission Group had its origins during a late evening meeting in November 2017 when Fr. Manuel Parnis, MSSP, the pastor of St. Paul the Apostle at the time, asked me, a long-standing parishioner, what I would like to see different or new in the parish. I replied, "A mission group."

Fr. Parnis, immediately and without hesitation, gave me his full blessing to proceed and, soon after, our Mission Group was founded.

To date, we have sent eight full containers packed with medical equipment, hygiene products, food, and clothing to the missions.

Today, we no longer send containers but focus on fundraising and campaigning to assist Bishop Cefai. Our Mission Group strongly believes in eradicating

poverty through higher education, hence our Walksecondary school in Huancané.

This is our second campaign and to date we have raised \$16.300.

If anyone wishes to donate to this cause, this can be done through a simple e-transfer to stpaulmissiongroup@gmail.com.

Among those taking part in our 10.8 km Walk-A-Thon were the Consul General of Malta in Toronto, Ms. Denise Demicoli, and members of the Maltese Canadian Cultural Association (MCCA) whose president is Carl Azzopardi.

A couple of pre-teens helped to bring the average age of our group down a bit.



A little pit stop was made at Sava Crepes & newest location, 221 Roncesvalles Coffee's Avenue.



A big thank you to all who participated. It was A-Thon to raise much-needed awareness for a three hours packed with fun, laughter, and great conversation. Ms. Demicoli said it best. "We are the drop of water and the ripples will be felt across the community."

> Editor's note: Bishop Cefai heads the Territorial Prelature of Santiago Apóstol de Huancané, in Peru. See pages 23-26 of the August 2023 issue of this newsletter.

A COFFEE AND CAKE SURPRISE FOR NIGEL AND KEALEY

Richard S. Cumbo

As a result of the very recent marriage of Nigel Klemenčič-Puglisevich and Kealey Kennedy, the volunteer team of the Maltese-Canadian Museum organized a little surprise celebration on Tuesday, April 16th.

The celebration was also for their success in jobs they obtained in Malta, Nigel as curator at the National Archaeology Museum in Valletta and Kealey with a position at the Inquisitors Palace in Birgu (Vittoriosa).



Fr. Roy Farrell, Nigel Klemenčič-Puglisevich and Kealey Kennedy

Courtesy of Rita Apalit

The happy gathering took place at the museum on Tuesday, April 16, during a short stopover on their L-Isla (Senglea), Malta, which they will make as way to Oshawa.



Courtesy of Rose Cassar

Their departure date from Canada was the next day, Wednesday April 17th. Kealey being of Irish background, the couple planned to spend two weeks in Ireland before arriving in Malta.

Nigel and Kealey have been integral members of the museum team. Although living in London, Ontario, they often visited the Museum to conduct research, digitization of documents, and other museum matters.

On behalf of museum chairperson Father Roy Farrell and the team, the Curator Richard Cumbo presented them with a gift and gratitude for their important input in supporting the Maltese-Canadian Museum.

They will remain active with the museum, but from their permanent home.



JON CASSAR MALTESE CANADIAN **TELEVISION DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER**

Dan Brock

On the evening of Tuesday, April 16th, my wife Loretta and I watched the 2015 Canadian revisionist western film Forsaken, which starred Kiefer Sutherland, his father Donald Sutherland, and Demi Moore. In the credits after the movie, I noticed that the director's name was Jon Cassar. Suspecting that he might be Maltese, I googled his name.

Sure enough, Jon Cassar was born in Malta, on April 27, 1958, the son of Francis J. "Frank" and Imelda Laura "Elda" (Segona) Cassar.



Frank Cassar



Elda Cassar

Jon, whose formal name is John Francis, has two younger siblings, Bernard and Kristine.



Jon Cassar

The family immigrated to Canada in 1963. Twenty years later, in 1983, John graduated from Algonquin College, in Ottawa, Ontario, in the Radio and Television Broadcasting program.

While living in Ottawa, Jon and his wife, Sprague Grayden, had two sons: Zak and Alexis "Lex". It turns out that Lex Cassar, who is an actor, played the character Tim Slade in *Forsaken*.

Zak Cassar, the elder son, is a professional photographer based in Los Angeles.

Following his direction of 14 episodes of *La Femme Nikita*, Jon began working as director and executive producer on the FOX drama-thriller series 24.

He won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Director for a Drama Series in 2006. In 2010, Jon joined the FOX science fiction series Terra Nova, as a producer and director.

The following year, he produced and directed all episodes of the Canadian-American miniseries *The Kennedys*, for which he won the Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directing - Television Film and was nominated for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Miniseries or Movie.

In 2012, he won the Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directing – Television Film and the Directors Guild of Canada Award for Outstanding Direction - Television Movie/Miniseries. Jon joined the ABC anthology series Wicked City, in 2015, as an executive producer and director.

He is the co-founder of the Motion Picture Industry Charitable Alliance, which hosts an annual charity auction called "Lights, Camera, Auction."



MALTESE DIPLOMATIC DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON, DC 15TH-16TH APRIL*

EMBASSY OF MALTA COMMUNIQUE

Dr. lan Borg, Malta's Minister for Foreign, Trade and European Affairs (MFET), accompanied by Permanent Secretary Christopher Cutajar and a small Maltese delegation, were in Washington DC between 15 and 16 April 2024, where they participated in a number of meetings and events discussing the role of Malta as a member of the UN Security Council, the Chair in Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and as Malta celebrates the 60th Anniversary of its Independence and the 50th Anniversary of the Republic Constitution.

The Delegation led by Minister Borg was composed of Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb, Permanent Secretary Christopher Cutajar, Director General Neville Aquilina, Director Christianne Caruana, Deputy Head of Mission in USA Mr Jean Paul Gatt and Consul at US Embassy Ms Petra Grech.

Minister Borg started with a meeting at the Wilson Centre where he made a presentation and then held a fireside chat with Ambassador David T. Johnson, former U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE. The session was transmitted live by NPR. At the Wilson Center Minister Borg stated "With a vast array of skills and expertise at its disposal, the OSCE continues to play a crucial role across its participating States. It serves as an indispensable platform for fostering inclusive dialogue, driving initiatives that are essential for sustainable peace and security."

During the discussion at the Wilson Centre, Minister lan Borg outlined Malta's key priorities for its 2024 OSCE Chairpersonship, the crucial role of the OSCE in European security, and the organization's future as we approach the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.



Permanent Secretary Christopher Cutajar, Ambassador Godfrey C. Xuereb, and Ambassador David T. Johnson

Permanent Secretary Cutajar held a meeting with the US Treasury where he met Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI) Brian E. Nelson to strengthen our partnership. During this meeting he emphasized the importance of effective sanctions implementation, including in the maritime sector. The Maltese team underscored the significance of enhanced sharing of information across governments and the private sector to tackle Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) the world. The Minister stated that "This project in priorities."

In the evening of 15th April Minister Borg officially reopened the newly refurbished Embassy in Washington DC. (See page 24) During the event the Minister inaugurated an extensive refurbishment of the Embassy of Malta in Washington with energy efficient technologies, increased accessibility and new facilities for improved services to the public, especially the Maltese diaspora in the USA. The Minister thanked Ambassador Xuereb and the Malta team in DC, and MFET colleagues who contributed to the success of this project.



Dr. Kay Xuereb, Fr. Magro, Pete Buttigieg, and Godfrey Xuereb



The USA has the third largest Maltese community in the world. The Minister stated that "This project in Washington highlights our commitment to strengthen ties between the two countries. In times of uncertainty and conflict, it is essential that we continue to stand together, united in our pursuit of peace, stability and prosperity for all."

Present for the event was US Secretary for Transport Hon Pete Buttigieg, who is always happy to catch up on the latest in Malta, the country of his heritage. (See page 32)

The premises were blessed by Fr Emanuel Magro, who is originally from Gozo but has been in the USA for 25 years.

A number of diplomats, Maltese Hon Consuls, members of the diaspora and officials from the State Department also attended the celebration of the reopening of the refurbished Embassy.

The 16th April agenda started with a meeting with Congressman Bill Keating. During the meeting, Minister Borg engaged in an insightful conversation on European security with Congressman Keating. Minister Borg stated that "We must continue working together to tackle challenges and promote peace, particularly through Malta's role as Chair-in-Office of the OSCE".

During the meeting, the Malta team and Minister Congressman Keating also discussed small islands' determination concerns, drawing parallels between Malta and the fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of outlying islands of Massachusetts, which form part law. Recently, Malta hosted an OSCE conference of Congressman Keating's constituency.

Helsinki Commission on Capitol Hill. In his role as efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and OSCE Chair-in-Office, Malta's Minister for Foreign intolerance. and European Affairs and Trade, lan Borg Chair-in-Office Borg outlined Malta's focused addressed the United States' Commission on initiatives within the human dimension, including Security and Co-operation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki efforts to promote media and information literacy to underlining Malta's Commission), and priorities during 2024 its Chairpersonship.

in 1976. With a mandate spanning over four participation in society. decades, the Commission has been tasked with Following the Helsinki Commission meeting Minister monitoring compliance with the principles and commitments of the Helsinki Accords. The Helsinki Carpenter, US National Security Council's Senior Commission engages in a broad array of activities Director for Europe, to discuss current security aimed at promoting human rights, democracy, and various forms of cooperation within the OSCE OSCE framework. region.

that this war will remain at the top of the OSCE USA. agenda.

the OSCE is another primary overarching priority of Malta's OSCE's critical role in promoting dialogue and threats posed by conflicts and other sources of instability.

affirmed Minister Borg Malta's unwavering commitment to safeguarding and upholding the core encourage all sides to work for a real pathway OSCE principles and commitments, as enshrined in forward to solutions that are not destructive to the the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris. people". After the meeting, Minister Borg said that functioning of this Organisation," he emphasized, underlining Malta's dedication to maximising the peace OSCE's full potential in conflict resolution and peace building.

On Thursday, April 4th Myriam Spiteri Debono was sworn in as the 11th President of Malta in a state ceremony at the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta.

reaffirmed Malta's Borg endurina to advance human rights, aimed at addressing anti-Semitism in the OSCE The next meeting on Tuesday was with the US region, highlighting the Chairpersonship's broader

vision counter disinformation and enhance democracy, OSCE particularly among youth. He highlighted that ensuring journalists' safety is essential for a free The U.S. Helsinki Commission, is an independent media, adding that combating violence against agency of the U.S. Federal Government established women is also fundamental to ensuring their full

> Borg and the delegation met Ambassador Mike challenges in Europe and beyond, aligning with the

Ambassador Carpenter's insights as former US Chair-in-Office Borg highlighted the current pivotal Ambassador to the OSCE were invaluable, sharing moment for the international rules-based order, Malta's determination to consolidate the operations challenged by unprecedented threats to peace and of this important organisation, upholding the stability. Minister Borg noted the detrimental impact principal objective of the 2024 Malta Chairmanship. of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine on The Minister reiterated that Malta commends the the foundational principles of the OSCE, underlining ongoing support and strong collaboration with the

The final meeting of the visit was with US Secretary "Safeguarding and strengthening the functionality of of State Antony Blinken. Minister Borg underlined commitment to promoting Malta's Chairpersonship," stated Minister Borg resolution of conflicts - an integral part of Malta's Recalling his recent visits to Serbia, Kosovo and the approach to its OSCE Chairpersonship for 2024. He Republic of Moldova, Minister Borg reaffirmed the emphasized the importance of strengthening the OSCE's resilience and capabilities to respond stability across the region, despite the severe effectively and flexibly to the evolving security landscape.

Minister Borg stated that "We need to do everything possible to de-escalate, diffuse tensions and "These principles are not optional but integral to the the Maltese delegation had a productive discussion with US Secretary of State Blinken on promoting and and tolerance reinforced commitment to fostering dialogue across regions, with Malta playing a constructive role. Malta welcomes the US support in advancing initiatives for dialogue and security.

> *Editor's note: This communique has been somewhat edited to make it more comprehensible to the general reader.

THE GRECH-CUMBO FAMILY FOUNDATION As well as celebrating the 82nd anniversary of the **COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

Tanya Caruana

On the evening of Thursday, April 18th, The Grech-Cumbo Family Foundation held its eighth annual cocktail reception at the Maltese American Benevolent Society in Detroit.

and our club.

George Cross being awarded to the people and the Island of Malta, it honors the late Eddie Cumbo, a proud Maltese who was President of our club at its very beginning.

Such an event as this helps to raise funds to make available scholarships to the children of our members and to support other charities such as the Malta Dental & Medical Clinic on Woodward This event is sponsored by both the Foundation Avenue in Downtown Detroit and Most Holy Trinity School on Labrosse Street.











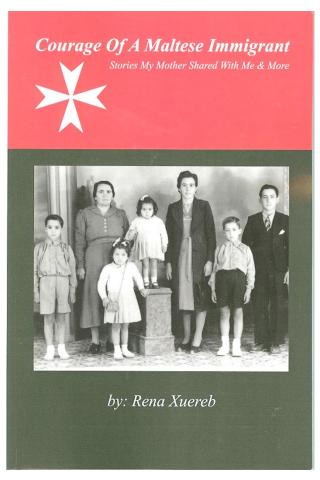
A WELCOMED ADDITION TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE MALTESE EXPERIENCE IN NORTH AMERICA

Dan Brock

Rena Xuereb, a trustee at the Maltese American Community Club in Dearborn, Michigan, has just published her book *Courage Of A Maltese Immigrant: Stories My Mother Shared With Me & More.*

The Club is having a book signing with Rena on Friday, May 10th, between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

The book is currently available on Amazon, through Barnes and Noble Book on Ingramspark for those living in Malta and in Australia.



More will be said about this book in the next issue. In the meantime, I would highly recommend it to anyone who is part of the Maltese Diaspora.

TWO INTERVIEWS WITH MARTHESE FENECH

Dan Brock

Marthese Fenech, the number one bestselling author of epic historical novels set in sixteenth-century Malta and Turkey, is no stranger to the pages of this newsletter. (See issues of January 2021, June 2021, August 2021, and April 2022.)

It's no secret that I'm enamoured with her A Novel of the Knights of Malta trilogy - Eight Pointed Cross, Falcon's Shadow, and Ash Fall. My research and writing in the field of the history of the eastern portion of Southwestern Ontario and the Maltese in North America leaves me little time for the reading of fiction, even historical fiction. Mar's work has proven to be an exception.

She has given two interviews of which I'm aware this year and wish to draw to your attention.

The first was in January by *Bold Journey*, an online magazine which features stories about overcoming challenges, thereby helping its audience and community reach its full potential.

In this interview Mar shared her experience overcoming a brutal bout of writer's block while living in Singapore as well as the skills that have helped her navigate the publishing world. You may read the text of the interview by accessing https://boldjourney.com/news/meet-marthese-fenech/.

The second interview took place on January 18th and was aired Monday, April 22nd on *History Through Fiction: The Podcast*.

Colin Mustful, the interviewer, is the founder and editor of this program. As a traditional publisher, he works with authors who want to share important historical stories with the world. Mar appears on Season 6, Episode 10 of *History Through Fiction*.



Colin asked very insightful questions and then allowed Mar to expound at length to each. Mar's insights and animated responses make the episode a delight to listen to and watch. In fact, I ended up viewing it twice.

In the episode, Mar gives some Maltese two interviews. background, the historical context for her trilogy, the development of the characters therein, and how Alfred Fenech, the husband of Doris Fenech for some of the scenes were developed and made so engaging. She then deals with how the motivation for her craft originated and her connections with Malta. We learn of how her trilogy was produced in audio form, her journey towards getting the first book in the series published, the development of her present website, and the process of having her trilogy adapted for television.

This interview is accessible via https://www.historythroughfiction.com/podcast/mart hese-fenech.

Other aspiring writers may find inspiration in these

more than 60 years and the father of Louis, Carmen, David, Stephen, and Marthese, died unexpectedly on May 7th. His eulogy, read at his Funeral Mass by his daughter, Marthese "Mar" Fenech, will appear in the May issue of this newsletter.



OUR APRIL LUNCHEON

Dan Brock

Our monthly luncheon, as part of the area Maltese community, was held on Wednesday, April 24th, in the Knights Room at The Pickle Barrel on Wellington Road South in London, Ontario.

Over 30 of us were present. This included four first-timers, Joe and Gerry Borg of London and Gary Cauchi and his wife Nancy of Fresno, California.

Gary and Nancy were in town to celebrate the 98th birthday of Gary's mother, Mary Cauchi. Mary is the widow of the late Frank Cauchi. Frank was one of the post-war Maltese "pioneers" to Canada, having arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia, on board the Marine Perch in May 1948.



Dan Brock, Joyce Vella, Carol Hilton, and Gary Cauchi

As Gary was one of my former students at Catholic Central Separate School, here in London, in the 1960s. I thought it a good opportunity to get a photo with him and two other former students of mine, Joyce Vella and Carol Hilton, who are regular attendees at these luncheons.

Joyce was in one of my grade 9 religion classes in 1963-64; Carol took grade 9 geography or history in one my classes in 1965-66; and Gary was in one of my grade 9 geography classes in 1966-67.

The fact that we were seated at two long tables made it difficult to properly photograph small groups so I didn't bother this time. Nancy Defensor, Gary's wife, did manage to take the following photo with my wife Loretta, myself, and Gary.



Loretta & Dan Brock and Gary Cauchi Photos courtesy of Nancy Defensor

MANY OF THE MALTESE SURNAMES CAN BE TRACED BACK TO PRESENT-DAY TUNISIA: USING THE ZAMMIT SURNAME AS AN EXAMPLE

Dan Brock

In the March 2023 issue of this newsletter, thanks to the work of David Lanfranco of Malta and Charles Said-Vassallo of New South Wales, Australia, the Zammit ancestry of Louis Rees-Zammit was traced back from his grandfather Joseph "Joe" Zammit (1933-2022), to his great-grandfather Luigi "Lewis" Zammit, and to his great-grandfather Francesco Zammit.

Since then, David has been able to link Francesco Zammit directly back to Salvatore Zammit, who in 1518 married Elena Zammit, who was a third cousin, on the Zammit side to Salvatore's grandfather Jacobo Zammit.

Charles already had Salvatore and Elena in his Zammit database, posted on Maltagenealogy which showed the Zammit surname originating in the fourteenth century when the Maltese were compelled to take permanent surnames and not simply be referred to as the son (bin) or daughter (bint) of their father.

Usually, their father's name became the permanent surname of the family. Thus, we see in the chart below that Franquino Zamit, born in 1340, took his father's given name Zamit which in turn was bestowed as a surname to his descendants.

Now, Franquino's father, Zamit bin Jafar Kalbid, had Islamic origins and certainly can be traced directly through the Muslim emirs (governors) of Malta back to Abi bin Husayn a-Kalbi, (c. 850-900), Commander under the Aghlabids of Afrikiya and his father Husayn a-Kalbi (800-860) in what is now Tunisia.

Again, Charles Said-Vassallo, has charted this for us in his ArabSicilyMalta database, also on Maltagenealogy.

Here we'll find other Arabic surnames such as Abdilla, Agius, Bezzina, Buhagiar, Chetcuti, Cutajar, Farrugia, Fenech, Micallef, Mifsud, Sammut, Spiteri, Xerri, Xiberras, Xicluna, Xuereb, Zahra, Zarb, and Zerafa also being directly traced back to Abi bin Husayna a-Kalbi and Husayn a-Kalbi.

In fact, virtually all Maltese, at least up to a generation or two ago, can trace their ancestry back to Abi and Husayn in North Africa.

Nobile Milite Zamit bin Jafar Kalbid, (1310-), married with issue. 1. Nobile Milite Franquino Zamit, (1340-), married with issue. 1.1. Nobile Fra Antonio Zamit, (1370-1430), Priest, dunm. 1.1.1. (illegitimate with a Concubine) Milite Jacubinu de Zamit, (1390-). Listed in the Milita List 1419-1420, married with issue. 1.1.1.1. Antonio Zamit, (1420-), married with issue. 1.1.1.1. Jacobo Zammit, (1450-), married with issue. 1.1.1.1.1. Nicola Zammit, married to Domenica N, with issue. 1.1.1.1.1.1. Margherita Zammit, married 1513 (Notary Consalvo Casciur) to Antonio Bellia. 1.1.1.1.1.2. Salvatore Zammit, married 1518 (Notary Consalvo Cansciur) to Nobile Elena Zammit, (see below), with issue. 1.1.1.1.1.2.1. Salvatore Zammit, married 1572 Gudja to Olivera Lovera Barbara, with issue. 1.1.1.1.1.1.2.1.1. Gio Paolo Zammit, married 1635 Zurrieg to Barbara *Progenu* Magri, with issue. 1.1.1.1.1.1.2.1.1.1. Gioacchino Zammit, married 1695 Zabbar to Anna Abela, with issue. 1.1.1.1.1.2.1.1.1. Giacomo Zammit, married 1722 Cospicua to Margarita Cassar, with issue. 1.1.1.1.1.2.1.1.1.1. Gioacchino Zammit, married 1744 Tarxien to Maria Farrugia, with issue. 1.1.1.1.1.1.2.1.1.1.1.1. Francesco Zammit, married 1762 Cospicua to Maria Schembri, with issue. 1.1.1.1.1.2.1.1.1.1.1.1. Angelo Zammit, married 1802 Attard to Maria Mallia, with issue. 1.1.1.1.1.1.2.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1. Pietro Zammit, married 1831 Balzan to Teresa Debono, with issue. 1.1.1.1.1.2.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1. Angelo Zammit, married 1862 Valletta to Carmela Xiberras, with issue. 1.1.1.1.1.2.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1. Francesco Zammit, married 1899 Hamrun to Giuseppa Debattista. with issue. 1.1.1.1.1.1.2.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1. Luigi Zammit, married 1931 Zurrieg to Teresa Fino, with issue. 1.1.1.1.1.2.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1. Joseph Zammit, (1933-2022 Cardiff, Wales), married 1952 Wales to June M. Fettch, with issue. 1.1.1.1.1.2.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1. Joseph Zammit, married to Maxine Rees, with issue.

1.1.1.1.1.2.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.2. Louis Rees-Zammit, (2001 Wales -), American Football player,

https://maltagenealogy.com/arabsicilymalta-zammit/

1.1.1.1.1.1.2.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1. Taylor Rees-Zammit.

CONSUL-ON-THE-MOVE VISIT TO VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, APRIL 2024

Consul General Denise Demicoli

It was my absolute pleasure meeting and providing services to members of our Maltese community in BC, many of whom are outstanding individuals in their own right and fields of expertise!

This Consul-on-the-Move visit to British Columbia took place during April 25th-28th with the first stop being the city of Vancouver. The purpose was for the Consulate General of Malta in Toronto to provide consular services to members of our Maltese community on Canada's West Coast. Our first stop was the city of Vancouver.

Consul-on-the-Move Visit to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada



The Consul-on-the-Move programme itself was launched in 2016 by Affarijiet Barranin in a bid to make the processes which require in-person attendance by applicants closer to communities in locations that are not in the vicinity of consular offices.

While in Vancouver, tens of passport, citizenship applications and life certificate registrations to our co-nationals were processed or issued.









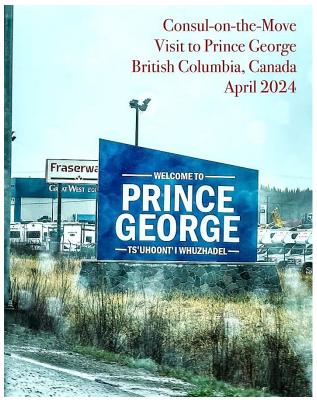


Congratulations to the new Maltese citizens by descent and through marriage!





During this visit services were also provided to Maltese in Prince George BC as well, for the first time in five years.



of preparation and liaison with stakeholders. A special thanks to my colleagues at the Consulate to receive info on upcoming visits. General of Malta in Toronto, Karen and Gennie, for our team effort to make these visits possible. The work continues post-visit to work across offices in Malta to facilitate the services on offer -over the next months.

Walter Joseph Attard, who celebrated his 100th birthday with family and friends last January 16th, passed away in London, Ontario on Sunday, April 28th.

Born in Birgu (Vittoriosa) Malta, he immigrated to London, Ontario in September 1951 and was followed by his wife, the former Martha Attard, and their children in December of the same year.

Walter is survived by his five children, 13 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

He was featured in the February 2024 issue of this newsletter.



A special thanks to Susan Schembri, currently serving as Councillor of Maltese Living Abroad for Western Canada, for her continuous support and dedication above and beyond her position.

It's always humbling to see the sheer extent of our community from Coast to Coast, each person's heritage and ancestry has volumes to say about their emigration and strong connection with Maltese roots, values and identity.

We look forward to continuing to provide such services. If you or someone you know lives in the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec or other locations who cannot easily access travelling Behind the scenes, these consular visits take a lot to Toronto, let them know that they can register their contact details on maltaconsulate.toronto@gov.mt

MALTESE ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTEE **OFFICIALS FOR 1982***

President: Chev. Joe Gatt (Malta Band Club) Vice President: Horace Holland (Scouts Group) Executive Secretary: Chev. Charles Mizzi (MVA) Treasurer: Alfred Camilleri (Malta Band Club) Directors:

Elia Vassallo

(Maltese Veterans Association [MVA]) Chev. Alfred Goggi & Chev. Paul Debattista (Maltese Canadian Society of Toronto) Miriam Sammut (Maltese Programme Fan Club) Chev. Henry Formosa & Vince Micallef (Maltese Unity Association of Canada) Chev. Anthony Parnis & Alfred Vella (Melita Soccer Club) Frank Borg (Gozitan Club) Chev. Joseph Micallef (Wirt Malta, CHIN)

See Maltese Forum, vol. 8, no. 1 (Spring 1982), page 18.

Email Sent Out to Members of the Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario on Tuesday, April 30th

Hello Everyone.

On Sunday April 28th we held our Annual General Membership Meeting.

Our meeting consisted of regular business, committee elections and Constitution changes.

Just a recap of what transpired at the meeting.

- Starting in **June** the club will only be open twice a month till September. Dates will follow in a later email
- August 11th we will be holding a club picnic at Mcauliffe Park in Tecumseh. An email will be sent out regarding the picnic once everything is finalized.
- Changes to our constitution were presented and voted on. All changes were passed.
- Also passed was an increase in bar prices. All bar products, beer, wine and liqueur will be increased to \$6.00 from \$5.00. Pop and chips will be increased to \$2.00 from \$1.50
- After the meeting all members in attendance were treated to a free pasta dinner.

Our elections went as followed:

- 1. Vice President
- 1. Assistant Treasurer
- 1. Secretary
- 2. Members at large
- 2. Trustees

Voted in were:

Vice president: Manual Linwood (re-elected and acclaimed)

Assistant Treasurer: Debbie Calleja (acclaimed)
Secretary: Miriam Ditty (acclaimed)

1. Member at Large: Bordon White (re-elected and acclaimed)

2. Member at Large: Veronica Cardoso (acclaimed)

1. Trustee: Maria Caruana (re-elected and acclaimed)

2. Trustee: Greg Ditty (acclaimed)

Our 2024/25 Malta united Executive Committee

President: Peter Pace Vice president: Manual Linwood Treasurer: Carmen Linwood Assistant Treasurer: Debbie Calleia Secretary: Miriam Ditty Assistant Secretary: Anna White 1. Member at Large: Mario Fenech 2. Member at Large: Bordon White 3. Member at Large: Veronica Cardoso 1. Trustee: Maria Caruana 2. Trustee: Greg Ditty

I would like to thank all committee members, new and old and all the volunteers for all your hard work and dedication throughout the year. Without you all, we could not do what we do on a weekly basis. You are the life line to our club. On behalf of the entire Malta United Executive Committee, we would like to thank everyone that attended the meeting and voted and to all the members that have supported us throughout the years.

Best Regards,

Peter Pace
President



2520 Seminole St., Windsor, ON N8Y 1X4 Club 519-974-6719 or Cell 519-990-7848 maltaunitedsociety.windsor@gmail.com

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

Inanna on Stage

www.joannedancer.com c/o 356 Pacific Avenue, Toronto, ON M6P 2R1 416-707-2355 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 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 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

Malta Band Club

5745 Coopers Ave., Mississauga, ON L4Z 1K9 905-890-8507 www.maltabandclub.com maltabandclub@bellnet.ca

Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

2520 Seminole St., Windsor, ON N8Y1X4 519-974-6719

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

att: Antonia Buttigieg

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc.

1832 Michigan Ave. Detroit, MI 48216 313-961-8393

http://detroitmaltese.com

Opening hours:

Sunday 12:00 noon Thursday, Friday 5:00 p.m.

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

5221 Oakman Blvd, Dearborn, MI 48126 313-846-7077

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

Opening hours: Tuesday 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (every 2nd 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

Maltese Canadian Association (Gozo)

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

Maltese-Canadian Cruisers

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

Maltese-Canadian Cultural Association

416-909-7357 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/b azzo18@yahoo.com

Maltese Center, NYC

27-20 Hoyt Ave. S. Astoria, NY 11102 718-728-9893 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 Ribbledale Drive, Whitby, ON L1N 7C8 289-939-8377 mmmpastizzigmail.com

Maltese Heritage Association San Francisco Bay Area

maltesheritageassociation@gmail.com

Maltese Heritage Program (Toronto)

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

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 clubmelita@gmail.com

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6P 2A3 416-767-7054 www.saint-paul-maltese.com stpaulthepostle@archtoronto.org

St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mission Group

c/o 281 Gilmour Ave., Toronto, ON M6P 3B6 416-708-8627 www.facebookcom/john.vella.1044186 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

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

stpaulthepostle@archtoronto.org

President: Lino Debono

THE INAUGURATION OF EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS AT THE MALTESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, DC MONDAY, APRIL 15TH





Malta's Permanent Secretary for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Christopher Cutajar,

Malta's Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade Ian Borg, United States Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttiglieg, and Maltese Ambassador to the United States Dr. Godfrey Xuereb