



THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue 68

JANUARY 2025

MALTA BAND CLUB YEAR END LUNCHEON MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO, CANADA



See pages 23-24.
Photo courtesy of Malta Band Club.

The Maltese Presence in North America

Issue No. 68 January 2025

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

I wish you and your loved ones all the best in 2025.

With this issue the seventh year of the existence of this newsletter begins. The number of individuals and institutions receiving it continues to expand as do the contributions of material for articles or notices.

Several events of a diplomatic nature took place in the United States during the last few weeks of 2024 which were posted on the Facebook page of the Embassy of Malta to the United States of America. Most of these are noted in this issue. (See pages 7-12.)

Of course, New Year's Eve dinners and dances were held at most of the clubs. (See pages 5, 15-20, 24, 28.)

It is rare that something appears in this newsletter that doesn't have a direct connection with the Maltese diaspora in North America. In this issue the passing of Malta oldest person ever is such an occasion. (See page 25.)

As for the article on Barry York of Australia, his work is an illustration of what could be done in North America. (See page 13.)

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.

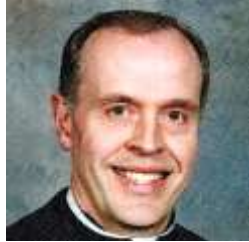


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ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH, TORONTO, CANADA

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 December 28th-29th

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

St. John Paul II reminds us that "the Holy Family is the beginning of countless other holy families". This means that every family following the example of the Holy Family can become a holy family too. A holy family isn't one without problems or difficulties, but one that trusts in God's providence and seeks to do His will in everything.

The Holy Family teaches us how to work towards holiness through our daily family life. St. Josemaria Escriva says, "In the home of the Holy Family in Nazareth, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph sanctified their ordinary life without doing anything spectacular or newsworthy. They led a life that, to all appearances, was the same as that of their neighbors, but it was important not because of the material things they did, but because of the love they put into these things."

Essentially, the Holy Family did ordinary things with extraordinary love. They worked, cooked meals, cleaned the house, washed their clothes, and performed every other regular activity we do. Yet, being endowed with love for one another, the Holy Family's seemingly minute tasks became great sources of sanctification. For example, when Mary prepared a meal for her family, she did it with care and gratitude, offering it to God as a sacrifice of praise. When Joseph worked as a carpenter, he did it with diligence and honesty, honoring God with his labor. When Jesus obeyed his parents and helped them with chores, he did it with humility and joy, pleasing God the Father with his obedience.

We too should look to be stewards in our homes by using our time and gifts to serve our family. Instead of complaining about performing house chores, we can strive to see them as opportunities to love our family members and, by extension, love Christ. For instance, when we wash the dishes, we can thank God for the food we have and pray for those who are hungry. When we tidy up our rooms, we can offer it for the souls in purgatory who are waiting for God's mercy. When we help our siblings with their homework, we can share our knowledge and skills with generosity and kindness.

As we strive to be stewards in our parish communities, let us also follow the model of the Holy Family in our own homes. When we attend Mass, we can take part actively and reverently, joining our prayers and sacrifices with those of the Holy Family. When we volunteer for a ministry, we can do it with enthusiasm and responsibility, serving God and His people with the spirit of the Holy Family. When we support our parish financially, we can do it with gratitude and generosity, giving back to God what He has given us through the Holy Family.

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

A Special Thank You

A special thank you to everyone who took part in the Christmas Liturgies and to all those who were involved in particular ways. Your presence and contributions made the celebrations more joyful and meaningful. The generosity of so many parishioners is a true blessing to us. You have shown the genuine spirit of Christmas by sharing your time, talents, and treasures with our community.

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. It was so touching to see so many people attending these celebrations. You have brought hope and peace to our hearts. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who sent me Christmas cards, greetings, and gifts. I truly appreciated those gestures. Your kindness and thoughtfulness have touched me deeply. It would be impossible for me to thank each person individually, but please know that I am grateful for every one of you.

May God bless you and your families with His love and grace.

PRESENTATION OF *SIMSHAR* AT THE FILM FESTIVAL IN PUERTO RICO

Embassy of Malta
to the United States of America

Editor's Note: The November 2024 issue of this newsletter featured an article relating to the cocktail party held at Cartier in San Juan after the showing of the Maltese film Simshar.

Honorary Consul of Malta to Puerto Rico Luis Enrique IV Santaliz had the honour of presenting the 2014 Maltese drama film *Simshar* and its director, Ms. Rebecca Cremona, at the 15th European Film Festival in Fine Arts Miramar in San Juan, Puerto Rico on the afternoon of Saturday, November 16th

Simshar had an interesting critique and attendance during the festival. Ms. Cremona also had the opportunity to reconnect with her friend, colleague, and former classmate, the Puerto Rican filmmaker Mr. Javier Colón.



**Javier Colón, Rebecca Cremona,
and Luis Enrique IV Santaliz**



Ms. Cremona was captivated by the idea and possibility of filming in Puerto Rico in the near future.

**ACTIVITIES WITHIN
THE MALTESE COMMUNITIES**

Dan Brock

CALIFORNIA

Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco

The **Annual Membership Meeting/Election** occurred on Sunday, December 29, 2024.

The **New Year's Eve Dinner Dance** took place on Tuesday, December 31st. (See pages 15-20, 28.)

A **Blood Drive** will be held at the Club on Saturday, February 1, 2025, between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

MICHIGAN

Maltese American Benevolent Society, Inc

A **New Year's Eve Potluck** was held at the Club on the evening of Tuesday, December 31st.

Maltese American Community Club of Dearborn
First Friday Mass with **Fr Joe Mallia** was celebrated at the Club at 6:30 p.m. on January 3rd.

NEW YORK CITY

Maltese Center: Astoria

A **Christmas Family Party** took place on Saturday, December 21st. (See page 6)

A **New Year's Eve Party** was held on Tuesday, December 31st.

ONTARIO

Greater Toronto Area

Lehen Malti

<p>LEHEN MALTI (Maltese Voice)</p> <p>OMNI 1 - Ontario Saturdays 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. Thursdays 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>OMNI BC Saturdays 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>OMNI Alberta Saturdays 2:00 p.m.</p>

Malta Band Club

The Club hosted a **Year End Luncheon**, at 12:00 noon on Friday December 27, 2024. (See pages 1, 23-24.)

A **New Year's Eve Gala Dinner & Dance** took place at the Club on Tuesday, December 31st. (See pages 24, 28.)

Melita Soccer Club, Inc.

A **Celebration of Life of George Xuereb** was held at the Club on Saturday, December 28th.

A **Bus trip to Casino Rama** will take place on Saturday, January 25, 2025.

The **Fallsview Casino** in Niagara Falls, Ontario is the destination of a **Bus Trip** on Saturday, February 22nd.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish

The **Seniors' Christmas Dinner**, hosted by the **Maltese Canadian Cultural Association**, was held in the parish hall on Sunday, December 22nd. (See page 21.)

London

Our next **Luncheon** will take place at the Swiss Chalet Restaurant on Wonderland Road South, at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21st.

Windsor

Malta United Society

On Saturday, December 21st, the annual **Adult Christmas Party** took place.



TWELVE YEARS AGO

Dan Brock

The Maltese Canadian Club of London held a New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance on Monday, December 31, 2012. Over 140 attended.

Randy Wolfe was the DJ. Rick "Elvis" Elliott was the live entertainment.

A cold buffet table had been set up for after midnight. Dancing continued until 1:15 a.m.



Photo courtesy of Tony Galea

A CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE MALTESE CENTER NYC

Consulate General of Malta in New York

On Friday, December 21st, the Maltese Center NYC organised a wonderful Christmas gathering for families and members of the Maltese community harking from the tri-state area and from interstate

Consul General, Ms Denise Demicoli, friends and colleagues had the great pleasure of attending this brilliant event. Well done to the organizers!

The traditional *presepju* at the Center in Astoria is a phenomenal work of art, on a large scale of approximately 8 ft. x 5ft. It's most certainly worth a visit!



A TRADITIONAL MALTESE PRESEPU

Maltese Center, NYC

The traditional Maltese *Presepju* was on display Sunday, January 5th, 9 am – 5 pm, Friday, January 10th, 6 pm – 10 pm, and Sunday, January 12th, 9 am – 5 pm.

All were welcome to visit and enjoy the experience of our Maltese traditions.





Messaġġ mill-Prim Ministru Robert Abela Christmas greetings message by Prime lill-komunitajiet Maltin barra minn Malta – Minister Robert Abela for the Maltese Diċembru 2024 communities living abroad - December 2024.



Għezież ċittadini Maltin, fil-qrib u f'artijiet iżjed imbegħda,

Hekk kif ningabru biex niċċelebraw il-ferħ tal-Milied, nixtieq nestendi l-awguri mill-qalb lilkom, kemm bħala individwi kif ukoll bħala komunitajiet Maltin li tgħixu barra minn Malta. Dan iż-żmien tas-sena jirrappreżenta l-għaqda u l-patrimonju tagħna. Minkejja d-distanzi fiżiċi ta' bejnietna, l-ispirtu tal-Milied iressaqna aktar viċin, u jfakkarna fir-rabtiet profondi li jorbtuna flimkien bħala familja waħda Maltija mxerrda mad-dinja kollha.

Fl-2024, għelibna ħafna sfidi, u dan dejjem għamilnieh b'kuraġġ u b'direzzjoni. Bħala pajjiż, komplejna l-ħidma tagħna favur il-kwalità tal-ħajja tal-Maltin u l-Għawdxin. Dan filwaqt li bqajna nħaddnu l-valuri għal kollox uniċi ta' pajjiżna. Fix-xena dinjija, postna kompli jikber u jissahħaħ, kif jixhed is-sehem tagħna riċentement fil-Kunsill tas-Sigurtà tan-Nazzjonijiet Uniti u fl-Organizzazzjoni għas-Sigurtà u l-Kooperazzjoni fl-Ewropa.

Dear Maltese citizens, near and far away,

As we gather to celebrate the joy of the Christmas season, I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to each and every one of you, not only as individuals but also as Maltese communities living abroad. This time of year represents togetherness, unity, and shared heritage. Despite the physical distances between us, the spirit of Christmas brings us closer, reminding us of the deep ties that bind us as one Maltese family spread out across the world.

In 2024, we have overcome many challenges, and we did so with courage and purpose. As a country, we advanced our commitments to enhance the quality life of our citizens. Our place on the world stage has grown stronger, as evidenced by our recent roles within the United Nations Security Council and on the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Għalkemm dawn l-irwoli issa qegħdin jintemmu b'suċċess, il-ħidma tagħna se tkompli fejn jirrigwarda inizzjattivi ta' paċi globali, il-vuċi ta' Malta se tkompli tiġi mismugħa fuq kwistjonijiet kruċjali, mill-promozzjoni għall-paċi u l-medjazzjoni sat-tiŝti tar-rabtiet diplomatiċi madwar il-kontinenti. Dan nagħmluh ukoll hekk kif f'Mejju li ġej se nassumu l-Prezidenza tal-Kunsill tal-Ewropa.

L-identità ta' Malta hija mibnija fuq valuri ta' reżiljenza, riġpet, u kompassjoni, valuri li jibqgħu jeżistu kull fejn il-poplu tagħna jqis bħala daru. Il-kburija li nħossu bħala Maltin testendi lil hinn minn xtutna, u tassew kburi b'kull ċittadin li jonora u jhaddan it-tradizzjonijiet tagħna barra minn xtutna. F'kull rokna tad-dinja, mill-Awstralja sal-Kanada, mill-Istati Uniti sar-Renju Unit, il-komunitajiet Maltin qed jgħaddu l-mod ta' għajxien Malti lid-dixxendenti tagħhom, qed jippreservaw il-lingwa materna, u qed iżommu d-drawwiet ta' art twelidhom ħajjin.

Lill-komunitajiet Maltin kollha barra minn Malta, aħna grati għall-isforzi tagħkom biex l-identità Maltija tibqa' ħajja u tiffjorixxi. Permezz ta' organizzazzjonijiet komunitarji, assoċjazzjonijiet kulturali, u inizzjattivi bħall-Kunsill għall-Maltin li jgħixu Barra, qegħdin iżzommu l-ispirtu Malti ħaj u dinamiku, u qed isservu bħala rabta tal-ġenerazzjonijiet u saħansitra l-pajjiżi. Id-dedikazzjoni tagħkom lejn il-kultura u l-valuri ta' din il-ġira ssaħħaħ lid-dijaspora tagħna u tafferma mill-ġdid ir-rabtiet dejjiema tal-identità Maltija.

Il-Milied huwa żmien biex nirriflettu fuq dawn il-konnessjonijiet, biex niltaqgħu mal-familja u mal-ħbieb, u biex niċċelebraw il-valuri kruċjali li jiddefinixxu l-komunità tagħna: l-imħabba, il-gratitudni, u l-kompassjoni tagħna. Huwa wkoll żmien li jfakkarna nagħtu daqqa t'id lil dawk fil-bżonn u li nżommu l-ispirtu ta' ġenerożità u mogħdrija matul is-sena kollha.

Hekk kif niċċelebraw il-festi tal-Milied, nemmen li l-għaqda tagħna tkompli ssaħħaħ il-familja Maltija globali tagħna. Fliemkien ma' marti Lydia u binti Giorgia-Mae, nawguralkom il-koll l-isbaħ xewqat għal Milied hieni u sena ġdida mimlija saħħa, paċi, u prosperità.

Grazzi.

The Christmas and New Year's message to the Maltese diaspora by Hon Ian Borg, Deputy Prime Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Tourism may be found at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2419050028457916>.

Although these positions are now ending with success, our work is ongoing when it comes to global peace initiatives, and Malta's voice will continue to be heard on critical issues, from advocating for peace and mediation to strengthening diplomatic ties across continents. We are committed to achieving this, especially as we prepare to assume the Presidency of the Council of Europe next May.

Malta's identity is built on values of resilience, respect, and compassion, values which endure wherever our people set down their roots. The pride we feel in being Maltese extends beyond our shores, and we are proud of each and every citizen who honours and carries on our traditions abroad. In every corner of the globe, from Australia to Canada, the United States to the United Kingdom, Maltese communities are passing on the Maltese way of living to their descendants, preserving our language, and keeping our customs alive.

To all Maltese communities abroad, we are grateful for your efforts in keeping the Maltese identity alive and flourishing. Through community organisations, cultural associations, and initiatives like the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad, you keep the Maltese spirit alive and dynamic, and are serving as bridges between generations and countries. Your dedication to this island's culture and values brings strength to our diaspora and reaffirms the enduring bonds of the Maltese identity.

Christmas is a time to reflect on these connections, to gather with family and friends, and to celebrate the core values that define our community: love, gratitude, and compassion. It is also a season which reminds us to lend a helping hand to those in need and to remind ourselves to carry the spirit of generosity and kindness throughout the year.

As we celebrate this Christmas season, I hope that our unity continues to strengthen our global Maltese family worldwide. On behalf of my wife Lydia, our daughter Giorgia-Mae, and myself, I wish you all a joyful Christmas and a New Year filled with health, peace, and prosperity.

Thank you.


Christmas and New Year's Message from the President of the Republic of Malta Myriam Spiteri may be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1AZL6xvzfH/?mibextid=wwXlfr>.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS IN SAN FRANCISCO

A big thank you to Honorary Consul Louis J Vella for making this all possible!

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

Republic Day celebrations, took place on Friday, December 13, 2024 in San Francisco with the lighting up of San Francisco International Airport and the City Hall in red and white 



ATTENDANCE AT THE PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE – SECURITY FORUM

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

Ambassador Godfrey Xuereb was with Hon. Speaker Dr Anglu Farrugia who was attending the Parliamentary Intelligence - Security Forum held at the Capitol in Washington DC on December 4-5, 2024. Parliamentarians from more than 70 countries participated in the two-day forum.

The forum was addressed by US Congresspersons and parliamentarians from Romania, Estonia, and Montenegro on topics such as financial crime, illicit finance, migration, and human trafficking.

Hon. Speaker Farrugia addressed the Forum on the implications of blockchain on national security and human trafficking as well as its role in sponsoring terrorism. In both interventions he focused on the role of Malta and the implications on a small island state 🇲🇹



HON. SPEAKER ANGELO FARRUGIA VISITS EMBASSY OF MALTA TO THE US

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

Honourable Speaker Angelo Farrugia paid a visit to the Embassy of Malta to the US in December, where he had the opportunity to meet with our newly expanded team. It is always a pleasure to welcome him 🇲🇹🇺🇸🇺🇸🇲🇹



**DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS
HELD IN CALIFORNIA**

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

December had indeed been a busy one for the Honorary Consulate of Malta to the US in San Francisco. Honorary Consul Louis J Vella welcomed Honourable Speaker Anglu Farrugia in San Francisco. Both had two very packed days with meetings and gatherings 🇲🇹🇺🇸

Honorary Consul Vella delivered a detailed account of the significance of the event and the importance of people-to-people relationships. After his speech, he introduced the Honourable Dr. Anglu Farrugia who delivered a very eloquent moving speech which was most fitting for this occasion. The Speaker was given the honour of delivering the concluding remarks before the unveiling of the commemorative plaque.



**Honorary Consul Louis J Vella and
Honourable Speaker Anglu Farrugia
in Front of San Francisco’s City Hall**

Amongst the most important gatherings was the unveiling of a plaque commemorating a twinning between a town in Malta and a city in the US. The City of Millbrae California is a twin city with Mosta. During the unveiling ceremony, the crowd was addressed by the Mayor of Millbrae, representatives from the City Twinning Commission, and the Palestinian group.





Speaker Farrugia spent the rest of the evening listening, meeting, and socialising with the many Maltese people who were in attendance at the event and later that same evening, meeting even more Maltese people at the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco a few kilometres away.

**DR. BARRY YORK'S WORK
IN THE FIELD OF ORAL HISTORY
FURTHER RECOGNIZED**

Dan Brock

The August 2024 issue of this newsletter noted on page 21 that Dr. Barry York had conducted his 500th oral interview.

In late November 2024, at the Oral History Association of Australia's biennial conference, held at Trinity College, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia, he received the Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in Oral History. This award is named after the woman who pioneered oral history in Australia from the late 1950s to 1970s.



2024 Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in Oral History

Recipient: Dr Barry York OAM

Contribution to the Field of Oral History

For over four decades Dr Barry York has made an outstanding contribution to the field of oral history in Australia. Barry's expertise is vast. As a historian at the Museum of Australian Democracy from 2006 to 2016, Barry championed oral history, playing an important role to revive and strengthen their oral history collection. He worked extensively with the National Library of Australia (NLA) and bolstered the depth and breadth of their oral history collection also. Barry has conducted interviews for other institutions such as the ACT Heritage Library and Victoria University and has made particularly substantial contributions to oral histories of migration and politics. He has also been an ardent advocate for the inclusion of diverse voices in oral history collections, recording across many fields while demonstrating great sensitivity and skill. He continues to offer guidance online for novice through to established oral historians alike.

Promotion and raising awareness:

Barry has been a strong advocate for oral history in Australia demonstrated through a range of publications and media. Significant contributions include *Speaking of Us: Voices from Twentieth Century Australia* (1998), which drew from the NLA's oral history collection to illustrate experiences of Australians across a century of change. He also authored a chapter about oral history in the NLA's *Remorable Occurrences* (2011). Barry provided thoughtful reflections on best-practice interviewing techniques in the field of migration: for example, in 1993, the Centre for Immigration Studies published an interviewer's guide co-authored by Barry with Mark Caruana. Barry maintains an oral history resource channel on YouTube, which has thirty-three short documentaries based on oral history excerpts that provides broad access to new audiences on a contemporary platform.

Significant contributions

Barry's major oral history contributions include:

- Principal Interviewer, oral history program, Museum of Australian Democracy (2006-2016)
- Maltese-Australian Folk Life and Social History Project, National Library of Australia (1983-2000)
- Polish Australians Oral History Project, National Library of Australia (1996-2007)
- Australian Lebanese Historical Society Oral History Project, National Library of Australia (2015-2024)
- National Union of Australian University Students Project, National Library of Australia (2017-2024)

Australia's oral history heritage is much richer, expansive and inclusive because of the enormous contribution Barry has made over the course of his professional life and in retirement and is a worthy recipient of the 2024 Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in Oral History.



THE PASSING OF RALPH ELLUL

Dan Brock

The death of Ralph Ellul occurred at Victoria Hospital, London, Ontario, on Wednesday, December 24, 2024.



Ralph and his wife Vivien were members of The Maltese Club of London at the time of its dissolution in December 2018.

Raphael was born to Alfred "Effie" Ellul, the actor/comedian and his wife the former Rose Vella in Sliema, Malta, on August 26, 1935, and was one of seven children.

Seven days later, on September 2nd, he was baptized at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, St. Trophimus Street (*Triq San Trofimu*).

Ralph, age 18, was a clerk, living at 104, Depiro Street in Sliema when he left for Canada. He arrived on board the *Nea Hellas*, at Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in March 1954.



APPLICATION FORM "A" To be completed in applicant's own handwriting.

No. 79256 Date 9-3-69 Date of previous passport 10-1-69

*This form must be presented in person at the Passport Office, Malta at least TEN CLEAR DAYS before the Passport is actually required.

1. PERSONAL PARTICULARS

Surname: ELLUL Mark whether MR

Christian Name: RAPHAEL With or without SINGLE

Father's name and Mother's name and Maiden surname: ALFRED ROSE VELLA

Marital Status: FEDERAL MARRIAGE

Has the applicant been married before? NO

Age last birthday: 18 Sex: M Height: 5' 10"

Place of birth: SLIEMA Date of birth: 26-8-55

Profession: CLERK Colour of eyes: BROWN

Place of residence: 104, DEPIRO STR, SLIEMA

2. NATIONALITY

Nationality: Malta

Place of issue: Malta

3. PHOTOGRAPH



Place and date of issue: Malta 9-3-69

4. PARTICULARS OF WIFE

Name: ROSE VELLA Date of birth: 10-1-1914

Place of birth: Malta

5. PERSON'S BORN IN CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, SOUTH AFRICA, INDIA, PAKISTAN, SOUTHERN RHODESIA, CEYLON, or SOUTHERN IRELAND or in ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY must complete A or B below.

A. If applicant has not obtained a British passport which state:

B. If applicant has obtained a British passport which state:

6. CHILDREN UNDER 16

Name: Jonathan Date of birth: 10-1-69

Name: Natalie Date of birth: 10-1-69

7. PASSPORT REQUIRED FOR TRAVELLING TO

Country: Canada

8. DECLARATION

I declare that the information given in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 9-3-69

9. RECOMMENDER

Name: Raphael Ellul Address: 104, Depiro Str, Sliema

10. IMPORTANT

Applicant has committed to the State of Malta...

11. DOCUMENTS PRODUCED TO BE NOTED HERE

Applicant's birth certificate: Present

Marriage certificate: Present

Divorce certificate: Present

Other documents: Present

12. SIGNATURE

Raphael Ellul

Ralph's Passport Application

MFA01 79256/1954, National Archives of Malta

In 1969, Ralph met and married Vivien Bracken. Vivien's paternal grandparents, Thomas George Bracken and Evelina "Velina" Sultana, were married in May 1905 in Stella Maris Church, Sliema, Malta. It turns out that while Ralph's home parish back in Malta was *Tal-Karmnu* (Our Lady of Mount Carmel) on Tower Road in Balluta, he often served as an altar boy at the neighbouring Stella Maris Church, on Rudolph Street (now Triq il-Kibira) in Sliema.

Living in London for the past several decades, "Ralph was known for his joie de vivre and his cheeky sense of humour." He was also known as "the mayor of Mathers Street" where he lived in the southern part of the City.

Ralph and Vivien had two children: Jonathan, who is married to Amelie Lefebvre, and Natalie, whose husband is Jeff Pratt. Ralph was also the proud nannu of Cameron, Charles, Eloise and Rosalie.

Visitation was held on Sunday, December 29, at A. Millard George Funeral Home of Ridout Street South.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated the next day at St. Justin's Church on Jajna Boulevard where both he and Vivian had been part of the music ministry. Both had been among the original members of this parish and Ralph was a member of its Knights of Columbus branch.



NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE

Rita Borg

Welcoming 2025 at the Maltese-American Social Club of San Francisco.













Jose, aka "Pops"



Thank you to all the members, families and friends who came to support the Club. And a big thanks to the volunteers who made this event a successful one. Happy New Year to everyone! Check out all the fun and dance moves by our guests.

SENIORS' CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Maltese Canadian Cultural Association

Remarkable! This annual tradition was one that couldn't be missed. The Seniors' Christmas Dinner, hosted by The Maltese Canadian Cultural Association, was held on Sunday, December 22nd. It was attended by 214 people who were spoiled with great music from the Malta Band Club, Mississauga and with great food prepared by the kitchen staff at St Paul the Apostle Church, Toronto.

Special thanks goes out to the Malta Bake Shop Ltd. for donating pastries, Genevieve Criminale for the Christmas fruit cake, as well as Mama Malta Pastizzi, Mary Demanuelle, and the Frendos for donating our door prizes.

We also don't want to forget all the volunteers who helped us throughout the day. Events like this are a humbling experience for our group as we are so privileged to continue these wonderful traditions.



THE PASSING OF FRANK GRECH

Dan Brock

Frank Paul Grech passed away at the age of 77 on Christmas Day 2024 "after a long and courageous battle with cancer".



He was an active member of the Malta Band Club Mississauga and a longtime musician with its band. His grandson Anthony and granddaughter Anna were also fellow band members.

Frank was born, to Antony and Agnes Grech in Malta on December 6, 1947, and immigrated to Canada from Birkirkara when he was 16 years old.

In July 1970, he married Mary Gatt, "the love of his life". They were to have two children: Lisa and Jeannette.

The family lived in "The Junction" before moving to Mississauga. For more than 30 years Frank worked at the Ford Motor Company in Oakville, Ontario.

Proud of his Maltese Canadian roots, he enjoyed playing Maltese folk songs with his daughter Lisa especially during *L-Imnarja*, his favourite event.

Visitation took place at Lynett Funeral Home, Dundas Street, Toronto, on Thursday, January 2, 2025. The Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Paul the Apostle Church the next day, with entombment in Assumption Catholic Cemetery, Tomken Road, Mississauga.

His obituary reads: "Frank will be remembered as the man of love, faith, and compassion who was courageous and selfless, and touched the lives of all who knew him."



READERS' COMMENTS RELATING TO THE DECEMBER ISSUE

Thanks for all your hard work, Dan.

Joanne Prince, Ontario

You do such a great job and from the heart! Thank you for keeping us posted.

Godwin Darmanin, Ontario

You've got sharp eyes, to recognize me in the Children's Party photos! [See page 28.] The person sitting next to me is my daughter Shirley. Her two children are in two of the photos with Santa.

I was interested in the article about Paul and Jane Micallef. [See pages 29-30.] It seems they lived on the same street, Eucharistic Congress Road in Mosta, as my grandparents, two of my uncles and their families, and my parents with us three children (in three separate houses). My mother was not originally from Mosta, but I think my father must have known the Micallefs. Paul also traveled on the same ship, the *Nea Hellas*, as we did, although not at the same time. Small world!

I was also interested in the "Maltese Dialects" article. I always wondered why the Maltese language had such "crazy plurals." Michael Marinaccio managed to explain it all with the "broken plurals" remark. [See pages 33-36.] It makes sense now, even if it still drives me "crazy"!

Mona Vella Nicholas, California

Thanks for sharing with us the last edition of the newsletter for this year.

The article on the Maltese dialect and how it varies in the different villages and regions of Malta is quite interesting. I am from Zejtun* in fact and when I interact with people some of them notice from the way I speak and through the use of certain vocabulary, that I come from there even though I do not speak in dialect.

It is incredible how we have a common language and we have different dialects. If I may, I would like to bring to your attention a small correction in page 34, as the plural of the word 'mappa' (map) is mapep (maps) with an 'E' and not mapap with an 'A'.

Stephanie Schembri,
Archives Assistant, National Archives of Malta

Thank you for the Newsletters throughout the year.

Edwidge Borg, Victoria, Australia

As usual, a million thanks for your popular newsletter....December issue was full of interesting articles.

Carmen Galea, Ontario

* By coincidence, Issue # 526 (January/Jannar 2025), pages 14-15, of the *Maltese E-Newsletter*, edited by Frank Scicluna of South Australia, has a piece on the Zejtun dialect.

YEAR END LUNCHEON

Malta Band Club Mississauga

Our Year End Luncheon was held at the Club on the afternoon of Friday, December 27, 2024.

**MALTA BAND CLUB
YEAR END LUNCHEON**

DATE: Friday December 27th, 2024
TIME: 12:00 noon
PRICE: \$35.00 per person

Menu will consist of an excellent appetizer table followed by leg of lamb, potatoes and vegetables plus dessert. Please note that there will not be a dinner on the evening of Friday December 27th.

Please contact Tony at (905) 450-5885, John at (905) 850-3299 or the club directly at (905) 890-8507 to make a reservation for this year end social event!





**OUR NEW YEAR'S EVE
GALA DINNER & DANCE**

Malta Band Club Mississauga

Several members and friends celebrated the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025 at the Malta Band Club in Mississauga, Ontario.



It was a great evening with an excellent dinner and a fantastic atmosphere. A big thank you to everyone that attended and to all the volunteers who made this event such a success.

**MARIA FARRUGIA:
MALTA'S OLDEST PERSON EVER**

Mrs. Maria Farrugia, nee Galea, the oldest person ever in Malta, passed away in Hamrun, on December 23, 2024, at the age of 112 years and 291 days.



Maria at the age of 111

Maria was born in Mosta on March 7, 1912, to Anġlu and Anna Galea.

One of Maria's four siblings, age 37, "was killed by a bomb during one of Malta's very first air raids." This would appear to have been Paolo Galea, age 37, who was killed in an air raid on Tuesday, June 11, 1940, a day after Mussolini joined forces with Hitler. Maria's mother would live to be 100.

Maria was "a first-class seamstress," and "used to do sewing for others in order to supplement the family income.



Maria as a young woman

In 1941, she married Ġorġ Farrugia.



Maria and Ġorġ on their wedding day

Ġorġ was a soldier in the King's Own Regiment and, later, following an injury, was employed with the Air Raids Precautions cleaning up debris and searching for casualties following air raids.

Maria and Ġorġ were to have three children: Anġlu, Josephine and Karmena. Ġorġ died in 1962, just short of his fiftieth birthday.

In the article which appeared on page 12 in the September 2024 issue of this newsletter, it was stated that Ġanni "il-Giġa" Schembri was previously Malta's oldest person on record. He was said to have been born on March 7, 1757 and to have died on 2 July 1868.

According to the Gerontology Research Group, based in Los Angeles, California; Atlanta, Georgia; USA; and Warsaw, Poland, however, the year of Ġanni "il-Giġa" Schembri's birth is exaggerated.

Hence, Malta's oldest person on record, prior to Maria Farrugia surpassing her age on December 8, 2021, was Connie Galea who was born in Balzan on December 31, 1890 and died at St. Vincent de Paul Residence in Birżebbuġa on October 1, 2000.

In later years, Maria Farrugia was lovingly cared for by her only surviving child Carmen and her grandson Stephen.

With Maria's death, the oldest living person currently in Malta is Mrs. Grace Gatt who was born on January 20, 1916. Grace is a granddaughter of Joseph Howard (1862-1925), Malta's first prime minister.

The oldest Maltese emigrant on record is Theresa Ryan born in Malta on June 2, 1914 and presently living in the UK.

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.omnity.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 Mississauga

5745 Coopers Ave., Mississauga, ON L4Z 1K9
905-890-850
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 6:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.
(Except holidays)

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:
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
Tel: 011 356 21560656

mcagozo@hotmail.com

Maltese-Canadian Cruisers

c/o 5745 Coopers Avenue, Mississauga, ON
L4Z 1R9

416-524-2573

att: Gianni Borg

Maltese Canadian Cultural Association, The

c/o Carl Azzopardi

info@themcca.ca

Maltese-Canadian Museum

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 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

416-766-5830

carmengalea4949@gmail.com

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

melitaclub@gmail.com

**St. Paul the Apostle Parish**

3224 Dundas St. W. Toronto, ON M6P 2A3

416-767-7054

www.saint-paul-maltese.com

stpaulmssp@gmail.com

St. Paul the Apostle Parish Mission Group

c/o 281 Gilmour Ave., Toronto, ON M6P 3B6
416-708-8627

www.facebook.com/john.vella.1044186

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

stpaulmssp@gmail.com

President: Lino Debono

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE
THE MALTESE AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO



Photo courtesy of Rita Borg

MALTA BAND CLUB MISSISSAUGA

