



THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 65

OCTOBER 2024

KIDS' HALLOWEEN PARTY AT THE MALTA BAND CLUB



See also page 23.

**The Maltese Presence
in North America
Issue No. 65 October 2024**

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MALTA

Magna Żmien

EDITORIAL COMMENT

While activities within the Maltese communities in North America in September tended to focus on the anniversary of Malta's 60 years of independence, Halloween activities seemed to be the focal point for these communities in the latter part of October.

The Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn started Halloween celebrations off with a dinner and dance on Saturday, October 19th (pages 19-21, 28).

The following Saturday saw Halloween parties at the Malta Band Club, Mississauga (pages 1,23), the Maltese Center: Astoria, and the Melita Soccer Club, Toronto (pages 22-23).

There were several other activities as well during the month of October.

The Malta Band Club held its annual Maestro Paul Gauci concert on Saturday, October 5th (page 21).

The following day, Sunday, October 6th, the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco held its 3rd Annual Car Show (pages 7-12).

The Buttigieg sisters launched their mother's Maltese cookbook at the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn on Friday, October 11th (pages 13-14).

The following Friday, October 18th, saw a group from St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Toronto, travel to London, Ontario to join a group of largely Maltese members of that community to celebrate Mass and have a luncheon together before embarking on a tour of both St. Peter's Basilica and the Forks of the Thames River (pages 15-16).

The London group got the jump on memorial services this year by having a Memorial Mass celebrated at St. Peter's Cemetery's Mausoleum on Wednesday, October 23rd (pages 17-18).

A firsthand account of a recently-arrived Maltese emigrant to Canada is to be found in the article entitled "A Young Single Maltese Emigrant Adjusts to Life in London, Ontario in 1949: Excerpts from the Letters of Bunny Asphar" (pages 24-25). This originally appeared in Issue # 47 (September/October 2013) of The Maltese Canadian Club of London *Newsletter* (pages 12-13).

The origins of the Asphar family in Malta, and elsewhere, are planned for an article in the November issue of this newsletter.

Owing to the kindness and efforts of Evelyn and Dennis Simmons of California, all issues and the latest "Table of Contents" are posted on the web page of the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco at <http://maltese-americanscsf.org/home.aspx>. [Click on to "News & Resources."](#)

If you have ideas to share, wish to be put on the free, bcc electronic mailing lists, would like to learn the newsletter's advertising rates, etc., I may be reached at danbrock62@gmail.com.

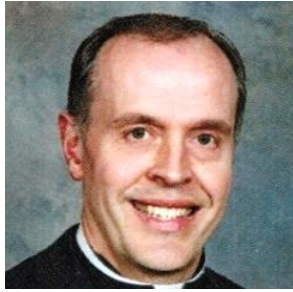
The various Maltese organizations and associations in North America are encouraged to use this e-newsletter to promote themselves and their activities.

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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 October 12th-13th

On behalf of the Parish Staff, I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving Weekend!

Thanksgiving Day arose and still remains a civil holiday. It is not surprising that many more people attend worship services on this day. Like our ancestors who paused during their busy and hard lives to give thanks to God for their sustenance, we also pause during our very busy lives to give thanks for the many blessings we have received. This day reminds us that giving thanks arise from all circumstances in life. Gratitude is a relational virtue—it reminds us that we always live in union with others.

Historical Significance and Modern Observance:

Thanksgiving Day has deep historical roots, originating as a harvest festival. The tradition dates back to the early settlers who celebrated their first successful harvest with a feast, giving thanks for their survival and the help they received from the native Americans. Today, Thanksgiving remains a civil holiday celebrated with family gatherings, feasts, and expressions of gratitude. It is a time when many people attend worship services, reflecting on the blessings they have received throughout the year.

The Importance of Pausing to Give Thanks:

In our fast-paced, modern lives, it is easy to get caught up in the daily routines and forget to appreciate the good things we have. Thanksgiving serves as a reminder to pause and reflect on our blessings. Just as our ancestors took time out of their hard lives to give thanks, we too should take a moment to acknowledge the positive aspects of our lives, no matter how small they may seem. This act of pausing and reflecting can bring a sense of peace and contentment.

Gratitude in All Circumstances:

Thanksgiving teaches us that gratitude should not be limited to times of abundance. True gratitude arises from all circumstances in life, whether we are experiencing joy or facing challenges. By cultivating a habit of gratitude, we can find something to be thankful for even in difficult times. This perspective helps us build resilience and maintain a positive outlook.

Gratitude as a Relational Virtue:

Gratitude is more than just a personal feeling: it is a relational virtue that connects us with others. When we express gratitude, we acknowledge the contributions and support of those around us. This recognition strengthens our relationships and fosters a sense of community. By being grateful, we remind ourselves that we are not alone and that we live in union with others.

A Prayer for Thanksgiving:

Father all powerful, your gifts of love are countless and your goodness infinite. On Thanksgiving Day, we come before you with gratitude for your kindness. Open our hearts to concern for our neighbour, so that we may share your gifts in loving service. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parish Bulletin for October 26th-27th

In our journey of faith, we often hear about grace but what does it truly mean? Grace is the unearned favour and love of God. It's a spiritual help God bestows upon us, especially through the sacraments, which are the visible signs of God's invisible grace. When we partake in the sacraments in a state of grace, meaning we are free from mortal sin, we open our hearts more fully to Christ. This grace strengthens us, guides us, and sustains us in our daily lives. It's the connection that binds us to God's infinite love.

The sacrament of Confession is a powerful means to experience God's grace. Many of us might feel hesitant or fearful about going to Confession, seeing it as a negative experience. It is, however, quite the opposite. Confession is a profound act of God's mercy. It's an opportunity to unload the burdens of our sins and receive His forgiveness, allowing His grace to flow through us more freely. By regularly participating in Confession, we are continually purified, and our relationship with Christ deepens. We acknowledge our human frailty and embrace God's unending compassion.

I encourage you to view Confession not as a daunting task but as a grace-filled moment where God's love and mercy prevail. Let's draw near to Him with a contrite heart and let His grace transform our lives

**A FAREWELL TO MS. DENISE DEMICOLI,
CONSUL GENERAL OF MALTA
IN TORONTO**

Dan Brock

After nearly three years as Consul General of Malta in Toronto, Ms. Denise Demicoli left, during the week of October 6th-12th for her new posting as the first Consul General of Malta in New York City.

Prior to her departure, the Maltese Canadian Cultural Association held a farewell reception for Ms. Demicoli and Carl Azzopardi posted the following:

A bittersweet celebration of Den Demicoli and her three years (minus a couple of months) here in Toronto as the Consul General of Malta in Toronto. Thank you, Den, for your service and mentorship through these past 3 years. Your experience has enriched the Maltese Community in Canada and opened up many doors for the future. We will continue on with your passion projects and enhance the Maltese Canadian experience. This is not goodbye, this is "See you later!" Good luck in New York and we will make sure to see you very soon. NY Dolphins, care for a rematch?



Ms. Demicoli replied:

Thanks for the wonderful sendoff!

It's been my absolute privilege and honour to be of service to our community here for almost three years, seeing first hand how our community has navigated emerging from covid-19 restrictions, preserving and re-energising traditions.

I'm glad that we've been able to find new ways of collaborating, connecting... This is only the beginning. Our community here is resilient, mighty-even mightier when we collaborate. Thanks for your support, hard work and dedication, MCCA.

PS. I may be gone soon, but trust me our community in Canada will always a special place in my heart and mind- and I'll be close enough to hopefully see the much-anticipated return of a TOR-NY derby 🏈!

Mary Ann Piscopo of the Melita Soccer Club, Toronto, posted the following:

On behalf on the Committee and all our members, I want to wish Den Demicoli a fond farewell and thank you for all your support over the past 3 years.

Hopefully our paths will cross again in the future.

Best of luck in your future placements.

Please keep in touch.

Ms. Demicoli replied:

Thank you dearly. Keep up the great work you do every day to keep our traditions and the Club going to the best of your abilities! Saħħa u risq Melita Soccer Club.

After the Mass at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Toronto on Sunday, October 6th, some light refreshments were served in the Lower Hall as the Parish and Maltese community bid farewell to Ms. Demicoli.

The Maltese Canadian community in the London, Ontario area also wish Ms. Demicoli all the best. While Consul General of Malta in Toronto she honoured us with her presence at a couple of our gatherings.

Stephen B. Caruana, a native of Malta, arrived in New York Harbor, on board the brig *Dussan*, on July 1838. He appears to have been born anywhere between 1817 and 1825. By 1850, he was a grocer, living with the family of William and Caroline Wright in New York. He married their daughter, Almira, about 1855 and they had a daughter Caroline. The Caruana family was living in New Jersey by 1883 and Stephen is said to have died in Long Branch, NJ on July 2, 1893.

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES

Dan Brock

CALIFORNIA

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

The Club's 3rd Annual Car Show took place at The Basque Cultural Center on Sunday October 6th. (See pages 7-12.)

A Family Bingo and Pasta Dinner was held on Saturday, October 26th.

A Holiday Market & Craft Fair will take place on Saturday, November 9th.

An Autumn Day Luncheon will be held on Sunday, November 24th.

The Club's 95th Anniversary will also be celebrated in November.

MICHIGAN

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc



Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

The Official Book Launch of Mom's Maltese Cookbook Maltese Cooking American Style occurred on Friday, October 11th. (See pages 13-14.)

A Halloween Dinner Dance Party was held on the evening of Saturday, October 19th. (See pages 19-21, 28.)

THE MALTESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CLUB OF DEARBORN PROUDLY PRESENTS THE 2024

Miss Malta Pageant

GALA DINNER & DANCE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER NINTH

AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

DINNER AT SIX O'CLOCK WITH PAGEANT TO FOLLOW

DONATION \$35 | CASH BAR

RESERVE EARLY

FOR TICKETS CALL RITA VELLA CRUZ 313-400-1134
TICKET DEADLINE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

WINNING PRIZE: TRIP TO MALTA OR SCHOLARSHIP MONEY

CONTESTANTS WHO WISH TO ENTER:

PLEASE SUBMIT AN ENTRY FORM OR CALL RITA FOR MORE INFORMATION
LIMITED NUMBER OF CONTESTANTS WILL BE ACCEPTED (10)



On Sunday, November 21st, at 5:30 p.m., there will be the celebration of a Mass, by Fr. Joseph Mallia, in remembrance of ALL deceased members of the Club. A rosary will be recited in Maltese prior to the Mass. A buffet dinner will follow immediately after.

NEW YORK CITY

Maltese Center: Astoria

**ALL SOULS
MEMORIAL MASS
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 9TH, 2024
7:00PM**

YOU CAN BRING A PICTURE OF YOUR LOVED ONES WHO PASSED AWAY TO BE DISPLAYED ON THE MEMORIAL TABLE.
MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED BY THE MALTESE CENTER CHAPLAIN FR. ANTHONY SALIBA

THE MASS WILL BE HELD AT THE THE MALTESE CENTER

Theresa Sciberras of **Astoria** passed away on October 23rd at the age of 94.

An **Adults' Halloween Party** took place on the evening of Saturday, October 26th.

ONTARIO

Greater Toronto Area

Consulate General of Malta in Toronto

Ms. Denise Demicoli's term of office as Consul General of Malta in Toronto officially ended on Sunday, October 13th. The next day, her term of office as Consul General of Malta in New York officially began.

Lehen Malti

It is a pleasure for us at *Lehen Malti* to be able to interview such individuals like Maestro Nick Arrigo who have so much talent to contribute to the Maltese Community. The Malta Band under the direction of Maestro Nick Arrigo has evolved into a very enjoyable orchestra to listen to and to enjoy. The Malta Band has always been an integral part of the Band Club and is well known for its many community participations. We wish Maestro Nick Arrigo and the Malta Band a bright future as we look forward to more enjoyable performances.

Joe Sherri
Chairman
Lehen Malti Group

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 **Maestro Paul Gauci Concert** was held on Saturday, October 5th. (See page 21.)

The Club held a **Concert with Filarmonica Lira Bom Jesus**, an Oakville-based Portuguese marching band, on Saturday, October 19th.

The annual **Family Halloween Party** took place on the afternoon of Saturday, October 26th. (See pages 1, 23.)

A **Memorial Service** will be held for deceased members at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 10th.

A **Candlelight Concert** will take place on Saturday, November 23rd.

Maltese-Canadian Museum

Kartolini mill-Kanada, a site visit at the Museum by **Magna Żmien** will be held on November 16th-24th. (See page 25.)

Melita Soccer Club, Inc.

Frank Paul Scicluna passed away on Saturday, October 19th at the age of 84.

A **Halloween Dinner & Dance** took place on the evening of Saturday, October 26th. (See pages 22-23.)

A **Memorial Service** for deceased members will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 15th.

A **Bus Trip** to the **Niagara Falls Casino** is scheduled for Saturday, November 23rd.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

A **Day Trip to London, Ontario** took place on Friday, October 18th. (See pages 15-17.)

A **Mass in English** will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 8th to honour our loved ones who have passed away this past year.

London

Mass was celebrated and a **Luncheon** held with a **Tour Group** from **St. Paul the Apostle Parish**, Toronto, on Friday, October 18th, at the **Marconi Club**. (See pages 15-16.)

A **Memorial Mass** was celebrated at **Holy Family Mausoleum** on Wednesday, October 23rd, for **Deceased Relatives and Friends** who had passed away during the past year. (See pages 17-18.)

WASHINGTON, DC

Embassy of Malta

A **Malta Day Concert** celebrating 50 years of being a republic will be held in the **Kennedy Center** at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20th.

Ivo Axiak

Ivo Axiak was born in Gozo and was one of nine siblings. His passing occurred on September 17, 2024. He was predeceased by his wife Mary (Darmanin) Axiak and was survived by three children—James, Joanna, and Rob—their spouses, and five grandchildren.

One of his passions was Big Band music. Ivo's final days were spent at The Meadows Long-Term Home (Panabaker Wing) on Tranquility Avenue in Ancaster, Ontario.

His Funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday, September 28th at Annunciation of Our Lord Parish, on Limeridge Road West, in Hamilton.

THIRD ANNUAL CAR SHOW

Rita Borg

A fun day was enjoyed by all participants and visitors during the Maltese American Social Club of SF, 3rd Annual Car Show at the Basque Cultural Center on Sunday, October 6th.

The Car Show opened at 10:00 a.m.



Some of the vehicles at the Show.







Lunch was at 12:00 p.m.





The 50/50 raffle draw took place at 2:00 p.m.



And the winner of the 50/50 draw is...

Items were available for sale.



The presentation of awards followed the raffle draw, the judges being Dominic Borg, Ray Fraschieri, Ray Muscat, and Steve Stanford.



Thank you to all the volunteers and supporters of this event

LAUNCHING MOM'S MALTESE COOKBOOK

Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci

Friday, October 11th was the big day for the launching of *Mom's Maltese Cookbook*. A big thank you to the Maltese American Community Club for allowing us to hold this event here, and all the volunteers for your time and efforts getting all the food out to everyone. It was a packed house and you really had your work cut out for you. Excellent job! Thank you!

JOIN US ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11 FOR THE OFFICIAL BOOK LAUNCH

Mom's Maltese Cookbook
Maltese Cooking American Style

ESTHER HABERSTROM • LISA LIGRECI • ANNETTE O'DONOHUE

Meet the authors! Have dinner. Eat pastizzi. Buy a book.

Meet & Greet with the authors of Mom's Maltese Cookbook, Maltese Cooking American Style. Written by three sisters, dedicated to their mother, and to honor the Maltese heritage of their parents.

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn
Doors open 5PM - Dinner service starts 5:30

The books sell for \$30 US + S&H. To order, email momsmaltesecookbook@gmail.com. Owing to shipping costs, we do not ship internationally.



The three authors: Lisa LiGreci, Esther Haberstroh, and Annetta O'Donohue



I had this photo of mom printed to display on our table. In loving memory of our mother Mary Buttigieg



The doors were opened and it was a great turnout! There was a long line to purchase delicious Maltese dinners and the cookbooks.



It was a full house filled with family and friends. The lady on the right is my aunt's granddaughter, Denise, a cousin from the Buttigieg side of the family.



My friends Chuck and Tina Allera. Our girls went to school together all the way from K-12.



Family photo. L-R Carol & Dave Gunderson, Cathy & Barbara Czarnecki, Max O'Donohue, Renne Izzard, Annette O'Donohue, Nancy Moncivais, Mary LiGreci, Esther Haberstroh, Vicki Kempster, and Lisa LiGreci



Me with my cousins Dave & Carol Gunderson and Vicki Kempster from my mom's Mirabatur side of the family.



Family photo with Aunt Jean's grandchildren. My cousins from the Buttigieg side—my dad's side—of the family. L-R Mary LiGreci, Lisa LiGreci, Denise Rizzo, Esther Haberstroh, Annette O'Donohue, Max O'Donohue, and Jerry Bonnici.



Group shot of my Mirabatur cousins.



Esther with her high school besties. Jackie Miller, Donna Pace, and Sue Love. Still in touch after 57 years!

A BUS TRIP TO LONDON, ONTARIO

Dan Brock

In the late morning of Friday, October 18th, a bus of more than 30 individuals, mainly of Maltese heritage and connected with St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Toronto, arrived at the Marconi Club on Clarke Road in London. There, they were met by over 20 members of the monthly luncheon group, again largely of Maltese birth.

The bus trip from Toronto had been largely organized by Rita Apalit, the parish secretary, who coordinated things with Fr. Roy Farrell, the pastor, and myself.

The first order of business was a bilingual Mass celebrated by Fr. Roy. The hymns and readings were in Maltese while the rest of the Mass was in English



Fr Roy celebrating Mass in the Columbo Room at the Marconi Club

Following lunch, I boarded the bus with the Toronto group and took them on a tour of St. Peter's Basilica in Downtown London. This edifice was constructed in 1880-1885 and is the see of the London Diocese. The architect was Joseph Connolly of Toronto who was responsible for a number of mainly Catholic churches in southern Ontario.

The seven large stained glass windows at the back of the main altar and the rose windows in the transepts were installed in 1889.



Following Mass, we had a chance to get acquainted with one another and continue our conversations over an excellent buffet meal which had been set out for us. Both the variety and quantity were bountiful and I heard several complimentary remarks in this regard.



Fr. Roy and others taking photos of the stained glass windows behind the main altar



Me commenting on the windows at the back of the main altar



The marble lectern at the side of the main altar. Note the white marble plaque to the memory of Henry Edward Dormer to our far right. There is quite a story behind this memorial which was originally in the former St. Peter's Cathedral

The photos at St Peter's Basilica are courtesy of Godwin Darmanin



Photos of most of the Toronto group, along with Dan Brock, the tour guide from London, at the foot of the main altar



The next stop on the tour was at the Forks of the Thames River.

There, Labatt Memorial Park, containing the oldest continuously-used baseball diamond in the world, was pointed out. Other features noted in this area were the old Court House and Jail, the present Court House and Registry Office, and Museum London.

Reference was made to the plans of John Graves Simcoe, the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, now southern Ontario, to establish the provincial capital at the Forks.

Some of the Indigenous and glacial history of this area was also noted before returning to the bus.

The last stop for the group was an opportunity to do some shopping at White Oaks Mall.

All in all, the Toronto group seemed to have enjoyed their visit to London. I certainly was buoyed by their visit.

For some, it was their first time in the Forest City. For others, it was the realization that Detroit was about as far away west of London as Toronto was to the east.



A MEMORIAL MASS AT HOLY FAMILY MAUSOLEUM

Dan Brock

On the afternoon of Wednesday, October 23rd, more than 30 members and friends of the Maltese community of London and area gathered in Holy Family Mausoleum at St. Peter's Cemetery in London, Ontario at a Mass celebrating the lives of loved ones who had passed away since this time last year.

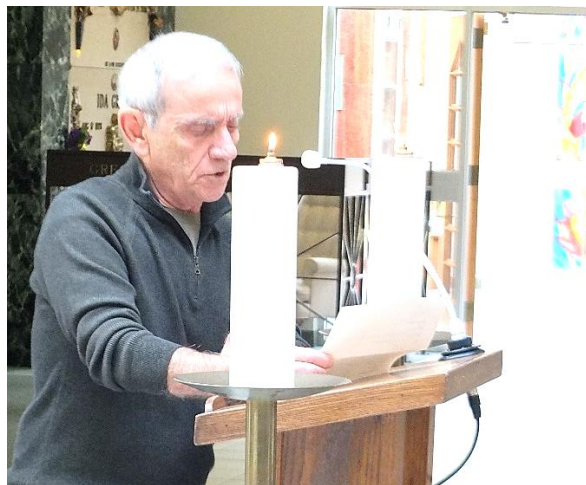
A new feature I introduced, based on what I had seen on the Maltese Center, NYC Facebook page last November, was to have a table set aside where relatives and friends of those who had died since our last Memorial Mass could place a photo of their loved one. (See page 29 of the November 2023 issue of this newsletter.)



Prior to the Mass, Tony Nother led us in a meaningful recitation of the Rosary.



Deo Catania then read out the names of the members of our community who had departed from us since November 2, 2023.



Mass then followed after the processional led by Anthony Gentile as cross bearer and Joyce Vella and Judy Ayerst as acolytes.

Silvana Palombo of St. Peter's Cemetery staff was again the altar server.

Ted Gorski, with his inspirational singing voice and guitar, led us in the hymns and responses.



Joe Borg gave both readings.

Fr. Giorgio Mogilelski, CSMA was the celebrant and homilist.



I read the prayer intentions and, after Mass, thanked those who had joined us and who volunteered to play an active role in this afternoon's service. Special thanks were given to Tony Nother, Ted Gorski and Fr. Giorgio for, in my opinion, making this Memorial Mass the most moving I had ever attended at this Mausoleum.

HALLOWEEN DINNER DANCE PARTY

Margaret Muscat Purdy

Hats off to everyone who helped make the Halloween party at the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn on the evening of Saturday, October 19th a fun time for all!

Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci, our photographer, covered the party from behind the scenes to the activities and spent hours editing all the photos!

Joe Formosa shopped, prepared and cooked a delicious meal. Marty Micalleff and Neal Durkin helped with food setup.

The Borg brothers, Tony and Joe, served up our meal and cleaned up.



The first person who gets the least thanks and I want to thank the most is down in the kitchen. The guy cleaning up, washing dishes and putting away all the leftovers is John Abella. Our members don't realize but he cleans up after our club events and Friday night dinners and is the last to leave, locking up the Club and cheerfully returning the next morning to open on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday mornings!

Mckenna Vella graciously served beverages all night.

Paul Borg and Joe Borg were our highly entertaining judges!

DJ Jim Esparza loves our members and staff rocking out the tunes all night as well as being our MC with so much patience!



Jim Esparza, our DJ



Joe Borg and Paul Borg

This party could not have happened without our entertainment\decorating\teardown crew — Mary Micaloff, John and Eve Muscat, Tom Muscat, Rena Xuereb and Louise Weglarz — spent hours helping!



John & Eve Muscat



Mary Micaloff

And to Rita Vella Cruz, always the heart and soul of ticket sales and table layouts, thank you!



Rita Vella Cruz



Joe Formosa, Marty Micaloff, and Neil Durkin

Most importantly, thanks to our members who brought their families and supported our club.



MAESTRO PAUL GAUCI CONCERT

Joan Mizzi-Fry

Celebrating the legacy of Maestro Paul Gauci at the Malta Band Club in Mississauga, on the evening of Saturday, October 5th, was definitely worth the drive from Orillia, Ontario, to attend this special event. It was a fabulous evening and well-attended by a multigenerational audience.

Don't miss an upcoming *LeĦen Malti* program for an interview with conductor Nick Arrigo* along with video of the Malta Band's performance. Stay tuned for an air date.

*This was first aired on Saturday, October 26th. Part 2 will air on Saturday, November 2nd.



HALLOWEEN DINNER & DANCE

Mary Ann Piscopo

The evening of Saturday, October 26th saw a Halloween dinner and dance at the Meltia Soccer Club in Toronto.

All who attended enjoyed the delicious meal prepared by George Ellis and danced to the music provided by DJ Pauline Zahra.





Frank Paul Scicluna

Born on December 30, 1939, Frank passed away on Friday, October 19, 2024.

Visitations took place at Lynett Funeral Home, Dundas Street West, Toronto, on October 24th.

The funeral service was held at St. Paul The Apostle Church, Toronto, at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, October 25th.

Entombment was in Assumption Catholic Cemetery, Timken Road, Mississauga.

A reception followed at Melita Soccer Club, Toronto.



FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

Carl Azzopardi

The 2024 Malta Band Club Kids' Halloween Party, held on the afternoon of Saturday October 26th, was another great success.

A special thanks to Clint Crimiale for entertaining all the kids with his impressive magic show.



We even had a couple of ducks make an appearance.



A special thanks also goes out to the Malta Band Club and Freddie Portelli for putting this all together.

**A YOUNG SINGLE MALTESE EMIGRANT
ADJUSTS TO LIFE IN LONDON, ONTARIO
IN 1949: EXCERPTS FROM
THE LETTERS OF BUNNY ASPHAR**

Dan Brock

Bernard Robert Asphar, known as “Bunny” to his acquaintances, immigrated to Canada from Malta, on board the *Vulcania*, in June 1948. Like many others on that ship, he found work in London, Ontario. In his case, it was first at The London Free Press and, several months later, at the Province of Ontario Savings Office.



Bunny Asphar (centre left) shaking hands with John J. Cole at the London Free Press Building on Richmond St.

Courtesy of Western Archives,
University of Western Ontario

As luck would have it, Bunny found accommodations at the home of the family of John de Dominico at the northwest corner of Central Avenue and Talbot Street. John, also of Maltese birth, had been living in England before coming to Canada in 1947 with his English bride. Living with the de Dominico family at the time were two other Maltese emigrants, including Frank Cauchi, who had come out on the *Marine Perch* in May.

Among the letters Bunny wrote home to Malta the following year were those to his childhood friend Vivienne Critelli. Some years after she moved to Brooklyn, New York, she gave these letters to Bunny's daughter Stephanie. She, in turn, has transcribed those portions which pertain to London and area.

On July 2, 1949, Bunny wrote:

“Here in London I am working for the Province of Ontario Savings Office and my position is teller/accountant – my salaries are good and lately I had a raise - so I have nothing to grumble about.”

August 8, 1949:

“As a whole, Canada is wonderful and lots of entertainment, except for Sunday, just in Ontario - all places are closed, dance halls, movies, swimming pools etc.”

Many of us are old enough to remember “Protestant” Ontario with its “blue laws.” Every Sunday in Ontario was like Good Friday back then in Malta! The Lord's Day Act, which came into existence in 1906, was finally declared unconstitutional in 1985.

Sept. 7, 1949

“Sorry I haven't written in a while. Last Thursday I got a letter from the Ontario Scout H.Q. in Ottawa inviting me to represent Malta in an international camp in a place called Orangeville about 180 miles north of London - They also invited Tony Pons (do you know him?) So both of us left here by car and girl! did we ever have a grand time - the place was lovely - I did a lot of swimming and won many small prizes in swimming competitions. I had a lot of photos taken at camp which I'll send some good ones next time I write because they are not yet developed.”

Tony Pons had come to Canada on board the *Marine Perch* in May 1948.



Tony Pons on Hyman St., London, April 1949

Courtesy of the late Frank Cauchi of London, ON

Sept. 18, 1949

“You asked me if I go to any dances here. To tell you the truth, I do go, but not very often. Only when big bands come - like Les Brown - Guy Lombardo – Tex Benek[ej], etc - the dances are generally on Saturday and we stay out till about 2 a.m. But I always remain Bunny. I don't feel like I am making any progress in dancing. I intend on taking some lessons soon.”

Les Brown and his Band of Renown, featuring Buddy Rich, appeared at the London Arena, on the southeast corner of Bathurst and Ridout streets, on the evening of Friday, August 12th. Dancing was from 9 p.m. to 1 am.

Guy Lombardo, his brothers and many of the other band members were natives of London. As well as being a bandleader, Gordon Lee “Tex” Beneke, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, was a saxophonist and singer.

“Last week over here in London we had a grand stage show with Kathleen DeHaven - she is real nice and a very good singer - and next week Vaughn Monroe and his orchestra are coming up here again. I'll see him again. We have some very good Hollywood stars and I get a big kick out of seeing their performances.”

Kathryn De Haven was in the Skelton Amos Players’ summer stock, *Stepping Sisters*, “A Musical Comedy Laff Riot,” which was performed at the Grand on Richmond Street.

Whether Vaughn Monroe, the American baritone singer, trumpeter, big band leader and actor, did play in London in late September 1949 is not presently known. Artie Shaw, the American clarinetist, composer and bandleader, and his orchestra, however, did play at the London Arena on the evening of Friday, September 23rd.

Oct. 25, 1949

“Yesterday Fred and myself went to see two shows at the Odeon Theatre which was Anna Lucasta starring Paulette Goddard (very good) and also “Sword in the Sand” with Dana Andrews also very good, then we had a very good Chinese supper and ended our evening very happy at 1:30 a.m.”

“Fred” is believed to have been Freddie Attard, who also came out with Tony Pons on the *Marine Perch*. Like Bunny and Tony, Freddie was also young and single.

In fact, Bunny and Fred did not see two shows at the Odeon Theatre on the evening of Monday, October 24th. Rather, they saw *Anna Lucasta*, starring Paulette Goodard, at the Capital and then *Sword in the Desert*, starring Dan Andres, Marta Toren and Stephen McNally at Loew’s. It’s almost certain that they had their “a very good Chinese supper” at Wong’s Café on the east side on Richmond Street, immediately north of the Free Press building.





Freddie Attard, seated, with Joe Delia, upper left, on board the *Marine Perch*, somewhere on the Atlantic Ocean, May 1948.

Courtesy of the late Frank Cauchi



KARTOLINI MILL-KANADA

Magna Żmien

 Presenting *Kartolini mill-Kanada*, a new collaboration which will be taking Magna Żmien to Toronto 

Over the past few years, Magna Żmien’s Team has been meeting up with members of the Maltese-Canadian Museum in Toronto to discuss ways to preserve the narratives of the Maltese-Canadian Community.

This project, which will have its first site visit this November, will include training sessions on digitisation with the museum’s cohort of volunteers, site visits with stakeholders, as well as a public programme which will invite members of the Maltese-Canadian Community to participate in talks and workshops.

Full Programme Out Soon

This project is done in collaboration with the [Maltese-Canadian Museum](#) in Toronto. This project is supported by the Maltese High Commission in Ottawa and the [Arts Council Malta](#) International Exchanges Fund.



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,
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905-270-2301 (Church)
stpatricksmi@archtoronto.org
Grand Knight Amadeo Cuschieri

Legion of Mary – “Our Lady of the Migrant”

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Malta Band Club

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Malta United Society of Windsor, Ontario

2520 Seminole St., Windsor, ON N8Y1X4
519-974-6719
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Opening hours: Saturday 6:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.
(Except holidays)

Malta Village Association (Est. 1995)

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maltabakeshopltd@gmail.com
att: Antonia Buttigieg

Maltese American Benevolent Society

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



Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn

5221 Oakman Blvd, Dearborn, MI 48126
313-846-7077
info@malteseamericanclub.org
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-Tigrija, ix-Xagħra
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Maltese-Canadian Cruisers

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att: Gianni Borg

Maltese-Canadian Cultural Association

c/o Carl Azzopardi
info@themcca.ca

Maltese-Canadian Museum

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Maltese Canucks

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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 Ribblesdale Drive, Whitby, ON L1N 7C8
289-939-8377
mmmpastizzi@gmail.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
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Maltese Historical Society (San Francisco)

c/o_leprofess@aol.com

Melita Soccer Club Inc.

3336 Dundas St. W., Toronto, ON M6P 2A4
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msc@melitasoccerclub.com

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6P 2A3
416-767-7054
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St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mission Group

c/o 281 Gilmour Ave., Toronto, ON M6P 3B6
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St. Paul the Apostle Youth Group (Toronto)

3224 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON M6P 2A3
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St. Paul's Maltese Choir

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3224 Dundas St. W., Toronto M6P 2A3
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stpaulmssp@gmail.com
President: Lino Debono

HALLOWEEN DINNER DANCE PARTY at the Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn



Photo courtesy of Lisa Buttigieg LiGreci



"Cast" of Christmas Vacation

*Photo courtesy of Margaret Muscat Purdy
See pages 19-21.*

